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JULY 2007

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

Restaurant Review

Local pizza parlors

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Business Profile

Battlefield Texas

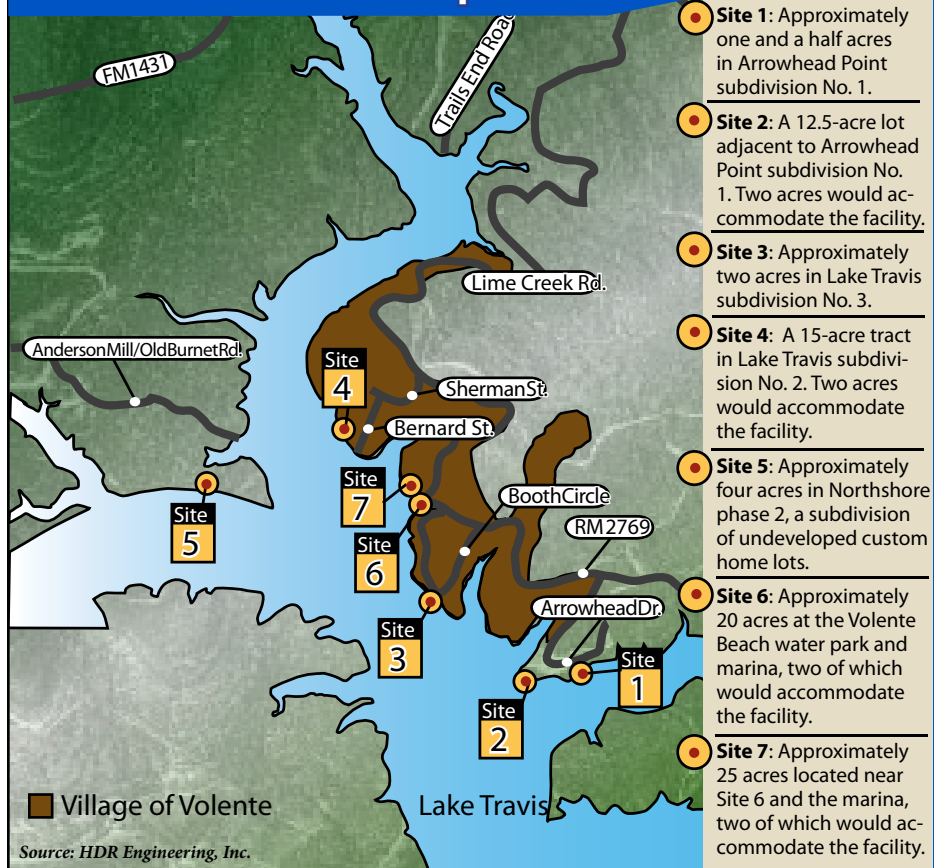
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Abbott Yaghi tosses pizza dough
at Yaghi's New York Pizzeria.



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Site alternatives for a deep water intake



Wet weather prevents water crisis, buys more time for regional system planning

BY KARA VAUGHT

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- CEDAR PARK, LEANDER, ROUND ROCK PRESENT PLANS FOR DEEP WATER INTAKE
- VILLAGE OF VOLENTE RESIDENTS OPPOSE LOCATION OF INTAKE FACILITY

One man's washout often constitutes another's windfall. For Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock, the recent deluge deters the hardships of an impending drought, buying the cities' water procurement partnership more time to implement its plan to ensure the cities are never left high and dry.

"We really did just dodge a bullet," said Wayne Watts, public works director and engineer for Leander. "If we hadn't had all this tremendous amount of rain, by the end of the summer, we would have been in a serious emergency situation."

The plan

The cities of Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock formed the Brushy Creek

Regional Utility Authority in 2006 to create the infrastructure necessary to ensure a reliable source of water for citizens during years when — unlike now — rain is scarce.

Cedar Park and Leander already rely on water from Lake Travis. Cedar Park owns and operates a floating water intake plant on the Sandy Creek arm of the lake, while Leander receives water from a nearby Lower Colorado River Authority plant operated by the Brazos River Authority.

Round Rock, currently supplied by the Edwards Aquifer, Lake Georgetown and Lake Stillhouse Hollow, invested in the Brushy Creek partnership to ensure enough water for its booming population, said Jim Nuse, Round Rock city manager.

Phase one of the project includes adding a temporary floating intake facility beside Cedar Park's existing structure, a new raw water pipeline, a treatment facility in Cedar Park and a treated water pipeline.

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Mall gets facelift ahead of other retail projects

BY RACHEL YOUNG

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- ALTHOUGH LAKELINE MALL HAS A CEDAR PARK ADDRESS, ITS TAXES GO TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN
- RENOVATIONS AIM TO APPEAL TO POPULATION THAT HAS GROWN MORE AFFLUENT SINCE 1995 MALL OPENING

In the coming months, Lakeline Mall will see a series of improvements to give the 12-year-old mall a facelift. A young competitor is nipping at its heels for Cedar Park shoppers.

When the 1890 Ranch development opens in October, it will not only be new, it will also be adding to the Cedar Park tax base; Lakeline does not.

"It certainly behooves us to make a strong case that when 1890 Ranch opens up, the city and the chamber of commerce hammer home the point to Cedar Park shoppers that dollars spent locally make quality of life higher," said Cedar Park Economic Development Director Phil Brewer.

Although Lakeline has a Cedar Park mailing address, the \$16 million it generates annually in sales tax goes to the City of Austin.

Commercial property is particularly important to Cedar Park because it is landlocked. All of its ETJ has been used, so the city must find ways to gain sales tax revenue.

Who gets the land

In 1986, when Melvin Simon of Simon Property Group bought the 80-acre property between Cedar Park and Austin that would become Lakeline, US 183 was a two-lane road and the tollways were barely a twinkle in the legislature's eye.

In the '70s, Austin and Cedar Park battled over the vacant land at US 183 and FM 620 and, looking to avoid litigation, Cedar Park compromised and took the Shenandoah subdivision just west of the intersection, giving Austin the land where Lakeline lies today.

Rep. Mike Krusee tried to help Cedar Park gain back some of the land in Austin's ETJ in the 1995 legislative session by filing and helping author three bills that would return some of the commercial land annexed by Austin, including Lakeline, to Cedar Park.

In interviews at the time, he called Austin's annexa-

CONTINUED ON 9

Lakeline Mall makeover

Simon Property Group began a series of renovations on the 12-year-old Lakeline Mall this month. Construction is expected to be finished by mid 2008.

JCPenney entrance

Food court entrance

Other renovations:

- Redesign of the food court
- New tile and carpeting
- 2,300 sq. ft. family restroom with nursing room and lounge
- Renovation of upper level restrooms
- Enhancement of elevators and escalators

Education Focus

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Leander Educational Excellence Foundation

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Readers' support encouraging as fourth paper launches

We are privileged to cover Leander and Cedar Park. Since we began this paper in April 2006, the reception from readers has been overwhelming. As we begin our fourth newspaper, covering the Georgetown, Hutto and Taylor areas, we are motivated by the appreciation expressed by the Cedar Park, Leander and Avery Ranch readers.

Lakeline Mall's announcement of a major renovation led us to look into the retail happenings in Cedar Park. We explored the history of how Austin took the Lakeline area into its ETJ and how it has impacted the Cedar Park budget.

City officials are eager for the opening of 1890 Ranch in October because tax dollars from retail sales there will stay

with Cedar Park; Lakeline tax dollars benefit Austin.

Getting soaked during these last few weeks hasn't dampened the spirits of Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock city officials. The rains alleviated fears of a 2007 drought, buying more time for the planning process to secure a reliable water source for years to come.

Regardless of how full the lakes around us seem now, the water supply in this booming county is something to which everyone should pay attention.

We thank you again for your support of this publication. Please continue to tell us how you feel about the coverage we provide. To send in comments or ideas for future stories, e-mail me at jgarrett@impactnews.com. For news from our other publications, visit www.impactnews.com.

John Garrett
Publisher

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Cedar Park council member resigns

Place two councilman Stephen Berry resigned July 6 in a letter to mayor Bob Lemon. No reason was given, but Berry thanked the citizens of Cedar Park for the opportunity to serve and wished the council well. The resignation was accepted at the July 12 city council meeting. Council members will accept cover letters and resumes of those interested in the position until July 26. Applicants must be a registered voter at least 18 years old and have lived in the city for at least twelve months. The appointed citizen will serve until the May 2008 general election. For more information about requirements or submitting an application, call 401-5000 or view the city charter at www.cedarparktx.us/cp/charter.aspx.

Council approves support for animal shelter

The Cedar Park City Council pledged increased support for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter at its July 12 meeting.

Four motions passed in which the council agreed to provide funding and support for four temporary positions at the shelter, the hiring of an executive search firm to locate a permanent shelter director, the hiring of a volunteer coordinator and the hiring of a management development firm to offer business guidance. Mayor pro tem Scott Mitchell was appointed as the council's liaison in the matter.

The shelter is under investigation by the Williamson County sheriff's department after allegations of animal cruelty.

For more information about the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, call 943-3322 or visit www.wilcopets.org.



A dog in the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter

Cedar Park one of best communities in the nation

Family Circle magazine named Cedar Park one of the best communities across the country that combines big-city opportunities with suburban charm. It will be featured as one of the Top 10 Towns for Families in the August 2007 issue, which hit newsstands nationwide July 10.

The magazine partnered with On Board, a New York City research firm, to assemble a list of 1,850 places with populations between 15,000 and 150,000 and a high concentration of households with an average income of \$65,000. From that, the selection was narrowed down based on family-friendly criteria, including cost of living, jobs, schools, health care, air quality, green space and crime rate.

"This is a tremendous honor. Over the years, Cedar Park has grown and prospered, but we have never lost sight of what matters most: the family. Cedar Park is a positive community that offers families a wide variety of activities and a value-rich atmosphere," said Bob Lemon, Cedar Park mayor.

community Impact

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Closer Look

California natives bring hot dog franchise east

BY SHANNON COLLETTI

"We didn't want to work for anyone else," said Jennifer Jones, co-owner of two Wienerschnitzel franchises in Cedar Park and Austin. "And we just kind of stumbled upon Wienerschnitzel."

The Orange County native grew up around the popular hot dog franchise, which began as a single stand in California 46 years ago. Now, 340 franchises are located in 10 states.

In 1994, Jennifer moved to Austin with her future husband, Jason Jones, and his brother, Michael Qualls, who were both studying economics and business at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to buying the franchise, Jennifer worked at a surgical center, Jason ran a mini-storage center and Qualls was an administrator for a construction company.

In the spring of 1999, they decided to buy a restaurant, specifically a Wienerschnitzel. At the time, the nearest franchise was in Killeen, some 75 miles away, and they recognized a need in the Austin market.

"We were all huge fans of Wienerschnitzel and were familiar with them," Jennifer said. "It's very popular in California, and there was brand recognition here."

She said they shied away from opening a mom-and-pop restaurant because the failure rate is typically high. They were determined to go with an established company.

The team decided to build from the ground up, figuring the cost of a pre-existing structure isn't that much lower. Construction began in March 2000, and that June the first Austin-area Wienerschnitzel opened its doors in Cedar Park.

"I remember it being blood, sweat and tears," Jennifer said. "It was pretty stressful, but we were confident. When we first opened, we were so busy, our [customers' cars] blocked Whataburger's entrance. It was exciting that people were so interested and so willing to wait an hour to get through the drive-thru."

In November 2003, they opened a second Wienerschnitzel restaurant in North Austin and hope to

expand even more.

"Sixty percent of our customers are regular customers, so I know them personally," she said. "I see a lot of faces that we've been seeing since we opened, and I'm on a first-name basis with them. A lot of places you go, [the employees] don't even look at you. That makes me insane. Customer service is key to running a retail business, and people will come back if the service is good."



Jennifer decorated her '97 Ford Probe three years ago. "You can't miss it. It's great advertising. I get a lot of honking and yelling."

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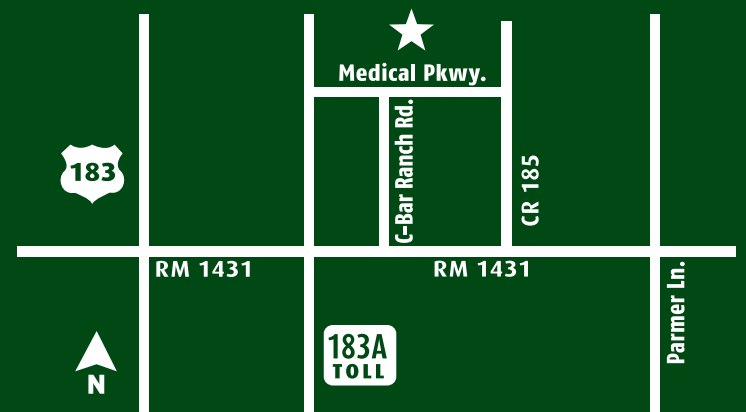


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Impact Cedar Park



1 Fine furnishings

Super Fine Furniture Consignment officially opened May 14 at 312 Old Highway 183 offering furniture and accessories including beds, dressers, china cabinets, armoires, picture frames, paintings and china. Owner Amy Nappier also stocks a selection of new mattresses. For more information, call 250-8086.

2 Biz expo

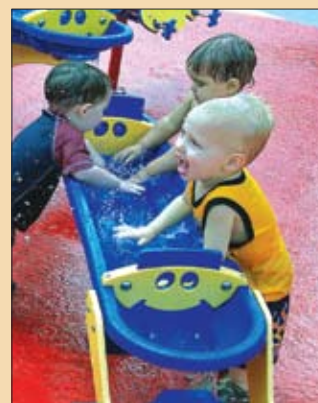
The **Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce** has scheduled its seventh annual business exposition from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 in the Cedar Park High School cafeteria, 2150 Cypress Creek Road. Applications for a booth at the expo are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until all are sold. Featured guests scheduled to attend the free event include the Chick-fil-A cow, Spike from the Round Rock Express, Fang from the Ice Bats, Trigger from the Austin Wranglers and the Hill Country Singers. Parents can bring their children for fingerprinting by the Cedar Park Police Department, and the whole community is invited to win door prizes. For more information, call the chamber at 260-7800.

3 New Springhill

Springhill restaurant, 200 Buttercup Creek, opened June 25. The new restaurant serves the same menu as the Pflugerville location, including fried catfish, chicken fried steak and fried green tomatoes. For more information, call 996-9884.

4 Bluebonnet's award

Bluebonnet School of Cedar Park received the 2007 National Child Care Center of the Year award given by the National Association of Child Care Professionals at the organization's annual meeting in Boston. Founded in 2002 by Nancy and Charles Chick, the school at 3420 El Salido Parkway serves children from eight weeks to fifth grade and has 273 enrolled. Bluebonnet has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since 2004. For more information, call 331-9009 or visit www.bluebonnetschool.com.



Top: Nancy Chick, Kristen Gregory and Athena Hartley display Bluebonnet's award.

Bottom: Attendees of Bluebonnet School play in the water feature on site.

5 Ice cold

Arctic Wolfe opened May 26 at 306 S. Bell Blvd. The fully automated ice house produces an eight-pound bag in 16 seconds, or customers can choose to dispense 20 pounds directly into their cooler. Arctic Wolfe is open 24/7. For more information, call 608-3712 or visit www.arcticwolfe.com.

6 Sweet dreaming

The **Cedar Park Sleep Center** opened June 8 at 2519 S. Lakeline Blvd., Ste. 101. Owner Leslie Brink and staff test patients for sleep disorders, which are present in an estimated 70 percent of Americans, Brink said. Patients spend a night at the center, during which data is gathered and then passed along to the referring physician. For more information, call 249-9498.

7 Money matters

Purpose Money, which offers customers services including credit monitoring, auto insurance, auto loans, cash loans, a way to apply for credit cards and other products, is now open at 510 N. Bell Blvd., Ste. 101. Purpose Money is a Service Mark used by upStar Financial, LLC, a subsidiary of CompuCredit Corporation, and credit cards are issued by First Bank of Delaware. For more information, call 506-9378 or visit www.purposemoney.com.

8 Alzheimer's center ribbon-cutting

The **Cedar Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center**, 2100 S. Lakeline Blvd., celebrated a ribbon-cutting for its new facility July 12. The residential center provides care for

people in all stages of dementia and has a capacity of 66 people. For more information, call 258-5157 or visit www.jeaseniorliving.com.

9 Fireworks rescheduled

The city has rescheduled the rained-out **Fourth of July fireworks** for Sept. 2, during the Back to School Splash Jam at Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase Boulevard. The Splash Jam begins at 5 p.m. and features live music, swimming, games and concessions. Standard admission fees for the pool (\$3 for adults, \$2 for ages 9-17 and \$1 for ages 3-8) and operational time from 1 to 8 p.m. will apply. Fireworks will begin at dark.

10 Sub donation

Firehouse Subs, 1540 Cypress Creek Road, donated an MSA 5200 thermal imaging camera to the Cedar Park Fire Department June 20. The device allows firefighters to detect body heat and locate victims who may otherwise be lost in smoke or darkness. An additional donation of more than \$3,200 will also be made to the department to purchase a trailer for its Teen Advocate for Community Safety and Characterizing program.



A group of people seen through the thermal imaging camera.

11 Highland Lakes in Discovery Park

Highland Lakes Real Estate

opened a new office at 715 Discovery Blvd., Ste. 204. It can handle lot sales, commercial and residential properties. For more information, call 259-7773 or visit www.highlandlakesrealtors.com.



12 Christmas in July

The **Williamson County Sheriff's Office Brown Santa program** plans 5K family and 1K kids' fun runs, exhibits and activities from 8 - 11 a.m. July 21 at the Williamson County Southwest Regional Park, 3005 CR 175. Toy donations accepted at the event. Pre-register today at www.signmeup.com, or for more information, call 943-1313 or visit www.wilco.org.

News or questions about Cedar Park? E-mail us at news@impactnews.com.



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Closer Look

Chris Smith's idea for a Texas-themed board game morphed into a piece of historical art through hundreds of hours and thousands of tiny dots.

"I'd always been interested in Texas History, and I had this idea for a game that would be the Texas version of Risk," Smith said. "When I realized that it would be expensive to reproduce, I thought 'why don't I do a map?'"

Smith's creation, *Battlefield Texas*, is a hand-drawn map of the 1838 Republic of Texas featuring portraits, weaponry and information about every battle fought in the Republic from 1775 to 1880, in addition to the locations of 47 frontier forts, paintings of the six flags flown over Texas and information about the 1st and 2nd Texas Navies.

Smith, a graphic designer, said his many hours in front of a computer screen made him long to do something handmade. Thus, very few pieces of the map, such as the copyright, were computer-generated.

Individual illustrations and factual tidbits on the map are surrounded by thousands of tiny dots, which form shading and give the map a three-dimensional quality. Perfecting that technique, as well as developing his style of illustration, took four years, Smith said. Prior to that, he spent three years researching the history he wanted to document.

"It took two years to draw the board game, and then I

started on the map in 2005," he said. "I would work nights and weekends an hour or two at a time until I went cross-eyed. My wife thought I was nuts."

"I did," Wendy Smith said. "But his whole heart and soul is in it, and you can see that when he talks about it."

Though Chris' research included the interesting quirks of lesser-known battles, he said the Alamo is still his favorite.

"So many important heroes of the time were there, and so there's so much controversy even today about things like how Davy Crockett actually died," he said. "We lost, but yet it's what turned the tide for the Texians, as they were called, and led to San Jacinto."

Chris' current project is smaller in size, but equally laden with history. It features the six flags that have flown over Texas and the stories surrounding each. Also included are ten flags used in specific Texas battles, such as the "Come and Take It" flag from the battle of Gonzales.

Last December, the Smiths began selling archival-quality reproductions of Chris' original map online, in area art stores, special events and festivals. Wendy said it is especially gratifying to see the public's reaction and appreciation of Chris' work.

"These aren't just posters," she said. "Every time you look at it you see something new and learn something."



THE FOLLOWING EVENTS WILL SHOWCASE DURANGO'S MAP

Market Days in Georgetown, Aug. 11

Bat Fest in Austin, Sept. 1 - 2

The Old Pecan Street Festival in Austin, Sept. 29 - 30

Chris Smith began Battlefield Texas with a pencil outline of the map, legend and major battles, working his way around each with details of smaller conflicts. He used stippling — thousands of tiny dots — to create shading between illustrations.

Artist connects dots to form Texas historical artwork

BY KARA VAUGHT



Chris works on his next project featuring the six flags of Texas and 10 battle flags.

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Impact Leander



1 Dentist now wide open

Leander Dental Care, 604 Crystal Falls Parkway, opened in June. Dr. Roy McCormick provides full service general dentistry with a focus on modern technologies such as digital x-rays, which emit less radiation, and ultrasonic cleanings, which can be faster and more comfortable than traditional sessions. Other services include everything from crowns, bridges, and implant restorations to porcelain veneers and professional tooth whitening. For more information, call 260-0111 or visit www.Leanderdental.com.



Mortgage tools

Texas Family Mortgage, a home-based enterprise providing residential and commercial lending services and education, recently joined the chamber of commerce. It offers CredeXpert credit analysis, which generates scenarios and credit score impacts to allow clients to see exactly what they need to do for a better credit score. For more information, call Teresa Beaird at 402-8324 or visit www.txfamilymortgage.com.



2 Gateway going up

Seven tenants have inked deals for space in the **Gateway at Leander** shopping center, a project of Development 2000 on the northwest corner of Crystal Falls Parkway and US 183. **Lowe's** home improvement store will occupy the south end of the development, while **Kohl's** department store will have the north end. **IBC Bank**, **Taco Bell**, **McDonald's**, **Starbucks** and **Regions Bank** will occupy locations fronting US 183. For more information, visit www.development2000.com/gateway.asp.

3 Classical cruisin'

The **City of Leander** and the **Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce** scheduled a classic car show from 5 to 8 p.m. July 21 in Old Town Leander. The Austin Thunderbird Owners, Central Texas Stangs, Falcon Club, Corvette Club, Studebakers and others will show cars while Elvis impersonators and the Travis Kings perform. For more information, call Kirk Clennan, Leander economic development director, 528-2852 or Mary Bradshaw, Leander Chamber of Commerce executive director, 259-1907.

4 Hee Haw in Leander

Way Off Broadway Community Players, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Parkway, will present an adaptation of the variety show "Hee Haw" at 8 p.m. July 20 and 21. Based on the TV variety show, "Hee Haw" offers corny jokes and live music provided by Borrowed Time and including Hee Haw favorites "Where O Where." Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students. For more information, call 336-8966 or visit www.wobcp.org.

5 Salons open

TGF Hair Salon celebrated a grand opening July 14 at The Forum shopping center, 651 US 183, Ste. 240. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. For more information, call 260-3443. **Luxury Nails** also opened in The Forum July 6. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 259-0889.

6 State of the county

Congressman John Carter will deliver the **State of Williamson County** address from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 15 at the Central Baptist Church, 1650 CR 271. RSVP to 528-2852 or 259-1907 by Aug. 6.

Leander online

An online directory promoting Leander was launched July 14. Created by local entrepreneur Gabrielle Melisende, the site offers four levels of listing ranging from free to \$49.95. Non-profit organizations are eligible for free basic listings. For more information, call 260-7886 or visit www.GuidetoLeander.com.

7 Expanding medicine

Hill Country Family Health Specialists, 902 Crystal Falls Parkway, has expanded to include Quest Diagnostics, which will perform lab work, and Skin Esteem for Botox treatment and laser hair removal. For more information, call 259-2222 or visit www.hcfamilyhealth.yourmd.com.

8 Coffee and a book

Rising Star Café, beside the Leander Public Library, 1011 S. Bagdad Road, is open for business. Hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Library patrons can take their coffee with them to browse the books. For more information, call the library at 259-5259 and ask for the coffee shop or visit www.youseemore.com/leander.

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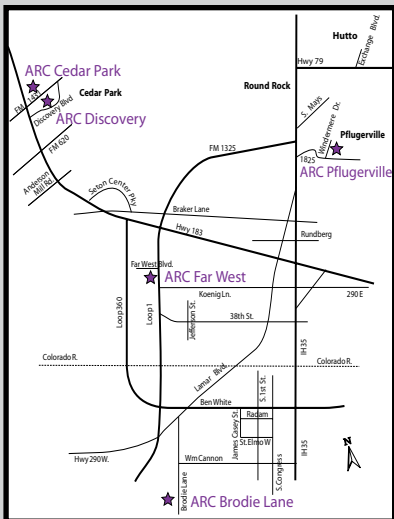
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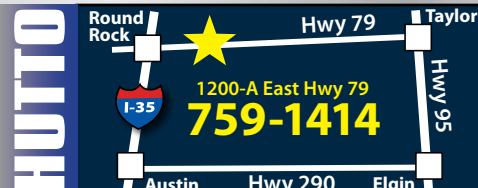
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Retail options

CONTINUED FROM 1

tions "aggressive" and said they stunted Williamson County's growth.

One of the bills passed, and Austin was forced to return 6,846 acres of its ETJ to Cedar Park.

However, the City of Austin ultimately filed a lawsuit over the law, claiming it was unconstitutional and unfairly targeted at these two cities.

Austin won the lawsuit, and the land was returned.

Lakeline facelift

Many of Simon's renovations are aimed at giving Lakeline a more high-end appeal. On the retail side, Lakeline has recently added new specialty shops such as the clothing store Hollister and Co., cosmetics store Perfumania and an IBC bank.

Aesthetically, the mall overhaul includes the redesign of the center court, located on the first floor below the food court, and three of the entrances, installing new flooring throughout.

A "signature" 2,300 sq. ft. family restroom with nursing lounges and infant changing rooms will be added.

"The main reason for the renovation was that the mall was built in 1995 and the trade area here experienced tremendous growth," Mark O'Malley, Simon's area director of strategic mall marketing, said. "Our customer base has also grown more affluent and has higher expectations."

Changes over time

In 1995, Simon's studies showed the area's average household income to be \$51,000. Nine years later, the average household income in Cedar Park jumped to \$78,314, according to city records.

The population of the area has increased from

5,161 in 1990 to 48,139 in 2005, according to census numbers, not to mention the growth of nearby cities such as Austin and Round Rock.

The improved transportation options with the opening of Toll 45 and 183A Toll have also driven more traffic to the mall, O'Malley said.

While Brewer doesn't expect 1890 Ranch to compete with Lakeline's high-end shopping and department stores, the two shopping centers will have some similar offerings, such as PetSmart, OfficeMax and a movie theater.

The 1890 Ranch will be comparable in size to Lakeline, offering about 900,000 sq. ft. to Lakeline's 1.1 million.

"Even though we don't gain the tax dollars from Lakeline, it certainly provides a shopping venue of which the citizens take advantage. When 1890 opens, more of the sales tax dollars that have been going into Austin will end up staying in Cedar Park," Brewer said. "We'll be able to recapture sales tax dollars that have been going out of our community for the past 12 years."

Cedar Park's tax base continues to increase as the community grows. Retail tax dollars are up 20 percent from last year, according to finance director Joyce Herring.

These funds allow the city to keep property taxes low because it has tax revenue from other sources to pay for public projects.

Area's growth introduces new shoppers and retail options



1995

Median household income: \$51,000
Cedar Park population: 5,161

2007

Median household income: \$78,314
Cedar Park population: 48,139

New business near future rail station

With the Capital Metro MetroRail starting operation in 2008, developers are beginning to build on the land along RM 620 between US 183 and Parmer Lane. Lakeline Station will occupy a 335-acre area south of Avery Ranch to south of Lakeline Boulevard. This mixed-use development will have housing projects and retail in a type of development geared toward making it pedestrian friendly and transit oriented. Also in the works:

- The Shops at Walden Park, a retail project to reuse the old North Fork center east of the rail station.
- The Crossing at Lakeline, an apartment complex north of RM 620 due to open this time next year.
- Northwood at Lakeline, a community of houses and condominiums adjacent to the rail station produced by the same company as the Lakeline Station Pacific Summit Partners.

Source: Community Impact Newspaper archives

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Water plan

CONTINUED FROM |1

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2008 and be complete in 2010.

It is phase two, construction of a deep water intake facility and raw water pipeline, which will ensure the cities have water even in drought conditions, Watts said. As water levels decline during droughts, the floating intakes inch closer to the lake bottom, eventually reaching dry ground and sucking air.

A deep water intake is built to reach into the lake below the point to which water levels receded during the worst drought on record.

"It's been 57 years since that drought, so it's becoming more and more statistically possible to occur again," Watts said. "It's very important to have that deep water intake because, at some point, we will have a drought."

Construction of phase two is scheduled to begin in 2009 and end in 2011. In 2016, the treatment plant built in phase one is expected to need an expansion, according to the partnership's timeline. The entire plan has a projected cost of \$330 million.

The opposition

The Brushy Creek partnership's plan is ready for implementation save one factor: the location of the deep water intake facility. Seven sites are under consideration, four of which are located in the Village of Volente.

A group of Volente citizens have hired a lawyer, Jason Collins, to assist them in prohibiting the Brushy Creek partnership from constructing the intake in Volente.

Outside a June 21 open house in Volente hosted by the Brushy Creek partnership, Collins passed out printed questions for Volente citizens to ask of the partnership's representatives.

One of the questions was "why have you waited until now to spread the word around Volente of your intentions to construct an industrial facility in our city?"

Chris Lippe, the project manager for the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority, said that until Winter 2006, the project was still conceptual, with no leader and no firm plans. In February 2007, after Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock formally formed the partnership, representatives met with Volente Mayor Jan Yenawine to discuss their plans.

Another of Collins' handouts stated "the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park and Leander have available cost-effective sources of water within Williamson County. The Tri-City Group should negotiate a long-term contract for water produced out of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer or pumped from eastern Williamson County Lakes."

Extensive studies, comparing every water source and combination of water sources, have been conducted, Lippe said, and every alternative is tens of millions of dollars more than Brushy Creek's plan.

Additionally, Leander and Cedar Park already have long-term contracts with the Lower Colorado River Authority for raw water from Lake Travis, said Kenneth Wheeler, Cedar Park assistant director of utilities. Abandoning those contracts and creating new ones with different water sources would waste money.

Another alternative put forth by Collins and Volente citizens is for the Brushy Creek cities to join the City of Austin in its current plans for a deep water intake facility.

That option, said Lippe and Wheeler, would cost the Brushy Creek cities \$100 million to \$235 million more than their plan. The difference in price, Lippe said, is due to the extra pipeline that would be necessary to pump water from Austin's site near The Oasis restaurant, 6550 Comanche Trail. Plus, such a pipeline would have to run through an environmentally sensitive area, and permits might not be available, Wheeler said.

Moving forward

The Brushy Creek partnership's project timeline lists 2007-2008 as a time when public input will be sought on proposed intake sites, facility design and construction mitigation.

In information packets passed out to Volente citizens at the open house, the partnership expressed a desire to come to an agreement with Volente:

"Potentially affected stakeholders will be adversely impacted if we can't find a way to work together to make decisions that are mutually beneficial rather than engage in costly, combative actions with less than desirable results."

Collins doubts an amicable solution.

"The main issue for me is this case boils down to a battle of cities," he said. "I think this will end in a courtroom several years from now."

Brushy Creek partnership: A timeline

1997-1998

- Areas in Volente are identified as potential water intake sites by studies commissioned by Cedar Park, the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Texas Water Development Board.
- Volente landowners and developers begin discussions with Cedar Park about the sale of water in exchange for access to the area needed for an intake structure.

2003

- The Village of Volente is incorporated.
- HDR, Cedar Park's engineer, works with the Volente Municipal Utilities District developer to identify a site in Volente on which developers propose to obtain an easement for the intake facility.

2004

- Volente developers obtain signatures needed for the easement and inform Cedar Park that the document will be delivered when a water agreement is reached.

2005

- Studies commissioned by Round Rock determine partnership with Cedar Park and/or the LCRA is the most cost-effective way to access Lake Travis water for regional water treatment and delivery.
- Round Rock and Cedar Park begin discussions about a regional water system. LCRA joins talks on behalf of Leander.
- The three hire HDR Engineering to prepare a preliminary report.

2006

- The three cities decide to create a partnership without LCRA. The Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority is born.

2007

- Preliminary design report begins. Phase one of the regional water system is slated to include expansion of Cedar Park's existing intake facility, a raw water pipeline to a new treatment plant and a treated water transmission line, scheduled for completion in 2010.

2007-2008

- Cities begin public involvement and input process.
- Final designs for phase two facilities: the deep water intake and raw water pipeline, will be presented at public hearings.
- Construction of phase one facilities begins.

2009

- Construction of phase two facilities begins.

2010

- Phase one construction complete.

2011

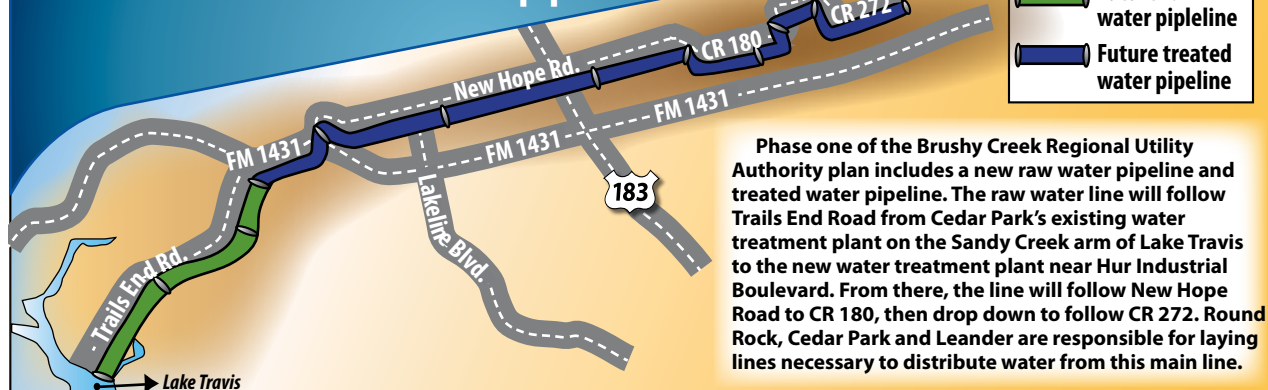
- Phase two complete.

2016

- Expansion of treatment plant expected to be needed.

Source: A timeline prepared by the cities of Leander, Cedar Park and Round Rock

Planned raw and treated water pipeline



Burt Witcher

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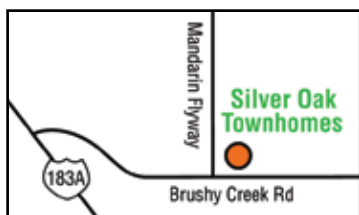
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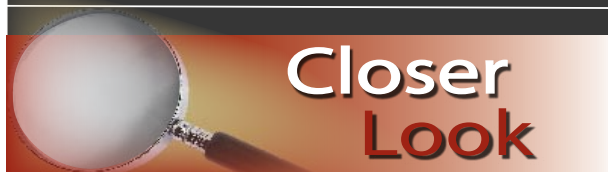
From Austin, travel North towards Cedar Park on Research Blvd/US 183A. Take the Brushy Creek Exit and turn right onto Brushy Creek Rd/CR-174. Silver Oak Townhomes are 0.8 miles on the left at the corner of Mandarin Flyway.

Coming Soon! Two more Cedar Park townhome communities!

Buttercup Creek
From the \$115s

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From the \$140s





Foundation provides educators extra resources

BY KATHERINE KENNEDY

Leander ISD is a fast-growing school district. With state funding for education stretched thin, foundations are needed to help cover the cost of basic educational needs such as library books and projectors, according to Leander Educational Excellence Foundation board president Jim Nosler.

"We act as a support mechanism for the district. We provide an independent source of funds for a variety of education-related tasks. Our goal is to support innovation, enrichment and equity in pursuit of academic excellence," Nosler said. "The budget does not always match the need of the district. There is a growing need for bilingual books, but there is not adequate money in the budget."

LEEF began last August when Nosler said he realized that because of the economic growth, development and the attraction of the school system, LISD needed an extra source of funding. LEEF raises money through various activities, including a classic car show. It also receives money from business contributions and from district employee donations.

"The people who live in Leander and Cedar Park who make money can now give money back to the school system. The community as a whole benefits from LEEF," Nosler said. "It enhances the learning environment for

children, it impacts how well teachers can teach by adding flexibility and resources and it enriches the business community by giving our future work force the best education."

When supplies are not available because they are beyond the district's budget, funding from LEEF can provide the money, according to Nosler.

The first program LEEF began was raising money for teacher grants. Money will be made available for the instructor with the most innovative and promising way to teach students, according to Nosler.

"Every teacher uses their own personal money to do their job. They shouldn't have to," Nosler said. "We recognize teachers and their hard work, and we give them their due."

While other non-profits that support the school district concentrate on one campus or one extracurricular activity, LEEF supports LISD district-wide, according to Nosler.

"We want to be the facilitator to bridge the gap between the community and the district," Nosler said. "Our plan is to build a dialogue with the community to ensure higher education for its students. Families with children are a huge impact on our community. The entire community depends on the quality of education our students receive."



Dr. Shirley Neeley, Texas Commissioner of Education, was presented with a framed, hand-made card from Caleb McClain, Cox Elementary student, at LEEF's Community Kick Off in January. Neeley presented the keynote address at the event.

HOW LEEF HELPS

Students:

- Provides opportunities for students desiring to continue education and training beyond high school.
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Teachers:

- Offers Innovative Teaching Excellence Grants to teachers who have great ideas for learning.
- Teacher Recognition Certificates provide a tangible symbol of appreciation for LISD teachers.
- Supports excellence by providing a local "Educational Incubator" to foster classroom innovation.



Leander Educational Excellence Foundation
P.O. Box 358 • Cedar Park
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www.LeanderEdFound.org

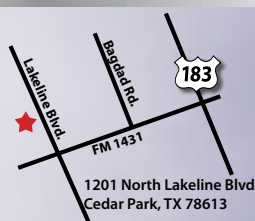
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Residential

Cedar Park & Leander MLS area

On The Market

Price Range	# of Homes for Sale	Price Range	#SOLD	Avg. Sales Price	Days On Market
\$100,000	7	< \$100,000	8	\$77,918	54
\$100 - \$149.9k	123	\$100 - \$149.9k	70	\$131,423	27
\$150 - \$199.9k	217	\$150 - \$199.9k	59	\$174,290	46
\$200 - \$299.9k	207	\$200 - \$299.9k	43	\$244,054	64
\$300 - \$399.9k	89	\$300 - \$399.9k	12	\$334,251	88
\$400 - \$499.9k	29	\$400 - \$499.9k	3	\$459,233	66
\$500 - \$749.9k	34	\$500 - \$749.9k	3	\$589,966	121
\$750 - \$999.9k	10	\$750 - \$999.9k	-	-	-
\$1 Million +	12	\$1 Million +	-	-	-

Area HOMES

June 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007

Monthly Home Sales

Month	Number of Sales	Average Price
June 2007	198	\$166,287
June 2006	295	\$172,265
May 2007	132	\$160,465
April 2007	174	\$165,000
March 2007	222	\$184,479
February 2007	248	\$187,118
January 2007	120	\$185,648
December 2006	184	\$187,866

Information provided by Coldwell Banker United, www.coldwellbankerunited.com

Key Stats

-\$5,978

Change in avg. selling price over last year

-86

Change in homes on the market since last month

-97

Change in number of homes sold over last year

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Silverado West
Cedar Park - 78613

Agent:
Janet Holt
(512) 567-2384



4 Br./2 Ba.
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610 Trail Dust Dr.

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Yaghi's New York Pizzeria

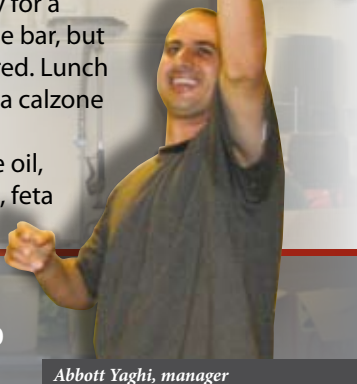
Yaghi's New York Pizzeria is an excellent place to stop by for a slice of pizza and much more. Inside, patrons can eat at the bar, but most customers take their pies to go or have them delivered. Lunch specials include pizza by the slice, a gyro, cheese sticks or a calzone with a drink (\$3.99).

Our favorite: The feta pizza comes with extra virgin olive oil, garlic, basil, black olives, a white sauce, mozzarella cheese, feta cheese, spinach and tomatoes (large, \$16.99).

2100 Cypress Creek Road
Cedar Park • 401-0011

Hours: Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Abbott Yaghi, manager



Brooklyn Heights Pizzeria

Brooklyn Heights Pizzeria serves authentic New York-style thin crust pizza. It is a great place to stop for a pizza-by-the-slice lunch or dinner on the outdoor patio. Vintage New York décor with cozy seating offers a great atmosphere for a peaceful dining experience. The menu features pizzas, salads, buffalo wings in nine

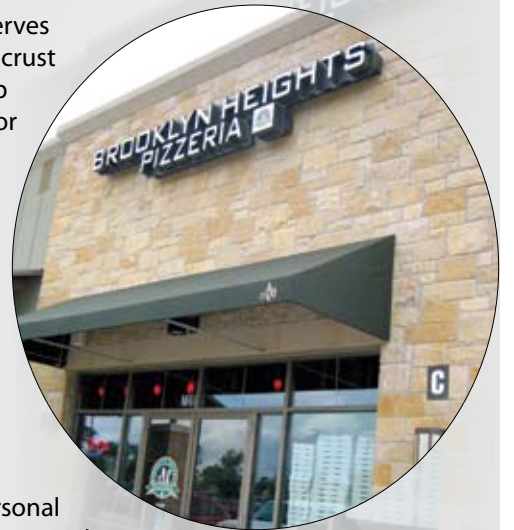
flavors and will soon expand to include pasta and paninis.

Our favorites: The Mama Mia pizza (personal size, \$9.95) with Chicago-style Italian meatballs, pepperoni, red onions, marinated tomatoes, fresh garlic and seasoned herbs; the BBQ Chicken pizza (personal size, \$9.95) with chicken, tangy BBQ sauce, mozzarella cheese, red onions and cilantro. Finish off your meal with a slice of Carnegie Deli Cheesecake (\$6.25) shipped weekly to the store from New York, or share a piece of the decadent Chocolate Tower Cake (\$6.25).

14900 Avery Ranch Blvd., Ste. C-700

Austin • 238-8889 • www.brooklynheightspizzeria.com

Hours: Sunday – Wednesday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Thursday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.



Rome's Pizza

This restaurant has a wide selection. The Navona Salad (\$3.50, small; \$4.50 medium) is made from sun-dried tomatoes, gorgonzola cheese and roasted almonds topped with herbal vinaigrette. Mediterranean items are also available, such as Dolmas, grape leaves stuffed with rice and served with tzatziki sauce. Prices range from \$3.50 for appetizers to \$15 for a 12-inch White Pizza. Another plus: Our pizza was not made until it was ordered.

Our favorite: A traditional-style pizza topped with pepperoni and mushroom. The 12-inch pie was served hot and appealing with gooey melted cheese. We certainly did not have any leftovers to take home.

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Kristen Schulz, assistant manager



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Michael Kentfield, manager

Though Saccone's Pizza & Subs is in Texas, its heart is in Jersey. License plates and maps of the northern state adorn the walls and a mouth-watering aroma hangs in the air.

Our favorites: The Dan's Special (\$19.95 for a whole pie) and Cody's Special (\$18.25 for a pie). The toppings are heaping. Dan's includes sausage, meatballs, mushrooms, black olives, onions, garlic, olive oil, oregano and black pepper. Cody's features sweet sauce, sausage, pepperoni, meatballs and garlic. It was evident the garlic was hand-minced, because it was visible along with the other toppings. The crust was coated with semolina, a coarsely ground grain. It gives the crust texture without making it crunchy. The cannolis (\$2.50 each) were a rich and creamy way to end the meal.

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Domenick's Pizzeria made a leap from serving slices down on 6th street to pies in Cedar Park, but the quality and taste survived the move. Domenick's offers a wide variety of dine-in or take-out Italian food. The owner spent half of his life in New York and half in Italy, so his pizza shows influences from both. Traditional Italian music is piped into the sound system and the restaurant is completing a series of murals featuring maps of Italian scenery. Slices are big, but not quite big enough to qualify as New York style, and the ingredients are

fresh with no greasy pools atop the cheese. Other menu items include Antipasto Salad (\$4.35, small), pasta dishes ranging from Baked Ziti (\$7.50) to Chicken Parmigiano (\$6.85) and sandwiches ranging from Genoa Salami (\$5.30) to Ham Capicola (\$5.60).

Our favorite: The Veggie pizza (\$19.85) came loaded with peppers, green and black olives, onions and tomatoes and the crust was spongy on the inside and crisp on the outside.



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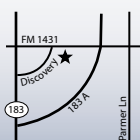


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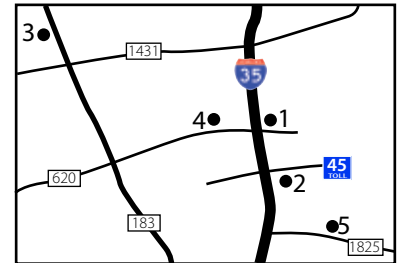
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Community Corridors

Old FM 2243: Bagdad Road to US 183

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Old FM 2243

Old FM 2243 is one of four east-west corridors in Leander, providing commuter access to US 183 and the new Capital Metro Park & Ride. This roadway connects Leander southwest to Jonestown and west to the Hill Country.

With the H-E-B Plus! addition, new retailers are flocking to the area. Additionally, this corridor offers quick access to the surrounding residential areas. This winter, the first railcar will arrive at the Capital MetroRail stop adjacent to the Park & Ride. When operational, this service will provide yet another transportation option near Old FM 2243.

Transportation update

- 1 The Bagdad Road and Old FM 2243 intersection improvement design is underway. The design phase is scheduled to be finished by Nov. 1 and construction is expected to begin in February. Construction along Bagdad Road will run north to San Gabriel Parkway.

The left-turn lane project on southbound Bagdad Road from the 2004 bond program has been combined with the November 2006 bond program in an effort to save money. In the meantime, the City of Leander is working on intersection improvements including cameras and sequential timing of the lights to minimize wait times until construction is complete.

- 2 As part of the 2004 bond program, the City of Leander completed the right-of-way acquisition along FM 2243. Roadway improvements and widening are under consideration, and the city will move forward on design after the next bond election in November 2008.

History

- 3 The **Bagdad Cemetery** began with a land donation by the Babcock family, one of the founding families of the town of Bagdad, for the grave of their son in 1852. Many Confederate soldiers are buried there, and the original portion of the cemetery indicates the burial spots of former slaves. A shed on site was used for funeral ceremonies, and is now being restored for that purpose once again. The cemetery continues to serve the community. A new section is planned with an additional 20 acres for growth. The Bagdad Cemetery Association hosts an Annual Homecoming the second Sunday in June. Mirroring the tradition of families cleaning around the grave sites and then picnicking, the association welcomes families of those buried in the cemetery to gather on the grounds.
- 4 The **Pickle-Mason House** was built in 1871 by Porter Pickle for his family. The house was sold to Augusta K. and Zora Mason Davis in 1913 and has remained in the family since. In 1988, the house was recorded as a Texas Historical Landmark because it was the first home in western Williamson County with screened windows.

Commercial property

- 5 **Noble Capital** will break ground on **The Shops at 2243** by January 2008. The 18-acre site will include office space, pad sites for restaurants and banks and 100,000 sq. ft. of retail shopping center space.
- 6 **Sandlin Ventures Development, Inc.** broke ground in June on a 10,000 sq. ft. industrial building expected to be complete by Jan. 1. The site will also feature a 6,000 sq. ft. retail strip center with construction scheduled to begin in November.
- 7 **Living Water Lutheran Church** owns this piece of land. Although no construction is in progress, the church hopes to have a building on the land within the next two years.
- 8 **Brown Plaza** will be a mixed-use commercial complex. The 19-acre site is in the planning stages.
- 9 **The Forum** at the **H-E-B Plus!** shopping center is 40 percent leased. **Blockbuster** and **GameStop** are in the build-out stage and will be open by the end of August. **Luxury Nails** opened its doors for business July 6. The retail space also includes **Jack Brown Cleaners, Goodwill, TGF Hair Salon, Subway, Papa Murphy's Take 'n' Bake Pizza, Twin Liquors, Fantastic Sam's** and **PostNet**. Seven pad sites are still available for lease.



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ABRIDGED STORIES FROM OUR RECENT ROUND ROCK/PFLUGERVILLE AND NORTHWEST AUSTIN PUBLICATIONS

Legislature funds new medical school in Round Rock

BY CHRISTI SNOW

The Texas Legislature dedicated \$9 million to Texas A&M University recently to support a medical school in Round Rock.

Anticipated to open in 2009, the campus will eventually support 100 students in their third and fourth years of studies as they complete clinicals.

Rep. Dan Gattis, who represents Round Rock, said he recommended the idea last year when the university approached him about expanding its medical program.

"If you look to the growth and where the needs will be, Williamson County is either the first or second fastest growing area," he said.

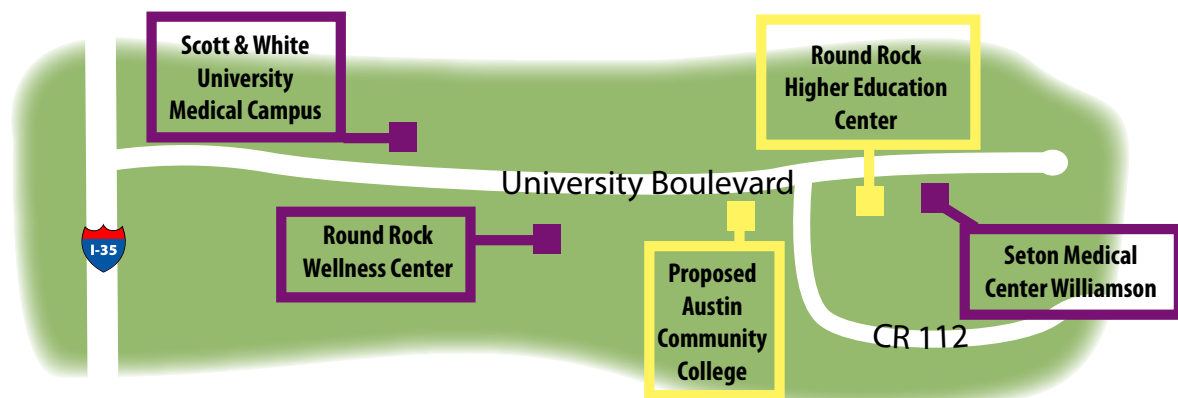
Texas A&M's College of Medicine students take two years of courses in College Station, then complete clinical studies at the Scott & White hospital in Temple.

The match made sense, Gattis said, because of the school's relationship with Scott & White, which is opening its Round Rock location on University Boulevard this year.

Texas A&M is exploring building a physical campus, but it is not the priority, said Jenny Young, vice president of govern-

mental affairs at Texas A&M Health Science Center. The initial \$9 million will finance administration costs.

In future legislative sessions, Young said Texas A&M will try to acquire additional funds for facilities.



During the last several years, University Boulevard has evolved with medical and support growth. It was this boom development that attracted education leaders, according to Jenny Young, vice president of governmental affairs at Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Behind the scenes

Sen. Steve Ogden, Rep. Mike Krusee and Rep. Dan Gattis, all three powerful representatives at the state level in the Williamson County area, worked together to have funding for a Round Rock medical school in the legislative session's House Appropriations Bill.

Both Texas A&M, based in College Station, and the University of Texas, based in Austin, have expressed interest in creating a medical school in the Central Texas region. So Gattis approached both

about their plans.

A&M planned to put their med school in Temple, the home of Scott & White. UT had no immediate plans and wasn't yet ready to pursue the med school. Unwilling to wait, the focus of Krusee, Gattis and Ogden turned to A&M.

Gattis argued that A&M shouldn't go to Temple when the growth is in Round Rock, but also that the big advances now are in biotechnology and bioscience and

Round Rock is a hub for both of these.

Sometimes it can be hard for a student to get the required amount of experience he needs before graduating and the number of medical facilities in the area would help.

Part of Ogden, Gattis and Krusee's compromise with UT was that A&M's medical school would stay in the Round Rock boundaries, offering UT a chance at their own school.

Local hospitals build and revamp

Seton and St. David's change to serve new population needs

BY CHRISTI SNOW

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- **ST. DAVID'S NORTH AUSTIN TO BUILD SPECIALTY WOMEN'S CENTER**
- **SETON NORTHWEST REMODELS ADDING MRI, NEW ROOMS, STROKE CERTIFICATION**

When the population changes, hospitals change too – at the cost of millions of dollars.

In June, St. David's North Austin Medical Center dedicated more than \$82 million towards building a new women's facility, which will double the current capacity.

Dr. Sonny Rivera, the St. David's medical director for neonatal intensive care services, said the presence of young families and a baby boom demands more healthcare support.

Don Wilkerson, CEO of the North Austin Medical Center, said once the project is completed in March 2009, the three-story building of 177,000 sq. ft. will have labor, delivery and recovery rooms.

In other portions of Northwest Austin, the demographic is getting older. That has

caused Seton Northwest Hospital to respond to a different need.

Seton Northwest was the newest hospital in town 16 years ago, and the only major medical facility in the Northwest area. That is not the case any more, but the hospital still plans to keep a competitive edge with a prescription of \$8.5 million in renovations.

Chuck Durant, vice president and chief operating officer for the hospital, said Seton Northwest decided to spend \$2 million of the money budgeted for renovations for the funding of an advanced MRI system that accommodates obese and claustrophobic patients. The MRI machine is planned to help Seton Northwest move one step closer to becoming a certified stroke center.

To achieve that goal, the hospital must have a comprehensive plan for caring for patients including radiology labs and available neurosurgeons.

With the help of a partnership between local surgeons and the National United Surgical Partners, Seton Northwest also added two operating rooms on the second floor, mostly for in-patients.

St. David's North Austin Women's Center



Current Capacity

- ⊗ Labor, delivery and recovery rooms: 13
- ⊗ Postpartum rooms: 27
- ⊗ Cesarean surgical suites: 2
- ⊗ Neonatal intensive care unit bassinets: 16

Capacity upon completion

- ⊗ Labor, delivery and recovery rooms: 37
- ⊗ Postpartum rooms: 61
- ⊗ Cesarean surgical suites: 6
- ⊗ Neonatal intensive care unit bassinets: 36

Most patients come through the emergency room, bringing 41,000 to 42,000 visits a year, but Durant expects that will temporarily change as new hospitals open nearby such as the Cedar Park Regional Medical Center located at FM 1431 at 183A Toll.

When the center begins operations in 2008, it will have 151 beds compared to Seton Northwest's 110. With less than an

eight to 10 minute drive difference between the hospitals, some patients may choose the newer facility.

Yet hospital expansion and renovation depends on more than competition, Celeste Lesmeister, St. David's regional director of marketing and business development, said.

"It is not so much from competitive expansion, but more about a growth in the market."



Farmers Market

The Round Rock City Hall parking garage is the site of fresh produce on Saturday mornings through July.



Habitat for Humanity

ReShawn Castille and son Derek broke ground for their new home with the help of the Round Rock Habitat for Humanity.

Other stories

www.impactnews.com

Cakes, Chocolates and More

Irene Selby creates edible works of art using fondant, buttercream, marzipan and flour.



Pacific Star

Patrons want to keep Juakin Leyva's seafood restaurant to themselves, saying, "Please don't write about this place, we don't want anyone to know about it!"



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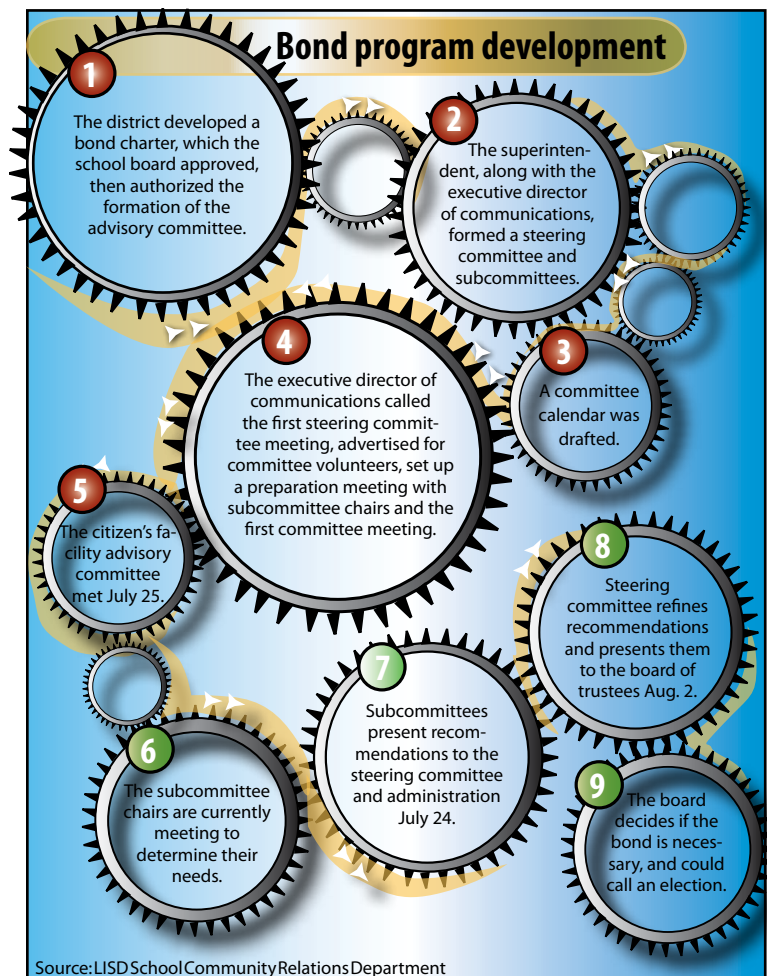
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EDUCATION

FOCUS

Leander ISD July 2007

Bond program development



LISD considers building fifth high school

BY BETH WADE

The Leander ISD Board of Trustees has gathered a citizen facility advisory committee to determine if the district needs to prepare a new bond package to build a fifth high school just a year and a half after a \$286 million bond was approved.

Bond packages in Leander ISD are typically sought every three years, said Jennifer Williams, district spokesperson. However, LISD Superintendent Tom Glenn said if the district was to wait until next May, it would delay the opening of the fifth high school an additional year.

Projected enrollment numbers show Cedar Park High School could have 2,293 students next year; the school's capacity is 2,400.

The district issued a moratorium on transfers to CPHS, effective Aug. 10. Students granted transfers before that date will still be allowed to attend the school.

With the south side of the district growing so quickly, those numbers could reach even higher before the fifth high school can be built, Williams said.

The attendance zoning committee, which met earlier to decide the 2008-2009 school boundaries, requested the district consider early construction on the fifth high school to keep from rezoning students more than once in a two to three year period, Britcher said.

"Some people might say we put the new (fourth) high school in the wrong place," Glenn said. "But we are not putting the high school in the wrong place. There are just a lot of kids."

The current advisory committee, including 50 community volunteers and district staff members, along with the 14 member steering committee will decide what is necessary to speed up construction and plan for the next five years of district needs.

LISD owns land on FM 2222 east of RM 620, purchased with money from the May 2006 bond, that could be used as the fifth high school's site and a future middle school, Britcher said.

A full bond package could include items left off the last bond proposal, including technology, facility maintenance, other projects and future schools, Britcher said.

Due to a state law, bond elections are restricted to the first Saturday in May and the general election day in November, which this year is Nov. 6.

Because of the time restrictions, the bond committee must have a bond proposal to present to the board by the end of August, Glenn said. If the board approves the bond, it would have to call the election by then.

"If we are going to do this quickly, we really need to consider putting it out for the November election date," Britcher said.

Governor's school focused on future leaders

BY BETH WADE

Eleven freshmen from Leander High School traveled to Denton this summer to participate in Texas' first Governor's School at the University of North Texas.

The goal of the governor's school program, which began in 1963 in North Carolina, is to maintain a level of educational excellence necessary to keep the United States as a leader in producing professionals skilled in science, technology, humanities and the arts, said Lisa Petty, ninth-grade assistant principal at LHS.

"Anytime a student has an opportunity to expand their learning beyond the classroom and textbook, it helps them become a well-rounded person," Petty said.

Students from across the state who had recently completed ninth grade submitted applications, and 152 were chosen to spend three weeks, June 10-30, focused on the future of science and technology.

"I was hoping I would make it. It sounded fun. I thought it would be a good experience to learn new things and be around people who wanted to learn like me," said LHS freshman Brittny Vaughan.

The students participated in classroom activities about science, technology and math and also attended impact classes focused on learning about topics such as clay-mation and jazz music.

"At first, I thought it was going to be all academics, but we did a lot of fun ac-



Photo courtesy of the University of North Texas project.

tivities and I made a lot of new friends," Vaughan said.

The governor's school was free to students, including meals, tuition and housing. Students were asked to cover the cost of travel, snacks and personal expenses.

Along with the application, students were asked to send transcripts and evaluations from a science and math teacher.

"These programs let the kids see the value for their education and learning," Petty said. "They take biology and chemistry here, but going away to the Governor's School lets them see how those things impact our society, and how technology and science are used beyond high school learning."

Other Central Texas participants included Austin and Georgetown students.

For more information on the Texas Governor's School program, visit web3.unt.edu/tgs/index.htm.

LIVE programs help special education students succeed



Photo courtesy of LISD

Dane Krager, Austin Wrangler's number 40 and an LISD graduate, at a LIVE celebration with his teammates.

BY BETH WADE

The special education program at Leander ISD teamed with the district's transportation department and area businesses for a program the district named LIVE, Leander Independent Vocational Education.

This is the third year for the program, which is for students 16-21 years old.

"We are all part of a team that gives these kids a life," said Denise Geiger, transition coordinator for special education.

Students at varying levels of disabilities receive different types of work force and job training from the special education department, as well as transportation to and from training.

The program's goal is to help students be successful in all areas, including employment, social, recreational, leisure and community participation, adult living and lifelong learning.

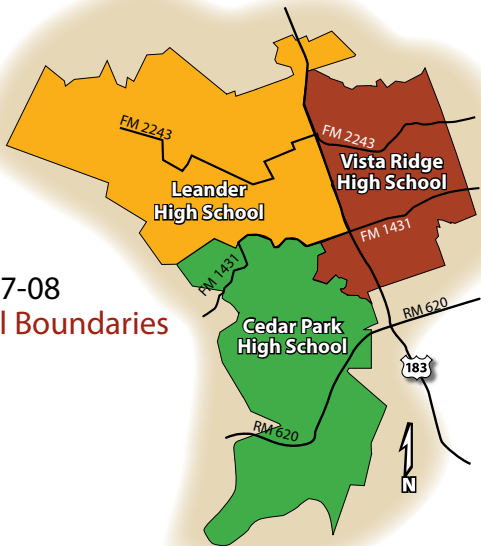
"Without these services in place, we would be losing children to the point where society would be paying for them," Geiger said. "Instead, we keep them here and they end up doing well."

The program is designed to allow students a chance to create their own life and provide for themselves, Geiger said.

LIVE honored about 150 students who participated in the program with a celebration that included a visit from Austin Wranglers team members.

LEANDER ISD

2007-08
High School Boundaries



CEDAR PARK HIGH SCHOOL



2150 Cypress Creek Road
Cedar Park, Texas 78613 • 435-8300
<http://cphs.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Ron LaFavers**
Open Since: 1998
Total Students: 2,056
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 16.0
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 9.2%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 9: Reading 97%, Math 85%
Grade 10: English Language Arts 95%, Math 82%
Grade 11: English Language Arts 97%, Math 89%

LEANDER HIGH SCHOOL



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CANYON RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

12601 Country Trails Lane
Austin, TX 78732 • 434-7550
<http://crms.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Susan Sullivan
Open Since: 2004
Total Students: 788
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.3
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 7.2%
2006 Accountability Rating: Exemplary
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 99%, Math 99%
Grade 7: Reading 97%, Math 91%
Grade 8: Reading 98%, Math 94%

CEDAR PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2100 Sun Chase Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613 • 434-5025
<http://cpms.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Sandra Stewart
Open Since: 1995
Total Students: 1,223
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.0
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 14.6%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 98%, Math 93%
Grade 7: Reading 97%, Math 94%
Grade 8: Reading 98%, Math 89%

HENRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

100 N. Vista Ridge Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613 • 435-4800
<http://hms.leanderisd.org>
Principal: David Ellis
Open Since: 2002
Total Students: 1,014
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 15.4
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 15.9%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 98%, Math 90%
Grade 7: Reading 93%, Math 90%
Grade 8: Reading 95%, Math 91%

LAURA WELCH BUSH ELEMENTARY

12600 Country Trails Lane
Austin, TX 78732
435-4750
<http://lwb.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Terri Breaux
Open Since: 2002
Total Students: 1,177
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 16.0
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 5.0%
2006 Accountability Rating: Exemplary
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 100%, Math 96%
Grade 4:
Reading 98%, Math 99%
Grade 5:
Reading 99%, Math 100%

STEINER RANCH ELEMENTARY

4001 Quinlan Park Road
Austin, TX 78732
434-7100
<http://steiner.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Shirley Bennett
Open Since: 1996
Total Students: 938
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 16.3
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 4.6%
2006 Accountability Rating: Exemplary
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 100%, Math 96%
Grade 4:
Reading 98%, Math 97%
Grade 5:
Reading 98%, Math 99%

DEER CREEK ELEMENTARY

2420 Zeppelin Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7176
<http://dce.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Vicki Price
Open Since: 2004
Total Students: 991
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 16.2
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 2.6%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 99%, Math 92%
Grade 4:
Reading 95%, Math 95%
Grade 5:
Reading 98%, Math 98%

NAUMANN ELEMENTARY

1201 Brighton Bend
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7250
<http://naumann.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Sande Powledge
Open Since: 1998
Total Students: 883
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.2
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 16.7%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 96%, Math 85%
Grade 4:
Reading 95%, Math 98%
Grade 5:
Reading 95%, Math 98%

FAUBION ELEMENTARY

1209 Cypress Creek Road
Cedar Park, TX 78613
435-4950
<http://faubion.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Sharon Hejl
Open Since: 1994
Total Students: 658
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.2
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 24.5
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 99%, Math 91%
Grade 4:
Reading 96%, Math 96%
Grade 5:
Reading 99%, Math 100%

RUTLEDGE ELEMENTARY

11501 Staked Plains Drive
Austin, TX 78717
435-4626
<http://rutledge.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Jana Rueter
Open Since: 2005
Total Students: 685
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.9
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 24.1%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 98%, Math 92%
Grade 4:
Reading 93%, Math 94%
Grade 5:
Reading 93%, Math 95%

COX ELEMENTARY

1001 Brushy Creek Road
Cedar Park, TX 78613
435-4650
<http://cox.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Kim Adcock
Open Since: 2001
Total Students: 841
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.5
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 13.0%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 96%, Math 90%
Grade 4:
Reading 93%, Math 94%
Grade 5:
Reading 96%, Math 99%

GRANDVIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY

12024 Vista Parke Dr.
Austin, TX 78726
434-7276
<http://grandviewhills.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Brenda Cruz
2007 Projected Total Students: 279
Opening this fall

RIVER PLACE ELEMENTARY

6500 Sitio Del Rio Blvd.
Austin, TX 78730
434-7026
<http://riverplace.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Paul Smith
2007 Projected Total Students: 555
Opening this fall

CYPRESS ELEMENTARY

2900 El Salido Pkwy.
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7200
<http://cypress.leanderisd.org>
Principal: Coleen Meyer
Open Since: 1988
Total Students: 669
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 15.0
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 22.1%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3:
Reading 100%, Math 90%
Grade 4:
Reading 86%, Math 91%
Grade 5:
Reading 96%, Math 99%

LEANDER ISD:

2006 TAKS SCORES

Reading
Math
Writing
Science
Social Studies

STATE

87%
75%
91%
70%
87%

DISTRICT

94%
85%
94%
81%
91%

DISTRICT SCORES

2007 TAKS Preliminary Results
(Percent met standard)

Grade	Reading	Math
3	97%	87%
4	91%	92%
5	95%	95%
6	98%	97%
7	94%	89%
8	96%	86%
9	93%	77%
English Language Arts		Math
10	92%	75%
11	97%	88%

2006 STATISTICS

Economically disadvantaged:
Limited English proficient:
Teacher/Student Ratio:
Average years experience of teachers:
Average actual salaries of teachers:

STATE

55.6%
15.8%
14.9
11.5
\$41,744

DISTRICT

21.1%
4.3%
14.4
10.0
\$40,338

TOTAL STUDENTS: 21,985

SCHOOL

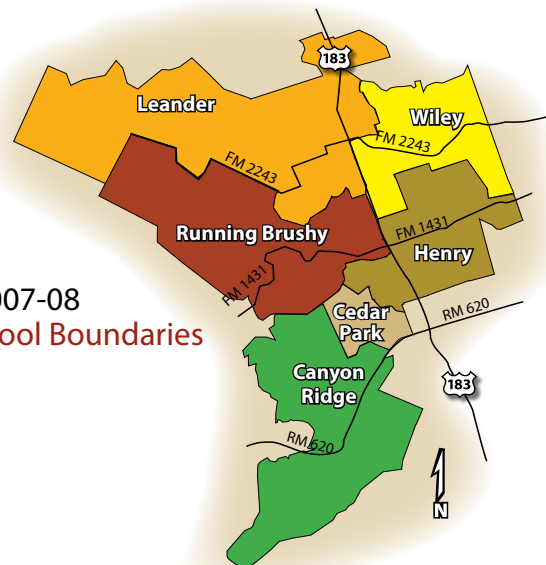
S. Bagdad Road
er, Texas 78641 • 435-8000
/lms.leanderisd.org
Principal: Todd Washburn
Open Since: 1984
Total Students: 2,010
Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.8
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 27.0%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically
table
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 9: Reading 89%, Math 71%
Grade 10: English Language Arts 88%, Math 70%
Grade 11: English Language Arts 96%, Math 83%

VISTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



200 S. Vista Ridge Blvd.
Cedar Park, Texas 78613 • 434-7300
http://vrhs.leanderisd.org
Principal: Stu Taylor**
Open Since: 2003
Total Students: 2,001
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.7
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 16.8%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically
Acceptable
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 9: Reading 95%, Math 74%
Grade 10: English Language Arts 91%, Math 73%
Grade 11: English Language Arts 98%, Math 92%

2007-08 Middle School Boundaries



WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

1701 CR 271
Leander, TX • 435-4850
http://wms.leanderisd.org

Principal: Sylvia Flannery
Open Since: 2006
Total Students: 602

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 96%, Math 88%
Grade 7: Reading 89%, Math 84%
Grade 8: Reading 92%, Math 75%

Wiley does not have demographic statistics because it is a newly opened school.

RUNNING BRUSHY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2303 N. Lakeline Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613 • 435-4700
http://rbms.leanderisd.org

Principal: Karin Johnson
Open Since: 2000
Total Students: 1,071
2007 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.3
2007 Economically Disadvantaged: 29.2%
2007 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 99%, Math 89%
Grade 7: Reading 91%, Math 86%
Grade 8: Reading 94%, Math 81%

LEANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

410 S. West Drive
Leander, TX 78641 • 434-7800
http://lms.leanderisd.org

Principal: Sandy Trujillo
Open Since: 1996
Total Students: 659
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 11.3
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 39.1%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 6: Reading 94%, Math 81%
Grade 7: Reading 94%, Math 88%
Grade 8: Reading 96%, Math 79%

GIDDENS ELEMENTARY

1500 Timberwood Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7050
http://giddens.leanderisd.org

Principal: Susan Cole
Open Since: 1996
Total Students: 669
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.1
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 30.3%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 93%, Math 73%
Grade 4: Reading 93%, Math 91%
Grade 5: Reading 94%, Math 92%

BLOCK HOUSE CREEK ELEMENTARY

401 Creek Run Drive
Leander, TX 78641
434-7150
http://bhc.leanderisd.org

Principal: Curtis Locklear
Open Since: 1987
Total Students: 801
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 15.5
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 16.5%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 98%, Math 87%
Grade 4: Reading 92%, Math 90%
Grade 5: Reading 96%, Math 95%

MASON ELEMENTARY

1501 N. Lakeline Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7000
http://mason.leanderisd.org

Principal: Jamie Klassen
Open Since: 1994
Total Students: 657
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 12.7
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 33.0%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 98%, Math 65%
Grade 4: Reading 81%, Math 84%
Grade 5: Reading 96%, Math 95%

KNOWLES ELEMENTARY

2101 Cougar Country Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613
434-7650
http://knowles.leanderisd.org

Principal: Lisa Gibbs
Open Since: 2003
Total Students: 747
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 14.2
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 45.5%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 99%, Math 89%
Grade 4: Reading 88%, Math 81%
Grade 5: Reading 89%, Math 87%

WINKLEY ELEMENTARY

2100 Pow Wow
Leander, TX 78641
435-4976
http://winkley.leanderisd.org

Principal: Donna Brady
Open Since: 2006
Total Students: 534
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 98%, Math 81%
Grade 4: Reading 85%, Math 89%
Grade 5: Reading 89%, Math 89%

Winkley Elementary does not have demographic statistics because it is a newly opened school.

WHITSTONE ELEMENTARY

2000 Crystal Falls Pkwy.
Leander, TX 78641
434-5300
http://whitstone.leanderisd.org

Principal: Cathy White
Open Since: 1991
Total Students: 568
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.1
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 37.6%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 98%, Math 88%
Grade 4: Reading 89%, Math 89%
Grade 5: Reading 87%, Math 90%

BAGDAD ELEMENTARY

800 Deercreek Lane
Leander, TX 78641
435-4600
http://bagdad.leanderisd.org

Principal: Kris Doten
Open Since: 1999
Total Students: 688
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 13.5
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 56.5%
2006 Accountability Rating: Academically Acceptable

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 85%, Math 75%
Grade 4: Reading 79%, Math 88%
Grade 5: Reading 87%, Math 83%

BY GRADE

Results
Math
7%
2%
5%
1%
9%
5%
7%
5%
3%

PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY

1800 Horizon Park
Leander, TX 78641
434-7076
http://phe.leanderisd.org

Principal: Lana Collier
Open Since: 2004
Total Students: 996
2006 Teacher/Student Ratio: 16.2
2006 Economically Disadvantaged: 21.6%
2006 Accountability Rating: Recognized

2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 97%, Math 92%
Grade 4: Reading 90%, Math 89%
Grade 5: Reading 99%, Math 98%

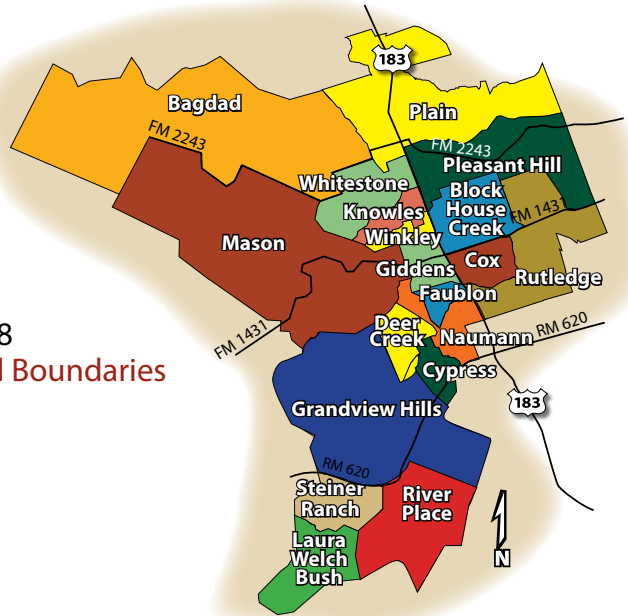
PLAIN ELEMENTARY

501 South Brook Drive
Leander, TX 78641
435-4926
http://plain.leanderisd.org

Principal: Jenna Sanders
Open Since: 2006
Total Students: 395
2007 Preliminary TAKS Scores
Grade 3: Reading 94%, Math 84%
Grade 4: Reading 89%, Math 88%
Grade 5: Reading 95%, Math 95%

Plain Elementary does not have demographic statistics because it is a newly opened school.

2007-08 Elementary School Boundaries



** Ron LeFevers and Stu Taylor have been promoted to executive directors of school improvement. They will remain in their current positions until replacements can be found.

Source: www.leanderisd.org, www.tea.state.tx.us, LISD School Community Relations Department

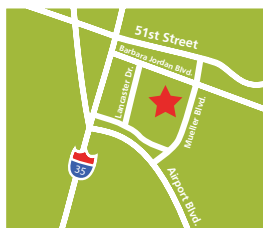
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Historical Impact

Craven: A family with 153 years of Williamson County history

BY KAREN R. THOMPSON
Thompson is manager of archives for Williamson County.

The Craven family of Bagdad and Leander has contributed to the schools, churches and community for 153 years. They still play an important role in the development of Leander and the area. Ken Craven, president of the Bagdad Cemetery Association is a prominent figure today in the Leander library. His brother Charles is rehabilitation specialist for the UT athletic department, and their cousin Anna Ray Craven Borho who turned 99 July 12 still plays piano for her church each Sunday. Ms. Borho was a source of information for this article.

On the western prairie of Williamson County in 1854, the arrival of an English couple to Bagdad would have certainly caused a stir. After arriving in America, George Craven, 48, wife Jane, 41, and their children ranging in age from 19 to two years traveled by wagon to Texas. Land was a major draw, and in 1862 George received a Third Class headright for 320 acres from the state.

According to the 1860 U.S. Census for Williamson County, only three other people listed their birth place as England. The most noted was Samuel Mather, who settled on the north San Gabriel River in 1849, where he built one of the first water-powered grist mills in the county. One of his early customers was Comanche Chief Yellow Wolf.

George Craven was born in the Leeds, Berkshire area of England Oct. 18, 1808, and died July 1, 1894. His wife, Jane Hodson, was also born in England Aug. 13, 1813, and died Feb. 19, 1888. They are both buried in the Bagdad Cemetery.

A few years before coming to Bagdad, the family lived in Ohio and Indiana. Their first children, John, Rachel, Mary Ann, George, Charles, Henry, Wesley and Elizabeth were born in Ohio and Indiana between 1835 and 1852. Their last two children, Newton and Madison, were born

in Texas. Seven of their children and their families are buried in Bagdad Cemetery.

George Craven was a wheelwright or wagon maker by trade, and his son George followed in his footsteps. The Craven sons John and Wesley built one of the first cotton gins in Leander. John Hobson Craven married Missouri Rowland from Round Rock in 1869. They had seven children, Earl, Eulah, Lavonia, Eunice, Rose, Charles and Ursula.

CONTINUED ON |29



Roscoe Craven began his mail carrier career on horseback, but his next mode of transportation was a motorcycle. He proudly shows his new two-wheeler to wife Eula and daughter Anna Ray at their Leander home.



Martha Nelson Craven (1854-1927) outlived her husband Wesley Craven (1850-1906) by more than two decades. Her oldest grandchild, Anna Ray, has fond memories of her. Martha had relatives in Georgetown and she enjoyed making the trip on the dirt road in her horse-drawn buggy. Anna Ray would often accompany her grandmother on these trips. Martha's gray horse was named "Charlie" and when they left Georgetown to return home to Leander, it was not necessary to take the reins. "Charlie" knew the way home.



Roscoe Craven delivered mail on horseback and motorcycle, but with his new automobile, he was at last protected from inclement weather. Roscoe is shown with wife Eula and daughter Anna Ray. Anna Ray also remembers when the first automobile and airplane came to Leander. She graduated from Leander High School in 1925 when it had ten grades. The next year, Anna Ray and four other Leander girls attended Liberty Hill Normal College, where Anna Ray graduated second in the class. They usually traveled to Liberty Hill in an open top Model T Ford, but occasionally they took the train. The dog was named Trixie.

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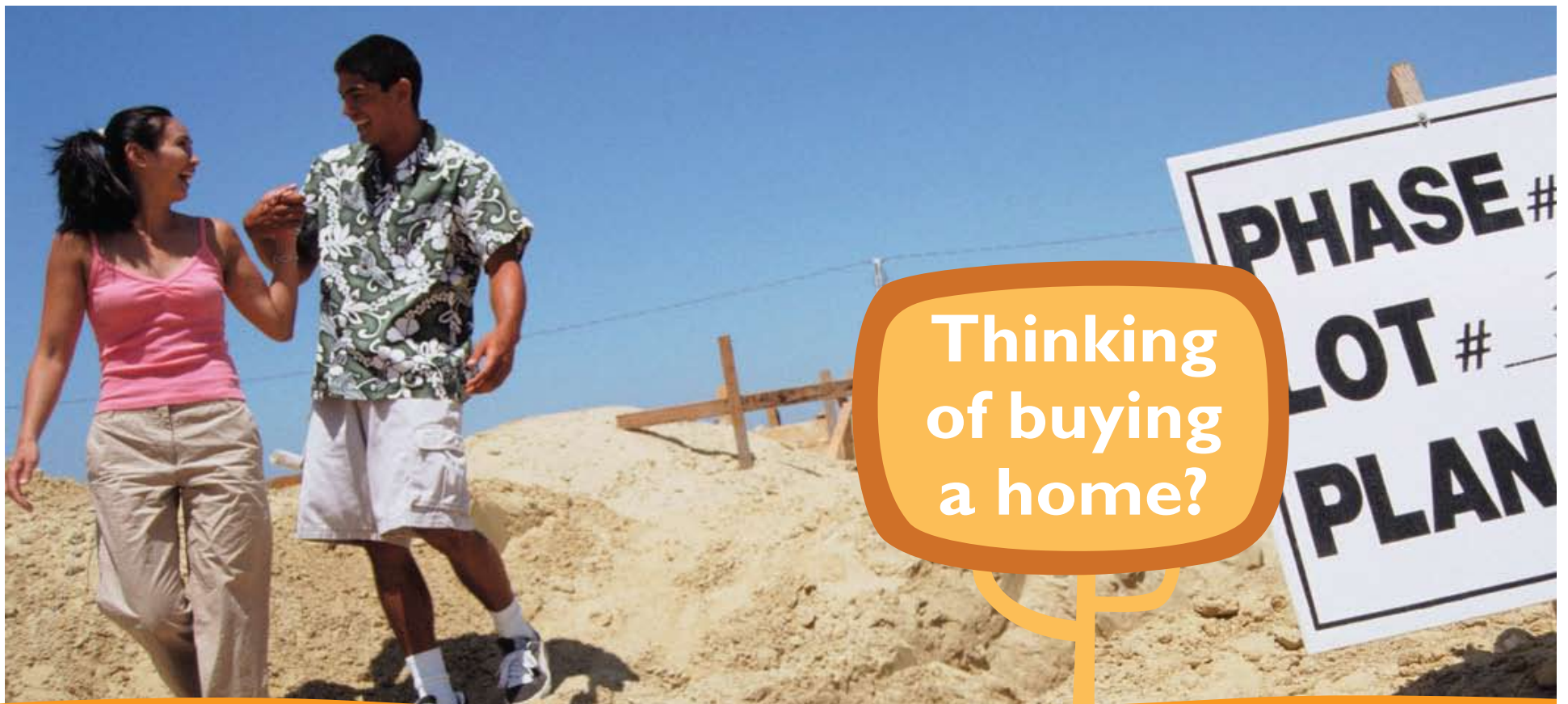
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Historical Impact

CONTINUED FROM 27

Mary Ann Craven married Sylvester Hamilton (his second marriage) and they had four children.

Wesley Eldridge Craven married Martha Ann Nelson in Travis County in 1878. They had five children, all born in Leander, although the first lived only a day.

Next born was Henry Roscoe who married Eula Giddens in 1904. The third child Ella married Henry Bryson. The last son, Thomas, married Beulah Upchurch and last child, Ethel, married Arthur Faubion.

Ethel was an accomplished pianist and piano teacher. Someone said she taught half of the Leander children how to play. She also played piano for the Leander Presbyterian Church for many years.

In 1921, her thirteen-year-old niece, Anna Ray Craven (Borho), started helping her play for the church, and at age 99, Anna Ray is still playing piano every Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church in Leander.

Roscoe and Eula Craven had three children, including Anna Ray (born July 12, 1908) who married Edwin Barho in 1935, son, Eugene (1913-2000) married Ina Dale Mason in 1938, and Geraldine (1916-1997) married Sam Miller. Roscoe was a mail carrier for many years.

Margarette and Charles Craven at the Rose Bowl in 2006. Charles, brother of Ken Craven, is a rehabilitation specialist for the UT athletic department.



Craven grandchildren gathered in the 1920s in Leander. Back row, from left, Falton Bryson, Anna Ray Craven and Hazel Bryson. Center, Laverne Craven (Ringstaff). Front row, from left, Errol Craven, Geraldine Craven, LaVetta Bryson (Nadeau) and Eugene Craven.



Craven family plum pudding recipe

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 ½ pounds of flour | 1 pound of seedless raisins - whole |
| 1 pound of beef suet - chopped fine | ½ pound of seedless raisins - chopped |
| 1 pound of dark brown sugar | 1 pound of currants |
| | 1 nutmeg - grated |

Mix well together and add 3 whipped eggs. If these don't moisten enough add water. 1 pound of citron, orange or lemon improves it. Make a sauce of sugar and butter with brandy or good whiskey in it. Don't forget to put a little salt in. Boil about four hours in a good strong cloth.

This recipe was brought to America from England. Jane Craven (1813-1885) made it at Christmas each year.

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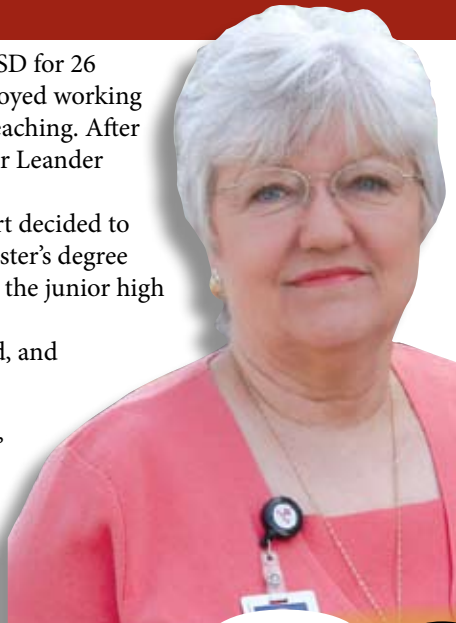
Sandra Stewart

Sandra Stewart has been employed in LISD for 26 years. As a member of the PTA, she enjoyed working with the district and began substitute teaching. After a year, she was hired as the science teacher for Leander Junior High School.

Next, she became department head. Stewart decided to go back to school after 20 years to get her master's degree and was hired as the first woman principal at the junior high level in the district.

In 1995, Cedar Park Middle School opened, and Stewart has remained its principal since.

"I am interested in how people learn, motivating them and keeping them engaged," Stewart said. "I want to see, learn and do everything. I am a learner and I like to know how to make things better."



Cedar Park Middle School principal



Q. What changes have you seen in the district?

A. It has gone from a small town to a huge suburban area. We were chasing Round Rock ISD, but now we are on par with them. The district has handled the growth beautifully with grace and style because of our wonderful board members. We have satisfied the growth monster while maintaining our core values.

Q. What is the best/worst part of your job?

A. The best part is being able to see kids grow, mature, learn and be successful. The sixth, seventh and eighth grade years are difficult because of the physical and mental changes. It is great to be able to see the kids make it through that gauntlet and to see that they know their teachers have their best interest at mind. The worst part is seeing young people make poor decisions that have huge consequences. Even though they make bad decisions, they must realize that it is not the end of the world. The important thing is that they learn from their mistakes and don't do it again. There are no problems we can't fix together.

Q. What do you want your students to remember you for?

A. When I was a science teacher, the kids said I was strict, structured, very open and fair. They could come to me and work through any problems. To young people, strict translates to mean. I want to be remembered as having integrity and being ethical, open and fair. I am very strict and have very high standards.

Q. Who was your favorite teacher?

A. My 11th grade chemistry teacher, Sister Mary James. As a student, I was not particularly studious. She recognized my insecurity and could tell I was worried and she told me, "Chemistry is difficult and hard, but I will help you. Together, we can do it." Because of her, I realized I wanted to teach science, too. I like teaching science to be able to help kids.

Education: Bachelor's in education, University of Chattanooga; Master's in education, Southwest Texas University

Family: Husband, David, and two children, Ellen and David

Contact Information: Sandra.Stewart@LeanderISD.org, 434-5025

Monta Akin

As a life-long learner, Monta Akin has been devoted to the development of Leander ISD for the past 31 years.

Her goal is for every student to get the best education in the best schools possible.

"A good school is one where every child leaves as a confident learner, knowing how to learn and prepared to continue to follow their hopes and dreams," she said.

Akin has grown with the district, moving from teacher and reading specialist to the gifted and talented program to the central office, where she became assistant superintendent for instructional services.

She has seen the district develop from a small rural one to a respected suburban district, and she credits that to Superintendent Tom Glenn's leadership.



Assistant superintendent for instructional services

Q. What changes have you seen in the district?

A. Growth is the biggest. The changes, like just the sheer magnitude of people, changes in businesses and the fact that this is no longer a rural community but a suburban community. It has been exciting to turn it into a district that is well respected, not just in the area, but in the nation. We've improved and we changed the system.

Q. What is the best/worst part of your job?

A. The downs are when you can't accomplish things as quickly as you want to. The ups have been that I have been able to be a part of making a difference in children's lives, and that is an incredible honor to be able to be a part of that. And as the district has grown, my job has changed. So, I have never been bored. There is always something to learn. Learning is one of the most exciting things you can do.

Q. What do you want your students to remember you for?

A. I would hope that they would remember me as a learner myself, and that I am somebody that encourages and supports their learning. Hopefully they would remember me as someone who never forgot why we are here; to make a difference in their lives.

Q. Who was your favorite teacher?

A. The one that stands out in my mind is Mrs. Shrake. She was my third and fourth-grade teacher. Her classroom was abuzz with learning. She had animals and places to go write and read. In those days, things were very traditional with sitting in your seat, both feet on the floor with hands folded. As long as you were getting your work done, she would encourage you to explore beyond the regular curriculum and learn what was important to you. I don't think you can ask for better than that.

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