

Williamson County Commissioner Terry Cook N E W S L E T T E R

November 2019
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Thanksgiving Edition

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Every now and then, a department in Williamson County brings their work into the public. This month, Hazmat, IT and IT's GIS departments sponsored their 9th year of Graphical Information System field day for a GISD 5th grade class – this year that class was from Village Elementary.

90-100 excited students arrived at the Georgetown Community Center just before 9AM on Wednesday, Nov 13, and were quickly divided into 5 groups to cycle through 5 simultaneous GIS tracts.



Two of the tracts were inside the center: US Weather Service and a presentation from two graduate students from Texas State University.

- US Weather Service – yes weather balloons are still released around the world every day – satellites don't do well with clouds. This class showed how the weather service uses GIS information to track storms and other weather conditions.
- Texas State University's presentation included drones, 3-D printer and demonstrated how GIS information can be used to display city information including buildings, elevations, and population densities.



The other three tracts were outdoors on this chilly day. In the GPS tract, small teams of kids were given hand-held GPS units, each pre-programmed to help lead them to a unique location where they would find something special – ala geo caching. They reported on location and their find.

An ArcGIS Online tract allowed small teams to use a GPS-enabled iPad to photograph and record locations. This practical exercise is often done by cities for properties and trees, especially heritage trees, within a city's boundaries.

The Hazmat tract showed how GIS is used by skilled workers of our county during events such as tornadoes, fires, hazardous spills, etc. The students got to experience a hazmat truck and its specialized equipment, and the Emergency Operations Center's Command Vehicle, loaded with technology, which is dispatched in emergency situations.



These kids were really engaged and excited throughout the entire 3-hour morning along with many adult volunteers (also excited).

Bottomline – this really demonstrates that the foundation of much of the information we all use daily is GIS-based!

Below is a proclamation sponsored by Commissioner Cook designating November 2019 as National Caregivers Month in Williamson County.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Central Texas region hosts the second fastest growing population of adults 65 and older and the fastest growing population of adults 55 to 64; and

WHEREAS, The Aging Services Council of Central Texas reports that by 2040 more than a half-million seniors, or 517,772, will live in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties and comprise nearly 18 percent of the Central Texas population; and

WHEREAS, caregiving is a 24-hour, 7-days a week job; and

WHEREAS, the average caregiver is a working mother of school-age children who has to balance the needs of her family with the needs of, most likely, an elderly or ill parent, who needs medication management and numerous doctor visits, amongst other issues, the level of stress under which they live is unhealthy; and

WHEREAS, six out of 10 caregivers work full- or part-time in addition to juggling their caregiving responsibilities at home; and


WHEREAS, most caregivers say they have to cut back on working hours, take a leave of absence, or quit their job entirely, which can lead to no benefits, no retirement, and reduced income; and

WHEREAS, the requirements of a multi-generational home require that the caregiver lose much work time and may lose their jobs due to required absences; and

WHEREAS, caregivers seemingly never have a life of their own, but even with these stressors, they decide to become a caregiver as a gift of love and duty to family.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court proclaim November 2019 as Family Caregivers Month to honor all of our residents who are wearing invisible superhero capes by taking care of an elderly or ill family member or friend while also working hard at their own jobs and keeping their families together. We hope that you allow yourself a little self-care.

Signed on this date: November 26, 2019



Bill Gravell, County Judge



Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct 1



Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2



Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3



Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct 4

GET UP AND GET OUT THERE!

Williamson County District Attorney's Office

*Cordially invites you to join us for the
Williamson County*

7th Tree of Angels Ceremony



*Families and friends of a victim and survivors
of a violent crime are invited to bring an
Angel ornament to place
on this special tree and together
we will remember lives that
have been touched by crime.*



*Tuesday, December 3, 2019
6:00 pm*

*Williamson County Historic Courthouse
Old 26th District Court
710 S. Main St.
Georgetown, TX 78626*

*We will have a separate table
set up if you would like to bring a photo of your loved one with you.*

*If you have participated in past years,
Please retrieve your angel from reception area.*



On Friday, November 29, kick-off the holiday season with our annual Lighting of the Square, traditionally held at 5:30 p.m. the Friday after Thanksgiving! Sing along with the Austin Carolers to your favorite holiday tunes! This is a free event. Get there early to find a parking space!



The United States Ismaili Games 2019 is coming to Williamson County November 28 through December 1! The games will bring together the United States Jamat of all generations, through sports, to showcase athletic excellence and cultural awareness in the true spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood, and to promote unity and fair play across a variety of sports, including basketball, badminton, chess, cricket, flag football, golf, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, tennis, table tennis, throwball, track and field, ultimate frisbee and volleyball. There are even classes and other non-athletic events in which you can participate. Learn more [here](#).



Celebrate the holiday season with the staff, board, and friends of United Way of Williamson County. Stop in to say hello or stick around to network. Bring a co-worker, family member or friend. All are welcome. The office is located at 1111 N. IH-35, Suite 220 in Round Rock in the same building as Chase Bank at the NE corner of IH-35 and Hwy. 79/Palm Valley Blvd. Please RSVP [here](#).

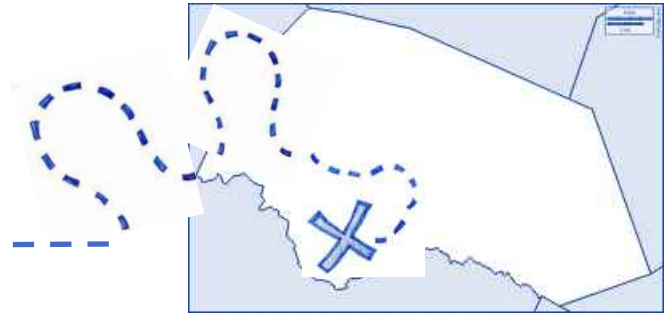


It's a
Wonderful Life
Classic
Radiocast

November 29th, 2019 - December 21st, 2019

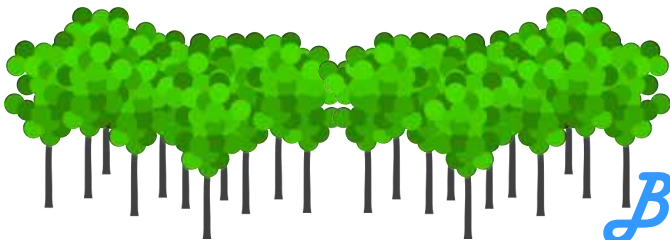
Back by popular demand, the show draws audience members back in time to 1946 as members of the KPNF radio station are assembling for a live radio performance of **It's a Wonderful Life**. Through dozens of characterizations and live foley sound effects, five talented actors tell the entire story, putting an imaginative twist on a cherished holiday tradition. Click [here](#) for more information!

Where is Commissioner Cook?

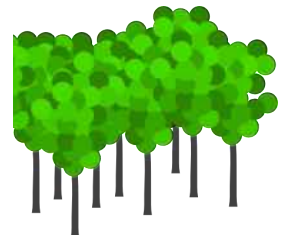


Happy 2nd birthday, Pavilion! Pavilion helps persons living with mental illness or struggling with substance abuse break up the isolation they are living in, help them find a job they are happy with, and begin a new, hopeful life. They do great work!

Pavilion also held a community forum on mental illness and substance abuse at Celebration Church. The panel consisted of leaders from our community speaking on these difficult issues facing so many Williamson County families.



Brushy Creek Trail



Piers that will hold the elevated boardwalk section of the path



FINAL
EDITION

Times

EXTRA!
EXTRA!

Cook: Guiding employers and training their workforce

With a state unemployment rate of 3.4%, employers are having trouble finding qualified workers. Additionally, many job seekers need training and guidance to qualify for these jobs.

Apple and Kalahari Resorts will be adding many jobs to our area, increasing the demand for workers in retail, tech workers and customer service.

Workforce Solutions is the answer to our prayers. They expanded their office in Round Rock to create a career center that includes Texas Workforce Solutions and Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff to serve Williamson County.

Williamson County is part of the Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area, a community partnership which also includes Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee and Llano counties.

The career center offers businesses recruiting and hiring and training assistance free of charge. Their business consultants maintain the workintexas.com database with thousands of job seekers' resumes for approved employers.

The nine-county partnership empowers employers to utilize their interview rooms and meeting areas, computers, copiers, fax machines and phones. And the career center helps businesses sponsor job fairs and seminars and provides updated labor market information tailored for specific business requirements.

"We look at the employer as our customer," said Paul Fletcher, CEO of Workforce Solutions Capital Area Region. "Will they buy our product? And what can we do to improve the caliber of the workforce they need."

For job seekers, the partnership offers an array of services and programs from experienced staff, also at no cost. These include education and skills training, resume and interview support, job search support, child-care assistance, veterans' services and much more.

To read the rest of the story, click [here](#).

IN COMMISSIONERS COURT



Williamson County EMS has added another strong group of graduates from their training academy to their award-winning emergency medical services. Welcome to Williamson County!



Meet our new Fire Marshal, Hank Jones. He began his career in the fire service in 1991 in Belton. Hank has been with Georgetown since 1998, and was instrumental in the adoption of the Georgetown fire code. Welcome Hank!



Another year, another award presented to your Auditor's Office. The Government Finance Officers Association has for the 25th year in a row presented the Auditor's Office the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting and for the 14th year in a row given them the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting. These are so well-deserved for all of the great work they do overseeing all of the taxpayers' money!



Congratulations to Sherry Golden, Williamson County's Veterans Service Officer! She was presented with the Regional Outstanding Service Office of the Year Award. The award is given in recognition of outstanding service to the veterans of Texas as voted on by fellow veterans service officers from across Texas.

Road Updates

620 at Railroad/Chisholm Trail– Right of Way acquisition and design are complete. This is a TxDOT project with county and City of Round Rock financial assistance (cash only). STILL waiting on utility relocation, although we've been told this should be finished this month. Construction start is anticipated in early 2020. EEK!

Great Oaks Bridge at Brushy Creek Rd.– All plans are complete. Drainage is being re-evaluated to meet federal newly released rainfall intensities in accordance to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ATLAS 14. US Army Corps of Engineers have approved the plan, but we are waiting for one more approval. 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.

Hairy Man Rd./Brushy Creek Rd. Safety Improvements– The Brushy Creek MUD, Fern Bluff MUD, and Commissioners Court have approved the Interlocal Agreement (ILA). Additional hydrologic and hydraulic mitigation of the project is completed. Right of way acquisition nearly completed for this 2013 bond project. Design work is done and under review. This is a safety project. The construction is fully funded, and the start is anticipated early 2020 pending right of way acquisition.

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 will soon be put in place. AT&T and Spectrum are the last two utilities to move their lines, and they continue to push back 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 Spring 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 in late 2019. University Ave., which turns into Chandler Rd., takes you to Texas 95 north of Taylor, making this a very important East-West connector.

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. The CTRMA is determining the maximum drainage capacity of that pond. Commissioner Cook made this one of her top 4 priority projects in Precinct 1 for the 2019 bond list. This has been a long-time drainage/flood area issue.

Forest North Drainage Improvements Phase III– A geologic assessment, karst survey, and an endangered species report have been finalized, as has a survey. Easement agreements are on-going, and meetings with residents to discuss and answer design questions continue. 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. **Anderson Mill zone is complete, and where sod was placed was at the suggestion and expense of the contractor. We are waiting on water line submittals, and final pricing and schedule for Tottenham Ct. Substantial completion is anticipated early 2020.**



The CAMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan is underway! Join the [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) in developing the [2045 Plan](#), a transportation plan for the next 25 years that assesses current and future needs of roads, transit, walking and biking, and also examines new technologies, travel strategies, and more. Central Texas is a diverse region with diverse needs. Share your story and help CAMPO plan for a connected, reliable, and equitable transportation network. Learn more and share your input [on the survey](#) through November 30, 2019.*

*CAMPO has said that they will extend the comment period past November 30.

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

MISSION

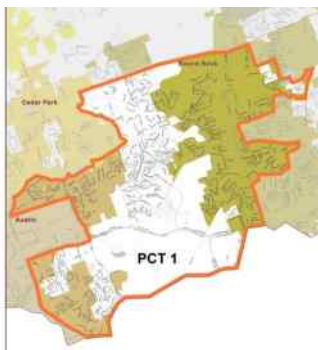
To lead pro-actively on the Williamson County Commissioners Court while advocating for the constituents of Precinct 1 and the county at-large from a foundation of collaboration and respect.

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 core values that guide the Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1 office.



CONTACT US!

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Garry Brown
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SEE US ON THE INTERNET!

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

Our office's web site- Terry Cook, Commissioner Pct 1

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

Important Phone Numbers (non-emergency)

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!