



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Johnna Krantz, Community Events Coordinator

Council Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Agenda Item Wording: **Presentation, discussion, and consideration of approval of the 2026 Founders Day Festival site plan, parade route, and carnival layout.** *Sponsor: Council Member Sherrie Parks*

Agenda Item Requestor: Council Member Sherrie Parks

Summary/Background: The annual Founders Day Festival is scheduled for April 25-27, 2026. The Founders Day Committee has recommended shifting the footprint of the Carnival from its previous location spanning 511 Mercer Street (City Hall) and 510 Mercer Street (DSISD), to 510 Mercer Street and 300 Sportsplex Drive (DSISD). The City of Dripping Springs has recently negotiated a new facility use agreement with the Dripping Springs Independent School District for this purpose. The attached proposed layout maps show the overall site plan, carnival location, parade line-up, parade participant drop-off, shuttle stop, staff and ADA parking areas, and traffic flow and safety barricades on DSISD property for 2026.

The Festival kicks off with the Founders Day Parade on Friday, April 25, 2026. The City has previously closed one westbound lane of HWY 290 as part of the parade route. Due to increased traffic flow and safety concerns, City Staff and FDC members are proposing a new walking parade through Downtown which will no longer include a highway lane closure in 2026.

Once the proposals are finalized, a City Engineered Traffic Control Plan will be developed with the assistance of the City Engineer, and City Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and brought back to City Council for final approval. The Traffic Control Plan and Parade Resolution are required for road closure ahead of the festival.

Commission Recommendation: FDC recommends feedback on and approval of the site plan, parade route, and carnival layout.

Recommended Council Actions: Staff recommends approval of the new site plan, walking parade route, and carnival layout for the 2026 Founders Day Festival and Parade.

Attachments:

- 2026 Founders Zone Site Map proposed
- 2026 FDC Parade Route PROPOSED.pdf
- 2026 FDC Parade & Carnival Layout PROPOSED.pdf

Next Steps/Schedule:

1. Staff will send all relay any feedback from Council to FDC for any suggested revisions.
2. Staff will develop an Engineered Traffic Control Plan for the 2026 Founders Day Festival and return to Council for approval.
3. Approved Traffic Control Plan will be shared with DSISD, per facility use agreement.