

Rick Schroder

From: Shelton Coleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Rick Schroder
Subject: Eclipse April 8th 2024 and partial Eclipse in October of 2023
Attachments: Eclipse Task Force INFO 10-21.docx

Rick,

Barbara Hudson approached me about getting the city involved in the eclipse events that will happen in our area. I have attached an explanation from the Planning Task Force. I think we should put this on the December agenda to discuss. She would like a city representative to be on the task force also. (no not me) The City of Blanco and Blanco County have all joined so I guess it's just us now.

Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,
Shelton

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2024 ECLIPSE PLANNING TASK FORCE BLANCO COUNTY

EXPLANATION:

On April 8th, 2024 there will be a total eclipse of the sun. The majority of Blanco County will be in the "area of totality". Since our area is predicted to have a chance of cloudless skies, central Texas is already one of the go-to destinations.

Based on experiences of other areas during the 2017 eclipse, planning ahead for this influx of people is critical. Visitors can be placed in two categories: Stayers and Day-Trippers.

Stayers are folks who come to stay for several days. Anticipated to start arriving on April 5th & 6th, they will probably take every bed available at motels, B&Bs, and RV parks. These folks are anticipated to tour the wine country extensively, search for wildflowers, etc. Expect every restaurant or food truck to have long lines and traffic to be heavy.

Day-Trippers will come the morning of April 8th and typically try to start back home soon after the event. One difficulty consistently mentioned from 2017 is day-trippers not being prepared for the long waits. Due to high traffic congestion, some will "camp" in cars plus need to seek food and water – and bathrooms. If unable to get fuel, this could add to the problem. Other areas reported a normal one hour trip to take an average of 5+ hours.

And, there will not be enough bathrooms.

INFORMATION:

Preparation by communities, EMS, fire, law enforcement, gasoline stations, cafes and grocery stores is a must. Indications are that traffic can impede emergency vehicles, fuel resupply, grocery restocking, etc.

Based on known experiences of communities during the 2017 eclipse, the City of Fredericksburg, Hill Country Alliance and the American Astronomical Society have formed a coalition to encourage individual affected counties in central Texas to each form a county task force for eclipse preparation. The coalition assists by holding quarterly zoom meetings to help provide information and allow the different task forces to share information and ideas.

BLANCO COUNTY:

Each affected county is responsible for forming its own county-wide task force. Micaela McDonald, Director of the Johnson City Library has volunteered to take on the starting role of Eclipse Planning Coordinator for Blanco County.

Interested, dependable volunteers are needed to serve on our Blanco County task force. The task force is to provide information and assistance to the many functions of city and county as well as working to coordinate food service companies, grocery stores, service stations, etc. We will also seek and convey information regarding eclipse glasses, education, so forth.

Questions are welcome. Please send comments or questions to:
Jerry Thompson santavacaranch@gmail.com