

Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas, Inc.

The Gavel and The Badge

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Fourth Quarter 2011

Inside this issue:

President's Message	3
VP's Messages	4 - 5
2012 Conference	10 - 11
2011 Conference Highlights	17 - 21
Training	13
2011 Convention & Award	15–22
Regional Associations & News	22-25

Special points of interest:

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You may submit information in MS Word format on a disk or by email.

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2011 JPCA CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

Constable Mayes Honored for Service

BY RON MALONEY, SEGUIN GAZETTE

MCQUEENEY - Some men spend years at a career because it's a job - and a way to pay the bills

Others, as people like to say, go the "extra mile" because they love what they do.

Precinct 4 Constable Gene Mayes loves people and loves law enforcement.

And when he became a sheriff's deputy, he demonstrated his ability to serve his community with such

professionalism, enthusiasm and compassion that his neighbors elected him constable, a job he's held for more than a decade.



Page 13

2012 JPCA CONFERENCE June 24 - 28, 2012

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President's Message – Constable Chad Jordan

It has been a busy start to a non legislative year!

I have had the opportunity to meet many new people as I have traveled across our state. I thank each of you for your time, kindness and sometimes firmness on the issues we face. Contact your District Directors and make sure that they have up-to-date contact information for your elected officials. If you want to be a part of the email blasts to stay current on issues that may involve you let your directors know your current email information. Check out JPCA on Facebook and Twitter.

The Training Center is kicking off the new training year and I hope everyone has scheduled their classes. Hurry as they are filling up fast. I want to thank Janice Hardaway for the job she has done at the Texas Justice Court training Center. She will be missed and we wish her the best of luck with her new endeavor. Thanks to Roger Rountree and his staff for the job they perform to help each of us.

There are several issues that are on top of the list for members and I want to discuss some of them. As many of you know the passing of HB 79 has many Judges concerned as to the future of Small Claims Court. I have formed a Rules Committee to look at and develop Rules that are beneficial and specific to the HB 79 legislation. Judge Al Cercone is the Chair of that Committee. Several members of your Rules Committee have also been selected to serve on the Supreme Court Rules Committee that will adopt the NEW RULES. I feel that this will enable you to have a VOICE on what the future holds for Small Claims in Texas. For the FIRST TIME in history YOU have a say in how the Rules are formed. I encourage each of you to take the time to contact a member of YOUR Rules Committee to discuss your concerns. You can find a list of those members located at www.jpca.com.

The media has run many articles dealing with Dallas County Constables on issues that go back a number of years. The thoughts and talk of abolishing Constables is stirring again even in Bexar County. I encourage each of you to work on the image of Constable in your area. Educate the people as to who and what a Constable is and can be for the benefit of the County and the citizens. The bad press for a few has a detrimental effects on all of us. We as Constables have to Police our own and be able to stand up and have the fortitude to say what is wrong and praise what is right within our own profession. We are killing ourselves and we have to be mature enough to accept criticism from each other. For one to be a leader he must first learn to Serve. I say to each of you learn to serve the people that elected you to office.

Texas Association at the request of JPCA hosted a Summit in Dallas to discuss the Constable issues and come together to discuss the constitutional duties and responsibilities and to improve the working relationships with other departments and divisions in county government. For those that attended it was very well received. I want to thank Dallas, Collin, Tarrant and Denton County for participating in the Summit. Moreover, I thank the State Senators and Representatives that came to participate in the event. I feel there was a good discussion to problems with a positive approach to improving deteriorating relations and programs in different areas.

The paramount issue for us as Judges and Constables is to <u>work on knowing your state legislators</u>. Please, during this interim time get to know who represents your area. Take the time to fill out the **Adopt a Legislator Form**. A legislator that can put a face to a name is less likely to vote against your interest or abolish your office. We have to unite as an association to protect the future of those that come after we are gone.

Start preparing for the Annual Education Conference at South Padre Island to be held June 24-28, 2012. Your Host Committee is working hard to bring you a great training opportunity. Thanks to Judge Benny Ochoa, Judge Sally Gonzales, Larry Gallardo and Judge Phil Montgomery for working hard to make this event a success.

We are the largest association of elected officials in the State of Texas, and we have to unite as a Family to help each other to **BE THE BEST WE CAN BE!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year God Bless Each of You and Your Families,

Chad Jordan CLI President JPCA

Message from President - Elect Judge Martin Castillo

Greeting to all,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve JPCA as President Elect this coming year. Congratulations to newly elected President Constable Chad Jordan. I have the pleasure of working with Constable Jordan in Hood County. I know he will do an out standing job for JPCA. Constable Mike Truitt and Judge Janice Sons, Thank you for you part in the Association as 2nd Vice and 3rd Vice president. Look forward to working with you on new challenges JPCA faces in the future.

The host committee for Wichita Falls Convention did a wonderful job this year. Thank you to all who had a part in the JPCA annual conference. It takes a lot of hard work to put on a great conference. Thank you Judge Montgomery, Secretary Treasure for the work you do for the association in making sure the JPCA conference is a success. We all can help in the future with our time and efforts to make this association what it is, Your Association.

I hope everyone takes his or her part in letting people know about JPCA. With your help we can get new members. The board is dedicated to ensuring JPCA is the best that we can be.

We had a great turn out in Granbury with the Legislative update. North Texas JPCA and The Training Center had over 150 Judges, Constables, Clerks and Deputy Constables in attendance. What can I say about Granbury, except I hope we have more Training opportunity in the future? I would like to thank North Texas JPCA for hosting The Legislative updates in Granbury. The Training Center has the new schedule ready for the upcoming year, so check out the date you would like to attend a seminar. Hope to see you soon.

Judge Martin Castillo President Elect



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The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is F. Duane Force.



Hickman named TAC President-elect

By Bob Belcher

Corsicana Daily Sun

Corsicana — Connie Hickman, Navarro County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace, hadn't planned on being in an election this week — she was just re-elected to a four -vear term as JP in 2010.

But Hickman was involved in a vote — and won an election as the new presidentelect of the Texas Association of Counties at a meeting of the organization's board this week. She'll take over as president in January 2012.

Hickman, 49, a Navarro County Justice of the Peace since 1991, has served on the board of the Texas Association of Counties for several years, and the move Friday by the board to name her to replace Betsy Price, former Tarrant County Tax Asses-

sor/Collector who stepped down to run for mayor of Fort Worth, was an unexpected honor.

"I'm shocked and excited," Hickman said Saturday of the move. "Typically the president-elect serves for two years prior to taking the presidency. For me it will be about six months."

Hickman said she had been contacted prior to Friday's board meeting about the possibility of taking the spot vacated by Price, but she was not actively seeking or campaigning for the position. Her name was put into nomination at the board meeting along with another, and Hickman won the vote of the board.

Nacogdoches Co. Constable charges 2 in meth bust

Posted: Nov 21, 2011 5:47 PM CST Updated: Nov 21, 2011 5:47 PM CST NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Texas (News release) -

On 11-20-2011 the Nacogdoches County Constable Office Precinct 4 executed a search warrant on Cr. 513 in Nacogdoches County that resulted in the seizure of a methamphetamine laboratory and several grams of methamphetamine were also found. Constable Bridges stated that his office has had an ongoing investigation into the manufacturing of methamphetamine for the last month. Constable Bridges stated that we were able to establish probable cause for a search and arrest warrants on two subjects that were the target of this investigation.

Early Sunday morning around 2 am Deputy Constables initiated the execution of the warrant. Both subjects, Robin Riggs and Danielle Smith were found inside of the residence and were arrested. A search of the residence revealed several bottles that contained chemicals that were being used to manufacture methamphetamine. Bridges stated that several different types of chemicals and other drug paraphernalia were also found inside of the residence. Deputies also located 5 grams of methamphetamine along with digital scales, which were marked and ready to be distributed.

Constable Bridges stated that both subjects were using what is commonly referred to as the shake and bake method of producing methamphetamine. There were a total of five plastic bottles that were located at the residence that contained anhydrous and ammonia inside of the bottles that they were using to cook methamphetamine with. Bridges stated this method of producing methamphetamine is becoming increasing popular, as it is more easily to conceal and produce methamphetamine with. Other chemicals that are used to produce methamphetamine were also found inside of the residence. DLS hazmat service responded to the scene and assisted with the cleanup and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

During the course of the investigation, Constable Bridges stated that his office was able to conducted undercover purchases of methamphetamine from both subjects. Both Danielle Smith 38 years of age and Robin Riggs 53 years of age both from Nacogdoches Texas were arrested and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail. Both Subjects were charged with intent to manufacture a controlled substance felony 1st degree, Possession of a controlled substance 2nd felony and Delivery of a controlled substance, State Jail Felony. Smith was out on bond awaiting trial on felony Drug charges before she was arrested again Sunday morning. Riggs is currently serving a parole sentence through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Division until the year 2026 for Drug Charges.

SQUATTERS CLAIM MORE THAN \$8 MILLION WORTH OF TARRANT COUNTY PROPERTIES



Posted Sunday, Dec. 04, 2011

By Yamil Berard

yberard@star-telegram.com

While county officials were asleep at the wheel, Tarrant County became a magnet this year for an odd assortment of squatters claiming other people's houses all over the area.

The cast of characters includes a homeowner who scooped up a dead neighbor's house; a woman who came to Fort Worth from Memphis to lay claim to a \$2.7 million mansion; people who cited Bible verses as legal justification for taking properties; and career criminals who grabbed homes to lease to tenants.

All told, county records show that squatters and their associates claimed more than \$8 million worth of properties, from Grand Prairie, Mansfield and Arlington to Fort Worth, Haslet and Keller, according to a Star-Telegram examination of county documents. Some of the squatters' elaborate schemes have stumped law enforcement officials. One Tarrant constable has even asked the Texas attorney general's office for help in straightening out the mess.

"Everybody is just trying to learn what in the world is going on," said Mansfield Constable Clint C. Burgess. "It's the craziest thing how anyone could be so brazen to just break into a home and start living in it."

The schemes are hard to unravel because of a loophole in a state law that allows people to suddenly claim supposedly abandoned sections of property if no owner is on the spot to challenge such a claim. The law's intent was to help ranchers and others who had tended vacant land for years, so they could eventually gain legal ownership of the property. That's done by filing a document called an adverse possession affidavit with the county clerk.

But the law doesn't distinguish between a claim on a \$27 section of sod and one on a \$2.7 million mansion with an elevator, three master bedrooms, a five-car garage and a pond with fish in the back yard. File the proper paperwork, pay a \$16 filing fee, keep up with the property taxes and live in the house three years or more, and even the courts may not be able to evict you.

Properties vulnerable to squatters include those whose owners died. Other properties belong to people absent from their homes because of work or illness. They can return to find their houses trashed, their belongings gone and their privacy violated -- all while the neighbors watched in shock.

"This is the worst thing that I've been through," said Joe Bruner, a certified public accountant in Arlington whose neighbor's home was seized by two squatters in October. "It's not healthy for anybody, for the neighborhood, for the county. It's just not healthy for humanity.

"You don't come in and steal somebody's home."

Squatters moved into his neighbor's furbished \$405,000 house in late October. Bruner and another neighbor told the Star-Telegram that squatters had pushed a commercial Dumpster into the driveway and filled it with the home's belongings.

Police records report that tens of thousands of dollars in valuables were removed, including a \$10,000 stamp collection, the electric wheelchair of the homeowner's elderly mother, bottles of Chanel perfume, Judith Leiber crystal purses and a hand-carved ivory armoire.

At the time, the homeowner was in Houston undergoing chemotherapy.

Other Tarrant homes have become spoils of the housing crisis -- foreclosed properties whose ownership is difficult to track. Some banks that service loans after foreclosure don't make sure the properties are secure.

Some financial institutions contacted by the Star-Telegram were not aware that squatters had claimed homes for which they were servicing the loans.

That was the case with the Fort Worth mansion seized over the summer by a 28-year-old former Tennessee insurance agent. The home -- among Tarrant County's priciest dwellings -- had been vacant for about two years, neighbors said.

Neighbors said it was foreclosed on in January and a Sotheby's Realtor had been trying to sell it. But in August, Samantha Carter showed up and tried to claim the property. She called police and told them they had no authority to tell her to leave because she had adverse possession. Later that month, Carter pulled the "for sale" signs from the ground and busted the chain from the mammoth gates that lead to the property's 3-acre gardens, neighbors said. Police were called and she was apprehended, along with a man who had a set of chain cutters, according to the police report.

"These people are romanticizing the idea that they could get a house for nothing," said retired physician Ben Termini, who called the police on the pair. "It's morally and legally wrong."

The foreclosure was serviced by Chase Bank, but spokesman Thomas Kelly said it doesn't have the power to evict squatters. The owner, Bank of America, does. It has had to stop marketing the house until it can get Carter's affidavit dismissed, Kelly said. A good share of the blame, some angry neighbors and homeowners say, should go to the Tarrant County clerk's office for not policing the process and, instead, apparently accepting adverse possession affidavits from anyone who wanted to file one. Some of the affidavits are filled with legal mumbo jumbo; in some cases, people filed affidavits on more than one house, claiming that they were domiciled in each; in other cases, squatters copyrighted their own names. The Tarrant office also accepted affidavits on properties in Dallas County.

Legitimate or not, the affidavits create a real estate nightmare, muddying up the title of homes and making them impossible to sell. "The county clerk's office should have standards and procedures in place [for a squatter] to prove that the house is abandoned and that you can pay taxes and will be maintaining the property," Termini said.

"They should make people prove the property is meeting the standard for adverse possession."

Red flags like copyright names and biblical verses would stop the Denton County clerk's office in its tracks, said County Clerk Cynthia Mitchell. Though she can't "police" the filings, she said, her office has requested legal reviews when it has received affidavits with such red flags.

Squatters (cont.)

"The [clerks] that record these documents every day are very experienced in filing real estate documents," Mitchell said. "It's easy for them to spot something that looks way out of the ordinary."

When news about squatters became public, the Tarrant County clerk's office said it had a duty to accept the affidavits, not take a "legal dive" into the situation.

Now it says the office acted swiftly to ask for legal advice and stop any threats of fraud.

With thousands of documents being filed, it's virtually impossible to flag affidavits that could be fraudulent, Tarrant County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia said. "But as soon as these bad actors came to our attention, we did do our due diligence," she said.

However, records show that the affidavits began streaming into the office in June and continued until Nov. 7, when Tarrant County District Attorney Joe Shannon advised Garcia that the affidavits were likely illegal. He stepped in after news reports of a high-profile squatter case.

Garcia said her office has followed up by sending notices to property owners about adverse possession affidavits filed on their property.

"We, in the Tarrant County office, researched and reached out to these property owners," she said.

Criminal records

Shysters. Burglars. Fugitives. Some of the characters seizing homes under adverse possession in Tarrant County have criminal records

Suspicions are that other squatters have conducted the same racket in other states, said Burgess, the Mansfield constable. "When you come in and start enforcement, they just leave," he said. Then they move to another state to run their scheme, he said.

Others are copycat squatters, who may learn the ropes through Internet videos or how-to books.

Other suspicions are that the squatters have access to enormous databanks of foreclosed homes or that certain banks may be sharing insider information about mortgages. All that is under investigation, Burgess said.

Some squatters come by association or family ties.

Take the case of the LaTours.

Sandra S. LaTour, who claimed a house on Clover Hill Road in Mansfield, is the girlfriend of a squatter in Flower Mound, Burgess said. Andrew LaTour II has claimed another Mansfield home on St. Bartholomew Drive. He is Sandra LaTour's son, Burgess said. She notarized his affidavit of adverse possession, records show.

More than a week ago, Mansfield constables ordered the LaTours out of both homes.

In an e-mail to the Star-Telegram, a Selena LaTour wrote that Andrew LaTour had been evicted from another house he had been renting and sought advice on adverse possession from the Flower Mound squatter. The e-mail also lists Selena Brown as a family member for Andrew LaTour.

A Selena K. Brown filed an adverse possession affidavit on another Mansfield home on Hillgrove Court.

The district attorney has charged another filer, Anthony Brown, with burglary of a habitation, accused of removing property from a home he claimed. Constables said that Brown and another Mansfield squatter, Paul Roper, who was evicted from a home on St. Mark Drive, know each other.

Burgess said he expects more arrests to come.

"We will hold these people accountable. We will charge them just like any crime; it's just complicated," he said.

In Arlington, the cancer patient's home was seized by David Cooper; a man with the same name and birth date has a 2008 Dallas conviction for prostitution. Last month, Arlington police arrested Cooper and Jasmine Williams on suspicion of burglary of the house they were claiming.

Three Arlington homes were claimed by Brenda K. Hollimon or her Women's Intuition Reality. At one home she claimed, a neighbor said the house had been occupied by a family in recent months. Early this year, Hollimon was slapped with a 60-day sentence in the Tarrant County Jail for violating the terms of her probation on a 2005 conviction for claiming thousands of dollars in excessive food stamp benefits. She could not be reached for comment.

Another Tarrant squatter is 37-year-old Sadat Thomas, whose criminal record spans almost two decades in Texas and Arizona. Among his convictions are aggravated robbery, various drug charges, and assault of a family member. In 1998, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department held him as a fugitive, court records show.

Thomas was released from prison in Huntsville in June 2010. He then set up Energizer Realty, documents show.

Records show he has lived at the same address as another squatter, 18-year-old Andrew Chavarria, who also lived in Arizona. Chavarria or his Ballpoint R.P.M. filed affidavits on four houses in Fort Worth and one in Arlington. Arlington has outstanding warrants on Chavarria for driving without a license or insurance.

That's not where the list of Tarrant squatter landlords with checkered pasts ends.

Three more homes in Fort Worth and one in Arlington have been seized by Pin Point Realty and Property Management, owned by Xavier Watts, who has served jail time for such crimes as drug possession, burglary, theft, assault, evading arrest and possession of a prohibited weapon, district clerk records show.

Watts did not respond to repeated messages.

Not all the squatter landlords have criminal records.

For 11/2 years, Jerome Campbell of Southeast Investments of Mansfield has been finding dilapidated vacant homes in blighted areas and improving them so that people can move in. Southeast Investments has filed affidavits on three homes in Fort Worth.

Neither he nor Michael Littlejohn of Southeast Investments has a criminal record. Campbell bristles at the idea of criminals trying to

Squatters (cont.)

take advantage of adverse possession laws. That's not what Southeast Investments is all about, he said.

Its focus is on blighted communities to try to improve the environment, he said.

"I hate that adverse possession is getting a bad rap now," Campbell said. "We do everything by the book."

Southeast Investments researches public records to find the owners of small homes appraised at less than \$30,000. If an owner cannot be located, he said, the company repairs the house and pays the back taxes, estimating that at times it costs thousands to fix up a property. One 700-square-foot property under adverse possession on Lorin Avenue in southeast Fort Worth is in shambles. Its roof is severely damaged, windows are boarded up, and vandals have taken over. The Tarrant Appraisal District lists its value as \$23,000.

Southeast brings homes up to code and removes "the eyesore for the neighborhood," Campbell said.

"When I go in and do adverse possession, it offsets having three, four or five vacant properties side by side incurring a lot of city liens and taxes and code enforcement liens," he said. "We go in and put properties back on the tax rolls for the city and provide affordable housing for someone."

Splinter religious group

Texas followers of a little-known religious group have used adverse possession to get access to homes in middle- and high-income communities.

It came as a shock to the Brown family of the Glen Springs Addition of Arlington to know that such a squatter lived nearby. The Browns thought the woman who moved into the house with an identical floor plan to theirs had purchased it.

But county records show that Jessica Ann Sharp acquired the 2,100-square-foot home on Ravenhill Lane by adverse possession.

Sharp's affidavit is among about a dozen where people copyright their names or list surnames, like "Bey" and "El," which are associated with The Moorish Science Temple of America.

By signing in such a manner, the individuals are making a claim of sovereign rights, meaning that they are not subject to Texas and U.S. laws because of their Moorish ancestry, said Chistopher Bennett-Bey, grand sheikh of The Moorish Science Temple in Charlotte, N.C.

On most affidavits, including Sharp's, biblical passages are evoked.

Efforts to reach Sharp and other squatters whose affidavits have similar wording were unsuccessful.

Leaders of the Moorish Science Temple have decried the activity as unlawful. They say the North Texas squatters may be part of a splinter group of Moors that has besmirched their beliefs.

"They've gone out and broken the law and now the organization has to stand and answer questions concerning this," Bennett-Bey said.

He believes the activity is being promoted by individuals who at some point were affiliated with the Moorish Science Temple of America.

"They left as an offshoot of the organization and gone off and done all sorts of things," he said. "Under no circumstances, we don't claim sovereignty."

A number of Tarrant homes seized by such squatters have "no trespassing" signs posted.

About a week ago, neighbor Steve Brown noticed a sign at the house Sharp claimed. Brown immediately sought property records to try to discover the rightful owner. County records show its owner is Deutsche Bank of Santa Monica, Calif. Brown said he called the bank but was told that it served as an agent for the mortgage company. The mortgage is part of a pool of home loans. How to untangle that, nobody knows.

That's one of the problems for law enforcement, Burgess said.

"We've seen the county having a really hard time finding the real owners if it's the bank," he said.



2012 JPCA Conference South Padre Island





June 24 - 28



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TENATIVE AGENDA 2012 JPCA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONVENTION

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Noon - 5:00 pm Vendor Set-up begins 3:00 pm Pre-Convention Meetings:

Local/State Committee/Hotel Staff

4:00 pm B & O Meeting

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Welcome Reception/Quarter Deck Patio

Monday, June 25, 2012

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Vendors Open

8:30 pm - Noon General Educational Session (Border Drug Gangs)

Noon - 1:30 pm Present BOD Luncheon/Meeting

Noon - 1:30 pm
Lunch on your own
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Business Meeting
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Scholarship Committee
Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee Resolutions Committee

6:00 pm Constitution / By Laws Committee Seafood Festival (Schlitterbahn)

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

8:00 am - 9:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am - Noon Registration Continues

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Vendors open 9:00 am - Noon Education Session Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch on your own 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm Education Session

6:00 pm - ? Noche Mexicana con Juez Benito

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

7:00 am - 8:00 am Prayer Breakfast (Quarterdeck Patio)

9:00 am - Noon Vendors open

9:00 am - Noon
Noon - 1:30 pm **Business Meeting cont'd/Voting**New BOD Luncheon/Meeting

Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch on your own 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Education Session

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet

Thursday, June 28, 2012

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Training



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Justice of the Peace 20 hour Seminars

01/08/12 - 01/11/12 Austin 03/25/12 - 03/28/12 Galveston 04/15/12 - 04/18/12 San Antonio 05/22/12 - 05/25/12 Lubbock

Constable Civil Process Seminars

02/07/12 - 02/10/12 San Antonio 03/18/12 - 03/21/12 Austin 04/29/12 - 05/02/12 Galveston 07/15/12 - 07/18/12 Rockwall

New Justice of the Peace School

I 12/11/11 - 12/14/11 Austin II 01/08/12 - 01/13/12 Austin III 04/15/12 - 04/18/12 San Antonio

Constable One-Day Workshops

02/22/12 San Antonio 06/06/12 Tyler

Justice of the Peace & Court Personnel Specialty Workshops

12/01/11 - 12/02/11 Rockport
02/23/12 - 02/24/12 San Antonio
03/08/12 - 03/09/12 Brookland
04/26/12 - 04/27/12 San Angelo
06/04/12 - 06/05/12 Tyler
07/26/12 - 07/27/12 League City
08/09/12 - 08/10/12 San Marcus

Court Personnel Seminars

 12/14/11 - 12/16/11
 Austin

 02/01/12 - 02/03/12
 San Antonio

 02/27/12 - 02-29/12
 San Marcos

 05/07/12 - 05/09/12
 Galveston

 07/18/12 - 07/20/12
 Rockwall

Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas



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Newly Elected Constables Course (40 Hrs)

01/09/12 - 01/13/12 Huntsville

Constables Leadership College

01/16/12 - 01/20/12 Class 8, Module II 05/21/12 - 05/25/12 Class 8, Module III 10/08/12 - 10/10/12 Class 9, Module I 01/07/13 - 01/11/12 Class 9, Module II 05/13/13 - 05/17/13 Class 9, Module III

Tuesday night, the neighbors - in particular those at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9213 -CONSTABLE MAYES (CONT.)

1 uesday nignt, the neighbors - in particular those at recent the community, naming him showed they'd noticed and appreciated Mays's contribution to the community, naming him "law enforcement officer of the year."

A constable's primary job is to provide security for his justice of the peace court and serve subpoenas and other civil and criminal documents pertaining to the court.

Beyond that, the job is what the individual makes it - and Mayes can often be found patrolling the county's back roads and even backing up sheriff's deputies on calls in some of the remotest parts of Precinct 4.

"It's professional courtesy," Mayes said. "It's kind of a brotherhood. If we don't look after one another, who else will look after us? I've been there, and I know the situations, how they can change and how far away backup can be and I may be closer than any other sheriff's deputy."

And Mayes has indeed "been there."

For that, the VFW's recognition comes as a sort of "lifetime achievement award" in public service - years of which were contributed for free by a man who lives to serve - and loves it.

"We as a post are very appreciative of Constable Mayes and his service to law enforcement and to the community," said Post Commander Don Weathermon - a sentiment County Judge Mike Wiggins agreed with.

"I've known Gene since I came to Guadalupe County, and he's always been there when asked," Wiggins said. "If you need something, Gene's always ready and available to assist, whatever the case may be. It's always an honor anytime an organization like the VFW chooses one of our law enforcement personnel to recognize in this manner, and Gene and his family should be very proud he was selected. He earned this recognition."

Mayes isn't only being recognized for his work on the job.

He's also heavily involved in the community and donates free time to any number of agencies.

He serves on the board and is past board president of the South Texas Justice of the Peace and Constables Association, and as director of Region VIII of that group. He serves as secretary/treasurer on the board of the Guadalupe County Family Violence Shelter.

He works on an annual Christmas toy and food drive, and on the annual MDA fundraising "lockup." He helps at the Satellite Center for therapeutic riding for special needs adults and kids, and does traffic control for the local Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's annual walk/ run. He's a busy guy.

Mayes grew up in the livestock industry and was a farrier and welder when he discovered law enforcement back in the early 1970s.

"I was a cowboy, shoeing horses professionally, which I started in 1969 and did full time and then part-time, into 2000, 2001," Mayes said. "It was a good supplemental income."

Sheriff Pete Kallies and others who knew Mayes began talking to him in the early 1970s about becoming a reserve sheriff's deputy, and Mayes took the training for the position, and began working as an unpaid, volunteer lawman.

"Several deputies had talked to me about it, and Pete talked to me several times, got my interest up, and it just kind of went from there," Mayes recalled. "I enjoy working with people, and after I got a taste of it, I found out that's where my heart was."

Of course, Mayes and his wife, Mona, still had to pay the bills, and to raise the family, he worked at Glastron for about a dozen years or so, welding up trailers and then building fiberglass molds and jigs for boatbuilding.

In 1990, Glastron closed, and Mayes found himself needing a job.

"I'd been a reserve deputy all those years, and Sheriff Melvin Harborth told me he had a job open, and asked if I'd be interested in doing bailiff duties at the courthouse," Mayes said. "I did it several years, then transferred to patrol and stayed on the road."

It was while working as a patrol deputy that Mayes learned just what his commitment to protect and serve meant.

A woman who had been kidnapped for sex by a local couple who subdued her with an electric stun device escaped on April 9, 1997 and ran to a neighbor's house, screaming for help.

The neighbor called the sheriff's officer just as the male abductor was heard in the background, trying to force his way into the home with an AR-15 to get her back.

Guadalupe County's chief investigator, Larry Morawietz, was a short distance away and went to the home to intervene - going up against the civilian version of the M-16 military assault rifle with a handgun.

CONSTABLE MAYES (CONT.)

It was a nearly fatal mistake.

"To make a long story short, we confronted him, and he came out with an AR-15 and we got into a little shoot out," Morawietz recalled, nearly a dozen years afterward.

The investigator was hit twice and sprayed by broken glass shrapnel, and "went down," as cops clinically say, behind his car.

"I was hit in the left arm and he had shattered my finger," the retired officer said, holding up a mangled stump as a souvenir. "The guy came at me to take another shot at me, and Gene dropped him. I owe him my life. If it wasn't for Gene Mayes, I wouldn't be here today, and I'm glad to hear the VFW has recognized him, because he deserves it. Gene Mayes is down-home, a good old, honest country boy who knows how to treat people, and someone you know you can always depend on."

Morawietz, Mayes said, had been a mentor at the sheriff's office.

"I love people and being around people, and then ended up in a situation like that, where I had to kill someone," Mayes recalled. "I'll go to my grave knowing that guy was fixing to kill Larry Morawietz. That was quite a life-altering experience for me. Some people go through their whole law enforcement career and never have to pull their weapon. I've had to several times, and that time I had to use it. I learned a lot from that, and it took me a long while to get over it. I saw how quickly things could go bad, and I don't take things for granted like I used to."

After the shooting, Mayes went into transport and extradition, picking up prisoners and bringing them back to Seguin and its courthouse for justice.

"I felt like I spent more time in other people's jurisdictions than my own," Mayes said.

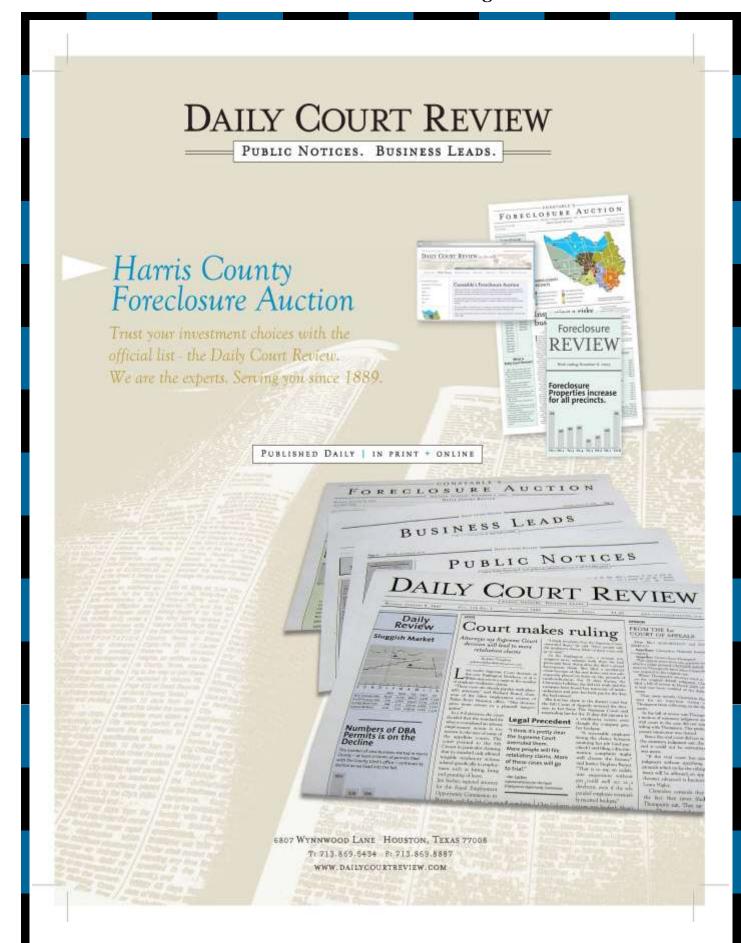
A year or two later, Morawietz ran for and was elected Precinct 4 justice of the peace.

When the constable's position came open, Morawietz knew who he wanted watching his back.

The voters agreed, and Mayes became constable in 2000, again working with his old mentor, Morawietz.

"I've been elected and am in my third term thanks to the voters of Precinct 4, and I owe them a big thanks because without them, I wouldn't be what I am today. I learned a lot being around Larry, and of course, I've worked with some very good officers through the years," Mayes said. "I've been fortunate and blessed to work with the caliber of officers I have, and the sheriffs I worked under were great to work for. As for my career, I've enjoyed it, it's been good to me, and I've met some good people. To get an award like this is pretty awesome. It's very humbling."





2011 Educational Conference & Seminar Highlights

JPCA Fun Run for Scholarship Fund

























Page 18



Page 19

2011 Award Winners



Judge Suzie Thompson Judge of the Year



Deputy George Reynolds

Deputy of the Year



Constable Larry Gallardo T. A. Vines Award



Constable Marla Canchola

Best Practices



Constable Wayne "Doc" PierceConstable of the Year



Leslie Pool Clerk of the Year



Judge Sallie Gonzalez T. A. Vines Award



Kirsha Haverlah (accepted by Leslie Pool) JPCA Sweetheart of the Year





<u>2011- 2012</u> Executive Board

President Constable Chad Jordan President Elect Judge Martin Castillo 2nd Vice President Constable Michael Truitt

3rd Vice President Judge Janice Sons

Secretary / Treasurer Judge Phillip Montgomery *Judge Advocate* Judge Jim Humphreys

Sergeant-At-Arms
Constable Jim Roberts

Past President Judge Jackie Miller

2011 - 2012 Board of Directors

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District 2 - Judge B. W. Baucum

District 3 - Judge Terry Lange

District 4 - Judge Billy Johnson

District 5 - Judge Sallie Gonzalez

District 6 - Constable Jerry Crowder

District 7 - Constable Bobby Gutierrez

District 8 - Constable Eugene Mayes

District 9 - Constable Wayne Pierce

District 10 - Constable Charles Wiggins

Deputy Rep. - Chief Jim Sumner

Clerk Rep. - Rita Hudgins



2011 Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee met at the conference and upon reviewing all of the applications for scholarships, they awarded \$19,000 in scholarships ranging in size from \$500 to \$2,000. Congratulations to all of this years recipients.

Alexus Miller Amber Whitni Reese Cade Colton Gamble Colby S. Nichols Courtney Christine Reese Grace Lynn Treider-Miller Haley Dorcey Bell Holli L. Hess John Austin Miller Jordan Warren Josef Orsak Joshua Tutt Kelsey Dobbins Kelsey Hickman Loren McMillion Malorie Lee Olivia Lauren-Ashley Knowles Peydon Dotson

North Texas JPCA News

Greetings All,

NTJPCA'S August meeting was held in the quaint city of Granbury, Texas. North Texas hosted a Legislative Update with the TJCTC. Judge Jackie Miller, Judge Martin Castillo and Constable Chad Jordan graciously volunteered to instruct the classes. Registration filled up fast and we had a full house. It was a great learning experience for me. Thanks to all of you that registered and to those that volunteered their time to help make the event a huge success.



President Bill Elliott swears in new Officers and Board

Our Annual meeting in October was in Sulphur Springs. Congratulations to the new officers and directors. We are all looking forward to another successful year. We were fortunate enough to be able to give out four scholarships this year for \$1000.00 each. The recipients are Matthew Truitt, Jordyn Warren, Alexis Miller and Coltin Argenbright. Congratulations to these young adults and best wishes towards your future.

The next meeting for North Texas will be in January and the location will be announced soon. In April we will be in Granbury. Membership

dues are coming up November 1st. If you aren't already a member now is the time to become one. We have a strong organization and would like for you to join us.

For those of you that were able to attend the JPCA Annual Conference in Wichita, it was great to see you all. Wasn't it an outstanding success? The host committees were absolutely gracious. They had activities arranged for everyone and a good time was had by all. If you aren't a member of JPCA I urge you to become one. It, by far, is one of the most rewarding organizations I have had the opportunity to be involved with, just the best people from all over this great state of Texas.



2011 - 2012 NTJPCA Officers and Board of Directors

Rita Hudgins Secretary NTJPCA



The Texas Apartment Association congratulates

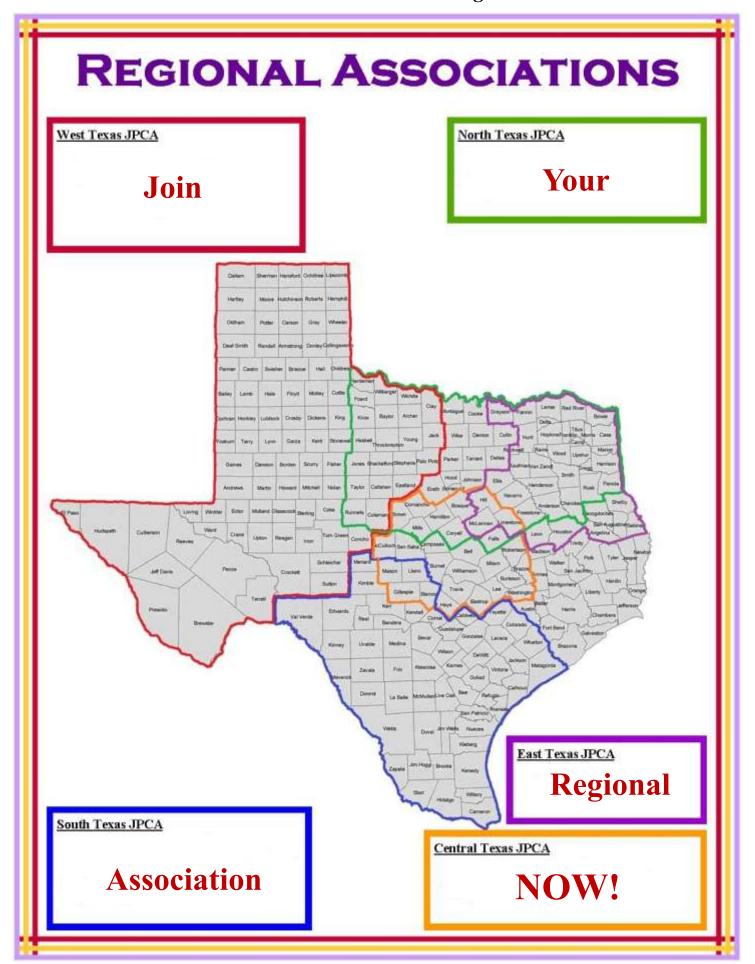
The Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas
on another successful year. We look forward to working with you for years to come.
Together with our 26 local affiliates, we thank you for your continued service.

Austin Apartment Association
Big Country Apartment Association
Bryan/College Station Apartment Association
Apartment Association of Central Texas
Corpus Christi Apartment Association
Corsicana Apartment Association
El Paso Apartment Association
Galveston County Apartment Association
Apartment Association of Greater Dallas
Greater Longview Area Apartment Association
Heart of Texas Apartment Association
Houston Apartment Association
Lubbock Apartment Association

Midland Apartment Association
North Texas Rental Properties Association
Apartment Association of the Panhandle
Apartment Association of the Permian Basin
Piney Woods Apartment Association
Rio Grande Valley Apartment Association
San Angelo Apartment Association
San Antonio Apartment Association
Apartment Association of Southeast Texas
Apartment Association of Tarrant County
Texarkana Area Apartment Association
Tyler Apartment Association
Victoria Apartment Association

Texas Apartment Association





Regional Associations

Central Texas JPCA www.ctjpca.com

North Texas JPCA www.ntjpca.com

West Texas JPCA www.wtjpca.org

South Texas JPCA www.stjpca.org

East Texas JPCA 903-842-2661

Any updated information on Regional Associations needs to emailed to: michael.truitt@dentoncounty.com

JPCA Ad Hoc Benevolence Committee:

Please contact one of the above for any family related or benevolence issues that need a JPCA response. Requests for flowers, get well wishes, and condolences should be directed through them for approval.

Jeannie Barham barhamimarie@msn.com 903-654-3061

Rhonda Kirkwood rkirkwood@navarrocounty.org 903-875-3355

Lisa Humphries lhumphries@navarrocounty.org 903-654-3056

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DIST 9 DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 411

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sgonzalez@co.cameron.tx.us

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Judge Terry Lange 300 N. Grant, #208 Odessa, Texas 79761 Off: 432-498-4201 langetg@co.ector.tx.us

DIST 7 DIRECTOR

Constable Bobby Gutierrez 301 S.E. Inner Loop #102 Georgetown, Texas 78626 Off: 512-943-1434 Fax: 512-943-1440 bgutierrez@wilco.org

COURT CLERK Rita Hudgins

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billy johnson@co.midland.tx.us

DIST 8 DIRECTOR Constable Eugene Mayes

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DEPUTY CONSTABLE Jimmy Sumner

6831 Cypresswood Dr. Spring, Texas 77379 Off: 281-401-6253 Fax: 281-401-6296 jim sumner@cd4.hctx.net



JPCA of Texas Inc. Judge Phil Montgomery Secretary/Treasurer Membership Application P.O. Box 623 Devine, Texas 78016

Tel: 830-665-8020 - Fax: 830-665-8021 Jp4_163@yahoo.com

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Office Phone #:		(Office Fax #:				
Email Address:				Associatio	n District Nu	mber:	
Judge	\$60.00	J. P. Cle	erk	\$35.00			
Constable	\$60.00	Individu	ıal	\$40.00			
Deputy	\$35.00	Life Me	mber	\$400.00			
Constable Clerk	\$35.00	(See Co	te Vendorship rporate Packag nplete Details)	ge P	old - latinum - ronze -	\$2,000.00 \$1,500.00 \$1,000.00	
Check if new member							

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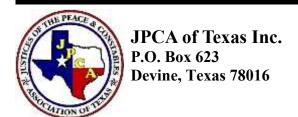
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The Official Newsletter of the Justice of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas