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Correction Appended  
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## Community News

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TRAVIS COUNTY

PFLUGERVILLE CITY OFFERING LANDSCAPING REBATE

Pflugerville homeowners who conserve water by redoing their landscape to include drought-tolerant plants can receive a rebate of up to \$500.

Through the Drop by Drop rebate program, which runs through June 15, residents have gotten rid of lawns to plant flower beds, cacti or other plants that only need to be watered once a week.

In the program's last cycle, the average resident received a rebate of \$257.

A long list of plants qualify for the rebate, which covers anywhere from 30 percent to about 70 percent of the plant's price, depending on the type and how much water it requires.

To participate, residents must fill out an application and discuss their plans with city staff, who will also make a visit to the home.

This August, Pflugerville limited watering to once a week.

- ANDRA LIM,

AMERICAN-STATESMAN

CENTRAL AUSTIN CITY PRESENTS IDEAS TO IMPROVE CREEKS

The city of Austin in cooperation with the State of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are holding a public meeting to present solutions for reducing fecal bacteria contamination in four city creeks at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in room 325 at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road.

The four creeks in question

- Taylor Slough South, **Waller Creek**, Walnut Creek and the Spicewood Tributary to Shoal Creek - have been identified as having bacteria concentrations that exceed the state standards for human water contact, so the city is seeking solutions to reduce contamination, a news release said.

Among the proposed solutions for reducing bacteria: expanding riparian zone restoration and preservation efforts, inspecting and maintaining wastewater infrastructure, continuing domestic pet waste education campaigns and improving stormwater treatment.

For more information, contact Chris Herrington with the Watershed Protection Department at 512-974-2840.

- WES GARDNER,

## AMERICAN-STATESMAN

## CENTRAL AUSTIN CITY HOSTING FORUM ON AUDITORIUM SHORES

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a public meeting regarding off-leash development and other improvements to Auditorium Shores at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road.

The Parks and Recreation Department is working with C3 Presents, the organizer of the Austin City Limits Music Festival, and with The Austin Parks Foundation to develop a facilities and operational plan for the department's outdoor events venues, with a focus on Auditorium Shores, according to a news release.

Other planned improvements slated for Auditorium Shores include a renovated event space with a realignment of the trail that runs through the park and new turf for the event lawn and remaining landscape and shoreline areas.

To view the presentation materials from previous meetings discussing improvements to Auditorium Shores, visit [www.austintexas.gov/department/auditorium-shores-improvements](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/auditorium-shores-improvements).

-WES GARDNER,

## AMERICAN-STATESMAN

## WILLIAMSON

## COUNTY

## GEORGETOWN CITY TO HOLD FREE SPAY OR NEUTER DAY

The city of Georgetown Animal Shelter will be offering city residents free spay and neutering services for all cats and kittens in recognition of National Feral Cat Day on Oct. 16 at the shelter, 110 W.L. Walden Drive.

City officials are asking interested residents to call in advance to schedule their appointment during the shelter's business hours from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 15.

The animal shelter will not be open to the public on Oct. 16.

The service is being offered to city residents only, so be sure to bring in a utility bill or other proof of residency. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 512-930-3592.

- WES GARDNER,

## AMERICAN-STATESMAN

## HUTTO CITY SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

The city of Hutto is searching for an interim police chief after the resignation of Chief Peter Scheets.

Scheets, who began as police chief in Hutto in January 2012, resigned for personal reasons, City Manager David Mitchell said. He started a citizens police academy, was developing a teen court and attended many community events, Mitchell said.

Scheets, who was previously an assistant chief in Bryan, could not be reached for comment Monday.

- CLAIRE OSBORN,

## AMERICAN-STATESMAN

## ROUND ROCK SCHOOLS ART TEACHER SELECTED FOR NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Gattis Elementary art teacher Donna Staten was selected by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as one of five teachers to join a round-table discussion on Wednesday about using social media to improve teaching practices and collaboration among colleagues.

Staten has been using lessons found on social media site Pinterest - a pin-board-style photo-sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based images - to strengthen her curriculum, according to a news release.

"Donna sharing this information with her colleagues has been inspiring because she is using this to support student learning in a creative manner, especially for our elementary programs," said Round Rock school district's Visual Art Curriculum Specialist Tim Lowke, in a statement. "They are using Pinter-est as that visual resource."

- WES GARDNER,

AMERICAN-STATESMAN

HAYS COUNTY

**SAN MARCOS CITY TO HOST FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP**

The city of San Marcos will be hosting a workshop to discuss the Fair Housing Act from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 at the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins St.

The Fair Housing Act was established to protect buyers and renters from discrimination, according to a news release.

The public meeting is being offered as an opportunity to introduce new employees to the legislation and provide a refresher for experienced housing professionals regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law.

City officials are asking interested residents to register online at [www.housing-rights.org/SanMarcosworkshop.html](http://www.housing-rights.org/SanMarcosworkshop.html). For more information, contact Community Initiatives Administrator Janis Hendrix at 512-393-8147.

- WES GARDNER,

AMERICAN-STATESMAN

SAN MARCOS

**COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING RESCHEDULED**

The Hays County Commissioners Court will not meet on Tuesday as previously scheduled, and will instead meet at 9 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Hays County Courthouse, 111 E. San Antonio St.

County offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Columbus Day.

- WES GARDNER, AMERICAN-STATESMAN

**LOAD-DATE:** October 9, 2013

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**CORRECTION:** A Community News item on Tuesday's Page B2 misstated the nature of the Georgetown Animal Shelter's Oct. 16 free spay and neutering event. On that day, the shelter will close to the general public and offer vaccinations as well as spay and neutering services to residents who bring in feral cats and kittens. Appointments are required; call 512-930-3592 for more information.

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