

THE

FRONT PORCH

News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Issue 7 ☆ October 2014

THE FRONT PORCH News

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

MAIN NUMBER
830-438-3612

METRO LINE
830-980-8832

FAX
830-438-4339

Bill Krawietz, MAYOR **Kirk Harrison**, COUNCIL
Rob Hurst, MAYOR PRO TEM **Gene Hartman**, COUNCIL
Yvonne Chapman, COUNCIL **Ray Jeffrey**, COUNCIL

COMAL COUNTY
MAIN NUMBER
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830-221-1102

COMMISSIONER, PCT 1
830-221-1101

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2
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ROAD & BRIDGE
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830-438-6172

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Mayor's Point



Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

Managing the rapid growth of our area is not easy or cheap. The City of Bulverde is trying its best to stay ahead of the game by being proactive. A failure to plan for the future will be a plan to fail.

There are many downsides to unmanaged growth. They are not limited just to traffic, water availability, storm water runoff and flooding. Among other things, preserving our community's identity, look, feel and lifestyle are just as important.

The City is currently negotiating the terms of a master development agreement with a developer of a proposed new residential subdivision which will have a potential population greater than that of the entire City of Bulverde. This is just one subdivision of many that may occur in our area's future.

This subdivision is not within our City Limits and because we are a General Law City we can't annex the property for a chance at expanding our tax base.

Again, because we are not a Home Rule City we are limited in what the City can require new developments to

accomplish for the public good, both within and beyond their development boundaries. So who is going to be left paying the bill for many of the upgrades to major roadways and infrastructure that will be necessary due to this growth? You guessed it, only the property owners within the City Limits of Bulverde.

For the record, I have always been in favor of Home Rule. However, I have voted against it on previous Charter attempts. When I have been criticized for my lack of support on the previous efforts, my response has always been that the Charters proposed at the time were not acceptable to me.

Home Rule gives a City much more flexibility in running its operations and governing the way the people choose, rather than the cooker cutter General Law regulations provided by the State. Conversely, General Law Cities (which Bulverde is) are much more restricted. The problem being if the Charter that is written and adopted by the citizens is not just right, it can be difficult to change, so much due diligence is necessary when drafting a governance Charter.

I know that this column is going to wake up some of the very vocal opponents to Home Rule. When you listen to these people, please reflect on what they have to gain or to lose by defeating it, and whether or not they actually live in the City. Some of the most vocal opponents in the past have been large landowners just outside of Bulverde's City Limits.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Mayor, Continued from page 3)

I intend to make our attempt at passing Home Rule a success. I believe the time is right and we must act now or the Citizens of Bulverde will unfairly be burdened by bearing the expense of new development in the future.

To assure the best Charter possible is written, we must take our time and consider everyone's input, good or bad. If you live in the City and desire to serve on the Charter Commission, please visit the City's website and turn in an application by October 6. The City Council will likely be making appointments to this very important Committee at the October 14th City Council meeting. In addition, I have also scheduled a Town Hall Meeting on this topic at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library for November 5th at 6:00pm. This will be the first of many. Hope to see you there.



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

It's Time for National Night Out

Plan on attending an NNO block party in your area on Tuesday, October 7th!

There are about 15 host events anticipated throughout the City and ETJ neighborhoods. The City of Bulverde has entered into the nationwide competition for cities with populations under 15,000. This is the first year for the City to enter the competition, and we are hoping that Bulverde residents will help us get national recognition—so get out there and go to an NNO block party! It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and area first responders.

Neighborhoods participating in Nation Night Out include Oakland Estates, Oak Village North, Shepherd's Ranch, and Bulverde Estates. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association or on your neighborhood website for information about NNO block parties happening in your area.

A Host Appreciation Party is planned on Oct. 5th at the Bulverde Community Park, in advance of the NNO events on the 7th. If you are hosting an NNO block party, please plan to attend. Contact Mary Bell for more information.



Do you have an amazing shot of big buck deer or other local wildlife in your yard? We would love to see your photos! We are always looking for pictures that represent scenery, people, or events of the Bulverde and Spring Branch area. If you would like to submit your photos for consideration for publication, please submit them in a high resolution JPG or TIFF file to editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us, along with some background information about the photo (including location taken) and the photographer's name. You will be notified in advance if your photograph is chosen for publication. Thank you!



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HAPPY HALLOWEEN IN 2014



Many people would say that Halloween is the unofficial start of the fall and winter holiday season, and many of us here at Bulverde PD would probably agree. Halloween is the time of the year when we start seeing fall celebrations in the community, mainly Halloween parties. Working patrol on or around Halloween is always interesting, given some of the costumes we have seen over the years.

Regardless of how we celebrate Halloween, most would agree Halloween is a day for children to put on their costume and go trick-or-treating in the community. As much free candy as your bag can hold would make most any child excited to get out and get started. While Halloween is meant to be fun, we must also keep safety in mind as well. On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween as on any other day of the year. Being in a rural area can sometimes make door-to-door trick-or-treating a bit more difficult, so members of the Bulverde Police Department will once again join businesses from the community for a night of trick-or-treating fun in front of Suntime Tanning on Hwy 46 next to the Beall's store. For the past several years businesses in that general area have come together to provide a great trick-or-treat opportunity for Bulverde-area kids to come out and fill their Halloween bags. This year's event will once again be on the 31st and start around 6pm.

Here are a few safety tips while enjoying an evening of trick-or-treating:

- Walk safely by using sidewalks, crosswalks and not crossing the street in the middle of the block. Instead, cross the street at corners, and always look both ways before you cross. Continue looking both ways while you are in the street.
- Put away electronic devices and pay attention to your surroundings by keeping your head up.
- Watch for cars that are backing up, or making turning movements, as they may not always see you.
- Wear reflective clothing when possible and make sure costumes fit appropriately to avoid tripping or falling.
- Carry a flashlight, glow sticks or anything else that will help others see you easier.
- Always go with an adult, as no one should ever go alone. Groups are much safer.

Additionally, drivers should also take precautions on Halloween such as slowing down, limiting distractions, and taking extra time to look for kids at intersections. Remember that kids are excited and may move in unpredictable ways. Most neighborhoods will see increased pedestrian traffic, so drivers should be extra careful on Halloween. These are just a few things that can be done to make Halloween as safe as possible. Let's do our part to make Halloween 2014 the safest Halloween yet.

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A Vision *for the* Downtown Bulverde Village

Part II

At an October open-house meeting, citizens will be asked for their opinions and ideas on the future of Downtown Bulverde Village (DBV) as the City and a team of consultants continue work on a strategy for enhancing the area. The City Council was briefed in July and August, and interested persons gave their input on land use, transportation, and the character of the DBV and heard about the economic profile of the surrounding trade area at the first of two planned community meetings on August 26.

The study is examining a number of facets of the Downtown Bulverde Village area, including existing conditions in the area, such as building stock, infrastructure and the natural environment; the supply and demand for various land uses and building types in the short-, mid-, and long-term; and the community's shared values and vision for the future of Downtown Bulverde Village.

The market analysis shows good incomes in the Downtown Bulverde Trade Area, which includes most of Comal County, part of Bexar County, and the northern suburbs of San Antonio. People within the Trade Area are those who would be likely to travel to Downtown Bulverde Village for desirable shopping, dining, and other services. The conclusion of the consulting team is that



there is sufficient demand to make a revitalized Downtown Bulverde Village successful, but the supply of services is currently lacking.

At the Community Meeting in August, the consensus was that DBV should maintain its quaint, rustic character and incorporate features that would distinguish it from the more commercial areas along Highways 281 and 46. An online survey in August and September gathered additional information about uses and features people would like to see in Downtown Bulverde Village, and a second online survey will be open during the month of October. Unique restaurants were among the most desirable uses, according to the first survey, and respondents want to preserve the existing natural features in the area.

A second Community Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014, from 4:00 to approximately 7:00 p.m. at the Bulverde Activity (Senior) Center, 30280 Cougar Bend. The meeting is planned as an open house with a presentation near the end of the agenda. The final recommendation will be presented to the City Council in January 2015 and will include a set of potential strategies for implementing the plan once approved.

For more information, and to access the community survey, please visit: http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us/default.aspx?name=aprojectpage_visioning



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Illegal Signs Draw City Attention

By John Nowak

The Bulverde *Sign Ordinance* bans signs on City property and in area roadway rights-of-way, including the Bulverde ETJ. Every year, many signs are illegally placed, resulting in the collection and disposal of numerous signs. The right-of-way widths in our area vary depending on the width of the street and the functional classification of the roadway. Adjacent fences and power poles along the roadway can be used to generally determine the limits of the right-of-way. Fences and the back side of power poles are typically located on property lines. This means that signs located even with or behind these areas can be deemed "legal." Signs are also illegal when placed in medians, parks, on utility poles, hydrants, or street signs.

The City's sign ordinance is fairly restrictive, and most temporary signs—such as "bandit signs" advertising real estate, businesses, model homes, etc.—are not allowed in the City or in its ETJ. Temporary signs for yard sales are allowed, with some restrictions. Yard sale signs can be located in the right-of-way, but are limited to no more than 3 feet tall, with a maximum total area of 4 square feet in size. Only four signs per yard sale are allowed, with one being at the yard sale site and the other three being "off-site." These signs can only be placed on Thursday before the weekend yard sale and the signs must be removed by noon the following Monday.

Bulverde's City Council allows employees, rather than just police officers and code enforcement officers, to remove illegally placed signs. Any illegal signs collected by city staff are kept for a brief period at City Hall. If the signs are not claimed by their owner, then they are disposed of.

Signs announcing community events are allowed, but they must be permitted by the City and be placed on private property. These signs do have time limitations on when they can be posted and for how long. The allowable duration depends on the type of sign and the type of event being advertised. Before any such sign is placed, a sign permit application must be submitted and approved by the City. The permit application form can be found on the City's website at: www.ci.bulverde.tx.us

For further information, or if you have illegal signs to report, please call City Hall at (830)438-3612 and give a detailed description of the location of the sign, the type of sign, and what it says. The City's sign ordinance can also be found under the "ordinances" section of the City's website. The regulations are in "Chapter 3, Building Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances.



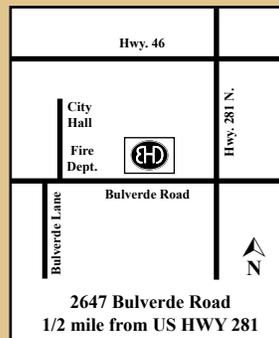
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On the Cover

In observance of Halloween, along with the south-bound fall migration of the butterflies, this whimsical little skeleton with his basket of flowers and accompanying mariposas seemed like the perfect choice for the October cover! If you travel US Hwy 281 North coming into Bulverde, you may recognize this guy or his giant white friend, as they are on display at the rustic metal art shop on the side of the highway as you near FM 1863 and the Bulverde City Limits. Don't let them scare you though, because they're all about the fun! Happy Halloween everyone!



Odds "N" Ends

Make the Park Shine

Neighbors are invited to join in the efforts to keep the new community park looking its best. On the 4th Saturday of each month, volunteers meet at the park to pick up trash (there has not been much), fluff up the wood fiber under the play equipment, manicure the baseball field, check sprinkler heads, empty a few trash containers, stock the rest rooms, post material in the marquee, stock the pet sanitation stations, power wash sidewalks or decks in the pavilions, and some other general chores. They meet from 7 am to 9 am, and the more volunteers the better!



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Getting to Know



Karen Ferris

Karen Ferris was originally hired by the City of Bulverde in October 2005 as the City's receptionist. In July 2007, she was promoted to the City's Court Clerk. Over the years, Karen has completed additional courses through the Texas Municipal Court Clerks Association, and has achieved her certification as a Municipal Court Clerk Level I and Level II.

As one of the first people our customers see at City Hall, Karen is vital to making a visitor's first impression of the City a good one. Chances are that if you have called City Hall, you have heard the pleasant voice of Karen, and she greets people coming into City Hall with the same pleasant attitude.

The majority of phone calls coming into the office are municipal court related. Karen helps defendants by answering their questions regarding their tickets and letting them know what options they may have. As Court Clerk, Karen's primary duties are to process the paperwork and payments associated with the Municipal Court. She is responsible for setting up the court dockets and documenting what each defendant has done in regard to their citation, whether the defendant came to court, reset their court date, paid the ticket, is taking defensive driving, or is on deferred adjudication.

Although her primary duty is the municipal court, Karen also assists with building and sign permits, and other general administrative matters for the City. Karen was born and raised in Elgin, Illinois. In 1976 she moved to Colorado where she met and married her husband, Doug Ferris. Karen and Doug have lived in Bulverde for the past 13 years. Karen has many hobbies: reading, sewing, quilting, all arts & crafts, and gardening. She is an avid animal lover and has served on the Bulverde Area Humane Society Board.

Her "reflection time" is when she takes daily walks, enjoying the hill country atmosphere and the wildlife viewing opportunities that living in Bulverde offers.

Go Rangers!

Chris, Class of 2005 Corey, Class of 2016
Casey, Class of 2009 Clay, Class of 2021

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Lunch Like Grammy Used to Make

It's Wednesday at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Activity Center (BSBAC). The parking lot is full, and the aroma coming from the kitchen is heavenly. What's going on? It's Grammy's Kitchen day! Grammy's Kitchen was first started January 2013 by Helen Schoolcraft and Claudia Selko.

It all started one day while playing Canasta at the Activity Center. Someone suggested that since meals were not served on Wednesdays, Helen and Claudia should cook. The two ladies looked at each other and Claudia said, "Why not?" They began planning how to make it happen. A grant request was written, a donation was made, and the rest is history. Their goal was to serve food like our grandmas used to make that was delicious and nutritious.

Grammy's Kitchen serves meals on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The food is wonderful, and attendance is always high. Having a home-cooked, family-style meal that includes an amazing dessert is a favorite among BSBAC members. As Claudia says, "So far, we've not heard too many complaints."



No reservations are necessary. Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. and everyone is welcome. You will be served a great home-cooked meal by very special ladies with smiles on their faces, and all for a \$5 donation.

Helen and Claudia have also put together a cookbook that includes not only their recipes, but several provided by other BSBAC members. The cook book is sold at the Center, and is called Favorites from Our Center.



Halloween Safety for Pets

By Pam Parmer, Animal Rescue Connections

Halloween should be a time for decorating the house, dressing up in costume and getting treats.

You may think about the safety of your little ones going trick-or-treating or attending parties, but have you thought about the safety of your pet?

You want to make safety a priority for your cat or dog, too, if you decide they should join in the festivities. Be sure that if you dress up your cat or dog (or ferret or other furry friend), there is nothing that they can get tangled up in or swallow and choke on. Costumes should be made of nonflammable, nontoxic materials.

If you are handing out treats at the door, be sure to put your feline and canine family members in a safe place so that they don't dash out the door for some unsupervised trick-or-treating. Leave a radio or television on to help mask the unusual sounds.

Cats and dogs also can become quite anxious with the constant knocking or doorbell ringing, so putting them in a closed room away from the noise and traffic will help them stay calm. Calming wrap shirts and covered crates also help reduce anxiety. Wraps like the Thundershirt are available online and in most pet retail stores.

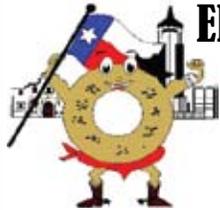
Keep the cats and dogs away from the candy. Most of it, especially chocolate, is toxic. Even a small amount of chocolate can be fatal for your pet.

Keep cats and dogs away from candles and lit jack-o'-lanterns. A wagging tail or mad dash can tip over these items, cause burns or start a fire.

What is Animal Rescue Connections doing for Halloween? We encourage all of you to enjoy Halloween safely. To make sure our beloved foster kitties are safe, we will not be adopting out any black cats the week before and the week of Halloween. We hope everyone has a safe and happy Halloween!

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Transportation Forum

Thursday, October 16, 2014 ❖ 3pm to 7pm

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The Bulverde Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation is teaming up with the City of Bulverde and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce to host a Transportation Forum, focused primarily on western Comal County. This free public event will provide information about local transportation issues to include: project updates, challenges encountered, potential solutions, and the entities and regulations involved.

Please visit our websites at www.bsbedf.com, www.ci.bulverde.tx.us, or www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com for more information about the Transportation Forum to include a list of topics and guest speakers. We hope to see you there!

The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth while maintaining our rural character and quality of life. Please visit us at www.bsbedf.com or call us at 830.885.4331 to learn more about who we are and what we do.

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October 15

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch
Sponsored By A to Z Helpers
12 Noon–1:00 pm
Location: BSB Library

October 18

2014 Taste of the Hills Gala
6:00–10:00 pm
Location: Boulder Springs Event Center

October 23

Business Networking Mixer
5:30–7:30 pm
Sponsored by M & S Engineering, LLC
Member Only Event

**For information on any of the above events,
please see our website at
bulverdespringbranchchamber.com
or call the Chamber Office at (830) 438-4285



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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

When people think of Fire and EMS, we are most often associated with flashing lights and big trucks rushing to help with severe injury and illness. But did you know that every week Fire & EMS is stationed at events where most are perfectly healthy and nothing, or no one, is on fire?

Every week emergency services are behind the scenes at many of the community and sporting events in Bulverde and Spring Branch. Often a full ambulance, one of our certified Mobile Intensive Care Units, is stationed at the events. Other times there is a medic standing by with a fully equipped 52-pound medical bag. No matter the event, you will likely see our emergency personnel standing in the wings, just in case there is an illness or injury, or the worse-case scenario happens. These medics are trained, and at the ready to deal with minor first aid issues all the way to catastrophic emergencies.

In addition to standing by, Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS is also the resource for first aid and CPR training for our community. Most of the youth organizations for sports and outdoor activities require first aid and CPR training. Our education division, the Centre for Emergency Health Sciences at our Central Station on Rodeo Drive, is both an American Heart Association Training Center and a licensed provider for the American Red Cross.



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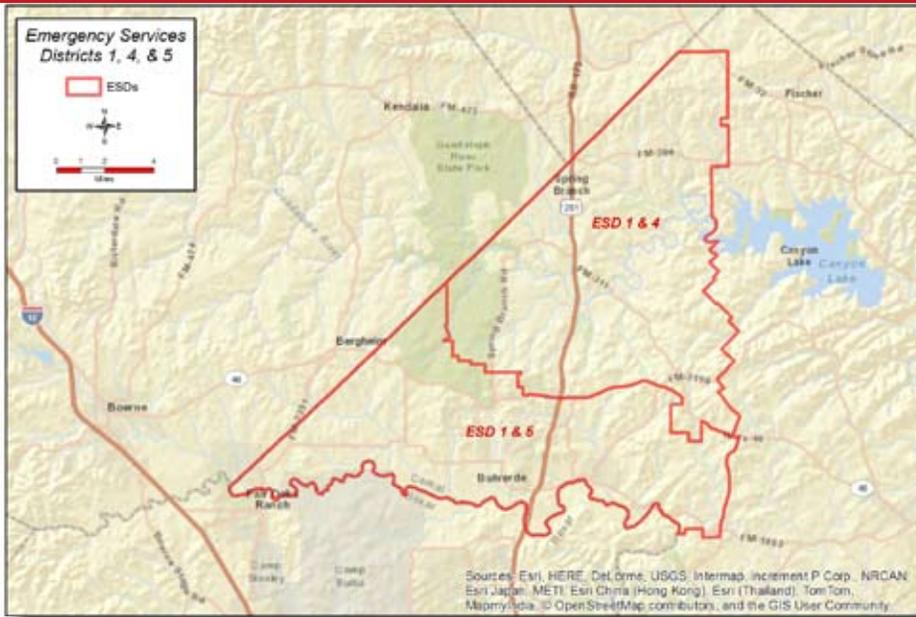
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Comal County ESD #1

Provides: Ambulance service, emergency medical response, transport to hospitals in New Braunfels and San Antonio

Service Area: 216 square miles; Overlaps ESD #4 and ESD #5 (See Map).

Contracts with: Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, a Texas 501c3 nonprofit corporation

Property tax rate: 8.51¢ per \$100; Owner of a \$200,000 home pays \$170—less than \$15 per month.

Challenges:

1. Growth (commercial and residential)
2. Staff and equip stations to keep response times under 10 minutes
3. Interoperability radio communications across all departments

Asking for: Citizen volunteers for long-range planning for station placement in our northern area

Notes:

- ESD #1 built a station at US 281 & Indian Hills near FM 306
- ESD #1 is building a station at FM 1863 & Johnson Ranch—open January 2015

Comal County ESD #5

Provides: Fire protection and rescue services

Service Area: Western Comal County south of State Hwy 46

Contracts with: Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, a Texas 501c3 nonprofit corporation

Property tax rate: 10¢ cents per \$100; Owner of a \$200,000 home pays \$200.00—less than \$17 per month.

Challenges:

1. Growth (commercial and residential)
2. Staff and equip stations to keep response times under 10 minutes
3. Interoperability radio communications across all departments

Asking for: Citizen volunteers for long-range planning for station placement in our western area

Notes:

- ESD #5 plans to build a station near State Hwy 46 & Blanco Rd.
- ESD #5: Once day-to-day operations move to Johnson Ranch, the Cougar Bend Station will become a viable, peak-time location.

Comal County ESD #4

Provides: Fire protection and rescue services

Service Area: Western Comal County north of State Hwy 46

Contracts with: Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, a Texas 501c3 nonprofit corporation

Property tax rate: 6¢ cents per \$100; Owner of a \$200,000 home pays \$120—less than \$10 per month.

Challenges:

1. Growth (commercial and residential)
2. Staff and equip stations to keep response times under 10 minutes
3. Interoperability radio communications across all departments

Asking for: Removal of the tax ceiling currently at 6¢, to be in line with our Texas State Constitution ceiling of no more than 10¢ per \$100 of property value

Notes:

- ESD #4 has purchased land to build a station in the eastern portion of the district near Mountain Springs subdivision or FM 311 & FM 3159.
- ESD #4 will place a temporary station in Nov. 2014 in our eastern area.
- Continue long range facility planning along FM 306 in the western Canyon Lake area

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Library Lunch-n-Learn

Brown Bag Nature Series and Field Experience at the Park



Join Craig Hensley, Park Ranger from Guadalupe River State Park, as he presents a monthly Nature Series and follows it with a field trip to the park to see nature at work. On Wednesday, bring your lunch to the library and listen to Craig, then follow up on the same subject on Friday at the river park. This program is free at the Library and free at the park with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). On Friday, please meet him at the park amphitheater behind the Discovery Center.

- Wednesday, Oct. 29—*Wildflowers of the Fall* (12:00 – 1:30pm);
Friday, Oct. 31—Field Experience at the Park (10am– 12:00)
- Wednesday, Nov. 12—*Backyard Bird ID & Bird Feeding Basics* (12:00 – 1:30pm);
Friday, Nov. 14—Field Experience at the Park (10am– 12:00)



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An Introduction to the Mid-Texas Symphony

While not new to the region, many Bulverde and Spring Branch residents may be unaware of the Mid-Texas Symphony and the gift of music they offer in our area. Founded in 1978 through the visionary leadership of Texas Lutheran University professor Anita Windecker and support from the communities of Seguin and New Braunfels, the Mid-Texas Symphony has provided the Central Texas region with professional symphonic music for over 30 years. In addition to concerts featuring renowned guest artists, the Mid-Texas Symphony also provides educational opportunities through its four free Children's Concerts; the annual Young Artist and Music Memory Competitions; the Community Music Academy (co-sponsored with Texas Lutheran University); and guest artist master classes and residencies. The symphony will be performing the following concerts in October.

"Enigma Variations" and "Pictures at an Exhibition"

Music Director David Mairs and the talented musicians of the orchestra will present *Enigma Variations* by Edward Elgar, and *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky, arranged by Ravel. The performance will take place on October 26, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center on the Canyon High School campus, located on IH35 in New Braunfels.

Elgar's best-known large-scale composition, *Enigma Variations*, is a set of fourteen variations on a hidden theme or "enigma" dedicated to his wife and "friends pictured within" as an affectionate portrayal of each. After its London premiere in 1899, the piece has remained internationally popular.

Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* is based on drawings and water colors by favorite artist, Hartmann, of scenes in Poland, France and Italy. Maurice Ravel's arrangement is the most popularly performed rendition of the music which creatively links in a way that illustrates a viewer's own progress through the artist's exhibition.

In addition to Sunday's concert, on Monday, October 27, the Mid-Texas Symphony and Director Mairs will continue their long-standing tradition of fostering children's education of fine music by performing free concerts for thousands of fifth and sixth graders at the New Braunfels Civic Center. The Children's Concerts are funded in part by a generous grant from the McKenna Foundation.

Join us for another wonderful performance by the Mid-Texas Symphony's musicians, and help promote fine music in the region!

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Frostweed, *Verbesina virginica*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

Text by John Siemssen. Photos by Norman G. Flaigg and Melody Lytle, Wildflower Center

Frostweed seems to be a plant that people either hate or love. In semi-shady locations it can spread by rhizomes to form large colonies of coarse looking plants that can get up to 6' tall. Some consider this an ugly and invasive weed. However, in late summer it gets large, white flower heads 3" to 6" across that are an important nectar source for fall butterflies, including migrating Monarchs that are returning from the northern US to overwinter in Mexico.

Another interesting characteristic of this plant is a phenomenon that gives it its common name. The sap of the plant freezes near the base of the stem after the first hard freeze of the season, forming interesting shapes that have been variously described as ice ribbons, ice flowers, and ice leaves, among many others. This happens only once in a season, and in order to observe it, one must get out before temperatures rise to above freezing, when the frozen ice melts. A few other species of plants have also been reported to form these ice formations. More information on this phenomenon can be found at: <http://w3.biosci.utexas.edu/prc/VEVI3/crystallofolia.html>.



Frostweed



Ice crystal detail

Frostweed can serve a useful purpose in the landscape, where it can be used as a transition plant between manicured flower beds and wild areas. Given that it is very drought tolerant and deer resistant, and serves as a beneficial wildlife plant, perhaps it should be loved more than it is.

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Having fun

The new Park is in the middle of its first summer, and the community response has been very positive. There always seems to be someone using the park facilities—playgrounds, picnic areas, splash pad, walking paths, basketball court, ball fields, and the gazebo. It is rare to drive by the Park and not see cars in the parking lot. As with any city-owned public activity area, there are rules that affect the use of the park, known as ordinances, which are in place to make your visit a pleasant experience. They protect you, the park, and the city. Here is an abbreviated version of some of the basic rules.

- Hours: The Park is open to the general public between the hours of 6:00 am and 11:00 pm.
- Picnicking is allowed in the designated areas.
- Fires are permitted only in picnic stoves/grills, braziers, fire pits or designated areas for that purpose.
- Glass containers are prohibited in the park.
- Camping is not permitted without prior written approval by the City.
- Splash pads are unsupervised and users assume all liability.
 - The Splash pad is for children aged 2 to 12.
 - Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a supervisor above the age of 16.
 - Appropriate clean swimwear must be worn at all times. Aqua socks or sandals are recommended, especially during the summer months.
 - Swim diapers are required for children under the age of 4.
 - Children that are not toilet trained must wear tightly fitting plastic pants over swim diapers.
 - The splash pad cannot be reserved for parties.
 - No animals are permitted on the splash pad.
- Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.
- The person in possession of an animal in the park must immediately remove and place in a trash receptacle any fecal matter deposited by the animal.
- Riding a horse or any animal in the park is prohibited.
- Playing golf or hitting golf balls in the park is prohibited.
- Tennis shoes should be worn when playing on the basketball court.
- Vehicles are not allowed outside the parking lot.
- Smoking is not permitted in the park.
- Possession of fireworks or explosive devices is prohibited.
- The use of weapons, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.



at the Bulverde Community Park

- It is prohibited to conduct business, sales, or solicitation of fees or contributions without written approval by the City.
- Facility rentals are available for 2-hour periods. Athletic fields can be rented for 4-hour periods. Rates available on the City of Bulverde website in the Parks and Recreation ordinance. For rental details contact the Parks Administrator, City of Bulverde, at 830-438-3612.

Of course, the number one rule at any park is to have fun. All of the other rules contained in the ordinance are intended to make everyone's visits to the park enjoyable and safe.

To view the complete ordinance, go to the City of Bulverde website at www.ci.bulverde.tx.us, click on Ordinances and follow the directions to Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation. More information about the park, membership in the Bulverde Community Parks Association or for purchasing an engraved brick is available at www.bulverdeparks.com or by contacting Merri Harrison at 210-387-9332.

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Runners and walkers of all levels are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Holiday Hunger Run, a benefit run for Provisions Outreach, on Saturday, December 6th at Tejas Rodeo. It's the fourth year for the run, which is becoming an annual chilly tradition for area runners and walkers who enjoy the challenge of a 5K or 10K run or walk, while helping a great cause at the same time. Provisions has been providing food and other necessities to neighbors in need for more than 20 years in the Bulverde and Spring Branch area. The run is again being professionally managed by Athlete Guild and boasts chip timing; a fast, flat course; and even a holiday-themed costume contest! Registration for the run is now open on the Athlete Guild website at www.athleteguild.com, search "Holiday Hunger Run." Provisions is also seeking enthusiastic, community-minded sponsors for the event. If you would like to provide additional support to Provisions by becoming a sponsor, please contact Provisions at 830.438.7899.

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What's New at Bulverde Area



Humane Society

by Carrye Franzel, Volunteer

Our first year as a Combined Federal Campaign approved charity

The San Antonio CFC promotes and supports philanthropy through a program that provides all federal employees the opportunity to donate to any one or more of the CFC approved charitable organizations. The CFC began in the early 1960s to coordinate the fundraising efforts of charitable organizations through payroll deduction. Federal employees continue to make the CFC the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world. Serving Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kerr and Kendall counties, the San Antonio Campaign runs from September 1-December 31, 2014.



If your employer participates in the CFC, consider marking **charity # 58440** to donate to Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) to help us continue our mission of rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of in-need dogs and cats.

Long Distance Adoptions

A seven year old yellow Lab was turned in to the shelter by her owner; he said a move prevented taking the dog with him. The ease with which some folks surrender pets is often based on the mistaken belief that a new home will be found quickly. A dog's stay at BAHS, like most area shelters, may be for months, sometimes years. This dog clearly mourned its abandonment. She cried as her owner's truck left the shelter. She howled, day after day, refused food and withdrew from volunteers. She lay on her side, listless in her kennel. A male caretaker began taking her for daily leash walks with a calm dog and spent quiet kennel time with her. Eventually, the howling stopped. She began to accept volunteers trying



to connect with her. This dog's grief and recovery impacted all who witnessed it. Her story was posted on Facebook, a prospective adopter identified – in Lubbock. A BAHS pet adopter and her husband took a road trip and delivered the dog to her first “forever home.”

Efforts had been ongoing at BAHS to identify new adoption opportunities for good dogs who have been at the shelter too long. Like Cara, a pointer mix with a temperament ideally suited to be a family pet and who had been with us over a year. We knew organizations were transporting shelter dogs to the Pacific Northwest and the Northeast for adoption. Difficult as it may be to believe, some US shelters have a shortage of adoptable dogs. By chance, a local contact was made that opened the door for us to post dogs on a Washington State Petfinder website. One week later it all played out to a successful match and transport was scheduled for Cara. BAHS is grateful to Juli Marchbanks of God's Dogs Rescue (godsdogsrescue.weebly.com) and Paws Without Borders (facebook.com/pwbtransport) for making possible our first pet adoption/transport to the Northwest. Our first out-of-state adoption will be in her Portland, Oregon home by the release of this issue.



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THE BUZZ FROM THE GARDEN

-By Lorelei Mayer, Bulverde Community Garden Committee

The goal for the Bulverde Community Garden is to enhance the sense of community to our area. We hope the people of the Bulverde/Spring Branch area can gather here to plant, nurture and grow together; to develop a respect for the land and how it can nourish your family both physically and emotionally; to make new friends, to volunteer by helping build new plots, weeding, donating supplies and/or funds for future growth; to help each other through education and advice. We have started quarterly programs that are open to the public; our first topic was about fall vegetable gardening and our most recent topic was on composting.

Phase 1 of the Bulverde Community Garden is complete and thriving! About 20 plots have been constructed, assigned, planted and are growing a variety of vegetables, edibles, and flowers.

Several plots are being utilized by Provisions and the Activity Center to supplement the Meals on Wheels program and provide more fresh produce to the food pantry, some are being used to just plant some pretty flowers, some plots are for a home-based business making soaps and lotions and others are growing vegetables for families.

Future plans call for a paved gazebo, a rainwater catchment system from the roof of the gazebo, storage shed for our tools and equipment and more planting beds. Our next phase is starting soon with the construction of a storage shed, compost bin, and more raised beds. The gazebo will provide welcome shade in our hot, hot summers but more importantly will provide a seating area for classes, seminars, and just plain rest!

None of this would have been possible without the help of BSA Troop 58 chartered by the Bulverde United Methodist Church. The Boy Scouts in

this troop have been instrumental in ALL of the construction in the Community Garden. Various Eagle projects include the bridge to access the garden, the raised beds, the trellis beds, the paved area and the elevated beds for those with limited mobility. Eagle projects in the pipeline include the storage shed, the compost bin, and additional planting beds.



If you are part of an organization and would like to volunteer some hours in helping improve the Community Garden or would like to donate equipment, supplies or funds, or obtain a plot, please contact Joanne Hall at jothall@gvtc.com, visit our website at www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com and visit our Facebook page : Bulverde Community Garden. Please join us for the Community Garden monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month at

5:15 pm at the Bulverde Activity Center, 30280 Cougar Bend, Bulverde (next to the Garden).

The Bulverde Community Garden Committee wishes to thank all our donors that have made the Garden a reality, especially our most recent donor, Canyon Lake Water Service Company, and the City of Bulverde, which provided the land, fencing, irrigation system, and ongoing water support.

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A woman with dark hair and glasses is peeking over a bright yellow wooden fence. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a clear blue sky with some white clouds.

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NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)			1 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	2	3	4 Monthly Yard Sale (Bulverde Thrift Store) Chamber Market Days 10a-4p (Bealls pkg lot)	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)						1 Monthly Yard Sale (Bulverde Thrift Store) Trunk-or-Treat at the Park (w/movie)
5	6	7 National Night Out	8 Joint P&Z & Council Transportation Plan 5:30p Planning & Zoning 6:30p	9 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center) "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	10 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	11 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	2	3	4 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	5 Mayor's Town Hall Mtg. 6:00p (BSB Library) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr)	6	7	8
12	13 Columbus Day Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	14 Open House: Downtown Bulverde Village Visioning 4-6:30p (Activity Ctr) City Council 6:30p	15 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	16 Transportation Forum 3-7p (GVTC) BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) EDS #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	17 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	18 Chamber's Taste of the Hills Gala 6:00p (Boulder Springs) "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	9	10 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	11 Veteran's Day	12 City Council 6:30p	13 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)	14	15
19 "Skin Deep" 2:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	20 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	21 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	22	23 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	24 BPD P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	25 Shine the Park Day 7:00a-9:00a "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	16	17 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	18 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	19 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	20 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	21 BPD P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p	22 Shine the Park Day 7:00a-9:00a
26 Free Outdoor Cat Control class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) "Skin Deep" 2:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	27	28 Friends of the Park 6:00p	29	30 Bunco/Costume Contest 5:30p (Activity Center)	31 Halloween Business Trick-or-Treat 6:00p (Beall's/Creekside)		23 Free Outdoor Cat Control class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) 30	24	25 Friends of the Park 6:00p	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Bulverde Village Christmas Lighting 5:30p	29