South Austin business owners brace for SXSW

Size, focus of event mirror changing city

BY TAYLOR JACKSON BUCHANAN

While South by Southwest Conferences & Festivals brings profits to bars, restaurants and hotels downtown, it presents a different set of challenges to South Austin businesses.

Kelly Chappell, owner of Top Notch Hamburgers, Zocalo and local chain Galaxy Cafe, said the annual 10-day event that draws tens of thousands of visitors to the city disrupts regular business at his South Austin location of Galaxy Cafe. When he opened the restaurant at the corner of Brodie and Slaughter lanes in 2004, he staked his financial success on attracting steady business from locals.

“We don’t keep our regular business and add to it when SXSW comes into town,” Chappell said. “It’s a

CONTINUED ON 34
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Our annual Summer Camp Guide is here

If you are like me, you are beginning to tire of the rainy, cloudy weather and are starting to look forward to warmer days ahead. Many of you may have children and are already starting to plan for their activities during the summer months while they are out of school.

At Community Impact Newspaper, we realized that planning starts early in the year. Because of this, we moved our annual Summer Camp Guide to our February edition. Throughout the guide (see pages 28-31), you can find all types of options for summer activities ranging from math and engineering to sports, depending on your child’s interest, to make your planning easier.

On this month’s front page, please see Editor Nicholas Cicale’s article on conservation easements and the need to protect the area around the Edwards Aquifer. He examines the benefits of preserving the land for the landowner as well as the public and how local groups are helping.

Also in this edition, Senior Reporter Taylor Jackson Buchanan takes a look at the growing South By Southwest festival and how it mirrors the growth of the city of Austin as well as its effect on local businesses in Southwest Austin.

Thanks for reading, and keep an eye out next month for our Senior Living Guide!
IMPACTS

Businesses that have recently opened, are coming soon or expanding

1. **Ayurveda by Antonia** opened Feb. 4 at 9007 Zyle Road in Southwest Austin. Created by Antonia Warren, the wellness business uses a traditional Hindu approach to wellness. Warren said it is based on the idea of balance in bodily systems, and its main goal is to promote good health, prevent illness and support the body’s healing process. 512-431-7329. www.ayurvedabyantonia.com

2. **B Pilates** opened at 6700 Manchaca Road, Ste. 15, Austin, in late November. B Pilates offers instruction in the Pilates method, a system of exercise that stretches and strengthens the body without placing stress on the joints. The business offers private sessions, semi-private sessions, and small-group mat and equipment classes.

3. **Invisibly Aligned**—an orthodontics practice offering Invisalign teeth straightening devices—opened a South Austin location at 5400 Brodie Lane, Ste. 260, Sunset Valley, on Feb. 5. 512-436-8227. www.theinvisiblyalignedsmile.com


5. **Ian’s Dry Cleaning & Laundry Delivery**, a South Austin home business, opened in December. The laundry service offers pickup and delivery for no additional charge. The service is available for those in the 78735, 78736, 78737, 78739, 78745, 78748 and 78749 ZIP codes. Orders can be scheduled online, through the Ian’s Cleaners app, and by phone or text message. 512-452-0928. www.ianscleaners.com

6. **East Side Pies** is developing a new location inside Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, 3600 Presidential Blvd., Austin, which is scheduled to open this year. The local business is also expanding its original location in East Austin with the addition of a standalone market. 512-524-0933. www.eastsidepies.com

7. **TruFusion**, a national fitness studio chain that offers 65 different workout class styles, including barre, cycling, battle ropes and yoga, will open a South Austin location in March. The studio, which originally planned to open last fall, will be located at 4211 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin. www.trufusion.com


10. **Austin-based mattress chain Ulti-Mattress** celebrated one year in business

NOW OPEN

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EXPANSIONS

10 Central Market’s Westgate location at 4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, began offering curbside grocery pickup beginning Jan. 9. 512-899-4300. www.centralmarket.com

11 Cakes Rock finished remodeling its shop, located at 4201 S. Congress Ave., Ste. 101, Austin, in the fall. The custom cake shop specializes in wedding and groom’s cakes, sculpted cakes, themed cakes and dessert tables. Every cake, icing and dessert is made from scratch. 877-711-2253. www.cakesrockaustintx.com

12 Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe, located at 5517 Manchaca Road, Austin, temporarily closed in December to renovate its kitchen. The restaurant expects to reopen by the end of February. 512-326-1619. www.tuktukthaiustin.com

IN THE NEWS

13 Two of Texas’ major not-for-profit health systems—Baylor Scott & White Health and Memorial Hermann Health System—announced Feb. 5 they will no longer pursue a merger announced in an Oct. 1 letter of intent that would have affected 30 counties throughout the state. Baylor Scott & White Health is currently building a South Austin hospital at 5243 Hwy. 290, Austin. www.bswhealth.com, www.memorialhermann.org

14 Still Austin Whiskey Co.’s Texas Rye Gin was named a Good Food Awards winner Jan. 11. The gin, released in 2018, is distilled in a copper pot with juniper berries, coriander seeds and citrus peels. This is the first Good Food Award—a national honor that celebrates flavor as well as social and environmental responsibility—Still Austin Whiskey Co., located at 440 E. St. Elmo Road, Austin, has applied for and won. 512-276-2700. www.stillaustin.com

CLOSINGS

15 Gymboree at Barton Creek Square Mall will close along with all other 900 locations. The children’s apparel chain selling sizes newborn-age 12 is located at 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin, and everything is on sale, according to their website. A representative of the Barton Creek location told Community Impact Newspaper there is no official closure date. 512-329-8842. www.gymboree.com

16 Independence Fine Foods, which opened in 2014 at 1807 W. Slaughter Lane, Ste. 100, Austin, closed Jan. 27. The restaurant offered upscale versions of classics—including burgers, sandwiches, salads and soups—with locally sourced ingredients. The business’ Facebook page and website have also been deactivated. 512-363-5672.

17 N’Esperado, a Mexican barbecue spot from the owners of East Austin Indian-Texas fusion restaurant Nasha, closed at 1816 S. First St., Austin, in mid-December. The restaurant opened in early August 2018. 512-436-9733. www.nesperado.com

18 North By Northwest Brewing Co. closed its South Austin location at 5701 W. Slaughter Lane, Ste. D, Austin, on Feb. 2. The company will continue to operate its brewery and restaurant in North Austin at 10010 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin. According to the company’s Facebook page, the south location is closing due to challenges brought by ongoing area construction on Slaughter Lane. 512-467-6969. www.nxnbrew.com

19 Sears closed its Austin locations—including at 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy. in Barton Creek Square Mall—at the end of 2018. The closings were among at least 142 that were announced along with the company’s bankruptcy filing Oct. 15. 512-329-1300. www.sears.com

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Buy a SkinPen® MicroNeedle Package of 3 Take 50% off home care kit and surge post care. $250 VALUE
Take $100 off Mini Melanage or 20% off any other Melanage Product $260 VALUE
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Dripping Springs
4635 Martin Rd
4 BD 4.5 BA 18 ACRES
MARK PONTON
512-506-0075

Estates of Bauerle Ranch
11300 Bellows Falls Ave
4 BD 3.5 BA 3,137 SQ FT
JIM MCFARLAND
512-992-5590

La Corvina
4013 Sunset Trl #B
3 BD 2.5 BA 1,886 SQ FT
TODD BAILEY
512-900-5775

Shady Hollow
11539 Gun Fight Ln
3 BD 2.5 BA 1,515 SQ FT
LISA MUÑOZ
512-856-4549

Village
2612 Darlow Dr
4 BD 2 BA 1,263 SQ FT
ALICIA KELLEY
512-736-7585

Texas Oaks
1303 Cattle Trl
4 BD 2.5 BA 1,850 SQ FT
MICHELLE HENDRIX
512-736-1680

Olympic Heights
2104 Wilma Rudolph Rd
3 BD 2.5 BA 1,439 SQ FT
ERIC MEISSNER
512-695-2867

Springfield
7541 Redtick Dr
4 BD 2.5 BA 2,781 SQ FT
CINDY ROEHICHT
512-771-1331

Cherry Creek
6713 West Gate Blvd #B
3 BD 2.5 BA 1,024 SQ FT
KELLY BURNETY
512-733-4306

Bradshaw Crossing
10221 Deer Chase Trl
3 BD 2 BA 1,220 SQ FT
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COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER • communityimpact.com
IMPACTS

Businesses that have recently opened, are coming soon or are relocating

NOW OPEN

1. **Lone Star Animal Hospital** opened in late February on the Stay N Play Pet Ranch site at 2500 E. Hwy. 290, Dripping Springs. Veterinarian Amanda Moore offers preventative care, internal medicine, surgery, dermatology, dentistry, acupuncture and emergency care. www.lonestarvetcare.com

2. **Noble Martial Arts**—a private martial arts training facility offering group and private instruction in krav maga, jeet kune do and Brazilian jiu-jitsu—opened Feb. 1 at 31560 RR 12, Ste. 208, Dripping Springs. 512-566-7071. www.noblemartialarts.com

3. **Purewash** opened Feb. 1 at 3519 W. Hwy. 290, Dripping Springs. The upscale, express-style car wash utilizes recaptured and recycled water in a modern Hill Country design with free vacuums, owner Jeff Betzing said. 512-539-6561. www.purewashatx.com

COMING SOON

4. **The Pickle House**, a pickle-themed cafe and retail shop, will open in late February at 9521 Hwy. 290, Austin. The menu will include items such as the signature pickle-fried chicken, pickled queso dip and the fried-pickle cheeseburger. The restaurant is a project by Sam Addison, owner and creator of Pogue Mahone Pickles, a specialty food company providing craft pickles in South Austin for seven years. Plans also include a pickle bar with 12 varieties of pickles and a retail shop with Pogue Mahone Pickles products. 512-351-8267. www.poguemahonepickles.com

RELOCATIONS

5. Shalana Poole, a financial advisor with Waddell & Reed, relocated to a new office at 10200 W. Hwy. 290, Ste. 203, Austin, on Feb. 1. She was previously located at 9500 Arboretum Blvd., Ste. 225, Austin. 512-822-7524. www.spoole.wradvisors.com

CLOSINGS

6. **Trudy’s Four Star**, a Tex-Mex restaurant located at 13059 Four Star Blvd., Austin, that has been part of the local Trudy’s Texas Star chain since 2011, closed in January. Trudy’s offers tacos, quesadillas, appetizers, breakfast and a bar menu at three other Austin locations, including one in South Austin at 901 Little Texas Lane, Ste. C, Austin. 512-301-4300. www.trudys.com

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Start today. Visit austinenergy.com/go/house for a list of participating contractors or call 512-482-5346 to begin.
March 1
Check out the new South Austin Homeowners Club
Learn about 2019 home design trends. Abby Vasek, a local designer who appeared on HGTV, will speak. Appetizers and wine will be available. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Total Wine, 5601 Brodie Lane, Ste. 800, Sunset Valley. 512-633-9868. www.meetup.com/southaustinhomeowners

March 2
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

March 3
Hear an architecture talk
Carina Coel, founder and principal of Restructure Studio, will speak on how to incorporate sustainability in design. Wine, beer and light refreshments will be provided. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Articulture Designs, 6405 Manchaca Road, Austin. 512-762-5228. www.articulturedesigns.com

March 6
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

March 11
Check out the new South Austin Homeowners Club
Learn about 2019 home design trends. Abby Vasek, a local designer who appeared on HGTV, will speak. Appetizers and wine will be available. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Total Wine, 5601 Brodie Lane, Ste. 800, Sunset Valley. 512-633-9868. www.meetup.com/southaustinhomeowners

March 12
Try abstract painting class
Participants respond spontaneously to prompts, creating three small works of art. Dress for wet paint, and bring a drop cloth for your car. 2-5 p.m. $50. Bee Cave Arts Foundation “The Hive” at the Hill Country Galleria, 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Ste. T125, Bee Cave. 512-858-7284. www.bee cavearts.org

March 13
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

March 16
Check out Rodeo Austin
Pro Rodeo events, live music, a livestock show, a carnival and other events are held on the rodeo grounds. All day. Ticket prices vary by event. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Lake Road, Austin. 512-919-3000. www.rodeoaustin.com

March 18-22
Area school districts close for week of spring break
Students, teachers and staff in Austin ISD and Dripping Springs ISD will be off for spring break during the week. Classes will resume March 25. Visit AISD’s website at www.austinisd.org or DSISD’s website at www.dsisdtx.us for more information.

March 22-24
Watch the IndyCar Classic at Circuit of The Americas
The Austin race is the second of the IndyCar Classic Series. Muse, an English rock band, will perform a concert Saturday evening, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. $119. Circuit of The Americas, 9201 Circuit of The Americas Blvd., Del Valle. 512-301-6600. www.circuitoftheamericas.com/indy

March 29
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

COURTESY TEXAS NIGHT SKY FESTIVAL/CHARLOTTE LUONGO

March 30
Stargaze and learn at the Texas Night Sky Festival
Enjoy a celebration of the night sky with mobile planetariums, solar telescopes, yoga under the stars and a lesson in night sky photography. Live music and food trucks will be on-site. Noon-11 p.m. Free. Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive, Dripping Springs. www.texasnightskylifestyle.org

March 31
Participate in the annual ABC Kite Fest at Zilker Park
Watch or fly a kite at the 90th annual festival. The event includes a fun run, a kite-flying showcase and contest, a children’s concert and other activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Road, Austin. 512-837-9500. www.abckitefestival.org

April 1
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

April 4
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

April 7
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

April 14
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

April 21
Help clean up local parks
Improve parks, trails and greenbelts throughout the city—including Dick Nichols Park and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Times and locations vary throughout Austin. Check the website for a complete list of projects and locations. Free. 512-477-1566. www.austinparks.org/impd

To-do list
Your ultimate local guide for events, celebrations, performances and more in the month of March
Find more or submit local events at communityimpact.com/swa-calendar.
Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.

See a full list of events at communityimpact.com/events.
TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

FEATURED PROJECT

Austin Strategic Mobility Plan expanded roadways

The Austin Transportation Department is wrapping up two years’ worth of work on a new plan, called the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, which is scheduled to appear before council for approval in late March. The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan takes a comprehensive look at the city’s transportation challenges and aims to arm the city with new tools to tackle those challenges and submit projects when funding opportunities arise.

The draft plan includes local highway improvements, corridor mobility improvements, substandard street projects, new roads, access-management projects, and roadways being planned for future expansion throughout the city of Austin and surrounding areas.

Some proposed Southwest Austin projects in the plan include expanding local roadways and adding center medians to increase capacity and safety.

South Austin projects highlighted in the proposed plan include:

1. Widening Escarpment Boulevard to a four-lane road from La Crosse Avenue to the Hays County line south of SH 45;
2. Widening William Cannon Drive to six lanes from Brodie Lane to Manchaca Road;
3. Expanding Old Bee Caves Road to four lanes from West Hwy. 290 south into Hays County;
4. Widening Brodie to four travel lanes south of Slaughter and north of FM 1626;
5. Widening FM 1626 to four lanes from I-35 to Brodie;
6. Widening Slaughter to six lanes with a raised median from MoPac to Brodie;
7. Widening the south end of Manchaca Road to four lanes from FM 1626 to Ravenscroft Drive; and
8. Expanding Old Bee Caves Road to four lanes from West Hwy. 290 to Travis Cook Road and adding new turn lanes from Travis Cook to West Hwy. 71.

All projects are in varying stages of development and funding.

As the plan is presented to various entities for final approval, opportunities for public feedback at committee meetings will take place.

The mobility committee will meet Feb. 28, while the environmental committee, land-use committee and urban trails committee will meet in March.

All information on this page was updated as of 2/8/19. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at swanews@communityimpact.com.

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Austin Bold FC set for inaugural season

BY NICHOLAS CICALE

While a large part of the local sports spotlight over the past 15 months has been pointed at Austin FC’s efforts to bring Major League Soccer to the city, Austin’s United Soccer League Championship team, Austin Bold FC, has been preparing for its inaugural season.

In anticipation of the Bold’s home opener with San Antonio FC on March 30, the Austin squad came together to begin training Jan. 21.

Construction of the team’s new 5,000-seat stadium, located at the Circuit of The Americas, is also underway. Austin Bold FC General Manager Roberto Silva said the foundation for the project was completed Jan. 14, and the team expects the stadium to be completed by opening day.

“It’s amazing, us all being here for the first time together,” Bold head coach Marcelo Serrano said at a media event Jan. 22. “The feedback from the community, it’s definitely a good sign [for] soccer coming to town.”

SET FOR EARLY SUCCESS?

“I think this is the first time in professional soccer Austin has a real shot [to succeed],” Silva said.

He said the Bold “could not be more different” from the Austin Aztecs, the now-defunct soccer franchise that played games at Austin ISD’s House Park from 2012-15 and played one season in the USL.

“2015 before being dissolved.

“The culture around the sport in Austin will be important for both franchises.

“We are soccer people,” he said. “For me, it’s not this team or the other team. If I love the game of soccer, then it’s about soccer.”

LOCAL COMPETITION

Austin Bold FC will start playing at least two seasons before Austin FC begins playing MLS games in North Austin. The Bold started as a grass-roots effort with local ownership, and Silva said Austin FC’s different approach to coming to Austin caught Bold ownership by surprise.

While the franchises will not be directly in competition on the field, they will be competing for entertainment dollars with each other as well as other local events and activates, he said.

“I look at my squad; I look at my ownership and the stadium we are building, and I think of the barriers we have already passed over the last year; why not break this one and make this successful despite whatever happens with MLS in Austin?” Silva said.

Serrano said the culture around the sport in Austin will be important for both franchises.

“We are soccer people,” he said. “For me, it’s not this team or the other team. If I love the game of soccer, then it’s about soccer.”

2011

league founded as USL Pro

36

total clubs in 2019 season

15

clubs affiliated with Major League Soccer teams

43

number of games in the season

About the League

TOP USL MARKET VALUES

According to Soccer analytics website Transfer Markt, Austin Bold FC has the highest player market value, a statistic that measures a player’s talent level in terms of euros, in the league as of Jan. 28. This chart converts the value in euros to U.S. dollars.

Top USL Market Values

$9M

$8.24M

$8M

$5.3M

$7M

$4.53M

$6M

$4.53M

$5M

$4.16M

$4M

$3M

$2M

$1M

$0

Austin Bold FC

Phoenix Rising FC

Oklahoma City Energy FC

Louisville City FC

Source: Transfer Markt/Community Impact Newspaper

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Austin Bold FC will play 17 home games from March through October, with estimated ticket prices of $15-$40. Check communityimpact.com for a full schedule of games.

Upcoming Home Games

March 30

Austin Bold FC vs San Antonio FC, inaugural Bold home game

April 17

Austin Bold FC vs Phoenix Rising FC, 2018 Western conference champion

April 21

Austin Bold FC vs El Paso Locomotive FC, first season in USL

April 26

Austin Bold FC vs Real Monarchs SLC, MLS reserve team for Real Salt Lake

Source: Austin Bold FC/Community Impact Newspaper

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ARC HAND CARE LOCATIONS
New Austin ISD elementary school in Southwest Austin begins to take shape

BY TAYLOR JACKSON BUCHANAN

Site clearing in preparation for construction of a new Austin ISD southwest elementary school began this month at Escarpment Boulevard and Trissino Drive.

Plans for the $36.2 million facility include capacity for 522 students. Expansion plans could make room for up to 696 students in the future.

“This, for me, is a celebration,” said Yasmin Wagner, Austin ISD board member who represents Southwest Austin. “We are celebrating what will be the largest elementary school investment from the [2017] bond. It’s a great investment in our growing population in Southwest Austin.”

RELEIVING OVERCROWDING

Austin ISD’s new southwest elementary school is one of the first facilities in the 2017 bond package to be built. Voters approved the bond—the largest in district history at $1.05 billion—to renovate and construct new schools.

Although the 32 projects included in the bond vary, all are centered on delivering modernized learning spaces to Austin ISD’s nearly 83,000 students.

Located within a few miles of four AISD elementary schools—Clayton, Baldwin, Kiker and Baranoff—the new campus will provide relief for the increasingly crowded Kiker and Baranoff campuses. Both schools were built in the 1990s, and enrollment numbers are at or nearing 1,000 students.

MODERN LEARNING SPACES

The new southwest elementary school is being designed in alignment with Austin ISD’s vision for 21st century learning spaces, according to a Jan. 22 public meeting at the Circle C Community Center.

Designs call for flexible classroom spaces to accommodate personalized learning, Baranoff Elementary Principal Megan Counihan said during the meeting. This will facilitate collaboration between teachers and groups of students, she said.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Crews will start vertical construction on the school in July. Nearby residents can expect trucks entering and exiting the construction site on Escarpment Boulevard.

Austin ISD is in the process of establishing an attendance boundary for the new school, a district spokesperson said. A boundary advisory committee formed in late January. The process will take about a year, with an anticipated January 2020 timeline for notifying families who will be affected.

The school is on track to open in August 2020, according to the district’s presentation.

RELIEVING OVERCROWDED CAMPUSES

The new elementary school will be built southeast of the intersection of Trissino Drive and Escarpment Boulevard. The site is within three miles of Kiker and Baranoff elementary schools in South Austin.

WORKING WITH THE LAND

The 18.9-acre site is within the Bear Creek and Slaughter Creek watersheds and falls within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Architects with the project say this poses a design challenge but also allows for outdoor learning spaces and play areas set within Balcones Canyon landscape.
Austin ISD classes will start Aug. 20 for 2019-20 school year after board approval

**AUSTIN ISD** District students will return to class for the first day of the 2019-20 school year Aug. 20, according to the instructional calendar approved by the board of trustees Feb. 4. The last day of school will be May 28, 2020.

The approved calendar includes 175 school days and 23 staff holidays, or more holiday.

Will have one fewer day of class and one calendar, the approved calendar year will have one fewer day of class and one more holiday.

School holidays include Labor Day on Sept. 2, Thanksgiving break Nov. 25-29, Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 20 and Memorial Day on May 25. Winter break will take place Dec. 23-Jan. 2, and spring break is March 16-20.

Staff work days, in which the district is open but classes are not held for students, are scheduled for Aug. 13-16, Aug. 19, Oct. 14, Dec. 20, Jan. 3, 2020, Jan 6, Feb. 17, April 10 and May 29.

Bad-weather makeup days are reserved for Feb. 17 and April 10. Class will not be held these days unless makeup time is needed.

At a future date, the district will announce additional student days off for each campus in accordance with its district of innovation status.

District 2 trustee Jayme Mathias abstained from the calendar vote because he felt it lacked appropriate recognition for Latino heroes and the local Latino community. He said he is not advocating for a student day off but for a clearer outline as to how the community is being celebrated in the district.

District 3 trustee Ann Teich said she would like to see similar recognitions for the Asian, Native American and black communities.

ACC opposes proposed new tax rate legislation

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE** On Jan. 31, Gov. Greg Abbott and others introduced legislation intended to curb property tax growth by restricting the ability of local governments to increase revenue without voter approval.

The proposal calls for a public vote if any local taxing entity increases its revenue by more than 2.5 percent per year over year.

Many local government entities said the proposed changes would cripple their ability to adequately provide services. On Feb. 4, the ACC board of trustees added the community college district to the list of institutions to oppose the proposed law changes.

District adds teacher position to limit overcrowding

**DRIPPING SPRINGS ISD** Faced with a decision to increase class size or split up students mid-year, the Dripping Springs ISD board approved Jan. 28 an additional full-time teaching position at Sycamore Springs Elementary School.

“We’ve grown more than what was expected,” said Nicole Poenitzsch, assistant superintendent for learning and innovation.

As a district of innovation, DSISD has already waived an enrollment cap of 22 students per class for kindergarten through fourth grade. Several third- and fourth-grade classes at Sycamore Springs are at the district’s currently approved capacity—23 students.

“Personally, I don’t approve of a class-size ratio of 24 to 1,” trustee Barbara Stout said. “I don’t think it’s what we envisioned when we did the district of innovation planning in the beginning.”

Options to utilize the position include reconfiguring rosters to create an additional third-grade class or adding a new teacher to assist with the class that has 24 students enrolled.

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DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

INFINITY RANCH DRIPPING SPRINGS

Infinity Ranch Dripping Springs is nearing completion. The development offers short-term rentals of custom tiny homes on a property in Dripping Springs. The 10-acre development is located northwest of downtown Dripping Springs. Tiny homes include a sleeping loft with a queen bed, full bathrooms and kitchens, a living area with a futon, and air conditioning and heating. Larger units include washer and dryers.

Address: 651 Plant Lady Lane, Dripping Springs
Construction timeline: 2018-spring 2019
Size: 10 acres

DRIPPING SPRINGS GOLF AND RANCH CLUB

The development agreement for Driftwood Golf and Ranch Club, a proposed development that will include single-family homes, a golf course, clubhouse, parkland and open space, was approved unanimously Jan. 8 by Dripping Springs City Council. The community will be located southeast of the FM 1826 and FM 967 intersection in Dripping Springs’ extraterritorial jurisdiction. Answering concerns from some residents about other activities taking place at the development, applicant Don Bosse said some sports fields are proposed as part of the development’s clubhouse, but the fields will not be lit. Lighting at the development will also follow the city’s dark sky regulations.

Address: near FM 1826 and FM 967, Dripping Springs
Construction timeline: 2019-TBD
Size: 800 acres

HORSESHOE BAY RESORT

Horseshoe Bay Resort is putting the final touches on a $70 million resort and multicourse renovation this year. The resort has four championship golf courses and a whitewater putting course. In 2016, the resort began a $7.5 million project to upgrade all three of its Robert Trent Jones Sr. course designs. The courses will be reopened in conjunction with the unveiling of the new Cap Rock Clubhouse.

Address: 200 N. Hi Circle, Horseshoe Bay
Construction timeline: 2016-2019
Size: 2,700 acres

BARTON CREEK SQUARE MALL

Barton Creek Square Mall will undergo interior and exterior modernizations, with construction expected to begin by the end of February, according to a news release by Simon Property Group. Renovations will continue throughout the year and should be completed by winter 2019. Renovations include new signage, changes to mall entrances, improved lighting and updated floors. The mall will also have a new community gathering space with lounge seating, workspaces and televisions, the release states.

Address: 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin
Construction timeline: February 2019-winter 2019
Size: 1.4 million square feet

AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL

To make way for a $283 million replacement of the over 100-year-old Austin State Hospital in Central Austin, construction crews could start clearing land on the campus as early as October. “If it works as we intend it to in the next 10 years, we can change how people access care in the 75 counties this hospital serves,” said Dr. Stephen Strakowski, chair of the Austin State Hospital Steering Committee and chair of The University of Texas Dell Medical School Department of Psychiatry. The new hospital will provide between 216 to 288 beds. The plan also includes renovations for the remaining buildings, which house outpatient services.

Address: 4110 Guadalupe St., Austin
Construction timeline: could break ground in October 2019
Size: 216-288 beds

Horseshoe Bay Resort will complete $70 million in renovations this year. The resort has four championship golf courses and a whitewater putting course. In 2016, the resort began a $7.5 million project to upgrade all three of its Robert Trent Jones Sr. course designs. The courses will be reopened in conjunction with the unveiling of the new Cap Rock Clubhouse.

Address: 200 N. Hi Circle, Horseshoe Bay
Construction timeline: 2016-2019
Size: 2,700 acres
Foul-smelling tap water impacts South Austin residents

**AUSTIN** In response to reports of foul-smelling water across the city of Austin, Austin Water crews as of Feb. 14 had flushed water at more than 600 locations and continued to perform targeted flushing in affected areas through the week.

The city’s water supply continues to meet “all regulatory standards and is safe to drink,” according to a Feb. 7 statement issued by Austin Water.

The odor and taste issues are the result of dead zebra mussels in a raw water pipe at the Ulrich Water Treatment Plant in South Austin. Austin Water had put the pipe back into service Feb. 6 after finishing repairs over the two weeks prior, according to the department.

The issue originated Thursday, Feb. 7. Although Austin Water suggested the issue would be resolved in 24 hours with the addition of powdered activated carbon to the water supply and flushing efforts, it had continued for nearly a week.

Between 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 10, when Austin 311 began tracking complaints, and 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, more than 1,987 residents had called with complaints about the odor and taste of their water supply.

More than two years after city of Austin’s DNA lab closure, hundreds of cases are still under review

**TRAVIS COUNTY** Hundreds of cases remain under the microscope as local entities try to determine whether DNA might have played a role in convictions.

“This is a work in progress,” Travis County Assistant District Attorney John Lopez said. “We want to make sure no one was wrongly convicted. We’re all trying to get to the same end.”

To date, Lopez’s office has identified about 180 Travis County cases in which DNA that passed through the Austin Police Department’s DNA lab could have played a role in a conviction, he said. As of Jan. 25, the district attorney’s office had reviewed 884 of 1,833 cases, he said.

Travis County’s district attorney office, juvenile public defender and nonprofit Capital Area Private Defender Service continue to re-evaluate cases called into question after the shuttering of APD’s DNA lab. The lab closed in summer 2016 due to a number of issues detailed in a Texas Forensics Science Commission audit.

“Justice must be served,” Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt said. “That’s the goal—not just convictions.”

**BREAKING DOWN THE DNA**

In response to the Austin Police Department’s DNA lab closure, several groups are reviewing hundreds of cases in which DNA could have played a role in convictions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travis County District Attorney’s office is reviewing</th>
<th>Juvenile public defender is reviewing</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,833 CASES.</td>
<td>107 CASES.</td>
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</table>

The University of North Texas has reviewed 53 CASES.

Approximately 600 DEFENDANTS requested their case be reviewed.

3 ANALYSES are pending by UNT.

SOURCE: TRAVIS COUNTY JUSTICE PLANNING/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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Sunset Valley holds work session to discuss city administrator hiring process

**SUNSET VALLEY** — With City Administrator Clay Collins announcing in January his plans to retire April 30, Sunset Valley City Council discussed Feb. 5 what the process of hiring a new city administrator could look like.

City Council voted to move the next City Council meeting to Feb. 26 and held an open work session Feb. 19, after this publication went to press.

Council will continue conversations about editing the current city administrator job description, which has not been updated since 2010, according to Mayor Rose Cardona. The creation of job objectives and a possible interview committee could also take place.

Council Member Marc Bruner said Feb. 5 he would like the city to utilize a recruiter to fill the position, similar to how the city hired its most recent police chief. The process of selecting a recruiting firm will also be discussed at the work session.

Council Member Melissa Gonzales said she did not want City Council to move too quickly to hire a replacement. She also expressed concerns about the current job description for the position as well as some of the recommendations and practices outlined by Cardona in a State of the City letter published to the city website Jan. 25.

“I want to make sure that we aren’t rushing over staff input, and I’m concerned that there are things that we should pay attention to internally that are not in the [current] job description,” she said. “I want to be really careful that we don’t lose [current city employees] during this process and that we aren’t rushing.”

Cardona and Bruner also both praised Collins at the meeting for his 10 years of service in Sunset Valley and emphasized the importance of the city administrator position.

“I think the work [Collins has] done is very well-appreciated [by residents],” Bruner said. “I think the staff that you have built is really capable, and the team that you have will [do a fine job] when you are gone.”

Council members met Feb. 5 to discuss the city administrator.

Deja vu as Lions Municipal Golf Course fate once again tied to new University of Texas arena plans

**AUSTIN** — Red River Street will revert back to its pre-1974 alignment by shifting east between 12th and 15th streets and shifting west between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 32nd Street, following Austin City Council Feb. 7 approval.

The road was initially shifted in 1974, in part, to make room for the Frank Erwin Center, the home of The University of Texas basketball teams. The Erwin Center will be replaced by a new $338 million arena just south of the Mike A. Myers Stadium and Soccer Field, for which the city is once again realigning Red River Street.

Just as it was in 1974, the project has been tied to the potential preservation of the Lions Municipal Golf Course, known as “Muny,” in West Austin, a historic 141-acre course operated by the city and owned by the university.

The fate of Muny has been up in the air for years. In the early 1970s, the university’s board of regents, which had been leasing the course to the city, threatened to sell the property to pay for a potential campus expansion, said Mary Arnold, who chaired the Save Muny organization that fought to preserve the course for public use in the 1970s. The city and board of regents eventually came to an agreement to save the course that, among other things, included Austin paying construction costs for the relocation of Red River Street between 19th and 38th streets.

Fast forward 45 years, the fate of Muny is once again up in the air, as the university has floated plans to end its relationship with the city and develop the tract while the city is trying to save it. UT is also once again building a new special events arena, needs Red River Street realigned to accommodate the project and has said any financial assistance from the city could go toward credit in the city’s potential purchase of the golf course.

At this moment, the city has not agreed to pay for any of the project, according to a spokesperson from the Austin Transportation Department. However, in the same meeting, the city and the university agreed to extend the lease on Lions Municipal Golf Course to May 25, 2020.

Dripping Springs adds 33 acres from Austin

**DRIPPING SPRINGS** — In an effort to better regulate potential future development near the city, Dripping Springs City Council on Jan. 15 approved an interlocal agreement with the city of Austin to take control of 33 acres of land, which had been located within Austin’s extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The multitract 33 acres is located just west of the Travis County/Hays County line along Nutty Brown Road near Hwy. 290.

According to the interlocal agreement, Austin will release the land to Dripping Springs. The land is expected to be annexed into the Dripping Springs city limits at a future date.

The agreement states the deal allows Dripping Springs to manage “urban planning” on the land, which “will benefit the public health, safety and welfare” of present and future citizens in both cities.

**QUOTE OF NOTE**

“Our aquifers are so porous, our rock is so porous that our aquifers recharge quickly, and there’s very little filtration of the water down to them. That means we’re a lot more vulnerable to contamination.” — Erin Zwiener, state rep., D-Driftwood, about the proposed pipeline in Hays County

**NUMBER TO KNOW**

476 the most calls to report an odd odor in tap water came from residents in 78748, with 476 calls placed. In a Feb. 13 statement, Austin Water’s Customer Response Team said it had called over 1,700 customers about the concerns.

**CITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**AUSTIN** — City Council approved its $3.3 million contribution to the Oak Hill Parkway Project on Jan. 31. The state’s 12-lane Oak Hill Parkway project is an effort to improve mobility near the intersection of Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 71.

**AUSTIN** — The city certified a petition Feb. 11 submitted by a group of residents in North Austin that asks for sports stadium deals on public land to be put to a public vote. A group called Friends of McKalla Place filed the petition Jan. 3. The proposed ordinance would require “any sale, lease, conveyance, mortgage or alienation of city-owned land for a sports facility, sports arena and/or concert stadium shall require City Council and voter approval before it can become effective.”

**HAYS COUNTY** — Kinder Morgan Inc. held a meeting Feb. 12 to discuss the company’s plan to lay a 42-inch natural gas pipeline across Hays County. If built as planned, the $2 billion Permian Highway Pipeline will carry natural gas through 16 counties in Texas and affect hundreds of landowners, including 82 in Hays County. Residents have expressed concerns about the company’s potential use of eminent domain to take property, as well as the risk of disruption to the aquifer underneath and nearby environment.

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Texas’ aim to fix school finance could make standardized test stakes higher

BY ALIYYA SWABY

Top Texas lawmakers this year are proposing allocating billions of more dollars for public schools, but a portion of those dollars will likely have strings attached. And some education advocates worry the strings will lead to an even greater emphasis being placed on standardized tests in the state.

At various press conferences and speeches in Austin last week, the state’s top Republican leaders signaled their support for giving more money to school districts that show higher performance or agree to offer specific programs such as merit pay for teachers. One of their main messages: Schools do need more money, but they have to show they know how to use it wisely.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have said they want to avoid “throwing” money at schools without demanding better results. New House Speaker Dennis Bonnen called for increasing public education funding while getting a “return on that investment. And that return is producing children who can read, write and do math.”

The Texas House has proposed a budget that would put $9 billion into public education and property tax reform, while the Senate is proposing $3.7 billion to give teachers pay raises and $2.3 billion to help mitigate the state’s reliance on property taxes for school funding. Lawmakers in both chambers filed few bills so far showing their specific policy proposals and none yet on outcomes-based funding.

But in a December report, a state-appointed school finance panel recommended spending about $800 million—a fraction of the money either chamber is proposing—to incentivize superintendents to improve third-grade reading and increase the number of high school graduates on track for college or a career.

The proposal appeals to some business leaders and residents watching taxes skyrocket while schools struggle. But it enrages educator groups, who say that it will direct needed resources away from low-performing school districts and encourage teaching to the test.

This is an abbreviated article. For the full story, visit www.texastribune.org.
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Tango Tribe
Retired techie teaches Argentine dance in South Austin studio

Argentine Tango is a dance of connections, said David Phillips, owner of South Austin dance studio Tango Tribe.

“We connect with ourselves and our own energy; we connect to the music that inspires us; we connect to our partner to communicate our ideas; we connect with other dancers in the room and the onlookers,” he said.

Phillips created Tango Tribe in 2017 to introduce Argentine Tango to the growing Southwest Austin community and to inspire a new generation to dance. The dance studio offers weekly beginner- and intermediate-level group classes, as well as private lessons and open dance time.

Other dance instructors also use the space for classes at various times throughout the week.

Argentine Tango is one of the most challenging dances to pursue because the complex movements are done while in “an intimate embrace” with a dance partner, Phillips said. The key is communicating your intended steps to your partner with clarity, comfort, consistency and creativity, he said.

As an instructor, he said his goal is to “instill the idea of creation” while making sure his students understand the movement possibilities from one step to the next. He also teaches about the culture behind the dance and its accompanying music, which originated in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Phillips moved to Austin in 1966 from Midland, Texas, to attend The University of Texas and learn about computers and programing.

While his parents met at a dance class in art school, Phillips said he and his wife did not start taking dance classes until the early ’80s. “From the first step they taught us—stepping out to a foxtrot—I fell in love with dance,” he said.

Phillips said they learned dances from ballroom to swing and even danced competitively. However, his work in the tech industry occupied his time until he retired in 2010. Once retired, he began taking dance lessons again. When finally introduced to Argentinean Tango, he said he began pursuing it almost exclusively and traveled to Argentina and Europe to learn more.

“I took so many different classes and saw such a variety of teaching styles and skills, I came to develop my own philosophy,” Phillips said.

He said Austin has an active and supportive tango community. He hopes his studio will help grow and inspire the local dance community while sharing his own style of dance and teaching.
SPRING TUNE-UP
Lawn & Garden
Check List

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The Funkadelic
South Austin restaurant serves brunch seven days a week

Michael Wake, owner and chef of The Funkadelic, opened the restaurant Feb. 27, 2018.

“Brunch is my favorite meal,” Wake said. “It’s cool. It’s versatile. You can mix savory and sweet flavors.”

The menu incorporates American regional favorites—such as pancakes and waffles—alongside international cuisine. Popular dishes include Miguelitos Pupusas—a twist on a South American favorite with braised beef, queso fresco, picked radishes and beets—and Huevos Rancheros Tostada—a version of a Mexican breakfast dish with eggs, avocado, black bean puree and salsa served on a crispy corn tostada.

“Our food is eclectic,” he said. “We serve up an elevated diner-style feel here.”

The menu also includes children’s plates as well as gluten-free and vegetarian options.

“Anybody can find something to eat here—whether you’re vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free or somebody who wants to eat chicken and waffles,” Wake said.

The food is scratch-made—meaning nothing comes from a box or a mix—and made-to-order, he said.

To ensure fresh and flavorful food, the kitchen does not have a walk-in cooler, Wake said. Ingredients are delivered fresh every day.

“I don’t cut corners,” he said. “Sometimes, it takes a little while to get your food because we start making it from the time you place your order.”

All of these steps are ways Wake said he chooses to serve his customers as he seeks to serve quality food while creating community.

“Most of our customers are from here—they’re local,” Wake said. “I’m super passionate about my customers and taking care of them, which is kind of a lost art.”

BY TAYLOR JACKSON BUCHANAN

LOCALLY SOURCED
The Funkadelic’s menu features ingredients from local vendors and farms. Here are five local partnerships.

• beef from 44 Farms
• coffee from Wild Gift
• eggs from Vital farms
• granola from Marigold
• smoked brisket from SLAB BBQ

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Photos by Taylor Jackson Buchanan/Community Impact Newspaper

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Looking to actively serve your fellow PEC members? We’re accepting nominations for board directors in districts 4 and 5. Nomination materials are due Tuesday, March 26 at 5 p.m. Learn more at pec.coop/nominations.
Austin FC leaders say work lies ahead before play begins

BY JACK FLAGLER

After 15 months of negotiations, neighborhood meetings, site plan presentations, and back-and-forth discussions, Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber got up in front of a group of supporters in downtown Austin who were wearing scarves and singing songs Jan. 15 and officially named the city as the next home of an MLS team, which will be called Austin FC.

The day before Garber’s announcement, club Chairman Anthony Precourt told Joe Lanane, Community Impact Newspaper executive editor, during the company’s Coffee with Impact series that he saw Austin as an “untapped sports market” when he chose to pursue an MLS franchise in the city.

“I’ve always had an affinity for this place,” Precourt said, “It’s a really special culture.”

Precourt and club President Andy Loughnane said there is plenty of work ahead of the Austin FC staff in the next two years before the team plays its first game. In that two-year time period, Precourt and Loughnane expect to build the club’s staff, negotiate jersey sponsorships and stadium naming rights, and start the team’s youth academy.

“We want to get going as fast as possible connecting with the city and getting youth playing soccer. We’re hoping to launch our academy in the calendar year 2019 and actually have youth in the city of Austin wearing our kit,” he said.

One local neighborhood group is aiming to block the stadium deal. Members of a neighborhood group called Friends of McKalla Place—mainly residents from the Graywoods and North Austin Civic Association neighborhoods—filed a petition with the city clerk for a ballot initiative to give voters final say over stadium agreements. The city of Austin certified the petition Feb. 11.

Q&A: Austin FC Chairman Anthony Precourt and club President Andy Loughnane

Q: How have you seen pro soccer—as opposed to other pro sports ventures or other business ventures in general—build community in a way you have not seen it anywhere else?

Loughnane: There’s several examples inside of Major League Soccer where the sport has pulled together a city unlike any other asset. If you look at a market we would view as very comparable, [there is] Portland. The MLS franchise in Portland [Oregon], the Portland Timbers, have not only been successful on the field but perhaps just as importantly—more importantly—they’ve helped bring that community together.

They are certainly one of the standard bearers of the league that we look to. They’ve won championship titles. They’ve played in front of sold-out stadiums.

Q: How can you ease concerns for some of those residents who have been longtime North Austinites who are fearful of no longer being able to live in that area [because of rising property values]?

Precourt: If you look at it in the last decade—Austin scores in so many ways, whether it’s culture, commerce, livability. So we’re a part of that, yes. We want to be in Austin because of all those great things that are going on. I wouldn’t say we’re driving up home prices. Austin’s on fire as a city. But we need to be mindful of giving back to the community and building the stadium in a way that fits into the neighborhood that’s respectful. We need to listen to people because we’re going to be a part of the neighborhood. That’s really important to us going forward.

key dates during the MLS-to-Austin process

1 Jan. 15, 2019: After PSV secures a deal to sell its operating rights to the Crew, MLS Commissioner Don Garber officially announces Austin FC as the next member of the league, beginning play in the 2021 season.

2 Fall 2019: The team expects to break ground and begin construction of its new 20,000-seat stadium in what club President Andy Loughnane called “early fall,” which he estimates to be around Sept. 1.

3 March 2021: Austin FC is expected to begin play. The MLS regular season runs from March to October, and Loughnane said it is possible the team could start the season with a road trip.

Find out more about Austin FC by watching the video at communityimpact.com/northwest-austin
SUMMER CAMPS

ACADEMIC

AESA Prep Academy Camp Amplify

AESA Prep Academy
13730 W. Hwy. 290, Austin
www.aesacampamplify.com

Austin Bat Cave writing retreat
Geared toward young authors, the overnight camp is dedicated to fiction, poetry and autobiographical storytelling. Costs include room and board and meals for four nights and five days. Sixth-ninth grade. July 15-19. $1,200.

www.austinbatsave.org
3001 S. Congress Ave., Austin

Badgerdog Creative Writing
South Austin
Summer camp participants work with a professional writer to write original poetry and prose during the half-day two- and three-week camps. Other camps available throughout the Austin area. Third-12th grades. Sessions run June 10-Aug. 2. $375-$475.

Parkside Community Montessori School
3207 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin
512-542-0076
www.parksidecommunitymontessori.com

Camp Headwaters
Campers learn about art, natural science, geography, and cultures found in the different parts of the world. Ages 3-5. June 4-Aug. 3. $275 per week.

Headwaters School
6305 Manchaca Road, Austin
512-443-8843
www.headwaterscamp.org

Coding with Kids
Camps offer a variety of STEM camps in game development, Minecraft, web development, robotics, programmable circuits and more. Campers receive personalized instruction from tech-savvy instructors. Ages 5-18. June 3-Aug. 2. $279-$549 per week.

www.codingwithkids.com

A. Circle C Community Center
7817 La Crosse Ave., Austin
B. Oak Hill United Methodist Church
7815 Hwy. 290, Austin
512-415-4120
www.codingwithkids.com

Kids Quest summer camp
Each week, The Little Gym offers a new theme combining gymnastics, free play, games and crafts. Campers who buy four camp sessions in one week receive a fifth camp session free. Ages 3-10. May 27-Aug. 16. $35-$40 per session.

The Little Gym
2716 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. E-150, Austin
512-899-3456
www.thelittlegym.com

Little Stars camp
Led and coordinated by selected and trained high school students, this girls-only camp consists of hands-on activities in STEM fields. Third-fifth grades. June 10-13. $100.

Little Stars summer camp

Regents School of Austin
3230 Travis Country Circle, Austin
512-899-8095
www.regentschool.com

Snapology Austin LEGO and robotics camps
Twelve weeklong camps feature themes including “Star Wars” and “Disney.” Camps include Lego robotics, scratch programming and engineering. Ages 4-14. May 28-Aug. 16. $80-$325 per week.

www.snapology.com

B. Oak Hill United Methodist Church
7815 Hwy. 290, Austin
512-415-4120

A. Circle C Community Center
7817 LaCrosse Ave., Austin
B. Snapology Austin Discovery Center
1910 Fortview Road, Austin
512-368-9090
www.snapshoty.com

Spanish Immersion summer camp
Campers learn about different countries and cultures every week and fill out a passport of activities. Weekly themes enhance Spanish language skills and help children apply these skills to real-life scenarios. Field trips are hosted for children age 4 and older. Ages 2-10. May 28-Aug. 14. $180-$300.

Austin Eco Bilingual School
8707 Mountain Crest Drive, Austin
512-299-5731
www.austineco.com

Thinkery summer camps
Camps dive into STEM, arts and programming concepts through a variety of activities designed to activate their creativity and stimulate their natural curiosity. Themes include color and light, animation, robotics, food and more. Pre-K-fifth grade. July 8-26. $350-$385.

Harmony School of Innovation
2124 E. St. Elmo Road, Austin
512-469-6201
www.thinkerycamps.com

Art Garage summer camps
The Art Garage offers weeklong themed day camps, including “Pop Art,” “Unicorns,” “Galaxy

SOUTHWEST AUSTIN AND DRIPPING SPRINGS

ARTS

Art Garage summer camps
The Art Garage offers weeklong themed day camps, including “Pop Art,” “Unicorns,” “Galaxy

2019 Camp Guide
SOUTHWEST AUSTIN AND DRIPPING SPRINGS

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28
Art, "Rainbows" and "Dragons." Activities range from drawing to sculpture and tie-dye to glass fusion. Ages 5-14. May 28-Aug. 16. $319 per week.

The Art Garage
11190 Circle Drive, Ste. 202, Austin
512-852-9900
www.theartgarageaustin.com

Bee Cave Art Camp
In its 10th year, the camp focuses on creative ways to explore the world of art. Projects emphasize skill-building while sculpting, drawing, painting, printing and more. Ages 6-14. June 10-Aug. 9. $195-$420.

The Hive
12700 Hill Country Blvd., Bee Cave
512-731-5868
www.thehiveartcamp.com

Camp One World-Gulliver’s Travels
Campers can choose from drum set or snare drum. Each camp will include a variety of dance styles and class-es. Ages 3-10. May 28-Aug. 10. $16. $319 per week.

Camp D’Ette & Co. Dancers
The dance camp offers a variety of workshops designed for different ages and levels. June 10-Aug. 9. $175-$275 per week.

One World Theatre

Young Metalsmiths Summer Camps
Campers learn about jewelry making, including sawing, soldering, riveting, filing, etching, hammering and more. Ages 6-12. June 3-Aug. 16. $265, with aftercare available for $20 per day.

Creative Side Jewelry Academy
321 W. Ben White Blvd., Ste. 204, Austin
512-799-0731
www.creativeside.org

Young Rembrandts drawing workshops
Half-day drawing, cartooning and pastels workshops feature themes including “Art History with the Masters,” “Cartooning Characters” and “Bits of Summer Fun.” Ages 6-12. Sessions run June 3-Aug. 16. $145-$190.

Squishy Banana Studios camp
Campers experience the full filmmaking experience, including writing a script, acting, special effects and film editing by creating music videos and action or thriller movies. Camps are held at various locations in South Austin. K-eighth grade. June 3-Aug. 2. $265, with aftercare available for $20 per day.

Austin School of Music
2428 W. Ben White Blvd., Austin
512-476-7666
www.rockcampusa.com

Young Metallsmiths summer camps
Students increase fine motor skills while learning to make sculptural jewelry pieces during weeklong camps taught by professional artists and educators. Campers will learn sawing, soldering, riveting, filing, etching, hammering and more. Ages 8-12. Sessions run June 10-July 27. Pricing not yet available.

Austin School of Music
2428 W. Ben White Blvd., Austin
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www.rockcampusa.com

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www.designcreativetech.utexas.edu/sdtxcx

ZACH Theatre camps

Teaches campers skills in the performing arts with themes including “Dr. Seuss,” “Acting and Scene Study” and “Hair-spray.” In “Topfer Revue: Mary Poppins” camps, students in sixth grade and above can perform on the Topfer Stage. Ages 3 1/2-grade and above can perform the performing arts with themes

Camps teach skills in dance. Ages 3-10. June 4-Aug. 17. $220-$350 per week.

All-Star Sports Camp

Texas, K1 Speed, Fiesta Texas, Splashway Waterpark, Ripley’s Believe It or Not and more. Ages 8-14. Sessions begin June 3. $365-$390 per week.

Pickup and drop-off at H-E-B parking lot at 701 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin. 512-658-6285 www.camptonthemove.com

Camp Wildflower

Children become conservationists, botanists, citizen scientists and ecologists as they explore native plants and the environment. Activities include hikes, arts and crafts, nature games, science labs, outdoor explorations and learning sessions. K-fifth grade. June 3-July 26. $290-$300 per week.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin 512-232-0100 www.wildflower.org/camp

Mckinney Roughs Nature Park

The Lower Colorado River Authority offers an outdoor camp for kids ages 5-12 and a teen adventure camp for ages 13-15. Day camps revolve around different outdoor themes and activities. Austin-attendant allows only $75 per week. Ages 5-15. Sessions run June 17-Aug. 16. $225 per week.

Mckinney Roughs Nature Park 1884 W. Hwy. 71, Cedar Creek 512-303-5073 www.ica.org/camps

Saber summer camp

A variety of camps will be available all summer with both morning and afternoon options for children of all ages. Specialty camps include basketball; volleyball; chess; science, technology, engineering, art and math; just Imagine Theater; and more. Ages 3-14. Sessions run May 29-Aug. 9. $190-$435 per week.

St. Gabriel’s Catholic School 2500 Wimberly Lane, Austin 512-327-7755 www.sgs-austin.org

Wet & Wild Camp

A day camp with daily field trips and swimming, campers will visit waterparks, amusement parks, local pools and swimming holes, arcades, bounce houses, lakes, rivers and creeks. Ages 6-15. May 28-Aug. 16. Prices start at $370.

Patton Elementary School, 6001 Westcreek Drive, Austin 512-771-3188 www.wetwildcamp.com

SoccerZone South Austin 9501 Manchaca Road, Austin 512-280-2244 www.allstarsportscamp.org

AXT Ballers Basketball Camps

ATX Ballers Basketball Camps provide skills-intensive lessons that serve to develop fundamental basketball skills for all levels of experience and to help prepare players for greater in-game success. Ages 2-12. June-August. $100-$120 per session.

Austin Oaks Church Gymnasium, 4220 Monterrey Oaks Blvd., Austin 512-230-8965 www.atxballers.com

Camp JUMP!

The camp will be based in a new South Austin location for 2019. The theme-based camp includes a variety of activities, such as gymnastics, interactive centers, yoga, arts and crafts, games, music and dance. Ages 3-10. June 4-Aug. 17. $220-$350 per week.

Location TBD 512-593-6226 www.jumpgymnastics.com

Challenger Sports international soccer camp Dripping Springs

The weeklong sessions offer half-day soccer camps that cover a wide variety of coaching styles, practices and influences that will help them develop a well-rounded skill set as a soccer player. Ages 3-16. June 17-19. $97-$150.

Sports Park 370 Sports Park Road, Dripping Springs www.challengersports.com

Challenger Sports international soccer camp South Austin

The International Camp curriculum provides young players with a wide variety of coaching styles, practices and influences that will help them develop a well-rounded skill set as a soccer player. Full- and half-day camps are available in weeklong sessions. Ages 6-16. Sessions run May 27-Aug. 9. $189-$289

SoccerZone South Austin 9501 Manchaca Road, Austin 512-280-2244 www.challengersports.com

Coach Collier Basketball Camp

Bowie High School head basketball coach Celeste Collier and his son teach fundamentals to help athletes improve their basketball skills and better understand the nuances of the game. First- eighth grades. June 17-Aug. 9. $189-$289 per week.

SoccerZone South Austin 9501 Manchaca Road, Austin 512-280-2244 www.challengersports.com

Jeff Ables and Ty Branyon’s Football Camp

Bowie High School’s head football coach and offensive coordinator introduce campers to the rules of 7 on 7 and have daily scrimmages. Daily lessons on leadership and character development to help young men be successful on and off the field are also given. Third-sixth grades. June 3-28. $189-

$289 per week.

SoccerZone South Austin 9501 Manchaca Road, Austin. 512-280-2244 www.soccerzonetexas.com

Junior Triathlon training camps

Coaches will teach fundamental and advanced skills required for each triathlon discipline while developing fitness, character, a love for the sport and healthy habits. Ages 7-16. June 3-Aug. 18. $100 per week in the summer, or $160 a month with year-round junior triathlon training.

Austin Aquatics and Sports Academy, 5513 Southwest Parkway, Austin 512-276-2324 www.aasa-atx.com

Kuk Sool Won of Oak Hill Martial Arts summer camps

Several-20-hour camps will keep children active and engaged and teach discipline and respect in a safe and supportive environment. Participants will make new friendships and develop physical fitness and life skills, such as self-confidence, self-discipline, focus and concentration. Ages 7-12. June 10-Aug. 9. $195-$225.

Kuk Sool Won of Oak Hill 6001 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 307, Austin 512-899-8710 www.kswoakhill.com

Red Arena Horse Camp

This inclusive horse camp for kids of all ability levels is limited to eight riders per week. Paperwork and screening is required prior to acceptance into camp. The camp is adding advanced and beginner rider camps this year. Ages 5-12. June 3-July 22. $600 per week.

1601 Bell Springs Road, Dripping Springs 512-807-6505 www.redarena.org

This list is not comprehensive.
wanted to be the one to preserve it.”

Conservation easements are agreements between landowners and area entities that allow a landowner to retain ownership of a private property while selling much of its development rights for money.

The goal is to restrict future development on the land in order to benefit the area while still honoring ownership of family ranches. Frank Davis, the chief conservation officer for nonprofit Hill Country Conservancy, said local conservation easement programs seek to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, the night sky, agricultural viability through soil health and local heritage.

Funding for acquiring conservation easements comes from local approved bond referendums as well as state and federal money when eligible.

A NEED FOR CONSERVATION

Texas Director of the Nature Conservancy Laura Huffman said protecting areas around the Edwards Aquifer and within its recharge zone, or the area where surface water can replenish the groundwater, is a priority in Central Texas.

The Edwards Aquifer, along with the Highland Lakes and Trinity Aquifer, supplies drinking water to many residents in Central Texas from Austin to San Antonio.

“One of the best ways to protect drinking water is to protect the land on top of the aquifer,” she said. “When it rains, [undeveloped land] functions as a sponge and kind of filters that water as it goes into that aquifer.”

Davis said about 95 percent of Texas is privately owned property, which makes working with landowners a necessary part of protecting the environment. The conservation easement program allows private landowners in key places to preserve resources on their land.

Easements are an incentive for landowners to continue owning properties instead of selling for redevelopment. As land prices and property taxes across the region rise, the payments made to landowners through the easement program help offset those costs in exchange for keeping land undeveloped.

“Many of these families and individuals have an asset, and they don’t want to see the land lost. They want to see it protected,” said Melinda Mallia, Travis County natural resource and conservation easement program manager. “If we create a conservation easement, it puts money in their pocket; it can reduce the property tax burden so they can afford to live there, and it’s a mechanism for protecting the land.”

LOCAL WORK

“The Texas Hill Country is 14.5 million acres and covers 17 counties,” Davis said. “We’ve identified over 150 different groups that are working in the Hill Country to preserve water resources and to promote conservation work.”

While individual groups may have different environmental priorities, he said all efforts have positive benefits. Sharing resources leads to more effective conservation, he said.

“When you add up all the ballot initiatives that have occurred over the last 20 years, voters in the region have authorized just under a billion dollars to protect the Edwards Aquifer,” Huffman said. “Typically those election results show high voter approval.”

Efforts by the city of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department and Wildlands Conservation Division focus on conserving the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and protecting habitats for endangered species.

Austin helps manage about 40,000 acres of preserve lands and conservation easements. Much of the watershed protection land is located on the west side of Travis County, with easements located between West Hwy. 290 and Hamilton Pool Road. Austin also has easements with properties near Manchaca and in Hays County outside the city limits.

Travis County looks at particularly sensitive areas along Onion Creek in South Austin, the Pedernales River in West Travis County and Willharger Creek in East Travis County, Mallia said. Properties that have live springs or sensitive ecological features are made a priority, she said.

Davis said collectively, nonprofits and local governments have preserved about 45,000 acres—nearly 20 percent—of the 280,000-acre Barton Springs section of the Edwards Aquifer.

Austin, Travis County and other entities also manage the land that makes up the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve near Lake Travis and along the Colorado River. The preserve is a network of properties and conservation areas to protect endangered species, Mallia said.

Hays County has protected land through its regional habitat conservation plan, which focuses on bird habitat but has other positive environmental effects, Hays County General Counsel Mark Kennedy said. There are five private properties with conservation easements in Hays County within 5 miles of the city of Dripping Springs.

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

Hays County broke ground in 2018 with the Dahlstrom family to create the 340-acre Gay Ruby Dahlstrom Nature Preserve on a section of the Dahlstrom Ranch.

Through partnerships with Hays County, city of Austin, Hill Country Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Dahlstrom family, the ranch became one of the first large-scale conservation easements in the area in 2010, said Jack Dahlstrom Jr., the ranch’s current owner and the late Gay Ruby Dahlstrom’s son.

The family ranch was a big part of Gay Dahlstrom’s life, Gay Dahlstrom Jr. said. Creating a conservation easement was a way to save the ranch that she had lived on since 1936 from future development, he said.

“It was mom’s dream to preserve the land, and Jack Jr. worked with mom for four years on the conservation easement,” said Cecilia Barrentine, one of Jack Jr.’s sister. “She wanted the ranch
Preserving aquifer recharge zones—or the land above an aquifer that replenishes groundwater supplies—is key in assuring drinking water quality and availability in the region and the long-term health of live springs, such as Barton Springs.

WATER RESOURCES

Aquifers, such as the Edwards and Trinity as well as the Highland Lakes, are vital for communities that use them as a water supply.

AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY

While soil quality in much of Central Texas is not conducive to farming, preserving the soil that is viable offers future opportunities to grow. Healthy soil also leads to better groundwater quality.

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According to the Hill Country Conservancy, conservation easements on local properties help protect and improve five valuable environmental components.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT BENEFITS

HERITAGE

Easements can protect archaeological sites and properties with historic value. Easements also keep heritage ranches in the family, such as with these examples.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Keeping ranches intact can help preserve the integrity of wildlife habitat. The Texas Hill Country is a diverse biological region with many endangered and threatened species, such as the ones shown below.

DARK SKIES

Limiting land development on properties limits light pollution released into the night sky. Dark skies provide habitat requirements for certain animals, can improve human health and sleep patterns, and offer natural stargazing opportunities.

Densely developed lands create more light pollution than those preserved.

to look more like it used to, and Jack has done a good job getting the land back to its original state.

The Dahlstrom Ranch makes up about 1 percent of Hays County’s landmass, but contributes about 9 percent of the area’s aquifer recharge, she said. Natural caves and sinkholes that contribute to water recharge, as well as the ranch’s grasslands, made the property an important one to protect.

In Travis County, Puryear Ranch was a priority property for three local groups because the property includes grassland habitats for animals and streams that feed Rocky Creek and Barton Creek, Davis said. It also acts as a buffer between the Shield Ranch, which has its own conservation easement, and three subdivisions—Rocky Creek, Deer Creek and Bonham Ranch.

Puryear said he has personally seen the impacts development can have on the environment as hundreds of homes were built on land around his property over the past seven years.

“Last year I sat in front of the house at night and the impact was quite eye-opening,” he said. “The stars [were not as bright]. There’s more noise. The roads are more busy.”

Puryear said that while landowners receive compensation for the easements, it is generally below market value. However, maintaining ownership and being able to continue living on the ranch made it worth his while. The easement also assures that he can pass something down to his children.

“I can still have cows, I can still do a lot of things with the land, but nobody can fully develop it,” he said. “That value to me outweighed everything else. It was a win-win for our family and the right thing to do.”

For more information, visit communityimpact.com.
Community Impact Newspaper • communityimpact.com

wash for us. And it’s logistically more difficult.”

Citywide, SXSW reports an enormous impact on Austin—to the tune of $350.6 million in 2018—according to a report by Greyhill Advisors, a firm hired by SXSW to develop economic impact reports since 2011.

With increased traffic, an influx of visitors and skyrocketing prices, SXSW is more than a 10-day hiccup downtown. It mirrors the changes the city of Austin is experiencing as its population, economy and tech sector continue to grow.

A BAROMETER FOR CHANGE

In 1987, when SXSW started, it was a local stage for undiscovered musicians in a city of just over 461,000 people.

Now, 32 years later, SXSW is an internationally known music, film, gaming, education and technology conference. The city of Austin—with a population today of nearly a million—is becoming increasingly known as a tech and startup hub. Apple, Samsung, Google and others have launched campuses locally.

“Events like SXSW help put the flag in the ground for Austin to say this is a place that attracts that kind of human capital,” said Michael Sury, a finance lecturer at The University of Texas. In 1994, when Multimedia—as it was then called—first debuted at SXSW, it struggled to draw a crowd, the event’s Chief Programming Officer Hugh Forrest said. Now known as Interactive, the technology aspect of the festival has taken off—and furthered Austin’s brand as a tech city.

“The dynamic has flipped at this point,” Forrest said. “Tech is more of the breadwinner of the family and Music has struggled a little.”

The emphasis on tech helped position Austin as a city of the future, Forrest said. As the festival prospered and grew over the decades, so too, has the city.

“So far, we’ve seen the growth of SXSW correlate almost one for one with the growth of the economy in the city,” Sury said.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Attendance exceeded 75,000 people last year, according to the economic impact report. Many stayed at Austin-area hotels at an average rate of nearly $400 a night and ate at local restaurants and bars while in town for the event.

“[Festival attendees] are pumping so much money into the economy that it really does benefit [locals],” Sury said. “This money stays in the city of Austin.”

Hotels booked through SXSW alone contributed $1.8 million in hotel occupancy tax funds, according to the 2018 report from Greyhill Advisors.

“That’s money that’s going back into the community,” Forrest said. “It’s generating tax revenue that can pay for better schools, better roads, all kinds of things our community needs.”

Of course, the economic gains are not without challenges.

“The downsides are noise and nuisance,” Sury said. “But you have to balance that against what it’s been doing for the local economy.”

South Austin resident Suzanne Sherman attended SXSW for the first time in 1989. Then a student at Austin Community College, she went to watch a classmate perform on Sixth Street.

“There was hardly a crowd,” Sherman laughed. “It was totally different than the way it is now.”

Since, she has attended faithfully for 29 years. But her decades-long tradition is likely going to end this year. “[SXSW has] just exploded,” Sherman said. “Even if you stand in line for hours, you can’t get in to see the shows.”

MOVING BEYOND DOWNTOWN

The economic impacts are not isolated downtown, economists say. Hotels book up across the area—from Round Rock to San Marcos—Sury said, and attendees spend money at bars, restaurants and businesses near where they stay.

But individual business owners outside the festival hub do not always see direct gains on their ledgers in March.
Unlike downtown restaurant owners, Chappell does not see an influx of badge-wearing festivalgoers at Galaxy Cafe in South Austin. Even loyal customers have tapered off in recent years during SXSW, he said.

“My niche is routine,” Chappell said. “When my customers are off their routines it’s bad for business.”

Mirgun Akyavas owns The Sound Gallery on South Congress Avenue. Located south of the river, the coffee shop and record store’s sales decline during SXSW, Akyavas said.

“People coming to the festival stay in the downtown area, and the locals keep off the streets because of traffic congestion,” she said. “Everyone forgets there are areas without traffic.”

Looking to the future

This year, for the first time, SXSW is not aligned with spring break for Austin ISD and The University of Texas. Students, faculty and staff will attempt daily commutes in the midst of the event.

“We’re anticipating that as challenging as traffic is in March, it may be a little more so this year,” Forrest said.

For local restaurant and business owners, staffing and scheduling remain unknown variables. Chappell said half his staff typically takes off for spring break to volunteer for SXSW.

“All bets are off, Chappell said. “Everybody’s waiting to see how this might change things—good or bad.”

Tell us what you think.
Comment at communityimpact.com.

Barack Obama became the first sitting president to speak at SXSW when he and Michelle Obama presented in 2016.

Richard Linklater attended SXSW's first film festival.

Record producer Huey Meaux (left) and musician Doug Sahm chat at the first-ever SXSW.

Southwest Austin | Dripping Springs edition • February 2019
They learned my name right away… That was astounding to me. It’s so much more personal, and you just feel more appreciated.”

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REAL ESTATE

MARKET DATA

HOMES SOLD (JANUARY 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP code</th>
<th>Subdivision</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Bed/bath</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sq. ft.</th>
<th>Agent</th>
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<tr>
<td>78735</td>
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<td>512-328-7777</td>
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Price range | Number of homes sold | Average days on the market |
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REAL ESTATE

RECENT PROPERTY LISTINGS

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<th>Address</th>
<th>Bed/bath</th>
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Price range | Price range | Price range | Price range |
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MEDIAN PRICE OF HOMES SOLD IN JANUARY

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- 2018 VS. 2019 -
## Real Estate

Residential real estate listings added to the market between 2/1/19 and 2/18/19 were provided by Austin Board of Realtors. Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this listing, Community Impact Newspaper assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Contact the property’s agent or seller for the most current information.

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<th>Sq. ft.</th>
<th>Agent</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
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<td>4913 Sunset Trail, Unit B</td>
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<td>1,886</td>
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<td>Realty Austin</td>
<td>512-900-5775</td>
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<td>Realty Austin</td>
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<td>T C W</td>
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<td>512-762-0585</td>
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<td>909</td>
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<td>Engel &amp; Volkers</td>
<td>512-803-3148</td>
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<td>Kuper Sotheby’s Int. Realty</td>
<td>512-228-8406</td>
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</tbody>
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Bring this coupon to the taproom and get a burger & fries for 5 Bucks!

Expires 3/31/19

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**Mathnasium**

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512-275-6522

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Stop by with this ad and receive a free* drip coffee!

*Limit one per customer

**This ad wants to buy you coffee.**

Stop by with this ad and receive a free* drip coffee!

*Limit one per customer

**This ad wants to buy you coffee.**

Stop by with this ad and receive a free* drip coffee!

*Limit one per customer
RUSTY CANNON PUB

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50¢ WING NIGHT
BONELESS OR CLASSIC

TUESDAY ALL DAY
TACO TUESDAY
$2 CRISPY BEEF TACO SPECIAL

WEDNESDAY ALL DAY
BOGO BEEF BURGERS
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

THURSDAY 4–8
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WEEKENDS 10–4
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BOOK BY PHONE: 512-537-3971
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TRIANGLE STUDIO
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From 2/25/19 - 3/27/19
*cannot be combined with other promotional offers

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