

## RESOURCES

Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Director: Sherrie Parks  
512.858.7000 [www.drippingspringstx.org](http://www.drippingspringstx.org)

City of Dripping Springs  
Planning Director: Jon Thompson  
512.858.4725 [www.cityofdrippingsprings.com](http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com)

Hays County Clerk  
512.393.7330 [www.co.hays.tx.us](http://www.co.hays.tx.us)

Hays County Development Services  
512.393.2160 [www.co.hays.tx.us](http://www.co.hays.tx.us)

Emergency Services District #6 (ESD)  
512.894.0704

Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District  
(HTGCD)  
512.858.9253 [www.haysgroundwater.com](http://www.haysgroundwater.com)

SCORE - Services for Small Business  
512.928.2425 [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)  
512.610.0996 [www.sbdc.mccoy.txstate.edu](http://www.sbdc.mccoy.txstate.edu)

State of Texas Office of the Comptroller  
512.463.4865 [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)

State of Texas Secretary of State  
512.463.5555 [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
512.239.1000 [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)  
512.206.3333 [www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us)

Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)  
512.282.2113 [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)

West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA)  
512.263.0100 [www.wtcpua.org](http://www.wtcpua.org)

## WHY DRIPPING SPRINGS?

A vibrant community with a dynamic and expanding marketplace, Dripping Springs is the perfect location to grow your business. Our community holds fast to its historic roots and hill country settings, while embracing a comprehensive growth plan to take us into a sustainable future.

Just 25 miles from Austin, Dripping Springs is home to successful agri-businesses, wineries, world-renowned guitar craftsmen, an accomplished artistic community and luxury event centers as well as a neurological treatment center, high-tech industries, manufacturing, and commercial construction companies.

The Dripping Springs population, within its city limit, is approximately 2,000 although its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) is home to close to 30,000. Our retail trade area boasts an estimated population of more than 62,000. The projected average household income for 2014 in the defined retail trade area is \$109,500.

The city offers an exceptional school system, with more than 90% of graduates matriculating to higher education. The residents of Dripping Springs are also highly educated with more than 60% of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

The Dripping Springs area is expanding at a phenomenal rate with 3,000-4,000 new rooftops expected in the next 8-10 years. In the 2013-14 school year, the school district has experienced a 6.8% increase over the previous year.

For additional demographic data, please visit  
[www.drippingspringsecd.com](http://www.drippingspringsecd.com).

**DRIPPING SPRINGS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
512-858-7000 [www.drippingspringstx.org](http://www.drippingspringstx.org)



## A Guide for New Businesses



**Your Business Starts HERE!**

### MISSION

*The mission of the  
Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce  
is to provide business leadership and  
advocacy for the continuous  
improvement of the economic environment.*

## FAQ's

- Q. What is the difference between opening a business in the city limits vs. ETJ vs. non-ETJ? (ETJ - Extraterritorial Jurisdiction \*See below)**
- A. Zoning of all properties within the city limits regulates the land uses in regards to what kind of business can operate in what location. In the ETJ, generally neither the City nor the County has land use regulations. There are some exceptions for the County and the City has some development agreements that may affect specific parcels in the ETJ. Within the ETJ, the City regulates signage, subdivisions, site development & water quality. Non-ETJ will deal primarily with the County and the State of Texas. Contact the City for specific information.
- Q. Is a license of operation needed?**
- A. For specific information on applicable licenses, contact the Texas Comptroller's office.
- Q. Does my business need to be registered?**
- A. Yes. Contact the Hays County Clerk's office.
- Q. How is a sales tax certificate obtained?**
- A. Through the State of Texas Comptroller's Office.
- Q. Can alcoholic beverages be sold?**
- A. Most likely. For alcohol beverage permitting, the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission, the City and the County need to be consulted for specific permitting/licensing requirements and local regulations.
- Q. What agencies inspect food establishments?**
- A. If within the City limits, the City of Dripping Springs inspects all restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores and other types of food establishments. In the ETJ and non-ETJ, Hays County inspects all food establishments.
- Q. Will I need a water well?**
- A. In areas not served by public water, private wells or rain water collection are the source of water. Contact the Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District for more information before proceeding.
- Q. Who do I contact for building permits, inspections and/or Certificates of Occupancy?**
- A. Inspections are done by the City and Hays County ESD #6. Within the City limits, contact the City for forms, fees & scheduling. Contact Hays Co. for other permits.

## NEW BUSINESS CHECKLIST

- Develop a business plan that includes projected costs/expenses/income for 3-5 years (Small Business Development Center may be able to assist—see opposite page)
- Secure necessary financing
- Identify potential site(s) for business
  - Location (City limits, ETJ or non-ETJ)
  - New construction or existing building
  - Rental or purchase
  - Property restrictions/covenant/agreements
  - Environmental issues
- Gather permitting/licensing information as noted under FAQs
- Check applicable ordinances (sign, lighting, etc.) with City of Dripping Springs
- Check with County for specific business operations
- Check City/County/ESD/TCEQ/TXDOT regulations as they may apply.
- Schedule a meeting with the City of Dripping Springs to discuss development details

## LOCAL UTILITIES

### Electric

Pedernales Electric Cooperative 888.554.4732

### Telephone/Internet/Cable

Time Warner Cable 855.845.9928  
 AT&T 888.944.0447  
 Verizon 888.456.2103  
 TexasData (internet) 512-264-8787

### Propane/Gas

Pinnacle Propane 512.858.4011  
 Terry Garnett's Propane, Inc. 512.894.4480  
 Texas Gas Service 512.407.2014

### Waste Removal

RECON 512.894.4441  
 Riata Disposal Service 512.850.7060  
 Vaquero (within City limits) 512.420.8114

Water/Wastewater (each has select service areas)  
 Dripping Springs Water Supply Corp. (Water only)  
 512.858.7897

City of Dripping Springs 512.858.4725

Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation Dist.  
 512.858.9253

Severn Trent Services 512.246.0498  
 Water & Wastewater for WCID #1 & #2  
 (Belterra), MUD #4 (Ledgestone) &  
 MUD #5 (Highpointe)

West Travis Co. Public Utility Agency  
 512.263.0100

### **\*ETJ - Extraterritorial Jurisdiction**

The purpose of an ETJ is to "designate certain areas as the extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities." (Texas Local Government Code Sec. 42.001.)

