

C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information



Tree of Angels

Family and friends of crime victims came to the courthouse on Dec. 11, as the District Attorney's office dedicated its Tree of Angels. The service centered around families decorating the tree with ornaments to remember loved ones lost to violent crime, with the District Attorney's staff, law enforcement and crime victim advocates in attendance for support. Related photo on page 8.

Open Enrollment ends Dec. 21; forms posted online

Annual Enrollment began Dec. 8, and runs through Dec. 21. Now's the time to add, drop or make changes to your insurance coverage.

All forms are available at MyCollinCounty.

The Annual Enrollment information packet includes:

- ◆ **2015 Annual Enrollment Benefits Brief** – This gives an overview of annual enrollment and your benefits.
- ◆ **2015 Annual Enrollment Meeting Schedule** – This schedule lists the county-wide annual enrollment meeting dates

and times.

- ◆ **Medical Plan Comparison Sheet** – This sheet compares the benefits provided under the Advantage and Advantage Plus medical plans.
- ◆ **Glossary of Health Coverage and Medical Terms** – This form was designed as an informative piece required by the Affordable Care Act. The glossary provides definitions of commonly used health insurance terms.
- ◆ **Summary of Benefits and Coverage** (Advantage and Advantage Plus) – A Summary of Benefits and Coverage is provided for each plan Collin County

offers and defines terms you may come across while looking through materials.

- ◆ **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Notice** (HIPAA) – Because Collin County has a self-funded plan it may elect to be exempt from requirements of Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act. Commissioners Court makes this decision on an annual basis. The enclosed notice advises employees that Collin County has elected to be exempt from the requirements — benefits offered by Collin County are equivalent or similar to those required under the

act.

- ◆ **Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Disclosure Notice** – This notice is required by law and is intended to assist Medicare eligible individuals in determining if they should enroll in a Medicare Part D plan during their initial enrollment period or at a later date. The notice informs participants that our benefits are expected to pay on average as much as or more than standard Medicare coverage.

If you have questions, contact **Abby SPENCE** at Ext. 4602 or **Rachel LAKEY** at Ext. 4687.



Thanksgiving for Meals-on-Wheels

County Clerk **Stacey KEMP**, Vitals Lead Clerk **Mary COLLINS** and Senior Administrator **Brenda CAVENDER** presented 12 Thanksgiving boxes filled with items donated by County Clerk staff to Sylvia from Meals-on-Wheels. The boxes were part of the Thanksgiving delivery to Meals on Wheels recipients.



National Adoption Day

Staff from the District Clerk's office had the privilege to assist with the 10th Annual Collin County National Adoption Day. Pictured here are (from left) **Mindi** and **Sadie JOHNS**, Judge **Cyndi WHELESS**, and **Amy MATHIS**.



Another Kind of Thanksgiving

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer January of 2013 and just finished my last chemo treatment Sept. 5, 2014. Through all of my journey, my Collin County Family has been by my side, supporting me. For two years in a row, Assistant District Attorneys **Ashley KIEL**, **Brandon WON-NACOTT**, **Sarah FOX** and her husband, **Jonathan** and their sweet baby, **Vivienne Marie**, have represented Collin County at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Denise's Rack Pack. This year's race was on Oct. 18. I couldn't be more proud to work with such wonderful people." -- **Denise CONDRAN** (above, center), Court Reporter, CCAL No. 3



Some Secret Santas

The County Clerk's staff participated in the Secret Santa program for Meals-on-Wheels. From left, **Stacey KEMP**, **Sue MARTENS**, **Mary COLLINS**, **Brenda CAVENDER** and **Anita CHANDLER** delivered presents to be distributed to Meals on Wheels recipients.



Public Works Anniversaries

Several employees ranging from truck drivers to managers reached major milestones the past few months at Public Works. In fact, their combined experience equals two centuries of service. All gathered in the conference room last month to receive their pins and, of course, pictures. The honorees are from left to right: **Jeremy FISHER**, 10 years; **Price ABLES**, 25 years; **Leonso MEDINA**, 5 years; **Dennis BLAYLOCK**, 5 years; **Forest COX**, 30 years; **Ricky MOODY**, 20 years; **Dayne SHEPHERD**, 10 years; **Ronald GRIFFIN**, 15 years; **Geoff CROUCH**, 30 years; **Pat HOWELL**, 20 years; **Johnny MILTON**, 20 years; and **Wayne ANDERSON**, 10 years.

District Attorney Anniversaries



Alyson Dietrich PAWLIK (left) was presented with her 15-year service pin by District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** in October. Alyson is Chief of the DA's Family Justice Division and is appreciated for her professionalism, enthusiasm, and support of others. Thank you, Alyson, for always being a great example.

Congratulations to DA Felony Investigator **Dale DOWDY** (right) for his 10 years of service to Collin County. Thank you, Dale, for your commitment and dedication to the pursuit of justice!



Raleeh inducted into College of Justice Court Judges

Judge Paul RALEEH, Justice of the Peace, Pct.1, was recently inducted as a Member into the Texas Justice Court Judges Association - College of Justice Court Judges in mid-October. The College encourages and recognizes judges who

strive for advanced education over and above the state mandated educational requirements. Judge Raleeh was one of only 23 Justice Court Judges throughout Texas to receive the Member designation from the college.



Chili Cook-Off

Results from the District Clerk's annual chili cook-off are in, and here are the winners:

The People's Choice award went to Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1. (above, with Jessica **GRIF-FITH** and Judge **Paul RALEEH**).

The winning team was "Chili Chili Bang Bang #2," made up of (above right, l-r) **Christina ZAMORA**, **Tammy BLEDSOE**, **Marcia SIMPSON**, **Brandi BROWN**, and **Edward BULLCALF** -- from the District Clerk's Office.

Judging the contest were Judges (right, l-r) **Lance BAXTER** (CCAL No. 3), **Scott BECKER** (219th) and **Paul RALEEH** (JP1).



New Bailiff in Town

Collin County Court at Law No. 6 has welcomed a new bailiff to their team: **Charles GILBERT** (right).

He's pictured with **Stephanie ABLES**, **Jennifer CORLEY** and Judge **Jay BENDER**. Charles was "pinned" on his first day by his wife, Kim.





County Clerk's Office

County Clerk **Stacey KEMP** (left) presented **Jean McLendon** with her retirement plaque following 19 years of service to Collin County.



2 Retirements in Tax Office

Cathy MALONE, (above, with **Kenneth MAUN**) a Motor Vehicle Supervisor, retired in late October after more than 18 years with the Tax Office. She began her career with the Tax Office in November 1995.

Cathy enjoyed interacting with employees and customers. She was always a positive influence in the office, and her accomplishments include developing the Motor Vehicle Training Materials, working with sub-contractors, and setting up grocery stores and off-site locations to process registrations. Cathy's creative talents and exceptional knowledge will be missed in the Tax Office. Cathy was presented a plaque by Mr. Maun as he thanked her for her dedicated service to the Tax Office.

Nancy MILNICKER (below) also retired in late October. Nancy worked as a Title Specialist in the Frisco Tax Office. She has been employed with the Tax Office since October 2001.

Nancy loves to help people and enjoys working with the public. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family and grandchildren. Mr. Maun presented Nancy a plaque and thanked her for her many years of service to the Tax Office.



A Gathering of G.E.M.S.

Four employees of Constable, Precinct 3, were given Going-the-Extra-Mile awards in December by Constable **Sammy KNAPP** for exceptional work. (above, l-r) Deputy **Patrick TURNER**, Chief **Lonnie SIMMONS**, Deputy **Kay YODER**, Deputy **Reggie GREEN**; seated is Constable **Sammy KNAPP**. Deputy Turner received his award for volunteering to be assigned warrants while maintaining the workload of his usual district; Chief Simmons received his award for continuously volunteering his time to help at risk teens; Deputy Yoder received her award for her ability to maintain control of potentially volatile situation (she was also commended on her diligent work ethics and willingness to help others; and, Deputy Green received his award for volunteering to work Writs of Execution.



22nd Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out "Fore" Kids

In early October, the 22nd Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out "Fore" the Kids golf tournament, turned into a huge success raising money to benefit and support Collin County charities.

Sheriff **Terry BOX** presented checks to the charities totaling \$25,500.

They are: CASA of Collin County, Children's Advocacy Center, Heard Natural Science Museum and Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County.

The tournament was held at the Stonebridge Country Club in McKinney, and has raised \$2,095,000 since it began.

Pictured at Left: (L-R) **Jamie STAFFORD, Lori GREEN & Susie ADDISON** of CASA of Collin County, Sheriff **Terry BOX**, **Lynne McLEAN** of Children's Advocacy Center, **Jon VALENCIA** of the Heard Natural Science Museum and **Stephen HOOD** of the Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County.

Recent Retirements

Detention Officers **Becky SEALS, Wallace ELLSWORTH** and **Sandra BUCKALOO** recently retired from the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Officer Seals retired with 24 years of service while Officer Ellsworth retired with 15 and Officer Buckaloo retired with 19 years of service.

During the ceremonies they were each congratulated by Sheriff Box and were presented with retirement plaques for their dedication and years of service.

And ...



Becky SEALS



Wallace ELLSWORTH



Sandra BUCKALOO



Diane STUBBS



John NORTON

... A joint retirement reception was held in honor of Sergeant **Diane STUBBS** and Lieutenant **John NORTON**. Sheriff Box presented each with a plaque for their dedicated service and congratulated them both for their contributions to the Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Stubbs retired with 24 years of service and Lt. Norton served for 31 years.

Service Anniversaries

Two employees have reached significant milestones. Detention Officer **Kimberly HOLLEMAN** (below left) received her plaque for 20 years of service, presented to her by Chief Deputy **Rick ALLEN** and Sergeant **Gerald BURK** (below right) received his plaque for 30 years of service, presented to him by Sheriff Box. Both were praised for their dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



Swearing in Ceremonies

Sheriff Box held two separate swearing in ceremonies in November. New Patrol Deputy **Nick NOEL** (right), along with (below, l-r) Deputy **Jonathon GLIDDEN**, Deputy **Joshua STANLEY**, Sergeant **Jess CHRISTENSEN**, Sergeant **Michael LAKE** & Deputy **Reid GOLSON**, were also sworn in. Congratulations to all.



Promotions

David BARNETT (right) was recently promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant during a ceremony with Sheriff Box.



Don Johnston Retires

Don JOHNSTON, Control Room Operator retired from Facilities Maintenance in December. After years of service in the military and his time at the County, Don is taking some well-deserved time to enjoy life with his children and grandchildren. Thanks, Don, for all that you did.

5 years' service

Rickee HARRIS, Building Maintenance Tech II, received his 5-year service pin. Rickee has an array of responsibilities, but he specializes in heating and air-conditioning controls. He works directly with the Utilities Manager to help the County run as energy efficient as possible. Rickee earned an Associate's Degree in Applied Science Electronic/Computer Maintenance, and an Associate's in Construction Management. In addition, he is a certified welder. Congratulations go out to Rickee for a great job.

15 years' service

Tim DOOLEY celebrates 15 years of service to the county. He's the Technical Coordinator for In-House Renovations and General Maintenance. Tim supervises five Tech II's, one Tech I and two Maintenance Specialists. Their duties include painting, tape & bedding, mud work, framing walls, hanging sheetrock, flooring and interior finishing, electrical work and general maintenance of all county buildings. Tim takes part of an on-call rotation for nights and weekends. Tim's knowledge, experience, and good attitude are important resources to the county. Facilities Management congratulates Tim for his 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. We post deadlines for submissions on the Calendar at MyCollinCounty.

Announcements

► **Harper Faith MARQUEZ:**
Born Aug. 27, 2014; proud
parents are **Chris** and **Melissa MARQUEZ** (Public Works).



◀ **Austin Elise TRAHAN:**
Born Nov. 2, 2014; height
20¾ inches; weight: 7 lbs.
1oz. Proud Parents are **Jeremy**
(Fire Marshal's Office) and
Kristin TRAHAN.



◀ **Shelby McCRAW:** On Dec.
19, will graduate from The
University of Texas-Dallas
with honors, completing her
Bachelors of Science in Busi-
ness Administration. Shelby is
a 2012 Graduate of Crandall
High School, and currently
interns with National Life
Group. Her proud father is
Capt. **Terry McCRAW**
(Sheriff's Office).



WREATHS: Wreaths For All Occasions at www.etsy.com /
Search ClancyArt. If you find something you like, please
contact Melinda at Ext. 4196 for CC discounted pricing.



For Sale / Services

TILLER: Craftsman garden rear-tine tiller, 800 series, 14-
inch cut. Just had it tuned up, runs very good. Contact Mack
at 214-551-1780.



BOOK PUBLISHED: Collin
County's **Cortina JACKSON**
announces the release of her
new novel: "On Earth As it is
Hell." It's available as an e-
book for \$4.99 on Amazon,
Barnes and Noble and the Ap-
ple I Bookstore; or, paperback
\$11.99 at
www.cortinajackson.com and
[www.amazon.com/author/
cortinajackson](http://www.amazon.com/author/cortinajackson).

Getting into the Season

Visitors to the courthouse get a great view of the county's
Christmas Tree as the True North Choir of McKinney North
High School sing carols for passersby. The choir was there
to perform for this year's dedication of the Tree of Angels.
See photo on Page 1.