



MEMORIAL DAY 25TH

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

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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.

**Director / Editor:**

Valerie Romness
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

Contributors:

Thom the World Poet
Timothy Warfield
Andy Steckel
Ryan Dowd
Clifton Pappas
CASwarm
Annette R. Kovac
KayLee
Reanell Bell

Jesse D. Greiner-Treasurer
Morlog-IT
J.T. - Laptops
Fred Pettit—Co-Founder
Spanish Translation: Belinda
Web Host: DreamHost
Web Updates: Kanya Lyons

Our partners:

Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Treasure City Thrift
Austin Public Library
JP's P.L.H. Fndn
Hogg Foundation
Richard R. Troxell-N.H.C.



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**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 Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published.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.**

**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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BUS PASSES**

By Val Romness

Once paper passes run out, it will move to the
new reloadable passes; June 1st



Our recent media coverage: Google search:



*Youtube- KVUE / Challenger Newspaper

*Barbed Wire / Challenger Newspaper

Sign up for Emergency notices from COA:

(737)980-1321 <https://mailchi.mp/austintexas/sms-signup>

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



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**

PEACE
LOVE
HAPPINESS



@plhfoundation



GOD SAVE US

A REFLECTION ON CURRENT EVENTS IN AUSTIN, TX

BY CASWARM

A Shift in How Homelessness Is Managed in Austin

Austin's Homeless Strategy Office (HSO) has introduced a revised encampment management approach that signals a major operational shift in how unsheltered homelessness is addressed across the city.

Under this plan, encampment "cleanups" are being organized as a regular weekday operation, conducted by multiple coordinated teams. Once an encampment is cleared, follow-up enforcement and monitoring efforts are intended to prevent immediate re-establishment in the same areas. This approach has been described as a "keep clear" method.

City officials state their broader mission is to expand access to housing and supportive services.

However, the practical implementation of encampment sweeps continues to raise questions about whether current methods align with those stated goals.

What Recent Sweep Data Shows

Following a three-week coordinated encampment clearance effort conducted from late October through early November 2025, city-reported outcomes included:

669 encampments cleared

Approximately 1,227 individuals impacted

181 individuals connected to shelter services

An estimated 1,000+ individuals remaining unsheltered following the operation

Approximately \$830,000 in reported operational costs

While shelter connections did occur, the majority of individuals impacted were not transitioned into stable housing or long-term placements. Instead, many were displaced from their original locations.

This raises a central policy question: whether the primary outcome of current encampment clearance strategies is housing stabilization or repeated displacement.

What These Sweeps Mean on the Ground

For people living in encampments, these operations do not simply represent relocation—they represent sudden disruption of shelter, belongings, and established survival networks.

When encampments are cleared, individuals often face:

Immediate loss of personal property

Disruption of informal community support systems

Forced relocation without guaranteed shelter placement

Limited transportation options to designated alternatives Some outreach reports and community accounts suggest that individuals are sometimes directed toward distant park areas or dispersed locations, which may not be realistically accessible for many without transportation.

portation.

The result is a pattern of movement rather than stabilization.

Funding, Strategy, and Structural Tension

A key concern raised by advocates is the relationship between funding allocation and outcomes.

Encampment clearance operations require sustained staffing, coordination, and enforcement resources. Critics argue that increasing investment in sweep operations may reduce the relative funding available for long-term housing solutions, supportive housing development, and wraparound services.

This creates a structural tension between:

- Short-term visibility management (clearing encampments)

vs.

- Long-term stabilization (housing placement and support systems)

The City of Austin's official strategic framework emphasizes housing access and stability as its end

goal. The question is whether current implementation methods are producing measurable progress

toward that outcome.

Alternative Models Already Operating in Austin

Austin is also home to established and experimental housing models that take a different approach—

one centered on community structure and long-term support rather than displacement cycles.

Examples include:

- Community-based housing villages
- Transitional supportive communities
- Self-contained service-integrated housing models

These environments typically combine housing with onsite services such as:

- Case management
- Behavioral health support
- Employment assistance
- Daily living stabilization resources

Supporters of these models argue that they demonstrate a key principle: stability improves when services are embedded in the community rather than accessed through fragmented systems.

Why Community Matters in Outcomes

Research across housing and public health fields consistently shows that social connection plays a significant role in stability and recovery outcomes.

Loss of community can produce measurable effects, including:

- Chronic nervous system stress and hypervigilance



- Reduced cognitive clarity and decision-making capacity
- Emotional flattening and motivational decline
- Increased vulnerability due to lack of support networks
- Higher reliance on survival-based coping strategies
- Long-term physical health impacts associated with isolation

In practice, this means that homelessness is not only a housing condition—it is also a breakdown of social infrastructure. When people lose consistent community ties, survival becomes more fragmented and less stable over time.

A Core Policy Question

Austin is now operating within a clear policy crossroads:

- One path prioritizes repeated encampment removal and enforcement-based containment
- The other prioritizes long-term stabilization through housing and integrated community models

Both approaches require resources, but they produce very different long-term outcomes. The central question is not whether encampments should exist in public spaces. It is whether current strategies are reducing homelessness—or redistributing it.

Closing Reflection

A city's homelessness strategy ultimately reveals what it treats as the problem: visibility or instability.

If the goal is truly to reduce homelessness, then displacement alone cannot be the endpoint. Stability requires continuity, access, and community—none of which can be achieved through removal alone.

The question facing Austin is not just operational. It is structural.

And it is still open.

GONE HOME

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

April 2026

*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*

BACK TO EARTH

BY THOM THE WORLD POET

I WAS @HOUSTON MISSION CONTROL

For the re-entry of Artemis 2(Remember Apollo?

Well,those who built the spaceship wanted safety

As did those flying within her..So we watched

On the big screen ,with commentary from NASA LIVE!

We were reminded this was an HISTORIC mission

And just the start of further leaps into off-planet adventures

I for one do not romanticise Moon nor Mars

I am in love with my only habitable planet-Gaia

She is all i have ever known-her thin air,her polluted waters

Her war-torn burial site of massacres (earth)-her cleansing fires

She was here long before we chose to evolve

And will survive our little wars and conflagrations..unless

We grow mad and angry again-like in WW1 and WW2

Like Hiroshima and Nagasaki.Like Chenobyl and Fukushima.

This was once an expanding Universe-now it is a Closed System

We must fly through our own space junk to escape ourselves

All our waters are recycled,with plastic nano-particles added

Role reversal is in order-to turn away from war Budgets to Peace Projects

Billion dollar military boondoggles can now fund Libraries,Community Centers,Shelters

It can restore balance by a guaranteed minimum living wage

And universal health care.All of this is possible even with our Doomsday Clock

Stuck on nine seconds to midnight.All Magic is Reversible

But there is no PLAN(et) "B". "Houston!We have a problem...



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US! F THE OPPRESSOR



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

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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

MAY I

BY TIMOTHY WARFIELD

May I usher in associates with potential of being good friends
Where throughout the months no breakups just a few bends
Hopefully more rain so the lakes and rivers will be adequate for a swim
Bring in summer play to those with a life that is dim

I'm a wildflower looking forward to bloom
I'm ready to grow with little to no room
May, I'm getting prepared for beauty
My associates, not only smart but also are a cutie

I aim to dive into Spring cleaning like never before
With new arrives, into hearts I want to score
Renewing friendships as if they were my driving license
Additions from far and near reminding me of number sense

With the new month may I rise and shine amongst the best
I want to bloom and grow; nothing less
Renewing friendships and adding plenty more
No calculator, with happiness hear my mighty roar



ART

BY KAYLEE

Name	----	Annette Rebecca	Jesse Greiner	Bob	LK
Age	51	29 forever	48	57	57
How many times have you been homeless?	2	2-3	Off and on	Off & on for yrs	Off and on 20 years & couches
How long?	2 yr & 1 yr	3-6 mo ea time	10 yrs	Various	TLDR
Do you sleep outside?	Yes	I have/did. 3 mos under the 1st tree @ Valero Menchaca across from Sunrise.	Yes	Yes	Sometimes, other times like camping out
Do the cops make you move at night?	Yes	They did to parks nearby.	More of the housed people	No	A few times. APD & St Edwards PD
Who's your favorite Beatle?	Lead singer	Ringo Starr fellow percussionist	I love them all equally	Paul McCartney	Bailey? Dueezle?
How do you get money?	Challenger Street Newspaper	Challenger sales/donations. Sales on Offer Up of artwork & vintage.	Newspaper	Under the table work & the Newspaper	I print LOL J/K
How did you get unhoused?	Divorce & identity theft	Stopped doing conjugal visits w/my Ex. He cut my spouse support.	A long story. I worked 80-100 hrs & still had my electricity shut off. I pay check away.	Moved away from home town	Car accidents, lay offs, poor family support structure.
Favorite food?	---	Unagi sushi, chicken fried steak, matcha green tea, ice cream.	Steak	Meatloaf, potatoes & corn	Pizza
What type of housing would work for you?	Land out-skirts of the city& I'll build	Beach house ha! An apt loft efficiency, pet friendly.	I would like to be alone.	Any kind	Own place in country, small rental w/yard & gardens.
How has the paper helped you?	Identity theft & Challenger was fine with that.	Started writing again, gives a renewed hope. Even the bad I can write about it	Yes 100%	Keeps \$ in my pocket	Helps me show I'm Press to abusive police.

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**

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 meet

Sundays 1-3 pm

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

We're a 501C-3 non-profit

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com
www.Challengernewspaper.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. Writing, art or drawings send by email. Yes, we will publish you! Please write neatly.

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

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



Soft opening

Mon-Fri 1-7 PM

Sat 11am-6pm

Sun 11am-5pm

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 5/2026

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 TRAFFICKING 1 (888) 373-7888

or text "BE FREE" TO 233733

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
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 5/2026

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 Rm 471 Central Library.. If closed—City Hall outside near Guadalupe/ Cesar Chavez. 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 unsheltered. 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
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

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 welcome.

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.

C.D. DOYLE CLINIC operates at Esperanza Community,, we do see non-Esperanza residents with permission from The Other Ones Foundation. Acute, safety-net care rather than longitudinal medical home services. Sundays, 2:00-5:00PM.; 780 S Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78741 (409) 571-9362 <http://www.cddoyleclinic.com/>.

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)
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

Directory continued

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

Mental Health Information Help Line
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), M-F, 9-5, CST

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 St (Inside Hyde Park Christian Church)

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
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 Metropolis 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. www.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. mif.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

NO FREEZE SHELTER:

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

Men and women, leashed pets welcome & will stay in a crate near you. Register at 505 Barton Springs Rd 6-8 PM or till flow stops. Rides to locations. Or go directly to location after 8 pm. 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 512-972-5055 or 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 No Longer 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! It's illegal & immoral.
- Pay social workers a living wage!
- 8th St. Women's shelter: Current one has appointments only. Must be able to walk in for safety.
- Make phones easier to get
- *End oppressive ordinances. No more criminalizing the poor!*
- *Increase Federal, State, County, City funding for homeless services (increase private sector funding, also)*
- *Austin Living Wage \$24/hr*
- *Get past Moral Bankruptcy and be fiscally responsible. It can cost 35 to 80 thousand/year/person to ticket, court, jail, police, hospitalize, ER, ambulance rides. When a person is housed \$18,000 (w/a social workers guidance) they stand up and walk back into society and possibly go back to work.*
- *Take the boards off vacant homes.*
- *Cold weather shelter Now allows pets; must be leashed and will stay in a crate near you.*
- *Couples can now stay together at some shelters!*

Golden 411

By Reanell Bell

Golden 411 - A Calling
From bottle caps and broken glass,
we flow like rivers, man it's a blast.

Golden 411, a call to dream,
in love's light, we set ourselves free.

Step by step, the shadows fall,
as truth ignites a sacred call—
spirit rises, hope takes wing,
and love dissolves the suffering sting.

Golden 411, a spark in the dark,
one light, one step, we leave a mark.



AI Art By Reanell Bell

GET READY FOR HEAT & HOW TO STAY COOL

Summer Info |
Due to extreme heat, all Parks and Library facilities will serve as Cooling Centers during normal operating hours. They have AC, water, and bathrooms. Included is a list of locations.

**CAP METRO IS OFFERING
FREE BUS RIDES
TO COOLING CENTERS!**

Heat Exhaustion		Heat Stroke	
ACT FAST • Move to a cooler area • Loosen clothing • Sip cool water • Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve	Dizziness Thirst Heavy Sweating Nausea Weakness	Confusion Dizziness Becomes Unconscious	ACT FAST CALL 911 • Move person to a cooler area • Loosen clothing and remove extra layers • Cool with water or ice
Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.		Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!	

OUR TEAM

SOME OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS & CONTRIBUTORS



Jesse G.
Badge # 165
Door to Door
Photo by Val Romness



Clifton Pappas
Badge # 497
Photo by Val Romness



Lorenzo
Badge # 414
Photo by Val Romness



Brianna Arrendondo
Badge #509
Photo By Val Romness



Julian Reyes
Badge #117
Photo By Val Romness



Leslie Cochran
Badge #110
Honorary
Distributor/ writer



Bob Shrey
Badge # 507
Photo by Val Romness



Annette Kovac
Badge #508
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Mary W.
Badge # 415
Photo by Val Romness



Timothy Warfield
Badge #460
Photo By Val Romness



Keith Hammack .
Badge # 511
Photo By Val Romness



Cordell Dawson
Badge # 512
Photo By Val Romness



John Hopkins .
Badge # 510
Photo By Val Romness



Erick The Dream
Giver on Youtube
Badge # 489
Photo by Val Romness



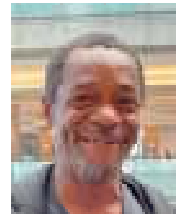
Gregory Bordelon
Badge # 492
Photo by Val Romness



Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



John Robbins
Badge # 498
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Ardeth Lewis Jr.
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Joel Robert Dixon
Badge # 509
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Twinkle Toes
Badge # 490
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Dan Goff
Badge # 493
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Gilberto Beltran
Badge # 500
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DeAntonio L. Brown
Badge #467
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Michelle Kleber



Chrystal
Badge #289
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Sabrina Oberg
Badge #443
Photo By Val Romness



Kaye Lee
Badge # 434
Photo by Val Romness



Patricia Rose
Badge # 358
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Christopher C.
Badge # 317
rchristophercarr@gmail.com



Pearlie Blue &
Debra Miller
Badge #474
Photo By Val Romness



CARTOONS

BY ANDY STECKEL



EBT PURCHASES	
YES	No
1. BREAD	1. WARM COAT
2. MILK	2. CAR
3. EGGS	3. APARTMENT
4. FRUIT	4. 2ND CHANCE

Andy Steckel



WHO CAN I DEHUMANIZE?

BY RYAN DOWD

Can I dehumanize people who live under bridges? What about people who live in mansions?

Can I dehumanize people who smoke crack? What about people who work at investment banks?

Can I dehumanize Democrats? What about Republicans?

Can I dehumanize people with a criminal record? What about people with a different voting record?

Can I dehumanize uneducated rural folk? What about the liberal elite?

Can I dehumanize the leaders of the #BlackLivesMatter movement? What about the leaders of the #FlatEarth movement?

Can I dehumanize the current president? What about the last?

If we dehumanize ANYONE, we give legitimacy to the act of dehumanization.

We can do better.

Don't believe the darkest corners of the human spirit:
Cynicism is not wisdom. Hope is not naïve.
Cruelty is not strength. Compassion is not



Ryan Dowd

2114 W. Galena Blvd., Suite 8-284,
Aurora, IL 60506

ryan@homelesslibrary.com



HANDMADE ART

BY KAYE LEE



NOT ANOTHER DEAD BODY

BY ANNETTE R. KOVAC



About our town, another dead body was found on a sidewalk - 1900 Riverside- Wednesday morning, Apr. 15 2026. Just yesterday. Several reports came blasting through Newsbreak, KXAN, CBSAustin and other sources online, sharing that APD has deemed this a non-suspicious death and are pursuing no suspects, but many suspect already this was a homeless person. No cause of death revealed. It all reads strictly dutiful, as they must. They don't get paid to be très sympathique nor earn trust. Respectfully hope this person is at peace.

They didn't mention who found the body. I thought then, what does one actually do if you happen to stumble upon a corpse in the early morning, or the depth of evening? Findlaw.com says the most important thing to do is to remain calm, do not disturb the scene and call 911. They further offer that except for Vermont, no states require one to stop & be a good Samaritan in such situation, fyi. So hey, for all those who would rush on by, it's legally okay. Morally, I'm not Jesus so I can't say; that's between you & God.

Never, I'm sure, is it good to stumble upon on a dead human head; just thought with a few dead bodies having appeared in Austin 2026, on the booming & kicky Austin sidewalks, sadly this probably won't be the last discovery of such, this tidbit might be helpful.

HILL COUNTRY

BY AR KOVAC

Hill country

wandering fawn

Hideous city

Widows search on

Headlights you see

It's already done

High times Hilltop

That too is gone.



MEETING NEW PEOPLE

BY CLIFTON PAPPAS BADGE #497

This article is an example of positive and negative thinking. When I found the Challenger Street Newspaper I was in a strait. Meaning I had no Identity and needed money so what was I going to do?!

I went to the very next meeting after reading the Paper four times with a positive attitude. I met everyone and the director and editor Valerie gave me a starter kit that had a folder, receipts for those who wanted them for tax right offs , pens, business cards, and ten papers for a dollar and I was hired.

It's been a year now and wow I've met a lot of great people here in Austin. I'm from Nevada and came here for the rain and green trees everywhere and rivers and streams are great. But anyway, back to the point. I have many years of experience in construction and seven plus in sales and marketing.

And no you don't need any experience in sales or anything to work for the paper just that's my background. This is about how people react or respond to people. I've brought several people to the paper and this is what I've seen. One lady I met in a food line and she was new to Austin on the streets, didn't know of the resources here and broke of course. So it was a Sunday and the Challenger meets on Sundays so I invited her to the meeting and told her that she could make some money.

Ok great so she came to the meeting and liked everyone and the paper. She asks me if she could shadow me for a day and see what I do. Of course I said, and we went to Drummers circle at a park off Barton Springs. We got there and we got papers in hand, badges out and the first three people I talked to bought a paper.

She was so excited standing next to and behind me. She was like "this is awesome can I go out and do it by myself"? I said of course and its a big park area and she went and sold a lady a paper at a stand for food but then went to others and got at least ten nos in a

row.

She comes back to me saying f this f that f these people i can't do this, absolutely angry. And she sets her papers on a fence and says "I QUIT"! I said okay and we went back to the bus stop. She starts complaining and talking to two guys at the bus stop. So I said, "Are you good here"? She said yes and I said okay great I need to sell papers and so I walked across and down the street and sold ten papers and got to Lamar and found three pairs of shoes brand new in her size, (early that morning she was saying she wanted new shoes)

So I left her and did what I did. Got to that bus stop less than an hour later with money and shoes I didn't need. Wow I said to myself she wanted money and shoes and here's everything

and she gave up fast.

Sales isn't for everyone but the Challenger Street Newspaper is 95 percent written by the voices of the street. It's a homeless street paper and you don't need to have any experience in sales, just stay positive and people with a good heart will give a donation for a paper and thats it, its that simple.

Don't get me wrong i got good days and bad days like anyone but there's a lot of great people here in Austin and the paper sales itself really its a great paper. And others I brought to the paper some two days, a week, couple months and they disappear. Just can't take rejection or nos seriously just keep moving and stay positive and papers leave the hand. But yes you get what you put into it.

I love the Challenger and meeting new people, also I've made friends and they all get a paper every month and I look forward to seeing them every month. But that's all I guess just had to get that off my chest. Take care and hope everyone has a great month!



Some Space

By Annette R. Kovac

2025-2026 has been a stellar year with our outer space astounding and amazing us with various dynamics to observe and think on. A vivacious comet, a full calendar of full moons, and the recent space adventure literally to the moon and back.

The 3i /Atlas comet has been on NASA's galactic watch since July 2025. Scientists and astronomy enthusiasts alike were fascinated and frozen, speculating what it was exactly... just a very kinetic comet or perhaps some sort of interstellar spacecraft...? To the general populi to answer all questions, NASA finally deemed it a comet for certain, but there are many who are still in suspense and carefully watching it. 2i/Atlas was supposed to fizzle out by Dec. 2025, but it's still going & being observed by scientists, closely but quietly.



The Artemis II mission to the moon was the first crewed flight beyond low earth orbit since 1972.

They successfully tested the Orion space-

craft, flying around to the dark side of the moon, where no human has ever been historically, setting a record. The four astronaut crew trekked on their space odyssey for ten days, April 1 - 11, 2026. They shared awesome and beautiful pictures taken of the earth, the moon and space. They were even fortunate to experience a full solar eclipse on their journey. It's wonderful to have them back home safe.

I marvel at the conspiracy theory people who think our space exploration is all a hoax. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. But a look into the heaven galaxy is a f/;"ing great thing to break up some of the bad that we endure each day, in America at least. Maybe, in the words of the late Janey Lane, "Heaven Isn't Too Far Away".

And that leads us to a short PLAYLIST of SPACE SONGS for you to explore or recall:

Under the Milkyway - The Church

Rocket Man - Elton John
Intergalactic - The Beastie Boys
Moonlight Sonata - Beethoven
Dark Side of the Moon Pink Floyd (I suggest the entire album)
Talking to the Moon - Bruno Mars
Starman - David Bowie
Blue Moon - Beck or Frankie Avalon (depends on your mood)
Fly Me To the Moon - Frank Sinatra
Space Song - Beach House
Walking on the Moon - The Police
Moonlight Mile - The Rolling Stones

Whatever you believe, take a look up at the moon and stars, listen to some tunes and observe the galaxy in all its splendor. There are still many moons and asteroids and comets I'm sure to look out for in May and throughout the year.

ART

BY ANNETTE R. KOVAC



Challenger Newspaper

PO Box 151574
Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735
challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

Subscribe
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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



At the newspaper we're
mending bootstraps &
lending a hand up, not giving
a hand out!



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