

# C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information



## Out of Paper?

District Clerk employees marked a drastic drop in paper filings by building their own paper graveyard, as Texas changed to a mandatory electronic filing system on Jan. 1. All attorneys are required to file electronically now, so what little paper that still trickles in comes from "pro se" litigants — or folks acting as their own lawyers.

## Walk Across Texas: Can we top 79K-plus miles walked in '13?

**R**eady for *Walk Across Texas*? Teams are forming for the 2014 spring edition of this healthy exercise tradition. In 2013, county employees and their friends and family as well as others participated in two 8-week sessions and walked, jogged, swam, and ran more than 79,082 miles.

Along the way, they lost a few pounds, lowered their blood pressure, reduced their stress level and managed their diabetes better.

The top teams in 2013 were **Angelica RODRIGUEZ's Sole Sisters** with 3,415 miles for the spring event and **Michael BEBER's Break Free** with 3,082 miles for the fall event.

Walk Across Texas is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Health Department and *United Health Care*. The program works simply: teams of eight pool their miles to see if they can walk the 800 miles across Texas in eight weeks.

Team members don't work out together; in fact, they may not even know each other. Team members may be recruited from friends, co-workers, neighbors or family.

Each team needs a captain and a name. Since teams from other companies may be participating in this event, all county teams should start with a "CC" (Collin County), such as CC Athletes Feat. This will make it easier to track county teams. The captain agrees to register the team and each member online. All team members report their weekly miles to their team captain, who logs it in. At the end of the eight weeks, team members complete a wrap-up form and the captain enters it.

Don't enjoy walking? No problem. All kinds of activities can be converted to miles on the online equivalent chart. So choose your favorite activity and look

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## Rounding up makes cents

The CoServ Charitable Foundation awarded a grant of more than \$18,000 in early January to the Sheriff's Office to buy advanced first-aid kits for patrol cars and pay for advanced trauma training for deputies. Funds mainly come from the co-op's Operation Round-Up program where customers' bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar and then put into the local grant program. Pictured at left are Commissioner **Mark REID**, Sheriff **Terry BOX**, CCF Executive Director **Dennis ENGELKE**, and Commissioners **Cheryl WILLIAMS**, **Duncan WEBB** and **Chris HILL**.

## College Courses at the Juvenile Detention Center

The Juvenile Probation Department, in a collaborative effort with Navarro College, the McKinney Independent School District and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department has begun offering interactive classes through video conferencing.

Students who have completed their high school diploma or its equivalency and who are residents in the post-adjudication program in detention can now complete college courses. They are able to hear the lecture, interact with the instructor and then have a study lab time to complete the work.

The courses taught meet core course requirements and are accepted at any college in Texas. TJJD connects the locations throughout the state, Navarro College provides the curriculum and staff, MISD has provided the hardware and equipment and the Probation department provides the books, supervision and scholarships as available.

Staff are excited for this program because it allows the youth to have an interactive experience, prepares them



(l-r) **Wendy WOODS**, **Sally PUCKETT**, **Felicia CHISM**, **Kristen THOMAS**, **Paris BROWN**, **Kathy OWENS** and **Shakia MOLIÈRE**; not pictured: **Tracy WORLEY** and **Rashad "Coach" ROBINSON**.

to transition to a local college, and gives them the access to the same opportunities as if they were in a regular high school. It helps them to gain confidence and momentum by completing the courses and it opens up new options

that many may not have ever even dreamed of. The department hopes to offer dual-credit courses in the future.

— **Pam HUFFMAN**

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online to see how easy it is to convert it to miles.

Teams officially start on Sunday, March 2 and end on Saturday, April 26. All teams should be registered on-line by Friday, Feb. 28. For those captains who register their team by the deadline, their name will go into a random drawing for a gift card.

More details about weekly random drawings for prizes will be announced to team captains by March 3.

Gather your team and send in your team name and team captain. Team captains will receive more details, including directions and the website.

Don't have a team or need one or two more for your team? Contact us; we'll see what we can do.

Questions? Call Ext. 4231 or email [cbrazeal@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:cbrazeal@co.collin.tx.us).

-- Carrie BRAZEAL



## Free flu clinic draws a big crowd

The Collin County Medical Reserve Corps partnered with Chase Oaks Church to conduct a free flu vaccination in Plano in January.

The clinic, held at the Chase Oaks Family Center in east Plano and run by the MRC and the Public Health Emergency Management Team of the Collin County Homeland Security Department, doled out more than 650 doses of flu vaccine from the City of Plano.

Turnout for the event was overwhelming, with more than 1,300 citizens lining up to protect their families. The vaccination was completely free for adults and children ages 2-64.

The event was a great exercise for the MRC

to see if they could rapidly vaccinate a large number of people in case of an emergency.

The MRC is a volunteer organization composed of medical and non-medical volunteers who are tasked with giving out life-saving medication in a public health emergency.

The MRC also serves the community by educating citizens and promoting preparedness, helping out with outdoor events by providing cooling stations and first aid, providing communications for various venues and other community service projects.

For more information on the MRC and to learn how to volunteer, contact [MRC@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:MRC@co.collin.tx.us).

— Rebecca DREKMANN



**THE COLLIN COUNTY CONNECTION** is published six times a year for county employees by the Public Information Office, with a lot of technical assistance from the good people in Information Technology's GIS Department. Please submit your articles, anniversaries, announcements, classified ads, good deeds and kudos in plain text email to: [publicrelations@collincountytx.gov](mailto:publicrelations@collincountytx.gov). We post deadlines for submissions on the Calendar at [MyCollinCounty.com](http://MyCollinCounty.com).

## Facilities

### In Control

Facilities Maintenance welcomes their new Control Room Operator, **Kevin BEAVERS**. Kevin has an array of skills and he will be a great asset to the Facilities Department and to Collin County.



## District Attorney

### Retirement



**Pat ACOSTA** retired from the District Attorney's office in late November after serving 28 years with Collin County. Her years as a legal secretary in the DA's Grand Jury Division will be

greatly missed. We wish her the best!



### 15 Years Service

**Kelly LUDY** received her 15-year service pin by Criminal District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** during Commissioners Court in late November. Kelly is an Assistant District Attorney for the DA's Family Justice Division and prosecutes

juvenile cases. Kelly graduated from Baylor University and Baylor Law School.

### 10 Years Service

**Sheryl BAXTER** was presented with her 10-year service pin by Mr. Willis in January. Sheryl is a Legal Secretary assigned to the DA's Misdemeanor Trial



Division and has worked in Hot Checks, Misdemeanor Intake, and Family Justice throughout her career with the District Attorney's office.



### Tree of Angels

The District Attorney's Tree of Angels Ceremony is an annual remembrance of victims of violent crimes and their loved ones. While Christmas and the Holiday Season is a time of joy and togetherness for most, it's an especially difficult

time for victims and their families. The District Attorney's office honors them by acknowledging their dignity, recognizing their sorrow and applauding their perseverance.

## District Clerk



### 10 Years Service

**Michelle PATRICK** receives her 10-year service pin from District Clerk **Andrea THOMPSON** in early January during Commissioners Court.



### Adoption Day

The District Courts, District Clerk's office, and Child Protective Services participated in *National Adoption Day*, which helped in the adoption of more than 15 children at a Saturday event in our Courthouse. Here, state District

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Judge **Scott BECKER** performs one of the adoptions with volunteers in the red shirts. **Brandi BROWN**, one of the civil supervisors is in the foreground in the chair.



### Linda James retires after 27 years

**Linda B. JAMES** (second from left) received her retirement plaque from District Clerk **Andrea THOMPSON** during a reception in late January, after 27 years of working for Collin County. Here, she's shown with her husband, **Dan JAMES** of Facilities Maintenance, daughter **Lexi JAMES**, mother-in-law **Betty JAMES**, and daughter **Casey ROPER** of the Pct. 3 Constable's Office.



### A parting look at 2013 Christmas fashion

The District Clerks held their own Ugly Christmas Sweater back in December, with **Mindi JOHNS** (center) winning the top prize. Other contestants included (l-r): **Casey ROYER**, **Marcia SIMPSON**, **Michelle PATRICK**, **Erica ARMENTA** and **LeAnne BRAZEAL**.

### Constable, Pct. 4



### Johnny Newton retires

Deputy Constable **Johnny NEWTON** receives a retirement plaque from Constable **Joe WRIGHT** of Precinct 4 during Commissioners Court in mid-January. Johnny retired from Collin County after 8 years, but his entire career spanned 52 years, including time as a jailer in Dallas and a Deputy Constable in Denton County. He was working in the Dallas City Jail in 1963 when **Jack RUBY** shot **Lee Harvey OSWALD** shortly after President Kennedy's assassination. We're told Johnny still plans to serve as a reserve deputy constable.

### 429th District Court



### 15-years' Service

The staff of the 429th District Court marked Court Coordinator **Joanna SMITH's** 15 years' service with the county with more than just a handshake and pin. From left, holding up their favorite coordinator for the camera, are Court Reporter **Shawn GANT**, Bailiff **Darryl SMITH** and Judge **Jill WILLIS**. Arrangements for Joanna's 20th anniversary have yet to be announced.



## Collin County Named 2013 Winner for National Night Out

The National Association of Town Watch has selected the Collin County Sheriff's Office as a "National Award Winner" for its outstanding participation in the 30th Annual National Night Out crime prevention program for the 10th consecutive year, according to Collin County Sheriff **Terry BOX**.

This year's event involved 37.5 million people in 15,704 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.

The Collin County Sheriff's Office placed 9th in the nation for the 300,000-plus population category. Collin County was one of only two Texas counties recognized in this category.

Sheriff Box and the staff of the Collin County Sheriff's Office attributes this success to the countywide effort and strong citizen involvement in the annual event that seeks to bring residents and law enforcement together to help prevent crime in the community.

CCSO's National Night Out was honored for its extensive citizen involvement, including numerous block parties, community gatherings and special events featuring catered dinners, cookouts, children's activities, balloon launches and helicopter landings.

Sheriff Box was especially proud of the high level of law enforcement involvement with residents interacting with deputies at every event.

Sheriff Box extended thanks to the Collin County Business and Neighborhood Crime Watches, area Target Stores, Collin County Citizens Sheriff's Academy Alumni Association, Collin County Constable's Offices and the Cities of Anna, Blue Ridge, Celina, Farmersville, Fairview, Josephine, Lavon, Lucas, Melissa, New Hope, Nevada, Parker, Princeton, Prosper and Westminster. Their participation made NNO 2013 a success for Collin County.



National Night Out: Sheriff Box, Deputy **Stefanie FOSTER**, Deputy **Brent COLLINS**.

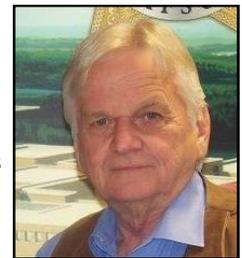
## Recent Retirements

Detention Sgt. **Belinda WILLIAMSON** was recently honored with a retirement reception in celebration of her 28-plus years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



retired from the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Officer James retired with more than 9 years of service, and Officer Phillips retired with 10 years' service.

**Frank PELL** received recognition from Sheriff Box for his 12 years of service with the Sheriff's Office during a retirement ceremony in late January.



Detention Officers **Don JAMES** (above, left) and **Bonnie PHILLIPS** recently

## 2013 Employees of the Year

Two employees of the Collin County Sheriff's Office were recently awarded the "Employee of the Year" award for 2013. Detention Sgt. **Cia NUNIES** was

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named the Employee of the Year for the Detention Facility. Sgt. **Russell DRIVER** (not pictured) was named the Employee of the Year for the Sheriff's Office section. Congratulations to these two model employees for earning these awards.



## Life Saving Award

Detention Officer **Eric MEYER** (lower left corner) was honored with a "Life Saving Award" for saving the life of fellow Detention Officer **Mark LEWIS**. Officer Meyer is credited for his quick action in performing the Heimlich Maneuver on Officer Lewis. Due to his immediate response, he successfully cleared Officer Lewis' airway during a recent choking incident.



## 20 Years of Service

Detention Officer **Gaylon WOMBLE** (left) was recently honored for 20 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



## Promotions

Sheriff Box promoted **Dexter DAVIS** (right) from Detention Officer to Kitchen Supervisor. His promotion will become effective in late February.



## Sgt. Diane Stubbs Honored

Sheriff Box presented **Sgt. Diane STUBBS** a plaque of appreciation for her 16 years of dedicated service as Explorer Advisor of Explorer Post #660. Her leadership & guidance has made a positive impact on so many young people in the Explorer Program.

## Swearing-In Ceremony

Two new Patrol Deputies were welcomed to the Collin County Sheriff's Office and



sworn in by Sheriff **Terry BOX** during a recent ceremony: Deputies **Kyle CRIST** (above, left) and **Marc ZEGADIO**.

## CSCD Anniversaries



- Charla COXWELL**, Secretary, McKinney, 25 yrs.;
- Tom MARSHALL**, Supervision Officer, Min. Security, 20 yrs.;
- Janie SANCHEZ**, Supervision Officer, McKinney, 15 yrs.;
- Joe BULLARD**, Supervision Officer, Plano, 10 yrs.;
- Tyra BARDIN**, Supervision Officer, Plano, 10 yrs.;
- Cassandra LEAP**, Caseworker, McKinney, 10 yrs.



**SERVICES**

**NOTARY SERVICES:** Brazeal Notary Services will come to you for all your notary needs. Available evenings and weekends. Visit [BrazealNotaryServices.com](http://BrazealNotaryServices.com) or call **Carrie BRAZEAL** at 469-271-2377 for a 10-percent discount for county employees.

**FOR SALE**

**PROPERTY:** 12.93 acres located on Scoggins Road in Tioga, Texas, close to proposed toll way, lots of trees and Buck Creek runs through the property. Price is \$116,370. Pictures of land can be found at <http://cnnmoney.trulia.com/property/3139517375--Tbd-Scoggins-Rd-Tioga-TX-76271#photo-1>. Also, 3-bedroom/2-bath single family home located at 502 S Poplar St. Leonard, Texas, 1,238 Sq. Ft., Lot Size 7,623 Sq. Ft., Built in 2010, asking \$75,000. If interested information can be found at [http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/502-S-Poplar-St-Leonard-TX-75452\\_M73121-15205?source=web](http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/502-S-Poplar-St-Leonard-TX-75452_M73121-15205?source=web).

**TRUCK:** 2005 F250 Supercab XLT Pickup 4x4. Loaded with power package, air, towing package including gooseneck hitch, 6 CD player/AM/FM stereo, bedliner, remote keyless entry, running boards, and more. New batteries and replaced alternator recently. V8 Turbo Diesel; Automatic; 143,500 miles. Asking \$12,000 or best offer. Call **Mike:** (214) 491-9666.

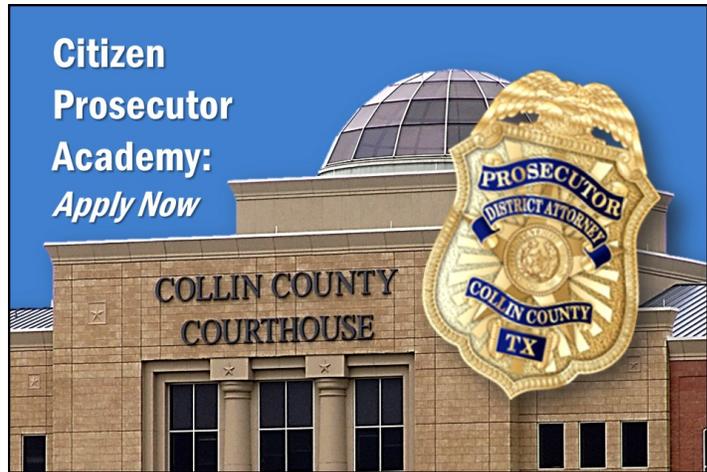


**FURNITURE:** 2 Stressless brand recliners, with ottomans. Both are leather and in perfect condition. One is apple green and one is burgundy. The burgundy chair has a small round wooden table attached to the chair that is removable. Asking \$799.99 for each, OBO. I purchased these chairs for \$2,795 each. They are made in Sweden by Ekornes. Call **Barbara** at 972-832-4411 or Ext. 4265.



**FREE DOG:** Looking for a good home for a female (spayed) dog. Medium size, about 20 lbs. She is very affectionate and house broken. She was dropped off at my house but I already have 3 dogs. I can't take anymore. Please call **Mack LaFON** at (214) 551-1780, or e-mail: [clafon@collin.co.tx.us](mailto:clafon@collin.co.tx.us).

**NEED HELP:** Quilting full size T-shirt quilts(2). Most of the work is complete, squares sewn together, have the batting and have the backing ready, my machine is not able to quilt the pieces together. I can finish them up once quilted, just need that portion done. Please Call 214-724-3857.



**A Different kind of CPA**

**C**ollin County Criminal District Attorney **Greg WILLIS'** office is accepting applications for its 2014 spring session of the Citizen Prosecutor Academy.

The 10-week course begins Feb. 20 and concludes with a graduation ceremony for participants April 24. Collaborating with an extensive network of public servants and agencies on a daily basis, the D.A.'s office is at the forefront of protecting the community by putting away the bad guys and holding criminals accountable. Participants hear from prosecutors, detectives, judges and law enforcement officials as they explain how a case develops -- from arrest to trial -- and subsequent appeal.

Classes meet on Thursday evenings at the Collin County Courthouse from 6:30 to 9 p.m., and the application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 13. Class size is limited, so those interested are encouraged to apply early. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

To learn more information about the District Attorney's Citizen Prosecutor Academy and to download an application, please visit [www.collincountyda.com](http://www.collincountyda.com).

For questions, please contact Evelyn Rutherford at Ext. 4332, or email [mrutherford@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:mrutherford@co.collin.tx.us), or mail in completed applications to:

**Collin County District Attorney  
Attn: Evelyn Rutherford  
2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 100  
McKinney, TX 75071**