



Last Court

Commissioner **Joe JAYNES** gets a standing ovation on Dec. 17 during the last Commissioners Court session of his four-term, 16-year career representing Precinct 3. He is returning to the private section as a government relations officer for Waste Management, Inc., a Houston-based firm that provides waste collection, transfer, recycling, resource recovery, and disposal services nationally.

Long-term coverage a benefit worth comparing to assisted living costs

The need to plan for long-term care for both yourself and your loved ones is an increasingly important issue facing individuals today.

Long-term care is the assistance received when someone needs help with two or more activities of daily living – such as dressing, bathing, going to the bathroom, eating or moving around. This care could be provided in the home, in an assisted living or residential care facility, or in a skilled nursing facility such as a nursing home.

According to the U.S. Special Committee on Aging, the number of people receiving long-term care is expected to double by 2030.

Once considered an issue concerning only older adults, long term care also affects the younger population as well. In many cases if you are not the one needing care you may be the one responsible for providing it. Most people do not

think about long term care until it affects someone close to them.

Long Term Care coverage is one of the best ways to offset long term expenses and help preserve your assets and your financial future. As a full-time employee with Collin County, you are eligible for long term care benefits through UNUM.

These benefits are voluntary for your first seven years of employment. Any individual between the ages of 18 and 80 may apply for coverage. In addition to covering yourself, you may purchase coverage for your spouse, a child over 25, parent, or grandparent with an evidence of good health. If you have not been with the county for eight years and you are interested in adding this benefit, you can elect coverage during Collin County's open enrollment period.

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“YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION”

Collin County Connection

Long-term care cont'd.

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Once you reach eight years of continuous service, the county provides Long Term Care coverage to you at no cost. Your coverage begins the first of the following month after you reach the required eight years of service. Additionally, unlike some benefits, Long

Term Care coverage is portable so you may continue your coverage even after you leave employment with Collin County. You will be responsible for payment for the coverage but coverage will not lapse and you will lock in at a special rate.

At 15 years of continuous service, your

coverage is automatically upgraded at no extra cost to you.

For additional information on the upgraded coverage or additional coverage options, you should contact either **Abby SPENCE** at Ext. 4602 or **LaVette KNOX** at Ext. 4687.

Tax breaks ending could bring changes in paychecks

Please keep in mind that many tax breaks expired at the end of 2011.

This means that, if Congress doesn't extend them retroactively back to the beginning of 2012, many employees may see tax increases when it comes time to file 2012 returns in the spring.

It also means employees could also see less take-home pay come the first of the year.

Human Resources will be monitoring and keeping track of changes through the end of the year, but we wanted to remind everyone that there is no way of predicting what federally mandates tax breaks, if any, will remain by the end of the year.

HR Spotlight: Erica Johnson

When Erica JOHNSON applied for a position in Collin County Human Resources, she had no idea what to expect. Now after five and half years in the department she says that she has "loved almost every second of it."

Erica started working with Collin County as a Human Resources Assistant at the front desk. She was promoted into a Human Resources Generalist position that she held for over five years before being recently promoted to Human Resources Manager. Erica works specifically with Employee Relations and Pay for Performance.

Erica grew up in Hot Springs, Ark., and graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. While most people with that degree dream of being on television, Erica never wanted to be in front of the camera. Erica states, "I always enjoyed the behind the scenes craziness that went on in the newsroom and I think that is what I like about my position with Collin County. There is always something new and exciting to learn about and be a part of. I say it all the time, there is never a dull moment at Collin County!" When she is not working, Erica enjoys spending time with her husband of eight years and their three-year-old daughter. She loves to travel, especially to Hawaii, and is an avid college football fan.

So, if you ever need anything involving Employee Relations or Pay for Performance or want to chat about SEC dominance in college football, don't hesitate to give Erica a call at Ext. 4782.



Emelyn JOHNSON and her Mom, Erica.



Major move

Brian EDWARDS received a GEM award for completing a reorganization project that involved moving over 10,000 boxes of District Clerk records and ensuring storage compliance with the State Library and Archives Commission.

The project involved reviewing and either retaining or destroying records that were located in two areas that needed to be cleared and made available in time for the County Clerk's move into the courthouse.

Brian had to coordinate the removal of the existing records while the new systems were installed and then a reorganization and return of the records after the new shelving installation was completed. The end result of weeks of exhausting work is an effective use of the limited space available.

The District Clerk's Office would not have been able to complete the project and meet the needs of the department without Brian's extraordinary efforts.

Above and beyond ...

Human Resources honored the extraordinary efforts of Gloria SAENZ (left) and Sarah UDICK by awarding them each with a GEM award. Gloria went the "extra mile" by providing assistance to the Veterans Services office when they were very shorthanded as well as assisting with some recruiting efforts (neither of which were related to her duties working payroll). Sarah went straight from a very hectic pace of finalizing year end Pay-For-Performance and then immediately took on the task of hiring an unprecedented number of on-call temporary workers to help support County offices with staffing shortages. Thanks go to both of them for their hard work and dedication.



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.

The deadline to submit material for the January/February edition is Friday, Jan. 25, 2013.

Goodwin Retires from Facilities Maintenance

Dan JAMES, Facilities Director, would like to extend his gratitude for **Roger GOODWIN's** service, Facilities' newest retiree. Roger worked for Collin County since October 2004 as a Tech I and a licensed HVAC tech working under the supervision of **Jimmy PIERCE**.

Roger worked the 12-hour, day shift, and not only handled HVAC work orders but took care of the calls that came in on Saturdays for the Detention Facilities and other County Buildings. He also helped with lighting, plumbing, preventive maintenance, and security issues. Roger's service was valued and appreciated. He has been a great example of hard work and dedication.

Thanks Roger, and good luck.



Years-of-Service Recognition for 4 employees

William LITCHFORD received his 10-year service pin. William is a Grounds Keeper under the supervision of **Lloyd ROLLINS**. His responsibilities include irrigation, mowing, trimming, edging, landscaping, and weeding. The grounds team assists with general maintenance when needed. They put up the Christmas lights and décor for the County and they take care of assigned buildings during inclement weather days. Congratulations, William.

Brenda TURNER received her 15-year service pin. Brenda is the Housekeeping Contract Coordinator, responsible for overseeing several contractors which include Housekeeping, window washers, mini blind cleaners, uniforms, and mat rentals. Brenda takes care of the janitorial supplies in all the buildings. She, too, is under **Lloyd ROLLINS'** supervision. Way to go, Brenda.



Ricky THOMAS (left) received his 15-year service



From left, **Brenda TURNER**, **William LITCHFORD**, **Don HARRIS** and Facilities director **Dan JAMES**.

pin. Ricky is classified as a Tech II and is the Lead Tech in the Adult Detention Facility under the supervision of Terry Babbitt. He is qualified to work on electronics, lighting, plumbing, security,

cameras and does repairs on life safety equipment. Ricky is one of several men that are imperative to the daily operation of the Detention Facilities, always

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Recognition

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to ensure safety and proper maintenance. The yearly State Certification for the jail depends greatly on the maintenance of these buildings and regular operation of the equipment within these buildings to help maintain a safe environment for all. Thanks, Ricky.

Don HARRIS of Facilities Maintenance received his 10-year service pin. Don is on the Renovation team, and works under the supervision of Tim Dooley. Don's responsibilities include general maintenance of all Collin County buildings, assisting with the completion of permanent improvement projects, and is on the on-call rotation for emergency calls after hours and weekends. Don is a great asset to the Facilities Department.



Speaking of service anniversaries, Facilities Director **Dan JAMES** received his 25-year service pin from County Administrator **Bill BILYEU**. Dan began his employment with Collin County Facilities Maintenance in 1987.

Public Works

Public Works anniversaries

Public Works director **Jon KLEINHEKSEL** presented service anniversary pins to his employees during Commissioners Court in mid-November: (l-r) **Francisco BERUMEN**, 10 years; **John HACKNEY**, 10 years; and **Bobby JONES**, 25 years.



District Clerk

Amanda PER-MENTER (right) received her 5-year service pin from District Clerk **Andrea THOMPSON**.



Kandis HALLAM (left) is the new Accounting Tech in the District Clerk's Office. **Christopher PALMER** (above, right) is the new Evidence Registrar.



40 years & 10 years of service

Judy CONAWAY (left) and **Marcia SIMPSON** received their anniversary pins in November. Judy celebrated 40 years this summer, but it took some time to get her pin order filled. No one's served the county that long before.



Chili Cook-Off

The District Clerk's Office held their chili cook-off in November, judged by Commissioner-Elect **Chris HILL**, 401st Bailiff **Ralph EVANS**, 380th District Judge **Ben SMITH**, and County Court at Law #3 Judge **Lance BAXTER**. First-place honors went to *Gasimus Maximus* (above, l-r): **Jennifer TRUSTY**, **Angie SHEWMAKE**, **Angela ALEXANDER**, and **Amy MATHIS**. The People's Choice Award Winners were *Team Kickin' Chicken*, with (lower left, l-r) County Clerks' **Kellie McCLELLAN** and **Nancy TENORIO**. And the *Rotten Tomato* award for last place went to Judge **Mark RUSCH** (above, left) of the 401st District Court, pictured with his Bailiff, **Ralph EVANS**.





5-years service

Carrie TUCKER receives her 5-year service pin from Superintendent **Jeff FALEFIA**. Carrie graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of North Texas in 2005, initially started her career with the Sheriff's Office for a year before joining the juvenile detention staff. Carrie works with our females in the Post Adjudication Program and makes a positive impact with our kids on a multitude of levels with her compassionate heart.



30 years service

Pam HUFFMAN (left), Director of Juvenile Services, received her 30-year service pin from Judge **Cynthia WHELESS** in Commissioners Court in mid-November. Pam took over the department on Sept. 1.



5 years with County Clerk

Anita CHANDLER (left), Deputy Clerk II-Vital Statistics, received her 5-year service pin from County Clerk **Stacey KEMP**.

10 years service

Patricia CAMPBELL of the Auditor's Office, received her 10-year Service pin from Auditor **Jeff MAY** in mid-November. That same court, her boss was also recognized for recently becoming a Certified Government Finance Officer.





Dottie Scalf Honored at Retirement Reception

Dottie SCALF (above, right) was given the grand send-off during the retirement reception held in her honor. A host of friends and family members were in attendance to congratulate her. Sheriff **Terry BOX** presented her with a plaque commemorating 18 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



Transfer Deputies promoted

Transfer Deputies **Rodney TACKETT** and **Dennis GILL** (right) have been promoted from Transfer Deputies to Patrol Deputies. Sheriff Box congratulated each on their recent promotion.



20 Years of Service

Sheriff Box congratulates Deputy **Jim SIMMS** and Records Supervisor **Cheryl MATHIS** for their achievement of twenty years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. They were each presented a 20-Year Plaque and commended for their dedicated service.



Major Ruckel retires after 19 years with Sheriff's Office

Major **Chuck RUCKEL** recently retired from the Collin County Sheriff's Office with 19 years of dedicated service. A retirement reception was held in his honor with an abundance of friends and well-wishers. Sheriff Box presented him with a retirement plaque for 19 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

20th Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out "Fore" Kids Reaches Milestone

The 20th Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out "Fore" Kids Golf Tournament reached a significant milestone in fund raising for Collin County Charities.

Thanks to the efforts of participants, sponsors, & donors, a total of \$427,300 was raised and divided equally between the following charities: Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, Heard Natural Science Museum, Wellness Center of Collin County, and CASA of Collin County. Pictured at left, Sheriff Terry Box proudly presents each representative their check from proceeds of the tournament. In the past 20 years, more than \$1,946,000 has been distributed among the charities.



Pictured with Sheriff Box are (l-r) **Susan ETHERIDGE** of CASA of Collin County, **Carolyn RICE** of Wellness Center of Collin County, **Lynne McLEAN** of Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, and **Sy SHAHID** of the Heard Museum of Natural Science.

Sheriff **Terry BOX** said, "It is such an honor to have so many participate by giving of their time and money to support both the younger and older citizens of Collin County. I want to thank each and every one of you who were a part of this year's tournament."



Sgt. Stubbs Receives Award

Sgt. **Diane STUBBS** received the 2012 Presidents Award at the 15th Annual Texas Association of Property & Evidence Inventory Technicians (TAPEIT) Training conference. Sgt. Stubbs was selected for this award based on her involvement, accomplishments and contributions to TAPEIT.

She was also re-elected to her 3rd Term for the TAPEIT Board of Directors.



After Hours

On-call, after hours work is standard fare for many county jobs

It's common knowledge that sheriff's deputies and detention officers are on-call or manning their stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It's part-and-parcel with a law enforcement job.

But Collin County also has a cadre of folks who regularly work on-call duty to keep county services, roads and buildings operating day and night. For these folks, that means occasional interruptions of family dinners, some missed school pageants, and certainly a few inconvenient phone calls in the middle of the night. So we decided to show you just a few of these workers and what they do to keep things going around the county, around the clock.

Animal Services

Animal Services has six Animal Control Officers who take turns on-call, plus two supervisors. Animal Services on-call involves responding to emergencies at all hours, and have included livestock hit on roads, a cow in a swimming pool, dog bites, owners arrested for animal cruelty, snakes inside homes, injured animals, extreme animal hoarding situations, and more.

For **Danny DAVIS**, who's worked for six years with the county, weekend or evening duty can regularly bring some out-and-out strange calls that can also offer a change from investigating animal cruelty or neglect. A year back, one such call came in, asking for assistance to help a Princeton homeowner pull his cow out of the family swimming pool.



Development Services

Development Services employs four people who are either Registered Sanitarians, Certified Code Enforcement

Officers, or both. They are on call around-the-clock to respond to emergency, after-hours calls that have included extreme hoarding situations, food-borne illness outbreaks, communicable disease outbreaks, public health threats, and environmental health threats.

Cliff EDWARDS' weekend calls are more the norm than the exception. A lot of Cliff's weekend work involves inspecting cook-offs, food festivals and other events where vendors sell food to the public. He also handles environmental duties, such as driving out to a pond to trap mosquitoes for West Nile Virus testing.



For example, one Saturday morning he responded to the closure of a food establishment due to a fire sprinkler incident. The city's fire inspector would not allow the facility to open without a health inspection, so he headed out, inspected the restaurant, had some minor problems resolved, and the place was allowed to open for business.

Facilities Maintenance

Facilities' maintenance technicians rarely have to travel far from the main county campus in McKinney for an emergency, but if the air conditioning shuts down in the county jail or the power is cut to county mainframe computers, it can pose a serious problem that needs to be dealt with immediately. From electronic locks to cooling



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and heating to security cameras and plumbing, most of the department's 49 employees work on-call throughout the year. The public rarely sees these technicians as they crawl through ceilings, fire up backup generators, unclog pipes or re-wire connections.

For **Ricky THOMAS**, on-call duty comes about once every ten weeks at the County Jail, where he'll come in to handle electronics of the jail's automated control system for doors, cells touch-screen controls, video cameras and the intercom system so the ebb and flow of detention officers and prisoners runs like clockwork.

Fire Marshal's Office

The three Fire Marshal investigators rotate on-call duty one week at a time, and for a wide array of incidents. True, the county does not have a fire department but it assists 21 local volunteer fire departments in rural jurisdictions. Besides fires, they also respond to nuisance abatement issues such as trash, high grass, and unsightly, and salvage vehicles in yards. Then there are hazardous material spills or leaks, arson investigations, severe weather and storm damage, and manning the county's Mobile Incident Command Post.

In the past year, the Fire Marshal's office logged 6,441 on-call hours collectively among the three investigators. On one week in particular, Fire Marshal **Jason BROWN-**



ING responded to 11 after-hour calls, which ranged from a structure fire that spread to three structures, illegal burning, two vehicle fires and a fatal house fire.

Medical Examiner's Office

The Medical Examiner's Office employs four full-time field agents (investigators) who work rotating on-call shifts 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are expected to respond to a variety of death scenes including, motor vehicle accidents, drug overdoses, industrial accidents, suicides, unexplained deaths and homicides. Each investigator is on-call three or four times a month for two to five nights in a row. They take scene photographs, collect evidence, interview family members,

witnesses, law enforcement, and help transport bodies to the medical examiner's office. They also follow up with medical and social histories and even refer some cases to outside agencies such as Adult & Child Protective Services, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Occupational Health & Safety Administration.

Robert LAUGHON,

who's worked in the ME's Office for 13 years, says he has no one example of a weekend callout that stands out, since he is inevitably responding someone's death.



Public Works

Since the county is responsible for 473 miles of rural roadway, Road & Bridge crews can spend their fair share of weekends and nights at work when storms down trees or rains wash out roadways. If it isn't putting up barricades to keep drivers from entering flood waters or repairing overnight washouts, it might be getting out chain saws to remove a fallen tree. During winter months, many get up well before dawn and venture out to see firsthand just how hazardous roads are from the occasional ice storm, and plan sanding operations.

Foreman Brett HESLET'S

worst on-call experience lasted for days on end when he and his crew responded to help clear debris from a tornado that ripped a wide swath through the tiny Collin County town of Westminster in May 2006. Brett says the toughest part of the job scraping up the shredded remains of what once had been home to dozens of families just a few days earlier.



Announcements/Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hunter PARSONS, son of **Brian** and **L'Cena PARSONS** (Records), has been selected from a nationwide competition to be a part of a Teen Distracted Driving Prevention Leadership Team for 2012-2013. The team is sponsored by the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS). Hunter is a Junior at Trenton High School. He will have the opportunity to meet with other teens from around the United States to come up with new ideas in preventing distracted driving. He attended the annual conference earlier this month in Washington D.C., and also had the opportunity to meet with some U.S. Senators and event sponsors, such as AT&T, Chrysler, Ford, Toyota, and Operation Lifesaver. NOYS is a coalition of over 60 national organizations, federal agencies, and business and industry leaders provide leadership and vision to address youth health and safety issues through youth engagement and youth empowered leadership. Due to the fact that motor vehicle crashes are the largest youth health and safety concern for teens, NOYS has made youth traffic safety a priority of the coalition and focuses its efforts year-round to address youth traffic safety issues.



Proud grandparents **Mark** and **Lorraine Dozier** (County Court at Law Clerks office) welcome their granddaughter, **Savannah Leigh DOZIER**, born Sept. 26, 2012; weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Her proud parents: **Justin** (aka coach Dozier) and **Kristy Dozier** of Waco.



FOR SALE

CAR FOR SALE: 2010 Chevy HHR (Chevy's extended PT Cruiser); Silver; \$12,500 obo; 28k miles; been averaging 28 mpg commuting from Plano to McKinney. John Story @ 972-805-3861.

FOR SALE: A lovely home in McKinney in Seville Estates (Eldorado/Hardin Ave), 1640 sq. ft., 3brm/2bth, great room, formal dining, open kitchen design, new roof, established

landscaping and sprinkler system, oversized patio. It's been well maintained, convenient to shopping & all major roadways. You can look at it through the County GIS site. Call for appointment and/or more information, call Donna at Ext. 4162 or 214-578-6221.



FURNITURE: 2-piece entertainment center, will fit up to a 44" TV; storage space, lights in top shelf, asking \$100 or best offer. Call Linda Smith, 214-733-3031 or 972-548-3700.



Where's the tinsel?

Members of Facilities Maintenance gather round after decorating the courthouse Christmas tree in late November.