

## PARKS

### Charro Ranch Park:

Due to the World Migratory Event on May 8 at Charro Ranch Park, the monthly volunteer workday was canceled.

### Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center –

*Submitted by Emily Nelson, Interim DSRP Manager*



The month of May was so exciting at the Ranch Park. It was the first time for a lot of the staff to experience a heavily booked month. From horses to comic books, the Ranch Park staff successfully hosted new and returning events. Retromania, a comic book and retro toy expo, was so pleased with their first show at DSRP that they are already booking return shows. Both Shorty Scott Memorial Roping and Central Texas Arabian Horse shows successfully returned to the Ranch Park. Shorty Scott had record attendance that had ropers watching the sunrise. Even our two DSRP Riding Series shows experience a surge in attendance. While our Arena rentals naturally slow down due to Texas heat, our first ever Coyote Kids Summer Camp will be ramping up. All 11 sessions are almost completely sold out! We are so excited to reconnect our campers with Nature this summer. From meteorologists

to survival specialist, the campers get to experience an exciting lineup of guest speakers each session of camp. Dripping Springs Ranch Park is definitely back in the saddle and we couldn't be happier.



### Founders Memorial Park & Pool:

*Submitted by Mack Rusick, Programs and Aquatics Manager*



We are excited to finally open to the public for the summer at the end of May. Although the rain and weather have made things difficult, we are hopeful the sun and the community will come out and enjoy the facility! We have had many people every day dropping by the pool to ask when we are opening. We have several families that have already purchased season passes and several rentals set up for the season as well. We have opened Swim Club registration for youth ages 9-15. These classes are 1hr long for two-week sessions and provide both swim instruction and fitness for young swimmers. Despite posting on the PCS Facebook we only have one person registered. We are hoping to blast more advertising for the program to generate more registrations.

The plumber finally arrived after several weeks of delays to hook up the gas lines and get the new commercial heater running. Several days of cold water for swim practice made for some very grateful swimmers and tiger splash volunteers when the heat finally kicked on. Unfortunately, without the thermal covers the cooler weather has caused us to eat up our propane quickly. Managing the temperature down as low as possible helped conserve some of the cost but sadly there is not much to be done except

wait for warmer weather. Staff hiring for 2021 is complete and new-hire orientation was held at City Hall where the Finance department's Penny Appleman helped to complete hiring paper and City Administrator, Michelle Fischer gave a presentation on the City's personnel manual. The guards were excited to receive their uniforms and equipment and participate in some team-building exercises. The last portion of orientation was spent in the water practicing patron surveillance, proper rescue techniques, and putting it all together with our EAP (Emergency Action Plan).

Tiger Splash had their first swim meet in the pouring rain on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Despite the bad weather operations, it ran smoothly and it was fun to see all the young swimmers in their first race. Many families attended with ponchos, umbrellas, and tents to shield from the rain. We spent extra effort hosing off muddy feet before kids entered the water. We were relieved to get through the entire meet without any delays from lightning or thunder. It will be an event that many of us won't forget!

We will be opening to the public for Memorial Day Weekend and are anticipating warmer weather on the horizon!

### **Sports & Recreation Park:**

Nothing to report.

### **Rathgeber Natural Resource Park:**

Nothing to report.

### **Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle**

Nothing to report.

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Community Services**

*Submitted by Melanie Blakely, Community Services Coordinator*



May 8, 2021 was the first annual Festival of Flight (World Bird Migratory Day) from 8am-12pm. Paul Fushille, Dripping Springs Parks Commissioner, lead the charge in starting a Community Bird Group that has grown leaps and bounds. The tour times were 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 and they were fully booked. Followed by the tours were kids crafts that was hosted by Twisted X Brewery. Unfortunately, due to high winds the movie in the park "A Big Year" was postponed until later in the summer.

May had a total of seven (7) private pavilion rentals. The end of May brought "April Showers", so we had to reschedule 2 of the rentals.

There were two (2) permits that were issued in May. One special event permit for the Community Date Night and one Itinerant Vendor Permit was issued for peaches for Farmers Market.

May seems to be a good indicator of how busy this summer's rentals will be, residents are ready to get back out and enjoy good food and good company!

### **Coyote Kids Nature Camp**

*Submitted by Hanna Gregory, Coyote Kids Nature Camp Director*



The last month has been a very busy and exciting one for the Coyote Kids Camp crew. Last week, we reached maximum enrollment for the entire summer! We spent most of the month developing curriculum, making sure that our campers will be able to take away not only fun memories, but also, new knowledge. Each week has its own theme, with activities to match. This includes curriculum-rich activities, games, and guest speakers. Our goal was to have at least one guest speakers scheduled per week, and with the help of friends and neighbors, we made it happen. My favorite guests of the summer include the meteorologist during Big Sky Fun week, the traveling reptile educator who will bring live animals during Ways of the Wild, and the Fire Truck during Wet-N-Wild.

Staff training for the Coyote Kids camp counselors took place over the past two weekends. We are so thankful to be fully staffed with a group of such incredibly passionate and talented folks. Now that staff training is over, we are focused on ordering the rest of our supplies and getting the Coyote Den ready for the campers next week. We are looking forward to a great summer!

### **Farmers Market –**

*Submitted by Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager*



May was a happening month for the Farmers Market, starting with the return of long-time crowd pleaser, Blanco Cowboy Kettle Corn, after two years away. The Market was also featured on Fox7 Austin with three live segments on the morning of Monday, May 10. For the event, reporter Tierra Neubaum interviewed five vendors, which led to some shoppers coming to the next market from as far away as Liberty Hill. Throughout the month, Johnna revived the Market’s Instagram account to further feature vendors as well as exciting, cute, and fun scenes from each week’s event. Make sure you follow



the Market @DS\_Farmers\_Market and tag your photos to show off your good times, fabulous finds, and the delicious recipes you create when you get home!

### **Marketing, Website, Social Media, Branding & Communications**

The PCS department continues to expand its website pages to encompass the resource as a tool to provide the full scope of services within the department’s span of responsibility. Currently, the “Community Services” aspect of the department is lacking in web presence and ease of service access. Staff is in the process of creating an easier application process and information dissemination platform.

- Road closure requests
- Itinerant Vendor Permits
- Event Permit for events held on city property and events held within City Limits
- Co-Sponsorship applications that include banners at the triangle requests
- Filming Permits (which tend to be last minute in nature – less than 48hrs notice)

It is a goal of the department to streamline operations and scope of the Programs & Events Coordinator position through renaming the position to serve comprehensively in the coordination of all aspects of community services and not just events and programming. The title change will be to that of Community Services Coordinator and the scope will expand to include the coordination of all such services in addition to events and programs will fall under the Programs & Aquatics Manager’s scope entirely.