

September 6, 2024

Hey All,

I hope you are all doing well. It's hard to believe that we are already in September. The years just seem to fly by faster and faster.

I have some sad news. Gail Ward, who has been a mainstay in conservative activism here in Williamson County, has passed away. She was one of a kind and loved by all who knew her. She is greatly missed. [Here is her obituary](#). Her memorial service is set for **September 16th at 5:30 pm at Kelmescott Farm, 5151 Waddell Hollow Rd, Franklin, TN.**

At the August 27th Mom's for Liberty meeting Penny Luekenhoff gave this tribute:

Tonight, we are deeply saddened to announce the passing of a dedicated Moms for Liberty member: Gail Ward. Gail was a devout Christian, a loyal friend and a dedicated patriot who stood solid in her beliefs and was unafraid to speak out on principle. She was truly a joyful warrior who frequently and cheerfully volunteered for our conservative cause here in Williamson County in all kinds of capacities. Gail's kindness, generosity, quick wit and unwavering devotion to Jesus Christ touched everyone who knew her. Through our sadness, we find comfort in knowing she is now in the loving presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that God provides strength and solace to her family and many friends during this difficult time. May the Lord's grace surround them, and may His peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

There is a new kid on the block and it's called Williamson County Citizens. You can access it [here](#). It really is terrific. It has all the information you need to make informed voting decisions and it is very user-friendly. Please go and check it out, sign up for the periodic updates and send the link to friends and family.

Blessings and keep the faith,
Bill

Williamson County School Board

There were no meetings this week. Next week is the **monthly work session** on Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Professional Development Center unless otherwise noted. The PD Center building is located at 1761 West Main Street, Franklin, TN 37064. [Agenda Video](#).

There is a board meeting on Monday the 16th. **If you would like to speak at the September 16, 2024, meeting, sign up will begin at 12 pm on Thursday, September 12, 2024 through Monday, September 16, 2024 at 12 pm.**

After the district receives your email request to speak and the items listed below, you will receive a confirmation email. That email must be brought with you to the meeting. To be considered to speak they will need the following items:

Your First and Last Name
Complete Address
Your Topic of Comment
Any Organization You Represent

Also, on the Monday the 16th, there is a **special meeting**:

In accordance with **Tennessee Family Life Instruction Law, [49-6-1304](#)**, Williamson County Schools will host a public meeting September 16th to explain the Family Life Curriculum.

The meeting will take place Monday, September 16, at 5 p.m. in the WCS Professional Development Center located at 1761 West Main Street in Franklin. District representatives will present the curriculum, followed by an opportunity for the public to submit feedback and ask questions.

I recommend any parent or concerned citizen to attend.

Williamson County Election Commission

There were no meetings this week. Next week, there is a meeting on Thursday the 12th at 4:00PM at 405 Downs Blvd. [Agenda](#).

Williamson County Commission

The County budget committee met recently and here is their [agenda Packet video](#). This was the first time the meeting was videotaped, however the sound quality was so poor many could not make out a lot of what was said. I have complained about the problem.

It was a three-hour meeting and Commissioners voted on four bond issues totaling \$369,295,000, among several others. The most important vote was whether or not to recommend passage of resolution 9-24-42 for the jail/juvenile/sheriff project which totaled \$280,000,000. To say that this is a contentious issue is an understatement of the grandest of proportions.

Both sides have a point but, the truth is we need a new jail, sheriff's office and juvenile complex. Somehow or another, we're going to have to find a way to get this project

approved and started. Even if we approved it today, we couldn't start construction for another year and completion would probably take at least five years.

I took a tour of all three current facilities today. I was guided by the Director of Juvenile Services Rannzi Martin for the juvenile complex and Sheriff Hughes and three of his subordinates for the sheriff's office and jail. All three areas are deficient in a number of areas including, but not limited to, bathroom facilities, meeting rooms, office space, intake facilities, available beds for future needs, separate kitchen facilities for juveniles, separation of inmates, proper electronic locks on the jail cells, lack of storage for the evidence room, lack of storage space for juvenile files, lack of respite facilities for juveniles who have not been charged, and generally cramped conditions for the employees.

I didn't see any signs of cracking in any walls I observed. All the walls in the jail are made of cinder blocks reinforced with rebar and concrete.

I don't think that anybody is happy about the cost; I'm certainly not. What we're going to have to figure out is how we pay for it and are there further cuts we can make to reduce the cost.

As far as location is concerned, there aren't a lot of alternatives to the one we have now – the vacant Verizon building off Seaboard Lane. There aren't a lot of areas away from neighborhoods that would be available with the proper infrastructure to accommodate the needs of these three entities. Most people don't want a jail in their backyard and it's hard to blame them.

Can all three entities continue to function as is? Certainly, they can; they are doing that now. Should new buildings for all three be a high enough priority to get them moving ahead now? That is what the commission is going to have to wrangle with this coming Monday, September 12, 2024. We have been debating this issue since 2017 and I think it is time to fish or cut bait.

Monday's meeting starts at 6:30 pm at the county building auditorium at 1320 W. Main. If you would like to speak, you should arrive before 6:30 pm to sign Here is the [Agenda and the agenda packet](#).

Thursday the 12th, the planning commission is meeting at 5:30 pm in the auditorium at the county building at 1320W Main. [Agenda](#), [agenda packet](#)

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)

Not a whole lot this week. Go [here](#) to see what transpired. Next week looks like this [here](#)

**If not me, who?
If not now, when?**

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)***