



What's News

Travis County mental health providers gear up for the legislative session that could lead to more budget cuts and reduced services throughout the county. | 14

Texas Legislators prepare for the 82nd Legislature with two topics looming over the Capital, including the budget and redistricting. | 11

The deadline for Congress to extend the Bush tax cuts is approaching. Learn what's at stake and who will be affected. | 23

What's Inside



The 2010 Volunteer Guide outlines how and where to give back to the community during the holiday season and year-round. | 20



Austin Community College's Northridge Campus began offering English classes for veteran students and their supports in response to the rising number of veterans enrolled in the community college system. | 15

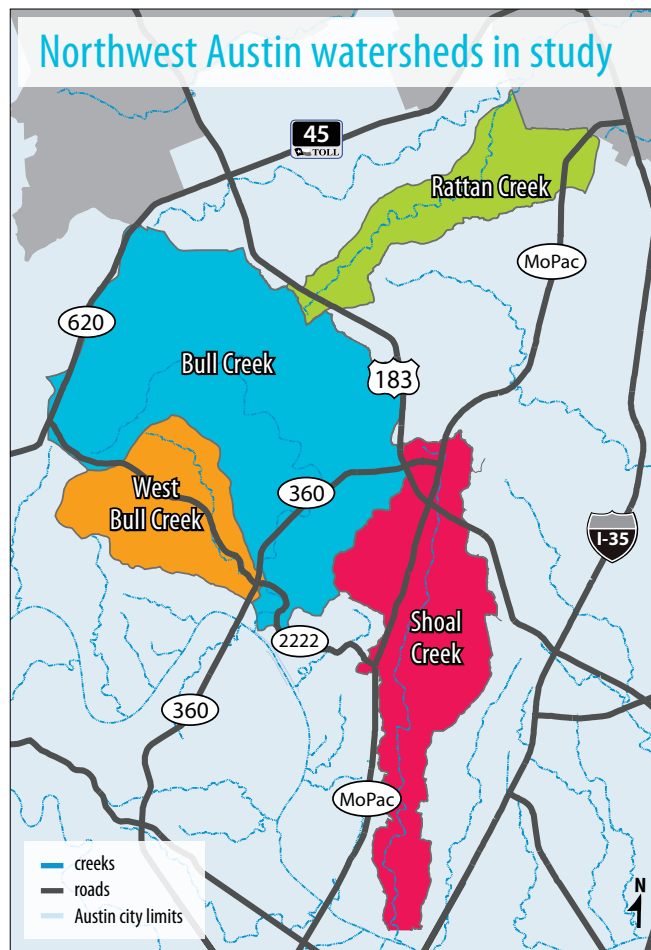
What's Online

www.impactnews.com



The MoPac Improvement Project is soliciting feedback from the public as part of its environmental assessment. Five alternatives for MoPac's traffic congestion are being considered. more.impactnews.com/10888

Rudy's Bar-B-Q and Mighty Fine Burgers owner K&M Management celebrated receiving the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award with a \$10,000 scholarship to the McCombs School of Business. more.impactnews.com/10954



Source: City of Austin

Flood maps to be updated

City staff uses grant money to study four Northwest Austin watersheds, total of 12 to be completed throughout city

By Beth Wade

City of Austin surveyors will work to determine the probability of flooding in creeks and waterways as the city updates floodplain maps in 12 of its more than 100 named watersheds. This could mean more houses in need of flood insurance.

Austin City Council accepted a grant Nov. 4 for \$1.1 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Cooperative Technical Partners program. The money will be used to update aging floodplain maps of watersheds, including Rattan, Shoal, Bull and West Bull creeks in Northwest Austin. The grant will also help fund the study of the Tannehill Branch, Fort Branch, Boggy Creek, Carson Creek, Cottonmouth Creek, North Fork Dry Creek, South Fork Dry Creek and Dry Creek East watersheds.

"[The program] allows us to partner with local communities and

stakeholders and leverage the local knowledge and expertise that they have in order to help us develop and maintain our floodplain data and our maps," FEMA Mapping Program Specialist Erin Cobb said. "We can leverage the dollars that they have [and] the local expertise they have, which helps to provide a better floodplain map."

The watersheds studied each year are prioritized on factors, such as when they were last updated and the area's development and population growth, said Kevin Shunk, floodplain management supervising engineer with the city's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. The Bull Creek study is about 15 years old and is the oldest in the study, he said.

The study will update the 25-year,

CONTINUED ON | 17

With plan, housing capacity may surge

Story Highlights

- 2,300-acre North Burnet/Gateway projects could include 40,000 residences in coming decades
- Lake Creek Park neighborhood development adds 90 new homes to market
- Region's space constraints could trigger more mixed-use projects

Joseph M. de Leon

Although some housing developments are moving forward in Northwest Austin, options for new projects are dwindling—277 parcels are zoned for single-family use and about 13 lots are zoned for multifamily projects, according to Austin's Planning and Development Review Department.

Site constraints, such as proximity to floodplains or steep slopes, mean that many of those lots cannot be developed.

The number of residences that could be built in Northwest Austin could increase if redevelopment in the 2,300-acre North Burnet/Gateway comes to fruition. The land, equivalent in size to downtown and The University of Texas campus combined, is mostly zoned for high-density mixed use, but plans call for parts of the area to be rezoned and



Homes in the Lake Creek Park neighborhood are expected to be ready for move-in before the end of the year. The approximately 90-home development is one of a few in Northwest Austin that is adding more single-family units to the market.

reconstructed into transit-oriented developments in the next 20 to 30 years.

Molly Scarbrough, principal planner for Austin's Planning and Development Review Department, said the plan that was adopted in 2007 is designed to allow buildings up to 30 stories near transit with room for major employers. As many as 40,000 residences and a key transportation hub for Capital Metro commuter rail and the proposed

Austin-to-San Antonio passenger rail initiative called Lone Star Rail are also planned.

"The project really outlines a vision of much higher density, mixed-use development throughout the area," Scarbrough said. "We're allowing that space to be converted into a neighborhood where people can walk to destinations and transit easily and live in

CONTINUED ON | 19



QuickER care. Smaller waits.



OPEN EVERY DAY
8am to 8pm

1615 Grand Avenue Parkway
Suite 110

512-334-3530
STDAVIDS.COM

FLU SHOTS
AVAILABLE

Urgent Care in Pflugerville from St. David's North Austin Medical Center

For all your urgent care needs, from broken bones to sports injuries to cold and flu and more. Our clinic is staffed by doctors experienced in emergency medicine, with X-ray equipment and a lab on site. Quality, faster care; after hours, without appointments or the hospital emergency room wait.

StDavid's | URGENT CARE
PFLUGERVILLE
A Department of St. David's North Austin Medical Center

community Impact NEWSPAPER™ LOCAL. USEFUL. EVERYONE GETS IT.

821 Grand Avenue Parkway, Ste. 411
Pflugerville, TX 78691 • 512-989-6808
www.impactnews.com

Publisher / Chief Executive Officer
John P. Garrett, jgarrett@impactnews.com

Northwest Austin
General Manager | Travis Baker
Market Editor | Beth Wade
Reporter | Joseph M. de Leon
Senior Account Executive | Nicole Smith
Account Executive | Tina Drinnan
Lead Designer | Lindsay Beran
Staff Writers | Amy Deis, Andrea Leptinsky,
Bobby Longoria, Niamh Marnell
Contributing Photographer | Sarah Kerver

Editorial management
Associate Publisher | Claire Love
Executive Editor
Cathy Kincaid, ckincaid@impactnews.com
Managing Editor | Shannon Colletti
Assistant Managing Editor | Rebecca Nordquist
Associate Editor | Nicole Smith
Creative Director | Derek Sullivan
Ad Production Manager | Tiffany Knight

Administrative management
Chief Operating Officer | Jennifer Garrett
Chief Financial Officer | Darren Lesmeister
Business Director | Misty Pratt
Circulation & Operations Manager | David Ludwick

About us
Community Impact Newspaper, owned by local businessman John Garrett, is Central Texas' fastest growing news organization. We now distribute to more than 600,000 homes and businesses in seven markets in Central Texas and two in Northwest Houston.

Subscriptions
Subscriptions to our other editions are available for \$3 per issue. Visit impactnews.com/subscribe.

Contact us
News or press releases | nwanews@impactnews.com
Advertising inquiries | nwaads@impactnews.com
Reader feedback | nwafedback@impactnews.com

2010
PUBLISHER
Awardee
M.E.D.I.A.
©2010 JGMedia, Inc. All Rights Reserved. No reproduction of any portion of this issue is allowed without written permission from the publisher.



General Manager's Note

When I was a child, my two brothers and I used to have a pact: The first one to awaken Christmas morning

had to wake up the rest of the family before he went into the living room to see his presents. Of course there were no rules as to how to do this, so it usually involved an opening of the door, a loud yell and footsteps sprinting quickly down the hallway.

While the excitement about Christmas may feel a bit different as we get older, I think it still can be exciting for us in our own adult way. I hope our years of growing up have taught us that it feels more rewarding to give, rather than receive. I feel that child-like excitement myself when I watch my mother open that gift I purchased for her. There is a special rush

of joy that occurs when you watch loved ones open the gifts you chose especially for them.

If this sounds remotely familiar to you, there is no doubt you and I have lived a blessed life. Visit our Volunteer Guide on Page 16 to browse through a list of local organizations that could use your help. By offering a donation of time, money, food or clothing, someone in need might also be able to partake in that child-like Christmas excitement that they otherwise may not have had.

From all of us at *Community Impact Newspaper*, we wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Travis Baker

Travis Baker
tbaker@impactnews.com



Our gift to you...

...making it easier to shop local.

Pick your area. Pick your categories.
Customize your search for everything you need this holiday season.

impactnews.com/shop

Contents

- 4 Community Impacts**
- 6 Business Profile**
Pink Dot Concierge
Learning Express Toys Gateway
- 8 Community Events**
- 9 Neighborhood Dining**
Zakia's Greek Cuisine
- 10 Local History**
Jack Brown Cleaners
- 11 At the Capitol**
Preview of the 82nd state Legislature
- 12 City Council Notes**
Recent news
- 13 Nonprofit Profile**
Nifty Thrift Inc.
- 14 News Report**
State budget cuts threaten local mental health resources
- 15 Education Focus**
Austin Community College offers veteran-focused English courses
- 16 Technology Report**
Recent news
- 20 Volunteer Guide**
Guide to volunteering in the community
- 23 Inside Information**
Demystifying the Bush tax cuts
- 25 News Report**
City of Austin water policy concern grows
- 27 Residential Real Estate**
Neighborhoods at a Glance
Market Data
Property Listings

In This Issue



"I think that we as citizens need to hold our legislators—people that we elect—accountable, and we are not doing that. We forget real quickly what our concerns are, and mental health is a serious issue."

—Greg Hamilton,
Travis County Sheriff
on the impact of proposed state budget cuts that could affect the mental healthcare system in Travis County

TRUST MATTERS. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S YOUR MONEY.

Have you ever wondered who your financial consultant really works for? I work strictly for you. I work hard to build a relationship of trust by providing thoughtful, unbiased guidance and placing your interests first. Invest with a knowledgeable financial consultant who's on your side; someone who truly cares whether your investments are right for you.

Call today for more information or to schedule a consultation.



**J. Stanley Mathis,
President**
Over 25 years assisting clients in the financial markets

13740 Research Blvd
Suite N 1, Austin, TX 78750
512-918-9900 ext. 402
877-856-7779 ext. 402
smathis@blackgraniteig.com
www.blackgraniteig.com

BLACK GRANITE INVESTMENT GROUP

Independence Powered
by LPL Financial

Securities offered through LPL Financial,
Member FINRA/SIPC



Re-upholstery, custom window treatments, custom bedding

PLUSH

FABRIC HOME INTERIORS
www.plushhomefabric.com

10% OFF Custom Upholstered Headboard Labor

December 15 thru January 15, 2011
Come see our new arrivals!

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Plush will be closed for the holidays from December 24th until January 2nd.

314 Old Highway 183, Cedar Park • 331.7503

Community **Impacts** | Northwest Austin



Now Open

- 1 A+A Sichuan Garden**, 133376 Research Blvd., Ste. 100, opened in October. The restaurant offers dine-in, carryout and delivery of authentic Sichuan-style Chinese cuisine. The restaurant can seat 100 guests and offers patio seating. Open daily 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Call 258-5445.
- 2 Austinites**, 13343 US 183 N., Ste. 217, opened in September to provide a place to promote local wares. The 960-square-foot shop offers jewelry, clothing, art, music, books, videos, prepared foods and gift items from Austin-area producers. The store is available for private meetings and parties. Open Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Call 782-0691 or visit www.myaustinites.com.
- 3 GlamCity Salon & Spa** opened in November at 13000 N. I-35, Bldg. 2, Ste. 300. The shop provides a full-service salon including men’s, women’s and children’s

- haircuts and styling; updos; chemical treatments; and ethnic hair care. Spa services include skin, hair and nail treatments, waxing, facials, manicures and pedicures. The salon also features a boutique and is planning a grand opening 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20. Open Mon.–Sat. 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Call 977-7500 or visit www.theglamcityspa.com.
- 4** Fate Fowler opened **Gracy Art Camp Daycare**, 1305 Doonesbury Drive, and held a grand opening in October. The art- and music-inspired center offers preschool, day care and day camps to children ages 2–12. The day care accepts full-time, part-time and drop-in students. Open Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Call 992-8162 or visit www.gracydaycare.com.
- 5 Hill Country Running Company** sells running shoes, apparel and accessories to runners of various sizes and experience levels. Owner Jamie Cleveland and his wife, Andrea Fisher, opened the store Dec. 1 at 9900 W. Parmer Lane, Ste. 215. Open Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–

- 6 p.m. and Sun. noon–5 p.m. Call 294-2866 or visit www.hillcountryrunning.com.
- 6** Indian-inspired restaurant **Hot Breads Bakery & Café** opened at 7318 McNeil Drive, Ste. 102 in November. The shop serves pastries, cakes, cookies, breads, sandwiches, wraps, Indian finger foods and biryani, a traditional rice casserole. Beverages include shakes, coffee and tea. Open daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Call 249-9109 or visit www.hotbreadsaustin.com.
- 7** Coffee shop **Irie Bean** opened a second Austin location Dec. 13 in the parking lot of Nifty Thrift, 6610 McNeil Drive. The food trailer sells coffee, espresso and breakfast tacos. Open Mon.–Sat. 6:30–11:30 a.m. Call 326-4636 or visit www.iriebean.com.
- 8 Knotting Hill Photography**, 10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 129, opened in October, offering portraits as well as event photography for weddings, birthdays, reunions, holiday parties and anniversaries. An in-house photo lab

- provides proofs in an hour and most prints within one business day. Open Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. and Sun. noon–6 p.m. Call 372-8866 or visit www.knottinghillphotography.com.
- 9 Papa Murphy’s Take ‘N’ Bake Pizza** opened a new location at 12856 N. Research Blvd. in October. Staff members make pizzas, lasagna and bread sticks for customers to take home and bake. The store also sells cookie dough and salads. Open Sun.–Thu. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. and Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Call 335-0770 or visit www.papamurphys.com.
- 10** Women’s clothing retailer **Papaya** opened its third Austin location in November. The store sells junior and petite apparel at The Domain, 11010 Domain Drive, Ste. 102. Open Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Call 339-4900 or visit www.papayaclothing.com.
- 11** Darren Spohn opened **Pinballzz Arcade**, 8940 Research Blvd., Ste. 100, in November. The 13,600-square-foot family arcade includes 75 pinball machines, 70 video arcade titles, including vintage and modern selections, foosball, skeeball, air hockey tables and a concession area. Open Wed.–Thu. 3–10 p.m., Fri. 3 p.m.–midnight, Sat. 10 a.m.–midnight and Sun. noon–8 p.m. Call 420-8458 or visit www.pinballzarcade.com.
- 12 Ryu of Japan**, 11101 Burnet Road, Ste. B-100, opened in October. The restaurant offers traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine and includes a sushi bar. Open Mon.–Thu. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m. and Sun. 5:30–10 p.m. Call 973-9498 or visit www.ryuofjapan.com.
- 13** Boca Raton, Fla.–based clothing retailer **Silver Dagger** opened its fourth location in November. The men’s and women’s retailer, located at The Domain, 11010 Domain Drive, Ste. 132, sells upscale Los Angeles rocker–style clothes and accessories, including a new line of eyewear. Open daily 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Call 835-0900 or visit www.silver-dagger.com.
- 14 Urban Mattress of Austin**, 9901 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Ste. 140, opened in early December. The locally owned franchise sells a wide range of beds, including Tempur-Pedic and a line of organic, ecofriendly products. Complimentary coffee, bottled water and craft beer is available for customers. Open Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Call 354-7579 or visit www.urbanmattress.com/austin.html.

After painting murals for friends and family, art teacher and graphic artist Karen Gingrich started **Wee Walls**

- in October. The home-based business offers custom wall painting for nurseries and children’s rooms. Most projects can be completed in one or two days, and Gingrich is available by appointment. Call 250-9777 or visit www.weewalls.com.
- Josh Ribakove and Dennis Scherbing started **Central Texas Sound Company** in September. The home-based business provides sound system rentals for concerts, nightclubs, outdoor events, disc jockeys and corporate events. Available by appointment. Call 484-1371.
- Direct Lube** opened in October. The mobile oil change service also offers coolant and transmission fluid flush services and tire rotations. Open daily 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Call 592-7728 or visit www.directlube.net.
- Expansions**
- 15** **Martinizing Dry Cleaners**, 9900 W. Parmer Lane, Ste. 100, will add home pickup and delivery beginning in January. The full-service dry cleaner, owned by Louis Nicholson, uses GreenEarth cleaning products. Open Mon.–Fri. 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Call 341-9804.
- Relocations**
- 16** Discount furniture retailer **Austin’s Couch Potatoes** moved out of Northwest Austin to 10604 Bluff Bend Drive after being acquired by Leander-based Austin’s Furniture Liquidator in November. The store draws its stock from overstock, warranty repairs, retired floor models and consignments. Open Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m.–6 p.m. Call 577-1496 or visit www.austincouches.com.
- 17** Raymond Garza moved **Ray’s Watch and Jewelry Repair** to the Arboretum at Great Hills, 10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 258, in September. Garza has worked as a watch repairman for more than 20 years and offers jewelry repair, as well as cleaning, engraving and battery replacement. Open

Primary Care and Internal Medicine Practice

Accepting New Medicare Patients and most major insurances





Chen Zhou, M.D.
Board Certified Internal Medicine

Same day appointments available

512-258-8300 | www.zhouclinic.com
12505 Hymeadow Drive | Building 2, Suite B
Austin, TX 78750

- Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. and Sun. noon–4 p.m. Call 419-1662.
- 18** Online investing firm **Scottrade** moved its Northwest Austin branch from Research Boulevard at Braker Lane to 10515 N. MoPac, Ste. A-110 in December. The branch offers free seminars on how to use online trading tools. Open Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Call 343-8200 or visit www.scottrade.com.
- Under New Ownership**
- 19** Tracy Koehler took over **Bark ‘n Bubbles**, 13343 N. US 183, Ste. 275, in September. The dog grooming service that has been in operation since 2005 offers five self-serve grooming rooms as well as a cage-free salon. Open Tue. noon–7 p.m., Wed.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Call 257-0026 or visit www.barknbubblestx.com.
- Coming Soon**
- 20** The **Harmony School of Political Science** is expected to break ground before the end of the year with completion of the new building set for August 2011. The school will be built south of Toll 45 between Lyndhurst Street and Broadmeade Avenue. The 80,000-square-foot charter school will serve first- through 12th-grade students. Call 713-343-3333 or visit www.harmonytexas.org.
- 21 International Foods**, 11331 N. Lamar Blvd., is expected to open before the end of the year. The store will sell Pakistani, Indian and Mediterranean foods including fresh produce, groceries and prepared foods, with a lunch counter. Call 836-6400.
- 22 Mikki’s Replay Café** is under development inside Pinballz Arcade, 8940 Research Blvd. Ste. 100. Plans call for the restaurant to open in early 2011. The café will offer pizza and sandwiches, a children’s menu, coffee, wine and craft beers. Call 420-8458 or visit www.pinballzarcade.com.

- 23 Morelia Mexican Grill** will open soon at 9900 W. Parmer Lane, Ste. A-220, serving gourmet Mexican cuisine. Visit www.moreliamexicangrill.com
- 24** Houston-based **Pro-Tech Laundry Systems** plans to open a new location at 9027 Northgate Blvd. before the end of the year. The high-tech professional laundry equipment distributor and service provider is expected to open in a 4,000-square-foot space, including sales, consulting, service and parts for commercial clothes washing and drying machines. Call 713-797-9000 or visit www.protechlaundry.com.
- In the News**
- 25** **City of Austin Fire Station No. 45**, 9421 Spectrum Drive, opened Dec. 6. The \$6 million, 9,100-square-foot site includes an energy-efficient design. One fire engine and three shifts with five firefighters each will be housed at the station. An Austin–Travis County EMS unit is planned to dispatch from the station sometime in 2011. Visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/fire.
- 26 Concordia University Texas**, 11400 Concordia University Drive, announced a new partnership with Leander ISD to help prepare special-needs students ages 18 to 22 for their transition into adulthood. Skills for Encouraging Life-long Fulfillment 30 participants meet weekday mornings on the Concordia campus to interact with other students their age.
- Closing the Doors**
- 27** **Lack’s Stores Inc.**, a Texas home furnishing company, has filed for bankruptcy and is closing more than 30 stores, including three in Austin. The Northwest Austin location at 13530 N. US 183 will close in early to mid-January. Call 258-8031 or visit www.lacks.com.
- 28** **Polka Dot Pony**, 10401 Anderson Mill Road, Ste. 112B, closed in October.

News or questions about Northwest Austin?
E-mail nwanews@impactnews.com.



A+A Sichuan Garden offers dine-in, carryout and delivery of authentic Sichuan-style Chinese cuisine.




Ryu of Japan serves traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine and includes a sushi bar.




Central Texas Sound rents large and small sound systems for concerts, nightclubs, outdoor events, disc jockeys and corporate events.



Tracy Koehler takes her Rhodesian ridgeback, Mojo, to work at **Bark ‘n Bubbles**, which includes full-service and self-serve grooming rooms.



COMPLIMENTARY
Comprehensive Oral Examination, X-rays and Consultation
For new patients only
(\$362 Value)
Expires 12/31/11



GENERAL DENTISTRY
◆ Tooth-colored, mercury-free fillings
◆ Porcelain Crowns and Veneers
◆ TMJ Nightguards
◆ Dental implants
◆ Full-mouth reconstruction

Smiles—for-Life
Lasting Solutions for a Healthy Smile
Jerry Milner, DDS
Gentle + Caring + Excellence + Established 1980

11410 Juleyville Rd., Suite 302, Austin, TX 78750 • 512-372-3484

Business Profile | Pink Dot Concierge



Pink Dot Concierge owner Cheryl Scully helps her client to coordinate schedules, shop and run other everyday errands.

By Joseph M. de Leon

For more than 18 years, Cheryl Scully collected financial documents, prepared escrow accounts, made sure all parties agreed with the terms and disbursed funds for a title company in Austin. These days, Scully gets paid to go shopping, plan parties and tell people what to do. She opened home-based business Pink Dot Concierge in September 2007 to help

people get organized and save time. The name refers to her 12-year-old daughter Meghan's favorite color. "I actually like running errands, and I love keeping people organized," Scully said. "Sometimes, it's like being an accountability counselor where people rely on me to help them figure out what to do and stay on track." Scully started in the title industry when she was 20 years old and skipped college in favor of building a career. Working as an escrow officer prepared Scully to meet deadlines, plan well in advance and pay attention to details, she said. Scully, a single mother, left real estate to spend a year deciding what to do next while connecting with her daughter, who was 8 at the time. "Being in that industry, I always had to go to the dry cleaner, pick up the groceries, and that kind of stuff gets in the way of spending time with family," she said. "I help people get that time back." The workday often begins after the morning rush hour and usually ends by 3 p.m., so Scully has ample time to spend with her daughter. Pink Dot's service area includes Travis and Williamson counties, and Scully charges a flat rate of \$30 per hour, unless errands go outside the county. With about six regular clients, she still has time to

accept new and one-time clients. Scully does tasks as mundane as collecting mail, paying bills and waiting for home deliveries. Other times, she makes travel arrangements, schedules appointments and researches information. There are some jobs she will not do. "I don't clean houses, and I don't take kids to practice," she said. "The whole point of my service is so you can have the time to spend with your kids." Scully coordinates with contractors who offer housekeeping, home repair, landscaping and electronics setup services. Often, her work requires creativity. Scully helps her clients organize living and work spaces, plan parties and take care of holiday tasks, such as shopping for gifts, wrapping presents, handling exchanges or returns and sending out holiday cards. "People go 'Christmas crazy,' so it's a really stressful time," she said. Scully takes a calm approach as she works to get tasks done. "Some people will circle things in a catalog and others will give me my own credit card," she said. To build trust, Scully gets to know her clients' likes and dislikes, familiarizes herself with their routine and makes suggestions for how she can help. "People are sometimes hesitant at first, but when they realize they can spend more

time with their families and loved ones, they're sold," Scully said. "It's so exciting to wake up to something completely different every day, but the best part is I get all those responsibilities off their back."



Pink Dot Concierge offers the following services:

- Airport transport
- Gift wrapping
- Grocery shopping
- House and pet sitting
- Mobile notary service
- Office assistance
- Organizing work and living spaces
- Party planning
- Scheduling appointments
- Thank you and holiday cards
- Transportation to appointments
- Travel arrangements

Pink Dot Concierge
632-5136 • www.pinkdotconcierge.com

Business Profile | Learning Express Toys Gateway



Learning Express Toys Gateway owners Joe and Mary Theriot opened the store just before the Christmas season in 1996.

By Beth Wade

This holiday season, Mary Theriot and her husband, Joe, will celebrate 14 years of providing Northwest Austin with a place to purchase unique, educational and developmental toys and games. "I believe that kids learn a lot from playing. That's their jobs," Mary Theriot said. "That's what they do. So in that aspect [the toys] are focused on education. There is something for them to learn all the way around." The couple opened Learning Express Toys Gateway in December 1996 after making the decision to leave the restaurant industry. With two children at the time, it seemed like a good decision, she said. The Theriots now have three children ages 8 years to 38 years old. "It's a hectic life and not really conducive to family life, and we were looking for something different," Theriot said of their restaurant days. The couple started looking at various franchise opportunities, but after hearing about Learning Express and meeting the company's president, they knew they had found the one, she said. "We were just very impressed with the way the whole organization was run," Theriot said. "It sounded like fun. I mean, who wouldn't want to work with toys? And it was something completely different." The store's shelves are stocked with a variety of toys, games and jewelry. There is also a selection of items, including pens with various characters on them, from Disney princesses to "Star Wars." Iwako Japanese erasers and personalized lap trays and clip cases. Theriot said the personalized items—the clip cases, in particular—are a signature item in the store. Theriot has also made it a part of the store's mission to give back to the community. She has partnered with Hill Elementary School and donated to other schools in the area for fundraisers,

auctions and carnivals. Theriot attributes her success to emphasizing customer service and having great employees. "One of the things we always stress is customer service," she said. "I'm always in tune with that. Anywhere I go, I'm looking at it, watching and seeing how I'm treated as a customer. I just stress that here all the time to all the employees. I don't think there are many customers who get through the front door without being greeted and, hopefully, made to feel welcome."

Hot holiday items and big sellers

Learning Express Toys Gateway co-owner Mary Theriot said the "hot" items for this holiday season and the stores top sellers include:

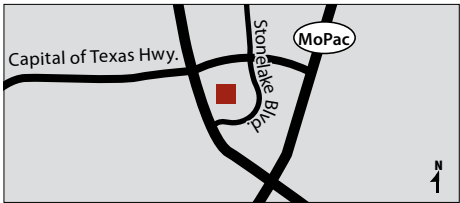
Sing-a-majigs: Stuffed animals that sing songs, chatter and harmonize with each other when their hands and stomachs are squeezed



"The Elf on the Shelf, A Christmas Tradition": A children's book accompanied by an elf who watches over children and reports to Santa Claus

"Project Runway" design kits: Includes sketching materials and designer tools

Zolo Playsculpture: Building sets with a variety of shapes and colors



Learning Express Toys Gateway
9607 Research Blvd. • 795-9770
www.austin.learningexpress-toys.com

The next generation of TV, Internet and phone. Created for this generation.

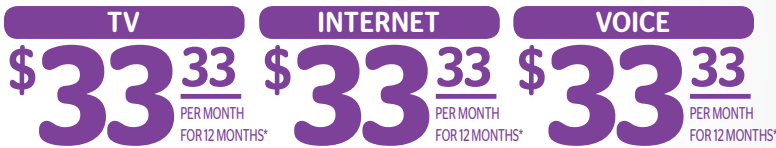
Innovation for the way you live today—smarter and simpler.

HD Digital TV with over 235 channels plus FREE Primetime On Demand.

Road Runner® Broadband with downloads up to 4x faster than DSL.

Digital Home Phone includes unlimited calling.

1-888-TWC-8585 timewarnercable.com



FREE Road Runner® Turbo and Wireless Home Networking service for 6 months!



SAVE OVER \$550!*

*Limited time offer. All services may not be available in all areas. Offer limited to new customers only. The \$33.33 for each product price applies when you purchase the All The Best bundle for \$99.99 per month for 12 months. All The Best bundle includes Digital Cable, Road Runner Standard and Digital Home Phone Unlimited Nationwide. Prices will increase \$10 every 12 months until retail rate is reached. Monthly charge for Digital set-top box is not included. 6 month free Road Runner Turbo and Wireless Home Networking service offer is valid for customers who buy or upgrade to a new All The Best bundle. After 6 month promotional period, regular monthly rate in effect at that time will apply. One time professional installation required for Wireless Home Networking service. Savings cited based on All The Best 12 month discounted bundle versus a la carte pricing for Digital Cable, Road Runner Standard and Digital Home Phone Unlimited Nationwide services. May not be combined with any other offer. Additional charges apply for equipment, taxes, fees, Directory Assistance, Operator Services and calls to International locations. To receive all services, Digital Cable, remote and lease of a Digital set-top box are required. Some services are not available to CableCARD customers. Not all equipment supports all services. HDTV set and HD set-top box required to receive HD service. Channels may vary by area. Over 4x faster than DSL claim is based on Road Runner Standard's maximum download speed of 70 Mbps versus the standard DSL package's maximum download speed of 15 Mbps. Speed comparison is based on a typical DSL package and may vary by area. Actual speeds may vary. A one time \$19.99 phone activation charge will apply for new customers. Subject to change without notice. Some restrictions apply. Call for details. All trademarks remain the property of their respective owners. ©2010 Time Warner Cable, Inc. All rights reserved. Time Warner Cable and the Time Warner Cable logo are trademarks of Time Warner Inc. Used under license. TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc. (s10)

Advancements in Joint Replacement Surgery

Featuring robotic and patient specific technologies for partial and total knee replacement.



Joint Replacement Seminar Tuesday, December 14, 2010 • 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Michael W. Burris, MD
St. David's North Austin Medical Center
Parmer and MoPac
Classroom B, 2nd floor
Complimentary dinner provided

If you are a candidate for partial or total knee replacement surgery or would like to learn more to see if you're a candidate, please join our discussion about the latest innovations in joint replacement surgery.

To register for this seminar, please call (888) 868-2104 or (512) 478-3627.



StDavid's CENTER FOR JOINT REPLACEMENT
St. David's North Austin Medical Center

12221 North Mopac Expressway • Austin, TX 78758 • 512-901-1000
StDavids.com

Community Events

Sponsored by

Roger Beasley

CERTIFIED PREOWNED.com

December

4-23 'The Nutcracker'

The state's longest-running production of "The Nutcracker" returns for its 48th year. Music will be provided by The Austin Symphony Orchestra. "The Nutcracker" has a cast of more than 200. In the second act, the Mother Ginger character takes the stage and is portrayed by local community leaders. On Dec. 23 a person specially selected by the public for his or her community influence and generosity will perform. • Times vary depending on date • \$15-\$71 • The Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside Drive, Austin • 476-2163 www.balletaustin.org

15 Social Media for CEOs Boot Camp

Participants learn how to generate leads and sales with social media. • 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. • Free • The Westin Austin at The Domain, 11301 Domain Drive 877-861-0010 • www.splashmedia.com

15-24 Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

Local and national vendors and artists will be featured at the 34th annual Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. The event will have 29 live music performances throughout the week. The bazaar will be open Christmas Eve for last minute shoppers. Daily 11 a.m.-11 p.m. • Free • Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road • 447-1605 www.armadillobazaar.com



15-31 City of Austin 44th annual Zilker Holiday Tree

Austin residents are invited to visit the Zilker Holiday Tree, which has been in Austin since 1965. The tree stands 155 feet tall with more than 3,000 lights. Vendors will be selling holiday treats and other activities will be available for families. Lit nightly from dusk-midnight • Free • Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Road www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/zhttree.htm

17 Polar Express Pajamarama

Children make holiday crafts, sing songs, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate and listen to a bedtime reading of the story "The Polar Express." Participants are encouraged to wear pajamas and bring a pillow. 6-8 p.m. • Free • Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Drive • 989-3188 www.wblibrary.org

Worth the Trip

17-19 Holiday Wine Trail

The 27 Hill Country wineries, including the Duchman Winery, will be hosting guided tours. Participants can collect Christmas ornaments at each winery to use to decorate a grapevine wreath at the end of the event. The wineries will be decorated with Christmas lights and participants can taste selected wines at each vineyard and receive a 15 percent discount with the purchase of three or more bottles of wine. Tickets do not include the price of the tastings. Fri.-Sun., hours varying at each location. • \$60 • 866-621-9463 www.texaswinetrail.com

17-31 Radio City Christmas Spectacular

The Radio City Rockettes bring their eye-high kicks and a cast and crew of more than 100 to Austin for their Christmas show. The program includes the reenactment of the first Christmas, parade of the wooden soldiers and Santa's visit. Tickets must be purchased for infants and children. • Times vary depending on date • \$25.50-\$69.50 • Bass Concert Hall, 2300 Robert Dedman Drive, Austin www.texasperformingarts.org.

18 Harlem Nights—Stompin' at the Savoy

Austin Chapter of the Links Inc. presents music and entertainment from the Harlem Renaissance Era to raise money to establish a library at the Texas Empowerment Academy. • 7 p.m. • \$85 • Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd. • 343-2626 www.austinlinksin.org

20-23, 27-31 Winter Holiday Camp

YMCA Northwest Family Branch will host a winter holiday camp during the winter break. Sessions are offered weekly and feature different themes. Camp is open for children ages 5-12 years old and registration is on a first-come-first-serve basis. • 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. • \$124/members, \$148/nonmembers (Dec. 20-23); \$155/members, \$185/nonmembers (Dec. 27-31) • YMCA Northwest Family Branch, 5807 McNeil Drive • 335-9622 • www.austinyymca.org

ANY, Austin's New Year celebration at Auditorium Shores

By Bobby Longoria

Dec. 31-Jan. 1

The City of Austin will host the main event for New Year's Eve at Auditorium shores. The family-friendly and alcohol-free event is open to the public. The event begins at 5 p.m. with live music by bands such as Mother Falcon, Tje Austin and Charanga Cakewalk. The Circus Revue Stage will have interactive and artistic circus style performances.

Austin short films will be screened from 6-10 p.m. Festivities conclude with a fireworks display at 10:15 p.m. • 5-10:30 p.m. • Free Auditorium Shores, 950 W. Riverside Dr. www.ci.austin.tx.us/holidays/any.htm



Courtesy Victor Ovalle, Austin Parks and Recreation

Austin's New Year celebration will have fireworks set off at an earlier time than years past, this year at 10:15 p.m.

27, Jan. 2, 3 and 6 Zilker Park Christmas Tree Recycling Drop Off

Drop off holiday trees for the annual Zilker Park recycling event. Trees can be dropped off near the Polo Fields on the park grounds. Signs will be placed throughout the area to direct individuals to the location. After collection, the park will have free Christmas tree mulch available on a first-come-first-serve basis. • 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • Free 974-6700 www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/zhttreerecycle.htm

31 New Year's Dinner and Dancing Gala

The Barton Creek Resort and Spa is hosting a New Year's Eve gala featuring a five-course dinner, martini bar, dancing and a champagne toast at midnight. Music will be performed by the Jacque Vilmain Group. • 7 p.m. • \$99 • 21 and up • Barton Creek Resort and Spa, 8212 Barton Club Drive 329-7923 • www.bartoncreek.com

January

3 Little Walnut Creek Branch Book Club

The group meets monthly and will discuss Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat Pray Love." • 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free • Little Walnut Creek Branch of Austin Public Library, 835 W. Rundberg Lane • 974-9860 www.ci.austin.tx.us/library

14-16 13th Austin Home and Garden Show

The expo includes vendors, refreshments and seminars for such topics as renovating homes, gardening and decorating. • Fri. 2-7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. • \$7.50 (adults), \$6 seniors, Free (children 16 and younger) • Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. • 408-0998 www.austinhomelandgardenshow.com

27 2011-12 Economic Forecast

Angelos Angelou, principal executive officer and chief economist of Angelou Economics, will give an overview of the Austin economy for 2010 and predictions of what will unfold in 2011-12. Greg Ip, U.S. economics editor for The Economist will speak on the U.S. economy with Texas Sen. Kirk Watson acting as master of ceremonies. • 7-9:45 a.m. • \$165 Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. www.angeloueconomics.com

29 Wells Branch's Got Talent

The public is invited to participate in or enjoy a community talent show for all ages. Individuals and groups compete for trophies and prizes. 4-7 p.m. Wells Branch Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive Free (admission), \$5 (contestants) 251-9814 • www.wellsbranchmud.com

30 3M Half Marathon and Relay

Up to 5,750 participants will run 13.1 miles, either as individuals or in a two-person relay team. Proceeds benefit Any Baby Can. • 6:45 a.m. \$75 individuals, \$130 team • 9505 Stonelake Blvd. 984-7223 • www.3mhalfmarathon.com

Calendar events must be submitted by the second Friday of the month. Submit events to calendar@impactnews.com and find our Central Texas calendar online at www.impactnews.com/calendar.

Neighborhood Dining | Zakia's Greek Cuisine



Zakia's Greek Cuisine owner Zakia Benyoucef said she learned the basics of cooking from her Greek grandmother and modified traditional Greek recipes to her liking.

By Amy Deis

In creating her dishes at Zakia's Greek Cuisine, owner and chef Zakia Benyoucef uses influences from her Greek, French and Algerian heritage as well as her travels in Europe.

"I take the good spice out of their food and stick in mine," she said.

Whether it is using Spanish saffron, Spanish paprika or turmeric, Benyoucef said she is not afraid of flavor and her customers are always guessing which

spices she used.

Before getting into the restaurant business, Benyoucef was a stay-at-home mother. She said she enjoyed cooking for others and a friend told her, "Zakia, you make the most beautiful food. Why don't you share it with the rest of the people?"

She opened her first restaurant, the Greek Pita House, in Pflugerville in 2006. She closed that restaurant and re-opened it in 2008 as Zakia's Greek Cuisine in Northwest Austin.

Chef's favorites

Moussaka (\$13.95)

Zakia Benyoucef's favorite dish consists of roasted eggplant with tomato sauce, bell peppers and potatoes with beef and sprinkled with parsley

Large Greek salad (\$11.95)

With onions, feta, kalamata olives and Benyoucef's own mint salad dressing

Kibbeh (\$4.95)

Cracked wheat shell with pine nuts and beef

Customer favorites

Lamb souvlaka (\$13.95)

A traditional Greek dish served with roasted garlic potatoes

Spanakopita (\$4.95)

Spinach and feta cheese in a phyllo dough pastry

Falafel poppers (\$4.95)

Served with tzatziki sauce

Hummus (\$3.95)

Benyoucef's own recipe with garlic and olive oil

Benyoucef spent traveling across Europe and northern Africa.

Benyoucef serves traditional Greek food but uses recipes she created with influences from other countries.

Making hummus is a three-day process for her, starting with soaking the chickpeas for 24 hours, boiling them the next day and serving the finished product on the third day. Benyoucef said it is the most ordered appetizer and customers purchase it by the tub. It takes five hours to create the pecan or pistachio baklava using 75 sheets of thin phyllo dough, which Benyoucef makes herself using a machine that presses the dough into thin slices.

Before serving her food to a

customer, Benyoucef ensures the food is well-presented on the plate.

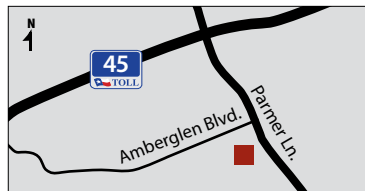
"If someone's coming to your house, wouldn't you give them the best?" she said.

Although Benyoucef prepares a lot of the food, she enjoys mingling in the front of the restaurant with her customers, whom she refers to as guests and her family.

"If Zakia knows you, she will kiss and hug you," Benyoucef said.

Zakia's Greek Cuisine features an outdoor patio that is open even in the winter using heaters. Two or three times a month, Benyoucef offers live entertainment.

The restaurant is B.Y.O.B., and Benyoucef does not charge a corking fee.



Zakia's Greek Cuisine
8701 W. Parmer Lane, Ste. 1125
670-1000 • www.zakiasgreekcuisine.com
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-9 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Present this coupon for a \$20 discount toward any new bike purchase.

In Buck's We Trust

Good Toward Any New Bike Purchase.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Buck's Bikes Superstores

AUSTIN
12530 Research Blvd
250-9550

ROUND ROCK
1830 N. Maya Blvd.
255-8755

Expires January 31st, 2011

Good Only at Time of Purchase at Register

Buck's Bikes Superstores

www.BucksBikes.com

Are you ready to move forward?

Stephen Dai, M.D. | Adult Psychiatrist

www.daipsychiatry.com

Specializing in treating individuals with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, and eating disorders.

4810 B Spicewood Springs Rd. | Austin, TX 78759 (512) 346-5796

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM, Saturday appointments available, please call office

Texas' Most Recommended Remodeler

Statewide Remodeling

Nationally ranked, Locally owned!

REduce YOUR HOME'S ENERGY COSTS WITH ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOWS

Receive a \$200 credit for EACH Restoration REPLACEMENT WINDOW you purchase!

Our factory has authorized \$200 for each of your old windows with purchase of new Restoration Replacement Windows!

To qualify: WINDOWS MUST BE AT LEAST 5 YEARS OLD. NO LIMIT ON HOW MANY WINDOWS CAN BE REPLACED. ONE COUPON PER HOUSEHOLD. LIMITS APPLY. EXPIRES 01/15/2011.

StatewideRemodelingAustin.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 888-270-7197

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

OUR ENERGY PRODUCTS QUALIFY FOR THE \$1,500.00 INCOME TAX CREDIT

ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! THE INCOME TAX CREDIT WINDOWS MUST BE INSTALLED BY 12-31-10

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ RATING

Local History | Jack Brown Cleaners



Jack Brown Cleaners opened its second location in the '70s at 615 W. Martin Luther King Blvd. The family-operated chain now includes more than 55 locations.

By Andrea Leptinsky

From a single purchase at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis came a family business, more than a century later, which continues to thrive in Austin.

Zachary Taylor Brown, the patriarch of the family who operates Jack Brown Cleaners, bought the nation's first steam laundry machine at the fair and brought it home with him to Midland, Texas. Only 3 million people lived in the state at the time; the dry cleaning industry was nearly inexistent.

The steam laundry remained in storage until 1907, when Zachary gave it to his son, Paul, as a wedding present. Paul installed the equipment and began taking in laundry from Midland residents, and the business soon began to see success. In 1935 he moved the laundry to Austin and opened his first store at 1600 San Jacinto Blvd. Thirty-five years later, Paul's son, Jack, took over the family business. Jack acquired Austin's largest and oldest laundry and dry cleaning business in town, the Austin Laundry & Dry Cleaning

Company, and, in 1974, purchased a former Coca-Cola bottling plant at 1009 W. Sixth St. He equipped the 45,000-square-foot facility with equipment to serve the uniform and hospital divisions. Several acquisitions followed, including Acme Cleaners' 14 Austin locations, Slater-White Cleaners in San Antonio and several others. Jack Brown Cleaners now includes 58 locations and earns approximately \$18 million each year in revenue, said Jack's son, Paul Brown, president of the company. "We've managed our growth by putting in new locations and acquiring other operations," Paul said. "We have acquired six or seven operators in the past 70 years since we have been in Austin and the rest has been through internal growth." As the Brown family—now entering their fourth generation of involvement in Jack Brown Cleaners—has seen their company expand, they have also watched Austin expand and grow. "I can go back and give you all kinds of stories of what Austin used to be and where it is now," Paul laughingly said. "We've been very blessed to be able to have our family grow and see Austin grow the way it has and it's continuing to grow." Most of all, he has noticed a shift in the customer base as the city's population has

flourished in various demographics. "We have seen with the high-tech industry that it is not as dressy as it used to be," said Paul of the apparel that is typically brought in for dry cleaning. "People before had casual Fridays and then it switched to casual Monday through Fridays at a lot of businesses." As Paul's children, as well as his nieces and nephews, prepare to enter the family business, choosing to enter Jack Brown Cleaners was never something that was required by his family, he said. Jack Brown Cleaners' presence in Austin will only increase, he continued. The company opened its 59th Central Texas location last month and continues to invest in real estate throughout the area.

Launching a fad

The acid wash jeans look of the '80s and '90s became a national fashion trend, thanks in part to the effort put forth by Jack Brown Cleaners. "We helped start that with Wrangler and Levi," said Paul Brown, president of Jack Brown Cleaners. "When we first started doing it, we used to take rocks soaked in bleach that were thrown into the machine to get that acid wash look. But since then we were able to invent a chemical that does that, so we didn't have to use the rocks anymore." Jack Brown Cleaners was only one business of several—located throughout the United States and Mexico—that helped jeans companies create and enhance the acid wash look.

At the Capitol | Preview of 82nd State Legislature

By Andrea Leptinsky

As Texas' next legislative session starts Jan. 11, two topics will be looming over at the Capitol: the budget and redistricting. According to state legislators, the outcome of the 2010 elections have drastically changed the anticipated outcome of both. "Clearly we had a huge change in the makeup of the House," said Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin. "We know very little about these new people coming into the Legislature."

The 82nd Legislature includes two new senators and 37 new representatives, all of whom will likely need to be educated on topics, including mental health funding, border security and water quality issues. The fact that some previous legislators who worked on these issues are now gone results in a significant loss of "institutional memory," Howard said.

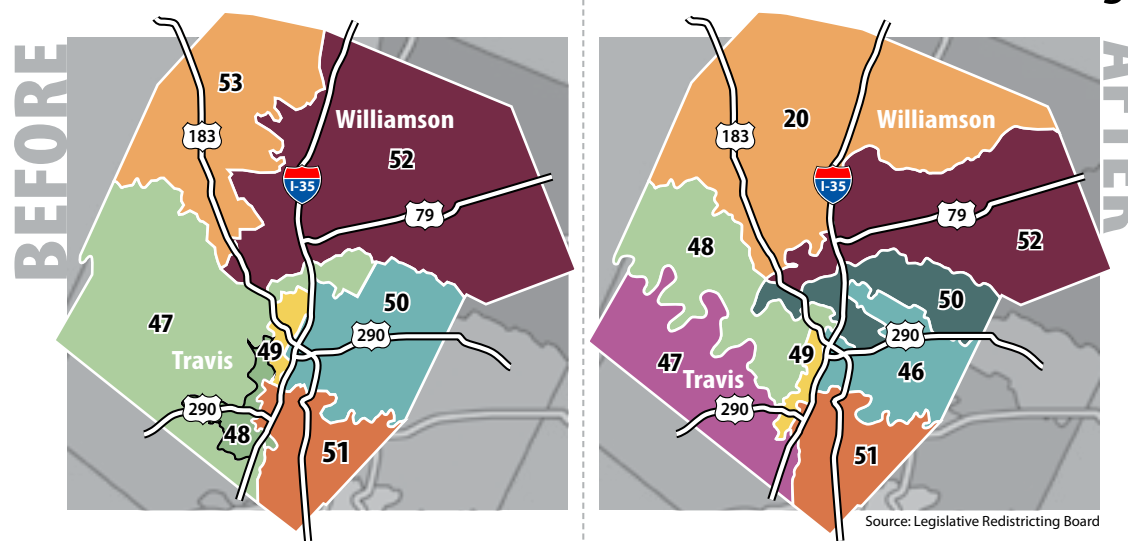
Of the 150 representatives in the House, 99 of them are Republican, creating one of the largest party majorities in state history. Republicans won 22 seats from the Democrats in the November elections.

Aside from balancing the budget and redistricting, the next Legislature can expect to see some new bills brought up as a result of the majority shift, said Steve Munisteri, chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. "I'm 99 percent convinced we'll see a voter ID bill ... and one on border security," he said. "And the Republican Party would lose total support if they raised taxes." **Ironing out the budget** The 2011 budget includes \$80 billion in general revenue funding that goes toward health and human services, education

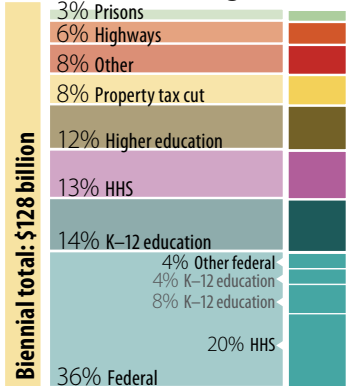
and other state agencies. With health and human services and education taking up roughly 80 percent of the budget, only \$16 billion is left to fund highways, prisons, mental health services and other state needs. Though some lawmakers say budget cuts will require cutting "into bone," the actual projected shortfall will not be fully known until January. Current projections estimate the shortfall could be as much as \$28 billion. In a November meeting of the Legislative Budget Board, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, agreed Texas will be in the hole by at least \$4 billion based on lower-than-expected sales tax revenue and the results of fiscal year 2010.

Some legislators say the restructuring of the franchise tax is one reason why the state may be in for a large shortfall. The tax is defined as "a privilege tax imposed on corporations, including banking corporations and limited liability companies that are chartered in Texas." Out-of-state corporations that do business in Texas are also taxed. In 2006, legislators changed the franchise tax's base, lowered its rate and extended coverage to active businesses receiving liability protection, under state law. The move was projected to bring in \$6.8 billion in additional revenue in 2009, but instead only brought in \$3 billion, said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio. **Redistricting Texas** Once population numbers are released next year by the U.S. Census Bureau, legislators will also face the task of redistricting, which is expected to create an

Texas House districts before and after 2001 redistricting

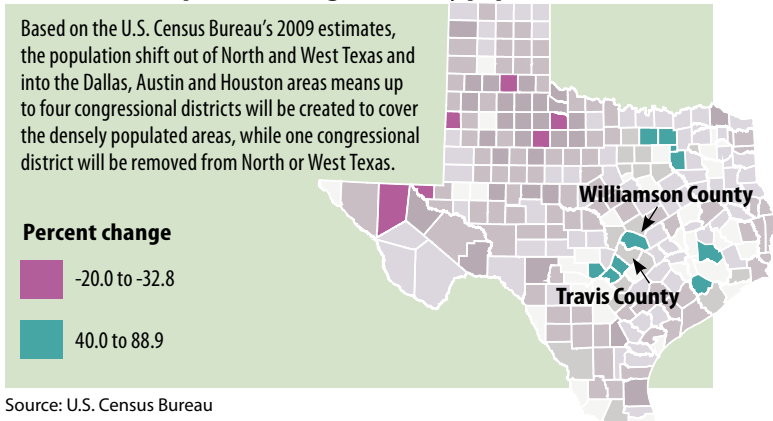


Texas' 2010-11 budget



Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Estimated 2009 percent change in county population



majority in the Legislature. "From my standpoint, it's not going to likely be different in terms of partisan outcome because the Legislature is unlikely to adopt redistricting plans for the House and Senate," Bickerstaff said. Instead, as in three of the past four post-census redistricting sessions, efforts to remap boundaries will fall upon the Legislative Redistricting Board, composed of the lieutenant governor, comptroller of public accounts, commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, speaker

of the House and the attorney general. The LRB has the final vote in redistricting when the Legislature fails to pass its own redistricting plan, or its plans are found to be invalid. "The shape of your government for the next 10 years will be defined by what happens in a process in which you are not included," said Harvey Kronberg, editor of "The Quorum Report," a publication on state politics. "Every two years, voters get to pick their elected officials. Every 10 years, public officials get to pick who votes for them."

CERTIFIED PREOWNED
Automotive Excellence in A Click!

SUBARU

2008 Porsche Cayenne S SUV \$44,995
4 door SUV, 4.8L V-8 cyl, Automatic transmission, 30,840 miles. Stock Number: W7776A. Vin: WP1AB29P-68LA54132. Model Code: 9PAAH1

2010 Audi A3 2.0T Premium Hatchback \$32,900
4 door Hatchback, 2.0L I-4 cyl, Automatic transmission, 8,325 miles. Stock Number: AP5552. Vin: WAUMFAFM0A122396. Model Code: 8PA59L

2010 Subaru Legacy 2.5i Premium \$19,995
2.5L H-4 cyl, Variable transmission, 7,416 miles. Stock Number: Z4043A. Vin: 453BMCB67A3213754. Model Code: AAD

CertifiedPreowned.com is focused on providing the car buyer the absolute best in quality in manufacturer certified preowned cars, trucks and SUVs. Our name says it all.

We make every effort to present information that is accurate. However, it is based on data provided by the vehicle manufacturer and/or other sources and therefore exact configuration, color, specifications & accessories should be used as a guide only and are not guaranteed. Under no circumstances will we be liable for any inaccuracies, claims or losses of any nature. Furthermore, inventory is subject to prior sale and prices are subject to change without notice, cannot be combined with any other offers (if), do not include taxes, registration fees, finance and/or documentation charges. To ensure your complete satisfaction, please verify accuracy prior to purchase. All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. The price for listed vehicles as equipped does not include charges such as: License, Title, Registration Fees, State or Local Taxes, Dealer Prep, Smog Fees, Credit Investigation, Optional Credit Insurance, Physical Damage or Liability Insurance, or Delivery Fees. DEALER makes no representations, expressed or implied, to any actual or prospective purchaser or owner of this vehicle as to the existence, ownership, accuracy, description or condition of the listed vehicle's equipment, accessories, price, specials or any warranties. Any and all differences must be addressed prior to the sale of this vehicle. Prices shown are valid today only. Prices are based upon availability and market conditions and are subject to change at any time.

6 Locations To Serve You! (512) 706-7065 CertifiedPreowned.com

Get A Head Start On The New Year!

If you are like most middle-age adults, losing weight may seem like an impossible feat, until now. With the help of a physician-managed **HCG Weight Loss*** Program, lose weight at any age. Our **healthy** HCG Program, in conjunction with diet and exercise, may help you lose **20, 30, even 40 pounds** in as little as six weeks.

Each Patient Personally Seen By Our Physicians

Most Insurance Accepted

To learn more about our HCG Program, call us today at 512-345-8970, ext. 4 for a confidential, complimentary consultation.

**Not FDA Approved*

WISEMAN FAMILY PRACTICE
RICHARD J. WISEMAN, M.D.
JEREMY D. WISEMAN, M.D.
Bioidentical Hormone Therapy Program

512-345-8970, X4
2500 South Lakeline Blvd., Suite 100
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
www.WisemanFamilyPractice.com

BCBG • TALBOTS • ANN TAYLOR • CHICOS • J. CREW • J. JILL

Why buy retail when you can buy resale?

just Between US

A resale clothing boutique for women, men, teens & children

13233 Pond Springs Rd., (off of 183 North)
M-F 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
250-0746 • www.jbu4resale.com

25% Off Any one piece of regular-priced merchandise. One coupon per family per day. Expires 1/29/2011 NA

BANANA REPUBLIC • LIZ CLAIBORNE

GAP • LIMITED • SEVEN • EXPRESS

COLDWATER CREEK • COACH

NOW OFFERING
the latest 4G Wimax Internet Service!

Mr. NOTEBOOK

FREE DIAGNOSTICS/ EVALUATION ON ANY NOTEBOOK OR DESKTOP COMPUTER
Not valid with any other offers. One coupon per person. Not valid on previous sales. Expires 1/28/11.

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • UPGRADES

• Specializing in Dell, IBM/Lenovo, Toshiba, HP/Compaq
• Repair all major brands
• Screens/Drives/Motherboards/Spyware/Viruses

Downtown Austin: 24th & Rio Grande 474-6060
M-F 10-6 Sat 11-4

Cedar Park: 1890 Ranch Shopping Ctr 260-9393
M-F 10-7 Sat 10-5 Sun 12-5 (next to Half Price Books)
www.mrnotebook.com

SAVE UP TO 15% OFF ANY DELL LATITUDE NOTEBOOK
Not valid with any other offers. One coupon per person. Not valid on previous sales. While supplies last. Expires 1/28/11.

City Council **Notes** | Recent news

Compiled by Staff

California-based company awarded funding for new operations center

The Austin City Council approved a new economic development incentive proposal Dec. 9 that would provide \$900,000 to SunPower Corporation to establish an operations center in Austin.

SunPower, a manufacturer of solar cells, panels, inverters and imaging detectors, said it would create nearly 450 jobs to staff the new center over a 10-year period. The operations center could provide average salary wages at \$70,000 a year.

“Clean technology job growth is important to our future,” Mayor Lee Leffingwell said. “This is the type of industry we aim to attract and the kind of jobs we want in Austin.”

The company would also receive \$2.5 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund to build the operations center.

City of Austin’s SunPower proposal \$233: Amount awarded per job created, not to exceed \$104,850 annually
\$901,710: Maximum amount of incentive that can be awarded to SunPower

Austin’s Planning and Development Review Department launches website

To improve transparency within its operations, the City of Austin Planning

and Development Review Department has launched a new website to offer residents easier access to planning and zoning resources, boards and commissions updates, geographic information system data and current planning studies.

At www.cityofaustin.org/planning, users can search for development activity by address, project name, permit or case numbers and permit type, the city said.

The site also includes departmental news and events that can be e-mailed to subscribers automatically.



City approves \$299 million for water treatment plant construction

Austin City Council authorized the negotiations of several contracts with MWH Constructors Inc. Nov. 18 related to

the construction of Water Treatment Plant 4 that will total approximately \$299 million. The items were approved 4–3.



Austin Water Utility Director Greg Mezaros said the authorization will help the project remain on time and on budget by allowing the utility to complete contract negotiations without council approval for each smaller contract.

“I am not against developing. I know Austin is going to grow—I am for accountability. Austin Water Utility and City Council, in particular, are not being accountable to Austin,” said Eric Deal, president of the Mountain Neighborhood Association.

Councilwoman Sheryl Cole, who voted for the authorization, requested that the Austin Water Utility report quarterly to the Audit and Finance committee, composed of five councilmembers.

“Although we might disagree about the timing of this plant, we are firmly committed to keeping the city on solid financial footing,” Cole said.

Financial information, documents now available to review online

Austin Finance Online launched in early November as a website that provides a clear view of city financial documents and contracts. By visiting the website, users can view purchasing contracts, unclaimed property and financial documents.

The new eCheckbook feature at www.cityofaustin.org/financeonline allows users to browse through all city contracts, search for specific contracts using keywords and view city payments for goods and services.

Additionally, users can visit the website for financial updates from all city departments. A link is also provided on the site for users who would like to make a public information request.

Upcoming Austin City Council meetings

Dec. 16, Jan. 13 and 27

Sessions begin at 10 a.m.
Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St.

Meetings are broadcast on municipal TV cable Channel 6 and on 88.7 FM radio, starting at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are streamed live and available for reviewing on the Channel 6 website, www.ci.austin.tx.us/channel6. The video is also viewable by agenda item and presentation. Visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/council for more information, including transcripts, schedules, agendas and archived video.

Nonprofit Profile | Nifty Thrift Inc.



Nifty Thrift President Christa Graham (right) provides low-cost thrift items to customers, including Shelia Neal, at the nonprofit thrift store.

By Beth Wade

Years spent scouring thrift stores with her husband, Bryan, who was at one time an avid eBay user, gave Christa Graham a passion for resale shops. When she decided to open her own store, a friend’s advice to make it a nonprofit gave her an outlet to combine two loves: all things thrift and helping children.

Graham opened Nifty Thrift Inc. in September 2008 after several months of

advertising online for donations, and she serves as the nonprofit’s president.

“We collected for about four months and had a couple of storage sheds full and our garage was full,” Graham said. “Then, when we got a [monetary] donation, we went out looking for a building, and this one just kept popping in our heads.”

The store has operated out of its location on McNeil Drive for two years, and in November local coffeehouse Irie Bean Coffee Bar opened a food trailer in the store’s parking lot, offering coffee and breakfast tacos in the morning before the store opens.

Graham said she would like to move to a nearby, larger location

by next summer.

Nifty Thrift helps other Austin area groups, with a focus on serving children and families in need, including Texas Baptist Children’s Home in Round Rock and Gateway Church in Austin. The store also sponsors a mission in Mexico. Graham said the organization is always looking for new groups to support.

“We wanted to help in a manner that would help people, and we figured what

better way to help than to help children,” Graham said. “We just kept going back to helping kids and families in need. We’ve helped hurricane victims. Anybody who comes through the door, we will help them if they need something.”

Graham said Nifty Thrift offers vouchers for store merchandise to its supported charities and some individuals, and will offer clothing at discounted prices or for free on a case-by-case basis.

Graham collects monetary donations as well as donated items ranging from housewares and gifts to clothing and furniture.

“We take donations through the door every single day,” Graham said. “We have two storage sheds outside that are full always. I was wondering about that before we opened, ‘Are we going to get enough donations from the community to run the store?’ And it has not been a problem. It has been just wonderful.”

Most of what is donated is sold in the store. However, some select items have been sold through the nonprofit’s eBay account, including a 1947 Jaeger-LeCoultre watch found in a bag of clothing without a band that sold for \$775.

“We do have a business eBay account for Nifty Thrift that we sell stuff like that on,” Graham said. “When we get a high-dollar item in that we know people aren’t going to want to pay that price for ... we take

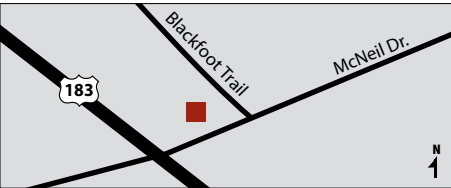
the high-dollar stuff that’s not big and we will sell that on eBay so we can make some extra money for the business.”

While most donations do not yield high dollar returns, Graham said they have had a few items in the store that have. Some other treasures are priced at a lot less than market value, she said.

“If we were charging prices like all the other thrift stores do, we would have a lot of money,” Graham said, adding that she wants to keep things affordable so anyone can shop in the store. “We just get by, but we are happy with what we do.”

Nifty Thrift Inc. President Christa Graham sets prices at 10 to 12 percent of an item’s worth. Although her prices are low, she said, she still offers discounts, including:

- Five-dollar Wednesdays: \$5 for as much clothing that fits in a bag.
- Fifty-cent sales: Occasionally Graham will host outdoor sales to clear out excess clothing.
- Canned food: Graham will give a free shirt or book for three canned goods.



Nifty Thrift Inc.
6610 McNeil Drive
432-5906 • www.niftythrift.org

CREATING
BEAUTIFUL
SMILES



JOSEPH P. GOODSON, D.M.D., M.S.
SPECIALIST IN ORTHODONTICS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS

Dr. Goodson has specialized in orthodontics in the Austin area for over twenty-five years. His proven orthodontic experience is combined with the most advanced techniques to provide each patient with the finest care available. We are now offering our patients the benefits of the high tech DAMON BRACES – a fantastic smile... faster and with outstanding comfort. Call our office for a complimentary orthodontic exam. We provide personal attention, experience and quality to all of our patients.

258-6683 Se Habla Español

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A \$300 SAVINGS ON ORTHODONTIC CARE
WWW.GOODSONORTHODONTICS.COM

13066 North Hwy. 183 • Austin 325 North Lake Creek Dr. • Round Rock

FIGHT
CANCER

TEXAS ONCOLOGY IS HOW TEXANS FIGHT CANCER!

- Round Rock
- Georgetown
- Cedar Park
- San Marcos
- Seton Williamson
- Kyle
- Smithville
- Marble Falls

Austin Locations:

- Central
- Midtown
- North
- South

TEXAS ONCOLOGY

1-888-864-I CAN (4226)
www.TexasOncology.com

More breakthroughs. More victories.™

LegendAustin.com



LEGEND LIGHTING

15342 North IH 35
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 251-0000

Locally owned and operated
TECL 26682

Traditional and Contemporary
Lighting and Ceiling Fans

Energy Efficient Solutions
Custom Lighting Designs
Landscape Lighting
Cabinet Lighting
Recessed Lighting
Table & Floor Lamps
Light Bulbs

Monday-Friday 9am-6pm;
Saturday 10am-4pm

20% OFF

Any one lighting fixture

Must present coupon. Some limitations apply. Not valid on ceiling fans, low voltage lighting and light bulbs. Expires 1/28/2011

S.H. 45

Grand Avenue Pkwy.

N

I.H. 35

Wells Branch Pkwy.

NWA1210

\$20*
Flu Shots!
(Regularly \$25. Most Patient Ad.)

When Feeling Great Can't Wait!
Busy Families and Individuals

- Experienced, compassionate medical provider TODAY!
- Available evenings and weekends when you can't see your regular doctor.
- WAHOO!® – call or register online and wait at home or anywhere; we'll call when your exam room is ready. (WAHOO!® is not applicable to flu shots.)
- Most major insurance accepted, including Medicare and most Medicaid plans, or a discount program is available.



NextCare®

URGENT CARE

1-888-306-5311

nextcare.com/impact

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm
Sat-Sun 8am-4pm

GEORGETOWN
900 N. Austin Ave., Ste. 105

ROUND ROCK
1240 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

AUSTIN (Pecan Park)
12701 FM 620

AUSTIN
6001 W. William Cannon, Ste. 302

*Call to confirm vaccine availability. Offer subject to change; valid at all NextCare locations. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Not eligible to enrollees/members of governmental health plans (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid). Code: ADJ PT Coupon

News Report | State budget cuts threaten local mental health resources

By Andrea Leptinsky and Beth Wade

On any given day, more than 1,200 people are waiting to receive treatment for a mental health disorder through Austin Travis County Integral Care, the local authority for behavioral health and developmental disabilities.

If the Texas Legislature, which reconvenes in January, moves forward with proposed plans to cut \$134 million in mental health services in the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years, this number would most likely increase. ATCIC would immediately cut 700 mental health patients from its program, leaving them untreated. As a result, more of the burden would be placed on taxpayers to make up for other forms of treatment and fewer programs would exist to treat individuals with brain disorders.

“As a taxpayer, joe average will end up spending more for law enforcement, health care and related services than the foregone cost of behavioral health prevention and treatment,” said Mike Abkowitz, interim executive director of Front Steps, the managing organization of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless located at 500 E. Seventh St. “Average joe should care because he, a family member or a close friend could experience a mental health crisis at any time. When that happens, Joe will want those services and providers to be available to provide ... the necessary treatment and support.”

Providing treatment

In the last year, ATCIC served more than 18,500 individuals and

families in Travis County, offering numerous services and programs year-round. ATCIC receives \$25 million annually to provide behavioral health care, said David Evans, ATCIC executive director. Even if ATCIC had to cut just 10 percent from its budget, the immediate effect would be significant.

“If we, as an agency, through every which way took a 10 percent reduction, we can do the math and see the of people it would affect,” Evans said. “The impact to the agency would be \$2.5 million; however, what I think is important is tha numbers t it is not an impact on the agency, it’s an impact on the community—everyone.”

ATCIC provides a 24-hour crisis hotline that allows individuals suffering from a mental disorder to call to ask for help, a doctor’s appointment or if they are having thoughts of suicide. By calling 472-HELP, ATCIC is able to dispatch a team to that person’s location or provide a doctor to treat the individual, reducing the possibility of self harm, harm toward others or committing a crime. If legislators take funding away from state mental health agencies, services such as the hotline may be the first to go.

“What we are seeing in budget proposals—it’s dramatic,” said State Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin. “We will have to look at the option of closing beds, pushing more onto streets and pushing more into ERs. We’re talking thousands of adults and thousands of children not receiving services because there’s no other place to cut.”

The cycle of mental illness and jail

Mentally ill person commits offense
Untreated mentally ill people often commit misdemeanors such as trespassing or assault.

Mentally ill in jail
On a daily average, 20 percent to 25 percent of the jail’s general population has a mental illness and receives psychiatric services. Defendants with severe cases can be transferred to the state hospital.

Disintegration
Once released from custody, many mentally ill people cannot access proper treatment and often end up committing a crime once again.

Receiving treatment
While incarcerated, mentally ill inmates are treated with medication. Those who are competent to stand trial are placed in special housing and go through special programs.

Past mental health cuts have proven that without treatment, many mentally ill people rotate through the criminal justice system at the cost of the state. The total cost of a 120-day stay at a state mental hospital can exceed \$100,000.

Breaking the cycle

Government officials estimate that in two years, Texas will spend \$129 million treating mentally ill defendants who commit crimes. If the state invested funds in more mental health services for community-based services, it would save an estimated \$91 million.

Immediate impacts of mental health care budget cuts



David Evans
Executive director, ATCIC

The proposed 10 percent cut to Austin Travis County Integral Care’s budget as part of the State Legislature’s 2011 budget process would effect how the agency is able to serve individuals with severe mental illness, said ATCIC Executive Director David Evans. “If we took a straight up 10 percent reduction the impact to the agency would be \$2.5 million; however, what I think is important is that it is not an impact on the agency, it’s an impact on the community—everyone,” he said. “If we did a straight reduction, 700 people would lose their services on the first day.” While losing services would affect those individuals, Evens said the effect on the community would be even greater within three categories: emergency health care services, the economy and homelessness and operations at the Travis County jail.

Emergency room overload



“Losing their services here doesn’t mean sitting at home,” Evans said. “It means these kinds of things: people find their way to emergency rooms, and anytime any of us are waiting for an ambulance or to use an emergency room, we don’t think—unless a person with mental illness also has harmed themselves or has some kind of a healthcare need—that’s not the first or best place for people to be served.”

The local economy and homelessness



“About a third of the time, people are homeless because they have a severe mental illness and have not had or refused services or have not been able to find stable housing,” he said. “There is a real economic and business aspect of individuals with disorders of thought and mood being in the middle of the mix downtown.”

Using the jail as a mental health facility



“Because people have a disorder in thought and mood, it’s not usually too long [if left untreated] that confusion about life goes over the line in breaking the law,” Evans said. “So we are working very closely, very hard with the Sheriff’s Office, with the jail and with what we call jail diversion programs. Currently we have built up to where we are able to do consistent screening, working with the judges and being able to do diversion programs, and also working with individuals who are in the jail to begin preparations for their return to the community.”

Insufficient funding

Only a small portion of the state’s budget goes toward mental health funding, Howard said. In a 2007 report by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors when ranking the states’ per capita mental health spending, Texas’ per capita spending of \$34.57 ranked 50th, only above New Mexico.

And, because mental health care funding is taken from the state’s discretionary funds—rather than funding that is reserved for certain state entities under state law—it is “in the position of being one of the only things we have to cut,” she said.

“How can we tolerate losing funds when we’re already so close to the bottom of the barrel?” said Cathy Weaver, president of National Alliance of Mental Illness Austin. “Early intervention and prevention of chronic illness saves lives.”

Mentally ill in the jail

If the budget cuts take effect, officials from the Travis County Sheriff’s Office and ATCIC said the result could lead to more mentally ill inmates at the jail, as preventive programs and mental hospital space becomes nonexistent due to the state’s lack in funding.

On any given day the jail’s population fluctuates between 2,400 and 2,600 inmates, and of that, more than 400 have been identified as special needs because of

their mental health status, said TCSO Maj. Mark Sawa.

“The cuts that happened several years ago already had a ripple effect so [these new cuts] could only have a subsequent ripple effect because the community mental health system is a diversion from the jail system,” Sawa said. “Because of the lack of resources that are dedicated to the community component we just have the exact opposite in place.”

When compared to the Austin State Hospital, which has a peak capacity of 299 patients, the jail could be regarded as the largest mental health facility in Travis County, Evans said.

Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton said the issue of the jail being the largest mental health unit in the county has been on his radar since he was first sworn in six years ago. He said the problem is not only a lack of funding, but also a lack of pressure on elected officials to make it a priority.

“I think that we as citizens need to hold our legislators—people that we elect—accountable, and we are not doing that. We forget real quickly what our concerns are, and mental health is a serious issue,” Hamilton said.

Having a voice

According to state legislators, Austinites are encouraged to voice their opinion on mental health funding to their local state representatives and senators.

“The Texas Legislature has made great strides in the funding of mental health services; however, with the current budget outlook, maintaining these resources will be very difficult,” Howard said. “Constituents must contact their legislators and detail how these services have positively affected their families and how the use of these measures has averted tragedies or costlier measures, such as suicide or incarceration. Citizens must put a face to the issue.”

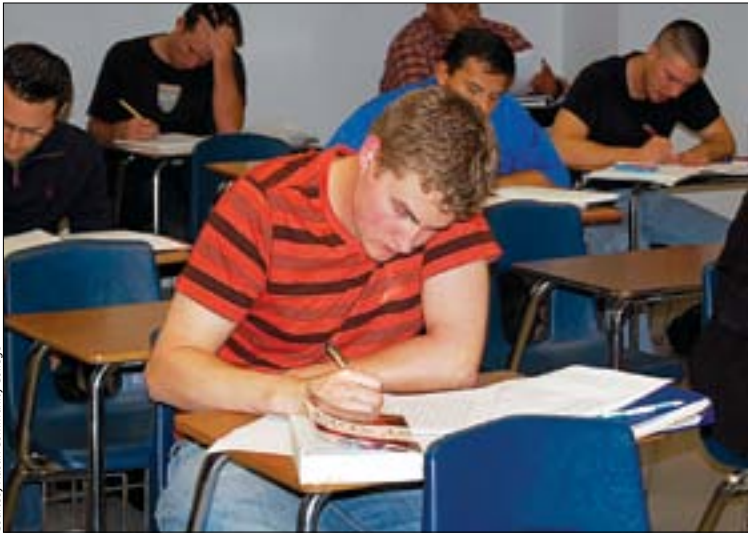
Beth Olson-Drew, a legislative aide for Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, said people should explain how Texas will see a significant return in its investment by adequately funding mental health preventive services.

“This is going to be a hard Legislature, and it’s going to get ugly,” Olson-Drew said. “But that doesn’t mean that anything you have to say means less. Every single [legislator] has some sort of connection to someone with a mental illness. This is not transportation—this is an issue that can really negatively and positively affect people.”

Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, said citizens should speak at the Legislature’s public hearings about the issues Austin will face if it does not receive sufficient funding.

“Be prepared to testify about the impact of the proposed cuts when committees ... in the House and Senate hold public hearings,” he said.

Education Focus | ACC offers veteran-focused writing classes



Austin Community College freshman Sean Moore was an active-duty Marine from 2005 to 2009 and served as an 0351 infantry assaultman.

By Joseph M. de Leon

For more than four years, Sean Moore fired rockets and set off explosives in Iraq for the Marine Corps.

Since August he has been pursuing a physics degree at Austin Community College’s Northridge Campus in hopes of learning the skills necessary to eventually design combat vehicles for the Department of Defense.

“The hardest part is feeling completely and totally out of

my comfort zone,” Moore said. “Guys that participate in combat are used to knowing exactly what everyone is doing at any given time, but in college everyone is in their own little program, so it’s hard for me to feel relaxed in that environment.”

To help serve the growing number of veteran students and ease the transition from military to civilian life, ACC staff developed two writing classes that focus on the veteran experience.

English Composition I is open exclusively to veterans, and a creative writing class focusing on the soldier memoir is open to veterans, family members and their supporters.

ACC spokeswoman Alexis Patterson said the courses were offered for the first time during the fall 2010 semester only at the Northridge campus, 11928 Stonehollow Drive, because of its large veteran population.

The courses have been so popular, the program has expanded to ACC’s Riverside Campus, 1020 Grove Blvd., for spring 2011 and may be offered at other locations if demand continues.

The course’s instructor, Christine Leche, Ph.D., spent nearly 20 years teaching active duty troops in war zones like Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Class topics are designed to appeal to former service members, Leche said. Essays include such topics as soldiers writing from war zones, how technology is influencing the Arab world, what should be censored and how soldiers deal with those issues.

“Writing is a way to process,

but also a way of sharing the story with people who would have no way of knowing that way of life,” Leche said. “These students know what it means to be alive, they know what it means to miss people until they ache, they’re pushed to extremes that others are not and the result of that is that they are authentic.”

Learning about the writing process has exceeded Moore’s expectations, he said.

“I thought it would just be about writing formal papers, but it’s actually turned out to be more of a learning experience—I’ve learned about myself and how to express myself through writing,” Moore said. “It’s really important for guys and girls like us to be able to express our opinions about our experience in the military.”

Moore is also enrolled in other classes, but spending time with other veterans has helped him acclimate to college life, he said.

“You know you can trust the people to your left and to your right, you don’t have to worry about what they think about you or what you’ve done,” Moore said.

Spring 2011 writing classes for veterans

ENGL 1301 | section 23086 | English composition (veterans only) 10:30–11:50 a.m. Tue., Thu. at ACC Riverside

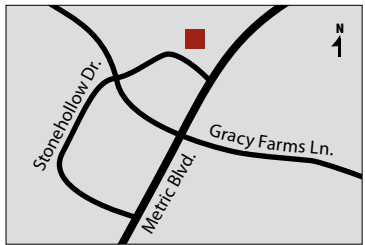
ENGL 1301 | section 24096 | English composition (veterans only) 5:40–6:55 p.m. Tue., Thu. at ACC Northridge

ENGL 2307 | section 23362 | Creative Writing—The Soldier Memoir (veterans and supporters) 2:50–4:05 p.m. Tue., Thu. at ACC Northridge
Any ENGL 1301 section as a prerequisite.

Registration deadline is Jan. 12. Call 223-4636.

Additional resources

Post-9/11 GI Bill summary
www.gibill.va.gov/post-911/
post-911-gi-bill-summary



**ACC Northridge Campus
Veterans Affairs
11928 Stonehollow Drive
223-4360 • www.austincc.edu/
support/veterans**



Consulting and Coaching for businesses & individuals seeking success!



Businesses	Individuals
• Org. Development	• Job Search Strategies
• Recruitment	• Resume/Cover Letter
• Training	• Interview Preparation
• Performance Mgmt	• Assessments
• HR Compliance	• Career Consulting

Get in shape with us! 512-986-7629
www.talentstrategy.us • info@talentstrategy.us

FREE 30 minute
phone consultation and Resume Review!

Call Now! Expiration date of 01/28/11

What’s Your Dream?

Cash-Back Plus more from my checking account.

We’ve put the “Plus” in Cash-back Checking with Cash-Back Checking Plus! Now, in addition to earning a nickel each time you swipe and sign with your Debit Card, you will also now earn 5 PlusPoints. Earn \$2.25 in Cash-Back? Get 225 PlusPoints, too!

“Nickels earned for each debit signature transaction are deposited monthly to your Membership Savings account. \$50.00 Minimum opening deposit. \$1.00 monthly fee for ages 23 and over if \$100 minimum balance is not met. Membership Required.”

Federally Insured by NCUA

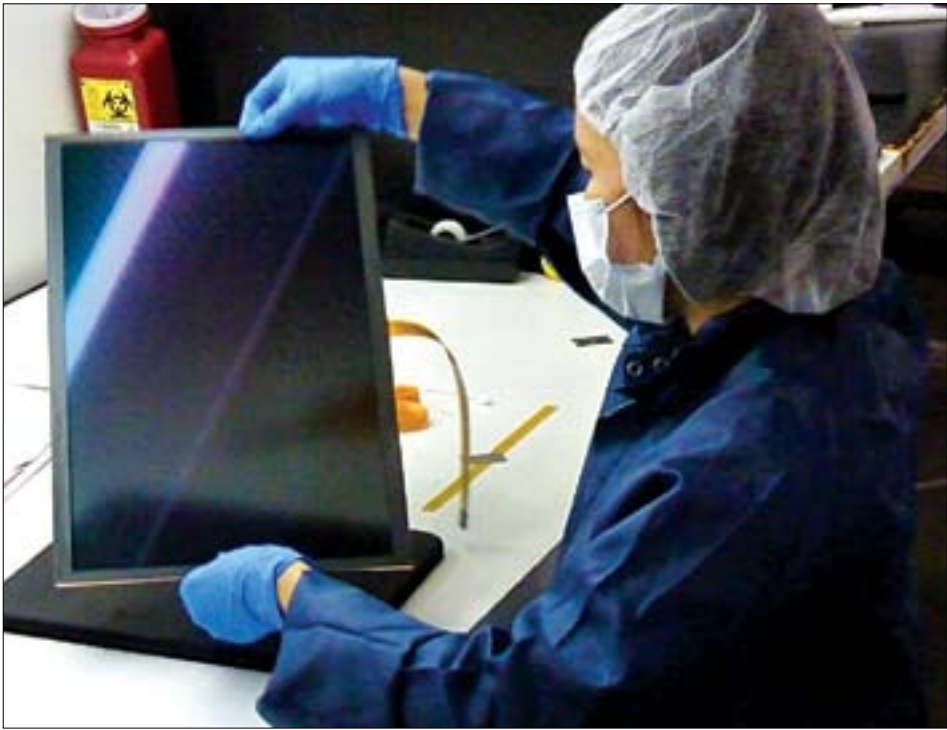


Whatever your dream... we can help.



800-252-8148

By Joseph M. de Leon



Courtesy Touch International

Northwest Austin touch screen manufacturer to expand again

Touch International plans to move to a larger space sometime in 2012 to help accommodate its continued growth and improve its facilities.

The company hired corporate real estate firm Jackson & Cooksey to help find 50,000 to 100,000 square feet of space within a 50-mile radius of its current location at 2222 W. Rundberg Lane, Ste. 200.

CEO Michael Woolstrum said he would like for the company to stay in Austin but is exploring options in surrounding communities throughout Central Texas.

The Northwest Austin-based touch screen manufacturer's expected growth follows a September expansion that added

◀ A Touch International worker handles a component used in the manufacture of touch screens for the military, medical and aerospace industries.

70 workers and 12,600 square feet of office and manufacturing space. Touch International is headquartered in an approximately 50,000-square-foot plant, which includes manufacturing, development, support and sales personnel.

Touch International makes touch screens for use in military, medical, aerospace and point-of-sale applications.

The company, which started in 2002 with eight employees, now employs more than 1,200 laborers at seven manufacturing plants worldwide, including 170 in Austin.

The number of Austin workers is expected to increase to 250 early next year, in part because of a high-profile U.S. Department of Defense contract.

"With the exception of the end of 2008 and all of 2009, we have had a culture of growth," Woolstrum said. "Growth is in our company DNA. We're done hunkering down and we're aggressively growing and setting the foundation for 2012."

Startup turns social media users into nonprofit donors

A new Northwest Austin business is helping Internet users turn mouse clicks and Web posts into support for a greater cause.

Ehren Foss, David J. Neff and Sarah Vela launched home-based Help Attack in late April, and after a testing period this summer, the trio released the Help Attack service in August.

The company provides nonprofit organizations a way to encourage social media users to pledge money for every online status update users make.

The partners started with the Twitter platform because of its ease of use. They plan to launch a Facebook version in the first quarter of 2011 to take advantage of Facebook's vast user base, estimated to be more than 500 million.

Users set the amount they

wish to donate per status update and must set a cap on the donation. The service counts the number of Twitter updates a user makes in a month. Donors can pick from more than 5,000 nonprofits with an option to add more. It takes about 48 hours for a new nonprofit to become active in the Help Attack system.

Midway through the month, users are e-mailed an estimate for the pledge. Once the period is over, users are prompted to make the contribution and have the option of making it a recurring donation. National charity and nonprofit database Network for Good is paid 4.75 percent of donations to handle processing.

Help Attack is a for-profit business but does not take money from the donation stream, Vela said. Revenue comes from partnerships with

nonprofits and businesses that want more services. For example, an organization can pay to download donation reports or to have a Web page on www.helpattack.com to encourage more donations.

Since late August, Help Attack has helped more than 100 nonprofits collectively raise more than \$2,400 from about 300 donors.

Call 814-8968 or visit www.helpattack.com.



Courtesy Help Attack

Sarah Vela of Help Attack helped build a service that encourages social media users to donate.

Local companies honored for growth

Two of the fastest growing technology companies in the nation are based in Northwest Austin, according to The Deloitte Fast 500, which ranked technology companies based on revenue growth from 2005 to 2009.

LibreDigital, listed No. 246, reported \$9 million of revenue in 2009, up 378 percent from 2005. The company provides electronic publishing software for e-newspapers and major book companies. Luminex Corp., which develops biological testing systems, was ranked No. 291. The company's revenue of \$120.6 million in 2009 was up 185 percent compared with 2005 revenue.

Five other Austin-based companies—@Hand Corp., Medical Present Value, NetQos, SolarWinds Inc., Zebra Imaging—made the list.

Survey to measure residents' technology use

City leaders want to measure the needs, availability and patterns of usage of digital and communications technologies for Austin residents. The residential technology survey will also gauge the community's level of technical literacy and education.

The city's Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Office mailed 15,000 surveys to Austin residents in early November. Participants have until Dec. 20 to return the surveys.

The city joined Radio-Television-Film Department in the College of Communications at The University of Texas to design and distribute the survey. The partners will also determine its findings.

For details, call 471-4071 or visit <http://rtf.utexas.edu/austinininternet>.

Floodplain maps

CONTINUED FROM J 1

100-year and 500-year floodplain maps, which show what areas have a chance of flooding during any given year. A 100-year flood has a 1 percent chance of happening each year.

"You could have five 100-year floods in a year or you could have none in five years," Shunk said. "But just because you had one doesn't mean you couldn't have one the next day. It's just a statistic. FEMA is trying to transition over to calling them the 1 percent annual chance flood, but that's a mouthful."

Map creation

Redrawing the floodplain maps is a three-year process.

"[Engineers] determine essentially how much water could fall on this watershed and, when that amount of water falls, how high the water gets within the creek," he said. "Then we can determine which homes are in the floodplain."

That data will then be processed and turned into preliminary maps, which will then be available for public input throughout the process. Before the final maps are drawn and printed, there will be a 90-day appeal period for residents.

City staff will complete two studies: one will look at the floodplain using FEMA standards and

the other with more stringent standards set by the city, Shunk said. FEMA's floodplain maps consider the topography of the land and development as it is at the time of the surveys. The city study, however, is completed as if the land were developed to its full potential based on its zoning.

The stricter standards by the city are used to regulate development in a floodplain, while FEMA's maps are used to determine flood insurance rates.

"All of our development regulations are based on fully developed floodplains. We do that because we want to go above and beyond the FEMA minimum requirements," Shunk said. "We think it's sound floodplain management to consider a watershed in its fully developed condition."

Shunk said the biggest difference between the two can be seen in more rural or suburban floodplains with less development.

Flood insurance

There are approximately 7,400 houses in the City of Austin's 100-year floodplain, but that figure could change based on the new studies, Shunk said.

A house's placement in the floodplain or near the floodplain can determine how much flood insurance costs and, in the city's case, how it can be developed or redeveloped. All homeowners with federally backed mortgages in the floodplain are required to

purchase flood insurance, according to FEMA.

"Anybody in the entire city can buy flood insurance. You do not have to be in a floodplain to buy flood insurance," Shunk said. "We actually recommend people to look at their situation and determine if they need flood insurance because typically your typical home insurance policy does not cover flood damage."

Flood insurance is less expensive for those not living in a floodplain, he said, and can be purchased through FEMA or a private insurer.

Rates for insurance vary and there are a number of caveats considered, including when the home was built, if it is inside or outside of the floodplain, the elevation of the house and if the community has done projects or studies to alleviate flooding.

Generally rates begin at \$306 a year and go up from there, said Linda Delamare, FEMA regional insurance specialist.

Delamare said there is an opportunity for individuals not in the floodplain but who will likely be in the floodplain once the maps are redrawn, to purchase flood insurance at the lower, out-of-the-floodplain rate, which will be grandfathered in once the maps are changed.

"If you are not in a floodplain now and you purchase now, you make payments for however long—and you never let it lapse—you can grandfather that zone, which will promise you a reduced rate compared to what your neighbors would pay," she said. "It's a real advantage for homeowners to maintain that, particularly in the future if there is a possibility that they may sell their home because it can be a selling point."

◀ Comment at more.impactnews.com/10937

FLOOD HISTORY

JULY 6
1869

The hilly terrain and potential for heavy rainfall has led to several memorable floods in Central Texas, which is known as "Flash Flood Alley." Northwest Austin, located near Lake Travis, has a number of tributaries to the lake, including Bull Creek, which have been known to flood. Some of the more well-known floods in Austin's history include:

Before the dams and what is now Lady Bird Lake existed, the Colorado River was small where it flowed through Austin. Rains fell in short waves causing the river to rise slowly, but a flood came down the river on July 6 causing it to rise rapidly.

APR. 7
1900

Two storm that filled the Colorado, Brazos and Guadalupe rivers. **Deaths:** Dozens of people were killed **Damage:** The McDonald Dam on the Colorado River broke. The river peaked at 60 feet high and a mile wide.

APR. 23
1915

Rains submerged parts of the city and washed away livestock. **Deaths:** 35 people killed, mostly along Waller Creek

SEPT. 8 – 10
1921

The storm now known as The Great Thrall/Taylor Storm caused 23.11 inches of rain to fall on Taylor in 24 hours and 36 inches of rain in Thrall in 18 hours with a total of 40 inches. **Deaths:** There were 224 reported in the seven affected counties; six in Travis County. **Damage:** Three steel bridges washed out on Creek at Moore's Crossing and Doyles Crossing and on Walnut Creek at Dessau Road.

JUNE 15
1935

The flood of 1935 was one of three major floods in the 1930s. Austin was hit with 22 inches of rain in three hours. **Damage:** Parts of South Congress Avenue were destroyed, along with the Montopolis and Marble Falls bridges.

APR. 24
1957

Rain fell for a total of 32 days, which caused flooding throughout Central Texas. On April 24, 10 inches of rain fell within a few minutes.

OCT. 28
1960

Rainfalls in a 75-mile radius around Austin led to flooding throughout Austin. **Deaths:** 11 people killed **Damage:** \$2.3 million in property damage and 200 people evacuated, according to an *Austin American-Statesman* article

NOV. 23
1974

Thunderstorms caused between 4 and 10 inches of rain to fall. **Deaths:** 13 people killed

MAY 24
1981

Known as the Memorial Day Floods, this rainfall flooded Shoal, Walnut, Little Walnut, Bee and Waller creeks, and caused Shoal Creek, which normally flows at 90 gallons a minute, to flow at 6 million gallons a minute. **Deaths:** 13 people killed **Damage:** Caused \$36 million in damages

DEC. 20
1991

A week of heavy rains caused flooding in Lake Travis and Shoal, Williamson, Bull and Walnut creeks. **Damage:** Estimated 200 homes in Travis and Bastrop counties completely under water

OCT. 17
1998

Hurricanes Madeline and Lester on the west coast of Mexico caused heavy rains in Central and South Texas. **Deaths:** 31 reported throughout the state **Damage:** Twenty counties declared disaster areas, 7,000 people evacuated and almost \$1 billion in property damage. In Austin, 454 homes were damaged along Onion, Walnut and Williamson creeks.

Source: City of Austin

Guaranteed Weight Loss Clinic

Se habla español

Grand Opening JAN 18TH

CALL TODAY FOR UP TO \$200 DISCOUNT FOR HCG THERAPY

\$60 Initial Visit, We provide:

- Appetite Suppressant
- B12 Injections
- Lipotropic Injection
- Bioidentical hormone (HCG) Therapy
- Labs
- FREE Diet Menus

FREE Lipotropic injections for FIRST 20 CALLERS!

New patients only.

Gift cards Available! • Tues-Fri 9am-6pm • Saturday 9am-2pm • 7950 Anderson Square Ste 108

Call for more info 803-2460

WE COME TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

AFFORDABLE RATES. CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS.

TROUBLESHOOTING • ALL MAJOR BRANDS • WIRELESS NETWORKING • VIRUS/SPYWARE REMOVAL • DATA BACK-UP & RECOVERY • SERVICE & REPAIR • WEB DEVELOPMENT

Fastteks
On-Site Computer Services

www.fastteks.com/roundrock

512.252.4949

\$25 OFF
FOR NEW CUSTOMERS
CALL FOR DETAILS.

Austin Adult Primary Care

Where Care Comes First!

(512) 222-0000

New patients are welcome

Valerie Chavez, M.D.
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Sukanya Burugu, M.D.
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

5301, W.Duval Rd, Ste A500, Austin • (Intersection of 183N and Duval Rd.) • www.myaustindoc.com

A Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 19th
at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24
at 6:00 p.m.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

3838 Steck Avenue
Austin, TX 78759
512-345-3771
www.HillcrestAustin.org

Say hello to RBFCU Mobile

iPhone® and Android™ users can download the RBFCU Mobile app to:

- Deposit checks
- Check balances and transactions
- Transfer funds between accounts
- Make loan payments
- Find the nearest RBFCU Branch or ATM



Join online – rbfcu.org


512-833-3300
1-800-580-3300

Lake Creek Branch, 10135 Lake Creek Pkwy.

Members must qualify for eDeposits in order to use the RBFCU Mobile application for deposits. Visit rbfcu.org for details. Certain restrictions apply. All deposits using RBFCU Mobile are subject to our Funds Availability Policy. RBFCU does not charge a fee for the RBFCU Mobile applications, but you may be charged for Web access by your mobile wireless provider. Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android is a trademark of Google Inc. Portions of this page are reproduced from work created and shared by Google and sent according to terms described in the Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution License. Federally insured by the NCUA.

Available on the App Store






ROUND ROCK FAMILY ORTHODONTICS


www.austinfamilyorthodontics.com

DR. BRIAN J. PETERS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

ADULTS, TREAT YOURSELF TO BRACES OR INVISALIGN!


In network with Humana, Safeguard, MetLife, Delta Dental, Cigna, United Concordia, Guardian, United Health Care, and more!

Anderson Mill  **Round Rock**
512-258-9007 **512-255-1900**



\$300 OFF

Comprehensive Orthodontic Treatment
Expires 01/28/11.




“You may have read my book—the 7th grade textbook on Texas history.”

L. Willoughby, ACC history professor

iam acc

Registering for college takes time. Make history. Apply today.
austinctc.edu



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Start Here. Get There.

We're here for Life's Little... Allergies

...and all of Life's Little Stitches. Sprains. Strains. Fractures. Bruises. Burns. Colds. Cuts. Coughs.

Open 8am-11pm, Every Day

No appointment needed • Most insurance accepted

9900 S IH 35 | 512.291.5577
Southpark Meadows Shopping Center at IH 35 & Slaughter

NEW! **12319 N MoPac | 512.835.5577**
Plaza North Shopping Center at MoPac & Parmer

Texas MedClinic
For Life's Little Emergencies

Serving South Central Texas since 1982

 Find us on Facebook

Yes, this is the face of hunger in Central Texas.



And so is this.



You might not immediately recognize some of the most innocent faces as hungry. The fact is that 1 in 3 people nourished by our Capital Area Food Bank is a child. And the need for food assistance among our neighbors has increased more than 60% in the past four years. Hunger is unacceptable. Especially in our own backyard. But we can solve hunger. With your help.

Advocate. Donate. Volunteer. hungerisUNacceptable.com



Housing

CONTINUED FROM | 1

a vibrant community.”

Scarborough said the area’s redevelopment could take more than 30 years to complete, and 40,000 residential units is the maximum that could fit in an area that size, taking into account current building ordinances, but the true number could be vastly different.

“With the slowdown in the economy it could take a little bit longer, so it will be market dependent,” Scarborough said. “Just because it allows 40,000 doesn’t mean it will get built immediately.”

Factors that could influence development include changes in lending practices, fluctuations in public and private investments and opposition from surrounding residents, Scarborough said.

Today the site, which is bordered by Walnut Creek to the north, Metric Boulevard to the east, MoPac and US 183 to the west and US 183 to the south, includes a few apartments but is mostly filled with commercial spaces.

The planning for the North Burnet/Gateway project—technically two neighborhoods lumped together—began in February 2002, but before 2009 zoning restrictions did not allow more residential developments, Scarborough said. Austin officials adopted new design codes for the area in March 2009 that allow for more flexibility when developing mixed-use projects.

“That’s when the bottom fell out of the market, the economy took a sidestep and development in the city in general slowed down,” Scarborough said. “We’re just now starting to see developers sticking their heads out of the water and they’re starting to

talk about development again.”

Developments move forward

Within the North Burnet/Gateway area, two developers have created visions for upscale living at The Domain.

Trisha Thacker, business manager for Villages at The Domain, said the 483-unit project that was completed in March is 92 percent occupied. She said the upscale shopping center’s wide range of retail and dining options, major events, such as the annual Austin Wine and Music Festival, and nearby employers helps residents avoid traffic and enjoy a more active lifestyle because the site is designed to be walkable.

Chad Marsh, managing principal for Endeavor Real Estate Group, said plans to move forward on an approximately 300-unit project are in the conceptual phase. Twelve Domain will be Endeavor’s first multifamily development at The Domain, and Marsh expects to break ground before the end of 2011. No completion date has been set, but a nearby 9-acre park is planned to open once the condo units are finished.

One area of Northwest Austin that has seen development lies south of Toll 45 between Parmer Lane and US 183.

The Lake Creek Park neighborhood started development in March and the first houses are expected to be ready for move-in before the end of the year.

The approximately 90-home project features houses built by Scott Felder Homes and David Weekley Homes. Houses will start at \$220,000 and range in size from 1,600 square feet to 3,000 square feet.

A nearby apartment building is now closer to becoming reality, according to planning department documents. Austin officials approved permits for the proposed 250-unit Briarwick

Apartments, located near West Parmer Lane and Amberglen Boulevard, in September. The project is still in the planning phase, and a date to break ground has not yet been set.

Paul Frank, principal planner for Austin’s Planning and Development Review Department, said thousands of more residential units are in the area’s future.

Robinson Ranch, bounded by Toll 45 to the north, West Parmer Lane to the west, McNeil Drive to the south and MoPac to the east, was granted planned urban development status in 2005, but no plans have yet been set, Frank said. The area has a potential for 10 million square feet of commercial space and up to 10,000 residential units.

Northwest Austin housing

Despite a diminishing number of lots zoned for housing developments, some projects are moving forward, including some slated for the long-term future.

1 Project: Briarwick Apartments
Developer: Bury + Partners Inc.
Location: 13400 Briarwick Drive
Acres: 16.3
Housing units: 250
Type: multifamily
Status: planning
Timeline: unknown

2 Project: Lake Creek Park
Developer: Scott Felder Homes and David Weekley Homes
Location: Lake Creek Parkway and Hymeadow Drive
Acres: 4
Housing units: 90
Type: single-family
Status: under construction
Timeline: homes available early 2011

3 Project: North Burnet/Gateway
Developer: unknown
Location: bordered by Walnut Creek to the north, Metric Boulevard to the east, MoPac and US 183 to the west and US 183 to the south
Acres: 2,300
Housing units: up to 40,000
Type: multifamily
Status: conceptual
Timeline: development expected to occur throughout 2040

Concerns for growth

City demographer Ryan Robinson said the population of Austin has grown in the past few years, partly because economic migrants from across the country who have been severely affected by the economic downturn are moving to Austin in search of opportunity.

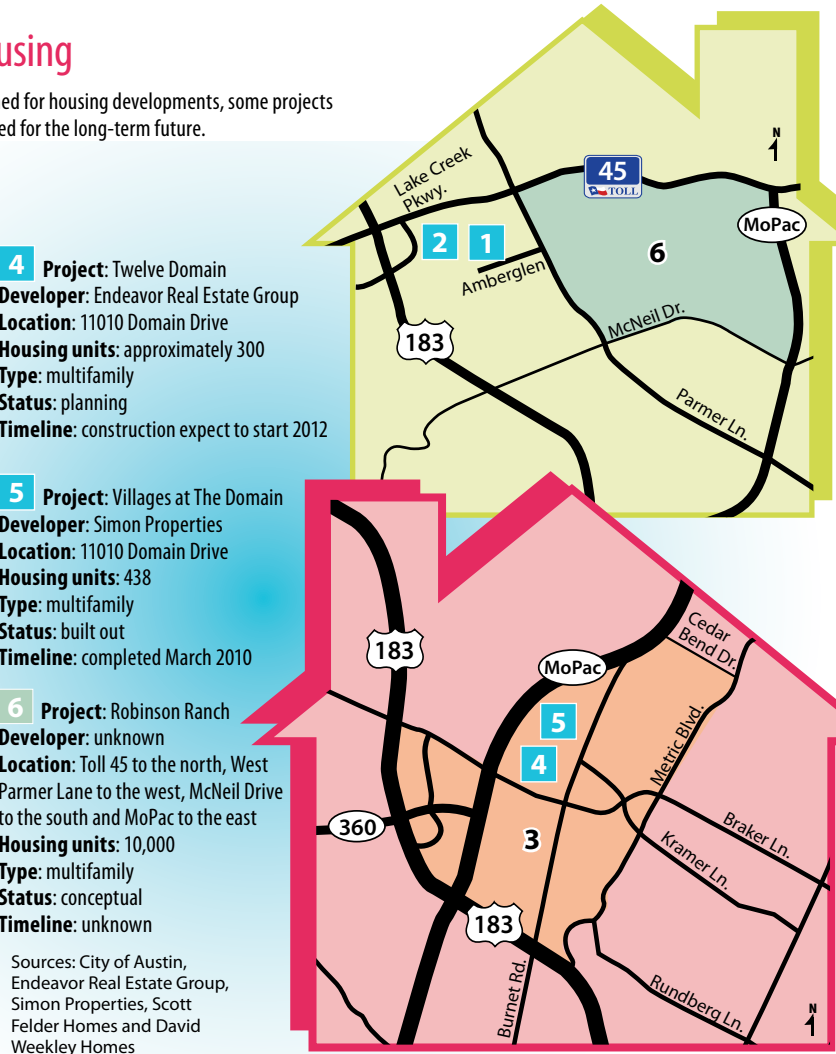
As more housing options are needed and the economy improves, development will pick up throughout the Greater Austin area, Robinson said, but some choice areas will present unique challenges.

The most difficult thing to predict for residential projects is how developers and city planners will redevelop an area decades from now, Robinson said. A change

in zoning, particularly to mixed-use zoning, can yield a far higher density for commercial and residential space than plots of land zoned for only one use.

“As you define a subregion that’s a very desirable part of town like Northwest Austin, you’ll begin to see price pressures tied to land availability,” Robinson said. “That’s what will really trigger mixed-use development, which is one way the market reacts to land availability being a constraint. All of a sudden, you’re vertically stacking retail and residential.”

Comment at more.impactnews.com/10936




THE END IS COMING, ACT NOW!

DON'T WAIT, GET YOUR REBATE!

Davis Service Company

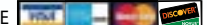
Your Air Conditioning & Heating Experts

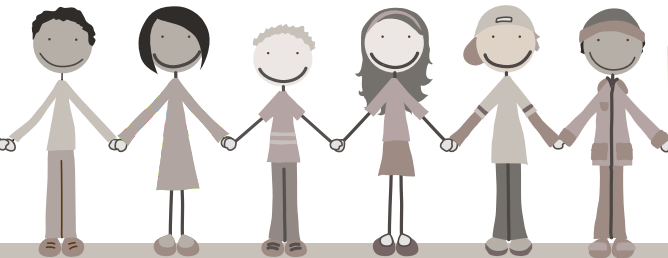
Call Us Today! **(512) 335-6579** www.DavisServiceCompany.com


Goodman
Air Conditioning & Heating
Made in the USA

2 ton 16 SEER A/C System with Gas Heat Installed* 10 year warranty \$1500 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010	3 ton 16 SEER A/C System with Gas Heat Installed* 10 year warranty \$1700 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010	4 ton 16 SEER A/C System with Gas Heat Installed* 10 year warranty \$2100 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010
1,000 sq. ft. R-10 Blow-in Insulation \$350 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010	2 ton 15 SEER Heat Pump System Installed* 10 year warranty \$1400 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010	3 ton 15 SEER Heat Pump System Installed* 10 year warranty \$1600 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010
	4 ton 15 SEER Heat Pump System Installed* 10 year warranty \$2000 after rebates and tax credits, plus tax. Expires 12-31-2010	

* for most installations

TACLB010746E  **Financing Available**



Volunteer Guide



By Staff

Faith in Action Caregivers-Northwest

Almost 25 years ago, when seniors living in what was then the outermost edges of the Austin suburbs needed help with transportation, they turned to their local churches.

In response, the churches formed what is now Faith in Action Caregivers-Northwest. The group provides transportation, social activities and other support services to those 60 years old and older, allowing them to remain active and live independently.

Far Northwest Caregivers serves more than 335 seniors in Northwest Austin, Cedar Park and Leander. "In 2009, we made about 4,600 trips, and we hit that amount in September this year," Executive Director Carla Young said. In addition to providing much-needed transportation for seniors, the group also offers a Senior Day Out program at Anderson Mill Baptist Church on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

With only two full-time employees, Faith in Action Caregivers relies almost entirely on volunteers to help in the office and to drive seniors. To volunteer, call 250-5021 or e-mail nw@fiacaregivers.org. Visit www.faithinactioncaregivers.org for more information.

By Beth Wade

Hospice Austin

Hospice Austin was founded by a group of physicians in 1979 to aid terminally ill patients with a life expectancy of six months or less, along with their families and caregivers. The group serves patients in Travis, Williamson, Caldwell, Burnet and Hays counties. Patients can be treated in their home, nursing home, assisted living center, area hospitals or in Hospice Austin's short-term, inpatient facility, Christopher House.

When admitted into hospice care, a patient is provided with a team of care providers. The team consists of a nurse, nurse's aide, chaplain, a social worker and a volunteer. Hospice Austin has 200 paid staff members who are supported by more than 400 volunteers who are assigned one patient at a time. Volunteers offer emotional support and nonmedical assistance such as travel to and from appointments and running errands. Some volunteers provide professional services, including massage therapy, hair-styling, acupuncture and handyman-type services. The hospice now offers On Our Own Terms, a free, quarterly 12-hour training course for community members discussing topics, including end-of-life issues and advanced directives.

To volunteer, call 342-4700 or e-mail volunteers@hospiceaustin.org. Visit www.hospiceaustin.org for more information.



Courtesy Faith in Action Caregivers-Northwest

Faith in Action Caregivers-Northwest volunteer driver Kerri Cernosek gives client Mabel Brown a ride to and from her hair appointment.



Courtesy Hospice Austin

Olivia lights a candle in memory of her father at Hospice Austin's Camp Brave Heart.

1house at a time is dedicated to financial empowerment for low-income families, community building and renewable energy education and advocacy. It creates pathways to self-sufficiency for struggling homeowners and informs the public about the benefits, both financial and environmental, of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. Volunteers weatherize and improve the energy efficiency of homes by installing various products. **6404 Wilbur Drive, Austin 78757 • 745-3692** www.1houseatatime.org

AIDS Services of Austin (ASA) responds to the HIV needs of the Austin area by providing services that enhance the health and well-being of individuals and the community in the face of an evolving epidemic. Volunteers work in the food bank, perform clerical duties, assist with landscaping and help with special events. **7215 Cameron Road, Austin 78752 • 458-2437** www.asaustin.org

Alzheimer's Association - Capital of Texas Chapter seeks to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research and to enhance care and support for individuals, their families and caregivers. Volunteer opportunities vary. **3429 Executive Center Drive, Ste. 100, Austin 78731 • 241-0420** www.alz.org/texascapital

American Cancer Society hopes to reduce the cancer mortality rate and cancer incidents through early detection, prevention research, patient services and advocacy. Volunteer opportunities include the Road to Recovery transportation and Reach to Recovery programs, assisting at health fairs and other events, fundraising, office duties and Relay for Life. **2433 Ridgpoint Drive, Ste. B, Austin 78754 • 919-1838** www.cancer.org

American Red Cross of Central Texas ensures disaster planning, preparedness, community disaster education, mitigation and response, as well as assisting military members and their families in times of crisis. Red Cross volunteers perform a variety of services, including assisting in disaster relief, casework processing and staffing shelters. **2218 Pershing Drive, Austin 78723 • 929-1277** www.centex.redcross.org

Angel Food Ministries - Northwest Hills United Methodist Church is a nonprofit, nondenominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. Volunteers help with distribution and unloading of donated goods. **7050 Village Center Drive, Austin 78731 • 554-6246** www.nwfeedingtheflock.com

Any Baby Can provides education, therapy and family support to needy families. Volunteers offer homework help, literacy training, event assistance and child care. **1121 E. Seventh St., Austin 78702 • 334-4432 • www.abcaus.org**

The Arc of the Capital Area provides individualized services to people with intellectual and mental developmental disabilities. Volunteers befriend these people and become someone they can count on and share their lives with. **2818 San Gabriel St., Austin 78705 • 476-7044** www.arcofthecapitalarea.org

Assistance League of Austin is an organization of volunteers dedicated to enabling children and adults to achieve a high quality of life by providing for specific, identifiable needs. Volunteers assist with seven philanthropic programs to provide clothes, toiletries, toys, life kits, books and scholarships to the Greater Austin Community. **4901 Burnet Road, Austin 78756 • 458-3716 • www.alaustin.org**

Austin Dog Alliance is a rescue and pet therapy organization offering community education programs and pet therapy training working with all sectors of the community. Volunteers foster dogs, join pet therapy teams and help with marketing, special events and administrative duties. **12129 RR 620, Ste. 401, Austin 78750 • 335-7100** www.austindogalliance.org

Austin Groups for the Elderly - Elderhaven of Austin provides care for seniors with special needs. Volunteers assist with activities including bingo and games, perform music, dance and serve clients. **3710 Cedar St., Austin 78705 • 451-4611 • www.ageofaustin.org**

Austin Habitat for Humanity teams build quality houses for impoverished families. Volunteers assist in new construction, landscaping, work in the ReStore or perform clerical tasks. **55310 Comal St., Ste. 100, Austin 78702 • 472-8788** www.austinhabitat.org

Austin Humane Society is a no-kill, nonprofit pet adoption center dedicated to saving Austin's homeless cats and dogs, educating the community about responsible pet ownership and reducing pet overpopulation. Volunteers help with dog walking, the cat adoption team, the foster care program and the feral cat program. **124 W. Anderson Lane, Austin 78752 • 646-7387** www.austinhumanesociety.org

Austin Parks Foundation connects people to resources, builds community support for parks and partners to develop and improve parks. Volunteer tasks vary. **816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1680, Austin 78701 • 477-1566** www.austinparks.org

Austin Partners in Education provides college and career readiness for AISD students. Volunteers provide tutoring, work with a new Step Up program for sixth grade and lead study groups for students. **1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 300A, Austin 78701 • 637-0900** www.austinpartners.org

Austin Pregnancy Resource Center helps women with unplanned pregnancies sort through and decide their options while giving accurate and factual information in a confidential and welcoming environment. It offers free tests, sonograms and classes. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the website. **2717 Rio Grande St., Austin 78705 • 476-7774 • www.austinprc.org**

Austin Recovery aims to bring about the in-depth changes that are essential for overcoming addiction. Volunteers help with admissions, child care, clerical duties and life skills coaching, which can include topics such as job readiness, healthy relationships and parenting. **8402 Cross Park Drive, Austin 78754 • 697-8507** www.austinrecovery.org

Autism Society of Greater Austin is an all-volunteer chapter of the Autism Society of America, whose mission is to improve the lives of all affected by autism with a local focus on advocacy, information services and family support. Volunteers are used in many different ways, including as staff for the Autism Awareness Bike Ride April 13, 2011. **P.O. Box 160841, Austin 78716 • 479-4199** www.austinautismsociety.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas pairs volunteers with young people in need of mentoring and positive role models. **1400 Tillery St., Austin 78721 • 472-5437 • www.bigmentoring.org**

The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas is the exclusive provider and guardian of the community blood supply for more than 37 medical facilities in a 10-county service area of Central Texas. Volunteers assist on blood drives, serve refreshments in our donor centers, provide office support and transport blood product in center vehicles. **4300 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78756 • 206-1189** www.inyourhands.org

Blue Santa brings some Christmas cheer to families that might not otherwise have gifts and food. The organization was started by the Austin Police Department in 1972 and includes the Texas National Guard, the Austin Fire Department, Austin Parks and Recreation, and Austin Energy. Volunteer tasks vary. **4101 S. Industrial Drive, Ste. 260, Austin 78744 • 220-2583** www.bluesanta.org

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area offers programs and services to promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. Volunteer opportunities vary. Visit the website for more information on area chapters. **5407 N. I-35, Ste. 400, Austin 78723 • 444-7199 • www.bgcaustin.org**

Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas - North Austin is a nonprofit organization created by breast cancer survivors. The center exists to serve women with breast cancer, their families and support systems, women who have questions about screening and biopsy, and others in the community who are concerned about breast cancer issues. Volunteer opportunities include breast cancer survivors

manning help lines, visiting chemotherapy wards and helping patients with household tasks. **12221 MoPac N., Austin 78758 • www.bcrc.org**

Brown Santa is a community service organization of the Travis County Sheriff's Office and the other organizations and volunteers that staff it. The goal is to provide assistance to families in need in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. Volunteers assist with toy and food drives, wrap gifts and other tasks. **2300 Grand Avenue Parkway, Pflugerville • 247-2682** www.brownsanta.org

Camp Agape Bereavement Camp for Children is a five-day summer program designed specifically for children ages 7-12 who have suffered the loss of a loved one. The free, Christian-based service offers all the fun of a typical summer camp, along with group-therapy activities to assist the children with their bereavement process. Volunteer "buddies" work one-on-one with children, while others help run camp activities or do social work and counseling. **Marble Falls • 830-385-8916 • www.campagapetexas.org**

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas works to end hunger in the Austin area. Volunteers ensure donated food is suitable for distribution. **8201 S. Congress Ave., Austin 78745 • 282-2111** www.austinfoodbank.org

CASA of Travis County Inc. recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to provide "guardian ad litem" representation for abused and neglected children to help them reach a safe and permanent home. **7701 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 301, Austin 78752 • 459-2272** www.casatexas.org

CASA of Williamson County, TX recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to provide "guardian ad litem" representation for abused and neglected children to help them reach a safe and permanent home. **805 W. University Blvd., Ste. 111, Georgetown • 868-2822** www.casawctx.com

Crafting Comfort and its volunteers create handmade quilts, toys and other items for those in need. **9725B Anderson Mill Road, Austin 78750 • 219-0321** www.craftingcomfort.org

Easter Seals Central Texas, originally chartered as the Texas Society for Crippled Children, has been providing services to children and adults with disabilities and their caregivers since 1937. Volunteers help with special events, clerical duties, camp and the gala committee. **1611 Headway Circle, Austin 78754 • 478-2581** www.centraltx.easterseals.com

Faith in Action Caregivers - Northwest assists older adults in maintaining quality of life and independence. Volunteers provide transportation, home repairs and companionship to the elderly. **10633 Lake Creek Parkway, Austin 78750 • 250-5021** www.fiacaregivers.org

Foundation Communities is a nonprofit organization providing service-enriched, quality housing to families and individuals with low incomes. Volunteers are financial coaches who assist clients in creating concrete short-term and long-term financial goals and provide them with the support and knowledge to reach the established goals. People can also volunteer to work in the Community Tax Center by providing tax preparation services. **3036 S. First St., Ste. 200, Austin 78704 • 447-2026** www.foundcom.org

Girlstart volunteers work to encourage girls to pursue interests in math, science and technology through after-school programs and community outreach events. **1400 W. Anderson Lane, Austin 78757 • 916-4775** www.girlstart.org

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas employs people with disabilities. Volunteers work in the retail stores, computer recycling centers and job help centers. **1015 Norwood Park Blvd., Austin 78753 • 637-7100** www.austingoodwill.org

Hands on Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area, strengthens communities through meaningful volunteer action. The

organization provides more than 400 volunteer opportunities and projects, including Days of Service and Volunteer Leadership. **2000 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Austin 78702 • 472-6267** www.handsoncentraltexas.org

Helping Hand Home for Children provides residential treatment and therapeutic foster care for abused and neglected children ages 4-13. Volunteers read to children or help with homework and training programs begin in January. **3804 Avenue B, Austin 78751 • 459-3353** www.helpinghandhome.org

Hospice Austin has provided compassionate medical, emotional and spiritual care for terminally ill people and their loved ones in Central Texas for the past 30 years. As the only nonprofit community hospice in Austin, it offers extensive services for all, including expert pain and symptom management, an in-patient facility, and volunteer and bereavement services in Travis, Bastrop, Williamson, Hays and Caldwell counties. If volunteers want to be involved with patient care, a two-week training is required. Volunteers are also needed for office help and to adopt a family at Christmas. **4107 Spicewood Springs Road, Ste. 100, Austin 78759 • 342-4700** www.hospiceaustin.org

Humane Society of Williamson County is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1979. Its missions are to provide innovative programs and services to eliminate pet overpopulation and to improve the lives of pets and people in Williamson County. The minimum volunteer age is 8 years old, and volunteers must attend an orientation session to participate. **10930 E. Crystal Falls Parkway, Leander • 260-3602** www.hswc.net

Knowbility is a nonprofit organization supporting the independence of people with disabilities by promoting the use and improving the availability of accessible information technology. Volunteers help with special events. **3925 W. Braker Lane, Ste. 3, Austin 78759 • 305-0310** www.knowbility.org www.lifeworksaustin.org

Livestrong: Lance Armstrong Foundation was founded in 1997 by cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong. Livestrong provides practical information and tools people with cancer need to live life on their own terms and unites people to fight cancer. Livestrong volunteer tasks vary. **2201 E. Sixth St., Austin 78702 • 279-8383 • www.livestrong.org** **686-0207 ext. 10128 or 10 • www.lscctx.org**

Make a Wish Foundation of Central and South Texas grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and job. Volunteers assist in wish granting, fundraising and event planning. **2224 Walsh Tarlton Lane, Ste. 200, Austin 78746 • 329-9474** www.cstx.wish.org

Meals on Wheels and More - Greater Austin Area makes and delivers nutritious meals to housebound members of the community. Volunteers deliver meals by bike or car. **3227 E. Fifth St., Austin 78702 • 476-6325** www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org

Mobile Loaves & Fishes St. Thomas More is a social outreach ministry for the homeless and indigent working poor. Its mission is to provide food, clothing and dignity to those in need. It accomplishes this mission by delivering food every day. Volunteers make and deliver food for the hungry, help lift men and women off of the streets and other tasks. **10205 RR 620 N., Austin 78726 • 258-1161 • www.mlfnow.org**

Out Youth promotes the well-being and identity affirmation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. Volunteers provide mentoring and participate in activities. **909 E. 49 1/2 St., Austin 78751 • 419-1233 • www.outyouth.org**

Ronald McDonald House of Austin provides housing and support for families of critically ill children. Volunteers prepare meals and perform administrative duties. **1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin 78723 • 472-9844** www.rmhc-austin.org

Royal Family Kids Camp services abused and neglected children ages 7-11. Volunteers can help as camp counselors or staff members. **2700 Northland Drive, Austin 78756 • 930-1886** www.austin.rfkc.org

RRISD Partners in Education Foundation generates and distributes resources to RRISD. Volunteers help with clerical assistance, filing, inputting information and help with fundraising for events. **1311 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock • 464-5113** www1.roundrockisd.org/educationfoundation

SafePlace seeks to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing and prevention for individuals, families and the community. Volunteers work directly with families and individuals as well as provide assistance through indirect service, in more clerical or administrative roles. They accompany survivors to court, plan children's birthday parties, deliver toys to SafePlace for clients for the Holiday Giving Program and more. **P.O. Box 19454, Austin 78760 • 267-7233 • www.safeplace.org**

The Salvation Army volunteers work in a wide variety of programs that assist the needy, including social services, character building activities and collecting donations. **501 E. Eighth St., Austin 78767 • 476-1111** www.salvationarmyaustin.org

Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin Inc. provides dyslexic individuals with a proven research-based, multisensory approach for learning the basic language skills of reading, writing and spelling through the ongoing charitable commitment of the Scottish Rite Masons. Volunteers do project oriented activities, help with the annual book fair, work with drafting grants and various office help. **12871 N. US 183, Ste. 105, Austin 78750 • 472-1231** www.scottishritelearningcenter.org **1300 N. Mays St., Round Rock • 246-4259 • www.starryonline.org**

Texas Advocacy Project provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Texas. Volunteers help with hotline screening, administrative assistant tasks and more. **P.O. Box 833, Austin 78767 • 476-5377** www.texasadvocacyproject.org

United Way Capital Area addresses critical social issues by bringing people and resources together to create opportunities for individuals, families and neighborhoods to prosper. Individuals who want to volunteer can visit the volunteer database on the website. **2000 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Austin 78702 • 472-6267** www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org

Workers Defense Project is a membership-based organization that empowers low-income workers to ensure fair employment through education, direct services, community organizing and strategic partnerships. Volunteers are needed to help workers who have not been paid for their labor, to help out in the office, to provide English/Spanish translation and to help support community organizing efforts. Spanish speakers are highly needed. **5604 Manor Road, Austin 78723 • 391-2305** www.workersdefense.org

YMCA of Austin - Northwest Branch puts Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. The purpose of the YMCA of Austin is to enhance the lives of people in the Austin community by providing quality programs, activities and facilities that develop and maintain opportunities. Volunteers help with special events or youth programs. Board members are also needed. **5807 McNeil Drive, Austin 78729 • 335-9622 • www.austinyymca.org**

This guide is not a comprehensive list of all area organizations that need volunteers. If your organization is not included, please e-mail us at lists@impactnews.com and we will add it to our online list.

For more Central Texas volunteer opportunities, visit www.impactnews.com/volunteerguide



Restoring Function, Returning Independence.



The Seton Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery is the region's only resource for five highly specialized centers of expertise in one place: The Hand, Breast, Wound Care, Craniofacial and Plastic Surgery Centers.



An intricate mechanism like the hand requires highly specialized care. The specialists of our **HAND CENTER** are fellowship-trained to diagnose and treat problems and diseases of the hands and wrists. We cover the Seton Family of Hospitals and offer services to treat everything from sports injuries to trauma reconstruction to congenital hand conditions. If your hands or wrists hurt, call us. We're lending a helping hand to restore function and improve quality of life for all in Central Texas.

To schedule a consultation at one of our three convenient locations, please call toll-free (877) 977-3866.

PUTTING LIVES BACK TOGETHER



Seton Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery
A member of the Seton Family of Hospitals

SetonPlasticSurgery.com

WE ARE ALWAYS THE SAME AGE INSIDE. —GERTRUDE STEIN

Introducing The Health Care Center at Longhorn Village retirement community, Austin's exceptional choice, where age is honored, beauty inspires and care revolves around resident convenience. An extraordinary setting of wellness and vitality that champions the youthful spirit inside each person. With all private accommodations; all the advantages of a new brand of exceptional senior care. Call for your personal tour... (512) 382-4664 or (877) 266-5605.



Now Open! Direct admission is available with no entrance fee:

- Assisted Living (highest level licensed in Texas)
- Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing

THE HEALTH CARE CENTER AT
LONGHORN VILLAGE

12001 LONGHORN PARKWAY • STEINER RANCH
AUSTIN, TX 78732 • WWW.LONGHORNVILLAGE.COM



OUR Legacy IS Quality Care

Celebrating over 40 years of service, Austin Oral Surgery provides a full range of services, including wisdom teeth removal and dental implants.
Visit us at AustinOralSurgery.com



Welcoming
Dr. Michael Ding
to Northwest Austin



AUSTIN:
NORTHWEST
512.258.3764

SOUTH
512.447.6684

NORTH CENTRAL
512.346.7949

CENTRAL
512.454.6725

LAKEWAY
512.263.9544

GEORGETOWN
512.869.0529

TEMPLE
254.771.1167

SAN MARCOS
512.396.4689

LA GRANGE
979.968.8510

MARBLE FALLS
830.798.1054

Inside Information | Demystifying the Bush tax cuts

By **Andrea Leptinsky**

President Barack Obama reached an agreement Dec. 6 with GOP lawmakers to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for all Americans through 2012, under GOP pressure to extend tax cuts for all Americans. As part of the deal, unemployment benefits would be extended for 13 months and the employee portion of Social Security payroll taxes would be reduced for one year.

The next step for the agreement, however, is to get the legislation passed by Congress, with the requisite Democratic votes, before the cuts expire Dec. 31.

"It's a good deal for the American people," Obama said in an address Dec. 7. "I know there are some who would have preferred a political fight, even if it would have meant higher taxes. I understand the desire for a fight, and I'm sympathetic to that. But I am opposed to the high-end tax cuts today as I have been for years. We can't afford them, and I will fight to end them [in two years]."

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said she supports an extension of the cuts for all individuals, as it would continue to facilitate the United States' financial recovery.

"In order to help jumpstart the economy and create jobs, it is imperative that tax cuts be extended for all Americans," Hutchison. "There is no justification for failing to extend the 2001 and 2003 taxes."

Sticking points

If the cuts were to expire Dec. 31, pre-legislation tax rates and provisions would be reinstated. Money that Americans would have otherwise pocketed would instead go back to the

government in the form of re-established taxes.

"I strongly support extending tax cuts for middle-class families and ensuring no increased tax rates for 98 percent of Americans," said U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin. "I do not favor incurring another trillion dollars in debt needed to provide another tax cut to the 2 percent of taxpayers who earn over \$250,000 a year."

"I have supported recently approved tax cuts for small businesses, the engines that help drive a strong economy. Limiting tax cut extensions to those over \$250,000 will affect less than 3 percent of small businesses."

U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, said tax cuts for all income earners should be kept because some of the reinstated taxes would be harmful.

"We keep talking about the graduated income tax that affects everyone, but the tax on dividends and capital gains—and the capital gains tax that will go up from 15 percent to 20 percent—means a lot to you, if you're selling something," he said. "The tax on dividends will go up from 15 percent to 39.6 percent—that's a stab right in the heart for our retired people who are living on dividends."

The estate tax expired in 2009 but is expected to resurface in 2011, if Congress does not address the topic by year's end. That tax, in particular, would have a huge effect on Texans, Carter said.

"We are a landed group of people here in Texas, and land appreciates greatly," Carter said. "If it's in Pflugerville or Round Rock, that's farm land that is worth a whole lot of money."

If someone dies, they may think they have a family farm out there, but it probably is a multimillion-dollar estate. The tax burden [on the family] will be horrendous."

Background on tax cut debate

President George W. Bush signed the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act in 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Relief Reconciliation Act in 2003.

The legislation dropped income tax rates, eliminated the marriage penalty, raised the child tax credit, and lowered the estate tax rate, among others.

According to the Tax Policy Center, a married couple with two children under 13 and a household income of \$75,000 saw about

\$2,600 shaved off their income taxes as a result of the tax cuts.

The Treasury Department estimates that making the tax cuts permanent for everyone will cost \$3.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf told the Senate Budget Committee in September that extending the cuts, even temporarily, would give the economy a short-lived boost.

"A permanent extension of all those tax cuts, without future increases in taxes or reductions in federal spending, would roughly double the projected budget deficit in 2020," Elmendorf said.

Additional reporting by Nicole Smith

Comment at more.impactnews.com/10924

What's at stake Obama - GOP deal

- Extends Bush-era tax cuts for all income levels through 2012.
- Extends unemployment benefits for 13 months. Without this agreement, 7 million workers would have lost benefits in the coming year.
- Includes a 2-percentage-point cut in Social Security payroll taxes paid by employees in 2011.
- Keeps the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and American Opportunity Credit cuts from last year's stimulus plan, totaling about \$40 billion in tax cuts for families and students.
- Sets the estate tax at 35 percent for two years on assets of \$5 million or more.
- Allows businesses to write off 100 percent of their capital purchases in 2011.

Source: White House, Tax Foundation

Under the Bush tax cuts

Taxable income			Taxable income			Married Filing Jointly
Over	But not over	Single	Over	But not over	Single	
0	8,575	10%	0	17,150	10%	10%
8,575	34,850	15%	17,150	58,150	15%	15%
34,850	84,350	25%	58,150	69,700	15%	15%
84,350	175,950	28%	69,700	140,550	25%	25%
175,950	195,550	33%	140,550	214,200	28%	28%
195,550	382,550	33%	214,200	237,200	33%	33%
382,550	—	35%	237,200	382,550	33%	33%
			382,550	—	35%	35%

Source: Tax Policy Center

Tax cut highlights

Child tax credit

The tax relief legislation raised each family's per-child tax credit to \$1,000 from \$500.

Marriage tax

The tax cut gave a married couple who filed jointly a standard deduction twice that of a single filer.

Capital gains and dividends

The maximum rate on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends were reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent as part of the tax relief legislation.

Source: Tax Policy Center

Contact information

Contact information for your U.S. senators and representatives is as follows:

U.S. Rep. John Carter

One Financial Centre
1717 N. I-35
Suite 303
Round Rock, TX 78664
246-1600
<http://carter.house.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul

5929 Balcones Drive
Ste. 305
Austin, TX 78731
473-2357
mccaul.house.gov

Sen. John Cornyn

Chase Tower
221 W. Sixth St.
Ste. 1530
Austin, TX 78701
469-6034
cornyn.senate.gov/public

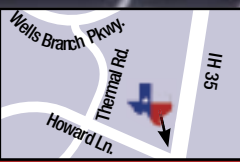
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

961 Federal Building
300 E. Eighth St.
Austin, TX 78701
916-5834
hutchison.senate.gov

YEAR-END CLEARANCE ITEMS

AUSTIN'S
FLOORSTORE
(512) 989-9999

**CARPET
LAMINATE
WOOD
CERAMIC TILE**



WAREHOUSE BARGAINS!

Bring your truck, trailer or van & take your purchase with you TODAY!

13800 N. IH-35 • Austin • www.austinsfloorstores.com





SAVE UP TO

\$1,500¹

SAVE NOW. SAY WOW.

It's one of Pella's most amazing sales ever.

For a limited time, save on the purchase of professionally installed Pella® replacement windows and doors.



SAVE UP TO

\$1,500 OFF¹

Pella Window and Door Replacement

OR

NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 36 MONTHS

Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional period or if you make a late payment.²

Contact Pella NOW for a free, no-pressure in-home consultation, and start your year with a WOW.

CALL 888-429-4091

CLICK pellarereplacement.com/ACMTY

VISIT your local Pella Showroom

Austin 9222 Burnet Road, Suite 106 | San Antonio 6510 Blanco Road





window & door replacement




¹ Discount equates to 25% off each window and/or door (excluding installation). Discount applies to retail list price. \$1,500 savings based on \$6,000 product purchase (excluding installation). Valid for replacement projects only and must be installed by Pella professionals. Only valid on select Pella® products. Not valid with any other offer or promotion. Prior sales excluded. Other restrictions may apply. See store for details. Offer ends 02/28/11. ² The Pella Windows & Doors Visa® credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Financial National Bank. Special terms apply to purchases charged with approved credit at participating merchants. The minimum monthly payment will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the promotional period. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date at the regular APR if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional period or if you make a late payment. For newly opened accounts, the regular APR is 27.99%. The APR may vary. The APR is given as of 10/01/10. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be \$1.00. If you use the card for cash advances, the cash advance fee is 5% of the amount of the cash advance, but not less than \$10.00. Offer expires 02/28/11. © 2010 Pella Corporation

**BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE
CONSIGNMENT**



**HERITAGE
FIREARMS**



**10%
OVER COST
on new guns**

**GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE!**

**13497 U.S. Hwy 183, North Suite #350
512.219.1122 • www.theonlinegunshop.com**

**GUN SHOW
PRICES
EVERYDAY**

Fluoride Free Austin, an anti-fluoridation group in Austin, is pushing for a warning on the water utility bill to increase public awareness of the risk to children.

archadeck®

of Austin

Let us create some
WOW
in your backyard



Locally owned and operated for 10 years
512.259.8282 - archadeck-austin.com

Decks - Sunrooms - Porches - Outdoor Kitchens - Patios - and more

financing available

Know your 3Cs



COMMIT

Commit to a waterwise lifestyle. We provide the tools to make water conservation easy and affordable.



CALCULATE

Estimate your average household water usage with our online water calculator.



CONSERVE

Save water and track your savings using the graphs on your utility statement.

Don't forget the 3Cs this holiday season.

Here are some tips to help you make your home waterwise:

- Add aerators to faucets
- Replace old showerheads with new low-flow models
- Replace old toilets with high-efficiency models.

If your home was built prior to 1996 you may qualify for our free toilet program.



www.WaterWiseAustin.org or call 974-2199

Residential Real Estate | Neighborhoods at a Glance

Jester Estates – 78750

This neighborhood on Jester Hill includes a community area with a pool, tennis courts and bicycle lanes. Residents live minutes from Lake Travis and shopping destinations The Domain and Arboretum at Great Hills.

Austin ISD schools

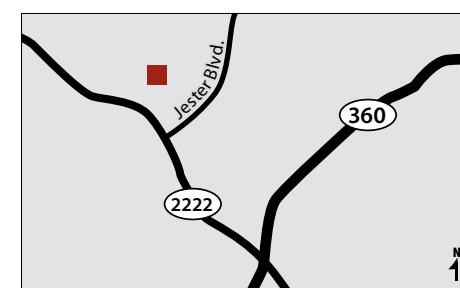
- Hill Elementary School
- Murchison Middle School
- Anderson High School

Featured homes



6730 Jester Blvd.

4 Br/3.5 Ba | 4,608 sq. ft. \$745,000
Agent: Charlie Owen, 626-3812
Turnquist Partners Realtors



8105 Pampas Cove

3 Br/2.5 Ba | 2,639 sq. ft. \$424,900
Agent: Crystal Guthrie, 422-3452
Cantera Real Estate Inc.



7102 Winterberry Drive

4 Br/2.5 Ba | 2,822 sq. ft. \$422,500
Agent: Curtis Jordan, 402-9300
Integrity Realty Services



7403 Curly Leaf Cove

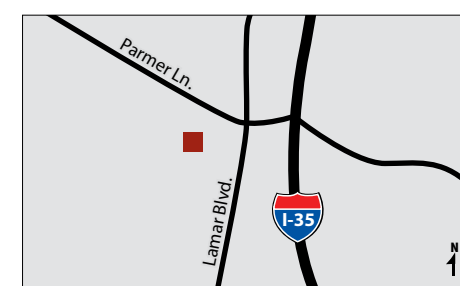
3 Br/2.5 Ba | 2,172 sq. ft. \$399,000
Agent: Fred Norton, 658-9411
Prudential Texas Realty

River Oak Lake Estates – 78758

This neighborhood in Northwest Austin gives commuters easy access to MoPac and I-35. Shopping and recreation is nearby, including Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park.

Pflugerville ISD schools

- River Oaks Elementary School
- Westview Middle School
- Connally High School



Featured homes



12407 Willow Bend Drive

4 Br/2 Ba | 2,137 sq. ft. \$194,900
Agent: Allen Norwood, 289-9546
Keller Williams Realty



1418 Cardinal Hill Drive

3 Br/2 Ba | 1,657 sq. ft. \$175,000
Agent: David Buttross, 320-0888
Buttross Properties



12305 Willow Wild Drive

4 Br/2 Ba | 1,679 sq. ft. \$150,000
Agent: Ruth Anne Collins, 748-8350
Cardani Group, Realtors



12329 Blue Water Drive

4 Br/2 Ba | 2,182 sq. ft. \$234,900
Agent: Don Fariss, 836-4437
Tammy Fariss, Realtors

We know this town inside & out.

Let our family help you, your family & your friends with all your Real Estate needs.



Serving the Austin area with over 60 years of Real Estate experience. We represent buyers and sellers alike.



Check out our latest listings!

Call Jade: 512-470-0878
or Maria: 512-663-2099

http://jadeh.actris.mlxchange.com



Call today for a FREE market analysis of your home!

512-470-0878

LAKELINE SQUARE TOWNHOMES

- Monthly utilities average just \$80. (\$200 in Savings!)
- A gated community in N.W. Austin
- Swimming, tennis & private yards plus a doggie park
- Maple cabinets, granite tops, bamboo floors
- Convenient to Dell, Samsung, Apple, Freescale, IBM & 3M
- Close to Domain, Arboretum & Lakeline Mall

GREEN LIVING AT ITS FINEST ★★★★★ 5 STAR RATED

AFFORDABLE LUXURY AT \$169,000

\$6,600 IN CLOSING COSTS Includes fees, title & taxes. Other special incentives apply, see sales office for details!

ONLY 2 LEFT!



MODELS OPEN

TUES-FRI, 12-6 • SAT & SUN, 12-5 • MONDAY BY APPOINTMENT
Contact Richard Spencer, 512-983-2790

13420 Lynhurst St. Austin, TX 78729 • www.lakelinetownhomes.com

Residential Real Estate | Market Data

Market Data provided by Austin Board of Realtors
454-7636 | www.abor.com

On the market (November 2010)

Price range	Number of homes for sale / Average days on market				
	78727	78729	78750	78758	78759
Less than \$149,000	23 / 81 days	3 / 254 days	12 / 62 days	78 / 141 days	32 / 98 days
\$150,000–\$199,999	39 / 99 days	34 / 170 days	13 / 95 days	25 / 92 days	27 / 78 days
\$200,000–\$299,999	44 / 79 days	21 / 250 days	26 / 154 days	5 / 142 days	35 / 86 days
\$300,000–\$399,999	3 / 70 days	3 / 0 days	34 / 124 days	2 / 417 days	36 / 99 days
\$400,000–\$499,999	2 / 81 days	-	12 / 97 days	2 / 482 days	24 / 110 days
\$500,000–\$599,999	-	-	6 / 91 days	1 / 54 days	9 / 93 days
\$600,000–\$799,999	1 / 241 days	-	4 / 105 days	-	1 / 5 days
\$800,000–\$999,999	-	-	1 / 37 days	-	-
\$1 million +	-	-	-	-	2 / 112 days

Market Data include condominiums, townhomes and houses.

Monthly home sales

Month	Sold / Median price				
	78727	78729	78750	78758	78759
Nov. 2010	14 / \$181,250	13 / \$170,000	16 / \$340,750	16 / \$114,250	29 / \$349,900
Nov. 2009	23 / \$199,000	34 / \$179,900	31 / \$189,900	30 / \$138,475	31 / \$219,000
Oct. 2010	16 / \$182,450	17 / \$196,900	27 / \$299,000	15 / \$129,900	26 / \$294,450
Sept. 2010	20 / \$220,900	18 / \$204,911	32 / \$302,450	13 / \$119,900	27 / \$345,000
Aug. 2010	20 / \$183,930	14 / \$181,000	26 / \$307,400	13 / \$92,900	33 / \$260,000
July 2010	22 / \$208,700	21 / \$179,900	26 / \$353,500	15 / \$134,900	30 / \$362,400
June 2010	26 / \$192,498	21 / \$172,000	47 / \$298,900	33 / \$115,000	39 / \$315,000
May 2010	44 / \$206,992	26 / \$201,000	37 / \$324,000	35 / \$124,000	47 / \$240,700
April 2010	32 / \$218,200	38 / \$209,925	52 / \$235,880	31 / \$133,000	44 / \$285,200

Property Listings

Northwest Austin

ZIP code	Subdivision	Address	Bed/Bath	Sq. ft.	Price	Agent	Agency	Phone
78726	Canyon Creek	11421 Dona Villa Drive	4br/2ba	3,210	\$387,500	Doreen Dillard	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	346-1799
78726	Canyon Creek	10503 Pariva Trail	3br/2ba	2,108	\$258,500	Doreen Dillard	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	346-1799
78726	Canyon Creek	9607 Aire Libre Drive	5br/3ba	2,989	\$319,877	Mary Battaglia	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	258-6677
78727	Kings Village	2600 Gardenia Drive	3br/1ba	1,200	\$224,900	Richard Ryon	Stanberry & Associates	751-2319
78727	Lamplight Village	1902 Krizan Ave.	3br/2ba	1,330	\$119,900	Richard Martin	Keller Williams - Lake Travis	789-8488
78727	Milwood	3811 Eton Lane	3br/2ba	1,782	\$219,900	Elicia Gower	Keller Williams Realty	657-7510
78727	Northwood	12804 Timberside Drive	3br/2ba	1,975	\$224,900	Jeana Aliani	Prudential Texas Realty	845-2549
78727	Northwood	13048 Silver Creek Drive	3br/2ba	1,654	\$199,900	Elizabeth Barrett	Stanberry & Associates	773-1833
78727	Preston Oaks	4204 Columbine Drive	3br/2ba	2,084	\$193,000	Laurie McGary	Keller Williams Realty	637-8354
78727	Reserve at Northwood	12502 Palfrey Drive	4br/2ba	2,932	\$282,500	Jim Fisher	Keller Williams Realty	496-8622
78727	Scofield Farms	12636 Picket Rope Lane	3br/2ba	1,911	\$204,983	Gary Gentry	Keller Williams Realty	794-6728
78727	Scofield	1713 Ender Cove	3br/2ba	1,837	\$209,500	Daniel Wilson	Keller Williams Realty	801-7718
78727	Woods Century Park	2608 Century Park Blvd.	3br/2ba	1,971	\$137,900	Allen Norwood	Keller Williams Realty	289-9546
78729	Courtyard Homes at Cobblestone Condo	8518 Cahill Drive	2br/2ba	1,333	\$155,000	Laura Nye	Stanberry & Associates	497-5946
78729	Courtyard Homes at Cobblestone Condo	8518 Cahill Drive	3br/2ba	1,476	\$173,500	Laura Nye	Stanberry & Associates	497-5946
78729	Milwood	8013 Luling Lane	4br/2ba	2,444	\$229,000	John Little	Keller Williams Realty	637-8400
78729	Milwood	13306 Black Canyon Drive	3br/2ba	1,808	\$172,000	Joseph Eckels	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	914-2599
78729	Springwoods	8905 Black Oak St.	3br/2ba	1,498	\$165,000	Tami Carson	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	517-5986
78729	Springwoods	9105 Hazelhurst Drive	4br/2ba	2,705	\$204,900	Betsy Gallagher	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	431-8265
78729	Springwoods	13300 Ivywood Cove	4br/2ba	2,255	\$193,800	Dan O'Connell	Prudential Texas Realty	407-2449
78750	Balcones Place Condo	9518 Topridge Drive	3br/2ba	1,592	\$195,000	Karen Graves	Keller Williams Realty	699-9996
78750	Jester Estate	7203 Guava Cove	3br/2ba	2,309	\$375,000	Teresa Gouldie	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	751-8000
78750	Park West Condo	10616 Mellow Meadows	2br/2ba	952	\$54,900	Dan O'Connell	Prudential Texas Realty	407-2449
78750	Spicewood at Bullcreek	10100 Kieffer Court	4br/3ba	3,771	\$517,500	Kathleen Bucher	Keller Williams Realty	784-7169
78750	Spicewood at Bullcreek	9718 Tree Bend Drive	4br/3ba	3,157	\$534,900	Christina Harmon	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	417-5234
78750	Spicewood Estates	10908 Keystone Bend	3br/2ba	2,708	\$350,000	Kay Roush	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	335-1891
78750	Village at Anderson Mill	10421 Broken Shoe Trail	3br/2ba	1,253	\$139,900	Ed Lundry	Keller Williams Realty	401-6300
78758	Gracywoods	11617 Parkfield Drive	0br/2ba	1,891	\$194,700	Kristina Weaver	RE/MAX Capital City	804-6363
78758	Orange Grove Condo	8917 Trone Circle	2br/1ba	1,158	\$115,000	Cathie Ward	RE/MAX Capital City II	646-1320
78758	Park at Quail Creek	901 Village Lane	2br/1ba	930	\$82,000	Knolly Williams	Keller Williams Realty	206-0060
78758	Quail Creek	9001 Collinfield Drive	4br/3ba	2,304	\$209,900	Andy Allen	Keller Williams Realty	785-0496
78758	Quail Hollow	1602 Cricket Hollow Drive	3br/2ba	1,604	\$174,900	Leslie Kasen	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	769-8849
78759	Alta Vista	8302 Alta Verde Drive	2br/2ba	1,585	\$245,000	Dale Jacobson	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	906-9124
78759	Arbors	8210 Bent Tree Road	1br/1ba	635	\$79,900	Paula Fiedler	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	771-4309
78759	Barrington Oaks	11302 Maidenstone Drive	2br/3ba	1,856	\$204,900	Jeffrey Walker	Prudential Texas Realty	947-8836
78759	Barrington Oaks	11226 Blackmoor Drive	3br/2ba	1,678	\$190,000	Heather Witte	Keller Williams Realty	671-0421
78759	Cima Oaks Condo	8603 Cima Oak Lane	0br/2ba	1,458	\$232,500	Peggy Little	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	970-7349
78759	Great Hills	8806 Mountain Path Circle	5br/3ba	3,249	\$395,000	Jerry Sexton	Keller Williams Realty	750-2220
78759	Great Hills	10240 Dianella Lane	4br/3ba	3,121	\$535,000	Kacy Dolce	Amelia Bullock, REALTORS	426-1865
78759	Great Hills	7300 Ellaview Lane	3br/2ba	2,670	\$435,000	Karen Chester	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	663-9974
78759	Great Hills	7318 Ellaview Lane	4br/3ba	3,323	\$549,888	Erik Wilson	Keller Williams Realty	423-5641
78759	Great Hills	10133 Dianella Lane	4br/4ba	5,609	\$1,595,000	Christina Harmon	Coldwell Banker United REALTOR	417-5234
78759	Mesa Park	4803 Beaver Creek Drive	3br/2ba	1,767	\$225,000	Stuart Sutton	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	844-3254
78759	Neelys Canyon Condo	8200 Neely Drive	1br/1ba	887	\$147,900	Michael Hulse	Keller Williams Realty	689-0867
78759	Oak Forest	7000 Fireoak Drive	3br/2ba	1,646	\$237,500	Bettye Turner	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	241-1745
78759	Walnut Crossing	3203 Spaniel Drive	4br/2ba	1,517	\$164,900	Matt Seidel	Keller Williams Realty	293-2433
78759	Walnut Crossing	12221 Forsythe Drive	3br/2ba	1,472	\$195,000	Alice Niven	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	656-2811
78759	Walnut Crossing	12300 Tipperary Cove	3br/2ba	1,193	\$175,000	Peg Braxton	Keller Williams - Lake Travis	263-6700
78759	Westover Hills	4000 Hyridge Drive	6br/4ba	4,446	\$742,500	Tami Carson	J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS	517-5986

ZIP code guide

78726 Four Points


78727 West Parmer/MoPac

78729 Anderson Mill/McNeil

78750 Anderson Mill/Balcones


78758 MoPac/Braker

78759 Great Hills/Arboretum




12502 Palfrey Drive

\$282,500




13306 Black Canyon Drive

\$172,000




10908 Keystone Bend

\$350,000



10240 Dianella Lane

\$535,000



7000 Fireoak Drive

\$237,500

For additional residential real estate listings, visit more.impactnews.com/10917

The residential real estate listings were added to the market between 11/05/10 and 11/28/10 and were provided by the Austin Board of Realtors, www.abor.com. Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this listing, Community Impact Newspaper assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Contact the property’s agent or seller for the most current information.