

# LEON SPRINGS

## INDEX

Art & Soul .....	9
Can You Dig It! .....	16
Changing Spaces .....	14
Education .....	6
Service Guide .....	20
Sports .....	21
Viewpoint .....	4



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COMPLIMENTARY

# *Leon Springs business group formed*

By Richard Erickson  
Editor,  
Leon Springs Times

In what could be the first step in shaping a unified business community, a group of local businesspeople are working to form a Leon Springs area business owners association.

"We thought the only way to make this area more cohesive is to have all business owners get to know one another," explained Susan Allen, president of Texas Heritage Bank's Leon Springs branch, located at 25060 IH-10 West. "We are looking for a way to pull the area together."

Allen and Cliff

Blessing, the bank's commercial loan officer, are spearheading the effort, and have already held one introductory meeting. "We only had a few folks, unfortunately," she added, "but we've asked each of them to bring someone else. We're going to take it step by step and grow it from there."

The group, as yet unnamed, is planning a social mixer for May to attract even more interest. "Everyone knows something about the Leon Springs area, but there is no central point of information for them," Allen said,

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See **BUSINESS**, 5

From **BUSINESS, I**

pointing to her diverse mix of neighbors in the IH-10 corridor that range from Six Flags Fiesta Texas to Rudy's Bar-B-Q to Fair Oaks Ranch.

"There's a lot of energy going into this area that nobody knows about," she added. As an example, Allen noted that new area development is rapidly escalating. That development includes not only highly publicized retail projects such as The Rim at IH-10 and Loop

1604 and the exclusive Dominion neighborhood, but also the promise of 3,500 additional new single-family homes planned in the immediate area. That fact alone, she noted, will attract even more new business.

But creation of an association, she emphasized, is not being done just to benefit her bank. "We opened here last August and, yes, we thought this would be a way to become more involved in the community and to grow our own business – but the same is true for other

businesses as well.

"It will help people to know what is going on and anticipate new business coming in here. This is not a bank effort. It's a community effort to provide the tools and mechanism to get some interest started."

The Leon Springs area, Allen explained, doesn't have the advantages of other suburban entities around San Antonio. "We don't have a county line or city limits here, so we all are just in Leon Springs, but what is that really?"

she asked. "Formation of this business association is a piece of the puzzle out here that's lacking."

Allen agreed, however, that her efforts are just beginning. "We're talking baby steps, trying to create interest in it, and then we'll see where it goes. Above all, we don't want to create a bureaucracy, but be a benefit to local business owners."

For more information, contact Allen or Blessing at 698-8100.