

*Cut article file*

# Court in session at restored courthouse, new Rivery developm

BY KELLY GOOCH

Excitement was in the air at this week's Commissioners Court meeting as it had a new feel and a new location.

After being at the S.E. Inner Loop Annex Building Precinct 3 courtroom, the court was able to start

## COUNTY WRAP

meeting again in the restored courthouse on the second floor.

New technology such as a projecting screen also made this week's meeting different, including a timer that counted down speakers' three minutes.

A flag ceremony began the Commissioners Court meeting.

"We're very pleased to be here," County Judge Dan Gattis said in court.

A highlight of the meeting was the court hearing a presentation regarding a new development to be called The Summit at Rivery Park, the development being in the Rivery Park Tax Reinvestment Zone.

The development would be just north of Rivery Boulevard and west of Interstate 35, according to the economic impact study done by The Perryman Group out of Waco.

Marlene McMichael, project coordinator for the developer LedgesStone Group, said the developer is hoping that the county joins them to build the conference center and to make improvements to Rivery Park.

She said the cost for the improvements would not come out of the county's current budget.

Taxpayers in the county would not see changes in their taxes as a result, Ms. McMichael said.

If the county and city of Georgetown decide to partner with LedgesStone Group for the conference center

and park improvements, she said the county and city would not pay more than \$25 million combined.

The new development will include a full-service hotel along with retail and office space.

"We hope to break ground in the first quarter of '08," Ms. McMichael said, adding that the development could take two to three years to complete after breaking ground.

They are hoping the city takes steps to partner with LedgesStone on November 27 and that the county makes a decision by the end of the

year, Ms. McMichael said.

## Other business:

The court discussed and then approved Williamson County Courthouse Rental and Special Event Policies and Procedures.

Judge Gattis wanted people renting rooms in the courthouse to realize that they can only get into the room during the time they have rented it.

They couldn't start renting a room at 6 p.m. and come to set up at 5 p.m. It was also talked about in court that Sheriff's deputies must be hired

by the renter if alcohol is served.

Chris Dyer, director of the Williamson County Historical Museum, which will handle taking rental reservations, has said a deputy must be hired if an event is after 6 p.m.

The policies and procedures say a deputy has to be hired if there are more than 75 attendees at an event. Mr. Dyer said a deputy cost around \$45 an hour for the event.

According to the policies and procedures, there are three rooms at

# y development on agenda

by the renter if alcohol is being served.

Chris Dyer, director of the Williamson County Historical Museum, which will handle taking rental reservations, has said a deputy must also be hired if an event is after 6 p.m.

The policies and procedures also say a deputy has to be hired if there are more than 75 attendees at an event. Mr. Dyer said a deputy could cost around \$45 an hour for the renter.

According to the policies and procedures, there are three rooms at the

restored courthouse available to the public for rent: the conference room, Commissioners Courtroom and district courtroom, all on the second floor of the courthouse.

The rooms can be used for various events such as weddings or meetings, Mr. Dyer said.

December 10 is when the public can begin scheduling, he said.

For more information, contact the Williamson County Historical Museum at (512) 943-1670.

gooch@countysun.com