

ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS
Williamson Chamber of Commerce
July 19, 2016

WELCOME TO EACH OF YOU AND THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE WILLIAMSON CHAMBER LUNCHEON TODAY.

I WANT TO WELCOME OUR CITY, COUNTY AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO HAVE TAKEN TIME TO BE HERE WITH US TODAY. (STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED)

TODAY'S STATE OF THE COUNTY IS ALWAYS THE WEEK AFTER THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSION SETS THE ANNUAL BUDGET.

I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE 2015-16 BUDGET COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY COMMISSIONER TOMMY LITTLE AND TO COMMISSIONERS BETSY HESTER, DAVID PAIR AND STEVE SMITH FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DUE DILIGENCE IN REVIEWING THE VARIOUS OPERATING REQUESTS AND FOR MAKING THE HARD DECISIONS NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY TIRING BUDGET PROCESS FOR OUR BUDGET DIRECTOR, NENA GRAHAM AND I WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK HER AND THE ACCOUNTING STAFF FOR THEIR LONG HOURS AND TEDIOUS WORK THROUGHOUT RECENT MONTHS.

LIKEWISE, I EXTEND APPRECIATION TO ALL OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYEES FOR WORKING HARD TO CONTINUE TO GIVE THE RESIDENTS A PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT STAFF WITH WHICH TO WORK.

THIS WAS A REAPPRAISAL YEAR FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY. THE LAW STATES THAT YOU MUST SET A CERTIFIED TAX RATE THAT WILL BE “REVENUE NEUTRAL” TO THE COUNTY. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD TO THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE OPERATING EXPENDITURES NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF SERVICES OUR CITIZENS EXPECT. IN DOING SO, THE BUDGET COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND A TAX RATE OF \$2.15 FOR THE 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR TO FUND A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$515,057,658. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THIS BUDGET AND ACCOMPANYING TAX RATE ULTIMATELY PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AT THE RECENT COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS REASONS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY THAT OUR RESIDENTS ENJOY THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT WE DO.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY OPERATES A KINDERGARDEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT, WHICH HAD APPROXIMATELY 37,000 STUDENTS ENROLLED

FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,800 NEW SCHOOL STUDENTS PROJECTED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

THERE ARE 41 SCHOOL SITES: NINE HIGH SCHOOLS, EIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOLS, 23 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND ONE K-8 SCHOOL. COMPRISED OF APPROXIMATELY 800 ACRES, THESE SCHOOLS REPRESENT OVER 3.3 MILLION SQUARE FEET, AND A \$21 MILLION INVESTMENT IN A YELLOW BUS FLEET OF 263. WITH THE OPENING OF THREE NEW SCHOOLS IN THE NOLENSVILLE COMMUNITY NEXT MONTH, WE WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF 44 SCHOOLS. THE NEW SCHOOL BUDGET OF \$339,884,144 INCLUDES FUNDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 226 POSITIONS.

QUALITY EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE A PRIORITY IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY REPRESENTING 65.99% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET. WHEN YOU INCLUDE THE DEBT SERVICE TOTALS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS, THIS PERCENTAGE INCREASES TO 74.55%. AS HAS BEEN STATED NUMEROUS TIMES BEFORE, OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM IS A DRIVING FACTOR FOR GROWTH IN OUR COUNTY.

IN ADDITION TO OUR COUNTY SCHOOLS AND THE EXCELLENT FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, RESIDENTS ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. LIKEWISE, I WAS VERY PROUD TO RECENTLY HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OPENING THE NEW COLUMBIA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN

WILLIAMSON COUNTY. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND FACILITY WHICH WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY.

TENNESSEE COUNTY SERVICES ASSOCIATION, POLICY & RESEARCH DIVISION, RECENTLY RELEASED A BREAKDOWN OF 2015 CENSUS ESTIMATES SHOWING GROWTH ACROSS TENNESSEE.

SINCE THE 2010 CENSUS, 72% OF THE STATE'S GROWTH HAS OCCURRED WITHIN MIDDLE TENNESSEE, 26% IN EAST TENNESSEE AND 2% IN WEST TENNESSEE. WHILE DAVIDSON COUNTY SAW THE GREATEST INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS, WILLIAMSON (AND RUTHERFORD) COUNTIES HAD THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF ALL COUNTIES ACROSS THE STATE.

OUR POPULATION CHANGES PREDICTED TO OCCUR OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS INDICATE THAT AGES 0-4 WILL INCREASE BY 33.3%, AGES 20-39 BY 24.9% AND OUR 65 AND UP POPULATION WILL GROW BY OVER 53%. IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE, FROM BIRTH TO OUR SENIORS, IS AVAILABLE CLOSE TO HOME WITH SERVICES AT WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER AND THE MONROE CARELL, JR. VANDERBILT CHILDRENS HOSPITAL IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

ESTIMATED IN 2015 AT 211,672 RESIDENTS, WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHOWS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH IN THAT FIVE YEAR TIME FRAME AT 13.46%. PART OF THAT GROWTH IS DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF JOBS WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

DURING THAT SAME FIVE YEAR PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT IN THE 10 COUNTY MIDDLE TENNESSEE REGION GREW BY 19%. BROKEN OUT BY COUNTY, WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S JOBS GREW BY 29%.

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 23 COMPANIES HAVE ANNOUNCED 2,254 JOBS MOVING TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY, REPRESENTING A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$451 MILLION IN OUR COUNTY.

SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE, I HAVE SHOWN MY SUPPORT FOR JOB CREATION IN OUR COMMUNITY. TO BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT WE ENJOY HERE, GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO BE A CONDUIT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GOOD, QUALITY AND HIGH PAYING JOBS IN OUR COUNTY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND/OR GRANDCHILDREN TO ENJOY THE SAME AMENITIES WE DO.

THOUGH WE OFTEN THINK OF NEW BUSINESSES WHEN WE TALK ABOUT JOB GROWTH, LET US NOT FORGET THE INVESTMENT THAT EXISTING BUSINESSES MAKE IN OUR COMMUNITY. EARLIER THIS SPRING, COOL SPRINGS GALLERIA ANNOUNCED A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION IN AN EFFORT TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITY. RECENT EXPANSIONS IN SURROUNDING PARCELS INCLUDE CONNORS STEAK & SEAFOOD, KINGS BOWLING AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER AND KONA GRILL WILL BE OPENING SOON FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO, LIKE ME, ENJOY TRYING NEW PLACES FOR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AND PLACES TO EAT.

ACCORDING TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WILLIAMSON COUNTY RANKED #1 FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF JOB GROWTH FROM SEPTEMBER, 2014 TO SEPTEMBER, 2015 COMPARED TO OTHER LARGE COUNTIES IN THE NATION. THE LATEST UMEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN MAY SHOW WILLIAMSON COUNTY AT A RATE OF 2.7%, WHICH IS, ONCE AGAIN, THE LOWEST IN THE STATE.

OVER 6,000 LOCAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYERS CALL WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE HOME, INCLUDING THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FOR 40 COMPANIES. TWELVE OF THE 25 LARGEST PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES IN THE NASHVILLE REGION ARE IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, INCLUDING #1-#5 AND #7

OF THE TOP 10. ACCORDING TO INC. MAGAZINE'S 5000 LIST, 33% OF THE FASTEST GROWING COMPANIES IN TENNESSEE ARE LOCATED IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

WITH NEW JOBS COMES NEW VEHICLES ON OUR ROADWAYS. BY 2040, THE TRANSIT ALLIANCE OF MIDDLE TENNESEE ESTIMATES OUR REGION WILL GROW BY A MILLION RESDIENTS, WITH 52% OF THAT GROWTH THROUGHOUT MIDDLE TENNESSEE. THE INCREASE IN JOBS OUTSIDE OF DAVIDSON COUNTY INCREASES THE DEMAND FOR REVERSE COMMUTE TRANSIT SERVICES.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE CHAMBER AND MANY CHAMBER MEMBERS ARE WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR TRANSORTATION ISSUES IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. THESE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT EACH OF US DOING WHAT WE CAN DO TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.

THE CHAMBER'S "MOBILITY WEEK" FORTHCOMING IN SEPTEMBER, PRESENTED BY NISSAN, WILL DAILY HIGHLIGHT WAYS TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON OUR ROADWAYS. PART OF THIS WEEK WILL INCLUDE THE CONTINUATION OF LAST YEARS TRANSORTATION SUMMIT AND HIGHLIGHT

PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR. GOVERNMENT CANNOT SOLVE TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS WITHOUT THE PARTNERSHIPS FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND MAKE THEM AWARE OF HOW YOU PLAN TO POSITIVELY IMPACT TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS.

AS A MEANS OF BEING PROACTIVE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND IN DEMONSTRATING WHAT IMPACT THE COUNTY CAN HAVE, THE COUNTY'S HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT RECENTLY CONTRACTED FOR A STUDY OF MAJOR CORRIDORS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY.

THIS STUDY, CONDUCTED BY RPM TRANSPORTATION AND COLLIER ENGINEERING, ANALYZED IMPROVEMENTS TO LYNWOOD WAY, ARNO, CLOVERCROFT, AND SNEED ROADS. THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A 5-6 YEAR PLAN TO ADDRESS THE SOLUTIONS PROVIDED IN THE STUDY AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$24 MILLION A YEAR. COMPLETION OF ALL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY TOTAL APPROXIMATELY \$128 MILLION THROUGH THE YEAR 2030.

OUR COUTY COMMISSIONERS WERE RECENTLY PART OF THE SOLUTION BY RIDING THE TMA TROLLEY DOWN COLUMBIA AVENUE DURING THEIR MEETING RECESS FOR LUNCH. BY DOING SO, THEY ELIMINATED 26 CARS ON THIS HEAVILY TRAVELED ROAD DURING THE LUNCH HOUR RUSH.

ANOTHER COMPELLING REASON PEOPLE MOVE TO OUR COUNTY IS DUE TO OUR LOW CRIME RATE. THE NEW BUDGET INCLUDES 13 NEW POSITIONS TO HELP MEET THE GROWTH NEEDS FOR OUR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

OUR NATION CONTINUES TO BE JOLTED WITH THE SAD NEWS OF VIOLENCE, SOME OF WHICH INVOLVE POLICE OFFICERS. THOUGH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY OF US TO KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF SPLIT SECOND DECISIONS MADE BY EITHER PARTY IN ANY OF THESE INSTANCES, I WANT TO PAUSE A MOMENT AND GIVE A SPECIAL WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE CHOSEN A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY. WE PRAY FOR A NATION OF PEACE AMONG ALL.

-pause-

PLEASE JOIN ME IN THANKING SHERIFF JEFF LONG FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS THE POLICE CHIEFS FROM ALL OUR CITIES, FOR THEIR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE CITIZENS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY. – lead applause-

PUBLIC SAFETY IS A CRITICAL QUALITY OF LIFE PRESENCE THAT WE QUITE POSSIBLY TAKE FOR GRANTED ON A DAILY BASIS. ANOTHER GROUP OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE ARE THOSE WORKING IN OUR EMERGENCY 911 DISPATCH CENTER. THE 911 DISPATCHER IS OFTEN THE UNSUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM. THESE PROFESSIONALS, WHO GATHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FROM CALLERS AND DISPATCH THE APPROPRIATE FIRST RESPONDERS TO THE SCENE, MUST BE ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF SITUATIONS THAT MAY BE CHAOTIC, HEART-WRENCHING, STRESSFUL, CONFUSING, AND FRENZIED.

I WANT TO WELCOME SOME FORMER CITY OF FRANKLIN EMPLOYEES TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S EMERGENCY DISPATCH OPERATIONS. BY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, THESE TWO DISPATCH CENTERS HAVE BECOME ONE AND WILL BE LOCATING SOON IN TO THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING OFF BEASLEY DRIVE.

ALONG WITH THE CONSOLIDATION, WE HAVE A NEW 911 DIRECTOR JOINING US. THOUGH HE IS UNABLE TO BE HERE TODAY, STEPHEN MARTINI MOST RECENTLY WORKED FOR THE CITY OF BRENTWOOD'S DISPATCH CENTER AND PRIOR TO

THAT, HE WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF CHATTANOOGA 911 CONSOLIDATION AND WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE HIM AS PART OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS PARTNERING WITH THE CITIES OF BRENTWOOD AND FRANKLIN, AS WELL AS METRO NASHVILLE AND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE FOR A THREE YEAR, \$24.7 MILLION COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK SYSTEM WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE ABILITY TO SHARE EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION BETWEEN THESE FIRST RESPONDER AGENCIES. THE COUNTY, FRANKLIN AND BRENTWOOD ARE ALSO CONNECTING OUR NETWORKS TOGETHER USING FIBER SO THAT WE CAN NOT ONLY SHARE RADIO SYSTEM INFORMATION, BUT ADDITIONAL DATA BETWEEN ENTITIES. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCIES OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL FOR ALL OF US.

I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. IF YOUR FAVORITE CHILD HAPPENS TO BE THE FOUR-LEGGED KIND, YOU WILL SHARE THE EXCITEMENT WITH ME THAT OUR ANIMAL CONTROL AND CARE CENTER HAS JUST EXPERIENCED A PHENOMANAL MONTH OF FINDING FOREVER HOMES FOR OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS. JUNE, 2016 MARKED THE HIGHEST SAVE RATE TO-DATE FOR OUR FACILITY AT 97.4%!!!!

DIRECTOR, LAURA CHAVARRIA LEADS AN OUTSTANDING CREW OF STAFF AND OVER 260 VOLUNTEERS. THIS GREAT GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES LOGGED OVER 2,100 HOURS OF TIME IN THE MONTH OF JUNE!

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN OR HEARD IN THE NEWS ABOUT “PURR PALACE”, A NEW FREE ROAMING CAT ROOM THAT HOUSES UP TO 28 CATS AND OFFICIALLY OPENED IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. FUNDED THROUGH GRANTS AND RECYCLED ITEMS, IT INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE VIDEO CAMERA ALLOWING VIEWERS TO MOVE TOYS AND INTERACT WITH THE CATS FROM THE COMFORT OF THEIR OWN HOME.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND METRO ANIMAL CONTROL RECENTLY PARTNERED TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR ADOPTIONS WITH A MUSIC VIDEO TO JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE’S, “CAN’T STOP THE FEELING”. (play video)

SOME OF OUR AWESOME STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WERE FEATURED IN THIS VIDEO, WITH ONE SUPPORTER IN PARTICULAR MAKING A CAMEO APPEARANCE.....IT COULD BE POSSIBLE THAT HE NEEDS A LITTLE WORK ON HIS DANCE MOVES??? (MAYOR MOORE IS NOT THE ONLY “DANCING MAYOR” IN OUR COUNTY.)

AS STATED EARLIER, ALL WILLIAMSON COUNTY PROPERTIES WERE SUBJECT TO REAPPRAISAL THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO PROPERTY ASSESSOR, BRAD COLEMAN, THE HOME VALUES IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY ROSE AN AVERAGE OF 26%. THE COUNTY-WIDE APPRAISED VALUE NOW TOTALS \$42,167,217,310 – THAT’S OVER **\$42 BILLION**, AN INCREASE OF 27%, OR **\$9 BILLION**, SINCE THE LAST REAPPRAISAL IN 2011. WILLIAMSON COUNTY RANKS 4TH STATEWIDE IN TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE, BEHIND SHELBY, DAVIDSON AND KNOX COUNTIES. THIS ASSESSMENT IS ANOTHER KEY FACTOR IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY BEING ABLE TO RETAIN IS CURRENT “TRIPLE A” (Aaa) BOND RATING.

THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS INDICATES THAT THE MEDIAN SALES PRICE ROSE 5.6% FROM MAY, 2015 TO MAY, 2016.

OUR EXCELLENT AND AWARD WINNING PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES RANK HIGH AMONG OUR RESIDENTS’ QUALITY OF LIFE VALUES. I AM EXTREMELY FOND OF OUR NEWEST PARK ADDITION OFF THE NATCHEZ TRACE.

-play video-

TIMBERLAND PARK WAS CONSTRUCTED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY ASSOCIATION AND WITH FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUNDS. OPERATED SOLELY ON SOLAR POWER, MORE THAN 26,800 VISITORS HAVE SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK SINCE ITS OPENING IN NOVEMBER, 2014. THESE GUESTS REPRESENTED EVERY STATE IN THE NATION AND INCLUDES INTERNATIONAL GUESTS FROM 20 COUNTRIES!!

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY HAS SOME NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY OCCURING ON COLUMBIA AVENUE. UPON ACQUIRING THE LAND THAT WAS THE FORMER SITE OF BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY, THIS AREA IS NOW HOME TO THE COUNTY'S MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, A RENOVATED BGA GYMNASIUM FACILITY AND HAS BEEN RENAMED AS "ACADEMY PARK".

AS A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA, BOTH OF THESE FACILITIES WILL FEATURE A TRIBUTE TO THE ORIGINAL BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY. WE REMOVED AND SAVED THE BRICKS FROM THE ORIGINAL FLEMING HALL; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SOFTENED BEYOND THEIR USEFULNESS.

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND REC STAFF HAVE BROUGHT SOME BROCHURES TODAY FOR ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A BRICK FOR DISPLAY IN EITHER OF THESE BUILDINGS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVED THE CREATION OF A SPORTS COUNCIL IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ELLIE WESTMAN-CHIN AND THE TEAM AT THE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, WE HAVE CONTRACTED FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DETERMINE OUR YOUTH AND AMATEUR SPORTS NEEDS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. RESULTS OF THIS STUDY ARE DUE EARLY THIS FALL AND WE WILL BEGIN DETERMINING THE NEXT STEPS IN ADDRESSING OUR AMATEUR SPORTS NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE BEEN QUITE BUSY OVER THE PAST YEAR AND THERE'S NOT MUCH SLOWING DOWN! THERE ARE NUMEROUS PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY, SOME OF WHICH INCLUDE:

- A NEW ANIMAL CONTROL & ADOPTION FACILITY
- JUDICIAL AND COURT FACILITIES TO ASSIST OUR JUVENILE AND
CIRCUIT COURT NEEDS
- NEW SHERIFF AND JAIL FACILITIES
- NEW ELECTION COMMISSION FACILITY
- MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
- COMPLETION OF THE ACADEMY PARK CAMPUS
- COMPLETION OF AN EDUCATION IMPACT FEE STUDY
- COMPLETION OF A NEW I-65 INTERCHANGE STUDY, AND
- COMPLETION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC STRATEGY STUDY

OUR 12TH ANNUAL COUNTY FAIR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. NINE DAYS OF FUN STARTS THE FIRST FRIDAY IN AUGUST, WHEN WE WILL CUT THE RIBBON AND OPEN THE DOORS ON OUR 2016 “BARNYARD MARDI GRAS”!! WE ARE PROUD TO HOST THE SINGLE LARGEST, FAMILY FRIENDLY AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT IN OUR COMMUNITY. OVER 1,800 VOLUNTEERS WILL BE WORKING HARD TO ENSURE YOU HAVE A GREAT TIME AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU THERE!

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY. THE QUALITY OF LIFE WE ENJOY IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS BOUNTIFUL AND IS MADE POSSIBLE BY WHAT EACH OF YOU AS INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTE.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE AS YOUR COUNTY MAYOR. THANK YOU TO THE WILLIAMSON CHAMBER FOR HOSTING THIS ANNUAL EVENT AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND OUR WONDERFUL WILLIAMSON COUNTY.