

Volume 7, Issue 2

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"YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION"

Collin County Connection



Break from unpacking

Caren SKIPWORTH, Lanette SAETRE, a slightly hobbled Greg ELLIOTT, Lisa ZOSKI and Kathy PETERSON of Information Technology take a break from unpacking April 7 in their new digs on the 3rd floor of the new administration building. *(More on Page 3)*

Moving on down the road

After more than 30 years of offering county services on McDonald Street, employees and officials began packing and moving on April 6 to the Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building on Bloomdale Road.

Information Technology were the first offices to occupy the new four-story building, while Facilities staff manned the hallways to hang pictures, hook up appliances in break rooms, and any other last-minute tweaks and fixes.

The first wave included Information Technology, Purchasing, Telecommunications, Web Development and GIS/Rural Addressing sections by April 8, followed the next week by Constable **Paul ELKINS'** Precinct 1 offices, Commissioners Court, Administrative Services, Budget & Finance, Human Resources, Teen Court and the County Auditor.

Paul RALEEH's Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace offices closed April 13 and are not due to re-open until May 4, as their staff will also undergo training and setting up for the latest installment of the CIJS Odyssey system. Community Supervision and Corrections' offices in the old Annex A will move into the University Drive Courts Facility once the dust settles.



THE COLLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE

**DEDICATION OF THE NEW
JACK HATCHELL
COLLIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

2300 BLOOMDALE ROAD, MCKINNEY, TEXAS
(WEST OF THE COLLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

OPEN HOUSE FROM 5-6:30 PM
DEDICATION AT 5:30 PM
COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING AT 6:30 PM
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

STACEY KEMP, COUNTY CLERK

Cordially invites you to visit our new offices
Located in the Jack Hatchell Collin County
Administration Building
Date: April 27, 2009
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: 2300 Bloomdale Road Suite 2104
Refreshments will be served in the County Clerk's Office

McKinney CSCD to 're-unite' at UDCF

Community Supervision and Corrections offices in Annex A will be moving to the University Drive Courts Facility in McKinney, taking over vacant space from the Tax Assessor & Collector's office move to Bloomdale Road.

Here are the details:

Date of move: Monday, April 27, 2009;

Closed to public: Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28;

All other CSCD offices, however, will remain open during this time;

New address: 1800 N. Graves St., #170, McKinney, TX 75069;

Phone numbers will not change.

Public Works to change work hours

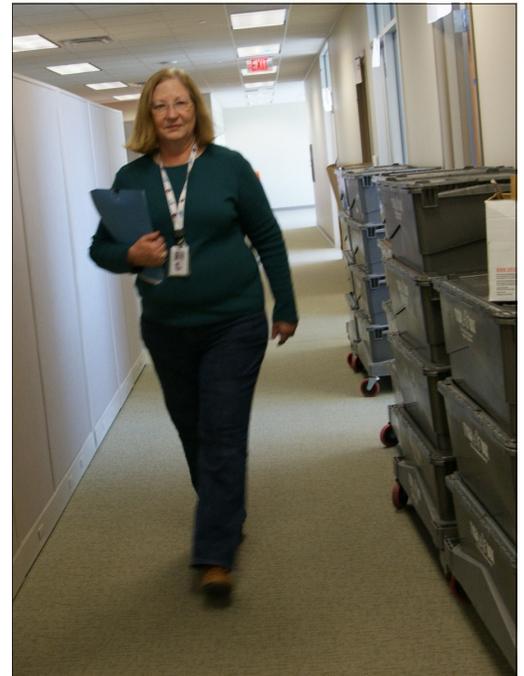
Beginning May 4 and running through late fall, Public Works' Road & Bridge and Fleet hours will be Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The department's front office will be open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with two staffers working Monday through Thursday, and two staffers working Tuesday through Friday.

And, as always, Public Works is available 24 hours, 7 days a week for emergencies.



New digs on Bloomdale Rd.



Clockwise from top: **Sherrie LAFOLLETT** searches through a packing box in Purchasing on the third floor; just down the hall, **Margaret ANDERSON** of Records patrols IT offering aid and advice; **Kendall HOLLAND** (right) of GIS watches the parade of shipping crates pouring into his department; and, a video vendor (left) explains to Judge **Paul RALEEH** (right) and **Joel HALL** of IT how the Commissioners Court video broadcasting system will be set up on the fourth floor.



People

A brief introduction to some of your county ...

Co-Workers

Patsy MORRIS

I work at the Health Department.

I've worked for the County since 1985. Before that I was employed at McKinney Job Corps for 15 years and taught GED.

I live in McKinney.

I'm married to Frank Morris. We've been together for 44 years.

We have three outstanding daughters: Shelley, Cassie, & Cindy and 6 precious grand- children.

My hometown is Collin County.

My hobbies are traveling, reading, playing cards and forty-two, and entertaining my grandchildren.

I'm most proud of my family.

When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up to be a teacher.



My heroes are my parents. They raised 11 children and times were hard, but there wasn't much complaining.

The best advice I was ever given was to try to be an example for others.

My favorite music is sung by Daniel O'Donnell.

My favorite type of food is fried catfish.

I'm a regular at Frank's Kitchen. My husband, Frank, prepares most of my meals through the week. He's retired and has more time.

No one knows that I am claustrophobic.

I always wanted to learn to ski.

I'm an avid sports fan. I love to watch my grandchildren play T-ball, baseball, and volleyball.

If I could vacation anywhere, I would go on an African Safari.

My favorite spot to visit in Texas is San Antonio.

The best books I like to read are mysteries.

I volunteer time to my grandchildren.

Posting a 30-year career working With troubled youth in 2 counties

Pam CLANTON-SWETMON, Unit Supervisor of the Plano Unit of the Juvenile Probation Office, retired February 27. Pam began her career in Juvenile Probation in Tom Green County in 1978 and joined the Collin County Juvenile Probation Department in 1985. She was one of three officers in the Plano office at that time. Pam became Unit Supervisor in June 2004, a unit which now has 13 officers.

In the original interview for the job in 1985, Pam was described as "confident, exceptionally well-spoken, well-versed in juvenile probation procedures, highly motivated to work and ... an extremely pleasing personality."

Not only did she prove all of this to be quite true, she possessed a genuine compassion for troubled youth. She will truly be missed by her colleagues in the county offices and the courts. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.



Pam CLANTON-SWETMON and Joe SCOTT, director of Juvenile Services.

He's the man with the plans For Facilities Maintenance

By **Patty HLADIK**

David **ROGERS** is Collin County Facilities' Computer Aided Design operator, who manages, updates, and maintains all the County building drawings. David prepares and verifies clear, complete, and accurate drawings from as-built construction, working plans, field notes, drawings from sketches, and verbal instructions using digitizing, scanning, or computer-aided drawings -- all of which may be needed by other county departments, architects, contractors or utility companies.

Not only does he review blueprints and specs of new constructions and in the field inspections of construction but he designs buildings, office space, signage, mill-work, and ensures that renovations meet ADA requirements. There is a vast amount of information that needs to be maintained for past, present, and future buildings for the County.

David also protects the assets pertaining to the Facilities Department such as tools, inventory, and equipment, and he must be available 24-7



David **ROGERS**

for emergency tool and supply requests. Included in David's responsibilities are various Permanent Improvement Projects (PIP), which deal directly with vendors and contractors. He assists Construction Projects with information needed for their projects concerning PIP.

The Housekeeping Contractor needs accurate records of square footage and floor plans to maintain specific areas in the different County buildings, so David provides that information and efficiently maintains changes that are made to provide for that contract. He also maintains the square footage for

landscaping, manicured lawn, and tractor mowing. David has and active involvement in the Budget process for various budget items. He was assigned to the Siemens Project, a \$7 million dollar, three-year project to comply with Energy Cost Reduction mandated by Senate Bill 5. There have also been various County projects that have been overseen by David, from Homeland Security Department and Emergency Operation Center to the new addition to the Medical Examiners to the Juvenile Probation Expansion at the University Drive Courts Facility.



2 New probation Officers to Plano

The Collin County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) recently welcomed two new community supervision officers to its Plano staff. **Bill WHITE** and **Alejandra "Alex" LICON** began work on March 6.

Alejandra joins us as an experienced officer who worked for the San Diego County Probation Department for four years and West Texas CSCD for one year. She graduated from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

She also completed an internship program with the El Paso Police Department while in college.

Bill graduated from South East Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in History. He served eight years in the U.S. Army where he was a military police officer.

Bill was previously with the Maryland State Police for 10 years. He moved here from Maryland and his resume also includes working for the Texas Youth Commission as a case manager and an investigator at the Denton State School. Bill is married and has four children.



Life-saving awards presented Ruckel, Bradley

Major **Chuck RUCKEL** and Lt. **Tony BRADLEY** were honored in March with Life Saving Awards presented to them by Sheriff **Terry BOX** for successfully saving a woman's life.

The Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call of an attempted suicide around noon on March 5, just as Major Ruckel and Lt. Bradley were leaving the Sheriff's Office. Since they were in the vicinity of the call, they responded and were the first to arrive on the scene, where they discovered an unconscious woman inside an idling vehicle with a hose running from the exhaust to the inside. They immediately removed the hose and opened all doors and windows to ventilate the car. Due to their courageous actions the woman survived the suicide attempt. Sheriff Box commended them for their heroism and awarded them with honorary Life Saving Bars.



Lt. Tony BRADLEY (left) and Major Chuck RUCKEL.



Randy CLARK



Jim BLACKBURN



Dan BOOTH

Marking a combined 70 years of service to SO

A February reception was held to honor the three employees for their dedicated and loyal service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office: Assistant Chief Deputy **Randy CLARK** for 30 Years of Service, Deputy **Dan BOOTH** for 20 years of service, and Deputy **Jim BLACKBURN** for 20 years of Service. Sheriff Box congratulated each recipient and presented them with an Anniversary Plaque to commemorate their service.



L-R: Deputies Joe WRIGHT, George WHITE and Richard CASS.

Quick action turns into life-saving call for trio of Sheriff's patrol deputies

On a cold mid-December night, an elderly Collin County resident with Alzheimer's disease wandered away from home and was reported missing by his wife. Mrs. **Bonnie GROOM** called 9-1-1 for help in locating her 81-year-old husband who vanished from their residence on State Hwy. 78

in Farmersville. Deputies **Joe WRIGHT, George WHITE** and **Richard CASS** responded to the call around midnight.

The current temperature was 35 degrees with a 27 mph wind that drew a wind chill factor of 22 degrees. With such harsh weather conditions, it became extremely urgent to locate Mr.

Groom. The search began in the area of the residence and extended to the north where the Deputies located Mr. Groom.

He was found injured from a fall and shivering severely from the effects of exposure. The deputies immediately covered him with blankets for warmth and waited for the arrival of an ambulance. Upon their arrival, the paramedics evaluated Mr. Groom's medical condition and determined he was suffering from Stage 2 Hypothermia, and concluded that another 30 minutes of exposure would have proven deadly for Mr. Groom.

Due to their quick action and timely response, these deputies are credited for saving the man's life. In January, Sheriff **Terry BOX** honored the deputies with a special ceremony and presented Life Saving Bars to each one for their heroic efforts on December 14. Sheriff Box said "their determination to locate Mr. James Groom on that very cold December night proves that they are true heroes in every sense of the word. I am deeply honored to recognize them with this award."

Deputies sworn in March service

Three Transfer Deputies and one Detention Sergeant were sworn in during March. Pictured above with Sheriff **Terry BOX** (L-R): First Row: Transfer Deputies **James ROUSSEAU, Joe PEEBLES** and **Michael CAPPS**. Back Row: Detention Sgt. **Josh LOTT**. Congratulations to all.



Announcements/Classifieds

Carsen Wayne HIX.
Born March 21, 2009,
and weighed 8 pounds,
9 ounces at 19 1/4
inches lone. Proud par-
ents **Christie** and
Chris and brother,
Caleb.



Heather TODD, daughter of
Danny and **Lisa TODD** of
County Court at Law No. 2,
graduated in December from the
University of Texas at Arlington
with a Bachelor of Science in
Nursing. Heather graduated with
honors, Cum Laude, and has also
passed her national test as a
Registered Nurse. She is em-
ployed at Wilson Jones Hospital
in Sherman.



Hayden Grace WATSON.
Born on March 5th, 2009,
and weighed 6 pounds, 9
ounces at 19 1/2 inches
long. Parents are **Dustin**
WATSON (Road and Bridge)
and **Karen WELBORN**
of Princeton. Proud Grand-
parents are **Dana** and **Cindy**
WATSON (District Clerks
Office), **Steve** and
Laura CARR, and **Rick** and
Leslie WELBORN, all of
Princeton.



FOR SALE:

Horse: Registered CMK Arabian, 2 1/2 years old; grey,
very sweet, good ground manners, stands for farrier. Up
to date on Coggins and shots. Small, and would be good
junior rider prospect: \$500. Might consider free to ap-
proved home. Contact **Teresa MOORE**, 469-939-2640.

Playstation 2 for sale \$300: Less than one year old.
Still have the receipt. Included are 41 games, two con-
trollers and memory card. Contact **Brian EDWARDS** at
214-491-9024 or 972-548-4106 for more information.

Clerks' annual run/walk set for May 9 at Towne Lake

Spring brings another annual event that helps raise funds to shelter battered women and protect the county's children: The Collin County district and County Clerk 5-k Fun Run/Walk. The event, held at Towne Lake Park in McKinney, benefits Hope's Door Domestic Violence Center and the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center, and kicks off Saturday morning, May 9th. All entrants receive a Fun Run/Walk T-shirt.

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 2009

TIME: Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. ; Runners start at 9 a.m. ;Walkers start at 9:15 a.m.; Snacks and water provided for participants in the West Pavilion

WHERE: Towne Lake Park, West Pavilion, U.S. HWY. 75 & Wilson Creek Pkwy in McKinney

COST: \$20.00 per entry
\$15.00 t-shirt only

Sponsorships are available, too:

PLATINUM: \$500 (Name on Shirt, Sign, recognition in paper)
GOLD: \$350 (Sign, recognition in paper)
SILVER: \$200 (recognition in paper)
OTHER: \$_____



Food donations for participants are also needed, and a food donation of \$15 will get you a T-shirt.