Georgetown MUDs continue to develop

Master-planned communities could lead the way for more development

By Beth Wade

In January developer David Nairne plans to break ground on the first phase of Saddlecreek, a 353-acre master-planned community including a mix of single-family and multifamily housing as well as commercial uses, he said.

As part of his development, Nairne plans to fund infrastructure improvements, including a sewer line and other wastewater improvements. The cost of the infrastructure was one of the reasons Nairne sought to create a municipal utility district, or MUD, he said.

Along with bringing nearly 2,000 residences to east Georgetown, the project could bring additional development to the area, which has been mostly undeveloped, Georgetown Planning Director Sofia Nelson said.

“Saddlecreek was really the first [MUD] on the east side of the city,” she said. “In Saddlecreek they provided a utility benefit that opened up a much larger area in terms of wastewater services.”

The project is one of several MUDs under development or review by City Council in the Georgetown area. MUDs are a funding mechanism used by developers to pay for infrastructure improvements.

The city's planning department is also working with developers on other MUDs, including 454-acre Parmer Ranch at Ronald Reagan Boulevard and Williams Drive and Nairne’s 205-acre Kasper Development located near Westinghouse Road and SE Inner Loop.

Council approved a consent agreement for the Parmer Ranch MUD at its Nov. 24 meeting, and as of press time Dec. 4, the council was expected to discuss

Schools address shifting demographics

By Scott Thomas

Shifting demographics throughout Texas are being reflected in Williamson County schools at a faster rate than in other districts elsewhere in the state, according to the E3 Alliance, an Austin-based educational research collaboration.

E3 President and Executive Director Susan Dawson said Texas has the fastest-growing student population in the nation, and in Central Texas the student population is growing at twice that of the state.

“That huge growth is important, but equally important is that while [the student population] is growing it’s becoming much more diverse, [including growing numbers of] low-income, Hispanic, Asian and

Economic segregation that will turn this state into a third-world country,” he said.

Changing demographics

Dawson said demographic groups that have traditionally struggled are growing at a faster rate than the incremental improvements area schools have seen.

“There is a tendency to see headlines and read the paper and think everything is going to hell in handbasket, and that’s not true,” she said.

“For most students on most outcomes, we’re incrementally getting better—graduation rates, standardized
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FROM THE EDITOR

In October, I got to go to Malawi, Africa, for my second two-week mission trip with Round Rock-based nonprofit Drops of Grace and Malawi-based Somebody Cares Ministries. Each time I visit, I am overwhelmed by the kindness we receive from everybody we meet. Malawi is nicknamed “The Warm Heart of Africa,” which is a well-deserved moniker. Even though most of the time we did not speak the same language, people were quick to greet us with a smile and a handshake.

In Malawi, although we are there to serve the people in community, our biggest mission is creating sustainable programs and empowering the people to be participants in building up their community. The more people have ownership of what is happening in their community, the more likely lasting change will occur.

Similar efforts are happening closer to home as well. In early November the Georgetown Health Foundation released a report focused on the needs of low-income residents in southeast Georgetown. Working together with the community, researchers worked to identify gaps in services and recommendations for solutions. Read more about the study on Page 13.

In this issue we have also included our annual Volunteer Guide on pages 22-23. Many of these organizations are already working to address issues raised in the report; however, they cannot do it alone. Together we can make a difference in our community. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work!

—Brian Ortego

Beth Wade
EDITOR
bwade@communityimpact.com

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
TAKE THE POLL
What do you think is the best way schools can address achievement gaps related to income?
Take the poll at communityimpact.com/geo-poll.

LAST MONTH’S POLL RESULTS
In last month’s issue we wrote about a new program encouraging residents and visitors to shop in locally owned stores during the holiday season.

Where will you do most of your shopping this holiday season?

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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Holiday fairs such as the Georgetown Christmas Stroll</td>
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Results from an unscientific Web survey collected 11/12/15-11/30/15
4 Fast-casual hamburger and fries restaurant Five Guys Burgers and Fries is expected to open in the Wolf Ranch Town Center at I-35 and Hwy. 29 at the end of June. www.fiveguys.com

5 Natural Grocers is expected to open at the southwest corner of the West University Avenue and Wolf Ranch Parkway intersection in late 2016. The grocery store will offer organic and natural foods and dietary supplements, as well as free nutrition classes, health coaching and cooking demos, locally sourced products, and national brands. www.naturalgrocers.com

6 The fruit arrangements and gift store Edible Arrangements is expected to open in the Wolf Ranch Town Center at 1013 W. University Ave., Ste. 165, in late December or early January. The store creates fresh fruit bouquets and chocolate-dipped fruit. 512-593-7114. www.ediblearrangements.com

Relocations

7 Horizon Dental moved to a new location at 1615 Williams Drive in November. The practice is operated by Dr. Zeyad Mughrabi, and it specializes in cosmetic, general and implants dentistry. 512-864-9911. www.horizonsmile.com

8 Paint with Me Kimberly Keller moved to a new location Nov. 13 at 1623 Rivery Blvd. in a building shared with Beacon Construction. The business offers art lessons for all ages. Call for an appointment 512-410-9232
ages as well as art camps, parties and events. 512-635-7936. www.paintwithmekeller.com

School Notes

9 Southwestern University was honored with the 2016 military-friendly school designation Nov. 19, which is given to colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are embracing military students and ensuring their success in the classroom and after graduation. The institutions were judged on categories such as military support on campus, graduation and employment outcomes and military spouse policies. This is the second year Southwestern University has received the honor. 512-863-6511. www.southwestern.edu

Anniversaries

10 Game X Change celebrated one year in business at 3303 Williams Drive, Ste. 1025 on Nov. 17. The store buys, sells and trades video games, iPods, movies, iPhones, iPads and related accessories. 512-869-6520. www.gogameexchange.com

Expansions

11 Goldenberg Orthodontics expanded to open OrthoIQ Inc., an orthodontic assisting school at its same location at 3622 Williams Drive, Bldg. 4. The school is run by Dr. Monica Goldenberg and prepares registered dental assistants for careers as orthodontic assistants with courses occurring over four weekends. The school is currently accepting applications for 2016 spring classes. 512-887-8847

In the News

United Way of Williamson County is offering assistance in applying for health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace at The Caring Place Annex at 2001 Railroad Ave. in Georgetown. State and federally certified bilingual Health Insurance Marketplace Navigators will help individuals, families and small business owners get insurance in the 2015 Open Enrollment Period, which began Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 31. Open enrollment assistance will be held Dec. 15 and Jan. 19 from 2-7 p.m. 512-255-6799. www.unitedway-wc.org

The city of Georgetown’s Arts and Culture Board is issuing a call for artist proposals for a mural to be on the rear wall of 107 W. Seventh Street. The goal of the mural is to provide a piece of public art to residents and visitors that tells the story of how Henry Purl Compton helped Georgetown become the Red Poppy Capital of Texas. The deadline for grant proposals is Jan. 8, and artists will be notified by Jan. 22. 512-930-3551. https://arts.georgetown.org/call-for-proposals-mural-2016

Texas-based grocer H-E-B launched an online store Nov. 12 offering a selection of 50,000 shelf-stable foods, drug store items and general merchandise. Products available at the online store include H-E-B brands such as Central Market Organics as well as national brands. Orders can be shipped throughout Texas, to 46 states within the continental U.S. and to military bases worldwide. www.heb.com

DJ’s Salon opened at 2101 Railroad Ave. in October and offers a variety of services. Fast-casual restaurant, Pie Five Pizza, is expected to open in Wolf Ranch in April.
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TECO-Westinghouse Motor Co.

Product launch moves Round Rock facility forward

By JJ Velasquez

TECO-Westinghouse Motor Co. is a global manufacturer, but the company’s facilities on I-35 have led a rather anonymous existence since opening in 1972, TECO President Pat Rogers said.

To passersby the most notable features of the property are its longhorn cattle grazing the pasture in front of the plant, and most locals do not know what the company does, he said. Rogers, appointed president in February, said his goal is to change that awareness.

“We’re not just the big brown building on I-35 with the longhorns,” he said. “We actually manufacture some pretty neat things here.”

The company has been in existence in some iteration since the 1800s and produces electric motors varying from 2,000 horsepower to 100,000 horsepower that are used in applications from air conditioning units to oilfield pipelines.

TECO has a global clientele that includes Marathon Petroleum Corp., American Electric Power and Fluor Corp., an engineering company.

The Round Rock manufacturing facility is TECO’s North American headquarters. The Taiwan-based TECO has plants in Europe, Asia and Oceania.

More than 2,000 employees make up the global TECO workforce, and about 350 staff the Round Rock site, said Human Resources Manager Lori Shrayer.

But Rogers said one of his first orders of business as president is to help the company transition from an aging baby boomer workforce in an age in which manufacturing jobs have become less attractive to younger generations, he said.

“This whole industry—and it’s not just us—in general is coping with the fact that we need fresh blood,” Rogers said.

Rogers has also been presiding over an evolution of sorts at the company. In January, TECO shipped its first variable-frequency drive motor, which marks the first step in its introduction of high-tech products.

The new product combines an industrial age device, the motor, with a digital age technology in computer hardware and software. The computerized nature of the device allows users to vary the speed at which the motor operates and thus conserve energy, said Tom Hibbs, director of operations.

“Customers put a motor and drive together, and they typically spend a lot of money to do that,” Rogers said. “It’s typically on applications that are very critical to their process. If that goes down for any particular reason, we’ve been told by customers it could cost $1 million a day in lost revenue for them.”

TECO’s rollout of the variable-frequency drive is part of its charge into the 21st century, Rogers said.
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Milano Trattoria Restaurant

Restaurant serves authentic Italian menu

By Caitlin Perrone

At Milano Trattoria Restaurant, the recipes of the classic and custom Italian dishes are not written down anywhere. The ingredients and steps to craft the meals were created and stored away inside the mind of the restaurant’s head chef and co-owner John Braga. “Everything’s up here,” he said, tapping his temple.

Braga’s knowledge comes from years of studying Italian cuisine in New Jersey and working in high-end restaurants in New York. He has worked as an Italian chef for 27 years.

John and his wife, Roxana, moved to Texas so he could begin working at Andiamo Ristorante in North Austin in 2004, and he served as a chef there until 2009. For the next few years he served as a personal Italian chef.

In June 2012, the Bragas purchased Milano Trattoria and about three months later began changing the menu, adding more classic pastas and serving John’s own specialties.

During his years in New York restaurants, John cooked for celebrities such as John Travolta and Frank Sinatra, and he would craft custom dishes for them, including Sinatra Pasta—a blend of penne pasta with shrimp, porcine mushrooms and roasted peppers in a light cream sauce ($18.99).

The restaurant features classic Italian dishes such as spaghetti and meatballs, chicken fettuccine alfredo and spinach ravioli. However, John also offers his own specialties, such as Penne alla Italiana ($11.99), a penne pasta with Italian sausage and mixed peppers; and Gnocchi con Sugo di Pomodoro ($13.99), which is potato dumplings with tomato basil sauce.

John also offers two to three different daily specials, rotating specials and on the first weekend of the month, the restaurant offers its signature dish, Ossobuco Risotto, ($37.99) a traditional Italian stew with veal shank. Customers must reserve the dish, which sells out quickly throughout the night, in advance, John said.

Gilbert Cantu said he often travels from North Austin with his wife and neighbors about once per week to eat at the restaurant. Cantu said his table reserves the ossobuco dish in advance, though he also frequents the restaurant for some of his favorites, such as ragu with sausage, tilapia and seasonal salad with mandarin oranges. “We really enjoy his food,” he said. “And just his personality and his customer service, you just can’t beat that.”

The Bragas shop at local farmers markets to find fresh and seasonal vegetables. John also occasionally has specialty items, such as cheeses, shipped in from New York.

The restaurant also caters and can hosts group parties or gatherings with 48 hours notice. Roxana said they have also considered expanding, and they could open a location in North Austin. “We would like to leave this as our baby and find another venue someplace else,” she said.

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TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Major projects in the area

1. **FM 1460 expansion**
   - Construction to widen FM 1460 to four lanes from Quail Valley Drive in Georgetown to just north of University Boulevard in Round Rock is underway. The Texas Department of Transportation will oversee the project’s construction. OHL USA Inc. is the contractor for the project. In November workzone speed limit signs were installed in the area as construction on the project began.
   
   **Timeline:** October 2015–fall 2017
   **Cost:** $34.7 million
   **Funding sources:** cities of Georgetown and Round Rock, Williamson County, TxDOT and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

2. **Second Street rehabilitation**
   - Construction work to improve Second Street from Austin Avenue to College Street is underway. The project also includes sidewalk improvements along that portion of the roadway. Construction crews are completing utility relocations, including water and wastewater improvements. The project is part of the city’s overall street maintenance program. Second Street between Austin and Main Street opened to traffic in late November.
   
   **Timeline:** July 2015–April 2016
   **Cost:** $1.9 million
   **Funding sources:** city of Georgetown

3. **Snead Drive expansion**
   - The city of Georgetown is widening Snead Drive from SE Inner Loop to Airborn Circle to provide infrastructure for economic development in the area. The project also includes wastewater infrastructure improvements, and construction crews are also relocating a water line that crosses Snead Drive. Construction on the roadway is expected to begin in December.
   
   **Timeline:** November–summer 2016
   **Cost:** $1.8 million
   **Funding sources:** city of Georgetown

4. **I-35 frontage roads**
   - Williamson County and TxDOT completed the project that adds northbound-I-35 frontage road lanes between Hwy. 29 and SE Inner Loop in November. The project also included adding a southbound-to-northbound turnaround bridge at Leander Road, which opened in November, and noncontiguous sidewalks from SE Inner Loop to Westinghouse Road. Construction also reconfigured entrance and exit ramps between Westinghouse and Hwy. 29.
   
   **Timeline:** February 2013–November 2015
   **Cost:** $20 million
   **Funding sources:** Williamson County road bond with a pass-through financing agreement with TxDOT

5. **Jim Hogg Road and Williams Drive intersection widening**
   - City Council could approve the contract to widen Jim Hogg Road at Williams Drive at its Jan. 12 meeting. The project will also include the installation of a traffic signal. The project will widen the roadway to a three-lane section at the intersection with Williams.
   
   **Timeline:** February 2016–summer 2016
   **Cost:** $725,000
   **Funding sources:** city of Georgetown

Other transportation projects

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<tr>
<th>Project description</th>
<th>Estimated timeline</th>
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<td>Results from forensic testing on the Austin Avenue bridges to determine the extent of structural deficiencies found during a December 2013 inspection were expected in December. An analysis of plans to repair or replace the bridges as well as public meetings could begin in January or February and take approximately four months.</td>
<td>December 2015–TBD</td>
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Health foundation study focused on needs of low-income residents

Transportation, child care, dental care top list of priorities

By Caitlin Perrone

Residents in southeast Georgetown are in need of transportation options, quality housing, better nutrition and child care, according to a study completed by the Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis from The University of Texas.

The Southeast Georgetown Needs Assessment, commissioned by the Georgetown Health Foundation, explored the challenges, wants and needs facing low-income residents in southeast Georgetown. Members of the IUPRA research team presented the results to community leaders at East View High School on Nov. 12.

The health foundation works alongside and financially supports various organizations, such as The Caring Place, Lone Star Circle of Care and the Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown, said Suzanna Pukys, GHF director of community resources. She said the foundation wanted to make sure it is funding the needs of residents in Georgetown through these different groups.

“We wanted to delve into some research and better understand if the things that we’re funding are in line with what the community articulates as its needs,” she said.

Since the city of Georgetown has been experiencing growth and changes in demographics in the past few years, the health foundation wanted the needs assessment to explore the challenges that face low-income residents. Pukys said they also wanted the research to be completed by an outside third party that could take an objective look at the area.

“One of the health foundation’s main goals was to also hear about the needs directly from the low-income community, Pukys said. “We have some great needs assessments and feedback from the folks who are in the trenches doing the direct service work, but didn’t really have a community voice,” she said. “With low-income residents being our target population, we really wanted to hear directly from them.”

The IUPRA research team mainly examined the 78626 area code, which Pukys said has the highest number of low-income residents in the city. However, the area represents issues experienced by the entire city, said Shetal Vohra-Gupta, the principal investigator who chaired the research team.

From April to September, the team conducted 19 interviews, 13 focus groups and a survey to reach the voices of the most marginalized community members, Vohra-Gupta said.

Overall findings

The team’s findings suggested the area needs better public transportation options—the focus groups discussed roadblocks to basic needs such as going to the doctor or grocery store and how a lack of public transit could limit choices for maintaining healthy lifestyles.

“Every focus group talked about this,” Vohra-Gupta said. “Transportation around Georgetown was the second highest unmet need for survey participants, and transportation outside of Georgetown was the fourth highest unmet need for survey participants.”

The focus groups, interviews and surveys also listed access to college readiness programs as issues. Also on the list were equitable access to healthy foods and nutrition education, access to affordable dental care and quality mental health services.

The Georgetown residents also wished to have more of a voice in community decisions. Vohra-Gupta said this is a common problem—low-income residents are often the least active at speaking out because they feel a lack of connection to community leaders.

“When it comes to political participation, they are often the most marginalized, and therefore they don’t participate,” she said. “So it is imperative for those that are in positions of leadership to reach out and to connect to make that connection happen.”

Recommendations

The research team offered short-term and long-term recommendations to combat these needs, including installing an affordable public bus system, after-school and summer activities, providing social services in Spanish, increasing access to healthy food options and culturally competent nutritional programs. The team also recommended establishing community liaison positions.

Pukys said GHF’s first step is to evaluate the findings and make decisions on where to focus its efforts. She said she hopes the report will act as a springboard for conversation with community members and get groups and leaders to think about collaboration in new ways.

“We recognize that not one of these recommendations can be accomplished as a single organization,” she said. “These need to be worked at in collaboration with a cross sector of the community, so it’s going to take some time to figure it out, reach out and find out who would be a willing partner.”
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WilCo recognizes rehabilitating veterans

WILLIAMSON COUNTY Less than one year since the Veterans Treatment Court was created, Williamson County is recognizing its success.

In fiscal year 2014-15, the county received $104,000 from the office of the governor through the criminal justice division.

The treatment courts assist veterans with criminal charges through the court system, said Sabrina Bentley, the specialty court coordinator for DWI Court and Veterans Treatment Court.

Supervised treatment and incentives help veterans improve their lives and become integral, productive members of the community, Bentley said. The agreements are for a three-year renewable lease, which could be ended by the city with six months notice.

Council Member Steve Fought amended the motion, which passed, to direct city staff to bring a list to the council of all city-owned property leased to nonprofit organizations as well as a recommendation on how the city could get out of owning and leasing buildings.

Lease agreement OK’d for heritage center

GEORGETOWN City Council approved a lease agreement Nov. 24 with the Georgetown Heritage Society for the Grace Heritage Center at 811 Main St. The council voted 6-0 with Council Member Tommy Gonzalez absent.

The agreement is for a three-year renewable lease, which could be ended by the city with six months notice.

Council Member Steve Fought amended the motion, which passed, to direct city staff to bring a list to the council of all city-owned property leased to nonprofit organizations as well as a recommendation on how the city could get out of owning and leasing buildings.

Multifamily housing zoning change fails City Council vote

GEORGETOWN A rezoning request for the property at 605 E. University Ave. to build a proposed 28-unit apartment complex, known as College View Apartments, failed to get enough votes Nov. 24 to be approved by City Council.

Because of protests from neighboring property owners, the request needed at least six votes to be approved. Council members voted 4-3 with Keith Brainard, Rachael Jonrowe and Anna Eby voting against the rezoning request.

Developer Lee McIntosh requested to rezone the former Georgetown Hospital property from local commercial zoning to about 1 acre of a planned unit development, or PUD, with a base multifamily 2 zoning to build the multifamily development.

The proposed development included several deviations from the city’s zoning regulations, such as exceeding the maximum density of 24 units per acre for the multifamily 2 zoning.

Several residents from the Old Town neighborhood spoke against the project at the Nov. 24 council meeting.

The property has been vacant since 2010, Georgetown Planning Director Sofia Nelson said.

Council postpones rezoning request for development

GEORGETOWN City Council voted Nov. 24 to postpone a rezoning request for a 25-acre lot at 650 FM 971 near San Gabriel Park.

Developers had requested the rezoning be changed from agriculture to low-density multifamily to build single-family detached condos.

Several individuals from nearby neighborhoods protested the rezoning during the meeting. Many residents said they would rather the area be rezoned as single-family residential.

The council could reconsider the request at its Jan. 26 meeting.

Housing board requests funding

GEORGETOWN The city’s Housing Advisory Board requested the city spend $195,000 to hire consultants to complete a strategic plan to add to the existing workforce housing in the city.

Board Chairman Walt Doering presented the request during the City Council workshop Nov. 10.

Doering said the consultants could gather data to craft policy suggestions for a strategic plan with recommendations that would resolve the city’s need for additional affordable housing.

Doering said once the study is completed with the city’s needs and proposed solutions, it would be brought back to the council for further direction.

The council could consider approving the study at a future meeting.

Williamson County considers water authority study

WILLIAMSON COUNTY Commissioners heard a presentation Nov. 17 from the Lone Star Regional Water Authority, which asked the county for $50,000 to complete a water development study.

As the county faces a growing population, LSRWA President Landy Warren said the plan would prevent future water shortages by obtaining groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer in parts of Williamson and Bell counties as well as the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Lee County. The groundwater would be transported to storage areas in Williamson County and local cities could then purchase the water.

Warren said the plan would not replace the water sources the cities and county currently use, but would give those entities another source.

Commissioner Valerie Covey said she would be interested in moving forward but wanted to make sure the eastern counties would be involved with the study.

The commissioners took no action on the request, and Warren said LSRWA would next have to speak with water providers in the county.
### First Baptist Church Georgetown

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1833 W. University Ave, Georgetown

- **December 23rd** - 7:00 PM
- **December 24th** - 4:00 PM
- **December 24th** - 6:00 PM

**Website**: www.fbcgt.org  
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**Christmas Services**

- **December 23rd** - 7:00 PM
- **December 24th** - 4:00 PM
- **December 24th** - 6:00 PM

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**New Patient Specials**: Limit one per person without dental insurance.

- **$125**: Exam, routine X-rays and panoramic radiograph. A $20 value. Services may be extended over multiple appointments. Get it today!
- **$300**: Discount for full orthodontics
- **$250**: Custom Teeth Whitening Kit includes custom trays and 4 whitening gels. To qualify, dental cleaning required by DSD prior to whitening. Get 2 additional gel refills until the end of year.

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**UPCOMING GAMES AND PROMOTIONS**

- **12.11 & 12.12**: SING FOR SANTA WEEKEND  
  Saturday: Stars Knit Cap/Post-Game Open Ice

- **12.26 & 12.29**: FREE POPCORN  
  Post-Game Open Ice

- **12.31**: NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH  
  Rock out with Radiostar  
  Complimentary Champagne Toast  
  **1.8 & 1.9**: ELVIS BIRTHDAY  
  Stars Fleece Blanket

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**Game Night Deals**

- **Monday-Thursday**: H-E-B Night  
  Bring any H-E-B brand non-perishable product, receive $5 off your ticket.

- **Wednesday**: Winning Wednesday  
  If the Stars win, everyone receives a free ticket to the next W-W game.

- **Friday**: Fun Food Fridays  
  Grab a domestic beer, flatbread or chicken tenders for only $3. You can also enjoy $4 Robert Mondavi Private Selection wine!

- **Texas Stars Two Pack**  
  Save $12 on a pair of tickets!

- **Saturday**: Lucky Row  
  This first Stars player to score wins lottery tickets for a selected row!

- **Saturday-Sunday**: Coke Zero Family 4-Pack  
  Receive 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs & 4 sodas starting at $16 per person.
**December**

08 through 13 **Gingerbread Extravaganza**
Participants vote for the best culinary and decorating skills on display in the annual event. Artists compete in three categories, including gingerbread houses made from kits, original design by two or more people and original designs by one person in multiple age groups. The winner in each category and age group wins a $25 gift card, and winners will be announced Dec. 14. Times vary. Free. Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. 512-931-7716. https://library.georgetown.org

12 **Breakfast with Santa**
The Sun City Rotary Club, Georgetown ISD, Georgetown Fire Department and Assistance League of Georgetown Area host the 15th annual event with pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee, as well as free photos with Santa Claus. Proceeds benefit families in need in Georgetown. 7:30-11 a.m. $6. Georgetown Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St. http://portal.clubrunner.ca/7597

12 **Home Tours for the Holiday**
The Georgetown Heritage Society showcases four homes and one business along Main Street. The event features a Saturday evening candlelight tour that lets visitors stroll amid the glow of holiday lights and music, and hot cider and cookies are available at the Grace Heritage Center. Noon-6 p.m. (Sat.), 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sun.). $15 (in advance), $20 (day of tour). Grace Heritage Center, 811 S. Main St. 512-869-8597. www.georgetownheritagesociety.org

12 **Trout Fishing Derby**
The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the annual fishing fest, and those who are registered can win prizes in a raffle. Bait and drinks are available for sale, and a fishing permit is required for those age 18 and older. 7-10:30 a.m. $3. San Gabriel Park, 445 E. Morrow St. 512-930-8459. www.parks.georgetown.org

12 **Jingle Bell Ride**
The 4-mile family ride on the hike and bike trail in San Gabriel Park starts at Blue Hole Park and raises funds to support nonprofits Early Act First Knight and Shelter Box. The event is sponsored by the Georgetown Sunrise Rotary. 6-8 p.m. $10 (age 11 and younger), $25 (adult rider). Blue Hole Park, 100 Blue Hole Park Road. www.jinglebellride.org

12 through 13 **A Midwinter’s Night Ball**
The eighth annual model horse show features North American National qualifiers’ collectible horses on display. Collectible horses are judged based on breed halter standards, collectibility, painting and workmanship criteria. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. (Sat.), 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sun.). Free. San Gabriel Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St. www.weberpages.com/amidwintersnightball

12 **Funding the Arts event series**
Spend an evening at the Georgetown Art Center with featured exhibit artist David Chapman Lindsay. The fundraising event will include food, drinks and conversations about art. 6:30-9 p.m. $30. Georgetown Art Center, 816 S. Main St. 512-930-2583. www.georgetownartcentertx.org

16 **Of Mice and Men screening**
The Georgetown Public Library shows the film version of John Steinbeck’s classic book that stars Gary Sinise and John Malkovich. Austin Opera is on hand to talk about the connection among the novella, film and opera. 7-9 p.m. Free. Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. 512-930-3551. https://library.georgetown.org

**January**

08 **A Day at the Hotel**
The Austin Flute Project, an ensemble that pushes the boundaries of flute chamber music, performs as a gift of the Friends of the Georgetown Public Library. 2-4 p.m. Free. Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. 512-930-3551. https://library.georgetown.org

08 **‘Of Mice and Men’ and the Library**
The Austin Flute Project, an ensemble that pushes the boundaries of flute chamber music, performs as a gift of the Friends of the Georgetown Public Library. 2-4 p.m. Free. Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. 512-930-3551. https://library.georgetown.org

Online Calendar
Find more or submit Georgetown events at communityimpact.com/geo-calendar.
To have Georgetown events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the third Friday of the month.

Comput by Caitlin Perrone
Merry Christmas
from your friends at
Eye Associates of Georgetown

Paige Quinlivan, O.D.
David Quinlivan, O.D.

107 Wagon Wheel Trail
Georgetown, TX 78628
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~ Mukesh Patel

Mukesh Patel, owner of Cianfrani Coffee Co. with his First Texas Bank partner & friend, Rene Flores

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512-864-0379

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512-246-6010

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512-259-2443

Georgetown
5321 Williams Dr.
512-869-8910

Pflugerville
1600 West Pecan
512-251-7889

Cedar Park
1901 Bagdad Rd.
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500 Round Rock Ave.
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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Day Ceremony

Sun City hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at the Georgetown-Williamson County Veterans Memorial Plaza, 2 Texas Drive.

The event honored veterans who have served in the military and those currently serving. The East View High School band, orchestra and choir provided music for the event, which also included the dedication of a memorial tree and plaque in honor of Sgt. Thomas McNeil of the Continental Army.

During the event two wreaths were laid at the Memorial Wall in honor of all service members as well as in memory of the 175 service members from Williamson County who have died in combat.

1. An attendee salutes during the national anthem at the event.


3. Memorial bricks engraved with the names of veterans line the walkway at the memorial plaza.

4. Students play music during the event.

Third annual Ladies Nite Out

The third annual Ladies Nite Out event was held Nov. 19.

The shopping event featured music and shopping specials at stores throughout the Square.

1. Members of the New Orleans jazz band La Grosse Tete perform in front of the Georgetown Art Center.

2. Visitors browse items and shop at Divine Treasures on Main Street.

3. A member of La Grosse Tete performs with his band, which walked around the Square performing throughout the event.
Some people simply understand. And we’ve understood our fellow Texans for the past three decades.

Some things feel like they’re made especially for you. At Scott & White Health Plan, we create coverage that fits your life and not the other way around. Now, as part of Baylor Scott & White Health, we’re expanding this approach in Central Texas, giving you and your family affordable access to high-quality care.

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Leon and Tiffany Chen
CEO and president of Tiff's Treats

By Joseph Basco

Leon and Tiffany Chen started warm-cookie delivery company Tiff's Treats in 1999 when they were sophomores at The University of Texas, baking cookies out of an oven in Leon’s apartment.

Since then the couple married, opened the first storefront, and expanded the company to 19 locations in the Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio areas. Each bakery has the capacity to make 40 dozen cookies every 15 minutes, Leon said.

The company is considering local and out-of-state expansion.

“One day we hope to have this concept and this brand nationwide,” Leon said.

How did you start Tiff's Treats?
Leon: We were sophomores, and the idea came about because my now lovely wife here stood me up on a date.

Tiffany: We are from Richardson. We were there for winter break our sophomore year, and yes, I stood him up on a date. So I made a set of cookies and drove over to his dad’s house, and when I got there they were still warm. … I get back home, and he calls me and says, ‘Hey, when we get back to school we’re going to do this like a business. It’s going to be just like a pizza delivery [company], only with cookies.’

Leon, were you always entrepreneurial-minded?
Leon: My parents were, and so I thought that’s how everyone thought. And so I’d always be thinking of ideas, some terrible and some not so terrible. But really the impetus was, after my freshman year in college, I interned at a company in Dallas. … I was sitting there one day thinking, ‘Oh man, I don’t know if I can do this when I graduate.’

Do you have any advice for any future entrepreneurs who are busy at work or school?
Tiffany: Put your passion into the thing that you want to really be doing, and then you can spend your other hours doing the other thing. But it’s hard to split passions up one way or the other. We put all of our focus and all of our energy into Tiff’s Treats while we were still in college.

How did you build the Tiff's Treats brand?
Tiffany: I think we did realize early on that people had an emotional connection to our company. I don’t know that’s something that we necessarily did, but it was just a family-based business; it was just Leon and I doing it with passion. But I also think our product lends to that; it’s a warm product. Ultimately, we just strive to do everything the best possible way that we can in terms of customer service and the product being consistent.

Do you plan on offering other products?
Tiffany: We are really laser-focused on warm-cookie delivery, and we don’t feel like we’ve maxed out what we can do with warm-cookie delivery. So until we feel like we have, we don’t think that we have to be doing offshoots. So even if someone is really respected and has a great idea, [it] doesn’t mean it’s a bad idea. It’s just that they are not in the day-to-day with us.

How have traffic and rising rents impacted your business?
Leon: We have been pretty lucky in the fact that most of our leases, we signed them in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and we were able to lock down rents for 20 years near those rates. … Traffic, it is what it is. Luckily, we’re prepared in Austin. We’re also in Houston and Dallas, and traffic is terrible, especially in Houston. We just work around it. We just hire more drivers.

Are you going to go out of state?
Leon: We plan to go out of state. We don’t have anything set, but we hope to be making an announcement. We hope to have something out of state by the end of [2016], if not multiple locations. … The goal is we’re still going to continue [expanding in] Texas.

How did you come up with the recipes?
Tiffany: It was a recipe that I used to make for fun for my mom, so it was something she taught me. … Over the years it has been tweaked numerous times. … There are tweaks just for volume. [The recipe is] a little different now than it was when we started.

Leon: Tiff and I cannot make cookies anymore, ironically, because we don’t know how to work the equipment.

Tiffany: I got retrained a couple of Valentine’s Days ago. At the facility that makes all the dough, they had a whole bunch of people who were off all at once, and it was right before Valentine’s Day, so it was a crisis moment. All the corporate staff came in. I was like, ‘Will someone train me how to make these?’
Assistance League of Georgetown Area is a philanthropic, nonprofit volunteer organization with the mission to help those in need within the community through services, such as buying clothes for children, hosting monthly birthday parties at an Alzheimer’s disease unit, tutoring programs and operating the Assistance League Thrift Shop. Volunteers must go through a training program and become a member of the organization.

900 N. Austin Ave., Ste. 313, Georgetown 78626
512-864-2542
www.georgetownareassageleague.org

Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown offers programs and activities to help children build character, achieve academic success and maintain healthy lifestyles. Volunteers serve as homework helpers, club buddies, mentors, help with events, program facilitators or board members. A volunteer application, orientation and background check must be completed.

1200 W. 17th St., Georgetown
512-868-3700
www.bgcegeorgetown.org

The Caring Place uses volunteer efforts to provide for needy families in Georgetown and northern Williamson County. Volunteers work as receptionists, cashiers, caseworkers, as staff in the boutique and more.

2000 Railroad St., Georgetown
78626
512-943-0702
www.caringplace.tx.org,
www.facebook.com/thecaringplace

Prose used bookstore in the Georgetown Public Library. All funds from the bookstore go toward improvement of the library, such as children’s activities and special programs, as well as toward unfunded projects.

402 W. Eighth St., Georgetown 78626
512-930-3551
www.folgeorgetown.com

CASA of Williamson County provides trained, court-appointed volunteers who advocate for the best interest of abused or neglected children on their journey to a safe, permanent home.

805 W. University Ave., Ste. 111, Georgetown 78626
512-886-2822
www.casawilco.org
Twitter: @casawctx

Faith in Action Georgetown assists adults age 65 and older in maintaining their quality of life and independence. Volunteers provide transportation, home repairs and companionship to the elderly.

805 W. University Ave., Ste. 105, Georgetown 78626
512-886-9544
www.faithinactiongt.org

Family Eldercare provides support services to older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers in Austin and the surrounding area. Volunteers provide support to those lacking the support of friends and family by assisting with bill paying and visiting regularly. Other volunteers facilitate telephone activities for the Lifetime Connections Without Walls program. Volunteers are always needed and are instrumental in enabling the programs to positively affect the lives of older adults in the community.

1700 Rutherford Lane, Austin 78754
805 W. University Ave., Ste. 113, Georgetown 78626
512-450-0844
www.familyeldercare.org
Twitter: @familyeldercare

Friends of the Georgetown Public Library runs the Second-Hand

Hospice Austin has provided compassionate medical, emotional and spiritual care for terminally ill people and their loved ones in Central Texas for the past 35 years. Regardless of ability to pay, it offers extensive services, including expert pain and symptom management, an inpatient facility, and volunteer and bereavement services in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties. Volunteers visit or read with patients, run errands, and provide a calm and compassionate presence for families.

4107 Spicewood Springs Road,
**Lone Star Circle of Care** provides primary health care services for uninsured and underserved patients in Central Texas. Volunteers help with administrative tasks and other assignments.

- **Location:** 205 E. University Ave., Ste. 200, Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-866-0207
- **Website:** www.lscctx.org
- **Twitter:** @LSCHCHealthCt

**Meals on Wheels of Williamson and Burnet County—Georgetown** makes and delivers meals to homebound members of the community, including those age 60 and older. Volunteers deliver meals by car.

- **Location:** 803 W. Eighth St., Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-863-5010
- **Website:** www.wbco.net/services_meals.html

**National Volunteer Caregiving Network** is dedicated to creating the choice of independent living through volunteer caregiving. NVCN believes that every individual who needs a volunteer caregiver should be satisfied; therefore, the NVCN is responsive to individuals, groups and communities whose vision is to help seniors and the disabled remain in their homes for as long as possible. NVCN volunteers are needed for administrative tasks, web maintenance and special event staffing.

- **Location:** 30028 Oakland Hills Drive, Georgetown 78628
- **Phone:** 512-240-9137
- **Website:** www.nvcnetwork.org
- **Twitter:** @nvcnetwork

**Project Linus—Williamson/Travis/Bastrop County Chapter** provides handmade blankets for children going through a difficult time in their lives. The nonprofit works with about 40 organizations, including police departments, hospitals and children’s shelters. Volunteers make, inspect, label, bag and distribute the blankets.

- **Location:** 512-448-1861
- **Website:** www.orgsites.com/tx/austinlinus

**R.O.C.K.**, or Ride On Center for Kids, is a nonprofit provider of therapeutic horseback riding and hippotherapy for children and adults with cognitive and physical challenges. There are opportunities to volunteer directly with the students, horses, in the office, on committees and for special events.

- **Location:** 2050 Rockride Lane, Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-930-7625
- **Website:** www.rockride.org

**STARRY** provides shelter and foster care to abused and neglected children as well as family counseling. Volunteers, when needed, are involved in a variety of projects, including child care programs and providing meals. Respite care and foster parents are also needed.

- **Location:** 1300 N. Mays St., Round Rock 78664
- **Phone:** 512-246-4259
- **Website:** www.starry.org

**Stonehaven Senior Center** is open to adults age 50 and older, and volunteers provide companionship and entertainment to residents as well as assist with activities hosted by the center.

- **Location:** 1704 Hart St., Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-863-5141
- **Website:** stonehavencentre@verizon.net

**United Way of Williamson County** focuses on education, income, health and basic needs. Volunteers are needed at four free tax-preparation sites—Hutto, Georgetown, Leander and Taylor—from January through April. Free training is provided. Volunteers are also needed for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Fall Day of Caring projects.

- **Location:** 3111 N. 1-35, Ste. 220, Round Rock 78664
- **Phone:** 512-255-6799
- **Website:** www.unitedway-wc.org
- **Twitter:** @unitedwaywilco

**Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities volunteers work in a wide range of services, including child development programs and Meals on Wheels, that benefit low-income members of the community. Volunteers are needed to assist in Head Start classrooms and deliver meals to homebound seniors.**

- **Location:** 604 High Tech Drive, Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-763-1400
- **Website:** www.wbco.net

**Williamson County Brown Santa** provides assistance to families in Williamson County living outside the city limits of any city within the county not already providing a similar program. Brown Santa purchases toys, books and other items needed to make Christmas brighter for children. Volunteers help with events, packing boxes and wrapping gifts.

- **Location:** 508 S. Rock St., Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-943-1300
- **Website:** www.wilcobrownsanta.com

**Williamson County Children’s Advocacy Center** is a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to abused children, non-offending family members and the professionals dedicated to the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment options related to child abuse cases. Volunteers are needed to provide hospitality to families and children, answer phones and give administrative assistance.

- **Location:** 1811 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-943-3701
- **Website:** www.wilcocac.org

**Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter** provides care for homeless animals. Volunteers support the staff by socializing animals; assisting with cleaning, fundraising and off-site event assistance; office work; and helping customers. Search Facebook for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter for more information.

- **Location:** 1855 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-943-3322
- **Website:** www.wilcopets.org
- **Twitter:** @wilcopets

**Williamson County Symphony Orchestra** travels throughout the county performing free concerts. Volunteers are needed to assist at performances, and musicians may visit the website to find open positions.

- **Location:** 1007 Green Meadow Drive, Round Rock 78664
- **Phone:** 512-789-5073
- **Website:** www.wilcosymphony.org
- **Twitter:** @wilcoorchestra

**The Williamson Museum** promotes the culture and heritage of Williamson County. The nonprofit offers free hands-on educational programs to the public through innovative exhibits, programs, tours and outreach. Museum volunteers serve as docents, courthouse tour guides, museum ambassadors and collections volunteers.

- **Location:** 716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-943-1670
- **Website:** www.williamsonmuseum.org

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**Serving the Austin Community**

- **Location:** 512 Austin-area nonprofits generated $5.6 billion in revenue in 2014.
- **Percentage:** 23%
- **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

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- **Location:** 716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown 78626
- **Phone:** 512-943-1670
- **Website:** www.williamsonmuseum.org

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- **Percentage:** 23%
- **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
We are pleased to announce the opening of Georgetown Center for Adult Medicine! Dr. George and Dr. Bordelon see patients 50 and older with a strong commitment to Medicare patients and are accepting new patients! 

Welcome! We are hosting a Meet & Greet on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP by calling (512) 763-4060. See you there!

VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION JANUARY 25TH!

Dr. George and Dr. Bordelon see patients 50 and older with a strong commitment to Medicare patients.

BRAND NEW SHOW! ALL NEW DISPLAYS!

Experience Rock’N Lights Holiday Light Tour at Old Settlers Park and the NEW BIGGER Christmas Towne at the end of the tour at the Old Settlers Association and the Dell Diamond parking lot. Christmas Towne features a new light maze, family activities, carnival rides, amazing holiday lights, holiday food, themed nights and more!

Park Admission:
- Family Vehicles $15
- Limos $50
- Shuttle Bus (9-30 people) $45
- Commercial Bus (31+ people) $75

Admission includes:
- FREE entry into the NEW BIGGER Christmas Towne. Christmas Towne is FREE and will be open the following evenings: Dec. 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Operating Schedule:
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 16: Sunday through Thursday 6 to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 6 to 10 p.m.
- Dec. 17-24: 6 to 10 p.m.
- Dec. 25-26: 6 to 9 p.m.
AUSTIN

AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS

The Trail of Lights event returns to Zilker Park from Dec. 8-22. Visitors can find more than 50 displays and exhibits along 1.25 miles of lights, including three lighted tunnels and 100 lighted trees, crowned by the 155-foot-tall Zilker tree. More than 30 dance and music performers make appearances in the evenings, and more than 30 food trailers are featured. 7-10 p.m. Free (Dec. 10-15), $3 (age 12 and older, Dec. 16-22). Zilker Park, 2201 Barton Springs Road. 512-917-4319. www.austintrailoflights.org

TEXAS CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Downtown Austin Alliance kicked off the city's holiday season Dec. 5 with a singalong and stroll, and the lighting of the 45-foot-tall Capitol Christmas tree with 137,000 LED lights. The tree features various music with lights daily from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and is located by the Texas Capitol at the corner of 11th Street and Congress Avenue until the first week of January. Free. 512-469-1766. www.downtownaustinholidays.com

THE DRISKILL HOTEL

The hotel hosted an annual tree lighting in the lobby Dec. 1. Throughout December guests can experience the hotel’s lobby filled with Christmas decor. Live music and other events, including an Afternoon with Santa on Dec. 13 from 3-6 p.m., are scheduled throughout the season. 6 p.m. Free. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos St. 512-439-1234. www.driskillhotel.com

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS HOLIDAY MUSIC AND LIGHT SHOW

The coffee shop is transformed into a gingerbread house with thousands of lights and offers the annual family-friendly light show on the outdoor deck. The 15-minute light show starts at the top of every hour from 6 p.m. to midnight through Jan. 10. Holiday lights also form a replica of the Austin skyline, including Santa Claus soaring over landmark downtown buildings, joined by bats. Free. Mozart’s Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. 512-461-5544. www.mozartscoffee.com

GEORGETOWN

GEORGETOWN SQUARE

Downtown Georgetown turned on its holiday lights at the Williamson County Courthouse and throughout the Square on Nov. 27. Downtown lights and decor stay on through Jan. 2, and businesses offer later hours for holiday guests. Other events include a Gingerbread Extravaganza at the Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth St. For more holiday events in Georgetown, see the calendar on Page 17. Free. The Square, Georgetown. 800-436-8696. www.holiday.georgetown.org

ROUND ROCK

ROUND ROCK ROCK’N LIGHTS HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR & CHRISTMAS TOWNE

Diverging diamond interchange

ROUND ROCK Work was substantially completed as of Nov. 23 on a new style of intersection called a diverging diamond at the University Boulevard/FM 1431 overpass of I-35 to alleviate traffic congestion in Round Rock. The new interchange will direct University left-turning traffic to the opposite side of the road for a short time.

“This project will greatly enhance safety and help motorists travel along and across the I-35 corridor by improving left-turn movements and allowing more vehicles to travel through the intersection in a single traffic light cycle,” said John Peters, Texas Department of Transportation assistant area engineer.

Final paving will likely occur in the spring when temperatures are warmer. The $7 million project was funded through federal highway funds and TxDOT.

1 The most recognizable feature of the diverging diamond interchange is the crosspoints installed at both sides of the University Boulevard overpass. These crosspoints divert traffic to the left side of the road, which is intended to allow for more uninterrupted traffic flow onto and off of the interstate. Traffic signals at the crosspoints regulate the flow of eastbound and westbound traffic as well as the traffic exiting I-35 frontage roads.

2 Eastbound University traffic turning south onto I-35 enters a dedicated lane that connects to a frontage road before entering the intersection. The same applies for westbound traffic turning onto northbound I-35.

3 Eastbound University traffic heading north on I-35 will move to the left lane before entering the intersection. Once the cars pass through the crosspoint, they merge onto the existing U-turn bridge and divert onto the northbound I-35 frontage road, where they have a dedicated lane intended to prevent merging backups. The same principle applies for westbound traffic heading south on I-35, with the exception that those cars have two lanes from which to exit and do not have to merge onto a U-turn bridge. Signs and street markings aim to direct drivers to the proper lanes.

4 Eastbound University traffic continuing across the overpass will move to either of the two right-hand lanes and continue through both crosspoints. The same principle applies for westbound traffic.

5 Traffic exiting the northbound I-35 frontage road is diverted onto east- or westbound University. Traffic heading in either direction is able to merge onto University without crossing traffic coming from the opposite direction. Southbound I-35 frontage road traffic operates in the same way.

6 TxDOT built a bypass lane of the southbound I-35 frontage road that allows traffic on the frontage road to travel underneath the intersection unimpeded. A northbound collector/distributor already existed.
Hakata Sushi & Asian Grill

PFLUGERVILLE Husband and wife Billy and Tammy Choe say local sushi lovers have turned out for one of the few sushi dining experiences in Pflugerville—Hakata Sushi & Asian Grill.

The Choes opened Hakata in June 2014 and said they have seen a surge in business in its second year.

In California, Billy gained experience as a sushi chef and has since managed several restaurants. One of the principles Billy learned there was that the freshness of the fish was central to the customer experience, he said.

Providing quality customer service is also chief among their concerns, Tammy said. They are keen to offer a warm welcome to their guests—memorizing names of their frequent customers and being attentive to their needs.

To date the Choes have only one part-time employee but will soon hire another sushi chef and a waitress, they said. By bolstering their staff the owners can begin to expand services at the restaurant, such as extending happy hour and adding more lunch specials.

Hakata offers a variety of sushi rolls, from the traditional seaweed-and-rice-bound fare to those with tempura batter. Sashimi, bites of raw fish, and nigiri, sushi atop a small rice ball, are also served at the restaurant.

Noble Sandwich Co.

AUSTIN John Bates and Brandon Martinez, co-owners of Noble Sandwich Co., said good food should be available at every price point.

Bates and Martinez met at Del Mar College, a culinary school in Corpus Christi. After graduating in 2000, the two worked together at several restaurants, including Asti Trattoria on East 43rd Street in Austin.

“We complement each other well,” Bates said. “He brings a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. I bring more of a recipe-driven approach.”

Martinez said he and Bates felt like sandwiches were lacking the gourmet treatment afforded to Austin’s many other eateries.

Bates said there are great delis in the city, but most order their meats and breads from the same distributors.

Bates and Martinez opened their business, Noble Pig Sandwiches, in 2010 and later changed the business name to Noble Sandwich Co. At Noble, the chefs cure their own meats, bake bread from scratch and pickle their condiments.

“Ninety-five percent of our menu is handcrafted in-house,” Bates said.

Martinez added, “We wanted to do it the hard way because the hard way is the better way.”

Full story by Kara Nuzback

12233 N. RM 620, Ste. 105, Austin
512-382-6248
www.noblesandwiches.com
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

EXPERIENCE Hope THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas is just around the corner and our annual candlelight Christmas services simply won’t be the same without you and your family! During the holidays, it’s easy to get caught up in life issues that leave you full of bitterness, despair, and unforgiveness, but This Christmas can be full of joy, hope, and love.

We look forward to sharing a wonderful Christmas season with you!

WESTINGHOUSE CAMPUS
1202 Rabbit Hill Road, Georgetown, 78626
SATURDAY 19TH 5PM
SUNDAY 20TH 9AM, 10:45AM, 12:30PM
CHRISTMAS EVE 1PM, 3PM, 5PM

ANDERSON MILL CAMPUS
10401 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, 78750
SUNDAY 20TH 9AM, 10:45AM
EN ESPAÑOL 12:45PM

@txcelebration  @txcelebration  celebrationchurchtx  celebrationchurchtx.com  512.763.3000
Dawson said there is a high correlation between the income in a student’s family and his or her educational outcomes and earnings later in life. “That’s not true in every case. There are low-income students who achieve at high levels,” she said. “But typically they do not have the same outside opportunities such as hiring tutors or going to museums.”

Dawson said achievement levels are tied to not only income, but also ethnicity and gender. She said the lowest-performing groups tend to be low income African-American and Hispanic males. Furthermore, she said those low performance levels can have continuing negative consequences beyond school. “The bottom line is people think of Williamson County as being relatively affluent, and that’s not a generalization that’s wrong,” she said. “Williamson County has less than half the poverty rate than other counties, but it is becoming increasingly low-income and increasingly Hispanic, and that’s a deficit or something we figure out how to address to build into an economically prosperous future.”

Early education
Dawson said one of the most important initiatives school districts can undertake to address the needs of low-income students is to address expectations early. She said many students walking into kindergarten classrooms are not ready on a social or emotional level to learn. “We know that pre-K makes a huge difference,” she said. “[Students] are significantly more likely to be ready to succeed if they have access to those early educational services.”

One example of an early education initiative in Williamson County is Hutto ISD. Superintendent Doug Killian said his district is doing everything it can to direct funds to and expand the pre-K program. Killian said HISD recently implemented an optional three-year graduation plan for high school students. He said the money that would have gone toward educating the students in their fourth year is diverted to the pre-K program. “That [funding] would have been just a straight loss,” he said. “It would have just been kept in the state coffers and distributed somewhere else.”

Killian said the district gets half funding for students in the pre-K program from the state who are economically disadvantaged or ELL
students in the pre-K program.
He said parents can pay for the full day, and the district’s rates are competitive with area day cares.

Educational opportunities
Dawson said many people see the increasing number of ELL students as a deficit, but it presents an opportunity. “They can become our bilingual workforce of the future,” she said.

Laura Segers, Round Rock ISD executive director of state and federal programs, said the district’s ELL students come from throughout the world. “Some of our children come to us as immigrants or first-generation Americans,” Segers said. “Parents are particularly brought in for our tech sector. We have a linguistic capital of about 81 languages.”

Cara Schwartz, Georgetown ISD executive director of special and federal programs, said the district has consistently seen a rise in the number of ELL students. “We constantly evaluate our staffing ratios for students, and we are constantly evaluating our programs,” Schwartz said. “We make sure our students who are bilingual have highly qualified teachers to support them in the classroom.”

Segers said research has shown that ELL students in RRISD and elsewhere who excel in the ELL program often outperform their non-ELL peers. Dawson said schools also need to focus on not just High School graduation rates, but also getting students to post-secondary educational opportunities. “In Texas, our graduation rates have increased steadily over the past seven to eight years,” she said. “If you look at the job market today that’s not enough. To obtain a living-wage job a student generally has to have some sort of credential beyond high school to be comfortable in the world.” Dawson said that secondary credential could come from institutions other than universities, such as trade schools or the military.

What do you think is the best way schools can address achievement gaps related to income?

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

According to the E3 Alliance, not only the number of low-income students is increasing in WICO, but the total percentage in Williamson County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2003-04 school year</th>
<th>Low income students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-low income students</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>2013-14 School Year</th>
<th>Low income students</th>
<th>30%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-low income students</td>
<td>70%</td>
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According to experts with the E3 Alliance, nearly half of students in the area are not ready for kindergarten on a social or emotional level. This chart shows kindergarten readiness in Central Texas from 2010-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-income students who did not attend pre-K</th>
<th>Ready</th>
<th>Not ready</th>
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<td>Low-income students who did attend pre-K</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not low-income students who did not attend pre-K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Never ELL</th>
<th>Current ELL</th>
<th>Previous ELL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As my wife and I sit in a tent after spending the last 9 hours huddled in our wedding gift blanket asking ourselves: “when is this rain going to stop,” we decide to resort to one of the best parts of camping, bonfires. She sips the “Curious Traveler Grapefruit Cider” and I, “Very Old Barton Bourbon.”

As we dream about the upcoming holidays, we reminisce about the past ones: my father-in-law staining the fireplace, and my grandma’s tender hugs and beautiful piano. I think of the thoughts of few years back when, for my father-in-law’s famous garlic prime rib, we had opened a bottle of 1997 Beering Private Reserve Merlot and we had to give grandma some pats on the back because she enjoyed the amazing wine too quickly! Then my smile widens in the thought of toasting out and savoring a special bottle of Bandol Wine.

2001 Domain Tempier, brought to him by a friend. As my wife and I chat of all the rich traditions adopted by the Trejos-Cons, from potluck and luminarias with Dad, Mom’s divine coffee cake and Grandpa’s breakfast to Christmas dinner, I always come to the feeling of overwhelming love and gratitude that I get to enjoy holidays and make memories with the ones I love.

We at Twin Liquors see you all as family and feel privileged and honored to be part of your lives as you have stopped with us over the years. Thank you for bringing us into your homes through the gift of fine wine and spirits, and to that we cheers you into the new year and many more amazing years to come.

~Susan Dawson, E3 president and executive director

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~Adrian Montanez, Round Rock Marketplace Manager

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- Break-up of a Relationship/ Separation/Divorce
- Job/Career Change
- Loss of a loved one
- Significant Health Challenge
  - Retirement
  - Relocation
- Caregiving of a family member
  - Empty Nest
  - End of Life

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Create your 2016 Vision Board- January 10th 5-7 pm
Brene Brown Daring Way™ Group – Begins January 13th

LARGE GROUP WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE
MUDs

Continued from 1

the Kasper Development in a workshop session Dec. 8.

"I'm asking for direction to move forward with crafting a consent agreement as an MUD [in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction, or ETJ]," Nairne said. "I'm trying to figure out how we can make [the development] affordable for homebuyers and provide the city with sewer and road improvements."

MUD creation

As the city of Georgetown continues to grow, developers continue to approach the city requesting the creation of MUDs to help fund needed infrastructure, such as roads and water lines, to be able to build their developments.

Created by either the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or by an act of the Texas Legislature, MUDs are able to take on debt by issuing bonds to pay for parks and roads as well as water and wastewater infrastructure. Those costs are then passed on to the future home-owners, who pay off the debt through property tax payments.

Before a MUD can be created, a developer must enter into a consent agreement with the city, which gives the city authority to set the maximum property tax rate, establish development standards and determine what infrastructure must be built, Nelson said.

In 2014, City Council adopted an interim MUD policy to give direction to developers and help guide MUD decisions in the future, Nelson said.

The interim policy is used to determine if a proposed MUD is the best way to move forward with a development based on several factors, including whether the development has a "unique factor," she said.

"[Developers have to have] something for us to be able to ensure that the investment that the city is putting into this development—in the sense of allowing them to be in a MUD—[is a good investment], so that when it's time for the city to take over services in that area, there are the highest assessed values of the properties for the tax base, and we're not taking over infrastructure that is so worn down that we as a city have to put our money back into it," Nelson said. "We need to try and stay in the lower price category so people can pay for a nice house they can afford," he said.

Developing a MUD policy

"The interim MUD policy was supposed to be an interim plan for moving forward with the intention that an annexation policy and plan ... was going to follow," Nelson said, adding that the policy and plan would identify where the city could annex properties in the future.

Nelson said the plan would also identify where MUDs are most appropriate—in the city limits or the city's ETJ—as well as how they can be used to grow the city strategically.

"The policy did a good job of saying a developer needs to hang their hat on something that makes their development unique, and the average homeowner can see where their money is going to," she said. "I would really like to see us focus and spend more time on these unique factors and how [to] use MUDs in strategically identified areas that we want to grow in."

In 2016 city staff will seek City Council direction in developing the annexation plan, which has been delayed by transitions in city leadership, she said.

"We are identifying the MUD requests we've gotten so far since the interim MUD policy has been in place, looking at the areas that we want to grow and starting the discussion so the council can give us clear direction on how to proceed with the annexation policy and plan," Nelson said.

Tell us what you think.
Comment at communityimpact.com
REAL ESTATE

The Rancho Sienna neighborhood, located near the intersection of Hwy. 29 and Ronald Reagan Boulevard, features homes ranging in size from 1,867 square feet to 4,006 square feet and ranging in price from $275,000 to $565,000.

Some homes feature outdoor kitchens, terraces, balconies and hillside views. Amenities include a fitness center, playground, trails and community pool.

Recent listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sq. Ft.</th>
<th>Bath</th>
<th>Days on Market</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>208 Grosseto Lane</td>
<td>$414,900</td>
<td>3,764 sq. ft.</td>
<td>3 Bath</td>
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<td>117 Tuscany Drive</td>
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<td>2,873 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>125 Florenz Lane</td>
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<td>3,774 sq. ft.</td>
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Recent listings

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<tr>
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<th>Bath</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>326 Park Place Georgetown</td>
<td>$549,900</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>408 W. Majestic Oak Georgetown</td>
<td>$549,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Beautiful New Construction, 4 sides white limestone, MIL with all beds down and a game/media room with hale bath up! Heavily treed 1 acre lot. Gated Gabriell’s Overlook Community and close to major highways, with a country feel. Large light, open kitchen that Rachel Ray would love, with propane stove, plenty of prep and serving space, and more cabinets than you can fill. A Master Suite that is a veritable Spa with a large jetted soaking tub and a walk-in shower. Covered back patio, perfect for grilling and chilling.

A beautiful Chance Leigh, 3,400sf, home on 1 plus ac in Woodland Park. 4 beds, 3 baths, study with a Game Room. Granite counters, Knotty Alder cabinets, with crown molding. 12 ft.ceilings, 8ft.doors. Hard Wood Floors, Open Kitchen and family room with lots of windows and views of the back yard. Master with huge bathroom and walk-in closet, garden tub, walk-in shower. Spray foam insulation thru out, 500 gal buried propane and a tankless water heater.

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Neighborhood Data provided by Renee Jantzen Century 21 HS & Associates 512-818-8181 reneejantzen@gmail.com

Join me in supporting our community this holiday season. Come see me ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Walmart between now and Christmas. I’ll be there two afternoons each week!
## Market Data

### On the market (November 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Number of homes for sale/average days on the market</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$149,999 or less</td>
<td>1/73/1/20</td>
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<td>$150,000-$199,999</td>
<td>14/72/3/67</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3/138/17/128</td>
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<tr>
<td>$800,000-$999,999</td>
<td>1/171/10/153</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1 million+</td>
<td>1/6/4/175/1/57</td>
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## Median price of homes sold

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<td>$100,000</td>
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### Recent Property Listings

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<th>ZIP code</th>
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<th>Address</th>
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<th>Sq. ft.</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78626</td>
<td>Dalrymple Addition</td>
<td>1406 Forest St.</td>
<td>2br/2ba</td>
<td>$168,800</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>Connie Rogers</td>
<td>Keller Williams Realty-GT</td>
<td>512-818-1098</td>
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<tr>
<td>78626</td>
<td>Dyches LJ Survey</td>
<td>840 FM 1460</td>
<td>3br/3ba</td>
<td>$479,900</td>
<td>2,232</td>
<td>Samuel Waschnin</td>
<td>Moreland Properties</td>
<td>512-263-3282</td>
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<td>Eubank Addition</td>
<td>1912 S. Church St.</td>
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<td>$399,900</td>
<td>2,047</td>
<td>Nancy Knight</td>
<td>Keller Williams Realty-GT</td>
<td>512-818-4892</td>
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<tr>
<td>78626</td>
<td>Family Acres</td>
<td>200 Family Circle</td>
<td>3br/2ba</td>
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# Recent Property Listings

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6 GEORGETOWN ANTIQUE MALL
7 THE EXCHANGE
8 EAST 6TH STREET RELICS
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