

LOCAL. USEFUL. EVERYONE GETS IT.

JANUARY 2009

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Wing guide

Neighborhood Dining

12 Rounds owner Rey Perez

2 Design

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CAPITOL NEWS

W W W . I M P A C T N E W S . C O M

BY PATRICK BRENDEL

Southwest Austin's state representatives are championing these issues during the 2009 Legislative Session, which began Jan. 13.

Rep. Valinda Bolton, D-Austin

- Give urban counties the tools and authority they need to manage growth and development in rapidly growing areas
- Provide property tax relief by doubling the homestead exemption and indexing it to the home's appraisal value
- Address the cost of higher education by placing a temporary moratorium on tuition hikes at Texas' four-year public universities

Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin

- Require that votes on all substantive bills and resolutions by the Legislature be recorded and made available to the public
- Require public officials to disclose on personal financial statements the fair market value of gifts they receive
- Increase income eligibility in the Children's Health Insurance Program to 300 percent of the federal poverty level so more low-income children will be covered

Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin

- Create a Central Texas regional transportation system, which would allow additional funding mechanisms for local transportation projects
- Exempt renewable energy devices from franchise and sales taxes; study increasing the mandated percent of renewable energy offered by utilities; encourage the building of green low-income housing
- Change the state air quality program that replaces old vehicles so that more people in Travis County will use it

Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs

- Reform electric cooperatives to require open records, open meetings and guarantee democratic elections of board members
- Change the school finance formula so that a certain class of school districts receives more state money (and less from local property taxes)
- Address allegations of abuse and neglect in state schools and centers, with the first step being a 10-year strategic plan to reform long-term services

Toll 45 SW on track for 2011 construction

Environmental work underway on decade-old road project

BY ERIC PULSIFER

The construction of Toll 45 SW, a short stretch of highway that would serve as one of the final pieces in a partial loop around the capital area, is on schedule after facing several delays due to funding problems and a lack of community support.

Hays and Travis counties purchased the necessary right-of-way for Toll 45 SW in the late '90s, but setbacks left many who would use the road confused about when, or if, it would be coming.

Originally, the Texas Department of Transportation planned to begin construction on Toll 45 SW this year, but budget

issues in 2008 brought the project to a halt. With funding issues now ironed out, TxDOT has completed the design process for Toll 45 SW and is currently working on a ONLINE



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The life of a toll road

1 Planning

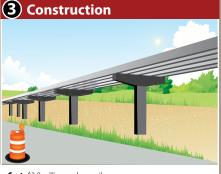
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

Cost: \$196,000 per lane-mile

Before anything, TxDOT must go through a public approval process. This includes presenting project alternatives and getting citizen feedback. Environmental studies are also done to determine the path and plan that will cause the least amount of damage

Cost: \$452,000 per mile for engineering, \$3.96 million per lanemile for right-of-way Timeline: 1 year

After funding is secured, right-of-way is purchased and a path for the road is laid out based on the environmental study. During this period, construction and toll equipment is sent off for hidding



Cost: \$3.9 million per lane-mile Timeline: 1-2 years

Construction on parts of the project may begin while design is still underway, but on most toll road projects, all parts of the road are built at once. This includes building frontage roads and exits.

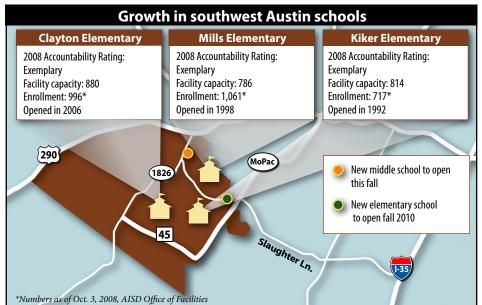
Source: Texas Department of Transportation

4 Maintenance

Cost: \$5,000 per lane-mile a year **Timeline:** For the life of the road

Maintenance costs include mowing grass twice a year, litter pickup, patching holes, sealing cracks, replacing signs and repairing dented guard rails. Concrete toll road can go more than 20 years before major repairs are necessary.

School crowding yields new facilities, boundary changes



- HIGH ENROLLMENT STRETCHES RESOURCES
- NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRES REDRAWING OF **BOUNDARIES**
- 2008 BOND APPROVED LAND PURCHASE FOR **FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL**

BY TERESA PIONE

As a response to rapid growth in the area, the Austin Independent School District is beginning construction on a new elementary and middle school in southwest Austin, while other AISD schools continue to deal with the constraints of overcrowding.

Both Mills and Clayton elementary schools have projected capacities of 135 and 115 percent respectively, with similar

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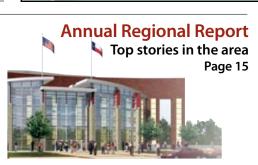
Business Profile

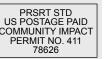
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You could say it was love at first sight. The moment I saw it, 1 looked at Doug and whispered "Yessss!" For me it was the kitchen. I LOVE IT! But Doug he's all about the media room. It came with built-in 6.1 Surround Sound (whatever that is), and a plasma TV, so he's in hog heaven And Ava, well, she just adores her bedroom. Not a night goes by where she's not a beautiful fairy princess with her own stuffed animal royal court. But our favorite time is when we snuggle up to the fireplace it. That's when we know we've found the home we always (dreamed) of

The Donaldsons

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- 8 Teravista Round Rock, TX From \$200's 512-388-4740
- 9 Paloma Lake Round Rock From \$240's 512-341-7611
- 🔞 Walsh Ranch Round Rock, TX From \$300's 512-733-7600
- Williages of Berry Creek Georgetown, TX From \$140's 512-763-1212
- Whitestone Oaks Cedar Park, TX From \$200's 512-259-3557

taylor morrison



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I lived in Ft. Worth for a couple of years beginning in 2004, and my sister still lives there. Since Austin is clearly the better city, she almost always does the traveling when we get together for a weekend. But, I finally made the return trip to Ft. Worth last weekend and was amazed by how much had changed since I lived there. There were new restaurants, schools, retail developments, condo projects and roads that I had never seen. My first thought was, "They need a Community Impact Newspaper!" There is so much going on and nobody to break it down on a truly local level.

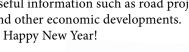
I think I will have to work on my pitch to our publisher in order to convince him to start additional papers in other

parts of the state. For now, Community Impact has six papers in the Austin area, and this edition serves seven ZIP codes in southwest Austin. This month, the Annual Regional Report brings you slightly more regionalized news from our other editions. You can always find more southwest Austin news on our website, including many more stories posted daily.

Also beginning this month, check out www.health.impactnews.com, which is an extension of last month's healthcare focus. Again, it is a way to find local, useful information regarding healthcare providers in our area.

Our 2009 resolutions haven't changed from last year's. We still plan to introduce you to new businesses, offer ideas on how to spend locally and provide a variety of useful information such as road projects and other economic developments.

Karin Shaver



4 Southwest Austin

COMMUNITY IMPACT

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Community Impact Newspaper is Central Texas' fastest growing news organization. Since native Austinite John Garrett founded the first paper in Round Rock and Pflugerville in 2005, our mission has been to provide useful information to the communities we serve. Now distributing to more than 375,000 homes and businesses in six markets, the papers' commitment to local, unbiased reporting has become a recognized brand. At a time when print media are on the decline, Community Impact Newspaper has restructured an old product — the community newspaper — and turned it into an important tool by providing readers useful, informative news





Monthly publication dates

Round Rock/Pflugerville: 1st Friday of the month

Georgetown/Hutto/Taylor: 2nd Friday Cedar Park/Leander: 3rd Friday

Northwest Austin: 4th Friday

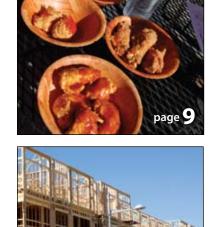
Southwest Austin: 4th Friday

For those who do not live in our coverage area, subscriptions are available.

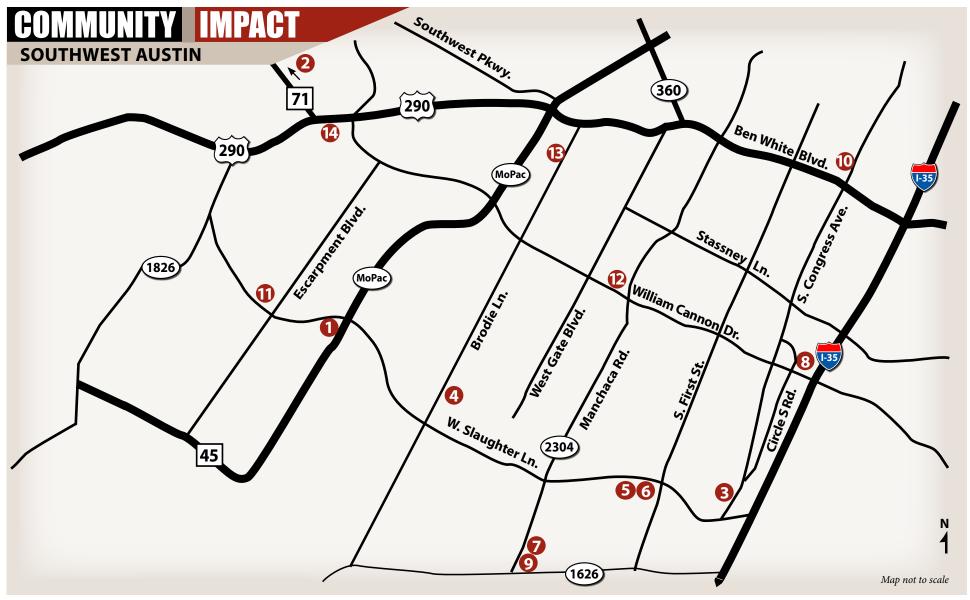
Subscription Rates	One year (13 issues)	per issue
1 market	\$39	\$3
2 markets	\$71.50	\$2.75
3 markets	\$87.75	\$2.25
4, 5 or 6 markets	\$104, \$130 or \$156	\$2
Back issue		\$3.50

For more information, call 989-6808.









1 Dinner and a movie

A \$5 million **Alamo Drafthouse Cinema** theater is planned to open in 2009 in Circle C Ranch, near the intersection of MoPac and Slaughter Lane. The 35,000 sq. ft. theater will have at least eight screens and will be the largest corporateowned Alamo Drafthouse theater. The new theater will feature digital 3-D technology. Visit www.drafthouse.com.



2 \$3 million expansion

Austin-based Architecture, Granite & Marble, Inc. recently expanded to a 19-acre campus at 19012 Hwy. 71 W. that includes a showroom and tile warehouse. The project investment cost was \$3 million. Previously housed in northwest Austin, the company has been in business since 1992 and features slabs of natural stone from Brazil, India, China and countries throughout Europe. Call 963-1096 or visit www.agmgranite.com.

3 Promote your business

Offering silk screening and embroidering for promotional products, **Longhorn Promotions Embroidery** relocated in September to 8708 S. Congress Ave. The

business was previously located at Slaughter Lane and Manchaca Road. Call 280-8888.

4 The essence of Texas

Former **Seattle's Best Coffee** franchise, located at 9911 Brodie Lane, recently changed to a **Texenza Coffee** drivethrough. Owners of the local coffee retailer previously operated the Seattle's Best franchises in Austin and have rebranded several other locations from Bee Cave to San Marcos. Call 282-9100 or visit www. texenzacoffee.com.

5 'Tis the season

Liberty Tax opened a new location on Jan. 5 at 617 Slaughter Lane, Ste. 106. Tax preparation is offered from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Call 280-5700 or visit www.libertytax.com.



6 Barber shop

Guests walking into the new **Capitol City Barber Shop**, located at 615 W. Slaughter Lane, Ste. 113, can expect traditional service complete with razor shaves and hot towels. Jan. 6 marked the

grand opening. The shop is closed on Sunday and Monday. Call 992-0561 or visit www.ccbarbershop.com.

Growth continues

When finished, **Remington Hills** apartment complex, 10601 Manchaca Road, will feature 208 units. With 160 units ready now, the development is expected to be complete by the end of March. Call 282-1170.



8 Leaders on the move

The Texas Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America recently moved to 6513 Circle S Road. FCCLA is a national student organization cultivating new leaders through analysis of issues in society. Call 306-0099 or visit www.texasfccla.org.

Budget Storage

A **Budget Storage** is under construction at 12015 Manchaca Road with 260,000

sq. ft. of storage units. Concrete will be poured by March, with the buildings to go up soon afterward. Call 801-0459.

Scooter shop

Scooter Freedom, a new retail and repair store, opened Dec. 12 at 3800 S. Congress Ave., Ste. A. Call 276-2691 or visit www.scooterfreedom.com.

1 Learn to play

Clavier-Werke School of Music of West Lake is opening a second location at 5900 W. Slaughter Lane, Ste. 525 on Feb. 2. Nine professionals will teach classes for children and adults ranging from voice, piano, drums and cello. The school will also feature Kindermusik, a child development music integration program for children ages 7 and under. Call Kindermusik at 261-5536 and Clavier-Werke School of Music at 328-5777 or visit www.kmbydeborah.com and www.clavierwerke.com.

P Spa expands services

Under the leadership of Dr. Azadi Roya, a new medical aesthetics division of 4 Seasons Salon & Day Spa, 2100 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. G, is now offering beauty maintenance including Botox and laser vein removal. Roya joined the spa in January. Call 280-9773.

B EmbroidMe

EmbroidMe, 5400 Brodie Lane, Ste. 235, held a grand re-opening celebration on Jan. 15. Purchased by Linda Kohout in April 2008, EmbroidMe originally opened in 2004.

EmbroidMe is a nationwide franchise for embroidery, screen printing and promotional products. Each location is independently owned and operated. Call 892-1300 or visit www.embroidmeaustinsw.com.

1 Drive it or ride it

A new Motor Trike and Thoroughbred MotorSports dealership opened Oct. 1 at 6763 W. Hwy. 290. Mitchell's Family Motor Trikes, LLC sells Honda and Harley motor trikes, motorcycles and motor trike conversion kits. Call 892-5800 or visit www.mitchells-trikes.com.

Burn ban

Travis County Commissioners Court approved a proposal by the Fire Marshall Office to ban outdoor burning in unincorporated areas of the county that will remain in effect until Feb. 11. Weather conditions will be re-evaluated Feb. 10 to determine if county commissioners should extend the ban. Call 854-4621 or visit more.impactnews.com/3041.

Economic forecast

Local economist Angelos Angelou, founder of Austin-based AngelouEconomics, presented projections at the **Angelou Annual Economic Forecast Event** Jan. 15 at the Austin Convention

Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. He said Austin will see slow job growth through 2010, but opportunities exist as people move in from all major metro areas in the country. Visit www.angeloueconomics. com or more.impactnews.com/3055.

Austin among top 10 job markets in 2008

Texas job markets reported the nation's highest gains in private-sector employment last year, according to employment figures by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released last month. Austin ranked 10 out of 100. The Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio markets were in the top five. Visit more.impactnews. com/3051.

Counters wanted

The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking hundreds of temporary part- and fulltime workers to help conduct the 2010 census of the United States population. Census takers, office and supervisory jobs are available. Call the Georgetown office at 942-6190 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

COMMUNITY

January

1-Feb. 1

Souper Bowl of Caring Capital Area Food Bank of Texas

Donate healthy non-perishable food items as part of Souper Bowl of Caring at any H-E-B and Randalls store or present your cashier with a scan-coupon at check out. Randalls and H-E-B

282-2111 • www.austinfoodbank.org

Clear Your Clutter Day Presented by the Austin Chapter of the National

Association of Professional Organizers The public is invited to drop off one carload of unwanted items, excluding hazardous materials, for Junk Busters to dispose of free of charge.

Austin High School parking lot, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

925-2962 • www.napoaustin.com

February

Blazer Tag 10-Year Anniversary Special deals and discounts all day long

Blazer Tag Adventure Center 1701 W. Ben White Blvd. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. 462-0202 • www.blazertag.com

Family Movie Night 11 "WALL-E" (G)

A free screening for the family of the award-winning computer-animated Pixar film Pleasant Hill Library

211 E. William Cannon Drive 6:30 p.m.

974-3940 • www.cityofaustin.org/library

12-22

"Cyrano de Bergerac"

1897 play written by Edmond Rostand Runs Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For mature audiences

Mary Moody Northen Theatre, St. Edward's University 3001 S. Congress Ave.

\$12-\$18

448-8484 • www.stedwards.edu

APL Black History Month event 13 Austin singer-songwriter Jaha will perform original songs from her new CD, "Young Journey" Southeast Austin Community Branch

5803 Nuckols Crossing Road 6:30 p.m. • Free 974-7400 • www.citvofaustin.org/library

Smooches From Your Pooches 14 A Valentine's Day kissing contest for you and

your puppy Register by Feb. 13 **Groovy Dog Bakery** 4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 580 891-7333 • www.groovydog.com

Austin Marathon and Half Marathon Downtown Austin

Registration is available through Feb. 14. 7 a.m. • \$90-\$125 www.youraustinmarathon.com

Metro Auto Auction 21

Benefiting area nonprofits \$300 registration required, refunded if no purchase made 8605 Cullen Lane

282-7900 • www.metroautoauction.com

Green Garden Festival

The City of Austin and nonprofit organizations will have booths and talks to answer questions about environmentally sound landscaping, with a special focus on trees.

Zilker Gardens 2220 Barton Springs Road Noon-4 p.m.

www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden





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BUSINESS PROFILE

BY TERESA PIONE

MAXWELL'S CLOSET CLASSICS



Owner Craig Maxwell's popular slogan, "It's 7 a.m. Do you know where your pants are?" is a reflection of his organizational philosophy.

"When you wake up in the morning, the last thing you want to do is be looking for something to wear," said Maxwell, who has been manufacturing and installing storage products since 1997. Through organization, one can eliminate at least one instance of stress, he said.

The Maxwell's Closet Classics showroom has entertainment

centers, closets, shelves, drawers and Murphy beds, all designed to improve spatial organization in any room of the house, he said. Services include home visits to assess an individual's storage needs.

"We'll go to someone's home and do an inventory of their clothes," Maxwell said. "We get as detailed as how many pairs of shoes they have, how they hang their pants, do they like folded stuff on shelves or do they like it in drawers."

Maxwell and staff install custom-made adjustable shelves for both new builds and existing homes and condos. The right fit, he said, minimizes "dead," or under-utilized, space.

Accommodating an avid golfer, Maxwell created a porous garage cabinet with holes in which golf club grips extend through the cabinet for easy access.

"We can do a lot of out-of-thebox stuff," Maxwell said.

Hydraulic pull downs from a closet ceiling, ironing boards tucked into drawer cavities and mirrors that slide out of vertical spaces top the list of innovative items in his collection.

Although the products are common in the closet industry, Maxwell said, his method of manufac-

turing pieces on site has given him a leg up on competition.

"We cut everything out of sheet goods so we don't pay freight on 95 percent of the stuff we sell," he said. "We buy it right here locally and manufacture it into finished products."

But Maxwell, who now drives a truck displaying his slogan, was initially skeptical about getting into storage sales. Then the owner of a car audio electronics business, he read about the industry in an entrepreneur magazine, doubting it would be lucrative.

"I thought, 'Who is going to spend \$500 on this 8-ft reach-in closet?" he said. "I had no idea."

Purchasing a few items at a time, Maxwell rented storage units to house the products. Later he opened a manufacturing plant in Cedar Valley, south of Killeen, and then a showroom on South Lamar. In 2005, he moved to the current location.

The challenge was finding quality employees, he said.

Today, Maxwell calls his business family owned and operated and has a dedicated staff including his son C.J. and niece, Jessica.

Despite a slow holiday season, Maxwell noticed an increase in business this month. "What I've found is, it's a resilient business to the times because if people are buying new homes, they want new closets. But if they're not buying new homes and they stay in what they have, then they want it to work for them," he said.

In 2009, Maxwell hopes to expand the business to San Antonio, where he currently has a designer who sells the products from a visual portfolio.

SPACE SAVERS



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ISINESS PROFILE

BY ERIC PULSIFER

12 ROUNDS OF BOXING FITNESS



Owner Rey Perez

The thought of taking a punch is L enough to keep some people from even considering boxing. 12 Rounds of Boxing Fitness owner Rey Perez said most novices that take up training at his southwest Austin gym say they will never go in the ring.

"Sometimes people are intimidated to come in here because it's boxing," he said. "But you don't have to come in here and fight. We don't focus on the competition aspect of it, so it allows us to focus on just the fitness side of boxing."

But that does not mean those training at 12 Rounds never find themselves on the painful end of a jab. Perez said even those who swear it off begin to crave a chance to test themselves in a sparring match as their skills and confidence start to increase.

"I don't force that, but about a month after starting, most people say they want to get in the ring."

The training up to that point — whether it is with a goal to learn to box or just develop some lean muscle mass — is intense. Many of Perez's classes involve circuit training, combining short bursts of strength building and cardiovascular exercises for a more complete workout. Building up the core muscles is also important, to strengthen blows and lessen the sting of an opponent's punch.

If and when students feel prepared to spar, Perez said they start out slow, not fighting at 100 percent and working more on developing technique than going for a knockout.

"I'm a perfectionist," he said. "I want to make sure if you're going to shoot a jab, you're doing it correctly."

Perez has built his eye for pugilistic perfection with more than 20 years in the ring. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the Bronx, he started boxing as a teenager to stay out of trouble.

Today, Perez, 37, still loves the sport and the workout he gets from it.

"It's addictive," he said. "It keeps you centered, gives you discipline, and the feeling you get at the end is rewarding. I'm a better man because of it."

When Perez first moved to southwest Austin, he found the nearest boxing gym

was too far away. Looking to create a place to train himself, Perez opened 12 Rounds almost three years ago and went from boxer to business owner.

"I'd do it for free if I could," he said. Perez's class has proven to be quite popular with women, with an overwhelming majority of his clientele not fitting the traditional image of a boxer.

"Boxing is a proven athletic performance enhancer. It's just a great workout, and the amount of results that my members are getting is remarkable," he said.



Video of boxing basics and tips for novices online at more.impactnews.com/2998

THROWING JABS AND JUMPING ROPE

A jab is a quick punch thrown with the lead hand — for right-handed fighters this would be the left and vice versa for southpaws — while the other hand protects the face. Even this most basic of punches works several muscles in the arms, stomach, chest and back.

"The jab is the key in boxing," owner Rey Perez said. "If you don't jab, you're going to get pounded."

Practicing jabs on a punching bag can be workout enough, but even the simple act of maintaining one's defense can wear out boxing newcomers. Though the gloves weigh just under a pound, that weight adds up when holding them up high enough to guard the face and the body.

But Perez said the best workout overall for pros and amateurs can be done at home for little to no cost. Jumping rope helps build endurance, agility, balance

"Jump rope is good for building up fitness," he said. "That's their homework."



12110 Manchaca Road, Ste. 401 282-2BOX www.12roundsofboxingfitness.com

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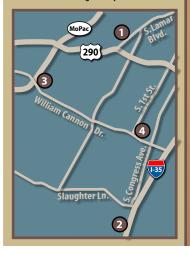
IGHBORHOOD DINING

BY MARK COLLINS

(4)

It has been the traditional feast of football watchers since the beginning of football. Buffalo wings, with their mouthwatering aroma and sweatinducing flavor, are a must for any successful Super Bowl gathering.

A hungry friend and I spent an afternoon sampling wings, and after we got over our stomachaches we typed up the results. There wasn't a definite "winner" because each restaurant catered to different needs. Pluckers was a great venue to watch sports, whereas Wing Stop was ideal for wings on the go. Buffalo Wings and Rings had the best bleu cheese dressing, but Wings To Go had the widest variety of sauces. We just provided the guide; now it's up to you to decide which wings really soar.



(1)**Pluckers**

Hatched in a University of Texas dorm room in 1991, Pluckers has since expanded to nine locations, including four in Austin. These classic wings are drenched in sauce and go especially well with the sweet potato fries. Nearly every inch of wall space is covered by TVs tuned to sports, including the usual channels as well as Sky Sports broadcasting the latest sports news from the UK. Drink specials and trivia night make this a fun place to hang out.

Fire in the hole: This wing sauce is hot from the start, but after three wings, you will realize how hot they really are. Now imagine eating 25 to make it onto the "wall of flame."

Dr. Pepper: This dark and decadent sauce comes slathered on the wings. It tastes like barbecue, but is much sweeter and has a distinct Dr. Pepper taste that will cool the mouth after the buffalo sauce has ravaged it.



Buffalo Wings and Rings (2)

Buffalo Wings and Rings offers a different kind of ordering system. First, choose from eight different sauces. Then, choose from five different levels of buffalo heat. The system gives diners a plethora of mix-and-match flavors to choose from. The wings are best enjoyed on the back patio that offers access to Southpark Meadows' outdoor playground.

Crazy/Hot: While this sauce is called crazy, it won't make you lose your mind. A combination of sweet barbecue and frisky teriyaki goes well with one of the hotter buffalo sauces and slathered in the restaurant's thick, chunky bleu cheese.

Garlic Parmesan/Xtra Hot: The strong garlic flavor in this sauce goes well with the genuine Parmesan taste that is made evident by the tiny pieces of crumbled cheese on the wings. The wings were served extra crispy, making them extra delicious.

(3) Wings To Go

Although the name Wings To Go implies you'll want to grab your wings and skedaddle, the beer specials will surely entice you to stay. This wingery offers \$1 and \$2 beers all day every day, and the beer on special changes depending on what day of the week it is. An abundance of flat screen TVs make Wings To Go a nice place to post up and watch the game.

Homicide: The restaurant's hottest flavor warns diners to try homicide "only on a dare!" Made with habanero peppers, it was the hottest wing sauce we tasted anywhere.

Chesapeake Bay: This sauce gives wings a hint of seafood flavor, almost like the restaurant put Maryland crab seasoning





Wingstop

Wingstop knows what it does best and sticks to its guns. The restaurant serves nothing but wings and boneless tenders. To get the most for your money, try Wingstop's lunch special - 10 wings, fresh-cut seasoned fries and a drink for \$7.99. The fries are a nice addition to any wing session, the sweet seasoning offering a brief respite from the fiery wings.

Atomic: This sauce boasted the most flavor of all the belly boilers we tasted, and with less heat, it's more enjoyable for the average wing enthusiast. The thick sauce was smoky and

Hawaiian: With an inconspicuous hint of pineapple flavor, the Hawaiian sauce is sweet and tastes like an Asian sweet and sour sauce.



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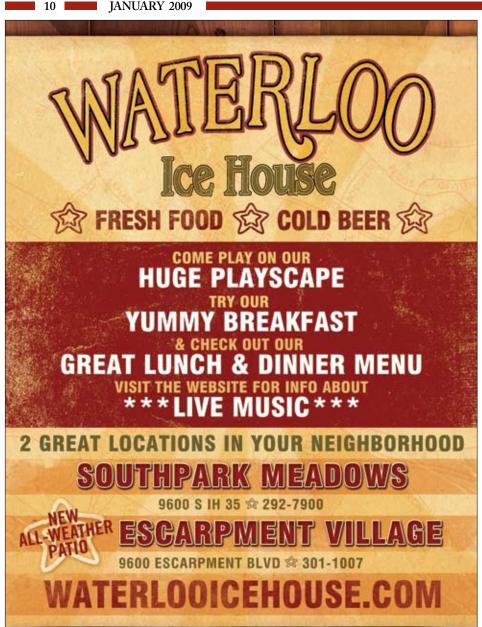
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JANUARY 2009

Schools

CONTINUED FROM 11

projected capacities for the 2009-2010 academic year. But Robert Schneider, AISD board trustee for District 7, said even those future projections could be low, based on historic data.

"There is a clear need to provide immediate relief for both schools in the coming year and very little capacity at adjacent schools to do so," Schneider said.

Clayton Elementary School opened in August 2006 and now has five portables housing two classrooms each. Some music classes are held in the cafeteria, and closets have been turned into offices, said Clayton Elementary PTA President Wendy Gonzalez.

"This area is just growing, and it's young people with multiple children," she said.

Gonzalez has been advocating for the relief school since 2007

"The priority is first and

overcrowd the schools, but

we do try to look at tracking

as part of the overall picture."

AISD executive director of facilities

— Paul Turner

foremost trying not to

when district officials were determinwhere ing to build the new school funded by the 2004 bond money. Approved by voters, the 2004 Bond Program al-

located \$519.5 million in funds to be used, in part, to handle increased enrollment throughout the district.

"It's awful to have to fight for relief for your school; the district just has other needs," Gonzalez said.

Teachers at Mills Elementary responded to overcrowding by using hallways for reading recovery programs; sharing spaces used for art, music and gym; and cutting after-school programs. Principal Patricia Butler said the high enrollment numbers also complicate faculty interaction.

"Whenever you get really large and you have large teams of teachers, it's just more difficult for teachers to work together as a team to plan and collaborate," she said.

While Butler said the ideal team would consist of five to six teachers, she said her teacher teams have eight or nine members.

With approximately 1,050 students, Mills Elementary has several portable classrooms on campus, one of which has been converted for use as a physical education classroom. Throughout the week, three P.E. teachers split their time teaching outside, in the gymnasium and in the portable building.

P.E. teacher LuAnn Patrick said although teachers are flexible, the portable is not an adequate space to teach her curriculum.

"It's not very good for quality learning, and we are limited on things we can do," she said.

New middle school

On Dec. 12 the Office of the Superintendent sent out a let-

ter to parents in the district proposing a plan to alleviate crowding at southwest area elementary schools. The new middle school, it was proposed,

could be used

for fifth and sixth graders during the 2009-2010 academic year, thereby relieving the surrounding schools of Clayton, Mills and Kiker. The grade configuration would revert back to the normal sixth, seventh- and eighth-grade structure beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.

Gonzalez said the Clayton Elementary community is continuing to evaluate the proposal.

"It could be the best solution for us, but we don't feel confident," she said.

Boundaries

Although the new elementary school will open its doors in fall

2010, Schneider said in order to meet future growth demands, the district will have to redraw boundaries for multiple elementary schools.

"If care is not given to the decisions involved, you may end up with situations such as some children being rezoned from Mills to, say Kiker," Schneider said. "Then [students are] put in a situation where they may have been tracked to one middle school in the previous boundary zoning but another after the boundaries for the new elementary school are created."

AISD Executive Director of Facilities Paul Turner said boundaries are based on demographic data throughout the area, and the goal in setting those boundaries is to stay within facility capacity parameters.

"The priority is first and foremost trying not to overcrowd the schools, but we do try to look at tracking as part of the overall picture." he said.

Recognizing the boundary issue as controversial, Turner said some families have a strong preference for attending a particular school.

"We can't track everyone into those schools to the exclusion of others," he said.

Planning ahead

For AISD, planning for a new school involves hiring a private consultant to gather demographic data and develop growth projections. Turner said despite the report, it can be more costly to overestimate than to underestimate projected growth rates.

"We actually try to project conservatively because it is better to come back and add to [schools] after. If we find we're a little bit under, then it's a lot easier to add to than to take away teachers from a school," he said.

Currently the district is looking at demographic information submitted on Jan. 8 in order to determine the best place in southwest Austin for a new high school. The 2008 Bond Program approved a land purchase for the high school, though the site and plans must be approved by a separate bond.

The district is setting up a new electronic database to conduct facility assessments and to begin the process of developing a facility master plan that would enable purchases to be made for future land use. Turner said the building blocks are mounting slowly.

"There has been quite a bit of discussion. We've done a lot of research, but at this point we have not gone forward with the process," he said.



For continuing coverage, visit more.impactnews.com/2994



Created to accommodate the new middle school, these boundaries will be voted on Jan. 26 by the AISD Board of Trustees. If approved, the boundaries will be effective beginning fall 2009. Check more impactness.com/2994 for updates on the board's decision.



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JANUARY 2009

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Transportation

CONTINUED FROM I

this point."

"I'd say that 45 SW and the

Y in Oak Hill are probably at

the end of the priority list at

CTRMA director of communications

Steve Pustelnyk

biological evaluation to examine the project's effect on nearby wildlife and water.

The evaluation is just one piece of the overall environmental assessment, which will ultimately be submitted to TxDOT's environmental division for approval in late 2010.

If all goes according to plan, construction of Toll 45 SW could be put up for bid in December 2010, with building beginning in spring 2011.

As planned today, the 3.6-mile facility will be a six-lane divided roadway, with the two innermost lanes on each side reserved as tolled express lanes. The outer lanes would not be tolled and will be separated from the inner lanes by a concrete barrier. There

will be no connecting streets or stoplights, but there will be one exit at Bliss Spillar Road. The project will cost an estimated \$76 million.

Priority list

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will handle funding for Toll 45 SW. Though typically the organization only pairs federal funds with local projects, CAMPO is working with TxDOT on Toll 45 SW, a state-funded project, because of the roadway's regional significance.

Toll 45 SW is one of five projects with a total price of \$1.5 billion approved by CAMPO in October 2007. Those five tolled projects are being handled by Tx-DOT and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, an agency created in 2002 to expedite mobility projects in Williamson and Travis counties. TxDOT will build the road, but CTRMA, which also manages Toll 183A, may run it.

TxDOT requested CAMPO transfer construction funding for Toll 45 SW to go to other projects until work on the road is ready to begin. At that time, TxDOT will go before CAMPO to get the project on the metropolitan planning organization's short-term project list, called the Transportation Improvement Program.

CTRMA Director of Communications Steve Pustelnyk said the agency is focusing on the projects that have the most potential to relieve traffic congestion first.

"We have five main projects that we're working on right now, and I'd say that 45 SW and the Y in Oak Hill are probably at the end of the priority list at this point," Pustelnyk said. "As we get through those projects and as the environmental work gets done on the southwest projects, then we'll be able to turn our priority to those."

This phase of the environmental process may lead to modifications in design, but it is unlikely the road would be cancelled entirely.

"The main purpose of an environmental study is to examine all the factors that a project may impact to determine if any of those impacts are of a significant nature and need to be mitigated in some

way," Pustelnyk said. "That mitigation can occur in several ways, be it change of design, relocating specific elements of the design, making changes to the approach or rerouting the road."

Aside from signage, there is no notable difference between a toll project managed by TxDOT or CTRMA. For the near future, any new toll roads will be operated by CTRMA unless built by private concessionary. This is currently unlikely, but may become a more feasible option in the future, Pustelnyk said.

While TxDOT is currently handling environmental work, CTRMA is examin-

ing traffic and revenue projections, determining feasibility and funding for the southwest Austin toll roads.

"At this point we believe we can fund them," Pustelnyk said. "But we just don't have the details of what that funding will look like." After TxDOT and

CTRMA conclude their studies, the two agencies will meet to determine how much money they will be able to generate above and beyond what is needed to pay the road's debt service. CTRMA will then negotiate toll rates and other conditions surrounding acceptance of the project from TxDOT and present those terms to CAMPO, which will approve or disapprove. If approved, the road will be turned over to CTRMA.

Going full circle

The concept of a loop around Austin is more then 20 years old, and while a continuous loop may never be possible, completion of Toll 45 SW would allow travelers to get from MoPac in southwest Austin to several northern corridors to the east.

"Because of the environmental concerns and the very sensitive areas of the greenbelt and the watershed in the west, it's going to be next to impossible to make a complete loop," TxDOT spokesman Marcus Cooper said. "But 45 SW would be a great relief valve for much of the traffic in the southwest Austin area."

With too many environmental issues to deal with in the western portion of Austin to connect the Loop 360/MoPac area down south to IH 35, Toll 45 SW may be the last piece of a fractured loop around the city.

Toll 45 SW will connect to FM 1626, deterring travelers from cutting through Shady Hollow Neighborhood to get east to IH 35, but there are no plans to connect the road all the way to the interstate.

"We're not looking at completing that loop to IH 35 at this time," Cooper said. "Its current location is where it's going to stay for now."

Future toll projects

Tying FM 1626 to Toll 130 will be Toll 45 SE. The 7.4-mile project is under construction and should open in May 2009. The road will link IH 35 to Toll 130 via a corridor just south of and parallel to FM 1327.

It is likely CTRMA will operate the toll improvements at the Y in Oak Hill. The two major flyovers at the existing Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 71 intersection that create the Y are estimated to cost more than \$400 million. Construction is at least two to three years away.

"The Y has been through at least two or three environmental studies, and every time you open it, you have to go through all the public input process again," Pustelnyk said. "Unfortunately, it causes projects to be delayed what seems like, in many cases, an unreasonable amount of time. But it's just the federal process; it's the way it works."

Keeping tabs on tolls

Though toll roads may switch from tolled to free after the project's debt has been paid back, TxDOT spokesman Marcus Cooper said it would be difficult to predict a road changing over now.

"The main issue is maintenance. Maintenance costs, much like construction costs, are increasing every year," he said. "We're coming to a point where there is a continuous need to build the roads and funding is still an issue."

According to a 2005 study by the Federal Highway Administration, Texas leads the nation in maintenance expenditures with a total of \$1.3 billion dollars in upkeep and repair for nearly 200,000 lane-miles of road.

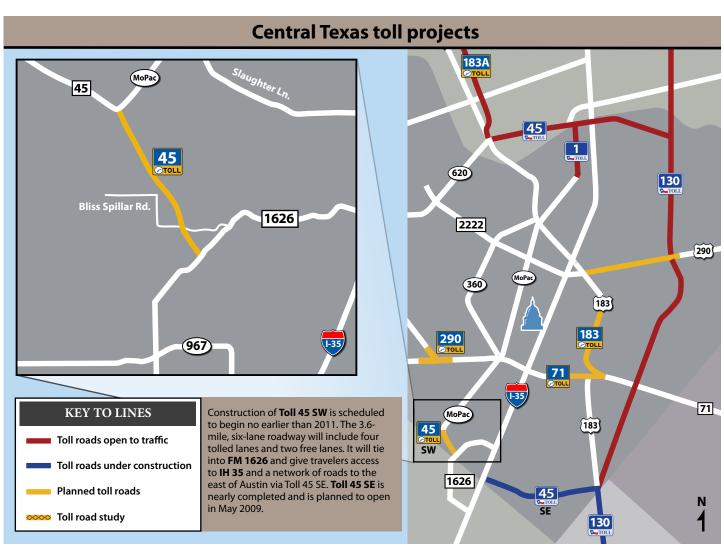
The American Society of Civil Engineers, which rates the nation's roads and bridges in its Report Card for America's Infrastructure, estimates that \$1.6 trillion in improvements are needed over a five-year period to bring the country's infrastructure to "good" condition.

Toll roads are financed over several years, and after they are paid off, TxDOT and CTRMA are authorized to improve or build other facilities with that money.

"In principle, when a toll road generates money above and beyond what's necessary to operate, [CTRMA] has the authority to take that surplus to use it to expand the transportation network in the region," CTRMA spokesman Steve Pustelnyk said.

For the five major projects the CTRMA and TxDOT are tackling — tolls 183, 290 E, 290 W, 71 W, 71 E and 45 SW — any extra funds generated from tolls may only go toward projects within a certain proximity of each road, keeping the money in the Austin area.





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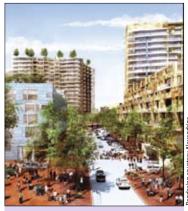






CENTRAL AUSTINDevelopers, neighbors anticipate completion of East Avenue

BY PATRICK BRENDEL



Central Austin Residents of the Hancock Neighborhood in Central Austin recognize the ramifications of transforming the 23-acre former campus of Concordia University into a \$750 million urban center with buildings rising more than 100 feet above the ground. However, a conciliatory approach by developers has neighbors looking forward to the creation of new

shopping, restaurant and office space within walking distance of their homes.

In early 2007, neighbors protested initial East Avenue development plans, calling for several buildings of nearly 300 feet in height on nine blocks just north of the University of Texas, said Bart Whatley, retiring president of the Hancock Neighborhood Association.

"It was a pretty bold request," said Whatley, an architect.

After a mediation process, **East Avenue Investment Group** scaled down the project and placed the largest buildings away from existing homes. Lead developer Andy Sarwal said his group follows the "3 Cs": culture, community and conservation. The neighbors seemed to notice.

"I think they came up with something more responsible to the community and the surroundings," Whatley said.

Green building practices helped developers win over neighbors. The old Concordia University buildings on site were dismantled, rather than demolished, and developers encouraged neighbors to retrieve old bricks to reuse in their homes.

They also donated building materials to local schools and nonprofits like Habitat for **Humanity** and reused materials in the new development. Sarwal said 85 percent of the building materials that made up Concordia have been recycled.

Developers preserved all the site's trees greater than 19 inches in diameter.

"In the age we live in, it's increasingly more important not to take for granted things like that. We aren't trying to fill up the landfill," he said.

Though a national recession is holding back some Austin projects, the 2.5 million sq. ft.

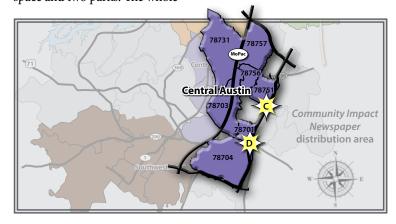
East Avenue development is progressing on schedule, Sarwal said, citing its proximity to UT, St. David's Medical Center and state government — three entities expected to thrive, despite the downturn.

The entire development should be complete by summer 2010, he said. When finished, East Avenue will have 1,450 residential units, 210 hotel rooms, 600,000 sq. ft. of office space, 325,000 sq. ft. of retail space and two parks. The whole

site will be LEED-certified green.

Construction has already begun on Andaz, a 17-story, Hyatt-brand hotel; a nine-story office building that will be the new home for Texas Monthly magazine and a 64-foot, 315-unit **AMLI** apartment complex.

East Avenue also will have a bank, small movie theater, specialty grocery store, coffee house and several restaurants with outdoor dining.



Austin's downtown condo market update

BY MARK COLLINS

Central Austin The most talked about housing market in Austin is currently heads and shoulders above the rest - literally and figuratively. As downtown condominiums rise hundreds of feet in the air, experts say the condo market is not only doing well, it is exceeding expectations with supply trying to stay ahead of demand.

"If people are waiting for the crash to come and for people to give away condos downtown, it's not going to happen," Spring developer Perry Lorenz said. "People love to say that the condo market downtown is overbuilt. The ones that are built are sold. There aren't empty condos hanging over the market."

Mark Sprague of Residential Strategies said Austin currently has a 30-month supply of condominiums. A 24-month supply is ideal, Sprague said, as that is roughly the time it takes to get a new project approved and ready for presales.

Kevin Burns, founder of urbanspace Realtors, LLP, said the market is getting stronger as more housing options become available downtown. Condos are selling for \$120,000 to \$8 million. Buyers range from the stereotypical young, single crowd (27 percent of buyers are under 30 years old) to empty nesters (26 percent are 45 to 59 years old) to young families (35 percent of buyers are 30 to 44 years old).

Despite increasing interest in a downtown lifestyle, lending constraints are making the transition difficult for developers and prospective condo buyers. Funding for projects more than \$100 million, which includes most proposed condo buildings, are extremely difficult to acquire, said Taylor Andrews, developer of 360.

Individuals are also experiencing difficulty in acquiring funding. Sprague said the number of qualified buyers has been reduced by 35 to 50 percent since last year due to the loss of the jumbo financing market and more difficult qualifying marks.



Construction information on the downtown condos can be found online at nore.impactnews.com/2519



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The first edition of *Community Impact Newspaper - Central Austin* was delivered to approximately 80,000 homes and to approximately 80,000 nomes and businesses in neighborhoods along South Congress and MoPac, Nov. 14. Its distribution includes Tarrytown, Clarksville, South Congress, South Lamar, Barton Springs, Northwest Hills, Hyde Park, Rosedale, Allandale and those around Burnet Road and Anderson Lane.

ROUND ROCK - PFLUGERVILLE

Large-scale development planned for northeast Round Rock

BY AMY STANSBURY



Avery Centre will feature a town center with retail, residential and commercial.

Round Rock In November, the Round Rock City Council approved a 937-acre planned unit development, part of the 1,400-acre mixed-use project called Avery Centre in northeast Round Rock. Waterstone Development was hired about a year ago by the Avery family to manage and plan the large-scale project. Bob Wunsch, CEO of Waterstone Development,

also worked with the Averys to develop Avery Ranch, an 1,800acre residential community in north Austin between Round Rock and Cedar Park.

The master plan is a New Urban design with residential, retail, commercial and institutions, including universities, colleges and hospitals. Two types of housing will be built: apartments and townhomes.

"One of the ideas on the multifamily townhouses is to make them look like brownstones in New York, where you walk up steps, but they're very near the street," said Gary Newman, president of land development and operations at Waterstone Development.

The Averys have final approval on any proposed development of the land. Some design guidelines that have been established set standards for the appearance and design of buildings, such as a deed restriction requiring service stations' gasoline pumps at the back of the building. Newman also said that any fast-food restaurants are not allowed to have drive-through windows.

"We want to make this a pedestrian-friendly development, so you park and walk," he said.

Though portions of what is now included in Avery Centre have already been developed or planned, such as Seton Medical Center Williamson, Texas State University, Austin Community College and the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Newman said he is working closely with those existing entities to develop complementary plans for the area. For example, a privately owned medical office building is planned just south of Seton, and a book store, coffee shop and sandwich shop will likely be built near the Texas State and ACC campuses to serve students.

Full build out of the development is expected by 2018. Waterstone is looking for a developer of the town center that would buy the tract and work with retailers to bring them to the area.

"It would be similar to a developer of The Domain," Newman said. "They would go out and recruit the retailers."





B > SuperTarget, Best Buy to open soon at Stone Hill Town Center

BY AMY STANSBURY



Pflugerville Best Buy and SuperTarget will be open by early

SuperTarget will be open by early March to anchor Stone Hill Town Center, along with The Home Depot, which opened in May. The new retail shopping center at the southwest corner of Toll 45 and

Toll 130 also features **Verizon Wireless** and **Mattress Firm**, both of which opened in December.

Houston-based NewQuest Properties broke ground on the million sq. ft. shopping center in October 2007. David Meyers, senior vice president of brokerage and leasing, estimates that at least 525,000 sq. ft. of retail will be open at Stone Hill by the end of the year.

"Nationally, this type of project just isn't being built right now," Meyers said. "The good news is we're going to get this amount of square footage open in 2009. Pflugerville's going to get the benefit of a brand-new center this year, which clearly may be our lowest point in the downturn of the economy."

Bealls is also expected to open in March.

A multi-tenant building on the south side of SuperTarget will feature GNC, Quiznos Sub Shop, Sport Clips and a nail salon and spa by this spring. Rack Room Shoes, teenage specialty retailer rue21 and maurices women's apparel will be located in another multi-tenant building on the north side of SuperTarget.

Chick-fil-A is anticipated to open this spring, and construction is underway on Dick's Sporting Goods and PETCO, which are expected to open in July. Office Depot plans to open in the fall of 2009.

Meyers said he is hoping to add more restaurants to Stone Hill, but Chili's Grill & Bar, once planned for the development, is no longer planning to open there because of nationwide cutbacks.

"In terms of what our needs

are right now, there's a high demand for sit-down restaurants," he said. "The fast-casual category of restaurants has been really struggling because with the economy, people are opting not to go out and eat. But we're expecting to see some new, fresh concepts start to enter the Texas market."

24 Hour Fitness and a Cinemark theater were once anticipated for Stone Hill, but are no longer planning to open there either. Meyers said openings like these have been scaled back, but they may eventually reconsider as the economy improves.

"A gym is a component we'd like to see in the center for the whole live, work and play mentality," Meyers said. "We envision a theater there, if not Cinemark, then another."

MORE TOP STORIES

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- New Lake Pflugerville Park with swim area, pavilion to be complete by next summer more.impactnews.com/1702
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more.impactnews.com/1170

- Recruiting the right retailers more.impactnews.com/1169
- New medical school
 more.impactnews.com/1175
- Mixed-use development planned for south side of Pecan Street in Pflugerville

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Georgetown's Main Street Program works to revitalize downtown



The Georgetown Main Street Program has spent more than \$120 million helping businesses on the Square.

Georgetown The City of Georgetown's Main Street Program was named one of the 52 National Main Street Cities in Texas at the Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in Temple in November.

The Texas Main Street Program promotes historic preservation and economic revitalization in communities, Georgetown Main Street Program Manager Shelly Hargrove said. The program assists commercial property owners in downtown districts.

Through the program, business owners are able to apply for façade reimbursement grants up to \$10,000. In fiscal year 2008/09, the program's incentive fund has \$43,320 to award.

In 2006/07, Steve and Kyra

Quenan received a \$10,000 façade grant. Since that time, the couple rebuilt a building at 700 S. Austin Ave. and opened Quenan's Jewelry on the first floor. Other businesses that have received grants include RunTex, Sweet Serendipity and Novita Spa.

The program became part of the city's economic development department in October.

The switch from the tourism department allows the program to focus on economic development, including new market opportunities for the downtown area, Hargrove said.

In the FY 2008/09 budget, Hargrove said the program received \$20,000 in funding to hire a downtown retail consultant.

Hargrove is also working with Georgetown Art Works, a nonprofit that supports the arts in Georgetown, to convert the interior courtyard located behind the storefronts on Eighth Street

into a multipurpose art space. The proposal divides the space into three zones with room for sculptures or instillation art, an artist display and sales area, and a restaurant and winery seating area.

Benefiting from the city's membership, downtown building and business owners can receive onsite evaluations by a historic preservation architect and consultations about visual merchandising and window displays.

Georgetown has been involved with Texas Main Street since 1982, spending more than \$120 million in downtown revitalization in the past 26 years.

Funding for Main Street comes primarily from the city. Additional funding comes from fundraisers, such as Main Street's annual Red Poppy Festival, and donations.

The Crossings of Carmel Creek on hold

BY TERESA PIONE



- The future of Hwy. 29 more.impactnews.com/1457
- Higher education expands in Taylor more.impactnews.com/1204

- · Hutto's smart growth plan more.impactnews.com/2059
- · County develops habitat plan to protect endangered species, aid developers

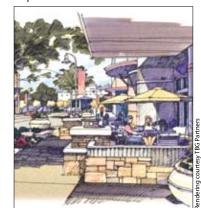
more.impactnews.com/1205

 Golf communities reflect regional growth

more.impactnews.com/1327

 Police departments out of space

more.impactnews.com/1801



Street level depiction of retail, restaurants and entertainment

Hutto Developers of **The Crossings of Carmel Creek** have delayed construction on the 466-acre mixed-use project in Hutto. Atlantic Coast Developers President Bill Sulzbacher said they are dealing with a difficult economy and are not sure when

construction will begin. The project's ground breaking was originally set for fall 2008.

When complete, the mixeduse retail, residential and commercial development is expected to increase connectivity and walkability in the city a concept defined as New Urbanism.

"This brings to Hutto the New Urbanism concepts that communities, such as Hutto and Taylor, embraced 100 years ago," Hutto City Manager Ed Broussard said. "You had the combination of downtown businesses and residential. [In recent years] we've separated residential from business, dividing our communities. We're bringing those elements back."

The City of Hutto announced the project in 2005 as a response to a spike in population growth. One factor in the city's decision to pursue this project is the strategic location of The Crossings — within the Austinmetro area and at the intersection of Toll 130, Hwy. 79 and FM 685.

Despite changes in the developer's timeline, the city feels confident the project will proceed, said Matthew Lewis, Hutto director of community development. Meanwhile, the city can work toward other goals, he said.

"In the economic times that we are currently faced with, staff has been focusing on longrange planning for the ultimate build out of the city. This is the first time the city has had an opportunity to address the longterm goals of the community since the explosion of growth in 2004," Lewis said.

In courting development, the city offered tax rebate incentives to the project's developers. The sales tax rebate stipulates that 25 percent of the total sales tax accrued by the development from Jan. 1, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2029, will be rebated to the developer, and that 30 percent of the total hotel occupancy taxes accrued by hotels within the development during that timeframe will also be rebated to the developer.

Rebate timelines will not change with the delays, Broussard said.

Atlantic Coast Developers, LLC, a Jacksonville, Fla.-based group, and New York-based Glenmont Capital Management, LLC are the project's developers. Austin-based TBG Partners and Atlanta-based Phillips Partnership, P.C. are in charge of design.



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NORTHWEST AUSTIN

> First phase of St. David's women's hospital complete

BY TIFFANY YOUNG



Renaissance Women's Group, Austin Diagnostic Clinic OB/GYN and Austin Area OBGYN and OB/GYN North will all practice at St. David's Women's Center of Texas.

Northwest Austin A

hospital in Northwest Austin is expecting to deliver more than 5,000 babies this year, about 1,200 more than in 2008.

In December, the first phase of an \$83 million women's hospital, St. David's Women's Center of Texas, opened at St. David's North Austin Medical Center. The first phase includes labor and delivery rooms,

Cesarean-section surgical suites, a women's diagnostic imaging center and the Breast Cancer Resource Center.

Connected by a sky bridge to the second floor of St. David's North Austin Medical Center, the facility will increase its capacity for labor, delivery and recovery to 37 rooms, and will feature 61 postpartum rooms.

The idea for the women's center

blossomed a few years ago after Austin Area OBGYN approached St. David's about moving its practice from central Austin to north Austin. With the growth of Renaissance Women's Group, Austin Diagnostic Clinic OB/ GYN and OB/GYN North, St. David's had already planned to expand its women's services and realized with AAOBGYN's help, it had greater possibilities.

"When AAOBGYN approached us and indicated that they wanted to move up here, we knew that that took us to a new place in terms of how we would look at developing the women's services expansion at this facility, and that led us to create or develop the plans for what we now refer to as the St. David's Women's Center of Central Texas," said Donald Wilkerson, CEO of St. David's North Austin Medical Center.

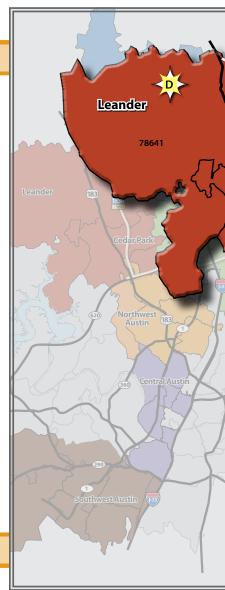
The rest of the 121,000 sq.

ft. project, which will be three stories and could later be expanded up to eight stories, will open this spring. It will include physician offices of various specialties for women's services and 6,000 sq. ft. of retail space dedicated to women's needs.

The St. David's Women's Center of Texas is quickly taking shape to be a place where women from across the region will come to receive the highest level of care at all stages of their lives," Wilkerson said. "The facility will provide the latest in healthcare technology while also providing a new standard in hospitality."

St. David's North Austin Medical Center has a level III neonatal intensive care unit that allows it to provide care for births as early as 24 weeks.

Wilkerson expects to hire 100 more nurses and supporting staff to accommodate the new services.



New businesses set to open in The Domain

BY CANDACE BIRKELBACH



Retail and residential construction

Northwest Austin Phase

I of The Domain, which includes high-end retailers, restaurants, office space and apartments, was completed in March 2007 and is owned by Simon Property Group. Phase II, which has projects from both Simon and Endeavor Real Estate Group, started in June and

is estimated to be complete by November 2009. With the failure of Proposition 2 in November, Simon's tax incentives of more than \$64 million remained intact. These incentives apply only to Phase I and not Phase II, which is currently underway.

Simon's Phase II began in December with the ground breaking of the 340-room Westin Hotel, a joint venture with White Lodging. The hotel is scheduled to be complete by March 2010 and includes an indoor pool, fitness center, fullservice restaurant and more than 13,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. Dillards, Dick's Sporting Goods, Maggiano's, BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 411 residential units and 75,000 sq. ft. of class A office space are also a part of Simon's Phase II. Village Road

Show Gold Class Cinema will open its first Texas location at The Domain. The upscale theater will have eight auditoriums with approximately 40 reclining seats each and a personal gourmet food and cocktails service.

Of the 176 acres Endeavor owns, only about 5 percent has been developed. The **Domain** Gateway — a five-story, 188,000 sq. ft., class A office building — is still under construction, and buildings two and five were once a part of the IBM campus. Convio, a company that provides technology to nonprofits, recently expanded by approximately 22,000 sq. ft. on the second floor of building five. KingsIsle, a software gaming company, has leased about 19,000 sq. ft. on the first floor of building five and hopes to move in by January. The

Texas Culinary Academy is in building two, where video game producer Midway Games was until closing in December.

Endeavor is in the process of clearing ground on its remaining property to make way for new development, including a retail district with a 138,000 sq. ft. Nordstrom, an 80,000 sq. ft. Saks Fifth Avenue and a 70,000 sq. ft. Whole Foods. Road and utility construction for this project is underway, and vertical construction is expected to begin in 2010. In December, Endeavor announced the opening of these stores would be delayed until 2012 due to the struggling economy.

Since The Domain opened, two businesses — Oakville Grocery and Nestle Toll House — have closed; new tenants have yet to open in those spaces.

MORE TOP STORIES

Homeless population moves north

more.impactnews.com/2780

 Technology business impacts local economy more.impactnews.com/2631

 Private school to build high school in Northwest Austin more.impactnews.com/2259

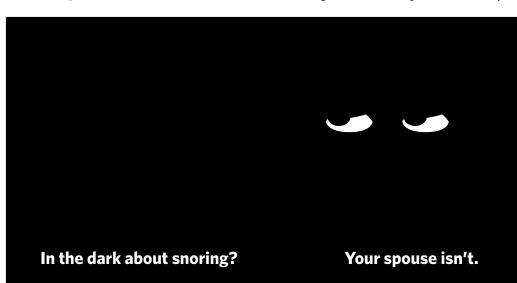
 Transportation moving right along

more.impactnews.com/1940 Clinic to move to Northwest Austin

more.impactnews.com/1402 Single stream recycling

conserves city resources





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LEANDER - CEDAR PARK

Construction continues on Cedar Park Center

BY ROBERT BELL



The Cedar Park Center is expected to be complete by September 2009.

Cedar Park The Cedar Park Center went vertical Dec. 1. when workers raised the metal beams that will support the structure's walls. The \$55 million, 181,000 sq. ft. stadium will be the home of the **Texas Stars** — AHL affiliate of the Dallas Stars — and will host a

range of events, from concerts

to graduation ceremonies. The

primary resident of the center

will be the Texas Stars. Much like the Round Rock Express, the Texas Stars will provide a farm system for the NHL's Dallas Stars. Professional players may spend time in the minors to recover from an injury, and up-and-coming minor league players may get called up for a chance to play in the big leagues.

Developers expect to be finished by September 2009. As of mid-December, the project was on schedule, said Phil Brewer, economic development director.

Crews broke ground on the center in June at the corner of Toll 183A and New Hope Drive. For hockey games, the center will seat 6,800 fans. Seating capacity for other events will be up to 8,700.

"It will not only enhance the quality of life for our residents in terms of providing quality entertainment opportunities, but it will also be an asset for Williamson County and for this region to have a facility of that kind up and running," Brewer said.

Cedar Park had been considering building a large event center for several years, but did not find the right fit for the project until Jim Lites, president of Hicks Sports Marketing, expressed interest in partnering with the city.

The city will pay for 78 per-

cent, or \$43 million, of the project. Cedar Park's 4A Board proposed funding its share with 4A bonds. Voters approved this in late 2006. Funding for the center does not involve property tax increases. Hicks will cover the remaining \$12 million of the project cost.

Hicks will also pay rent of \$2 million over the next 25 years, with the first five years being rentfree. It will fund capital repairs solely for the first eight years.

The next eight years will be cofunded by Cedar Park and Hicks, with repairs in the final years of the agreement being the responsibility of the city. Proceeds from events will be split evenly between Hicks and the city.

Hicks affiliate Center Operating Company, which operates the American Airlines Center in Dallas, will manage the center, book acts and staff the facility.

X-Park to go vertical this summer

BY KARA VAUGHT



- Toll 183A project update more.impactnews.com/2592
- Fraction of Leander, Cedar Park residents stay in town to work more.impactnews.com/2158
- Health care in a growing
- more.impactnews.com/1363
- · Earmarks supply federal funds to local projects
- more.impactnews.com/910
- Gateway development brings big retail, makes room for more more.impactnews.com/716
- **TxDOT left off**



said Tommy LeVasseur, a project team member.

"We're trying to move forward in our financing, which will put the finishing touches on the development stage," he said. "We hope to be financed by early spring."

Biff Johnson, Leander city manager, said another development agreement is in the works between the city and X-Park partners. The city council has already approved several X-Park propositions, including a development agreement on June 2, 2006.

Phase one of the park will include motocross and supercross facilities, a flat track, paintball venue, an overnight instructional action sports camp, BMX jump, BMX track, climbing wall, water spray park and a skateboard park and plaza. An amphitheater with 2,500 fixed seats

and a 52,000-sq. ft. clubhouse with 12,000 sq. ft. of extreme sports-related retail space, food and an exhibition area round out phase one.

Once work begins, construction should be complete in eight to 10 months, LeVasseur said.

Development of phase two is expected to occur in two to three years and includes retail, commercial and lodging space on the land surrounding the sports venues.

The X-Park property was annexed into the City of Leander in March 2006. The city's director of community development at the time, Jim Bechtol, said he worked with developers for 10 months to create an agreement to make the park compatible with the surrounding properties.

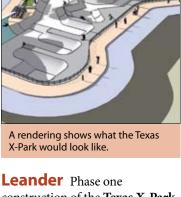
"It's a growing, expanding area,"

LeVasseur said. "We have good relationships with [the school district] and Benbrook Ranch."

LeVasseur said a county road project, the extension of San Gabriel Parkway from Halsey Drive to Bagdad Road, would help the X-Park by providing a more direct route to it from the east.

Connie Watson, Williamson County public information officer, said the road extension is in the design phase. A timeline for road construction has not been developed.

"In this environment, the city and the county both have been doing their best to work with us," LeVasseur said.







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Cedar Park. Topping the Charts.

- Forbes Magazine ranked Cedar Park as the 11th fastest growing suburb in the nation from 2000-2006.
- Family Circle Magazine rated Cedar Park as one of the ten best places in the country to raise a family.
- $\bullet \ Cedar\ Park\ had\ the\ second\ fastest\ growing\ labor\ force\ in\ the\ nation\ between\ 2000-2005,\ according\ to\ the\ Census\ Bureau.$

For More Information Contact: Economic Development Department City of Cedar Park | 600 N. Bell Boulevard | Cedar Park, Texas 78613 phone: 512 401 5014 fax: 512 250 8602 | www.cedarparktx.us



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Agent: Eric Yeung Don Cox Company

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12,200 sq. ft. \$.55/sq. ft./mo. Agent: Mark Lander 569-6644 The Mooreland Group, LLC



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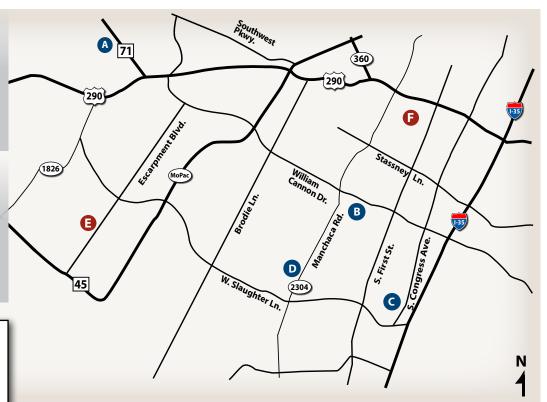
9,000 sq. ft. \$18.50-22/sq. ft. + NNN Agent: Bill Roland 469-0925 **Granite Properties**



15,000 sa. ft. \$.55/sq. ft./mo. + NNN Agent: Steve Shire 249-8076 Buls Hodge Consulting

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NEIGHBORHOODS AT A GLANCE

(E) CIRCLE C • 78739

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eatured homes



6705 Hansa Loop • \$361,900

Agent: Amy Collins-Mills Realty Austin

4 Br./2.5Ba. 762-0585



7209 Nubian Cove • \$415,800

Agent: Don Crow

4 Br./3.5 Ba. 258-6677



7416 Seneca Falls Loop • \$349,000

Agents: The Squires Team 4 Br./3 Ba. 448-4111

(F) S. MANCHACA • 78745

Just south of Ben White Boulevard and St. Edward's University, South Manchaca offers easy access to South Congress Avenue and downtown. **Schools**: Cunningham Elementary School

Covington Middle School • Crockett High School





906 Nalide St. • \$179,900

Agent: Diana Zuniga

2 Br./1 Ba. 480-8100



4420 Banister Lane • \$189,000

Agent: Jane Coffman,

3 Br./2 Ba. 657-2129



4719 Mount Vernon Drive • \$244,500

Agent: Jonmarie Compton 3 Br./1 Ba. Keller Williams Realty 507-4253

Market Data Southwest Austin area

On the Market (December 1 - 31)

Price range	Number of homes for sale / Average days on market						
	78745	78749	78739	78748	78735	78736	78737
Less than \$100,000	5/87	-	-	-	1/51	2/30	-
\$100,000-\$149,900	27/84	1/104	1/104	13/73	-	3/46	-
\$150,000-\$199,900	82/76	20/95	20/95	20/95	5/91	9/136	1/40
\$200,000-\$299,900	51/97	56/96	56/96	56/96	9/66	8/97	36/110
\$300,000-\$399,900	6/170	10/76	10/76	14/99	29/80	6/84	36/109
\$400,000-\$499,900	-	3/26	3/26	1/61	19/118	2/95	24/116
\$500,000-\$749,900	-	1/118	1/118	4/34	10/94	2/173	17/108
\$750,000-\$999,900	1/40	-	-	-	20/99	1/121	4/133
\$1 million+	-	-	-	-	33/236	1/54	4/179

Monthly home sales

Month	78745	78749	78739	78748
	Sold Average Price	Sold Average Price	Sold Average Price	Sold Average Price
Dec. 2008	36 \$165,838	26 \$235,129	14 \$324,071	38 \$176,852
Dec. 2007	43 \$175,269	49 \$230,170	21 \$296,131	60 \$207,102
Month	78735 Sold Average Price	78736 Sold Average Price	78737 Sold Average Price	
Dec. 2008	16 \$892,306	9 \$199,176	17 \$289,931	
Dec. 2007	15 \$567,144	5 \$340,698	21 \$347,979	

Key	Stats	Change in average selling price from last year						
78745	78749	78739	78748	78735	78736	78737		
-\$9,431	\$4,959	\$27,940	-\$30,250	\$325,162	-\$141,522	-\$58,048		
Change in number of homes sold from last year								
-7	-23	-7	-22	-1	4	-4		

MARKET DATA PROVIDED BY DONNA SCOGGINS

To contact Realtor Donna Scoggins, call 423-5901 or e-mail her at donnasellsaustin@yahoo.com. www.donnascoggins.com



ZIP CODE GUIDE

Southwest Austin

78735 (Oak Hill/Sout 78736 (Oak Hill) 78737 (Oak Hill) 78739 (Circle C area)

78745 (South of Ben White, Sunset Valley) 78748 (Shady Hollow/Manchaca area) 78749 (MoPac/William Cannon)

Note: These ZIP codes encompass the Southwest Austin distribution area.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this listing, Community Impact Newspaper assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Contact the property's agent/ seller for the most current and reliable information.

AUSI	IN							
ZIP code	Subdivision	Address	Bed/Bath	Sq. Ft.*	Price	Agent	Agency	Phone
78703	Woodlawn West	1302 Woodlawn Blvd., Apt. 102	2br/2.5ba	1,590	\$320,000	John Cotten	Texas Capital Properties	587-3732
78704	Barton Oaks	3604 Winfield Cove	3br/2ba	1,506	\$349,500	Agent	Sellstate Classic Realty	538-1530
78739	Circle C/Hielscher	6704 Walebridge Lane	3br/2.5ba	2,425	\$315,000	Will Hilton, Realtor	Keller Williams Realty	731-2653
78745	Cherry Creek	7702 Manassas	3br/2ba	1,494	\$195,000	Aubrey Shaw	JB Goodwin	632-6002
78745	La Vid Homes	6708 Manchaca	2br/2.5ba	1,372	\$199,900	Lori Kattner	Hardy Realty	921-8113
78745	Southampton	3209 Centralia	3br/2ba	1,214	\$164,900	Mike Minns	Atlas Realty	785-9157
78745	Carrell Oaks	1201 Echo Lane	3br/2ba	1,212	\$149,999	Steve York	York Real Estate Services	275-9675
78748	Southland Oaks	2500 Gate Ridge Drive	3br/2.5ba	1,945	\$237,999	Melanie Fenelon	Wilson Goldrick Realtors	658-0773
78749	Maple Run	4507 Manzanillo Drive	3br/2ba	1,391	\$179,900	Steve York	York Real Estate Services	275-9675
78750	Spicewood at Bull Creek	10203 Lockerbie Court	4br/3.5ba	3,529	\$538,888	Christy Taylor	Keller Williams	507-5632
78751	Highlands	5214 Evans Avenue	4br/2ba	1,324	\$290,000	Howard Nemetsky	Sellstate Hill Country	528-0404
78756	Broadacres	5607 B Clay Ave.	3br/3ba	1,961	\$424,900	Agent/Owner	Sellstate Classic Realty	538-1530

COMMUNITY PROFILE

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Q. How does the Texas Department of Transportation differ from other transportation agencies?

A. We are the state's agency responsible for the construction of roadways throughout the State of Texas for the movement of people and goods in a safe, traveling environment. All of those other agencies, we consider them our partners.

For example, CAMPO [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization] is a federally sanctioned agency that deals with federal dollars and allows for those dollars to be pumped into our local area. CTRMA [Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority] is a state-authorized transportation agency, similar to CAMPO but just state-authorized. They're able to move and work in the private sector in ways that we at TxDOT cannot, as a state agency. So, we've got partners in these others agencies. I believe TxDOT is responsible to the public for our roadways, and we are able to work with these agencies to produce and get these roads on the ground. It's not like 50 years ago where TxDOT was the sole agency.

We still consider ourselves at the forefront, but we have different partners in the process of getting these roads on the ground.

Q. How could this year's state legislative session affect the transportation budget?

A. Two elections ago, voters in the State of Texas approved funding for transportation projects throughout the state. I think it was a total of about \$5 billion in various funds, whether it be bonds or other financial tools. We're hoping that the legislature will address the actual means of how we will appropriate that money. The voters approved it, but it's going to be up to the legislature to determine how we can acquire that money and how we can use it to develop our roadways.

Q. In the future, will any major project managed by TxDOT likely be a toll road, or are alternative funding measures a possibility?

A. It depends. I would say toll roads are an option; however, we are looking state-wide at receiving funding from the possible stimulus package from Washington. All of the states are assessing what projects are a priority, and that's what we're doing in the Austin area. There's no set list at this point. We're evaluating everything across the board as far as what our transportation needs are. We are moving forward with what projects we need. We're going into a state legislative session and we're

also looking at what funding may come from Washington as a result of the stimulus package. We also have the current options of public/private partnerships and working with city and county entities to see if they have access to transportation dollars as well.

INTERVIEW BY ERIC PULSIFER

Q. Are there any existing toll roads that TxDOT plans to switch from tolled to free?

A. It would be difficult to predict a toll road switching from paid to free. The main issue is maintenance.

We're looking at getting, hopefully, state and federal dollars to do more projects, but there is still a need for revenue to maintain the roads. So, the decision to switch over is probably something that won't happen for years, if it does.

Q. Have any planned road projects been scrapped or delayed as a result of the current economic climate?

A. No, everything is on the table at this point. There haven't been any projects that are being cancelled or anything like that. There was a slow down period about 18 months ago where everything pretty much came to a standstill. But at this point, we're in the process of evaluating



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every project that is needed and waiting to see what TxDOT headquarters considers as a priority for the Austin area. They're looking at priority projects across the state. That list is going downtown for review. It hasn't come back yet; we're still in the process of doing it.

We're in a great position now to assess what our needs are, and if the money becomes available, then we'll be able to move forward.



For the extended interview, visit more.impactnews.com/2993

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