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City of Dripping Springs Community Newsletter

THE GATEWAY

SPRING 2009

DS Receives Generous Park Land Donation
Charro Ranch Park to be Utilized for Passive Recreation

The City of Dripping Springs has announced that it has received an unprecedented gift to the community, 64.73 acres of future parkland from area property owner Lucy Reed Hibberd.



Appraised at more than \$1.3 million, Charro Ranch Park is the largest donation the City of Dripping Springs has ever received.

Located on FM 150 east of Oak Springs and west of Woods Loop, Charro Ranch Park, which was named for Hibberd's step father Charles and mother Roberta Crenshaw, will be utilized for passive recreation only.

Hibberd's vision for the park is for it to always remain a peaceful place with no motorized vehicles, sports fields or outdoor lighting. To ensure that Charro Ranch Park will be eternally used for passive activities, Hibberd set deed restrictions on the property to place limitations on how the donated parkland may be utilized.

Mayor Todd Purcell said the City is proud to honor Hibberd's dream of making the land available to the community for activities such as walking, nature viewing, hiking and picnicking. "With her charitable donation, Hibberd is sharing her enjoyment of the property with residents and visitors to Hays County. This land means we will be able to preserve and protect more of our cherished rural landscape," Mayor Purcell said.

No stranger to giving, Hibberd and her family have a long history of promoting land conservation through donations of property and philanthropy. Hibberd's mother donated two significant parks to the City of Austin, as well as an additional 40 acre property to the City of Dripping Springs for the community's first wastewater treatment plant.

City Administrator Michelle Fischer said Hibberd's gift to the community did not stop with her donation of the parkland. "Not only did she donate Charro Ranch Park, but she has been actively making improvements on the property before turning it over to the City of Dripping Springs," Fischer said. Over the past year, Hibberd has hired workers and specialists to clear brush, install gravel trails, and create a natural solstice circle.

Making substantial improvements to the park trails, Hibberd hired crews to use gravel from her own land. She also has worked with tree specialists to identify many different tree

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Fundraisers To Kick Off For Harrison Ranch Park

The Harrison Ranch Park Fundraising Committee has set an ambitious goal to raise \$500,000 to match grant funding recently awarded for improvements at Harrison Ranch Park. To kick off the grassroots campaign, the committee will organize a summer music series called Harrison Ranch Gets Kickin' to tentatively begin the evening of Saturday, June 20 at Harrison Ranch Park. Participants will bring their blankets, chairs and snacks as they relax at a family-oriented music venue. The music series will continue throughout the summer and fall on scheduled Saturdays. The last date of the music series will lead to the Dripping Springs Wild West Festival which has tentatively been set for Saturday, October 17.

The festival will be a family fun day with rodeo activities, carnival rides, music, food booths and demonstrations. Proceeds from all events will go toward the development of Harrison Ranch Park. Please watch the local newspapers and our website at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com as more information is soon to come!



WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS THIS SUMMER?



Camp Lasso Summer Day Camp Kicks Off June 8

For children who enjoy the wonders of nature through games, arts and crafts and exploration, Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is hosting a ten-week day camp, **Camp Lasso**, at Harrison Ranch Park. Camp Lasso strives to provide a pleasant, memorable, educational and fun recreational experience in a positive environment.

Camp Lasso, Learning Adventures and Surviving the Summer Outdoors, offers children an opportunity to participate in recreational games, sports, arts and crafts, agricultural activities and nature. Campers will gain teamwork skills as well as learn how to spend their leisure time wisely through outdoor education and recreation, in an effort to meet emotional, physical and social needs. At Camp Lasso, our goal is to provide an encouraging atmosphere emphasizing positive development of physical skills, emotional growth and self-confidence.

Located on Ranch Road 12 across from Dripping Springs Elementary School, Harrison Ranch Park consists of 64 rolling acres and provides a magnificent environment for a rewarding camp experience.

The weeks are packed full with activities from hiking and sports to educational guest speakers, such as area fire and police departments, EMS and the 4-H Club.

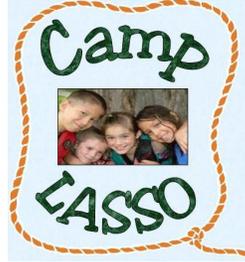
Campers, ages 5-12, and counselors in training, ages 12-16, may choose either full or half day camps and attend a one week session or all ten. Each week has a different theme with exciting activities planned. Only 30 kids may participate in each session, so pre-

register early or your kids may miss out on a memorable opportunity to have fun and make lifelong friends.

Camp sessions include:

- Session 1- June 8-12 Howdy Week
- Session 2 – June 15-19 Safari Week
- Session 3 – June 22-26 Fashion Week
- Session 4 – June 29-July 2 Patriotic Week
- Session 5 – July 6 -10 Survivor Week
- Session 6 – July 13-17 Holiday Extravaganza Week
- Session 7 – July 20-24 Wet-n-Wild Week
- Session 8 – July 27-31 Hawaiian Week
- Session 9 – Aug 3-7 Pig Out Week
- Session 10 – Aug 10-14 Renaissance Week

Full day camps begin at 7:30 a.m. and run until 5:30 p.m. and cost \$100 per week for campers and \$75 per week for counselors in training. Participants can also choose to participate in half day camps from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for only \$65 per week for campers and \$40 per week for counselors in training. The camp meets guidelines for the American Camping Association and has no more than 10 campers to each counselor.



The City of Dripping Springs has partnered with DSISD Community Education to help with registration of all upcoming park and pool programs as well as summer camp sessions. If you would like to register online, go to <http://drippingspringsisd.revtrak.net> or call 512-858-3021.

City Partners With Community Education Program

The City of Dripping Springs Council Members have agreed to an on-going partnership with Dripping Springs Independent School District's Community Education Program. Community Education is a self-sustaining organization created to coordinate and communicate a wide variety of classes and programs designed to meet the community's educational, cultural and leisure time needs.

The City of Dripping Springs and Dripping Springs Independent School District have collaboratively created a process for area residents to register for lifelong learning courses, park programs, day care, swimming lessons, summer day camps, and on-line educational opportunities. Individuals can now go to Community Education's centralized location online at

<http://www.dripping-springs.txed.net/CommunityEd> to browse courses and activities, register and pay over a secure website.

City Administrator Michelle Fischer said the website is a "one-stop shop for the community." Fischer said the City's Parks Department will continue to provide their own programs, but the Community Education organization will

administer the registration and publicity, sell pool passes, book the rentals of the swimming pool, pavilion, sports fields, and agricultural facilities as well as meeting rooms available for community use. To pre-register for any summer programs or purchase season pool passes, register online at <http://drippingspringsisd.revtrak.net> or call Community Education at 512-858-3021.

Swim Team Tryouts Sure to be a Splash!

Dripping Springs Splash Swim Team provides swimmers the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential in an atmosphere of spirited competition, positive attitude and superior sportsmanship.

For the more confident swimmers, *Dripping Springs Splash Swim Team*

tryouts were held May 2. The second round of tryouts will be Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m. at Founders Memorial Park Pool. Aquatics Director Debra Dankwardt said this is a fun summer league that is sanctioned by Texas Amateur Athletic Federation. Participants are ages five to high school and must be able to capably swim a maximum of 25 yards with their face



in the water. Swim Team practices May 9, 16, 23 and 30th, June 2-4 and also four days a week June 8 - July 21. Scheduled practice time will be determined during tryouts and is set depending on age and skill level. Swim Meets are held at Founders Memorial Park Pool on Saturdays in June. Regional and State Meets will be held in July at various locations. Swim Team fees for participants residing in the DSISD are \$110 and \$120 for non-residents.

Swimming Lessons Scheduled

As swimming is a vital skill that all kids should know, 4 eight-day sessions of swimming lessons will be available beginning June 1 for ages 3 years and up. Two-week lessons have been set Monday through Thursday, June 1 - 31. If the weekend is a better option for planned activities, an eight-week Saturday program has also been scheduled. Session fees for residents residing within the Dripping Springs Independent School District are \$65 and \$70 for non-residents.

For children ages three to five years old, there are three levels for kids to participate. Level P1 is a water adjustment class for children who have a fear of water. Level P2 is designed for children that have no fear of the



water and can already submerge their face. In level P3, children continue to practice front crawl, back crawl and beginning backstroke. For kids ages six to 12 years old, there are five levels of lessons for those with no prior swimming experience to more advanced levels that incorporate diving, water safety and the introduction of rescue breathing. If your child requires individual attention, private and semi-private lessons are offered. These lessons ensure children are given the proper attention based on age and ability. For more information, please call Aquatics Director Debra Dankwardt at 512-858-0000.

Now Hiring Seasonal Staff Positions

The City of Dripping Springs is now hiring summer day camp staff, lifeguards and concession workers for seasonal employment. Applications will be accepted through the end of May.

Fun, rewarding summer day camp staff positions are available at Camp Lasso. The 10-week program starts June 8 and will run through August 14. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, have experience working with children and pass a background check.

Lifeguard applicants must be at least 15 years old and have appropriate CPR/AED certifications.

All interested applicants may access employment applications at the City of Dripping Springs website at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com. If you have any questions regarding the summer day camp positions, please call Parks Coordinator Ashley Seay at 512-858-4725. For questions regarding lifeguard and concession positions, please call Aquatics Director Debra Dankwardt at 512-858-0000.

Lifeguard Certification Classes to be Offered

Two sessions of Lifeguard Certification classes will be held this summer with the first session starting May 6 and the second session beginning June 19. The course is American Red Cross certified and training includes CPR/ AED training for the professional rescuer.

Participants must be at least 15 years old and able to competently swim 300 yards non-stop. The fee is \$170 and participants must attend all classes in the same session to receive their certification. Register online at <http://drippingspringsisd.revtrak.net> or call Community Education at 512-858-3021

Come Join us for Opening Day at Founders Pool

This year's Opening Day at Founders Pool kicks off Saturday, May 23 at Founders Memorial Park located at 480 Founders Park Road. Come join in the fun as the pool will be open from 1 to 7 p.m. Aquatics Director Debra Dankwardt said Opening Day will be a splash day for all ages, and will also include games and prizes for kids.

Daily pool entry is \$2 for children, \$2.50 for youth and \$3 for adults. Many families will be pleased to learn that the season swim passes have decreased in price for Summer 2009. Season swim passes are available at \$45 per child, \$50 for youth, \$75 for adults, \$120 for families of four or less and only \$135 for families of five or more.

DS Receives Generous Donation of Park Land

Story Continued from Front

species on the property including some magnificent persimmons, black jack oaks, elm trees, post oaks and live oaks.

The solstice circle is a site to visit, with huge rocks and an information table that marks the summer and winter solstices. After studying solstice gardens and gathering information from experts on the subject, Hibberd was able to mark the information table with compass headings that indicate the direction for the sunrise and sunset at the time of the summer and winter solstices.

Hibberd envisions a Circle of Peace to be located within the park where there is a natural circular rock formation. Her vision is for people to walk three times around the circle and contemplate world peace.

She expressed her appreciation to the following companies and individuals including Lees Trees; Rick Rob Company; Oak Wilt Specialist; Jerry Goff; Eric Ringsby and Kevin Kadlecsek who have assisted with the park development. Hibberd also wanted to thank Ben Sorrell and Mayor Pro Tem Bill Foulds who have supported the project and will help with the connectivity of the park to their neighborhoods.

Hibberd said she would like to see the community continue to raise money and secure grant funding to make improvements for: parking; signage for plant identification; picnic tables; and a pavilion for community events, parties, and pick up basketball games.

“I’ve had the property for years now,” Hibberd said. “I am happy to share this land with the people of Dripping Springs and I hope that they will be respectful in sharing the land with the grasses, trees and wildlife that are living there.”

Mayor Purcell said the donation of land will be a great addition to the City’s existing parks. “I want to extend our deepest thanks to Ms. Hibberd on behalf of all our residents who will enjoy the park. Her generous actions will help ensure our park system will be a treasure to be appreciated and respected for years to come.”



Donor Lucy Reed Hibberd and Mayor Pro Tem Bill Foulds adjust the information table in the peaceful, awe-inspiring solstice circle.

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Joe Volpe, Councilman

H.A. “Spider” Williams, Councilman

To: Dripping Springs Area Resident
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620