**Firms offer green designs for Oak Hill, SH 45 SW**

Agencies’ contest promotes eco-friendly building practices

By Joe Oliveri

Roadway improvements to the Hwy. 290 corridor and SH 45 SW have languished for decades due to environmental issues, funding and a lack of consensus, among other delays.

Earlier this year, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority invited engineering and architecture firms to try their hands at designing the environmentally sensitive projects.

CTRMA and the Texas Department of Transportation hosted the Green Mobility Challenge as a way to promote sustainability—designs that use fewer resources and exist more in-tune with nature.

Six finalists competed for two $15,000 prizes and the chance for their designs to be considered when the roadways are eventually built.

Team 1120—comprised of LJA Engineering, Coleman and Associates, Blanton and Associates and Construction Eco Services—won first place for its “Oak Hillway” design. The team imagined a united Oak Hill with a new highway, neighborhoods connected by underpass “gateways” and a relocated Williamson Creek.

Team 1175’s “Manchaca Greenway” won top honors for its elevated roundabout and integrated parklands.

CTRMA Communications Director Steve Pustelnik said the mobility authority was inspired by AECOM’s “Manchaca Greenway” design, right, features recycled road materials, low-power message signs and wireless toll collection.

The design also has no traffic signals, a shorter bridge length and improved drainage to protect water quality.

Images courtesy CTRMA

**AISD considers creating in-district charter program**

Critics fear schools will siphon off top students

By Kevin Stich

By the time readers pick up the December issue of Community Impact Newspaper, the Austin Independent School District board of trustees may have voted to create at least one in-district charter school program.

AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen will likely recommend the inception of IDEA Public Schools and Responsive Education Solutions charter programs within AISD at the Dec. 12 board meeting.

It would be the climax of months of speculation and debate in which Carstarphen has shown a fondness toward partnering with IDEA and RES.

IDEA, which originated in the Rio Grande Valley, has already submitted an application to AISD and has been negotiating with the district over the details of the installation since March.

The nonprofit college preparatory school is designed to “emphasize core curriculum, results-driven culture, core values and a no-excuses culture,” according to AISD. It is aimed at Hispanic and economically vulnerable students.

**City forms 30-year plan for zero waste**

Goal: Austin to recycle 95 percent of trash by 2040

By Bobby Longoria

The City of Austin will soon implement a complex overhaul of its waste plan that includes a large recycling initiative, a new composting method and waste reduction efforts that will reduce costs for those who produce less waste.

Under Austin Resource Recovery’s master plan, the city hopes that by 2040, it will have 95 percent of all its waste diverted away from landfills and back into everyday use. Austin Resource Recovery was formerly named the Solid Waste Services Department.

“It’s a different way of looking at our waste streams—it’s material that should have a second life and not be thrown away, because there is added value in it,” said Bob Gedert, director of Austin Resource Recovery. “No matter how you dispose of waste, there is an environmental damage that is done. Encouraging reuse, waste reduction, recycling and composting reduces the amount we have to landfill.”

**Meeting zero-waste goals**

Austin Resource Recovery’s master plan set waste diversion benchmarks every five years from 2010 to 2040, starting with 35 percent diversion in 2010, 50 percent diversion in 2015 and ultimately 95 percent diversion in 2040. The goals were presented to the Austin City Council on Nov. 10. As of press time, council was scheduled to adopt the plan Dec. 15.

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences plans physical therapy school near MoPac and La Crosse Avenue
St. David’s HealthCare has long been recognized as one of the top healthcare organizations in the nation for providing exceptional patient care and service to families throughout Central Texas. Now that care comes even closer to home.

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**General Manager’s Note**

As Christmas approaches, I find myself reminiscing about my childhood. Not only is my mind flooded with thoughts of that favorite gift or present I received, but I also think about what went through my head as a child versus what I think about today. Part of me wishes I could go back to that carefree approach and to question everything with a simple “Why?”

Our cover story this month, on the possibility of AISD getting into the charter school arena, really caused me to ponder childhood. As children, we did not care about race, socio-economic status or how much our friends’ parents made. Unfortunately, as we get older, we see that some have an easier path in life ahead of them than others because of those traits.

I have always felt that education was the great equalizer. It is the best way to level the playing field. In my opinion, it is the best way to ensure that two children from two completely different backgrounds are allowed the same opportunities this country has to offer.

The problem ensues when the underprivileged do not have the same access to quality education as others. Sometimes access is not the problem; Children are unaware that quality education is even a possibility.

My hope for the new year is that we, as parents, will do a better job of not only educating our own kids, but also reaching out to those who lack a family leader and aiding them so that they get their fair shot in life as well.

From all of us at Community Impact Newspaper, merry Christmas!

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**Reader Feedback**

**Austin ISD OKs collaborative compact, moves toward in-district charter**

more.impactnews.com/15896

“I do realize that many middle school and high school students choose to attend other district schools outside of the vertical team or local charter schools. It is a very real concern for elementary teachers that populations might change and that teachers might not be provided the support or resources to keep test scores up.

Many elementary teachers in the Eastside Memorial Vertical Team do not understand why this in-district charter school plan must include an elementary component.

I do not believe a school that does not have bilingual education at the elementary level is appropriate to the East Austin community. I am asking that plans include measures to ensure quality education for students who would not be served by this in-district charter.”

—Caroline Sweet

**Mailing schedule**

Our mailing schedule varies slightly through the month of March. You can expect your copy of Community Impact Newspaper on the following dates: Tuesday, Jan. 31; Wednesday, Feb. 29; and Friday, March 30.

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- Superior Quality (all parts serviceable and easily maintained so bike can be handed down not thrown out)
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**Helping Austin’s Cycling Community Grow**

**Volunteer Guide**

- Texas Hearing and Service Dogs
- Cabo Bob’s Burritos
- 20 Dining
- Third Coast Coffee Roasting Co.
- 19 Business

**October employment trends**

- Central Texas unemployment—7.1%
  - Down from 7.4% in September
- State unemployment—8.4%.
  - **Down from 8.5% in September**
- National unemployment—9.0%.
  - **Down from 9.1% in September**

In the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos area, the government sector added 2,700 jobs; the trade, transportation and utilities sector added 900 jobs; and the leisure and hospitality sector lost 1,100 jobs.

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Workforce Commission

*Seasonally adjusted numbers  **Preliminary data
6. **Prosperity Bank** opened its newest banking center in Oak Hill at 7015 W. Hwy. 290 on Dec. 12. 891-1800 www.prosperitybanktx.com

7. **St. David’s HealthCare** opened the **St. David’s Senior Care Clinic** at 4316 James Casey St., Bldg. B, Ste. 101, on Nov. 14. The clinic provides primary medical care for senior patients and accepts Medicare coverage. 912-9005, www.stdavidseniорcare.com

8. **Wanderland** opened at 4301 W. William Cannon Drive on Nov. 25. The store sells eco-friendly gifts, home goods and books. It is the shop’s second location in Austin. 899-2955, www.wanderlandsops.com Twitter: @lostincitylimit

**Coming Soon**

9. **Austin Sports Academy** is scheduled to open Dec. 17 at 1606 W. Stassney Lane, Ste. 7. The academy operates a youth sports training program and hosts camps and after-school sessions. 383-9600, www.austinsportsacademy.com

10. **Calvin’s Electric** plans to open a location at 11190 Circle Drive. The electrical contractors work on residential and commercial hard wiring. The firm leased 6,300 square feet in Business Park 290. www.calvinselectric.com

11. **LongHorn Steakhouse** is planning a restaurant at the former Red Robin Gourmet Burgers site at 4809 W. Hwy. 290. City of Sunset Valley staff anticipate that the new location of the Orlando, Fla.-based restaurant will open next summer. www.longhornsteakhouse.com

**Relocations**

12. **Bearded Brothers** moved its headquarters from 6800 West Gate Blvd. to 3008 Gonzales St. on Nov. 29 in East Austin. The organic snack food company, formerly Adventure Naturals, offers raw foods, vegan and gluten-free products.
Name Change

18 Billy Cannon’s Smoke Shop has changed its name to Billy Cannon’s Smoke and Ink. The tattoo shop and local blown-glass vendor plans to move from the Community Renaissance Market to a storefront in the same 6800 West Gate Blvd. shopping center. 501-6909, www.billycannons.com Twitter: @BillyCannons

Closings

19 Native Nom Nom closed its 6800 West Gate Blvd. location in October. The natural food café’s owners plan to open up a food trailer in South Austin before eventually relocating to East Seventh Street in East Austin. 814-8791, www.nativennonnom.com Twitter: @NativeNomNom

20 Sprouts Farmers Market plans to close its 5601 Brodie Lane location by Dec. 18. The grocer reportedly had too many locations near each other after merging with Sun Harvest. The 4006 S. Lamar Blvd. location will remain open. www.sprouts.com

21 Young Chefs Academy closed its 617 Slaughter Lane, Ste. 105 location. The Round Rock location also closed in November. The company teaches children to cook in a supervised environment. www.youngchefacademy.com

In the News


School Notes

13 Sunset Valley Elementary School celebrated its 40th anniversary Dec. 1. The celebration featured histories and appearances from former principals and alumni of the 3000 Jones Road school. 414-2392, www.austinisd.org

New Management


New Ownership

15 Cell phone vendor Todo Wireless changed ownership in October. The hours of the 5510 S. 1-35, Ste. 150, location have changed. The store is now open Monday to Saturday from 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. 441-0011, www.mydowireless.com

Anniversaries

16 Bye Bye Baby Belly Austin celebrated its fourth anniversary Dec. 10. The business, located at 7109 Oak Meadow Drive, offers non-surgical, non-invasive treatments to tighten sagging skin and erase keloid scars, among other services. 636-7372, www.byebyebabybellyaustin.com

Expansion

17 Seton Southwest Hospital plans to break ground on an expansion to the 7900 FM 1826 facility Jan. 4. It will add a nursery for the Labor and Delivery Department, 11 new beds and a covered drop-off area at the emergency room entrance. Work is estimated to cost $8.2 million. 324-9000, www.seton.net Twitter:@setonfamily

522-3116, www.beardedbros.com Twitter: @beardedbros
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Whole Foods Market’s outdoor ice skating rink

Visitors can enjoy holiday music and disco karaoke at the Whole Foods Market’s outdoor ice skating rink. The electrical power to run the rink is offset by credits purchased through wind-based energy.

**Nov. 26-Jan. 15**

By Kevin Stich

Whole Foods Market is hosting Austin’s only public, downtown outdoor ice-skating rink. The rink is on the store’s Rooftop Plaza and covers nearly 1,800 square feet.

“Our guests have really enjoyed this experience over the years, so we had to bring it back again. As the holidays approach, guests are always anxious to know when the ice rink will begin. We love delighting our guests, and it’s important for us to provide the most unique shopping experience possible at our flagship store,” said Steph Steele, store team leader for Whole Foods Market. “We invite Austin to enjoy this exciting and special holiday fun.”

According to Whole Foods, the energy it takes to run the ice rink is offset by credits purchased through wind-based energy. The event, which is in its seventh year, is fully prepared to adjust to all weather conditions.

Holiday music and themed skating sessions are also planned, as well as a disco karaoke that includes free hot chocolate to the first 50 guests and a chance to win a $250 gift card nightly through a random drawing.

9 a.m.–9 p.m. • Whole Foods Rooftop Plaza, Sixth Street and Lamar Boulevard • 476–1206 www.wholefoodsmarket.com/lamar

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**CALENDAR**

**December**

**Dec. 8–Jan. 8 ‘The Santaland Diaries’**

Adapted for stage by Joe Mantello, directed by Dave Stempley, starring Martin Burke and Meredith McCall, “The Santaland Diaries” is David Sedaris’ comedic real-life story of his experiences at Macy’s department store as Crumpet the elf. This satirical story of “elfin’ woe” is becoming an Austin holiday tradition. Check website for times, • $18–$40 • ZACH Theatre, 1510 Toomey Road • 476-0541 www.zachtheatre.org

**9–23 Ballet Austin’s 49th annual ‘The Nutcracker’**

Ballet Austin’s 49th annual production of “The Nutcracker” is the longest-running holiday production in Texas. Choreographed by Stephen Mills and featuring music by Peter Tchaikovsky with accompaniment by The Austin Symphony Orchestra, “The Nutcracker” is a staple of Christmas traditions. • 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. • $12–$71 • Long Center for Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside Drive • Call 476-2163 for tickets www.balletaustin.org

**16–18 The Austin City Ballet 11th Annual Austin Children’s Nutcracker**

The 11th annual Austin Children’s Nutcracker is an original adaptation of a Christmas classic. The Austin City Ballet is comprised of primarily dancers ages 8–18 from all over the Austin area, and welcomes back guest artist Todd Fox, from Miami, Fla., as the Nutcracker Prince. The presentation is family-friendly, as young children are welcome. • 7:30 p.m. • $22 for adults, $13 for children, free for young children • The Dougherty Arts Center Theatre, 1110 Barton Springs Road • 496-5937 www.austin-conservatory-arts.com

**16–18 Texas Oaks Baptist Church third annual Trail of Life**

Texas Oaks Baptist Church invites Austin to a celebration to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through three dramatic scenes from the life of Jesus Christ, including a live nativity. Guests experience a 15-minute guided tour on the church grounds. • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. • Free • Texas Oaks Baptist Church, 9910 Bilbrook Place • 280-9300 • www.tobc.org

**January**

**Jan. 7–March 11 ‘Living Witness: The Historic Trees of Texas’**

For the last four years, Ralph Yznaga, an avid photographer and Texas history enthusiast, has traveled the state documenting historic trees of Texas with his vintage cameras. The exhibit features several dozen tree images from his travels. The stories and driving directions to each tree can be found in his upcoming book, “Living Witness: The Historic Trees of Texas,” which will be published by Texas A&M Press in early 2012. Yznaga hopes to educate people about the state and local history that happened near these beautiful trees. Open during regular operating hours Free McDermott Learning Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. • 232-0100 • www.wildflower.org

**7 A film on the Parks Johnson ‘Vox Pox’**

The Manchaca Onion Creek Historical Association hosts Richard Kidd of the Hays County Historical Commission. Kidd has produced a film about the Parks Johnson family from Wimberly, who developed the first street interview program on KTRH (Houston) in 1932. It was called the “Vox Pox” for voice of the people. NBC radio ran the show from 1935–1948. • Free • San Leanna Community Center, 11906 Sleepy Hollow Road • 282-1984 www.mochaonline.org

**Jan. 25–Feb. 12 ‘Wicked’**

Winner of 35 major awards including a Grammy award and three Tony Awards, “Wicked” is the untold story of the witches of Oz and how two friends become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good. Check website for times • $38.50–$138.50 Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman Drive • 492-3034 • www.tobc.org

**Holiday Camps at the YMCA**

Winter holiday camp is offered at select locations. Participants will play games, craft projects, learn about different winter holidays and, most importantly, have fun! • $90 • Ages 4–5, 6–7, 8–9, 10–12 • Free McDermott Learning Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. • 232-0100 • www.wildflower.org

**Online Calendar**

Find more or submit Southwest Austin events at www.impactnews.com/swa/calendar.

For a full list of Central Texas events visit www.impactnews.com/austin-metro/calendar. To have Southwest Austin events included in the print edition, they must be submitted online by the second Friday of the month.

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347-TOYS (8697) • Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-8pm Sun.: 12pm-6pm.

**Sundays: Free Meditation at AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine**

Master Li Junfeng leads Zhongtian Yiqi meditation in the AOMA dojo. Zhongtian Yiqi is a non-moving qi gong practice that trains the mind. • 6 p.m. • 4701 West Gate Blvd., Mind-Body Center (diigo), Classroom E1 492-3034 • www.aoma.edu

**For a full list of Central Texas events visit www.impactnews.com/austin-metro/calendar.**

**Getting to the Event:**

The U.T.อก.高尔夫球场

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Southwest Austin transportation projects are approved for funding

TxDOT allocates $13.7 million to area road improvements

By Sara Behunek

The Texas Department of Transportation has selected about $100 million of transportation projects to fund in the Central Texas region, and Southwest Austin stands to benefit from several of them.

“It’s just a growing area, there’s a lot of traffic out that way,” TxDOT spokesman Chris Bishop said.

Already underway is the addition of a center turn lane and paved shoulders on Hwy. 290 from Circle Drive to Oliver Drive, a roughly $2.5 million project.

In summer 2013, TxDOT plans to widen Hwy. 71 to a five-lane road between Thomas Springs Road and Covered Bridge Road with the center lane to be used for turning, a $9.9 million project.

The department will also do $1.3 million of roadway rehabilitation on Hwy. 290 from Manchaca Road to just east of Congress Avenue.

“It would be great if we could do [Hwy.] 290 as a freeway section, but that would be inordinately expensive,” Bishop said.

“What we are doing as money is available is putting in the center turn lane so that turning traffic has somewhere to go and there is space between oncoming lanes.”

The improvements in Southwest Austin were among many pinpointed by TxDOT Austin District and then prioritized for funding based on need by the Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT’s five-member governing body, Bishop said.

The projects will be paid for with Proposition 12 bonds, approved by voters in 2007 and Chris Riley, and the former mayor of Austin Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, City of Austin, and TxDOT’s Category 12 funds, $16 million in regional transportation projects to pay for with federal dollars. Of those, the only project to directly affect Southwest Austin is the integration of a technology-based Intelligent Transportation System throughout the city, officials said, would help improve the management of traffic on freeways. That project will cost $2.9 million.

CAMPO, composed of elected officials from five Central Texas counties, including Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop and Caldwell, was charged earlier this year with choosing $63 million worth of projects to fund under the Federal Highway Administration’s Surface Transportation Program-Metropolitan Mobility, better known as STP MM.

Of the remaining federal money, $36 million will be split between four of the five counties in the transportation body’s jurisdiction—Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop—based on population size. Travis County, with slightly more than 1 million people, making it the most-populated county in CAMPO’s district, will receive $19.7 million. Williamson County, with the second-highest population, will get $8.7 million. Those allocations will be used to pay for transportation projects chosen by delegations of CAMPO board officials who are grouped by geography.

Making up the Travis County delegation is Travis County Judge Samuel Biscoe, Travis County commissioners Sarah Eckhardt and Karen Huber, City of Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, City of Austin Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, City of Austin council members Bill Spelman and Chris Riley, and the former mayor of Sunset Valley, Jeff Mills.

The CAMPO board is scheduled to approve projects submitted for funding by the delegations on Dec. 12.

Regional projects

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, an area transportation authority, has also chosen about $16 million in regional transportation projects to pay for with federal dollars. Of those, the only project to directly affect Southwest Austin is the integration of a technology-based Intelligent Transportation System throughout the city, which, officials said, would help improve the management of traffic on freeways. That project will cost $2.9 million.

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The CAMPO board is scheduled to approve projects submitted for funding by the delegations on Dec. 12.

Top-priority local projects

As of press time, the Travis County delegation had not finalized its list of specific projects to be paid for with its $19.7 million allocation, but topping the list of potential improvements is the first phase of a bike-share program, costing $1.5 million.

Because recent feedback on bike share systems across the United States shows that the programs create new bicycle commuters, a concurrent bicycle safety program would also be put into effect to educate new riders on traffic regulations, said Teri McManus, principal transportation planner at the Austin Transportation Department, who will oversee the project.

Another $4 million would go to planning and engineering for an environmental study to support an urban rail system that would connect major urban centers throughout Austin and provide a transportation alternative to the Austin-Bergstrom Airport. The city is considering the project for a possible bond election in November 2012.

Capital Area Rural Transportation System, or CARTS, may also receive $720,000 to procure four buses to provide additional intercity services in Travis County.

Lone Star Rail

The Lone Star Rail District, a partnership between TxDOT, CAMPO and other regional planning and transit authorities, scored $8 million of the $63 million in federal funds to examine where to locate a new freight line if the 130-year-old Union Pacific freight line that runs through Hays, Travis and Williamson counties is converted into a high-speed commuter train connecting Austin and San Antonio.

Still in the preplanning phase, the train could eventually shuttle 10,000–30,000 people per day and significantly reduce traffic on I-35, said Ross Milloy, interim director for the district.

“Anyone who drives I-35 sandwiched between two 18-wheelers knows how important this project is,” Eckhardt said.

Remaining dollars

The final $3 million in federal funds will go to expanding CAMPO’s staff by four positions and to Bastrop County to help repair highway damage caused by wildfires that burned about 25,000 acres in Bastrop County in September.
City seeks volunteers for urban reforestation goal

On Dec. 3, the City of Austin began replenishing the urban forest with tree seedling plantings through a program called Ready, Set, Plant.

The city says the reforestation is necessary due to the recent drought and large wildfires that have withered existing plants and destroyed entire landscapes. The Urban Forestry Program is committed to replenishing the urban forest to sustain environmental benefits provided by trees such as natural water filtration, oxygen emission, pollutant removal and erosion prevention.

Nine areas have been chosen to be replenished because of their recent inclusion in invasive species removal projects. Volunteers who wish to plant seedlings can sign up on the Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Program website.

Austin Parks and Recreation Department launches campaign

Celebrate the benefits of Parks and Recreation in Austin with It All Starts in Austin Parks!, a Parks promotional campaign that includes a 23 concert series, “Music in the Parks.”

The campaign kicked off at the Zilker Hillside Theatre, 2100 Barton Spring Road, on Dec. 7. The next event is Dec. 22 and will move to neighborhoods in the coming year. The events are free and open to the public. Parks Benefits campaigns are a nationwide effort to educate the public regarding the health and social benefits of parks and recreation. For more information, visit www.austintexas.gov/parks/

Channel 6 earns Overall Excellence, EMMY award for programming

Channel 6, the City of Austin’s television station, earned 26 awards for general excellence and individual programming in state and national competitions.

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, NATOA, presented Channel 6 Overall Excellence in Programming Award. Its state chapter recognized Channel 6 with a similar award.

Channel 6 staff members Jonathan Uhl and James Williams earned a Lone Star EMMY for Outstanding Achievement in Television Photography. Channel 6 manager Keith Reeves received NATOA’s Brian Wilson Memorial Award for Programming Excellence, an annual award, given to someone who has made contribution to government television programming in his or her community.

Channel 6 won nine first place awards and 15 nominations at the Texas Association of Telecommunications conference.

Conservation doesn’t end when summer does...

Austin Water calculates wastewater costs based on the amount of water used during three winter billing periods between mid-November and mid-March. You can lower your wastewater costs for the next year by conserving water use during these billing periods.

For more information, visit: www.ci.austin.tx.us/water

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• Robert E. Blais, M.D.
• David C. Savage, M.D.
• Greg Westmoreland, M.D.

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Mobility
Continued from 11

excited about the ideas it received.
“Some, especially in Oak Hill, may not be
reasonable or feasible, but there were some
great ideas for roadway alignment, green
space and parkway alignment. It’s really
interesting,” he said.

The contest
CTRMA and TxDOT set out to raise
awareness about how roadway designs
can be more ecologically friendly, offer
an opportunity for various professions to
work together on mobility projects and
encourage new problem solving.
Registration began during the summer,
eight teams submitted designs before the
Oct. 13 deadline, said Mario Espinoza,
CTRMA deputy executive director. Judges
cut the list to six finalists in October.

The two agencies suggested that contest-
tants focus on mobility, multimodal options,
air and water quality and innovative hydro-
logical designs, among other criteria.

Oak Hill
In the early 1990s, TxDOT planned to
extend Hwy. 290 through Oak Hill. The
project stopped because of public opposi-
tion, concerns about damage to the
Edwards Aquifer and Williamson Creek,
and eventually, a loss of funding.

Since then, several designs—tolled or
not, six or eight lanes, raised or ground
level—have been suggested.
CTRMA defined The Oak Hill Express-
way as a controlled-access six- to eight-
lane tolled highway with two- to three-lane
frontage roads without tolls—the same
definition the Capital Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization expects to be built
in the future.

In its presentation, Team 1120 represen-
tatives Ricardo Zamarrira and LJA Engi-
neering owner Aan Coleman said Hwy.
290 divided Oak Hill’s neighborhoods in
the 1990s.

“The Hillway approach to reconnect the
community and recreate a vibrant sense of
place will re-establish community support
and economic sustainability,” Zamarrira said.

He expounded that their designs would
raise Hwy. 290 and remake underpasses
as “gateways,” multimodal links with aes-
thetic, environmental and historic features.
The gateways would have native plantings,
limestone bricks and solar lighting.
Each gateway would have a historic
name relevant to nearby neighborhoods,
Coleman said.

Team 1120’s plan also called for an Oak
Hill Parkway, separate from Hwy. 290, that
would connect shopping and mobility away
from The Y at Oak Hill.

It also suggests a new multi-use town cen-
ter and new open space. The plan would relo-
cate Williamson Creek to allow for greater
roadway flexibility, fewer bridges and better
abilities to withstand 100-year storms.

The team estimated that their road design
would save $5.8 million over 10 years.
Citing the company’s strong community
commitment, Zamarrira said the team plans to
donate its prize money to the Oak Hill Wildfire Relief.

“We live, work and play in Oak Hill,” he
said. “The community is ready for this
project to be successful. We are ready to
help with that project and unify Oak Hill
with the help of TxDOT.”

SH 45 SW
Progress on SH 45 SW has moved slowly
for at least two decades, according to Travis
County Judge Samuel Biscoe.

During an interview for Community
Impact Newspaper’s Coffee with Impact
speaker series [see page 15], Biscoe said
that he thought the project was a done
deal in 1988 when he joined the Travis
County Commissioners Court.
CTRMA defines SH 45 SW as a four
lane, 3.6-mile tolled highway from MoPac
to FM 1626 in southern Travis County. It
is expected to have a U-turn interchange at
Bliss Spiller Road.

Voters had approved bonds to purchase
right-of-way, and TxDOT has worked on
some engineering work has been done. He
said the project’s future is uncertain.

“Some, especially in Oak Hill, may not be
reasonably or feasible, but there were some
great ideas for roadway alignment, green
space and parkway alignment. It’s really
interesting,” he said.

In Oak Hill, The City of Austin, Travis
County, CTRMA and TxDOT are funding
interim roadway improvements including
continuous flow intersections, which sepa-
rate turning traffic from through traffic.

City and county staff estimate that the
interim fixes will be completed by winter
2013 and improve traffic for about five to
seven years. The contest ideas would be
considered for the long-term solution.
Whether SH 45 SW will be built in the
near future is unclear.

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning
Organization expects that it will be built;
It placed the project on its 2035 Regional
Transportation Plan.

Biscoe said right-of-way acquisition
and some engineering work has been done.
He said environmentalists still oppose the
road.

In September, the Hays County Commis-
sioners Court proposed a plan to take the
road out of the state highway system and
build it locally with Travis County’s help.
However, the Travis County Commission-
ers Court has not taken up the issue publicly.

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**Charter**

Continued from 11

Community members have strongly opposed in-district charters, most notably IDEA. Many critics, including parents from the Eastside Memorial High School and feeder schools, felt the board hadn’t scrutinized IDEA closely enough.

“They are interested in one sole goal and that is to graduate more kids to be college-ready and college-bound,” Carstarphen said, describing what stood out about IDEA. “I think they deliver on that every year at levels higher than our own school district. So, it’s something that I aspire for us to be, something that I hope will be a large part of our culture.”

The district’s initial estimates states starting an IDEA-style program would cost $1.68 million to $4.12 million per year plus a one-time $430,040 facility expense, assuming the district uses a pre-existing facility. However, the district also estimates that it could save $810,000 to $4.31 million based on a prototype model for the first year.

The district is losing more than $26 million in Average Daily Attendance funds a year from the 4,350 eligible AISD students who can attend external charter schools. This adversely affects Eastside Memorial High School due to the trend of east Austin independent charter schools creating Carstarphen called an “enrollment drain.”

In addition to IDEA, AISD is considering Responsive Education Solutions charter programs at both Travis and Lanier High Schools to help curb dropout rates. RES would be supported by district funding, would cater to 125 students per school and would have individual learning plans centered around personalized and computer-based instruction. It is based on a system that would mirror Premire High School.

RES runs Premire, an out-of-district charter institution that could see their first venture into in-district charter schools be realized as soon as the 2012–13 school year. The most current draft of the contract says that AISD will pay RES a discounted allotment of $5,780 per student ADA.

**Opposition**

Community members have strongly opposed in-district charters, most notably IDEA. Many critics, including parents from the Eastside Memorial High School and feeder schools, felt the board hadn’t scrutinized IDEA closely enough.

Should the board establish an in-district charter, the plan is to enroll Allan Elementary School students into the charter program with the option to opt out.

If there are additional spots available, students may be placed there by lottery.

On Nov. 21, AISD 2011 Teacher of the Year Caroline Sweet told the board that some parents are concerned that IDEA schools will siphon off the successful children and leave IDEA teachers to pick up the slack with the remaining students—an effect demonstrated by magnet schools.

“Although 100 students per grade level may enter, teachers and parents would like to know the district’s plan for serving the students who do not attend this school,” she said a week later.

Carstarphen said that IDEA is analyzing the risks and would include language in a contract to prevent such a drain.

Former IDEA teacher Hilda Borrego said that caliber of teaching has fallen recently. “There is no rigor or complexity in any of the lessons. Students have to all answer in a snap of a finger. You repeat the lesson until firm,” she said via a Facebook wall posting. “One student asked me, ‘Ms. Borrego, when are we going to be allowed to think and ask questions?’ It tore me up, and I simply did not want to be a part of this anymore.”

A study by Pennsylvania State University researcher Dr. Ed Fuller argued that IDEA’s performance statistics may be misleading.

Fuller’s study said that IDEA’s statistic that 100 percent of its students go on to higher education does not factor in students who leave before graduation. If IDEA counted all students who started in the program as ninth graders in 2009, the percentage would be around 65 percent, it claimed.

In response, IDEA CEO Tom Torkelson said some students will opt out of a challenging preparatory program.

“They opt out because you can’t convince them to give it one more semester or one more year, and that we really will help them be able to close that gap and get caught up and make them feel like they really do have a shot at success,” he said.

District 2 Trustee Sam Guzman alleged that the study was not done objectively.

“They started out with a hypothesis: ‘We’re going to find fault with this particular charter school,’” he said.

IDEA School Board

RESPONSIVEED-DISTRICT POLICY COUNCIL

AISD School Board

On Nov. 21, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees took the first step toward establishing an in-district charter school by adopting the Gates District Charter Collaborative Compact in 6–3 vote.

Trustees Annette LoVoi, Robert Schneider and Tamala Barksdale opposed. Barksdale requested the item be taken off the agenda until the board could clear up the compact’s language. Both Schneider and LoVoi seemed foggy on the document’s wording and logistics.

During that same meeting, board member Cheryl Bradley expressed discontent with the delays, specifically in developing a process to recruit high-quality teachers.

“For some reason, we are perfectly OK with mediocrity, and I’m not understanding that,” she said. “We could talk all day long about how we want high-quality teachers—it’s lip service.”

IDEA credits its teacher development for its 93 percent retention rate.

If the charter school moves forward, AISD would establish K–2 and sixth-grade classes at Allan Elementary School for 2012–13 and provide the option to opt out. The program would grow to K–12 by 2018–19, serving 125 children between K-5 and 225 from grades five through 12. Student entitlement would be $7,711.83 as part of the projected cost.

Torkelson said the nonprofit’s mission is to get every public school student ready to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university.

“Put with partner with Austin ISD, it just allows us to grow and expand in the community to help more students achieve the American dream,” he said.

For more information visit impactnews.com

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**Charter schools versus Eastside Memorial High School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IDEA Charter School</th>
<th>RES Charter School</th>
<th>Eastside Memorial High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Per Student enrolled to AISD</strong></td>
<td>$7,711.83 (Projected)</td>
<td>$5,780 (Projected)</td>
<td>$8,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per Grade Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>125 (MIN primary 225 (MAX secondary) (Projected)</td>
<td>125 per school (Travis HS and Lanier HS) (Projected)</td>
<td>425 Total Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dropout Rate</strong></td>
<td>35% of 9th graders</td>
<td>–1% annually</td>
<td>–9.7% (Based on EMHS Vertical Team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standardized Testing</strong></td>
<td>STAAR, EOC Test</td>
<td>EOC Test</td>
<td>EOC Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAKS Met Standards/ Commended(%)</strong></td>
<td>Reading – 94/34 (All Students)</td>
<td>89 met standards (Overall Score based on Austin-South)</td>
<td>Reading– 80/11 (Average of EMHS Global and Tech)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>IDEA School Board</td>
<td>Responsive-District Policy Council</td>
<td>AISD School Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For comparative purposes, only Reading is listed*
Meria Carstarphen  
Austin Independent School District superintendent

By Kevin Stich

Meria Carstarphen waited to board a plane to Austin at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, a sleuthing St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter at her side, questioning her until the end about her candidacy for Superintendent of Austin Independent School District.

She had recently been named the final candidate for the position and would soon begin making the rounds, meeting with parents and staff.

Carstarphen was reportedly circumventing revealing too much, but three weeks later she was hired, succeeding Pat Forgione following his retirement.

It’s been more than two years since the airport scene, and Carstarphen has been absorbed in her work ever since.

In the first week of her tenure, Texas Commissioner of Education Robert Scott announced the closure of Pearce Middle School—a rough start.

Nowadays, she is unremittingly being shuffled in and out of meetings and fielding torrents of phone calls and emails, trying to get a handle on the task at hand: steering AISD out of the storm.

Her title comes standard with endlessly grim issues and a never-ending line of dissatisfied customers figuratively—sometimes literally—knocking at her door screaming at her to fix the problems.

She is a fixture on the community meeting circuit, sharing the district’s story with residents and taxpayers.

There are the oft-overlooked positives: Students’ SAT scores are coming in above state and national levels, and TAKS performance improved with at least 80 percent of all AISD students meeting or exceeding state standards in every subject. Students also achieved the highest, “commended” levels for reading and math in the state, according to AISD. And on Nov. 30 in her “State of the District” address, Carstarphen announced that there would be no layoffs in the next school year, no financial exigency and the strong possibility of a 3 percent staff salary increase.

Still, with the looming budget shortfall and overcrowding issues, there is a palpable frustration among some parents and teachers.

Carstarphen will be the first to admit the situation is messy but that the establishment is not permanently broken, suggesting that fixing it is a matter of attitudes being altered and re-focused.

“For all its shortcomings, there is something much more beautiful and inspiring in the design,” she said. “Our community is entrusting their most precious asset to me. It’s important that every adult that’s working with someone else’s child treats that child and works with that child as they would their own very. We have a huge responsibility, and it’s something I don’t take lightly.”

At the AISD central offices, staff members can be heard referring to her not as Meria or Dr. Carstarphen but as “The Superintendent.” It’s much the way one would imagine life at the White House would be: the staff invariably addressing the person in charge as “The President”—the title has come to define her.

Carstarphen grew up in Selma, Ala., a child surrounded by the residual struggles of the civil rights and voting rights movements. She attended public schools—an experience that has perhaps deep-rooted itself in her consciousness—school steeped in racial prejudice, where minorities were given less opportunity.

“I was taught that all people should be treated well and that education is the cornerstone of our democracy—that without it, our country would never be strong,” she said. “It was reinforced to me over and over again how education could break the cycle of poverty, could break the cycle of ignorance, could break the cycle of abuse.”

A slight southern timbre, the leader of AISD has a noticeable speaker’s rhetoric of repetition going for her, a quality one might find in influential speeches.

Before Austin she served as Superintendent of St. Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, Minn., and prior to that, she attended Harvard Graduate School of Education. She also sports degrees from Tulane University, Auburn University and studied at the University of Seville, Spain, and the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

She taught four years in the same system in addition to them becoming political, she cannot simply be Meria or Dr. Carstarphen; She has to be more than that.

“Have you ever read a position description for a superintendent?” she asked.

“There are multiple pages with tons of things, so it’s like only superhumans need apply and be prepared to do your job in dog years.”

Comment at impactnews.com

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Waste

Continued from | 1

To achieve the benchmarked zero-waste goals, several new initiatives will be introduced, including more recycling and reuse centers and new composting carts that will become available in 2015 for residents. Composting carts will be used for organic materials including food scraps and other materials that may rot or produce methane gas.

Both efforts will require an increase in fees to cover the cost of maintaining and building new centers and introducing a new fleet of compost collectors. However, the fee will rest heavy on those who produce waste. Those who waste less and recycle more will actually save money, Gedert said.

About 60 percent of Austin Resource Recovery customers use a 64-gallon trash cart. Thirty percent use a 96-gallon cart. The remaining 10 percent use a 32-gallon cart or a 21-gallon trash cart, which was introduced in October, Gedert said.

Each cart will cost a different fee, which Gedert said will encourage waste reduction. By 2016, the department hopes to conduct recycling pickups on a weekly basis and reduce trash pickup to a biweekly basis. Pickups are currently weekly for trash and biweekly for recycling.

Forming a zero-waste plan

Austin hired waste consultant Gary Liss in 2007 to form its 2008 zero-waste strategic plan. The city rehired him to help develop the Austin Resource Recovery’s master plan, which serves as an implementation strategy to accomplish Austin’s zero-waste goal.

According to Liss, Austin was the first city in the country to have a major curbside recycling program in the late 1980s. Austin stayed ahead of the curve by implementing an ordinance that required businesses to recycle, but by 2005, those methods had become mainstream.

Austin overlooked several important concepts, however, including food-scare processing and the management of construction and demolition debris, Liss said. The recycling ordinance only applied to businesses with more than 100 employees, limiting its scope. Green building standards were applied throughout Austin except in the Central Business District, another necessary fix.

By adjusting local, regional and state landfill fees and surcharges, Liss said the zero-waste plan helped the private sector reduce waste and find ways to make existing products more recyclable.

Creating a master plan

In 2010, Liss said he saw an immense investment by the private sector to remove food scraps from landfills and increasing composting efforts.

Zero-waste efforts are not only environmentally beneficial, but also have high economic rewards for local businesses, which in most cases have to pay private companies to haul their trash to the nearest landfill in Creedmoor.

"It’s a great step forward for Austin, and the challenge will be in implementing each of the tasks outlined in the plan," Liss said. "But the city has demonstrated its commitment and interest.

Public education

Convincing residents to reduce their waste will require some education, said Robin Schneider, director of Texas Campaign for the Environment.

"You need to make it as convenient and painless for folks and make the case as to why it is important," Schneider said. "Most people want to do their part."

Gedert estimates that 50 percent of household waste is recyclable, 40 percent is compostable and 10 percent is hazardous or non-recyclable. Taking on this initiative will help promote a greener attitude among residents, he said.

“Going above and beyond shows leadership,” Gedert said. “Being green and promoting a reusable, recyclable society is a high value within our residents. We are reflecting the voice of the community as we develop this zero-waste plan.”

Austin Resource Recovery will conduct a waste characterization study in the next year that will focus on material that is generated at the household level in order to refine the estimation.
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COFFEE WITH IMPACT

Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County judge and CAMPO board member

By Macy Hurwitz

Editor’s note: Coffee with Impact is a monthly forum at our headquarters featuring leaders in various sectors who are making a difference in Central Texas and beyond.

Samuel T. Biscoe was born and raised in Tyler, Texas, and he arrived in Austin when he attended The University of Texas School of Law. He was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1973. Biscoe interned with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and worked in private law firms until 1983 when he was chosen to serve as general counsel to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Biscoe has held the position of Travis County judge since 1998. He previously served as general counsel and offered special assistance to the Texas Department of Agriculture from 1983–88. He also served as Travis County Commissioner for Precinct 1 for nine years before running for judge. Biscoe’s November 2010 re-election made his term as judge the second-longest in Travis County history.

How have you seen the role of county government change?

I think the issues have gotten to be a lot more serious, more political. Unincorporated areas have gotten larger ... and so with that increased growth comes additional responsibilities.

If you look at the campaign literature I used in my campaign, it’s the same topics I used when I first ran for county judge. I ran for Precinct 1 commissioner three times and county judge four times, so I don’t know that the issues change much.

We know why you decided not to run for re-election. Because you’re ready to retire. Are you planning to endorse anyone?

I plan not to, to be honest. I feel it is time to move on. You know, when you are newly elected, you go in with fresh ideas, things you want to try. But the good thing about county government is that it has changed enough that we are doing different stuff.

In your mind, what do you look at when reviewing what [CAMPO] projects should receive funding?

In my mind, the county ought to take care of county roads, the city ought to take care of city roads, and we ought to use federal dollars that come through CAMPO to take care of major arterials that impact more than one county.

Historically, Williamson County has done a much better job building roads than Travis County has. Our environmentalists, I think, have kept us from building roads at the pace that we should have and so we are way behind today. In your mind, how should you address those concerns?

You gotta be bold enough to do what you think is right, but there’s five of you. You have to have two others to support you.

It’s kind of like SH 45 SW today. That project has been on the books more than 22 years, because it was on the books when I joined the Commissioners Court. At that point, I thought the battle had been fought. It had been on a referendum as a stand-alone project and voters to the tune of about 64 percent approved funding. Travis County went out and bought more than $3 million worth of right of way, and when you do that on a state project, you deed it to the state. The holdup was that the state was slow doing the environmental [studies].

The right-of-way acquisition and some of the engineering work had been done. On the Commissioners Court, you have a pretty much one-sided vote against it. I supported constructing it because I’ve done so since day one.

Travis County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe answers questions from Community Impact Newspaper Associate Publisher Claire Love.

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In face of growth, Travis County mulls office space alternatives

New courthouse, centralized operations among possibilities

By Joe Olivieri

Travis County government does not have enough facility space downtown, and future growth will only make it more crowded.

Consultants hired by Travis County found that it will need 1.79 million to 1.92 million square feet of facility space and about 3,600 parking spaces by 2035. By then, it will also need to grow its number of criminal courts from 14 to 29.

To meet future needs, the county has spent the last three years working on its Central Campus Facility Master Plan.

The county’s goals include keeping key functions downtown, enhancing access and connectivity and utilizing technology to the fullest extent.

Stephen Coulston, vice president of management firm Broaddus and Associates, said the main objective was to develop a comprehensive vision for the next 25 years to serve as a baseline for managing growth over time.

“We recognize that none of us have the most exact crystal ball, but this is a plan to serve as a baseline for making decisions based on how much progress happens or doesn’t happen in terms of development of programs,” he said.

On Nov. 22, the Travis County Commissioners Court directed Broaddus to draft a final report with a rough timeline.

The county is implementing the first phase of the plan by relocating departments to its 700 Lavaca St. building and researching how to build a new civil and family courthouse, with a possible private office tower, by 2018.

Preplanning

Travis County began the current discussion about downtown facilities in 2009.

The Commissioners Court hired Broaddus and Associates, held planning sessions and began reviewing its facilities. The consultants produced a needs assessment report in September 2011.

The consultants found that the county lacks appropriately sized meeting spaces, sufficient security and adequate storage capacity, among other issues.

“Based on staffing projections approved by the Commissioners Court in 2010, the Central Campus will require approximately 130 percent more space over the next 25 years in order to accommodate growth,” the executive summary stated.

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe said that while the needs assessment does a good job of addressing present and future needs, he is not sure that he fully supports some recommendations.

“Some are more costly and have a lot of demolishing and rebuilding,” he said. “Typically taxpayers don’t like that and see it as government waste.”

700 Lavaca St.

In April 2010, the county bought the 15-story building at 700 Lavaca St. for $61.2 million.

The Commissioners Court approved $1.78 million for work on the first two floors and approved $345,000 for furniture costs, among other expenditures.

It used $2.2 million in stimulus funds to install green energy improvements.

So far, the county has relocated several functions there, including the Planning and Budget Department, human resources and purchasing offices.

Strategic Planning Manager Belinda Powell said the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Commissioners Court and Treasurer’s Office will move in the coming months.

Courthouse

In December 2010, the county spent $21.75 million to purchase the lot at 308 Guadalupe St. near Fourth Street for a new civil and family courthouse.

When the courthouse is built, the county mined how it will pay for the courthouse.

“The courthouse project is in its earliest design stages, and no definite plans have been made. Travis County Purchasing Agent Cyd Grimes said.

The county estimates that it will need to build a 525,700-square-foot space with secure judicial parking, plus 500 additional parking spaces.

Officials are waiting for the results of a request for information to see whether it is feasible to partner with a private company to build, operate and run the courthouse.

“Wes says it makes sense to build one building and have the county operate it rather than a management company,” she said.

Grimes said the private tower was proposed as a potential revenue source.

Consultants drafted a possible plan for a 66-floor tower with 102,600 gross square feet available for public agency leasing.

Powell said the county has not determined how it will pay for the courthouse.

When the courthouse is built, the county will move its courts, county clerk and the law library to the building.

Other projects

The county has other goals downtown it hopes to accomplish by 2018. Those goals include improving its Block 126 location by building a 1,200-space underground parking structure at an estimated cost of $21.5 million. It also plans to vacate and sell the Executive Office Building at 411 W. 13th St. and demolish the 1101 Nueces St. building.

The Commissioners Court will review a final report in January or February.

Where the road ends… and the adventure begins

Blowout sale on 2011 bikes

Take up to 25% off year-end models from the best brands in mountain and BMX bikes at EndOvers, South Austin’s one-stop resource for off-road cycling.

4301 W. William Cannon Drive
Austin, TX / Phone: 512-614-2091
www.endovers.com
Third Coast Coffee Roasting Co.
Importers’ signature roasts promote worldwide Fair Trade, rich flavors

By Joe Olivieri

Third Coast Coffee Roasting Co. cares about how coffee reaches your cup. The coffee roasting company imports its own beans through a cooperative that works with small farms worldwide that use Fair Trade practices. Employees test each bag of coffee that enters their facility and use laptops to monitor the roasters.

The end result is a smooth and flavorful cup of coffee—a feat that was not achieved overnight.

Owner Joe Lazano opened Los Armadillos Coffee in 1993. “[I got into it because] I thought it would be easy—it wasn’t,” he said, comparing roasting to cooking. “It’s challenging to work with an agricultural product.”

In 1999, Lazano became a founding member of Cooperative Coffees. “What that does is give us access to a greater number of different coffees than we normally would have and it allows us to maintain close trade relationships with the farming cooperatives we buy our coffee from,” manager Clay Roper said.

During 2007 to 2008, Lazano acquired Third Coast Coffee Roasting Co. and merged the companies under the new name, Roper said.

The cooperatives contract with farming groups ahead of time, thereby ensuring a consistent supply.

“We take the Fair Trade/organic minimum standard and improve upon that by talking with them about their cost of living and what the quality of their coffee would demand on the market,” he said.

The cooperative also helps farmers on the three-year path to organic certification by buying their so-called “transitional” coffee.

Roper said Third Coast has visited its farming partners in Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

All of Third Coast’s coffee has a lot number that customers can research on the company’s website. For example, bag SUG112 is filled with Sumatra Gayo Mountain organic Fair Trade coffee grown by the Assosiasi Petani Kopi Organik farming cooperative.

Roper said employees test new coffee beans through a process called cupping, which involves smelling and tasting a small sample roast.

“He said climate, soil content and altitude all contribute to the flavor. "Generally, our southern Mexico coffees tend to be more chocolatey and have some medium body to it and not be quite as highly acidic," he said. "Meanwhile, if you go down to Guatemala, you might get notes of different citrus—sometimes you get a bright orange—and have a higher acidity," Roper said, adding that there is a lot of variation.

Third Coast sells to Central Market and Wheatsville Food Co-Op, as well as Kerbey Lane Cafe, Sazón Mexican restaurant and local cafes Strange Brew and Jeanie’s Java.

He said what defines a great cup of coffee depends on the drinker’s tastes. “For me, it’s almost always going to be a black cup of coffee but some people don’t want to drink coffee without the cream or something else in it,” he said.
Cabo Bob’s Burritos
Taco shop offers taste of Baja California

By Taylor Short

Don Brinkman, owner of Cabo Bob’s Burritos, envisioned a restaurant that would recreate the flavors he enjoyed in Los Cabos, a municipality in the most southern portion of the Baja California peninsula in Mexico.

Along with his wife, Terri, and professional chef John Stepan, Brinkman opened the restaurant in 2005 and is out to prove his food outclasses other taco eateries in Austin.

During one trip to “Shipwrecks,” a San José del Cabo surf spot in the 1980s, Brinkman and his friends became frustrated after two days of waiting for good waves. As they packed their car to leave, a Volkswagen van pulled onto the beach.

What Brinkman describes as a beach bum, also known as a Cabo Bob—the name for guys who crossed the border and never looked back—told them good waves were on the way.

The young men rolled their eyes in disbelief and kept packing. Within an hour, Brinkman said, good surf began rolling in. They spent several more days surfing and hearing stories from the “Baja vagabond.”

“I wanted to create a concept that brought back a lot of those same flavors and ideas,” he said. “Kind of in the spirit of that dude up there.”

Brinkman pointed to the large mural depicting Cabo Bob relaxing near his van on the beach, matching the blues and yellows that add a coastal atmosphere to the dining area.

The recipes took nearly three years to develop with help from Stepan, a professionally trained chef originally from Mississippi and former chef at Shoreline Grill near Lady Bird Lake.

Once customers hit the line to order, similarities to other restaurants end. Diners first choose one of four tortilla flavors, including cilantro tomatillo, ancho chili, smoked cheddar or buttermilk flour, made fresh daily and cooked to order on a rotating grill.

Then the tortillas are stuffed with grilled chicken, fried fish, beef brisket, pork or vegetables and covered with fresh toppings—all using choice beef and chicken and fresh tilapia.

Tortilla chips, queso and hot sauces are also made in-house.

High fructose corn syrup is nowhere to be found at Cabo Bob’s. Instead, Brinkman wanted to offer Dublin Dr Pepper, Mexican Coke and Jarritos drinks as well as several other fountain sodas using only real Imperial sugar.

This attention to detail and quality stems from Brinkman’s prior experience as the vice president of operations for Gatti’s Pizza and one-time owner of every Gatti’s location in Austin.

He said he will have a location in Dallas in 2012 and has plans to expand in Austin. Like Cabo Bob though, whose character is derived from a sense of calm and a relaxed demeanor, Brinkman is in no rush.

“I’ve seen many restaurants come and go in my time,” he said. “The biggest mistake most people make is they get in a hurry.”

Cabo Bob’s Burritos
500 E. Ben White Blvd. Ste. D-100
Austin, TX 78704
432-1111 • www.cabobobs.com
Open Mon.–Sat., 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m.
Closed Sundays

Popular items:
- **Bob’s Best Beef Burrito** ($6.89)—Ancho chili or smokey cheddar tortilla, beef fajita, organic brown rice, baja beans, grilled onions, cheese, pico de gallo and ancho rancho
- **Deluxe fish tacos** ($7.99)—Cilantro tomatillo, ancho chili and buttermilk flour tortillas, crispy fried fish, chipotle crema, mango pico, guacamole, cheese, shredded cabbage and lime
- **The Chicken Burrito** ($7.89)—Cilantro tomatillo tortilla, chicken fajita, organic brown rice, baja beans, lettuce, cilantro, cheese, mango pico, chipotle crema and guacamole
- **Brisket & Queso Burrito** ($7.49)—Ancho chili tortilla, brisket, brown rice, pinto beans, grilled onions and peppers, queso, lettuce, cilantro and homemade 66 Red hot sauce.

**Toppings**
The food at Cabo Bob’s gets as much flavor from its toppings as it does the meats and fish.

- **Salsas/sauces:** Fresh red salsa, tangy tomatillo, chipotle crema, ancho rancho, hot jalapeno, 66 Red hot sauce and Xxtro Hobox Red hot sauce
- **Rice/beans:** Cilantro lime white rice, organic brown rice, pinto beans, baja beans, black beans
- **Other toppings:** Sautéed poblano peppers, onions and zucchini, lettuce, Monterey Jack cheese, pico de gallo, mango pico
Texas Hearing & Service Dogs
Group trains shelter dogs to be helpful companions

By Kevin Stich

Texas Hearing & Service Dogs is a breed like no other. The nonprofit organization adopts all its qualifying dogs from animal shelters and rescue leagues, and specially trains the canines to help people with disabilities do everything from taking off socks to alerting emergency services.

“Our goal is to increase the independence and the quality of life of disabled Texans by training dogs to assist them to live with more safety, security and also an unconditional love,” President Sheri Soltes said. “Dogs are really the best animals for this kind of work because they’re already hardwired to want to team up with you.”

Soltes previously worked as a trial lawyer in Houston for eight years but found herself unfulfilled. She founded THSD in 1988 after reading about service dogs being rescued from animal shelters. Since then, she has never looked back. “I like the stray dogs better than the lawyers,” she joked.

Much of THSD’s budget is raised through the annual Mighty Texas Dog Walk, which takes place in April at Auditorium Shores and attracted more than 10,000 pet owners.

Almost $18,000 is invested in training, food and medical care for each dog before it is matched with a candidate free of charge. The program relies on donations—something that has become a challenge lately.

“Right now, it takes somebody a year and a half to get a dog, and while that’s less than anybody in the industry, we’d like to get people their dogs in under a year,” she said. “That means expanding the organization and relying on the community for more (monetary) gifts.”

Soltes estimates that THSD has trained close to 500 dogs—almost all of them from shelters that euthanize. Director of Training Al Kordowski, who spent more than 30 years training walruses, dolphins and killer whales at Sea World, said that THSD uses positive reinforcement, which works better than physical domination.

“We focus on providing an environment that’s really conducive to learning, which is building relationships and creating a bond,” he said.

During the training process, dogs are housed at the facility and in foster homes. Once the dog is ready, THSD brings clients in and spends a week familiarizing the team with each other. After that, the organization spends time helping the dog and new owner adjust to each other in-home and out in public.

He said that he looks for dogs that are alert and attentive but calm. THSD sorts dogs based on skill set.

“We look at specialties: Do we need to have it where the dog is trained to pull socks off? Do we need to have it retrieve certain objects? If it’s a hearing dog, what particular sounds? Do you want it to hear a microwave, do you want it to hear a doorbell, do you want it to hear a cell phone?” he said.

But not just any dog makes the cut. Both Soltes and Kordowski have ample anecdotes of dogs doing amazing things, but said that the dogs’ intangibles—the love, the attention—really make the difference.

Rescue dog Intrepid met new owner Misty O’Neal in October.

Texas Hearing & Service Dogs
4925 Bell Springs Road, Dripping Springs
858-1495
www.servicedogs.org
Twitter: TxServiceDogs

For a complete list of inventory homes, please visit austinredtagsale.com
Austin Parks Foundation connects people to resources and partners to develop and improve parks. Volunteers participate in activities including erosion control, mulching, eradicating invasive species and trash pickup. The online calendar shows upcoming events. 816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1680, Austin 78701 477-1566 www.austinparks.org

Austin Partners in Education provides college and career readiness for AISD students. Volunteers provide tutoring and lead study groups. 1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 300A, Austin 78701 637-0900 www.austinpartners.org

Austin Pets Alive is a nonprofit animal shelter committed to promoting and providing the resources, education and programs needed to eliminate the killing of homeless companion animals in Austin. The center is run almost entirely on volunteers. 2807 Manchaca Road, Austin 78704 961-6519 www.austinpetsalive.org

Austin Public Library volunteers shelf books, perform clerical duties and read to children in the Storytime Connection program. 800 Guadalupe St., Austin 78701 794-7443 www.austintexas.gov/library

Austin Recovery aims to bring about the in-depth changes that are essential for overcoming addiction. Volunteers help with admissions, child care, teach dance classes, give haircuts and manicures, perform clerical duties and life skills coaching. 8402 Cross Park Drive, Austin 78754 697-8507 www.austintrecovery.org

Austin Supported Living Center, formerly Austin State School, provides 24-hour, seven-day-a-week services to 350 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Volunteers befriend residents and assist with classes and events. 2203 W. 35th St., Austin 78703 374-0197 www.aussicliefriends.org

Austin Tenants’ Council protects tenants’ rights and educates the community on fair housing. Volunteers are needed who can objectively gather and report information about the availability of housing while posing as a prospective renter or homebuyer. 1640-B E. Second St., Ste. 150, Austin 78702 474-0197 www.housing-rights.org

Austin Time Exchange Network enables individuals to exchange services with one another by sharing skills within a network of people in Greater Austin. ATEN’s goal is to serve as a bridge between people from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds. P.O. Box 7845, Austin 78767 636-7241 www.austintimeexchange.org

Austinite Exchange Network provides college and career readiness for AISD students. Volunteers provide tutoring and lead study groups. 1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 300A, Austin 78701 637-0900 www.austinpartners.org

Austin Zoo and Animal Sanctuary is a Hill Country zoo where the people can learn about the animals close-up, spend time outdoors, get exercise and have fun. Volunteers help out with office tasks, groundskeeping and some animal care, depending on experience. 10808 Rawhide Trail, Austin 78736 288-1490 www.austinzoo.org

Autism Society of Greater Austin is an all-volunteer chapter of the Autism Society of America with a mission to improve the lives of all affected by autism. Volunteers are used in many different ways and to help with the Autism Awareness Bike Ride. P.O. Box 160841, Austin 78716 479-4199 www.austinsaitmisutismociety.org

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

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

Blue Santa brings Christmas cheer to families that might not otherwise have gifts and food. The organization was started by the Austin Police Department in 1972. 401 V Industrial Drive, Ste. 260, Austin 78744 974-2588 www.bluesanta.org

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum needs volunteers to help the museum in a number of areas, all of which help tell the story of Texas. Volunteers work in administrative duties, education, visitor services, special events or work as tour guides. 1800 N. Congress Ave., Austin 78701 936-4634 www.thestoryoftexas.com

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area - Bedichek Boys & Girls Club offers programs and services to promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. 6800 Bill Hughes Road, Austin 78745 444-7199 www.bgcaustin.org

Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas - Brackenridge is a grassroots, nonprofit organization created by breast cancer survivors. The center exists to serve women with breast cancer, their families and support systems, women who have questions about screening and biopsy and others in the community who are concerned about breast cancer issues. 601 E. 15th St., Austin 78701 544-0900 www.b CRC.org

Cancer Connection, formerly CanCare Austin, is a growing network of cancer survivors and their family members offering hope and companionship for individuals and families affected by cancer. Volunteers visit cancer patients and their family members at hospitals and oncology centers. 3710 Cedar St., Ste. 200, Austin 78705 342-0233 www.thecancerconnection.org

Capital Area Food Bank works to end hunger in the Austin area by ensuring donated food is suitable for distribution. 8201 S. Congress Ave., Austin 78745 282-2111 www.austinfoodbank.org

The Care Communities organizes volunteer teams to provide services such as transportation, meal preparation and socializing to individuals living with cancer or AIDS. 4315 Guadalupe St., Ste. 303, Austin 78751 409-5883 www.thecarecommunities.org

Caritas of Austin seeks to establish a continuum of services for impoverished people to link them with the tools they need to obtain self-sufficiency. Direct-service volunteers work to provide life-skills training to clients. 611 Neches St., Austin 78701 479-4610 www.caritasofaustin.org

CASA of Travis County Inc. recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to provide “guardian ad litem” representation for abused and neglected children to help them reach a safe and permanent home. 7701 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 301, Austin 78752 459-2272 www.casatravis.org
Center for Child Protection advocates for victims of abuse or witnesses to violent crimes. Volunteers help with direct care for children and perform support tasks. 8509 FM 969, Bldg. 2, Austin 78724 472-1164 www.centerforchildprotection.org

Central Texas Trail Tamers is a group of volunteers that donate labor to lessen the burdens of government for projects that enhance public use and protection of environmentally sensitive parks and preserves. 816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1680, Austin 78701 477-1966 www.trailtamers.org

dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas is a dedicated pediatric hospital in Central Texas. Volunteers provide assistance to patients, families and staff and take part in fundraising and community outreach. 4900 Mueller Blvd., Austin 78723 324-0161 www.dellchildrens.net

Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas provides education, support and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, professionals and the community while building public awareness and acceptance of the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. 3710 Cedar St., Box 3, Austin 78705 323-0808 www.dsact.com

El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission has fulfilled a unique role in Austin as a provider of integrated health care, emergency advocacy, leadership, development and basic education for working poor Hispanic families since 1987. 7000 Woodhur Drive, Austin 78745 439-0700 www.elbuen.org

EMANCIPe+ is dedicated to preventing animal homelessness and putting an end to euthanasia as a means of population control by providing low-cost or free surgical sterilization of dogs and cats. 7201 Lavender Loop, Bldg. I, Austin 78702 587-SPAY (7729) www.emancipe.org

Family Link is a nonprofit organization devoted to linking children who need homes with foster and adoptive parents in the Central Texas region. 8700 Manchaca Road, Unit 604, Austin 78748 945-8953 www.familylinkkids.com

Financial Literacy Coalition Central Texas, in collaboration with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, provides affordable and/or free money management education and training to adults and youth in the Central Texas area. FLCCCT recruits and trains volunteers to provide this education and training. 1600 B. Smith Road, Austin 78721 854-9600 www.flcct.org

Foundation Communities is a nonprofit organization providing service-enriched, affordable, quality housing to families and individuals with low incomes. Volunteers are financial coaches who assist clients in creating concrete short-term and long-term financial goals. 3036 S. First St., Austin 78704 447-2026 www.foundationcomm.org

Front Steps works to end homelessness in Austin. It manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, the Recuperative Care Project and a housing program. Volunteers help in the computer lab with administrative tasks and more. 500 E. Seventh St., Austin 78701 305-4174 www.frontsteps.org

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

Hands on Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area, strengthens communities though meaningful volunteer action. The organization provides more than 400 volunteer opportunities and projects including Days of Service and Volunteer Leadership. 2000 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Austin 78702 472-8627 www.hands-on-central-texas.org

Helping Hand Home for Children provides therapeutic foster care for abused and neglected children. Volunteers read to children or help with homework. 3804 Avenue B, Austin 78751 459-3353 www.helpinghandhome.org

Helping the Aging, Needy and Disabled Inc. is licensed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and has provided personal assistance services in clients' homes for more than 34 years. 1640-B E. Second St., Ste. 200, Austin 78702 477-3796 www.handassists.org

Keep Austin Beautiful works to beautify and enhance the living environment of the community. Volunteers work on service projects, including creek and road cleanups. 55 N. I-35, Ste. 215, Austin 78702 391-0617 www.keepaustinbeautiful.org

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center was founded by former first lady Lady Bird Johnson and Helen Hayes in 1982 to protect and preserve America’s native plants and natural landscapes. 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin 78739 232-0102 www.wildflower.org/volunteer

LifeWorks helps individuals, youth and families by providing counseling, education and housing. Volunteers are needed for Project Holiday Help and more. 3700 S. First St., Austin 78704 735-2475 www.lifeworksauustin.org

Livestrong was founded in 1997 by cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong. Livestrong provides practical information and tools so people can use cancer to live life on their own terms and unite people to fight cancer. 2201 E. Sixth St., Austin 78702 236-8820 www.livestrong.org

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

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Downtown Alliance of Churches is a social outreach ministry for the homeless and indigent working poor. Its mission is to provide food, clothing and dignity to those in need. It accomplishes this mission by delivering food every night of the week. Volunteers help prepare and deliver meals. 1201 Lavaca St., Austin 78701 217-8188 www.mlffnow.org

P.A.W.S. of Austin provides pet therapy to low-income children and encouraging them to become animal lovers. 3701 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 300, Austin 78704 473-0900 www.pawsaustin.org

Pensacola House of Prayer is a non-profit organization that provides a peaceful retreat for families of critically ill children. Volunteers prepare meals and perform administrative duties. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Ronald McDonald Family Room in the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas. 1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin 78723 472-9644 www.rmhc-austin.org

Ronald McDonald House of Austin provides housing and support for families of critically ill children. Volunteers prepare meals and perform administrative duties. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas. 1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin 78723 472-9644 www.rmhc-austin.org

SafePlace seeks to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing and prevention for individuals, families and the community. Volunteers work directly with families and individuals as well as provide assistance through indirect service in clerical or administrative roles. P.O. Box 19454, Austin 78760 267-7253 www.safeplace.org

Seedling Foundation provides one-on-one mentoring relationships for Austin ISD’s most vulnerable, at-risk students, including children of the incarcerated. Mentors from the community have lunch with their new friends once a week at the school and are highly trained and supported by the Seedling’s Prison Program staff. 11782 Jollyville Road, Ste. 107, Austin 78759 219-4085 www.seedlingfoundation.net

Southwest Austin Caregivers is an organization established to provide support services that enhance the independence and quality of life for older adults in the Southwest Austin area. 3801 N. Capital of Texas Hwys., Ste. E-240–77, Austin 78746 384-6969 www.swaustincaregivers.org

Susan G. Komen for the Cure - Austin Affiliate provides support, outreach and research in the fight against breast cancer. Volunteers are needed to help with Race for the Cure, special events, public policy, public relations, community outreach and more. 3565 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 300, Austin 78704 473-0900 www.komenaustin.org

Texas Advocacy Project provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Texas. Volunteers help with hotline screening, administrative assistance tasks and more. P.O. Box 830, Austin 78767 476-5377 www.texasadvocacyproject.org

Texas Youth Commission has volunteer opportunities working with adjudicated youth in Austin. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, including members of the Austin Community Advisory Council, mentors, substance abuse support group leaders, skills trainers, crafts and gardening projects, and internships. P.O. Box 4260, Austin 78751 424-6090 tammy.holland@tyc.state.tx.us, www.tyc.state.tx.us

Therapy Pets of Texas Inc. provides pet therapy to patients and residents in about 70 health care facilities in the Austin area. Volunteers and their dogs visit assigned health care facilities twice a month and bond with the elderly and ill people they serve. 3930 Bee Caves Road, Ste. C, Austin 78746 347-1984 www.therapypetpals.org

Trails at the Park Learning Center is a free after-school program dedicated to providing a safe haven and academic support to low-income children and encouraging them to become good citizens. 815 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin 78748 292-7233 www.tlaustin.org

YMCA of Austin - Southwest Branch puts Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body. The purpose of the YMCA of Austin is to enhance the lives of people in the community by providing quality programs, activities and facilities that develop and maintain opportunities. Volunteers help with special events and youth programs. 5219 Caltiva Drive, Austin 78745 891-9622 www.austinymca.org

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

For more Central Texas volunteer opportunities, visit impactnews.com/volunteerguide.
STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Conserve water in the winter months and see savings all year long! Austin Water calculates wastewater costs based on the amount of water used during three winter billing periods between mid-November and mid-March. You can lower your wastewater costs for the next year by conserving water use during these billing periods.

For more information, visit: www.ci.austin.tx.us/water

REPORT VIOLATIONS TO 3-1-1

NEW RETIREMENT HOME IN SOUTH AUSTIN INDEPENDENT LIVING SUITES START AT $2275 MONTHLY & INCLUDE:

- All meals prepared fresh daily by owner/chef
- All utilities, including premium cable and high-speed internet
- Weekly housekeeping and linen service
- Extensive organic vegetable gardens on site
- Safe and secure gated property
- Flower gardens and walking trails
- Home/Family atmosphere

We will be accepting a maximum of 15 residents. Reserve your suite now!

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www.albertoaks.com • 7211 Albert Rd. Austin, TX

Tomlinson’s
Pet Supplies for Austin Since 1946
www.tomlinsons.com

Happy Holidays

Dear Santa,
I WANT IT ALL!

40% OFF Any Holiday Item with this ad!
Offer limited to one per household.
Expires 12-31-2011

PET LOVER ON YOUR LIST? CIRCLE C
5900 W. Slaughter Ln.
Slaughter @ Escarpment
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 12-5
512-276-2057

SIX CONVENIENT AUSTIN AREA LOCATIONS

See our website for more store specials and location information.

You can help.
Advocate Donate Volunteer
austinfoodbank.org

We’re turning hungry holidays into happy holidays.
REAL ESTATE

Lantana
78735

Overview

Build-out year: 2004–10
Builders: Meritage Homes, Newmark Homes and Plantation Homes
Square footage: 2,066–5,587
Home values: $304,500–$487,000
HOA dues (estimated): $300, mandatory
Amenities: Bike and jogging paths
Nearby attractions: Shopping, restaurants and trails

Property taxes:
- Austin ISD 1.2420
- Travis County 0.4855
- City of Austin 0.4811
- Austin Community College 0.0948
- Central Health 0.0789

Total (per $100 value) 2.3823

Schools:
- Oak Hill Elementary School
- Small Middle School
- Austin High School

On the market (As of Dec. 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of homes for sale</th>
<th>No. of homes under contract</th>
<th>Avg. days on the market</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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Home sales (December 2010–November 2011)

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<th>No. of homes sold in the last year</th>
<th>Square footage Low/High</th>
<th>Selling price Low/High</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>2,530/4,128</td>
<td>$304,500/$487,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Featured homes

5805 Leckrone Cove
4 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath
Agent: Craig Sanderson
312-5855
$510,000 3,354 sq. ft.

5608 Terravista Drive
4 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath
Agent: Tim Kress
719-5555
$479,000 3,634 sq. ft.

7609 Journeyville Drive
5 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath
Agent: Diane Kennedy
750-2950
$449,900 4,058 sq. ft.

6005 Kelsing Cove
4 Bedroom / 4 Bath
Agent: Thomas Thornton
636-0672
$449,000 3,535 sq. ft.
On the market* (As of Dec. 6, 2011)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Property Listings</th>
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Monthly home sales*

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<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>49/164,150</td>
<td>36/228,500</td>
<td>22/333,879</td>
<td>45/190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>35/158,000</td>
<td>26/209,950</td>
<td>22/336,288</td>
<td>37/163,000</td>
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</table>

*Market Data includes condominiums, townhomes and houses.

Residential real estate listings added to the market between 11/11/11 and 11/29/11 were included and provided by the Austin Board of Realtors, www.abor.com. Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this listing, Community Impact Newspaper assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Contact the property’s agent or seller for the most current information.
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- General surgery
- Gynecological surgery
- Orthopedic surgery
- Plastic surgery

With the support of advanced technology, our team is dedicated to caring for each patient’s unique needs and getting them back to their way of life as swiftly and safely as possible. To learn more or find a surgeon, please visit seton.net/southwest.

Pictured above: Margaret Landwermeyer, MD, Ob/Gyn Surgery (Hill Country Ob/Gyn Associates); Jeff Johnson, MD, General & Laparoscopic Surgery; Nicole Cole, RN; Rocco Piazza, MD, Plastic Surgery (Piazza Center for Plastic Surgery and Advanced Skin Care); Scott Welsh, MD, Orthopedic Surgery (Central Texas Orthopedics); Ann Kobdish, RN

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