

Application-based service companies hope to share in San Marcos' growth

Local businesses react to newcomers

By Brett Thorne

Uber, Lyft and Favor have entered San Marcos, and they are hiring.

The companies are generally considered part of the sharing economy, in which companies connect customers in need of a product or service with independent contractors willing to lend everything from a car ride to a house.

Katelyn Chelsey, a public relations specialist with Zipcar, a car-sharing company that expanded its presence in San Marcos in October, said the growth of the sharing economy reflects a change in consumers' attitudes. People want the convenience of using a product or service without the hassles and expenses of ownership, she said. The sharing economy helps address that want.



Uber, Lyft and Zipcar, three transportation network companies, recently launched or expanded in San Marcos. Representatives of Aloha Taxi, a local taxi service, said they are focused on maintaining customer service and developing a mobile app to help them compete with the newcomers.

Favor launched its delivery service in San Marcos in August. College Delivery, a similar San Marcos-based company, is making its website more mobile-friendly to remain competitive. The company also plans to build a mobile app that will allow orders to be placed via smartphone with the tap of a few buttons.



"People are starting to value access over ownership in many cases," Chelsey said. "That principle is really key to our business. We see it every day as we market to millennials. They're a group that is most receptive to this trend of access over ownership."

At the touch of a button

Relatively new companies—such as Uber, Lyft and Favor—using mobile applications to connect customers with products and services are moving into San Marcos. Established local businesses have responded by developing mobile apps of their own, which they hope will keep them competitive.



There are now 17 companies in the sharing economy with a valuation of at least \$1 billion.



Those 17 companies employ 60,000 people.

Source: Bloomberg LP/Community Impact Newspaper

According to a national 2015 study by Bloomberg LP, an economic analysis firm, sharing economy workers are typically younger and have higher educational attainment than the rest of the U.S. workforce. About 60

See **Sharing** | 17

Stream of events

Jan. 2007

Buda joins the Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency. HCPUA's project to draw water from Caldwell County will become the city's primary water source by 2023.

June 2015

A bill bringing the unregulated area under the authority of a groundwater conservation district becomes law. Regulation places limits on the amount of water that can be pumped.

Nov. 2015

The Texas Water Development Board closes on a \$7.49 million loan to the HCPUA to construct a pipeline as part of Phase 1 of the agency's project.

Jan. 2015

City Council approves a contract with Electro Purification to pump 1 million gallons annually from an unregulated source of groundwater in the Trinity Aquifer in Hays County.

Oct. 2015

The city deems the EP contract void and moves forward with a water-sharing agreement to cover its 1 million-gallons-of-water-a-day shortfall.

Source: city of Buda/Community Impact Newspaper

With water deal voided, Buda mulling its options

By JJ Velasquez

Nine months after signing a contract with the company to shore up its water supply, Buda has ended ties with Electro Purification, whose project in Central Hays County created tension between the city and its neighbors.

According to a city of Buda news release, Electro Purification's nine-month feasibility period expired Oct. 20, and the company failed to demonstrate the ability to provide the city 1 million gallons a day from 2017-23.

See **Water** | 18

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9 DINING FEATURE

Proof Liquor & Deli



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Volunteer in San Marcos, Kyle and Buda





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WOMEN'S IMAGING



PEC seeks input on proposed rate plan

PEC has been taking extensive member input and is now proposing a rate plan to give members more rate options.

Members may review the plan and other resources at pec.coop/RateProposal and give feedback by taking the online survey posted there by Dec. 23. Additional feedback options also are posted at this website.

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About us

John and Jennifer Garrett began *Community Impact Newspaper* in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team. Now, with 20 markets in the Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth metro areas, the paper is distributed monthly to nearly 1.5 million homes and businesses.

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



down and we look forward to the possibilities in 2016, it's also time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves in Hays County and surrounding areas.

After the incredible devastation incurred by the recent flooding, there is much need in our community. There are also all types of volunteer opportunities in our area, from helping to feed the hungry to fostering stray pets to neighborhood beautification. There are

If you're at all like me, the stockings are hung, and holiday plans of gift giving and eggnog sipping have begun. The excitement of holiday parties and time with family and friends is upon us, and it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. As 2015 winds

many organizations providing these opportunities that may fit your personal interests. If you are looking for ways to give back and help those in need in the San Marcos, Buda and Kyle areas, please take a look at our informative Volunteer Guide on pages 14-15.

Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs is something *Community Impact Newspaper* strives to promote. So, while perusing our December issue also be sure to check out this month's business profiles on pages 8 and 9. I know many of us enjoy shopping locally, and these are just two of the wonderful businesses in the area that can help with your gift-giving needs. From the entire *Community Impact Newspaper* team, I hope you have a happy holiday season.

Lacy Klasel



Lacy Klasel

GENERAL MANAGER

lklasel@communityimpact.com

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READER COMMENTS

In booming Hays County, mental health services prove to be a growing need (Volume 5, Issue 2)

"It's very promising to read the report's findings that psychotherapy via telemedicine was found to be as effective as in-person treatment. While some barriers still lie in the way of greater adoption of telemedicine, positive findings like this continue to move us forward."

—ConnectExpert

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

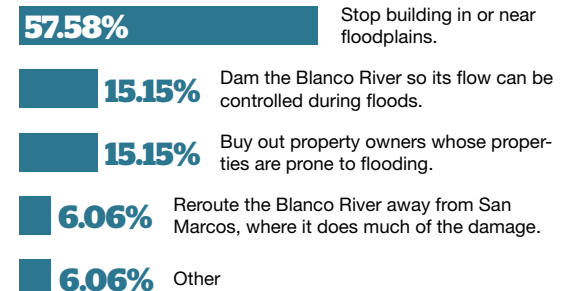
TAKE THE POLL

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LAST MONTH'S POLL RESULTS

What is the best way for area cities to mitigate future flood damage?



Results from an unscientific Web survey, collected 11/19/15-12/16/15

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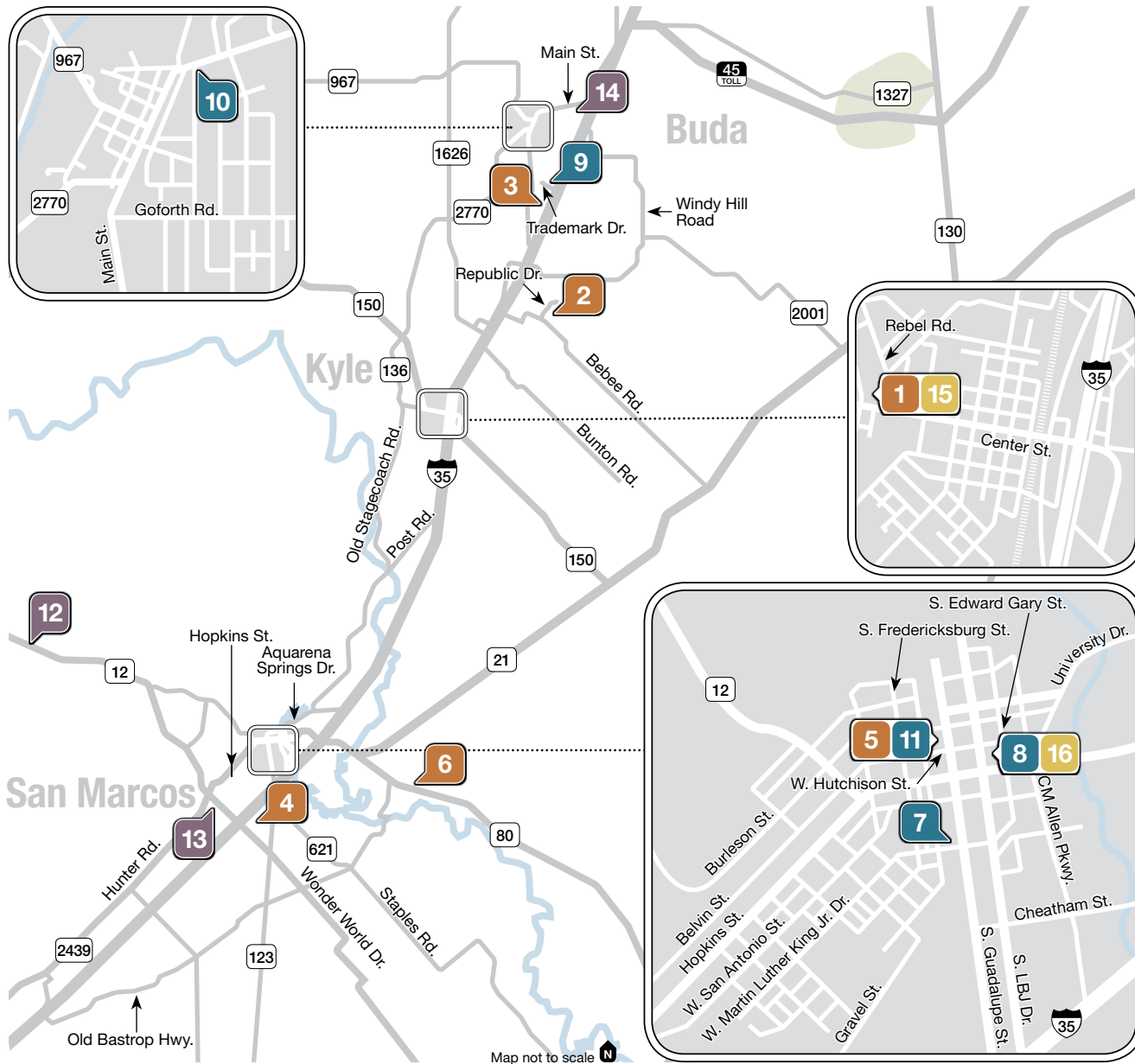
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1-Subaru WRX- 36 mo lease, \$1,999 total due at inception, no sec. dep. required, 36 monthly pymts of \$269, final pymt/residual = \$19,382. Based on 10k mi./yr with \$15 per mi. excess charge. MSRP \$28,091. \$1k 212767. Lease offers are closed-end leases with approved credit only, and dealer contribution may affect final negotiated price. All lease payments include tax credits unless otherwise stated. *Purchase or lease any new (previously unregistered) Subaru and receive a complimentary factory scheduled maintenance plan for 2 years or 24,000 miles (whichever comes first). See Subaru Added Security Maintenance Plan for intervals, coverages and limitations. Customer must take delivery before 12-31-2015 and reside within the promotional area. At participating dealers only. See dealer for program details and eligibility. **Available with approved credit on select models in lieu of any other offer. Dealer participation may affect final negotiated price. No down payment required. All pictures for illustration only. MPG figures are estimated highway, results vary. Lease offers expire 1/2/16. 2-Subaru Forester- 42 mo lease, \$1,999 total due at inception, no sec. dep. required, 42 monthly pymts of \$199, final pymt/residual = \$15,124. Based on 10k mi./yr with \$15 per mi. excess charge. MSRP \$23,632. \$1k 212777. Lease offers are closed-end leases with approved credit only, and dealer contribution may affect final negotiated price. All lease payments include tax credits unless otherwise stated. *Purchase or lease any new (previously unregistered) Subaru and receive a complimentary factory scheduled maintenance plan for 2 years or 24,000 miles (whichever comes first). See Subaru Added Security Maintenance Plan for intervals, coverages and limitations. Customer must take delivery before 12-31-2015 and reside within the promotional area. At participating dealers only. See dealer for program details and eligibility. **Available with approved credit on select models in lieu of any other offer. Dealer participation may affect final negotiated price. No down payment required. All pictures for illustration only. MPG figures are estimated highway, results vary. Lease offers expire 1/2/16. 3-Volvo S60 T5- \$1k V5676. \$3,179 cash due at signing. No security deposit required. Monthly payment of \$279, based on \$38,600 MSRP, includes destination charge and application of \$2,150 Lease Bonus. Lessee is responsible for excess wear and mileage over 10,000 miles/year at \$0.25 / mile. 4-Volvo XC60 T5- \$1k V5961. \$3,679 cash due at signing. No security deposit required. Monthly payment of \$389, based on \$41,705 MSRP, includes destination charge. Lessee is responsible for excess wear and mileage over 10,000 miles/year at \$0.25 / mile.

IMPACTS



Now Open

1 Heather and Jeff Stubbs opened **50% Off Or More**, 103 Rebel Road, Kyle, on Nov. 27. The store sells new, used and cosmetically blemished merchandise, such as electronics, at half price or cheaper. The store is open Wednesday through Sunday. 512-917-4050

2 **Hometeam Pest Defense**, 164 Republic Drive, Ste. 110, Kyle, opened Nov. 9. The business offers pest control for residential and commercial customers. Hometeam Pest Defense is the third-largest pest-control company in the United States, according to its website. 512-268-2572. www.pestdefense.com

3 **Lone Star Gun Safes**, 17020 S. I-35, Ste. G, Buda, opened Nov. 12. The store offers gun safes ranging in height from 2 to 6 feet and in width from 2 to 5.5 feet. Lone Star Gun Safes provides delivery and installation of its safes, which have gun racks and shelves but can be used to store other materials. The company has stores in the San

Antonio and Houston areas and has been operating since 1999. 512-523-9049. www.lonestargunsafes.com

4 Live Oak Health Partners opened the **Occupational Health Clinic**, 1941 N. I-35, San Marcos, on Nov. 19. The clinic provides local businesses with pre-screening physicals for new employees, drug screens, safety exams, work injury care and other services. LOHP is a branch of Central Texas Medical Center. 512-353-6428. www.liveoakhealthpartners.com

5 **Pieology**, 301 N. Guadalupe St., Ste. 155, San Marcos, opened on Dec. 8. The restaurant serves artisan-style pizzas; salads; and savory and sweet breadsticks. 512-757-8521. www.pieology.com

6 Rupert and Misty Ellis opened **Tackleberrys**, 20155-B Hwy. 80, San Marcos, on Oct. 12. The gun shop offers handguns, rifles, tactical weapons and shotguns from a variety of manufacturers. Tackleberrys also offers gun repairs, concealed handgun classes and accessories, such as concealed carry handbags, holsters and ammunition. 512-396-4860. www.tackleberrys.com, www.facebook.com/tackleberrys

Jamie Chaidez opened **Ma's Mini Pigs' Farm & Rescue**, located in east Kyle off FM 150, on Nov. 7. Chaidez said the business is operating primarily as a rescue for mini pigs, which can be as large as 200 pounds, and hopes in the future to contract with local municipalities to board small- to medium-sized livestock. The business accepts rescue animals on an owner-surrender basis. 408-824-4514. www.masminipigs.com. masminipigs@hotmail.com



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Coming Soon

7 The Austin-based bar, coffee shop and restaurant **Buzz Mill** will open a location at 194 S. Guadalupe St., San Marcos, by mid-March. Owner Jason Sabala said in addition to coffee the restaurant will feature a full food menu with a focus on brunch items, as well as a full bar. The restaurant will be open 24 hours a day. www.buzzmillcoffee.com

8 **Crafthouse Urban Kitchen & Tap** will open in March at 242 N. LBJ Drive, San Marcos. The restaurant will include a full kitchen and bar, owner Allen Shy said. The restaurant's menu will feature farm-to-table offerings, and brisket will be smoked in-house.

9 **MI-BOX Moving & Mobile Storage**, 136 Trademark Drive, Buda, will open Dec. 21. The company offers portable storage units for residences and businesses. MI-BOX delivers self-storage and moving containers directly to its customers. After customers fill the units MI-BOX transports them to the new desired location. www.getmibox.com

10 Christi Anderson will open **RE/MAX Asset Realty**, 587 Main St., Buda, in January. Anderson will broker residential, commercial and land sales in Hays County and South Austin. 512-994-2221. www.remax.com

11 **VertsKebap**, 301 N. Guadalupe St., Ste. 154, San Marcos, will open Jan. 16. The fast-casual restaurant serves doner kebabs, a Turkish dish consisting of falafel or meat, such as beef, chicken or lamb, as well as vegetables and sauces on pita bread. A company representative said the San Marcos restaurant would be similar to the company's other locations in Austin,

Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. www.vertskebab.com.
Twitter: @vertskebab

School Notes

Four **Hays CISD** middle school students were recognized in November for writing essays about the importance of water resources. Mikayla Ojeda, a seventh-grade student at Chapa Middle School, was awarded the grand prize for her essay and received a \$500 Visa gift card. Chapa Middle School students Sedona Heaney, a sixth-grade student; Ethan Allen, a seventh-grade student; and Keda Dixon, an eighth-grade student, received \$100 Visa gift cards as finalists in the contest. Monarch Utilities, which provides water services to some residents in the Kyle community, hosted the writing contest. www.swwc.com/monarch

Hays CISD school nurses received thanks Nov. 12 at Nurses Night Out. The event—hosted by optometry office Kyle Vision Source, 5167 Kyle Center Drive, Ste. 103, Kyle—recognized school nurses for the care they provide to students. Drs. Tony Jacob, Catherine Vuong and Annie Williams were on hand to provide education on eye conditions that school-aged children commonly contract or encounter. 512-268-7600. www.kylevisionsource.com

Anniversaries

12 Chester John and Elissa Beach celebrated the first anniversary of **Silo Glass Studio and Gallery**, 7990 RR 12, San Marcos, in October. John and Beach have more than 13 years of experience fusing glass. In addition to glass art, the duo offers classes for those interested in learning how

to make fused glass. 512-444-6494. www.siloglass.com

13 Owners Brenda and Bill Damron celebrated the first anniversary of **Damron Group Realtors**, 102 Wonder World Drive, Ste. 301, San Marcos, on Nov. 15. Representing both buyers and sellers, the agency provides residential, land and commercial real estate services. Damron Group focuses on the San Marcos market but also serves I-35 corridor communities from Buda to New Braunfels. 512-392-7653. www.thedamrongroup.com

14 Owner Erin Merker celebrated the first anniversary of **Om Massage & Spa**, 15300 S. I-35, Ste. 340, Buda, on Dec. 10. Services include 90-minute, deep-tissue and Swedish massages; customized facial treatments; and other spa services using all-natural and organic products. Through Jan. 1, Om Massage & Spa is offering memberships for \$1 in celebration of its anniversary. 512-295-4000. www.ommassageandspa.com

Closings

15 Jeff Brown closed **Old Town Kyle Antique Mall**, 103 Rebel Road, Kyle, on Nov. 15. The store sold antiques, collectibles and other eclectic goods. Brown's other store—Old Town Buda Antique Mall, 212 N. Main St., Buda—remains open. 512-423-8713

16 **Wally's Party Factory**, 242 N. LBJ Drive, San Marcos, closed in November. The company is looking for a new location in San Marcos. The New Braunfels location, 651 N. Business I-35, New Braunfels, is still open and has an assortment of themed party supplies. 830-643-0066. www.wallyspartyfactory.com

Compiled by Brett Thorne and JJ Velasquez

News or questions about San Marcos, Kyle or Buda?
Email us at sbknews@communityimpact.com.



Heather and Jeff Stubbs opened their discount store, **50% Off Or More**, in Kyle on Nov. 27.



Pieology, 301 N. Guadalupe St., Ste. 155, San Marcos, opened in December.



Rupert and Misty Ellis repair and sell guns and gun accessories at their store, **Tackleberrys**.



Christi Anderson will open **RE/MAX Asset Realty** in Buda in January.



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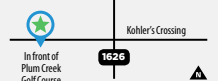
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BUSINESS FEATURE

Christie's Jewelers

Downtown San Marcos jeweler to ring in sixth year at new location

By Brett Thorne

When Christie Maycock opened Christie's Jewelers at 215 E. Hutchison St., San Marcos, in 2010, she said it was the realization of a dream she had since she was a child turning beads and wire into jewelry while waiting for her mother to finish grading her students' papers.

It has not exactly been a smooth five years of business, Maycock said. Soon after the business opened, the city of San Marcos began a major reconstruction project downtown that often made accessing Maycock's store difficult. In March 2013 Christie's Jewelers was robbed, and the thieves made off with about \$70,000 of merchandise.

"We've been through the fire and earned our stripes with the construction and the burglary and all that," Maycock said. "We were really thankful that we didn't have any customers suffer any losses. I would be inconsolable if something precious had been taken that belonged to a customer."

In November, Christie's moved to 206 N. LBJ Drive, San Marcos. The new location has improved security, and Maycock hopes being located on one of the primary retail corridors in the city will increase the store's foot traffic.

Maycock said the store is also going to return to its roots: celebrating the artistry of handmade jewelry. At the previous location Maycock said the store began to cater to those seeking a lower price point for their jewelry. Maycock said she wants to refocus on

working with precious metals—primarily gold and sterling silver.

In October, Maycock invested in a 3-D printer that will allow her and jeweler Bob Kardow to make mockups of customers' jewelry. If a customer decides he or she would like an engagement ring with a certain stone cut and setting, using the printer, a scale wax replica of a ring can be produced in a matter of hours. Previously that would have taken weeks, Kardow said.

"We want to make sure people understand the value of what we're doing," Maycock said. "We don't want to cheapen our products with anything that's inexpensive."

A basic custom-made ring of 18-karat gold costs about \$1,800, Maycock said. More complex designs will cost more, but Maycock said the 3-D printing software can dramatically reduce prices from what customers would otherwise be paying.

In addition to rings, Maycock and Kardow can also produce custom pendants with reliefs printed on them.

Maycock said she believes the new machine will make high-end jewelry more accessible to the average shopper. Not only will it allow Christie's to offer more competitive prices, but the new machine will pull back the curtain on what Maycock said can be a mysterious process to many of her customers.

"People tend to think there is a lot of magic in jewelry," she said. "But really it's all mechanics. It's about experience, skill and tools. We've gotten to the point where we've got all of it."



Bob Kardow (left) and Christie Maycock craft custom jewelry at her San Marcos shop.



In October, Christie's Jewelers invested in a 3-D printer, which allows the business to create scale wax replicas of jewelry.



Using the 3-D printer, customers can see replicas of their jewelry before buying.

Moving sale

Christie's Jewelry & Watch Repair owner Christie Maycock said she is having a "garage sale" to get rid of all her old stock that is not made from a precious metal. The only non-precious items Maycock will carry over from her old store are map pendants, which she said are some of her most popular items.

The silver pendants include small maps of locations throughout the world, including Paris, New York, Niagara Falls and San Marcos. Maycock said the pendants are often given as gifts or purchased to commemorate a vacation.



The shop has a variety of turquoise pieces.

Christie's Jewelers



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Debbie Mylius has been self-employed for 15 years. When she returned to the Austin area from Honduras, she said she recognized a need for a liquor store and deli in Buda.

DINING FEATURE

Proof Liquor & Deli

Hybrid selling sandwiches and spirits broadens food, drink options in Buda

By JJ Velasquez

When she returned to Central Texas after running a scuba diving resort for years in Honduras, Debbie Mylius said she still had the entrepreneurial itch.

As Buda began considering relaxing its alcohol restrictions in 2012, Mylius began carving out a business plan for an off-the-beaten path store offering craft wines, spirits and beer, she said.

In 2011, when Mylius moved back to the Austin area, Buda's laws forbade the operation of liquor stores. But in 2012 an election was held in which voters overwhelmingly decided to open the city's doors to liquor stores and make it easier for bars to operate.

"Just having an entrepreneurial spirit, I started looking at what there might be a demand for," Mylius said. "I noticed right away there was no liquor store."

Opened May 5, Proof Liquor & Deli

combines all the things Mylius said she loves: fine wines, good food, specialty grocery items and spirits.

Although Mylius strongly believed in her business plan, she said she has been surprised by how well the store has been received in the community.

"People [have been] asking me what took us so long to open," Mylius said. "They have been waiting for a mom and pop store out here for a long time. They're very excited to have some options that aren't fast food [and] that have some healthy options."

Sandwiches range in price from \$5.49 to \$8.99. Proof's deli accounts for 17-25 percent of its sales, Mylius said.

Lunch specials, offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, shave \$1.50 off the regular price of Proof's sandwiches. All sandwiches come with a pickle spear and chips.

The most popular sandwich, the



The Reuben Gonzalez, a reuben sandwich with a Tex-Mex influence, is one of the most popular items on Proof's menu.



Goulash, a European stew with meat and vegetables, was among Proof's soups of the day.



Midnight Moon moonshine is among the roughly 200 types of spirits Proof Liquor offers.

By the numbers

About **200** varieties of spirits



About **40-50** varieties of craft beer



Deli sales account for about **17-25%** of sales

5 employees



7 sandwiches on the menu



Smokin' Bird, binds smoked turkey, provolone, caramelized onions, avocados and mayonnaise between two slices of honey wheat bread. The Reuben Gonzalez includes pastrami, sauerkraut, pepper jack cheese and chipotle mayonnaise on grilled jalapeno cheddar bread. The Horsey Blue Roast Beef, the third-most ordered sandwich, is topped with arugula, pickled red onions, tomatoes, blue cheese and a housemade horseradish sauce.

Through the winter, Proof offers seasonal salads and rotating soups, such as goulash, a European stew of meat

and vegetables, and Drunken Chicken Noodle Soup.

The business offers catering for small events, such as deli trays, desserts and gift baskets.

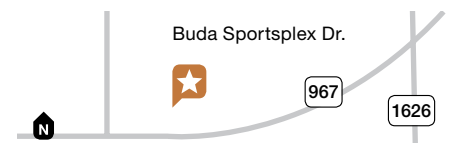
Its specialty grocery includes pickled foods, crackers and pasta sauces.

Proof is among a wave of new dining options to arrive in Buda and Kyle in recent years. Mylius said she is encouraged by the area's ongoing development.

"There are more and more options opening up," Mylius said. "It's exciting to be a part of it."

Proof Liquor & Deli

3420-B FM 967, Ste. B-107, Buda
512-361-0152
www.proofliquoranddeli.com
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Deli hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.



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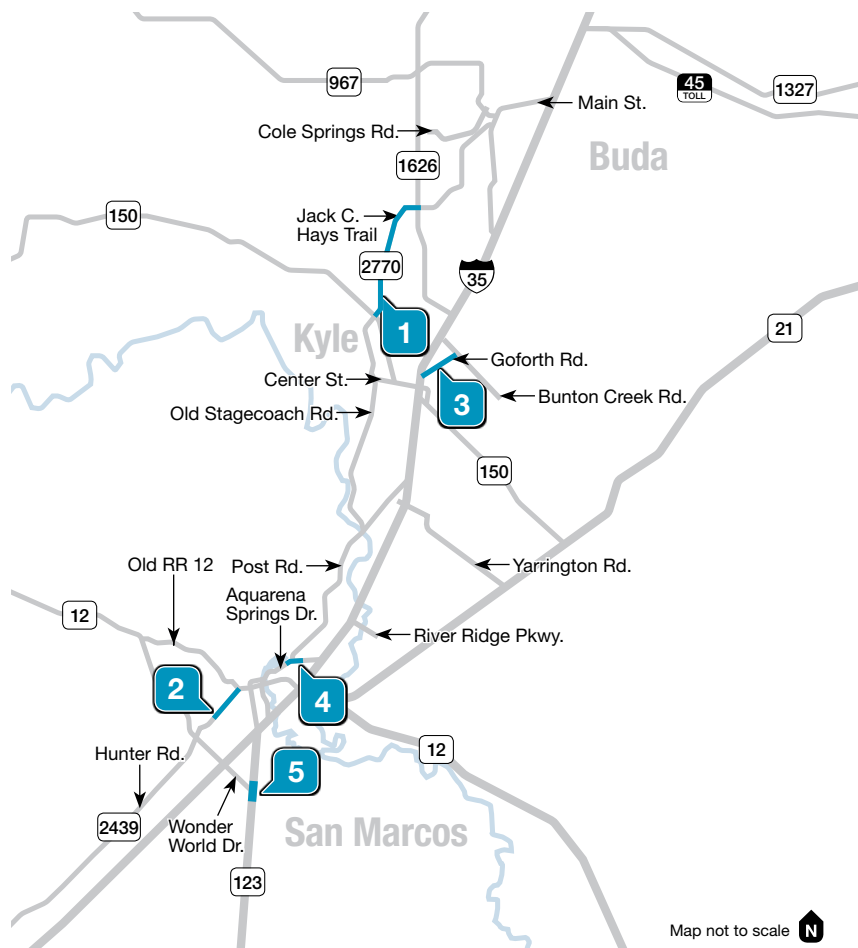
TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Major projects in the area

Compiled by Brett Thorne



News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at sbknews@communityimpact.com.



1 FM 2770 resurfacing

The Texas Department of Transportation awarded a contract to Lone Star Paving to resurface the portion of FM 2770 from FM 1626 to FM 150 in Kyle. The project will take about two months to complete and is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Timeline: spring 2016

Cost: \$840,000

Funding sources: TxDOT Proposition 1 funds

2 Hunter Road resurfacing

TxDOT awarded a contract to Ramming Paving to repave the 1-mile span of Hunter Road from Moore to Bishop streets in San Marcos. Construction will last one month when it begins this spring.

Timeline: spring 2016

Cost: \$274,000

Funding sources: TxDOT Proposition 1 funds

3 Goforth Road improvements

The city of Kyle is adjusting utilities to allow for the reconstruction of the portion of Goforth Road from I-35 to Bunton Creek Road. The road will include three lanes in some areas and four lanes in others. The city expects to award the contract for construction in March.

Timeline: March 2016-March 2017

Cost: \$9.8 million

Funding sources: city of Kyle

4 Aquarena Springs Drive overpass

Temporary lane closures have begun within the project area, which includes the portion of Aquarena Springs Drive from Thorpe Lane to Charles Austin Drive in San Marcos. In early December drainage work was nearly complete. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction in mid-February.

Timeline: May 2015-late 2017

Cost: \$20.7 million

Funding sources: TxDOT, city of San Marcos

5 Hwy. 123 overpass

TxDOT is constructing an overpass on Hwy. 123 in San Marcos that will span Wonder World Drive. The overpass will include two travel lanes in each direction, and access roads on each side will have two lanes in each direction. Both sides of Hwy. 123 were cleared in November to facilitate the road's expansion.

Timeline: March 2015-mid-2017

Cost: \$11.6 million

Funding sources: TxDOT

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1300 WONDER WORLD DRIVE | SAN MARCOS, TEXAS | 78666

CITY & COUNTY

News from Buda and San Marcos

Compiled by Brett Thorne and JJ Velasquez

Nuckels wins runoff

BUDA David Nuckels defeated incumbent Jose Montoya in the race for Buda City Council Place 3 on Dec. 8, according to unofficial voting results.



David Nuckels

In a runoff from November's city elections, Nuckels received 64.61 percent of votes, or 168 total votes, and Montoya received 35.38 percent, or 92 total votes.

Nuckels will serve a three-year term.

All results are unofficial until canvassed.

San Marcos to implement community beautification fee in 2016

SAN MARCOS City residents and business owners may start noticing new charges on their utility bills beginning in February.

On Dec. 1, City Council approved a \$1 and \$5 monthly charge for city residents and businesses, respectively, to be used for beautification of the community. The charge, known as the Clean Community Fee, is expected to generate \$375,000 in its first year.

City Manager Jared Miller said there are many areas throughout the city that could be addressed through the Clean Community Fee, including downtown and the development hubs laid out in the city's

comprehensive master plan.

"There will be an evolutionary aspect to this as we grow and as the city grows, and as the revenue grows in this, there are a lot of things we need to do and should do if we're going to be a city that pops," he said.

City staff will put together a list of potential projects to focus on in the program's first year. That list will be brought to council for approval in early 2016.



Take the poll online at communityimpact.com/sbk-poll.

Would you support a \$1 monthly fee to be paid by residents for beautification of your community?

Uses of the Clean Community Fee include, but are not limited to, the following purposes:

- enhanced mowing and landscaping, including median landscaping and maintenance;
- enhanced trash pickup and bulky waste pickup throughout the city;
- additional street cleaning;
- building, facade and signage improvement grant programs;
- downtown enhancement;
- awareness and educational programs and events;
- additional graffiti removal; and
- dead animal removal.

Source: city of San Marcos/Community Impact Newspaper

Meetings

► Buda City Council

Meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month
Live webcasts of meetings:
www.ci.buda.tx.us/livestream
121 Main St. • 512-312-0084
www.ci.buda.tx.us

► Kyle City Council

Meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month
Live webcasts of meetings:
communityimpact.com/cityofkylemeetings
100 W. Center St. • 512-262-1010
www.cityofkyle.com

► San Marcos City Council

Meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month
Live webcasts of meetings:
www.sanmarcostx.gov/videos
630 E. Hopkins St. • 512-393-8000
www.sanmarcostx.gov/

► Hays County Commissioners Court

Meets at 9 a.m. each Tuesday
Live webcasts of meetings:
www.co.hays.tx.us/commcourtlive
111 E. San Antonio St., San Marcos
512-393-2205
www.co.hays.tx.us

For the full version of any of these articles, visit us online at communityimpact.com/sbk.



Tweetings

For instant coverage of these meetings, follow us on Twitter: [@impactnews_sbk](https://twitter.com/impactnews_sbk)



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Look for your capital credits

Capital credits are a unique part of co-op membership, and this month, PEC is distributing nearly \$8.3 million to members on their electric bills.

This year, some members will receive capital credits for multiple accounts on one account's bill.

Pedernales Electric Cooperative
pec.coop/capitalcredits



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Since 1923, Central Texas Medical Center has been the destination for outstanding health care in the region. Now we're proud to be the **ONLY** hospital between Austin and San Antonio to receive an **A-rating for patient safety**. Ensuring the safety and comfort of each patient is more than just a job for the 720 health care navigators that work at CTMC - it's a commitment. We work every day to make sure that your medical journey is comfortable, effective and safe.



CTMC
CENTRAL TEXAS
MEDICAL CENTER

CALENDAR

December

Worth the **TRIP**

Courtesy EmilyAnn Theatre & Gardens

17 through 29
Wimberley Trail of Lights

The EmilyAnn Theatre & Gardens are decorated with Christmas lights, and guests are invited to tour the grounds. Hot chocolate and marshmallows are available for free, and other concessions are available for purchase. Live entertainers perform mainly on weekends. 6-9 p.m. (Sun.-Thu.), 6-10 p.m. (Fri.-Sat.). Free. EmilyAnn Theatre & Gardens, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley. 512-847-6969. www.emilyann.org

17 through Jan. 21
Hays County Master Naturalist registration

Hays County Master Naturalists learn about wildlife and conservation management from recognized experts. The program focuses on the ecosystem in Hays County. The eight-month program is open to the first 38 registrants. Applications are available at the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office and at the Hays County Master Naturalists website. \$175. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, 1253 Civic Center Loop, San Marcos. 512-393-2120. www.haysmn.org

19 **Wrap Up Your Shopping**

The San Marcos Main Street office hosts the event, during which shoppers can have gifts they purchased from downtown retailers wrapped. Mistletoe is also hung in Kissing Alley, between the Hub and Black Rabbit Saloon on Hopkins Street, and from 3-6 p.m. horse-drawn carriages take riders on historic tours of the city. Noon-6 p.m. Free. San Marcos Main Street, 317 N. LBJ Drive, San Marcos. www.sanmarcostx.gov/holidays

20 **Black's Gospel Brunch**

Kent Black's BBQ hosts musician Al Dressen during the monthly event. Food and drinks are served during the event. Noon-2 p.m. \$10 (adults), \$5 (children). Kent Black's BBQ, 510 Hull St., San Marcos. 512-878-0795. www.kentblacksbbq.com

January

01 **Kyle-O-Meter Resolution Run**

The event is aimed at helping Kyle residents commit to living a healthy lifestyle. Local businesses with a focus on health attend the event and provide attendees with information. The event includes a Kids Dash and 5K. Medals are awarded to the top two finishers overall and the top two in each age group. Sponsorships are available. 8 a.m. (registration), 9 a.m. (5K), 10 a.m. (Kids Dash). \$15 (Kids Dash), \$20 (age 17 and younger 5K), \$30 (age 18 and older 5K). Wallace Middle School, 1302 W. Center St., Kyle. 512-268-4220



Courtesy city of Kyle

01 **Polar Bear Splash**

Kyle residents jump into the Kyle Pool to celebrate the beginning of a new year. This Kyle tradition also includes drawings for door prizes for members of the Kyle Polar Bear Club. 1-2:30 p.m. Free, \$15 (Kyle Polar Bear Club membership). Kyle Pool, 1100 W. Center St., Kyle. 512-262-3939

09 **Buda Farmers Market**

Local artisans and farmers convene to sell a variety of goods including beef, fresh tomatoes, produce, baked goods, body products, gluten-free products, and arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Across from Garcia's Restaurant, North Main St., Buda. 512-395-5775. www.budafarmersmarket.com



Courtesy Scott Mitchell

10 **Unicycle football**

Teams from throughout Central Texas gather to compete in a football game played on one wheel. Gameplay is similar to American football, but athletes ride unicycles while on offense and defense. 1, 3 p.m. Free. Gold Crown Billiards, 205 W. San Antonio St., San Marcos. 972-979-2989

13 **Free college financial aid presentation**

The presentation assists students interested in applying for college financial aid. The event is organized by Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos. Centro also hosts financial aid presentations on the second Wednesday of each month from Dec. 9-March 9. 6-7 p.m. Free. Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, 211 Lee St., San Marcos. 512-878-0640. www.sanmarcoscentro.org

16 **Fourth Annual Purgatory Trail Run**

This USA Trail Foundation-sanctioned event takes runners through one of two courses. The 10-mile course includes some difficult technical sections, recommended for those with at least some trail running experience. The 5K course has a medium technical rating and is recommended for those new to trail running. The event may change locations due to flood damage at Purgatory Creek. 9 a.m. \$30 (5K), \$40 (10-mile). www.athleteguild.com/running/san-marcos-tx/2016-4th-annual-purgatory-trail-run-at-spring-lake-preserve

Online Calendar

Find more or submit San Marcos, Buda or Kyle events at communityimpact.com/sbk-calendar.

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2015-16

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Compiled by Brett Thorne and JJ Velasquez | Design by Jackie Brunk and Ethan Hill

AWARE (Always Wanted A Riding Experience) Inc. provides therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with special needs. Therapeutic riding benefits the body, mind and spirit. Volunteers are needed to help groom and care for horses. Volunteers are also sought to lead horses during sessions.

1708 Centerpoint Road, San Marcos
512-754-6773 | www.awaresmtx.org

Bobcat Build is a service event created as a way to better the relationship between Texas State University and its surrounding communities through volunteerism and service. Thousands of students volunteer at more than 250 job sites every spring. This year's event takes place April 2. The organization begins accepting work requests in January.

601 University Drive, San Marcos
512-245-4245
www.bobcatbuild.txstate.edu
Twitter: @bobcatbuild

CASA of Central Texas advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system by recruiting, training and supporting community volunteers. A CASA volunteer is appointed by a judge to be an

independent voice for a child both inside and outside the courtroom.

111 E. San Antonio St., San Marcos
512-392-3578
www.casacentex.org
Twitter: @casacentex

Volunteer opportunities abound for individuals of all ages at **Central Texas Medical Center**. From the auxiliary and hospice to junior volunteers, internships and residencies, volunteerism extends CTMC's healing ministry every day.

1301 Wonder World Drive, San Marcos
512-753-3685 (volunteer coordinator)
512-754-6159 (hospice)
www.ctmc.org
Twitter: @ctmc_sanmarcos

The Central Texas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to educating the public about World War II through the display of restored aircraft and vehicles from the era. The wing houses 12 aircraft, a museum and library with historic artifacts. Volunteers receive training in restoration and maintenance and can fly in historic aircraft.

1841 Airport Drive, Bldg. #2249,

San Marcos
512-396-1943
www.cafcentex.com

Circle of Living Hope is a child-placing agency in Central Texas that is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The organization recruits, trains and verifies foster families to provide family-based therapeutic care to abused and neglected children ranging in age from birth to 21 years of age. The organization is seeking volunteers to perform light clerical and filing work and provide childcare during training sessions.

1216 Estival Drive, Kyle
512-216-9615
www.colh.org | Twitter: @colh_inc

Daughters of the Republic of Texas is a statewide nonprofit organization whose members descend from those living in Texas prior to 1846. The local Moon-McGehee Chapter promotes the education and preservation of Texas history. The organization is looking for new volunteers who qualify for membership to help with the research involved with finding ancestors' graves.

512-667-7778 | 512-353-8734
www.sanmarcosdrt.org

Dick's Classic Garage is dedicated to the preservation and display of classic cars. Volunteers are needed to dust cars on the showroom floor and to walk the floor answering guests' questions.

120 Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos
512-878-2406
www.dicksclassicgarage.com

Dream of Hopes Ranch provides job and life skills training, after-school care and respite care for children and adults with special needs. Program Manager Laura Stock said the organization is seeking volunteers to help organize and staff camps and fundraisers, maintain landscaping at the nonprofit's facility, care for animals and assist with adult care during the day.

16250 Oak Grove Road, Buda
512-791-0160
www.dreamofhopesranch.org

Habitat for Humanity San Marcos is an all-volunteer affiliate of Habitat International. The organization is looking for those with experience in construction to help at worksites. Volunteers with book-keeping and loan management experience are also needed to serve on the board of directors.

P.O. Box 1594, San Marcos
512-754-8142
www.habitatforhumanity-sanmarcos.org

Hands of Hope provides education in subjects including math, English and Bible study as well as career-readiness training for women of all ages in Hays County. Volunteers can help teach classes, provide child care and serve meals.

325 W. McCarty Lane, San Marcos
512-618-0723
www.handsofhopesanmarcos.org

The purpose of the **Hays-Caldwell Women's Center** is to create an environment in which violence and abuse are not tolerated in the communities we serve. The center will provide emergency shelter, education, violence-prevention services and crisis intervention to victims of family violence, dating violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

P.O. Box 234, San Marcos
512-396-3404
www.hcwc.org | info@hcwc.org

Hays County 4-H focuses on developing youth to reach their fullest potential. Hays County 4-H includes nine 4-H clubs and a variety of school and community programs. Volunteers serve as project leaders, activity coordinators and judges.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Hays County, 1253 Civic Center Loop, San Marcos
512-393-2120
<http://hays4-h.blogspot.com>

The **Hays County Food Bank** is a nonprofit organization committed to providing food to underprivileged families and individuals in the Greater Hays County area. Volunteer opportunities include warehouse,

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220 Herndon St., San Marcos
512-392-8300
www.haysfoodbank.org
Twitter: @haysfoodbank

The **Hays YMCA Branch** is part of the YMCA of Austin family. Hays YMCA is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all members and guests. The Y builds programs for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Volunteer opportunities include coaching and officiating youth sports as well as planning programs and events.

465 Buda Sportsplex Drive, Buda
512-523-0099
www.austinyymca.org
Twitter: @ymcaaustinhays

Keep San Marcos Beautiful strives to educate and engage San Marcos residents and visitors to take responsibility for improving the community environment. The organization focuses on litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification. Volunteer programs include adopt-a-spot, community beautification events and educational outreach.

630 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos
512-393-8407
www.sanmarcostx.gov

Kyle Fire Department is composed of volunteer and paid firefighters. The department responds to more than 3,600 calls for service per year in Hays County Emergency Services District No. 5. KFD recruits new volunteers several times each year.

210 W. Moore St., Kyle
512-268-3131
www.kylefire.com | Twitter: @kylefd

PALS (Prevent a Litter) has been helping people and their pets for more than 20 years in Hays County. Volunteer opportunities include fostering kittens and nursing mother cats for four- to eight-week assignments, feeding feral colonies, grant writing, bookkeeping and information technology assistance.

P.O. Box 401, San Marcos
www.preventalitter.com
volunteerpals@gmail.com

PAWS Shelter of Central Texas is a nonprofit, no-kill animal shelter that has been saving homeless pets since 1986. The organization is dependent on donations, fostering and volunteerism from the community to give pets the chance to live a great life. Volunteer work can include walking dogs, data entry, event assistance or cleaning.

500 E. FM 150, Kyle
www.pawsshelter.org
volunteer@pawsshelter.org
Twitter: @pawsshelter

The Salvation Army of San Marcos serves Hays County through donations of clothing, furniture, housewares and school supplies as well as emergency response. Volunteer opportunities include ringing the red kettle bell during the holidays, phone reception and working at the San Marcos service center.

300 CM Allen Parkway, Ste. 100,
San Marcos
512-754-8541
www.salvationarmytexas.org
Twitter: @salarmytexas

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance is creating an interconnected system of parks and natural areas in and around San Marcos. The organization needs help with trail work, restoration, natural area monitoring, outreach efforts and hikes, working with community leaders and landowners, and administrative activities.

107 E. Hopkins St., Ste. 123 A,
San Marcos
512-392-7457 | www.smgreenbelt.org

Volunteers with **The San Marcos River Foundation** protect public access and preserve the flow, purity, and natural beauty of the San Marcos River, its watershed and estuaries.

222 W. San Antonio St., San Marcos
P.O. Box 1393, San Marcos, 78667-1393 | 512-787-6392
www.sanmarcosriver.org

United Way of Hays County, along



Serving Central Texas



5,877 Austin-area nonprofits generated **\$5.6 billion** in revenue in 2014.

That is a **95% increase** from what area nonprofits earned in **2004**.



An estimated **28.6%** of area residents volunteer, ranking **Austin 17th** among the 51 largest U.S. metropolitan areas as of **2013**.

On average, residents volunteer **30.9 hours** per year, which is less than the **national average** of **32.1 hours**.



The percentage of Austin-area residents who **volunteer** has **decreased 10.9%** from 2005 to 2013.



The percentage of residents **donating money** also **fell** from **5.8%** to **4.2%** between 1997 and 2008.



Sources: Mission Capital; I Live Here, I Give Here; Corporation for National and Community Service; city of Austin 2012 volunteerism study; Chronicle of Philanthropy; United Way for Greater Austin/Community Impact Newspaper

ANNUAL AVERAGE CHARITABLE DONATIONS (by percentage of individual net income in 2012)

- Travis Co. **2.67%**
- Williamson Co. **2.81%**
- Hays Co. **2.81%**
- Texas: **3.59%**
- United States: **4.7%**

MAIN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Collect/distribute food **22.4%**
- General labor **20.8%**
- Mentor youth **20.1%**
- Raise funds **18.6%**

with community partners, advances the common good by investing in and developing programs that address Hays County's critical needs in education, income/financial stability and health. Each year, UWHC and its partners serve more than 50,000 residents. Volunteer opportunities include reading to children, leading financial literacy classes and delivering meals to seniors.

P.O. Box 1728, San Marcos
512-353-1420
www.unitedwayhaysco.org
Twitter: @uwhaysco

FLOOD RELIEF

The Blanco River Regional Recovery Team (BR3T) is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization that emerged after the Memorial Day weekend floods to aid in the long-term recovery of survivors with unmet needs. Volunteers help rebuild and repair homes, offer emotional support and coordinate long-term relief efforts.

801 W. Martin Luther King Drive,
San Marcos
512-677-9701
www.blancoriverregionalrecovery.com

Pastor Matt Behrens and members of Buda church The Well started **#FloodHaysWithHope** as a way of raising money for families and individuals affected by the floods of Oct. 30 and 31 in Travis and Hays counties. #FloodHaysWithHope has grown to include nine churches and businesses. The organization is selling shirts and wristbands to raise money for those affected by the floods. Those interested in volunteer opportunities can contact the Austin Disaster Relief Network.

512-428-6322 | www.adrntx.org
www.floodhayswithhope.org



This guide is not a comprehensive list of all area organizations that need volunteers. If your organization is not included, email us at sbknews@communityimpact.com, and we will add it to our online list. For more San Marcos, Buda and Kyle volunteer opportunities, visit communityimpact.com/guides.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE NURSES AND CAREGIVERS AT NURSES UNLIMITED!

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NEXT MONTH
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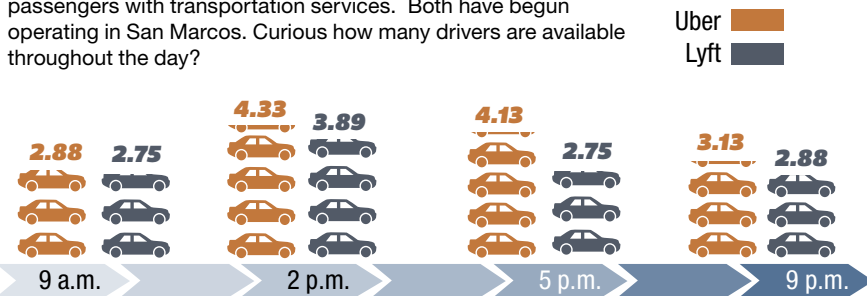
UPDATES ON 2015 AND
A LOOK AHEAD TO 2016

WITH UPDATES ABOUT
> TRANSPORTATION > CITY & COUNTY > EDUCATION
> BUSINESS > DINING > IMPACTS
> PLUS ANNUAL EVENTS & THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

Sharing trends

Need a ride?

Uber and Lyft are both considered transportation networking companies, or TNCs, a term referring to companies that connect passengers with transportation services. Both have begun operating in San Marcos. Curious how many drivers are available throughout the day?



Local reaction

"I think [TNCs have] the potential to increase safety. As the bars start to let out and people need safe rides home, this gives them some different options."

—San Marcos Police Chief Chase Stapp

"The one thing I'm interested in is if [TNCs] keep flourishing, is this an industry that's flourishing because they have a loophole in the regulations? That's something as governments and municipalities ... we have to come to terms with."

—Jude Prather, San Marcos City Council Place 2

Sharing

Continued from I 1

percent of workers in the sharing economy are younger than age 35, as opposed to 45 percent in the entire workforce. About 30 percent have received a bachelor's degree, as opposed to 20 percent of the entire U.S. population.

Additionally, the Bloomberg study found most sharing economy workers use the income they get from driving people around or delivering groceries or renting out their home to supplement their primary income, as only 42 percent of workers reported their sharing economy job accounted for more than 50 percent of their total income.

Companies such as Uber, Lyft and Favor could potentially provide a second source of income for San Marcos residents and, in the case of transportation networking companies, cut down on incidences of drunken driving. However, the effect on local businesses that have been providing similar services remains unclear.

Transportation services

Uber and Lyft are both considered transportation networking companies, or TNCs, a term referring to companies that connect passengers with transportation services.

Marco McCottry, general manager of Uber's Austin market, said his company's service has been shown to decrease the number of DWI arrests in the cities in which Uber operates. In April the company received the green

light from San Marcos City Council to operate in the city.

San Marcos Police Chief Chase Stapp said he believes through anecdotal evidence Uber and Lyft have had some effect on lowering drunken driving arrests in the city, but it is too early to have statistical evidence. Stapp said he plans to study the numbers next summer, after the companies have been operating in the city for a full year.

"I think [TNCs have] the potential to increase safety," he said. "As the bars start to let out and people need safe rides home, this gives them some different options."

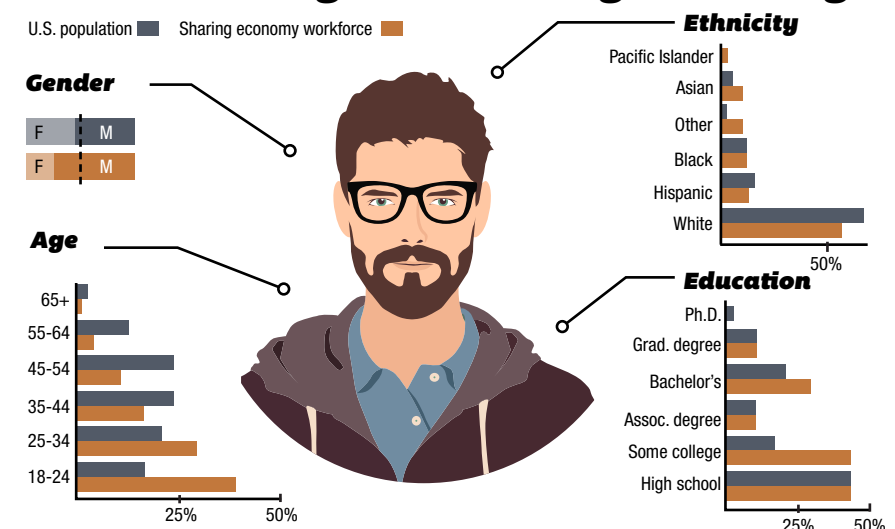
Paul Lawrence Mussler, general manager of San Marcos-based Aloha Taxi, said his company is developing an app that will make it easier for customers to use Aloha Taxi's services. To stay competitive with Uber and Lyft, Mussler has also told his employees to focus on customer service.

Beyond that, Mussler said he does not see much point in trying to compete with Uber or Lyft because to him they are completely different services.

"Being anti-Uber wouldn't be conducive to anything," Mussler said. "We've been in this community for seven or eight years, built by a guy who's a local guy who went to college here ... and [other transportation services] are going to come and they're going to go, but as long as we have some cars out there with drivers we'll be in the community for a long time."

Some City Council members were concerned that the city's rules regulating taxis put Aloha at a disadvantage

Who's driving the sharing economy?



San Marcos Favor-ites

Have you ever wondered what restaurants Favor customers in San Marcos request the most? According to Favor, Torchy's Tacos takes the top spot.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Torchy's | 5. Spud Ranch | 9. Chick-fil-A |
| 2. Chipotle | 6. H-E-B | 10. Gil's Broiler & Manske Roll Bakery |
| 3. Whataburger | 7. Wingstop | |
| 4. Fuego Tortilla Grill | 8. Herbert's Taco Hut | |

Sources: Favor, Uber, Lyft, Bloomberg LP/Community Impact Newspaper
Design: Natalie Socha

compared to TNCs.

Taxi fares are capped at \$2.50 per mile in San Marcos, but no such cap exists for TNCs, which use demand-based pricing, meaning that at times when demand for transportation is high—such as a Friday night after bars stop serving alcohol—prices will be higher.

Aloha Taxi charges \$2 per mile in addition to a \$5 pickup fee.

Council Member Jude Prather said he was happy to allow TNCs to operate in the city, but he wants to make sure Aloha, Uber, Lyft and other TNCs are operating on a level playing field.

"The one thing I'm interested in is if [TNCs] keep flourishing, is this an industry that's flourishing because they have a loophole in the regulations?" Prather said. "That's something as governments and municipalities across Texas and the United States we have to come to terms with."

Delivery services

On Aug. 28, Favor launched in San Marcos. The San Francisco-based startup launched in Austin in 2014, and Favor Public Relations Manager Tina Heileman said expanding south was a logical next step.

Heileman said the company has hired about 100 independent contractors—or "runners" in the Favor vocabulary—to deliver meals, groceries and other goods throughout San Marcos since launching in August. That number has exceeded the company's initial expectations, she said.

"It's been growing like crazy," she said. "San Marcos has been blowing up, and

honestly it's the word-of-mouth buzz that has really helped, especially with Texas State University. We're seeing a lot of our customers are college students from Texas State."

Favor customers use the company's mobile app to make an order, after which a runner will contact them with an approximate delivery time. The customer pays for the cost of the item being delivered as well as a \$5 flat-rate delivery fee and a tip for the runner.

"[Favor's contractors are] a pretty diverse crowd," Heileman said. "That's the beauty of the sharing economy. It's not just for one type of person. It's really for anyone who needs that flexibility and to make a couple extra bucks."

When Favor announced its San Marcos launch, Albert Garcia, owner of San Marcos-based meal-delivery service College Delivery, said he knew he needed to "get [his] ducks in a row and prepare."

Garcia employs about 15 full- and part-time drivers. Garcia said he wanted to keep his team small to ensure employees had plenty of deliveries—and money-making opportunities—during shifts.

Garcia has also been working on making his company's services more mobile-friendly. In addition to a new website, his company plans to launch a mobile app that will allow customers to place orders with a few taps on their smartphone.

"I welcome competition," Garcia said. "We're going to keep doing our thing and focusing on the food."

Tell us what you think.

Comment at communityimpact.com.

Water

Continued from I 1

"They didn't fulfill their end of the contract," Mayor Todd Ruge said. "We are no longer a party to the EP project."

The company had been proposing to pump 5.3 million gallons of water a day to provide water to Buda, Niederwald-based Goforth Special Utility District and a high-end subdivision in Mountain City's unincorporated area. The idea was met with resistance from western Hays County residents who feared the wells they rely on as their drinking water source would be adversely affected by the pumping.

However, EP attorney Ed McCarthy said the company has not been informed the city is terminating the contract. He also said the notion that EP failed to prove the viability of the project is untrue.

"We have been delayed in being able to prove up the water as a result of legislative activity and the permitting process at the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District," McCarthy said.

In June a bill authored by state Rep. Jason Isaac, R-Dripping Springs, to bring the previously unregulated area of the Trinity Aquifer in Central Hays County under the authority of the BSEACD became law.

Ruge said Buda's attorneys sent a letter to EP notifying the company that the contract with the city is null and void.

"The contract expired," he said. "We have no desire to extend the contract, so the contract has dissolved."

Likely deal with neighbors

Buda's future permanent water source will come online in 2023. The city projects a shortfall of 1 million gallons of water a day beginning in 2017 because of expected growth, and it has arranged to buy water that is allocated to but not being used by the cities of San Marcos and Kyle.

Ruge said although the city is close to finalizing that arrangement, Buda is still in the market for water.

A water and wastewater subcommittee of Buda City Council is taking a look at about "six or seven" alternative water sources, including getting water from governmental entities such as the Guadalupe-Blanco and Lower Colorado river authorities as well as private landowners, he said.

The city's water-sharing agreement with the cities of San Marcos and Kyle to purchase their excess surface water from the GBRA I-35 pipeline means Buda water customers will eventually absorb the cost of taking half a million gallons of water per day from each city, from 2017-23.

Consultants are working to formulate a rate structure that city of Buda water customers will pay.

"There are a lot of moving parts," Ruge said. "We are trying to make sure we get not only the correct billing and price, but a fair price for everyone involved. We are very close to getting there."

About \$1.27 million is budgeted in the 2015-16 fiscal year for improvements to the GBRA I-35 pipeline, including a larger pump and connector lines, in anticipation of the increased water capacity, he said. Ruge said the infrastructural improvements would have been necessary in the future regardless of the increase in water delivered through the GBRA I-35 pipeline. He said the pump and connector lines are slated to be completed by October 2016.

With its short-term water gap all but bridged, Buda's water and wastewater committee has taken a look at projects that could boost the city's water portfolio in the long term.

Aquifer storage and recovery

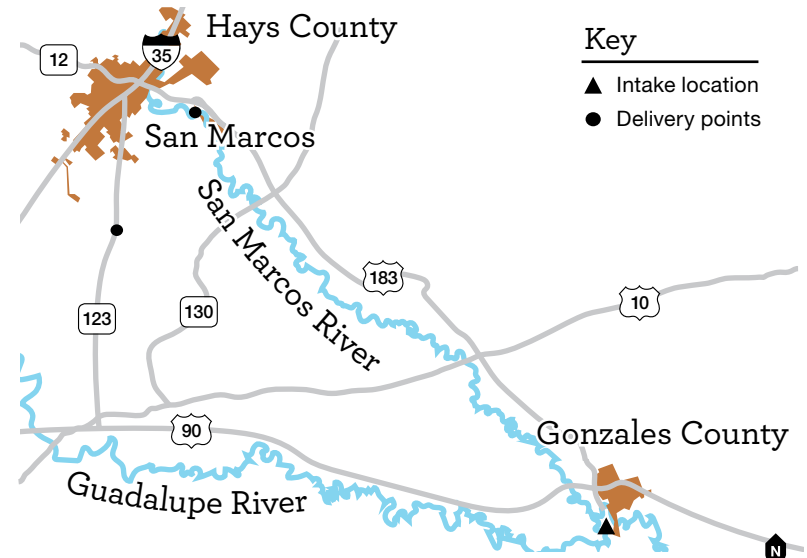
Aquifer storage and recovery, or ASR, is among the city's options gaining traction recently. A method of storing water for use in times of drought, ASR entails

Buda's water options

A water/wastewater subcommittee comprising three Buda City Council members is considering six to seven options the city could use to shore up its water supply for the future. Some of the options have not been discussed publicly, and it is unclear how many options—as well as what quantity of water—the city will ultimately implement.

GBRA mid-basin project

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's \$400 million project would entail the use of surface water and groundwater from the Gonzales County area. GBRA General Manager Bill West said his hope is that HCPUA, GBRA and Texas Water Alliance projects could merge and, thus, find cost savings for their customers. Discussion by Buda City Council of the project has not moved forward since a September presentation by the GBRA.



pumping water from one source of water and injecting it into an aquifer.

Often during periods of drought, groundwater conservation districts limit the amount of water that can be pumped from the bodies of water they oversee. In Buda's case drought limitations on the Edwards Aquifer would not affect the city's ability to pump Edwards Aquifer water that has been stored in the Trinity Aquifer below it.

Ruge said the project could be beneficial to Buda and the region.

"ASR has a lot of promise in our region, but there needs to be testing," he said. "With our participation, and along with [that of] some other communities, I think [ASR] could really open up some more water sources."

On Nov. 17 Buda City Council voted in favor of a resolution of support for BSEACD's ASR project. The council also dedicated \$60,000 in dedicated funds toward a BSEACD feasibility study. Hays County and the city of Kyle have also supported the study.

BSEACD is seeking grant funds from the Texas Water Development Board, which recently launched a grant initiative for groundwater conservation districts looking into ASR. BSEACD General Manager John Dupnik said the budget for the district's ASR feasibility study could be anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

He said that money could be enough for both research, which involves computer analysis, as well as demonstration,

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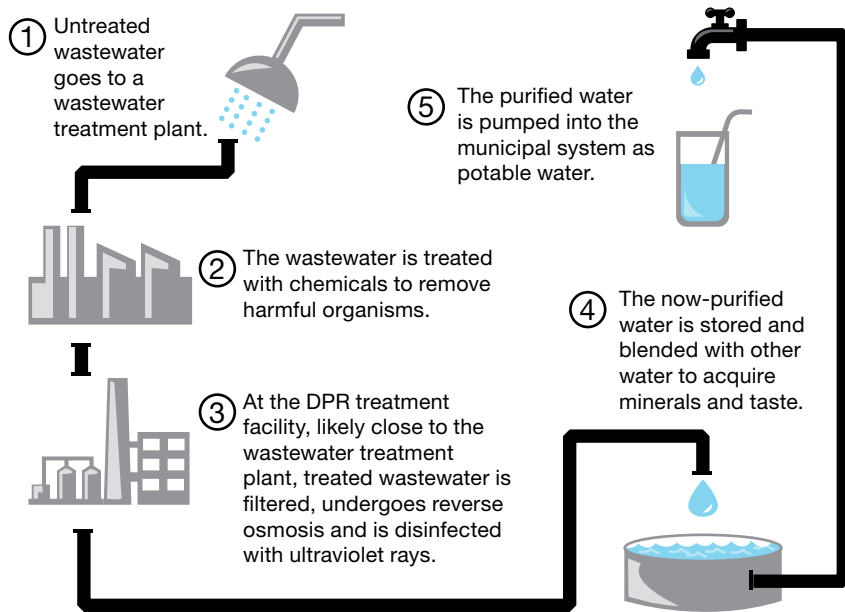
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Direct potable reuse

A method of recycling wastewater, direct potable reuse, or DPR, has been implemented by the city of Big Spring. DPR reroutes treated wastewater to the drinking water treatment and distribution system. A recommendation has been made by the Buda City Council subcommittee to sample treated wastewater for potable use. The study must be conducted for a year before it is deemed feasible. If the city moves forward with the project it could apply for funding from the state to implement DPR.



which would use existing wells to test the research.

Ruge said if the TWDB approves the grant and the BSEACD project moves past the feasibility stage it could take two years for the project to come online.

Interest in ASR is growing throughout Texas, TWDB Deputy Executive Administrator Robert Mace said. In light of successful projects in Kerrville and San Antonio and with a new law establishing clearer ground rules for the ASR permitting process, TWDB launched its grant program, which includes \$1 million for feasibility studies statewide.

“That really speaks to the fact that this type of technology is really underutilized,” Dupnik said. “If you go to other parts of the country ... this is very well-established technology.”

A lack of familiarity among state water providers with ASR has led to hesitancy in the past to implement

the technology. Mace said because they lack familiarity with ASR, water providers often perceive a risk of the project failing.

Dupnik said TWDB’s program will help further encourage the concept throughout the state.

Direct potable reuse

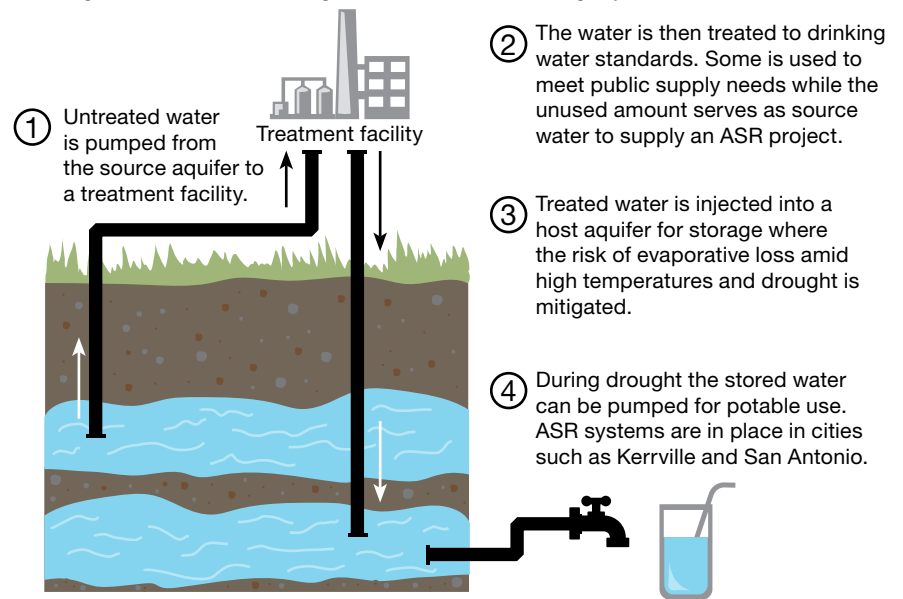
Buda City Council is also considering direct potable reuse, or DPR. The process uses wastewater, such as water that drains after a resident takes a shower, and passes it through filtration, reverse osmosis and then ultraviolet disinfection, which purifies the water.

Should Buda move forward with DPR it would be the first system of its kind in Central Texas, said Andrea Morrow, spokesperson for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Buda Water Specialist Brian Lillibridge said Buda City Council has

Aquifer storage and recovery

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is studying whether aquifer storage and recovery, or ASR, can be implemented in the district. The Buda City Council water and wastewater subcommittee issued a recommendation that council support a state research fund for that study. The process entails pumping water from one formation during wet seasons and storing it in another for use during dry seasons.



Source: Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency, Buda Water Specialist Brian Lillibridge, Buda City Council Member Angela Kennedy, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority/Community Impact Newspaper Design: Natalie Socha

recommended the city sample treated wastewater for a year, a TCEQ requirement for any DPR project to move forward. If after a year the TCEQ gives the city the green light, Buda can then go through the regional water-planning process. A regional water-planning group would then decide whether to recommend the project in the next state water plan. Whether a project is recommended determines its eligibility for state funding.

Morrow said the recent drought has affected public water systems statewide, and many of them are now looking to alternative methods.

“The TCEQ Water Supply Division encourages all public water systems to diversify their water source portfolio in order to work towards a drought-resistant supply,” she said. “DPR is one of many water sources that can help public water systems have access to a

variety of sources.”

Angela Kennedy, a water resources engineer and the only member of Buda City Council to vote against the EP contract in January 2015, chairs the city’s water and wastewater subcommittee. She said water supply projects bring with them many technical issues that take time to consider, and the purpose of the committee was to bridge the technical gap for the council.

“We obviously have a need for additional water,” Kennedy said. “After going through the ordeal with the EP contract and the legislative session, I think we saw that the council and the city needed a more technically deliberative process to decide on the direction we are going to go toward the future water supply.”

Tell us what you think.

Comment at communityimpact.com.

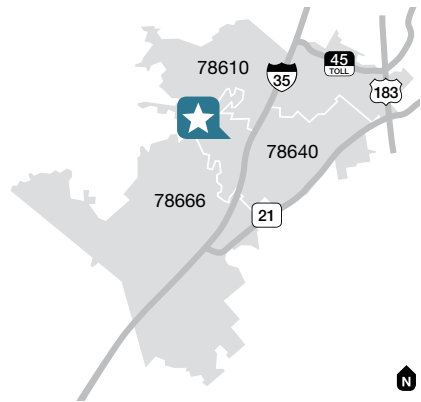
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Neighborhood and Market Data provided by Carlos Porteny
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Median home value	Median price per square foot	Median annual property taxes	Homes on the market*	Homes under contract*	Average days on the market*
\$277,999	\$124	\$5,432	27	14	55

FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD

Plum Creek

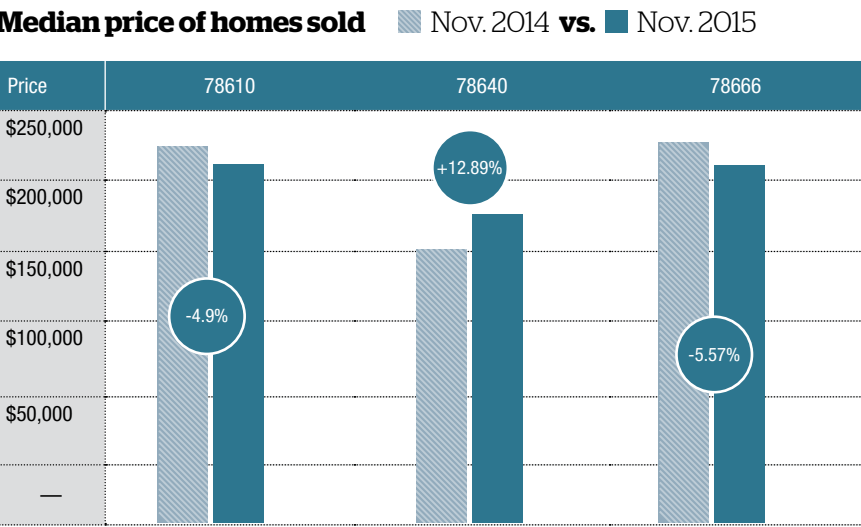


Build-out year: not built out
Builders include: Bigelow Homes, D.R. Horton, Homes by Avi, KB Home, Meritage Homes
Square footage: 960-3,575
Home values: \$127,200-\$416,283
HOA dues (estimated): \$134 quarterly
Amenities: clubhouse, jogging and biking path, park, playground, community pool
Schools: Negley Elementary School, Barton Middle School, Hays High School
Property taxes (in dollars):
City of Kyle 0.5848
Hays Co. ESD No. 5 0.1000
Hays County 0.4232
Plum Creek Conservation District 0.0225
Hays CISD 1.5377
Plum Creek Groundwater District 0.0215
Austin Community College District 0.1005
Special Road District 0.0438
Total (per \$100 value) 2.8340
*As of 12/3/15

Market Data

On the market (November 2015)

Price Range	Number of homes for sale			Average days on the market		
	78610	78640	78666	78610	78640	78666
\$149,999 or less	4	3	3	74	30	70
\$150,000-\$199,999	4	18	12	44	35	52
\$200,000-\$299,999	89	55	38	71	68	82
\$300,000-\$399,999	31	12	28	80	57	104
\$400,000-\$499,999	5	1	7	71	10	47
\$500,000-\$599,999	4	0	6	97	0	67
\$600,000-\$799,999	1	1	5	231	90	99
\$800,000-\$999,999	1	1	1	163	0	57
\$1 million +	2	1	4	76	241	155



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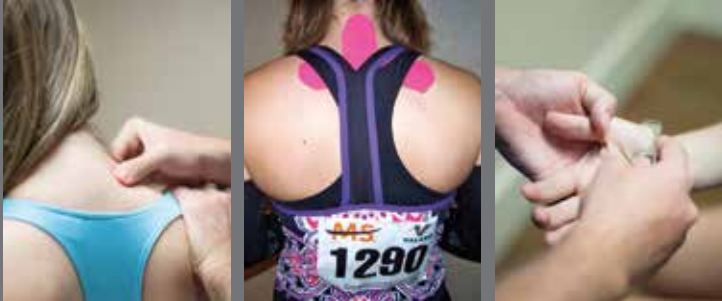
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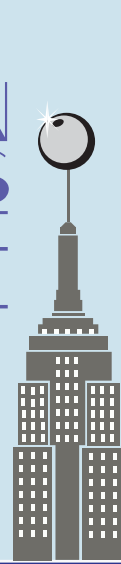


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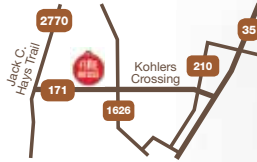


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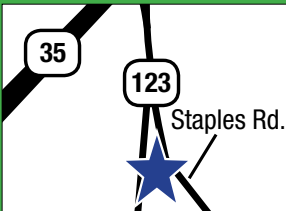
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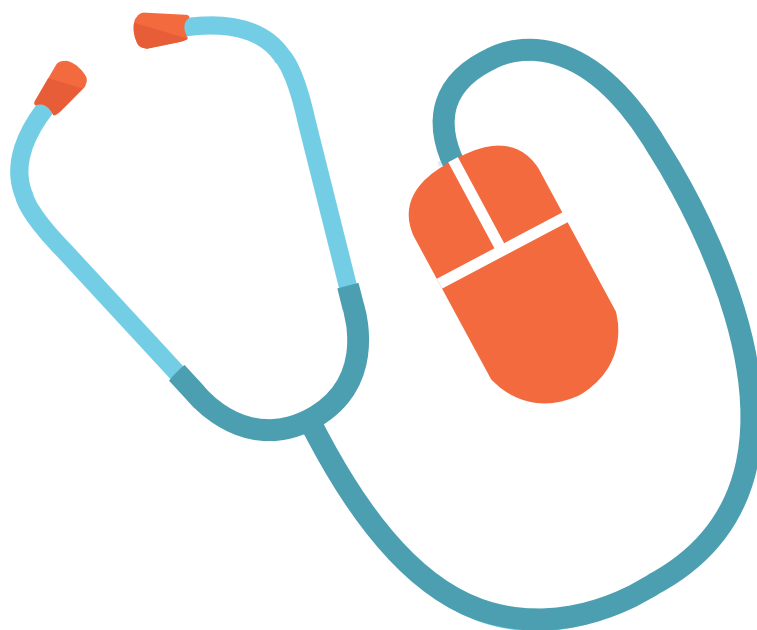
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