

*A frighteningly good time*

# City throws Halloween dance for adults with disabilities

By KAITLYN WILKES

Georgetown Parks and Recreation is hosting its annual Halloween dance for adults with disabilities on November 1, which is designed for those 18 and older with special needs. Costumes are encouraged.

The dance is held from 7-9 p.m. at the Georgetown Community

Center. A family member and/or caregiver must be present at all times.

“It’s important to offer events and programs for everyone in our community,” said Courtney Butler, community engagement coordinator with Parks and Recreation. “We’re excited that we’re able to offer something for adults with disabilities, since we

know that there’s not a ton of things for them to do, recreation for them.”

At the dance, there will be a concession stand with snacks and beverages. Items will cost \$1-2 each and can be paid for with cash.

“Our attendees really love having options and choices and

being able to do things for themselves,” Ms. Butler said. “We have a visual menu board that they can just point to what they want.”

Ms. Butler added people drive from up to an hour and a half away to attend the dance, with typically 100 to 200 people in attendance.

The dance will have a DJ, pho-

to booth and a raffle at the end of the night. Volunteers are needed to help run the photo booth, concession stand and to greet attendees. Sign-up can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/5ahcfn3m>.

Local organizations and businesses are also welcome to participate in the dance.

## Shop for holiday gifts, check out car show at WHO fundraiser

Women Helping Others will host a free car show fundraiser next week for Hounds for Heroes, an organization that helps train dogs for first responders and veterans.

WHO plans to have 200 vehicles from all classes and a Holiday Bazaar. The show will take place on October 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Sun City Ballroom and parking lot at 2A Texas Drive.

Vehicle entry is \$30 and registration can be found at [www.thedogalliance.org/WHO-HOUNDS-SPONSOR](http://www.thedogalliance.org/WHO-HOUNDS-SPONSOR).

Car show awards will be given out at 2 p.m. A holiday bazaar will also have crafts, gift baskets, paintings and a bake sale.

There will be coffee and bagels

for breakfast, and food trucks will be available for lunch. Seating is in the ballroom.

Elvis impersonator Jimie Carter will also serenade those in attendance with classic tunes from the King of Rock n’ Roll.

Hounds for Heroes will bring two dogs and their trainers to demonstrate training techniques and their results.

WHO is a Sun City club dedicated to helping nonprofits throughout the county. This is done through both monetary donations and volunteer hours.

Sponsors are available through contacting Terry Fierle at [tfierle55@gmail.com](mailto:tfierle55@gmail.com) or Maria Tolleson at [m121sing@att.net](mailto:m121sing@att.net).

— Kaitlyn Wilkes

## Wilco Rodeo is two weeks away

The Williamson County Fair and Rodeo will round up residents from Wednesday, October 23, to Saturday, October 26, at the Wilco Expo Center located on 5350 Bill Pickett Trail in Taylor.

This is the organization’s fourth fair and rodeo. The fair offers a carnival, petting zoo, pig races, beer and wine garden and a lumberjack show.

On Wednesday, admission is free. Special events include a Youth Rodeo and a Stick Horse parade set for 6 p.m.

On Thursday, a second Youth Rodeo takes place from 6-9:30 p.m. in the Expo Center arena. Additionally, a Dolly Parton Happy Hour takes place from 6-7 p.m. Admission is free for residents who come dressed in Dolly gear or as the Diva herself. Participants will receive a signature “Dolly” cup and the first “Dolly Par-tini” is on the Fair. This event is for ages 21 and up.

The United Professional Rodeo Association will wrangle the arena both Friday and Saturday nights from 7-9 p.m. Rodeo events include bareback riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, tie-down calf roping, ladies breakaway, team roping, ladies



The night sky was filled with midway lights, October 25, 2023, the opening day of the Williamson County Fair and Rodeo, held at the Williamson County Expo Center.

barrel racing and bull riding.

Additionally, the Williamson County AgriLife Extension Office will host the “Rumble at the Rodeo” vegetable contest and a pumpkin decorating contest on Saturday, October 26 from 10-11 a.m. The contest is free to enter, but participants must be Wilco residents. A list of the contest rules can be found at [www.williamson.agrilife.org](http://www.williamson.agrilife.org).

Tickets for the Williamson County Fair and Rodeo are available to purchase at [www.wilcofair.com/p/tickets-deals](http://www.wilcofair.com/p/tickets-deals).

The Williamson County Fair and Rodeo’s mission is to provide a fun, family event that educates the public, promotes agriculture, and brings communities together to celebrate the traditions of Williamson County.

— Nalani Nuylan

## Texas Pumpkin Fest back again

By ABBEY ARCHER

Colorful gourds, carnival games and fall family fun can be found in Leander at Texas Pumpkin Fest, which opened this year on October 4.

Mother son duo Shari Arnold and Scott Smith have been running the festival for the past five years. However, they have been organizing pumpkin patches for much longer.

“The first business I ever ran as a child was a pumpkin patch in Houston,” Mr. Smith said. “My mom would make me go out there on the weekends and haul pumpkins. It was the family business.”

This year, they expect to sell

750,000 pounds of pumpkins to visitors. Activities are also abundant, with zombie laser tag, carnival rides, a bungee trampoline, pumpkin smashing, pony rides, a pumpkin slingshot, a kiddie train and magic shows.

A new addition this year, Texas Pumpkin Fest also has an indoor “Hall of Monsters,” which includes “state-of-the-art animatronics” and props. Mr. Smith said he traveled to St. Louis this past year to get certified to operate haunted attractions. The Hall of Monsters gives the Pumpkin Fest more of a “Halloween vibe” rather than only being a fall festival, which makes it stand out compared to other harvest festi-

vals in the area.

“We like to see kids and families have fun,” Mr. Smith said. “That’s really what it’s all about.”

There are also 10 food trucks and five dessert vendors on site, including Shipley Do-Nuts and Nothing Bundt Cakes. For adults, beer and wine are sold in the “bar-ten.”

Texas Pumpkin Fest is located at 8760 Farm to Market Road 2243 in Leander. They are open Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets are \$15 per person at the entrance, cash and card are accepted. Children in diapers and people with special needs get in free.





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For More Information:  
Contact Fall Festival  
Chairperson Mike Perez  
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