



4th of July
Parade Photos



T C N O T E S

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2015

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Back to School

The Austin ISD
2015-2016 school year
begins on August 24th.

Keep the following in mind
when schools are open:

Look for out for crossing
guards and crosswalks near
school buildings.



Watch for school buses
flashing their lights, which
means that students are
entering or exiting the bus.
Drivers approaching the bus
from either direction **MUST**
come to a complete stop.



A TRAIL OR NO TRAIL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

TC RESIDENT

Imagine bypassing traffic jams and being able to ride your bike safely from your home to Zilker Park for ACL, or to swim at Barton Springs, or to attend a class at ACC, or to meet friends at a restaurant at The Y in Oak Hill. Imagine being able to walk or ride a bike safely to nearby shopping or restaurants or schools. It may be a reality as part of the Urban Trails Master Plan (UTMP).

How might an urban trail affect Travis Country? One of the rumored routes runs right through the neighborhood. Do you like that? Does this concept worry you? Read on and plan to attend an August 17 special meeting in the Travis County office at 6:30 p.m., where City staff will answer questions about the proposed trail.

The City will conduct several public meetings to gather input on desirability and proposed alignments and connections to the YBC Trail.

The Urban Trails vision was part of a city ordinance adopted in 2008. After years of research, planning, and public input, the resulting vision is finally close to becoming a reality.

“The City believes the trail could serve significant surrounding populations, enhance connections to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network, and remain sensitive to the existing environment along the corridors used.”

For years many Austinites wished for greater neighborhood connectivity via biking and walking corridors, especially to key destinations such as parks, schools, and shopping throughout the Austin and Oak Hill area. The resulting Urban Trails Master Plan (<https://austintexas.gov/urbantrails>), adopted by the Austin City Council in 2014, is a long-term conceptual plan to link the entire city of Austin through a series of

trails that are accessible, functional, beautiful, and environmentally sensitive, in keeping with the spirit of Austin.

The urban trail that could cut close to Travis Country is named the YBC Trail and is a proposed connection between the Barton Creek Greenbelt and the bike/pedestrian bridge on the east, to The “Y”, the intersection of Texas Highway 71 and U.S. 290 in Oak Hill and ACC on the west.

The YBC Trail is ranked as a Tier 1, or high priority, trail. Tier 1 trails are those that provide a strong potential for both transportation and recreational use. The City believes the trail could serve significant surrounding populations, enhance connections to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network, and remain sensitive to the existing environment along the corridors used.

The YBC Trail received 2012 bond funding for preliminary engineering and design. However, construction funds for this project have not yet been identified. The cost for this type of urban trail is estimated to be as much as \$2 million per mile.

The City defines an urban trail network as a “citywide network of non-motorized, multi-



- continued on page 3



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TRAVIS COUNTRY REAL ESTATE STATS

SECTION	ACTIVE	ACTIVE		PENDING		2014		2014		2014		
		\$/SQ FT	AVG DAYS	PENDING	\$/SQ FT	AVG DAYS	SOLD	# SOLD	\$/SQ FT	\$/SQ FT	AVG DAYS	AVG DAYS
ORIGINAL	4	210.37	7	7	228.93	10	6	2	222.07	211.22	7	13
NEW	6	215.88	26	2	196.85	54	4	5	181.64	206.77	49	11
CONDOS	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

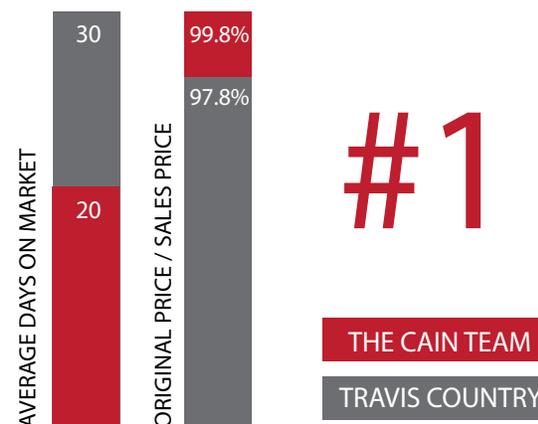
"Original" section consists of Travis Country and Trailwood Village. "New" section consists of Village Park, TC Green, Parke at TC and Lost Creek at Gaines Ranch. Current data was taken from MLS on July 21st and sold data is from June 2014/2015.

The Cain Team sold my home in three days with a bidding war! They made the entire process fun and pleasant. Not only were they always professional but even more important they were ALWAYS available.....even now one month later. My advice, entrust no one else with one of the most important decisions you'll ever make!

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TRAVIS COUNTRY 2014 STATISTICS



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TRAIL

- continued from page 1

use pathways that are used by bicyclists, walkers and runners for transportation or recreation purposes.” The YBC Trail is planned to be a shared use trail—usable by both bicyclists and pedestrians, including those with disabilities.

The trail would be constructed of a durable surface that would require minimal maintenance. Although asphalt and concrete are generally used, the City is looking into alternative products. Ideally the trail would be at least 12 feet wide, but the width can be adjusted to conform with topographical conditions. Due to proximity to environmentally sensitive creeks near Travis Country, the City will only be able to construct trails in the outer 25% of the Critical Water Quality Zones or will have to build bridges over these zones.

According to the UTMP, trails are one of the most frequently requested neighborhood amenities. In keeping with the history of environmental awareness in Travis Country, the presence of a well-used urban trail might be a natural fit for residents.

Benefits of a trail like this could include increased connectivity by walking, biking, or running to desirable destinations, and opportunities to commute to work without driving. Additionally, a trail could divert non-residents from using Travis Country property to access the Barton Creek Greenbelt by providing alternate routes.

Another possible benefit could be less traffic. Traffic will be increasing as more businesses, apartments, and homes are built to the west along Southwest Parkway and to the south along MoPac. Such a trail could provide an alternative route for non-motorized transportation.

City of Austin staff welcomes and encourages neighborhood questions and input about the proposed trail. Contact Nadia Barrera (Public Works Department, Neighborhood Connectivity, Project Coordinator at nadia.barrera@austintexas.gov or 512-974-7142) or Jessica Salinas (Public Works Department, Project Management Division, Project Manager at jessica.salinas@austintexas.gov or 512-974-7646) to learn about the City’s goals, plans, and timelines.

To find out more information about the YBC Trail, see <http://austintexas.gov/ybctrail>, where you can subscribe to an email list for updates or, better yet, plan to attend the August 17th special meeting in the Travis Country office.

MAIL CHANGES IN TRAVIS COUNTRY

TC NOTES

The U.S. Postal Service is “backfilling” and “making adjustments” to delivery routes affecting Travis Country, according to Mike Bell, station manager at the Oak Hill Post Office on Old Fredericksburg Road. “Routes are being put up for bid,” Bell says. The routes will be awarded on the basis of seniority.

But in a frank and direct conversation, Bell cautioned that residents may not see a significant difference in service as a result of the changes.

Some Travis Country residents complained recently on social media about late deliveries.

“We don’t have enough people. We have old trucks and antiquated equipment,” Bell said. “There are always going to be routes without the same people delivering the mail. There are always going to be letter carriers delivering some routes after they finish their own routes.”

“Have you heard,” Bell continued, “The Postal Service is running out of money! We’re striving to do the best we can with what we have.”

For the past decade Congress has refused to reform the Postal Service while at the same time burdening it with paying forward postal workers’ retirement and limiting postage rate increases. Meanwhile, more and more people use email and other delivery services, leading to less revenue. The U.S. Postal Service receives no money from Congress.

Asked about mail that is delivered to the wrong address, Bell said it’s a nationwide problem. It’s no different here. What should residents do when they get the wrong mail? “Call us,” Bell said. “Call us that day. Don’t wait. That way we can determine who made the wrong delivery.” The Oak Hill Station’s number is (512) 892-2794.

Bell has been station manager in Oak Hill since January.



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COYOTE SIGHTINGS CONTINUE

TC RESIDENT

As land abutting Southwest Parkway continues to be developed, coyotes adapt to the environmental changes and may live closer than ever in our green spaces. It is disturbing and sometimes frightening to cross paths with a coyote



or hear a pack howling at night. A number of residents have reported sightings and interactions this spring as the adults protect their young pups.

Stefan Hunt, Wildlife Biologist with Texas Wildlife Services, said that in the summer, the young coyotes start coming out of their dens but do not hunt yet with the adults. The adults are hunting for food to help feed their growing family. “Unintentional feeding” by

homeowners is the best way to attract coyotes. He advised residents not to leave food outside for domestic pets and not to feed the deer. Do not put bird feeders in the greenbelt area and don't add meat to compost piles. Stefan said, “Be aggressive toward coyotes whenever you see them — harass and haze them as much as possible” so they don't feel comfortable around humans.

The Texas Wildlife Service asks that residents call 311 whenever they have a coyote sighting. The City of Austin is especially interested in reports of coyotes with aggressive behavior such as lunging or nipping, entering your yard and attacking a pet, biting or injuring a pet on a leash, or biting or injuring a person without provocation.

Sadly, our domesticated cats are the optimum food source for coyotes. Mr. Hunt advised Travis Country residents to bring cats inside “well before dark” and only let them outside “well after daylight.” Even following these guidelines, the well-being of your household furry friends cannot be assured if they encounter a hunting coyote.

SAVE WATER AND MONEY!

Learn how you can save water and money by keeping your automatic sprinkler system in tip-top shape. In celebration of July being “Smart Irrigation Month,” Austin Water is sharing this video series with quick water conservation tips: <http://t.co/Nafily7fu2>. If you have questions, contact Austin Water Conservation at 512-974-2199.

NEW LENDING LIBRARY CREATED AT TC OFFICE

Are you looking for a great summer read? Have some books you don't want any more? Travis Country has established a new lending library on the porch of the TC office. The library cabinet will provide a place for neighbors to share books. Bring your gently used books to help us build a collection. Adult and kids books welcome. Email kierstanschwab@gmail.com if you have questions.



END OF SUMMER BASH



Come end the summer with your neighbors!

Saturday, August 22 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Complementary food and drink provided by TC HOA

- Water Slides
- Music & Dancing
- Treasure hunt
- Pool Obstacle Courses
- Whale Attack
- Water Lily Toss
- Duck-Duck-Splash
- Volleyball
- Freeze Tag
- Water Balloon Fun
- Tug-of-War
- TC Belly Flop Championships
- Watermelon Relay
- Limbo
- Contests for all ages
- Lots of prizes!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT

RSVP using the link on the TC web page starting August 1st.



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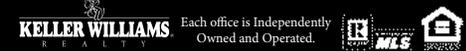
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*P.S. I hope you enjoyed your American Flag as we celebrated
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TC EVENTS CALENDAR

8/04	Pool Committee Meeting	7 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/10	TC History Committee Meeting	7 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/11	Tennis Committee Meeting	6 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/13	Safety Committee Meeting	6 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/14	TC Notes Deadline	5 p.m.	tcnotes@traviscountry.com
8/17	Special Urban Trails Meeting	6:30 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/17	Grounds Committee Meeting	7 p.m.	See message board
8/20	Board of Directors Meeting	6 p.m.	TCCSA Office
8/22	End of Summer Bash	5 - 9 p.m.	Blue Valley
8/25	TC Land Committee Meeting	7 p.m.	TCCSA Office
TBD	Architectural Review Meeting		See message board
TBD	Communications Committee Meeting		See message board

Occasional scheduling conflicts or other events may cause a meeting to be delayed, cancelled or rescheduled without notice. If you are not a committee member, please confirm that the meeting will take place as scheduled.

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