

## Tips for Residents

**Eclipse Begins** Monday, April 8, at 12:16 pm

**Anticipated Days:** Friday, 04/05 – Tuesday, 04/09

Here is the good news, if you live in Blanco you have a front-row seat to this spectacular event. You don't have to pack up the car or kids, simply step out into your front yard and enjoy the day. And with some easy planning beforehand you and your family can experience the total solar eclipse with relatively little disruptions.

Traffic will be heavy and lines for local services such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery, and retail stores may be longer than usual; do what you can ahead of time before the anticipated impact days and allow for extra time to get where you need to go.

### Things to consider doing in advance:

- **Errands & Appointments:** Schedule your errands and appointments early, before Friday the 5th if possible. Check ahead if you have plans for Monday the 8th; some services may be closed or have limited hours during this time. By scheduling your errands early, you will beat the crowds and give our local stores and businesses time to restock before the eclipse visitors arrive; this includes grocery shopping, doctor/dentist/veterinary appointments, prescriptions, etc.
- **Supplies:** Overall, some supplies may be limited due to the high demand; which may mean the items you want are not available immediately before or after the total solar eclipse. If there is something important you want, get it early.
- **Gas:** If you normally fill up your gas tank Friday – Monday, be sure to do that task early, before Friday, April 5th.
- **Cash:** If you regularly use cash or want some on hand, consider visiting your local bank or ATM before April 5th as some ATMs that operate on WiFi might be unavailable due to the increased cellular traffic.

**911:** Know when it is appropriate to call 911 (true emergencies) and have the non-emergency phone number for the Dispatch Center (830-868-7104) programmed into your phone ahead of time.

**Cellular Service:** With the increased number of visitors, local public safety officials anticipate cellular service may become impacted (primarily Monday the 8th) or have limited access during the days when there will be an increase in visitors. Consider these ideas to assist with communications during this time:

- Develop a communication plan with family and friends if you lose or have limited service.
- If you only have a mobile phone at home find out which of your neighbors have a landline number in case you need to call 911 for an emergency. You can also text 911 in an emergency.

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**Public Water Systems:** Consider postponing watering your lawn or using “extra” water during the anticipated impact days to take a little pressure off of the public water systems during that time.

**Individual/Family Emergency Plans:** Consider the eclipse event a drill to check your emergency kits and emergency plans. If you do not have a kit or have not talked about your emergency plans, now is a great time to do so. Make sure family members and friends know your plans.