

Leander

Bi-Monthly Guide to Small Business in Leander, TX

Active water meters signal growth—Leander’s active water count recently surpassed 9,000, and is up 4.3% compared to this time last year.

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

‘All Aboard’ the Leander Red Line

The future of transportation is here, and Leander (with Capital Metro and Austin) is leading the way in Central Texas.



Riding Capital MetroRail: Service begins Mar. 30 with trains running weekdays every 30 minutes during morning and evening rush hours. For additional information pick up a brochure from the Leander Chamber.

Leander’s journey into the future of transportation isn’t necessarily new when you consider the first trains arrived in 1884. Like then, the opportunities surrounding the train station (and Leander’s Park-and-Ride) are limitless.

Transportation resource improvements allow for more efficient movements of goods, services and people in the market place. The more transportation resources available the more money is able to flow throughout an area. Capital Metro-Rail enhances existing City, County, CTRMA and CAMPO transportation resources. The proposed rail station and park-and-ride provide a node that will concentrate economic activity at the heart of Leander’s award-winning Transit Oriented Development (TOD). While most transportation systems provide linear movement, Capital Metro has created a “target” for products and services to be delivered. This resource focuses market activities, lends efficiencies to goods and services access and enhances a sense of place. Making higher education available to those outside Leander is one example, should Austin Community College or someone else build in Leander.

For information about available real estate, commercial space and economic development in Leander contact Kirk Clennan at 512-528-2852. **eye ON**

Calling Leander Entrepreneurs

Own a business in Leander? Thinking about starting a new business in Leander? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions we invite you to join the Leander Business Circle. Membership is FREE. Join us the 2nd Thursday of each month to meet other business owners, learn what is happening in Leander and discover how the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce and Leander Business Circle can help your business succeed. No RSVP required, just come prepared with business cards.

If you are an entrepreneur in the Leander area call 512-528-2852 or 512-259-1907 for more information.

Leander Business Circle Meeting Schedule

Mar. 12, 2009

Apr. 9, 2009

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

See our Entrepreneur Business Members, p. 3

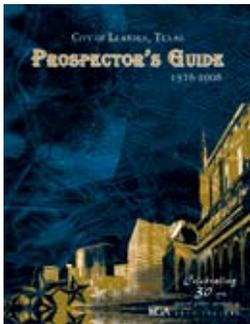
Custom Wood Center Islands, Countertops by Wild Timber Designs - Showroom Open to Public

From humble beginnings making cutting boards in a 500 sq. ft. garage 12 years ago to a 5,000 sq. ft. facility and showroom on Leander Dr., Wild Timber Designs is one of Leander's primary employers on the move. The company still makes cutting boards and butcher blocks but is better known for their custom wood tables, culinary islands, countertops and center islands made of Pecan, Walnut, Texas Mesquite and other woods. "Customer demand has helped shape our business as well as investing in state-of-the-art equipment," says co-owner Fred Gill. The company invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in new equipment at the end of 2008, and is the only one in Texas with a 50+ wide plainer, glue rack and sanders capable of handling wide jobs.

Wild Timber Designs
1103 Leander Dr.
Leander, TX 78641
512-260-8484
www.wildtimberdesigns.com

In January, Wild Timber Designs launched two new product lines: Dovetail drawers and fireplace mantels. A good move since they already supply drawers to several cabinet shops in the area who prefer to buy local vs. ship from out of state. Most of their business comes from word of mouth referrals by cabinet makers and builders. Architects, interior designers and remodelers also refer homeowners wanting to spruce up their kitchens. "It is surprising how many people are tired of granite, and are now discovering how durable wood can be" says Gill. "With the waterproof finishes available today you can have a sink or stove built in and have something your neighbor doesn't have," he adds. Wild Timber Designs also sells retail and has a showroom on Leander Dr. open to the public.

'Prospector's Guide' Available at Leander Chamber



The newest edition of the Leander *Prospector's Guide* is available for purchase from the Greater Leander Chamber. The *Prospector's Guide* is Leander's definitive real estate book showcasing more than 11,000 acres available for development along a 46-mile route, complete with 86 site data sheets. The book also features numerous maps and demographic statistics pertinent to Leander. A special "anniversary" rate is being honored for this edition only throughout 2009 (while supplies last). Contact the Greater Leander Chamber at 512-259-1907, via email at contactus@leandercc.org or visit the chamber office at 103 N. Brushy St. in Leander to purchase your copy today.

The next update is scheduled for Fall 2009. For updates, property inclusion and sponsorship advertising in the *Prospector's Guide*, contact Kirk Clennan at 512-528-2852.

New 'Job Cafe' Opens to Help Job Seekers, Employers in Williamson County

A new not-for-profit source for local employment information recently opened in Georgetown with services to help job seekers and area employers. What makes this employment resource unique is its faith-based support services and community resources. Churches from all across the metro-Austin area will supply many of the Job Cafe applicants and employers. 70% of all jobs are "hidden jobs" and not advertised.

Support services include job search skills training including interviewing skills, personal presentation, resume writing, skills assessment, networking skill development,

and navigating career changes. Other services include on-line job search tools, financial counseling, job leads, career counseling, and prayer and spiritual encouragement.

For information about the Job Cafe's services and programs call 512-869-5690 or visit their web site at www.georgetownjobcafe.org. Weekly support meetings begin in March.

Eye On Leander™, the Leander Business Circle, City of Leander and Greater Leander Chamber do not represent the views of the Job Cafe. This information is provided as a general public awareness announcement for Leander.

Leander Library, A Growing Community Resource

Visit the Leander Library on any given evening and you will likely see a waiting line for the computer stations, student groups working on school projects and adults enjoying a quiet read and lively conversation in the coffee bar. Libraries, thankfully, never go out of style. People depend on their local library to meet various personal, social, educational and professional needs in good times and bad.

Libraries serving growing communities, such as in Leander, are challenged to keep up with the demand for its resources. Thus the library in turn depends heavily on the community it serves, and its "wish list" is ever changing. The Leander Library welcomes donations and community support to meet its growing needs (see *Wish List* items below). If you would like to help the library contact Priscilla Donovan, Director at 512-259-5259 or via email at pdonovan@leander.lib.tx.us.

Leander Library Wish List includes:

- Document scanner for public use (\$200)
- Photo Scanner/printer for public use (\$250)
- Cassette to CD converter (\$150)
- Video to DVD converter (\$250)
- Dragon story time rug for children's area (\$500)
- Big pillow chairs for children's area (\$550)
- Shelving (approx. \$3,200)
- Display units (\$1,500 - \$3,000)
- Dictionaries for Adult Literacy classes (\$250)
- Downloadable Books subscription (\$10,000 - \$25,000)
- Subscription to Ancestry.com (\$300)
- Photo Shop software (\$300)
- Windows Movie Maker software (\$300)
- Family Tree software (\$40)

Visit www.leander.lib.tx.us for information about library programs and events.

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

Commuting in Watercolor

Public transportation can offer commuters many benefits, like catching more shut eye, quiet reading time or getting an early start on their work. Leave it to an artist to take commuting to a whole new art form. Rather than waste precious time, Leander artist Kathleen McElwaine, an accomplished studio oil painter, boards Capital Metro's Bus No. 983 with a lap watercolor easel she created herself and paints during her commute. The "bus paintings," as McElwaine calls them, are very whimsical and fun. Beginning Mar. 30, 2009, McElwaine will head to the tracks to board the Leander Red Line with watercolors in tow and begin "train paintings." Perhaps "art classes on the train" will follow.

Get inspired to create your own unique commute or join McElwaine as she chronicles and showcases her daily painting on her blog (<http://buspaintings.blogspot.com>).

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
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Join the Leander Business Circle for **FREE Business Networking**
 Next two regular meetings: **Mar. 12 and Apr. 9, 2009 - 8:30 AM**

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Starting a Business?

See *Business Resources*, p. 3

Promote Your Business in Leander's Favorite Award-Winning Business Newsletter

Call 512-259-1907 now for advertising sponsorship information and availability. (*Distribution is over 15,500 to Leander only.*)

The Leander Business Circle is co-sponsored by the City of Leander and the Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce.



Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce

RAFFLE
PRIZES

6th Annual GOLF Tournament

Friday – April 3, 2009
The Golf Club at Crystal Falls
12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

Sign up now!
Call 259-1907

Four Man Scramble

Teams \$400 each / Individuals \$100
 Entry Fee includes:

- Cart
- Lunch & Dinner
- Green Fees
- Swag Bag

Sponsorships available now. Forms online at www.leandercc.org.

3400 Crystals Falls Parkway, Leander, TX

Crystal Falls, Star Buck's, MetroRail - A Sign of the Times

Leander's economic development continues to remain strong and defy national and other regional forecasts. This is good news for the city, but it's most beneficial to residents, property owners and businesses. For example, home values city-wide have declined minimally, if at all, and home sales are on the rise. Crystal Falls recently sold multiple custom homes ranging from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000. New retail, food and community services also continue to open at record pace. Leander welcomes the opening of its first Star Buck's coffee house despite nationwide layoffs and store closings. The Leander Red Line, the new Capital MetroRail train, opens the door for many opportunities and developments.

Leander, its residents and businesses, may not be impervious to current economic times. It is obvious, however, they are not limited by it either—a sign of the times.