

Leander

Bi-Monthly Guide to Small Business in Leander, TX

The two oldest companies still thriving in Leander are: Farmer's Grass (1950) and J.C. Evans (1955).

(City of Leander, Office of Economic Development)

Business News and Resources to Strengthen Leander's Economic Development One Entrepreneur at a Time

Business is Blooming in Leander with Fun Giveaways, Food, Prizes and More

Mark your calendar for the next big community event, the *2nd Annual Leander Business Showcase*. On Sat., May 3, the Leander High School will be abuzz from 10 AM to 2 PM with over 60 local vendors and community resources (Leander's Fire Dept., Parks & Rec., and more), showcasing their best just for you. Bring your friends and family to discover unique products



1st Annual Leander Business Showcase (2007)—More than 60 vendors and sponsors displayed retail products and services.

and services, get reacquainted with some old town favorites and welcome new community partners. Admission is FREE.

With a unique combination of primary employers, small business and home-based entrepreneurs, Leander's economic base is both strong and diverse. At the business showcase you'll see a mix of all these businesses.

For general questions about the showcase call 512-259-1907. Vendors be sure to register early, space is limited. **eye ON**

Eye on Leander™ has featured many small businesses in past issues but what do you know about Leander's primary employers?

First, Leander has more than 60 primary employers representing 21 North American Industrial Classification codes. Second, they employ about 2,250 workers primarily in the construction, metal fabrication, landscape production and design, and wood products manufacturing sectors.

J.C. Evans, one of the largest construction firms in Texas, is Leander's largest employer. HEB Plus! is Leander's second largest employer. H.L. Chapman is the largest and fastest trenching and mass rock excavation company in the world (without explosives).

Calling Leander Entrepreneurs

Whether you are thinking about starting a business in Leander, are a new start-up or have been in business for a while, the Leander Business Circle is the place to be for FREE monthly networking. Meet other business owners, develop long-term relationships, learn what's happening in Leander and discover what the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce can do for your business. No RSVP is required. Come prepared with business cards.

If you are an entrepreneur in the Leander area the City of Leander and the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce invite you to join the Leander Business Circle for FREE networking (monthly and quarterly meetings). Call 528-2852 or 259-1907 for more information.

Leander Business Circle Regular Meeting Schedule

Mar. 13, 2008
FREE Networking

Apr. 10, 2008
FREE Networking

Pat Bryson Hall
(201 N. Brushy Street)
8:30 -10 AM
Call 512-528-2852
or 512-259-1907

en•tre•pre•neur n.

A person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business venture



Support Leander's economic development by supporting its local entrepreneurs.



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For more information or to enroll in a class today call Julianna Crowder at 512-944-2911 or visit www.caps-chl.com. Classroom located at The Village, 2400 S. Bagdad Rd. in Leander.

Your Business Neighbors

Looking for our business directory? You can find it this month online at www.LeanderBusinessCircle.com. Whether you are new to the area or simply looking for personal, home or business products and services, the Leander Business Circle directory is the place to shop. Our list of members is updated regularly and often featured in this newsletter (space permitting). The complete directory of business members is always available online.

For a complete directory of Business Circle members visit LeanderBusinessCircle.com

business is blooming
in **Leander**

2nd Annual Business Showcase

Call 512-259-1907

May 3, 2008
Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM

Sponsored by the City of Leander and
the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce

Reserve your space today - Only \$75!

NEW!

Things you should know **BEFORE** . . .

Doing Business with the City

Does your business offer products or services the City of Leander may be interested in purchasing? Does your business qualify for HUB certification? To answer both of these questions visit the state's web site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/> and review its section on State Purchasing.

If your business can qualify as a historically under utilized business (HUB) consider becoming certified and adding your name to Leander's list of HUB vendors. By law, the City of Leander is required to contact at least two HUB certified vendors (if available) for all purchases ranging from \$3,000 to \$50,000.

The State of Texas offers free HUB certification for businesses that meet their requirements. Certification is valid for four years and can open doors for you to do business with city, county and state government agencies in Texas.

For information about an upcoming class on how to do business with the City of Leander call 512-528-2700.

Art, Science and Relationship Building Leads to Leander

Site selection for retail, manufacturing and other enterprise companies is time-consuming and expensive. Because of this companies and communities must be prepared. The process is undertaken with industrial, commercial, retail and residential development. Each sector has unique site selection criteria involving location, transportation, labor, utilities, education and quality of life (political, safety, recreation, etc.) factors.

Lowe's (located at the corner of US Hwy 183 and Crystal Falls Pkwy) is an excellent example of how communication, patience, persistence and relationships led to a successful site selection process. Leander was introduced to Lowe's by a developer in early 2005. During the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Annual Convention in May 2005, several City officials visited with representatives from Lowe's along with the developer. Over the next two years many developer visits, numerous site, infrastructure and finance discussions occurred along with on-going follow-up. In Sept. 2007 Lowe's began construction of 170,000 square foot facility. Development 2000, the City of Leander and their economic development allies created an environment that will lead to the development of a 400,000 square foot facility on 41 acres by December 2008. So after almost 48 months of "communication" the public and private sectors created an environment that will lead to the creation of more than 400 jobs, an investment of more than \$40 million and sales taxes of over \$800,000 annually for Leander.

For more information about site selection, developers and companies may contact Leander's economic development office at 512-528-2852.

Update . . .

Evening Networking a Success

The Leander Business Circle's first evening network event held on Feb. 19 was a big success. Due to the great turn out and overwhelming interest, evening networking will be added as a regular quarterly event. The next evening network meeting will be held on Wed., May 14, from 6:30-8 PM at Pat Bryson Hall (201 N. Brushy St.). No RSVP is required, just remember to bring lots of business cards. For additional information visit www.LeanderBusinessCircle.com or call 512-259-1907.

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Business Resources

Williamson County Clerk's Office
Assumed Name DBA filing
(512) 943-1515

Small Business Development Center
www.business.txstate.edu/sbdc
512-716-4826

SCORE
Service Corps of Retired Executives
www.scoreaustin.org
512-928-2425

The Better Business Bureau of Central and Southern Texas
www.centraltx.bbb.org
(512) 445-2911



Promote your business to Leander. We make it easy. Call 512-259-1907.

eye ON Leander
Bi-Monthly Guide to Small Business in Leander, TX

Distribution: Over 14,000 in Leander

© 2008. Eye On Leander™ is the Leander Business Circle's bi-monthly business publication. For comments, questions or submissions contact one of the following sponsors or editor.

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Join the Leander Business Circle for **FREE Business Networking**
 Next two regular meetings: **Mar. 13 and Apr. 10 - 8:30 AM**

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Starting a Business?

See *Business Resources*, p. 3

**Vendor Registration Open* for the
 2nd Annual Leander Business Showcase
 Only \$75. Call 259-1907 NOW, space is limited.**



*Leander Chamber and Business Circle Members. Registration opens to non-member businesses Apr. 1.

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Community Event . . .
**2nd Annual Leander Business Showcase
 May 3, 2008**

**Sat., 10-2 PM
 Leander High School
 Free Admission**

Bring the whole family and discover what Leander’s business community has to offer! From the ordinary to the extraordinary there will be something for everyone. We’re also serving up a lot of food, fun giveaways, demonstrations and great prizes like HEB Gift Cards (valued up to \$500). Drawings for showcase prizes will begin at 11 AM. The showcase grand prize drawing will be held at 1:45 PM. All attendees receive one free ticket for a chance to win a showcase prize. Be sure to sign up for valuable vendor drawings too!

For more information about the Leander Business Showcase call 512-259-1907.

**Redeem this coupon or the entire newsletter
 for two additional FREE tickets
 for a chance to win a showcase prize!**

COUPON