

C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information



Amphitheater ready to go

The Amphitheater at Myers Park & Events Center is all sodded, cleaned up and ready to host weddings, plays, concerts and any other event that will fit into the 300-seat venue, nestled among the trees next to Myers Woods.

Terraced with Austin stone, it can handle up to 750 with added bleachers, has paved parking and indoor restrooms.

Reminder for Employees'

Wellness Discount Program

Why wait until December for your physical when you could benefit today.

Full time employees and spouses who are enrolled in one of the county's medical plans on or before Dec. 31, 2014, are eligible to participate in the \$200 lump-sum payment and premium discount program.

Retirees, elected officials and their spouses who are enrolled in one of the county's medical plans on or before Dec. 31, 2014, are eligible for the premium discount.

In order to receive the lump sum payment and/or premium discount you, and your spouse, if enrolled in county medical insurance, must complete the items below:

- Annual Physical
- Well woman/well man
- Cholesterol Screening
- Height, Weight and BMI
- Health Assessment on myuhc.com

If the exams are performed by different doctors, submit a form from each doctor indicating completion of the appropriate

exam.

Forms are located on the Human Resources intranet page and the form must be completed in order for you to be eligible for the lump sum and/or premium discount.

Forms are due to Human Resources Benefits no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec, 31.

For questions or more information, contact:

Abby SPENCE, Ext. 4602, (aspence@co.collin.tx.us) or

Rachel LAKEY, Ext. 4687, (rlakey@co.collin.tx.us).

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.



JJAEP Staff for 2014-15

The staff for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program pose in early September for their 2014-15 school year photo: front Row, l-r: **Jason PETTIT**, **Kristen THOMAS**, **Porche' FARMER**, Director **Felicia CHISM** (seated), **Wendy WOODS**, **Sally PUCKETT**, and **Mark FARLEY**; back row: **Blake BOURLAND**, **Paris BROWN**, **Kathy OWENS**, **John LEWIS**, **Forrest MEDCALF**, **Julie WYKE**, **Tracy WORLEY**, and **Oscar PEREZ**.



We've made a few changes to the County website

By adding more news and information, local events and a quick reference to our most-used pages, we're hoping users will find it easier to get information, records, services and news from Collin County's external website.

In case you didn't know, the website draws about 1.5 million hits a month from about 150,000 unique viewers. For the past few years, however, we noticed a steady increase in usage from mobile devices. Thanks to some hard, in-house work from our IT Department, spearheaded by **Susan WHITAKER** and **Mike LANSBROOK**, it's now much easier to use this website

via a smart phone or tablet.

Here's what else has changed:

More **news and information** up front. We'll be posting a lot more information involving what's going on across Collin County government departments, the Commissioners Court, and the 30 different elected offices that we support every day.

We also added **Upcoming Events** that come in from our departments, as well as the cities and towns from our neck of the woods. This will span public meetings notices to events at Myers Park & Event Center to city and town festivals.

The Top Ten. Based on our current web usage, we'll link you directly to the most heavily tapped resources on this website. Odds are about 1 in 2 that

you're headed to one of these 10 spots.

The Courts & Public Safety. More than half your county tax dollars go to support the justice system here, and more than half of this site's usage involves this important part of our county government's infrastructure. So we combined all our public safety, law enforcement and justice system pages into a one-stop portal, where you can look up court cases, check active warrants, pay traffic tickets, check jury duty status, or check for registered sex offenders.

We've got more refinements and changes coming in the next few months to make viewing and searching here much easier, but we thought we'd let you in on the start of something good.

Carla's Story: 'CPR Saved My Life'

Do you remember what you were doing at 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14? In Healthcare, it was what we would consider a typical day. The public lobby was humming with activity as the Immunization Program staff members were busy providing vaccines to their patients and back-to-school vaccinations were in full swing.

Since lunchtime was right around the corner, it was not surprising that Physician's Assistant **Mike LANGFUS**, Immunizations Nurse Program Manager **Christie HIX**, and Employee Health Nurse **Whitney FRANKLIN** were up at the front desk area and were trying to decide what was on the lunch agenda that day.

Mike left the group to ask Immunizations Nurse **Carla CANNEDY** a question while she was in a nearby exam room. Carla remembers being in the exam room processing some paperwork and suddenly feeling light-headed.

To his surprise, as Mike walked in the door, he witnessed Carla slowly falling out of her chair and onto the floor. As he rushed over to help her, he asked her with growing concern, "Are you OK!?"

When Carla failed to respond, it became very clear, Carla was having a life-threatening cardiac event. Sad to say,

what happened that day is not out of the ordinary.

According to an *American Heart Association's* online article, "cardiac arrests are more common than you

to be someone at home: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

- ◆ African-Americans are almost twice as likely to experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in an-

the American Heart Association's Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) Programs.

If you are reading this article, you have likely attended a CPR training session in the last two years.

Do you remember your thoughts about having to complete CPR training? Did you think, "This is going to be boring", or "I'll never use it", or even "I wish I didn't have to take the class again"? If you did, you are not alone, as our CPR trainers have not only heard

these remarks, but they have even heard them from fellow clinicians.

Nonetheless, the statistics don't lie.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) article *Saving Sudden Cardiac Arrest Victims in the Workplace*, "there are 220,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest per year in the United States; about 10,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur at work."

Without knowing it, on that day in August, Carla would



From left, **Christie HIX**, **Mike LANGFUS** and **Whitney FRANKLIN** share a smile with **Carla CANNEDY** (center) after she returned to work at Healthcare Services.

think, and they can happen to anyone at any time."

The statistics are eye-opening and bring to the forefront the importance of learning CPR. Excerpts from the article give us some important points to consider, including:

- ◆ Nearly 383,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur each year;
- ◆ 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home;
- ◆ Statistically speaking, if called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely

other public location than Caucasians, and their survival rates are twice as poor as for Caucasians."

The mission of the Healthcare Services department is to "protect and promote the health of the people of Collin County." One of the services offered by the Employee Health Clinic, which has done a great deal in furthering that goal is CPR training for county employees.

Since it began, the Employee Health Clinic has trained hundreds of employees in current CPR techniques endorsed by

become a part of that number.

In the moments after Carla was placed, unresponsive, on the exam room floor, Mike called out for help, and was immediately assisted by Christie and Whitney.

According to their accounts, Carla stopped breathing and turned purple almost instantly. While Mike and Christie worked together quickly to begin CPR, Whitney brought the defibrillator and another Healthcare staff member called 911.

Mike, Christie, and Whitney followed their CPR training and attached the defibrillator pads to Carla's upper chest. The defibrillator clearly told them that a shock was needed and it delivered a shock to Carla's heart. Seconds, then minutes passed as they continued CPR while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive.

Once the emergency medical team came onto the scene, Carla finally took a breath and opened her eyes. As Carla describes it, she felt as if "they had woken her up from a deep sleep." Without further delay, Carla was taken to a nearby hospital and she ultimately underwent surgery and received a combination pacemaker-defibrillator.

Without a doubt, this event had a huge impact on not just Carla and those who helped her by performing CPR, but all Healthcare staff members. This is because Carla is not simply a coworker. She is someone who has spent 22 years, or most of her life, as a County employee.

As Carla put it, "I met my husband, had children, bought a home, and grew up during the years I have worked here."

Whitney describes Carla as her "work momma" and Christie says Carla is her "work sister." Ask anyone who knows Carla and they would describe her as "country, always smiling, someone who knows everybody, and a person you can count on to get a job done."

In the hours following the incident, Carla, Mike, Whitney, and Christie all spent time reflecting on those adrenaline-filled moments. So many things could have gone differently and with a much different outcome. Carla had just made an appointment for follow-up with her

In the hours following the incident, Carla, Mike, Whitney, and Christie all spent time reflecting on those adrenaline-filled moments. So many things could have gone differently — and with a much different outcome.

cardiologist the next week. Had her cardiac event been a few minutes later, during the lunch hour, she could have been driving somewhere to eat or been alone in her office eating at her desk when she lost consciousness.

For Mike, even though he has been a Physician's Assistant for almost two decades, this was the first time he had ever performed CPR on someone he knew. After the emergency medical team left, Whitney was overwhelmed by emotion, and Christie relates that later that evening it hit her that she "could have lost one of her best friends."

When the stakes are so high, it is understandable for people to be afraid to perform CPR when an emergency arises. It may seem better in that moment to wait for trained professionals to provide assistance. However, when it comes to CPR, the opposite is true.

According to OSHA, "waiting for the arrival of emergency medical system personnel results in only 5-7% survival." Responding quickly by performing CPR and using an AED in the precious minutes after a cardiac arrest can mean the difference between life and death, and is likely to save the life of a loved one.

Looking back, CPR unquestionably saved Carla's life.

We are grateful for and wish to recognize the many CCHCS team members and other county employees who provided Carla with support during and after this life-changing event.

For her own part, Carla wanted to share her story to help give perspective to the importance of CPR. As Carla put it, "it works!" Remarkably, Carla has not only been the recipient of life-saving CPR, but she performed CPR on her father 5 years ago. Mike, Christie, and Whitney all recognize that life is precious and we can't take it for granted. They describe CPR as "a gift you have that you can use and save someone's life."

We couldn't agree more, and by continuing to train our county employees in CPR techniques, it is our hope that it will help you be better prepared to help someone precious in your life.

If you are interested in CPR training, please contact **Mike LANGFUS** at 972-548-5548.

— Submitted by **Joann GILBRIDE** in collaboration with Collin County Health Care Services department team members.

Do you know ...

WHO to contact for CPR classes? **Mike LANGFUS**, our Physician's Assistant in Employee Health, conducts periodic classes for CPR certification: **Ext. 5548**



WHAT an AED is? An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, certified first responder, and basic life support level cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes.

WHERE AED's are in your building? The County has scores of AED's stationed at elevators and other key locations throughout county buildings. Make sure you know where the nearest one is to you.

Going the Extra Mile at the District Clerk's Office



From left, **Amy MUNGER**, **Nina CUMMINS** and **Kim SHERRIN**.

The District Clerks Office has had several staff members who were recently recognized for Going the Extra Mile. Congratulations to Kelly, Kim, Nina and Amy.

Kelly MAXWELL (Plano Passports) and **Kim SHERRIN** (199th Civil Clerk) had

the fewest tardies and the lowest amount of unscheduled Personal Time Off in our office for the entire year they were only tardy 2 times and they each had less than 2 hours of unscheduled PTO.

Nina CUMMINS (296th Criminal Clerk) has been handling the Child Advocacy Center docket in addition to her regular court duties for over a year. She manages both dockets cheerfully, and effec-

tively.

Amy MUNGER (219th Civil Clerk) was the only staff member to score in the highest percentile in both productivity and accuracy for the year. It's so important that we keep up with the volume of work without sacrificing our attention to detail and Amy has mastered this.



Kelly MAXWELL (above).



5 Years' Service

Norma GONZALEZ, County Clerk's Office, Court Collections Department, received her 5-year service pin in August.



15 Years' Service

Casey ROPER celebrated 15 years with the county in August, and was presented a plaque during Commissioners Court by Constable **Sammy KNAPP** of Precinct 3.



Sgt. Rainwater retires

Sgt. **Todd RAINWATER**, with Sheriff Box, recently retired from the Collin County Sheriff's Office after 22 years of dedicated service.

Sons of the American Revolution

On Sept. 18, Sergeant **Russell DRIVER** and Sheriff **Terry BOX** attended the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Public Service Banquet at El Dorado Country Club in McKinney. Sgt. Russell Driver was honored by receiving the Law Enforcement Accommodation medal by SAR for his outstanding contribution to the law enforcement community. Pictured above (l-r): Sgt. **Russell DRIVER** and **Jack TWIGGS** of the SAR.

Promotion

Congratulations to **Rodney REDWINE** (right), who was promoted from Deputy to Patrol Sergeant.



RECOGNITION

5 Years' Service

Jess GRIFFITH was presented with her 5 year service pin by **Judge RALEEH** in September. Jess serves as the Functional Analyst for the five JP Courts. She began working for the County in September 2009 in the County Clerk's office as the Court Registry Clerk and made the move to the JP position in October 2011.





Texas AgriLife GEM

Maureen METCALF, second from left, recently received the GEM award from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Because of the changes in department locations and renovations at the Health Care Annex, Maureen regularly directs patients to the health department, WIC, immunizations and other services as well as customers to Development Services and Fire Marshal, which used to be located in the annex. Maureen provides excellent customer service to these visitors and makes sure they know where to go. Pictured with her, l-r, are: **Carrie BRAZEAL**, **Rick MAXWELL** and **Chris SCHRAEDER**.

Hats & Scarves & Gloves — Oh, My!

Please Help Support Our Community

Why? In this tough economy, more families than ever are in need of our community's generosity.

What are we collecting? Hats, gloves, and scarves

When? Oct. 1 - Nov. 14

Where? Collin County District Clerk's Office
2100 Bloomdale Rd, McKinney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Nicole ROBBINS, daughter of **John & Gina ROBBINS** (Auditors Office), graduated in June with Cum Laude Honors from Centennial High School, Frisco. Mary has been awarded both academic and basketball scholarships to attend Avila University, located in Kansas City, Missouri and plans to pursue a career in Nursing with an emphasis in pediatrics.



Caleigh Diane GRIF-FITH was born June 26, at 7:58 a.m. weighing in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20 1/2" long. She was welcomed home by parents **Jessica** (JP Func-

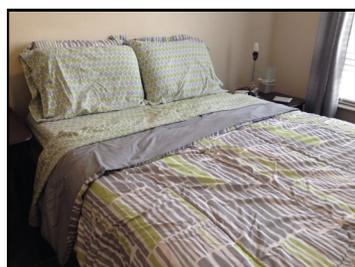


tional Analyst) and **Robert GRIFFITH** and big brother, **Karsen**.

Private Jonathan Robert VANCE of B Company 35th EN BN, 1st Battalion 3rd Platoon will commence from completed training and specialty schooling Oct. 10, 2014, from Army/National Guard, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He chose to serve our country as a Combat Engineer. Jonathan is the son of **Grace RAULSTON** (Substance Abuse) who couldn't be prouder. He participated in Wrestling and Football programs at Allen High School until his junior year. He graduated from Plano Senior High School June of 2014. He plans to attend college and is interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement on the bomb squad.



Dr. Asad & Mrs. Zara AHSAN (Tax Office) are proud to announce the birth of **Ayaan Asad AHSAN**. He was born on Aug. 12 at 11:08 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces.



FOR SALE

BEDDING: for full-size bed, grey & lime green, good for boy or girl. Includes 3 sets of sheets, pillow shams, dust ruffle,

mattress protector, and comforter. \$40. Call Donna at Ext. 4162.

PHOTO XMAS CARDS: Let Tracey Lee Designs capture your family memories and turn them into Christmas cards to send to all your friends. For \$75, you will receive a 30 minute photo session, 5 Digital Images and \$10 off your Christmas card order. Take advantage of this offer today as it is only for a limited time and will expire on 10/31/2014. You may reach Tracey at traceyleedesigns@gmail.com or on Facebook at Tracey Lee Designs. Appointments are accepted throughout the year for other occasion photos, such as graduations and birthdays.

Save The Dates:

- **Thursday, Oct. 30:** Retirement reception for **Pam HUFFMAN**, director of Juvenile Services; 2-4 p.m. at the Juvenile Probation Office, 4790 Community Ave., McKinney, TX.
- **Thursday, Nov. 13:** Retirement reception for Judge **Terry DOUGLAS**, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2;; 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center, 124 S. Washington St., Farmersville, TX 75442.

PFP FY2015 Objectives Schedule

Appraisal Step	Due Date
Objectives Process Opens	Oct. 1
Manager Sets Objectives for Employee	Oct. 15
Second Level Manager Approves Objectives	Oct. 21
Third Level Manager Approves Objectives	Oct. 27
Fourth Level Manager Approves Objectives	Oct. 29
HR Representative Reviews Objectives	Oct. 31
Manager Confirms Meeting with Employee	Nov. 4
Employee Signs Off on Objectives	Nov. 10
Manager Finalizes the Objectives Process	Nov.13

If you need any assistance with the PFP Objectives process, please contact **Delena DAVID** (Ext. 4633), **Caitlin NIE-MANN** (Ext. 4652), or **Erica JOHNSON** (Ext. 4782).