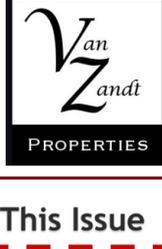




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# December 2019

## A Note from Ann:

Well the end of the year is upon us again - unbelievable huh?! It really flew by! This is a good time to review the year and be thankful for all we have been blessed with! Van Zandt Properties is still enjoying the office location in a historic building in downtown Bastrop. We have 5 agents (including me) and one Office Manager. With many years of experience between us - and specialties in different areas, we are certain to have someone that can help you with your real estate needs.

The year was a good one. It was not as robust as the past few years, we're seeing a bit of slowing from the ridiculously fast paced market we enjoyed. However, it is still way better than it was 5 years ago! We do still have a bustling market showing a 10% increase in sales over last year and at this point 8-10% increase in home values. With an average like that, your home equity is building yearly! Of course it slows for the holiday season, but that gives us all time to enjoy what's important to us.

I would like to thank you all for your business (past or future). Putting your trust in me for what will most likely be one of your largest purchases (or sales) is quite a compliment! I want to thank you for that and your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

**Christmas is all about  
 Family, friends, and a cozy home  
 In which to enjoy them all.**

**We here at Van Zandt Properties wish you all of the above  
 for the holiday season.**

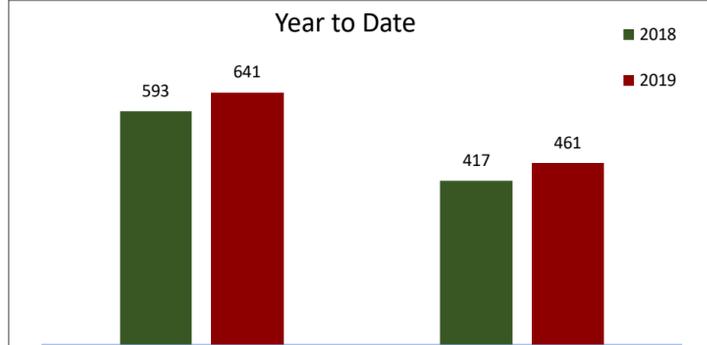


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## Bastrop Area Monthly Statistics

Below are the current statistics for the Bastrop Area. The average home sale price for November was \$238,510, which is up 10.7% from the previous year. The average home sale price for 2019, so far, is \$243,746, which is up 8.4% from 2018.



## Around Town



### Upcoming Events

#### **December 6th - Scream Hollow Twisted Christmas**

Nestled in 20 acres in the middle of the county, Scream Hollow knows how to put a twist on the holidays with three haunted attractions based on the darker Christmas legends. The park will host a dazzling light display, have fresh-baked cookies, hot beverages and treats. Experience the most quirky and magical Christmas in Texas! To purchase tickets and for more information, [click here](#).

#### **December 7th - December Work Day at the Colorado River Refuge**

Come help maintain hiking trails at the Colorado River Refuge! This Pines and Prairies Land Trust property has beautiful trails covering a diverse landscape. Activities include moderate to light maintenance will include clearing overgrowth and leveling out tread. Please wear appropriate work clothes including long pants and sturdy closed-toed shoes. Please bring your favorite tools - loppers, pruning saw, McLeod, trimmer, etc. (no chainsaws), as well as work gloves, sunblock, water bottle, etc. Margaret will be leading Saturday's project and can be reached at 512-988-0930 if you have any questions Saturday morning or can't find her. Please park along the road. The entrance to Dragonfly Trailhead is at the end of Waipahoehoe at the intersection of Riverside Drive.

#### **December 7th - Elgin Holiday by the Tracks**

Ring in the holidays with a downtown celebration that will fill you with the spirit of the season. Young and old can enjoy pictures with Santa Claus, downtown shopping, the Hot Cocoa Stroll, a holiday bazaar, craft activities for the kids and more in downtown Elgin, Texas. The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department sponsors the Lighted Christmas Parade at dusk through downtown and a Live Nativity produced by St. Peter's Lutheran Church follows the parade in Veterans Memorial Park downtown. The parade is a collection point for the Blue Santa Toy Drive. Bring an unwrapped new toy and help fill the trailers in the parade. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **December 7th - Smithville Festival of Lights and Lighted Parade**

Join in for Smithville's free 2019 Festival of Lights & Lighted Parade in historic downtown Smithville, Texas hosted by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce. Your children will delight with a Kid's Fest with games, bounce houses, reading corner, clown and magician. This year's theme is "Holly Jolly Christmas!". For more information, [click here](#).

#### **December 14th - Lost Pine Christmas & Lighted Parade**

Join us in Bastrop, Texas for our annual Lost Pines Christmas celebration on December 14 with numerous holiday events, small town tradition and fun for the entire family. Expect holiday shopping, games, a festival, and an evening lighted parade with over 100 lighted floats and Santa. In conjunction with the event is the Holiday Homes Tour with visits to historic homes throughout town. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **December 28th - Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count**

Save the date! The 2019 Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sat., Dec. 28 in and around McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Bastrop County, Texas. Join our flock this day to count bird species and contribute vital data to the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We need your help! If you are a birder with intermediate or advanced birding skills, please sign up to today help us count bird species. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#).

#### **December 31st - New Year's Eve at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines**

The entire family can ring in New Year's with a festive buffet, a family DJ dance party, and the resort's signature firework display at 9 p.m. complete with a sparkling wine or cider toast! For more information or to make reservations, [click here](#).

## Five Steps to Tidy Your Garage

As an area used for extra storage, your garage can become cluttered and unorganized—and fast! Looking at a messy space can be overwhelming, but here's how to make it tidy.



1. **Remove all items.** This is an obvious but necessary step to ensure all areas get properly cleaned, including the floor, ceiling and walls.
2. **What stays and what goes.** Take a look at the pile of possessions outside of the garage and make some decisions on what absolutely must stay and what can be donated or thrown away.
3. **Start scrubbing.** Use a broom to clear cobwebs off walls or ceilings. Check windows and light fixtures to make sure everything is in working order. Start from the furthest inside point and sweep all the debris to the front and out the door. Mop the floor to remove all the grime.
4. **Painting the floor.** A fresh coat of paint will help extend the overall life of your garage floor, while filling in any cracks. You shouldn't need more than two to four cans of paint to cover the entire floor.
5. **Keep it organized.** Install shelving to keep items off the newly painted floor. Place items you'll be storing long-term in the garage first, followed by the items you'll be using more frequently placed toward the front. Make sure to stay on top of organizing to prevent another massive overhaul of your storage space

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