



FORT CLARK DISPATCH

Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, & Future.

Volume 1 Issue 2

{Summer Fun Edition}

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Fort Clark Springs

JULY 3RD 2021

Time 9AM-Dark

OPEN HOUSE FORT CLARK ART STUDIO 10AM-3PM

ART ACTIVITIES & MEMBERS ART SALE

FOOD VENDORS

CRAFT VENDORS

FUNNEL CAKES

FIRE WORKS WILL BE DISPLAYED BY OUR KINNEY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT





From the Office of the Executive Officer & General Manager Alan Peterson.....

Have questions?

The General Manager and Board of Directors want to hear them.

General Manager and Executive Officer, Alan Peterson asked that this month we use his column space to ask members of Fort Clark and anyone else who wishes to ask questions of him and of the Board of Directors.

So please email any questions or comments to: **fsca@fortclark.com**. In the subject line please put **Question for the GM** if the question is directed to Mr. Peterson or **Question for the Board** if the question is for the Board of Directors. Or just put **Question** if it is for both.



Photo by Amos Trisler

In This Issue...

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If you would like to contact the Dispatch with comments and/or questions please email us at fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Be sure to put COMMENT in the subject line.

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Front and back cover photos by Amos Trisler

From the Editor...

First off. Thank you to all of you who said such wonderful things to us about the premier issue of the Fort Clark Dispatch! It means a lot to all of us here who are doing this as a labor of love and a desire to promote a more positive sense of our community. For those who live here, be it on Fort Clark, Brackettville, or the surrounding areas. Yes, even for those Winter Texans that call Fort Clark home part of the year. We want you to be able to keep up with life here while you are away. Just um, leave the snow and freezing cold up North when you come back.

A few people have asked what is our purpose, our intent, with the magazine. I had this idea back when this all started of doing a Mission Statement. I have lots of great ideas. They just don't always get beyond the idea stage. I refuse to chart my "Great Ideas" column against my never started or finished column. I already know how unbalanced that would be. I don't need a chart to fully grasp that.

I thought it would be a good idea to share some thoughts on what our intent is and what drives our ideas and contents here. For starters, as the line on the cover states, we are about. **"Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, & Future."** As such, we want to publish articles about the history of the fort in all its phases, life and activities currently happening at the fort and the surrounding area, and inform the readers about future events. This is for those who live here, but not just them.

With the magazine being an online entity we can reach out across the world. Many former residents still have a warm spot in their heart for the fort and the people living here. The magazine will give those alumni a way to keep up with and still feel a little bit a part of the fort. Part-time residents will be able to have that connection as well. Additionally, Brackettville, Kinney County, and surrounding counties can know what is coming up and what is going on around here. To build a stronger sense of community, both on the fort and with the rest of our community.

Another goal is to promote Fort Clark Springs as a place to visit, to stay for awhile, and maybe even become a part of. For those who are aware of the fort it can be a voice to bring them back, or to visit or the first time. I encourage the readership to share the link to the magazine on social media, in emails to their friends and family, and have them share it too. Because we also want to reach those people who are either unaware of Fort Clark Springs or don't realize what it has to offer.

As the fort rebuilds, repairs, and grows in a variety of ways we want to celebrate that too. As such we will try to inform as we go along. Both Fort Clark Springs and the Fort Clark Dispatch are growing. With growth comes change, challenges, and new horizons. At the magazine we ask that you stay with us as we learn, improve our organization, reporting, and look. Last month we had twenty-two (22) pages. This, our second month, we have twenty-nine (29) pages. There is still so much more content we know we can add, however we only have a small, but dedicated team working at it. We look forward to the future here at Fort Clark Springs and at the Dispatch. We hope you enjoy this issue and share it freely.



LMARC Field Day Report

On June 26th the Las Moras Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual ARRL Field Day. During Field Day amateur radio operators compete to see how many contacts they can make using amateur radio. It isn't just about making radio contact. There are other factors that add to the fun and excitement. There are different classifications for starters. The LMARC operated as Class 3E. This meant they had three transceivers operating on emergency power. This year that included generator, battery, and solar, power. This is also great training for emergency operations.

Contacts with other stations are called QSOs. Last year we had 94 QSOs, this year 282 -- a big improvement! Congratulations to all who participated. Kinney County, due to its sparse population is a prized contact for radio operators around the country and the world. Contacts were made as far away as Hawaii.

Amateur radio operators are an important part of emergency communications during disasters. Sometimes the only contact with the outside world during such times. Most of the members of the Las Moras amateur Radio Club (LMARC) are certified in both [Amateur Radio Emergency Services \(ARES\)](#), and the [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\)](#). Field Day provides good practice, particularly for those who use emergency power or set up mobile stations.

Information provided by: David Loftus, K5IX k5ix@arrrl.net. Hams range in age from as young as 9 to older than 100. A self-study license guide is available from ARRL: [The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#) and for <https://read.amazon.com/kp/embed?asin=B07DFSW94G> LMARC is authorized by the FCC to administer license examinations. For more information about ARRL Field Day, the location of the event, and ham radio in general, contact Las Moras Amateur Radio Club president David Loftus at k5ix@arrrl.net and visit www.arrrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.



Ken Sievers and Howard Benham working HF radios.



David Loftus operating using Morse Code reaching as far as Hawaii.



A big congratulations to Rob Robertson KI5LRG who passed his GENERAL Class test on Field Day!!

Of course, no good deed goes unpunished. Work that grill with your license upgrade!

Las Moras Spring historical marker re-dedication

The Las Moras Restoration Committee had some of their hard work pay off with the re-dedication and new location of the Las Moras Spring historical marker. The marker's new home is at the swimming pool where people will be able to read and learn more about the spring they are about to enjoy.



Members of the Las Moras Recreation Committee beam with pride. Left to Right - Helena McBride, Tim Ward, Chris Hale, Linda McBride and Russell Nowell.

2021 Music Camp Presents...

By Carole Trisler

On Friday, June 24, 2021, the Fort Clark Springs Teen Center was the location for a lively performance by the attendees of the Brackettville 2021 Music Camp. This year the musical entertainment featured “A Small Part of the World; folk songs from here, there and everywhere” and was created by Sally K. Albrecht and Alan Billingsley. The camp was sponsored by the Kinney County Arts Council.

The theme of the show can be summarized as children experiencing diversity of cultures by traveling from one place to another via music. This virtual trip touched on music from Europe, Asia, the South Pacific, Africa, South America, Central America, and North America. In addition to learning about the culture and geography of the featured areas, the children were tasked with learning songs in the language of the land, which they achieved delightfully. Songs in English, Zulu, Russian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish enchanted the audience. Factoids shared by the performers proved the children learned more than music. Show-goers were treated to mini-lessons in history which ranged from the history of the Berlin Wall, to the traditions of Japanese Kabuki theater. The cast and audience were treated to a buffet of featured foods, researched for authenticity. Among the refreshments were snicker-doodles, pot stickers, atayef, and iced animal crackers.

Music Camp 2021 was led by Nancy Long (director) and Kate Burkhart (choreographer) and featured the talents of these local youth: Alyssa Torres, Anaka Johnson (special guest appearance by baby brother, Austin), Ava Dillon, Callie Harris, Daniella Mancha, Griffin Taylor, Josiah Martinez, June Riojas, Junior Riojas, Matther Haas, Miguel Martinez, Miles Edwards, Phoenix Taylor and Sophia Guerra. Assistant directors were Ava Malloy (videographer) and Emily Malloy (sound). Theater assistants included Ector Willis, Kenda Eaton, Lianna Rivas, Lucinda Manch, Marissa Turner and Will Lewis.

All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



The Music Camp students joined hands to sing, “We are the Children” as part of the finale.



Treats from a variety of cultures were baked by Lianna Rivas and Lucinda Mancha.

Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

Do you notice in the evening getting on toward sunset, the big black birds that will begin circling high in the sky over Fort Clark Springs? As twilight comes, these birds soar lower and go to roost on the Brackettville water tower or along Las Moras Creek for the night.

I photographed a couple of them sitting in a dead tree along the creek. These were what I call “buzzards”, or as I found when looking in my bird book, Black Vultures. “Buzzards” was not in the index at all!

Researching online, I discovered that early European settlers to the US mistakenly thought vultures were hawks and called them “buzzards”, the name for hawks in Europe. And “buzzards” has remained a slang term for vultures over here. Black Vultures are common in this area as are the Turkey Vultures, so named for the red skin of their heads resembling our native Turkeys’ head coloration. Black Vultures reside full time here, mate for life and are very social birds with their own roost members. Vultures mostly eat dead animals however they will also dispatch weakened or vulnerable ones as well.

In terms of their role in nature, vultures do a good service keeping the environment clean by eating carcasses especially out here in our rural environment with such frequent road kills.



Two Black Vultures take to the trees to settle in for the evening.



(Opossum photo, courtesy of Parker, TX, city website)

Speaking of evening, have you heard rustlings outside around the garbage can or around the garage if you store the bird seed or pet food there? Heard any hissing? Perhaps you have disturbed the Opossum, or possum as we call it. Possums will hiss, sway or drool when encountering a threat as well as act dead or “play possum” as we say. Opossums are the only marsupial or pouched mammal in Northern America. A marsupial mammal bears young that are not fully formed and must remain protected until they old enough to survive outside the pouch. Then the babies cling to their mother’s back for 3 months until they can start to take care of themselves. Possums mostly sleep during the day and roam around at night. So, if you want to move a family of possums along, find their burrow or nest, play loud music during the day and shine bright lights on the burrow. Possums eat most anything from garbage or pet food to small animals, insects and snakes. Something I didn’t know is that opossums and skunks are immune to snake venom and actively hunt and eat snakes. So, they too provide a good service if we can prevent them from being a nuisance around our homes.

Story and photo by Suzanne Mayne.

For more information on Fort Clark Hiking Trails: Look online at www.fortclark.com , under the Recreation drop down menu,click on *Hiking/Biking Trails*. There you will find the different designated trails, totaling over 15 miles.

SECURITY DISPATCH

FCSA Security would like to remind all residents and guests of FCSA Traffic Rules. Rules state that all persons who operate a motor vehicle of any description, licensed or unlicensed, shall have a valid driver's license. This includes, golf carts, dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs.

As you may have noticed in the news there is an increase in illegal aliens coming into our area. If you see any suspicious activity for this or any reason please call FSCA Security at (830) 563-2002, Kinney Country Sheriff's Office (830) 563-2788, or Border Patrol (830) 653-5000.

Security has received numerous reports of rattlesnakes in and around the various units. Please be aware of your surroundings. Snakes will try to find cool places to hide from the heat. They move more frequently in the late afternoon through the early morning hours. If you see a rattlesnake, or any poisonous snake please contact security and if possible please keep the snake in sight until security arrives.

**FORT CLARK SPRINGS SECURITY
MAY 2021
MONTHLY REPORT**

In the month of May 2021 Fort Clark Springs Security was dispatched to:

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Airlife Landing |
| 6 | EMS Calls |
| 1 | Report Of A Ground Fire |
| 1 | Report Of Gun Shots |
| 1 | Report Of A Possible Break-In |
| 2 | Reports Of Residential Alarm Going Off |
| 3 | Reports Of A Snake At A Residence |
| 13 | Reports Of Speeding/ Reckless Driving/Unlicensed Drivers |
| 4 | Reports Of Trespassing |
| 4 | Reports Of Loud Noise |
| 3 | Reports Of Accidents |
| 1 | Report Of Minors Drinking |
| 7 | Reports Of Dogs Running Loose |
| 15 | Reports Of Sick, Injured or Dead Animals |
| 23 | Reports Of Suspicious Activity |
| 1 | Report Of Intoxicated Driver |
| 1 | Report Of A Bail-Out |
| 11 | Reports Of Illegals On FCSA Property |
| 1 | Report Of A Smuggler Trying To Get Motel Room |
| 13 | Times Sheriff Deputies Patrolling Inside Fort |
| 2 | Times DPS Patrolling Inside Fort |
| | Security Personnel also responded to numerous other calls not listed above. |

Editor's Note: The Security Monthly Report will always be one month behind. The report is compiled and submitted to the GM and the Board of Directors at the end of each month. The Fort Clark Dispatch is published on the first of each month. For this reason the report you read in the Dispatch will be one month behind.

Summer Fun at Fort Clark

Find the following words hidden below:

swimming
pool
LasMoras
Fourth of July
fireworks
parade
tennis

float
ice cream
Juneteenth
snow cone
hot dogs
swing
fishing

slide
horseback
hiking
wildlife
golf
Frisbee
Marco Polo

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S R
U V W X Y Z R S I T Z F S H U Z F H Q W
B Z L E F B G Y F H Z S K H Y C U S W H
M K B E X B F R I S B E E P H E R A L I
D R I H N H M A R C O P O L O M X Q S H
L I B O S L I D E Y U F A G T J T Z E O
L A U O D P U C W G P A R A D E E H O T
J H Q P U G K J O K W F I S H I N G S D
P V W S M R N Z R W R S O T B J N N Y O
F H M W W Y H I K I N G N U E W I C I G
N L E I I I U J S L A S M O R A S R H S
H E K M T C N W U D Z P I T W T L Y S Q
Y H D M O O E G O L F M A I L C H I I I
G M H I I G L C O I Y B E F K I O O Y W
B T Q N L P W O R F L O A T G N Y N V K
W Q H G R O J U N E T E E N T H Y V E W
C L P N H O R S E B A C K H Z M Z X N L
N Y O G O L F Q R K G M R Z L T B S N L
Y K V T N G O L M N G O L Q Y W R T B L
X V G Z X K G V K I J X Z V B C E D Z F

Print this and find a comfortable place to work on it!



Fort Clark Arts will be having its Open House on Saturday, July 3rd in coordination with Fort Clark Springs Association's Independence Day Celebration. The Studio will be open to the public and member artworks will be for sale.

Join us that day for one or both of our workshops on the grassy area below the Art Studio. Both workshops are open to children and adults and will accommodate up to 20 participants. The morning workshop from 10:00 - 12:00 pm is a simple drawing class on the theme "What makes you feel most free" led by Gage Brown, a local artist. The afternoon workshop from 12:30 - 2:30 pm will be painting on rocks led by Cheryl Hunter, a Fort Clark Arts member. Please join us for a day of fun!

Fort Clark Arts members, Suzanne Mayne and Amos Trisler, were accepted into the Del Rio Council for the Arts, Firehouse Gallery, f/22 Photography Exhibit from July 2 - 31st. Stop by when you are in Del Rio, get out of the heat, view works from the region's photographers and soak up some art culture!

Water Aerobics Classes at the Fort Clark Swimming Pool

Water Aerobics Class that meets Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. The instructor is Kate Burkhart. The ages range from 10 years to 83 years old. She is still accepting students of all ages. So have fun, get a bit of exercise, and maybe even make some new friends.



Family Events to Beat the Heat!

July 18th is National Ice Cream Day. Come by Rendezvous Park at 2PM. We will be having ice cream and so many toppings and flavors.

August 3rd is National Watermelon Day. We will be having Watermelon at Rendezvous Park at 6PM.

August 6th is National Root Beer Float Day. You guessed it. We will be serving Root Beer Floats at Rendezvous Park at 6PM



The POOL Season is OPEN!

- * All persons must stop at the gate to be checked in.**
- * All Member assessments need to be paid-to-date before entering. Security will be checking current status.**
- * Guests or a Visitors, you will be charged a fee to enter.**

Members in Good Standing - No Cost

General Public - \$7.00

Members Grandchildren - \$2.00

(must be registered with the fort)

Member Guest Adult - \$5.00

(13 and above)

Member Guest Child - \$3.00

(12 and younger)

Brackettville Students w/ID - \$3.00

Kinney County Residents

Adult (13 and above) \$5.00

Child (12 and younger) \$3.00

**Brackett ISD Students are Eligible
for a 20 entrance punch pass for
\$40.00/Season Pass \$153.00**

Remember:

Membership Privileges do not transfer to renters.

Member Guests must be accompanied by a Member.

Please remember that all assessments and fees help the fort keep going!

Please be safe while having fun!



SWIM PARK RULES

- MUST WEAR CURRENT WRIST BAND IN PARK
- NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY
- USE PARK AND POOL AT YOUR OWN RISK
- CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE WITH ADULT
- FCSA MAY DENY ACCESS / USE TO ANYONE AT ANY TIME
- FCSA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, LOSS OR INJURIES
- NO HORSES IN PARK
- NO PETS IN POOL AREA
- KEEP OUT OF SPRING, SPILLWAY AND CREEK
- NO FISHING TACKLE IN POOL AREA
- NO COOKING IN POOL AREA
- NO LITTERING
- POOL CLOSED ON THURSDAYS
- SWIM PARK CLOSSES AT DARK
- NO INAPPOPRIATE ATTIRE (STRING OR THONG BIKINI'S ETC)
- NO BBQ PITS / GRILLS ALLOWED
- MEMBERS AND GUEST MAY USE THE BBQ GRILLS AND PICNIC TABLES ON A FIRST COME, FIRST BASIS.



REGLAS DEL PARQUE DE NATACION

- DEBE USAR EL BRAZALETE ACTUALIZADO EN EL PARQUE
- NO HAY SALAVAVIDA DE GUARDIA
- USE EL PARQUE LA ALBERCA BAJO SU PROPIO RIESGO
- NIÑOS MENORES DE 12 DEBEN ESTAR ACOMPAÑADOS DE UN ADULTO
- FCSA PUEDE NEGAR EL ACCESO / USO EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO
- NO VESTIMENTA INAPROPIADA (BIKINI DE HILO O TANGA, ETC)
- FCSA NO ES RESPONSIBLE POR ROBO, PERDIDA O LESIONES
- NO CABALLOS EN EL PARQUE
- NO MASCOTAS EN EL AREA DE LA ALBERCA
- MANTENGASE FUERA DEL OJO DE AGUA, EL VERTEDERO Y EL ARROYO
- NO EQUIPOS DE PESCA EN LA ALBERCA
- NO COCINAR EN EL DE LA ALBERCA
- NO TIRAR BASURA
- LA ALBERCA ESTA CERRADA LOS JUEVES
- EL PARQUE DE NATACION SE CIERRA OBSCURECER
- NO HAY PARRILLAS PARA BARBACOA / PARRILLAS PERMITIDAS
- MIEMBROS E INVITADOS PUEDE USAR EL PARRILLAS PARA BARBACOA Y MESAS DE PICNIC POR ORDEN DE LLEGADA

| GC-GOLF COURSE AC-ADULT CENTER PT-POST THEATER ARTS-ART STUDIO TC-TEENCENTER AD-ADMIN OFFICE PB-PALISADO | <h1><u>JULY 2021</u></h1> | | | | | | B.RV-RV PARK RVP- RV PAVILION RVK-KITCHEN SC-SERVICE CLUB OQ- QLD QUARRY AMPHITHEATER BR-BOARD ROOM |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
| <u>GOLF COURSE HOURS TUES.-SUN. 7:30AM-7:30PM</u> | <u>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</u> | <u>CONTACT JULIE @THE ADMIN OFFICE 830-563-2493 OR EMAIL FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</u> | | 1 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER | 2 10A WATER AEROBICS <u>9P FREE MOVIE - GREASE</u> <u>OUTSIDE POST THEATER</u> | 3 RECYCLE CENTER CLOSED <u>4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>RED WHITE BLUE TOURNAMENT-GC</u> | |
| 4 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!! HAPPY 4 TH OF JULY!!! | 5 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 6 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 7 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF | 8 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER | 9 10A WATER AEROBICS | 10 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>10A HILLCREST MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT-GC</u> | |
| 11 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | 12 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 13 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 14 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF | 15 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN | 16 10A WATER AEROBICS | 17 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>9:00A FCS BR BOARD MEETING 1 PM TOWN HALL</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>CAJUN BASH COURSE FR-GC</u> | |
| 18 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>2PM NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY RENDEZVOUS PARK</u> | 19 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS <u>1P BOOKS, LITERATURE & TEA - AC</u> <u>"WEST WITH GIRAFFES"</u> 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 20 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 21 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF | 22 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN | 23 10A WATER AEROBICS | 24 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | |
| 25 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE | 26 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE | 27 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR | 28 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF | 29 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN | 30 10A WATER AEROBICS | 31 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>END OF MONTH SCRAMBLE-GC</u> | |

Outside the Box

By Jack Marsh

Every once in a while, writers for the Dispatch will contribute articles intended to stimulate thoughts and elicit opinions about a certain topic. They will provide the reader with little bits of information to consider as we work toward improving life experience on the fort. This is the first of hopefully many articles from outside the box.

Question: What do the Texas cities of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Ft. Worth, El Paso, Amarillo, Lubbock, Laredo, Waco, plus several other cities all have in common? They allow property owners to raise and keep laying hens! Folks in rural communities may find that fact surprising, given the somewhat negative reputation that “yard birds” have endured among city dwellers. But the new reality is that, as an increasing number of Americans are looking for ways to control the quality and availability of their food sources, backyard chicken flocks for egg production are a growing trend among urban dwellers all over the U.S.

As a result of this recent demand for home grown produce, many municipalities have been forced to revisit their restrictive covenants regarding the prohibition of various “farming” activities and types of animals, and to address the whole chicken/egg issue. The restrictions spelled out in Fort Clark documents (in the Declaration of Protective Covenants for each housing unit) states the following regarding the possession of animals: “No animals other than household pets, not to exceed four(4) shall be kept; and all such animals shall be leashed or confined behind walls or fencing.” There would need to be some clarification provided by the Board of Directors as to how this restriction may apply to laying hens properly confined on one’s property, and how members

should go about addressing/requesting any needed amendments to the rules.

What follows is a list of a few pros and cons of raising laying hens for egg production.

Advantages:

The average consumer is at least three generations removed from the farm. As a result many people do not have a real appreciation of where their food comes from. Raising chickens in an urban space allows a perfect opportunity to educate your family and your neighbors about chickens, eggs, and agriculture.

Sometimes you will end up having leftover kitchen scraps. Instead of letting those scraps go to waste, you can feed them to your chickens. Because chickens are omnivores, they will eat just about any meat, fruit or vegetable.

Especially if you have kids, chickens can make very social and even affectionate pets. Raising chickens also allows kids the opportunity to learn about responsibility as they help take care of the flock, gather eggs, make sure the birds are penned up at night.

By simply fencing your backyard or providing a fenced-in run area for chickens, you can offer your birds a free-range lifestyle. The birds can eat bugs and weeds, take dust baths, and run as much as they like. Having lived in a large city for 30 years before moving to Fort Clark, I witnessed the growing acceptance of urban chicken habitats, which resulted in a whole new market for innovative “upscale” chicken coops, designed for areas with limited space. Many of these are surprisingly affordable and attractive.

Continued next page...

Challenges:

Although many city ordinances today allow residents to raise chickens, most of them stipulate that roosters are forbidden. If you order baby chicks to raise, you can request no male birds, but sometimes one will accidentally slip through the cracks. If that is the case, as soon as you realize you have a rooster, you'll need to find him a new home.

Like any animal, chickens require some space, so take that into consideration if your yard space is already limited. Chickens require three to four square feet of space apiece in a coop and at least the same amount of space in a run. It should be a sanitary space that allows mobility and protects the flock from predators, like hawks, dogs, raccoon, and coyotes, at night.

Raising chickens is a commitment. You have to gather the eggs every day, make sure they have plenty of food and water, and clean the

coop on a regular basis. If you travel, you will need to find someone to care for the chickens while you are away. Typical backyard hens can live from eight to ten years, so raising chickens is not a short-term job.

Producers should be aware of the risk of salmonella contamination when cleaning coops or handling chickens and eggs.

This brief article touched on only a few things to think about when contemplating backyard egg production. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Department of Poultry Science have a wide array of information regarding this topic, and you should definitely do your own research on the matter. One place to start would be the following website:

<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/04/01/backyard-chicken-flocks-for-beginners/>



Photo by Amos Trisler



Photo by Amos Trisler

(A poem by local poet, John Brooks, celebrating the lifting of mask mandates).

Sunday in the year of twenty twenty one, we went to church that day
But it wasn't just a Sunday service, that's what I am trying to say

While I was sitting in the very back of that church in the very last pew
I couldn't help but notice that the people were doing something new

There were no masks being worn, at least not that I could see
Not on the preacher, not on the ushers, the pianist, and not on me

Reverend Murray played his guitar and sang songs that we all used to hear
He was truly joyful, more so than he had been for way over a year

Well, I don't know how happy he has been, because I see him once a week
So I guess I had better just tell about my happiness now while I speak

I sincerely don't think saying it was the happiest for me is no exaggeration
But the joy that I felt when we sang Shalom in our circle defies explanation

For a year, we sung that song without our hands being able to touch
It made me feel so happy, I cried a little bit, but not very much

I am looking forward to the day when I can visit the places I had in the past
Like the bank or the Post Office without talking to the cashier through glass

Fort Clark Springs This Year's Site for the LDS Youth Camp

By Suzanne Mayne

Fort Clark Springs was fortunate to be the site of the week-long annual camp of youth from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The youth raised money to come to camp in various ways including a yard sale, bake sale, and donating old shoes to a company that recycles the shoe materials.

In total, 42 girls and 29 boys, ages 11-18 attended the camp, with oversight provided by parents and church leaders. FCS was chosen as the site for the camp this year as it was central to the youths' hometowns of Uvalde, Eagle Pass, Carrizo Springs, Del Rio and Brackettville. The youth camped in the Wilderness Campground in a variety of tents and fold-out trailers. It was great to see the campground full of happy campers!

While swimming at the pool was a highlight for everyone; there were plenty of other activities for the youth to engage in. The girls performed skits,



After a hard morning painting tables it's time to recharge!



The girls came in first and set the standard for the boys sanding and painting picnic tables at the RV park.

Photo by Suzanne Mayne,

had a dance by the pool, listened to inspiring speakers, hiked and participated in workshops to learn about mental health, self-care, missionary work and knot tying.

The boys engaged in similar activities included ping-pong, nine square and corn hole at the campground, listened to inspirational speakers and held a cardboard boat contest at the pool.

Both groups did volunteer work for the fort, sanding and painting picnic tables at the RV park. An activity that is very much appreciated!

The Camp Leaders, including Aubri Yoder, who contributed to this article, indicated the FCSA staff, both maintenance and the front office, were great to work with and everyone was very kind and helpful. It made their stay at Fort Clark Springs and the Wilderness Campground very pleasant. We hope to see them back again another year!



The boys had a boat building contest to see which team's boat would float the longest. By the looks of this image these two teams may have added levitation devices. Hopefully it's just an optical illusion caused by the light and the clear water of the pool.

Photo by Hannah Laub



NOTES FROM THE RECYCLE CENTER

by Helena McBride

Everyone at FCSA should try to recycle. From 2016 to 2020, we kept 212 tons of trash out of the landfill. Bring us # 1 plastic, # 2 plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, office paper, and mixed paper. We're open Thursdays 4 to 6 and Saturdays 8:30 to 12.

Look for the triangle on the bottom of the item. If its # 1 or # 2 bring it. Do NOT bring # 5 (yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, dishwasher tablets, nutrition drinks, some yellow medicine bottles). Take off caps, lids, handles, then rinse. Crush big items.

1 Plastic: water bottles, clear plastic from fruits & veggies.

We don't want the caps or lids or handles.

#2 Plastic has 2 different boxes, one is Colored Plastic, the other is "Natural Plastic." Some # 1 plastic is black or dark, you can't see through it. Put into the box marked Colored Plastic. Natural Plastic is regular milk, #2 vinegar, cat litter containers. Step on these big items to crush them to make them smaller.

Aluminum cans: beer & soda cans & large cat food cans. No aluminum foil or pie pans.

Steel or Tin Cans: veggie & soup cans, and small cat food cans

Office paper: white or colored paper that go into a printer. Bills or hand-written paper, post-it notes or shredded office paper is good. No construction thick paper, no shredded magazines, no business envelopes with the plastic front.

Mixed Paper: broth & waxed juice containers, newspapers, magazines, shredded magazines, boxes from beer & soda, telephone books. No deer food or dog food bags that have a plastic coating.

No glass, corrugated cardboard, or plastic bags. Cardboard should be flattened and put out with trash on Monday morning. Maintenance bales it, the Fort gets money for the bales.

Please Do NOT drop off items at the Recycle gate. We have to pick up your stuff. Its good if you seperate your items at home, This allows you to move quickly & you don't keep the cars behind you waiting to do their drop offs.

Volunteers, Please Note: when the plastic bottles reach the top of the trash can, remove the black plastic bag, and continue to fill it up. The bags are costly so please fill them completely. Tie the bag tightly so it doesn't spill and bring it outside. Maintenance takes them and makes bales of the plastic.

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR DOING LOTS OF WORK, especially in the hot summer. Joe builds & organizes the boxes, & runs the forklift, Helena schedules volunteers, organizes paperwork, writes & reports to the Board. Volunteers are Pat, Phil, Memo, Valada, Tim, Mary P, Kathi, Wanda, Lori, John B, John W, Diana, Vida, Linda & John, MaryJane & Dennis, Bob, Viola, Pam, Barbara, Natanya, Phoenix, Griffen, Maria and Helena.

FORT CLARK SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENTS

FREE

Open Gate

GREASE is the word

Concessions support community projects

FRIDAY, JULY 2ND

SHOW TIME: 9:00 PM

OUTSIDE POST THEATER @ FORT CLARK SPRINGS

Please bring own lawn chairs.



4th of July Fun Tournament

July 3, 2021, 10 a.m. tee off

2 Person Teams

6 Hole Scramble, 6 Hole Shamble

6 Hole Alternate Shot



Entry Fee \$20.00

Mulligans \$ 5.00 each

**Wear Red, White & Blue get a free Mulligan
when you buy one.**

Gross & Net Winners but you can only win 1



For more Information call the Pro Shop 830-563-9204

David Mann 830-563-5657

Or debs25@sbcglobal.net

FORT CLARK

STILL NEEDS

YOU!

FORT CLARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AROUND THE FORT.

As members of the community there are many things large and small that you can do to help out while making Fort Clark a better place to live and play.

I might be as simple as volunteering a little time to go through some of the restrooms and change out the aerators in the sinks. Or painting a few benches.

Or you may be one of those people who have advanced

To volunteer or to find out how you can help please contact:

skills and years of experience in a particular field. Your help could move along projects on the fort that are stalled or moving much slower due to shortages of manpower and/or specific skills needed.

From the simple set of extra hands to sharing your hard earned skills and experience.

Fort Clark needs YOU!

Thank you for reading this issue of the Fort Clark Dispatch. We hope you enjoyed it and will visit with us each month.

The Dispatch is a monthly online magazine that is available on the first of each month.



Can you find the face in the tree trunk? Fort Clark has some of the most interesting trees. From the trunk shapes to faces and patterns. This image was taken in the area just across from M.U.D.

Photo by Amos Trisler

To contact the magazine with comments, questions, or to volunteer, please email:

fcdispatch@fortclark.com

Please put “Comment”, “Question”, or “Volunteer” in the subject line. This will help us keep it separate from submissions and administrative emails.

On the back cover:

A few members of the Fort Clark community decided a great way to cool off was a mid-week evening water balloon fight.



Gotcha!!!