Williamson County Commissioner Terry Cook

N E W S L E T T E R

November 2021 Volume 5 Issue 11

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The Message

Take Some Time to Make Time for the Future

We just spent time sharing food, laughter (mostly), phone calls and time with people we love this past Thanksgiving. I just lost an elderly friend of 40 years the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I had been taking care of her and her affairs for the past 11years. She had no family, no kids and needed help when her husband died in 2010. Fortunately, in 2016, all legal paperwork had been prepared and witnessed for me to do those things that spouses and parents are allowed to do and determine without question.

Who is it that you love that may need those documents prepared with legal representation, and alternate agent(s) designated, witnessed and stamped by a Notary Public? If you assume your spouse may supersede you in death, think again. How many times do you ride together in a vehicle? Go out together into public spaces? Circle of Life. Have you prepared for someone else to step in with those necessary end-of-life decisions?

I fortunately had all the necessary documents to move from doctors and hospitals to a crematorium and am finally nearly ready to apply to County Court-at-Law 4 to be the executor of my friend's remaining estate. We each need those same documents prepared, acknowledged to our family members and available when needed. They are:

- Disclaimer Statement as to Statutory Power of Attorney for you or your friend. The powers granted are sweeping and demand complete trust of the person granted those powers to act in your or their behalf. This document is for you to understand that which you are about to enable someone else to do on your behalf thru a Statutory Durable Power of Attorney.
- Statutory Durable Power of Attorney may have broad or specific power given to someone else for you in case you become incapable of doing for yourself or are incapacitated.
- Medical Power of Attorney for someone to make healthcare decisions for you. Should you wish to avoid being institutionalized unless impossible, this is where that is stated, if desired, by you. It is critical that you have spoken with your family as to your wishes, as well as, documented them here.
- HIPPA Authorization – the Medical Power of Attorney designee, and perhaps others, should be listed as approved by you to receive medical information about you. Open conversations with medical staff are key if treatment or end-of-life decisions are to be made.
- Directive to Physicians and Family or Surrogates, also known as the Advance Directive, defines, by you, what and how you want those final treatments to be if illness or injury prohibit you from stating your desires when the end is near.
- Appointment of Agent to Control Disposition of Remains is needed upon death. This was definitely needed for me as I was not her closest family member. Otherwise, her half-brother in California would have had to remotely handle this. She had requested cremation and this enabled me to make all arrangements.
- The Will itself completes your desires following your death. This can be a hand-written document but needs to be signed, witnessed and notarized.

Alternative Documents

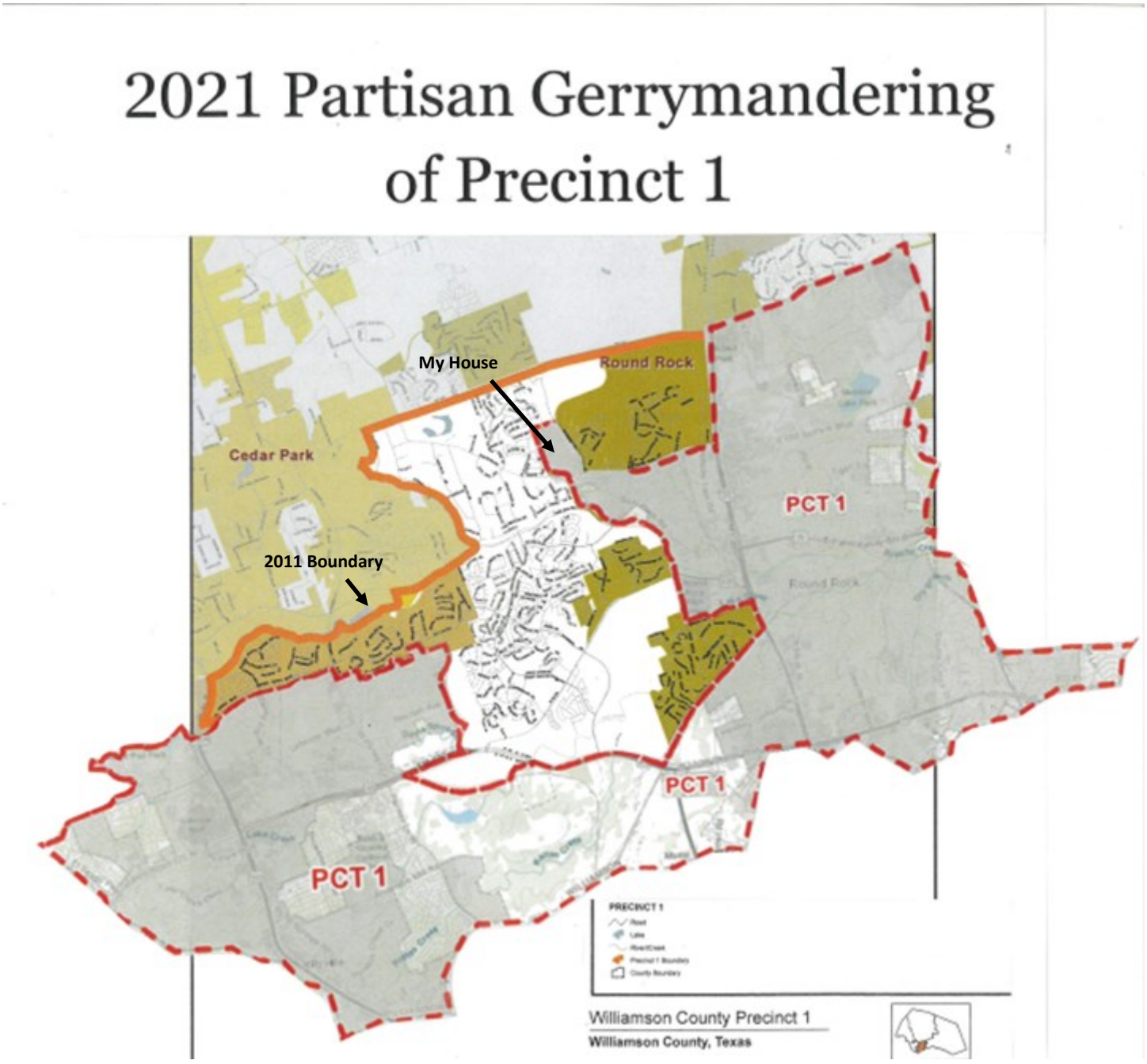
- Declaration of Guardian in the Event of Later Incapacity or Need of Guardian. Fortunately, I did not need to apply to a court-of-law for Guardianship over Lois, but it came very close.
- Gift by a Living Donor should you desire to be one. You can choose from a list of organs, tissues, other body parts and the purpose for the donation such as transplantation therapy, education or research.

I was truly fortunate to be able to care for my friend, and this set of notarized documents eased the tasks that I needed to do as a non-family member; however, they truly lessen the burden on a family member.

This Thanksgiving, my friend was not at our table. I miss her. But I'm so relieved that her pain is over and I'm not kicking myself 9-ways to Sunday because we didn't stop and get ready when times were better.

I encourage you to have these documents ready for yourself, but also for those most vulnerable in your family circle. There are lots of decisions you make along this path – it is not a rapid journey but a thoughtful one. If you don't have a legal contact to help you, contact me. I'll sure share my lawyer with you.

We are currently in the process of creating new, reducing large (>4,999 voters), and merging voter precincts



to be ready for March primaries. Each County's Commissioners Court has option to transition to new Commissioner's boundaries in 2022 or wait until January 1, 2023 per Section 81.021, Local Government Code as it provides that the commissioners court order making changes in voter precinct boundaries is effective immediately for the 2022 elections, but the commissioners court may delay the adoption of Commissioner Precinct boundaries until January 1, 2023.

O'CONNOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS...

Are DONE!

Signals at all 3 intersections have been fully activated.

Final striping, permanently removing existing striping, and installing GPS clocks in cabinets are the final items that need to be completed.

FINALLY!!!





Adopt a Family today!

You can do so to December 7, 2001

Provide some holiday cheer for those families who are not as fortunate.

Brown Santa Family Adoption



IN COMMISSIONERS COURT



Williamson County digitally transformed the evidence lifecycle management for the County and District Attorneys' offices with secure online portals for law enforcement agencies and defense attorneys as digital records are uploaded by agencies and shared with approved parties. The portals allow internal agencies to transfer any case-related digital files with agencies nationwide.

The Digital Evidence Management (DEMS) application was selected for two national awards recently: MCCI's 2021 Automation Project of the Year Award and State Scoop 2021 Local Smart Award. MCCI is a company focused on business innovations. These achievements were made possible through the excellent teamwork between the County Attorney, District Attorney, and Technology Services.

The Automation Project of the Year Award - encompasses the essence of Return on Investment, teamwork, and process improvement.

Nationwide Local Smart Award- recognizing projects that change the way citizens receive services or how local government operates.

Congratulations to Technology Services and the County and District Attorneys' Offices!



Employees from the District Attorney Victims Services Unit came to Commissioners Court to promote the annual Tree of Angels event held every December at the historical courthouse in Georgetown.

This moving ceremony allows the community to remember families whose lives have forever been touched by violent crime. Families, survivors of a violent crime, families with missing loved ones and friends of a victim are invited to bring an angel ornament to place on this special tree.

The evening also includes the dedication and lighting of the unadorned Tree of Angels and victims/families/friends adorning the tree with their angel ornaments.

The general public is welcome to be a part of this event. Commissioner Cook highly recommends it.

Particulars about the Tree of Angels occasion is on the next page.

Williamson County District Attorney's Office

Cordially invites you to join us for the
Williamson County

9th Annual 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.

Monday, December 6, 2021
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.

No RSVP requires
****Please Note****

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

IN THE NEWS

Williamson Commissioner Cook: Brown Santa brings cheer to recipients, supporters

Williamson Commissioner Cook: Brown Santa brings cheer to recipients and supporters (statesman.com)

If you're looking to brighten the holidays for a child or family this season, I have the total package for you: Williamson County's Brown Santa program. Although not new to Wilco, this year our sheriff's office is restructuring Brown Santa to ensure it's bigger, better and reaches every deserving family they can find.

The program annually aids approximately 600 to 800 families living outside the geographical limits of any town or city within the county that does not already provide a similar program. Five individuals serve on the Brown Santa Board and approximately 10 are on the committee, and all are employees of the sheriff's office. The program is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. The board's goal is to fulfill 100% of any family's request during the holiday season for things like toys, clothes and books suitable for children from birth to high school ages. All donations must be unwrapped.

Williamson County employees and citizens in the community are also welcomed as volunteers. So, if you're itching for something to do right now, why not Brown Santa? Donations aren't accepted just during the holidays. The program collects items and cash donations throughout the year. So, if you get the holiday spirit in July or August, just remember Brown Santa.

Community events are also held to collect donations. This past Halloween, Brown Santa sponsored its first family-friendly "Trunk or Treat" event outside the sheriff's office in Georgetown on Oct 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. They recruited 22 sponsors who decorated their vehicles and filled them with candy. Then the surrounding streets were closed to traffic so kids could safely trick or treat. The trunk-or-treat was a huge success attended by over 500 people. Plans include adding activities and sponsors to future events.

Look for more fundraisers like a golf tournament on March 28, and the Brown Santa Barbecue Cook-Off being planned for 2022 with local Veterans of Foreign Wars groups.

You can also adopt a family for the holidays. Typically, the minimum gifts recommended for adopting a family are two toys, a book and stuffed animal per child, but feel free to add more items. Some sponsors provide gift cards to the parents for food or clothing in addition to the children's gifts. The adopting sponsor will deliver the gifts to the receiving family in most cases.

The Brown Santa application and instructions for adopting a family and/or families requesting assistance are located by visiting wilco.org/brownsanta, emailing brownsantawilco@gmail.com or by calling 737-667-4102.

There are also other opportunities to donate:

- A PayPal link is located on the Brown Santa page.
- Brown Santa QR codes will be available at wilco.org/brownsanta and facebook.com/WilliamsonCountyBrownSanta.
- An Amazon Christmas wish list is also available at wilco.org/brownsanta.
- Contributions can be mailed by check (make payable to Williamson County Brown Santa) and/or taken to the sheriff's office.
- Cash donations can also be dropped off at Brown Santa community events or at the sheriff's office: 508 S. Rock St., Georgetown, TX 78626, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gift collection barrels or boxes are in several county locations throughout Williamson County and their locations are available on the Brown Santa webpage until Dec. 10. The Jester Annex at 1801 E. Old Settlers Blvd. in Round Rock has two boxes.

Volunteers, who are county employees and community citizens, collect, organize, and distribute these donated items for the families to pick up on a date specified to them. For information on volunteering, please email brownsantawilco@gmail.com. This year don't be a Grinch! Please consider donating, adopting a family or volunteering.

"This warm tradition of giving to families has continued for years with our agency. As a long-term member of the sheriff's office command staff, I enjoy supporting the grateful families who benefit from our efforts each season," said Assistant Chief Deputy James Carmona, president of Williamson County Brown Santa.

Samsung Deal Struck with County

Now that FINALLY Samsung has signed the documents committing them to the largest foreign investment in Texas ever, roughly $17 Billion, it's time to look at how we, the taxpayers, are on the financial hook.

Samsung signed a 381 Economic Development Agreement with the County. This is a grant program to incentivize desired companies to set up shop in the county, pay 100% of their Ad Valorem taxes each year and are granted by a certain amount of funds if the Company can prove they have achieved specific goals in the Agreement. In this case, the Company is obligated inside the first 10 years of the agreement to:

1. Construct a facility on the land of at least 6,000,000 square feet and obtain a certificate of occupancy (CO) by January 31 2026 in phases
   - By Dec 31, 2023, obtain CO for minimum of 2,500,000 square foot facility
   - By Dec 31, 2024, obtain CO for minimum of additional 800,000 square feet of facility for a facility now totaling 3,300,000 square feet
   - By Dec 31, 2025, obtain CO for additional 2,000,000 square feet of facility bringing the total to 5,300 square feet
   - By Jan 31, 2026, obtain CO for an additional 700,000 square feet of facility now totaling 6 million square feet of facility
2. We do have caveats for non-compliance, say discontinuing operation for more than 180 consecutive days (major re-tooling or equipment upgrades recognized as necessary from time to time).
3. Create and employ 1,800 full-time equivalent jobs
   - Initial 300 FTE jobs by 2nd anniversary of the commencement of the 381 Agreement term
   - Company creates additional 600 FTE jobs by 5th anniversary of the 381 Agreement term
   - Company creates additional 900 FTE jobs by seventh anniversary of the Agreement for a total of 1,800 FTE jobs
4. The employment requirements will be declared in default if less than 70% of the required FTE's required. If at least 70% of the required FTEs, the Grant will be reduced by the same percentage of the required FTEs during that certain period of the Agreement.
5. If Company has failed to satisfy the requirements and conditions above, it shall have a 90-day cure period to resolve the insufficiencies after the year end of the applicable year to correct any deficiencies. The County has no obligation to let them know they are deficient.

Company Obligations Concerning Grant

Commencing on 1st day each March following first full year of the 381 Agreement Term, Company has to submit a Grant Submittal Package to County containing:

- Evidence that Company has paid 100% of all Ad Valorem taxes due for the previous year
- Company shall provide to County affidavit of total number of FTE jobs filled as of Dec 31 of the previous year
- Form of the Grant Submittal Package will be in a form approved by the County
- Company agrees to cooperate with City of Taylor and Taylor ISD to hire minimum of 24 teenagers as interns after the second year of operation under the Term of the Agreement.

County Obligations Concerning Grant

1. For each tax year during the Agreement term, a grant in the amount equal to 90% of the Company's Ad Valorem taxes shall be reimbursed on an annual basis per requirements above. County agrees to process reimbursement within 60 days after approval of the requirements satisfied for that period.
2. County can extend the Agreement for a second 10 years should all terms within the first 10 years have been achieved by the Company. The grant is reduced to 85% of the Ad Valorem taxes for the Company and continues during new term annually with Company's continued compliance to the terms of the agreement, now completion of 6,000,000 SF facility and 1,800 FTEs.
3. County reserves right to withhold Grant payments should Company protest regarding Ad Valorem taxes due
4. County agrees to work as county-wide liaison with other governmental entities and public utilities through the construction phase of the Company Project
5. County agrees to notify Company of any perceived defaults by the Company

Termination

County can terminate if laws change and Grant is deemed unconstitutional debt or is otherwise illegal.

Grant Recapture

If defaults are not cured within designated time periods, County may recapture and collect from Company grants already paid by County to the Company for 3-years directly preceding the date of the notice of default. This reimbursement by the Company should be made within 30-days.

Land Purchase

35 land parcels, totaling 1,187.5 acres SW of downtown Taylor largely bounded by CR 401, CR 404 with FM973 cutting diagonally across the area, currently in Taylor's ETJ.

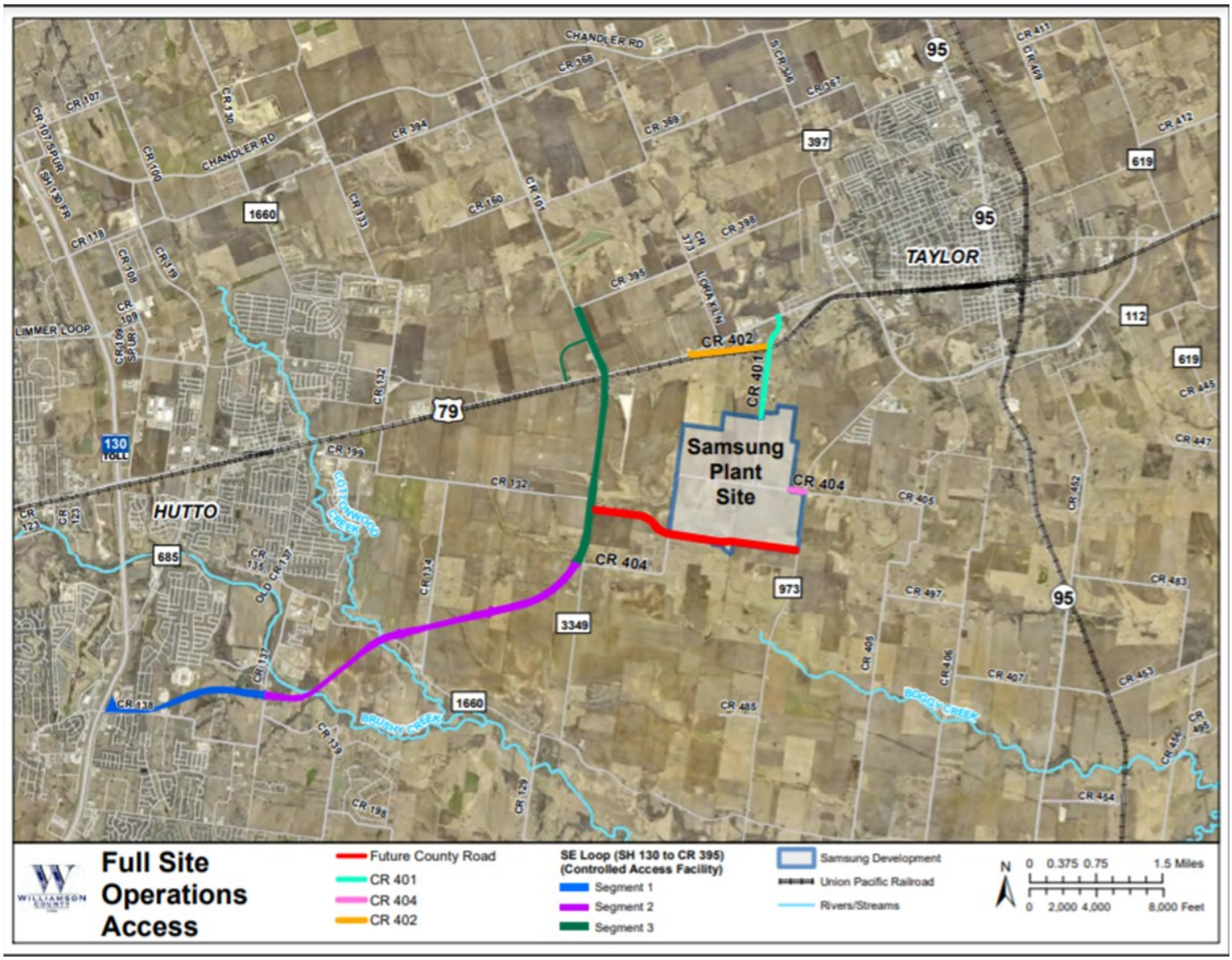
County Investment

The county is improving all roads in the area from narrow, rural county roads to be strong enough to support the truck loads for development of the site and manufacturing by the plant. Specifics are:

First let me state that all facilities to be constructed are in our existing Transportation plan. We are simply implementing the Plan. Most of the projects such as the Southeast Loop were already under development prior to the initiation of Samsung discussions. Once again, we are simply implementing the County's Plan.

Projects and estimated costs:

SE Loop Seg 1: $35.5 mil (construction funded)
SE Loop Seg 2: $18.5 mil ($40 mil construction funding not yet identified)
S Loop Seg 3:$96.4 mil ($80 mil from TxDOT)
Future County Arterial: $28.5 mil ($2.9 mil from Samsung)
CR Maintenance: $1 mil
CR 401: $19 mil
CR 404 $4 mil
Waterline relocation: $6.6 mil ($3.2 mil Hutto & $3.4 mil Samsung)
All funds are from existing County Row funds, Precinct 4 Road Bond funds, City of Hutto or Samsung.



Economic Engine

So how much of an economic increase should we see from such a large project? Housing for many new residents, groceries, gasoline, electrical power, shopping. This project introduces additional water source from the now defunct Alcoa plant in Milam County. Secondary business growth of associated companies supporting Samsung. When the new worth of Taylor is approximately $1B today has a $14-17B company engine move in, the economy will get a huge jolt. The Taylor ISD is a major winner in additional resources and has their own 313 Agreement with Samsung. Hutto, additionally, is expected to see an investment uptick with additional companies seeking land and train transport for their products.

The conversion of Agriculture assessments to industrial assessments, even with the Grant rebates, will be substantial as the value of the developed site grows exponentially. Samsung has also promised contributions to local charitable organizations of at least $300,000 annually beginning in 2022.

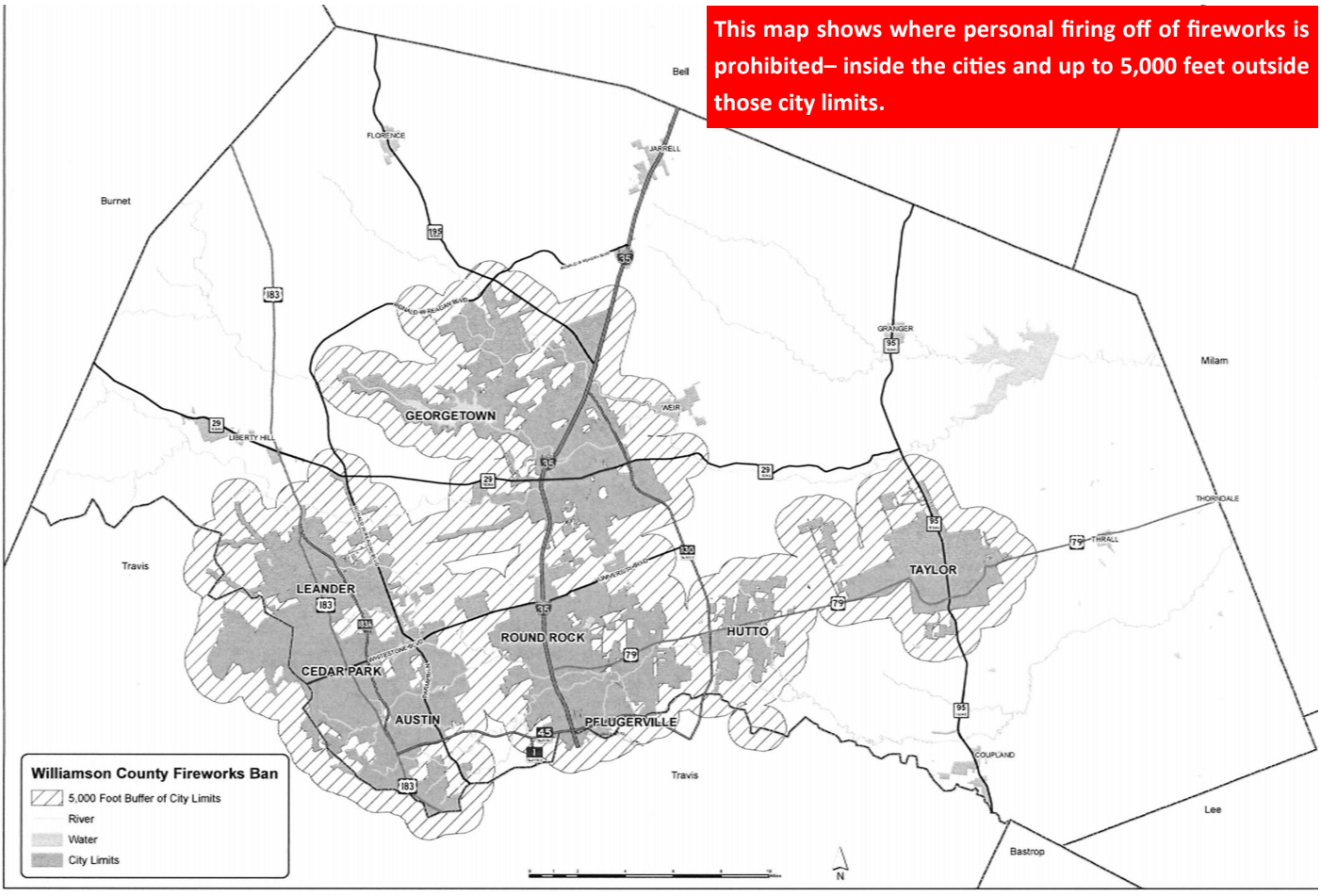
Welcome to Williamson County, Samsung!

FIREWORKS

The Williamson County Fire Marshal's office encourages our residents to prevent a needless tragedy! Leave Fireworks to the professionals.

Recommended Safety Tips

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult SHOULD supervise all firework activities. **NEVER** give fireworks to children.
- Be sure other people and pets are out of range.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- **NEVER** try to relight or handle malfunctioning "dud" fireworks. Wait 20 minutes and the soak it in a bucket of water.
- **ALWAYS** have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby for emergencies and for pouring on misfired or spent fireworks.
- **NEVER** carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot them into METAL or GLASS containers.
- **DO NOT** experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.



ROAD UPDATES



620 at Railroad/Chisholm Trail (TxDOT with primary contractor Bridges and Roads LLC)– Without getting into all of the engineering terms, the structures that will support the over-passes are continuing to be built. A retaining wall is being constructed along the north side of 620 across from Briarwood St. The road from the school driveway to near Deep Wood Dr. just had asphalt applied. After redistricting becomes effective, this project will continue to be located within Precinct 1. Go HERE to learn more. Estimated completion date is summer 2022. Still on time!

Does anyone know what this is a picture of? You might see a number of these as work progresses on 620. It's called false-work. *Just a little Civil Engineering trivia—we have more!*

Great Oaks Bridge at Brushy Creek Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Clearing gives way to excavation on the east side of the existing bridge. Much work has taken place to make for a smooth transition for the 9-month long detour off Hairy Man Rd due to the bridge work that will be done. Estimated cost is $11.2M. At this early stage, construction completion is expected to be Spring 2023. After redistricting becomes effective, this project will be located in Precinct 3. Learn more HERE.

The lanes on Great Oaks Drive from Brightwater down to Hairy Man/Brushy Creek Roads have been reduced to one to provide room for the bridge construction. *And here's some more trivia for you: Road shoo-fly. This has been installed on Brushy Creek Rd. What is it? It is a short length of temporary pavement that is put in place to route traffic around the construction work.*

Brushy Creek Rd. Safety Improvements (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Learn more about this project at this website. Topsoil, soil retention blankets, and hydro-mulch seed has been applied in various areas.. Nearly there!

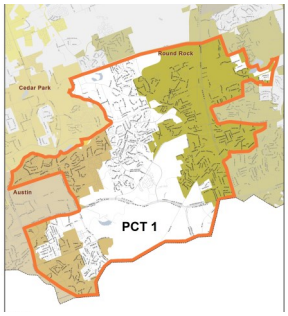
Hairy Man Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Hairy Man is closed to thru traffic for the next 9 months to accommodate the construction work at the bridge.

After redistricting becomes effective, this project will be in Project 3.

Pond Springs Road Area Drainage Improvements– The design is being updated to divert flows to the Woods Pond outflow to accommodate CTRMA's 183N Project. The design will largely remain the same, however outflow will be diverted downstream of Woods Pond, which will no longer require an interlocal agreement (ILA) with City of Austin + TxDOT, just City of Austin which is much simpler to get through the review process. The great news is that with this change, the cost of the project is anticipated to be significantly less expensive. The 60% plans, specifications, & estimates (PS&E) is under development and is anticipated in ~~November~~ December, at which time, it will be submitted to the City of Austin for review. Estimated Project Cost is $4.17M for Construction, ROW, and Design. Construction start is anticipated ~~Late 2022~~. Spring 2023. After redistricting becomes effective, this project will remain in Precinct 1. Forest North Drainage Improvements Phase III (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC) – New City of Austin water line was installed on Shady Oaks, and water services were connected. 4 water lines on Eddystone St. were tied into the system. This is a county job to create drainage in this very flat area with an estimated cost of $4.9M. Substantial completion is still anticipated in early 2022. After redistricting becomes effective, this project will remain in Precinct 1. (*Reminder: COA reimburses County for all costs of waterline replacements).*

University Blvd. widening from IH-35 to just east of Sunrise Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– *Still a good idea to stay off University if you possibly can!!!* Concrete paving and a concrete sidewalk at the northwest side of the intersection of University Oaks and University Boulevard has been poured. North of the University Oaks and N. Mays intersection, traffic going north and south on N. Mays has been reduced to one lane each way and will stay that way through the spring. Please note that University still has 2 lanes open going each direction, east and west. Project is slated to finish in early 2022. After redistricting, this project will be a dividing line between Precincts 1 and 4.

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:
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512-244-8610, doris.sanchez@wilco.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Garry Brown
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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