

Nonprofit seeks to collaborate with city for creation of skate park

BY MADELEINE MILLER
DISPATCH RECORD

Local non-profit Wings of Eagles Outreach is seeking city collaboration in its efforts to establish a skate park in Lampasas.

Founded in 2005 by Andy and Marisa Skiles, Wings of Eagles operates a youth-outreach program out of the New Covenant Church Common Grounds building.

Marisa Skiles, who teaches at Lampasas Middle School, said she was inspired to build a skate park in Lampasas after hearing a radio advertisement for a skate park and outreach center in California.

"I didn't have a clue about skating," she said. "I just knew if we had one, students would come to it. It would be trendy and cool, and it would be a great place for us to reach out to students and help them with whatever they needed help with."

The Skileses founded Wings of Eagles with the mission of establishing a local skate park, but the organization's focus has since broadened and now coordinates monthly



Antonio Arthur, left, and Triston Holloman skateboard at the First Baptist Church basketball court.

service projects for students.

Wings of Eagles President Lisa Parker said the organization hopes to establish a faith-based community center in Lampasas, where it can provide Bible studies and life-skills instructions on topics including budgeting, changing a tire, cook-

ing and applying for jobs.

But the organization's priority remains building a skate park.

"There's just a need for those kids in our community, the ones that fall through the cracks," Parker said. "There's just not a lot for them to do in our community."

She said the skate park would provide a place for skaters and non-skaters alike to gather.

The organization is looking for a location for the park and discussing financing options with city staff. Parker said if the city adds the park to its budget, the park could be

funded jointly by Wings of Eagles and the city, and maintained by the parks department.

Lampasas resident Triston Holloman, now 20, said he has been skating since he was 14. When he was younger, he skated with friends in local business parking lots but stopped skating in town when business owners and residents began calling the police about them.

Now he and his friends skate at parks in Austin and Killeen. He said the skate park in Killeen is in a rough neighborhood, and finding time to drive to Killeen or Austin after work or school is difficult.

Holloman said it would be safer and more convenient for Lampasas teens to have a skate park in town.

"It would keep people out of trouble," he said. "People who skate are people who don't play football. They're

kind of misfits. Having a skate park would give them something to do instead of running around town getting in trouble."

City Manager Finley deGraffenried said constructing a skate park has been listed on the city's capital improvement plan for several years. He said it's up to the City Council to fund the project "based on a wheelbarrow of needs."

Councilman Mike White, who has worked with skate-park contractor SPA Skateparks to consider funding and locations for a local skate park, said many children and young adults in the community would benefit from such a venue.

"Kids that play football have a football field, kids that play tennis have a tennis field, but kids who skateboard and maybe aren't involved in organized sports don't have a place to ride," White said.

Sunday tour to feature historic houses



The Passport to the Past Homes Tour -- scheduled Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- will feature five historic residences, including the Charles Stokes house. The residence, built in 1917, has entrances off Fourth and Park streets. See page 5 for related photos and more details about the tour.



The Adelphia, at 101 FM 580 East, is one of the stops on the tour. Owned by Debbie Reynolds, the restored house is named for the wife of John Markward, a German immigrant who opened a mercantile on Lampasas' downtown square in the late 1860s.

Lometa City Council discusses several park matters

BY JEFF LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lometa City Council postponed action Monday on a bid for tree and stump removal in the regional park but voted on two other items relating to the park.

Also at Monday's meeting, the council voted not to change the dental insurance plan for city employees, approved a special-use permit application submitted by Paula Dycus for a nail salon, and

approved a quote from Area Wide Locksmith for fire code-compliant doors at the senior center.

Before the regular session, a workshop session discussed the city's process for enforcing code violations, mostly on residential properties.

Police Chief Melissa Cantu said the department is enforcing code but tries to work with landowners, through verbal warnings and written warnings before issuing citations.

"All [violations] have been

taken care of except three," Cantu said. "Two are the same person. One is on a payment plan ... What we currently have is working."

While abandoned vehicles on private property were a separate part of the discussion, Mayor Carlos Garcia said if vehicles are abandoned on public property for days, the city may have them removed.

The Texas Transportation Code allows a law enforcement agency to take into custody an

abandoned motor vehicle and, depending on the roadway or right of way, it is considered abandoned after 48 hours.

In the regular session, the council heard from several citizens. Margaret Williams said her storage units have had several break-ins and that she had called the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office.

Another series of break-ins at her units occurred

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NEWSMAKERS

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY

Howard Payne University recognized 255 students for academic success during the spring 2020 semester.

Students must earn a 4.0 grade-point average to be named to the President's

List, a 3.65-3.99 GPA to be named to the Dean's List and a 3.5-3.65 GPA to be named to the Honor Roll.

These area students were recognized:
Monica Garza of Kempner – President's List

Austin Martin of Lampasas – President's List

McKenna Randall of Lampasas – Dean's List

Hope Veroneau of Lampasas – Honor Roll

Let's Celebrate
WANDA MEYERS'
90th
Birthday!
Drive by parade
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020 • 5:30 PM – 7 PM
1003 N. Ridge Street, Lampasas

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512-556-5801

What Should You Do with an Inheritance?

If you were to inherit a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

The question may not be hypothetical, especially if you are in the millennial, Gen X or Gen Z demographic groups. That's because the baby boomers – often referred to as the richest generation in history – are poised to transfer some \$30 trillion in assets over the next few decades, according to the consulting firm Accenture.

Of course, this is a "macro" figure, and everyone's situation is different. Furthermore, since baby boomers are living longer, more active lives, the total amount passed on may end up being considerably less than the estimate. Nonetheless, you may well receive a medium-to-large inheritance someday, and when that day arrives, you'll need to decide how best to use your newfound wealth.

Your first move may be to do nothing at all. Generally speaking, you have enough

time to decide how to handle the various elements of an inheritance, although if you are inheriting an investment vehicle such as an IRA or a 401(k) plan, you will eventually have to make some decisions about liquidation or withdrawals. (And since these accounts may carry tax obligations, it's a good idea to consult with your tax advisor fairly soon after you receive your inheritance.) But if a big part of your inheritance simply consists of cash parked in a bank account, there's nothing wrong with moving the money into a cash management account at a financial services company until you decide what to do with it.

However, after some time has passed, you may want to put your inheritance to good use. If you're already working with a financial advisor, you might want to get some guidance on how to use your new assets to strengthen your existing investment strategy. Do you have any gaps in certain areas? Can you use the money to

help diversify your holdings? Diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, but it can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio.

And, of course, if your inheritance is large enough, it may permit you to "max out" on your IRA for years to come, and possibly free you to have even more of your salary deferred into your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement account. Plus, you could use the money for other long-term goals, such as funding a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan for your children.

You also might use part of your inheritance to donate to the charitable organizations you support. Due to recent changes in tax laws that caused many people to stop itemizing their deductions, charitable groups are in more need of support than ever.

And last, but certainly not least, take this opportunity to review your goals. Is your inheritance large enough for you to adjust your planned retirement age? And if that age may indeed change, what about your other plans for retirement? Will you now be free to travel more or pursue other hobbies? Will you even need to modify the way you invest for your new reality, possibly by taking a less aggressive approach? Again, a financial professional can help you answer these questions.

Someone thought enough of you to leave you a valuable inheritance – so use it wisely.

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