



THE CITY OF
Fredericksburg, Texas

Press Release

For More Information Contact:

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Eclipse Community Town Hall Meeting

Fredericksburg, TX - Members of the Gillespie County Eclipse Task Force will be holding a Community Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Fredericksburg High School Auditorium located at 1107 S. State Hwy 16 in Fredericksburg. This meeting will take place to inform the citizens of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County of the upcoming eclipse events and provide them with information so that they may be better prepared. The meeting will begin with a presentation and high-level details about the eclipses. Questions will be received from the audience to be answered by a panel of public officials from the community. For those who cannot be in attendance, this Town Hall Meeting will also be live streamed on FBG.LIVE.

The first eclipse, happening on Saturday, October 14, 2023, will be an annular eclipse, also called a “ring of fire” eclipse. The eclipse will sweep from Oregon to Texas on a 125-mile-wide path. During this eclipse, the sun will not be fully covered, and it will be necessary to use a solar filter or glasses, that correctly meets international standards (ISO 12312-2) to safely view the partial eclipse. Solar filters and glasses are widely available and cost no more than a few dollars.

The second eclipse, happening on Monday, April 8, 2024, will be a total solar eclipse and is the primary reason the Eclipse Task Force was created. Some say that the total solar eclipse will be the single largest mass travel event in recent history. Texas is a popular choice for eclipse chasers because of our historically low cloud cover. Researchers have determined that South Texas has a 30-40% chance of cloud cover on April 8th each year, and the further northeast along the path of totality you move, the higher the cloud cover rates increase. The location with the lowest chance of cloud cover is Mexico. Fredericksburg is within the path of totality (115 miles wide) and will experience approximately 4 minutes and 23 seconds of totality. Once totality takes place, it will be safe to view the eclipse without the use of solar glasses or a solar filter. During totality, the temperature will drop slightly, the wind may pick up, die down, or change direction, and animals may act in a peculiar manner.

Members of the task force include representatives from the City of Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Fredericksburg & Harper Independent School Districts, Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, and several others. The discussions

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and preparations taking place include the probability of a large influx of tourists, traffic congestion, medical emergencies, and the procurement of equipment and supplies to manage the event.

Additional Town Hall Meetings are being planned across the county for residents to come and learn about both eclipses and to ask questions. Additional meetings in both Harper (to include Doss and Tierra Linda) and Stonewall will be held as well.

The Eclipse Task Force continues meeting monthly to share information and update planning efforts for the upcoming eclipse events that will impact our community. More details and information on upcoming Eclipse Town Hall Meetings will be announced in the near future. Additional information on these eclipse events can be found at www.eclipseinfbgtx.com.

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