



Challenger

Street Newspaper

Austin, Texas

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Donation
Thank you!

November 2025
Vol 15 Issue 8
(167th issue) *

www.challengernewspaper.org
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

512-560-4735

An Independent Press - 95% Street Written—Voices Of The Street
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING



INSIDE

<i>Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, Native American Heritage Month</i>	1
<i>Contributors/Announcements-Bus Passes /Editorial Policy/ Class</i>	2
<i>Peace Love & Happiness Ad</i>	3
<i>Ending Homelessness Explained</i> By Chris Baker	4
<i>Gone Home</i> Memorial Nov 16	5
<i>Indoor/Outdoor Code of Conduct</i> By Val & Campers of Tent City	5
<i>Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ad</i>	6
<i>Rehabbing</i> By Timothy Warfield	7
<i>Texas Ten Commandments</i> By Thom World Poet	7
<i>Why Deny?</i> By John Curran	8
<i>The Golden Age</i> By John Curran	8
PULL-OUT DIRECTORY <i>Distributor Info / Jail Mail info/TCTAd</i>	9
<i>Pg 10-12 Directory</i>	Cont
<i>Challenger Code of Conduct</i>	12
<i>Homer's Demands Updated</i> By Challenger Members	13
<i>What Is It Like To Sleep In A Homeless Shelter</i> By Ryan Dowd	13
<i>Distributors</i>	14
<i>Cartoons</i> By Andrew Steckel	15
<i>Homeless Stealing From the Homeless</i> By Clifton Pappas	16
<i>Spilling Secrets</i> By Val Romness (reprinted from Oct & Nov 2024)	17
<i>A Tent With Air Conditioning?</i> By Ryan Dowd	18
<i>ART</i> By Zebra	19
<i>Subscriber Form/Ad Rates</i>	20



HONOR VETERANS

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mission: The Challenger Street Newspaper advocates, informs, and connects diverse people from all walks of life. We empower street dependent campers with economic opportunity and get their viewpoints heard.

The material printed reflects the opinions of its authors.



Director / Editor:

Valerie Romness
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a good time to get rid of old blankets, hats, gloves, scarfs. Just hand them out your car window or donate to a shelter.

Contributors:

- John Curran
- Thom the World Poet
- Timothy Warfield
- Val Romness
- Andy Steckel
- Ryan Dowd
- Zebra
- Clifton Pappas
- Chris Baker
- Jesse G-Treasurer
- Morlog-IT
- J.T. - Laptops
- Fred Pettit—Co-Founder
- Spanish Translation: Belinda
- Web Host: DreamHost
- Web Updates: Val

Our partners:

- Mobile Loaves & Fishes
- Treasure City Thrift
- Austin Public Library
- T.O.O.F.
- JP's P.L.H. Fndn
- Hogg Foundation
- Richard R. Troxell-N.H.C.



95% Street Reporters

Leslie Cochran wrote for the Challenger our first 6 months.

Clip Art used from MS Publisher

We use century gothic font cause it uses least amount of ink.



2023



To subscribe or make a donation
www.challengernewspaper.org
Venmo Cash app Square or



BUS PASSES

By CTOSH email & Val Romness

Paper passes with a magstripe on the back will continue to work on the fareboxes, which are not changing.

Participants will receive paper passes



THANKS TO ALL OUR

ADVERTIZERS,
DONORS,
CONTRIBUTORS AND
DISTRIBUTORS
YOU MEAN A LOT!

Editorial Policy

Material in the paper reflects the opinion of the author. Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published. We ask you to proof read your article. Grammar is edited only for understanding. Editor doesn't edit your voice.

Deadline is 2nd Sunday or the 15th.

Should you come into contact with an individual you believe could benefit from outreach, call the Sunrise Hotline

512-522-1097
M-F 8a-8p

Time for a discussion Challenger Will Visit Your Org/Hood

Zoom or in person

Understanding Homelessness and building empathy.

Goals

- 1 See the whole person
- 2 Meet them where they are
- 3 Recognize that there may be invisible disabilities
- 4 Use cultural competence
- 5 Never take your eyes off the person's humanity



Contact 512 560 4735 or challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

PEACE
LOVE
HAPPINESS

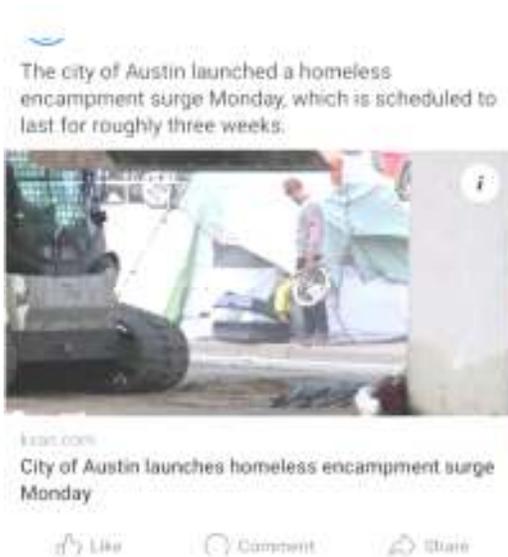


@plhfoundation



FACEBOOK POST OCTOBER 22, 2025

BY CHRIS BAKER



I have an observation about these two news stories.

In the comment sections of both, dozens of comments say some version of:

"There are plenty of shelters where people could stay if they would just follow the rules."

Um—no. Not even close.

Every single shelter in the city is at 100% capacity, 100% of the time. There are nowhere near enough beds to meet the demand that exists in our community.

Shelters that keep waitlists have hundreds of people waiting in line to get in. The ones that don't get a hundred referrals for every one bed that opens up.

Our shelter system desperately needs to be scaled. We can keep moving people around, but until there are enough places for folks to go, we're just kicking the can down the block—and maybe around the corner.

And look, I get it. Some people out there are also engaging in behaviors that need to land them in jail. They're not all angels. I totally empathize with people who feel like they've lost access to our shared public spaces, or who have encampments near their homes. It's not fun. Nobody likes it. I get that, and I feel for you. I really do understand the instinct to want to just get them the fuck out of here. I don't want them there either.

More to the point: THEY DON'T WANT TO BE THERE. When given the opportunity to move off the street and into a shelter, 95% of people take it.

And this is the whole point. We don't have the shelter capacity, regardless of whether or not folks are able to follow the rules.

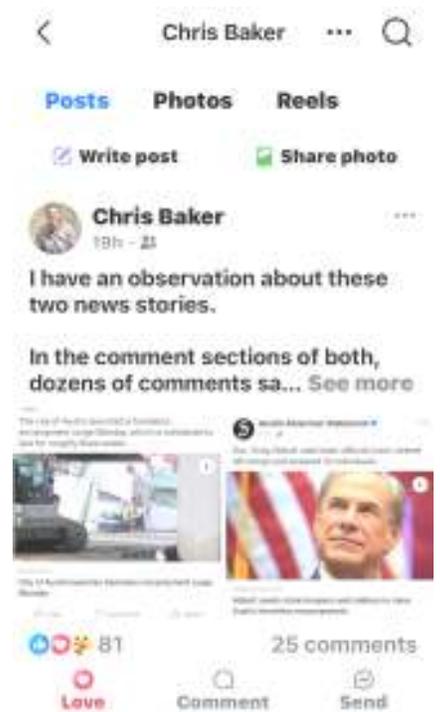
If we can get folks into shelters as a starting point on a path toward housing stability, we can actually start addressing the root of the issue. Unlike jails, where folks are processed and fed back to the streets inside 24 hours, now with yet another ding on their record, making it even harder to find permanent housing stability.

If we don't have the resources to do that, we'll just keep spinning our wheels.

We also have to invest in job training, housing assistance, and psychiatric treatment so that shelters don't just wind up back in the same logjam we have now.

You don't hear many people complaining that we spend \$200 million a year on our jail, but when I say we need a tenth of that for shelters, people call me a grifter on Twitter.

We are never going to solve this until we make bold investments. No more half measures.



GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Please let the paper know if someone has passed;
We want to remember them. A picture is nice
Call 512-560-4735 challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

33RD HTH HOMELESS MEMORIAL

SUNDAY, NOV. 16 9-10 AM

MEMORIAL TREE, BENCH & PLAQUE AT
VIC MATHIAS SHORES - SO 1ST & RIVERSIDE DR

Indoor/Outdoor Code of Conduct

For Businesses & Housed People

- ◇ Choose to practice empathy over fear
- ◇ Give compassion
- ◇ Don't hate
- ◇ **Safety:** Don't provoke street people, you will cause them to behave like you. You get back how you treat people.
- ◇ Smile, but say, "sorry, no cash"
- ◇ Give cold water, burgers, protein snacks, socks or a Challenger
- ◇ Donate to a charity of your choice, ie. Challenger Newspaper, Community First! Village, Foundation Communities.
- ◇ Don't quawk as you drive by
- ◇ Give a blanket or tent out your car window
- ◇ Don't call their stuff trash, just becuz it's in a trash bag: It may have family photos, meds, import papers, etc.
- ◇ Stop worrying about their pets; they are well cared for. Puppies learn early how to behave. They have more dog food than people food! Everyone deserves unconditional love!



For Campers

- ⇒ Respect the rules. No troublemakers.
- ⇒ Each is responsible for their own belongings
- ⇒ No display of products or substances that are socially unacceptable. (If you come back in a socially unacceptable state - Go to bed or leave! No talking!)
- ⇒ No display of weapons. Watch out for children!
- ⇒ Self-monitor behavior or you get probation or 24 hrs out or 1 week out. (can be left up to group)
- ⇒ Pets if allowed must be controlled (with or without leash)
- ⇒ Volunteer 10 hours/week or what group consensus.
- ⇒ No bad isms (sexism, classism, racism, religiousism, ageism)
- ⇒ Prevent frenzy (rushing) (No monopolizing)
- ⇒ Use composting toilets or cardboard (Don't shit where you sleep)
- ⇒ No fires. Cook with a small campstove
- ⇒ Clean up after yourself! Take your trash out
- ⇒ Listen to each other. Respect quiet time.
- ⇒ Use consensus to be fair; do a gather in to deal with baggage.
- ⇒ Check your ego at the street!

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.™

Empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1998.

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

The Challenger Street Newspaper



mlf.org | [@mobileloaves](https://twitter.com/mobileloaves) | [#ServingGoodness](https://twitter.com/ServingGoodness)

PLEASE DONATE TO MLF'S *Community First! Village* PROJECT

REHABBING BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

I have corrected vision, yet I can't see or feel love
 The World Series is near, however; I'm a first baseman without a glove
 Up and down the batting order I'm shuffled
 Unrepairable I am each day feeling muffled

No more social media, I forgot about plan B
 Wounded I am with a bad heart and bum knee
 I was told once before love takes time to heal
 Racing at a fast pace as if I was on a Ferris wheel

Protein and water I intake each and everyday
 Rehabbing is so stressful, my hair is almost a full color gray
 Counselor after counselor, I listen with an open mind
 I'm trying to stay focus so that my life can become an incline

I'm thankful to have learned a lesson or two
 However, I still carry a heart that is blue
 I'm rehabbing trying to have a stronger and better heart
 I too want to be labeled again a work of art



TEXAS TEN COMMANDMENTS BY THOM THE WORLD POET

- 1.Thou shalt not abuse any unsheltered persons
- 2.Thou shalt not destroy their possessions
- 3.Thou shalt not steal their tents,wheelchairs,life tools
- 4.Thou shalt not arrest any person for their status("homelessness")
- 5.Thou shalt not slander,defame,libel those in poverty
- 6.Thou shalt not deny them medical services
- 7.Thou shalt not deny shelter on grounds of discrimination
- 8.Thou shalt not avoid,evade,deny the realities of economic displacement
- 9.Thou shalt shelter all,heal all sick,comfort the weak
- 10.Thou shalt treat all with equality ,respect and dignity.AMEN(and WOMEN)



Because no one has raised the US minimum wage which is \$7.25.

Even \$15 isn't enough in some cities where they're living wage is \$24.

By keeping wages slow, we have people to complain about when we are the ones who force them into poverty.

WHY DENY?

BY JOHN CURRAN

That great line by Paul Simon, just kills me. Why indeed. I had this girlfriend in Mexico on that last run that was with me for a long time, almost the whole time. You could even say she was the beginning and she was the end, 'cause when she was gone, finally, it was on me too, in a funny way she probably saved my life, 'cause by then it was definitely time to go. So she was really the one. Some gal, some crazy chica in a land of crazy Mexicans, 'n me, the gringo that got away for a while. So, all the rest fills volumes, just to say I loved her, always will, 'n among all she was she had this crazy act that really makes me think, some people just get it going, so completely, just by being who they are, that it can drive others to distraction, but sometimes it was just so damn funny...

See this Shangri La that didn't last was 'n still is I guess a real like "hip" international backpack travelers place on the route. 'N me, I'd gone Tropo, childhood hadn't worn off yet 'n I'd split the old USA. Seriously, There had been something serious about it all at first, this place. Cocaine put the brakes on the rest of that. So I'm living the life, got gringo tourist guys n girls blow thru from states a lot I run into 'n we get on this 'n that.



I hook 'em up maybe, they come up to my place, the house on the hill. And Marina's there She's doing crochet maybe like she'd do for hours. I come up with this guy n get get on with it whatever it coulda' been N she goes off to the side. She don't talk with us in English, she'll never get the language 'n that's ok we speak Spanish. N so I'm with this guy 'n she starts getting into talk with herself, I guess be a way to put it. Actually full on conversation with at least two people talking, all in Spanish. The talk goes back and forth, inflections rising, falling, different tones, back and forth. Not whispered or low, she's talking right out, it's obvious. 'N me n the guy ya know. So for a while he's like playing it off gotta be, 'cause I can tell, he's seeing this. 'N she don't care for nothin' let me tell ya. So, yeah have to been there. Finally the dude says... Uh, your girlfriend uh is like talking to herself, over there. I wouldn't pay it no mind I'd say she's just a little nuts but its ok, 'n then he'd know, talk about it maybe, later, back there in LA.

THE GOLDEN AGE BY JOHN CURRAN

I actually can't believe I'm still here and in one piece. I live in the rubble now of what once was our home. The nights are starting to get cold and it's always harder and harder to find fuel now to keep the rickety old heater going. Food they say will be coming now because there has been a truce, a ceasefire, whatever they want to call it. I hardly ever eat now and I'm hungry all the time as is all the rest of us kids. My family is gone, they've all been killed, mother, father, my three sisters. There's just me and my two younger cousins now. We have a small space here that we've cleared out of the rubble. They're both younger than me. They rely on me now we're all we have though all of our neighbors and people we know try and help out because all of us, children, adults, old people, all of us, we're all in the same boat, just trying to survive day to day. It's very



hard. My cousin Maki is just six and he has no hands, they were blown off. He picked up something that he thought was something else and the thing exploded and blew off his hands. He needs a lot of help all the time. My other cousin Fabio is blind. He's only eight years old. At least he has the rest of his little skinny self to help out as best he can. He's actually a big help and he's getting pretty good at adjusting to his blindness. He helps so much with Maki, feeding, the toilet, all 'a that. I can't always be there. I'm twelve and I feel grown up already because I guess I have to. We're just trying to stay alive like always only it's harder and harder now and it's so sad. I miss my family so bad. They say that a golden age is coming now but really, for me, it's just grey as ever. I just hope we can get something to eat.

Pullout—Directory of Resources

See inside

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS * CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!



We're a quick, no barrier income

get paid the same day

Start with a free paper, sell it to get a \$1.00 starter kit.

The kit comes with ID Badge & 10 papers to sell on a donation basis

We meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

Outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or
Central Library Rm 471

Strike up a conversation & offer our paper on a donation basis. After you sell the 10, future papers costs you \$1 each and YOU keep the profits.

The Challenger is written & published monthly by 95 % un-housed people. The paper operates from a mobile office with 2 suitcases & a backpack. Our Director/Editor, Val, prints the paper at home, then we fold them when we meet.

We take Venmo, Cash app & PayPal. Make sure they put your name or badge number. It might take a couple weeks to build your business. We are also digital online,

If you submit an article, poem or art, you get 10 copies of the issue that you're published in.

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengenewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengenewspaper.org

Challenger Newspaper
PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
512-560-4735

It Works!

JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

We want you, and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. You should write neatly so we can type or any writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you!

We don't have free subscriptions, but if you're published we will send a copy.

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715 challengenewspaper@yahoo.com



Tues-Thurs 1-7 PM
Fri-S-S-Mon 11am-7pm

Moving this fall
5201 Cameron Rd



Treasure City Thrift
Clothes, Housewares,
Books and more!
5201 Cameron Rd.
www.TreasureCityThrift.org

REALLY REALLY
FREE MARKET
LAST SUNDAY
2-5 PM

Challenger Directory of Resources Updated 11/2025

Please notify

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
if you notice changes to the directory

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Call 988

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

LASSA TX Hotline: 844-303-7233

SAFE 512.267.7233 www.safeaustin.org

VINE 512-936-1200 www.vinelink.com

Kind Clinic .833.937.5463 www.kindclinic.org

If this is insufficient or you need help reporting or treating an event, email Challenger ATTN: Jenny

NAT'L SEX ASSAULT HOTLINE 1-800-656-HOPE

HUMAN TRAFFICING 1 (888) 373-7888

NAT'L HUMAN TRAFFICKING Resource Center Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 English, Spanish and 200 more, traffickingresourcecenter.org
<http://stopthetrafficking.org>

NAVIGATIONS CENTERS:

Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center (M-F 9-1) . 4430 Menchaca (Ben White) Hot meal, mail, showers, hygiene, ltd clothing, laundry, computer lab, triage referral/navigation: Service Point ID, Coordinated Assessment, MAP/Food stamp sign-up; Medical clinic (Th only), Integral Care; job resources, recovery support. **Hotline: 512-522-1097** NARCAN VENDING MACHINE sunrisenavigationcenter.org

Trinity Center: 304 E. 7th St. Navigation/service center, meals, case management, ID docs, Coordinated Assessment; MAP, SNAP, Food Stamp sign-up; bus passes, ltd travel assistance, clothes/showers (women only on Mondays), mail, phone, computer access, housing referrals. M-F 9a-1p, Sun. 3-4:30p Come in person/no appts. TrinityCenterAustin.org

Charlie Center-Mosaic Church Navigation Cntr 2675 Research Blvd. (McNeil/183) 512-922-8954 Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. ID's, Social Security Cards, Vital Records, Meal Served Daily, SNAP Sign-Up, Coordinated Assessments, Housing Info & Referrals, Case Management, Mail, Packages, Medication, Secure Document Storage theCharlieCenter.org

Austin Community Court— 505 Barton Springs Rd. Help navigating the system, mail, phone, storage of vital records, help fill out forms, case management. Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Mailing address: Downtown Austin Community Court P.O. Box 13464 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 974-4879

First Austin Baptist— Case management, Resource navigation, Call for appt. 512-476-2635, 901 Trinity St. fbcaustin.org

BATHROOMS:

-Public Restroom 4th & Trinity
-Public Restroom 6th & Brazos
-Portapotti 7th & Trinity
-Portapotti 6th & IH35
-Downtown Austin Community Court / 505 Barton Springs Rd / 8-5 Monday – Friday
-Libraries
-Near city trails

Shower and bathroom:

Rec Centers
Mon-Sat, 10a -3pm:
Bartholomew Pool
1800 E. 51st St East
Barton Springs Pool
2131 William Barton Dr Central
Springwoods Pool
13320 Lyndhurst St. Northwest
Balcones Pool /closed for season
12017 Amherst Dr. North

Showers:

M-F Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center 8:30 -11am
M-F— 7th & I-35 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
M-F— Burnet and Hwy 183 / 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
The Other Ones Foundation A mobile hygiene truck (showers, sink and toilet)

Barton Springs Pool

Shwrs available/**New Bath House is now open!!**
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p (fee charged)
Closed Mondays & Thurs
VETERANS are always in free

LAUNDRY:

Mission Accomplished

Mobile laundry, (must have voucher) care packages and connections to assist in transitioning to stable, self-sufficient and healthy lifestyles.
Each location 9am-12N
Unscented soap available.
M— Sunrise Navigation Ctr—4430 Menchaca Rd
Tu-Violet Storage—700 E.. 7 St (parking lot)
W, F, Sat-The Other Ones - 780 S. Hwy 183
W-The Charlie Center at the Mosaic Church
12675 Research Blvd.

FOOD:

Angel House / Austin Baptist Chapel Soup Kitchen Food Pantry/breakfast/lunch - daily 9:30-10a, 11a-12:30p, 512-643-2327, 908 E. Cesar Chavez St

Bread For All: Food Bank Faith Presbyterian Church at 1314 E Oltorf St, 5-6:30 pm Mondays. We also sponsor a mobile distribution with the food bank at Parker Lane United Methodist (2105 Parker Lane) second Monday of the month from 9-10 am. All are welcome. <https://austincitylutherans.org/food/>

Caritas of Austin: Housing, food, educ, employment, veterans assistance. Housing programs require referral via Coordinated Entry system. Daily Lunch 11a. CENTRAL: 611 Neches NORTH: 9027

Northgate Blvd. Lobby hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11:45AM caritasofaustin.org

Central Presbyterian (200 E. 8th, corner of 8th and Brazos) Breakfast Thursdays 8-9 am, limited space, clothes and toiletries. 512-472-2445 cpcaustin.org

El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission:

Community Health Worker Training, Adult Educ, Youth Progs, Vaccines and Health Literacy. Office hours: M-F 9a-5p, Food Help: T/Th 8a-10a 7000 Woodhue Dr, 512-439-8900, ElBuen.org

Foundation Communities' Prosper Health Coverage program provides FREE help for all people to find and use affordable health insurance or other health coverage programs. We have phone and in-person advice available. Call 512-381-4520, email enroll@foundcom.org, book an appointment online (<http://prosperhealthcoverage.org/>), or visit one of our community Prosper Centers at 5900 Airport Blvd. or 2900 South IH-35 from 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday

Foundation for the Homeless / Feed My People

Tuesday/Thursday breakfast 5:30-7 am.. First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Showers, AA meetings, a clothing closet (Thursday only), showers, and haircuts (every other Thursday).

Gateway Church - Feed the Community Food Pantry, 7104 McNeil Dr. Wednesdays 9-11am

Green Doors' veterans (transitional housing) and affordable housing residents (affordable rental or PSH with vouchers) until capacity is full. They may require a brief hotel stay for folks seeking to join the transitional housing program (and Green Doors would cover the cost); affordable rentals are immediate admission because they are single occupancy. info@greendoors.org or 512-469-9130 for information or applications.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes For locations and schedules, visit <http://www.mlf.org/truck-schedules>.

The Other Ones Foundation Work opportunities, out of town transportation assistance, emergency shelter. 512-568-7557 780 S. Hwy 183. toofound.org

University Presbyterian Church/Micah 6 Food Pantry Thursdays at 5:30-7 pm and Saturdays at 9:30-11 am. 2203 SanAntonio St., micah6austin.org

University United Methodist Church/ Open Door Ministry: breakfast & clothing every Saturday from 8-9 am. 2409 Guadalupe St.

Victory Ministries (2300 Canterbury St) supplies are VERY LOW. People being served outside only. If able, PLEASE CALL 512-480-9628 to check status before coming.

Westover Hills Church of Christ Providing food (non-perishable groceries) for everyone Saturdays 9-11 am. Drive-thru style. Located at 8332 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759. Food for Seniors

Resource Directory con't

Updated 11/2025

STORAGE/LOCKERS:

Violet KeepSafe Storage 700 E 7th St. (Indoors/ bathroom available) 96 gal barrel with long-shank lock. 7 days 7 am - 7 pm. To apply for a storage bin, call first to check bin availability. If you have a Photo ID, that will help. 512-974-1294

EMPLOYMENT:

Challenger Street Newspaper

Sign up 1-3 pm on Sundays outside City Hall (Guadalupe & Cesar Chavez) or Rm 471 Central Library.. Low barrier self employment. Make money today and every day you work. Distribute the paper on a donation basis, you keep all profits. Challengernewspaper.org

Workforce First: Offers individuals experiencing homelessness opportunity to work cleaning parks. Also offers case management. The program is on a waitlist that can take several months to get through. Must be 18+ and currently unoused. Call 512-568-7557 or email brian@toofound.org

Skillpointalliance.org Job training: plumbing, HVAC, electrical, manufacturing. Women & Men 512-729-4922

Fair Living Wage Calculator: enter zip code www.universallivingwage.org

City Resources App: <https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

REFERRALS:

First Call for Help : 211 or 988
Free, bilingual information & referral service about food, clothing, housing, child and youth services, job placement assistance, education, recreation, support groups and other programs and services.

Arcilinc.org
CASE MANAGEMENT 512-832-6349

VETERANS

▲ **VETERANS** ▼

American Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 Text to 838255

Texas Veterans Commission
www.tvc.texas.gov

V. A. 512-823-4100 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744
Outpatient Clinic: Primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization. Contact Andrew Miller
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Caritas of Austin: 7th & Neches. Community Kitchen is serving lunch M-F 11 AM-12:30PM. Our clients receive case management/housing stability services and groceries through our food pantry. The lobby has public access to water, bathrooms, phones and info on community resources. Lobby hours: Monday,

Wednesday, Thursday 8-11AM & 1-4:45PM. Tuesday 8-11AM & 1-6:45PM. Friday 8-11AM

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35
Housing First- Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Strike Force Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call 254-299-9950. See www.tvc.state.tx.us for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

Center Point Texas Veterans Program 512-297-2990
outreach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741 Up to \$800 housing/car repair

Barton Springs Pool

VETERANS are always in free
Shwrs available/**Bath House is now open.**
Swim at your own risk 5-8 am & 8-9:50 pm daily
8 am to 8 p. Closed Mondays & Thurs

SHELTER:

ARCH Austin Resource Center for Homeless
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920

8th Street Shelter- Emergency shelter for single women & transwomen 501 E. 8th St (Neches) (referral only) Contact Sunrise Navigation Cntr 512-522-1097 8am-8 pm M-F On site case management

Marshaling Yard: Appointment only.

Esperanza is expanding, they got more land adjacent.

Esperanza Community 780 S US Hwy 183 (Old Bastrop Hwy) between Briggs Equipment and Palm Harbor Homes. Contact the Other Ones Foundation for a space (512) 568-7557. Pets are welcome. Charging station, . Shower trailer Bus Route #217

The Safe Alliance Call for locations, 512-267-SAFE (7233) Emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and case managers for women escaping domestic & sexual violence. children & men also accepted.

YOUTH:

Lifeworks Under 27 yrs. 835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd. Mon-Thurs 12-4 pm Bus routes 300 & 493. Food, hygiene, bus passes, Wifi, gear, charging, mailing address, coordinated assessment.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Street Youth Ministry 2008 Justin Ln

SAFE CARES a program of The SAFE Alliance, YOUTH 12-22 experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. Case management, advocacy, therapy, and Drop-In services. Call 512.267.7233(SAFE)

SENIORS/ELDERS:

Family Eldercare Outreach and in-home care for those over 60 years old. M-Th 8-4, Fri 8-12

Call for locations, 512-450-0844

Safelink for 60 yrs+ FREE cell phones and service 1-800-Safelink (1-800-723-3546)

So. Austin Senior Center 3911 Menchaca Rd, Austin, TX 78704 (512) 978-2400 M-F 8-5

Conley-Guerrara Senior Center 808 Nile St 512) 978-2660 M-F 8-4;30 Sat 8a-12:30p

No. Lamar Senior Center 2874 Shoal Crest Ave (512) 978-2480 M & W 8:30 A-8:30 P, TU & TH 8:30 A-4 P, F 8:30 A-1:30 P

MEDICAL, DENTAL:

Dell Seton Medical Center at UT (formerly Brackenridge) 512-324-7000 1500 Red River St. Emergency care-911

ARCH Clinic-Community Care
500 E. 7th St. 512-978-9920 Mon-Fri 7-11 am & 12-4 pm. walk-ins and appointments

MAP cards 512-978-8130 1313 Red River Ste. 217A Mon. - Fri. 8am or 1 pm Homeless get right in. Screening and enrollment done on a walk in basis. appts preferred. Full coverage medical services with reduced or no copay. Must meet a set criteria.

CARE CONNECTIONS CLINIC Walk in. 3706 S. First St.
Tuberculosis Elimination Clinic 15 Waller St., TB testing. Also Community Care-Hancock Cntr

BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY AWARENESS CENTER
1704 EAST 12TH ST 78702 512-965-6950
drduncan924@gmail.com

KIND CLINIC Austin-Koenig Suite 200 Free HIV/STI walk-in testing No appt Mon-Fri 9 am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm 1-833-WE-R-KIND (1-833-937-5463) kindclinic.org

THRA TX Harm Reduction Alliance 512-893-3237
Drop in 1803 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mon-Thurs 11:30-2:30 pm Wed 3-5 pm. We offer support for people who use drugs, including tools, resources, and overdose prevention.

RecoveryATX.org Peer recovery/support 512-553-2683

Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic ([wait in line or appt](http://wait.in.line.or.appt))
4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319
Emergency **dental care** for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs. Manosdecristo.org

STD Clinic 15 Waller St., 512-972-5430
not anonymous, but confidential STD testing. Must have photo ID.

AIDS Services of Austin 7215 Cameron Rd., 512-458-2437 case management, testing, & a variety of financial services available. The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic is a part of AIDS services of Austin and operates on a sliding scale for all HIV positive clients.

MENTAL HEALTH:

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Call 988 For Police w/mental health training, don't call 911, call 512-472-HELP.

Mental Health Information Helpline
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), Mon- Fri, 9.- 5, CST

Directory continued

Healthcare for Homeless HUB *co-located with Lonestar Circle of Care* 3000 Oak 512-532-9961 for appt.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)
1165 Airport Blvd Walk in M-F 8a-10p and Saturday/Sunday and holidays from 10a-8p.

East 2nd Street Clinic (Central Austin)
1631 E 2nd Walk in M-F 8-5

Stonegate Clinic (So. Austin) 2501 W. William Cannon Dr, Bldg 4 Walk in M-F 8-5

St. John Clinic – (North Austin)
6937 N. IH 35 Walk in M-F 8-5

Www.aayhf.org

African American Youth Harvest Foundation
6633 Hwy 290 E. Ste 307 (512) 428-4480
ContactUs@aayhf.org

H.O.S.T Homeless Outreach Street Team
512-804-3720

We Can Now Street Outreach
Sunrise Navigation Outreach

Suicide Lifeline 800-273-TALK (8255) IF YOU TEXT 741741 WHEN YOU ARE FEELING DEPRESSED OR SUICIDAL, A CRISIS WORKER WILL TEXT YOU BACK IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE TO TEXT WITH YOU!

Integral Care.org Crisis Helpline 512-472-4357 (HELP) 24/7 Immediate emotional support. 24 hr/day, 7 days/week. or you may call them and an outreach worker will come to you.

Austin Mental Health Community (S.H.A.C.) Self Help and Advocacy Center
Drop in. M & Tu 11:30-4:30 W-F 9-4
3205 S 1st St. 512-442-3366

Austin Clubhouse community of mutual support and recovery for adults living with mental health diagnoses

www.austinclubhouse.org

Applicant must: Be 18 yrs, be following a treatment plan (doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, case worker, or peer specialist, etc.). We do not require Doctor's referral letter. To become a member call 512-925-5877 to schedule a tour. 610 E. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78751 (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is at the corner of 18th & San Antonio, 1716 San Antonio St. Austin, Tx

LEGAL:

Legal Aid Survivors of Sexual Assault
1-844-303-SAFE free legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault.

Austin Tenants Council 512-474-1961 (M-F 9-12 and M-Th 1-4 PM)

Camp Ban Tickets TX Fair Defense Project
512-637-5220 Press 0 Mon 12-5 pm & Thurs 10 am-1pm or if in jail: Austin Lawyers Guild hotline 512-817-4254

Community Court 505 Barton Springs Rd first floor. Bus 1, 3, 7, 10, 20, 801

(1700 Guadalupe St) is the current, Travis County Civil Law Court House, which gets confused with old courthouse, 11th & Guadalupe & causes tardiness if you're not in the know. At the Current & old Court houses the cops do mag wand & scan your bag, coat, & belt & there's barriers to leaving the building too. But, at new courthouse they have a law library on 2nd floor, where law books & computers with internet access, and law clerk librarians can help you research forms & methods for filing legal & business forms. All available for anyone wanting to study law or research what are common civic expectations, not taught or explained in public school.

UTILITIES:

Baptist Community Center Mission
2000 E. 2nd St Elect, water, gas, meds, birth cert, food

CLOTHING:

Mobile Clothing TRUCK:
Thrift-ish.org Contact for your group to have a free shopping experience

Really Really Free Market
Last Sunday 2-5 PM
Treasure City Thrift Camron Rd

FREE HAIRCUTS:

Supercuts Training Academy call ahead 512-481-8900.

Ron King Academy call ahead 512-596-5000. (tip expected)

Foundation for the Homeless- haircuts (every other Thursday). First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St.

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID:

Texas Dept. of Human Services
Moved to Capital Plaza 512-929-7330
Women, infants & Children (WIC)
Call for closest location, 1-800-942-3678

HOUSING

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 (512) 823-4000
Transitional housing for single veterans.

Blackland Community Development Corp. 2005 Salina St., (512) 220-8751
Transitional housing for families and single persons.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St.
High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20
Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35 Housing First-Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Project Transitions-Roosevelt Gardens
HIV Housing Complex
5606 Roosevelt Avenue
The 40-unit homeless or unstably housed

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35 ATX, 78704. 512-477-4488 6 month to 2 year; waiting list depends heavily on individual circumstance. Wwww.hacanet.org

Travis County Housing Authority
2200 E. MLK Jr. Blvd. 512-480-8245
Similar to Austin Housing Authority.

Foundation Communities
Affordable housing for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes: 512-447-2026

Community First! Village Micro homes, trailers, canvas tents. mlf.org Hogeye Rd. Be prepared after a few years you may consider moving to typical apt.

Victory Homes Austin Greater Austin area as well as the surrounding cities. Lodging, food, and clothing is provided. Majority of people providing assistance are former addicts and gang members who at one time found themselves trapped in the same cycle.

For more info: Director Gus Celaya (512) 920-8708 or Admin office 512-822-9182

Excellence & Advancement Foundation (EAF) provides programs, services and advocacy to break the school-to-prison pipeline by coordinating prevention and intervention programs to support children at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Below are some of the programs. For more info: <https://breakthepipeline.org/programs/>

Awesome Activist Leadership Program, Black Leadership Academy, SPARK change, The Wrap up, The Excellence Resource Center (this is the advocacy, case management program), Parenting with a purpose

ART FROM THE STREETS STUDIO

"Canopy" 916 Springdale Rd Bldg 2 Rm105
Mon & Tues 10am-1pm Thurs 12-3PM
(Women Only: Wed 12-3 PM)
Art supplies provided for FREE! Participation allows each artist to be in the annual show in October!

PET CARE: www.emancipet.org offers free days for pet care

WARMING CENTERS:

Regular hours at Rec Centers & Public Libraries. Sorry, no pets.

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

35' Dry, wet or windy. . HOT meal! Call for status 512-972-5055 Free bus

Single men and women, **pets welcome**, Register at 505 Barton Springs Rd f 6-8 PM or till flow stops.. Rides to locations. Families with children, arrive by 6pm.

City Resources App:
<https://opennow.maps.austintexas.gov/>

Government phones:
<https://lifewireless.com/>

Want text alerts from City Homeless Strategy Office? Text to 737-980-1321

Notify Challengernewspaper @yahoo.com if you notice changes to the directory

CODE OF CONDUCT

Challenger Newspaper

1. Distributors must wear their badges in a clear and visible way when pitching the paper.

2. Distributors must be sober and drug free when they pitch the paper.

3. Distributors are responsible for their papers once they purchase them.

4. Distributors are not permitted to fight over territory, use abusive language, or exhibit aggressive behavior.

5. Distributors can't pitch in doorways, directly in front of businesses, or near ATM machines.

6. Distributors must not give the "hard sell" to customers.

7. Stepping off the curb may get you a ticket.

8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

Distributors who violate our code will be warned and suspended if it continues.

We need to police ourselves or the police will.



Homer The Homeless Goose's Demands

By Challenger Newspaper

- More mental health care. TX is 47th in spending on mental health.
- Stop scraping camps and stop throwing all of ppl's things away!
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase funding for homeless services*
- *Austin Living Wage*
- *Pets must be allowed at shelters—better mental and physical health (get brief orientation for socialization of pets)*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 17 to 35 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cooling/heat Center: behind ARCH—Oasis has shade, water and bathrooms*
- *Find me! Get me on public display!*

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO SLEEP IN A HOMELESS SHELTER?

BY RYAN DOWD

I was going through some old files and found these notes I jotted down on a night I slept at the homeless shelter where I was Executive Director.

This was from ten or fifteen years ago, but the basic “feel” of sleeping in a homeless shelter is still pretty much the same...

- **7:00 pm** – Dinner is provided by volunteers who are all members of the Sikh religion. They all, including the children, wear Dastars (turbans). They serve a few dozen pizzas, watermelon and orange Kool-Aid.
- **7:32 pm** – There are way too many kids living in the shelter right now. I watch four siblings (all in matching tie-die shirts) run around a crowded dining room playing a game that is a cross between tag and rugby. Dozens of adults—wary from a long day—try to avoid them.
- **8:46 pm** – A man who lives at the shelter is making a balloon animal (a monkey riding on a ball). He taught himself to make balloon animals as a way to calm his anxiety. The four children in matching tie-die shirts stand transfixed, watching his craft. It is the first time they have stopped moving since they arrived.
- **9:00 pm** – The sleeping rooms are full and there are still more people who need a place to stay. The dining room is converted into another “bedroom” by laying out another 40 or so mats. That is where I will sleep tonight.
- **10:32 pm** – I manage to track down a few sheets, so I don't have to sleep on a bare mat. I'm not sure where we got the sheets from, but they are smaller than a twin bed. Maybe they were made for cribs.
- **10:37 pm** – I am assigned a mat in the middle of the dining room. All the “prime real estate” is already taken. The best locations are near a fan or a wall. The noise of the fans blocks some of the shelter noises. Being near a wall means you can put your head by the wall instead of by somebody's feet. I have the benefit of neither a fan nor a wall.
- **11:02 pm** – It is amazing how much noise 40 people can make while sleeping. How does anyone sleep here? Man, I wish I was near a fan...
- **12:00 or so** – I finally drift off to sleep.
- **1:32 am** – My full bladder wakes me up. I stumble to the bathroom. In order to get there, I have to step over eight sleeping people, go down a flight of stairs and traverse a hallway. Task complete, I go back down the hall, up the stairs and re-cross eight sleeping bodies. By the time I get back to my mat, I am wide awake. It takes me at least 30 minutes to get back to sleep.
- **2:15 am** – The guy sleeping next to me has a coughing fit and I wake up for a while.
- **3:32 am** – A man getting up for work trips on something, making a clatter. I am startled awake. It takes me a while to get back to sleep.
- **4:29 am** – Lots of people are getting up for work. Most are trying to be quiet. A few are not. A husband and wife have resumed their argument from the night before.
- **4:29 am – 5:00 am** – I stare at the ceiling and watch people get ready for work. It is way too loud to sleep now. I really wish that I had gotten a spot in one of the sleeping rooms, rather than the dining room.
- **5:00 am** – The lone staff member turns on the lights. Forty people groggily get up and stack their mats in the corner so the room can be turned back into a dining room for breakfast.
- **5:22 am** – Some mornings there are as many as twenty volunteers and breakfast is pancakes, eggs, grits and toast. Today, there is only one volunteer, so breakfast is pastries donated from the local grocery store and cold cereal.
- **6:00 am** – I stumble down to my office. My vision is a little blurry and my head is fuzzy. I sit in front of my computer to type out these notes.
- **Rest of the day** – I have to work. I haven't gotten enough sleep to function well. I don't know how anyone is able to keep a job while sleeping in a homeless shelter. I can muddle through today, but if I had to do this for many days in a row, I would be utterly unemployable from sheer sleep deprivation. If I went to the library, I would totally fall asleep.

ryan@homelesslibrary.com

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Photo by Val Romness



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LIFT FROM THE
BOTTOM
EVERYBODY
RISES

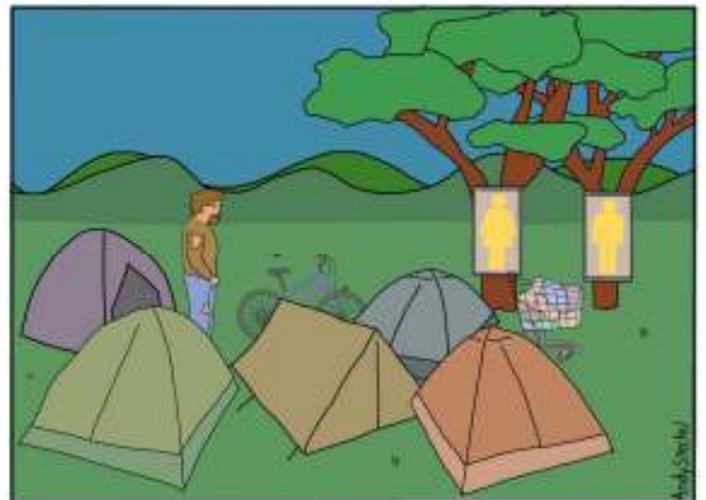
Nihil de nobis,
sine nobis.

Nothing about us
without us



CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



HOMELESS STEALING FROM THE HOMELESS

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE # 497

Hello everyone I hope you all had a great October and do well this month of November. This article's for our readers that's not homeless because everyone outside for any amount of time has probably been robbed a time or two.

I've been in Austin since the second week of last December and with the Challenger Newspaper since the third week of April. After you have been with the paper for six months the paper has a phone and laptop program and the paper bought me a new phone and paid for the service and about a week later or so someone stole my phone in my sleep. Since I've been in Austin I've been robbed at least five times and it's always at night when I'm sleeping. I call these thieves "walkers". Reason being these people typically do and are on drugs as often as they can and they walk around all through the night looking for anyone they can steal from.

They'll take anything they can trade or sell for a two dollar hit. Not kidding they'll act like your friend and see you sleeping and then

steal from you.



I still like Austin better than most cities. This problem is in every city today, some worse than others. I mean some people don't even wait till you're sleeping.



Yesterday I'm not kidding. I was standing in a food line and saw a guy take someone's phone in line and take off running! Then he grabbed his shirt and ripped it off while they were both running and still got away!

Anyways I try to be aware and stay positive. This article is just to let our readers know that this goes on because I don't think a lot of people know that this goes on as much as it does.

It just trips me out when the homeless steal from the homeless.

Have a great month everyone!

SPILLING SECRETS (REPRINTED FROM OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2024)

BY VAL ROMNESS

SPILLING SECRETS ABOUT APD PART 1

October 2024 WHY DEFUND OFFICERS LIKE ROUGEO,

This xerept is from a speech I gave to the Texas Legislature, August 2016.

"I've been friends to the people in the street, through my business, cutting hair at Barton Springs and Lamar and continued activism through newspapers and live TV shows and I want to tell a brief story about Jocelyn because she came to me (2004) and some of her stories were so hard to believe, but today (2016) I believe her more. Jocelyn would get picked up by the police and she would be raped by them, and I had to believe her because her story was too congruent to be making it up and so an officer threw her in Lake Travis, where the edge was where it was a wall and you couldn't get out and she was naked and she tread water all night, until somebody came out in their boat in the morning and picked her up. She didn't have her glasses and she came to me as an advocate and as a business owner.

Then another time a Church called me and said they found a purse up on their roof. It was Jocelyn's purse and somehow it got up on the roof of Church and she ended up passing away after being beat up, so internal Head injury and she didn't get medical help and five days later she passed away. " (find this at: http://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=37&clip_id=12090 Wed August 17, 2016 Val- last speaker 3:01:20 hrs.)

Then there was the time I had the Challenger Newspaper meeting at the Trinity Center, back in 2015, a woman there was crying unstopably. She was inconsolable. Staff was ignoring her. I tried listening to her, but she was unable to speak. One of the other unhoused people walking by said she'd been raped by a cop. Typically no one believes people on the street. That's why unhoused people are so vulnerable. They are sitting victims where the police can get away with anything.

The reason I haven't spoke up until now, is that I feared being silenced by death. Now there is public oversight, and people believe these outlandish events more openly now. Anyway, I'm old and don't need to keep these secrets any longer.

More secrets next month.

Time To fire Officer Rougeo, Santiago, Taylor, etc. No me gusta!

SPILLING SECRETS PART 2 MEDICAL EXAMINER BY VAL ROMNESS

November 2024

In my early homeless advocacy I experienced hidden grief. As I got to know the unhoused community in the early 90's near Barton Springs & So Lamar, I came to realize I had deep fond feelings for the first folks to pass that I had come to care deeply for. I planned a memorial for all the friends to say good bye and to grieve. We were curious how our friend died. I ordered up the autopsy from the medical examiners office.

Each organ was described, A reason for death was listed and included a toxicology report, so the wait was at least 5 weeks to 2 months to receive. I got a thick 5 page report in the self addressed envelope I had sent the M.E.'s office, This went on a couple few times a year. Memorials , even graveside services or services in a

SECRETS cont on page 19

A TENT WITH AIR CONDITIONING?

BY RYAN DOWD

As I walked up to Mike's homeless encampment, I knew it was different.

There was a shower (a tarp that collected rainwater).

There was a changing area (another tarp).

There was a bathroom (you guessed it... a tarp).

The most impressive part was the air conditioner.

He had a Styrofoam cooler filled with ice.

Mike had hooked a computer fan up to a car battery and put it in a hole in the Styrofoam.

The fan pulled air through the cooler which was cooled by the ice and then shot out the other side.

I was surprised by how cool the air was. Mike said it wouldn't cool his whole tent but pointed at his face, it was quite nice on a hot night.



Next week's live training is on "Encampments."

I don't have a lot of personal experience with encampments.

But Iain De Jong does.

In fact, Iain consults communities on how to effectively and compassionately reduce or end encampments.

Next week, I'm interviewing him on the process and he'll be taking live questions from the audience.

This session is free for everyone. All the information is below.

To manage expectations, this session is **NOT** for:

- An organization that is looking for an easy fix to a few tents on or near their property.

This session **IS** for:

- Organizations or communities looking for a comprehensive process for reducing or ending encampments in their community.

Employees who do street outreach.

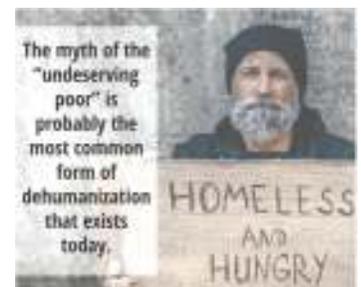
Don't believe the darkest corners of the human spirit:

Cynicism is not wisdom. Hope is not naive.

Cruelty is not strength. Compassion is not



ryan@homelesslibrary.com



ART

By Zebra



SECRETS cont from page 17

chapel at the funeral home, depending on the user friendliness of the business towards homelessness. After some years went by and the city caught on that we were paying attention to those who died on the street, they stopped letting us know which funeral home got the rotation, we no longer were told where our loved one went. It was only \$650 after all that each job got for the whole ball of wax. Some funeral homes were not of the mind to "bless" these ner do wells from the curbs. The fee they were paid didn't cover extras like some were giving us out of respect.

So then when it came to getting an autopsy for another of the Barton Springs Camp one family, I sent in my self addressed stamped envelope and got back a thin report that was very basic, 2 pages I think, instead of the 7 or 8 sometimes. I was shocked. No each organ detailed description like usual. It was a regular guy, regular autopsy. They mistakenly sent the wrong one! I came to realize the deep ones I'd been receiv-

ing were learning autopsies. "Gather round students". No family contacts, no permission, just donors. Should I believe this theory? Dr Bayardo came to become in trouble for his behaviors, actions, and ethics. He didn't keep his labs updated, used old equipment etc. Have we heard about this before? (APD's DNA rape kit center for testing) this is a sneak peek of next months disclosures!

The reason I haven't spoke up until now, is that I feared being silenced by death. Now there is public oversight, and people believe these outlandish events more openly now. Anyway, I'm old and don't need to keep these secrets any longer.
No me gusta!

Challenger Newspaper

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“It’s alright to say people lift themselves up by your own boot straps. But, it’s cruel to say to a bootless man that he must lift himself up by his own boot straps.”
Martin Luther King Jr.
August 13, 1967



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