

**STATE OF THE COUNTY
WILLIAMSON CHAMBER – JULY 28, 2021**

IN 2020, THERE WAS A NATIONAL PANDEMIC, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS “COVID-19”.

- PLAY TOM HANKS VIDEO (“THAT’S ALL I’M GONNA SAY ABOUT THAT.”)

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET ON JULY 12TH AND APPROVED A **TOTAL FISCAL YEAR BUDGET** OF \$650.4 MILLION. OF THIS TOTAL, \$497.7 MILLION (OR 76.52%) IS INCLUDED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, 2002 TO THE BUDGET JUST APPROVED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/22, THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAS CONTINUED TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING FOR **PUBLIC EDUCATION** IS A PRIORITY IN OUR BUDGET. COLLECTIVELY, THE FUNDS RELATED TO SCHOOL OPERATIONS ACCOUNT FOR OVER 66% OF THE COUNTY’S TOTAL BUDGET. WHEN YOU ADD THE AMOUNT OF DEBT ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE PERCENTAGE RISES TO APPROXIMATELY 77%. THERE IS NO DENYING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EXCELLENT PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND YOUR ELECTED COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE COMMITTED TO THAT.

IF YOU ARE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRESENT TODAY, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED? I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CHAIRMAN PAUL WEBB, JUDY HERBERT, BARB STURGEON AND CHAS MORTON WHO SERVED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS AND WORKED THROUGH SOME TOUGH DECISIONS IN RECOMMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR WHICH DID REQUIRE A TAX INCREASE.

IF THERE ARE ANY VETERANS IN THE AUDIENCE, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND LET US THANK YOU AND RECOGNIZE YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE COMMISSION IS ABLE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION TO THIS DEGREE IS DUE, IN PART, TO THE OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE THEIR RESPECTIVE BUDGETS IN A FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE MANNER. IF YOU ARE A WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

AND I MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE MY RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THEIR STAFF MEMBERS WHO ALSO PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE TO HELP ENSURE THE TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY. WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE REMAINING 33.4% (OR \$216.9 MILLION) OF THE BUDGET IS UNDER THE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR THEIR FISCAL MANAGEMENT, AS WELL. COLLECTIVELY, THEIR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY SUCCESSES HAVE EARNED WILLIAMSON COUNTY A **CLEAN AUDIT** FOR 3 OF THE PAST 4 FISCAL YEARS.

THE TOPIC OF **DEBT** CAN BE A COMPLICATED **DEBATE**. GROWTH CREATES THE NEED FOR **INFRASTRUCTURE**. LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE IS TYPICALLY FINANCED WITH LONG-TERM DEBT SO THAT THE COSTS ARE SHARED BY BOTH CURRENT AND FUTURE **RESIDENTS**. IN A GROWING COUNTY, IT IS A REALITY THAT IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO THINK A COUNTY WOULD BE FREE OF DEBT.

THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR, STEPHENS, INC., HAS PROVIDED UPDATED INFORMATION SHOWING THE CURRENT AMOUNT OF BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF THE COUNTY AT APPROXIMATELY

\$818.7 MILLION. OF THIS TOTAL, APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SCHOOLS. THE REMAINING DEBT IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT RELATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY, JUDICIAL SERVICES, MEDICAL FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT NOT RELATED TO SCHOOLS.

WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, \$233 MILLION, OR 28%, OF THE BONDS ARE SCHEDULED FOR PAYOFF, APPROXIMATELY \$500 MILLION, OR ALMOST 60%, OF THE BONDS ARE SCHEDULED FOR PAYOFF WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS AND 86%, OR \$709 MILLION OF THE CURRENT BONDED INDEBTEDNESS WILL BE RETIRED WITHIN THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

MANY OF YOU WILL RECALL THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAD A SALES TAX REFERENDUM THREE YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FOR FUNDING EDUCATION. ONCE IT WAS APPROVED, INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITIES OF FRANKLIN, BRENTWOOD, SPRING HILL, THOMPSON'S STATION, NOLENSVILLE AND THE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM WERE ENACTED AND PROVIDED THAT THEY WOULD EACH FOREGO THEIR INCREASED COLLECTIONS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND SUBMIT THESE INCREASED REVENUES TO THE COUNTY FOR SCHOOLS DEBT

THROUGHOUT THE PAST THREE YEARS THOSE SHARED REVENUES HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

- FRANKLIN - \$22,476,540.10
- BRENTWOOD – \$11,842,084.62
- SPRING HILL – \$2,146,788.06
- THOMPSON'S STATION - \$708,371.81
- NOLENSVILLE – \$638,878.63
- WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS – \$37,284,874.67

(note, these individual collections numbers were corrected/updated on 8/19/21)

FOR A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND CITIES OF OVER \$75 MILLION.

IT WAS THROUGH THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THESE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT ALLOWED THESE REVENUES TO BE EARMARKED FOR EDUCATION DEBT SERVICE.

AT THE END OF JUNE OF THIS YEAR, THESE AGREEMENTS ENDED AND EACH OF THE CITIES WILL NOW RETAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE PORTIONS OF THAT SALES TAX INCREASE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR FORTHCOMING:

- A **NEW ANIMAL CARE FACILITY**, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 34,000 SF IS SLATED FOR OPENING IN NOVEMBER. DIRECTOR, ONDREA JOHNSON AND HER STAFF WILL SOON BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU ALL FOR A RIBBON CUTTING AND TOUR!

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN A PARTNERSHIP WITH JIM CROSS, JOEY HATCH AND THEIR TEAM AT OVERSITE, WHO WAS SELECTED BY THE COUNTY **PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY (PBA)** TO SERVE AS THE COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THIS GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO AGREED TO SERVE IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY.

STATE LAW ALLOWS COUNTIES THE ABILITY TO ESTABLISH A PBA TO OVERSEE AND MANAGE CAPITAL PROJECTS. WITH THEIR SERVICE AND RESPECTIVE EXPERTISE, THEY ARE ABLE TO PROCURE THE SERVICES OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, OWNER REPRESENTATIVES AND CONTRACTORS THROUGH METHODS NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY. FOR INSTANCE, THE PBA CAN SEEK CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS THROUGH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, INSTEAD OF

THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER. THESE FLEXIBLE TOOLS WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY HAS RESULTED IN COST SAVINGS TO THE COUNTY ON THE ANIMAL CARE PROJECT.

IN ADDITION TO THE ANIMAL CARE FACILITY, THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS SELECTED THE FIRM OF GRESHAM SMITH AS THE ARCHITECT ON THE UPCOMING “TRIPLE J” PROJECT AND WILL PROVIDE OVERSIGHT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS FOR THE JUVENILE COURT, JUVENILE SERVICES, JAIL, SHERIFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.

IN PREPARING FOR THESE CAPITAL GROWTH NEEDS, THE COUNTY HAS ACQUIRED AN ADDITIONAL FACILITY AT THE END OF BEASLEY DRIVE TO HELP ADD TO THE EXISTING FACILITY CAMPUSES IN THAT AREA. THE CURRENT PLAN IS TO RELOCATE OPERATIONS OF THE COUNTY’S CURRENT WAREHOUSE TO THIS NEW FACILITY, WHICH WILL THEN ALLOW US TO DEMOLISH THIS FACILITY AND MAKE ROOM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FEW NEW STRUCTURES.

THE CURRENT PLAN IS TO REPLACE THE DEMOLISHED WAREHOUSE WITH A NEW JUVENILE FACILITY. THIS IS PHASE ONE OF THE “TRIPLE J” FUTURE OUTLOOK PLAN THAT SUPPORTS THE COUNTY’S NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS.

WE WILL BE BREAKING GROUND THIS SUMMER ON A NEW TWO STORY CLIMATE CONTROLLED ARCHIVES FACILITY. OUR CURRENT DOCUMENTS ARE BEING STORED IN THE FRONT OF THE SOON TO BE DEMOLISHED WAREHOUSE AND THIS TRANSITION OF PRECIOUS RECORDS AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IS PARAMOUNT TO THEIR SAFE KEEPING AS REQUIRED BY LAW. ALSO BEING RELOCATED FROM THE WAREHOUSE IS EQUIPMENT FROM SIX SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS. THE COUNTY’S SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES WILL ALSO MOVE TO THE NEWLY ACQUIRED WAREHOUSE.

AS YOU CAN TELL, THIS WILL BE A MAJOR RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION JUGGLING ACT AND I WOULD LIKE FOR THE MEMBERS PRESENT FROM THE PBA TO PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

THERE ARE OTHER **CAPITAL EXPENSES** FOR COUNTY PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET, SUCH AS:

- 25 REPLACEMENT VEHICLES, CAMERAS AND BODY SCANNERS FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE; SHERIFF RHOADES CURRENTLY HAS OVER 130 OFFICERS WITH BODY CAMS. AT THE END OF THIS BUDGET YEAR, THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 230 BODY CAMS THROUGHOUT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INCLUDING PATROL, COURT SERVICES, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND DETENTION OFFICERS.
- DESIGN AND PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR A NEW EMS STATION AT BURWOOD, AS WELL AS TWO NEW FIRE APPARATUSES FOR THAT LOCATION
- NEW FIRE ENGINE FOR THE GRASSLAND FIRE STATION
- PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN THE TRIUNE AREA FOR PARKS AND RECREATION AND A NEW FIRE STATION
- PHASE II OF THE BETHESDA COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY
- REPLACEMENT VEHICLES FOR THE LANDFILL AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS, AND
- 4 REPLACEMENT AMBULANCES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE NEW AMBULANCES DO NOT RESEMBLE THE FIRST AMBULANCE PURCHASED FOR THE HOSPITAL'S EMS TEAM!

WHILE THE 2020 CENSUS NUMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED, IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 516 NEW PEOPLE MOVE TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY IN A MONTH. **VEHICLE REGISTRATION** TRANSACTIONS THROUGH THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE INCREASED BY APPROXIMATELY 8,500 FROM 2019-20 TO 2020-2021 (256,167). THAT IS APPROXIMATELY 708 TRANSACTIONS PER MONTH THROUGH THE CLERK'S OFFICE. WE DO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE IS AWARE THAT A SIMPLE RENEWAL OF YOUR CAR TAG CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY USING THE KIOSKS AT OUR VARIOUS PARKS AND RECREATION CENTERS. THIS RENEWAL PROCESS CAN TAKE LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES AND THE FACILITIES ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. PLANS ARE ALSO CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO INSTALL A DRIVE-UP KIOSKS FOR RENEWALS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GROWTH, I WANTED TO SHARE THAT IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, 26,198 **RESIDENTIAL BUILDING** PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED, AS FOLLOWS: (AD LIB COMMENTS)

BRENTWOOD	2,162
FAIRVIEW	731
FRANKLIN	11,240
NOLENSVILLE	2,728
SPRING HILL/WC ONLY	3,384
THOMPSON'S STATION	1,849
UNINCOPORATED COUNTY	4,104

IN THE MARCH, 2021 MONTHLY REPORT, THERE WERE 103 RESIDENTIAL **BUILDING PERMITS** ISSUED IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, MAKING IT **THE LARGEST SINGLE MONTH OF PERMITS ISSUED** SINCE JANUARY OF 1989, WHEN WE BEGAN KEEPING TRACK OF PERMITS ISSUED. THIS LARGE NUMBER OF PERMITS IN MARCH FALLS ON THE HEELS OF THE PLANNING AND COUNTY COMMISSIONS ADOPTING A 5-ACRE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOME CONSTRUCTION LAST NOVEMBER.

FOR THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 397 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED. AT THIS CURRENT TREND, WE WILL SET THE HIGHEST YEAR OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED SINCE 1989 IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS AT ALMOST 800 PERMITS – FAR EXCEEDING OUR HIGHEST YEAR BACK IN 1993 OF 620 PERMITS ISSUED.

PEOPLE DO NOT MOVE TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUST FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. THEY MOVE HERE BECAUSE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF GOOD PAYING **JOBS** AND JOB GROWTH. IN THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WILLIAMSON COUNTY REFLECTED THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE STATE AT 3.4 % FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2021. LOW CRIME RATES AND QUALITY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES ARE ALSO CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO OUR GROWTH, AS WELL AS THE EVER INCREASING PROPERTY VALUES.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE PROPERTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WAS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING A COUNTY-WIDE **REAPPRAISAL** ON ALL COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. AS A RESULT OF THIS PROGRAM, PROPERTY VALUES SAW AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 26% HIGHER THAN THE PRIOR REAPPRAISAL FIVE YEARS AGO.

THOUGH EVERYONE WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THEIR INCREASED VALUES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT REAPPRAISALS ARE REQUIRED TO BE REVENUE NEUTRAL – MEANING THAT THE COUNTY’S TAX RATE MUST BE CERTIFIED AT AN AMOUNT WHICH DOES NOT CREATE MORE REVENUE FOR THE COUNTY THAN THE PRIOR ASSESSED VALUE AND ASSOCIATED TAX RATE. THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THE HIGHER ASSESSED VALUE COMES WHEN THE PROPERTY OWNER BECOMES THE SELLER.

THE REAPPRAISAL PROGRAM IS IN PLACE TO KEEP PROPERTY VALUES CURRENT WITH MARKET SALES, SO AT THE TIME OF A SALE, THE HIGHER ASSESSED RATE BECOMES MORE VALUABLE TO THE SELLER.

THE COUNTY-WIDE REAL **PROPERTY ASSESSMENT** TOTALS HAVE TRENDED FROM APPROXIMATELY \$30.2 BILLION IN 2011 TO OUR RECENT 2021 TOTAL OF \$64.6 BILLION!!!

SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL THAT IN 2000, THE STATE REQUIRED THE LEADERSHIP OF ALL CITIES AND THE COUNTY TO WORK OUT A PLANNED GROWTH MAP THAT WERE BASED ON PROJECTIONS OF GROWTH AT THAT TIME.

IN RECENT MONTHS, CITY AND COUNTY STAFF AND LEADERS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR UPDATING THE GROWTH BOUNDARIES BASED ON TODAY’S GROWTH INFORMATION. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO OTHER COUNTY AND RESPECTIVE MUNICIPALITIES ARE YET DOING SO.

A NEW **GROWTH PLAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE** WILL BEGIN TO OFFICIALLY COORDINATE EFFORTS OF THE COUNTY AND ALL CITIES AND THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE THEIR INPUT. INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE, AS WELL AS RECORDED AND AIRED ON WILLIAMSON COUNTY TELEVISION'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL THROUGHOUT THE COMING MONTHS.

AN ADVISORY GROUP CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL JURISDICTIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, UTILITY PROVIDERS, AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS AND EVALUATE LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF ADEQUATE AND TIMELY INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES.

WHEN WILLIAMSON COUNTY RECEIVES OUR **2020 CENSUS NUMBERS** LATER THIS FALL, THERE WILL BE A NEED TO REVIEW THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENTS CURRENTLY RESIDING WITHIN EACH OF THE COUNTY'S 12 VOTING DISTRICTS. THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAS ESTABLISHED THE MEMBERS OF THE **REAPPORTIONMENT** COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE CURRENT DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND REVISE THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEW POPULATION STATISTICS, WITH A PLUS/MINUS OF 5% WITHIN EACH DISTRICT.

THE RESULTS OF THIS WILL THEN BE SENT TO THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THEY WILL CONDUCT A SIMILAR PROCESS. AT THE END OF THE PROCESS, MANY ELECTED OFFICIALS' DISTRICTS MAY CHANGE AND MANY OF OUR REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NEW ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL VOTING DISTRICTS. THESE CHANGES WILL ALL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION WILL SOON BE RELOCATING TO COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY ON DOWNS BOULEVARD. THE STAFF WILL WELCOME THE EXPANDED ROOM TO OPERATE AND WILL BE READY TO GREET YOU TO REGISTER TO VOTE, PICK UP OR FILE A QUALIFYING PETITION TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELECTIONS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. AS A REMINDER, YOU WILL NOT NEED TO VOTE NEXT YEAR AT A SPECIFIC VOTING LOCATION, YOU CAN NOW VOTE IN ANY ESTABLISHED VOTING PRECINCT.

LIVING IN A GROWING COUNTY LIKE OURS REQUIRES PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I AM PROUD AT HOW THE MUNICIPALITIES IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP ENSURE QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES AND FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL OUR RESIDENTS.

THE END OF LAST MONTH, THE CITY OF FRANKLIN CUT THE RIBBON AND OFFICIALLY OPENED THEIR 7TH FIRE STATION ADJACENT TO THE COUNTY'S AG PARK. IN THIS PARTNERSHIP, WILLIAMSON COUNTY DONATED LAND FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY AND FUNDED AN ADDITIONAL ON-SITE AMBULANCE LOCATION AND THE CITY OF FRANKLIN PROVIDED SEWER TAPS.

IN APRIL, THE CITY OF BRENTWOOD HELD THE GRAND OPENING FOR THEIR NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON HERITAGE WAY. THIS NEW FACILITY IS THE LARGEST CAPITAL PROJECT IN THE CITY'S HISTORY AND WILL ENABLE THEM TO HOUSE ALL OF THEIR POLICE DIVISIONS UNDER ONE ROOF. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY, WILLIAMSON COUNTY DONATED \$1.2 MILLION TO PROVIDE AN ANCILLARY STRUCTURE ON SITE FOR AN AMBULANCE.

THESE FACILITY PARTNERSHIPS REQUIRE THE COMMITMENT FROM WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER TO STAFF THE FACILITY AND ENABLES MORE DIRECT RESPONSE LOCATIONS TO SERVE AREAS OF THE COUNTY AND REDUCE RESPONSE TIMES WHICH CAN HELP SAVE LIVES.

SPEAKING OF **WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER**, AS A BOARD MEMBER SERVING WITH OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, PHYSICIANS AND RESIDENTS, I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE RECENT FIVE STAR RATING FROM THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES THEY RECEIVED!!! THIS RATING IS ACQUIRED BY USING SCORES FOR FIVE MEASURE GROUPS:

- SAFETY OF CARE
- READMISSION
- MORTALITY
- PATIENT EXPERIENCE
- TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE CARE

WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER IS AMONG ONLY THREE FIVE-STAR RATED HOSPITALS IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND ONE OF ONLY 455 NATIONWIDE.

UPON THE RETIREMENT OF LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE AND CEO, DON WEBB IN MARCH, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONDUCTED A NATIONWIDE SEARCH, ULTIMATELY HIRING **PHIL MAZZUCA**. PHIL, WILL YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED? PHIL HAS OVER 38 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT AND WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM TO THE WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER FAMILY.

I THINK WE CAN ALL RELATE WHEN IT IS STATED THAT WOMEN MAKE THE MOST DECISIONS IN THE FAMILY. WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER WAS ALSO RECENTLY NAMED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S 100 BEST HOSPITALS FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE IN WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARDS. A NATIONAL REFERRAL SOURCE FOR THE BEST IN HEALTH CARE.

THE AMERICA'S BEST HOSPITALS FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE RANKS WMC AT 93 OUT OF OVER 1,000 HOSPITALS AND WAS AMONG 400 AWARD RECIPIENTS REPRESENTING HOSPITALS THAT HAVE MET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PATIENT EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S. BY THE WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD. ADDITIONALLY, WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER HAS EARNED THE WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARDS IN 2021 FOR PATIENT SAFETY - OBSTETRICS - MAMMOGRAM CENTER - MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY - HEART CARE AND AS A COMPREHENSIVE BREAST CENTER.

THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AT THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A TWO YEAR PILOT BLOOD PROGRAM. I AM EXTREMELY PROUD THAT THE STATE EMS RECENTLY UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO END THE TRIAL PERIOD AND HAS APPROVED WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER'S EMS DEPARTMENT FOR BLOOD PRODUCT ADMINISTRATION GOING FORWARD. WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE PUBLIC IS, SHOULD YOU BE IN NEED OF BLOOD, THE EMS STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO ADMINISTER BLOOD AT THE SCENE AND DURING TRANSPORT.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER WAS ONE OF ONLY EIGHT HOSPITALS IN THE STATE TO RECEIVE A THREE-STAR RATING FOR 100% OF THE BOARD MEMBERS BEING CERTIFIED.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE WORKERS, ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD MEMBERS AT **YOUR** COMMUNITY HOSPITAL!!

WHILE WE ARE ON THE TOPIC OF HEALTH CARE, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE STAFF AT THE **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**, OUR **PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF, THE NATIONAL GUARD, THE TEAM AT THE AG PARK AND HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS**. THROUGHOUT 437 WORKING DAYS, THIS AMAZING TEAM OF INDIVIDUALS OVERSAW THE OPERATIONS OF ADMINISTERING TESTS AND SHOTS FOR THE COVID-19 NATIONAL PANDEMIC IN OUR COUNTY. THIS OPERATION WENT FROM AVERAGING 40 TESTS PER DAY TO PERFORMING 663 IN A FEW HOURS.

THESE INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH MORE THAN 22,800 CALLS THROUGH THE CALL CENTER, 57,000 COVID-19 TESTS ADMINISTERED AND 90,670 VACCINATIONS COMPLETED. THROUGH THEIR COORDINATED EFFORTS, WILLIAMSON COUNTY EARNED A #1 RANKING IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THOSE FULLY VACCINATED!!!

VACCINATION SERVICES ARE STILL BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE FRANKLIN TRANSIT SERVICE IS OFFERING FREE RIDES TO AND FROM VACCINATION LOCATIONS ALONG THEIR FIXED ROUTES

I DO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. CURRENT INFORMATION SHOWS AN ON-GOING RISE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES, INCLUDING THE VARIANTS. I ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO DO YOUR RESEARCH AND PURSUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE.

THE PANDEMIC CERTAINLY TOOK ITS TOLL ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY SECTOR EMPLOYEES. I ALSO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOW PROUD I AM OF ALL OF THE NUMEROUS COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO FOUND A WAY TO SAFELY DISTANCE FROM THEIR CO-WORKERS, WORKED FROM HOME OR DIFFERENT SHIFTS TO CONTINUE TO CARRY ON THE DAY-TO-DAY SERVICES NEEDED BY OUR RESIDENTS.

AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO THANK THE OUTSTANDING **LEGAL TEAM** OF BUERGER, MOSELEY & CARSON – SPECIFICALLY THE UNWAVERING GUIDANCE FROM LISA CARSON AND JEFF MOSELEY. THEY HAVE PERSONALLY REVIEWED EACH OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND MEMOS TO ENSURE THAT WE WERE PROVIDING ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION TO OUR EMPLOYEES AND OUR RESIDENTS.

LIKEWISE, OUR LEGAL TEAM IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING DAILY UPDATES TO THE FEDERAL **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OF 2021**. THIS PLAN IS A \$1.9 TRILLION ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS AND SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT BIDEN IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. THE FUNDS WERE APPROVED IN AN EFFORT TO SPEED UP THE UNITED STATES' RECOVERY FROM THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 AND THE ON-GOING RECESSION.

THIS LEGISLATION INCLUDES \$65.1 BILLION IN DIRECT, FLEXIBLE AID TO EVERY COUNTY IN AMERICA. WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS SET TO RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY \$45 MILLION OF THESE FUNDS WHICH HAVE STRICT AND SPECIFIC QUALIFIED USES FOR WHICH THEY CAN BE EXPENDED. OUR FUNDS WILL COME DIRECT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN TWO ALLOTMENTS.

ONE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT IS THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. ALONG THOSE LINES, WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS MEETING WITH MIDDLE TENNESSEE ELECTRIC AS COOPERATIVE TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN OUR RURAL AREAS TO PROVIDE BROADBAND THROUGH UNITED COMMUNICATIONS. DISCUSSIONS ARE ON-GOING TO ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP WHICH WOULD PROVIDE HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO OUR RURAL RESIDENTS AND COUNTY FACILITIES NOT CURRENTLY BEING SERVED.

UNITED COMMUNICATIONS IS COMMITTED TO SEEING THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY BECOMES THE FIRST BORDER-TO-BORDER COUNTY WITH WORLD-CLASS BROADBAND SERVICES. ONCE COMPLETED, THIS WILL ALLOW STUDENTS, STAFF AND BUSINESSES THE ABILITY TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO BE ABLE TO LEARN AND WORK FROM HOME.

IN RECENT MONTHS PRIOR TO THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL ACT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONTRACTED WITH VOGUE TOWERS TO PROVIDE THREE TOWER SITES IN THE COUNTY TO IMPROVE AND PROVIDE A HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS NETWORK DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY. THIS PLATFORM WILL PROVIDE THE LATEST TOOLS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRST RESPONDERS IN GETTING INFORMATION FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN BETTER RESPONSE TIME FOR OUR CITIZENS.

AS WE BRING TODAY'S SPEECH TO A CLOSE, I WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT "NINE DAYS OF FUN STARTS THE FIRST FRIDAY IN AUGUST"! THE 2021 WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAIR, WITH A MISSION TO *PROVIDE A FAMILY FRIENDLY FAIR, PROMOTE AGRICULTURE, BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE TRADITIONS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY*, WILL BE HELD AUGUST 6-14, 2021.

THE BOARD HAS IMPLEMENTED A CLEAR BAG POLICY FOR 2021 IN AN EFFORT TO HELP EXPEDITE GUESTS THROUGH THE GATES. IT'S "BYOB – BRING YOUR OWN BAG" FOR THIS YEAR AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT THE **"NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO"** SECTION.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON-LINE FOR BOTH FAIR ADMISSION AND THIS YEAR YOU ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO PRE-PURCHASE MIDWAY RIDES! HOWEVER, ONCE THE FAIR OPENS, THE MIDWAY RIDES WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE GROUNDS SO WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TO THE WEBSITE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE SPECIALS!

WE ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE FOLKS TO CHECK OUT THE EVER-CHANGING WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE YOU COME TO THE FAIRGROUNDS AS NO REFUNDS ARE ALSO BEING IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR.

YOU CAN FIND THE LATEST ON THE WEBSITE "WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAIR DOT ORG".

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY AND SUPPORTING YOUR WILLIAMSON CHAMBER. I WANT TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHAMBER AND CHAMBER BUSINESSES BY SHOPPING LOCAL. THE MONEY YOU SPEND LOCALLY PROVIDES REVENUES TO ASSIST IN RUNNING YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND HELPING TO RETAIN OUR REPUTATION AS THE BEST PLACE IN AMERICA TO WORK, WORSHIP AND RAISE A FAMILY.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH OF YOU, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR BUSINESSES AND THIS WONDERFUL COUNTY!

