

From the Desk of Bobbie Mitchell, Denton County Commissioner Pct. 3 – November 2017

Want to stay connected to Denton County? Watch for my column each month for updates and events happening in Precinct 3 and around the county.

Voting/Elections details for Constitutional Amendments

Polling places listed will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., November 07, 2017, for voting in a Special Election to adopt or reject the seven proposed Constitutional Amendments submitted by the 85th Texas Legislature.

Getting a proposed amendment on the ballot requires support from more than two-thirds of both chambers of the Legislature, and any changes to the Texas Constitution must be approved by a majority of Texas voters, which is the reason for the election.

Voters in some communities are also weighing in on important local issues alongside the statewide ballot, so be sure and check your local ballots for additional items that might be included in your area. Early voting runs through November 3 and Election Day is November 7.

Click the link for your polling location: <http://bit.ly/ElectionDayLocations>. And don't forget, you can always look up your voter information on our web site, www.votedenton.com.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates I35 Phase 1 Completion

We're excited to announce the grand opening celebration of the completion of the I35 Phase 1 project! The event is set for Wednesday, November 8, at 10:30 a.m. adjacent to the Lewisville Lake Bridge in Highland Village, and is the culmination of many months of work on the 35Express project.

Veterans Services

Join us for the Veterans Day Ceremony on the Square on Friday, November 10, 11am-noon. We look forward to saluting our veterans and showing our gratitude for their service. You are invited to a social at UNT on the Square immediately after the event.

The *Denton County Veterans Service* office offers vital assistance to Denton County Veterans and their dependents in filing VA benefit claims. The veterans' benefit counselors of the Denton County Veterans Service Office assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents file claims and obtain their benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs after service to our country.

In addition to Veterans Services, Denton County also has a Veterans' Coalition. The Veterans' Coalition is a voluntary partnership of veteran service organizations, non-profits, and governmental entities to provide the services our local veterans and their families need.

The Veterans' Coalition is supported by the Denton County Judge's Office, the Denton County Veterans Services Office, and the Denton County Veterans Advisory Board, and utilizes a network to ensure that a phone call or an email referral will connect a veteran with the right solution.

For more information on how you can partner with the Denton County Veterans' Coalition, contact Dawn Olsen, Secretary, at 972-914-VETS (8387).

2017 Community Health Assessment

Denton County Public Health (DCPH) announced the release of the 2017 Community Health Assessment. The summary document of existing health trends was developed through in-depth data collection by several Denton County agencies. DCPH, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton, and United Way of Denton County partnered to produce broad, high-quality data and identify areas of health concerns.

This assessment included numerous participants and is aimed to promote a healthier Denton County. The 2017 Community Health Assessment serves as a foundation of quality health data to partner with stakeholders and residents to make Denton County a healthier place to live, work, worship and play.

Identified health areas of concern are:

- Access to Care
- Behavioral Health
- Exercise, Weight and Nutrition
- Health Outcomes: Chronic Disease
- Education and Prevention

Visit www.dentoncounty.com/health to view the full 2017 Community Health Assessment, and provide feedback on the report through the online community survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017CHAFedback.

You can also obtain updates on the assessment report and Community Health Summit by liking DCPH on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DentonCountyPublicHealth.

Did You Know?

The office of Sheriff is constitutionally created office with responsibilities prescribed by the legislature. The sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for the county and is responsible for operating the county jails, investigating crimes, making arrests, enforcing traffic regulations on county roads, serving writs, seizing property after judgment, and maintaining communications with other law enforcement organizations.

The sheriff has countywide jurisdiction; however, most sheriffs' departments concentrate their activities outside city limits where municipal officers cannot operate. Like all county department

heads, the sheriff appoints his own personnel, and in large counties may have a substantial staff and budget. The sheriff is elected every four years and is responsible for security in both the county and district courts.

Upcoming Nonprofit Events:

Children's Advocacy Center 20th Anniversary Breakfast November 2

The Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County's (CACDC) empowers child abuse victims, their families and our community through education, healing and justice. Their vision is to break the cycle of child abuse by educating families and our community to proactively protect children.

Jenna Quinn will join State Representative Tan Parker at the Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County's (CACDC) 20th Anniversary Breakfast being held at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, at the University of North Texas Gateway Center.

This event will be a celebration of CACDC's 20 years of providing healing and justice to child abuse victims in Denton County. Since their opening in 1997, the CACDC has assisted more than 10,000 abused children in their road to recovery.

Just click the link to register: <http://cacdc.org/breakfastregistration/>

Ranch Hands Rescue "Ignite HOPE" Charity Gala November 4

Ranch Hands Rescue takes the worst-of-the worst farm animal abuse and neglect cases and provides a loving, caring and safe sanctuary to the animals that cannot be adopted due to special care needs. They also provide mental health counseling using Equine and Animal Assisted Counseling (EAAC) and other modalities to help people overcome trauma and other mental health challenges. This program serves the entire Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, and is expanding.

Their upcoming "Ignite HOPE" Charity Gala is Saturday, November 4, at the Hilton DFW Lakes, and features dinner, drinks and dancing. This will be an evening of celebration and fundraising as they raise money to support the organization's general operations and subsidized services for victims of sexual and physical abuse, PTSD, anxiety and other debilitating traumas.

Log onto <http://ranchhandrescue.org/> for more information.

HVBA Salute Our Veterans Luncheon November 10

Please join the Highland Village Business Association (HVBA) on Friday, November 10, from 11am-1pm. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 SH 121 Bypass in Lewisville, as they honor and thank our veterans for their service to our country.

The luncheon is a time of fellowship with other veterans in the area, as well as the forum for awarding Congressional Commendations to several local Veterans by Congressman Michael Burgess.

Those planning to attend must RSVP by Friday, November 3. The cost is free for veterans and one guest, and \$20 for non-veterans, payable at the door. Call 972-899-5131 for more information.

Annual Dorothy's Dash 5K Saturday, November 11

Help the Town of Flower Mound fight Multiple Sclerosis by participating in the annual Dorothy's Dash 5K race and Kid's K on Saturday, November 11, at Flower Mound High School.

The event was named for former Town of Flower Mound employee Dorothy Walkup, who lost her battle with multiple sclerosis on November 16, 2004. Net proceeds will benefit the Texas Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Dorothy's honor.

Awards will be given to the overall male and female winners, as well as the first three finishers in each age category. All Kid's K participants will receive a medal. There will be no duplication of awards. The 5K categories are: 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+.

Registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/DorothysDash> or in person at the Community Activity Center. The Kid's K will begin at 8 a.m. and the 5K run/walk will begin at 8:30 a.m.

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Be sure and connect with Denton County on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyTX> and on Twitter @DentonCountyTX.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me hear from you. My email is bobbie.mitchell@dentoncounty.com and my office number is 972-434-4780.