



“YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION”

Collin County Connection



Almost a ton of beans

Ready to load up more than 1,300 pounds of dry bean donations to a local food pantry in July are: Betty PETERSON, CeCe LEGGIERI, County Clerk Stacey KEMP, Brandi ROBERSON, Brenda CAVENDER, Betty JAMES, Justice of the Peace Paul RALEEH, Mary COLLINS and Tonya HAGAR. More beans on Page 4.

5 County departments recognized nationally for innovative programs

Five Collin County departments received national recognition in July for innovations, efficiency and cost savings when it came to putting tax dollars to work. The National Association of Counties (NACo) cited Health Care Services, Public Works, the Court Collections Unit (Budget), Human Resources and Information Technology for 2009

Achievement Awards.

Health Care

The county's Health Care Services Department needed to find an economically sound solution to tackle the challenge of more people needing assistance with medical costs in a turbulent financial climate without abandoning its mission to "protect and promote the health of the people of Collin

County."

Health Care Services drew up a new program that substantially lowered overall costs and provided a greater number of county residents with crucial services through a contract with a local walk-in health care provider – PrimaCare – completely independent of state grant funding.

(Continued on page 2)



Judges appoint May as auditor as Cozad retires

The Collin County Board of District Judges appointed **Jeff MAY** as Collin County Auditor, effective Sept. 1 to replace **Don COZAD**, who's retiring in late August after serving as Auditor for the last 14 years.

The Auditor is an appointed position that is renewed every two years by a majority vote of state District Judges here.

Jeff's appointment came during a Board of District Judges meeting on July 24. He worked in the Auditor's Office for 13 years, and spent the last year in the Budget Department. Jeff will oversee a staff of 30 employees.

Don officially retires on Aug. 31, having served as Auditor since 1995.

"We want to congratulate Jeff on his appointment and wish Don well as he transitions into a much deserved and well-earned retirement," said state District Judge **Chris OLDNER**.

NACo cites county departments work

(Continued from page 1)

The program allows eligible county residents to undergo a streamlined application process to access flexible health care options for preventative and urgent care services. Since January 2007, more than 3,500 patients have benefited from the PrimaCare Program at an average cost of \$115 per visit. As the number of clients continues to grow, this innovative program clearly illustrates Collin County's success in 'raising the bar' to serve its indigent population's health care needs.

50 Miles of Asphalt

The 50 Miles-Per-Year Asphalt Program's goal was to pave every mile of Collin County road within 10 years. The county's swift transition from a rural scattering of farming communities to a major urban and suburban center made it necessary to develop a road upgrade program as fast as possible.

Though the 50-Mile program is a significantly vast expansion of past Public Works road upgrade programs, it had to be integrated into existing Public Works department responsibilities and commitments at no extra cost.

In the previous ten years before this program went into effect, an average of 14 miles of county road per year was upgraded. Using the same funds as in those years, Public Works' 50-Mile program has upgraded 201 miles of road in the last four years, despite major interruptions – and a few natural disasters such as the 2007 floods. All this continues to be accomplished without increasing

existing Public Works resources or funding.

Court Collections

The county's Court Collection Unit – a part of the Budget Department – opened for business in April 2007 for all six County Courts at Law after new legislation required counties with a population of 250,000 or more to develop a stricter collection plan for criminal court costs and fines in misdemeanor courts.

Counties were required to focus on increasing revenue from criminal court costs and fines, which would ultimately provide more funding to the state and local coffers. A stricter collection program would also help enforce and monitor all court-ordered payments.

Collin County not only met the critical components of the collection model set forth by the state's Office of Court Administration, but exceeded expectations by streamlining the collection process through innovative technology and software, cutting the term of payment agreements by almost 30 months, and increasing collections by up to 40 percent.

The Fiber Project

Our Information Technology Department needed to solve how to expand citizen services, increase communications to support continued growth and user demand without breaking the taxpayer bank.

The IT Department set out to reduce the overall recurring cost of what had grown to more than two dozen T-1 communications lines by using fiber optics. But to do that, we needed 124 miles of

optic line to connect all of our facilities – something that would cost \$3.5 million.

Instead, they discovered that Collin County College had 84 miles of fiber available. A sharing agreement saved about \$1.2 million of taxpayer dollars and eliminated about \$330,000 in annual costs to buy and maintain T-1 lines. Once the project was complete, other cities and independent school districts in Collin County came on board, thanks to a \$326,000 grant.

Temporary Pool

Many county departments have struggled to meet the demands of a fast-growing population without increasing staff or overtime costs. One such area was the Sheriff's Office Detention Facility.

The Collin County Detention Facility recently installed a Video Visitation Program designed to provide a method for family and friends to visit with inmates by using video cameras and a telephone. The number of visitors fluctuated, especially on weekends and holidays, and the program operated with a very small civilian staff. But when a member of the staff was absent, it placed an undue burden on the remainder of department, resulting in expensive overtime.

To meet the needs of the Sheriff's Office in a cost-effective manner, Human Resources developed its own pool of screened and trained temporary employees to meet this sporadic need while reducing overtime costs. Since this temporary worker pool began, overtime costs for the Video Visitation area have decreased significantly.



FROM LEFT, IT's Mike Malak (on the phone and incognito) Judge Paul RALEEH, Shannon ROBERTSON (standing), Leisa COPELAND, and Velda WILLIAMS fire up Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1's version of Odyssey in early May, shortly after moving to the new administration building and training staff to use the new computer system.

JP1 is Live on Odyssey: the journey continues

BY Lanette SAETRE

The staff in Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 opened their doors May 4th in the new administration building live on their new Odyssey system. In the first two days, they handled a week's worth of normal work, taking in over \$10,000 in business. It was a very busy week after being closed for the move from their old offices in Annex A, and training on the new system. However, it turned out to be a great success.

The most noteworthy point of interest was the outstanding teamwork provided by many departments within Collin County. This was a weekend of big storms, so we experienced many challenges throughout the conversion weekend including loss of power during the planned testing.

Everyone had an outstanding "can do" attitude that snowballed to make this go-live the most successful switchover to the Common Integrated Justice System (CIJS) yet. This was also the fastest conversion completed, having focused on the

JP planning for only about six months.

Information Technology would like to thank our enthusiastic project sponsor, Judge **Paul RALEEH** and his subject matter experts (SME's) **Shannon ROBERTSON, Velda WILLIAMS** and their entire staff for all their hard work in our continued journey on Odyssey.

We must also thank **Jerry HIGGINS** and his audit team in assisting through the go-live week to ensure all was on track. And a special shout-out goes to **Tonya SMITH** and her team for pulling thousands of warrants to keep the system alive. Lastly, we cannot forget Facilities in getting the lights back on after the storms. Thanks to all.

IT is now working with the rest of the JP Offices for a planned go-live in August. This has included all areas currently live with Odyssey testing a new release too, but we're almost there. Thanks to all for your help. By midyear 2010 we hope to have Criminal, Jail and Law Enforcement complete -- so enjoy the journey while it lasts.

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 atta-boys (and girls) in plain text email to: publicrelations@collincountytx.gov.

People



2 Officers come through in TCLEOSE certifications

Two officers in Constable Pct. 1 **Paul ELKINS'** office recently earned important certifications from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE).



Sergeant **Chris FILLINE** earned his Civil Process Proficiency certificate after attending a seminar in Kerrville in May, and passed his TCLEOSE mandated exam to receive the certificate.

Deputy **Stan BROWN** also earned his Master Peace Officer certificate, the highest certification offered by TCLEOSE. Stan Started as a reserve with Pct. 1 in 1997 and became a full-time officer here in 2004. Congratulations to both officers.



Last word on beans



Brandi ROBERSON (left) of the County Clerk's office listens to a Community Food Pantry volunteer explain how demand is high at the McKinney-based food bank. In 2008 alone, the all-volunteer pantry provided 147,320 meals to 4,500 local families. Volunteers say the demand is even higher this year. But with the help of county departments and the public, the Clerk's office managed to gather 1,319 pounds of dry beans (and three boxes of canned goods) to re-stock their larders. Pct. 3-2 Justice of the Peace **John PAYTON's** office staff hauled the largest donation of beans — 252 pounds — followed by Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) at 182 pounds.

Recognition



◀ **Steff SAMUSON** of Juvenile Probation was named Social Worker of the Year 2009 by the Dallas Branch of the National Association of Social Workers during ceremonies in April.

▶ **Casey STONE**, Information Technology's web administrator, recently celebrated 10 years of service with the county.



School supplies: Go ahead and do the 'write' thing

Tonya HAGAR, Betty JAMES and Betty PETERSON (l-r) of the County Clerk's office take stock of donations for the Collin County Does *Write By Our Kids* school supplies drive. The county has joined with the Children First! organization for their 2009 school supply drive. The month-long drive will continue through Aug. 13. Items collected in the boxes, which are currently located at various areas throughout the Collin County offices, will be distributed to organizations such as Allen Community Outreach, Assistance Center of Plano, Frisco Family Services and others. Employees and visitors can make donations at any of the below listed locations:

- ◆ Collin County Courthouse (District Clerk)
- ◆ Collin County Administrative Building
- ◆ County Clerks Office- Plano
- ◆ University Drive Courts Facility- McKinney
- ◆ Collin County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Office of Judge Raleeh
- ◆ Office of Judge Douglas
- ◆ Office of Judge Lewis
- ◆ Office of Judge Payton
- ◆ Office of Judge Yarbrough

— Rhonda KIESLING



A list of needed items is available online at MyCollinCounty

Law Library

McCullough to retire after 22 years

Collin County's first full-time law librarian is headed into retirement. **Judy McCULLOUGH** announced her decision to retire after 22 years with the county. Her last day will be Sept. 30.

"It has been a pleasure working with the county during its 'growing up' phase," Judy wrote recently. "I will leave with many great memories of serving the public, the department heads and county personnel, as well

as the judges and attorneys who have come across my desk."

For those who would like to say goodbye to Judy before she leaves, the Law Library staff will be hosting a reception for her on Sept. 25 in Jury Services' small jury pool room, from 3-5 p.m.

Judy's successor has yet to be named, according to **Monika ARRIS**, Budget Director.



Jail passes

Inspection for 22nd time

The Collin County Detention Facility has passed the annual state Jail Inspection for the 22nd consecutive year, a feat that no other county in Texas appears to have matched.



Texas Commission on Jail Standards inspectors **Fred St. AMANT** and **Jackie SEMMLER** arrived in mid-June for the three-day inspection for both the main Jail and Minimum Security. Both facilities passed the 600-point inspection checklist.

The inspection certifies the facilities for another year of operation. In a letter to Sheriff **Terry BOX**, TCJS Executive Director **Adam MUNOZ, Jr.**, stated, "This certification of compliance is a direct result of your department's commitment to excellence and further at-tests, signifies and demonstrates your department's dedication and professionalism in maintaining a safe, secure, and sanitary facility."

Sheriff Box said, "I could not express my appreciation to my entire staff any better than this statement." He also added, "I attribute the success of the facility to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of the Detention Staff. I am very pleased with the results of the inspection. My thanks to everyone for a job well done."

Celebrating 20 years with Sheriff's Office



Congratulations to two Collin County Sheriff's Office employees, recently honored with a reception commemorating 20 years of dedicated service. Sheriff **Terry BOX** presented 20-Year Plaques to **Delores MORRIS** (left) and **Kim FLETCHER** (right) at a reception in their honor in June. Kim is employed as a Receptionist for the Sheriff's Office and Delores works as a Kitchen Supervisor in the Collin County Detention Center.

New Detention Sergeants sworn in

Three former Detention Officers were recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant and were sworn in by Sheriff Box. Congratulations are in order for new Detention Sergeants **Jeff COLLINS-WORTH**, **Keith GRIFFIN** (far right) and **David JOHNSON** (right) on their recent promotions.



Sheriff presents SAT Scholarship to SHSU student



Sheriff Box (left) presented a \$500 Sheriff's Association of Texas scholarship to **Timothy DAVIS** (center) who is the son of Sgt. **Mike DAVIS** (right). Timothy is a student at Sam Houston State University, majoring in Political Science/Criminal Justice.



Tops in their community ...

The Community Supervision and Corrections Department held its annual awards luncheon at Myers Park in late July, honoring two who their peers voted to be tops in their respective professions. **Teresa BRIGGS** (above, left) was named Caseworker of the Year, and **Jerry DeCROO** was named Officer of the Year. Teresa works in Adult Probation at the University Drive Courts Facility, and Jerry is a supervision officer at the Plano Subcourt-house.



... Hall of Famer

Marigay BLACK, Official Court Reporter for County Court at Law Number 2, was awarded the distinction of Fellow of the Texas Court Reporters Association Hall of Fame at their annual convention in Plano in June. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession of court reporting. It is one of the highest awards given by the TCRA for meritorious service to the profession.

Marigay has been a member of TCRA since she began her reporting career in 1973 and has served on numerous committees over the years and as president of the local chapter Dallas County Court Reporters Association in 1983. She began working with Judge Jerry Lewis when he took the bench in 1986.

She has presented seminars to court reporters in conjunction with continuing education as mandated by the Supreme Court, written articles for submission in TCRA's Texas Record publication, chaired the committee which compiled the rules and statutes affecting court reporting into the TCRA Law Book, worked on the task force to develop the Uniform Format Manual approved by the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, served as Chair on the Officials Committee from 2004 to 2007, and most recently serves as Chair of the Court of Appeals Liaison committee.



20 years of land records

County Clerk **Stacey KEMP** (right) presents **Betty JAMES** with her 20-year service pin during a Commissioners Court session in late June. Betty, who works public assistance in land records, joined the Clerk's office in 1989 to begin a second career, after retiring from Sears with 17 years of service. Congratulations, Betty.

Announcements/ Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



July 4th Celebration: On Saturday, the afternoon of the 4th of July, Commissioner **Kathy WARD** and **Michael WISEMAN** were married in the Justice of the Peace chambers in Plano by Judge **John PAYTON** (above, right). Maid of Honor **Emily WARD** and Best Man **C.J. WARD** were on hand to round out the happy couple's day.

FOR SALE:

- ◆ **Law Enforcement Equipment:** Baton Holder, Aerosol Case, Belt Keepers, Key Strap w/Flap, Holster for Glock (Fits Models 17, 19, 22, 23, 31 & 32), Double Magazine Case, Velcro Lined Pants Belt (Size 28-32) & Duty Belt (Size 32). All items are Gould & Goodrich Brand, Black Leather Basketweave; still in original packaging, never used. Asking \$150 for everything. Please call **Tracye SPARKS**, Ext. 6441 or (903) 821-0063.

- ◆ **Demetrios Wedding Gown:** Worn on April 11, 2009. Ivory, strapless, size 10 dress has already been bustled. Original price was \$1,200 and selling price is \$700. Please contact **Jennifer** at Ext. 6447.



- ◆ **Scentsy Wickless Candles:** Great gift ideas or start a new business. This great product is also good for your office

since there are no open flames. Go to my website at www.scentsy.com/jenniferbrooks and check out the Latest/Greatest thing. Order online or call me with an order. I will be happy to help you out. 469-323-4681. **Jennifer BROOKS.**

- ◆ **1994 Saturn SL1, 4 door:** Dark blue, 5-speed, cold air, good body, several new parts: clutch, alternator, battery, starter, belts. Good tires, thermostat, tune-up, plugs, wires, head gaskets, rear main seal gaskets. Would be a good parts car. Inspection good until Oct. 1, tags are expired. Runs and drives but engine needs work. \$500 OBO. Serious inquiries only: 214-577-9573. You pay title transfer.



- ◆ **Washer and dryer:** Estate Brand, 1 yr old, \$500 or best offer; **Dining Table and Chairs:** Carlisle, 1 yr old, \$650 or best offer. Moving; must sell quick. Call **Randy WAUGH**, 972-548-3671 or 903-651-5333.



- ◆ **1968 Mercury Cougar:** \$4,000. Restored in 2002 by previous owner. Driven daily as a primary car. New front brakes, rotors and radiator. C4 tranny rebuilt 2 years ago. 302 with 351 heads, roller cam, Holly carb, Edelbrock intake, PS, PB, and 2 in dual exhaust with headers. Electronic sequential turn signals. See this website: <http://68cougar.nas-inet.com>

17th Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out



WHEN: Sept. 29, 2009
TEE TIME: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Stonebridge Ranch Country Club, McKinney
FOR: Benefiting four local charitable organizations
MORE: Registration forms & more on [MyCollinCounty](http://MyCollinCounty.com).