



WN San Marcos

December 2020
<http://www.townsanmarcos.org/>



December 2020

In lieu of our annual holiday party, we lined up for a 'drive by' holiday train to drop of donations for the Hays Caldwell Womens Shelter.

This has become an annual tradition of collecting donations for the shelter. We are so grateful we could continue in a fun and festive way.



Upcoming Outings



No events are planned for the near future due to the pandemic. Be sure to visit our website and calendar www.townsanmarcos.org for any updates as we navigate these times.

Members check the Google Group page for outings as they are planned.

Our weekly hiking with distancing group continues. - We maintain social distancing while still having fun!



Meetings in Review

Here is what we've been up to lately.

June/July/August - no meetings

September meeting... We met outdoors at the Lower Purgatory Creek Park Trailhead. Everyone brought a chair and a mask. Game Warden Wei Wei Startz shared her career choice, her experiences and what it is like to be a game warden.

October meeting... Susan led us on a distanced walk through the Country Estates neighborhood.

November meeting... We met in the pavilion in Blue Hole park in Wimberley to hear about the latest in hiking gear from one of the Budaful Hiking owners.

January meeting will be a zoom planning meeting. Watch the Google Group page for details.

TOWN San Marcos Coordinators

Coordinator - shared responsibilities

Web Mistress Judy Telford. & Susan McGee

Yahoo Group Carrie Lasseter & Monica Harmon

Treasurer Judy Telford

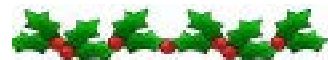
Newsletter Layne Ober

Our Facebook page is open to help folks find our club and keep up with our activities.

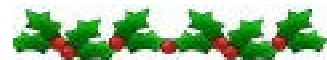
Visit fb.me/townsanmarcos to like and follow our page!

Goodbye 2020

You know what we're going to see at the end of this year? **2020 won.**



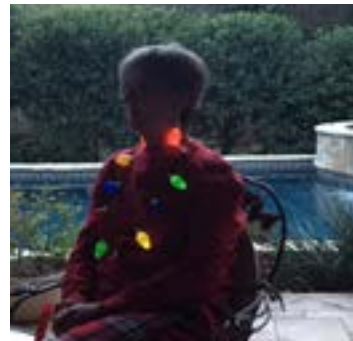
An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Years Eve. One was charged and the other was let off.



Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and January 25th (Chinese New Year). After that, even I can't help you.

Pajama Hike - December 21

The TOWN hiking group had a very fun Pajama Hike this past Monday. Susan M. lead the hike at the Lower Purgatory Creek Park . The weather was perfect for flannel and fleece! Following the hike, Susan hosted happy hour on her patio.



WHY WAS 6 AFRAID OF 9 ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?
 Because 9, 8, 7 ...

Largest Wildlife Bridge In U.S. At San Antonio's Hardberger Park

For the first time, San Antonians can cross the newly completed Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge at Phil Hardberger Park in the north central side of the city. The bridge will be covered with native trees and plants and connects the previously divided 330-acre park.

Phil Hardberger, a former San Antonio Mayor and judge, said the bridge allows for people and animals to safely cross over the busy parkway and is the largest wildlife crossing constructed to date in the United States. He also said it will make it easier for animals to reach their watering holes in the park. According to National Geographic, in addition to reconnecting fractured habitats, wildlife crossings around the world have been shown to significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle crashes.

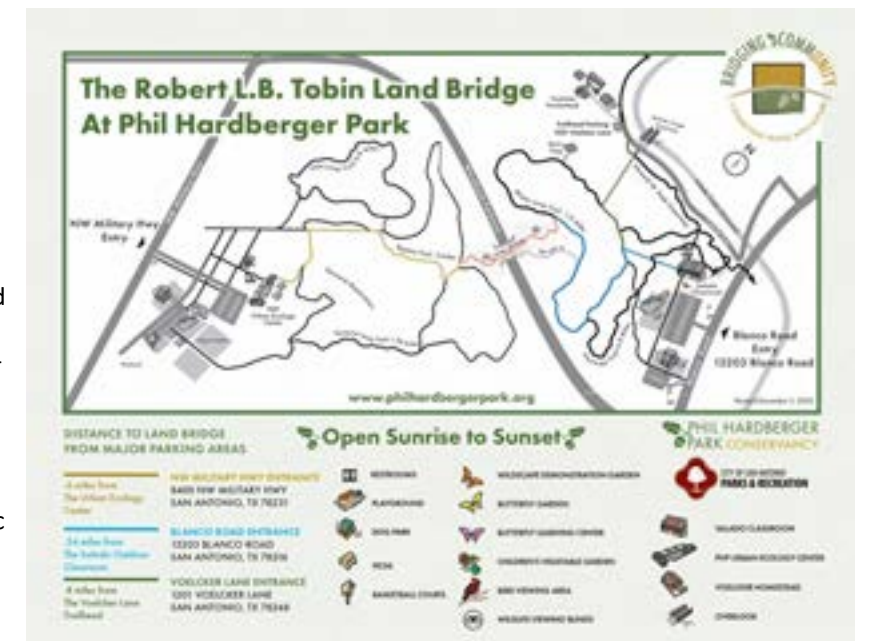


The park hours are sunrise to sunset. City officials released some tips for visitors this weekend.

- * Due to COVID-19, formal opening ceremonies and celebrations will not be held.
- * Park visitors should wear masks and maintain at least six feet of distance from individuals outside of their household while at the park.
- * Individuals are asked to stay home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or illness.
- * Visitors may access the bridge crossing from 8400 NW Military Highway via the Savanna Loop trail or from 13203 Blanco Road via the Water Loop trail.
- * The shortest distances along the trails to the bridge are half a mile. Visitors should prepare to walk at least one-mile round trip.
- * Visitors should bring plenty of water to drink, wear comfortable walking or hiking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.
- * Parking is available at both park entrances and at 1201 Voelcker Lane; however, it is limited. Parking is not available on Wurzbach Parkway.
- * The park is also accessible via the Salado Creek Greenway. Cyclists are welcome on the bridge but must walk their bicycles across.

* Hardberger Park's new Skywalk feature, an elevated walkway which climbs through the treetops connecting pedestrians with the bridge is still under construction and is set to open before the end of the year. It will not be accessible opening weekend.

* City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department staff will be on-site to help guide people and educate visitors on the importance of trail etiquette and offer take-home packets with nature-based activities to commemorate the historic bridge opening. The park also features a gathering hall, outdoor classrooms, dog parks, play areas and miles of trails. The park showcases best practices in development through stormwater catchment, solar energy, biophilic design, and native habitat.



The Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy is a nonprofit led by Hardberger and has a vision of creating and protecting the best place in the heart of San Antonio where people can experience the natural world. For more information about the bridge and park, visit philhardbergerpark.org.

Texas Little Known Facts

We Texans, being a proud group, regularly brag on Texas. Here are some little known, very interesting facts about Texas:

1. Port Arthur to El Paso : 889 miles. Port Arthur to Chicago: 770 miles
2. Brownsville to Texline (north of Amarillo): 956 miles. Texline to Canada: 960 miles
3. El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas
4. World's first rodeo was in Pecos, Tx July 4, 1883.
5. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water. Destroyed by Hurricane Ike - 2008!
6. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach at Rice University in Houston, Texas .
7. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
8. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America 's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
9. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.
10. The worst natural disaster in US history was in 1900, caused by a hurricane in which over 8,000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.
11. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was " Houston ," but the Space Center was actually in Clear Lake City at the time.
12. The King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.
13. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a US rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July of 1979.
14. Texas is the only state to enter the US by TREATY, (known as the Constitution of 1845 by the Republic of Texas to enter the Union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas Flag to fly at the same height as the US Flag, and Texas may choose to divide into 5 states.
15. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.
16. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
17. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period in Dr Pepper.
18. Texas has had six capital cities: Washington-on-the Brazos, Harrisburg , Galveston , Velasco, West Columbia and Austin .
19. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the US which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington , DC (by 7 feet).
20. The San Jacinto Monument is the tallest free standing monument in the world and it is taller than the Washington Monument .
21. The name ' Texas ' comes from the Hasini Indian word 'tejas' meaning "friends". Tejas is NOT Spanish for Texas .
22. The State Mascot is the Armadillo. An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies. They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females.
23. The first domed stadium in the US was the Astrodome in Houston.
24. The Beck family ranch land grant is one days ride by horse (25 miles) in each direction from the headquarters.
25. The name of the XIT ranch in Dalhart Texas stands for "ten in texas". That means 10 counties in Texas!

