

Waller Creek project proceeds with new leader

Effort to revitalize eastern downtown calls for chain of new, improved parkland



1 Waterloo Park
A new lawn would extend atop the creek, creating parkland that otherwise would have been lost to the flood-control tunnel. An anticipated pavilion that can serve as an outdoor music venue would serve as a new landmark for the park.



2 The Refuge
The Refuge area would offer Austinites a way to learn more about the ecology of the creek with a pier extending from the Eighth Street bridge to an island park in the middle of the creek. Educational programs are likely to take place here.



3 The Narrows
The Narrows would span from Fourth to Seventh streets and would serve as the meeting point between the creek's ecosystem and downtown Austin. This area would offer access to various downtown destinations.



4 Palm Park
Palm Park, a green space along Third Street, would provide shaded areas with a grove of live oak trees. Various community programs would take place in this area, and a new play space would be installed on the south side of the park.



5 Creek Mouth & Lattices
Five lattice bridges would connect the banks of the creek's mouth, which flows into Lady Bird Lake. Another bridge would span the lake connecting the north and south shore. This is also where the flood-control tunnel will flow into the lake.

By Jennifer Curington
Energized by new leadership, the nonprofit Waller Creek Conservancy is ready to ramp up efforts to redevelop the mile-and-a-half creek along downtown's east side.
Peter Mullan, who was named in mid-January as the conservancy's new CEO, was recruited for the job after a nationwide search. His experience with New York City's High Line project, which repurposed an abandoned railroad structure to a

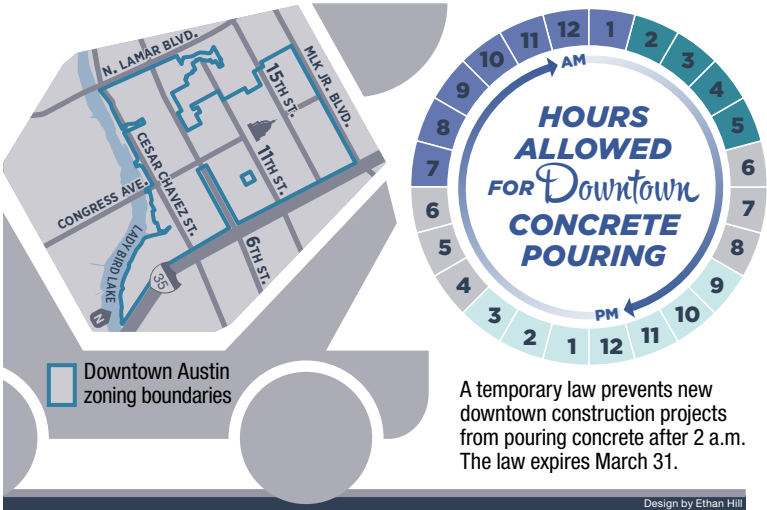
See **Waller** | 25

Downtown growing pains

Developers, residents debate how best to regulate overnight concrete pouring in central part of city

By Joe Lanane
Two of the city's biggest stakeholders are at odds over whether to allow overnight concrete pouring at downtown Austin construction sites.
The debate between downtown residents and developers started last fall after a city staff request to reduce overnight concrete pouring regulations. After hearing construction-related noise complaints, Austin City Council instead tightened rules by temporarily preventing overnight concrete pouring after 2 a.m.
The temporary law, which exempts projects with building plans submitted before Dec. 1, expires March 31 unless City Council extends the law or passes a permanent code change. A stakeholder group of downtown residents, businesses and developers as well as concrete industry representatives has met three times—and intends to meet again—to discuss potential

See **Concrete** | 26



Represents hours during which a temporary ordinance restricts new downtown concrete pours
Represents existing city law that prevents downtown concrete pouring during the morning/evening rush hours
Represents the window of time downtown concrete pourers can work legally under temporary law
Represents time when concrete availability is limited because concrete plants are not operating

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Major Austin City Council changes to be implemented by April
Transportation advocacy group releases 2015 goals



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John and Jennifer Garrett began *Community Impact Newspaper* in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team. Now, with 18 markets in the Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth metro areas, the paper is distributed to over 1.3 million homes and businesses.

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FROM THE EDITOR



The South by Southwest Music and Media Conference takes over downtown Austin in March, so it seems only fitting that this issue's front page includes downtown-focused stories.

Efforts to revitalize Waller Creek will reach a much-anticipated milestone in the coming

months when the city completes the creek's flood-control project. There is also a new executive director at the Waller Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit attempting to create a series of parks along the downtown creek.

Revitalizing Waller Creek will make the eastern edge of downtown Austin nearly unrecognizable in the best way possible. The effort comes at the same time construction is underway on The University of Texas

Dell Medical School. Waller Creek connects the UT project to the city's central core, creating an area that city officials have already dubbed the Innovation Zone, so there is much on the line for both projects.

Much of the rest of the other side of downtown is also busy with construction, so much so that many neighbors have complained to City Council about overnight noise. My front-page story details efforts to strike a balance during this complicated debate between development interests and downtown residents.

Our February issue is one that likely interests all our Central Austin readers who have dealt with the resulting noise, traffic and general disruptions associated with Austin's rapid growth. It will be interesting to see in the coming weeks how the new 11-member Austin City Council handles this challenge.

Joe Lanane

EDITOR

jlanane@impactnews.com

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

READER COMMENTS

Austin City Council seeks to ensure racial diversity in Austin Fire Department (Posted Feb. 4, 2015)

"Austin Fire Department should be looking at ESD4 as a solution to their diversity needs. Emergency Services District No. 4 is a small fire department in Travis County that neighbors the city of Austin. ESD4 is the most diverse fire department out of the 13 ESDs that serve citizens in the rural parts of Travis County. With roughly 30 employees and a fire academy that has produced Texas Certified firefighters since 1999, ESD4 has been a pioneer in reaching into Austin's community and developing young males and females from diverse backgrounds into firefighters. If the city of Austin is looking for a cost-effective solution to their diversity needs, they don't have to look very far."

—Lauren

"As a former county firefighter I understand that you can hire anyone you want in the ESDs, but in city departments you have to follow more stringent hiring laws. Also, in Austin as with most municipal departments, AFD asks their candidates to commit to 25 to 30 years worth of service. ... When I worked for the county it all seemed so easy to me as well, but city politics as well as civil service law make things more complicated."

—Hobie

Correction: Volume 7, Issue 3

On Page 17 a story incorrectly identified the La Barbecue owner. LeAnn Mueller is the barbecue eatery's owner, and John Lewis serves as pitmaster.

TAKE THE POLL

Should overnight concrete pouring be allowed at downtown Austin construction projects?

Take the poll online at impactnews.com/cta-poll.

LAST MONTH'S POLL RESULTS

Last month we ran a story about the new 11-member Austin City Council proposing a new governing structure that has since been approved and is in the process of being implemented. The new structure created 10 council committees composed of four or more council members each in an effort to vet items before they come before the full council.

What might be the biggest benefit to the meeting reform proposed by Austin City Council?

49.67% All of the above

22.73% Shorter meetings

18.18% More citizen engagement

6.06% Improved transparency

6.06% None of the above

Results from an unscientific Web survey collected 1/29/15–2/20/15

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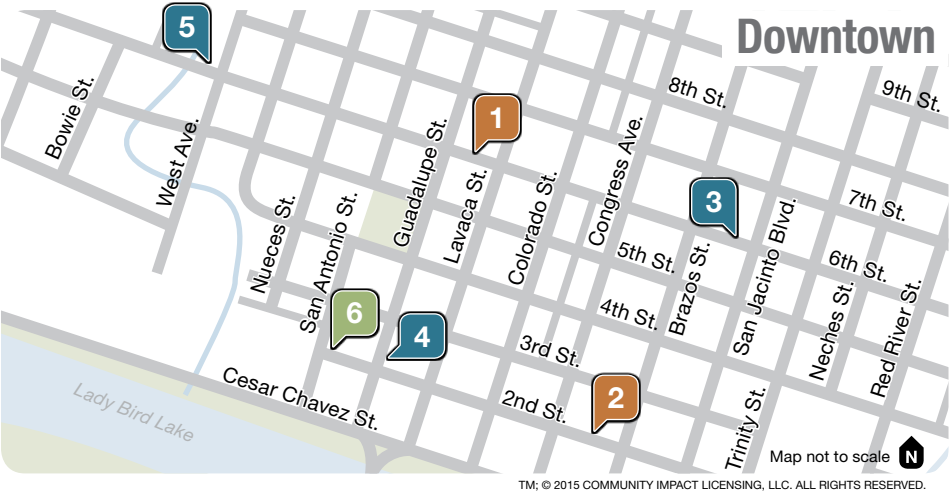
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IMPACTS



Central Austin



Downtown

Now Open

1 **NAAVA Salon & Spa** opened a second Austin-area location Feb. 9 at 300 W. Sixth St., Ste. 110. The new space includes 24 salon chairs, 12 manicure and pedicure stations and eight treatment rooms for massage and skin care. The salon was originally founded in 1973 under the name AZIZ Salon and Day Spa. 512-387-7000. www.naava.com

2 **Osteria Pronto, Corner and Burger Bar** opened Feb. 13 in Austin's newest downtown hotel JW Marriott at 110 E. Second St. The three concepts differ from one another with Osteria Pronto focused on flavors from norther Italy, Corner offering a variety of Texas dishes and Burger Bar serving burgers, fries and shakes. www.osteriaprontoatx.com, www.cornerrestaurentaustin.com, www.burgerbaraustin.com

Coming Soon

3 The Parish Underground, 214 E. Sixth St., will be converted into Austin's first location of **Gino's East**, a Chicago-based pizzeria specializing in deep-dish pizza, according to owner Doug Guller, who has already debuted Gino's East in other parts of Texas. The new restaurant is scheduled to open May 21, Guller said. www.ginoseast.com

4 A new nail salon is under construction and will open the week of March 9. **LACQUER** is accepting appointments and will offer manicures, pedicures and nail art at 210 Guadalupe St. The salon will have 14 stations and is hiring nail technicians. 512-476-1211. www.ilovelacquer.com

5 **The Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen** and **Lola Savannah Coffee Lounge** are opening downtown locations in the first floor of the Cirrus Logic building at the former Tapasitas space. The Grove co-owner Beth Selbe Lasita said the 800 W. Sixth St. location is a perfect fit with a patio along Shoal Creek and easy access during lunch for those who work downtown. The two shops are slated to open May 1. www.grovewinebar.com, www.lolacoffee.com

Closings

6 **How Do You Roll?**, a restaurant chain from Yuen Yung that serves creative sushi options, closed its downtown location, 454 W. Second St., on Feb. 5. The space's lease was nearly over, rent was slated to rise and nearby parking has decreased as surrounding construction increased, Yung said. The next closest Central Austin location is along MoPac north of US 183. www.howdoyouroll.com

Central Austin

Now Open

7 The former home of Wells Fargo at 400 W. 15th St. now belongs to **Moody National Bank**. The bank moved from its Anderson Lane location to the ground floor of the building, which is now called Moody Tower, with a 6,500-square-foot space on Feb. 9. There are currently 10 staff members, but the bigger space gives the company room to double that in the near future. 512-832-0388. www.moodybank.com

8 A new fitness class combines traditional hatha yoga with mimosas and brunch. Co-owners Chris Bash of Austin Beer Run and John Liska held the first **Yomos** class Jan. 25 with attendees of various skill levels. The one-hour class begins at 10 a.m. at Abel's on the Lake, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. A breakfast taco brunch and mimosas are served after class. Expansion plans are under consideration, the ownership duo said. 415-409-9575. www.yomos.club

9 A second Austin location of **MOD Fitness** opened Feb. 18 at 4406 Burnet Road. The new location offers barre classes that combine innovative strength training, cardio and stretching exercises. Founder Marnie Duncan said she was inspired to start MOD Fitness in 2012 after the barre-based exercise helped her overcome a severe cervical fracture. Classes are offered seven days a week. 512-765-5663. www.modfitnessaustin.com

10 A Japanese restaurant from Northwest Austin opened a second location south of Lady Bird Lake to serve more Austinites. The new location for **Ramen Tatsu-ya** opened Jan. 25 at 1234 S. Lamar Blvd. The endeavor started as a collaboration among brothers Tatsu and Shion Aikawa and chef Takuya Matsumoto. The new space has 72 seats compared with 45 seats at the original location, helping to move the line faster, Shion said. 512-792-9997. www.ramen-tatsuya.com

11 A new business challenges patrons to solve puzzles. **Puzzle Room Austin**, 111 W. Anderson Lane, Ste. E320, locks visitors in a room for an hour, during which time they must solve puzzles to escape. The business opened Jan. 23 for ages 13 and older. 512-461-2332. www.puzzleroomaustin.com

12 **Intelligent Sleep** moved to 7415 Burnet Road in November and has served patrons while continuing to undergo construction. Owner Bruce Wayne Meleski said construction should be complete by April 3, when he will host a grand-opening event. The store offers gel mattresses, pillows and seat cushions; sleep aids; relaxation tools; and lighting. Meleski said

Compiled by Jennifer Curington

he hopes to improve the health of clients who experience poor sleep, anxiety, stress or chronic pain. 512-306-1833. www.intelligentsleep.com

13 New Haven-style pizzeria **Salvation Pizza** opened its second Austin location Feb. 5 at 51 Rainey St. Already with a location on Red River Street, the new space offers an expanded menu that includes appetizers, salads, sandwiches, calzones and desserts, but the thin-crust pizza remains a mainstay. The eatery has full bar with beer and cocktail options. 512-499-0105. www.salvationpizza.com

14 **Southern Hippie** opened its first Austin location Feb. 12 at 3500 Guadalupe St., Ste. B. The store is native to Georgetown with owner Elizabeth Lockhart curating styles that are bohemian, chic and comfortable for the boutique's selection. 512-819-0878. www.southernhippie.com

15 Recent University of Texas graduate Dr. Tammy Vo opened **Look + See Vision Care** at 2007 S. First St., Ste. 104. Her optometry practice began taking patients Dec. 29. The boutique-style office offers independent frame brands for glasses as well as contact lenses, eye exams and medical eye appointments. 512-774-6002. www.lookandseevision.com

16 The third Austin location of **Fuzzy's Taco Shop** opened Jan. 15 at 7010 Easy Wind Drive, Ste. 100, with a large bar, indoor seating and an outside patio. The prices of drinks and food on Fuzzy's menu attracts students and those who want to eat out but are on a budget, said Chuck Bush, president of the company. 512-651-0343. www.fuzzystacoshop.com

17 When Suzane An moved to Austin five years ago, she said she found it difficult to shop for formal attire without going above her budget. She opened **Posh Boutique** on Feb. 7 at 4211 S. Lamar Blvd, Ste. B-3, to offer dresses for special occasions, including bridesmaid dresses, casual apparel and accessories. Clothing in the

store ranges from \$25 to more than \$300. 512-387-0602 www.poshatx.com

18 New restaurant **Sala & Betty** took over the former location of Stallion Grill at 5201 Airport Blvd. Owners Terry and Teresa Wilson opened the drive-thru Feb. 23 and will phase in menu options with the full lineup available March 9 that will include breakfast, lunch and dinner options, such as salads, sandwiches, shrimp and grits, sirloins and paleo options for what Teresa calls off-beat, American-style dining. She said she's worked in Austin restaurants for decades, including positions at Italian restaurant Basil and Aquarelle. 512-645-0214. www.salaandbettyatx.com

19 Flavors from various regions of the U.S. are featured at **416 Bar & Grille**. Father-son duo John and Colin Jurey opened the restaurant at 5011 Burnet Road, Ste. 150, on Feb. 2 after Colin said he watched his father work in the food industry for years in various cities. The restaurant features a full bar that can seat about 25 people and tables that can seat almost 40, John said. More than 100 guest parking spots are available, according to ownership. 512-206-0540. www.416barandgrille.com

20 **Mistique Makeup** opened in late January beneath The 704 apartments, 3401 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 3138. Mistique Makeup owner Jacqueline Bassett offers waxings, eyelash extensions, makeup, custom spray tans and items from a small boutique shop. There is also a location in San Antonio. 210-421-9094. www.mistiquemakeup.com

Coming Soon

21 Austin-based burger chain **P. Terry's Burger Stand** has a new location planned for 5900 N. Lamar Blvd., the former location of the The Corner Shoppe. Demolition of The Corner Shoppe building started in February to make way for the P. Terry's trademark Google architecture. Owner Patrick Terry said he could not confirm when the location will open. He

and his wife, Kathie, opened the first P. Terry's at 404 S. Lamar Blvd. on July 6, 2005. 512-473-2217. www.pterrys.com

22 **World of Beer South Lamar** will open in March at 3109 S. Lamar Blvd. The Florida-based bar will serve craft beer, wine, craft cocktails and tavern fare. There will be 50 rotating taps and more than 500 bottled beers from which to choose. www.worldofbeer.com

23 A new Italian restaurant will open mid-spring at 1500 Barton Springs Road. **Juliet** will be led by chef Jacob Weaver, who most recently worked with Asti Trattoria in Hyde Park. The menu will include wood-fired pizza, pasta, seafood, steak and a rotating selection of daily specials. www.facebook.com/JulietItalian

24 A new eatery offering healthy hot dogs with flavors from throughout the nation is slated to open March 1. Chris Stockdale, founder of **Mighty Dogs Cafe and Bistro**, is bringing his operation to 401 Orchard St. He said he visited cities nationwide to find each city's distinct flavor and style to help guide what hot dog choices he includes on his menu. www.mightydogscfe.com

25 **Bun Belly** will open in early March with a menu full of chef-driven, seasonal Vietnamese cuisine. The restaurant is taking over the former home of Your Mom's Burger Bar at 5001 Airport Blvd. About 50 to 60 seats will be available to patrons with local beer, wine and sake cocktails also available. In June or July, a nearby building will open to become the restaurant's commercial kitchen and bakery, General Manager Melissa Hale said. 512-358-4101. www.bunbellyaustin.com

26 Meritage Homes began construction on homes in early February at **Meritage Homes Solavera**, 2807 Del Curto Road. The project will feature 15 single-family detached homes and opens in May. The \$4.2 million project will offer homes starting in the high \$600,000 range. 877-275-6374. www.meritagehomes.com



A new fitness class combines yoga with brunch at **Yomosas** every Sunday at 10 a.m.



Dishes from **Ramen Tatsu-ya** have made their way south of Lady Bird Lake to a new location.



The third Austin location for **Fuzzy's Taco Shop** opened in Midtown Commons Jan. 15.



Chris Stockdale, founder of **Mighty Dogs Cafe & Bistro**, will open the restaurant March 1.

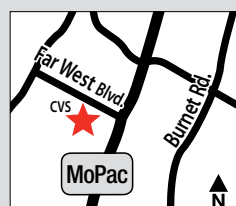
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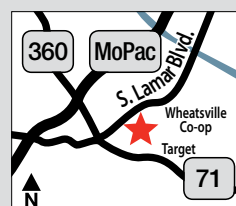


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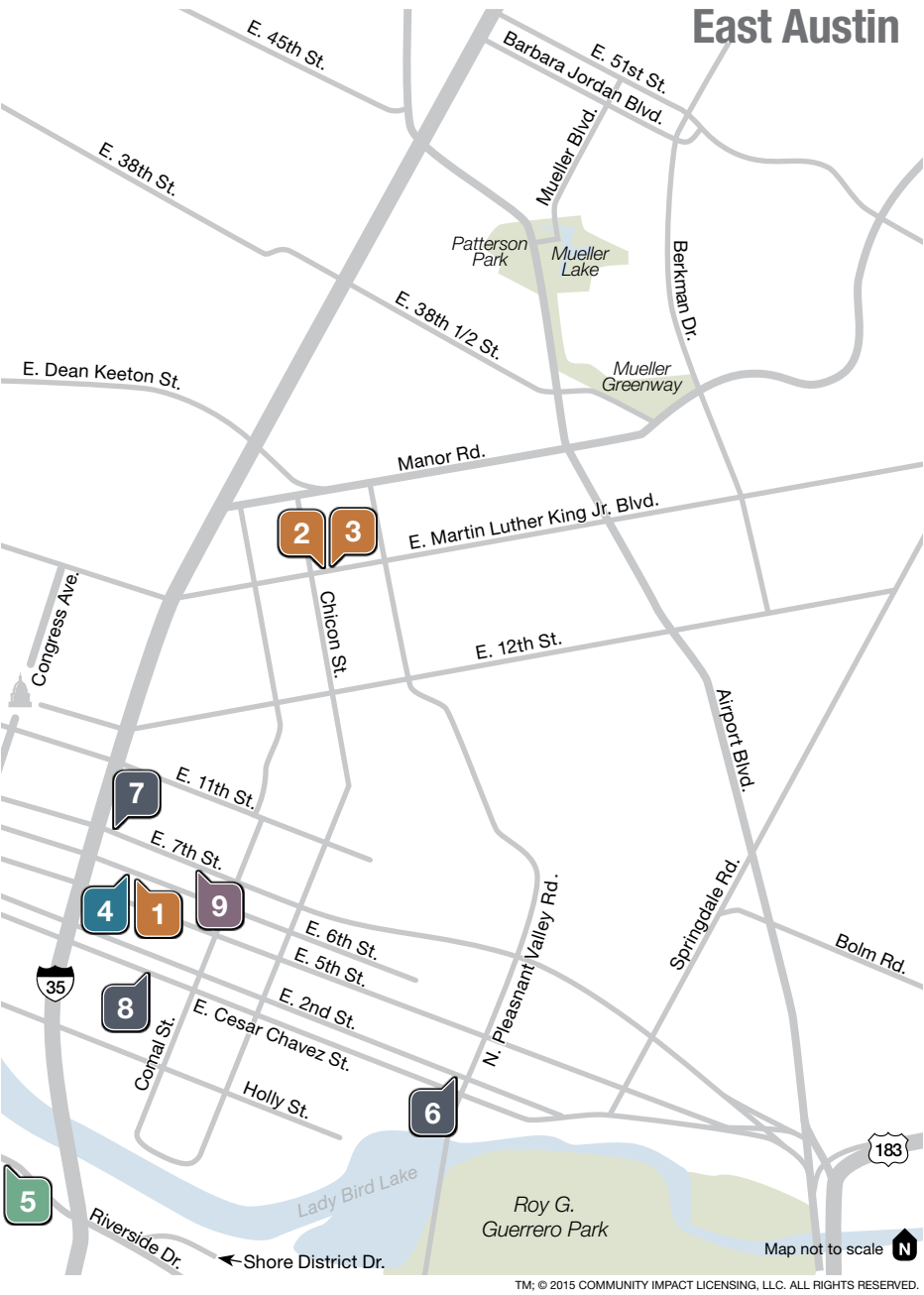
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IMPACTS

Compiled by Jennifer Curington



Treats at **Maggie Louise Confections** can be personalized with edible, hand-painted letters.



The Wheel opened Feb. 12 and has a small workstation for bicycles.

East Austin
Now Open

1 After providing specialty chocolates to Austin for two years, **Maggie Louise Confections** opened a storefront at 1017 E. Sixth St. Maggie Louise Callahan and her team opened the shop Feb. 3, selling fresh, hand-decorated chocolates topped with various decorations, such as lipstick- or dinosaur-shaped chocolates. Callahan said her mission is to create delicious chocolates that are also beautiful. 888-886-2342. www.maggielouiseconfections.com

2 The former location of The Wet Whistle, 1900 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in January became the home of a new **Juiceland** location. Outside construction and anticipated interior renovations currently prevent patrons from entering the new location. However, Juiceland customers can still order at the store's convenience window or call ahead to place orders. 512-519-9806. www.juicelandaustin.com

3 The latest project from Max Moreland, who co-owns and operates the bar Mean Eyed Cat, opened Feb. 12 at 1902-B E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. **The Wheel**, a bicycle-themed bar, offers seasonal cocktail drink specials. Patrons can also order sandwiches from neighbor Austin Daily Press to accompany drink choices. www.thewheelaustin.com

Coming Soon

4 Andrew Sabola grew up around the food industry, which he said led him to work to open **Gelateria Gemelli** with Meghan Erwin after they learned how to make gelato in Italy. The gelato shop will open in mid-March at 1009 E. Sixth St. 512-318-1321. www.gelateriagemelli.com

Relocations

5 **The Horseshoe Lounge** opened its doors for the last time Feb. 15 at its

original location, 2034 S. Lamar Blvd. Jim and Rene Gewin started the bar 50 years ago. Their daughter Tennia Brown now runs the business with her husband, Brad. The Browns have gained new partners to make the move to a larger space at 153 E. Riverside Drive. The new location will open in late summer, but no specific date has been set. 512-442-9111. www.horseshoeloungeaustin.com

Closings

6 **Live Oak Barbecue** at 2713 E. Second St. closed Jan. 31. No reason behind the decision was disclosed. 512-524-1930. www.liveoakbbq.net

7 **Uncorked Tasting Room and Wine Bar** closed in January for undisclosed reasons. Founder Ron White started the business at 900 E. Seventh St. after leaving the information technology sector. www.uncorkedtastingroom.com

8 Pinata and party supply store **Jumpolin** was demolished Feb. 12. The store, located at 1401 E. Cesar Chavez St., had been in operation for eight years. Business owners said the demolition occurred without any notice; however, those who own the property disagree. The business will temporarily move to 4926 E. Cesar Chavez St., Ste. B, until the end of April, Jumpolin ownership said. The owners said they are currently searching for a permanent location. 512-424-9511

Anniversaries

9 Executive Chef Chad Dolezal of El Arbol and General Manager Victor Farnsworth celebrated the one-year anniversary Jan. 17 of **The Hightower**. The restaurant, located at 1209 E. Seventh St., serves brunch, lunch, dinner and happy hour Tuesday through Sunday. 512-524-1448. <http://thehightoweraustin.com>

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TRANSPORTATION UPDATES


Major projects in the area

Compiled by Amy Denney and Joe Lanane

@


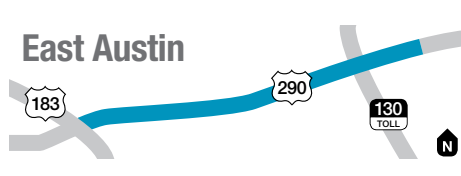
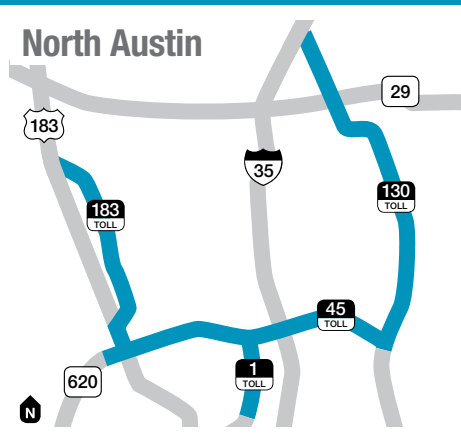
News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at ctanews@impactnews.com

Project Spotlight



1 **Toll road reimbursement program**
The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority announced Feb. 10 that it will extend its partnership with Carma, a transportation technology company that promotes carpooling, to reimburse toll fares on all major Austin-area tollways. In addition to existing reimbursement options for carpoolers who drive Toll 183A and the Manor Expressway, Carma has added rebates for tolls charged on Loop 1, SH 45 in South Austin, SH 45 N in Round Rock and SH 130 from Georgetown to the SH 45 N interchange. Two-person carpools can receive 50 percent of the tolls rebated, and carpool parties with three or more Carma users will receive full toll reimbursement.


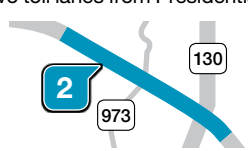
To participate, the driver and riders must connect using the Carma smartphone app, which is available for iPhone and Android. Once the driver provides Carma with the vehicle's TxTag account, GPS technology in the app allows the Mobility Authority




to count the number of people in the vehicle and give a reimbursement. More information is available at <http://carmacarpool.com/love>.

2 **SH 71 express lanes**
The Texas Department of Transportation and the Mobility Authority celebrated the ground breaking Jan. 27 of the SH 71 express lanes project. It will add two toll lanes from Presidential Boulevard to east of SH 130 as well as realign the intersection at FM 973 and build overpasses at FM 973 and SH 130.
Timeline: January 2015–late 2016
Cost: \$149 million
Funding sources: State and federal funds

3 **Second Street bridge/extension**
The city is designing and constructing a new bridge over Shoal Creek. The project extends the street from San Antonio Street to West Avenue. Nonrelated building construction will result in limited lane openings along San Antonio Street and West Cesar Chavez Street.
Timeline: June 2013–July 2016
Cost: \$29.1 million



4 **Shoal Creek restoration**
The city is restoring the creek through one of Austin's oldest neighborhoods between 15th and 28th streets. The stream's banks will be restored, and stormwater quality treatment efforts will be improved in areas near Pease Park, which includes pedestrian walkways and bike paths.
Timeline: April 2013–November 2018
Cost: \$6.87 million
Funding sources: 2006 parks bond money, 2010/2012 mobility bond money



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WORKING IN #ATX

The jobs that make Austin work

Community Impact Newspaper regularly profiles a different industry essential to Central Austin. Email suggestions to ctanews@impactnews.com.

Bar industry

New opportunities arise because of growing Austin nightlife scene



“You can go around and order 15 Jack and Cokes, and all 15 are going to taste the exact same. At the end of the day, nothing is more important than the people behind the bar.”

— Max Moreland, Mean Eyed Cat co-owner/operator

By Joe Lanane

The average bar remains open less than two years, according to national estimates. The high-risk, high-reward nature of the industry is not lost on many of Austin’s bar owners who often invest in multiple projects.

Doug Guller opened Bikinis Sports Bar & Grill along I-35 in 2006 shortly after moving to Austin. Nearly 10 years later the founder and CEO of ATX Brands owns 23 bars and restaurants with a goal of operating 50 by 2018.

“A lot of our growth happened organically as we saw opportunities become available,” said Guller, who has since opened Parish, The Scoot Inn, 508 Tequila Bar and Upstairs on Trinity, among others.

Now he employs 570 people in what he considers to be one of the most unique

bar markets nationally.

“When we got here 10 years ago, there was just Historic Sixth Street and the Warehouse District,” Guller said before naming all the Austin bar districts that now exist. “I didn’t imagine all the growth that would occur.”

All that growth has made it easier to break into the industry, said Max Moreland, co-owner and operator of Mean Eyed Cat on the west side of downtown Austin. Eleven years ago Moreland said he struggled to find a bar gig after moving from Arizona. Now the trick is finding the right employees, he said.

“You can go around and order 15 Jack and Cokes, and all 15 are going to taste the exact same,” Moreland said. “At the end of the day, nothing is more important than the people behind the bar.”

Working up the ladder

In early February, Moreland and his partners, FBR Management, opened their sixth venture, a bicycle-themed East Austin bar called The Wheel. He, like others in his role, worked bartending gigs and other industry jobs before venturing into ownership.

“We all made steps to get here,” said Moreland, who worked at Star Bar on West Sixth Street before Mean Eyed Cat. “You don’t get to this level unless you earned your stripes.”

Jey Ditta, co-owner and operator of downtown Sixth Street bars Bat Bar, Lux Lounge, and, since Nov. 1, Voodoo Room, said he targets strong personalities and service-oriented workers when considering new employees. Also, everyone earns their role, he said.

“You have got to start at the door and work your way up,” Ditta said. “Otherwise, how fair would that be to the bartender who has been here five years?”

Changing landscape

Growth has also caused setbacks for the bar industry with some of the city’s most historic bars relocating or closing altogether in recent years. Deep Eddy Cabaret, which first opened in 1951 as Deep Eddy Cafe, was acquired last year by Will Bridges, co-owner of Lamberts Downtown Barbecue.

“Deep Eddy Cabaret is a time capsule that kind of takes you back,” Bridges said. “You step in there and forget about all the growth and change in Austin.”

When Bridges first took over the long-time Tarrytown bar, he said many reactions were equivalent to the sky falling—a sentiment he appreciated.

“I not only agreed with them, but I really appreciated that feedback because it told me people value these artifacts now more than ever,” Bridges said.

Challenges and opportunities

Bridges owns his bar’s property, allowing him to control its fate, but other establishments under lease may not be so lucky, he said.

“In some regard that’s an important part of the story because it’s getting harder and harder with the state of the real estate market in Austin to ‘save’ these iconic places,” he said.

But as Austin changes, so, too, has the industry. Eddy’s now allows credit cards and serves hard liquor.

Also, Historic Sixth Street bar owners, such as Guller and Ditta, are working to shed the street’s so-called “dirty” image. Guller is even converting Parish Underground into the first Austin location of Gino’s East, a popular Chicago pizzeria known for its deep-dish pizza.

“Historic Sixth Street is not just for college drinkers,” he said.

The area still suffers from an increased homeless population, Guller said, and lack of parking for patrons and bar employees.

“We need to make sure all districts are being treated the same so we all play by the same set of rules and are all taxed the same way,” he said.

Bar employee survey results

Transportation advocacy group ATX Safer Streets surveyed late-night employees last August. Here’s what the group found:

78741, 78704, 78745—Where workers reside

33.3%—Pay \$51–\$100 in monthly parking costs to go to work

61.5%—Struggle to find a way home

78.2%—Feel unsafe after work

Source: ATX Safer Streets 2015 Master Plan

Neighborhood bar revival

More bar owners are venturing beyond downtown, including Keith Sandel, who got his start in South Austin nearly six years ago by opening Black Sheep Lodge. He next ventured into East Austin in fall 2013 to open another neighborhood bar called Haymaker.

He touts both bars as “alternatives to the bedlam that is downtown” during the South by Southwest Music and Media Conference. Both bars have performed so well that Sandel said he intends on opening a third concept.

“I definitely want to expand into another neighborhood,” he said. “It’s just a matter of time.”

Will Bridges, co-owner of Arlyn Studios, Lamberts Downtown Barbecue and a member of the ownership group attempting to revive Antone’s blues club, said he was looking for a non-music venue when the opportunity emerged to buy Deep Eddy Cabaret on Lake Austin Boulevard. The purchase had special meaning because both he and his father often frequented the bar located near where Bridges grew up.

“I never fathomed in all my crazy schemes or thought about taking over Deep Eddy Cabaret,” he said.

But having a neighborhood bar also comes with the responsibility of working with nearby residents, said Max Moreland, co-owner and operator of Mean Eyed Cat. When opening the West Austin bar, he said he compromised with surrounding neighborhoods



Black Sheep Lodge owner Keith Sandel opened the South Austin neighborhood bar nearly six years ago. The diversity of people living nearby creates a unique mix of patrons, Sandel said, which includes young, working-class professionals and more affluent residents.

to shut down music earlier and keep the volume lower than city requirements. He said he hopes to also be a good neighbor to East Austin residents near his new venture The Wheel.

“It shouldn’t be a fight or a battle,” Moreland said. “We should strive to be the best neighbors we can be.”



Deep Eddy Cabaret started in 1951 under Raymond and Mickey Hickman. Mickey continued running the bar until 1996. New owner Will Bridges, who calls Mickey the bar’s “patron saint,” frequented the bar with his father before eventually purchasing the property last year.

Sandel said he also tries working with neighbors on parking and noise issues. He even gave residents near Haymaker a 25 percent discount the first year in business as a sign of good faith.

“We always try to do the best we can to work with them and not be a problem,” Sandel said.



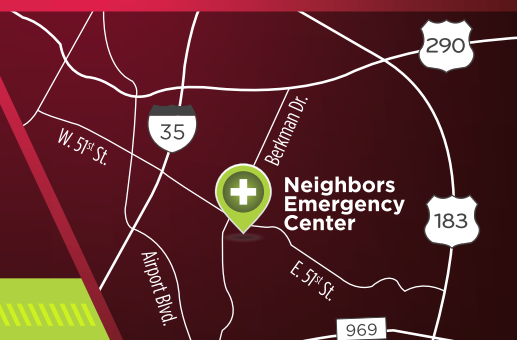
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* Excludes segments 5 & 6 of SH 130, south of 45 SE

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CITY & COUNTY

News from Austin and Travis County

Compiled by Jennifer Curington and Joe Oliveri

Council committee appointments finalized

AUSTIN City Council approved council committee appointments essential for its new governing structure Feb. 9.

There are 10 council committees with four council members on each committee. Each council member, other than Mayor Steve Adler, is chair of at least one committee and vice chair of another.

Adler made the selections and announced them Feb. 9 after meeting with each council member about his or her areas of interest. The appointments were approved with 10 “yes” votes and Councilman Don Zimmerman abstaining from voting.

Items will now pass through these committees for discussion and public input before making it to City Council’s agenda. Measures can bypass being

heard by a committee and be put on a City Council agenda if at least four council members agree to do so; however various council members have said this is seen as an emergency measure and not an option that will be used regularly.

Typically, items not heard at the committee level will be open to an unlimited number of public speakers in front of the full council. Items heard by committees will only have eight speakers—four per side.

The council committees are not set to begin meeting until council members are done conducting policy forums, formerly known as deep dives, on various topics, such as transportation, neighborhood planning, public utilities and water. The policy forums are scheduled through the end of March.

Council committee chairs

Audit and Finance

- Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo

Austin Energy*

- Councilwoman Sheri Gallo

*All of City Council serves on this committee.

Economic Opportunity, Technology, Innovation and Creative Industries

- Councilwoman Ellen Troxclair

Health and Human Services

- Councilwoman Ora Houston

Housing and Community Development

- Councilman Sabino Renteria

Mobility

- Councilwoman Ann Kitchen

Open Space, Environment and Sustainability

- Councilwoman Leslie Pool

Planning and Neighborhoods

- Councilman Greg Casar

Public Safety

- Councilman Don Zimmerman

Public Utilities

- Councilwoman Delia Garza

For a full list of appointments visit: impactnews.com/atxcouncilcommittees.

Courthouse project to appear on the November ballot

TRAVIS COUNTY The county will ask voters to consider approving \$291.6 million in bond funds to build a new civil and family courthouse in downtown Austin.

On Jan. 27, Travis County Commissioners Court voted to move the referendum to the November general election.

The following week the court reviewed the project budget, arrived at the estimated price tag and moved forward with contract amendments.

The votes follow months of discussion about the county’s present and future legal needs as well as attempts to bring down the project’s costs.

“This is in fact the largest brick-and-mortar bond initiative that Travis County has ever taken on,” Commissioner Ron Davis said. “I think the discussion here has laid out a lot of things whereby we could eliminate a lot of doubt that may be in voters’ minds.”

The civil and family courthouse would partially replace the Heman M. Sweatt Courthouse, which houses the county’s district and associate courts.

Representatives of Austin’s legal community have said the Sweatt courthouse will not meet the county’s future needs.

As designed, the new 14-story, 520,000-square-foot courthouse at Fourth and Guadalupe streets would initially include 28 courtrooms and a four-level underground parking garage.

City backs projects seeking state credits

AUSTIN City Council pledged to provide partial funding and give its verbal support to six multifamily developments in various parts of Austin that are applying for housing tax credits from the state.

Each project would include units for low-income residents, though the number of units varies.

Most residents who spoke to council Feb. 12 before the vote of support opposed the projects and were concerned traffic would increase.

Parking meters heading to East Austin, Mueller

AUSTIN City Council approved new parking regulations in East Austin and the Mueller neighborhood on Feb. 12.

East Austin’s new Parking and Transportation Management District spans from 11th Street to East Cesar Chavez Street, meaning meters will soon line those streets. Mueller’s monitored parking will predominantly be located near its town center attractions.

The neighborhoods will receive 51 percent of the profit from the meters so the city of Austin can create strategies that assist traffic flow in the area.



Parts of central East Austin will soon have parking meters installed as part of a new parking district created by the city. The Mueller neighborhood will also have meters added in areas near its town center development, which is yet to be constructed.

Meetings

▶ Austin City Council

Next meeting is Feb. 26
Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St.
512-974-2000 • www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council

▶ Travis County Commissioners Court

Meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
700 Lavaca St., Austin
www.co.travis.tx.us/commissioners-court

▶ Capital Area Council of Governments

6800 Burleson Road, Bldg. 310, Ste. 165
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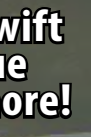


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TAKE A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

HOW A BILL becomes A LAW

What is the role of the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR?

In Texas the lieutenant governor serves a four-year term, presides over the Senate, appoints Senate committee members and has the power to break a tie vote. With the Speaker of the House, he or she jointly chairs the Legislative Budget Board—which recommends budgets for all state government agencies—and is vice chairperson of the Legislative Audit Committee and Education Board.

The lieutenant governor also serves as governor if the governor dies, resigns, is absent from the state or is removed from office.

The minimum age for an individual to take the office of lieutenant governor is 30 years old, and he or she must be a Texas resident for five years as well as a U.S. citizen.

LEGISLATIVE lingo

- AMENDMENT:** A change or addition to a bill

BILL: A proposed law

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: Five senators and five representatives who meet to resolve differences between a Senate and a House version of the same bill

FILIBUSTER: A tactic used to kill a bill or delay a vote in the Senate; a senator holds the floor by talking, without sitting down or leaving his or her desk

LOBBYIST: A person who meets with legislators to influence bills

MAJORITY: Vote of more than 50 percent

OVERRIDE: Legislature can override a governor's veto of a bill with a two-thirds vote from
- each chamber—the House of Representatives and Senate

QUORUM: Number of members required to officially start a meeting; two-thirds membership in either the Senate or House of Representatives

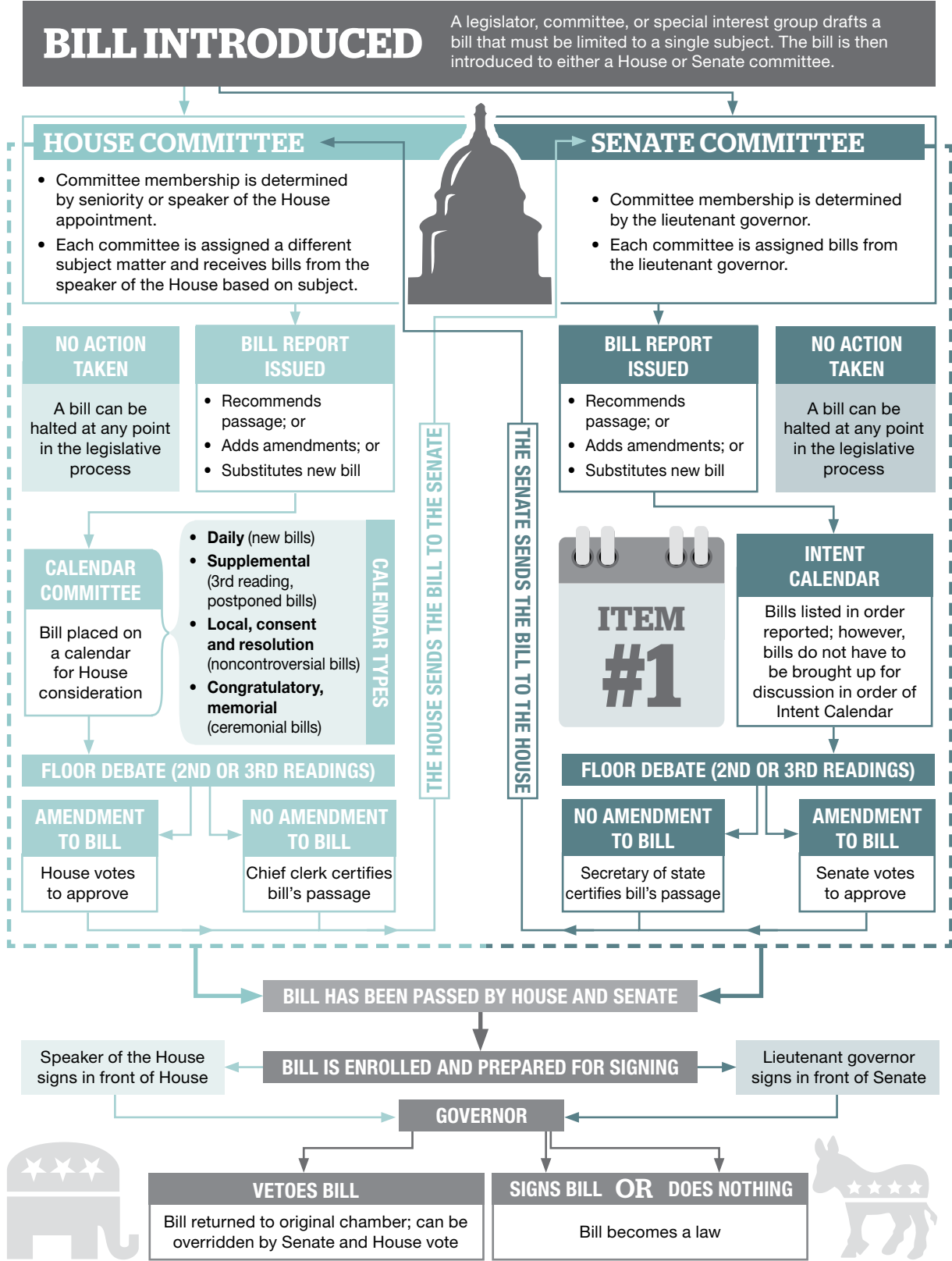
RESOLUTION: Used to propose an amendment to the Texas Constitution; can also take care of housekeeping functions of Legislature; statement of congratulations or honor

SPEAKER: Presiding officer of the House of Representatives

TERM: The length of time a political official may serve once elected

VETO: Governor's rejection of a bill

Sources: Texas Legislature Online, Texas Legislative Council, Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives



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CALENDAR

February

Through March 8
'She Stoops to Conquer'

Don Toner and Lara Toner-Haddock direct this comedy about mistaken identities. Various Austin Playhouse acting company members co-star in the play. 5 p.m. (Sun.), 7:30 p.m. (March 5 only), 8 p.m. (Thu.–Sat.). \$28 (Thu.–Fri.), \$30 (Sat.–Sun.). Austin Playhouse at Highland Mall, 6001 Airport Blvd. 512-476-0084. www.austinplayhouse.com

Through March 15
'Julius Caesar'

The William Shakespeare play marks the debut of the 2015 season for The City Theatre Company. Director Jeff Hinkle, who previously led "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Streetcar Named Desire," returns to lead this tale of corruption, love and ambition. 5:30 p.m. (Sun.), 8 p.m. (Thu.–Sat.). \$10–\$25. The City Theatre, 3823 Airport Blvd. 512-524-2870. www.citytheatreAustin.org

27 The People's Gallery opening reception

The 11th annual public art exhibition features works intended to encourage public dialog, understanding and enjoyment of visual art. Approximately 1,250 entries were submitted by more than 300 Austin artists and art organizations, with 2015 exhibition jury members selecting 100 of those artists, including students from Austin ISD. The exhibition remains on display through mid-January 2016. 6–9 p.m. Free. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St. www.austintexas.gov/departments/peoples-gallery

27 through April 25
'The Three Little Pigs'

This new take on a light-hearted tale includes three piglets, their single-parent mother and a misunderstood Big Bad Wolf. The humorous tale is family-friendly and geared toward ages 3 and older. 11 a.m. (Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sat.–Sun.), 4:30 p.m. (Sun.), 6:30 p.m. (Fri.). \$15 (youth), \$20 (adult). ZACH Theatre's Kleberg Stage, 1421 W. Riverside Drive. 512-476-0541, ext. 1. www.zachtheatre.org

28 2nd Street Soundcheck

The 2nd Street District presents the fourth annual daylong music and street festival in the downtown shopping corridor.

This year's event features 12 bands on two main stages, including headliner Vintage Trouble. There also is beer, food, crafts and family-friendly activities from more than a dozen vendors. Second Street businesses also take part by offering specials exclusive to the event, which this year benefits the Austin Music Foundation. 1–8 p.m. Free. Downtown Second Street. www.2ndstreetdistrict.com



Courtesy: Carnival Brasileiro

28 Carnaval Brasileiro

The largest indoor Brazilian Mardi Gras celebration in the world celebrates its 38th year with an evening of dancing, drums and exotic costumes. More than 6,000 people are expected to attend this year's festivities, with music coming from Austin's Susanna Sharp and Samba Police—their first Carnival appearance since 2000. The event started in the early 1970s to offer Brazilian students a taste of home while studying in Austin. 8 p.m. \$38 (advance), \$45 (at the door). Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road. 512-452-6832. www.carnavalaustin.com

28 through March 02
Texas Independence Day celebration

A parade takes place Feb. 28 on downtown Congress Avenue, an Alamo memorial ceremony is scheduled for the south Capitol grounds March 1 and members of Celebrate Texas and the Texan Legacy Association hold the annual memorial service for the veterans of the Texas Revolution at the Texas State Cemetery on March 2. Events conclude with a celebration in the Capitol rotunda March 2. Times vary. Free. 512-288-5506. www.celebratetexas.org

March



Courtesy: David King

01 ABC Zilker Kite Festival

Founded by the Exchange Club of Austin, the annual event features thousands of kites flying as well as children's activities, such as rock-wall climbing, face painting and rides. Visitors can bring their own picnic or purchase food from the dozens of food vendors on-site. Pets are welcome. In case of rain the event will be postponed to March 8. Proceeds from vendors and corporate sponsorships benefit Communities In Schools of Central Texas. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Road. www.abckitefestival.com

04 Puppet show

Literature Live!, Austin Public Library's puppetry and storytelling troupe, performs "Chicken Big," a children's story by Keith Graves. The puppet show is recommended for children age 4 and older. Literature Live! performs more than 100 shows per year at libraries throughout Austin. 3:30 p.m. Free. Austin Public Library North Village Branch, 2505 Steck Ave. 512-974-9960. <http://library.austintexas.gov/literature-live>

05 Journey and Steve Miller Band

Journey and Steve Miller Band—two of the iconic groups that helped define the "San Francisco sound"—perform with Tower of Power. 6:45 p.m. \$35–\$125. Austin360 Amphitheater, 9201 Circuit of The Americas Blvd. 512-301-6600. www.journeymusic.com, www.stevemillerband.com

05 through 08
'Infinity + Infinity'

Austin singer-songwriter Elizabeth McQueen joins visual artist Jerome Morrison and McQueen's newest ensemble, EMQ, which includes guitarist Lauren Gurgiolo and

multi-instrumentalist Lindsay Greene, to create this interactive multimedia performance. The work uses cutting-edge animation, motion-sensor technology and other controlled visual elements in tandem with McQueen's original music. 10 a.m. (child-friendly Sun. only), 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. (nightly). \$10 (advance), \$13 (at the door). Austin's Museum of Human Achievement (location available upon purchase). www.themuseumofhumanachievement.com, www.elizabeth-mcqueen.com

06 'Music of Consolation and Hope'

The third program in Ensemble VIII's 2014–15 season includes masterpieces by Heinrich Schütz and Johann Sebastian Bach. The pieces were composed specifically to celebrate the lives of important people from the time. 7:30 p.m. \$10–\$45. St. Louis Catholic Church chapel, 7601 Burnet Road. www.ensembleviii.org

06 through 14
'Move!'

The University of Texas Dance Repertory Theatre presents experimental, contemporary dance works inspired by New York City's downtown dance scene. The dances share themes about social issues, self exploration and virtual environments. 2 p.m. (Sun.), 7:30 p.m. (Thu.–Sat.). \$15–\$25. Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, 300 E. 23rd St. 512-471-0648. www.texasperformingarts.org

07 It's My Park Day

Austin Parks Foundation organizes this annual event to encourage the public to clean up neighborhood parks. During the 2014 event, the organization finished more than 100 projects throughout Austin and had more than 3,000 volunteers. Parks in Central Austin included in the cleanup effort include Shoal Creek Greenbelt, Brentwood Park, Bull Creek Greenbelt, Bouldin Creek Greenbelt, Pease Park and Republic Square Park. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org

07 'Possession' opening reception

San Antonio-based artist Fatima Ronquillo presents her portrait paintings, which were inspired by the works of Jacques Louis David and the neoclassical period following the French Revolution as well as more formal portraits from colonial-era Latin America. She also juxtaposes traditional compositions with ambiguous yet humorous

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Compiled by Joe Lanane

situations. The show remains on exhibit through March 28. 6–8 p.m. Free. Wally Workman Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth St. 512-472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com

07 through 08 Staple! The Independent Media Expo

A convention featuring the best of independently produced comics, magazines, arts, crafts and games returns for its 11th year. The family-friendly event includes more than 150 exhibitors and hours of programming, including a female-focused panel called “Hire This Woman” to recognize the work of women in the traditionally male-dominated field. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.), noon–6 p.m. (Sun.). \$10 (per day), \$15 (weekend). Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6226 Middle Fiskville Road. www.staple-austin.org



Courtesy Women's Community Center of Central Texas

07 through 08 Women's Empowerment Conference of Austin

The Women's Community Center of Central Texas hosts the second annual WE Con Austin, which is open to anyone. Part community conversation and part resource fair, the event allows attendees to choose from a variety of workshops geared toward various age ranges and topics, such as health, education and financial services. Panel discussions are bilingual this year. Free. Austin Community College Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Road. 512-284-9221. www.weconaustin.org

09 Austin Music Industry Awards

Behind-the-scenes music makers are awarded in technical areas, such as Best Recording Studio, Best Poster Design, Best Club Sounds and more. Austin Music People also awards two legacy awards, its AMP Unsung Hero Award and the AMP Esme Barerra Award for Music Activism &

Education, which recognizes an individual or organization that best exemplifies passion for the Austin music scene and its commitment to music education. Palm Door on Sixth, 508 E. Sixth St. www.austinmusicpeople.com

13 Innovation Day

A new quarterly workshop series kicks off as a way to offer Central Texas entrepreneurs a chance to learn the newest trends, best practices and other tips from industry specialists. The nonprofit industry is the focus of the first Innovation Day, with volunteer management, grant writing, leadership and social media among the topics slated for discussion. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Free. PeopleFund, 2921 E. 17th St., Bldg. D, Ste. 1. 512-222-1007. www.peoplefund.org

13 through 22 South by Southwest Music and Media Conference

The annual festival is split into multiple categories, including Film, Interactive and Music conferences. Live music includes Awolnation, Coffeehouse and Bridget Kelly. Various times. \$650 and up (badge). Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. 512-467-7979. www.sxsw.com



Courtesy Rodeo Austin

14 through 28 Rodeo Austin

Rated one of America's top 10 professional rodeos, the event includes rodeo competitions, such as bareback bronc riding and bull riding. A carnival, Wild West show, barbecue cookoff and live music are also featured. Musical acts at the fair include Willie Nelson & Family, the Eli Young Band, The Beach Boys, Martina McBride and Lee Brice. Various times. \$20–\$175. Travis County Exposition Center, 7311 Decker Lane. 512-919-3000. www.rodeoaustin.com



Courtesy Celtic Cultural Center

17 Celtic Cultural Center's St. Patrick's Day Austin

The annual event includes Irish foods, such as fish and chips and corned beef and cabbage, as well as Irish beers on tap, such as Guinness, Harp and Smithwicks. Live music by local musicians includes a men's chorus, a bagpipe band and an Irish ensemble. 3–9 p.m. Adults: \$12 (online), \$15 (door); Children: \$3 (online), \$5 (door). Shoal Crossing Event Center, 8611 N. MoPac. 512-372-3918. www.stpatricksdayaustin.com

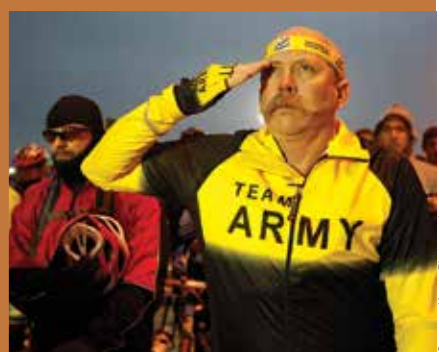


Courtesy Perennial PR

20 through 21 'Wondershow'

Acts of magic, mischief and mystery highlight this live showcase that includes performers previously featured on “The Late Show with David Letterman,” Buzz Feed and “Parlour Magazine” as well as underground talent. This is the first time “Wondershow,” based in New York City, has hit the road since starting in 2013. A \$2,500 crowdfunding campaign is underway to help fund the travel and other expenses incorporated with the event. 8 p.m. \$25–\$30. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Road. 512-478-5282. www.vortexrep.org

Worth the TRIP



Courtesy Keutz Photography

MAR 01 The Army Marathon

The third annual event includes a 5K, half marathon and a full marathon patterned after the first shadow run in 2014 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The organization encourages anyone to run or walk in any of the events. Participants receive shirts and medals. The 5K is limited to participants age 13 and older, and the 13.1-mile half marathon is limited to participants age 16 and older; both events start and end at The Army Marathon finish line on Hilliard Road in Temple. The full 26.2-mile marathon is limited to participants age 18 and older and starts at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center and ends at the finish line on Hilliard Road. Registration ends Feb. 28 or when event capacities are reached. Proceeds benefit active soldiers, veterans and their families. 7 a.m. (half and full marathons), 7:30 a.m. (5K). \$40 (5K), \$75 (half marathon), \$105 (full marathon). Killeen Civic and Conference Center, 3601 S. WS Young Drive, Killeen. 512-472-9599. www.thearmymarathon.com

Online Calendar

Find more or submit Central Austin events at impactnews.com/cta-calendar.

To have Central Austin events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the second Wednesday of the month.

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Austin Spy Shop owner Kiva McDonald stands outside her business, which is located along I-35.

BUSINESS

Austin Spy Shop

Store offers undercover cams, GPS trackers

By Joe Lanane

After only one year in business, Austin Spy Shop, known for its hidden cameras and tracking devices, is branching out and creating its own products.

Owner Kiva McDonald and her staff have created an undercover cam that can be hidden inside Austin-made artwork. The first example, a decorated guitar complete with an American-made micro camera and software exclusive to Austin Spy Shop, should be ready to sell by March, McDonald said.

“The idea was to help local artists,” she said. “I’m excited any time people shop local, and I want do the same thing.”

There is already interest in the hidden camera artwork, said Lyndon Lueders, who helps run the shop. Lueders said the the hidden cameras are easier to use and more appealing than foreign-made counterparts.

“If a business, for example, is having a problem with stealing, they can have this camera installed on something they

already own,” said Lueders, a former police officer who runs his private firm, Austin Investigations, from the shop.

Customers can also request items, whether it be a custom art piece complete with a hidden cam or another product the spy shop does not yet sell.

“If someone needs something we don’t have, we can order it,” McDonald said.

GPS trackers are also among the most popular items sold, Lueders said. The products come with tracking software, Lueders said, that helps business owners track each company vehicle’s maximum speed, miles traveled and each vehicle stop.

“We’ve already had an owner of a tow truck company call back and say he has already saved \$500 in gas that week,” McDonald said.

The GPS trackers can also come in handy for families, she said.

“If my mom and dad had put those in my vehicle growing up, I would have driven much differently,” McDonald said.

Lights, camera, artwork

This guitar, created by Austin artists Shavonya Peacock and Randal Jennings, was designed to include an American-made camera component. Austin Spy Shop owner Kiva McDonald said she came up with the idea as an alternative to foreign-produced spy cams. The software that comes with the high-quality hidden camera is made for easy use, she said, with the live camera feed accessible from any computer or mobile device.



Other hidden cameras

Other hidden-camera products include watches, car remotes, dashboard cameras and fake Bluetooth-like devices. Austin Spy Shop also has functional lighters and pens that double as hidden cameras. Hidden cameras are especially popular, McDonald said, among adults who hire full-time nannies, those with elderly parents in nursing homes and people who suspect their roommate is stealing from them.



GPS devices

Austin Spy Shop recently began selling bicycle GPS trackers that are hidden inside a taillight reflector. The shop also sells car GPS trackers that magnetically stick to a vehicle, child GPS trackers hidden inside kid-friendly watches, dog GPS trackers hidden inside collars and even flashlights with hidden microphones and GPS trackers. McDonald also sells hard-wired GPS trackers and fleet trackers ideal for businesses.



What’s next?

McDonald said she credits much of her business’s early success to its location along the I-35 frontage road across from the Mueller neighborhood development. The next step, McDonald and business partner Lyndon Lueders agreed, is to branch out beyond Austin by the end of 2015. They said they hope to franchise Austin Spy Shop nationally, gearing each location to its specific market.



Austin Spy Shop

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Austin Eats Food Tours

Various restaurants, food trucks showcased

By Joe Lanane

Austin Eats Food Tours, the city's self-proclaimed original food tour group, has grown steadily since starting along South Congress Avenue in early 2011.

The original tour is now among three offered by Austin Eats owner Andy Potter, who started the business with his wife, Lindsey. They expanded to also offer a downtown-themed tour that has since evolved to become a Best of Austin Food Trucks tour complete with a bus that drives attendees throughout various parts of Austin. The newest tour, an electric bicycle venture throughout East Austin, comes as a result of a partnership with Rocket Electrics, which provides the bikes.

Convincing eateries to participate was not always easy, Potter said, but now at least three business call each week asking to be included in upcoming tours.

"At first when we were a new concept some of the restaurants were a bit hesitant and wondered,



Courtesy Andy Potter

Austin Eats Food Tours hosts an East Austin tour that uses electric bicycles.

"What's the catch?" Potter said. "But there is no catch. We want to show people what you're known for the most and have them come back another time."

The tour's success allows Potter to be selective in which restaurants and trucks he includes.

"We're not going to mediocre places because it's convenient," he said.

Potter said he has branched out to do more private and corporate events, which now make up approximately 60 percent of all tours.

Austin Eats Food Tours

www.austineatsfoodtours.com
Twitter: @austinfoodtours

COMMON CONNECTION

Being a tourist in your own city

Austin Eats Food Tours and Austin Passbook predominantly serve Austinites who enjoy exploring their own city.

When owner Andy Potter first started his food-tour business, he said he expected 80 percent of his customers base to be out-of-town customers.

"Truth be told, about 65 percent of people who go on our tour live in the Austin area," Potter said. "So the opportunity and chances for our restaurant and food truck partners to literally get customers for life is so exponentially high."

One Dell Inc. executive has used Austin Eats for more than 10 private tours so far, including his own 40th birthday party, Potter said.

Austin Passbook can also help locals break from their routine, owner Dylan Benjamin said, by trying something new in an otherwise unexplored part of the city. Users are even encouraged to Instagram their experiences to show others how much fun they are having, he said.

"We've had some people almost complete the entire book," Benjamin said. "It's been really fun to watch."

Austin Passbook

Two-for-one specials encourage exploration

By Joe Lanane

A popular new booklet that allows Austinites to experience the city at half the price is expected to return this summer.

Austin Passbook launched in late October offering two-for-one specials at many food trucks and activities throughout Austin for the next four months. The \$20 passbook features more than \$750 in deals and has proven to be more popular than anticipated, said Dylan Benjamin, who started the company with his wife, Lee Anne.

"We wanted to make something that would benefit both local Austin businesses as well as the consumers," Benjamin said. "It's a cool, social way to get people out exploring their city."

The first passbook expires Feb. 28, and the next one should be available by June, he said. He said he picked the winter and summer months because those are typically the slowest times for businesses.

The anticipated new Austin



Courtesy Dylan Benjamin

The second edition of Austin Passbook will be released this summer.

Passbook for this summer will appeal to repeat users, he said.

"Initially we were going to try getting new activities for each book, but we will keep some favorites around as sort of a 'best of Austin,'" said Benjamin, who considers Austin Passbook a ticket to explore Austin and less of a coupon book. He said the name may even be changed in the coming year to de-emphasize the discount nature of the book.

"We're really hoping this becomes something big and long-standing in Austin," he said.

Austin Passbook

www.austinpassbook.com
Twitter: @austinpassbook

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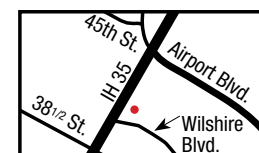
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DINING

Lucy's Fried Chicken

Grandmother's recipe still used for main dish

By Jennifer Curington

Lucy's Fried Chicken opened its first location almost four years ago near South Congress Avenue and has since expanded to the growing Burnet corridor with a third location in the works.

Owner James Holmes served his grandmother's fried chicken recipe during brunch at his first restaurant, Olivia, named after his oldest daughter. When customers started begging for more he said he decided to open Lucy's Fried Chicken. He said Lucy's is named after his grandmother as well as his other daughter.

"In the back of my mind I've always wanted to open a juke-joint place that had Texas music, a full bar and a place you get fried chicken; kind of a dive, but a family dive," Holmes said.

Holmes, who trained as a chef in New York City, France and other locations, said he was determined to provide a chef-driven menu and offer a variety of options. Fried chicken and oysters are menu staples, but a wall inside Lucy's shows what chalkboard specials there are for the day. The specials are creations by the chefs that can include a variety of influences and flavors.

Holmes said one misconception of Lucy's Fried Chicken is that the menu is packed with unhealthy or greasy options.

"The thing that I hate to hear the most is, 'I can't go there because I don't eat fried food,' or, 'I'm on a diet,' but we have really healthy options. We do great grilled chicken, we've got great vegetable platters. My chefs all go to the farmers market every week and get stuff," Holmes said.

The south location of Lucy's is more likely to host a creative crowd of musicians, chefs, comedians and tattooed patrons, while the Burnet Road location is frequented by those from nearby neighborhoods and families, Holmes said.

A location for the third Lucy's is not yet set in stone, but Holmes said he wants to bring the eatery closer to customers who live in more affordable areas without detracting from business at the existing locations.

"We were approached last year to franchise, and I turned it down. I didn't think we were quite ready for that yet nor was I really interested in that. I've always been sort of anti-corporation," Holmes said.

No matter where Lucy's Fried Chicken lands next, the tradition of the original location will stay with it, Holmes said.

"I think it's an honest, truthful experience. It's good food; it's straightforward, homemade, old school," Holmes said.

"This isn't a flash in the pan; this is a place that means a lot to me."



Owner James Holmes encourages Lucy's Fried Chicken chefs to develop new dishes that are then featured as daily chalkboard specials.

Grandma's recipe

Owner James Holmes paid homage to his grandmother by using her name for the restaurant and her fried chicken recipe for the menu's main item. There are seven different ways to order Lucy's chicken, including by the **basket** (at right), which includes four pieces of fried chicken (\$9.50). Other options include entrees with Cajun flair, spaghetti or Pearl beer flavor. The Bucket O' Chicken is another option that feeds four people.



Oysters with Texas flair

Oysters are another menu staple at both Lucy's Fried Chicken locations. The oysters can be topped with a variety of flavors that provide spice and other Texas tastes. **The Texan** (at right) has chorizo, garlic butter and house-made hot sauce (\$13.50). The Austin has tequila, lime, chili sauce and cotija cheese. Oysters are served raw or cooked atop a wood-fired grill. Six oysters are served per order.



Room for dessert?

All pies on the menu are made in-house at the Lucy's Burnet Road location by pastry chef Brittany Buell. There are multiple flavors, including chocolate, banana pudding, lime, butterscotch and a **Sweet Tea pie** (at right), which owner James Holmes describes as a Southern chess pie with lemon and whipped cream (\$5.50), but patrons who order the dish will get a pecan flavor with almost every bite, he said.



Lucy's Fried Chicken

2218 College Ave. • 512-297-2423
www.lucysfriedchicken.com

5408 Burnet Road • 512-514-0664
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NONPROFIT

Compiled by Joe Lanane

Nonprofit Roundup

Updates about Austin's philanthropic efforts

1 Kids in a New Groove, or KING, begins a new four-part Concert Club series Feb. 26. The first show features Austin-based indie pop artist Max Frost. The members-only showing at Empire Control Room, 606 E. Seventh St., aims to bring new donors to the organization, which provides free weekly music lessons and mentorship for youth in foster care. Ruby Jane and Shakey Graves are also slated to perform for the Concert Club, and a fourth act is yet to be announced. www.kidsinaneewgroove.org

2 In early January Donna Benson-Chan was named the new executive director of **Impact Austin**, one of the largest women's philanthropic groups in the nation. The Austin-based nonprofit uses membership dues to create \$100,000 worth of grants annually for local nonprofit organizations in five areas: culture, education, environment, family, and health and wellness. 512-335-5540. www.impactaustin.org



Courtesy Austin Bat Cave

3 A volunteer and staffer for **Austin Bat Cave** since 2008, Katie Angermeier Haab was named the organization's executive director in late January. Angermeier Haab started as a summer camp volunteer, working her way up to volunteer coordinator before becoming a staff member for the nonprofit, which provides writing instructors to students ages 6–18. www.austinbatcave.org

4 The **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation** announced Jan. 27 its plans to match up to \$25 million in donations to help raise \$50 million toward Seton Healthcare Family's new 211-bed Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas, which is now under construction at 15th and Red River streets. The \$295 million teaching hospital will open by 2017. The Dell Foundation two years ago also awarded a \$50 million grant

to help build the UT Dell Medical School, which will surround the new teaching hospital with research facilities, medical school classrooms and faculty offices. 512-600-5501. www.msdf.org



Courtesy Austin Diaper Bank

5 Austin Community Foundation in late January awarded **Austin Diaper Bank** \$5,000 to help pay rent on the diaper bank facility. The money combines with a recent St. David's Episcopal Church \$10,000 community outreach grant. Austin Diaper Bank has provided diapers to approximately 2,000 families since starting in 2013 out of a 400-square-foot space at 5555 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. K105. The goal this year is to move the group's facility to a larger space in the same complex. www.austindiapers.org

6 The **Souper Bowl of Caring**, a national youth-led movement that seeks to fight hunger and poverty in communities, took place Jan. 19 through Feb. 1 and raised more than \$900,000 in the Austin area. More than 90 groups participated in the annual fundraiser this year, including H-E-B, which on Feb. 2 dropped off four truckloads of food to the Capital Area Food Bank at 8201 S. Congress Ave. www.tacklehunger.org/austin

7 **Aware Awake Alive**, an Austin nonprofit working to save young lives from alcohol poisoning, announced Feb. 3 the launch of its new online toolbox, a resource kit geared toward high school students, their parents and teachers. The Hill School Toolbox contains information about the risks associated with underage drinking to help raise awareness. The kit can be downloaded at www.awareawakealive.org/toolbox/ high-school. www.awareawakealive.org

Featured NONPROFIT

I Live Here, I Give Here

By Joe Lanane

A staff of four expects to raise millions of dollars for hundreds of Central Texas nonprofits March 5 as part of the third annual Amplify Austin event.

I Live Here, I Give Here hosts the annual mega-marathon, which in its first year exceeded a \$1 million fundraising goal by collecting \$2.7 million. In 2014 the event again eclipsed expectations by raising a record \$5.7 million—far more than an anticipated \$4 million. The stakes are even higher this year, with the fundraising goal set at \$7 million.

The event targets Austin's young population through online and mobile resources, said Tom Spencer, executive director of I Live Here, I Give Here.

"People can go online and shop for causes," said Spencer, whose group launched the idea after conducting research that showed Austinites do not donate as much as other U.S. markets.

The Amplify Austin event has helped improve Austin's charitable standing, he said, with one-third to one-half of all participants donating for the first time. The concept was drawn from other giving day events throughout the country, Spencer said, but Amplify Austin remains one of the early pioneers.

The fundraiser aims its efforts at 25- to 40-year-old professionals who want to give, he said.

"They have a sense of pride about where they live that we want to build on," Spencer said. "People talk about it as if it's ACL Fest—the ACL of generosity."

The event also benefits from its unintended competitive nature, as online followers can track donation



Joe Lanane

Tom Spencer is the executive director of I Live Here, I Give Here, the nonprofit that runs Amplify Austin.

totals throughout the day to see which organization raised the most money and whether I Live Here, I Give Here is any closer to reaching its annual goal.

Bigger organizations incentivize giving by donating matching funds. This year, St. David's Foundation has already pledged \$1 million in matching funds.

#AmplifyATX prizes

This year more than 500 nonprofits will participate in the 24-hour fundraising marathon by hosting their own events to help raise awareness. Participants can also make money for raising the most funds. I Live Here, I Give Here is giving away four \$5,000 prizes for fulfilling four goals:

- Most money made before midnight March 5
- Most money raised by a small nonprofit (budget less than \$500,000)
- Most money raised by a large nonprofit (budget more than \$500,000)
- Highest number of individual fundraisers



1050 E. 11th St., Ste. 250
512-717-4190
www.ilivehereigivehere.org,
www.amplifyatx.org

8 The 30th anniversary celebration of the **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas** took place Feb. 22 at the Ronald McDonald House, 1315 Barbara Jordan

Bldv. The nonprofit group, which supports the health and well-being of children through various programs, unveiled a commemorative exhibit, "30 Stories for 30 Years," to honor the anniversary. www.rmhc-ctx.org/30-years

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Each year the South by Southwest Conferences and Festivals draw innovators, music lovers and business leaders from throughout the world to Austin. The 2015 event will take place March 13–22 in downtown Austin.

SXSW Interactive Festival Director Hugh Forrest said visitors can expect to see emerging trends in transportation, a growing focus on health care and continued interest in startups at the event.

“Startups have certainly propelled a lot of [Interactive’s] growth in the last few years, and that continues in 2015. In fact, we are doubling the amount of space that we’re devoting to the startup zone in 2015,” he said, noting startups from throughout the world will be at the festival this year.

There are many ways people can participate in SXSW Interactive without a badge, Forrest said, noting the Gaming Expo, SXSW Create, the job market and some workshops at the AT&T Conference Center this year are free.

“SXSW as always is a reflection of the creativity and energy and passion and enthusiasm of this community,” he said. “We couldn’t do it, certainly, without being located in Austin, and hopefully it’s something that all Austinites can participate in one way or another.”

For more information, visit www.sxsw.com.

KEYNOTES & PANELISTS



Jessica Alba, The Honest Co.



Malcolm Gladwell, Author



Robert Kirkman, “The Walking Dead”



RZA, Musician

Genevieve Bell, Intel
Dr. Patricia Galloway, Hyperloop
Bill Gurley, Benchmark

Franz von Holzhausen, Tesla
Mimi Ito, Connected Learning

Rev. Jesse Jackson, activist
Reshma Saujani, Girls Who Code

Eric Schmidt, Google
Jack Welch, General Electric

LOCAL VOICES

Gene Austin, Bazaarvoice
Joshua Baer, Capital Factory
Jo-Dee Benson, Cirrus Logic
Dan Graham, BuildASign.com
Clay Johnston, Dell Medical School

Tim League, Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas
Mark L. Madrid, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Bob Metcalfe, The University of Texas
Steven Nelson, Freescale Semiconductor Inc.

Geoffrey Schulman, Austin Community College
Michele Skelding, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Clay Spinuzzi, The University of Texas
Patrick Terry, P. Terry’s Burger Stand

For a list of all speakers visit schedule.sxsw.com.

CONFERENCE BASICS

BADGE WALK-UP RATES

For those wanting to attend SXSW who have not yet bought badges, prices for badges range from \$495 to \$1,745 and can be purchased online at <http://sxsw.com/attend>.

- Education: \$495
- Film: \$695
- Music: \$895
- Interactive: \$1,295
- Gold (Interactive and Film): \$1,495
- Platinum (Interactive, Film and Music): \$1,745

FILM WRISTBANDS AND SINGLE TICKETS

Film wristbands grant attendees entrance into screenings immediately after badge holders. Wristbands cost \$90 and can be purchased at Waterloo Records, Violet Crown Cinema and the Marchesa Theatre as well as at the Alamo Drafthouse Ritz, Slaughter Lane and South Lamar locations. Tickets for screenings are sold at each venue if seats remain 15 minutes before showtime for \$10.

MUSIC WRISTBANDS

With a Music wristband attendees get into showcases after badge holders have entered. Wristbands do not get attendees into the Music panels, keynotes and trade shows.

For more details, visit <http://wristbands.sxsw.com>.

FREE EVENTS

SXSW GAMING

The expo March 13–15 at the Palmer Events Center draws developers, manufacturers and fans with events combining elements of geek culture with the cross-console video game world.

SX CREATE

From 3-D printing to drones to biohacking, the event showcases creative implementation of new technologies. The event begins at 11 a.m. March 13 and runs through 6 p.m. March 15 at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

SOUTHBITES FOOD TRAILER PARK

The food trailer park is open March 13–21 from 11 a.m. to midnight and features a variety of vendors.

SXSW JOB MARKET

Presented by Publicis Groupe, the event connects professionals with employers March 13 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. at the JW Marriott hotel, 110 E 2nd St.

NEW FOR 2015

SXSTYLE AT JW MARRIOTT

SXstyle, March 13–17 at the JW Marriott Hotel, will explore ties among fashion, art, culture and technology with panel

Compiled by Joe Olivieri and Kelli Weldon

sessions, networking, mentorships and evening events. Topics include innovative design, wearable technology and 3D printing.

SX HEALTH & MEDTECH EXPO

The new event March 16–17 features more than 60 exhibiting companies that are pushing the limits of health care technology.

NEW SOUND REGULATIONS

The Austin Center for Events is aiming to reduce the number of temporary event permits issued during the period of March 13–22 by 25 percent. For venues more than 600 feet from property zoned and used as residential, minimum cutoff times will apply:

- Sun.–Wed. 10:30 p.m.
- Thu. 11 p.m.
- Fri.–Sat. midnight

For venues within 600 feet of property zoned and used as residential, cutoff times will be:

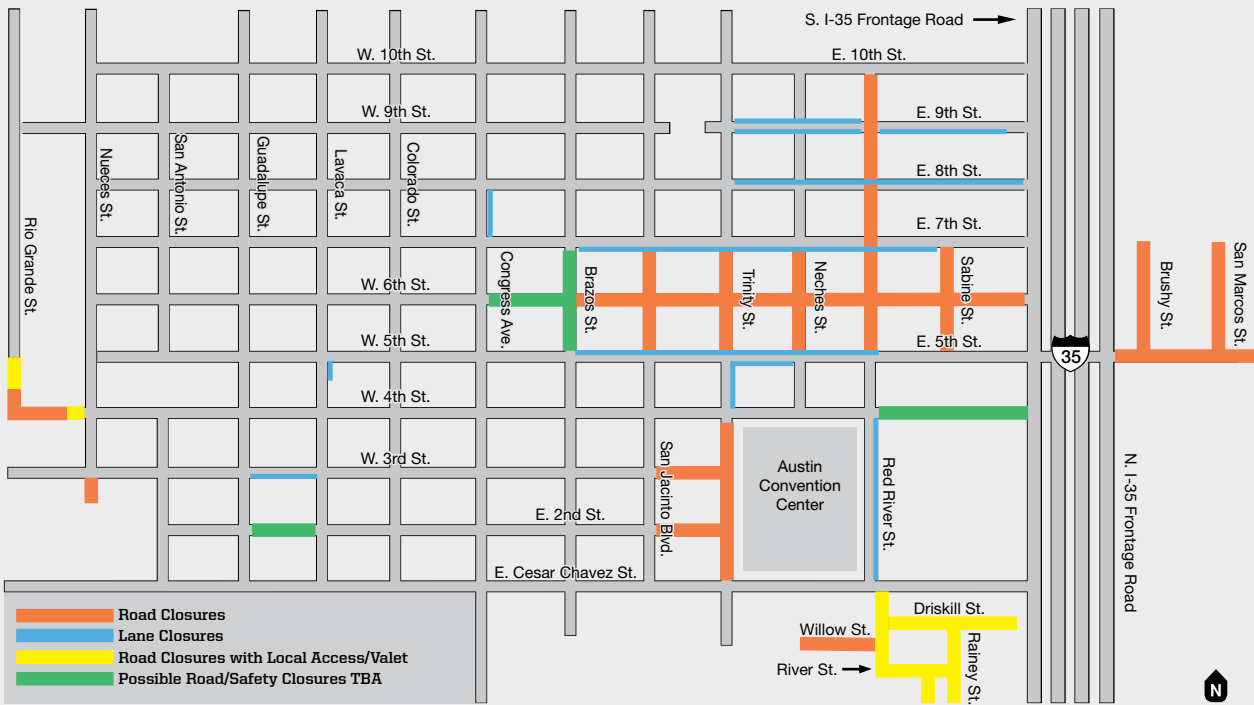
- Sun.–Thu. 8 p.m.
- Fri.–Sat. 10 p.m.

Times for each event and venue will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Code allows existing, permitted outdoor music venues extended hours up to 2 a.m. Venues interested in an extension must complete a Sound Impact Evaluation.

Sources: SXSW, City of Austin

DOWNTOWN ROAD CLOSURES



ROADS WITH SECTIONS CLOSED MARCH 13-22

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| East Second Street | Sabine Street |
| East Sixth Street | San Jacinto Blvd. |
| East Third Street | Trinity Street |
| Neches Street | West Fourth Street |
| Red River Street | Willow Street |

ROADS WITH SECTIONS CLOSED MARCH 17-22

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Brushy Street | East Fifth Street | Nueces Street |
| Red River Street | San Marcos Street | |
- NOT PICTURED:
600–900 block of Riverside Drive from South First Street to Lee Barton Drive

ROAD CLOSURES, LOCAL ACCESS/VALET

Rainey Street area:
March 13–17, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.
March 18–22, noon to 3 a.m.
Rio Grande and West Fourth streets:
9 a.m. March 13 to 3 a.m. March 22

LANE CLOSURES

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| East Eighth Street | Trinity Street |
| East Fifth Street | West Third Street |
| East Ninth Street | East Seventh Street |
| Lavaca Street | Red River Street |

POSSIBLE ROAD/SAFETY CLOSURES

West Second Street, East Fourth Street, West Sixth Street, Brazos Street



AUSTIN ARTS

A look at the creative culture in the heart of Austin

Hello Lamp Post

Public can discover what Austin's street furniture has to say via art project

By Joe Lanane



Angela McGinn and her son, Evan, text back and forth Feb. 12 with a utility box in Republic Square Park.



A new public art project has some Austinites acknowledging thousands of everyday objects they once overlooked.

Since Feb. 12, people have been able to text back-and-forth conversations with city street furniture, such as lamp posts, mailboxes and fire hydrants—most anything with an existing serial number throughout the city of Austin.

The interactive project, called Hello Lamp Post, was commissioned by the city's Art in Public Places program, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, in partnership with nonprofit advocacy group Art Alliance Austin. London-based PAN Studio created the project two years ago. The tech-art group visited Austin, the second place internationally to host the award-winning art project—the other being Bristol, England, for a Feb. 12 launch party.

While most Bristol participants participated in Hello Lamp Post during the day, Ben Barker, the project's co-creator, said he expects more nighttime use in Austin.

"People have caught onto the idea quickly here, I think," Barker said. "There's not many people going, 'Well, why would you do that?' Most people are going OK, I get it. Now what do I text? Where do I start? There's a lot more acceptance."

This project represents new territory for Austin public art, said Meghan Wells, the Art in Public Places administrator.

"In 30 years the city has really changed and evolved," Wells said. "The way people interact with art is also changing, and we wanted to make sure we evolve with it."

The Hello Lamp Post project also evolved to be more specific to Austin, said Carrie Brown, the Art in Public Places project manager who helped spearhead the public project. When PAN Studio artists first visited the city last December, Brown said it did not take long to notice all the serial numbers needed for people to interact with objects.

"Even a lot of individual trees have numbers," she said, explaining the existing numbers are typically used for maintenance and tracking purposes.

The idea to bring Hello Lamp Post to Austin was first conceived a year ago, Art Alliance Austin Executive Director Asa Hursh said. He said he enjoys how the interactive nature of the project attracts interest from outside the city's existing art community in the form of new art enthusiasts and tech-focused artists.

"We're not just reimagining art work, we're reimagining artists," Hursh said.

Participants have so far embraced the project, he said, especially once they better understand the concept.

"It's exciting to make people look at the city differently," Hursh said. "These are things we take for granted."

The objects build off each conversation to develop new replies, Brown said. The technology also allows Brown and other Art in Public Places staff to follow where the most conversations are taking place, she said.

"You can experience this in your own neighborhood," she said. "Maybe even on your own block right outside your house."

Different objects will trigger different conversations, Hursh said. For example, he said light posts will talk about shining their light, or a bus stop might talk about travel.

"The artist came up with a whimsical flavor that is really important to the project," Hursh said.

The project overlaps with South by Southwest Music and Media Conference, allowing out-of-towners to learn about Austin through this experimental project. Hursh said the timing is appropriate now that SXSW includes an art component, which last year included PAN Studio as panelists.



How to use

Until April 27, most inanimate objects in Austin can hold conversations through text messaging. Here's how:

- 1. Pick an object**—Look for street furniture with serial codes on them.
- 2. Say hello**—Send a text message through your phone to 512-580-7373 in the following format:
 - "Hello object #code"
 - Example: "Hello hydrant #B6291"
- 3. Keep talking**—Answer the object's questions and find out what the object has learned through what other people have said already.

The city's public arts program has posted signs explaining these steps. Interested participants can also visit www.hellolamppostaustin.com.

City of Austin Art in Public Places program

In 1985 a city law was passed requiring 1 percent of all Austin capital improvement budgets to be dedicated to public art purchases, making Austin the first Texas city to have a public arts program. The law changed in 2002 to double Austin's commitment to public art.

Today the city's Art in Public Places program commissions artwork from local and national artists of all experience levels, said Meghan Wells, the program's administrator, a role she has held since 2010. Last year her department added a collections manager to maintain the city's existing art stock—some 180 pieces. Her program now has six employees.

Wells said a visual arts panel is tasked with awarding grants. The panel typically seeks out artists who work with durable materials and are interested in collaborations, she said.

Her program also has money set aside this year to fund a third round of temporary public art projects through the city's TEMPO program, which first awarded grants to artists in 2008 and again in 2013–14. Participation in a TEMPO project can help artists gain approval to create a more permanent project, Wells said.

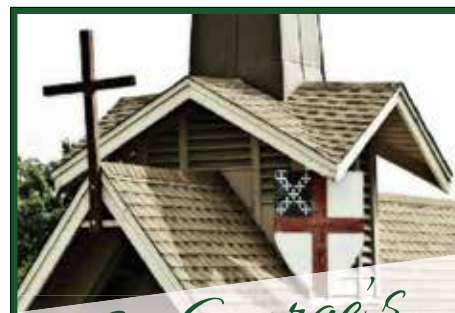
Her office also hosts open office hours from 2–4 p.m. the second Friday of each month.



Alan Knox created this functional bike rack and symbolic passageway at the Westernfield Pool entrance.



Melissa Borrell created GloWave, a temporary art piece that was showcased last year in Little Stacey Park.



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Waller

Continued from I 1

park, has prepared him to help transform Waller Creek, he said.

“The more I learned about it, the more excited I got because I started to understand what the potential impact could be and the role that the project could play for all of Austin,” Mullan said. “I’m excited to be a part of it.”

Steps taken so far

The initial effort to redevelop Waller Creek started with a city-led project to create flood-control infrastructure. The \$149 million project broke ground in April 2011 and will be in service sometime between March and June, said Carolyn Perez, public affairs manager for the city’s Public Works Department. The end result will open up 28 acres of downtown land previously limited in use because of Waller Creek’s 100-year flood plain—or the area where major flooding could potentially occur. The flood-control project also helps rid the creek of debris, prevents further erosion and helps water flow into Lady Bird Lake, according to the city.

In the meantime, the conservancy, which was founded in 2010, is still in the early design stages of its Waller Creek redevelopment project. Mullan is using that time to focus on educating community members about the project and recruiting partners.

“As Austin continues to grow there is going to be the need to build in pieces of public infrastructure, and when I use that term I really mean public space—places that can be used by all constituents,” Mullan said. “I think Waller Creek will be the most significant of those.”

Plans, designs and concepts for the project, which spans from Lady Bird Lake north to 15th Street, have been in the works for years. Any changes to the grounds surrounding Waller Creek will start within the next two years, and the majority of the project should be complete in 10 to 15 years, WCC Programming Director Meredith Bossin said.

The conservancy has not yet decided what project phase will be first, but parts of the creek in Waterloo Park and near Lady Bird Lake could be the initial construction sites because of the existing activity near those two locations, Bossin said.

The project’s design was created by Michael Van Valkenburg Associates and Thomas Phifer & Partners, which won a 2012 design competition for their vision of the redeveloped downtown creek.

“[The designers’] thought was that it would be a chain of parks, and each one then would have its own sub-identity so some could be more quiet spaces and some will be designed for more activities so that you have a range of all these different kinds of things—but it’s still all connected by a trail as well,” Bossin said.

The long-term plan

There will be five parks created along the

The current state of Waller Creek

Nonprofit Waller Creek Conservancy has not set a start date for its revitalization efforts along the downtown waterway. The project will be complex because of the variety of entities and businesses along Waller Creek, WCC Project Manager John Rigdon said. The creek flows through the proposed Innovation Zone, which was pitched by state Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, as part of the Dell Medical School project.



Source: City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department • Design by Ethan Hill

1.5-mile project. Some areas, such as the two sections closest to Lady Bird Lake and the park south of Waterloo Park—known as The Refuge—will focus on providing immersive nature experiences. Other areas of the project, such as the section currently called The Narrows—an area that runs from Fourth to Seventh streets—will merge the urban characteristics of the structures surrounding the creek with the creek’s nature and ecology.

The Narrows will not be like San Antonio’s River Walk, which includes businesses and restaurants along a man-made waterway, Bossin said.

“These public spaces, when they have a not-for-profit organization as their stewards, they just help people connect to the place in richer ways,” Mullan said. “You’re not just creating a place—you do that through the programming. ... I imagine Waller Creek will become a community resource, whether it’s cultural programming, performances, temporary art installations or educational programming to focus on the natural and

ecological systems.”

The project’s trails and bridges have also been designed in such a way to create both north-south and east-west connectivity, Bossin said. Complicating the project is how many entities WCC must work with during each step in the redevelopment plan, said John Rigdon, the project’s manager. The project will not only require a partnership with the city of Austin but also any business near or along the creek, such as Easy Tiger Bake Shop & Beer Garden on Historic Sixth Street.

Paying for the project

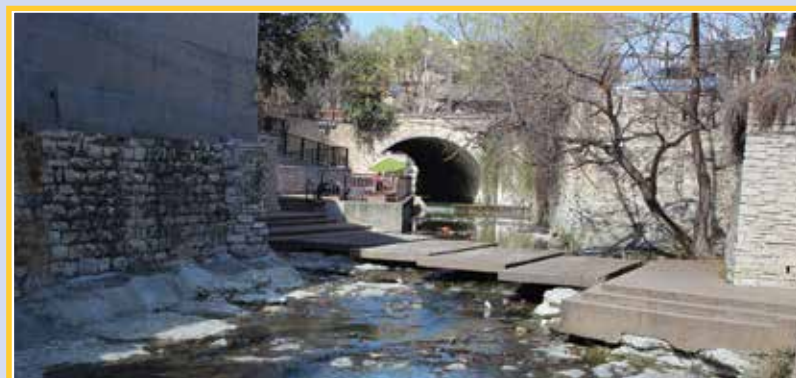
The city of Austin is a major partner in the WCC project, having contributed \$400,000 in seed funding. City officials will also work with WCC to ensure the infrastructure benefits all of Austin.

The conservancy also anticipates more than \$100 million in contributions could be needed from private donors, foundations, the city and the state as well as grants to



1 Waterloo Park

Waterloo Park could be one of the first phases of the project on which construction begins, WCC Programming Director Meredith Bossin said. The park closed Nov. 1, 2011 so the city of Austin could work on the underground tunnel that will prevent flooding of the creek during heavy rains.



3 The Narrows

Although many have compared Waller Creek Conservancy’s plans for The Narrows to San Antonio’s River Walk, the two projects will not be similar after construction is complete, Bossin said. The Narrows is where the nature of the creek and the urban influences of downtown Austin’s businesses will intersect.



5 Creek Mouth

The Waller Creek tunnel will feed excess water into Lady Bird Lake. The tunnel will help prevent flooding of Waller Creek, which has caused the deaths of some homeless people in the past who typically find shelter or rest along the creek.

fund the development and design of Waller Creek, Bossin said.

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, or ECHO, is already partnering with WCC on the project to ensure homeless people living along the creek find safe alternatives.

Mullan arrived in Austin on Feb. 9 to begin working with the WCC team as it chooses what steps to take next. He will also work to secure more funding for the multi-million-dollar project.

“In the short time that I’ve been engaged with Austin through this project, I’ve just been so impressed with the level of energy that citizens of Austin have and the passion they have for their city,” Mullan said. “There’s an incredible amount of pride that people have for the city, and that, to me, is incredibly exciting.”

Find related stories at impactnews.com. Keyword Search

Waller Creek, Innovation Zone, conservancy



Concrete

Continued from I 1

long-term compromises. The goal is to strike a balance that residents and construction companies can accept, said Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, whose District 9 includes downtown.

“There are benefits on either side,” said Tovo, the lone incumbent from last year’s council. “We want downtown to be successful in attracting residents, so it’s important we get the quality of life right, or downtown will soon become unattractive.”

The downtown stakeholder group so far has not agreed on decibel levels and time frames for allowing overnight concrete pouring. The council-appointed Downtown Commission also could not reach a recommendation, instead opting Feb. 18 to create a working group that will make a final recommendation in March for City Council to consider.

“We could talk about this for months and try to work to the ideal decibel level and an ideal cutoff time,” said Greg Guernsey, Planning and Development Review Department director, during the Downtown Commission meeting. “As someone said last meeting to me: ‘We’re still not getting any sleep.’”

No construction noise ordinance exists downtown, said Chris Johnson, manager of the city’s Development Assistance Center. There is, however, a live music ordinance that sets a noise limit—85 decibels or less—and time restriction—no amplified noise after 2 a.m. A law passed in June 2008 first enabled overnight concrete pouring, he said.

“The justification [for the regulation] was related to traffic safety and the needs of the concrete industry for large pours,” Johnson said, citing the ordinance approved at the time by council. “It was seen to be in the best public interest to move this activity to the late night when downtown was quieter.”

The case for concrete

Rich Szecsy, president and CEO of the Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association, which advocates on behalf of Austin-area concrete providers, recommends the city create a law that focuses generally on construction noise rather than concrete pouring.

“It’s a noise issue, not an application issue,” Szecsy said. “Responsible ordinances need to be just that—responsible and balanced, and what the city is proposing is not.”

Should the temporary restrictions become permanent, industry officials claim there would be significant delays and increased costs associated. Joe Basham, a partner in the Austin-based construction law firm Allensworth & Porter, said he was recently approached by a client who intends to break ground on a large-scale downtown project between April and June. The temporary ordinance, should it remain, would delay the project’s completion by 60 days and increase costs up to \$500,000, Basham said.

“They are really hoping they can pour concrete at night,” said Basham, who could not reveal the developer, its project or its location. “They’re sitting back and waiting. This is is going to be the first real test of this new

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES MAY ALLOW INDUSTRY COMPANIES TO ELIMINATE THE BACK-UP “BEEPS” FROM THEIR CONCRETE TRUCKS.

A temporary law passed in November prevents overnight downtown concrete pouring after 2 a.m. The restriction expires March 31 unless Austin City Council extends the law or enacts new restrictions on overnight concrete pouring. Below are three proposals pitched by various stakeholders so far.

ANY PROJECT WITHIN 600 FEET OF A RESIDENCE MUST COMPLY WITH THE TEMPORARY LAW.

The Downtown Austin Alliance proposed framework for a new ordinance that draws from dialogue during the stakeholder meetings. The advocacy group suggested separate daytime and nighttime decibel limits. No set limits or times were pitched.

council—what are they going to do?”

Scheduling is difficult for construction companies who already must overcome permitting delays and subcontractor shortages, said Phil Thoden, president and CEO of the Associated General Contractors of Austin.

“A construction project is like a marching band,” said Thoden, whose group advocates on behalf of local general contractors. “An impact in concrete delivery is going to have a ripple effect on everything else.”

Downtown concrete pouring is already

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Nighttime Noise

THE AUSTIN MUSIC OFFICE TOLD CITY PLANNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS THAT NOISE IS EXASPERATED AT NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF DOWNTOWN ACTIVITY.

THE AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT ENFORCES THE MUSIC NOISE ORDINANCE FROM ANYWHERE ON THE PROPERTY LINE.

PROPERTY LINE

Some downtown residents asked for a 10 p.m. cutoff time and a 70-decibel noise limit.

Some proposals have drawn from the existing music noise ordinance, an 85-decibel limit that cuts off noise after 2 a.m.

Design by Ethan Hill

barred during the morning and evening rush hours. Should concrete trucks be allowed during the rush hours, they would compete for space with the 123,000 people who work downtown, said Julie Fitch, director of economic development and government affairs

for the Downtown Austin Alliance, which represents downtown property owners.

"We want people to think about the unintended consequences of concrete trucks lining up the same time as commuters," Fitch said.

The DAA prefers not to pick sides in the

debate, Fitch said, but instead proposed a framework, which she pitched Feb. 18 at the Downtown Commission meeting, that calls for separate daytime and overnight decibel limits during construction.

"We've talked to residents who don't consider [construction noise] a problem," she said. "They would rather projects wrap up ASAP."

Residential uproar

Barry Lewis, a Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association board member and downtown resident since 2010, said he draws from his 25 years as a commercial general contractor when considering a compromise.

"What we have now is the city and its downtown residents struggling with the unintended consequences of success," Lewis said. "I understand both sides of the problem because I've been on both sides."

When city staff last fall proposed expanding the ability to pour concrete overnight in downtown, DANA members expressed outrage, he said. That outrage continues, Lewis said, despite efforts to reach a compromise.

"We're not opposed to density, and the majority of the [DANA] board is not opposed to some after-hours work," he said. "I can't say the same about [DANA] membership."

One DANA member who supports 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. construction limits, David Newburger, started ILoveDowntownAustin.org to provide downtown residents an outlet to email council members to demand the law be changed. That email form has been filled out 360 times, said Newburger, who rents an

apartment at AMLI on 2ND next to multiple ongoing construction projects. He said he has recorded construction noise levels nearing 90 decibels in the middle of the night.

"It's about like a lawnmower, or as I like to say, it's like having Led Zeppelin play outside your window," Newburger said.

Other downtown residents have proposed their own ordinance revisions. Diana Zuniga, president of the Spring Austin Owners Association and co-developer of the Spring Condominium, on Feb. 18 proposed a 10 p.m. time limit and 70-decibel noise maximum.

She also referenced The Bowie, a 31-story residential tower completed in February that could not pour overnight because of the property's zoning. Only one concrete pour lasted until 10 p.m., Zuniga said, and there were no resulting project delays, added costs or increased rates for the residential units.

The situation highlights Austin's competing interest in densifying while also maintaining a high quality of life, Lewis said. Ultimately, he said he recommends reaching a compromise that allows downtown construction crews certainty when planning projects.

"We want to advocate for what's in the best interest for downtown residents, including the creation of more downtown housing," Lewis said. "We have to address the supply side, or else we will only drive up prices."



Take the poll online at impactnews.com/cta-poll

Should overnight concrete pouring be allowed at downtown Austin construction projects?

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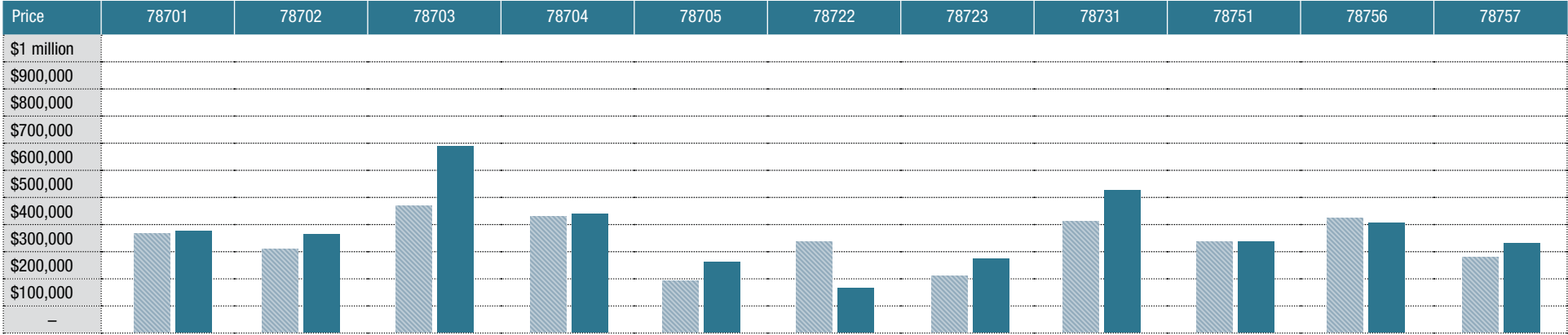


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Market Data

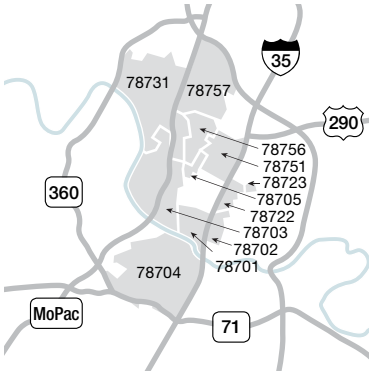


Median price of homes sold January 2014 vs. January 2015



On the market (January 2015)

Price Range	Number of homes for sale/Average days on the market										
	78701	78702	78703	78704	78705	78722	78723	78731	78751	78756	78757
\$149,999 or less	–	–	1/32	1/45	–	–	2/58	–	–	–	2/32
\$150,000–\$199,999	–	2/96	2/99	2/80	2/45	–	4/32	1/8	1/74	–	–
\$200,000–\$299,999	1/151	12/74	–	13/66	9/18	1/60	15/60	1/3	2/33	1/76	3/36
\$300,000–\$399,999	7/69	28/91	4/44	14/52	7/100	3/76	9/28	3/74	1/25	2/104	11/32
\$400,000–\$499,999	8/37	16/81	4/30	23/79	3/34	2/70	5/62	6/83	6/53	4/43	13/73
\$500,000–\$599,999	3/56	11/86	3/38	16/83	–	2/80	15/116	7/97	3/74	3/44	3/40
\$600,000–\$799,999	2/19	6/64	15/86	25/108	–	–	2/12	11/48	2/113	6/91	7/48
\$800,000–\$999,999	7/75	–	6/52	12/68	–	–	8/128	4/31	–	1/19	–
\$1 million +	23/118	1/6	27/112	13/80	–	–	–	15/124	–	–	1/169



Recent Property Listings

ZIP code	Subdivision	Address	Bed/Bath	Price	Sq. ft.	Agent	Agency	Phone
78701	Milago Condominiums	54 Rainey St., Unit 302	3br/2ba	\$750,000	1,557	Allison Allen	Realty Austin	512-415-4109
78701	Terrace on Shoal Creek	1101 Shoal Creek Blvd., Unit 8	2br/1ba	\$345,000	1,250	Cristina Murphey	Keller Williams Realty	512-809-1107
78701	Town Lake Residences Condo	98 San Jacinto Blvd., Unit 602	1br/1ba	\$839,000	1,169	Kumara Wilcoxon	Kuper Sotheby's International Realty	512-423-5035
78702	Riverview Add	2508 Canterbury St.	3br/2ba	\$425,000	1,200	Allison Gaddy	Keller Williams Realty	512-575-3466
78702	Rosewood Village Sec 08 Amd	1025 Nile St.	3br/2ba	\$320,000	1,472	Tammy Spracklen	JB Goodwin Realtors	512-803-4993
78703	Enfield Challenge Condo	2508 Enfield Road, Unit 17	2br/2ba	\$229,900	889	Martha Browning	Berkshire Hathaway Texas Realty	512-947-8119
78703	Marlton Place Sec 01	705 Norwalk Lane	3br/2ba	\$969,900	2,350	April Womack	Moreland Properties	512-970-1031
78704	Bartonplace Condo	1600 Barton Springs, Unit 4203	2br/2ba	\$425,000	934	Timothy Heyl	Keller Williams Realty	512-330-1047
78704	Bouldin James E Add	1102 W. Mary St.	2br/1ba	\$550,000	680	Dylan Everett	JB Goodwin Realtors	512-680-7523
78704	Bouldin James E Add	904 W. Johanna St., Unit B	2br/2ba	\$650,000	1,709	Joshua Bushner	Private Label Realty	512-771-3367
78704	Cherry Hills	401 Cherry Hill Drive	3br/2ba	\$400,000	1,212	Elliott Sanchez	Realty Austin	512-785-4044
78704	Eight Hundred Banister Place	832 Banister Lane, Unit 832	2br/1ba	\$187,000	968	Greg Walling	Moreland Properties	512-633-3787
78704	Garden Oaks Sec 05-A	1002 Taffy Court	3br/2ba	\$637,500	2,158	Edythe Embry	Keller Williams Realty	512-789-6760
78704	Valley View Enclave	4008 Valley View Road, Unit E	3br/3ba	\$455,250	1,821	Todd Bailey	Realty Austin	512-900-5775
78705	West Ridge Condo	914 W. 26th St., Unit 301	2br/2ba	\$309,000	1,137	Antonio Fuentez	Keller Williams Realty	512-939-6736
78723	Mueller Sec 04 Amd	2024 Emma Long St.	3br/2ba	\$559,900	2,075	Mike Hammonds	Moreland Properties	512-983-6603
78723	Mueller Sec 05	4212 Gochman St.	3br/2ba	\$579,000	2,075	Richard Ellis	Berkshire Hathaway Texas Realty	512-947-8151
78731	Cat Mountain North Sec 1-A	6404 Cedro Cove	3br/3ba	\$799,900	3,035	Andy Allen	Keller Williams Realty	512-785-0496
78731	Fiset Place	4911 Finley Drive	4br/3ba	\$869,990	2,907	David Barnes	Private Label Realty	512-470-2615
78731	Meadow Mountain PUD 02-A	4205 Canyonside Trail	3br/3ba	\$575,000	2,289	Dave Bair	Berkshire Hathaway Texas Realty	512-423-0456
78731	Shinoak Valley Sec 02	6302 Bon Terracera Drive	3br/2ba	\$539,500	2,365	Debbie Harmon	Kuper Sotheby's International Realty	512-422-1583
78731	Stoneledge Condo Ph 01-02	4218 Creek Ledge, Unit 124	2br/2ba	\$259,000	1,485	Cheryl Tucker	Best Agents in Texas	512-705-9010
78751	Patterson Heights Annex	505 E. 49th St.	5br/3ba	\$599,000	2,132	Clay Byrne	Keller Williams Realty	512-769-2251
78756	Shoalmont Add Sec 04	5105 Shoal Creek Blvd.	3br/2ba	\$400,000	2,145	Courtney Oldham	Keller Williams Realty	512-809-5495
78757	Bowling Green	2101 Polaris Ave., Unit 2	2br/1ba	\$172,500	839	Yusuf Johnson	Realty Austin	512-419-8020
78757	Grover Ave Condo 590	5905 Grover Ave., Unit B	2br/2ba	\$475,000	2,058	Laurie Flood	Keller Williams Realty	512-576-1504
78757	Vallejo	1700 Romeria Drive	2br/1ba	\$314,900	720	David Barnes	Private Label Realty	512-470-2615

2508 Canterbury St.



4008 Valley View Road, Unit E



4218 Creek Ledge, Unit 124

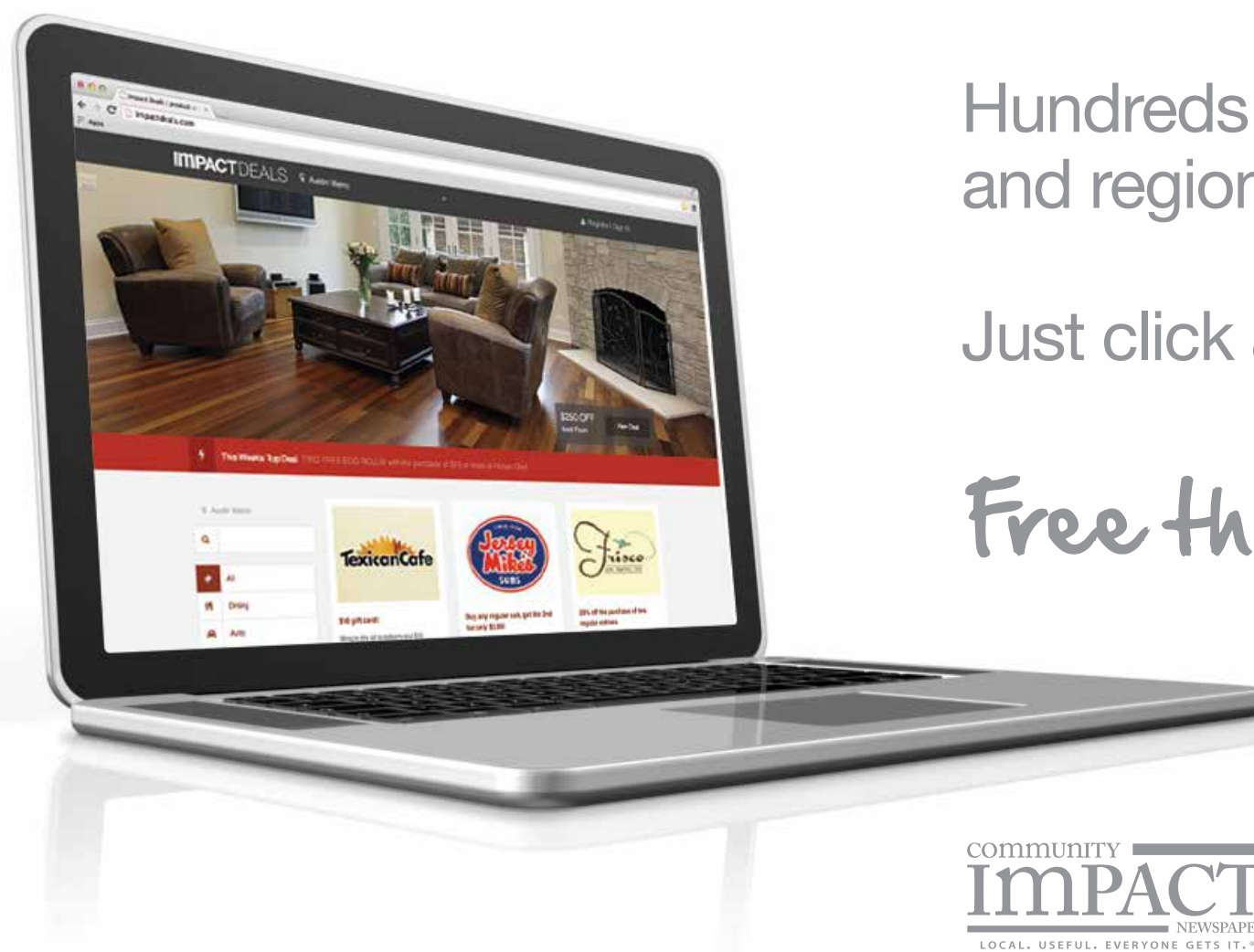


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