

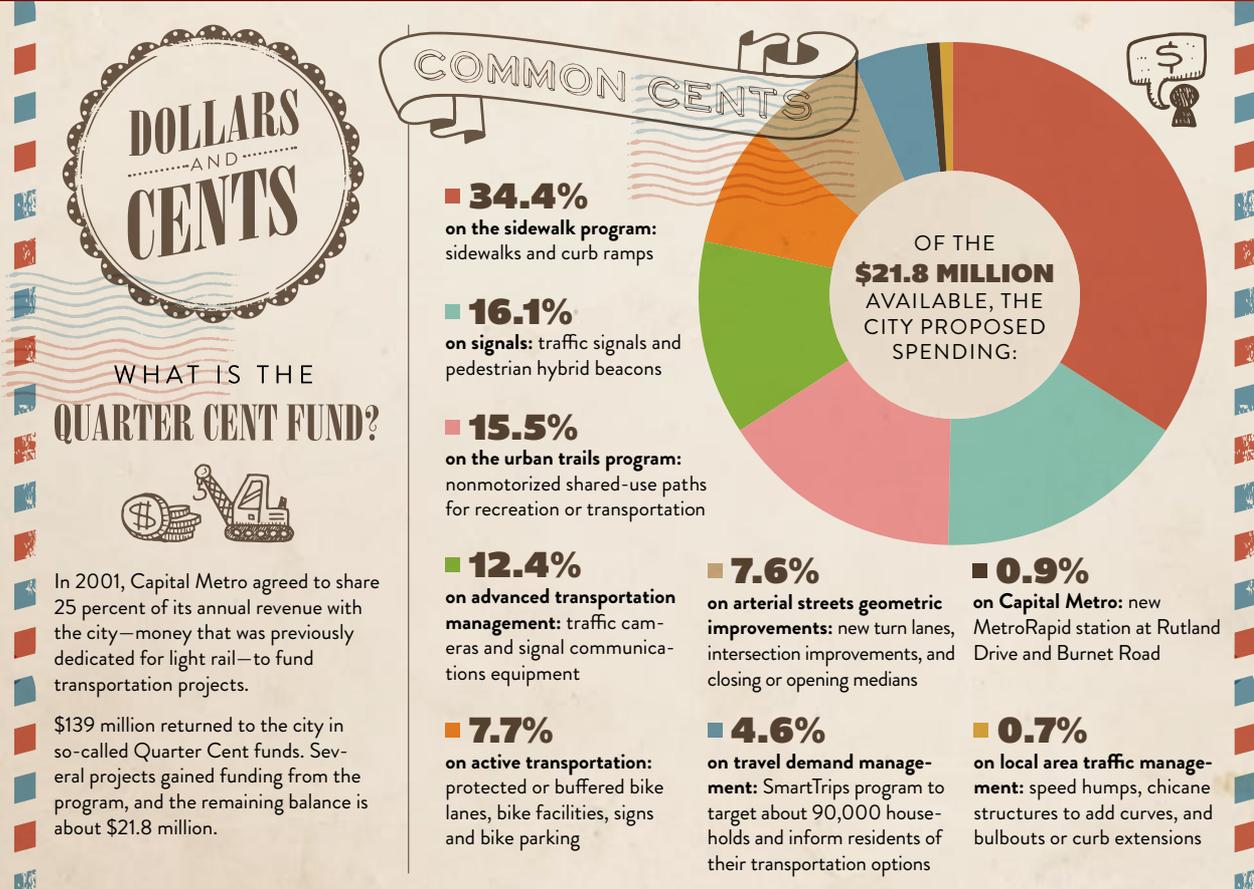


ONLINE-EXCLUSIVE NEWS AND FEATURES

NORTHWEST AUSTIN EDITION

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RRISD eyes higher ed, art, tech schools

Programs aim to retain students

By Kara Nuzback

The Round Rock ISD board of trustees is considering creating several new schools aimed at focusing on specific areas of study as well as a school intended to boost college enrollment.

In October the board gave district officials the go-ahead to explore an elementary and middle school fine arts academy; a world language institution for kindergarten through eighth grade; and a science, technology, engineering, arts and math, or STEAM school, among others.

“As we grow, we need to find unique ways to serve all of our kids,” said Daniel Presley, the district’s chief of schools and innovation. “It’s exciting times in Round Rock [ISD].”

Presley said the district is still in the early phases of exploring school options, but the district could

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Council to rank transportation fund projects

Final list with constituents’ feedback to be completed by districts by Dec. 31

By Amy Denney

The city’s process to distribute \$21.8 million in transportation funds will truly be a community effort.

From surveys and block walking to visits with school principals and hosting town hall meetings, Austin City Council members got creative

with listening to residents on how to disperse money equitably from what is known as the Quarter Cent Fund.

“That’s absolutely the appropriate way to handle this,” District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool said. “We had good responses from the community [on our survey]. I knew we would,

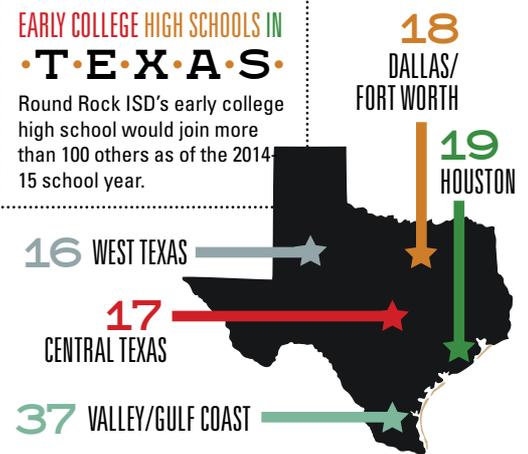
District 7 is very active and engaged. We have a high level of concern about safety of children going to school.”

On Nov. 16 with a vote of 4-0, the Austin City Council Mobility Committee approved a resolution giving council members control over

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EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS IN TEXAS

Round Rock ISD’s early college high school would join more than 100 others as of the 2014-15 school year.



Source: Texas Early College High School/Community Impact Newspaper

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Now Open, Coming Soon & more



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SLAB BBQ



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Austin events



26 GUIDE
Holiday gift ideas



Compiled by Amy Denney
and Kara Nuzback
Designed by
Kara Nordstrom

Shop locally this holiday season by visiting one of these locally owned stores or franchises. Our 2015 guide features suggestions for anyone, including children, music fans, foodies, gamers or outdoor enthusiasts.

2015

Holiday GIFT GUIDE



Kara Nuzback/Community Impact Newspaper

ALL THINGS KIDS



Courtesy C. Kirk Root Designs

C. KIRK ROOT DESIGNS



Kara Nuzback/Community Impact Newspaper

CON' OLIO OILS & VINEGARS

ALL THINGS KIDS

From enrichment games for toddlers to craft and construction sets for young adults, this shop's puzzles and award-winning games are designed to challenge and enhance learning. Popular gifts this season include Goldie Blox, a line of toys and games for girls designed to develop an early interest in engineering, and Q-bitz, which teaches symmetry, fractions and visual dexterity.

3220 Feathergrass Court, Ste. 132

512-490-6770 • www.allthingskids.us

AUSTIN GUITAR HOUSE

The music shop offers high-end and premium guitars, boutique amplifiers, a large assortment of effects and accessories as well as consignments and trades.

2206 W. Anderson Lane

512-243-6036 • www.austinguitarhouse.com

BAKED BY AMY'S

The locally owned bakery offers cakes, pies, brownies,

blondies, cookies, macaroons, baked pops and cupcakes as well as gift cards.

13265 N. US 183

512-918-2253 • www.bakedbyamys.com

BEAU KISSES

The gift shop sells a variety of items, including Yeti Rambler Colster drink holders, Sorrelli Jewelry, Kendra Scott Jewelry, Coton Colors home decor items, Lollia bath and body products, and Tyler Candles.

8300 N. RM 620, Bldg. D, Ste. 600

512-249-5100 • www.beaukisses.com

BUCK'S BIKES

For more than 30 years, this shop has catered to all cyclists, from beginners to professionals. The shop carries a variety of new bikes for riders of all ages and offers repairs.

12530 Research Blvd.

512-250-9550 • www.bucksbikes.com

C. KIRK ROOT DESIGNS

This family-owned business has been making custom jewelry in Austin for more than 30 years. The store's

Texas-themed designs are popular holiday purchases, and designs include bluebonnets, firewheel flowers, an outline of the state of Texas and the Lone Star from the state flag.

10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 126

512-346-1780 • www.kirkrootdesigns.com

CON' OLIO OILS & VINEGARS

Located in the Arboretum, the locally owned shop carries the highest-grade olive oils available on the market as well as aged balsamic vinegars. The shop also sells gift baskets geared toward foodies.

10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 130

512-342-2344 • www.conolios.com

EMERALD TAVERN GAMES AND CAFE

This English Tudor-themed cafe regularly hosts demos, events and board gaming-related activities. The retail section carries a variety of items geared toward gamers. Popular gifts include Star Realms, Ticket to Ride and for younger ages, Hey, That's my Fish!

9012 Research Blvd., Ste. C6

512-994-4649 • www.emeraldtaaverngames.com

VINTAGE FRESH

PAINTED FURNITURE | HOME DECOR | AUSTIN

At Vintage Fresh, we offer our customers the furniture you have come to know us for, as well as home decor, accessories, gifts and much more! A blend of vintage + modern, we provide Northwest Austin with a downtown shopping experience, without the hassle of fighting traffic and finding parking.



- Painted Furniture
- Vintage + Modern Home Decor
- Accessories- Grace & Lace (blanket scarves and boot cuffs)
- Jewelry
- Esperos bags

OPENING NOVEMBER 7TH!

www.vintagefreshdesign.co | 12233 RR 620 N, Suite 102 Austin, TX 78750



HATBOX: A MODERN HABERDASHERY

This specialty store offers a modern take on a traditional haberdashery and is a source for accessories, including hats, gloves and scarves. Gift cards are available in store or online.

11401 Century Oaks Terrace, Ste. 129

512-833-9595 • www.hatbox.com

HEATHER SCOTT HOME & DESIGN

This award-winning home decor boutique and interior design firm creates classic, chic and serene interiors. The shop also has a selection of holiday gifts and decor such as wreaths, fragrant candles and floral arrangements.

10622 Burnet Road, Ste. 100

512-342-6899 • www.heatherscotthome.com

LEARNING EXPRESS

The toy shop offers games and books intended to aid child development. Learning Express has items for infants, toddlers and preteens. Popular gifts this season include Makey Makey, a freeform invention kit, and Kooba Game, a magnetic dart game. Gift wrapping is also available.

9607 Research Blvd., Ste. 110

512-795-9770 • www.learningexpress.com

LUXE APOTHETIQUE

This local boutique carries variety of items, such as women's clothing, shoes and accessories. Gift ideas include Voluspa candles, BlueQ-themed socks, Austin-themed pillows from Cat Studio, OPI nail polish sets, South Austin Gallery coasters and cutting boards, Illuminidol candles featuring celebrities' faces instead of saints and Plaid Pigeon dinosaur toy planters.

11501 Century Oaks Terrace, Ste. 129

512-346-8202 • www.shopluxe.com

NEW TECH TENNIS/ WORLD WIND KITES

Both businesses are located in the same shop. New Tech Tennis sell tennis rackets, bags, accessories and custom rackets. World Wind Kites sells more than 200 kinds of kites in a variety of sizes and colors. The shop also sells windsocks, garden spinners, bubble toys and bubble blowers.

7208 McNeil Drive, Ste. 204

512-250-9454

www.tennis512.com, www.worldwindkites.com

ORIGINALS JEWELRY AND FINE GIFTS

The store sells items by American artists, including handmade jewelry, handblown glass and wind sculptures. Originals is also able to create custom jewelry and repair jewelry.

10225 Research Blvd., Ste. 100

512-343-2011 • www.originalsjewelryandgifts.com

PUMPKIN PATCH

The family-owned resale store carries a variety of toys such as Power Wheels and bikes. Smaller items for stocking stuffers include wooden toys from Habba, Melissa and Doug toys, and "Star Wars" items. For expectant parents, recommended gifts include gliders, cribs and Pack 'n Plays.

2945 W. Anderson Lane

512-533-9135 • www.pumpkinpatchresale.com

ROCKET FIZZ

The novelty and vintage candy shop also sells animal masks, stuffed animals, lunch tins and novelty sodas, including a wide selection of root beer. Other gift ideas include European and Japanese candies, giant gummy bears and gummy worms, a sunscreen bottle flask, quirky tin signs and replica concert posters.

3220 Feathergrass Court, Ste. 120

512-777-8861 • www.rocketfizz.com

SAVORY SPICE SHOP

ROCKET FIZZ

SAVORY SPICE SHOP

The spice shop sells create-your-own gift sets and items from local artisans, including South Austin Gallery items. Savory Spice also recently launched its monthly Spice Club that may be purchased as a gift. The store will send club members spices and recipes monthly starting at \$49 for six months to \$109 for 12 months and includes the "Spice to Plate Cookbook."

10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 129

512-795-0770 • www.savoryspiceshop.com

TERRA TOYS

The toy store has something for nearly everyone, such as ABC blocks for infants. Gifts for children include C1 Spider air-powered dart shooters, Corolle baby dolls and toys from Playmobil, including a Ferris wheel and dragon warriors sets. Toys for all ages include Sands Alive! sculptable sand.

2438 W. Anderson Lane, Ste. C1

512-445-4489 • www.terratoy.com

VINTAGE FRESH

The storefront opened Nov. 7 where owner Leslie Blasis sells transformed vintage furniture. Vintage Fresh also offers home decor items, such as local artwork and Aspen Bay candles, accessories and gifts, including framed Austin prints, boot cuffs, vintage maps and globes, and faux taxidermy.

12233 N. RM 620, Ste. 102

737-300-5810 • www.vintagefreshdesign.co

WONKO'S TOYS & GAMES

The store sells a variety of board games and collectible action figures, including "Star Wars," as well as Pop! vinyl action figures featuring characters from movies and TV shows. Recommended games include "Castle Panic," "Mice and Mystics," "Dead of Winter" featuring zombies and "Battle for Zendikar" holiday gift boxes.

13376 N. US 183, Ste. 116

512-335-1000 • www.wonkos.com

This list is not comprehensive.