

AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – First Quarter
January 1 – March 31

DATE: April 1, 2010

The top ten ascertained significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

1. Transportation/traffic
2. Education quality
3. Growth
4. Crime
5. Gangs
6. High-tech Education
7. Teaching good citizenship/responsibility
8. Focus on positive/good news
9. Family Values
10. Poverty

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed these issues. Additionally, as an NBC affiliate, we broadcast network programs that discuss these problems and needs from a national perspective. These include “Dateline” and “Meet the Press.”

PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

NAME OF PROGRAM	DAYS AIRED	TIME AIRED
Austin News Today	Monday-Sunday	(M-F) 5:00-7:00 a.m. (Sat) 7:00-9:00 a.m. (Sun) 7 & 9 a.m.
Austin News Today Show Cut-ins	Monday-Friday	7:26-7:30 a.m. 7:56-8:00 a.m. 8:26-8:30 a.m. 8:56-9:00 a.m.
Austin News @ noon	Monday-Friday	12-1:00 p.m.
Austin News @ 5	Monday-Friday + Sunday	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 6	Monday - Saturday	6-6:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 10	Monday-Friday Saturday-Sunday	10:00-10:35 p.m. 10:00-10:30 p.m.

All of these programs are produced locally and are a mix of news, weather and sports.

KXAN also airs NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, Monday – Friday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m., and NBC Nightly News on Saturday and Sunday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

NBC Nightly News has two ongoing reports that are relevant to the community we serve.

NBC Nightly News – Making a Difference synopsis:

”Making a Difference” stories air every Friday on “NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.” The series was conceived in response to viewers who complain that the broadcast features only "bad" news. Viewers can also read and watch the stories on the NBC Nightly News website and use the mailbag to tell NBC about someone they know who is making a difference.

NBC Nightly News – What Works synopsis:

“What Works” is a continuing series on "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams." These are "reports which spotlight ideas or innovations that are solving various problems in communities across the country." Viewers can read and watch all the stories from the series on NBC Nightly News website.

Transportation/Traffic

01/08/10 Transportation Forum - The Texas Transportation Forum wrapped up today in downtown Austin with a focus on the state's future railway system. By 2030, TxDOT would like to have thousands of miles of track for passengers to travel between the major cities. Officials believe this would help ease congestion on the highway. But this endeavor, along with other transportation goals, would cost an estimated 315 billion dollars. So far, a little more than four billion has come from the state and also federal

stimulus. In the next month, TxDOT plans to hold a series of workshops to explain the plan and enlist possible stakeholders in the various transportation projects of the future.

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01/16/10 Capital Metro Fare - Declining sales tax revenues have Austin agencies looking for extra cash anywhere they can - and for Capital Metro that means asking customers to pay more for the ride. The new rates, announced in November, take effect Monday. Among the increases: A Single Ride ticket goes up a quarter from 75-cents to a dollar. Ten-Ride Booklets will cost 5-dollars more, \$12 instead of 7. And a 31-day pass will cost 28-dollars, up from 18.

1/24/10 Transportation Money - Nearly a billion dollars spent on transportation... and we're not moving any faster. That money came from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program. Over the past 18 years, it went to several projects that had little to do with traffic flow. Over 58-million of that budget was spent on a five acre parking lot in Dallas... and restoration of the Battleship Texas in La Porte.

1/25/10 Metro Rail - Capital Metro staff provided more details today on how it will hit the target for a March opening for its Metro Rail line. The agency says it has to clear up 13 unresolved issues with the Federal Railroad Administration. They also have to complete bridge work, install a new radio system, and put in a new train control system. Still Capital Metro's staff is sticking to its March deadline.

2/12/10 Traffic Future - The Texas Department of Transportation says commuter congestion costs drivers an average 6.2 billion dollars a year.

03/08/10 Capital Metro - Once the MetroRail starts running, Capital Metro might re-route some bus lines to run closer to those rail stations. And during the summer, the agency will cut back bus services to U-T and temporarily shut down the E-Bus that transports students between campus and downtown. Permanent changes could make routes 10, 37, and 137 drop off students and faculty on campus. "Capitol Metro" says they are not sure exactly "when" the bus routes will change - but students can expect them after the spring semester ends.

Education quality

1/25/10 AISD Grade Requirement - The attention on Lamar Middle School overshadowed the board's big vote set to take place later tonight on whether or not to cut the

required health, PE or technology high school credits... after the state changed curriculum requirements ten days ago. There was standing room only. Students, parents and teachers from Lamar Middle school sported their schools colors... and faced the school board... holding huge signs in support of a proposal to transform their campus into a fine arts magnet school. On the other side of the debate - Fulmore Middle School teachers and parents who stepped up to the podium described why the move would be damaging to their school, Fulmore, which has a Humanities and Law Magnet for International Studies says they are already developing a strain of fine arts... and another program would divide the student leaders and weaken their program. More than 20 people stood up to speak on the issue tonight... that wasn't even listed on the board's agenda.

1/25/10 High Performing Schools - Twenty Austin schools have been recognized by the National Center for Educational Advancement. The nonprofit named Anderson High School and Austin High School to their "higher performing list"... along with Bailey, Fulmore, Kealing, and Paredes middle schools. Fourteen elementary schools were also recognized.

1/26/10 STAAR Replaces TAKS - And we have a change affecting all Texas public school students Commissioner of Education Robert Scott announced this week that the TAKS test will be replaced with a new test called the STAAR. STAAR stands for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness. The new tests will be used beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. The STAAR test will be more rigorous than previous tests and will measure a child's performance, as well as academic growth.

02/01/10 UT Tuition - Speaking of "UT" and "money", looks like attending the University of Texas will get more expensive. UT President "Bill Powers" has submitted his final tuition proposal to the Board of Regents. While we don't know exactly what it said - it looks like classes will cost more next year. Tuition for students at UT Austin is up nearly a thousand-dollars per semester since 2004. Back then it cost just 35-hundred dollars for 15 credit-hours. This year that same course load costs close to 45 hundred dollars. The latest proposal calls for increasing rates by about 250 dollars a semester.

02/02/10 AISD Grant Spending - More than two million unspent tax dollars... in limbo right now. The Austin school district may have to give DOUBLE bonuses to teachers already rewarded by a state grant. Webb Middle School is one of eleven AISD schools where more than 5-million dollars was set aside for teachers who improved student performance. But not every teacher met their goal. Now the district is trying to bargain with the state to use the cash for reasons NOT written in 'PLAN B'. In 2005, state legislators passed a bill to reward teachers for student success in the classroom. Districts applied for grant money and came up with their own award system... including Austin. It meant one thing for Celina Zamora. The third year science teacher at Webb Middle School created a standard for her own students to meet. School-wide bonuses are also dished out if Webb performs in the top percentage of other similar-sized schools on the TAKS test. Austin's two-year old program called 'REACH' is even more involved. Zamora even has a mentor and was one of 640 teachers in 11 schools last year whose paycheck was padded. While Zamora wouldn't say how much she's received... the bonuses are between 4 and 10-thousand bucks. But not every teacher or school met their goals... and 2-point-2-million dollars remains. The district's contingency plan outlined in

a letter AISD sent the education commission last week calls for the 2-million in unallocated funds to be redistributed to teachers who earned stipends last year. Education Austin and AISD are hoping the state gives them some flexibility. The district asked if they can spend it to 'Support Academically Unacceptable Schools', use it for 'Additional Training', carry the money over to next year, or even return the money to TEA. This teacher is hoping that happens, too... and says it's not about the money.

02/05/10 AISD Transfers - To paraphrase Eugene O'Neill, it's the long day's journey into a cold night, this 24 hour vigil to file transfer papers. One motivation, a task force's controversial Plan 3, that would reconfigure eight school district boundaries and move a lot of kids to different schools. When this as yet unnamed southwest elementary school opens in the fall, 700 students will move in. But that won't solve the enrollment disparities at eight established elementary schools... Overpopulated schools like Clayton in new neighborhoods, under capacity schools like Sunset Valley in older neighborhoods with less kids. Overcrowded schools resort to unusual space arrangements and odd lunchtimes...but they receive more money for more students. Under capacity schools lose funding, and school personnel. The divide is split a bit between families living east or west of Mopac. There's some resistance to making kids cross that divide. Steve Angeli has two kids in Mills Elementary and he doesn't want them moved. So they sit and wait, in the cold and dark, for dawn. Two grandparents made a long journey to relieve their working children in the parents waiting line. Looking in-depth...Some 30 schools are frozen to transfer requests. That includes 5 high schools. 22 elementary schools And 3 middle schools. These parents will file their transfer requests at 7am...but won't learn until May if they've been accepted. So I asked them, does this seem like a reasonable process?

3/16/10 Obesity in children -A UT Health forum in Austin today addressed how to curb childhood obesity. 16.9 percent of American children aged 2 to 19 are classified as obese. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates obesity costs our government 147 billion dollars a year. Keeping healthy food at home and getting exercise are great starts to keeping kids fit. But, experts say parents can do even more. Now, some companies are changing their policies. PepsiCo will remove full-calorie, sweetened beverages from schools in 200 countries by 2012. Coca-Cola won't sell any of its drinks in primary schools unless requested.

Crime

01/02/10 Smuggling Escape - Austin Police arrested a man in a human smuggling case. They say his victim escaped out the window of the apartment where he was being held on New Year's Day. That apartment was in the "Mi Casa" complex on Duval Street off St. John's Avenue. Police say the victim traveled down St. John's on foot while bleeding and wearing very little clothing. He finally stopped for help at "Haven Food Mart." Police arrested 44-year-old "Santiago Cruz" on two felony charges - they have not released the name of the victim.

01/04/10 Elderly Rape – There is new information tonight in the effort to track down a serial rapist attacking elderly women in their own home's. Texas Rangers have released this photo of a clock stolen by the man accused of raping or burglarizing 12 women in the last year. They're hoping someone may have seen it or purchased it and could help them track down the suspect. The victims live across central and south Texas and range from 65 to 91 years old. The man preys on women who live alone and stakes out their homes first. Investigators have been able to connect the cases through DNA evidence - but do not have a good description. They are hoping the unique clock taken from a victim's home northeast of Austin in Leon County in early September will help them track their man. If you have any information about it call the DPS.

01/11/10 Kyle Crime Alert - Police are looking for two men they say tried to lure a little girl into their car... telling her they needed help finding a missing puppy. It happened near Kyle Elementary School off of West Blanco Street. The 10-year old girl was walking home alone after finishing up some volunteer work at school. She was able to go to the nearby Kyle Public Library, for help but didn't give police much to work with.

01/14/10 Water Test Scam - A crime alert out of the hill country... Police in Burnet are warning residents of a reported scam. They say two men and a woman have been going to houses, posing as employees of a fake company - "Echo Water System - and asking to test the water. One man distracts the homeowner, while the woman asks to use the restroom and pokes around for personal information. Burnet police believe this is a scam to steal the homeowner's identities.

1/25/10 Gun Rally - More than a hundred gun rights activists rallied in front of Austin Police Department headquarters this evening. They were protesting APD's involvement in the shutting down of a local gun show. APD says they were contacted by ICE and ATF about illegal gun sales happening at the show. Police then recommended the gun show only allowed licensed gun dealers to sell, so illegal immigrants and felons would have less of a chance to buy a firearm. The property owners eventually shut down the show and guns rights activists say it's an infringement of their second amendment rights. The activists wore holsters on their waist, with a constitution instead of a gun inside.

2/13/10 Bastrop Murder - A mistrial in a Bastrop County murder case...The judge made the decision after learning about a juror's health problem. Bryan Teague was on trial for the 2008 murder of Larry Jones in Cedar Creek. On Monday... a jury of 12 men and women was seated... but by Tuesday afternoon... the same jury was dismissed. A juror told the judge he had a pre-existing health problem that prevented him from continuing to serve... Judge Chris Duggan was forced to declare a mistrial because there were no alternate jurors. Rebecca Turner was a member of the jury. Bastrop County D-A Brian Goetz told Austin News by phone that both sides in the case expected a short trial- which may have been the reason the judge didn't seat any alternates. Bastrop County spent more than 500 dollars paying jurors for two days of the first trial... Pre-trial for Teague's new trial is set for February 26th.

2/13/10 H-E-B Shooting - Austin police are looking for two suspects who fired shots inside an H-E-B store. They robbed the Cricket Cell Phone kiosk inside the store at South Congress and Oltorf around 5:30 Friday afternoon. Police say the suspects fired two shots in the air during the robbery.

2/16/10 NW Austin Shooting - An ex-con shot by a "United States Marshal" in northwest Austin is heading back to prison. A Williamson County judge sentenced "Douglas Morse" to 58 years in prison for several felonies, including assaulting a public servant. "Morse" was on parole last February when he attacked a cop in west Texas and stole his patrol car. Authorities tracked him to a northwest Austin apartment complex. But when they tried to stop Morse, he rammed two police cars. A U-S Marshal shot the 43-year-old "Morse" twice when he reached into his waistband. In a taped jailhouse phone call, he told his mother he would have been willing to shoot a cop if he'd known he'd return to prison. Morse won't be eligible for parole for at least 29 years.

2/18/10 Plane Hits IRS Bldg. - It followed a bizarre chain of events, beginning in North Austin. That's where investigators believe 53-year old "Joseph Andrew Stack" set his house on fire - drove to Georgetown Airport - picked up his plane - then flew it straight into a building near the Arboretum. 40-minutes BEFORE the plane hit the Echelon building - Stack's North Austin home went up in flames. It's located in "Scofield Farms" on "Dapplegray" - just off Parmer near Metric.

2/18/10 Victim Family Information - Just about 20 minutes north of the crash site, cars keep coming and going through the neighborhood in Cedar Park, where Vernon Hunter lived. He and his wife were both revenue officers for the IRS. They were both in this building when the plane crashed. I spoke with a co-worker and close friend about the moments it happened. She said Vernon Hunter's office was on the second floor where you see firefighters sifting through the rubble looking for the only person unaccounted for. She and Hunter's wife were in another area about 20 feet away when they heard a boom, then the ceiling started to fall. She remembers glass everywhere and people screaming in the dark. Someone began to shout, "Follow my voice, follow my voice," and that's how they made it out. She said, as smoke began to take over, some people even went out the window. They eventually found out Hunter was missing, and Austin Police told them he was the man unaccounted for. They are now waiting as officials ID the two bodies found, but the friends and family here believe one of those is Vernon Hunter.

2/23/10 Church Arson Evidence - We learned today - security camera video, shoe prints and an anonymous tip helped investigators solve a string of Texas church arsons. Suspects 19-year old Jason Robert Bourque and 21-year old Daniel McAllister walked into court with their heads hung low yesterday. Court documents show - investigators found the same Red Wing boot print and Sketchers shoe print at several of the crime scenes. Those prints, and surveillance video from two gas stations, put Bourque and McAllister in the areas of the crimes at the right times. But a tip ultimately led agents to their homes... where they found shoes matching the prints.

3/8/10 Bus Stop Deaths - Police now say an Austin teen was street racing when he lost control of his car and killed two women waiting at a bus stop this weekend. It happened on South First street just north of Stassney. Police say 19 year old Erick Nuncio-Moreno drove up next to a car at the traffic light and revved his engine. Once the light turned - the car raced t about 70-90 miles an hour on a road where the speed limit is only 35. The driver lost control and hit two women waiting for a bus - 53-year old Maria Goana DeCorona and 28-year old Adrian Morales-Catalan. They both died at the scene. Nuncio-Moreno is now charged with two counts of manslaughter.

3/9/10 MetroRail Fares - Passengers can start riding MetroRail Monday, March 22nd. The first week of service will be free - as well as the bus routes connecting to the rail. After that, you'll pay two or three dollars for a one-way fare - and six dollars for a "day pass." You can also buy a MetroPlus Pass. That's good for unlimited rides on all MetroRail and bus services - \$20 for five days, or \$70 for 31 days. There are reduced prices for students under 18 and active members of the military. Seniors and Disability Fare card holders ride free, as well as UT students, faculty and staff, and children under six.

3/15/10 Molestation - An Austin carnival worker is charged with assaulting a child. Arturo Hernandez, Jr. is accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy at the Austin home where he was staying. Police found him with several carnival I-D badges. Hernandez is not a registered sex offender, and we learned today, even with background checks, it can be hard for Carnival operators to keep track of their employees.

3/16/10 Robbery - Two teenagers - armed with guns - are targeting immigrants in Austin. Police say the duo - still on the run - robbed at least six people this morning in one hour.

3/17/10 Dealership Hacked - A car dealer's former employee hacked into a computer system, disabling more than 100 customers' cars. APD's High Tech Crime unit arrested 20 year old Omar Ramos Lopez this morning. That's after Texas Auto Center phones started ringing off the hook. The manager says it took a couple days for them to figure out these GPS and ignition lock systems had been triggered in the cars. Police say Lopez was a collection agent who hacked into the pay technologies computer system a month after he was fired.

3/19/10 Immigrant Robberies - Police have arrested 17 year old Gerrell Earls and a 16 year old after they say the teens went on a robbery spree targeting immigrants, threatening to kill them and putting guns to their heads. Five people were robbed early Tuesday morning in about a two hour period starting in east Austin and heading north. Police say they developed a list of possible suspects and found some of the stolen items on the the teens. They think they targeted immigrants on their way to work, because they thought they were less-likely to report it.

3/19/10 SXSW Police - The majority of folks that descend on downtown Austin every year for South-by-Southwest aren't looking for any trouble. Austin police officers are buzzing around. Thursday, a smooth shift turned to trouble fast. A bike officer on south-by-southwest duty was patrolling the Shoal Creek hike and bike trail and says Michael Tinkham stabbed him in the finger with a syringe full of heroin while attempting to get the suspect handcuffed. After officers tased the homeless man twice, the 26-year-old said he has Hepatitis. 53-year-old Pete Thurman was also booked into jail after refusing to leave a bar and putting an officer in a headlock. Police say unruly festival goers has not been a trend and are hoping it stays that way until Sunday. The suspect and officer who was stuck with the syringe both went to the hospital for testing. The officer will continue being checked for the next several months.

3/23/10 Purse Snatchings - Police are also working about a dozen purse snatchings at grocery stores in the last two months. They think the crimes could be connected... and the criminals getting more aggressive!

One victim in the Fiesta Mart parking lot got a look at the attacker before he grabbed her bag, pushed her to the ground, causing her to hit her head. Police say he was a man in his mid- to late-20s, with a dark complexion, stocky build, and braided hair. And they released this surveillance video from the store on 38th and I-35. It shows a maroon 2-door car that police believe was the getaway vehicle. Police say this case may be related to earlier thefts where women had their purses stolen out of shopping carts. And it's not just at Fiesta. The crimes have happened at HEB and Randall's stores as well.

3/27/10 Lakeway Burglaries - Police are searching for the thieves behind a string of restaurant robberies in Lakeway. The thieves burglarized five restaurants in Lakeway this week. They robbed the "Two Hot Mamas Grill" on 620, then the "Donut Hole" a little down the road, and "Ate Cafe" on Lohman's Crossing on Wednesday. Two more burglaries were reported Thursday morning - a Dunkin' Donuts and Honey Bee Ham and Deli in the shopping center at 620 and Oak Grove. Lakeway Police are working with Travis County Sheriff's department to find the robbers. Police say they're following a few leads.

3/30/10 Emergency Preps - The head of the state's homeland security department told Texas lawmakers today that the problem of border violence and drug trafficking is getting worse - with a strong presence even here in Austin. The state has allocated a collective 250 million dollars over the last four years to fight border violence. But the violence and strength of the drug cartels are strengthening. In fact, Austin police attribute more than 95 percent of the drug activity in Austin to the Mexican drug cartels and say violent crime is also on the rise. The head of homeland security says a new gang related bill passed by the legislature will give the state more tools to combat the gang activity.

Gangs

03/04/10 Teen Purse Death - The manager at Taco Bell says the 75-year old woman attacked in the parking lot January 27th was a regular. Police say a 14-year old student

from Covington Middle School down the street... snatched her purse...and when she resisted...he elbowed her in the face, knocking her to the ground. Austin school district police say she had a heart attack shortly after. Neighbors were even more shocked to hear police thought the assault was gang-related....and that 17-year old Jonathan Kelly-Contreras told the eighth grader to do it... as part of an initiation into a street gang. The two were arrested and charged with aggravated robbery. Now that the woman has died... police are waiting on autopsy results to find out if her death was a direct result of the injuries from the attack. In the meantime, those who live close to Covington hope police take aggressive action.

03/05/10 Gang Murder Charge - Police say 17-year-old "Jonathan Contreras" instructed a 14-year-old accomplice to steal the elderly woman's purse if he wanted to be a member of the Piru Bloods street gang. In her South Austin neighborhood, Sue McClusky was often seen gardening in her front yard. Neighbor Waxela Sananda recalls Sue bringing over a gift for her newborn. And she says, her tiny 100 pound frame... might have made her easy prey. Austin police believe McClusky was the target in a purse snatching back on January 25th at this Taco Bell on West William Cannon. She struggled with her 14-year-old attacker- was hit in the face- and fell to the ground. Now police believe the 8th grader committed the crime- to get into a gang. The suspects were initially charged with aggravated assault. But McClusky died from her injuries on Wednesday. Authorities say gang-related crimes are NOT on the rise in Austin, but membership IS. A committee created five years ago to address gang-related crime is compiling information for a database to be shared among law enforcement- and school districts. That's little comfort for Sue's neighbors and her friends and family. The 17-year-old suspect is in the Travis County jail with bond set at a MILLION dollars. The juvenile is expected to turn himself in soon.

Teaching good citizenship/responsibility

01/06/10 Shelter Preps - A potential 48-hour freeze activates the city's emergency shelter plan. Council member Laura Morrison, along with homeless advocates, talked with shelters today about preparations. The city sets its Winter Weather Homeless Shelter Plan in motion when the temperature drops below 32 degrees. Homeless people seeking shelter should go to ARCH or the Salvation army, both downtown, in the block on Neches between 7th and 8th. Buses will take any overflow to surrounding churches. And anyone can call 2-1-1 statewide for shelter information.

1/24/10 Haiti Doctors - A group of Central Texas doctors flew out of Austin today... to provide help and healthcare to Haiti. With their bags packed, 18 nurses, physicians and orthopedic surgeons boarded two charter planes. They took 26-thousand pounds of donated medical supplies, antibiotics, medicine, and baby formula. They are eager to start helping in Haiti.

02/07/10 MDA Stride and Ride - Many folks start their day with a walk in the mall, but Saturday morning at Barton Creek Square they had lots of company. Hundreds turned out for "Stride and Ride," a fund raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The

Westlake drum line led the way as MDA families and supporters, some in wheelchairs, raised money from sponsors to fund research into treatments and cures for neuromuscular disease. Our own Jim Spencer was there to hand out awards. He announced that the event raised 42-thousand dollars for MDA.

Focus on positive/good news

01/06/10 Where to Watch the Rose Bowl - Pretty much any business with a TV will have it tuned to the game tomorrow night. Aside from the usual sports bars, you'll find places like the Alamo Drafthouse, Scholz Garten and "Speakeasy" hosting watch parties. But it's a good idea to call ahead to make sure there's room for you!

01/09/10 Torch Blessing - We're just over a month til the Olympics and the torch is nearing Vancouver - having all sorts of interesting experiences along the way. The torch is currently moving west across the less-populated provinces of Canada. Saturday the rally started in Brandon, Manitoba - Just north of the Dakotas. A beautiful sunrise greeted torch-bearers who had an escort of native tribes on horseback as they jogged with the flame. If you think Central Texas has been cold this week, imagine the crack of dawn in Canada! As the day broke the relay approached Sioux Valley, where members of the "Dakota Nation" gave the torch a special blessing.

01/18/10 Austin MLK Celebrated - Thousands took to the streets of Austin today to honor the late civil rights leader Doctor Martin Luther King Junior. The march began at the King Statue on the UT campus - then went on to the state capitol - and ended on the campus of "Huston-Tillotson University". Community leaders and elected officials spoke about Doctor King's inspirational life and legacy.

01/27/10 Two New Waterparks - Two new multi-million dollar "waterparks" are in the works for Central Texas - one in Pflugerville and another in Cedar Park. "Schlitterbahn Waterpark" has been a landmark in New Braunfels for more than 30 years. Now it's operating company is planning what they're calling an "experiential entertainment resort" in Cedar Park. Meanwhile, the "Blu Bambu" waterpark in Pflugerville should open in May of 2011. It's owner says he's not concerned about the competition.

02/05/10 Green Job Guide - If you're looking for a new job or know someone who is - here's a good place to start. The "Texas Green Jobs Guidebook" out this week covers more than 200 types of environmentally friendly jobs - everything from Solar Panel Installer to Wind Power Technician. The guidebook explains how much money you'll make and what you need to know to get a spot in these growth industries.

02/09/10 Brees Church - You can't blame worshippers at First Baptist Church for letting a little "Super Bowl Fever" creep into Sunday service this morning. The Church encouraged folks to show up today showing their support for the New Orleans Saints. Saints' quarterback Drew Brees attended First Baptist church growing up in Austin. People showed their displayed their loyalty for Brees by wearing Saints jerseys and

shirts. One girl even showed up with a "fleur-de-lee" painted on her cheek! We spoke with Brees' grandparents on their way in. His grandparents say that Drew has been very calm this past week and focused on getting the team ready.

02/25/10 Facebook in Austin - The popular social networking site "Facebook" may move into Austin. It was on Facebook - where Governor Rick Perry announced today the state will invest \$1.4 million through the "Texas Enterprise Fund" for a Facebook sales and operations office in Austin. The City is also offering a 200-thousand dollar incentive. If the deal goes through, Facebook would bring 200 jobs to the Austin area with average salaries of 54-thousand dollars a year.

03/03/10 Sully Last Flight - His calm, quick thinking made pilot Chesley Sullenberger an American hero... Today had a celebration as he finished his final flight. Sullenberger's plane got a traditional water cannon salute after landing at Charlotte's airport. The pilot is retiring after 30 years with U.S. Airways. He says he'll spend his time pressing for flight safety.

3/19/10 Zoo Lions - The Austin Zoo is looking for a way to continue housing two popular lion cubs that are growing quickly. The cubs are just nine weeks old and already running out of room. At full maturity they could weigh upwards of 3-hundred pounds. But their breed is extinct in the wild which means having them grow up at the Austin zoo is a privilege. The Austin Zoo needs to build a big cat enclosure costing about 150-thousand dollars. If you'd like to help, we have a link at kxan.com to the Austin Zoo, where you can make an online donation.

3/26/10 New Dog Park - A new off-leash dog park is open in northwest Austin and offers a little more control than other open spaces. The fenced neighborhood park is run by Anderson Mill Limited District. Dog owners need a key to enter the yard and must provide proof of up-to-date vaccinations. It is a healthy idea according to a local dog business owner.

3/28/10 Zilker Garden Fest - Folks took time to stop and smell the roses this weekend. Zilker Botanical Garden hosted the 50th annual Zilker Garden Show. There were flower displays, herbal accessories, and interactive Kid's gardening. Vendors also set up shop for gardeners and all in all it was a great family outing.

3/18/10 River Ramble - Hundreds of boaters hit the water on Lady Bird Lake this morning... racing in the first-ever Colorado River Ramble. Canoes and kayaks crowded onto the river with Austin police skimming the water not too far behind. Officers took advantage of the extra traffic to promote the basics of water safety. Sunday morning's river races raised money for the Colorado River Foundation.

Family Values

1/23/10 Rally For Life - Pro-life activists rallied at the state capitol today...at the annual Texas Rally for Life. Governor Rick Perry, other lawmakers and anti-abortion advocates spoke at the rally. The event is held on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion 37 years ago.

1/23/10 East Side YMCA - They have not only made it for a decade....they've grown leaps and bounds. In east Austin, there is a big party today to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the East Communities YMCA. Over the years...some 700 volunteers and business leaders raised nearly \$5-million to open this "Y"...which has become a magnet in the community for thousands of families and their children. They have two pools, a basketball court, classrooms, a playground, and a nine hole golf course.

2/4/10 SW Pkwy Speed - The search is on for a red Mustang... racing down Southwest Parkway last weekend. Four cars ended up crashing before two drivers reached the finish line... and one of them kept on going. Two drivers flew past Travis Cook Road racing going much faster than 55 before things went downhill. Three 16 and 17-year olds were in the car that flipped into oncoming traffic... hitting a fourth car. It's likely that older model Mustang has front-end damage. The driver faces numerous charges including fleeing the scene and failing to stop and render aid. Expect to see more speed traps on Southwest Parkway following a wild wreck Sunday night.

2/16/10 Credit Card Changes - Changes to your credit card will take effect on Monday. "The Credit Card Protection Act" will make it harder for credit card companies to rip off consumers. The White House has enlisted Austin-based "Creditcards.com" to help them spread the word about the new rules. The website has at least a million visitors a month. That was enough to impress the government's leading economic advisor. The White House will be answering questions in a live streaming town hall forum Monday afternoon, hosted by Creditcards.com.

Poverty

3/3/10 Food Bank Struggle - The homeless will still be able to get food once every 15 days. Even though the new policies are in place, St. Vincent De Paul volunteers are doing everything they can to refer those in need to other assistance groups. The food pantry spends up to 27-hundred dollars a week buying food, and more comes from donations. Bryan Burkhart comes to the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry about once a month. He says his health has left him unable to work.. and in need of assistance. Bryan is one of about 6-thousand people who rely on the South Austin food pantry each month. The number of people asking for help at the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry in the past year has quadrupled. Keeping the shelves stocked and people fed has become an even greater challenge. So, officials there are changing the rules as to how often people can ask for food.