

NEWSLETTER

January 2020 Volume 4 Issue 1

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Terry's Message

Williamson County Sells Bonds at Lowest Rate Since 1956

County's AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

On Jan. 22, 2020, Williamson County sold approximately \$348 million in bonds for road and park improvements. Voters approved the sale of \$412 million in bonds for roads and \$35 million for parks in the November 2019 election. We raised only sufficient revenue to begin a portion of the total road and park projects at this time.

With our once again AAA bond rating, we averaged 2.32% interest rates for road bonds. According to Bloomberg, the last time the interest rate was this low was in 1956 when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president and Elvis Presley released his second studio album. It also was the year that Congress approved the Highway Act, allowing the U.S. interstate highway system to be constructed. Our road projects are a mini version of that huge program as we construct additional roads for an improved grid for transport across the county and enhanced intersections to help traffic flow.

Williamson County is one of only eight counties in the state and 101 counties in the U.S. to receive a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's Financial Services, the highest possible allowing us to obtain the best interest rates.

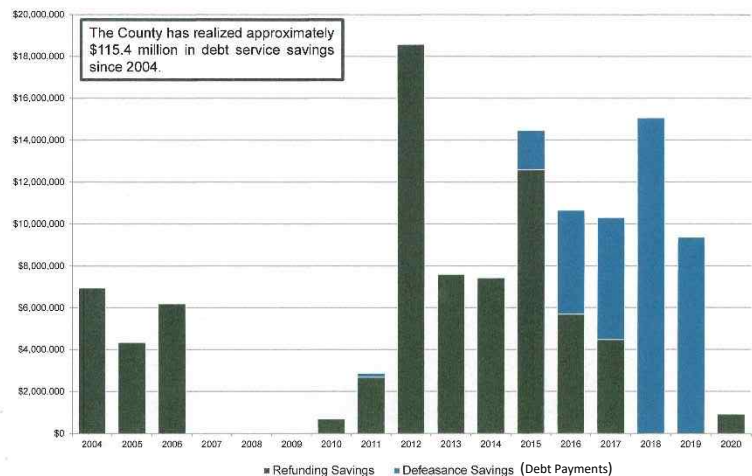
Thanks to the expertise of Dan Wegmiller of Specialized Public Finance Inc, the county nailed the best date to sell the bonds.

Williamson County also refinanced approximately \$11.6 million in Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020, resulting in a savings of \$917,203. Over the course of the bond program since 2004, refinancing debt has saved more than \$78 million, and the county paid down \$38 million in debt.

S&P also noted that Williamson County has a "very strong economy" with "very strong management, with 'strong' financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology."

Fitch "expects the county would demonstrate strong financial resilience in a moderate economic downturn based on its solid reserves, revenue-raising capacity, expenditure flexibility and budgetary discipline."

January 28, 2020
Annual Refunding and Defeasance Savings History, 2004-Present



SPECIALIZED PUBLIC FINANCE INC.
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS | 4

The Inaugural Williamson County Fair and Rodeo – October 2020



On Tuesday, January 28, the kick-off event was held at the Williamson County Expo in Taylor.

During the event, Scott Heselmeyer, President of the Williamson County Fair & Rodeo Association, listed other activities attendees can expect, including a Cowboy's Professional Rodeo Association/United Professional Rodeo Association rodeo with bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, bull riding and more. There will also be kids mutton bustin', calf scramble, and drill team on horseback, he said.

A carnival with rides, pig races and a petting zoo will also be featured, as well as a vendor fair, farmers market, wine and beer garden, livestock show, and patriot pro mustang showdown to round out the three-day event. Additionally, a full package of live musical entertainment will take place.

There is a contest, just announced, to establish a slogan for this Rodeo - The fair Facebook page is [facebook.com/wilcofair](https://www.facebook.com/wilcofair) and the contest link is <http://bit.ly/wilcoslogancontest>. You may enter the contest up to 3 times. Get those brain-juices going. I've submitted one so far.

Go on and save these dates on your calendars: October 22-24, 2020!

Champion Park Update

Change is gonna come to Champion Park. The unique dinosaur-themed park was first opened to the public in September 2007. The dinosaur skeleton playscape was added in 2010. Williamson County will be adding a new playscape to the park in early 2020.

The new playscape will replace the splash pad that is located by the small, covered picnic area. The splash pad is original to the park and does not recirculate and treat water for continued use, so all water used is lost. Costs to upgrade and retrofit with a recirculation system are exorbitant. Instead, the county is using funds to remove the pad and replace it with a new playscape for children to enjoy.

Williamson County operates the large Quarry Splash Pad in its Southwest Williamson County Regional Park, 3005 CR 175, in Leander (just North of Highway 1431). That splash pad does recirculate water and treats the water for continued use. It is closed during the fall and winter and will reopen in May.

The County received and evaluated bids for new playscape equipment and plan to complete installation in early 2020.

The splash pad will be removed the week of February 10, and the new playscape will be installed in April.



The Texas Primary is Tuesday, March 3.

Early voting will run Tuesday, February 18 – Friday, February 28, 7am – 7pm, EXCEPT Sunday, February 23 will be open 1:00 – 6:00.

Everything you wanted to know about when and where to vote, what's on the ballot, and about voter registration (HURRY! Voter registration for the primary ends on Feb. 3!) is [HERE](#).



NOTE!!!

Even with our new voting machines, we'll have a long ballot, and it's projected that it'll take 8 minutes per person per machine to get through the ballot. Please plan accordingly!



Working with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Commissioner Cook presented a proclamation commemorating a new graduate chapter in Williamson County. This organization works "diligently on behalf of the communities of Williamson County" by providing service to local school districts, food pantries, and senior centers, and good works for impoverished children and families.



Where is Commissioner Cook?

Round Rock Local Business Leading the Way

With low unemployment and employers looking for even more skilled workers, which is creating a shortage of skilled trade professionals, a Round Rock business has become a leader in Texas. Anchor-Ventana Glass is initiating the first registered apprenticeship program in commercial glazing in the state.

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area (RCA) facilitated the establishment of this apprenticeship program. They are responsible for planning, overseeing, setting policy, and monitoring the service delivery of federal and state legislative policies and resources to workforce development over a 9-county region (doesn't include Travis County). Workforce Solutions RCA provides no cost recruitment and employment services to businesses and job seekers in this rural region.

With so much building going on in Central Texas, this apprenticeship program will provide a steady stream of commercial glazing industry professionals, that will guide them from hands-on learning to full-time employment. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, apprenticeships are where "individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally-recognized credential."

Thank you Anchor-Ventana Glass for taking this important step! AND thank you to Workforce Solutions RCA for working so hard to fill those greatly needed skilled trade positions now and in the future!



Dignitaries from the U.S. Department of Labor and state and local government joined Anchor-Ventana Glass employees in celebration of the first registered apprenticeship program in commercial glazing in Texas.



At left, a large, 450 lb. sheet of glass is being moved to the cutting table. All cutting is done mechanically, as shown on the right.

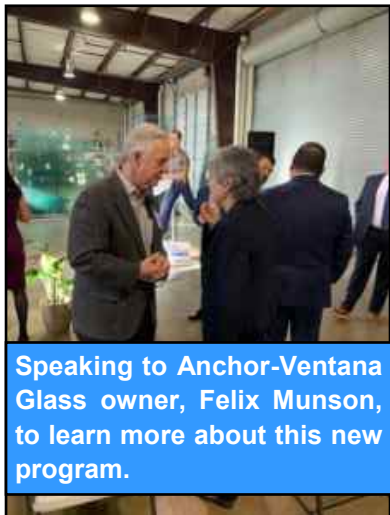




Where is Commissioner Cook?



Looking on while one of the skilled workers inputs directions for the cutting machine.



Speaking to Anchor-Ventana Glass owner, Felix Munson, to learn more about this new program.



Highland Horizon HOA



Bluffs at Milwood HOA



Swearing in ESD #1 (Jollyville Fire Department) Commissioners Steve Rundell (left) and Laurie Golding (right) to another 2-year term. There is always paperwork to take care of with any official event like this!

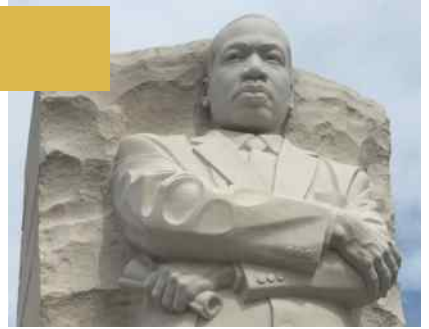




Where is Commissioner Cook?

Martin Luther King, Jr. Marches

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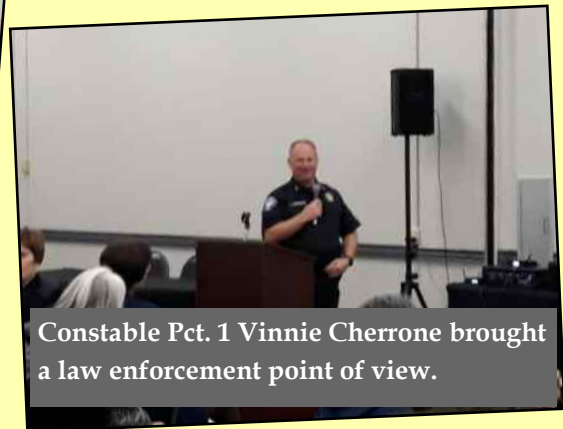
Senior Fraud Prevention Program with Round Rock Good Neighbors



Stephanie Gregor from the County Attorney's Office gives good advice to attendees.



A great discussion with Round Rock Good Neighbors after the event!



Constable Pct. 1 Vinnie Cherrone brought a law enforcement point of view.

The Senior Fraud Prevention Program, brought to you by the Office of Commissioner Terry Cook, is a lineup of various businesses, government entities, and organizations brought together, representing banking (where much fraudulent activity occurs, especially with the advent of on-line banking), law enforcement, and non-profit agencies that work with our older generation, to offer participants tips on detecting and fighting financial fraud and providing important resources. If your club or organization, would like this program brought to you, please contact Garry Brown, Commissioner Cook's Executive Assistant, at garry.brown@wilco.org or 512-244-8615.



Retaining walls



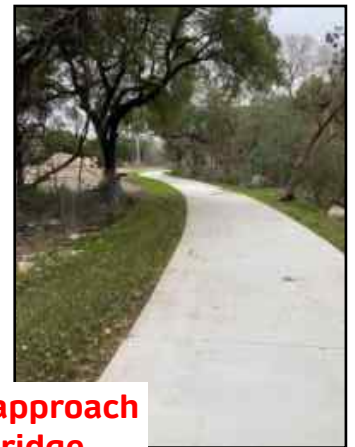
Views from bridge.
Looking north
Looking south



South side of Brushy Creek on the approach to the bridge



Northside approach to the bridge



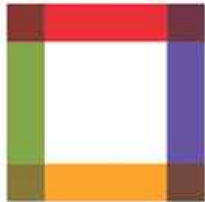
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OPPORTUNITIES
for Williamson & Burnet Counties
Paths to Independence

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FORUM

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 10:00am

1801 E. Old Settlers Blvd. in Round Rock (Jester Annex)

Opportunities for Williamson and Burnet Counties invite you to a forum in conjunction with their Policy Council to give them your opinions on community needs. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information, email lmcaudrews@opportunitiesforwbc.org or call 512-763-1400, ext. 2014.



NAMI Central Texas

Family to Family

A free 8-week course designed to help family members understand and support their adult loved one living with a mental health condition and maintain their own well-being. You will learn about treatment options, crisis management, communication methods, and more.

Starts Monday, February 20, 2020

6:30pm—9:00pm

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

1009 N. Georgetown St., Round Rock

More details and register at:

Namicentraltx.org/families



**WILLIAMSON COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Presents **A TOAST TO OUR PAST: Railroads and Suffragettes**

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7pm at the Historic Courthouse in Georgetown

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any Historical Commission member, at the Williamson Museum, at the door, or at Commissioner Cook's office.

You may request tickets by sending an email to info@wilcohistory.org.

Courts and Public Well-Served by Wilco District Clerk

When Williamson County District Clerk Bonnie Wolbrueck announced she would retire in 2006, Lisa David ran for that office to ensure the transition would be positive and cause little disruption to the courts.

Hired in 1981 to work in the district clerk's office, David later served as deputy district clerk and assistant chief deputy. She said, "I could hit the ground running and already knew what to expect in this position." David was elected Wilco's next district clerk on Nov. 7, 2006.

Every Texas county has a district clerk who serves as the official record keeper and custodian of all its district courts' pleadings. In counties with populations fewer than 8,000, the county clerk can also serve as the district clerk.

Although district courts are state offices, they form an integral part of county government. District courts hear felony criminal cases, divorce cases, land title disputes and election contests, as well as civil matters in which at least \$200 is disputed or claimed in damages. Additionally, David is responsible for family filings in the county courts-at-law, which have family law jurisdictions. Family law includes cases of divorce, child custody, child support and adoption, among others. David provides a clerk for each judge in the district and county courts to assist with daily court proceedings. As a fee officer, she collects court costs and fines deposited within the county and state.

To achieve the smooth operation of these courts, her office is divided into criminal, civil, family and tax. Other sections include juvenile, financial, records management/archiving and appeals. Clerks are assigned to each division.



In 1981, Wilco had one county court, one district court and four employees. It now has four county courts and five district courts. David supervises one part-time and 33 full-time employees. If this sounds like a lot of staff, think again. In 1981, there were fewer than 500 criminal filings, and in 2018, there were over 3,000. In 1990, district clerks became responsible for juvenile filings. Wilco's population was slightly over 76,000 in 1981. With our population for 2020 estimated to be over 600,000 and by 2040, over 1.4 million, our courts and David's office will face greater demands.

Digitizing is helping streamline the workload. In December 2012, the Texas Supreme Court mandated electronic filing of all civil and criminal court cases. The Supreme Court set standards that attorneys' e-filing must meet, and

for district and county clerks to accept the filings. The Wilco district clerk's office, which had no computer system until 1989, currently stores over 2,000 boxes of family, civil and criminal paper records. Despite the daunting task, David continues her effort to digitize every paper file.

David concedes that her biggest challenge is getting the courts and attorneys to fully utilize the electronic filing system. Her "path of the paperless system" will free space for her office and other county departments as they grow. The district clerk's records date to 1848, when Williamson County was first created. Texas law prohibits destruction of historical records, so David ensures that historical records continue to be bound by commercial experts and placed in cases that are water and fire proof.

While David doesn't allow the documents of a case to be posted online for security reasons, she does make the actions that have occurred in a case available for online viewing. A portal she recently implemented for court appointed attorneys to retrieve documents online decreases the hours and number of visits to the courthouse attorneys charge, resulting in lower costs for the county.

She also stresses customer service to her staff. "I am elected every four years. I want to ensure that the public knows they can count on me any time they are in my office." David was honored as Clerk of the Year 2017-18 by her counterparts statewide. She credits her "experiences" as the reason for this honor from clerks who always know they can call her for assistance. When you call our district clerk's office, you get a live person and one willing to help!

Providing the best tools and education to her staff so they carry out their duties on behalf of the citizens of Williamson County remains David's top goal, which I feel she has duly fulfilled and surpassed.

ROAD UPDATES

620 at Railroad/Chisholm Trail– A construction contract has been awarded. This is a TxDOT project with county and City of Round Rock financial assistance (cash only). Utilities are now clear! Construction start is anticipated in late February 2020. Start making plans NOW on how you will avoid this area. It will be open for traffic during construction, but might be slow going. This will be a multi-year project.

Great Oaks Bridge at Brushy Creek Rd.– Roadway and waterline designs are finalized, and right of way acquisition is complete. Utility relocations are ongoing, and the movement of waterlines will be the first step and should occur very soon. Interlocal agreements (ILAs) with Brushy Creek and Fern Bluff MUDs have been executed. The old bridge will remain in use during construction. The construction is fully funded through the 2013 bond and is anticipated to begin Spring 2020 and take 18-24 months to complete and set to finish in Spring 2022.

Hairy Man Rd./Brushy Creek Rd. Safety Improvements– Everything you could possibly want to know about this project is at this [website](#). Construction start is slated to begin Spring 2020.



N. Mays St. Extension from Paloma Dr. to Oakmont Dr.– The bridge, a long, 4-lane project over a flood plain, is being constructed; concrete beams and bridge deck panels are being installed. Concrete deck panels and spans continue to be placed on the bridge. A 5-foot wide sidewalk and 10-foot wide shared path for the bridge has been formed and poured. Concrete rails for the bridge are being poured and put in place. THANK YOU City of Round Rock and Spectrum for moving your lines, and finally, AT&T is starting their work to move their lines! Word on the street is that Google Fiber in Austin has snagged most of the contractors that do this work. This is a joint project of the City of Round Rock and Williamson County that runs parallel to I-35 to take some traffic off of the interstate. Substantial completion slated for Summer 2020.



University Blvd. widening from IH-35 to Sunrise Rd.– Design and right of way acquisition are complete, and utility relocation efforts are ongoing. Construction start is anticipated Summer 2020. This is a City of Round Rock project in which the county has contributed money towards. University Ave., which turns into Chandler Rd., takes you to Texas 95 north of Taylor, making this a very important East-West connector. Project slated to finish in early 2022.



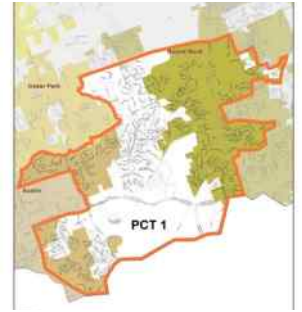
Pond Springs Road Area Drainage Improvements– A meeting with the City of Austin, TxDOT, and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) has taken place to discuss shared use of a retention pond already in the area. We are searching for alternative storage, too. Preliminary drainage study continues; surveying is complete. A project on the 2019 bond list, this has been a long-time drainage/flood area; construction is not anticipated before 2022.



Forest North Drainage Improvements Phase III– Easement agreements are ongoing, and a public involvement plan meeting was held on December 5, 2019. Waterline designs are with the City of Austin, and we expect their approval within the month. This project is Commissioner Cook's #1 Priority in Precinct 1 for the 2019 Bond Program. It is to complete the massive drainage program in this flat, slightly sloping neighborhood established in the 1970's and subject to flooding.



The Mission, Vision, and Value Statements of the Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1 Office



MISSION

To lead pro-actively on the Williamson County Commissioners Court while advocating for the constituents of Precinct 1 and the county at-large from a foundation of collaboration and respect.

VISION

To transform Williamson County government into a more accessible, responsive, transparent, and well-managed organization for our residents, so that we become the community recognized as the best in Central Texas to live and enjoy.

VALUES

Accountability, commitment, integrity, and respect form the values that guide the Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1 office.

CONTACT US!

LOCATION: Williamson County Jester Annex
1801 E. Old Settlers Blvd., Suite 110

MAIN PHONE: 512-244-8610

EMAIL COMMISSIONER COOK:
commissioner1@wilco.org

COMMUNICATIONS/SCHEDULING: Doris Sanchez
512-244-8610, doris.sanchez@wilco.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Garry Brown
512-244-8615, garry.brown@wilco.org

SEE US ONLINE!!!

Williamson County's Website! - www.wilco.org

Our office's web site- [Terry Cook, Commissioner Pct 1](#)

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Austin Fire Department
512-974-0130

County Judge Bill Gravell
512-943-1550

Jollyville Fire Department (ESD 1)
512-258-1038

Round Rock Fire Department (ESD 9)
512-218-5590

Sam Bass Fire Department (ESD 2)
512-255-0100

Williamson Central Appraisal District
512-930-3787

Williamson County Landfill
512-759-8881

Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter
512-943-3322

Williamson County Sheriff's Office
512-864-8282

Want to know even more
about what's happening in
Williamson County?

Sign up for the WILCOunty
Line E-newsletter! Click
[here](#) to sign up!

Commissioner Cook
keeps meeting with many
MUD Boards and HOAs.
To invite her to your
meeting, contact Doris at
doris.sanchez@wilco.org

In case of
Emergency
DIAL 911