



Brentwood Neighborhood Association

BNA – Serving Our Neighborhood from 45th St. to Justin Lane and North Lamar to Burnet Road

June 2020

www.brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com

Ch- Ch- Ch- Changes

Brentwood Newsletter Distribution Changes & Kudos

by Diane Larson, BNA Newsletter Editor

The pandemic caused us to discontinue delivery of paper newsletters to all residents of Brentwood in April and for the coming months. Although this allows us to increase the number of newsletter issues to six (6) per year, and we no longer have to limit the number or length of articles, we are concerned that some residents may not have easy access to the on-line version. Also, newer neighbors may not be aware of the Brentwood Neighborhood Association or of information included in the paper along with our contact information. Please help spread the word that your neighborhood association is still working to keep everyone informed of events and issues of concern.

The Steering Committee extends their sincere gratitude to MJ Wetherhead for her many years of conscientious and tireless work ensuring delivery of our paper newsletters. She managed the route captains and made sure all delivery routes were covered.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, MJ!! You are one of Brentwood's unsung heroes!

City of Austin Update

By District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool

This week, the City of Austin extended the Stay Home - Work Safe Order until June 15, matching the Travis County Order, to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep our community as safe as possible, [even] as the Governor calls for reopening more businesses and services.

Austin-Travis County Interim Medical Director and Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott has also released updated guidelines for keeping our hospitals from experiencing overwhelming surges in admissions. These guidelines, described in the video below, will help us to determine the level of social distancing measures that should be adopted to prevent more infections.

In our [Assistance for Residents](#) section, we report that the remaining \$5.6 million in Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) funds have been distributed to more non-profit community organizations. Residents may continue to apply through those organizations for assistance with rent, groceries, or other needs in this crisis. The groups' contact links and phone numbers are below.

In good news for many families, Austin ISD will continue to provide curb-side meals to children in the area through the summer months. You can find meal sites, times, and locations in their press release below.

In our [Assistance for Small Business](#) section, we've provided the latest information from the Governor's Phase II of reopening the state economy and the additional services and activities allowed.

And this week, I'm pleased to report that the Austin Music and Creative Space Disaster Relief Programs are now available to support our local artists and musicians. I was proud to co-sponsor the funding of both of these programs with Council Members Ann Kitchen and Kathie Tovo.

In our [Mobility Updates](#) section, we have news on the Burnet Road 2016 bond improvements. We've heard from a lot of you about the information that is being presented by the City's Corridor Program Office on those bond-funded projects. As part of the required environmental analysis for corridor improvements, a virtual public hearing is being held to receive your comments. Some of you have shared with us, and with the Corridor Program staff, that the information staff is presenting appears to eliminate the dedicated transit lanes recommended in the adopted [2013 Burnet Road Corridor Mobility Plan](#).

We are working with the Corridor Program Office to ensure that they clarify the information they presented to the public on the funded and unfunded projects as it relates to the Plan. That Plan, and the dedicated transit lanes it recommends, remain a critical part of the long-term vision for Burnet Road, and have not been eliminated.

As with many large improvement projects, the entire vision for Burnet Road as a multi-modal, transit-supportive, pedestrian-safe, and business-friendly corridor is going to take time, and money. The 2016 bond funds dedi-

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cated to Burnet Road will take us a long way, but this is just one phase in our journey towards the adopted end vision. We asked the Corridor Program staff to provide us with confirmation that the transit lanes are still part of that vision, and they have done so in our Mobility section below.

The Burnet Road virtual public hearing comment period will close on June 5. As always, you're welcome to [contact](#) my office with any questions or comments.

In other neighborhood news, be sure to visit the virtual Ryan Drive Open House before the comment period closes on June 14. Your feedback will inform the City's official criteria for any submitted development proposals for the parcel. This is an exciting project that has taken many years to come to fruition with the invaluable assistance of the Crestview and Brentwood neighborhoods! Stay safe and healthy.

Yarborough Library Update

By Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer

The Yarborough renovation project is getting close to completion. However, set backs have occurred due to the COVID19 situation. The renovation and reopening teams are pressing forward as best they can, but we do not have a date set for reopening.

The [Austin Public Library](#) website, of course, is the best place for the latest information for news about branch re-openings and service adjustments due to COVID19. [APL+](#), is a new service recently rolled out. In addition to our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, this new service offers digital content for our customers.

Austin Public Library staff members miss serving our customers in person. And as the manager of Yarborough, I know that our team is especially eager to be back in our branch to serve our community. We appreciate the community's patience and look forward to serving you again.

Latest News on Ryan Drive Tract

The publicly owned land at 6909 Ryan Drive is a 5.5-acre property next to Capital Metro's Crestview Station. Austin Energy purchased the site in 1997 for their operations but will relocate soon. Community discussions about the future use of the property have been ongoing among Crestview and Brentwood neighbors since at least 2012.

The Economic Development Department reviews city-owned properties and makes recommendations to City Council for community benefit. In April 2018, community representatives provided a report summarizing input from the community. A survey was introduced at Community Meeting 1 in October 2019 with responses collected through December 2019. Results from the community indicated a need for affordable housing; a desire for open

space, even if buildings were taller; a transit connectivity solution at the Crestview Rail Station and the area to the south; multi-use spaces for performances, exhibits and gatherings and some interest in businesses such as coffee shops or cafés. Five redevelopment scenarios were presented at Community Meeting 2 in February 2020 and the public provided feedback. Recently in **May 2020**, Community Meeting 3 offered a final opportunity for public review and comments, with an interactive video. The input will be taken until **June 14, 2020**. You can view the presentation and provide input [HERE](#). In summer 2020, the research and community review will be complete and a several months long process to redevelop the property will begin. For all details: <http://austintexas.gov/department/6909-ryan-drive>

Brentwood Elementary School Modernization



On May 22, the Brentwood Elementary School community and Austin ISD celebrated the groundbreaking of the Brentwood modernization project.

Brentwood Elementary School offers an arts-based educational program to students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school will receive a full modernization including a partial rebuild and partial renovation that will increase its permanent capacity to 696 students. During the construction of the modernized campus, the Brentwood school community will be temporarily relocated to the Webb Middle School campus.

While unable to hold this event in person, due to COVID-19 and campus closures, the district opted for a virtual event to ensure the school community was still able to celebrate the start of construction. The event was held virtually via Zoom webinar and featured remarks from Superintendent Dr. Paul Cruz, Board of Trustees President Geronimo Rodriguez, District 4 Trustee Kristin Ashy, Brentwood Principal Amber Laroche, Webb Principal Raul Sanchez, and former Brentwood Principal Katherine Williams-Carter.

In lieu of a physical gathering for the Brentwood modernization project groundbreaking, Principal Laroche visited the campus and broke ground on behalf of the school community. Students joined in on the fun by using household items (like crushed up Oreos) to simulate their own “groundbreaking” and by planting flowers at home that will eventually be transferred to the new campus. Check it out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYan-PQV2JzM&feature=emb_title

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Brentwood held the groundbreaking ceremony while school was still in session so that students could be part of the event. Actual construction will begin over the summer, starting with abatement, scheduled to begin in July. Demolition and site work are anticipated to begin in August. Construction on the school is expected to last 15 months, with an opening date scheduled for January 2022.

Swing Space Update

Work continues at the temporary swing space located at Webb Middle School. The cafeteria, gym and library portables have been placed on site, with the remaining portables arriving soon. Utility and site work will continue throughout the summer. During this time, Brentwood will begin the moving process to Webb. Teachers and team members have packed up their classroom belongings, and the district will handle the final packing and transportation of all items to the temporary campus.

The district is working on a lease agreement with the owners of the parking lot across from the swing space campus on Roland Johnson Drive. Between this lot and the spaces allocated for Brentwood's use at Webb Middle School, there will be the same number of parking spaces as the current campus. Additionally, street parking for visitors will be available along Roland Johnson Drive.

For more information please visit www.AISDFuture.com/schools/brentwood-es

Brentwood Elementary Chimney Swift Habitat

by Pam Johns, Brentwood resident and teacher

Elementary opened in 1951 and at some point, included an incinerator building with a chimney approximately 50 feet high. When the incinerator was decommissioned, the chimney was left open. Over time, chimney swifts began to nest and roost in the chimney tower.

Chimney swifts once used hollowed-out trees, but with deforestation, they have come to rely almost entirely on human-built structures for their nests. While the birds themselves are not endangered, their habitat is. The birds cannot perch, so they need deep shafts with sides they can cling to in which to roost at night. One study showed that the North American population of the migrants who winter in South America had declined by more than 50 percent from 1966 to 1991.

The Travis County Audubon Society has been involved in protecting and providing habitat for chimney swifts for many years. These efforts have been led by Austinites Paul and Georgean Kyle, owners of the amazing Rootin' Ridge Toymakers, which was located in the 26 Doors center for many years. In 1983, the Kyles met their first chimney swift at the Travis County Humane Society, an experience which ignited a passion to learn about and protect these birds. In 1995 they established the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project on

the shores of Lake Austin, which spreads data and excitement about swift rehabilitation across the continent.

Residents of the Brentwood/Crestview neighborhood and faculty at Brentwood Elementary became involved with Travis County Audubon Society chimney swift counts in 2013. Folks come together several evenings in August and September to chat, watch these amazing aerial acrobats, and count them as they drop feet-first into the school's chimney tower. In late summer, migrating swifts use it as a stopover on their way back to South America. Counts range from a daily low of 34 on August 8, 2015 to a daily high of 1,224 on September 10, 2016. Last summer's count on August 11, 2019 was 553.

When Brentwood Elementary was designated as a campus to be modernized as part of the 2017 bond, those of us involved were concerned about protecting the chimney. As designs for the new building evolved, it became obvious that with our extremely tight space we could not build the school we want and need and maintain the incinerator building and chimney. Our amazing team of architects at VLK Architects and construction team at *Bartlett Cocke* General Contractors worked to build a new structure to serve as nesting and roosting habitat for chimney swifts. It is located on the northern edge of the school's property line, on the berm above the outdoor stage. Brentwood faculty and families wanted a location that would allow students to observe and learn about these birds and the need to protect animal habitats throughout the world.

The tower was built according to plans developed by the Kyles. They have constructed many of these on their property, turning it into a swift preserve, Chaetura ("Kay-toorah") Canyon. The Kyles came to Brentwood to meet with us, look at the chimney and our property, and advise us on how to provide for the chimney swifts' needs amid the chaos of a major construction sight. We are hopeful the new chimney will provide the needed habitat for the chimney swifts who live in and pass through our neighborhood.

"The opportunities to provide habitat for the adaptable chimney swift are limited only by our imagination and initiative. The skies would indeed be empty without the merry



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A portrait photo of a man with a bald head and a goatee, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a green, leafy hedge.

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sounds and astonishing acrobatics of the chimney swifts."
— Paul and Georgean Kyle.

Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

RECYCLING AT AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PART 1)

There are many recycling challenges in our great city, one of which is recycling at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). I was very privileged to meet B. J. Carpenter, the Sustainability Program Coordinator at the airport. He shared with me some of the wonderful initiatives in the field of recycling and reuse that are happening at ABIA

- ♦ **POUR IT OUT** – Bottles and cans with liquid in them are not recyclable. The liquid in them contaminates the recycling stream and ruins the other recyclable materials. To make it convenient to recycle bottles at the airport, there are four “pour it out” receptacles currently provided at the front of the three security checkpoints. Two receptacles are at the largest - Check Point One – and one at each of the other two. These receptacles provide a place for passengers to empty liquids from a bottle or can and then either place it in a nearby recycling bin or carry it through security to refill in the secured area.



- ♦ **FOOD RESCUE** – So much food goes to waste in our great land. ABIA has taken some wonderful steps to rescue unused food from the concessionaires. The “food rescue” program began on March 1, 2017. Currently, Bradford Airport Logistics picks up the food from the terminal and transports it to their warehouse at the airport. The food is then picked up three days a week by Keep Austin Fed volunteers and taken to several Austin organizations that provide meals to the hungry. In 2019, 12,000 pounds of food was collected at ABIA. This food provided 10,000 meals.

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

- ♦ **What do I do with old trophies?** Austin Creative Reuse Center will take these. Please call ahead to be sure they have room on their shelves. Here is their website:

<https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>

- ♦ **How do I recycle plastic bags from soil and compost?** Plastic bags designed to hold weight (soil, compost, litter and fertilizer) are treated with special polymers and this treatment makes these bags not recyclable. They must go into your trash can. Also, frozen food bags and pre-washed salad mix bags are also specially treated to keep food fresh and must be thrown into the trash can.

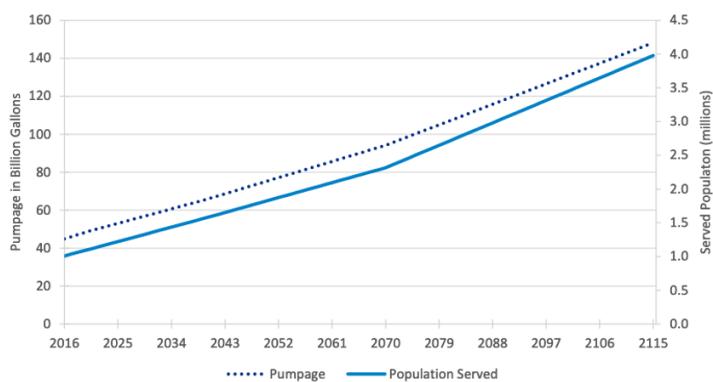
**PLEASE REMEMBER:
WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!**

Here is an informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>. Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org.

With Four Million People and Climate Change, Where Will Austin's Water Come From?

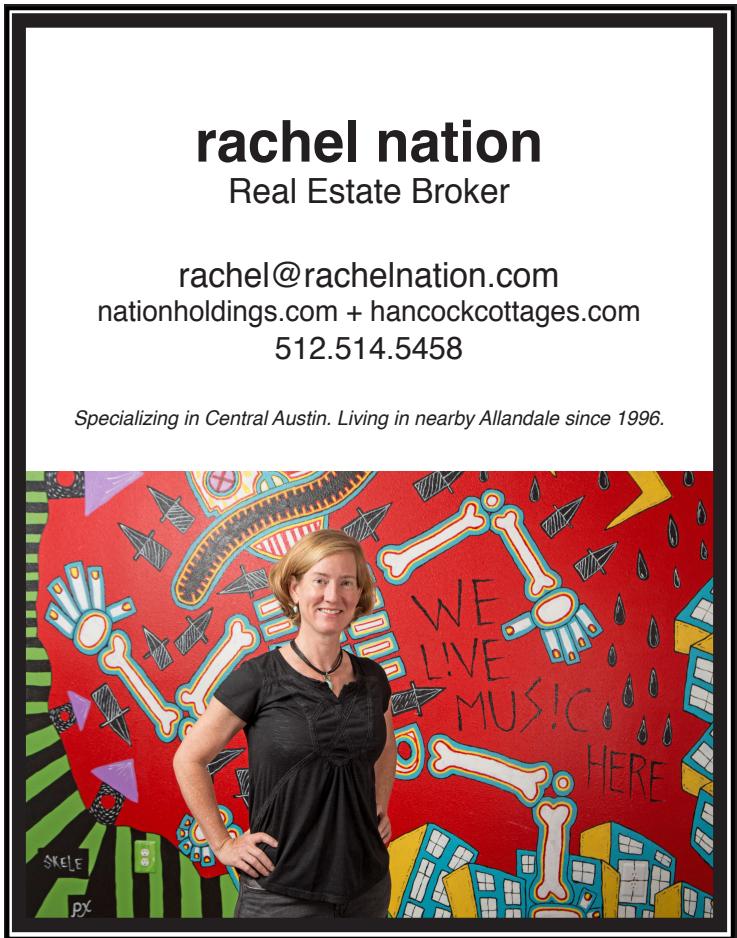
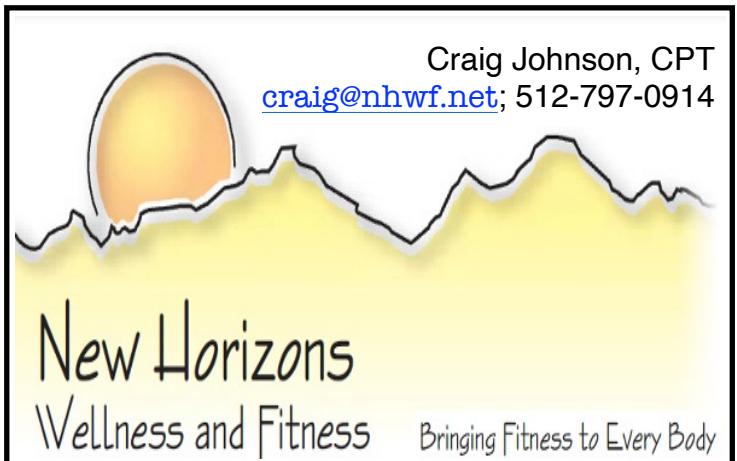
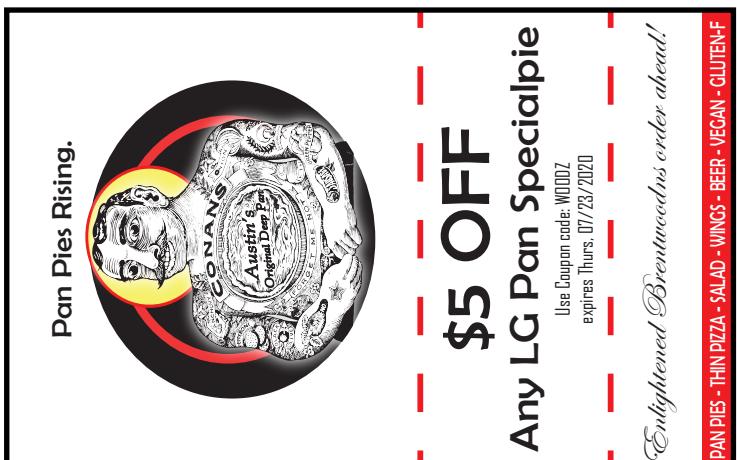
By Robert E. Mace

The drought of 2008 through 2016 was a wake-up call for Austin. As levels in the Highland Lakes—Austin's sole source of water—dwindled to near-record lows, the city enacted drought restrictions that threatened landscapes and businesses. As lake levels continued to decline, Austinites worried that the city would run out of water. Fortunately, the rains returned; however, the ever-present threat of drought remains for our growing city.



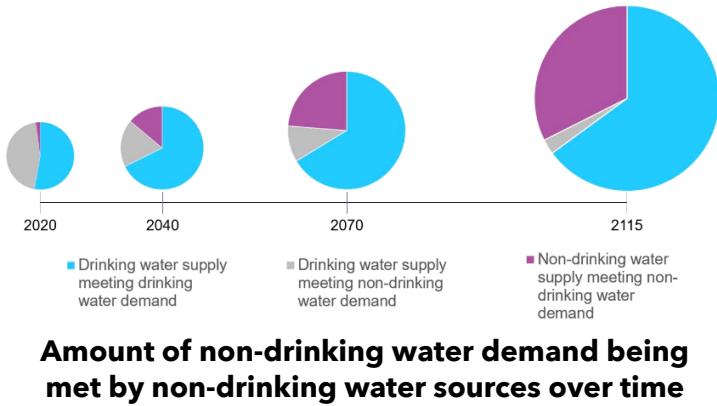
Projected population and water demand for Austin through 2115

In response to the drought, the city council formed the Water Forward Task Force to work with city staff and the community to develop a 100-year water plan for Austin. This planning effort focused on increasing the sustainability, reliability, and diversity of Austin's water supplies with an emphasis on (1) water conservation and reuse; (2) projects that are technically, socially, and economically feasible; and (3) environmental protection. Unlike state planning efforts, which only extend 50 years into the fu-



ture, Austin's plan also considers the potential effects of climate change on our water resources.

The challenges to meet Austin's future water needs are sobering. There are currently about 1 million Austinites. Demographers expect our population to grow to 2 million by 2065 and 4 million by 2115. On top of a rapidly increasing population are the anticipated effects of climate change—including increased temperatures and lower rainfall, both of which will result in less water flowing to our reservoirs. If Austin does nothing to shore up its water resources, the Highland Lakes may go completely dry for years at a time.



Amount of non-drinking water demand being met by non-drinking water sources over time

The good news is that Austin's Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan identifies solutions to Austin's growing water resource challenges. These solutions include both water efficiency and water-supply projects. Water efficiency includes installing smart water meters that will inform you when you have a leak, reducing leaks in the city's water pipes, and requiring water-efficient landscaping in new construction. Eventually, new buildings will be required to use rainwater, stormwater, greywater (from sinks and showers), air conditioning condensate, and treated wastewater to meet non-potable needs. Water-supply projects include storing excess river water in (1) an aquifer for use during a drought, something San Antonio has done with great success and (2) an off-channel reservoir (essentially a ring dike located away from the river).

In the coming months and years, you will hear more about these solutions as the city implements them. Similar to the development of the Water Forward plan, there will be opportunities for the community to voice opinions on implementation. With a changing climate, a growing community, evolving regulations, and developing technology, Austin will revisit and revise the plan every five years.

The Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan established Austin as a water leader in the state and the country. Working together, we can ensure that we meet our water needs while enhancing Austin's quality of life and the protection of the environment.

To learn more about Austin Water Forward, please visit

<https://bit.ly/2JofNXK> and <http://austintexas.gov/aiwrpctf>. To read the plan, please visit <https://bit.ly/304yaa7>.

[*Robert Mace serves as a member of the Austin Water Forward Task Force as an appointee of Council Member Pool, District 7. Robert is also the Interim Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University.]*

Brentwood Water & Wastewater Improvements Project

Project Website: austintexas.gov/brentwoodwater

The Brentwood Water and Wastewater Improvement Project is part of Renewing Austin, an Austin Water program to replace and upgrade aging water lines. Austin Water protects our city's water infrastructure by upgrading and repairing existing water lines. Water line breaks are common in this area and this project is necessary to avoid further expenditures maintaining water lines that frequently break.

This project will replace about 9,500 linear feet of water lines and 6,500 linear feet of wastewater lines. In addition, about 1,200 linear feet of wastewater lines will be rehabilitated. The Public Works Department's project management staff will supervise construction.



2231.233 - Brentwood Water & Wastewater Pipeline Renewal: Arcadia Area - Project Extent

OVERVIEW OF WORK

- ◆ New trenches will be dug for the new water and wastewater lines while the existing lines remain in service
- ◆ New fire hydrants will be installed and old fire hydrants will be removed. New fire hydrants may be placed in new locations to meet code requirements.
- ◆ Pavement will be restored after all work is completed
- ◆ The project is expected to take nearly 2 years, with construction expected to begin in June 2020.

WHAT TO EXPECT :

Service Outages

- ◆ Once a section of line is completed, customers' service lines will be connected to the new line. Making this connection requires water service or wastewater service to be temporarily suspended. The project inspector will provide notice 48 hours prior to service being suspended by placing door tags on front doors. It typically takes several hours for connections to be completed and service to be restored.
- ◆ Emergency water outages are likely to occur during the project due to the age and condition of the existing pipeline. Crews will repair any unintended breaks in the existing line as soon as possible and will work carefully to try to avoid them.
- ◆ Work days are expected to be Monday through Saturday, though some Sundays may be required. Work hours with heavy equipment are generally 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ◆ Most work will be limited to the right of way. The right of way is located between the street and the sidewalk, typically extending 10 feet back from the edge of a street, but can vary widely across the city. You will be notified as work begins on your street so you can remove plants or personal items. If you have irrigation system pipes, landscape features or retaining walls in the City of Austin right-of-way, they may need to be moved before construction. Be aware that if the contractor damages any of the features in the right-of-way, repair and costs to repair these features are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Traffic Impacts

- ◆ Portions of streets will be closed during construction, however access to your homes will be maintained. Crews will notify you if access to your driveway will be temporarily blocked while work is being performed.

CITY CONTACTS:

Project Manager

Micheal Singleton, P.E.; 512- 974-2979
micheal.singleton@austintexas.gov

Community Outreach

Emlea Chanslor; 512-972-0145
emlea.chanslor@austintexas.gov

Project Connect - Transit Update

Austin's population just hit 2 million and is projected to double by 2040. In that same time, road capacity is expected to increase by only 15 percent. Capital Metro is working with the community to develop a new, comprehensive transit vision to improve existing transit services and develop new, high-capacity public transportation

projects that provide efficient travel options into, out of, and around Central Texas. Project Connect is a bold transit plan that will connect the entire city. It includes a new light rail system, a downtown transit tunnel, expanded commuter rail, new MetroRapid routes and vehicles, new Park & Rides, a transition to a zero-emissions fleet and much more. Input from Virtual Community Meetings and the Virtual Open House will be included in results to be presented during the CapMetro and City of Austin joint session on **June 10**. For more information: <https://capmetro.org/projectconnect/>

View the map: https://www.capmetroengage.org/sites/default/files/recommended_system_plan_-_homepage.png

St. Jude Walk / Run

By Shelby McClung

WHAT: Join us for the St. Jude Walk/Run presented by Window World of Austin during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Help us raise money for research in the fight against childhood cancer and for the kids of St. Jude, where families never receive a bill for anything.

WHEN: Saturday, September 19; 7:30 a.m. Registration Opens. 8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony; 9:00 a.m. Walk/Run starts.

WHERE: Dell Diamond; 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78665

How it works:

- ◆ Register for 5K or walk
- ◆ Form or join a team
- ◆ Fundraise for St. Jude Gear

Visit stjude.org/walkaustin to learn more about why St. Jude matters to Austin and communities around the world. For adults and children ages six and older, registration for the 5K is \$20 and free for the walk.

CONTACT: Marie Lofton, Senior Regional Development Director; ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. marie.lofton@stjude.org (512) 651-6053 office

[NOTE: We are monitoring the current situation and will be having an amazing in-person or virtual event depending on the conditions close to our day of event.]

BNA Meetings held on Zoom

The Brentwood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Meetings (open to all members) take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, and have moved to Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns. The May meeting was our first and it was a success! Joining the steering committee was our District 7 Council member, Leslie Pool, and representing CapMetro, Jackie Niren-

