

Tips for Businesses

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

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

Blanco County expects as much as a 100% increase in visitors over the opening night of Lights Spectacular. This could be a great opportunity for business, but you will need to be prepared. Grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, transportation services, coffee shops, retail stores, and many other establishments will experience a jump in business.

What You Can Do To Prepare Your Business:

- **Back-up Plans:** Prepare for an increase in customers; have needed supplies on hand and have them delivered early; consider extending hours of operation to meet customer needs and have back-up plans if staff is delayed due to traffic.
- **Employee Preparedness:** Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas; have their own resources ready at home; day care needs are met, etc. by April 5th. Gas stations may be very busy or may be waiting on resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work, so give them reminders to plan ahead and share the “Tips for Residents” in this guide.
- **Cash/Financial Transactions:**
 - Be prepared for more cash transactions; consider having extra tills set up to accommodate more cash transactions. You may have larger than normal deposits over the weekend. Check ahead of time if your bank will be open on Monday, April 8th.
 - **How does your credit/debit card machine access the internet?** If you use cell service/cell wireless service for your transactions, be prepared with a backup plan. We anticipate a high demand for cellular service during the impact period, especially Monday, the 8th. You may find you are not able to make transactions; have a backup plan to meet your customers’ needs.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular connectivity issues due to the increased demand. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your landline business phone if cell service is limited; decide how you want to handle these requests and make sure employees know what to do. If it is a 911 emergency and you have a landline...be ready to help!!
- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries. We highly encourage businesses to Consider rescheduling for Tuesday, April 9 or order extra the week before.
- **Restrooms:** Be aware many visitors will be camping in authorized and potentially unauthorized locations; expect customers who may be primarily interested in using business restrooms. Public restrooms will be in short supply and port-a-potties in limited locations may be at capacity until service providers can empty them.
- **Weather and Your Business:** If conditions are foggy, visitors with hotel reservations will most likely not change their plans, but the “day trippers” may move to more optimal viewing; there is no way to predict this but monitoring the weather the week to 10 days prior to 04/08/24 could be very useful for your business.