Nutty Brown Cafe & Amphitheatre will relocate to Round Rock from its current location off Hwy. 290 in Southwest Austin in 2017.

By Scott Thomas

Nutty Brown Cafe & Amphitheatre will pack up its iconic cowboy sign and more than a decade of Texas music history and bring them to Round Rock in 2017.

On Aug. 13, Round Rock City Council approved the sale of McNeil Park near I-35 in north Round Rock to Mike Farr, owner of Nutty Brown Cafe, for $1.1 million. That day the city also announced the intended use for the land was for the new home of Nutty Brown Cafe, which will be Round Rock’s first large outdoor music venue.

The country music venue has hosted acts such as Pat Green, Bob Schneider and Eli Young Band. Currently the venue holds about 3,900 people, according to city of Austin documents, but Farr said when he moves to Round Rock he expects the capacity to increase to about 5,000.

Farr said he has thought for years Round Rock would make a good location for a music venue.

“I always thought Round Rock was underserved as far as live music goes,” Farr said. “It was always a place I thought had a lot of potential.”

Coming to Round Rock

About two years ago, Farr said he started considering relocating out of his current location on Hwy. 290 in

See Nutty Brown Cafe | 47

By Emilee Shaughnessy

Karla Diaz of Pflugerville said she has opened more than half a dozen day cares in the Austin area, but never one quite like her new venture in Hutto.

Kidz Bilingual Academy, scheduled to open in September, is one of the first bilingual child care and preschool centers in the Hutto area and reflects a regional demand for Spanish/English two-way language immersion programs—in which English-speaking and Spanish-speaking children become bilingual side by side.

In Texas, K-12 schools are required to provide language services for students who are not proficient in English, but some districts now offer two-way bilingual programs that extend the benefits of language immersion to English speakers as well, said Barbara Kennedy, a professional development specialist at the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Applied Linguistics.

“Community members are saying, ‘If English learners are going to have the benefits, then English-speaking children should have them, too,’” Kennedy said. See Language | 27
You are invited to join us for a night of celebration in honor of Travis County ESD No. 2/Pflugerville Fire Department and 60 years of serving the community.

Saturday, October 10, 2015, Pfluger Hall, 203 East Pecan

MOTORCYCLES - 5:30 Bikes from past eras on display along with the first fire truck purchased by the Department

BBQ DINNER - 6:00 TO 6:45 PM

CASINO AND SILENT AUCTION - 7:00 TO 10:00 PM

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ten years ago, 60,000 mailboxes in Round Rock and Pflugerville received their first edition of Community Impact Newspaper. The brainchild of Pflugerville natives John and Jennifer Garrett, the paper was created so citizens could know what was going on in their own backyard without having to pay for that information. On Page 24 you can relive portions of the early days with us and see what has transformed in the decade since our inception.

The Garretts continue to challenge the staff to deliver valuable content to readers in each edition, which is why you will find our annual education guide, complete with local school districts’ feeder patterns and State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, test results, on Page 32 this month.

A commitment to valuable content is also why we’ve grown the coverage we give our Impacts—the listings that contain area businesses that are now open, coming soon or expanding. That mission is also the reason our writers, account executives and other team members are so involved in the community.

Your community is our community. We are humble to help local businesses grow by getting their messages in front of tens of thousands of readers each month. And we take seriously the responsibility to bring you news that affects you.

Here’s to many more years of local, useful news that everyone gets.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

TAKE THE POLL

What type of effect do you think the relocation of the Nutty Brown Cafe to Round Rock will have on the city?

Take the poll at communityimpact.com/rph-poll.

LAST MONTH’S POLL RESULTS

In one of last month’s front-page stories, we reported the city of Pflugerville planned to use temporary fields while they searched for a site for a sports complex. We wanted to know what you thought.

What do you think Pflugerville should do to find space for area sports teams?

44.44% They should build the sports complex as soon as possible
44.44% They should wait to find the right land for the sports center
6.7% The city’s current fields are fine as is
4.44% They should use temporary fields for as long as possible

Results from an unscientific Web survey, collected 8/6/15–8/25/15

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Results from an unscientific Web survey, collected 8/6/15–8/25/15
Round Rock

**Now Open**

1. **Urgent Care for Kids** opened Aug. 1 at 3750 Gattis School Road, Ste. 900, in the H-E-B shopping center. Urgent Care for Kids is an urgent-care facility specializing in pediatric care and treats common illnesses, allergies, minor burns and can administer flu shots. This is the second location in Round Rock. Its hours are Mon.-Fri. 3-9 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and the facility is open on holidays. 512-813-6850. www.urgentcarekids.com

2. **The Ring by Gold Gals** and **Something Marvelous** opened in August at 110 E. Anderson Ave., Ste. 100 and 200, respectively. The Ring is a jewelry store offering diamonds and engagement rings. Something Marvelous is a gift store catering to the bridal industry offering greeting cards, candles, invitations and picture frames. Both stores can accommodate custom orders. Hours for both stores are Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The Ring: 512-258-4653. Something Marvelous: 512-270-6888. www.theringbygoldgals.com www.somethingmarvelous.com


4. **The Village Shop** opened Aug. 18 at 302 W. Main St. at the intersection with Brown Street. The Village Shop is a women’s boutique that sells clothing and jewelry. The Village Shop also provides wholesale merchandise to other retailers throughout Texas. 512-596-8007. Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. www.villageshopwholesalers.com

5. **Aroma Nails & Spa** opened in July at 581 University Blvd. Aroma is a nail salon offering manicures and pedicures. Hours are Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. noon-5 p.m. 512-770-6007. www.aromanailsandspa.com

6. **Mobile business Caped Wonders** opened in July. Caped Wonders sells superhero and princess capes, masks and power cuffs, and provides entertainment for birthdays featuring superhero activities. Hours are by appointment. 512-786-0855. www.capedwonders.com

7. **A commercial portion of the Highland Horizon** development featuring medical, office and retail space is under construction on RM 620 across from LA Fitness. Information such as tenants or the number of pad sites is not available as of press time. www.highlandhorizon.com

8. **The Learning Experience** will open in the spring at 15542 RM 620. The Learning Experience is a curriculum-based preschool. The school will accept students from newborn to pre-K. Hours will be Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. 888-991-4222. www.thelearningexperience.com

9. **First Choice Emergency Room** will open in early 2016 at 2105 E. Palm Valley Blvd. First Choice is a stand-alone emergency room that can treat a variety of ailments and injuries. This will be its first location in Round Rock. There are four other Austin-area locations, including two in Pflugerville. Hours will be 24/7. 866-688-6600. wwww.villageshopwholesalers.com

10. **Gold’s Gym** will open at the corner of Sunrise Road and University Boulevard in 2016, according to the company. Gold’s Gym is a national fitness chain based out of Dallas offering a wide range of fitness equipment and classes. 214-574-4653. www.goldsgym.com

Coming Soon

6. **The Saucy Rooster Chicken Company** will open at 1719 N. I-35 in the former Arby’s location in October. The restaurant will serve chicken tenders, wings, sandwiches and salads as well as craft beers and margaritas. 512-925-1718

7. **A commercial portion of the Highland Horizon** development featuring medical, office and retail space is under construction on RM 620 across from LA Fitness. Information such as tenants or the number of pad sites is not available as of press time. www.highlandhorizon.com
11 Pacific Gulf Sea Island Fish Fry will open in September at 105 E. Old Settlers Blvd., Ste. 101. The restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Menu items will include breakfast tacos, steak and eggs, a variety of fish plates, and hot wings. Hours will be Mon.-Thu. 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

12 Homezone Furniture will open in September or early October at 1601 S. I-35, Ste. 500. Homezone Furniture provides bedroom, living room and dining room furniture. This is the first location in the Austin area. Hours will be Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun. noon-6 p.m. 512-852-8610. www.homezonefurniture.com

13 NexGen Nails & Spa will open at 200 University Blvd., Ste. 520, in October and provide facials, manicures, pedicures and eyelash extensions. Hours will be Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. noon-5 p.m.

14 Cristales-The Boutique at 2000 S. I-35, Ste. C2, in the Skyridge shopping center, celebrated its one-year anniversary Aug. 28. Cristales sells women’s clothing, accessories, gifts and pet clothing. Hours are Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 512-238-1212. www.cristales-theboutique.com

15 Zorba Greek Restaurant at 2601 N. I-35, Ste. 500, expanded in August to add seating and tables to accommodate an additional 20 people. Zorba’s serves Greek food, such as hummus, gyros and chicken shawarma as well as a variety of vegetarian plates. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2:15 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 512-716-0100. www.zorbagreekrestaurant.com

16 620 Studio moved from 1104 S. Mays St., Ste. 222, to 306 W. Main St., Ste. 14, on Aug. 1. 620 Studio provides Web design, development, social media and email marketing, logo branding, motion graphics and print design services. The business also celebrated its 10-year anniversary Aug. 26. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. 512-368-3298. www.620studio.com

17 Spencer-Pierce Architecture + Interiors relocated to 110 N. Stone St. from 1106 S. Mays St., Ste. 220, on July 31. Spencer-Pierce does commercial architecture of all types as well as interior design. Hours are Mon.-Thu. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fri. 8 a.m.-noon. 512-388-0677. www.spai.com

18 The Round Rock Area Serving Center at 1099 E. Main St. is holding a monthlong coat drive in September. The center is accepting gently used and new coats. Residents can also write a check to Round Rock Area Serving Center Coats For Kids, and $10 buys a coat. Donations can be made at the Round Rock Area Serving Center Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 512-244-2431. www.rrasc.org

19 First Choice Emergency Room will open in September. The preschool will have a bilingual focus and will accept students from infants to 5 years old. Students will be talked to in Spanish and English. Hours will be Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

20 Jack Brown Cleaners opened in July at 718 W. Hwy. 79. Jack Brown Cleaners offers on-premises dry cleaning, shoe repair and alterations. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 512-968-1199. www.jackbrown cleaners.com

21 Kidz Bilingual at 212 S. FM 1660 will open in September. The preschool will have a bilingual focus and will accept students from infants to 5 years old. Students will be talked to in Spanish and English. Hours will be Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

22 Nicole Johnston Agency-Farmers Insurance moved to 401 Ed Schmidt Blvd., Ste. 200, behind the Hampton Inn & Suites, from 1104 S. Mays St., Ste. 220, to provide more space and add an additional dentist to its practice. The business is a general dentistry practice and sees people of all ages. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 512-759-1580. www.farmersagent.com/njohnston

23 Advanced Dental Care of Hutto relocated the first week of August from 321 Ed Schmidt Blvd. to 401 Ed Schmidt Blvd., Ste. 100, to provide more space and add an additional dentist to its practice. The business is a general dentistry practice and sees adults and children. Hours are Mon. and Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues. and Wed. 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 512-846-2011. www.adchutto.com

Hutto

Now Open

18 Posh Nails at 125 Ed Schmidt Blvd., Ste. 230, opened in August. Posh Nails is a full-service nail salon offering manicures, pedicures, waxing and facials. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 512-825-9848

Farming Services

24 Nicole Johnston Agency-Farmers Insurance moved to 401 Ed Schmidt Blvd., Ste. 200, behind the Hampton Inn & Suites, from 1104 S. Mays St., Ste. 220, to provide more space and add an additional dentist to its practice. The business is a general dentistry practice and sees people of all ages. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 512-759-1580. www.farmersagent.com/njohnston

25 The Ring by Gold Gals opened in August at 110 E. Anderson Ave.

26 The Village Shop opened Aug. 18 at 302 W. Main St. and sells clothes and jewelry.

27 First Choice Emergency Room will open in early 2016 and provide health care services.

Hutto Premier Dentistry

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Pflugerville

**Now Open**

1. **Central Texas BMX Racetrack** held a grand opening Aug. 7 at 5001 Killingsworth Lane near the Northeast Metropolitan Park. The facility features a mixed-surface track for BMX bicycle racing, a concession area, shaded spectator area and pedestrian paths and will feature a balance bike track and an all-asphalt pump track in the coming months. Hours vary by season. 512-348-8369. [www.centraltexasbmx.com](http://www.centraltexasbmx.com)

2. **Threads Urban Collective Boutique** opened Aug. 1 at 15608 Spring Hill Lane, Ste. 104. Threads is a consignment store selling all of its clothes at 50 percent off the marked price. The store sells vintage clothes, wedding dresses, jewelry and home goods. Hours are Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 512-248-9000

3. **Gold’s Gym** will open at the corner of SH 130 and Gattis School Road in 2016, according to the company. Gold’s Gym is a national fitness chain based out of Dallas offering a wide range of fitness equipment and classes. 214-574-4653. [www.goldsgym.com](http://www.goldsgym.com)

4. **Smoothie King** will open in November at 18701 Limestone Commercial Drive, Ste. 200, in the Stone Hill Town Center. Smoothie King will serve smoothies and fruit drinks. This will be its seventh location in the Austin area. [www.smoothieking.com](http://www.smoothieking.com)

5. **Get Polished Up Salon** at 19500 Heatherwilde Blvd., Ste. 300, will open Oct. 1. Get Polished Up will offer haircuts, pedicures, manicures, hair styling for women and waxing services. Hours will be Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun. noon-6 p.m. [www.getpolishedupsalon.com](http://www.getpolishedupsalon.com)

**Coming Soon**

6. **The St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Religious Education Center** planned to open Sept. 1 at 1520 N. Railroad Ave. on the parish campus. The space will offer religious education classes for children, youth and adults as well as meeting space for various parish ministries. Class times vary. 512-251-9838. [www.stelizabethpf.org](http://www.stelizabethpf.org)

**Expansions**

7. **Austin Gardeners** moved to 18414 Heatherwilde Blvd. from 206 Austin Ave., Hutto, in April. Austin Gardeners provides a variety of landscaping services, including installing outdoor kitchens and patios as well as lighting and irrigation systems. Hours are Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sun. by appointment. 512-845-1531. [www.austingardenerstx.com](http://www.austingardenerstx.com)

**Relocations**

8. **The St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Religious Education Center** planned to open Sept. 1.
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New Sweden Coffee Roasters

Business puts enjoyment of coffee first

By Sabine McCalla

To him, drinking coffee is more than just drinking coffee—it is an “enjoyment,” said Bret Stewart, founder and owner of New Sweden Coffee Roasters. That enjoyment is why he said he likes the Swedish concept of “fika.”

“Loosely translated it means coffee break, but it really encompasses more of a cultural thing of stopping what you are doing and enjoying a time to have coffee and other assorted treats, pastries, et cetera with people, co-workers, colleagues, family,” Stewart said.

That concept is why he called his signature coffee Fika Blend and adopted the Nordic approach to coffee roasting when he opened his business a year ago.

Stewart said he likes that the Scandinavian or Nordic-style roasting approach emphasizes more of the early portion of roasting where the drinker get more “unique” flavors like fruit, floral, spices, nuts and even chocolate.

His coffees are characterized by those types of flavors, and no artificial flavors are added. New Sweden Coffee Roasters offers four flavors. Always available is the Fika Blend; the other three change depending on seasonality and availability. The coffee is served and sold in Lil’ Mama’s Corner Café in Pflugerville as well as at the Pflugerville Farmers Market Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. and online. Stewart also sends samples to prospective customers if they would like to try the coffee in advance.

“We are working very hard to provide a very high-quality product,” Stewart said. “It’s equally important to make it accessible to a wide number of people so that they can share it with the people they love and associate with.”

Stewart said he has been working in the industry for more than 10 years. He said he has received strong support from the community since opening his business. He runs New Sweden Coffee Roasters in addition to working a full-time job. Stewart has expansion plans, but it is very important to him to maintain the character of the business and stay local, he said.

“We are proud of the fact that it is small and specialty. There is a lot of love going into this,” he said.

Signature coffee: Fika Blend

The Fika Blend is intended to be smooth, not very bitter, sweet and easy to drink, said Bret Stewart, owner of New Sweden Coffee Roasters. The coffee beans used for the blend rotate based on seasonality. This summer’s blend is Mexican Chiapas and Rwandan. Stewart said the Chiapas gives the coffee some refined sugar sweetness, and the Rwandan adds some fruit sweetness.

New flavor: Sumatra

The coffee beans for Sumatra come from the Sumatran area of Lintong. They are grown in a co-op composed of a few native farmers. “The flavor Sumatra has the earthy characteristic of most Sumatran coffees, but it has a lot of sweetness to it,” Stewart said. “You get some brown sugar-type notes or even some sweet basil urban notes. It’s real interesting coffee.”

New Sweden Coffee Roasters

Pflugerville Farmers Market on Tuesdays 3 p.m.–7 p.m. Hours vary by season.
Sold at Lil’ Mama’s Corner Café at 104 N. Railroad Ave. Pflugerville Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Jamie Fernandez, co-owner of Tequila Bar & Grill, said he is hoping to share an authentic Mexican dining experience with the residents of Round Rock. Fernandez and his brother-in-law, Reynaldo Leon, know about running restaurants from operating other establishments in Georgetown and Taylor.

“Since Round Rock is a different type of area, we decided to [...] create a different menu,” Fernandez said.

Fernandez said that Tequila Bar & Grill is known for its bar, particularly the margaritas, as well as having high quality fajitas.

“This is more of an authentic Mexican restaurant, so I think some people really identify with it,” Fernandez said.

Fernandez said his family owns restaurants throughout Texas, so the decision to join the industry seemed like a natural choice for him from a young age. He opened the Mariachis location in Georgetown in 2004 and expanded to Round Rock last year.

“I’ve been living in Georgetown for 15 years, but I’ve always been thinking of Round Rock. When this location became available, it was perfect,” Fernandez said. “Since it’s something different, I know a lot of my other customers will come try it out sometimes.”

Fernandez said he and his wife, Diney, love spending time between Round Rock and Georgetown. His three daughters enjoy visiting him at his various restaurants, he said.


Fernandez said he and his business partner might continue to expand the restaurants they own, but he is satisfied with the three locations in Central Texas for now.

“It’s a lot of work,” Fernandez said. “I’ll probably give it a few years, at least.”

Fernandez said he and his brother-in-law travel among the three locations frequently.

“I know most of the regular customers,” Fernandez said. “I’ll run into them at the grocery store, and that’s always a lot of fun.”

Fernandez said his favorite part of owning restaurants is meeting new people every day and having the chance to talk to his customers.

By Kirsten Peek

Tequila Bar & Grill

Operators aim to bring authentic Mexican food experience to northern Round Rock

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While the project is more than 70 percent complete, the MoPac contractor, CH2M, has advised the Mobility Authority that they have encountered some difficulties that will likely lead to the express lanes being opened in phases during 2016. The contractor says they encountered difficulty in boring the underground drainage tunnels for the Express Lane underpasses. They have also reported issues with underground utilities, problems finding enough workers, and challenges related to previous months’ wet weather.

We are working closely with the contractor to help expedite construction and get the new lanes open as soon as possible. For the latest project update, visit mopacexpress.com.

If you’re a commuter on MoPac, you’ve probably noticed a lot of construction progress on the new Express Lanes between Cesar Chavez Street and Parmer Lane. Long-awaited sound walls are going up along the southern end of the project. Crews have been widening bridges, and the southbound lanes approaching downtown have been reconfigured to allow room to construct an underpass for a downtown connection. On the north end of the project, the final piece of a 525-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad track south of Duval Road has been installed and a significant amount of asphalt paving for the new express lanes has been completed. This fall, to begin construction of the underpass lane from downtown the northbound lanes of MoPac will be rerouted.

The Mobility Authority is committed to getting you where you need to go—faster and more efficiently through a seamless network of roadways.

www.mobilityauthority.com

1. **183A TOLL**
   An 11.6-mile toll road from northwest Austin through Cedar Park and Leander that features a shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians. Navigation and safety improvements at the US 183/183A intersection were completed and opened to traffic in August. Following months of closures and detours, a permanent connection is now open between US 183 and CR 276.

2. **280 TOLL (MANOR EXPRESSWAY)**
   A 6.2-mile limited access road, including three tolled lanes and three non-tolled frontage lanes in each direction and a shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

3. **MOPAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
   Varies pricing, tolls Express Lanes under construction will give drivers an option to bypass congestion on the 11-mile stretch of MoPac between Partners Lane and Cesar Chavez Street. The project will open in 2016.

4. **183 SOUTH**
   The toll project will add capacity to US 183 between US 290 and SH 71 to improve airport access and local mobility. A design-build contract was approved in July, and the project will break ground in early 2016.

5. **SH 45SW**
   During ongoing final design efforts, design changes were identified that would benefit the project by reducing environmental impacts, improving operations, and increasing safety. The four-lane toll road will feature extensive measures to protect the area’s sensitive resources and will include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

6. **MOPAC SOUTH**
   An environmental study is in progress to identify options for managing congestion and improving mobility on south MoPac from Cesar Chavez St. to Slaughter Ln. In response to public feedback, the study period has been extended and an additional Open House is being planned for this fall.

7. **OAK HILL PARKWAY**
   In partnership with TxDOT, an environmental study is underway to improve long term mobility for drivers navigating the bottleneck on US 290 and SH 71, or the “Y” at Oak Hill.

8. **183 NORTH MOBILITY PROJECT**
   An environmental study is ongoing to identify options for managing congestion and improving reliability along US 183 between SH 45 North and MoPac. A Public Hearing is planned for this year.

9. **SH 71 EXPRESS**
   Developed in partnership with TxDOT, a 3.9-mile toll road is under construction to improve traffic flow along the SH 71 corridor between the airport and SH 130.

Revised Construction Timeline for MoPac Improvement Project

MOPAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

If you’re a commuter on MoPac, you’re probably noticed a lot of construction progress on the new Express Lanes between Cesar Chavez Street and Parmer Lane. Long-awaited sound walls are going up along the southern end of the project. Crews have been widening bridges, and the southbound lanes approaching downtown have been reconfigured to allow room to construct an underpass for a downtown connection. On the north end of the project, the final piece of a 525-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad track south of Duval Road has been installed and a significant amount of asphalt paving for the new express lanes has been completed. This fall, to begin construction of the underpass lane from downtown the northbound lanes of MoPac will be rerouted.

While the project is more than 70 percent complete, the MoPac contractor, CH2M, has advised the Mobility Authority that they have encountered some difficulties that will likely lead to the express lanes being opened in phases during 2016. The contractor says they encountered difficulty in boring the underground drainage tunnels for the Express Lane underpasses. They have also reported issues with underground utilities, problems finding enough workers, and challenges related to previous months’ wet weather.

We are working closely with the contractor to help expedite construction and get the new lanes open as soon as possible. For the latest project update, visit mopacexpress.com.

To celebrate the Express Lanes in progress on north MoPac and soon-to-arrive faster commute times, the Mobility Authority initiated a “Music that Moves You” campaign. MoPac commuters tweeted their favorite commuting songs and we created a Spotify playlist. Visit mopacexpress.com to start listening now.

MOPAC LANE ARE YOU?
   The Mobility Authority launched a humorous quiz for commuters to find out which lane on MoPac they are likely to prefer. Find out which lane is right for you by visiting mobilityauthority.com/quiz.
Mays is restricted to two lanes from around Nash Street to the bridge over Brushy Creek, south of Hwy. 79.

**Timeline:** March 2015-March 2017  
**Cost:** $13.2 million  
**Funding sources:** city of Round Rock, federal grant funds

### Road expansion

- **FM 685**
  - The project is a major overhaul of FM 685 in Hutto between SH 130 and Hwy. 79. The road will be widened from two lanes to four lanes. Medians and turn lanes will be added, and two new bridges 12 feet higher than the current bridges will be built. The work is intended to improve traffic flow and safety. Crews are working on relocating drainage systems to allow for the road and bridge expansions as of August.
  - **Timeline:** October 2014-fall 2016  
  - **Cost:** $15 million  
  - **Funding sources:** Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, city of Hutto

### Roadway extension

- **Pfluger Farm Lane**
  - The city of Pflugerville will extend the road from near its intersection with Pflugerville Parkway to just south of its Town Center Drive intersection next to the 24 Hour Fitness within the Stone Hill Town Center. Excavation began in August with road work expected to start in the coming weeks.
  - **Timeline:** August-spring 2016  
  - **Cost:** $4 million  
  - **Funding sources:** city of Pflugerville

- **I-35 ramp reversals**
  - This project alters the locations of four entrance and exit ramps on I-35 between Hwy. 79 and Old Settlers Boulevard in Round Rock to better accommodate the flow of traffic. The switch to northbound on and off ramps as well as the southbound on ramp occurred in August.
  - **Timeline:** October 2014-March 2016  
  - **Cost:** $6.6 million  
  - **Funding sources:** city of Round Rock, TxDOT

### Other transportation projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project description</th>
<th>Estimated timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The city of Round Rock is working to reconstruct Sundance Parkway and Parker Road in the La Frontera development.</td>
<td>May-October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on a diverging diamond interchange is underway at the intersection of University Boulevard and I-35 in Round Rock. The interchange aims to alleviate traffic by allowing vehicles to flow on and off of University more easily.</td>
<td>October 2014-fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis County is widening Wells Branch Parkway just outside Pflugerville from Immansel Road to Killingsworth Lane.</td>
<td>April-October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The city of Hutto is extending Carl Stern Boulevard to west of FM 685 and linking it to SH 130.</td>
<td>Summer 2014-December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The city of Round Rock has begun work to connect Creek Bend Boulevard and Wyoming Springs Drive by means of an elevated roadway.</td>
<td>April-October</td>
</tr>
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City addresses waves of summer lake visitors

Popularity of Lake Pflugerville leads to more police patrols, planned services

By Emilie Shaughnessy

Lake Pflugerville, the city’s 180-acre water reservoir, usually draws large crowds for events such as the annual Lake Pflugerville Triathlon, but city officials say the lake has been especially busy as a recreation spot this year, leading to some maintenance and public safety challenges.

In response to the rising popularity of Lake Pflugerville as a venue for recreational activities, as well as a community survey stating the lake is the location residents don’t feel safe walking at night, Pflugerville police increased their patrols there this summer, Pflugerville Assistant Police Chief Jim McLean said.

The department added weekday and weeknight lake patrol shifts, increased weekend patrols and is requesting the hire of two additional officers whose primary duty will be to police the lake during the summer, he said.

“As things have continued to develop, [Lake Pflugerville] has become even more popular, and it has drawn bigger and bigger crowds,” McLean said. “We decided it was in everyone’s best interest to patrol it pretty heavily.”

According to police records, police responded to about seven thefts and vehicle burglaries at the lake in June and July. Pflugerville Police Chief Charles Hooker said the department has seen a “massive increase in calls for service” around the lake, but the majority of the incidents have been minor and not criminal in nature.

James Hemenes, director of the Pflugerville Parks and Recreation Department, said the large number of summer visitors is beginning to take a toll on the lake’s amenities.

“The restrooms, the parking, really the beach space is probably getting close to capacity on certain days of the week,” he said. “We’ve been dealing with the [challenges of] increased popularity in litter control especially.”

Hemenes partly attributes the lake’s increased popularity to the attention generated by an $8 million lake improvement bond voters approved in November.

The bond funding will support projects proposed in the new Lake Pflugerville Master Plan such as an amphitheater, an expanded beach area and additional parking, Hemenes said. Because of other park projects underway, Hemenes said it could be a year before the bond funds begin to be put to use.

Briana Roehling, owner of Pflugerville fitness company Seigga Multisport, said she often exercises at Lake Pflugerville. She said the area attracts runners because it has a looped track about the same length as a 5K and offers training opportunities for triathlon participants.

“If you go there on a Saturday or Sunday early in the morning there are a ton of people running or cycling or swimming,” she said.

Hemenes said he expects Lake Pflugerville to become even busier in the coming years, especially as new residents move to the area around the lake east of SH 130.

“I think more people are finding out about [the lake],” he said. “People are finding there is a lot of opportunity for recreation there. They’re seeing this gem that used to be pretty hidden.”

Most police presence at Lake Pflugerville is preventive in nature and call logs show an increase in the percentage of proactive premises checks since 2013.

**Approximate calls for services**

<table>
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<tr>
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*August data not available at press time*
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CITY IMPROVEMENTS

Hutto on track to create railroad quiet zones throughout the city

By Emilie Shaughnessy

Hutto City Council could vote in September to fund a project that would make the familiar blare of a train’s horn in Hutto the exception rather than the rule.

Federal regulations require train engineers to sound their horns for 15 to 20 seconds when approaching intersections as a safety precaution, but parts of Austin and some of its neighboring cities, such as Cedar Park and Leander, have circumvented that rule by initiating railroad quiet zones—areas where trains do not sound their horns.

Hutto could be next on that list if a proposed Capital Improvement Plan budget is approved by City Council, City Manager Karen Daly said.

Currently, train conductors sound their horns anywhere from two to a dozen times when traveling through Hutto’s three main intersections, said Michael Thompson, who co-owns Hutto Therapy Center opposite the train tracks near Hwy. 79.

“Some of the [conductors] just toot the horn, and some of them lay on it the whole way through Hutto—it’s deafening,” Thompson said. “When you’re on the phone you can’t even talk. You have to hold your conversation until the whistle stops.”

Federal Railroad Administration documents estimate about 29 trains travel through Hutto every 24 hours.

To install a quiet zone, cities must secure an intersection to the point that no vehicles or pedestrians would be able to cross while a train passes, thus making the train horn warning unnecessary. FRA Public Affairs Specialist Michael Cole said.

“It is up to local government agencies to establish these quiet zones,” he said. “It is not an uncommon thing. There are communities across the nation working to get quiet zones.”

Daly said the process could be more affordable for Hutto if the city is able to incorporate quiet zone intersection improvements at the FM 685 crossing into the construction project already taking place on that road. In the draft CIP budget, Hutto staffers are recommending $100,000 for the total quiet zone project cost, she said.

Daly said she helped obtain railroad quiet zones for the city of Sugar Land as assistant city manager there and that the process took about two years.

“We didn’t realize how much our quality of sleep was disrupted [in Sugar Land] until the trains stopped [using horns],” she said. “I’d seen the benefit of [quiet zones], and since I live on one side of the track and work on the other [side in Hutto], I hear the trains all the time. When you first move in, you realize how disruptive it is, then you sort of get used to it.”

Even after quiet zones are adopted, train engineers can still sound their horns if there is perceived danger on the track or if there is construction in the immediate area, said Jeff DeGraff, a spokesperson for Union Pacific Railroad, a rail company that sends trains through Hutto.

DeGraff said Union Pacific does not endorse quiet zones, but the company complies with the Federal Railroad Administration rules, which allow for the zones in certain circumstances.

“While we understand the desire to limit noise in a community, train horns are a vital part of railroad safety. Union Pacific believes quiet zones compromise the safety of railroad employees, customers, and the general public,” DeGraff said in an email. “As inconvenient as some may think train horns are, an accident can be devastating.”

“Some of the [conductors] just toot the horn, and some of them lay on it the whole way through Hutto—it’s deafening.”

—Michael Thompson, co-owner of Hutto Therapy Center
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Turning dirt in Round Rock
Rising costs mean accelerated timeline for city projects
By Scott Thomas

The city of Round Rock is moving forward with multiple building projects to try and stay ahead of rising construction costs in the area.

“We've seen a 20 percent rise [in construction costs] since last year already,” said Chad McDowell, Round Rock General Services director. “Which is huge when you're talking $20 million projects.”

McDowell said although city staffers are trying to get the projects started as quickly as possible, they are doing their due diligence.

“We are doing everything we can to get [the building projects] up and get them out,” he said. “But we're doing it right. We're not doing it so fast we're hurting ourselves.”

McDowell said the city is working on several bond projects, such as the Rock'N River Family Aquatic Center expansion and multiple fire stations. The city is also constructing an expansion to the Round Rock Sports Center, which is funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax. McDowell said more projects, like a police and fire training facility are on the horizon.

McDowell said balancing the projects can be a challenge.

“Right now we are maxed out,” he said. “As these projects are built, we'll take on additional projects and keep going... We're just going to keep building and have the infrastructure for the population growth.”

**ROCK’N RIVER FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER EXPANSION**

- **Budget:** $6.7 million
- **Status:** under construction
- **Estimated completion:** May 1

Construction on the city-run water park will add new amenities, such as areas for teens and adults, as well as a new play structure that city staff say will double the capacity of the park.

“Right now we’ve got pretty much all the infrastructure in place,” said Rick Atkins, Parks and Recreation Department director. “In the next three weeks when we get our pool season closed down, that’s when you’ll see a lot of major progress.”

Atkins said there have been no complaints from park users while contractors work on the expansion.

“We’ve got posters everywhere showing people what’s coming. They seem to be really excited about the project itself,” he said. “People can’t wait for next summer.”

Atkins said the expansion is on schedule despite rain early in the process.

**TWO FIRE STATIONS**

- **Budget:** $4 million (bidded as package)
- **Status:** November start dates
- **Estimated completion:** December 2016

Shane Glasier, Round Rock Fire Department battalion chief, said the new fire stations located on Red Bud Lane and Lisa Rae Drive, near Gattis School Road, will help the department achieve its desired response times on Round Rock’s east side.

“Our goal is to have a good response time to any emergency,” Glasier said. “With our current setup, the Red Bud-Forest Creek area has an extended response time.”

Glasier said the fire department worked with the city’s Geographic Information Systems department to find the optimal locations for the new stations.

McDowell said finding land for the fire stations was a challenge since no land was for sale when city staffers started looking.

“We knocked on doors [in the area],” McDowell said. “We got lucky there was a person who wanted to sell.”

**ROUND ROCK SPORTS CENTER BUILDING B**

- **Budget:** $1.2 million
- **Status:** under construction
- **Estimated completion:** December

Chad McDowell, Round Rock General Services director, said city staffers always intended to build the Building B enhancement, but that they did not have the funds to do so in the original construction plan.

“We always planned to do this family entertainment center,” McDowell said. “It’s a place we could take all the kids and the parents and give them a place to go.”

McDowell said the Building B enhancement will give attendees a place to go when the center gets more than 3,000 visitors.

McDowell said the city moved forward with the expansion because the center has become popular.

“We’re getting the attendance we want so we’re going to our next project, which is the Building B project,” he said.

**FUTURE BUILDING PROJECTS IN ROUND ROCK**

- **LIBRARY**
  Status: seeking land for purchase

- **FIRE STATION NO. 3**
  Status: pursuing land for site

- **FIRE AND POLICE TRAINING FACILITY**
  Status: estimated June 2016 start

**PROJECTS IN ROUND ROCK**

Source: city of Round Rock/Community Impact Newspaper

Map not to scale

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EDC names new president and CEO

**HUTTO** The Hutto Economic Development Corp. hired a new president and CEO, it announced Aug. 4.

Tim Chase, former president of the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition in Kansas, was selected from an international pool of 43 applicants, according to a news release.

HEDC Board Chairman Mario Perez said Chase will provide valuable economic development experience and leadership.

“As one of only 25 accredited [International Economic Development Council] entities, it was important that we conduct a meticulous and extensive search for the right person to lead our development efforts,” Perez said in a statement. “Tim has the background, energy and passion that will set the stage for Hutto and the HEDC to be one of the top contenders in today’s competitive market.”

Chase is a member of the IEDC and has chaired several projects for the council’s Economic Development Research Partnership, according to the HEDC. He assumed his new position Aug. 4.

“Tim Chase has proven experience as a top-notch economic development professional, and Hutto is fortunate to have someone of his caliber leading our economic development efforts,” Hutto Mayor Debbie Holland said in a statement. “Representing the HEDC and our community in its continuing involvement with Opportunity Austin to foster job creation and investment in the five-county Central Texas region is a high priority, and Tim will represent us well.”

City gives OK to food truck, trailer operators

**ROUNDROCK** City Council approved an ordinance Aug. 27 allowing mobile food vendors to serve food within the city at certain locations for limited amounts of time.

The ordinance allows mobile food vendors, often referred to as food trucks or trailers, to operate at existing businesses such as multi-tenant retail locations or bars that do not have a kitchen as well as parks and recreation facilities.

“This is an attempt to have food trucks without the unsightliness of a trailer park,” said Brad Wiseman, director of planning for the city of Round Rock at an Aug. 25 workshop meeting.

Wiseman said mobile food vendors can park at a site permanently if the vehicle is not visible from the public right of way. He said the owner of the business at which the food vendor would operate must apply for a permit as well.

County contemplates adding death investigators to relieve workload

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY** Officials are hoping to add three death investigators to the county attorney’s office to offer justices of the peace some relief with the rising number of death inquests.

Since Williamson County does not have a medical examiner’s office, it is the responsibility of justices of the peace to respond to scenes of death outside of a medical facility. Because of a higher amount of deaths experienced with a rising population, it has become common for justices of the peace to delay or cancel court hearings to rush out to a scene, said Bill Gravell, Williamson County justice of the peace for Precinct 3.

According to the office of court administration, Williamson County justices responded to 461 death inquests last year. The office predicts that number will rise to 521 by the end of this year, Gravell said.

Williamson County Judge Dan Gattis said he hopes the justices could be helped by hiring death inquest investigators to go out to the scenes. Two of the county’s four justices appeared before the Williamson County commissioners Aug. 11 to support adding the positions.

The death investigators would be able to respond to the scene of the death, gather medical records from hospitals, notify family members and authorize the body to be moved from the scene, said Williamson County Attorney Dee Hobbs.

Police provide space for safe transactions

**PFLUGERVILLE** The Pflugerville Justice Center is now available as a Safe Trade Site for residents who are buying or selling items online and would like a secure location to meet a buyer or seller.

The parking lot of the police department is under surveillance 24/7 and can be used as a meeting spot between online buyers and sellers, Police Chief Charles Hooker said.

During business hours, online vendors or customers can also meet in the police station lobby, he said.

“Should there be an emergency we are very close,” Hooker said. “We’re excited to offer this program.”

Mayor Jeff Coleman said he referred someone seeking to sell a vehicle to the new Safe Trade Site.

“I think this is something that, if we can get the word out, will be something that is used because more and more people are using the Internet to sell things, but they don’t feel comfortable with someone coming to their house,” he said.

Hooker suggested Pflugerville residents looking to buy or sell a large item that cannot be transported to a Safe Trade Site take precautions such as informing a friend or neighbor of the appointment and not allowing a stranger to walk through a home unaccompanied.

Meetings

**Hutto City Council**
Meets first and third Thursday, 7 p.m.
401 W. Front St., Hutto

**Pflugerville City Council**
Meets second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m.
100 E. Main St., Pflugerville
512-990-6101, www.cityofpflugerville.com

**Round Rock City Council**
Meets second and fourth Thursday, 7 p.m.
216 E. Main St., Round Rock

**Williamson County Commissioners Court**
Meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
710 S. Main St., Georgetown
512-943-1550, www.wilco.org

**Travis County Commissioners Court**
Meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
700 Lavaca St., Austin

Tweetings

For instant coverage of these meetings, follow us on Twitter: @impactnews_rph

For these stories and other online-exclusive content, visit communityimpact.com.
In September 2005, the first edition of Community Impact Newspaper shipped to mailboxes in the cities of Round Rock and Pflugerville. At the time, publisher John Garrett wrote:

“Our mission is clear: to provide Round Rock and Pflugerville residents and business owners with a free, monthly publication. One that is full of news and information that impacts their lives, business and community.”

At the time, Community Impact Newspaper covered Round Rock and Pflugerville. Ten years later it reaches nearly 1.5 million mailboxes in 31 cities throughout the Austin, Dallas/Ft. Worth and Houston metro areas. To celebrate the decade milestone, Community Impact Newspaper is looking at a few of the stories the newspaper wrote about in the first year and the ways the cities have changed.

**2005**

The second front-page story of Community Impact Newspaper’s first edition was about the retail and health care destinations that were coming to Chandler Road, what is now University Boulevard.

In September 2005, Simon Property Group had announced its intention to build the Round Rock Premium Outlets just two months before. In August 2005 Swedish retailer IKEA announced its plans to build a location across the street from the outlets.

Also at the time, Scott & White Hospital-Round Rock and Seton Medical Center Williamson were more than a year away from completion. Community Impact Newspaper wrote, “The positive consequences for Round Rock and Pflugerville are both immediate and far reaching. More than 2,000 jobs will be created and the property tax and sales tax base will be increased.”

Now: **Tollways have increased regional transportation options, economic viability**

The Texas Department of Transportation held ribbon cuttings for Loop 1, SH 45 N and SH 130 segments 1 and 2 in December 2006. Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw said in 2015 they have made regional mobility much more viable in the area.

“Of the biggest transportation issues we have is a regional transportation system,” McGraw said. “The tolls have done a fantastic job in making [regional transportation] in many cases easier. For example, I can get to the airport faster here [in Round Rock] than many people in West Austin.”

Pflugerville Mayor Jeff Coleman said the toll roads “fundamentally” changed the city.

“(SH 130 and SH 45 N) opened a retail shopping sector for us that didn’t exist prior to the tolls being built,” Coleman said. “Which is now the economic engine driving our commercial sector.”

McGraw said the toll roads have helped economic development in Round Rock.

“Take a company like Emerson that [has] thousands of visitors, and tell them how easy it is to get to and from the airport,” McGraw said. “That’s a big economic selling point.”

In September 2005, most readers did not have access to the information of where area toll roads were being built and how much they would cost, said John Garrett, founder and publisher of Community Impact Newspaper.

“More importantly, many local businesses along these roads weren’t even sure where the entrance and exit ramps were going to be, which is a very important concern for local business access,” Garrett said.

Garrett said he went to the toll road office off Wells Branch Parkway and drew every entrance and exit ramp by hand based off of a huge wall map in the engineering department.

“This was before we could easily pull up satellite images on our phone, so we had to buy the rights to a large satellite image and then on our old Mac Mini we had to hand-place every arrow over the map,” he said. “It took all night for our original graphic designer, Patty Smith, and I to place all of these arrows.”

Garrett said the readers loved it and expressed through emails, phone calls and in person how much they appreciated this information.

“This map put Community Impact Newspaper on the map for local news for our readers,” he said.
**Growing population**

Since 2005, the Central Texas population has seen dramatic increases, and Round Rock, Pflugerville and Hutto have been at the forefront of that growth. This graph shows the three city’s growth in the past 10 years.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau/Community Impact Newspaper*

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**Now: University Boulevard exceeds early expectations**

Not only have IKEA, Round Rock Premium Outlets and the two hospitals opened on the corridor, but in more recent years multiple shopping centers, an H-E-B and a Bass Pro Shops & Outdoor World have all also opened along the corridor.

“All I can say is wow,” McGraw said. “We knew [University Boulevard] had possibilities. But if you look up and down University, what’s there now wasn’t there 10 years ago. It has exceeded everyone’s wildest expectations.”

McGrw said the destination retail has had a “huge” economic impact on the city.

“On the downside it would not be accurate to say [development] hasn’t had a transportation impact,” McGraw said. “Which is why we’re spending millions to improve [the corridor] and the state has been spending millions to improve it.”

The city has plans to widen a section of University Boulevard between Sunrise Road and I-35 in 2016.

Furthermore, the Texas Department of Transportation is working on a diverging diamond interchange at the intersection of University Boulevard and I-35 set to be completed this fall. TxDOT states traffic will flow off the interchange in a more controlled manner than a typical intersection.

---

**Now: Lake Pflugerville essential part of local water supply**

Coleman said the city leaders who decided to build Lake Pflugerville were “visionary.”

“In our most recent drought, if we had not had Lake Pflugerville, the effect our citizens would have felt would have been much worse,” he said.

Coleman said the lake has succeeded as a recreational amenity as well.

“With the addition of the beach people who just want to be around a body of water can come to Lake Pflugerville,” he said. “It has been a wonderful addition to the community.”
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Fall Faculty Speaker Series | October 28, 2015
Common Experience | November 12, 2015

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Continued from | 1

Language

I want my child to have the benefits; so there is a lot of interest and in some places a lot of pressure for [school districts] to offer these programs," Kennedy said.

Since 2011 the number of Austin ISD schools offering two-way dual-language programs has quadrupled from four to 16, and the model is expanding in Round Rock, Pflugerville and Hutto ISDs as well.

Demand for dual language

Hutto ISD is entering the second year of its Spanish/English two-way dual language program and is planning to phase out the one-way program at both of its bilingual elementary schools by 2018, said Elva Torres, director of federal and bilingual programs at Hutto ISD.

“The two-way dual-language program is by far the best model we can offer our children,” Torres said. “This is a trend in the area. What we’ve seen is we have a number of students and parents in the community who are interested.”

Bridge Wall of Hutto said she enrolled her daughter in HISD’s dual language program last year partly because the prevalence of the language at her husband’s job affirmed the social and economic benefits of bilingualism.

“To be honest, living in Texas I really felt like it would be an asset for her to have a second language, especially Spanish,” Wall said. “My mom [was a native Spanish-speaker] never forced me to pursue it and honestly I wish I would have. I just thought, ‘What an amazing gift to be able to speak a different language.’”

Maria Arreguin-Anderson, president of advocacy organization Texas Association for Bilingual Education, said parents have been some of the strongest advocates for two-way dual-language classes and have been instrumental in establishing programs in many cities. “We have seen an increase in the number of parents from non-Spanish-speaking populations who now want their children to not only become bilingual but biliterate because they are looking at the future, not only of their children, but the future of the country,” she said.

Teacher shortage

Because of the state’s mandated bilingual services for students who are not proficient in English, bilingual teachers are in high demand in Texas, Kennedy said.

Many school districts recruit teachers from countries such as Mexico or Spain to fill the gap or rely on alternative certification programs that can fast-track teacher training, she said.

In 2013, RRISD was unable to fill dual-language teacher positions at two of its elementary schools and, as a result, began a bilingual teacher recruitment program, according to school district documents. The school system was able to fill all positions in 2014, according to the documents.

Torres said HISD dealt with similar challenges, so the district approved a $5,000 stipend for dual-language teachers last year. RRISD and PflISD also offer stipends for bilingual teachers.

In 2011, PflISD launched its own bilingual educator certification program to recruit and train bilingual instructors in-house, said Kennedy, who formerly worked for PflISD and helped create the program.

Even with a district-based certification program, recruiting quality international bilingual teachers can be challenging because foreign education programs, and regulations may not correspond to American standards, Kennedy said.

“These are highly educated people from around the world, but there are huge challenges because they need to acquire a Texas teaching certification, which is not easy in many cases,” she said.

Starting young

Although area school districts offer dual-language programs starting in pre-K, Diaz said children as young as 1 or 2 years old can begin acquiring a second language. Diaz said she knows the bilingual model at her new preschool will work because she has seen children in traditional day care settings pick up words and phrases from bilingual staff or other children. “[The toddlers] definitely learn from the older ones. They’re trying to imitate what they’re saying, and they will ask the teacher, ‘What is he saying?’” Diaz said. “I think it’s a great way to teach.”

In Round Rock, Texas Spanish Academy is one of the few Spanish immersion child care and preschool centers, but director Edina Morrison said she has seen an increased interest in starting language immersion at a younger age.

Although Texas Spanish Academy is a one-way immersion program, geared toward native English speakers, Morrison said the center gives a head start to children entering RRISD’s two-way immersion classes. At the academy, staff members speak only in Spanish as they care for and teach children ranging in age from infants to preschool, Morrison said.

“We wanted our students to be able to feed into a strong and established dual-language program,” she said. “So our students, when they finish here, they leave as bilingual students.”

Diaz said that given the demographics of the Austin metropolitan area and the trend in dual-language immersion programs, bilingual day cares and early education centers will increase in popularity.

“I think the trend will be that most centers will become fully bilingual at some point,” she said.
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Area school districts raise teacher pay, morale to increase retention

Austin-area salaries lower than in other Texas metros

By Emilie Shaughnessy

The average teacher salary in the Greater Austin area is about $48,300—the ninth highest in the state’s 20 education districts, according to the Texas Education Agency. But August Plock, president of the Pflugerville Educators Association, said it is still easy for Austin-area teachers to be enticed by higher-paying school systems throughout the state and transfer out of Central Texas.

“[Other metropolitan areas] start their teachers at $50,000, and here in Central Texas, it’s about $44,000, and we’re losing teachers to those other areas,” he said. “We call it the ‘CenTex discount’ because school districts rely on the fact that people want to live in the Austin area.”

Being an educator is hard, said Jennifer Canaday, governmental relations manager for the Association of Texas Professional Educators. Lack of support and perceived deficiencies in training or compensation can be stressors—especially for new teachers—and lead to low retention rates, she said.

“Turnover is definitely a problem,” Canaday said. “There is a much higher turnover in teaching than in other professions.”

With the cost of living rising in the Austin area, local salaries may not stretch as far, and Canaday said higher entry-level salaries in other industries could pull college students away from the education field.

“Most teachers will tell you they didn’t enter the profession for the money; however the money is important,” she said.

**Staying competitive**

The Round Rock, Pflugerville and Hutto ISDs all approved a 2 percent salary increase this year in addition to similar raises last year, according to school district officials.

“We want to keep our talent, and we want to grow our talent from within,” Round Rock ISD spokesperson Corey Ryan said. “Our board very seriously evaluates salary schedules and looks at things like cost of living. We’ve always been very competitive against our peer districts in the state.”

In a 2015 Texas Association of School Boards survey, 66 percent of Hutto ISD teachers who responded to the survey said their pay was fair, and 78 percent thought it was competitive with other districts. The satisfaction in both areas increased from 2013 by 39 percent and 42 percent, respectively, according to survey results.

Lisa Patterson, HISD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, said the school system has been increasing retention efforts and used results from previous TASB surveys to determine how best to support teaching staff.

“I would attribute those positive results to the fact that the district took a hard look at what we were paying in comparison to some of our competitors,” she said. “We made some moves and strides in some of those areas based on market data.”

For the 2013-14 school year—the most recent data available—HISD’s turnover rate was 22.8 percent, PflISD’s turnover rate was 17.6 percent and RRISD’s rate was 12.6 percent, according to the Texas Education Agency.

“[PfISD] has given teachers a 5 percent raise over the past two years, and has covered the increase in insurance premiums for employee insurance,” said Rhonda McWilliams, PfISD human resources executive director, in a statement. “The stipend for bilingual-certified teachers has also increased for 2015-16.”

**Retention not just about money**

When it comes to teacher retention, training and work environment are crucial, Canaday said. Turnover rates are particularly high among new teachers, which may indicate inadequate preparation and support, she said.

Patterson said the tight-knit community in Hutto and HISD is a large contributor to teacher satisfaction there. In the TASB survey, nearly all respondents said they were proud to work for HISD, liked the work they did and felt good about what they accomplished.

Ryan said Round Rock’s amenities and the ISD’s reputation help attract quality teachers.

“We really do feel strongly in the brand and reputation Round Rock ISD has as a leader and as an innovative [district],” he said. “We feel this is a destination for families and schools.”

In PfISD the educators association and proactive school board both serve as a draw for teachers, Plock said. Good campus morale and a support-ive administration can help combat turnover, but teachers can still burn out, he said.

Canaday said it is more important than ever for communities and officials to support their local educators.

“We definitely have to do something to elevate the prestige of the profession,” she said. “[Being an educator] is not an easy job. Overall, we just need to do more to support them.”

**Average Texas Teacher Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greater Austin-area teacher salaries average $48,341—slightly lower than the state average of $50,715.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Round Rock ISD:</strong> $50,459 ($44,593 starting salary as of 2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pflugerville ISD:</strong> $48,472 ($41,731 starting salary as of 2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hutto ISD:</strong> $47,789 ($42,387 starting salary as of 2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Texas Education Agency/Community Impact Newspaper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“Most teachers will tell you they didn’t enter the profession for the money; however the money is important.”**

—Jennifer Canaday, governmental relations manager for the Association of Texas Professional Educators
Mrs. Budd’s classroom serves deaf and deaf-blind students. As an ATPE member, she qualified for matching funds to help create new learning opportunities for her students by stocking her classroom with tactile materials. ATPE matched donors’ contributions and funded 50% of this project.

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Mrs. Budd
Round Rock ISD Teacher
ATPE Member

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Join ATPE today and qualify for matching funds for your classroom projects!
Elementary school expected to alleviate overcrowding

ROUND ROCK ISD The district broke ground on its 34th elementary school during the summer and expects to open the new facility in time for the 2016-17 school year.

The location of the new school at 2800 Sauls Drive off Bratton Lane will help alleviate overcrowding at Wells Branch Elementary School. The district already owned the property for the new school.

The layout of the new 118,324-square-foot facility will be similar to Elsa English Elementary School on Pearson Ranch Road, which opened in August 2012, school officials said.

Round Rock ISD has not yet modified its district map to include boundaries for the new school; that process will begin this fall, officials said.

The district named Gabrielle Niño the school’s first principal. Niño was principal of Bluebonnet Elementary School in Round Rock for four years. Before that she was assistant principal at Robertson Elementary School, summer school principal at Union Hill Elementary School and a teacher at Cactus Ranch Elementary School.

“I am honored by the district’s request and look forward to my continued service to the community as well as the challenges ahead,” Niño said in a news release.

Superintendent Steve Flores said Niño will bring a wealth of experience to the community.

Voters approved funding for the new elementary school in May 2014, and the project is estimated to cost $36.7 million.

Chief hired for proposed school police department

HUTTO ISD The district announced the hiring of Rick Stone, the school district’s first police chief, on Aug. 19.

The proposed Hutto ISD Police Department, approved by the school board in May, is scheduled to include four officers in addition to the chief and be operational by the 2016-17 school year, according to district officials. Currently HISD school resource officers are supplied by the city of Hutto.

“[The position] is an opportunity that very few police chiefs have during their careers: to design, build, staff and command a law enforcement agency from its inception,” Stone said in a statement.

District continues with grading policy evaluation

PFLUGERVILLE ISD The board of trustees sent a grading policy back to committee after several Pflugerville ISD teachers spoke to the board Aug. 20 saying proposed revisions would allow broad criteria for students to retake tests and take advantage of the policy.

“Kids will play the grade game and wait until a test is given and retake the test,” said Karen Hensc, a Pflugerville High School social studies teacher. “The kids deserve a level playing field.”

PFISD board members also expressed concern about the proposed changes.

Superintendent Alex Torrez said the committee in charge of the policy changes made significant progress on the document, and the committee needed to work on the section about test retakes.

Round Rock ISD Year in Review

• In November the Round Rock ISD board of trustees swore in newly elected trustees Suzi Davis, Place 5, and Nikiti Gonzalez, Place 1.
• The board of trustees unanimously adopted a $374 million budget for the 2015-16 school year—a $12.7 million increase in revenue from the prior year’s budget. Revenue increases are largely due to $9 million in additional funding from the state and an increase in tax revenue from properties in the district, according to Randy Staats, the district’s chief financial officer. RRISD had an increase of more than 650 students in the 2015-16 year, Staats said.
• The board of trustees adopted a Freeport Tax exemption in June. Before the exemption, RRISD applied the tax to companies with inventory that was brought into Texas for manufacturing and exported out of the state within 175 days. The board and the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce said they expect the exemption to draw more manufacturers into the city and boost the local economy.

Pflugerville ISD Year in Review

• Dearing Elementary School opened in August 2014. Located at 4301 Gatts School Road, the school was built to accommodate population growth on Pflugerville’s northeast side. Its first year’s enrollment was 550 students.
• In October 2014, Pflugerville ISD announced the location of High School No. 4 on Weiss Lane between Pflugerville Parkway and Pecan Street. Two weeks later, Pflugerville residents approved a bond to significantly repair portions of Weiss.
• In May, Pflugerville and Hendrickson high schools were named among nation’s best high schools by U.S. News & World Report. Pflugerville High School was ranked at 1,812 and Hendrickson was ranked at 1,788 among 6,517 high schools nationally.

Hutto ISD Year in Review

• In April the school district began construction on its sixth elementary school, Norman Elementary School. The 92,000-square-foot facility will be located in the Riverwalk Community in Hutto.
• In May, Hutto ISD approved a high school equivalency program. The program will provide an alternative for students at risk of dropping out of high school.
• In June, HISD Superintendent Douglas Killian was named the Region 13 Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards. Killian was hired in 2010 and was named the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce 2014 Superintendent of the Year.
## District and School Targets

Results from the 2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, tests were released this summer.

Community Impact Newspaper publishes STAAR results by campus and by district. The following charts show how students performed on the annual exams as well as district information such as enrollment numbers and feeder school patterns.

In August districts and campuses received ratings of Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard or Improvement Required based on STAAR and end-of-course exam results from the 2014-15 school year and other indicators.

## Accountability Ratings

In the performance index accountability system, first introduced in 2012-13, ratings are as follows:

- **Met Standard (MS):** met performance targets
- **Met Alternative Standard (MAS):** met performance targets for charter operators and alternative education campuses
- **Improvement Required (IR):** did not meet one or more performance targets

### 2014-15 Statistics

- **Economically disadvantaged:** 58.7% 26.73%
- **English Language Learners (ELL):** 18.1% 8.74%
- **Average annual salary of teachers:** $50,715 $50,459
- **Average starting salary of teachers:** $43,480 $44,503

**Data is from 2013-14 school year. Data for 2014-15 will be available this fall.**

### District Results by Grade

**2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) passing results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Grade 5</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>End of course, all grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>English I: 82%, English II: 81%, algebra I: 91%, biology: 97%, U.S. history: 96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
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<td>90%</td>
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<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Middle Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014-15 STAAR passing results by subject</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>8th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Texas Education Agency, Pearson Education Inc., Round Rock ISD/Community Impact Newspaper

*Test results are all from the English version, first administrations of the spring 2015 STAAR and end-of-course exams. Results listed as NSE were not available as of press time; visit communityimpact.com for updates.*

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### Elementary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Anderson Mill</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Berkman</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blackland Prairie</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bluebonnet</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Brushy Creek</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Cactus Ranch</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Caldwell Heights</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Callison</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Canyon Creek</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Caraway</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Chandler Oaks</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Deep Wood</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Double File Trail</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 England</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Fern Bluff</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Forest Creek</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Forest North</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Gattis</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Great Oaks</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Herrington</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Jollyville</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Laurel Mountain</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Live Oak</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Old Town</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Old Town</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Pond Springs</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Purple Sage</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Robertson</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sommer</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Spicewood</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Teravista</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Union Hill</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Voigt</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Wells Branch</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>NSE</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44 Cedar Ridge</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2,718</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>76% 95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 McNeil</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2,546</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>83% 97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Round Rock</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2,972</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>86% 97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Stony Point</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2,463</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>75% 95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Westwood</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2,731</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92% 99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015-16 Round Rock ISD Feeder Pattern

2014-15 Round Rock ISD Total Students: 47,251

High Schools

Middle Schools

Elementary Schools

2015-16 Round Rock ISD School Boundaries

For more information on schools in Round Rock ISD, visit www.roundrockisd.org
Focus
PFLUGERVILLE ISD

2015 EDUCATION

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL TARGETS

Results from the 2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, tests were released this summer. Community Impact Newspaper publishes STAAR results by campus and by district. The following charts show how students performed on the annual exams as well as district information such as enrollment numbers and feeder school patterns.

In August districts and campuses received ratings of Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard or Improvement Required based on STAAR and end-of-course exam results from the 2014-15 school year and other indicators.

ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

In the performance index accountability system, first implemented in 2012-13, ratings are as follows:

**Met Standard (MS):** met performance targets

**Met Alternative Standard (MAS):** met performance targets for charter operators and alternative education campuses

**Improvement Required (IR):** did not meet one or more performance targets

2014-15 Pflugerville ISD accountability rating

| 1. Brookhollow | MS | 512 | 51.9% | 82% | NSE | 74% | NSE | 65% | 85% | NSE | 56% | 22 |
| 2. Caldwell | MS | 667 | 49.9% | 80% | NSE | 77% | NSE | 75% | 78% | NSE | 66% | 22, 23 |
| 3. Copperfield | MS | 481 | 78.4% | 84% | NSE | 69% | NSE | 38% | 85% | NSE | 70% | 24 |
| 4. Dearing | MS | 554 | 53.1% | 85% | NSE | 80% | NSE | 63% | 84% | NSE | 68% | 21 |
| 5. Dessau | MS | 508 | 83.1% | 83% | NSE | 65% | NSE | 46% | 70% | NSE | 56% | 19, 20 |
| 6. Highland Park | MS | 736 | 46.1% | 87% | NSE | 92% | NSE | 82% | 89% | NSE | 86% | 21, 22 |
| 7. Murchison | MS | 710 | 9.6% | 91% | NSE | 92% | NSE | 85% | 94% | NSE | 88% | 21 |
| 8. Northwest | MS | 562 | 68% | 74% | NSE | 63% | NSE | 71% | 86% | NSE | 82% | 24 |
| 9. Parmer Lane | MS | 439 | 69.8% | 80% | NSE | 89% | NSE | 73% | 84% | NSE | 74% | 24 |
| 10. Pflugerville | MS | 470 | 42% | 75% | NSE | 84% | NSE | 73% | 84% | NSE | 77% | 19, 22 |
| 11. Riojas | MS | 711 | 25.4% | 87% | NSE | 85% | NSE | 79% | 88% | NSE | 75% | 19 |
| 12. River Oaks | MS | 523 | 78.4% | 64% | NSE | 51% | NSE | 44% | 70% | NSE | 68% | 24 |
| 13. Rowe Lane | MS | 801 | 14.1% | 96% | NSE | 91% | NSE | 90% | 93% | NSE | 86% | 19, 21 |
| 14. Ruth Barron | MS | 729 | 86.4% | 69% | NSE | 55% | NSE | 35% | 55% | NSE | 48% | 20 |
| 15. Springfield | MS | 678 | 69.5% | 76% | NSE | 76% | NSE | 52% | 85% | NSE | 78% | 23 |
| 16. Timberman | MS | 459 | 50.6% | 74% | NSE | 83% | NSE | 72% | 83% | NSE | 74% | 22, 23 |
| 17. Wieland | MS | 498 | 66.5% | 74% | NSE | 82% | NSE | 69% | 77% | NSE | 68% | 20 |
| 18. Windermere | MS | 447 | 45.2% | 76% | NSE | 79% | NSE | 60% | 83% | NSE | 72% | 22, 23 |

DISTRICT SCORES BY GRADE

2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) passing results*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>NSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014-15 STAAR passing results by subject*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End-of-course—first time tested students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Hendrickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 John B Connally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Pflugerville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of course, all grades: English I: 73%, English II: 77%, algebra I: 91%, biology: 98%, U.S. History: 94%

Sources: Texas Education Agency, Pearson Education Inc., Pflugerville ISD/Community Impact Newspaper

*Test results are all from the English version, first administrations of the spring 2015 STAAR and end-of-course exams. Results listed as NSE were not available as of press time; visit communityimpact.com for updates.

**Data is from 2013-14 school year. Data for 2014-15 will be available this fall.
2015-16 Pflugerville ISD Feeder Pattern

2015-16 Pflugerville ISD Total Students: 23,948

2015-16 Pflugerville ISD School Boundaries

2015-16 Pflugerville ISD Elementary School Boundaries

2015-16 Pflugerville ISD Middle School Boundaries

2015-16 Pflugerville ISD High School Boundaries

For more information on schools in Pflugerville ISD, visit www.pfisd.net.
Community Impact Newspaper • communityimpact.com

### Round Rock Montessori School

**NOW ENROLLING**
Ages 6 weeks - 6 years  
Preschool - 1st Grade

- Montessori & Texas Certified and specialized teachers with degrees (BS, Masters).
- Educators experienced in language, math, science, art, music, Spanish, Hindi and Sign Language.
- Extracurricular activities (yoga, dance, piano & theatre arts).

1818 Sam Bass Rd.  •  512-733-1818  •  www.rrmstx.com

---

### Hutto ISD

**POINTS OF PRIDE**

- **Hutto HS** - UIL District Champions
- State finalists in choir, theatre, band, athletics, FCCLA, video technology and more
- Culinary Arts - Top 5 in state
- Robotics Regional Champions
- Maintained one of the highest attendance rates in Central Texas

5A-Division 2 State Quarterfinalist - Football

---

### Anthony D. Bain, D.D.S.

**DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN**

619 S. Heatherwilde Blvd.  •  Pflugerville, TX 78660  
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www.drbainpediatricdentist.com

**New Smiles Are Always Welcome!**

Your child will love our state of the art facility, gaming arcade, and movie entertainment while getting their teeth polished to perfection.

*Most insurance accepted.* As a courtesy, we will file primary insurance for you.

**Summer appointments fill quickly.** Don’t be left sweating trying to reserve a spot for your child. Call Dr. Bain’s office today!

**Children's Dental Health Challenges**

- Dental problems affect children’s academics
- They struggle to learn, focus in school
- They lack self-confidence
- They are reluctant to smile
- 51,679,100 school hours missed each year due to dental problems

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facebook.com/drbaindentistryforchildren

For special offers, contests and cavity free club pictures.

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**offering**

Pilates in Round Rock, TX

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Round Rock, TX 78664

(913) 276-4683
www.centerpointepilates.com

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### Center Point Pilates

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---
ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

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- Met Alternative Standard (MAS): met performance targets for charter operators and alternative education campuses
- Improvement Required (IR): did not meet one or more performance targets

2014-15 Hutto ISD accountability rating | MS

DISTRICT RESULTS BY GRADE

2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) passing results*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>3rd Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>4th Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>5th Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>6th Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Social studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Reading 75%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 85%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Reading 86%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Social studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 86%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Reading 81%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Reading 84%</td>
<td>Math NSE</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Social studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of course, all grades | English I: 76%, English II: 74%, algebra I: 82%, biology: 95%, U.S. history: 93%

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL TARGETS

Results from the 2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, tests were released this summer.

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In August districts and campuses received ratings of Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard or Improvement Required based on STAAR and end-of-course exam results from the 2014-15 school year and other indicators.

2014-15 STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economically disadvantaged</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learners (ELL)</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual salary of teachers</td>
<td>$50,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average starting salary of teachers**</td>
<td>$43,480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data is from 2013-14 school year. Data for 2014-15 will be available this fall.

2015-16 HUTTO ISD FEEDER PATTERN AND SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

HIGH SCHOOLS
- 8 Hutto

MIDDLE SCHOOLS
- 7 Hutto
- 6 Farley

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- 1 Cottonwood Creek
- 2 Hutto
- 3 Nadine Johnson
- 4 Ray
- 5 Veterans Hill

2014-15 HUTTO ISD TOTAL STUDENTS
6,187
Sixth Place Winner - Hunter Henchliff

Pflugerville Police Department open house

The Pflugerville Police Department invites community members to tour the Pflugerville Justice Center, including the incarceration, patrol and criminal investigation areas. Participants meet officers and learn about the motorcycle division, canine division, fire range and fingerprinting station. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Pflugerville Justice Center, 1611 E. Pfennig Lane, Pflugerville. 512-251-4004. www.pflugervilletx.gov/ pdopenhouse

Citizen Police Academy

Pflugerville residents learn about law enforcement and public safety

SEP

04 and 11, 18, 25

Sunset Music Series

The live music series features musical artists from the Austin area. At the series kickoff Sept. 4, the Billy Holt Band performs a selection of country songs. 7-9 p.m. Free. Hutto Co-op Gin building, 420 Hwy. 79, Hutto. 512-759-4029. www.visithutto.com

05

Reptile show

This all-ages show led by Austin Reptile Shows features live reptiles from throughout the world, such as pythons, king snakes, geckos and tortoises. During an educational presentation, participants are able to view reptiles up close. A question-and-answer segment follows the presentation. 2:30-3:15 p.m. Free. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St., Pflugerville. 512-990-6375. www.pflugervilletx.gov

11 and 12

Get Outdoors Hutto camp out

This annual outdoor excursion is a chance for Hutto-area residents to interact with nature and socialize with fellow participants. The overnight campout includes opportunities for fishing, canoeing, archery, bird-watching and games. 5 p.m. (Fri.)-5 a.m. (Sat.). Free. Hutto Lake Park, 805 Estate Drive, Hutto. 512-759-4000. www.huttotx.gov

12

The Hutto Yoga Room launch party

Hutto’s newest yoga studio invites community members to explore the studio space and partake in free yoga, coffee, mimosas and scones. Drawings are held every 20 minutes and include items such as free yoga class passes, an aromatherapy kit, essential oils and a lavender eye pillow. The first 50 visitors receive a free tote bag. 9-11 a.m. Free. The Hutto Yoga Room, 101 Taylor St, Ste. A-3, Hutto. www.thehuttoyogaroom.com

14 and 21, 28

Matter of Balance workshop series

At this event sponsored by Baylor Scott & White Health, AGE of Central Texas and CaregiverU community members concerned about balance, falls and injuries can learn to manage fears, practice strategies for fall prevention and develop plans for active, healthy lifestyles. 9-11 a.m. Free. Registration required. Scott & White Hospital-Round Rock, 300 University Blvd., Round Rock. 512-509-0803. www.caregiverucentx.org

15

Girl Scouts informational meeting

Area Girl Scouts troop members and volunteers lead an informational session about the Girl Scouts organization and opportunities to get involved with the organization. Parents and guardians learn which local troops still have openings, and school-aged girls participate in activities led by older Girl Scouts. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St., Pflugerville. www.pflugervilletx.gov

17

Pour Your Heart Out wine tasting

A benefit for the Pflugerville-based women’s charity Restoration Blessings, this event includes a silent auction, dancing, live music, food and wine tasting. Each guest brings three identical bottles of wine for tasting and scoring, with winners receiving a selection of the submitted wines. 6:30-9 p.m. $20 (admission), $250-$1,000 (sponsorships available). Lone Oak Barn, 1810 N. CR 122, Round Rock. 512-773-0305. www.restorationblessings.com. restorationblessings2@gmail.com

19

Pflugervilletx.gov/agepflugervilletx.gov

Pflugerville Haus Pfun Run

The family-friendly 5K benefits the Pflugerville Foundation, an organization that aims to preserve and restore the historic home of William Pfluger—the first home built in Pflugerville. Registration includes a T-shirt. 8:30 a.m.-noon. $10 (children), $25 (adults). Lake Pflugerville, 18216 Weiss Lane, Pflugerville. 512-964-4249. www.pflugerhausfoundation.org

19 and 27

St. Elizabeth Fiesta and pre-fiesta barbecue

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in Pflugerville hosts its annual community fiesta with food, games and live entertainment. The event also features a silent auction, live auction and raffle drawing. The church’s pre-fiesta barbecue and bingo night is held a week before the festival and includes pulled-pork sandwiches and sides for $5 or $7. 6 p.m. (pre-fiesta Sept. 19), 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (fiesta Sept. 27). Free. St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 1520 N. Railroad Ave., Pflugerville. 512-251-9838. www.stelizabethpf.org

19

Premier Martial Arts anniversary open house

The Round Rock martial arts academy celebrates its fifth anniversary with free introductory martial arts classes, board-breaking contests, ice cream, prizes and giveaways. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Premier Martial Arts, 1200 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. 512-745-5551. www.roundrockmartialarts.com

24

Teddy Bear Clinic

Representatives from Scott & White Clinic-Pflugerville provide teddy bear checkups following the Pflugerville Public Library’s regular story time event. Appointment times with Dr. Avni Shah are available beginning Sept. 17. Library staff and volunteers provide checkups for any teddy bears on the waiting list for appointments. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St., Pflugerville. 512-990-6375. www.pflugervilletx.gov/library
through a 12-week program hosted by the Pflugerville Police Department. Instruction and training topics include the use of tactical force, traffic investigation and crime investigation. After completing the course, participants age 21 and older have the option to volunteer with the city’s Citizens on Patrol program and help the department monitor streets and parks. 7-9 p.m. Free, registration required by Sept. 18. Pflugerville Justice Center, 1611 E. Pfening Lane, Pflugerville. 512-670-5557. www.pflugervilletx.gov

### October

#### Kaleidoscope Toys anniversary celebration

Kaleidoscope Toys celebrates its 26th year in Round Rock and invites the community to tour the store and participate in games and raffle contests. Refreshments are provided. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is a non-perishable food item donation for the Round Rock Area Serving Center. Kaleidoscope Toys, 110 N. I-35, Ste. 375, Round Rock. 512-388-5048. www.kdstoys.com

#### Suddenlink Bluegrass Festival

The 10th annual two-day event features live music from a variety of bluegrass bands. Friday performers include Billy Strings and Don Julin as well as Four Fights Per Pint and Indian and The Jones. Saturday performers include Blue Skyz Band and The Quibble Brothers. Guests can also sample concessions and browse vendors as well as participate in children’s activities. Leashed pets as well as coolers and alcoholic beverages are permitted at the festival; however, no glass bottles are allowed. 7-10:30 p.m. (Fri.), 6:30-10:30 p.m. (Sat.). Free admission. Robin Bledsoe Park, 601 S. Bagdad Road, Leander. 512-528-9909. www.leandertx.gov/parksrec

#### Pet food drive and shred day

The city of Round Rock sponsors this event as a way to gather supplies for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter in Georgetown and to give residents an opportunity to dispose of sensitive documents. Residents bring materials to the city’s recycling center to be destroyed on-site, weather permitting. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free (pet food donations accepted). City of Round Rock Recycling Center, 310 Deepwood Drive, Round Rock. 512-218-5599. www.roundrocktexas.gov/recycle

### Online Calendar

Find more or submit Round Rock, Pflugerville and Hutto events at communityimpact.com/ph-calendar.

To have Round Rock, Pflugerville and Hutto events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the second Friday of the month.

Sponsored by Roger Beasley

---

### September 4-7

#### Versus Iowa Cubs

**Friday 9/4 – 7:05PM**

Postgame Fireworks

Presented by Bud Light.

**Saturday 9/5 – 7:05PM**

**Shirt Off Their Back Night**

Don’t miss your opportunity to go home with a game-worn jersey. Presented by Kersey Lane Café.

**Sunday 9/6 – 6:05PM**

Fan Appreciation Night & Fireworks

Presented by Dell.

Mystery Photo Giveaway

Presented by Precision Camera & Video.

**H-E-B Kids Day**

Kids’ Pre-game events & post-game run the bases.

**Monday 9/7 – 12:05PM**

$1 Hot Dogs & Sodas

Presented by Mrs Baird’s.

**Labor Day and Final Regular Season Home Game of the Year!**

---

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WellMed is a group of more than 6,000 staff and contracted physicians delivering quality healthcare to people eligible for Medicare.
Throughout the Central Texas region, counties have become better at what they do, but there is still room for improvement, according to Will Conley, who is the chairman of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board and a Hays County commissioner.

“Counties work very closely together in Central Texas, and we’re very proud of that,” he said.

Conley said that collaboration is key when it comes to transportation planning as well as responding to disasters, such as the Memorial Day weekend floods, which caused millions of dollars worth of damage and destroyed homes.

How have the flood recovery efforts been?

We are on our feet, and people are moving forward with some recovery. Our first responders probably rescued directly about 250 people. We have a very strong community. For the most part most people are rebuilding and reconstructing, and things are going very well. Our crews are still out there helping. We’re about to start a pretty strong program of implementing new monitoring devices and emergency devices all the way from Blanco County to Caldwell County.

How were businesses in the area affected?

[In June] we set record sales tax figures in the city of Wimberley. ... But I know a lot of small businesses directly on the river probably had to return $250,000 worth of deposits [from cancellations]. ... There is still a lot [for tourists] to do in the Wimberley Valley—Cypress Creek and Jacob’s Well ... and Market Days and [going] downtown.

How has SH 130 helped to alleviate I-35 traffic?

Most of the traffic on I-35 here in Central Texas is us. So it has certainly helped relieve traffic, but it is built fairly far out there.

So, I think eventually, just my personal opinion, I think 130—and it’s built differently, so don’t take this as an apples to apples [comparison]—is going to look similar to what I-604 looks like today...So, I see that as an asset to the region and something that the communities are going to develop around.

It plays a role; it’s beneficial, but we’re going to have to do other things to improve I-35.

How are authorities planning for SH 45 SW?

We really are into the implementation part of the program. I, for one, don’t believe it will have a significant impact on MoPac. This way hopefully will be more direct, safer and won’t be such a disturbance to so many people, particularly in that portion of Travis County, as thousands of people are cutting through their subdivisions on a daily basis.

How is CAMPO doing to plan for transit, cyclists and pedestrians?

We have a lot of plans for all of the above. And it just comes back to priorities and funding.

We don’t move a lot of people on buses. ... [Providing cyclists amenities] makes a lot of sense in San Marcos. ... I think that stuff makes a lot of sense in Central Austin. ... But it’s going to take all of the above for transportation to work well in Central Texas.

How has the Central Texas region helped?

All our friends and colleagues from Austin and Travis County called in. We had law enforcement rotating in and out of Hays County to help. ... We had road crews from Travis County helping us fix the low water crossings. ... That’s what led, I think, to our efficiency in getting things cleaned up so quickly, because we didn’t do it by ourselves.

From left: Brett Thorne, Community Impact Newspaper’s San Marcos/Buda/Kyle editor, talks with Will Conley, a Hays County commissioner and chairman of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board, on Aug. 12.
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Changes lead to ‘renewed spirit’

GEORGETOWN Since becoming Southwestern University president in 2013, Edward Burger has overseen several changes at the liberal arts university, including updates to its academic affairs and leadership.

“T’m excited about the confluence and renewed spirit I’m seeing throughout the faculty and staff as well as through the new leadership on campus,” Burger said. “We are investing in areas that will increase Southwestern’s visibility as a singular academic and intellectual experience unlike anything else in Texas and beyond.”

Along with overseeing changes to the Paideia curriculum and the university relations department, Burger’s first years in office were spent restructuring the school’s budget, which had been operating at a deficit.

“Because of a lot of very difficult decisions that were made by president Burger, the senior leadership and our trustees, the budgetary issues have been resolved. We cut significantly; we got things not only back into balance but also moving into the right direction,” said Paul Secord, vice president of university relations. “Even during the times of budgetary shortfalls we weren’t a failing university. We were spending more money than we had, and you can’t do that for very long without getting yourself into trouble.”

Secord joined the university June 1.

At the end of the 2012-13 school year the university had a structural operating budget deficit. Burger said during his first year he focused on learning about the university’s budget and identifying ways to correct issues that led to the deficit.

“We worked collaboratively, across campus, to find solutions and opportunities that improved our operations,” he said.

In 2014 the university cut 11 positions, including some unfilled positions, and began restructuring departments to help move forward with achieving goals set in its 10-year strategic plan adopted in the 2010-11 school year, Burger said.

Burger said many changes in leadership came from people retiring and being promoted.

“Each time a senior staff member announced his or her desire to retire, we looked very closely at the current needs of the university and identified key directions in which new leadership could help us move toward those strategic goals,” he said.

Senior resources rise

CEDAR PARK For 40 years Chuck and Elaine Schmitz lived in their house in Texas City near Galveston. But as they grew older they said they found upkeep of their home growing more troublesome and decided to move to Cedar Park to be closer to their daughter, Nancy LaSpina, a teacher in Leander ISD. In 2014 the Schmitzes settled into their new apartment at Lakeline Oaks, a luxury retirement community located about 2 miles from their daughter.

“She’s the reason we’re here,” Elaine Schmitz said.

The Schmitzes are part of a trend within the fastest-growing population segment in Central Texas—seniors age 65 and older who move to the state, often to be nearer to younger family members.

Williamson County’s senior population grew from 37,681 residents in 2010 to 44,991 residents in 2014, a growth rate of about 19.4 percent, according to the Texas State Data Center. The office projects Williamson County will have more than 70,000 senior residents by 2025 and almost 99,000 senior residents by 2035—which would be more than double the county’s current senior population.

In response to demand, developers are planning more senior luxury apartment communities and memory-care facilities in Cedar Park and Leander. But some senior residents said they are finding fewer non-luxury living options, such as apartments that do not have on-site health care options and allow residents independent living.

In Cedar Park, Mayor Matt Powell said city leaders welcome new senior residents.

“As we’re watching our demographics shift here in Cedar Park, you can’t offer this sort of quality of life and not expect people to want to move here,” Powell said July 9.

Full story by Stephen Burnett
TOASTING WITH TWIN TEQUILA TROUBLE

Like many Texans, I am a big fan of tequila. Whether in cocktails or sipped neat, the complexity of this noble spirit embodies the flavors of the Southwest. However, there are a number of factors that have made the production of high-quality tequila problematic in the last couple of decades.

Part of the problem lies in the nature of the agave plant itself. The agave plant takes from six to ten years or more to reach maturity. This means that tequila producers must gauge how much agave they need years in advance. Plant too few agave plants and there is a shortage. Plant too much and there is a glut of agave on the market. Too much agave can cost more to harvest than can be recouped by making tequila.

Another issue caused by the mass planting of agave is one that is seen in other mass-produced crops: the problem of large-scale monoculture. Since real tequila can by law only be produced from 100% blue agave, entire agave plantations are often planted with clones of the same plant. This leaves them dangerously susceptible to disease and infestation.

Another problematic part of the equation is economic. Traditionally, agave is harvested by highly skilled workers known as jimadors. This is a tradition passed down from generation to generation. Economic factors have caused many of these jimadors to migrate north looking for more profitable endeavors. Their traditions are slowly being lost. This may be the saddest problem of all.

So, what can we do to combat these issues? This is definitely a thorny question. Above all, insist on pure agave tequila. It’s up to all of us to preserve this classic spirit for the generations to come!

New Marketplace location at University Commons featuring a classroom, plus 6 neighborhood locations in Round Rock & Pflugerville.

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~ Dr. Steven D. Capron, owner of Animal Dental Clinic

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Hop N Happy

NORTHWEST AUSTIN For more than eight years Wes Gunn worked in corporate America, most recently as a salesperson for Dell Inc. Rebecca Gunn, who worked in Dell’s marketing department, said her husband came home after a day out with two of their sons with an idea for a big career change.

“[Wes] took our older boys to a bounce house,” Rebecca said. “He came home saying, ‘We’ve got to do this.’”

Wes left his job at Dell in February 2014, and by July 2014 he and Rebecca had opened the doors to indoor bounce house facility Hop N Happy.

In the past year, Rebecca said, the business has been 10 times more profitable than she and Wes expected.

“I was a little nervous about uncharted territory when we started this,” she said. “We’ve gotten extremely positive reviews.”

The interior of Hop N Happy is bursting with primary colors, from its brightly painted walls dotted with rainbow-hued art to the multicolored bounce houses throughout the facility. A foam pit—which looks like a more modern plastic ball pit—allows children to play in a sea of orange and blue.

Full story by Kara Nuzback

Now Open

CEDAR PARK Bourbon Street Candy Co. opened in early July in Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Drive, Ste. J01/02, Austin. The store is located by the Dillard’s men’s section. Bourbon Street sells a variety of candy and sweet treats, including soda, handmade fudge, oversized candy and nostalgia candy.

512-250-9110.

www.bourbonstreetcandy.com

Coming Soon

NORTHWEST AUSTIN Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH will open a 50,000-square-foot store next spring in the Gateway shopping center, 9607 Research Blvd., next to the Tile Shop. The national retailer sells designer clothing and accessories for men and women at value prices and offers its More! rewards program.

www.saksoff5th.com

George’s On The Town

GEORGETOWN After seven months in business, George’s On The Town’s management is already looking for ways to expand the casual restaurant.

In June the restaurant added weekend lunch hours, which could be extended to include lunch throughout the week, General Manager Donnie Damuth said.

“We’re doing really well, and I’m excited about where we are going,” Damuth said.

The restaurant, owned by Round Rock-based Stockade Companies, is the first concept of its kind for the company, said Ed Sadler, Stockade Companies director of research and development.

Full story by Beth Wade

Full stories online at communityimpact.com

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- Bridesmaids: 9/9
- The Sandlot: 9/12
- Labyrinth (Sing Along): 9/12
- Beerfest – Oktoberfest release party: 9/15
- Blade Runner: 9/16
- Three Amigos: 9/23
- Pulp Fiction (Interactive Flix): 9/24

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Nutty Brown Cafe
Continued from I 1

Southwest Austin.

“When things started changing at my current location and I decided to start more aggressively looking for an opportunity to relocate, Round Rock was my first choice from day one,” he said.

Texas-based grocery chain H-E-B acquired the land Nutty Brown Cafe sits on in 2015. Farr said H-E-B allowed him to stay on the land as long as he wanted. He said he wanted to relocate to attract bigger acts, and the decision was “100 percent” his idea.

“I decided I was ready to move,” Farr said. “To have a big corporation like H-E-B say you can stay or go is extraordinary. [...] They’ve been extraordinary partners to work with.”

Finding the right spot

Farr said he drove to more than 100 locations in the area looking for potential spots for Nutty Brown Cafe. He said he wanted to put the new location at McNeil Park as soon as he saw it.

“For someone doing what I do for a living you look at land like that, and you just know it’s perfect,” he said. “It’s long and skinny and lays out nicely.”

Farr said he did not know if the city was willing to sell the land. But in May 2006, Round Rock residents voted to authorize the sale of McNeil Park at a later date, according to city records. Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw said the vote to authorize the sell of McNeil Park was partly how the city planned to fund the forthcoming improved softball fields at Old Settlers Park. He said McNeil Park’s location on I-35, its older facilities and the need to fund the new softball fields were why the city wanted to sell the park.

McGraw said it took nine years to sell the park partly because of unfavorable market conditions driven by the recession. He said more recently city officials discussed selling the park, then Farr approached them about possibly moving Nutty Brown Cafe to the area. McGraw said city officials then worked with Farr to help him find a possible location.

Farr said he did look at city-owned property in downtown Round Rock at the former Builders Gypsum Supply location, but it did not have the same greenery and natural appeal.

He said the location near I-35 and University Boulevard would help Nutty Brown Cafe attract new customers from different areas such as Fort Hood or Taylor. He said the destination shopping nearby will help further attract attention.

“There’s not a single person in Central Texas who doesn’t know where IKEA is,” he said. “When you say we’re right south of IKEA, they’ll know exactly what you’re talking about.”

The new Nutty Brown

Farr said when the new venue is built, as many trees and as much green space as possible will be kept to preserve the site’s natural aesthetics.

“We’re going to take an extraordinarily minimal approach when it comes to site improvement,” Farr said. “We basically just want it to be a park that has shows. We’re not going to turn it into some concreted-up, commercial-looking deal!”

Farr said Nutty Brown Cafe’s current location is noted for its aesthetic beauty, and he wanted to retain that at the new location.

“I’ve been blessed with an unbelievably attractive piece of land to operate on the past 13 years with tons of oak trees, lots of shade and good topography,” he said. “I actually think [the new location will] be a lot prettier than my current location.”

Farr said he hopes to attract bigger acts by moving farther away from well-known music venues, such as WhiteWater Amphitheater in New Braunfels.

“Being less than 50 miles away from WhiteWater there are lots of shows I have to schedule around each other,” he said. “Being in Round Rock I’ll be further away from some of the bigger venues—it’ll just open up a lot things for me.”

Farr said Nutty Brown Cafe is a family-friendly music venue, and he intends to keep it that way in Round Rock.

“We strongly encourage our artists to have a family-friendly approach,” he said. Randy Rogers, lead vocalist for Randy Rogers Band, said Farr gave him one of his first breaks in the music industry. Rogers said he is glad Nutty Brown Cafe is relocating and not being forced to close like other Austin music venues.

“There’s a lot of places that don’t get that chance [to relocate],” Rogers said. “They just get knocked down and go away.”
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Agent: Monty Maulding
Keller Williams Realty
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Agent: Rosie Hayer, The Hayer Group
Keller Williams Realty
512-843-3374
$172,500
1,670 sq. ft.

Agent: Aaron Jistel
ListingSpark
512-827-2252
$179,500
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ListingSpark
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$179,500
1,703 sq. ft.

Latest listings

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Williamson County ESD 3 0.1000
Williamson County 0.4465
Williamson County FM/RD 0.0400
Hutto ISD 1.6700
Upper Brushy Creek WCD 0.0200
EWCHEC 0.0498
Total (per $100 value) 2.8550

Median home value $166,000
Median price per square foot $98
Median annual property taxes $4,743
Homes on the market* 4
Homes under contract* 9
Average days on the market* 10

*As of 8/25/15

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REAL ESTATE

Market Data

On the market (July 2015)

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Recent Property Listings

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<td>Sisu Realty &amp; Associates</td>
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</table>
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<th>Sq. ft.</th>
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