

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information From the City of Bulverde for our Neighbors
Issue 1 ★ November / December 2013

THE FRONT PORCH News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS
(COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE, ETC.)

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FRONT PORCH NEWS

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Mayor's Point

Good communication is a vital part of any healthy relationship. The more there is a chance for things to change also dictates the level of communication necessary for a positive outcome.

The City of Bulverde believes we have reached a point in our existence that requires a greater level not available by any other current means. It is our job to keep the public informed and listen to their input.

We introduce to you the first issue of the *Front Porch News*. For some time now, Bulverde has been considered the "Front Porch of the Texas Hill Country," so the name was a natural choice.

The other ways of communicating with our citizens, such as local newspapers and our email distribution list, have not been reaching the population at a level satisfactory to City Council.

Different methods have been researched, and it was determined that a direct mailing would be the most effective way to reach the most people possible. The newsletter format was chosen as the method of choice.

Things are beginning to change in our community at a rate that concerns us. We have some difficult decisions to make and we don't want to make them alone. Citizen input is necessary, not only to help make the right decisions, but in many cases, to make those decisions enforceable.

Without the input from the public, some decisions could be deemed arbitrary if ever challenged in a court of law. With a documented level of input from the population as a whole, we can make the assumption that it is truly the will of the people. Aside from the legal ramifications though, governmental policies should really represent what the people desire anyway.

The City of Bulverde is not the only entity out here that has important decisions to make or news to disseminate. This is why we have chosen to include within our newsletter input from the partnerships we have with other organizations, such as the Emergency Service Districts, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Foundation, and Library, just to mention a few.

It was determined that our decisions affect more people than just those living within the city limits of Bulverde, so the newsletter is being mailed to what we consider the "greater Bulverde area" in an effort to reach out.

This newsletter is being funded primarily by tax dollars budgeted for such an effort by the Bulverde City Council. Council has allocated the sum of \$10,000 for the project; however, this amount is well below that actual cost, so there will be some cost sharing from the other organizations mentioned above.

This level of commitment still fell short of the actual dollar amount necessary, so the choice was made to sell advertising space within the newsletter. This is a natural fit because the business community also plays a vital role within our community. Not only does the business community offer goods and services to drive the local economy and provide jobs, they, through their tax dollars, fund a large share of our governmental budgets. We recognize that fact and support their efforts.

I hope you will not only find this newsletter informative, but enjoyable to read as well. If it is not kept interesting, the public will not read its content, making it a waste of money and effort. We have set our sights high for the success of this publication and have a lot of work ahead of us to make it a reality. Please enjoy!

Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX



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On the Cover

This inaugural edition of the *Front Porch News* boasts a beautiful cover painting of the iconic Bulverde Post Office decked out in and holiday lights and decorations. This image was graciously and generously provided by local artist Mr. Gustave "Buzz" Heye, who painted the picture exclusively for us. We are so appreciative for this gift he has given us. We are also so grateful to Mr. Sam Roberts for producing the digital image of Mr. Heye's painting so that we could print it as our cover and share it with our readers. Both of these resident artists are valuable assets to the Bulverde community.

An introduction to our cover artist, Mr. Gustave "Buzz" Heye

Born and raised in San Antonio, Buzz Heye (pronounced "Hi") wanted to have a house in the Texas Hill Country ever since attending summer camps in the area. Now a 40 year resident of Bulverde, the navy veteran and retired architect took up painting seriously in 2004. His inspiration was a book of Van Gogh paintings and the realization he could be freed from the ternary of straight lines he experienced during his 32 year architectural career. Using paint leftover from the several-year endeavor of building his house and Masonite as his canvas, he found painting a liberating experience.

With a natural leaning toward bright color, Heye found that familiar Hill Country landmarks made popular subjects. Heye received awards for his art from the San Antonio Art League and the Bulverde Area Arts Center, where he is a founding member and former president. His art has been selected several times as featured paintings for the Taste of the Hills, he has designed t-shirts for the Chamber 5K Run/Walk and Bulverde Jubilee, and he has an ongoing show at Mikes in the Village. He is active in his church and is a Legacy Leader with the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce. Buzz Heye lives and works in a hilltop studio with his wife, Laura, a talented watercolorist and calligrapher. They have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

An introduction to our cover photographer, Mr. Sam Roberts

Sam Roberts is an award winning, Certified Professional Photographer who has deep personal and professional roots in the Bulverde area. For 16 years, working from a studio located in the very heart of Bulverde, Mr. Roberts has been providing his customers with beautiful photographs for whatever purpose they need. His work serves as a visual history for almost all of the local sports teams, city and sporting events, and for students and families as they document milestones of graduations, engagements, weddings, and family reunions. In addition to being the most sought after and prolific photographers in the area, Mr. Roberts is currently pursuing his Master's Degree from the Professional Photographers of America.

A Thrifty Joint Venture

The Bulverde Food Pantry and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Activity Center (Senior Center) are pleased to announce that they are partnering in a joint venture to open a new thrift store in Bulverde. The store will be located on Cougar Bend in the building that used to house the B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce offices.

Both the Bulverde Food Pantry and the B/SB Activity Center serve vital functions in our community, providing a wide range of services to the residents in the Bulverde and Spring Branch area. Operating as source of income for both nonprofit organizations, the thrift store will carry all manner of inventory including gently used clothing and household items. Donations of these items will also be accepted, and will be tax deductible. Proceeds earned at the thrift store will enable these organizations to continue to serve the community, as well as provide residents with an economically thrifty shopping alternative to driving too far or paying too much when shopping for clothes or other items.

The name of the store and the grand opening date are yet to be finalized, but the project is moving ahead at full steam. Those details will be forthcoming very soon. However, at this time, the organizations are searching for a part time manager to assist in getting the store organized and running. The preference would be for applicants who have relevant experience in retail and/or nonprofit management. Anyone interested in applying for this position may fill out an application at the Activity Center or forward a resume to:

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Holiday Hunger Run & Walk 5K/10K

Usher in the winter holidays with a fun run/walk for a great cause! On Saturday, December 7th, the Bulverde Food Pantry and Tejas Rodeo will host the third annual Holiday Hunger Run/Walk 5K & 10K. This family-friendly event has something for everyone. Serious runners will appreciate the chip timing and the fast course. A 10K leg has been added to the race to offer a more challenging option for the more competitive runners, too. The less-serious runner or walker will appreciate the course that meanders along Cibolo Creek with no big hills to conquer. Families are encouraged to come together to enjoy a terrific event while giving back to the community. Registration is available online at www.athleteguild.com (search the Event Title: Holiday Hunger Run) or in person at the Bulverde Food Pantry at 2295 Bulverde Road, Unit 1 (behind Wine 101). A downloadable/printable copy of the registration form is available on the Pantry's website (www.bulverdefoodpantry.org) and Facebook page.

The Holiday Hunger Run/Walk is the Bulverde Food Pantry's largest fundraising event of the year. All proceeds from runner registrations will benefit the Pantry so that they can continue to serve the Bulverde community. Sponsorships for the run are also welcome and appreciated! Local businesses are encouraged to support and participate in this fun community event. Sponsorships are available at several levels, including an individual level. Business, commercial, and professional sponsors are offered various marketing opportunities in appreciation for their support. Please feel free to visit the Pantry's website at www.bulverdefoodpantry.org or to contact the Pantry to find out more (830.438.7899 or email holidayhungerrun5k@yahoo.com).



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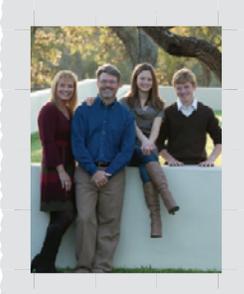
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Lion's and GVTC Work Together to Make Improvements at St. Jude's

Members of the GVTC Foundation Donation Committee presented a \$4500 check to Spring Branch-Bulverde Lion, Jerry Steward, and St. Jude's Ranch for Children staff to purchase materials for a much needed wheel chair ramp and deck to be built at the St. Jude's Ranch for Children's multi-purpose room. The ramp and deck are to be built by the Lions in November, soon after some other renovation is completed to the exterior of the multipurpose building. Workers who will help complete the deck include Lions from the Spring-Branch-Bulverde Family Lions Club, volunteers from GVTC, and volunteers from Home Depot. St. Jude's Ranch for Children provides a safe, nurturing home and therapeutic residential treatment services to children. St. Jude's Ranch makes a difference by creating new lives with new hope for abused, abandoned, and neglected children of all races and faiths.

Scott G. Stafford, DDS, MBA

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From the Chair of the Board

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to participate in this first edition of the City of Bulverde's publication of the *Front Porch News!*

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce is an association of businesses organized to promote and support and develop the economic health of our members and our community through valuable partnerships, leadership and education.

To accomplish our goal of promoting and developing a vibrant business climate for everyone in our community, the Chamber has just implemented a "Shop Local" program that encourages not only Chamber members, but the entire community to shop locally. By doing this, we are able to keep our sales tax dollars in our own community. Shopping elsewhere defeats that goal, so remember local businesses when making your purchasing decisions.

Our Chamber was established in 1995. Now, with almost 400 members, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce is a growing and vibrant organization that serves as the voice of business in our area. We are involved in local issues that affect your business and the quality of life in the Bulverde-Spring Branch area. Located in one of the fastest growing areas of our state, we are experiencing issues such as much needed affordable housing, answers to increased traffic, more effective signage for businesses, availability of water for our community, and the ability to recruit and retain skilled employees to meet the needs of our area employers. Through partnerships with the Bulverde Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation,



the City of Bulverde, and Comal County officials, the Chamber will remain focused on these issues and ways to work together to assure a healthy growing business climate.

Paula White
2013 Chair of the Board



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Natalie Tate

Assistant Vice President of Integrated Communications and Marketing at Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union



Brenda Holland (Pickwick Travel), Natalie Tate (RBFCU) and Paula White (GVTC)

If there's one thing Natalie Tate likes talking about more than Baylor basketball, its social media. As RBFCU's public relations director, her days consist of communicating with media, government officials, credit union members and RBFCU's more than 3,000 Facebook and Twitter fans. Visit their website at <https://www.rbfcu.org> .



Sherry Mosier

Director of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation

Sherry Mosier

The BSB EDF was formed in November 2011 to establish a close working relationship with the city of Bulverde, Comal County, and other governmental entities in the area to encourage, facilitate, and manage economic development in the Bulverde and Spring Branch areas.

Mark your calendars for the November 20th Power Lunch with David Fritzlen, retired AT&T and Toastmaster, to tell us all about effective public speaking.

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Hometown Holiday in the Hills

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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

NOV. 14

Business Networking MIXER
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Sponsored by: Smithson Valley Physical Therapy
Member Only Event

NOV. 19

Chamber Board of Directors RETREAT
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Location: Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS

NOV. 20

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch
12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library
See Chamber website
(www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com)
or call the Chamber office (830-438-4285) to register.

DEC. 3

Business Networking MIXER & Annual Awards Presentation
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210.216.2430



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210.378.2198



Barbara Null
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630.841.5810



Robert Evans
210.422.2327



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210.363.9868



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210.392.3690



Pete Weakly
361.522.8936



Michael Moore
210.508.2421



Sherie Williams
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210.459.4259



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Tori Vendola
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B-SB EMS and CEHS Look to Implement the i-STAT System

There is a critical need for fast, accurate, and reliable test results that give paramedics in our ambulances and doctors and nurses in our medical clinic the information they need to make critical patient care decisions. This year we hope to add eight i-STAT units to our equipment inventory.

The *i-STAT System* is an advanced, handheld blood analyzer that provides real-time, lab-quality results within minutes. The results can help to determine the severity of a heart attack, or congestive heart failure and electrolyte imbalances, to name just a few important indications. The tests will also provide trending data so that ER doctors and nurses can compare their results with the initial tests our paramedics obtained in the field, or from our staff in the clinic. These lab results, evaluated by our dedicated staff, can make the difference between *your life...and death*.

Fun Stuff for Kids at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library is the perfect place to get your family into the holiday spirit! From seasonal events to the perfect road trip audiobooks, we've got what your family needs to make the most of this winter break.

Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m., join us in your pajamas for a special reading of Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express*, hot chocolate, cookies and a visit from a very special guest. The following Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m., you're invited to watch Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem, "The Night Before Christmas," come to life in a live skit. After the performance stay for crafts and pictures with Santa!

Bring your kids by any time of the year for great programs and story times. Mondays at 10:30 a.m. we have Toddler Story Time and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. we have Preschool Story Time. Our read-to animals make weekly appearances and are a great way to encourage reluctant readers to crack open a book. Check the library calendar at www.bsblibrary.org for more special events this holiday season and all year round.

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Cornal County ESD #1



More than an Ambulance Service

Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS is an award winning 911 service provider. Ambulance service, however, is but one of our many services. Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS's division, the Centre for Emergency Health Sciences, provides an extensive educational system partnered with the UT Health Science Center by offering fully accredited programs for future medics from all over Texas. We host specialized medical corporate workshops, and actively participate in advanced medical research.

Additionally, in 2011 we created a medical clinic for the uninsured and underinsured to reduce needless 911 calls and to provide excellent primary care and preventative health services. This is a dynamic partnership with Acacia Medical Mission who provides doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical personnel, donating their time to provide care to those who otherwise would have none.

In 2013 Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS expanded health services to home visits for those recently discharged from hospitals and other patients with chronic health care needs. Through strategic community partnerships, services were expanded to offer mental health, dental, vision and prescription assistance to the medically underserved rural population. A key objective in the creation of these additional services is to reduce hospital readmissions and to increase access to health services for all residents.

WELCOME BULVERDE!

The staff at Neighborhood News is happy to be publishing your neighborhood newsletter. Neighborhood News is a publishing company that specializes in the publication and distribution of community newsletters.

We have been in business for over 16 years in the San Antonio area, 9 years in Austin, and 6 years in Dallas. So far, our services have been well received. We hope that you will enjoy your newsletter.

If you wish to place an ad in future issues or to learn about our advertising discounts, please call us at **210-558-3160** or email Sales@NeighborhoodNews.com

We look forward to working with you!

The staff at Neighborhood News



Fall is a fabulous time to think about preventing falls

5 tips to FALL prevention:

1. Stay active—Physical activity goes a long way toward fall prevention. Flexibility remains the key to mobility!
2. Look out for hazards in your home—Make sure you have a clear walkway in and around your home. Repair loose floorboards and carpeting, keep dishes and other commonly used items within easy reach, immediately clean up spills, and use nonslip mats in the bathroom and shower.
3. Light up your living space—Place night lights in your bedrooms, hallways, and bathrooms; turn on lights before going up or down stairs; and store flashlights in easy to find locations in the event of power failure.
4. Consider assistive devices—Handrails on both-sides of the stairs, nonslip treads for bare steps, grab bars in showers and tubs, and raised toilet seats.
5. Talk to your medical professionals—Consider a home safety inspection and a review of your medical history, medications, and overall health to identify an increased risk of falling and steps to prevent it!

You are Invited to Experience Unspeakable Joy

Do you have trouble getting into the Christmas spirit because of Thanksgiving preparations, shopping bustle, and gift wrapping? We have the perfect solution to raise your spirits and, more importantly, to remind you of the real meaning of the Christmas celebration. Come join us for an evening of beautiful music and inspiration as we present Unspeakable Joy, a Christmas Musical. Join us at Bulverde United Methodist Church, 23800 US Hwy N (North of Borgfeld at Cibolo Creek) at 7:00 p.m. on December 6th & 7th, and 3:00 p.m. on December 8th. For information, call (830)980-7745 or check our website at www.bulverdeumc.com.

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Questions Frequently Asked About Emergency Services in Our Community

What emergency services are available in the Bulverde-Spring Branch area?

Fire Protection Services to include firefighting, hazardous materials response, high-angle rescue, extrication and swift water rescue are provided by Bulverde Fire Department (ESD#5) and Spring Branch Fire Rescue (ESD#4). Additionally, emergency and nonemergency transports to local hospitals are provided by Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS through a contract with ESD#1. Fire/EMS personnel also provide standby medical assistance at sporting events, celebrations, and jubilees.

What is an ESD?

An ESD or Emergency Services District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, much like a school district. An Emergency Services District can provide fire protection, emergency medical services, or both.



It is possible for Emergency Services Districts to overlap. Comal County ESD #4 (Spring Branch Fire Rescue) provides fire protection services in the northern region and Comal County ESD #5 (Bulverde Fire) provides fire protection services to the southern region. The Emergency Medical Services are provided by Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS through a contract with Comal County ESD #1 which overlaps both districts (ESD4 and ESD5). Each is a distinct organization with a separate governing board and they do not share revenues.

What happens when I call 911?

When a person calls 911, they are connected to a dispatcher in the 911 Emergency Communications Center located at the Comal County Sheriff's Office in New Braunfels. The dispatcher asks for information regarding the type of emergency, address, phone number, and more specific patient information. The most appropriate resources are dispatched.

Why do so many emergency vehicles come to my house?

Our goal is to reduce sudden death, disability, suffering, and costs from medical emergencies and injuries by providing efficient and prompt advanced life support ambulance service. A fire truck with firefighters who are also medics, sometimes arrives first because it is the closest emergency unit to the scene. We are committed to getting help to you as fast as possible. By having these vehicles respond in this manner, we can provide quick, efficient care to you. The first responders will act as one team, to provide expedient delivery of medical care to the patient, for the well-being of the family members, and to answer any questions.

Where can I obtain a reflective address sign?

You may purchase your address sign so that we can locate your home quickly, at any Fire/EMS station or at the Headquarters located at 353 Rodeo Dr. in Spring Branch. Whether you live in Bulverde, the ETJ or Spring Branch, administrative staff from all entities is located within this central location. Signs will be manufactured, delivered and installed at your home for \$25.

Why are my pill bottles gathered and taken to the hospital?

Many patients do not provide a current list of their medication. Gathering the pill bottles provides guidance to the medics and hospital on what kind of medical problems that the patient may have, and ensures that the patient is not given a medication that may react to current prescriptions. It is also important for the bottles to accompany the patient so that they are immediately available to the emergency room staff.

Will Bulverde-Spring Branch paramedics honor my request if I do not want to be resuscitated?

Every human being has the right to express their desires in the event of a respiratory or cardiac arrest. The Fire/EMS departments who respond to a patient who requires advanced medical treatment must be given a document titled **Do Not Resuscitate** (available from your physician). This document provides directives on how much or how little care or treatment is to be given.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Comal County Emergency Services Districts ESD 1, 4, 5 • Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS

One Mission • One Team



Resources Serving You

- 4 Engines
- 3 Tankers
- 4 Brush Trucks
- 2 Polaris ATV
- 1 Command Vehicle
- 1 Rescue Boat
- 1 Support Vehicle
- 6 MICU Ambulances
- 3 Quick Response Vehicles

Average Response Time - 7.5 minutes

Average Monthly Call Volume - 160

12% Fire

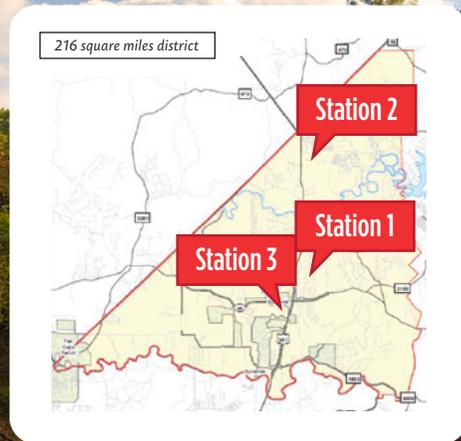
18% Public Assist

70% EMS

Average Time on Task Fire - 33 minutes

Average Time on Task EMS - 75 minutes

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Friends of the Park

by: Charles Schultz

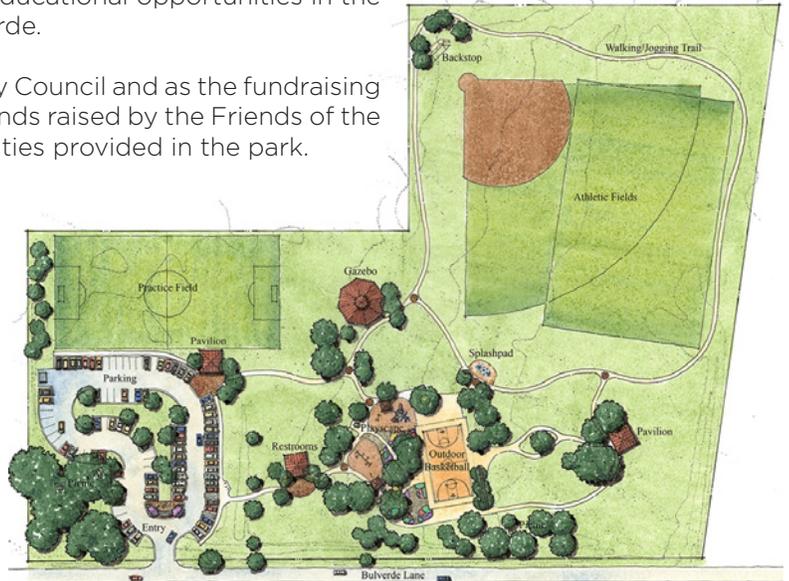
The Bulverde Community Park is being transformed from open fields into a multi-purpose park with recreational facilities for all age groups. The shape of the park is beginning to show as contractors build pavilions, gazebos, splash pads, picnic areas, a baseball field, a soccer field, restrooms and a new, larger parking area.

As the construction continues another group is hard at work to make the park an enjoyable place to play and relax. The Friends of the Park (FOP) is a group of citizens, businesses and organizations dedicated to bringing our community together by providing recreational and educational opportunities in the park to enhance the quality of everyday live in Bulverde.

Friends of the Park acts in an advisory capacity to City Council and as the fundraising arm of the Bulverde Community Park Association. Funds raised by the Friends of the Park will be used to promote and enhance the amenities provided in the park.

The public can support the fundraising efforts in several ways, including becoming a member of Friends of the Park or buying a brick, personalized with your name, which will be used in the park pathways. Bricks for businesses are also available. Other opportunities exist for businesses and organizations to become partners in building our Bulverde Parks. More information can be found on the Parks Association website: www.bulverdeparks.com or by calling 210-387-9332.

Architectural rendering of park plans by Kenny Whistler.



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Got Cats?

Nonprofits Offer Information About Cat Overpopulation

The Bulverde and Spring Branch area is home to a large feral cat population. Some residents love the cats, and some residents hate the cats, but most can agree that the overpopulation of these animals is a cause of concern. For those residents who enjoy the cats, feed them, and appreciate their usefulness as snake and rodent control, there is information being made available by a team of area nonprofit organizations about how to control the wild cat population.

The educational program is being presented by Animal Rescue Connections, the Bulverde Area Humane Society, and the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition. The primary goal is to teach concerned residents about the process and resources for trapping, neutering, and releasing feral cats back into their local colonies (referred to as TNR). These organizations are advocating that residents “don’t stop the feeding—just stop the breeding.”

These informational workshops meet every 4th Sunday of the month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS Building at 353 Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch, TX 78070. No animals are allowed at the workshop. For more information call or visit the website.

www.animalrescueconnections.org
210-474-0083

We Want Your Photos, Stories, and Ideas!

The *Front Porch News* is for you, Bulverde, and we want to include you in its publication. If you have a photo that you think represents our city and the surrounding community, please feel free to submit it for consideration. We welcome submissions, and might even use it for the cover! The same invitation is offered for articles or stories, as well. If you have written a piece about something relevant to the Bulverde and Spring Branch communities, or have an idea for an article, please feel free to send it to the editor’s desk. The City will review all submissions and let you know if we will use it. Photographers and authors will receive byline credit if your piece is published. Please contact the editor for more information and specific criteria for photo and article submissions.

Send email to editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us.

Art in the Village

by: Charles Schultz

If you are looking for fine art for your personal collection or just want to visit an art gallery, we have the perfect place for you—the Bulverde Area Arts Gallery in Bulverde village. The gallery has exhibits year round and features area artists presenting in all media. Recently, an exhibit of glass art by members of the San Antonio Glass Art Guild filled the gallery, and received rave reviews for participants and visitors alike.

The Bulverde Area Arts Center (BAAC) is barely three years old and has steadily grown and expanded their exhibits. The nonprofit organization was founded to promote fine art in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area with gallery exhibits and education programs. The group sponsors children’s summer art classes along with continuing adult art classes. The adult classes include a Wine & Art event on the second Thursday of every month where you can complete a painting in one evening with instruction by professional artists.

In addition to shows featuring member art, BAAC has partnered with Comal ISD and Smithson Valley High School to exhibit art from the SVHS art classes. This was a juried show followed the guidelines of regular member shows and was designed to give art students an introduction to creating and showing art in gallery events.

The current exhibit is a juried show of member art which will run through December 8th. A new exhibit will open on December 13.

The BAAC Gallery is located at 2355 Bulverde Road, #9, across from Mike’s in the Village. There is no admission charge to visit the gallery. For hours and more information, visit our website at: <http://www.bulverdeareaartcenter.com/>. If you would like specific information about Membership, Exhibits, Wine & Art, or other activities, send an email to webmaster@bulverdeareaartcenter.org.

A Bulverde Tradition Continues

For more than 20 years, St. Paul Lutheran Church has presented The Living Christmas, a portrayal of the biblical history of Christmas and the life of Jesus, depicted in vignette scenes acted by SPLC church members. This 2013 holiday season will be no different, with the The Living Christmas being presented on Saturday, December 14th. Many area families make a special occasion of going out to drive through the attraction, with the kiddos decked out in their warm jammies and bringing snacks to munch on as if going to the drive-in movies. Some people drive through multiple times, just to be able to see each scene thoroughly. As in previous years, the drive through will open at 6:30 p.m. and remain open for visitors until 10:00 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 29797 U.S. Hwy. 281 North, just a few yards south of FM 1863.

National Night Out in Bulverde a Success, as Usual!

Once again, the City of Bulverde has outdone the rest of the county in National Night Out participation with an estimated 400 residents participating in the event! The City of Bulverde had 13 block parties overall, with the Oak Village North neighborhood representing 8 of those. Parties in OVN were hosted by Sandy Hancock, Ken Treanor and Gene Wankowski, Karen Linton and Bob Boyd, Chris and Shari Brodeur, Kristi and Greg Perkins, Ronda and Donald Zaiontz, Karin Krause, and Dianna and Brian Burke. This is the most registered block parties specific to a single neighborhood in all of Comal County. Each party was unique in what was being offered for refreshments and amusements, but everyone had a great time at each home. The local elected and city officials made the rounds to each location, as did all of the area first responders. National Night Out is such a great opportunity for the citizens of Bulverde to get out and socialize and learn more about our community. The idea traditionally has been to go to the NNO location nearest your home, but this time it seems as if folks were feeling a bit more adventurous and traveling across their neighborhood to mix and mingle. All in all, it was a very successful and fun night. If you didn't have the opportunity to get out to an NNO gathering this time, go ahead and mark your calendar for next year...it's always on the first Tuesday in October, so plan on doing it again on October 7th, 2014.

Oak Village North neighbors enjoying the National Night Out block parties



Multi-Modal Roadway Safety in Bulverde

The City of Bulverde is considered the “Front Porch of the Texas Hill Country,” a beautiful community with a country atmosphere, yet conveniently located only a few minutes from north San Antonio. As the City of Bulverde continues to grow, so does the number of people using local roadways including cars, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians. In most instances, as the traffic volume increases, so does the potential for accidents.

The City of Bulverde and the Bulverde Police Department are committed to creating the safest possible roadways for everyone, regardless of your chosen mode of transportation. The City and the police department routinely look for opportunities to mitigate any unsafe conditions that may exist in the city. Over the last few months a coalition of interested stakeholders from the community has met in an effort to create safer roadways in Bulverde. This Multi-Modal Roadway Safety Task Force has set forth, “To explore, analyze and recommend various methods, strategies and procedures to enhance safety of pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.” Everyone on the task force agrees that education is the top priority for creating safer roadways. Education can mean a lot of different things; knowing the laws would probably be at the top of that list, but simply quoting the law isn't what the group set out to do.

Instead of just quoting the law, the task force felt it might be more helpful to touch on some items that may be unique to the beautiful Bulverde community. Being the Front Porch of the Texas Hill Country also means the roads and the terrain are quite different than other roadway areas closer to San Antonio:

- Hills, winding roads, rolling terrain, and curves can sometimes create blind spots and / or sight distance problems
- Rural roads with little or no shoulders, with large drop offs in some cases, can exacerbate an accident if a loss of control of your motor vehicle or bicycle occurs
- Lots of wildlife venture onto our roadways
- Cyclists, runners and walkers (sometimes in large groups) enjoy the beauty of our community

While this list of unique features may be the draw for many of our roadway users, we encourage citizens and visitors both to recognize the potential hazards they also represent. The City of Bulverde welcomes everyone to share in the beauty of our Hill Country community, but would like to emphasize your safety is our foremost priority. Please remember we are all bound to written traffic laws, but just as important, we encourage everyone to show courtesy and respect to others while sharing our roadways.



Holiday Events and Activities for All at the Library

The holidays will soon be here and the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library will be offering plenty of events sure to entertain and educate everyone.

"Herb Gardening" is the topic of the BSBL Gardening Program on Thursday, November 7th starting at 10:30AM. Comal Master Gardener Lee Franzel will show a PowerPoint presentation and have potted kitchen herbs to touch, taste and smell, which are very easy to grow in Comal County. Lee will describe the most useful herbs and how to grow them--including in containers. Drying and freezing tips will be given and attendees will receive a printed handout. The Comal County Gardening Guide will be available for purchase--a great holiday gift for \$20. CMG members can earn 1.5 CE hours. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Carlson at karcar@satx.rr.com.

Several events will be taking place for Veteran's Day at the library. Veterans will be honored on Monday, November 11th beginning at 1:00pm in front of the library. Major General Geoffrey Miller, U.S. Army retired, who has directed the operation of over 180 army installations world-wide, will provide the welcome.

The Spring Branch Middle School Wrangler Band will perform music for the event and the Smithson Valley High School NJROTC Color Guard and Drill Teams will participate. Command Master Chief Chris Angstead, who oversees the Navy Medical Training and Education Command at Fort Sam Houston, is the featured speaker. His prior assignments include The White House Medical Unit and worldwide travel with President and Mrs. Clinton. Veterans will be recognized during the activities and patriotic music and refreshments will be provided.

The Alamo Area Agency on Aging will be at the library on November 7, 14, 21 and December 5 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm to answer questions regarding Medicare Part D. The enrollment period will continue through December 7th so now is the time to check which drug plan is the best. Alamo AAA provides unbiased information and counseling to help everyone understand Medicare Part D plans. The Alamo AAA is not selling plans nor are they funded by any of the private insurance companies. For more information call Suzanne Ruff at 210-362-5223 or the Alamo AAA at 866-231-4922.

Jim Palermo of the Self-Defense Academy has revamped his entire training program for the new sessions which are currently underway. His plan is to teach new and returning students techniques that will make escaping or fighting back simpler and more lethal. Palermo's instruction will instruct students on how to evaluate the threat depending on size, intensity, or direction of the attacker. Prior and new students are encouraged to attend. Registration for the classes are required and can be done by sending an email to selfdefenseacad@aol.com.



The Freaky Friday Book Sale returns on Friday, November 15th from 10am until 5pm. Everyone can take advantage of the low prices to build up their own personal libraries. Hardcover and paperback books will be available for purchase and discounted prices. The book sale is put on by the Friends of the Library.

The AARP Tax-Aide in Bulverde is recruiting volunteers to help residents prepare and file their federal income tax returns which will take place at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library during the months of February through April 2014. Volunteers are also needed to greet people, translate for non-English speakers, maintain computers, and make sure things run smoothly at local tax preparation sites. Volunteers will receive free classroom and online training, manuals, and software to help become skilled in preparing tax returns. It is not required to be an AARP member or retiree to participate in Tax-Aide. Those interested in making an appointment should call 830-885-2247 or visit their website at www.aarp.org/taxaide.

The library will be closed on November 28th through the 30th for the Thanksgiving holidays and December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holidays. For more information on events call the library at 830-438-4864 or visit the library's website at www.bsblibrary.org.



Giving a Pet as Gift... Consider the Idea Carefully

by: Carrye Franzel

As the holiday season approaches and thoughts turn to gift giving, consider carefully the idea of a puppy or kitten as a present. Bringing a dog or cat into the home should be a lifetime commitment to the animal, one that can last 14 years or longer. Many dogs and cats are in shelters today because the original decision to acquire a pet was made on impulse. Dogs and cats are regularly turned over to shelters by their owners for many different reasons—some justified, many not. “Owner surrenders” routinely represent 25% or more of our shelter animals. Like Penny (shown), each is looking for a second chance at a forever home through no fault of its own. How can you make a difference?



- Spay or neuter your pets.
- Think about a shelter dog or cat when ready to make the commitment to a new animal.
- Consider a Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) adoption certificate for gift giving. It entitles the recipient to come in at a later date to select the right pet at the right time.

Responsible pet ownership—it’s the right thing to do. Visit us online at www.bulverdeshelter.com or call 830-980-2247 for more information.

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by: Sherry Mosier

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation (BSBEDF) began as a vision of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce but took on a life of its own by incorporating in November 2011. Several local businesses and community leaders joined together over the next year as investors and/or ex officio representatives to formulate the board of directors and hire its first executive director, yours truly, in late April of this year.

I have over 15 years of experience in real estate, land use & entitlements, and economic development. I am a local resident with a long history in the area. I know our area well and the challenges we face but most importantly, I know what a great community we are which, is a major factor in our continued growth.

The BSBEDF’s objectives and goals are a direct result of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Economic Development Plan developed in September 2010 by the Economic Development & Governmental Affairs Council of the Chamber and other area stakeholders.

Phase 1 objectives and goals:

1. Advocate and support infrastructure improvements to impact future quality of life.
2. Take action to improve conditions for existing local businesses.
3. Develop effective communications with the public about the importance and focus of managed economic development growth.

Phase 2 objectives and goals:

1. Begin targeted business attraction program.
2. Promote housing diversity.

The BSBEDF looks forward to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth while maintaining our rural character and quality of life. For more information about the BSBEDF, visit our website at www.bsbedf.com or call us at 830.885.4331.





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NOVEMBER

*Bulverde
and other local events*

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES: City & Park meetings held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend).							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Library Dist. Board 4:00p (Library)	Planning & Zoning 6:30p		Friends of the Park 6:30p				Friends of Library 1:30 Library Dist. Board 4:00p (Library) ESD #5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)	City Council 6:30p	ESD #4 4:30p (353 Rodeo Dr)	Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)		Jingle Bell Run (Gruene) The Living Christmas (SPLC)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	ESD #5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)	City Council 6:30p	ESD #4 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)	Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)		B/SB Act. Ctr. Craft/Rmg sale 9:00a (30280 Cougar Bend)		BSB EMS 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)	Nrv. Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)		ESD #1 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	BSB EMS 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)	Nrv. Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)		ESD #1 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr)						Christmas			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	NOTES: City & Park meetings held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend).			
Cat TNR class 2:00p (BSBEMES)				Thanksgiving		Holiday Lighting of Bulverde 5:30			New Year's Eve				