What’s Ahead
APRIL 1 CAMPO open house
Staff from CAMPO will be at Covington Middle School for public comment on the planning organization’s 25-year plan. | 3
APRIL 15–18 Old Settler’s Music Festival
The 23rd annual roots music festival in Driftwood will feature Patty Griffin, Joe Ely, Brave Combo and nearly 40 other acts. | 3

Lack of funds, review process slow road projects

Transportation projects in southwest Austin

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<th>Details</th>
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<td>SH 290/71 IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td>Cost: Unknown&lt;br&gt;Status: TxDOT is awaiting updated environmental approval and reviewing the design.</td>
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<td>SH 45 TURNAROUND</td>
<td>Cost: $270,000&lt;br&gt;Status: Construction began October 2009 and is scheduled to be completed in May.</td>
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<td>FLYOVERS AT HWY. 290 AND IH 35</td>
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Story Highlights
- As state funds for new roads diminish, projects may need to be funded by taxpayers
- Officials seek ways to speed up environmental review process

By Eric Pulsifer and Melissa Mixon

From improvements to the Y in Oak Hill to SH 45 SW—the proposed extension that would route commuters off of residential roads traveling between Hays and Travis counties from FM 1826 to MoPac—delayed road projects are nothing new for drivers in southwest Austin. Environmental issues coupled with some public opposition have stalled many projects, but for most improvements, a lack of funding is the reason for the wait.

“It’s a grizzly set of circumstances when you talk about transportation in this state,” said Sen. Kirk Watson.

Of the $17 billion in the state’s transportation fund, only $1.7 billion is reserved for new roads over the next two years. | 10

Austin leads nation in small business climate, creation

City programs and ‘buy local’ attitude help entrepreneurs succeed in Austin

By Yvonne Lim Wilson

Back in 2001, Lisa Gaynor found herself laid off from her marketing job at a major company. She poured her energy into her home, wanting to fill it with nice furniture and home accessories. But she was not satisfied with the consignment furniture options in Austin and, after talking it over with her husband, thought she could fill a need.

Gaynor took a trip to the city’s Small Business Development Program and received help every step of the way. Gaynor used SBDP databases to research demographic information, received free counseling advice and signed up for classes.

“They helped guide me through writing a business plan. It was a wonderful opportunity to bounce the idea off people who were completely neutral on it and saw it the way a bank would look at it,” Gaynor said.

Within days of submitting it to the bank, Gaynor was approved for her small business loan. In 2005, Design It With Consignment—located at 4211 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. A-23—was born. The business employs five people and Gaynor has plans to expand this summer.

Gaynor’s story is not unusual in Austin. The city is filled with entrepreneurs offering everything from gourmet food trailers and independent bookstores, to professional services and wine bars.

“There’s an old saying in Austin: If you come here and can’t find a job, start a new business,” said Rebecca Melancon, executive director of the Austin Independent Business Alliance. | 14

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Dell ULTRA-LIGHT D420 Laptop
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In the News

Concordia awards publisher as 2010 ‘Excellence in Leadership’ Gala honoree


Each year an outstanding Christian leader is awarded. Past honorees include Roger T. Staubach, executive chairman of The Staubach Company and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback; Austin business and community leader Tom Stacy, president of T. Stacy & Associates; and Texas Sen. Kirk Watson.

In 2005, Garrett launched Community Impact Newspaper in Round Rock and Pflugerville and has grown the paper to seven editions in Central Texas. Concordia University Texas’ “Excellence in Leadership” Gala will be Aug. 27 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin.

Visit more.impactnews.com/7427

General Manager’s Note

I remember riding my bike around our neighborhood while growing up in New Braunfels. I soared on that old Schwinn like a bird in free flight. The “Predator,” a hand me down from my older brother, had two pegs on either side of the back tire so one of my compadres was always permanently attached—standing behind me and hanging on for dear life.

We would push out just after breakfast and return home barely in time for dinner. Those were the days.

Unfortunately, as I grew up I realized this world is a bit trickier than it was when we were kids. Things do not seem to move as quickly or with the same efficiency as we did as youngsters. Now we are all in a much bigger hurry, but no one can get where they want to go. Earlier this month I attended Sen. Kirk Watson’s speech to the Oak Hill Business and Professional Association.

He spoke on transportation and the dilemma we all currently face. Of the $17 billion in our state’s transportation fund, only $1.7 billion is reserved for new roads over the next two years. That, coupled with the influx of people moving here, presents some serious problems for Texas.

While some of us may want to break out the old bike again, or test our luck on the new MetroRail—scheduled to begin in March—another alternative is to get in touch with our local representatives. We need to be sure our voice is being heard and that they are voting with our best interest at mind.}

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Impact your inbox
Sign up to receive Community Impact Newspaper’s weekly update featuring local news, and you automatically will be entered to win a $100 Tiff’s Treats gift card. The drawing will be held April 30, 2010. impactnews.com/signup

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“Houses are built very differently in Ireland. Each one has its own character. It’s very homey. It looks like it’s been there for a long time.”

—Paula McGinty, Sitric House & Home

“It’s helpful to remember we’re guides. Children have an innate desire to learn and explore.”

—Peggy Graham, White Bird Montessori School

“It’s a grizzly set of circumstances when you talk about transportation in this state... Transportation is our canary in the coal mine.”

—Sen. Kirk Watson

“So many of these local companies are people’s friends and neighbors and people are aware of that. It’s a revitalist movement of doing things locally... It contributes to our sustainability as a city and as a society.”

—Mayor Lee Leffingwell
In January, Tabu Lingerie moved from its Brodie Oaks location at 4006 S. Lamar, Ste. 500 into a new location at 1323 S. Congress Ave. The 21-year-old boutique, which also has a north Austin location, sells lingerie, bachelorette gifts and more. Call 443-7779 or visit www.tabulingerieaustin.com.

Remodeling

The Walmart located at 9300 S. IH 35, Building B inside the Southpark Meadows shopping center recently began an extensive renovation inside and out. The new design provides a more open space with wider aisles, more accessible layout and brightly painted interior. The project started in February and should be complete in May. Call 292-6973 or visit www.walmart.com.

Under New Ownership

The 123 Fit in Arbor Trails at 4301 W. William Cannon, Building B, Ste. 146 is under new management. Octavia Browder assumed ownership of the gym and weight-loss franchise location in February. Call 891-8123 or visit www.123fit.com.

Under Construction

In January, owners Kristin Rhoades and Duff Young started construction of a new Primrose School at 4920 Davis Lane. Primrose is a private preschool that accepts infants from six weeks of age through kindergarten, as well as after-school care for up to age 9. Rhodes and Young own the Primrose School of Shady Hollow on Brodie Lane; this newest location will be the eighth Primrose location in Austin and is expected to be complete in August. Call 292-7792 or visit www.primroseschools.com.

Map not to scale

Community Impacts | Southwest Austin

Now Open

1 The new seven-room St. David’s Urgent Care Circle C opened in March at 5700 Slaughter Lane, Ste. 260. The clinic treats adults and children with non-emergent conditions. The clinic is equipped with X-ray, lab and CT scanner. Call 394-0020 or visit www.stdavids.com/healthcare-services/emergency.aspx.

2 Tweens, teens and twenty-somethings can buy, sell and trade gently used clothing at the Plato’s Closet, 5400 Brodie Lane, Ste. 240, which opened in January. Owner Amy Chung described the “newsed” (used, but new to the customer) clothing as the perfect way for growing teenagers to keep up with the latest trends. Call 358-8888 or visit www.platosclosetsouthaustin.com.

3 South Austinite Court Stotts opened a new State Farm Insurance office at 5601 Brodie Lane, Ste. 620 inside the Sunset Valley Shopping Center in January. The office offers State Farm auto, home, life and health insurance, and is also a bank that can help refinance vehicles and provide mutual funds and loans. Call 892-3900 or visit www.courtstotts.com.

4 Mark Strauss started selling auto insurance out of his home and opened an office in February. Mark Strauss Insurance, 3908 Manchaca Road, is an independent insurance agency that can shop with all insurance brokers to find the lowest price. Call 280-8808 or visit www.markstraussinsurance.com.

5 Sanctuary Printshop, 4201 S. Congress Ave., is on the go with a new mobile T-shirt screen printer housed in a custom El Camino. The mobile printing station came out just in time for SXSW and is available to rent for parties. The shop also just released its 2010 line of shirts and will soon launch an online store. Call 535-1343 or visit www.sanctuaryprintshop.com.

Friends Victoria Valles and Amanda Brito opened Bliss Bakery in January. The bakery offers special occasion cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownie pops and other sweet treats. The bakery is operating from Valles’ southwest Austin home and plans are underway to expand to a storefront location within the year. Orders for pickup and delivery are available. Call 296-CAKE or visit www.myblissbakery.com.

Coming Soon

6 A fourth location of Rosie’s Pho is opening in April at 10001 S. IH 35, Ste. 290. The restaurant, owned by Rosie Nguyen, serves Vietnamese food and has locations in Round Rock, Cedar Park and College Station. No phone number or website for the new location was available at press time.

Relocating

7 Rivers & Reefs Pet Center moved to a new location at 2008 S. First St. in November. The 21-year-old business, which had been located at 1323 S. Congress Ave., specializes in aquarium fish, hand-fed birds and premium cat and dog food. A grand opening is scheduled for Mar. 28 to Apr. 3. Call 443-5101 or visit www.riversandreefsaustin.com.

Customers searching for Giovanni’s Pizza Stand, formerly located at the parking lot of the Valero gas station at 3010 S. Lamar Blvd., will find the popular pizza maker now inside the gas station.

“It’s a little cooler, and we doubled the capacity to make pizzas,” said owner Julio Rangel, who started the business three years ago and moved in December. Rangel is considering opening a second location with the trailer. Call 656-7033 or visit www.giovannipizzastand.com.

In the News

The Sunset Valley Farmers Market changed its name to Barton Creek Farmers Market March 15 and moved to Barton Creek Square Mall, in the parking lot near Dillard’s. The Sustainable Food Center opened a new market, called SFC Farmers Market at Sunset Valley, at an area near the Tony Burger Center. Both markets plan to operate Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., year-round, rain or shine.

For the full story, visit more.impactnews.com/7614. For information about the SFC Farmers Market at Sunset Valley, visit www.austinfarmersmarket.org. For information about the Barton Creek...
Scholarship

Aquatic Science Camp

Children ages 9 to 15 are encouraged to apply to the Aquatic Science Camp sponsored by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. Students must submit an application and a one-page essay or artwork titled “Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp” by April 2. Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing. Call 282-8441 or visit www.bsecad.org/events/scholarships/camp.

Court Stotts, pictured with account representative Melissa Hamilton, opened his own State Farm Insurance office, following in his father's footsteps. "My father was an agent for 33 years in Lubbock," he said.

Wildflower Center presents its 39th annual event with hundreds of orchids for sale.

Zilker Botanical Gardens Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road

Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • Free

477-8672 • www.hotos.org

Pohela Boishakhi: South Asian New Year Festival

The Texas Bengali Cultural Alliance presents this annual event featuring authentic South Asian food, plus music, dance, a fashion show, vendor booths from local artists and children’s entertainment. April 11 rain date.

Hillside Theater at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Road

Noon–9 p.m. • Free

413-9191 • www.tbca-austin.org

15–18 Old Settler’s Music Festival

This roots-music festival in its 23rd year features acoustic jazz and blues, bluegrass, arts and crafts and more.

Salt Lick Pavilion and Camp Ben McCulloch

18300 FM 1826

Wristbands: $25–$456 • children 12 and younger free

888-512-7469 • www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org

Shred Day 2010

Households can bring up to five file boxes of paper records for on-site shredding. In lieu of a fee, monetary donations will be accepted for the Capital Area Food Bank.

Austin High School parking lot, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez

8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. • Free

974-9045

St. Edward’s art opening reception

St. Edward’s University graduating seniors present examples of their work, which will be on display until May 8.

St. Edward’s gallery in the Fine Arts Center,

300 1 S. Congress Ave.

6–9 p.m. • Free

www.stedwards.edu/hum/art/student/index.html

Col. Pat Speir Memorial Golf Tournament

This event benefits the Rotary Club of Austin-Oak Hill. A barbecue dinner and awards reception follows the golf.

Falconhead Golf Club, 15201 Falconhead Blvd.

1 p.m. • $110 (individual), $440 (foursome)

447-2446 • www.oakhillrotary.org

Fourth Annual Sunset Valley ArtFest

Original art, local food and live music, plus children’s activities including an adventure build site.

Tony Burger Center parking lot, 3200 Jones Road

9 a.m.–3 p.m. • Free

892-1383 • www.sunsetvalleyarts.org

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By Yvonne Lim Wilson

When asked about his business, Malachy McGettrick does not like to say too much. It is not that he is not proud of his work and store, it is just that he prefers to listen to clients.

“Our customers are very important to us,” McGettrick said. “We enjoy doing things right. We take our work very seriously.”

It is that listening and attention to detail that makes McGettrick and his store, Sitric House & Home, a success with clients.

McGettrick opened Sitric two years ago and runs the business with his daughter Paula Campbell, who manages the store, his son Tom McGettrick and his son-in-law Lloyd Gosey, who work on the remodeling projects. The McGettrick family, which includes four children and six grandchildren, are all a part of the store in some way, even if it is just for a visit to see Papa and Nana.

Sitric offers a unique concept in home remodeling and decorating. The store is a showcase for McGettrick’s remodeling work, but also serves as a retail space for home accessories, paints and wallpaper.

Inside the store, visitors get a feel for McGettrick’s old-world style with arched doorways, natural materials and custom features.

“We’ve made a serious commitment in this building and hopefully it lets people know what we do,” he said. “It’s quite gratifying to see a lot of people come in and find things they like.”

Originally from Ireland, McGettrick moved to Corpus Christi in 1974 and was following his brother who was a priest there. In 2001, McGettrick moved to Austin to be closer to their children who all went to college in the Austin area.

McGettrick’s Irish background informs his sense of style, not in any kind of literal fashion, but more out of a respect for character, comfort and historic-looking charm.

“Houses are built differently in Ireland. Each one has its own character. It’s very homey. It looks like it’s been there a long time,” Paula said.

McGettrick has been a contractor all of his life and decided to start his own business when clients repeatedly suggested it to him.

McGettrick and his team have perfected a process to create faux finishes to make ordinary surfaces look like marble, wood, stone and brick as well as to create a warmer look overall.

“One of our goals is to not make it look like a remodel. It has to look like it’s lived in and enjoyed,” McGettrick said.

For all the aged wood and hard stone facades, it may be a surprise for some to learn that all the materials McGettrick uses comes from local sources.

For now, business is good. The downturn economy has encouraged people to stay and improve their current homes instead of moving to brand-new homes, McGettrick said.

“I’m very passionate about our work. It’s always fantastic to take someone’s home and make it more interesting and watch them enjoy the process as much as we do,” McGettrick said.

What’s in a name?

Sitric is the original name from which Malachy McGettrick’s surname is derived. Sitric was a Viking king and Norseman who settled in Ireland around the tenth century. The word “mac” in Gaelic means “son of,” making King Sitric’s descendants MacSitrics, with variations of spelling including MacKetrick, MacKitric, McGettrick and McGetrick.

FREE Toilets

Austin Water Conservation now offers high-performance HETs (high-efficiency toilets). These Pro-Flo PF9300 toilets with dual flush technology ensure great performance and reduce water consumption. You can apply to replace up to 3 toilets per home, if your home was built prior to January 1, 1996. (This program does not replace 1.6 gpf toilets.)

To qualify, you must receive your water from the City of Austin or an eligible MUD.

To participate, complete and submit a Free Toilet Program application form available on our web site. We will mail you a voucher to pick up your toilets at a local vendor who contracts with us. Standard white round-bowl toilets are FREE. Elongated-bowl ADA-height toilets are available for a charge of $21.78 + tax per toilet, payable at pick-up. Toilets come with everything you need for installation (wax rings, bolts and seat).

Visit www.WaterWiseAustin.org or Call 974-2199
By Yvonne Lim Wilson

As a teenager growing up during the 1960s, Peggy Graham felt deeply impacted by the Vietnam War. Through those experiences, she took to heart the importance of peace. When she started White Bird Montessori School 24 years ago, she named the school after the white bird of peace.

“Our children are the ones who are going to be our peacemakers,” she said. “A lot of things we do is about stewardship of the earth.”

Graham was a single mother of four when she first discovered the Montessori method, which immediately struck a chord with her. In her first year as a teacher, a parent handed her a check for $10,000 so she could start her own school. The school opened in 1986 at 6305 Manchaca Road and moved to its current location in 2005. The school is located inside an old ranch house on two acres of land and features a garden and is also home to a goat, a pig, a tarantula, fish and birds.

“Our relaxed country feeling and our great emphasis on out-of-doors education makes us different. We take great pride in our homey feeling and beautiful environment; it’s not institutionalized,” Graham said.

The school’s curriculum is based on the Montessori philosophy of respecting each child and allowing them to develop at their own pace. Teachers are called “guides,” reflecting their role in guiding children toward good behavior and learning.

Beth Robertson’s daughter Zoe Jordan, seven, has attended the school since she was age two. Robertson said Zoe has “blossomed” from her years at the school and continues to attend after-school care there.

“Zoe’s favorite thing was the teachers when she was there [full time]. Now that she’s older, she enjoys helping the younger children and being a mentor,” Robertson said.

Within the Montessori community, there is a range of interpretations of Montessori philosophy. Graham, who is certified by Association Montessori International, describes her interpretation to be more liberal and incorporates other early childhood development practices, including ideas from Reggio Emilia and Jean Piaget. The school is affiliated with the American Montessori Society.

White Bird, which operates on a year-round basis, offers five areas of study—practical life, sensorial, culture and science, language and math—which are all incorporated into daily learning activities.

Children ages 18 months to approximately three years share a classroom while children ages three to six learn together in a separate classroom. The school also offers summer camps and special activities for children up to 16 years of age.

This fall, White Bird is starting a second classroom for the three to six-year-olds.

As Graham looks ahead to the future, she says she wants to continue exactly what she and her staff are doing.”

“This little house is an ongoing project.”

What is Montessori?

The Montessori philosophy is based on the ideas of Maria Montessori, a medical doctor and educator born in Italy in 1870. Montessori advocated that children should develop their own skills at their own pace, a principle she called “spontaneous self-development.” Montessori defined the goal of education as “the development of a complete human being, oriented to the environment, and adapted to his or her time, place, and culture.” Children are given opportunities for hands-on experiences and self-directed learning.

**What is Montessori?**

The Montessori philosophy is based on the ideas of Maria Montessori, a medical doctor and educator born in Italy in 1870. Montessori advocated that children should develop their own skills at their own pace, a principle she called “spontaneous self-development.” Montessori defined the goal of education as “the development of a complete human being, oriented to the environment, and adapted to his or her time, place, and culture.” Children are given opportunities for hands-on experiences and self-directed learning.
The pipa tofu ($10.95) is an authentic Chinese dish made of tofu and minced shrimp.

By Tiffany Young

Tien Jin’s owners Joanna and Michael Chau are much like the restaurant they have owned for 17 years: unassuming yet welcoming. The owners are soft spoken at first and warm up quickly. The restaurant, situated back in the West Tower Village Shopping Center is easy to miss—being set back from Hwy. 290 and across the street from its busier neighbor the Westgate Center. That said, its bright red door leads customers into the family-friendly restaurant.

“The biggest drawback of this location is ever since they built the highway, people have had a hard time finding us,” Michael said. “We need a big sign, but the landlord wouldn’t let us [install one].”

However, around 2 p.m. on a Saturday, the restaurant was not barren, with several tables filled with diners who could be heard praising its food.

Originally from Hong Kong, the Chau’s came to Austin in 1981 from Florida when a friend called and asked them to come help open a Japanese restaurant. Later the couple opened their own restaurant at Ben White Boulevard and Congress Avenue, which was open for three years under a different name. In 1993, they opened Tien Jin, which they said is well-known for its authentic Chinese food.

Michael said some of the technology companies in the area will book the entire restaurant when hosting Chinese businessmen for lunch.

“Our duckling with scallion ($12.95) is our signature dish and even people from Hong Kong will visit and love it,” Michael said.

But, that is not to say Americans will not also enjoy the restaurant’s dishes. While it has a large buffet, the restaurant’s extensive menu has even more to choose from.

The pu-pu tray ($9.95) is made for two, and comes with a mini hibachi for toasting the already cooked ribs and skewered beef. Served in a large wooden bowl divided into five compartments, each decorated with bib lettuce, it also comes with two egg rolls and fried wontons.

To try an authentic dish, order the pipa tofu ($10.95), which is a popular Chinese dish of tofu and shrimp, lightly fried and served in a sauce similar in flavor to egg drop soup. Or stick with a more familiar dish, kung pao chicken ($8.95), which has a hint of spicy peanut flavor. Both dishes come on large plates and a bowl of white rice that is filling enough for two meals or for sharing with a dinner partner.

For dessert, the delicious almond-flavored tapioca ($1.50), served warm in a small bowl, is light enough to enjoy after a heavy meal.

Unable to take leftovers home because you are catching a movie across the street? Not to worry—the waitress will keep it cold in the refrigerator until after the show.
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St. David’s Urgent Care Circle C
A Department of St. David’s South Austin Medical Center
Austin gets face time

The Austin City Council approved a $200,000 economic development incentive proposal for social networking company Facebook Inc. to establish a 200-person, Austin-based sales and operations facility.

This is the third economic development proposal recommended by the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services office. This is also the first major U.S. operations expansion for Facebook Inc. outside of its headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif.

As a condition of the incentive, Facebook agrees to hire at least the first full-time 25 employees by December 2010, with other jobs added incrementally. Facebook agrees to have at least 200 full-time employees by December 2013 with an average annual wage projected at $54,000.

For more information on the agreement, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/news.

Council adopts ‘no kill’ plan

Members of the Austin City Council voted unanimously March 11 in favor of a plan to reduce animal euthanizations and also unanimously approved a $12 million contract with an Irving-based construction company to build a new animal shelter in east Austin.

The “no-kill” plan aims to reduce euthanizations to 10 percent of the animal shelter population, down from about one-third now. City staff estimated the euthanization rate could be achieved within about two years. The city proposed moving toward a no-kill shelter program in 1997.

The reduced euthanization plan involves about 35 ideas, such as more free sterilizations, expanded foster care programs and offsite adoption programs, and if implemented totally would cost about $1 million per year, tentatively. Many of the measures could be implemented at no cost, and council members did not commit to allocating any funding.

As part of the plan, but on a separate agenda item, council members approved a $12 million contract with an Irving-based construction company to build a new animal shelter at the Betty Dunkerley Campus of the city’s Health and Human Services Department located at 7201 Levander Loop.

The site is near the intersection of Hwy. 183 and Airport Boulevard in east Austin, next to no-kill advocacy organization Emancipet. The construction company, VCC LLC, made the lowest of 10 competitive bids.

The new facility, which is scheduled to be finished by summer 2011, will replace the existing Town Lake Animal Center, one-third now. City staff estimated the shelter population, down from about 11,566, W. Cesar Chavez St. Voters approved the funding for the new facility in a 2006 bond election.

City staff recommended keeping the Town Lake facility open for six months after the opening of the new facility. Others have argued that the Town Lake shelter, due to its central location, should stay open indefinitely as an adoption center.

Land purchased for preservation

The Nature Conservancy of Texas and the City of Austin plan to purchase a 13-acre tract of land within the Barton Creek Wilderness Park that was slated for extensive commercial development.

During a March 11 city council meeting, Mayor Lee Leffingwell recounted the long and difficult process of acquiring the small plot of land in the Central Texas greenbelt. The process, he said, involved an apprehensive seller, a potential office park and $5.5 million.

The property is close to Barton Creek and in the vicinity of two of Austin’s favorite swimming holes, Twin Falls and Sculptured Falls. It is currently vacant, but is zoned for the development of 30,000 sq. ft. of office space in two four-story buildings and a parking garage.

“The Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin have consistently worked together to protect Austin’s natural resources,” Leffingwell said. “The partnership between the Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin will continue to provide protection for our natural resources and maintain our quality of life.”

The city will fund this proposed acquisition with $1.9 million from the Austin Water Utility and $3.6 million from the Watershed Protection Department. The city began purchasing land in this area in 1992 with the purpose of protecting the greenbelt from development. The land will become a part of the Barton Creek Wilderness Park, a 1,058-acre expanse of wooded hiking and mountain biking trails, swimming holes and habitat for endangered songbirds.

Upcoming Austin City Council meetings

April 8, 22 and 29

Sessions begin at 10 a.m.

301 W. Second St.

Meetings are broadcast on municipal TV cable Channel 6 and on 88.7 FM radio, starting at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are streamed live on the Channel 6 website, www.ci.austin.tx.us/channels. Visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/council for more information, including transcripts, schedules, agendas and archived video.

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“Welcome to Womanhood”

Date: April 1st • Time: 7pm

Refreshments will be provided.
Limited seating please RSVP to Monica 512-610-8422.
This event is free and open to the public.
You do not have to be a patient to attend.

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Date: April 1st • Time: 7pm
Refreshments will be provided.
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City Notes | Facebook to open Austin office, shelters to reduce animal euthanizations

Compiled by Staff

March 2010 • Community Impact Newspaper • Southwest Austin Edition

City Notes | Facebook to open Austin office, shelters to reduce animal euthanizations

Compiled by Staff
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** With approved credit.
Austin resident Holly White Turner is an attorney and owns Turner Advisory Group. She has a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and a law degree from the UT School of Law. He has served as the Senate District 17 judge for more than 22 years. She is a member of the Texas State Bar Association and has taught on the elementary through high school levels. Turner resides in Georgetown.

Paul D. Workman
748-5599
fortexas.com

The Texas House of Representatives is composed of 150 state representatives who draft and vote on legislation.

Holly Turner
www.hollyfortexas.com

Debra Lehrmann has been a Tarrant County district judge for more than 22 years. She is currently District Judge of the 360th Judicial District in Fort Worth. She graduated from the University of Texas and UT School of Law.

Mindy Montford
482-9541

A complete list of Travis County locations may be found at www.traviscountyelections.org.

Brian Russell
617-5355
www.brianrussell.net

Round Rock resident Brian Russell is partner in the law firm Dillon & Yudell LLP, and earned his law degree from the UT School of Law. He has served as the Senate District 14 representative for the State Republican Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Texas since 2004.

Travis County - Republican

Texas State Representative District 47

The 15-member Texas State Board of Education determines public school curricula, oversees Permanent School Fund investment, approves the creation of charter schools and designates standards for public adult education programs.

Bush District 47

State Board of Education District 10

Travis County – Democratic

Judge, 299th District Court

The nine-member Texas Supreme Court is the state’s highest civil court.

Rick Green
858-6974
www.rickgreen2010.com

Spicewood Springs resident Rick Green is a former state representative. He started The Torch of Freedom Foundation to educate young people on public policy. He has a finance degree from Angelo State University and a law degree from UT School of Law.

Mindy Montford
482-9541

Austin resident Mindy Montford is a former prosecutor in the Travis County District Attorney’s Office. She ran unsuccessfully for D.A. in 2008. She graduated from the University of Texas and UT School of Law.

Mindy Montford
482-9541

An Austin attorney and former district attorney, Montford is a parent of two Travis County public schools students. She graduated from UT School of Law and has taught on the elementary through middle school levels. Montford resides in Austin.

Questions and Answers

Q. What is the primary election?

A. This election is held before the general election by the Democratic and Republican parties. Voters of each party nominate candidates for office, party officers, etc. The primary election determines who the one Republican and one Democratic candidate will be for the November election. The Libertarian party nominates its candidates by convention. Independent candidates can gather signatures to appear on the November ballot.

Q. Why is there a runoff?

A. If no single candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, a runoff is required.

Q. Can I vote in both the Republican and Democratic primaries or runoff elections?

A. No. In Texas, voters can participate in the primary election by voting Democrat or Republican, but cannot vote in both. Independent candidates are not included on the Texas primary ballot. Once a voter participates in the primary election, he or she is designated a member of the party for which he or she voted for the next two years and is ineligible to participate in the opposing party’s primary election.

Q. How do I register to vote?

A. Voters must be registered 30 days before an election. To register in Travis County, visit www.traviscountytax.org or call 854-9473. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring a drivers license or other identification. If you need a replacement card, you may complete a new voter registration application and follow the instructions at https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/vr17.pdf.

Q. How do I register to vote?

A. Your voter registration card lists some of your political districts or you may visit www.fly.lpms.state.tx.us to look it up by your address.

Q. Do I have to have my voter registration card to vote?

A. No, but it will be easier and faster if you have it. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring a drivers license or other identification. If you need a replacement card, you may complete a new voter registration application and follow the instructions at https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/vr17.pdf.

Q. Can I vote in the runoff if I did not vote in the primary?

A. Yes. However, if you are a registered Democrat, you may not vote in the Travis County runoff because the only runoff races are Republican candidates.

Q. Will I vote at the same polling location for the runoff that I did for the primary?

A. Not necessarily. The number of voters is typically lower for the runoff, so the election office consolidates precincts to vote at fewer polling locations.

Q. Who is eligible for a mail-in ballot?

A. You may request a ballot by mail if you will be out of the county on election day and during early voting. If you are sick or disabled, or if you are 65 years old or older on election day.

Q. Do I have to register to vote?

A. Yes, you must register 30 days before an election. To register in Travis County, visit www.traviscountytax.org or call 854-9473. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring a drivers license or other identification. If you need a replacement card, you may complete a new voter registration application and follow the instructions at https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/vr17.pdf.

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In Chip’s Corner

Austin, Texas – With a customer base that is possibly the most loyal I have ever witnessed, Lamb’s Tire and Automotive (www.LambsTire.com) has worked hard throughout a difficult economy to stay true to the principles that created that loyalty. Sincerely caring about their neighbors, their families, and the greater Austin community is evident as the car count continues to grow at the fifteen (15) Lamb’s locations.

Lamb’s CEO and life-long Austinite Ron Meredith stays passionate about delivering excellent customer service and fulfilling the company’s role as “Austin’s Most Trusted Tire and Automotive Service” business.

“We truly care about our neighbors and our communities,” says Meredith. “This is my home. I have been here my entire life. So, I try hard to help all of our team understand the responsibility we have to be the most conscientious and technically proficient at managing automobile repairs and maintenance for our friends and neighbors.”

As I have covered this story over the past two years I have seen Meredith make bold moves to back up those comments. Lamb’s continues to excel in technical training and professional development for their team and now boast more than 250 ASE certifications across the company. They have remodeled their McNeil store into an incredibly comfortable and cozy environment that also now includes specialty automotive parts, accessories, and wheels. I have personally heard many customers champion the quality service and people at Lamb’s.

Lamb’s reinvented their tire business in 2009 by broadening their product line and getting very aggressive in pricing. “We love our Goodyear product line and Goodyear is a great partner. However, we knew that we had loyal customers driving on Continental, General, Michelin, and BF Goodrich tires that were OE (Original Equipment) on their vehicles. So we simply determined that no one should have to ever go to some discount place for a tire solution when they trusted us for everything on their car,” Meredith said.

Lamb’s now delivers the lowest package pricing of anyone in the marketplace which has fueled their tire business to all time volume highs.

But it is still Meredith’s passion for his community that impresses me the most. This past November, in the 7th year of Operation Call Home, Meredith’s evangelizing encouraged the greater Austin communities to contribute more than $92,295 to purchase phone cards for our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Lamb’s partnership with KLBJ 590 AM, Operation Call Home has now raised over $300,000.

Meredith drives Lamb’s community spirit further with fundraisers for The Neighborhood Longhorn Program and creating a scholarship program for the local area Fellowship of Christian Athletes. It is no wonder that Meredith has been elected to serve on The Board of Directors for The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

Last year I found that Lamb’s really listens to their customers – utilizing focus groups and other surveys. I still think customer Laura Gibson says it best, “We are a family that would rather maintain a vehicle well in the short term so that we can use it long term. Lamb’s has been wonderful at helping us achieve our goals in this. Every time I walk into a Lamb’s, I am reminded why I continue to patronize them: I am greeted as well as Norm ever was on Cheers! I feel welcome and cared for!”

Chip Brown

--Columnist with more than 20 years experience with the Associated Press, Dallas Morning News & rivals.com; Radio Host of ESPN’s The Bottom Line with Sean Adams and Chip Brown (104.9 FM “The Horn”)
the next two years; the rest is set aside for maintenance, paying off debt and reimbursing cities and counties for existing projects.

Watson said inadequate transportation imposes on business and the quality of life for Austinites. He also said it is an indication of a larger looming issue, and if the trend continues, the burden for building new roads will pass from the state to local taxpayers.

“Our current transportation problems demonstrate a pattern Texas is facing: inadequate investment,” Watson said. “Transportation is our canary in the coal mine.”

Environmental review

Even when money is secured for a project, the environmental review process—a step in which officials analyze the biological, ecological and historical impacts of a road—can add months or years to the wait for a road.

“Twenty to 30 years ago this was a polarizing issue because people thought we didn’t do enough and now we’ve come to the point where people think we’re doing too much,” John Hurt, TxDOT spokesman, said.

With nine regulations and laws to comply with, environmental reviews can often result in costly delays for cities and counties. These reviews expire after three years, and that means if a review is done on a project and funding falls through, the review may need to be updated or redone entirely before construction can begin.

The length of time required depends on the scope and location of the road. For a project like SH 45 SW, the review would take an estimated four years. In this case, even if a revenue source and design for the project were approved today, it would still be at least 2015 before construction could begin. Other projects like improvements to the Y in Oak Hill would likely require less time, due to existing roadway in the area.

The reviews have been required for more than 30 years, but more environmental regulations and the increased demand for roads have slowed them.

Shortening the process

Víctor Mendez, of the Federal Highway Administration, said in January that he wants to cut in half the time it takes to build roads in the U.S., and while there has not been an official move at the federal level, U.S. Rep. John Carter is also a proponent of streamlining the process and said he would support any push to do so.

“When a project is delayed for environmental review reasons, and people continue to be injured or killed on dangerous roads, there’s a problem in the way we’re prioritizing the process,” Carter said.

But exactly how to speed up the process is unclear. TxDOT environmental coordinator Mike Walker said state and federal law mandate the process.

“The rules would have to be changed,” Walker said. “The root of everything is that we have a certain number of rules we have to comply with on any project we turn dirt on.”

Projects have also been delayed following the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act approved in 2009. The act gave funds to “shovel ready” road projects, which are ready or almost ready to begin, and requires agencies to review those projects first.

Walker, along with Allison Arnold, senior biologist for U.S. Fish & Wildlife’s Austin office, are a part of the environmental review process required for any road project receiving state or federal dollars. The two oversee large areas that span multiple counties and they often do so by themselves.

“We’re swamped with projects that are encompassed by everything from a landowner wanting to build a house on his property to a major multimillion dollar transportation project,” Arnold said. “We have to treat everyone fairly, and unfortunately, for the people that need those reviews it makes it very difficult to get them very quickly.”

How environment affects design

“The review process is complicated and strings through multiple agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration, the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Each assesses environmental impacts of projects, whether to preserve a historic home or save an endangered species and its habitat. The agencies are bound by numerous laws and regulations, namely the National Environmental Policy Act, and they must ensure a project complies with all. When an issue arises in a study, Walker said rerouting the road to avoid the conflict altogether is the preferable action. “First we look at ways to avoid, then we look at ways to minimize, then we look at ways to mitigate,” he said.

Comment at more.impactnews.com/7635

Environment concerns in south Austin

Black-capped vireo
This endangered bird nests in shrubs and is threatened not only by development but also by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in the vireo’s nest.

Golden-cheeked warbler
This endangered bird is the only one of 360 bird species that nests exclusively in Texas.

Edwards Aquifer recharge zone
The recharge zone is a 1,250-sq.-mi. area where openings in exposed limestone allow water to enter into the 180-mile long groundwater system known as Edwards Aquifer. The aquifer provides drinking water for approximately 1.7 million people.

Cave-adapted invertebrates
Spiders, scorpions and other endangered species also call the caves of Central Texas home. Development is the top threat to these invertebrates.

Barton Springs salamander
This endangered salamander found only in Austin grows to a length of about 2.5 inches and lives in the waters of Barton Springs.

Source: City of Austin, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife
The Backyard at Bee Cave music venue to open this spring

By Tiffany Young

Some Central Texas music venues have a reputation and fame that competes with the names of the singers and songwriters who play there. The Backyard, expected to reopen at Hwy. 71 and Bee Cave Parkway this spring, is among those legendary venues.

Owner Tim O’Connor has been in the music business for years, owning popular music venues La Zona Rosa, Austin Music Hall and Tim’s Porch (a smaller venue that opened in the Backyard’s place), as well as a marketing company, Direct Events, that handles his venues’ publicity.

“It’s really difficult to start a new venue, but at the same time, we’re bringing the original reputation with the new Backyard,” said Kylee O’Neil, marketing coordinator for Direct Events.


Set among old, shady oak trees, The Backyard was once in the country, where guests could not only listen to stars on stage, but see them in the sky as well.

After retail development opened nearby in 2007, O’Neil said The Backyard had lost some of the “backyard feel” it once had.

In 2008, O’Connor purchased land he had been eyeing for years and began construction of The Backyard at Bee Cave in March 2008.

Just about a quarter mile from its original location, the landscape for the new venue will be similar, but will have more room to grow in 38 acres of Hill Country. The Backyard moved from Austin city limits to Bee Cave city limits, which is expected to bring in more visitors and give an economic boost to Bee Cave.

O’Connor is also taking on more of a “green” initiative. While building the outdoor venue, its environment was taken under consideration, such as keeping as many trees on the lot as possible, especially native trees; setting aside preferred parking for those who carpool (three or more visitors to a vehicle); reusing some of the original fencing and buildings; and using solar power for the artist compound, restrooms, terraces and gift shops.

“Our big focus is to make artists feel comfortable while they’re here because they’re traveling here on a bus and every city looks the same. But here at The Backyard, it’s different: They’ll remember it.”

Features for the artists include dressing rooms that look like log cabins within a private gated area that has a miniature golf course and hammocks.

Concertgoers who want the “VIP” treatment can buy season tickets, which will include a private entrance, talking terrace with Adirondack chairs and private bars and restrooms.

New additions
- Backyard Buddies program: a way for patrons to pledge their support of the environment; includes special discounts, deals and inside information on music and events
- Two entrances: one at Hwy. 71 and the other from Bee Cave Parkway
- 2,500 parking spaces
- Electric plug-ins for electric cars

Events
May 1
A First Look At The Backyard
11 a.m. • $25

May 6
Gipsy Kings
8 p.m. • $30–$55

July 4
Willie Nelson’s 4th of July Picnic
11 a.m. • $55

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**News Update** | **Seton, UT lay foundations for Austin medical school**

By Patrick Brendel and Rob Heidrick

An April open house will mark the official launch of the Dell Pediatric Research Institute: the latest, measured step toward establishing a world-class academic health center, including a medical school, in Austin.

The institute—a collaboration between the University of Texas at Austin and Seton Family of Hospitals—is strategically located in the Mueller Development, near the UT campus and right across the street from Seton’s Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas. The objective is for UT researchers to mingle with Dell physicians and swap ideas about research, how it relates to practical medicine, and vice versa.

“In a sense, Dell represents a bridge between UT Austin and clinical enterprise. It is a very important step,” said Dr. Kenneth Shine, UT System executive vice chancellor for Health Affairs.

The institute, with a total projected capacity of 28 senior faculty members, is the first of several planned UT Austin research institutes on 30 acres of land at Mueller. It is a prime example of the kind of translational research activity that large biotech companies seek out when deciding where to locate.

The institute cost about $100 million to establish, including $38 million from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and $45 million from the UT System.

In order to establish a UT Austin medical school, an even more robust combination of public and private funding is needed.

**Billions of dollars on the line**

It will take, at minimum, $1.5 billion in new resources to create a four-year medical school in Austin, said UT Austin Executive Vice President and Provost Steven Leslie.

“We are currently not in the most favorable economic circumstances to get this done right now, but we will have to do it with new resources as we go forward,” he said, stressing that university officials will not take funding away from existing UT entities to build a UT Austin medical school.

UT officials would not give a time frame for the creation of a medical school, saying it depends on a general economic recovery, and would require funding from a variety of sources, such as philanthropy, businesses, state government and/or local taxes.

Putting resources toward a medical school could be a wise long-term investment, according to a report released in February 2008 by The Perryman Group, an economic research firm in Waco.

The proposed UT Austin medical school would be the first medical school in Texas physically contiguous with a major university. The ultimate vision is to create an academic health center, comprising a medical school, research and practical medicine, on par with top institutions such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Stanford and Washington, Shine said.

St. David’s HealthCare, which hosts clinical rotations for students from the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Round Rock, is also looking to expand its involvement with UT Austin, St. David’s Senior Vice President Mark Clayton said.

Physicians at St. David’s research centers, including the NeuroTexas Institute and the Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute, could work with UT students in future residency and fellowship programs, he said.

**Medical school in Round Rock**

In 2007, Texas legislators approved the establishment of a medical school in Williamson County. In December, the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Round Rock’s first campus building opened. The Health Science Center’s College of Medicine began offering clinical clerkships to third- and fourth-year medical students in Round Rock in 2008. Since then, the school has established agreements or partnerships with every major healthcare institution in Williamson County.

Meanwhile, the first students will attend the new College of Nursing at the Health Science Center in June. The adjacent Texas State University’s Round Rock Higher Education Center is adding its own nursing school, too.

**Different objectives**

The A&M Health Science Center’s focus...
Medical schools serve different functions in their home communities, depending on the region’s needs and the goals of the institutions. While every school has its own approach, two distinct models of medical education have taken shape as the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the University of Texas discuss ideas for future programs.

A&M–Round Rock and UT Austin medical schools could help address that shortage, while improving indigent care and boosting the economy, Hartman said.

“I don’t think there’s a competitive sense to this at all. I think it’s really a collaborative sense, in that both schools offer different strengths to what they bring to Central Texas,” Hartman said. “And in Central Texas we need so much in terms of academic medicine and we have so much potential to take advantage of it.”

**Collaboration, competition**

A&M and UT officials contend that their overlapping ambitions to create medical schools are being pursued amicably. Part of the reason for that is practical: Animosities might cause both schools to lose out on potential funding, Hazelwood said.

“From a political standpoint, they don’t want to get into a competition with each other before the legislature as they try to attract funding for different programs,” he said.

Regional challenges also behoove the two universities to work together. Central Texas has a major shortage of doctors, with about 155 physicians per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of about 220.

**Community-based medical education**

- Students training to practice medicine work closely with local hospitals and clinics, interacting directly with patients and learning how to treat them in a real-world setting.
- Community physicians often serve as advisers and clerkship faculty.
- A&M’s local partners include Lone Star Circle of Care, Seton Medical Center Williamson, St. David’s Round Rock Medical Center and Scott & White Healthcare–Round Rock.
- The College of Nursing will partner with Seton on an accelerated nursing program.
- Other community-based medical programs are offered at UT Medical Branch at Galveston, Baylor College of Medicine and UT Southwestern.

**Research-intensive medical education**

- Medical schools work with hospitals to recruit researchers in a range of scientific disciplines.
- Hospitals, with input from their partner universities, determine the focus of research. The university typically invites researchers to serve on faculty.
- Researchers usually come with grants to study new medicines and technologies, assisted by graduate students working toward advanced degrees.
- The University of Texas System recently made an agreement with the Seton Family of Hospitals to train medical students at Seton’s Austin-area hospitals under the supervision of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
- Other examples of research-oriented universities include Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Stanford.

The Health Science Center’s Temple campus has a research affiliation with Scott & White’s flagship hospital, and the College of Medicine has academic research programs in College Station. Still, A&M is better known for training practical physicians than conducting medical research, Shine said.

“A&M is primarily a community-based institution,” Shine said. “That they will try to do research in Williamson County is entirely appropriate. They will not be part of a research-intensive academic health center like in Austin.”
Manchaca, an unincorporated community with no elected government, is around the intersection of Manchaca Road and FM 1626, south of Austin and west of the Village of San Leanna. Though it is closer to the city now than it was in the 70s, Manchaca has seen little change over the years, as it is home to many of the same businesses today that were there 30 years ago.

Businesses
1. Serving south Austin for nearly 30 years, It's About Thyme offers a variety of native plants, supplies and pottery. 280-1192
www.itsaboutthyme.com
2. Run by cousins Galen George and Philip Vescovo, AMM Collision Center also has two other locations. The shop specializes in collision repair. 292-1060
www.austinmotormile.com
3. K&S Towing provides 24-hour towing service. 291-3672
4. Texas Star Meeting and Event Center is a full-service event venue that can accommodate up to 400 guests. 280-0511
www.texasstarevents.com
5. From tables to food service, Premiere Party Central provides rental products and services. 292-3200
www.austinpartycentral.com
6. Long's Automatic Transmission has been in business for nearly three decades and provides transmission repair services. 282-3151
7. Pedernales Electric Cooperative, a member-owned electric utility, is the largest electric cooperative in the country. 394-9136
www.pec.coop
8. Manchaca Plaza Stardust Club 280-8590
Texican Café 282-9094
www.texicancafe.com
Best FedUP Shipping 280-1290
Shell gas station 280-0654
9. Sorelle sells a variety of greeting cards, gift wrap and stationery. 292-0901
10. Giddy Ups is a honky-tonk-style dive bar with cheap beer, live music, darts, pool and shuffleboard tournaments on Saturdays and Mondays. 280-4732
www.giddyups.com
11. Southern Oaks Commercial Park S&K Consignment 291-8833
Gatti’s Pizza 459-2222
Macho Taco 291-5104
Lone Star Interiors 280-0448
12. Rounds of Boxing 282-2269
Veterans Support Organization 551-4002
www.veteranssupporttx.org
Road Runner Paint & Body 280-8008
12. Garcia’s Precision Auto Service offers auto repair services, oil changes and more. 292-6969
13. BJ’s Body Repair offers all phases of automotive body repair services and painting, housed in the same area as Manchaca Service Center. 296-5731
14. Manchaca Service Center has been in business for 25 years and has expertise in automotive repairs and small engine repairs. 280-0685
www.manchacaauto.com
15. American Lenders Service Company of Austin is a collateral recovery company that repossesses vehicles for banks, finance and loan companies. 282-0690
www.americanlenders.com
16. Home Tech Industries is the parent company of Brazos Colorado Construction and Budget Storage & Parking, which offers 1,000 storage units plus parking spaces for cars, recreational vehicles and watercraft. 282-7867
17. Manchaca Village Veterinary Clinic is a small animal practice for cats and dogs. 282-1326
www.manchacavet.com
18. Farmers Insurance Group-Johnson-Aguilar Insurance provides insurance, as well as financial services. This office is managed by agent Lety Johnson. 442-4707
19. Chip Kidd Realty Services provides marketing services for sellers and location services for buyers. Chip Kidd has more than 30 years of experience. 282-5377
www.chipp Kiddrealty.com
20. Ricos Taco Díaz sells breakfast tacos, fajitas and tortas (sandwiches) daily. The taco cart is located in front of Garcia’s Precision Auto Service. 696-4557
21. Reliant Communications offers business telephone services, including voice, data and fiber cabling, networking solutions and audio/video installations. 637-2800
22. Salon DR offers haircuts and coloring. 657-5427
23. Martin’s Vehicle Inspections does state inspections and repairs. 280-1765
Dining
24. Chuck’s Deli opened in 2008 inside a former post office. Outdoor seating, drive-thru, delivery and free Wi-Fi are available. 502-5808
www.chucksdeli.com
Education
25. Built in 1977, Morningside Elementary School has more than 900 students in pre-K through fifth grade. John Rocha is principal. 414-2333
www.austinisd.org
Residential
26. The Morningside neighborhood development by Armadillo Homes offers homes starting from $153,000. 287-6005
www.armadillohomes.com
27. Manchaca Mobile Home Park has mobile homes for rent with approximately 55 current units. The business has been open since 1981. 447-4757
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Austin, TX 78752
Phone: (512) 465-4800

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706 W. Ben White Blvd., Bldg. A, Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78704
Phone: (512) 442-1996

AUS WM3
WellMedmedicalgroup.com
Small business

CONTINUED FROM 1

Small business is big business

City involvement plays a large role in supporting local businesses and representing the community’s values of independent entrepreneurship.

Margaret Shaw, director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, described the city’s programs as a “three-legged stool” with one leg providing technical assistance, another working through nonprofits to provide loans to small businesses and a third that “sets the table,” attracting larger businesses to locate to Austin thereby providing spinoff benefits to local businesses.

The city’s Small Business Development Program, created in 2000, is a unique resource that provides free resources and low-cost classes to citizens.

It is a little known fact that Austin's SBDP is the only 100 percent locally funded small business program in the country. Other small business programs are tied to the national Small Business Administration and usually are affiliated with local universities.

Not having to rely on federal funding has several advantages, said Rosalinda Jalifi, assistant director of the city’s Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services office, which oversees the SBDP. “We have more flexibility. We are very agile to change programs. There are no requirements on the types of businesses we serve; there are no geographic restrictions. Performance targets are determined locally,” Jalifi said.

Keeping Austin local

While the city and other groups have a lot of programs to help small businesses, Austin's “Keep Austin Weird” support for unique culture translates directly into support for local businesses, Melancon said.

“The biggest thing our city does to promote local business is nothing that city hall does. It’s our culture,” Melancon said. “We don’t want to be Anywhere, U.S.A., and we work hard not to be.”

Cities that have a strong small business economy are expected to recover from economic downturns more rapidly, according to the Small Business Administration.

During the two past recessions, firms with fewer than 20 employees were the only ones with positive net job growth, the SBA reported.

“When you have a lot of small businesses, you have a lot of inherent diversity, and that inherent diversity helps insulate you from the economic downturn,” Mayor Lee Leffingwell said.

Support of local business is something deeply ingrained in Austin’s culture and is something that will carry Austin toward a more sustainable future, Leffingwell said. “I hear it every day: ‘Let’s go to Jo’s Coffee Shop instead of National Chain Coffee Shop.’ So many of these local companies are people’s friends and neighbors and people are aware of that,” he said. “It’s a revivalsegment of doing things locally—with food grown locally for example—and it contributes to our sustainability as a city and as a society.”

Design It With Consignment owner Lisa Gaynor said Austin’s community spirit is behind the large numbers of small businesses created in the city.

“Toby Schwartz, cofounder of Bidmodo, com and owner of Real
Normal Productions, said the Austin business community promotes collaboration.

Vicki Valdez and Rosalinda Jalifi of the city’s Small Business Development Program have seen a 200 percent increase in the number of people utilizing the city’s program in the last two years alone. Anecdotally, Valdez said the office has seen more retired people starting up businesses, as well as an increase in mobile food vendors and personal pet service providers.

Small business vitality rankings for 100 largest metros

<table>
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<th>2010 rank</th>
<th>2009 rank</th>
<th>Metropolitan area</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
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</table>

Source: Portfolio.com

Austin was ranked:

#1 city in America for small business creation, Portfolio.com
#1 large city in America for jobs, Forbes.com
#1 (tie with Washington, D.C.) city best surviving the recession, Forbes.com
#8 best place to launch a business, CNNMoney.com

The number of small businesses in Austin increased by about 6 percent between 2006 and 2007 compared to the national average of about 1.4 percent.

- 90 percent of companies in Austin have fewer than 10 employees.
- 75 percent of all Austin jobs are with companies that employ fewer than 100 people.
- In 2009, 14,590 Doing Business As, or DBAs, were filed in Travis County, compared to 12,919 in 2006.

Leffingwell said. “It’s a revivalsegment of doing things locally—with food grown locally for example—and it contributes to our sustainability as a city and as a society.”

Local resources for small business owners and startups

A sample of a few of Austin’s myriad entrepreneurial support organizations

City of Austin's Small Business Development Program
505 Barton Springs Road, 13th Floor
974-7800 • www.austinsmallbiz.org
As host to the “Meet the Lender” event, Business Solutions Center offers free and low-cost resources, computers, directories, demographic research information, BizAid counseling services and classes.

PeopleFund
207 Chalmers Avenue
472-8087 • www.peoplefund.org
PeopleFund is a nonprofit that provides free financial counseling, small business loans, in-house accounting, budgeting, marketing and legal referral services. This group also focuses on job creation in Austin.

BigAustin
Capital Plaza Office Building, 5407 N. IH 35, Ste. 200
928-8010 • www.bigaustin.org
BigAustin is a nonprofit group that offers flexible micro-loans, as well as educational services and business counseling.

Southwest Austin stats

The southwest Austin area, as defined by the seven zip codes 78735, 78736, 78737, 78739, 78745, 78748 and 78749, is home to 3,212 businesses, according to 2007 U.S. Census data.

- Small businesses with fewer than 100 employees account for 98 percent of all businesses in the region.
- 57 percent of the businesses in these zip codes have only one to four employees.
- The largest industry in the region is professional, scientific and technical services, which accounts for 15 percent of all businesses.
- The second largest industry in the region is construction at 11 percent.

Source: U.S. Census

RISE
485-2574 • www.riseaustin.org
Free conferences for entrepreneurs featuring top Austin entrepreneurs; past speakers include Roy Spence of GSD&M, John Mackey of Whole Foods and Patsy Woods Martin of I Live Here, I Give Here

SCORE Austin
5524 Bee Caves Road, Bldg. M
926-2425 • www.scoreaustin.org
Experienced business professionals provide free, confidential counseling on a volunteer basis

Bidmodo.com
www.bidmodo.com
A new business-to-business site connecting small business owners with each other to receive competitive bids from local sources

Austin Independent Business Alliance
441-2123 • www.ibuyaustin.com
Promotes and advocates on behalf of local member businesses, arranges joint media buys, holds networking events and founded “Austin Unchained” shop local day
What sets us apart from other news sources? Hyperlocal reporting that is tailored to your zip code. Our Southwest Austin team is a part of a National Newspaper Association award–winning news group, which was founded in Central Texas. We are dedicated to providing informative, nonbiased news coverage that focuses on Austin’s issues and how they relate to you. We showcase locally owned businesses through profiles and restaurant reviews, and in addition, we localize hot topics including health care, education, transportation, development and government. We live, work and raise our families in Austin and have first-hand knowledge of the issues in your neighborhood. Our newspaper comes out once a month, but you can find up-to-date information daily at impactnews.com.

“Every time the Community Impact Newspaper comes the hubbs & I fight about who gets to read it first.”

—Jennifer, Twitter follower
Featured homes

4701 Mirador Drive
4 Br/4 Ba | 5,348 sq. ft.
Agent: Cathy Leon-Parker
Moreland Properties
$2,128,500
699-0848

4500 Mirador Drive
5 Br/5 Ba | 8,954 sq. ft.
Agent: Bill Berry
Bill Berry Realty
$3,295,000
699-5199

4800 Mirador Drive
7 Br/7 Ba | 7,298 sq. ft.
Agent: Lisa Foster
Avalon Realty Company
$3,475,000
476-3479

4917 Mirador Drive
5 Br/6 Ba | 5,825 sq. ft.
Agent: Lisa Foster
Avalon Realty Company
$2,325,000
751-7321

Mirador Drive at Barton Creek offers resort-style living and spacious lots with panoramic views of the Texas Hill Country.

Schools
- Oak Hill Elementary School
- O. Henry Middle School
- Austin High School

Market Data

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Monthly home sales

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<td>36/229,750</td>
<td>19/329,000</td>
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<td>Feb. 2009</td>
<td>30/159,900</td>
<td>23/197,000</td>
<td>20/301,740</td>
<td>24/187,250</td>
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</table>

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FREE WHIRLPOOL® WASHER & DRYER* with purchase of inventory homes by April 30, 2010

†Offer valid only on new contracts for homes executed between 03/15/2010 and 04/30/2010. *Only one washer and dryer per home purchase. Whirlpool® washer model WTW5700XVS. Whirlpool® dryer model WED5700V. Models or model numbers are subject to change. Prices, availability, plans, communities and specifications are subject to change without notice. Terms, conditions and restrictions which include loan originating with Pulte Mortgage LLC. Options available will vary by community and model. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to represent specific homes or homes as built or completed. There may be optional upgrades or changes. See your sales representative for details. Not valid with 02/2010 Central Texas offer.

## Residential Real Estate

### Property Listings

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<td>2100 Wimberley Lane</td>
<td>4br/3ba</td>
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<td>2632 Ravello Ridge Drive</td>
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<td>Estates Above Lost Creek</td>
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<td>Goldwater Real Estate</td>
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<td>6610 Hill Oak Drive</td>
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<td>3081 Stannestow Drive</td>
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<td>Atlas Realty</td>
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### Southwestern Real Estate

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<td>J.B. Goodwin, REALTORS</td>
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### ZIP code guide

- 78735 Oak Hill / Southwest Parkway area
- 78736 Oak Hill
- 78737 Oak Hill
- 78739 Circle C area
- 78746 South of Ben White, Sunset Valley
- 78748 Shady Hollow / Manchaca area
- 78749 MoPac / William Cannon

For additional residential real estate listings, visit [more.impactnews.com/7622](http://more.impactnews.com/7622).

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- Honor system reporting
- Personalized meal replacement plan
- Supervised by Dr. Hillary Miller