



# **Williamson County Commissioner Terry Cook**

## **N E W S L E T T E R**

**February 2021 Volume 5 Issue 2**

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# The Message



**SuperColdfrontfrigidlisticnixpowercovidocious**

**Even though the event of it was something quite atrocious**

**If you say it loud enough, you'll always sound precocious**

**SuperColdfrontfrigidlisticnixpowercovidocious**

**Um diddle, diddle diddle, um diddle ay...**

Yes, the perfect storm on repeat from 10 years ago – only in an exaggerated form this time. And what has been done to prepare Texas since 2011 for a redo? – nothing. I have bragged about the mild winters of Central Texas whenever I travel. Now with egg on my face, I will cease and desist. Welcome to Texas, the newest third-world country in the western hemisphere.

However, what Texans do best is help wherever they can when catastrophe occurs. We certainly get lots of opportunities. Counties, cities, Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) and Independent School Districts (ISDs) worked together across the state to do all that was possible to deal with the hand they were dealt in this massive storm. Our county was no different.



It was “all hands on deck,” many working 12-hour shifts on 24 hrs/day schedules from February 11 through February 19. Microsoft Teams was put to full use communicating needs, communicating solutions, and organizing assignments orchestrated by the awesome Emergency Mgmt team.

Early on, it was clearing roads, streets, and drives to county resources and hospitals. The ambulance drive at Round Rock’s St David’s hospital was cleared by hand; the long drive up to Ascension Seton hospital was done by a road scraper from Road & Bridge. Highway 195 was cleared by Road & Bridge for TxDOT, enabling services to reach Florence, initially for emergency services, then food and, later and to this day, to bring water supplies. And I must add, without any road surface destruction! Now there’s some extensive skills put into emergency action!

As it became apparent that the cold temperatures, snow, and ice were not going away, wellness checks and travel to vital medical treatments such as dialysis were needed; resources were mustered to reach people and bring them to treatment centers other than emergency rooms. The Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) organized a team of volunteers with 4-WDs to take citizens to and from dialysis and to pick up supplies, then deliver them when and where needed. Thank you, Annie Burwell, MOT Director, for organizing that effort and so much more!

Human power came from every department: Purchasing was sourcing generators, water tanks, food, water, dialysis centers who were operational and would accept patients not normally on their roster – not their normal market items. MOT and Pam Ward from Parks were working the housing and sheltering centers (remember under Covid-19 conditions and fluctuating electricity, churches could not throw open their facilities as they normally would). Community Health Paramedics were minding the county’s long-term care facilities and managing their needs for water and food and watching for Covid-19 issues; EMS, ESDs, sheriff departments and City fire and police departments were involved in many, many activities all around the county, including transportation and opening their own offices for people to recharge their oxygen concentrator battery packs when and where electricity was available. They also gave much assistance to traffic problems, including an abundance of jack-knifed 18-wheelers. Our Public Information Office was working around the clock, including publishing a Wilco Winter Weather Resources guide. Information Technology was even involved in driving trucks, shoveling, delivering water among other tasks. Volunteers and employees of the Regional Animal Shelter even spent the night working at the facility to keep the animals in their charge warm when the power went out and flooding occurred. Auditing, all the while, was making sure receipts were collected and the paperwork done to seek FEMA full or partial reimbursements under the disaster declaration. Thank you, Julie Kiley – our own energy bunny!

Blankets and cots were acquired from the Red Cross and deployed to warming centers which were also losing electricity and water – nothing was stable, cell phone service was spotty, and flexibility was key. Again, Teams was the link that connected all these workers with current conditions and needs.

Through the 9 most serious days of the storm, 1,792 calls came into 911 for service. The PIO reported them as:

- 91 collisions
- 34 citizen assists
- 138 welfare checks
- 323 911 hang-ups
- 203 traffic hazards (Wilco personnel helped clear the massive 19-wheeler congestion in the Jarrell area!)



Even more county employees and volunteers helped to identify icy roads and clear them by spreading sand and de-icer (while you could acquire it).

Then the pipes started freezing, bursting, generators ran out of diesel, wells and water treatment facilities failed and water, both potable and non-potable, became a limited resource. Some cities had to drain the water from their water tower legs to avoid ruptures under the sub-freezing conditions. Purchasing began seeking bottled water in vast quantities and sourcing large tanks that would fit in the truck beds or on trailers. Local breweries were able to boil water (if they had it and electricity) and then can it to be delivered to water distribution sites across the county. Those tireless employees and

volunteers jumped into action doing whatever it took to load up water and deliver wherever it was needed. Sometimes that job included delivering portable toilets. The water delivery business has continued through this last week of February and may remain necessary into March!

What's the takeaway from this event? The county is in the process of performing an assessment of all that occurred looking at lists to formalize and maintain, strategies to put in place and preparations that should occur in anticipation of future extreme weather events. Each water and energy provider are hopefully doing the same. Our sympathies are with those still without water, gas, and/or electricity. This event drove enormous expenses. FEMA is notorious for long delays in reimbursements. We have been thrown one curve ball after another since 2020, but we are a resilient, resourceful people. Cling to hope for a better tomorrow – it could happen.



## Covid-19 Vaccination Update

Deep breath, exhale slowly – ok, you're now ready for the report.

Good news is that no doses spoiled during our snow-ice-freezing-covid-pocolypse. Vaccination doses were not shipped to Family Hospital Systems (FHS), our Hub for Williamson County, during the disaster that was Feb 11-19. (OK, there's still those with busted pipes, etc. and remain without potable water coming from their faucets and showerheads.)

NOTE: There is only a single list of people signed up for vaccinations. Those who registered under the January registration application and the ones signing up thru the new February application have been integrated into one list organized by date under which you registered. FHS and Curative are working from this single list for appointment scheduling per doses they each have.

On Tuesday afternoon, Feb 23, FHS received shipment – don't know if it was the allocation from the week of Feb 15 or both that shipment AND the allocation for week of Feb 22. But they put out 20,000 texts for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shots from those whose appointments were waylaid by the storm and did a *one-time only* special of organizing shot appointments alphabetically by last names this last week of February. Additionally, Curative Medical Associates have been contracted to help get 1<sup>st</sup> time shots into arms working at the Georgetown ISD Athletics Complex this last week.

The schedule this last week of February – March 2:

First Doses only by appointment:

Kelly Reeves Complex - Sat 2/20, Mon 2/22, Wed 2/24, Mon 3/1, Tues 3/2  
Georgetown ISD Complex (Curative) - Wed 2/24, Fri 2/26, Sat 2/27

Second Doses only by appointment:

Sun City Ballroom – Tues 2/23, Wed 2/24, Fri 2/26  
Kelly Reeves Complex – Thurs 2/25, Fri 2/26, Sat 2/27

Both Curative Medical Associates and Baylor Scott & White have applied with the state to be additional Hubs in Williamson County. Approval requires that more doses of vaccine is available to be sent to Williamson County than FHS (our only Hub) can use up. We're not there yet – FHS has used every dose available to date with a demonstrated ability to use even more. We wait to hear from Texas Dept. of State Health Services.

**Williamson County Vaccine Call Center**

Williamson County has set up a call center in February to serve as a resource for residents interested in COVID-19 vaccine information. The call center number is 512-943-1600. The call center is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Wilco Vaccine Call Center experiences high call volumes. Your patience is appreciated. Here are some examples of the call volumes.

<b>Williamson County Vaccine Call Center Status Report</b>		
DATE	CALLS ATTEMPTED	CALLS ANSWERED
Tues, 2/2/2021	5,029	425
Wed, 2/3/2021	3,537	617
Thurs, 2/4/2021	2,441	675
Friday, 2/5/2021	5,296	3,222
Monday, 2/8/2021	6,611	5,300

Wilco closed at noon on Thursday, 2/11/2021 – 2/19/2021 due to storm.

DATE	CALLS ATTEMPTED	CALLS ANSWERED
Monday, 2/22/2021	4,580	3,784
Tuesday, 2/23/2021	5,595	4,190
Wednesday, 2/24/2021	3,783	2,870
Thursday, 2/25/2021	3,179	2,256
Friday, 2/26/2021	No data yet	

***What – I have Electronic Forms to Complete for my 1<sup>st</sup> Dose??***

You know the drill: mounds of paperwork to complete at your first appointment with a doctor or dentist. Well, the Hubs require a subset of that prior to your 1<sup>st</sup> dose, especially for billing your insurance company. It does require a certain level of savvy.

Consequently, technical assistance is being provided at a variety of locations. The Vaccine Registration Technical Assistance (VRTA) are REAL HUMANS to help anyone electronically complete all the forms once they have been notified of their appointment for the first dose of vaccine. I encourage you to visit a site and get this help – they are so fast and we're not (typically).

Here's the skinny:

Local partners and volunteers will continue to fill the need for technical support by providing wi-fi connectivity, assistance with uploading documents, and other technical needs. VRTA centers can confirm that residents are on the waitlist, add people to the waitlist or assist with any technological questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. No appointment is necessary to receive assistance at these sites. Please remember, VRTA sites do not administer vaccinations.

Here are the locations of the VRTA centers and their regular scheduled dates:

Beginning February 22: Hill Country Bible Church (gym building), 3300 Little Elm Trail, Cedar Park; Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9am to 3pm.

Beginning February 23: First Baptist Church Taylor, 2500 Mallard Lane, Taylor. Tuesday and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm.

Beginning February 24: The Oaks in Sun City, 301 Del Webb Blvd., Georgetown. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9am to 3pm

## Potential Housing for the Homeless at Candlewood Suites

Without notification of, nor information for, the entire Commissioners Court prior to the February 4<sup>th</sup> Austin City Council's vote to purchase and convert Candlewood Suites to permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals, Austin certainly blindsided us. We did not have time to evaluate its impact, if any, on the county, the local businesses, nor the neighborhoods near its location.

On Feb 8, Garry and I had nearly a one-hour virtual meeting with Jo Kathryn Quinn, CEO of Caritas of Austin, COA's chosen administrator of the site, to understand her vision for this housing conversion. Caritas has a long and successful history of establishing both affordable housing and this other brand, permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

The contract for management of this proposed site is under negotiations. Caritas has influenced COA sufficiently to not immediately populate the building, but first establish the structures needed internally and externally to provide space for supportive services and personnel, as well as space for community living there to have social spaces to facilitate formation of, and processes for, a residential community prior to having the residents.

So what are the ingredients needed for a successful permanent supportive housing community?

1. Transportation – is in talks with the City of Austin and soon, CapMetro, to have a bus stop directly at the facility – no guarantees, but Caritas acknowledges the importance for one
2. Security – single entry/exit door with 24/7 staffed security desk; further, there will be screening of all guests; of course, emergency exits with alarms would always be available

### 3. Appropriate Facilities

#### Community Spaces for Residents

Inside: Community room for events and meetings

Outside: patio, shade structure, privacy fence, picnic tables

Office space for case workers, social services personnel, teachers

Session spaces for 1 on 1 consultations and group therapies

Storage spaces, esp. for their planned food pantry for the residents

Rooms are efficiency apts with kitchenettes: full-sized fridge, 2-burner cooktop, oven, microwave

Rooms are intended for single-person occupancy

Building was built in 2018 and should be compatible with fire code standards and structurally sound

### 4. Appropriate Services

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder certified and peer counselors

Training: leasing, developing resumes, job preparation

### 5. Appropriate Staffing

Skilled Case Managers – all graduates of the Caritas Case Management Institute – no matter how much past professional experience they have, all are on same page with best practices!

Case Managers in ratio of 1:17 residents or 1:12 if highly vulnerable

All Case Managers have been through extensive training for trauma-based therapies and approaches

All individuals providing therapeutic assistance to residents are experienced and clinically trained and certified where needed – not a just-graduated-from-college-looking-for-experience group

### 6. Selective Leasing Process

Will not house the chronically homeless here

Will house most vulnerable to dying outside: illness, disability, age

Especially want to house those who have been homeless for a year or less

Process is administered by ECHO, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, starting with a formal assessment for each individual applying

With all these ingredients, what's the recipe for making the cake?

Follow best practices in each step

Have sustained funding to underwrite all the services, supplies and on-going costs of the facility: Commitment of COA and HUD grants

Gain the support of the outside community with good maintenance and management practices

And how about the icing?

- Marc Eichenbaum, special assistant to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner reports that city taxpayers were paying \$103M/yr for their homeless population with no positively changed lives. They have cut the individual costs to taxpayers for a person who is homeless by 70% with their model analogous to the Caritas model. This is not cheap to execute but it is potentially much more expensive over the long term to not do it.
- Caritas has a history of success with their model with 98% of the individuals housed and, given the opportunity to thrive, not returning to homelessness. The services are not forced on anyone, but available when they reach out for assistance; they must choose to change their lives and freely participate for their successes to be long-lasting.

Health and safety – one of our major foci for our residents in Wilco. We are a loving community with our fabric shaped by big hearts and big willingness to help.

What don't we know (not intended to be an exclusive list)?

- Will the current homeless population be the targeted group for evaluation as to candidates for housing here or will it be those down in the core of Austin?
- Will the site be a magnet for attracting more homeless to camp near it?
- Will the two hotels and restaurant next to Candlewood Suites lose business due to housing conversion?
- How will the current homeless pressures on the existing business and homeowners be improved with this conversion?

I will tell you I believe the majority of the Commissioners Court are supportive of this sort of conversion to provide housing to the poorest of the poor. But in the real estate world, the mantra "LOCATION, Location, location" is key. Those single-family homes came first; Frieda's is a long-time, loved restaurant. The hotels are the new kids on the block.

## *Odds 'n Ends*

### **Why can't the County Help with Tree Debris?**

Here's the legal skinny for the limitation on Counties from the firm the Texas Association of Counties employs to keep us all in adherence to the laws pertaining to county work:

*The County cannot normally expend public funds, including labor or the use of equipment and materials, to achieve a private purpose unless there is a sufficient public purpose served to justify an exception.*

*Robert T. Bass & Jim Allison*

Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP

A.O. Watson House, 402 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, Texas 78701

### **Where's that Monument Committee???**

As you see by my three question marks, I'm frustrated too. I had talked with Commissioner Boles who was going to try to get it on the agenda for March 2, but between Covid-19 recovery and the snowpocalypse, it is delayed. I'll circle around.

### **Wilco CARES Phase 3**

In the month of February, \$429,445.88 was reimbursed to 3 of our four non-profits helping individuals and families with rent and utilities. If those needing assistance can prove their inability to pay is due to the negative impact of Covid-19 such as loss of job, reduced hours, etc, one of our four non-profits, Round Rock Serving Center, Georgetown's Caring Place, the Salvation Army or Hill Country Community Ministries, pay the utility bill and/or the property manager for the rent due, then invoice the county and submit documented evidence of need (for that Federal audit) and the County reimburses them following approval of the Commissioners Court. The need remains great in our county.



Your Williamson County government prides itself on being transparent to the public on financial matters. From being able to see financial reports, payment registers, utility bills, contracts to all things related to the county budget, you would be hard-pressed to find another government entity that is even more transparent.

Take a look below:

**\*Did you know that you can find out all about the Williamson County financials by visiting the County Auditor's web site?**

**<https://www.wilco.org/Departments/County-Auditor>**

**From there you can see the following:**

- **Financial Reports** - includes our bond rating reports (AAA!) and County Treasurer reports
- **Payment Registers** - a complete list of all payments issued by the county
- **Utility Bills** - you can see our utility bills broken out by utility type, by consumption, and cost
- **Debt Information**
- **Contracts** - a database of all county government contracts from 9/1/10 – 9/1/17

**Budget Transparency:** <https://www.wilco.org/Budget>

- **FY 21 adopted budget is here**
- **Budget Overview** - general fund (a side by side comparison of each country office's total budgets), road and bridge fund totals, and debt service
- **Budget Archives** - you can see every comprehensive budget going back to 2010
- **Timeline of Events** - gives you a timeline of the process for coming up with the county budget

**Boards and Commissions:** <https://www.wilco.org/Elected-Officials/Commissioners-Court/Duties/Boards-and-Commissions>

- **See all of the boards to which Commissioners Court appoints the public**
- **You can see when and where each board meets by clicking on that particular board.**

**Commissioners Court Agenda:** [https://agenda.wilco.org/agenda\\_publish.cfm](https://agenda.wilco.org/agenda_publish.cfm)

- **Weekly agenda and item backup documents are posted every Friday**
- **Search past agendas and minutes**



# IN COMMISSIONERS COURT

**Commissioner Cook presented a proclamation designating February 2021 as Black History Month in Williamson County. As far as we could tell, this was the first time this has ever been done in Wilco.**



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month was first celebrated at Kent State University in 1970, but had its roots in 1926, when it was created as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson, American author, journalist, and educator, who realized the need for research of American Black History was being ignored, neglected, and misrepresented; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History is American History; and

**WHEREAS**, the following list is only a tiny, partial list of Black American firsts:

**George Washington Carver**

Agricultural scientist, Inventor  
1<sup>st</sup> Black student and faculty member at Iowa State University

**Shirley Chisholm**

Author, Educator, Politician  
1<sup>st</sup> Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress  
1<sup>st</sup> African American and woman candidate for a major party's nomination for President

**Bessie Coleman**

Aviator  
1<sup>st</sup> African American (and Native American) woman to hold a pilot license

**W.E.B Du Bois**

Historian, Sociologist, Author, Civil Rights Activist  
1<sup>st</sup> African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard University

**Althea Gibson**

Professional Tennis Player and Golfer  
1<sup>st</sup> African American to win a tennis Grand Slam Championship (The French Open)

**Kamala Harris**

Attorney, Politician  
1<sup>st</sup> African American (and Asian American) and female Vice President of the United States of America

**Mae Jemison**

Engineer, Physician, Business Leader, NASA Astronaut  
1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to travel into space

**Barbara Jordan**

Attorney, Educator, Politician  
1<sup>st</sup> African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives



**Thurgood Marshall**

Attorney, Civil Rights Activist  
1<sup>st</sup> African American United States Supreme Court Justice

**Hattie McDaniel**

Actor, Singer-Songwriter, Comedian  
1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to sing on the radio in the United States  
1<sup>st</sup> Black actor to be nominated for, and win, an Oscar

**Barack Obama**

Attorney, Community Organizer, Politician  
1<sup>st</sup> African American to be President of Harvard Law Review  
1<sup>st</sup> Black President of the United States of America

**Debi Thomas**

Figure Skater, Physician  
1<sup>st</sup> African American to hold U.S. National titles in ladies' singles figure skating  
1<sup>st</sup> Black athlete to win any medal in the Winter Olympics

**Tuskegee Airmen**

1<sup>st</sup> African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces

**Doug Williams**

Football Player, Executive, and Coach  
1<sup>st</sup> Black quarterback to start and win a Super Bowl

**WHEREAS**, the colorful tapestry that is American Black History is interwoven with extraordinary works of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), with nine (9) in the State of Texas alone, and civil rights organizations and the bravery of the Little Rock 9, the Greensboro Sit-Ins, and the Selma to Montgomery Marches while interspersed with horrific actions thrust upon it, like the Tulsa Race Massacre, the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist church bombing, lynchings, assassinations, and America's original sin, slavery, which this country, this state, and this county are still struggling with today; and

**WHEREAS**, Black lives, stories, ideas, art, and voices are an integral part of the breadth of the American Experience; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas Black History can be traced back to 1528 when people of African descent, enslaved and free, were instrumental in the settlement of Spanish Texas;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, for the first time in its own history, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court proclaim February 2021 Black History Month in Williamson County.

Signed on this date:

2-2-2021



Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court

## **Commissioner Cook: Pavilion Clubhouse Seeks To Expand Mental Health Services**

Executive Director Gordon Butler dreams that the Pavilion Clubhouse, which serves people living with mental illness and/or substance abuse throughout Williamson County, will one day be open seven days a week.

Pavilion peer counselors are positioned to be the support group for those being released from a jail or court who are suffering from mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Helping people through recovery and reintegrating them into the community, either through paid employment or volunteer work, is Pavilion's mission. These services significantly reduce recidivism and re-hospitalizations.

John Hopkins University projected that clubhouses in Texas save the community \$10,000 per year per member in health care costs alone, and in reducing recidivism rates, typically 60% to 75%, to under 10% for those actively involved in a clubhouse.

Prior to courts going virtual, Pavilion peer counselors were present in some of our courtrooms. When they recognized possible mental illness and/or substance use in someone standing before a judge, they would leave the courtroom to introduce themselves to the legal counsel and/or family and offer support.

Now under virtual conditions, they are in the hearings but linking with an individual, attorney or family is much more challenging.

Judge Donna King of the 26th District Court interacts regularly with Pavilion peer counselors in her mental health docket as they serve clients in her courtroom. She said one challenge from the pandemic has been the inability to convene court in person, which normally allows Pavilion members in-person contacts with court participants.

King said, "The beauty of Pavilion participating in the court process is that they can spend time with clients in the court setting and build trust, which helps build the relationship that will facilitate ongoing support outside court."

However, while existing relationships have been consistent, it's been difficult to ignite new relationships with court participants who had not previously been active with Pavilion.

King continues to encourage participation with Pavilion and even facilitates contacts.

During the pandemic, Pavilion discovered that isolation during the first shutdown was causing depression and other problems among its members, even though they were holding Zoom meetings. After six weeks, Pavilion reopened its doors.

Pavilion, one of 400 worldwide clubhouses and 14 in the state, is the only Texas clubhouse that has managed to stay open and operate during the pandemic. It's located at 3620 E. Whitestone in Cedar Park behind Family Emergency Room.

A member since 2017, Linda Johnson was hired to head Pavilion's outreach program and became director of its justice program in 2019. Johnson is celebrating her 30th year of sobriety in March.

One of her many goals is to create a center near or at the Justice Center in Georgetown run by Pavilion-trained peers to help those exiting the justice center or jail and their family members to immediately access resources.

King calls prisons and jails the de facto mental health institutions in our state. More treatment options in the community would divert individuals from incarceration to treatment and wellness, keeping communities safer.

Ben Miller, member and vice chair of Pavilion's board of directors and a peer in King's court, acknowledges that it's more difficult to assist homeless people. He said that people with mental illness in this county need help with housing and transportation, calling those two issues a constant struggle.

Frances Musgrove, a Pavilion member since 2020 who will be heading legislative advocacy, envisions Pavilion to be "a great big place that is open 24/7 providing all the needs for someone to be comfortable and be able to stay a night or two until we can transition them into more permanent housing."

It's critical for state officials to recognize the relationship of untreated mental illness to criminal justice involvement when they consider funding for mental health services and facilities in Texas.

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services is requesting \$711,000,000 for mental health recovery services, which mentions clubhouses, from the 87th Legislature.

Butler is asking that clubhouses in Texas, that save the state significant resources, are funded at no less than \$10 million, which is barely 1% of the Health and Human Services' biennial budget request for mental health services.

Do you, or someone you know, need assistance from Pavilion or wish to donate? Please call Gordon Butler at 512-417-2767 or email him at [Gordon.butler@pavilionrr.org](mailto:Gordon.butler@pavilionrr.org).

# ROAD UPDATES

620 at Railroad/Chisholm Trail (Contractor: Bridges and Roads LLC)– Underground work on water, stormwater, and wastewater aspects of the project continued at various locations before the storm hit. Loads of dirt and rock keep being removed. Progress was limited this month due to a certain weather event. (You'll notice a theme throughout this page.) This is a City of Round Rock, Wilco & TxDOT project. Estimated completion date is Summer 2022.

Great Oaks Bridge at Brushy Creek Rd.– AT&T has begun their relocation work and anticipates being complete in January February (STILL!). Oncor is working on design with relocation to be complete in February March. Relocation for Charter and Grande lines is expected to be complete in January March (Yes still!). Tree discussions with BCMUD are still waiting to be scheduled, as you can imagine. The old bridge will remain in use during construction. The construction is anticipated to begin Spring 2021 (pending utility moves) and take 18-24 months to complete. Learn more [HERE](#).

Hairy Man Rd./Brushy Creek Rd. Safety Improvements (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Learn more about this project at this [website](#). A preconstruction meeting was held 1/26/21, and construction is slated to begin week of February 8. This is a 100% county job. Substantial completion is anticipated in early 2022...for now.

Pond Springs Road Area Drainage Improvements– Coordination on the terms of the draft agreement between the county and the City of Austin is ongoing. Once completed, the updated copy will be sent to TxDOT. An assessment has shown that there are a number of utility conflicts, so a plan is being drafted to minimize impact. Construction start is slated to begin Fall 2021.

Forest North Drainage Improvements Phase III (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– All sorts of work took place along Broadmeade and on Longvale before the storm– sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, drop inlet aprons. City of Austin water line connections were made on Parkland and Newberry Streets. Even though work stalled due to the weather over the last couple of weeks, this project continues to hum along. Substantial completion is anticipated in early next year.

Sam Bass Rd. Interim Signal Project (Contractor– Austin Traffic Signal)– Interim traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Sam Bass Rd. and Walsh Ranch Trail/Arrowhead Circle and at Sam Bass and Great Oaks. Oncor has installed electrical service at the Walsh Ranch intersection. Pole locations have been laid out, signaling (see what I did there?) work to set up the poles is coming soon.

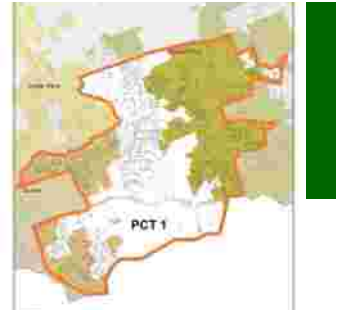
O'Connor Drive Traffic Signals (Contractor: Champion Infrastructure)– The drilling for the signal foundations at Morgan Hill Trail, Great Oaks, and Liberty Walk were all completed before the storm moved in. Some concrete has been poured at Morgan Hill and Great Oaks, still waiting on Liberty Walk

University Blvd. widening from IH-35 to Sunrise Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Temporary traffic signals were installed at the University Oaks Blvd., Oakmont Dr., and Sunrise Rd. intersections. As with the early stages of any road project, underground storm sewer continues to be a focus. Because of the nature of this project with so many businesses lined up on both sides of the road, utility relocations will be ongoing throughout the project. Hopefully, these relocations will stay on time! This is a City of Round Rock project for which the county has contributed \$5M. Project is slated to finish in early 2022.

Wyoming Springs @ Smyers Lane–A left turning lane will be created by removing a section of the median and 3 or 4 trees. This is in response to many near and actual accidents for those trying to turn into Walgreens. Final plans have been completed and an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Round Rock is being developed. Construction start is anticipated Spring 2021, barring anymore visits by an angry Mother Nature. This project should have a very short time span to complete.



# 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  
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**EMAIL COMMISSIONER COOK:**  
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**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:** Garry Brown  
512-244-8615, garry.brown@wilco.org

### **SEE US ONLINE!!!**

Williamson County's Website! - [www.wilco.org](http://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](mailto:doris.sanchez@wilco.org)

In case of  
Emergency  
DIAL 911