



Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis

News From Precinct 1

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County Removes Criminal History Question from Applications *RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE*

What is Travis County



Television?

TCTV in Austin and selected areas on Time Warner Cable Channel 17.

Channel 17 is the county government access channel. Our primary mission is bringing Travis County Commissioners Court meetings to the public. These include live telecasts of regularly scheduled Commissioners Court voting sessions, work sessions, public hearings.

Inside this issue:

- Re-Entry Initiative 1
- Juneteenth Celebration 2008 1
- Fishing at East Metro Park 2
- Emails for Inmates 2
- Wells Branch/ Heatherwilde 3
- Pct 1 Office Building 4
- Step to Howard lane Phase II 4

The Travis County Commissioners Court voted to remove the criminal history question from County job applications on April 22, 2008.

The Travis County Commissioners Court seeks to promote the successful reintegration of ex-offenders in the community by assisting ex-offenders in obtaining gainful employment.

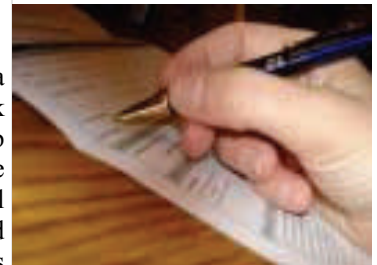
Recognizing that qualified individuals for many positions may be eliminated from employment consideration due to criminal history disclosure up front on the Travis County employment application, the County has delayed requesting information regarding criminal history until later in the employment application process.

All applicants, including those with criminal backgrounds, are encouraged to research job vacancies within the County and apply if

otherwise qualified.

Some positions may require a criminal background check which will be noted in the job posting announcement. If the applicant is selected for an initial interview, he/she will be notified if a criminal background check is required and given the option to proceed with the interview process. For these positions, a criminal history does not necessarily disqualify an applicant from being considered for the position. Circumstances such as length of time since offense, seriousness of the offense, frequency of criminal incidents, and other mitigating factors may be considered.

Contact The Travis County Human Resources Department at (512) 854-9165 for more information or to see how to obtain job listings.



Finding gainful employment can be a barrier facing ex-offenders.

EMPLOYERS

The Offender workforce Development Initiative which is managed by the Travis County Criminal Justice Planning Department is looking for local employers to become partners with the county in providing jobs for ex-offenders. Incentives are available for employers willing to participate in this life-changing initiative. Please contact:

Mary Moran (512) 854-6497

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION 2008

Join us at the Wooldridge Park Plaza on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 from 11 A.M. until 2 P.M., for our 19th Annual Travis County & City of Austin Employees Juneteenth Celebration. The celebration will be Hosted by Travis County

Judge Samuel T. Biscoe & Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis. There will be food booths selling a variety of ethnic and cultural delights in addition to arts, crafts and fashion accessories. Live music provided by the Kontrol Band.



CELEBRATION OF
FREEDOM



Travis County bringing fishing opportunities to Eastern Travis County's East Metro Park.

Fishing at Travis County's East Metropolitan Park

Travis County's East Metropolitan Park is ready for fishing.

Bullfrog Pond in Travis County's East Metro Park, located about 13 miles east of the city's downtown, will be stock with catfish and rainbow trout by the Texas Parks and Wildlife's Inland Fisheries Division. The county is paying \$83 a month for the fish.

This program is designed to offer increased opportunity for urban residents to fish. The new park has a fishing pier and good bank access. Catfish will be stocked every other week from April through November, except August. Rainbow trout will be stocked December through March. Catfish stockings began April 24.

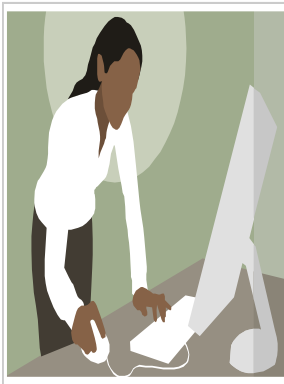
Fisherman will be required to have a valid Texas fishing license, unless they are exempt from license requirements. Pole and line are the only allowed fishing method and the daily bag limit is five fish for each species. There is no minimum size limit.

"When they reel those fish in, and you see the parents there with those children, there is no greater thrill than seeing families bond together in a fishing experience"

Ron Davis
Pct 1 Commissioner

The park, which is open seven days a week, can be reached by taking U.S. 290 east to FM 973. Stay on 973 through Manor until you cross the railroad tracks, then turn left on Blake-Manor Road. The park is 3.5 miles on the right.

For information, go to the Travis County Parks Web site: www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/ or call (512) 854-7275.



Now you can Communicate with Inmates by E-mail

The Travis County Jail has a new program that will enable people to communicate with inmates by e-mail. The new program is being offered by Securus Technologies, who also provide the inmate telephone system. Now anyone with a computer and an e-mail can send mail to inmates at the Travis County Jail and get a response if you desire. To start a person need only go to www.secureinstantmail.com to

create a personal account and then follow the directions. The program will guide you through the process. A person would sign up with the service and send an e-mail. Since inmates do not have direct access to computers, the person would have the option of sending a reply page to the inmate with the e-mail and the inmate would then take the reply page and write their reply. That page is then scanned into the computer and sent to the original senders e-mail address. Friends

and family can get their message back without waiting and hoping that they are there to receive a telephone call that may or may not come. There is a cost for this service. It costs 60 cents to send up to a 2 page, word only, e-mail to the inmate. The sender also has the option of paying another 60 cents to attach a reply page for a one page reply.



THE HEMAN MARION SWEATT TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Travis County History Day

You are cordially invited to attend "A Celebration of Travis County History"

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

2nd Floor Lobby

Heman Marion Sweatt

Travis County Courthouse

Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

There will be:

Historical Displays

Proclamation

Unveiling of New

Travis County Brochure

Self-Guided Tours

Refreshments

Sponsored by Travis County, the Travis County Historical Commission and the Austin Bar

New Road Construction—Wells Branch/Heatherwilde

Groundbreaking of Major Roads Opens High Demand Area to New Development

AUSTIN — The construction launch of long-awaited arterial roads will make life much easier for commuters going to work, school or shopping, and increase the developable potential of the Northeast Austin - Pflugerville area.

June 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m., at the intersection of the future Wells Branch Parkway and Heatherwilde Blvd. cross-roads in Northeast Austin, Travis County Commissioners; officials from the cities of Austin and Pflugerville; Northtown M.U.D.; and, representatives from the project engineering firm and three developers, stood side-by-side to celebrate a major milestone in this project that began in 2001. This partnership was referred to, during a Commissioners Court session, as “the most complicated public-private

arrangement.”

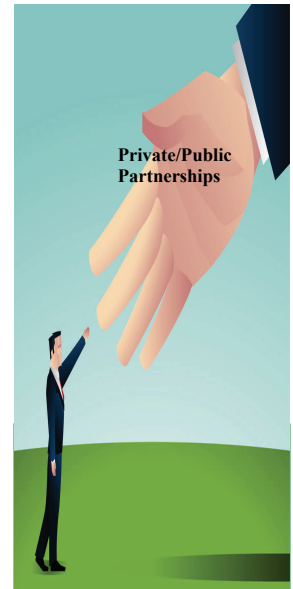
The scope of this critical roadway project involves the new construction of nearly two miles of road extensions to Heatherwilde Boulevard and Wells Branch Parkway. When completed, Heatherwilde will run continuously from Howard Lane to 1826 and Wells Branch Parkway from IH-35 to Dessau. Wells Branch Parkway, under this plan, is intended to be a four-lane divided roadway. Construction is planned for completion in early 2009. Estimated costs for this road-building project are \$12 million, with the county and private parties sharing approximately 50/50 in those costs.

Travis County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, Precinct 2, came to office in January 2007. “You might say I am standing on the shoulders of giants—those who came before me and put a lot of sweat equity into this project. It does require a tremendous level of cooperation to pull it off.

I have to hand it to the private land owners, who stuck with this process to get it done,” said Commissioner Eckhardt. “This is a perfect example of how we work with the private sector to create a cost-sharing partnership for public use. It’s been a long, complicated process. I applaud everyone who helped make this happen,” said Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis, Precinct 1.

Phil Spertus, President, New Wells Point Partners, said the project reached this landmark chapter due to the support of the public partners involved. “This ground-breaking event is a tribute to the skills of the Commissioners Court and staff, the Austin City Council and the Mayor of Pflugerville, who all worked together to make it happen. Throughout the whole process, everyone has worked in a truly collaborative spirit and we are happy to see the project underway,” said Spertus.

The Heatherwilde/Wells Branch Parkway project is a collaborative effort among Travis County, the City of Austin, the City of Pflugerville, Northtown M.U.D., New Wells Point Partners, Village at Northtown, The Sealy Companies, HNTB Corporation and Consort, Inc.



Partners Involved:
Travis County, Austin and Pflugerville;
Northtown M.U.D.;
and, New Wells Point Partners, Village at Northtown, The Sealy Companies, HNTB Corporation and Consort, Inc.,

Road Closure for Bridge Construction

TXDOT has requested that Old Highway 20 be closed at Bridge No. 154, just west of Manor Middle School in order to construct the approach-roadway tie-ins to a new

bridge being built parallel to the existing bridge.

The Travis County Commissioners Court ordered to temporarily close Old Highway 20 in

Precinct One for bridge construction beginning June 5, 2008 and continuing through July 24, 2008 or until construction is completed



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NEWS FROM PRECINCT 1

We're on the Web
www.co.travis.tx.us

PRECINCT 1 OFFICE BUILDING

Due to the growth of the East side of the County additional space is needed. The new building will be built on the current site at 1811 Springdale Rd. The proposed new building will be 14,390 square feet (SF) while the existing building is now 6,288 (SF).

The Commissioners Court approved \$50,000 in the FY08 budget and the total proposed FY09 budget is \$2,978,930 for design and construction. There will be expansion of work space for the Constable and Justice of the Peace offices, meeting rooms, storage, locker rooms for employees and additional window tellers facing the public lobby. The courtroom will have a fully accessible bench and bar with six jury seats. The public lobby will be a larger space with seating for approximately 30 visitors. Opening directly onto the lobby will be a conference room for small meetings, and public restrooms. There will be a public multipurpose room (992 SF) that can be utilized for various functions. This space will have a separate entry, and include two unisex restrooms and a small kitchenette. Estimated completion date is December 2009.

Steps to Howard Lane Phase II (Cameron to 130)

On May 12, 2008, the CAMPO Policy Board meeting Senator Watson confirmed that TxDot will be providing \$6,000,000 from SH 130 Concession funds to help complete our Howard Lane project rather than using federal STPMM funds. The next steps need to be taken to get the project moving:

1) TxDot will need to present to the Texas Highway Commission a request for approval to use the concession funds for this project. If approved, a Minute Order will be issued by the Commission. TxDot will try to get this done in June. Note that it is uncertain at this time if federal approval will be needed for this project. If it is needed, it will take several months to obtain. In any case, if TxDot funds are used, project will need to adhere to the Na-

tional Environmental Policy Act in the development of the project.

2) After the Minute Order is issued, the County Commissioners Court and TxDot will need to enter into an Advanced Funding Agreement (This will be a reimbursement agreement). TxDot is currently preparing a draft AFA and should be able to present it to the Court within a few weeks after the MO is issued.

3) The County will need to provide funds for its portion of the project cost. This will be requested in the FY 09 budget process and if approved in September/October the funds become available in March 2009.

4) The County and the City of Austin will need to enter into an Inter-local Cooperation Agreement. This could take four to six

months to complete, depending upon the work loads of City and County legal staff.

5) The County will need to enter into Agreements with the owners of the property where the project crosses the unincorporated area. Preliminary negotiations have begun .

6) A consultant will be selected using a TxDot-approved Request -For-Qualifications process.

