

C  N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information

**It's about time
Walk Across Texas
to begin March 1**

This year marks the 13th round for Walk Across Texas, and we'll celebrate in a big way.

In 2014, county employees and their friends and family as well as others participated in two, eight-week sessions and walked, jogged, swam, and ran more than 45,704 miles.

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

Walk across Texas is spon-

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SPEAKING OF walking, workers are close to finishing up a 1/2-mile walking path between the courthouse and the administration building in time for a lunchtime strolls by mid-April. ►



New online Employee Directory offers more than ‘mug shots’

The folks in Information Technology have built a new Employee Directory that does a bit more than put a pretty face with an email or a voice on the phone.

Culled together in relatively short time — and accessible *only* through our internal network — the directory includes:

- Desk phone numbers;
- Job titles;

- email links;
- Employee badge photos; and,
- A working “chain-of-command” structure that show who reports to whom within county departments and some 30 other elected offices.

The idea for the expanded directory was to have a self-loading program (it updates every two hours) that could post new employees and remove ex-employees automatically. It allows anyone at a county desktop to verify who

works where, who they supervise, and who supervises them.

In other words, a real-time virtual directory for added security, directly from our *SecureNet* database.

There are some photos missing, such as some of our law enforcement officers, who are on a different, independent security network.

Look for the new directory to debut on Feb. 23 on *MyCollinCounty* — the county’s intranet. See page 7 for a screen shot.

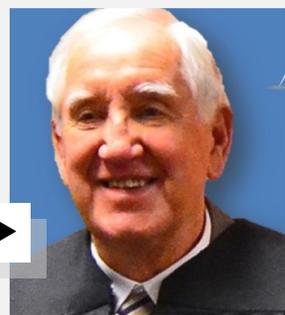
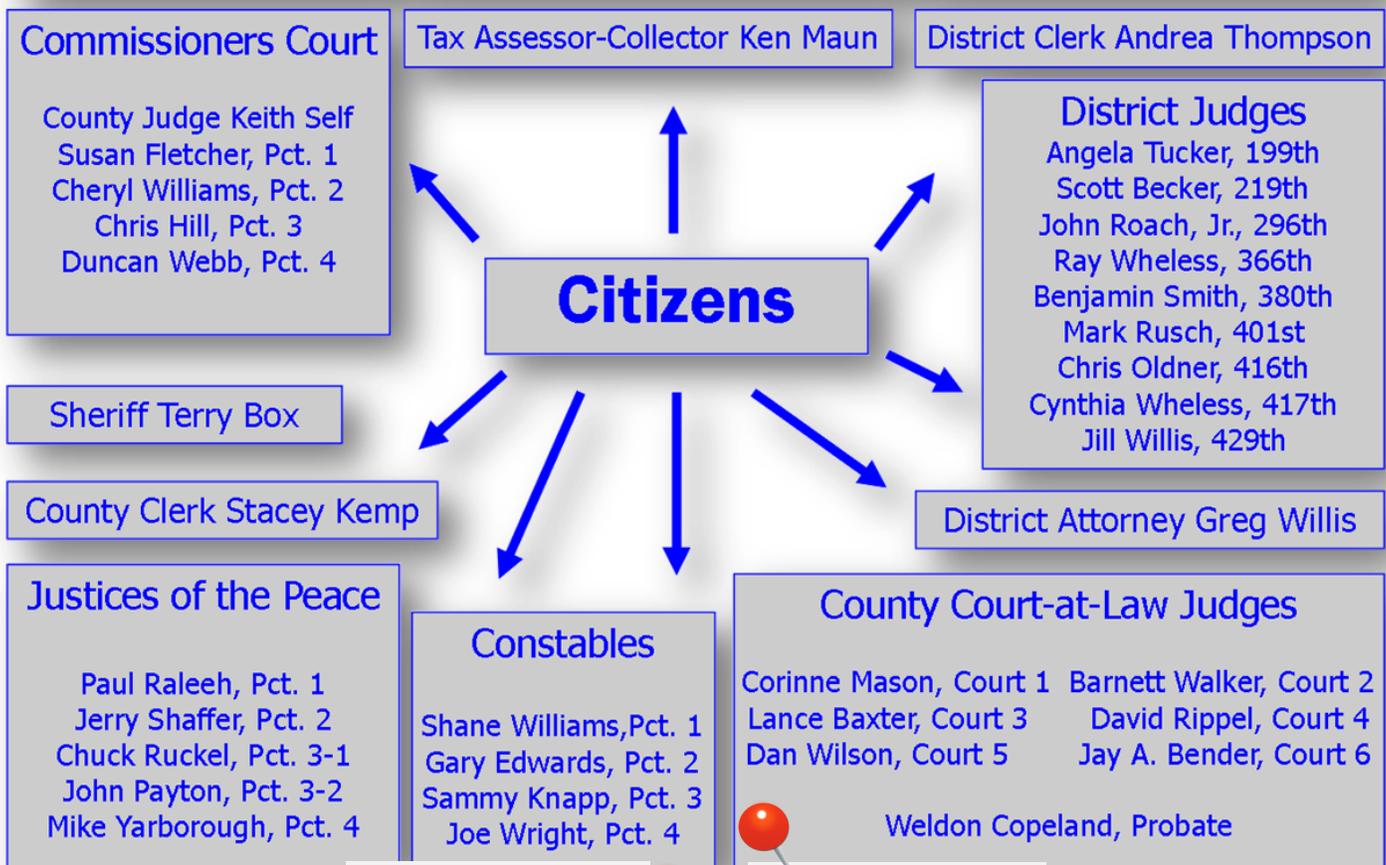


3 newcomers to Elected Offices ...

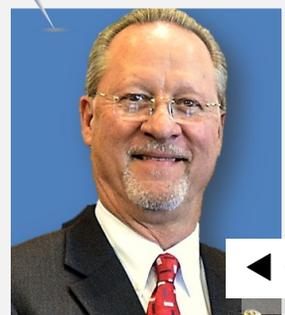
... Have joined the Collin County ranks since the first of the year, with **Susan FLETCHER** being elected to take up the remainder of the term for County Commissioner, Precinct 1; **Jerry SHAFFER** being elected to Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2; and, **Gary EDWARDS** being appointed to fulfill the remaining two years of the term for Constable, Precinct 2. See photos on page 3.

◀ **Susan FLETCHER**

Collin County Elected Officials



Jerry SHAFFER ▶



◀ **Gary EDWARDS**



Oaths of Office

Upper left: **Jerry SHAFFER** is sworn in by Judge **Paul RALEEH** as the new Justice of the Peace for Pct. 2; above, **Gary EDWARDS** (left), appointed by the Commissioners Court in late January, is sworn in by County Judge **Keith SELF** as Constable of Pct. 2, while Commissioner Pct. 3 **Chris HILL** holds the Bible; left: Commissioner Pct. 1 **Susan FLETCHER** and her husband, **Brian**, are congratulated by County Sheriff **Terry BOX** after the January swearing-in ceremony, in which 22 other newly elected and re-elected county officials took their oaths of office in the Central Jury Room.

Constable Barton loses his long battle against cancer

Constable **Joe Glenn BARTON**, who served 26 years as constable for Precinct 2 and was re-elected six times, died, Jan. 10 in Farmersville after a long battle against cancer. He was 64.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church of Farmersville, with Interment at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Born May 5, 1950, Joe was the only child of **Joe Ab** and **Billie Gardner BARTON**. The family moved to Garland when Joe was a child, and he graduated from Garland High school in May 1968.

He served the McKinney Police Department for 14 years, working his



way up in the department. He held the roles of Dispatcher, Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant of Operations and left the department after serving as the Interim Chief of Police.

Barton married **Eva HARTSELL**, on

Jan. 14, 1972. The couple settled in Farmersville and five years later welcomed the birth of their only child, **Jessica Autumn**.

He delivered Meals on Wheels in Farmersville for 13 years.

In 2003, he was named the Farmersville Chamber of Commerce's Harry O. Cameron Citizen of the Year. Barton was an avid reader, history buff and car enthusiast. He was a loving, supportive and devoted father and husband.

He is survived by his wife **Eva BARTON**, daughter **Autumn BARTON** and mother-in-law Opal **HARTSELL**, all of Farmersville.

Farm Museum posts workshops

Collin County's Farm Museum has a whole new line-up of workshops and classes for adults and kids, running now through summer 2015.

Some are free, some require a small fee – all of them are informative and a load of fun.

Museum Coordinator **Jennifer ROGERS** has set up more than three dozen classes that span working with leather, rug-making, book-binding, soap-making, tool-making, painting, farming – even a class on how to learn to drive an antique tractor or our 1911 Ford Model T.

Go ahead: Try to find driving lessons like that anywhere else.



The catch is ... well, there is no catch. It's all part of the efforts of staff and volunteers at the museum to stay in touch with the county's rural history.

But you need to register early. Classes can fill up quickly, or be cancelled if they don't meet minimum enrollment requirements six business days prior to the start of the session.

If you want to keep track of what's going on at the museum, Jennifer is posting class information on our public website's Community Calendar *and* the MYCC Calendars, or you can 'Like' the museum's Facebook page for updates and news about other special programs and events.

For registration information, go to the Farm Museum's webpage from www.collincountytx.gov.

The museum is located on the grounds of Myers Park & Event Center. 972-548-4792.



Myers Park & Events Center hosts the fifth annual Garden Show March 21 and 22, an indoor event that draws thousands of area folks looking for tips and information from local gardening experts.

The two-day show runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Ongoing tours of the Earth-Kind Perennial Research and Demonstration Gardens will run through the weekend. Also on display is a newly installed rainwater harvesting system and the Myers Park rain gardens, as well as children's activities, and hands-on demonstrations.

Saturday's featured speaker is bulb hunter and author **Chris WIESINGER** who will discuss *The Bulb Hunter: A Story of Seeking out Botanical Treasures*. Sunday's keynote speaker is noted horticulturalist **Neil SPERRY**, who will wrap up the weekend show with *Designs on a Great Landscape*. A \$2 donation per person is used to support CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). Parking is free.

Walk Across Texas

(Continued from page 1)

sored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Health Department. 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 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 on-line equivalent chart. So choose your favorite activity and look online to see how easy it is to convert it to miles.

Teams officially start on Sunday, March 1 and end on Saturday, April 25. All teams should be registered on-line by Friday, Feb. 27. 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 6.

Gather your team and email Carrie Brazeal 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 Brazeal; we'll see what we can do. Questions? Call Ext. 4231 or email **Carrie BRAZEAL**.

We need at least 13 teams for the 13th annual Walk Across Texas. Are you in?



County Clerk

Dianna SHINE (above, center), County Court at Law Clerks, received her 10-year service pin from Senior Administrator **Kim QUILLIN** (above, right) and Functional Analyst **Brenda GERMAN**. Also receiving service pins, but not pictured here, are: Beth VINCENT, Land Recording, 10 years of service, and **Sharon BUTLER**, Treasury Clerk, 5 years of service.

District Clerk

Mary PIERCE (right) retired in early January after 15 years of service with the District Clerk's office.



Juvenile Detention

Joe SELF (below, left) received his retirement plaque from Juvenile Detention Superintendent **Jeff FALEFIA**, as did **Richard USERY** (below, right).



Juvenile Detention Service Anniversaries include:

- ◆ 20 years: **Bobby HOWELL** and **Max TRUSTY**.
- ◆ 10 Years: **Jeremy JONES**, **Toriano HOLT**, **Patrick ROSS** and **Andrew KEENER**.
- ◆ 5 Years: **Michael RAULSTON** and **Richard GARZA**.

Facilities Maintenance Anniversaries

Larry JONES received his 15-year pin. Larry is a Facilities Maintenance Specialist under **Tim DOOLEY's** supervision. Larry performs general maintenance in all County buildings, which includes tile work, painting, lighting issues, and plumbing. He performs building safety, preventative maintenance and monthly elevator checks.

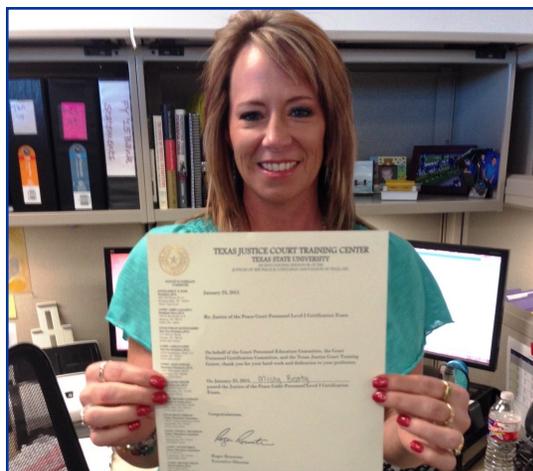
Chris BEATY was recently promoted from Grounds Maintenance to Facilities Maintenance Specialist. He is supervised by **Tim DOOLEY** and performs general maintenance in the County buildings.

Chris MASON was recently promoted from Facilities Maintenance Specialist to a Tech I. He is supervised by **Jimmy PIERCE**. Chris is EPA certified, which allows him to work with Freon. He changes out HVAC filters, belts, compressors; he works on refrigerators, freezers, and ice dispensers; AHU (air handler units), VAV (variable air volume) boxes, and fan coil units. Chris has been taking HVACR courses.

Lee PITMAN has moved from the "field" to the Control Room as the night rover under the supervision of **Mark CRULL**, Scheduler and Planner. As a Control Room Operator he answers the phones, generates work orders, monitors security system cameras, the fire system, lighting, generators, air conditioning and heating, chillers, boilers, water treatment, and monitors the Energy Management System.

Justice Court 3-1

Misty BEATY (below), Court Administrator for Justice Court 3-1, Judge **Chuck RUCKEL**, passed her exam for Justice Court Personnel Level 1 Certification. This is a comprehensive exam covering all areas of criminal law and is the first step in leading to certification as a Master Clerk. Congratulations, Misty.





2014's

Employees of the Year

Congratulations to Dispatch Supervisor **Maria LEMONDS**, who received the 'Employee of the Year' plaque from the Sheriff's Office. She was recognized for her outstanding performance during 2014.



Also, Detention Officer **Jimmy DODSON** was named 'Employee of the Year' for the Detention Facility for his commitment and dedication to the Sheriff's Office.



Citizens Academy Alumni Assn. Deliver Meals-On-Wheels

Members of the Collin County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Alumni Association volunteered to deliver 98 meals to those in need on Thanksgiving Day. The volunteers started the day early by picking up the meals from the First United Methodist Church in Allen, delivering them to many local residents throughout Collin County. The Association has participated in this event for the past several years and continues to offer their assistance. Many thanks for this group of men and women who volunteer their time to assist those in need. (Back Row, l-r) **Chris TATE, George CLARK, Geoffrey JAMES, Chuck KRSEK, Andy BARNES**; (Seated, l-r) **Ed HAYES, Dianne HAYES, Bob WAGNER, Mary WAGNER**. Volunteers not pictured: **Richard DIAL, Vicki LEEPER, Ann ROEMERMAN & Andrew TATE**.



Recent Retirements

Vicki WHEATLEY (above) was honored during our Christmas luncheon. Sheriff **Terry BOX** presented her with her

retirement plaque and congratulated her on her twenty-four years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Vicki was the Sheriff's office coordinator, close friend and childhood classmate. She will be greatly missed by all.

Service Anniversaries



Congratulations to Detention Officer **Jaime COOK** (left), recently honored with a reception in celebration of his 20 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Detention Officer **John DAVIS** (right) also

recently celebrated 20 years of dedicated and loyal service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.





Judge Willis, Judge Willis ...

Now, the Willis' — Judge **Jill WILLIS** and husband District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** (a former judge) always seem to have a good time at swearing in ceremonies, since both their 4-year terms are on the same election schedule — and, they take turns administering the oath of office. January was no exception, but here's a question to ponder: Which Judge Willis is swearing in which Judge Willis in each of the two swearing-in photos? No cheating. If you think you know, email your answer to publicrelations@collincountytx.gov. The first five winners get a *free* subscription to *The Collin County Connection*.



Sounding the Alarm
Facilities is testing fire & sprinkler systems throughout February

(Continued from Page 1)

New Employee Directory

In a pop-up window from the main directory, Misty BROWN's profile gives us a look at who she supervises and who watches over her. See MYCC on Feb. 23.

Brown, Misty
County Development Svcs
Development Svcs Mgr
mbrown@co.collin.tx.us
x5593

Manages:

- Adams, James
County Development Svcs
- Davis, Danny
Animal Shelter
- Eastham, Cynthia
County Development Svcs
- Edwards, Clifford
County Development Svcs
- Howard, Diana
County Development Svcs

Reports To:

- Daugherty, Clarence
Engineering
- Bilyeu, William
Administrative Services



Announcements

Colby QUILLIN (above), son of **Craig and Kim QUILLIN** (County Clerk's Office), had the Reserve Breed Champion, and a 2nd place steer, and made the sale at the Collin County Junior Live-stock Show in January for Blue Ridge FFA. Also, his sister, **McKenna QUILLIN**, had a 4th place finish in Yorkshire breed and made the sale at the Collin County Junior Livestock Show.

Classifieds



RV FOR SALE: 1994 34-ft. Winnebago Vectra, only 55,000 miles. Vehicle is in good shape. Drive anywhere. Chevy 454, hydraulic leveling system, fantastic basement heater and air conditioning unit, and an onboard 8KW Onan generator set. This vehicle retails for over \$13,000. Asking \$9,500. Clear title. Presently at a storage facility

in Melissa. Cash, or cashiers check only. Will consider trade for motorcycle, or corvette. Call Bryan at 325-650-8093.

NOTARY: Brazeal Notary Services – we'll come to you for any notary need. Available evenings and weekends. Visit www.BrazealNotaryServices.com, or contact Carrie Brazeal at 469-271-2377; 10% discount for county employees.

HOME FOR SALE: 4 BR, 4 1/2 Bath, 2 LA + Study, Media Rm, 3,747 Sq. Ft., 3-car garage. \$469,900. 4621 Spalding, Plano; MLS: 1308983633. Minutes from 121, Preston Rd & DNT; granite throughout; hardwood floors, travertine tile. Call Patty Johnson, 903-821-6682, email pjohnson244@gmail.com, or www.Smallworldrealty.com.



So, who exactly is the hero?

Pictured here is **Dawson BLAIR** with his hero, country singer-songwriter **Hunter HAYES**, and Dawson's favorite song is "Wanted". Dawson, the grandson of Healthcare Director **Candy BLAIR**, has made many strides since being diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Candy says Dawson has been a gift from God and touches many people he comes across — and, she wasn't going to pass up a chance to show off her handsome grandson, now, was she?