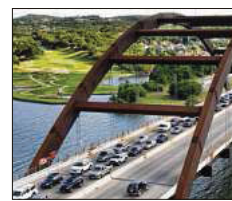


COMMUNITY NEWS

News: communitynews@statesman.com or 512-445-3863



TRAVIS COUNTY

AUSTIN

Citizen Academy accepting applicants

The Austin Police Department's Citizen Police Academy is accepting applications for its 97th session, which will be from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays from Sept. 6 through Dec. 12. Participants will meet at the department's headquarters, 715 E. Eighth St.

The 14-week program is designed to give the public a working knowledge of the Austin Police Department. Each week, different units within the department will be covered.

For more information and an application: austintexas.gov/department/citizen-police-academy.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

AUSTIN

Parks and Rec to seek feedback

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department will seek community feedback about the Artist Access Program during a public engagement meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

The meeting will be at the Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Road. It will be directed by a seven-member panel made up of representatives from seven different City Council-appointed boards and commissions. The community will have the opportunity to offer feedback on various aspects of the program, including scheduling, marketing and operations.

The Artist Access Program was developed in response to a City Council resolution that established longer hours at Parks and Recreation's cultural centers, with the goal of providing Austinites with free or low-cost access to rehearsal and performance space.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

GEORGETOWN

Native Plant Society to meet Thursday

The Native Plant Society of Texas of Williamson County will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 3151 SE Inner Loop-Suite A, in Georgetown.

Michael Eason, author of a new botanical guide called "Wildflowers of Texas," will speak. In his book, more than 1,100 commonly found species are profiled and organized.

Attendees may arrive as early as 6:30 p.m. for a social period before the meeting.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

CEDAR PARK

Library to host 'Just Dance' tournament

The Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd., will hold a dance battle for those 12 to 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday. The event will be tied to the video game "Just Dance."

Players must register by 2:20 p.m., with the tournament starting at 2:30. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card, and the library will offer snacks and screen episodes of "Bleach" once the tournament concludes.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

HAYS COUNTY

BUDA

Council approves district boundaries

The Buda City Council recently approved the boundary lines for three single-member districts: Districts A, B, and C.

Council representatives from these districts will be determined as a result of the November general election.

In November 2017, voters approved an amendment to the City Charter to allow Buda to transition to single-member districts. Buda City Council Places 2, 4, and 6 will be the first to switch from at-large to single-member districts. These places are now designated as District A, previously Place 4, with council member Paul Daugeau; District B, previously Place 6, with council member Evan Ture; and District C, previously Place 2, with council member Wiley Hopkins.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

SAN MARCOS

Daddy Daughter Dance on Sunday

The Parks and Recreation Department of San Marcos will be host to the 10th annual Daddy Daughter Dance from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins St.

The semi-formal dance is for girls ages 1 and older and their fathers or father figures. The event also will include treats and crafts.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person in advance. The cost rises to \$15 the day of the event. Purchase tickets by calling 512-393-8400 or in person at the parks and rec office, 401 E. Hopkins St.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

CALDWELL COUNTY

LOCKHART

Park sets open house for Saturday

Lockhart State Park, 2012 State Park Road, will hold an open house Saturday, offering free admission to the park and various activities.

The event will include a trail biking workshop from 9 to 10:30 a.m.; a zombie apocalypse hike from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; a dutch oven cooking class from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; snake encounters from noon to 3 p.m.; a fishing fest from 2 to 4 p.m.; and a hike featuring nocturnal creatures from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The park's pool and nine-hole golf course also will be open.

The trail biking workshop requires registration, completed by calling 512-398-3479. For more information on other activities, visit bit.ly/2ppXXto.
— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

BASTROP

Meetings set to help fine-tune new subdivision ordinance

By Brandon Mulder
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To fine-tune its revamped subdivision ordinance, the city of Bastrop is putting a draft proposal before the public over the course of three meetings this week.

The new 150-page ordinance, which has been in the works since September, will become the rule book for how future development will take shape within the city limits and the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

"The subdivision ordinance is one of the most important tools to shape our community in the future and provide for people-friendly streets and adequate drainage, so it's important to get it right," said David Gattis, the city's interim city planner, in the city's announcement last week.

The three meetings will take place Wednesday and Thursday and are designed to solicit feedback from three categories of stakeholders: the public, developers and homebuilders, and engineers and surveyors. Last week, invitations were distributed to all those who have done business in the city.

The public meeting will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, while the one for developers and homebuilders is from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday. The meeting for engineers and surveyors will be 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday. All meetings will be at City Hall in the council chambers.

6:30-8 p.m., City Council chambers, 1311 Chestnut Street

"There're a few things in (the ordinance) that are in conflict with each other," said Bastrop County land surveyor James Garon, who served on the city's Planning Commission around the time the subdivision was last amended in 2008.

Garon said it's especially important for the city to engage the professionals whose work is affected by the rules set by the ordinance.



Bastrop is weighing changes to its subdivision ordinance that could include stricter design standards and a more streamlined process for developers. There will be three public meetings on Wednesday and Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

"I think it's good for the city to at least engage the other professionals that work in different jurisdictions and get an idea of what's good in an ordinance," he said.

Striking a proper balance between over-burdensome regulations and unregulated growth is the city's aim, officials have said. And Garon sees Bastrop's laws existing on a spectrum between Austin's strenuous laws and other counties' lack of regulation.

"I used to do a lot of development work in the city of Austin and Travis County. We just don't do it anymore because they've gotten so cumbersome and so hard to work with," he said. "I have clients that complain that Bastrop's hard to work with, and I have to tell them that, compared to some of the other places, it's a cakewalk. But then if you go to some of the counties around us, they have hardly

any ordinance."

The rewrite of the ordinance has been a long time coming, city officials have said. The city's current ordinance dates to 1999 and is "disjointed, duplicative, and weak in policy and design standards," Gattis said during last month's joint workshop between the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

"All of our codes are 20-plus years old, and the development is now here," City Manager Lynda Humble said during the meeting. "We had four huge developments show up last week and literally fall out of the sky. So, I've gone from, 'It's a problem,' to 'I'm panicked.' We are in a sense of urgency."

The ordinance is expected to be completed and presented to the City Council by July, officials have said.

Contact Brandon Mulder at 512-321-2557.

AUSTIN

Four area nonprofits will split \$446,000 from Impact Austin

American-Statesman staff

Impact Austin on Monday awarded a total of \$446,000 to four community groups to help empower single mothers, support abused and neglected children and provide comprehensive family literacy education.

Jeremiah Program, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Central Texas and Helping Hand Home for Children each received grants of \$111,500 to help support their missions.

Since 2003, Impact Austin's members have awarded nearly \$6.5 million to Central Texas nonprofits.

The 2018 grant recipients are:

■ CASA of Travis County, which speaks up for children who have been abused or neglected by empowering the community to volunteer as advocates for them in the court system. CASA will use the grant to help address the critical challenge of diversifying its base of volunteers to better represent the community and the children it serves.

■ Communities in Schools of Central Texas, which supports students in 66 schools by meeting immediate needs such as food or clothing and more complex ones such as emotional support or counseling, empowering public school students to stay in school and achieve in life. The grant will support the group's family literacy program and help provide services to a minimum of 100 families in Southeast Austin, pre-



Rebecca Powers, founder of Impact Austin, speaking with Austin City Manager Spencer Cronk at City Hall on Monday. Impact Austin awarded grants totaling \$446,000 to four nonprofits. CONTRIBUTED

paring children for kindergarten and equipping their parents with the skills to help their entire family succeed.

■ Helping Hand Home for Children, which provides nurturing and therapeutic homes for children who have suffered abuse and neglect. The nonprofit's goal is to heal those children and return them to healthy and permanent families. The grant will be used to expand the capacity of the Families First Program that recruits, trains and supports families that will foster and adopt children with complex trauma in the foster care system.

■ Jeremiah Program, which helps transform families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time. It provides single mothers and their preschool-age children with safe, affordable

housing, support for college, high-quality early childhood education, empowerment and life skills classes. The grant will support empowerment and life skills classes.

In addition, Girls Giving Grants, the youth initiative of Impact Austin, awarded its largest grant of \$8,200 to Foster Angels of Central Texas, which helps meet the unfulfilled needs of children in foster care. The grant will be used to assist about 80 children and youths with much-needed beds, cribs, mattresses and bedding items.

Girls Giving Grants is comprised of 82 young women in grades eight through 12, from 18 area schools, who each donate \$100 to create a meaningful grant and award it to a Central Texas nonprofit.

LOCKHART SCHOOLS

Lockhart taps associate superintendent

By Melissa B. Taboada
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Estrada

The Lockhart school board has tapped Assistant Superintendent Mark Estrada to lead the 5,900-student district.

The trustees voted Monday night to name Estrada as the lone finalist for superintendent, but state law mandates the board must wait 21 days to offer him a contract.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to be selected to lead Lockhart ISD," Estrada said in a statement released by the district. "With the support of the board of trustees, parents, staff, and the community, the district will

continue to work strategically to continue its upward trajectory, fueled by a culture of high expectations for every student and staff in Lockhart ISD."

Estrada replaces former Superintendent Susan Bohn, who left the district to lead the Alledo school district near Fort Worth.

The district received 60 applicants for the position and interviewed seven candidates, but board President Brenda Spillmann said in the statement it was "very clear to the board that Mr. Estrada

is the best choice to lead Lockhart ISD into its next chapter."

"After seeing the impact of his leadership both in campuses and at the district level, we are confident he will continue to challenge all students and teachers to even higher levels of achievement," Spillmann said.

Estrada has worked in the district for the past six years, most recently as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He previously served in the Del Valle school district as a teacher, coach and administrator.

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