

Background and Biography

Plantation Road and Kincheonville

Plantation Road was built on the site of the freed persons community of Kincheonville, founded in 1865 by former enslaved persons Thomas Kincheon and his wife Mary.

The area known as Kincheonville developed into a thriving agricultural community, incorporating more than 300 acres, with more than 100 residents, Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church and a school providing free education to African Americans.

Biography: Tommie Lee Wyatt

Tommie Lee Wyatt moved to a segregated Austin in 1962, immediately becoming active in the fight for civil rights. In 1969, Mr. Wyatt co-founded The Black Registry of Austin Businesses, a vital publication linking readers to black businesses, churches and community organizations.

In 1973, Mr. Wyatt became a pioneer in the field of black community journalism, co-founding The Villager Newspaper, a publication designed to shine light on the positive stories of black Austin, its culture and history. The Villager Newspaper has become a critical tool for those researching Austin's black community emerging from segregation, with print and photo collections hosted by Austin's Public Library and The Austin History Center.

The University of North Texas Libraries Special Collections hosts The Tommie L Wyatt Collection - an archive of newspaper editions, business registries and video interviews. Mr. Wyatt's legacy of achievements as a community leader and voice of the black community also include:

- Loquacity Magazine, publisher
- Texas Publishers Association, founding member
- KAZI 88.7 FM, radio host
- The Bottom Line Television Program, host
- Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, co-founder
- National Newspaper Publishers Association, member
- Austin Youth Brigade, founder

- East 11th Street Village Association, member
- City of Austin Cable Commission, original appointee

Tommie Lee Wyatt passed away on January 10, 2026, at the age of 88, with a commanding legacy as an activist, journalist, pioneering business leader and an affirmative, community voice.