

THE

# FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors  
Issue 3 ☆ March 2015

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THE  
**FRONT PORCH**  
News

CITY OF BULVERDE

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(COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE, ETC.)

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FRONT PORCH NEWS

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As a City publication, the Front Porch News strives to maintain objectivity and accuracy in all published content. The newsletter must remain neutral in the publication of content that may be considered controversial, biased, or inflammatory within the community (e.g., political content or opinions, religious material, etc.). The newsletter differs from a newspaper in that opinion pieces are typically not included. Publication of contributing partner content is subject to review for applicability and appropriateness of a publicly funded communication initiative. The newsletter is produced in part through public funding, and is accordingly governed by the regulations set forth in Texas State Law.

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# Mayor's Point



**Bill Krawietz**

Mayor of Bulverde, TX

It is great news that the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has recently added two major projects to their Mobility 2040 Plan to help address congestion on State Highway 46 in our area. The first stretch runs from Bulverde Rd. to US 281, and the second is from US 281 to FM 3159 (Smithson Valley Rd.). Some roadway areas will be widened to six lanes with a median and others will allow for just four lanes.

For a lack of a better word, you almost have to fight these days to secure any transportation funding from the State. So many areas need attention around Texas, and the dollars are so limited. Unless you do something to stand out from the crowd, you will simply be overlooked.

Several factors got Bulverde noticed this time around. The MPO specifically mentioned the proactive stance of the City of Bulverde when it comes to managing growth and initiating our own transportation planning efforts. Thanks are also due to our Comal County officials for helping push the project at the MPO level. They provided public input

at our local transportation forums and also helped elevate the rank of this project as one of the most desired projects in Comal County from a long list of other MPO candidate projects.

TxDOT intends to finalize a contract for the design, engineering, and environmental survey services for the HWY 46 project early in 2015. Preliminary designs and engineering should hopefully be complete by the summer of 2016, and construction is anticipated to hopefully begin in 2019.

The City is working closely with TXDOT in an effort to keep the HWY 46 expansion efforts within the existing right-of-way (ROW) where possible, as acquiring additional land gets expensive. State law dictates that the local governmental entity is responsible for 10% of the cost to acquire additional ROW and the cost associated with the relocation of utilities. The City's portion of these costs alone will likely be upwards of one to two million dollars.

The City of Bulverde will continue to look for creative ways to fund our community's portion of the ROW and utility relocation costs. However, it would be unfair and inequitable for this burden to fall solely on the backs of the current taxpayers within the city limits, since the road is used by the greater population of our area as a whole. While the City has just over 5,000 residents, western Comal County hosts

*(Continued on page 4)*



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(Mayor, continued from page 3)

over 25,000. Many businesses located along HWY 46 are just outside of the Bulverde city limits. Because Bulverde is a General Law city, the use of unilateral annexation to bring new developments and new businesses into the city limits to increase the City's tax base and help pay for these highway improvements is currently not a possibility.

Fortunately, the City has been able to secure some ROW over the years through our platting process. In our Subdivision Regulations, the City requires developers to dedicate ROW where necessary. This will help, but not solve, the local funding issue.

I also want to update you on other roadway work occurring in the city of Bulverde. The private contractor doing the overpass turnarounds at Hwy 46 and 281 has now entered the liquidated damages phase of their contract. Due to their lengthy delays in being able to complete the project, they will have to pay a sizable fee to TxDOT each day until the project is completed, which is not anticipated until this Summer. The latest holdup was a broken horizontal boring machine that is being used to stabilize or "staple" the retaining wall pilings. Hopefully they will pick up the pace and finish quickly for everyone's sake.

You may have noticed continued pavement failures over the years on Hwy 46 between Bill Brown Elementary and the Chevron on Hwy 46, especially in the median turn lane. Recently it was believed heavy equipment placing barriers for the road expansion in front of Singing Hills was the cause, but that turns out not to be the true reason.

It turns out that the true cause dates back to 1988 when Hwy 46 was originally widened. The contractor failed to scarify or remove the existing roads grade in some areas. Excavation has revealed the old pavement, including its center paint stripe, underneath. In some areas like this one, they just added base material over the old pavement and built the new road on top.

TxDOT personnel explained this phenomenon as what they call the "Oreo Cookie" effect; base material being sandwiched between two layers of asphalt. Unfortunately, this often leads to water trapped between the two layers, which eventually leads to roadway failure.

TxDOT plans to come in and do a deep milling of the defective roadway cross section and reconstruct it properly. The City is working closely with TxDOT to avoid additional traffic snarls in an already bad traffic area. Hopefully, all the work can be completed at night, in phases, and in conjunction with the other HWY 46 roadway work. This should keep all lanes open and usable by the morning rush.

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# Getting to

# Know

## John Nowak



This month we highlight John Nowak, Development Services/Public Works Director for the City of Bulverde, who is responsible for a variety of functions within the City of Bulverde. John's career in municipal government spans nearly 22 years, beginning as a staff engineer and working up to Development Services/Public Works Director. During the course of his career, John has performed a wide variety of functions including project design, construction, and inspection; contract administration; development review; code enforcement; employee management and supervision; liaison to neighborhood task force groups; administering federal aid projects; procuring grants; computer programming; and departmental budgeting.

John was born in Flint, Michigan and grew up in Sheridan, Wyoming. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Civil Engineering degree. John worked for the City of Billings, Montana; the City of Sheridan, Wyoming; and now the City of Bulverde. John has also been very active in the American Public Works Association (APWA) at both the local and national levels. John has served on the executive boards of those organizations including President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter (Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho) and the South Central Texas Branch. John has previously been selected to present technical sessions during two of APWA's national conventions and also served as APWA's representative to the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee for nine years. John served on the Montana Public Works Standard Specifications Committee which developed and published statewide construction

specifications and standards. John has been with the City of Bulverde for almost nine years.

Due to lean staffing levels and John's multifunctional level of expertise, he "wears multiple hats" for the City of Bulverde. John reviews all sign permit applications and development submittals (subdivision plats, traffic studies, drainage studies, construction plans, etc.) to ensure compliance with the City's regulations. John reviews all building permit submittals for compliance with land use, drainage, and floodplain regulations and manages a private contractor that performs building code reviews and inspections. John also is responsible for the City's infrastructure management program. This includes performing street condition inspections, updating the 5-year maintenance plan, and creating and managing the annual street maintenance contract via a private contractor. John provides technical expertise and reports to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council so they may better evaluate variance requests, subdivision approval requests, ordinance modifications, and planning initiatives. John often acts as the City's liaison to the engineering staffs at Comal County, TXDOT, and other partner agencies in order to help achieve the City Council's goals for the community and to address multi-jurisdictional development issues.

John's wife Donna says he is addicted to cars and enjoys going to car shows and "tinkering" with them. Donna and John also enjoy the various amenities in the region and spending time with family and friends.




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# Home Rule Charter UPDATE

In October 2014, a group of citizens was appointed by the Bulverde City Council to draft a Home Rule Charter that will be submitted to the citizens of Bulverde for future approval via ballot election. After several months of intense deliberation, the independent Home Rule Charter Commission submitted a draft Charter to the citizens of Bulverde for public review at a December 11th Community Forum and again at a January 7th Community Forum. On January 7th the Commission unanimously approved the proposed Charter language, and placed the item on the May 2015 General Election Ballot for the citizens of Bulverde to vote upon. To assist in explaining the key tenants of what has been drafted by the Commission, the following overview was produced. In addition, to better explain what a Home Rule Charter is, a list of frequently asked questions has also been included. To view the full Home Rule Charter as proposed, please visit the City of Bulverde home page: <http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us>

## What's New?

### Changes to the Mayor and City Council

- The Mayor's position will become primarily policy oriented by giving it a full vote on the City Council and transferring the remaining administrative duties to the City Manager.
- The number of elected Council Members will be increased from 5 to 6 in order to provide more representation.
- The terms of office for the Mayor and City Council Member positions will be increased from 2 years to 3 years. This change will only take effect after the election of new members under the Charter, and no current incumbent's term will be extended under this provision. Term limits will be implemented.
- The Members of City Council will be elected by place, meaning that candidates will run for specific seats on the Council. However, Council Members will continue to be elected City-wide.
- The Members of the City Council will be elected by majority vote, and any election in which no candidate receives a majority will be settled in a runoff election between the top two vote getters.

### Changes to Governmental Accountability and Direct Democracy

- The Citizens will gain the right to remove any elected official from office by filing a recall petition.
- The Citizens will gain the right to require Council-passed ordinances to be ratified by the voters by filing a referendum petition.
- The Citizens will gain the right the right to enact ordinances directly by filing an initiative petition.
- Vacancies in the office of Mayor or City Council member will generally be filled by special election instead of Council appointment.

### Changes to Municipal Boundaries & Regulation

- The City will gain the ability to expand the City Limits up to 10% in any given year, subject to state law and procedures.
- The City will gain the ability to prohibit certain nuisances, such as illegal dumping grounds or illicit junk yards, within certain portions of the ETJ.

### Changes to City Administration

- The City Administrator's position will be renamed "City Manager", but will continue to serve as the City's chief administrative official.

## What's Staying the Same?

- Members of the City Council will continue to be elected from the City at large and to represent the City at large. (The City of Bulverde has never elected Council Members from geographic districts)
- The City's authority to tax, per the Texas Constitution, is based on population, not form of government. Therefore, the City's taxing authority is the same under General Law or Home Rule.
- The City's extra-territorial jurisdiction is also based on population, not form of government. The extent of the City's ETJ will not be changed if a Home Rule Charter is adopted.
- The City's power of eminent domain is granted and restricted by state law and the state Constitution, and is the same regardless of whether the City has a Home Rule Charter.
- The City's options for the issuance of debt are the same under both Home Rule and General Law.
- The City's zoning authority is derived from state law, not the Home Rule Charter. Therefore, the City will have the same zoning authority under Home Rule that it currently has under General Law.

## FAQs

### Question: What is a Home Rule Charter?

**Answer:** The home rule charter is the "constitution" of Bulverde. The charter was drafted by an independent group of fifteen Bulverde residents who were appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The charter goes into effect only after a majority of Bulverde citizens have approved it in an election, scheduled for May 9th 2015.

Texas cities become eligible to adopt home rule charters if they have a population of 5,000 or more. 93.6% of eligible cities in Texas have adopted home rule charters (as of 2010).

### Question: In a nutshell, what are the inherent powers of home rule cities?

**Answer:** In a nutshell the powers are: Municipal Organization; Annexation; Initiative, Referendum, and Recall; Charter Amendments; Limitation on Home Rule Powers.

### Question: Who is behind the effort to get a Home Rule Charter approved?

**Answer:** Bulverde citizens. Home Rule is the right of citizens at the grassroots level to manage their own affairs with minimum interference from the State. Home Rule assumes that community challenges should be solved at the lowest possible level, closest to the people.

### Question: Will my property taxes increase if a Home Rule Charter is approved?

**Answer:** No. Home Rule charters do not change the current laws

(Continues)

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(Cont'd from page 6)

and requirements regarding the ability and authority of the City regarding taxes. The city council currently has the authority and responsibility to set the property tax rate each year in accordance with state law.

The Comal County Appraisal District sets property values each year. The adoption of a Charter does not change the current process for setting tax rates or appraising property.

**Question: How will approving a Home Rule Charter affect me?**

**Answer:** Approving a Charter will allow the citizens to govern themselves by establishing rights, responsibilities, and privileges for all Bulverde residents, so long as content in the Charter is not superseded by State or Federal laws. Charters allow for citizens to:

- Determine the number of council members to represent the citizens.
- Determine how long terms of office are for the Mayor and Council Members.
- Determine how the Mayor and Council Members are elected.
- Determine how long the Mayor and Council Members stay in office, and how many times the Mayor and Council Members can run for office.
- Determine which form of government will be utilized. It can only be changed by citizens voting to amend the charter.
- Determine if citizens should have the right to request a binding initiative on the ballot; an initiative allows the citizenry to propose new laws or change the charter through a general election ballot measure.
- Determine if citizens should have the right to recall the Mayor or Council Member.
- Determine if citizens should have the right to call for a referendum, which is the method by which a measure adopted by the City Council may be submitted to the electorate for a vote.

**Question: What will home rule chartering provide for residents of Bulverde in terms of services?**

**Answer:** No matter whether Bulverde is a General Law city or Home Rule city, the City has wide authority to provide services directly to citizens. Cities provide police, public works, parks, recreation, health, and other services. Some services are franchised to private companies to provide services in the city,

such as waste management. Home rule cities typically have broader local control to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens.

**Question: Who can vote on the proposed Home Rule Charter?**

**Answer:** Per State Law, only registered voters of the City of Bulverde may vote on the home rule charter.

**Question: How do I find out if I am in the City or the ETJ?**

**Answer:** If you have a question as to whether your property is within the City or ETJ, you may visit the maps on the City's web site or contact the City at 830-438-3612. You may also visit the GIS page at: [www.cceo.org](http://www.cceo.org)

**Question: I've heard that Home Rule will give the citizens of Bulverde more authority. How is that?**

**Answer:** The Home Rule Charter as proposed will provide for Recall, Initiative, and Referendum rights for citizens.

- Recall allows citizens to vote to remove a city council member (including the mayor) from elected office, if the member knowingly violates a provision of the charter, engages in official misconduct, or demonstrates incompetence.
- Initiative is the process that allows citizens, through a petition, to initiate legislation (through ordinances).
- Referendum is the process that allows citizens, through a petition and election, to overturn ordinances passed by the city council.
- Recall, Initiative, and Referendum are not legally permitted in General Law cities.

**Question: How will a Charter affect the annexation authority of Bulverde?**

**Answer:** Home Rule cities can extend city boundaries (annex) unilaterally while general law cities can generally annex only with permission of property owners or with approval of a majority of the residents of an annexed area. However, annexation by Texas home rule cities is limited in various ways, including the following:

- Cities can annex no more than ten percent (10%) of their area in any given year.
- When annexing existing residential areas containing more than 100 housing units, cities must file an annexation plan;

(Continued on page 8)

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(Cont'd from page 7)

- annexation cannot occur until three years after the filing of the plan. The territory to be annexed must be adjacent to existing city limits.
- A service plan must be attached to all annexations, indicating what services will be provided to the annexed area and under what conditions the services will be provided. Under Texas law some services such as police protection must be provided immediately upon annexation.

**Question: Isn't annexation involuntary?**

**Answer:** There are more options for unilateral annexation of property for a Home Rule city under state law than the authority for a general law city. Creating annexation plans is a right and responsibility of a home rule charter city which wishes to annex. General Law cities may only take in land per requests of landowners, or under very limited circumstances.

**Question: I own property within the city limits of Bulverde, but live elsewhere. Can I vote on the Charter?**

**Answer:** No, per State Law, you must be a resident of the City and a registered voter in order to vote on the Charter.

**Question: Will the City Council determine the language included in the Bulverde Charter?**

**Answer:** No. The City Council's only role has simply been to appoint the Charter Commission members, who have independently drafted the Charter, and have now submitted the proposed language to Bulverde citizens for approval in May 2015. The City Council cannot

edit the proposed charter or amend it in the future in any way. The Charter will be on the May election ballot as it has been currently written and approved by the Home Rule Charter Commission.

**Question: What is the ETJ and how does it affect me?**

**Answer:** The "ETJ" stands for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, and is the area within one mile of the City Limits of Bulverde. The City enforces its Subdivision Ordinance and Sign Regulations within the ETJ. This is the same whether you are a home rule city or a general law city.

**Question: How will people living in the ETJ be affected if Home Rule is approved for the City of Bulverde?**

**Answer:** As areas are annexed, the City will have a greater ability to manage development intensity, quality building standards, dark sky ordinances, and other ordinances adopted by the City Council. The city may also be able to better protect residential and commercial properties and citizens that live adjacent to the unincorporated county area, through proper ordinances and zoning.

**Question: Will the status of my agriculture tax exemption change with the passage of the Home Rule Charter?**

**Answer:** No. Home Rule will not affect that status.

**Question: Is the City Council able to make changes to the Charter in the future?**

**Answer:** No, any changes to the Charter must be approved by an election of the voters.

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## Emerging Leaders Seminar Series Focuses on Etiquette

The Scholarship Foundation's Emerging Leaders Series, currently engaged with Canyon Lake High School Sophomores, recently completed seminars two and three of the four-seminar series. The recent seminars focused on etiquette in the classroom, business, and fine dining, as well as applying for college and the expectations once enrolled. Emerging Leaders participants commented that the seminars present "engaging material for the subject" and that "visiting Texas Lutheran University and getting the full college experience opened my eyes to college life." The final Emerging Leaders seminar in March will include a visit to Rackspace (San Antonio) for career-building activities, including topics like choosing a career, creating a resume, and interviewing well.

The mission of the Emerging Leaders Series, sponsored by the Scholarship Foundation, is to provide youth the opportunity to attain life skills through creative environments and focused learning experiences. The Emerging Leaders Series consists of four student-led seminars on topics such as "Brain Preference," "Etiquette" (business and general), "College Application and Experience," and "Career Development." The year ends with a graduation banquet, attended by current and past Emerging Leaders. The Scholarship Foundation also currently awards two previous leaders (current seniors) with scholarships to be used toward future studies.

The Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. For sponsorship and donation opportunities, please e-mail the Board of Directors at [info@scholarship-foundation.com](mailto:info@scholarship-foundation.com) or visit [www.scholarship-foundation.com](http://www.scholarship-foundation.com).

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Emergency Service Districts (ESDs) are political subdivisions of the State of Texas. Their purpose is to support your Fire & EMS needs through the collection of tax dollars. To deliver that support, ESDs may own real or personal property, enter into contracts, and hire other entities to directly provide enhanced 911 services. In the Bulverde Spring Branch area we have:

- PAST:** ESD #1 which provides funding for all 911 medical services in Bulverde and Spring Branch  
 ESD#4 which provides funding for all 911 fire services in Spring Branch  
 ESD#5 which provides funding for all 911 fire services in Bulverde

**NOW:** We have found a better, faster way—better for taxpayers and faster for any community member who needs help or assistance from the Fire & EMS Department. One year ago this month, ESD #1, ESD #4, and ESD #5 pooled their efforts and hired Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS to run a consolidated Fire & EMS Department—one group of exceptional, highly trained firefighters and medics, and one inventory of apparatus and equipment pooled with one exceptional award winning EMS organization.

## We Must Continue Forward Now

Since 2012, ESD #1 has built the last two Fire & EMS stations. The North Fire & EMS station is located at Indian Hills, the most recent station is located at Johnson Ranch on FM 1863 and is opening this month. With the exponential growth occurring throughout our service area, we still need several more stations across the region.

## Meeting the Challenge

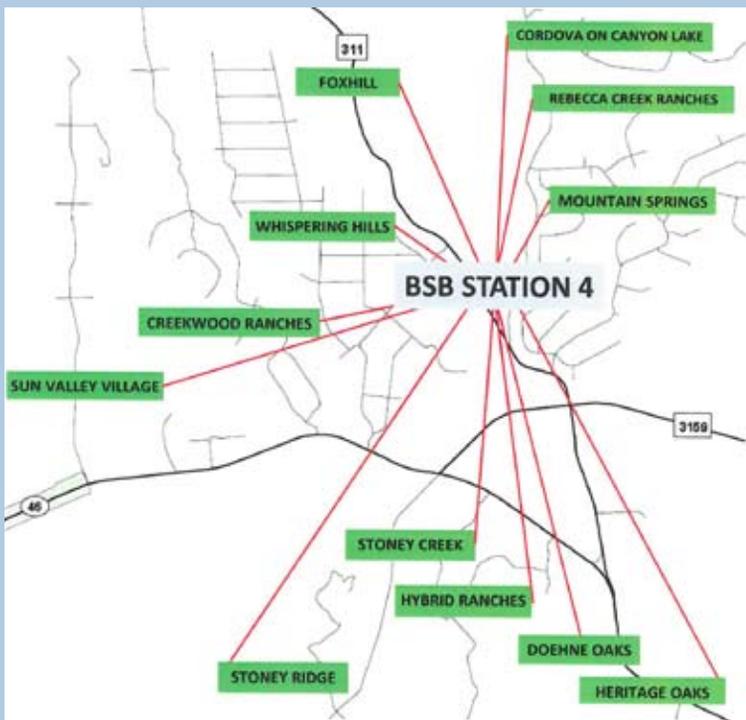
ESD #4 has a cap of 6 cents on its property tax while ESD #5 has the state allowable cap of 10 cents. Both ESD #4 & ESD #5 want to move towards the construction of needed Fire & EMS stations on:

- Highway 46 East - as well as the critical firefighters & medics to answer the 911 calls
- Highway 46 West + firefighters & medics
- Mystic Shores on FM 306 + firefighters & medics

So in May 2015, ESD#4 community leaders have placed an item on the ballot to raise the ESD#4 cap from 6 cents to 10 cents to strategically meet the emergency needs of our community. This would be the first property cap increase for ESD#4 since the cap was established in 2004. This election is not for a tax increase, only an increase in the cap. Rest assured, there will be no tax increase in 2015; if there was to be a future 1 cent increase, it would translate to only an additional \$20 per year on a \$200,000 property.

## Other News

The day station at the corner of FM 311 and Rebecca Creek Road is open every day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., serving the following neighborhoods with faster Fire & EMS response:



We continue, in spite of major increases in area commercial and residential development, to strive for a faster response to your homes and businesses. The cap increase on the May ballot initiative is directly related to improved emergency service coverage, and more equitable responsibility for the costs of fire service and stations among the Emergency Service Districts.



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# THE LIFE AND BREATH BEHIND A FOUNDATION

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS is very fortunate to have the support of dedicated Texans who head foundations which continually push the limits of what they believe is possible for our organization and our community. We are always inspired by what follows when we present dreams/critical needs in Emergency Services, and the ways they find to make those needs a reality. Two such shining foundation examples are McKenna of New Braunfels and the Mays Family Foundation of San Antonio. Both of these foundations have a simple premise: let's improve peoples' lives. They work hard to aid, empower, and enrich their communities. Along the way they also save lives.

McKenna and Mays have funded vehicles that have made a positive and meaningful difference in our community. All three of these vehicles were proposed to the foundations and once approved, were custom designed by Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS and built to our specifications.

McKenna provided the WOW—Wellness on Wheels. This is a one-of-a-kind mobile medical unit and portable classroom which serves as a valuable resource for Comal County. WOW visits food pantries and neighborhoods, to treat patients who have no health insurance, or are under-insured with transportation challenges. The unit also rolls up to the doors of Comal County schools so students can walk into a state-of-the-art science classroom.



The Mays Family Foundation has funded two critical rescue vehicles. The Mays Rescue truck is capable of extrication of injured motorists, control of vehicle fires, swift water rescue, and high angle rescue among others. The truck bridged a gap in our 216 square mile district when fire engines were otherwise occupied.



The second vehicle provided by the Mays Family Foundation is the new Mays Mobile Incident Command truck with secondary rescue capabilities. This truck ensures communication is now possible among up to five different fire departments and EMS responders. Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS is now strategically set to best mobilize and respond during natural disasters and other

catastrophes when normal communication infrastructure has been degraded or destroyed.

It is also because of McKenna, Mays, and all our foundation supporters that we were recently selected Best Provider of the Year. We were selected by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) out of 871 providers, for the second time in 6 years.



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# The Buzz From the Garden

By Joanne Hall, Chair, Bulverde Community Garden

March is here and spring is just around the corner. Gardening fever will soon be upon us. The USDA zone hardiness map indicates that the last freeze for our area usually occurs between March 11 and March 20. Seeds can be started in small containers and transplants can be potted into larger containers and kept in a greenhouse until the last chance for a freeze has passed. Here are some favorite vegetables to plant in your garden later this month when the weather allows: Beans: bush and pole, Beets, Cantaloupe, Swiss Chard, Cucumbers: pickling and slicers, Eggplant, Peppers: sweet and hot, Potatoes, Radishes, Squash: yellow and zucchini, Tomatoes, and Watermelon.

For the tomato lovers, each year at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, a new hybrid tomato that grows well in our area is presented to the public by Texas A & M. Some varieties from past years that have gained popularity are Celebrity, Tycoon, Tygress, Phoenix, and 444. Look out for this year's "Rodeo" tomatoes at local nurseries (at the time of this publication the new variety had yet to be revealed).

March promises to be a busy month at the Bulverde Community Garden. The Garden presently has a total of 24 plots: 18 standard plots, 3 trellis plots, and 3 round raised gardens. All of these plots are presently assigned to eager gardeners, waiting for the weather to cooperate. However, Boy Scout Troop 58, Bulverde United Methodist Church are busy constructing 10 more standard plots. If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please visit the Garden website at [www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com](http://www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com) or contact Joanne Hall at [johall@gvvc.com](mailto:johall@gvvc.com). Also, interested persons are invited to attend the Bulverde Community Garden Committee meeting on the third Monday of the month at 5:15pm at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center.

*Community gardener April McLain had an abundance of carrots last month (see picture), so she submitted the following recipe for Copper Pennies as this month's featured recipe.*

## "WHAT'S IN THE GARDENER'S KITCHEN?" COPPER PENNIES

3 lbs carrots, sliced  
1 large bell pepper, diced  
2 onions, diced  
1 c vinegar  
1 ½ c sugar  
½ c oil  
1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp prepared mustard  
1 can tomato soup

Boil carrots in salted water until just tender, about 10 minutes. Do not overcook. Drain and place in a bowl with bell pepper and onions. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over vegetables. Let stand overnight before serving. This will keep for several weeks in the refrigerator. Note: This is delicious as a side dish or good over a salad.

Source: Wild About Woodland: A Seasoned Tradition, Woodland Presbyterian School, Memphis TN

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When the phone rings at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, chances are it is for Wendy Hahn. It is not uncommon for someone to be in her office, someone to be on hold, and a third person to be waiting by the front desk and all of them will get her undivided attention.

Wendy Hahn is the Outreach Coordinator for Senior Services at BSBAC. She has held this position since 2012. Wendy started out as a volunteer at the Center. Her family moved to the Bulverde/Spring Branch area in 1979 where she attended public school and graduated from SVHS. She is a wife, a mom, and one of the hardest working women you will ever meet. Before coming to the Activity Center, Wendy worked in the health insurance and health care areas. She has a wealth of information and contacts that help seniors who are in need.

Wendy is responsible for coordinating the Meals on Wheels Program. This program delivers a hot, well-balanced meal Monday through Friday to qualifying homebound seniors. The intent is to assist these individuals so they continue to live healthy and productive lives. When a person applies for Meals on Wheels, there is an intake process to determine needs and if other outreach programs may be beneficial. Wendy meets with each person and also does a site visit. Once a person qualifies for the program, their name is added to the meal route. Monica Conkins and Wendy then plan the meal delivery route and coordinate volunteer drivers. Monica is the Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator.

Wendy is always putting others' needs first. The volunteer drivers love working with her. Mark Brigance, one of the MOW volunteers, describes her as "a wonderful, caring, good natured, loving person." Here in the office we just call her "our superstar."

If you would like to get involved with or learn more about the Meals on Wheels program, stop by or call the Activity Center. Just ask for Wendy!

# BULVERDE MYTHBUSTERS

The City of Bulverde has recently become aware of several community rumors that we thought we would take the opportunity to further clarify.

**Rumor:** I recently heard that the City intends to build a City Jail. Is it true?

**Fact:** The City of Bulverde has absolutely no intention of building a City owned or operated jail facility. The major municipalities located in Comal County, such as New Braunfels, Bulverde and Garden Ridge, are fortunate in that we are all collaboratively able to utilize the services of the Comal County Jail operated by the Sheriff's Office. Jail facilities are expensive to build and must be operated via strict federal guidelines, requiring extensive training for jail personnel. This partnership arrangement with the County for shared use of a County-wide jail facility provides efficiency for our law enforcement operations. We hope that this arrangement stays intact for many decades to come, as the City has no desire to own or operate a local jail facility specific to Bulverde.

**Rumor:** I recently heard the City is building a centralized wastewater treatment plant at US 281 and HWY 46 with taxpayer dollars and intends to force existing City residents to abandon their septic systems and make them tie into the wastewater plant. Is it true?

**Fact:** The City has absolutely zero intent for existing City residents to tie into the wastewater treatment facility being constructed at US 281/ HWY 46. The wastewater treatment facility currently being constructed at 281/46 is being built by the developers of the Singing Hills development. Once constructed, the facility will be donated to the City. The cost to operate the plant will be borne completely by the *commercial* tenants of the development at Singing Hills via monthly user fees. The City is currently undertaking a feasibility study for expanding the plant capacity to provide centralized wastewater to other commercial users at the 281/46 intersection. Tying in existing residential septic systems to this centralized facility is financially impractical and infeasible from an engineering perspective.



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# BULVERDE SPRING BRANCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Welcomes New and Renewing Members

### New Members:

Premier Dental Center      Barber 281      Carrie Penlerick, REALTOR with Reliance Residential Realty

### Renewing Members:

A to Z Helpers, LLC  
Bjorn's Audio/Video  
Margaret A. Brumley  
Bulverde Community Park Association  
Bulverde United Methodist Church  
Cactus Flower Hair Salon  
Canyon Springs Golf Club  
Carl's Cleaners, Inc.  
Carter Irrigation  
CHC Electric Inc.  
City of Bulverde, TX  
Community Bible Church Bulverde  
Cragg's Do It Best Lumber and Home Center  
Family's First Focus, LLC  
Farm Bureau Insurance Bulverde -  
Spring Branch  
Farmers Insurance - Monica James  
Larry Finkel  
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# Recent Ribbon Cutting!



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The Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber would like to **Thank** the community for grabbing their boots and slapping on the bling, as this two night event was a high flyin', boot-scootin', family friendly and memorable weekend!

The 1st Annual Chamber Rodeo was held on February 6 & 7 at Tejas Rodeo Company. The attendees enjoyed a CPRA Rodeo including Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Calf Roping and of course for the little ones we had Mutton Bustin' and a Calf Scramble each night. Hall of Famers Leon Coffee and Rob Smets entertained the crowd with their antics.

We truly appreciate the Sponsors, Volunteers, and the Community that helped make this event a huge success. Please join us in 2016 for another round of rodeo action.




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# GUIDING DEVELOPMENT in the Bulverde Area

Given that the US 281 corridor is one of the fastest growing areas in Texas, clearly many people have discovered what many of us have known for a long time; the Bulverde area is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. With all of the growth that has occurred, and with more anticipated, many residents often ask what the City can do to help manage this growth and maintain the area's high quality of life. The answer to this question depends on where the growth actually occurs and the nature of the proposed development.

The City of Bulverde, like most cities in Texas, has development regulations that require the developer(s) to do certain things whenever they choose to develop their property. These regulations do not prevent development from occurring, as Texas has very strong private property rights laws. However, the regulations can help "shape" and guide the development in various ways to ensure that it fits within the nature of the community, and the regulations can of course require that a developer mitigate the effects their development may have on the existing community.

The City of Bulverde is a General Law City. A General Law City is only allowed to regulate development in a manner specifically authorized by the Local Government Code (LGC). The LGC does provide authority for the City to regulate various development elements *inside* its City Limits. However, much of the recent development that has occurred in our area has actually been located *outside* the Bulverde city limits. While the LGC does allow cities to provide some degree of their regulations into the 1-mile Extraterritorial Jurisdictional buffer area (ETJ) around the city limits, there are significant limitations on those rules.

Essentially, a General Law City can enforce only three main elements in this ETJ buffer area: sign regulations, regulations for the subdivision of property, and tree preservation regulations. Other important regulations such as the Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance and zoning/land use regulations, which can be enforced inside the City limits, cannot be enforced outside the City Limit boundary. The LGC also puts various additional limitations on the subdivision regulations allowed in the ETJ versus inside the City limits.

For new developments *inside* the City Limits, the City can require a minimum lot size for all new subdivisions and specify a maximum development intensity (no more than one lot per "x" amount of land area). However, for new developments *outside* the City Limits, if a central water and wastewater system are provided by the developer, a General Law city cannot require a minimum lot size or specify a maximum level of development intensity. For new developments *outside* the City Limits, the City cannot regulate buildings (number and size); specify any specific landscaping requirements; or regulate any land use/zoning. The City also cannot require the development to be annexed into the City (allowing for additional regulations to apply). All of this essentially means that the City has limited regulatory authority as a General Law City under the Local Government Code regarding new developments proposed in the ETJ.

While Bulverde is limited in its regulatory authority as a General Law city, the City does have some ability to require certain development effects to be mitigated, such as new traffic and new storm water drainage runoff that is generated from a development. However, the traffic and/or runoff that are required to be mitigated must be directly attributable to the development. A City cannot make the developer mitigate existing conditions not caused by their development. For example, the Singing Hills development is required to make certain improvements to Hwy 46 between Bill Brown Elementary School and the US 281 intersection (widening of Hwy 46, turn lane improvements, installation of new traffic signals, etc.) in order for the existing traffic and the traffic generated by their development to be safely accommodated. However, the City

cannot require the developer to realign Old Boerne Rd with the new traffic signal on Hwy 46. Old Boerne Rd at HWY 46 is an existing traffic condition, and while this realignment as a whole is beneficial to the entire community from a safety standpoint, the developer cannot be required to mitigate an existing condition.

The City of Bulverde has periodically revised its development ordinances in order to help preserve the rural, hill country nature of the Bulverde community. For example, the City recently revised its park and open space dedication requirements for new developments based off of water quantity and water quality concerns in relation to development intensity, as well as the general health and welfare of the community as a whole. The City utilized several nationally recognized studies and standards on the average acreage of public park space given certain population sizes, and this information was then used to develop the minimum park land and open space dedication amounts for new subdivisions. Fortunately, these amounts apply to new developments both *inside* and *outside* the City Limits. The City has also adopted a storm water drainage manual that specifies how the developer's drainage runoff analysis must be performed. The manual provides for more accurate rainfall intensity requirements than were previously required, and better match the intensity of the rain storms that we often see in the Bulverde area. The City also recently developed a hydraulic and hydrologic model for the Lewis Creek Watershed. Any new developments proposed in the Lewis Creek Watershed must now use this "best available data" to analyze their development's drainage impacts, and must design detention features to fully mitigate those effects.

Another tool the City sometimes utilizes to help guide and manage new development is a Development Agreement. The agreement is a legal contract between the City and the developer to specify certain development facets. Like any contract, there is often negotiating and concessions on each side to generate the final agreement. Through such agreements, the City can negotiate for additional regulatory elements in a new development, beyond what is explicitly allowed by the LGC for a General Law City, like the application of Bulverde's Dark Sky lighting requirements in the ETJ portions of their project.

In short, the City of Bulverde has done what it can, within the limited confines of the LGC for General Law cities, to maximize regulations for new developments in the ETJ area outside of the City limits. However, without the ability for those new developments to be unilaterally annexed into the City before the development occurs, the City's abilities to guide new growth will remain very limited.



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# You're Always Training

## By intention or accident?

By Carrye Franzel



Sue Sternberg, recognized authority in the dog training and shelter world, said it best: "Dogs have no morals or ethics. They need parenting until the day they die."

It is not commonly understood that the cute puppy doesn't naturally grow up to be a well-behaved pet. It takes time, patience, and repetition for a dog to learn how to behave. Many puppies are returned to

shelters as adult dogs because after they were taken home they were not worked with and, predictably, grew up to become problem dogs. Yes, there is the occasional "easy dog" who, with little effort, turns out to be that great pet who doesn't destroy your things, bark excessively, potty where he shouldn't, jump up on people, or pull on the leash—but that is the exception. The vast majority of dogs need to be taught these things through positive reinforcement and repetition until the behaviors are learned.

You don't have time for training? Actually, you already are. Dogs pick up on cues we unwittingly give, every time we interact with them. But what message are you giving? Dog jumps up for greeting and you want it to stop? If you are yelling "no" or "down" and pushing him away, you are likely reinforcing the jumping. Instead, turn your back to the

dog, avoid eye contact, and say nothing until four paws hit the ground then immediately stoop down, pet and praise. This clearly marks for the dog "four paws on the floor, you get the attention you want."

Another misconception is that once a behavior is learned it is there for life. A polite sit learned in obedience class will not be reliable elsewhere unless it is practiced in other situations. If you train to sit for a treat or before going outside, you are reinforcing the sit and teaching self-control.

We are often asked at the shelter if a dog is housebroken. It depends. A learned behavior like housetraining isn't automatic in a new environment. What to do to succeed? When bringing any new dog into your home, commit to the first two weeks treating as though not housetrained. Take him outside to potty frequently, pay attention, immediately reward with praise and treat for elimination in the proper place—each and every time in the first few days. The dog quickly makes the connection and becomes highly motivated to potty outside for his own reasons. Crate or confine a new dog to a restricted area of the house when left alone until the housetraining is solid. To give a new dog unmonitored access to the entire house is to invite all kinds of problems. Dogs should not, however, be left crated for extended periods. Tips for introducing and using a crate may be found at [http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate\\_training.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html)

Training is always going on. With intentional training, you know what you're reinforcing and are doing it consistently. Hope for the best, wait for mistakes and try to fix them—accidental training. It's your choice.

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# Local Workforce Challenges and Solutions

Sherry Mosier, President

Two of the biggest challenges we face as a community in regards to quality economic development is workforce development and workforce housing. These two elements go hand in hand when creating a sustainable local economy where residents can live, work, learn, and play all within their community without the need to endure those long, time consuming commutes...it's all about quality of life and spending more time with family and friends. Quality businesses will not locate to our community if we don't have a good workforce and places for all levels of those employees to live. Whether we are trying to bring in higher-paying, technology-focused businesses, medical facilities, appropriate retail, or unique restaurants, the first questions these desired businesses ask are always related to workforce availability, housing options, and infrastructure (i.e. sewer, water, electric, roadways, communications network, natural gas, etc.).

Many of our citizens want conveniences and services (i.e. full service restaurants, medical facilities, retail, higher paying jobs, etc.) nearby so they can avoid the now onerous commute related to the traffic congestion they experience when driving to adjacent communities such as San Antonio, New Braunfels or Boerne. But where are these businesses going to get their employees and where are these employees going to live? Did you know that only 8 of our 88 EMS and Fire personnel live in our area? It's a similar situation with respect to law enforcement, school district, retail, and restaurant employees. With the average median home value in our area being upwards of \$277,000; in most cases middle management, service providers, teachers, and entry level employees can't afford to live here. As a result, most employees are commuting into our community to work, which increases traffic congestion. Our local businesses also often have to pay higher wages to get those employees to commute here (or they end up losing them), which often equates to higher prices for the consumer. It's really not the best situation for our community.

With the continued growth our community is experiencing, we really need to look at the bigger picture and plan for the future in regards to our local economy. We must continue to seek quality builders to provide the diversified housing options our community needs to have a sustainable economy. We must continue to reduce the economic impediments that are working against our community, such as a lack of regional sewer capabilities at an affordable cost, a lack of an "established market" to yield a better financing structure, and high land prices.

## Job Fair Planned

While the EDF continues to seek ways to reduce these known impediments, we also continue to look at ways to further develop our workforce. The BSBEDF, in cooperation with Alamo Workforce Solutions, the City of Bulverde, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber, and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library are planning a **Job Fair to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 2pm to 6pm at the BSB Library**. Whether you are a local business seeking employees or someone looking for your next career opportunity, we hope you will join us.

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 our website at [www.bsbedf.com](http://www.bsbedf.com) or call us at **830.885.4331** to learn more about who we are and what we do, and for more information about the upcoming Job Fair.

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## Relocating Cats -

# A Last Resort!

By Jenny Burgess

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the best and most logical method of controlling outdoor cat population numbers. This will keep the cats in the same place but will stop the reproduction.

Relocation is a last resort and only if the cats are either abandoned or in danger from people, vehicles, or starvation. Even with the agreement of a new caretaker at a farm or ranch, relocation is not an easy task, as you cannot just take cats somewhere else without implementing the correct protocols to ensure their safety. Regardless of good intentions, releasing cats in unfamiliar territory is "dumping" and disastrous for the cats (not to mention illegal).

1. They do not know they are supposed to stay at the new location and take off running, looking for their own "home" back where you got them. This will often mean the cats perish in the attempt.
2. If there are any resident cats at the new location, they will view the newcomers as intruders and they will fight them and run them off.

Cats must be confined for a minimum of two weeks (maximum of four weeks) at their new location, protected from the elements and cared for by their new caretakers. A typical size of crate for the confinement period is no smaller than 30 inches X 36 inches. Inside is a shelter to sleep in, a litter box and food and water bowls (see photo).



Animal Rescue Connections constantly gets requests to relocate cats, which is only possible if we have offers from places such as farms, ranches, organic farms, or residents with backyards to accommodate a few. These outdoor cats (barn cats) are excellent for rodent control protecting livestock feed, stored vegetables and seeds, etc. They also make your environment safer from snakes. Rodents are the snakes' main food source – so no rodents means fewer snake sightings! The cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, healthy and free of charge!

If you are interested in having some cats for your location, contact Animal Rescue Connections at 210-474-0083 (leave a message) or Email: [info@animalrescueconnections.org](mailto:info@animalrescueconnections.org) For more information on the humane control the outdoor cat numbers, visit the Trap, Neuter, Return page on our website ([www.animalrescueconnections.org](http://www.animalrescueconnections.org)).

## Foreign Policy Discussions at the Library



The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library and the Friends of the Library will host their annual Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* series every Thursday evening from **March 5 through April 23 beginning at 5:45pm**. This discussion program is designed to encourage discussion and debate of important global challenges of our time. Anyone with an interest in expanding their knowledge of U.S. foreign policy and global affairs is welcome to join a *Great Decisions* discussion group. Be prepared to engage in active discussions of crucial international issues facing policymakers and citizens.

If you would like a briefing book, they are on sale at cost at the library. Refreshments are provided by the Friends while we watch the program DVD and hear a presenter on the topic prior to discussion.

### Topics are as follows:

- **March 5** - Human Trafficking in the 21st Century - Marguerite Scott, President of Kerrville's chapter of League of Women's Voters
- **March 12** - Privacy in the Digital Age
- **March 19** - Russia and the Near Abroad - Dennis Deeny
- **March 26** - Sectarianism in the Middle East - Max Ex Tawil, President of Canyon Lake Rotary Club
- **April 2** - India Changes Course - Jagadeeshwar Gurralla
- **April 9** - U.S. Policy Toward Africa - Richard Britz, International SOS
- **April 16** - Syria's Refugee Crisis
- **April 23** - Brazil's Metamorphosis - Joe Straubhauer, Professor Joseph D. Straubhaar is the Amon G. Carter Centennial Professor of Communications in the Department of Radio-TV-Film at The University of Texas at Austin

We are still seeking a speaker on the Syria topic if you know anyone with experience on the topic. We will also have a satellite program of some of the topics at the Mystic Shores clubhouse on Fridays. Please see the library website for more information on both locations.

### Tax Help at the Library

AARP will continue to provide income tax assistance every Friday starting February 6th from 10:30am to 3:30pm through April 10th at the library. This service is strictly by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling 830-885-2247.

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# BAAC *Host 3rd Annual* Smithson Valley High School Art Show

Three years ago, the Bulverde Area Arts Center and Smithson Valley High School artists joined forces to display student art in the Bulverde Gallery. The response to the first show was impressive in both the quality of the art and the reception by the public. The 2015 show introduced new art and new artists to the Bulverde community, and the accolades were abundant.

The show is designed to give talented student artists exposure in a gallery under the same guidelines as member shows, and provide an experience they can use to further their art ambitions. A number of exhibiting artists have expressed their intention to further their studies in art following graduation.

## Young Artists Workshop Series

The mission of the Bulverde Area Art Center, a nonprofit institution, is to provide education for those aspiring in the arts, exhibition opportunities for art practitioners, and art events for public participation. The goal of BAAC is to inspire artists at all levels and in all mediums. To that end, BAAC has developed a year-long program of hands-on art education. The Young Artists Workshop Series is a yearly program consisting of full- and half-day intensive art courses developed for aspiring teen artists. Artists from the area will conduct these clinic/workshops onsite at the Bulverde Area Art Center. The programs first year goal would be to provide services to 150 to 200 children. Although many of the clinics will be conducted in the center's classroom, some workshops may be held outside, on the grounds as weather permits.

The workshops will consist of experiences with painting, textile dying and design, drawing, photography, and jewelry production and design. The Young Artists Workshop Series will be available to everyone in the community at the targeted underwritten rate of \$49 per person. Accompanying parents/



"Still Life with Lantern" is an oil on canvas painting by Haley Ashcroft, a senior at Smithson Valley High School. This is just one of several works of art recently displayed by SVHS students at the Bulverde Area Arts Center gallery in the 2015 Smithson Valley High School Art Show.

guardians will receive a discounted rate of \$39 per adult. Majestic Arts Ranch Foundation and GVTC Foundation are assisting in the funding of the program. More information about the program can be found on the BAAC website at: [www.bulverdeareartcenter.com](http://www.bulverdeareartcenter.com). The BAAC Gallery is located in Bulverde Village at 2355 Bulverde Road, #9. The Gallery is open Fridays and Saturdays from 4 pm to 8 pm and Sundays from 11 am to 3 pm. There is no admission charge to visit the gallery.

## ON THE COVER

Once again, Debbie Karnes has provided the perfect photo for our cover! This little guy is busy, busy, busy in the tree tops. Squirrels in our neck of the woods do not always hibernate deeply when winters are mild, and can be frequently seen romping through the trees throughout most of the winter, only curling up to sleep in the coldest of temperatures. The spring months will bring renewed activity in these critters as they harvest and gather new spring treats while mocking and teasing the ground-bound dogs and hastily robbing bird feeders of seed (much to the dismay of the bird lovers) in back yards all around Bulverde. Thanks so much to Debbie Karnes for giving us this fun little guy to enjoy on our cover!

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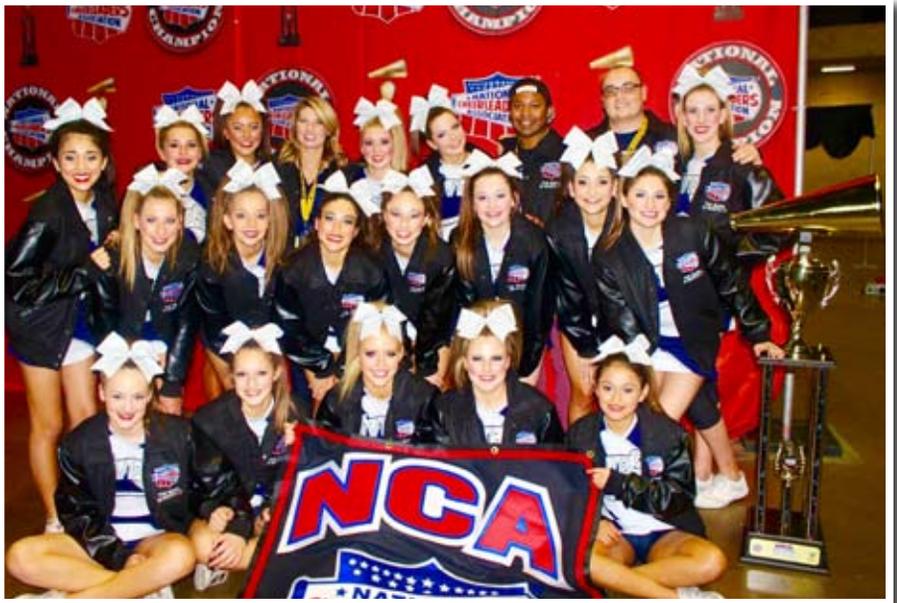
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# SVHS CHEERLEADERS WIN BIG!

In January, the Smithson Valley High School Cheerleaders competed in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) High School National Championship in Dallas and came away with a big win!

On the first day of competition, they placed 1st in the Preliminary Competition. On day two, they competed in the Finals against twelve other cheerleading teams from around the nation. The Ranger Cheerleaders placed 1st in the Finals, making them NCA National Champions for the Medium Intermediate Division. They also won a Specialty Award for Jumps. Having not competed at the national level in several years, this national title is an outstanding accomplishment! Congratulations to the SV Cheerleaders on all of the hard work and determination to achieve this incredible goal!



Front row: (L to R) Tatum LaField (sophomore), Colleen Clancy (sophomore), Kennedy Moore (junior), Noelle Shattuck (junior), and Lindsey Lopez (freshman) Second Row: (L to R) Jaceleigh Long (freshman), Annie Vollmer (freshman), Melynna Martinez (freshman), Alyssa Presley (freshman), Hallie Reeves (freshman), Jordan Mabie (freshman), and Tiffany Weber (junior) Back row: (L to R) Alyssa Bafidis (sophomore), Mackenzie Foley (freshman), Gabriella Pagliarulo (freshman), Coach Amber Mitchell, Jenna Weller (junior), Riley Rogers (freshman), Coach Rico Ruiz, Coach Chris Hendon, and Alli Robinson (junior).



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"The Bulverde Park is the perfect backdrop for outdoor movie watching," said Friends of the Park Chair, Merri Harrison. "The movies are free to the public, in part due to hosting by the Friends of the Park, the Bulverde Police Department, and several generous business sponsors. I hope many people will take this opportunity to come out and enjoy a fun-filled evening with their family and friends."

The movies in Bulverde's Community Park are all rated PG. Although the shows begin at dusk, attendees are encouraged to arrive early to picnic, play, and find a good viewing spot. Picnic blankets, sand chairs, and jackets (on chilly nights) are recommended; attendees are welcome to bring food and drink. The Friends of the Park will also be operating a snack bar to raise funds in support of future Movies in the Park.

The free, family-friendly movie series is part of the Friends' planned summer events which will also include the second annual Bulverde Fun Fest scheduled for June 13th. Local movie sponsors include State Farm Insurance, Reliance Realty, Bulverde Hills Dental, Bulverde Feed & Seed, the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club, and South Texas Growers. This is the second year for our Movie in the Park series; last year's 3 movies in the park were attended by over 850 residents from the greater Bulverde area.

**This year's films will show on the 2nd Friday of the month on April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, and August 14th.** Additional movies will be shown in conjunction with Halloween and the Bulverde Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. For more information on the Bulverde Movies in the Park series, or view the entire list of films and their respective dates, visit [www.BulverdeParks.com](http://www.BulverdeParks.com). Businesses seeking to sponsor movies in the park are encouraged to contact **Larry Sunn** at **201.286.8050** or email [TexSunn@GMail.com](mailto:TexSunn@GMail.com). Bulverde area residents wanting to help plan future recreational activities at the park should attend the Friends' meetings at City Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m.

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# Odds 'n' Ends

## Movin' on Up!



The Bulverde Thrift Store is moving to a new location in the old HEB center on Hwy 46, and the manager Kristina Vickers could not be any more excited! Expecting to be moved in by March 2nd, the new location offers more room for merchandise and is in a more accessible location. Donations for the Thrift Store will now be accepted at the Thrift Store instead of at the Provisions facility. The Bulverde Thrift Store is a nonprofit organization that helps to support both Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach and the BSB Activity Center. It's always a treasure hunt at the Thrift Store, and you'll always get a great bargain!

## Boys Town Texas to Host Benefit Run

Boys Town Texas is holding the race for prevention of child abuse 5k / 10k run-walk on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Valero energy headquarters (one Valero Way, San Antonio, Tx 78249). Get out there and get your run on for a great cause! Call 210-271-1010 or visit [www.boystown.org/texasrace](http://www.boystown.org/texasrace) for more information.



## to Hold Auditions

Director Lou Garza will hold open auditions for the S.T.A.G.E., Inc. 2014-2015 season production of **REBEL YELLS**, a drama by Steve Warren. Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at Krause House Theatre, 1300 Bulverde Road in Bulverde. Performers are needed for the following roles: 1 Female, 6 Male, 1 Male Teenager. Contact S.T.A.G.E. for more information at (830) 438-2339.



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**MARCH 2015**

Bulverde  
*and other local events*

**APRIL 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1 Second Samuel (S.T.A.G.E.)	2	3 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions) Planning & Zoning 6:30p	4 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr.)	5 FREE CPR/ First Aid Class 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) Second Samuel (S.T.A.G.E.)	6 Second Samuel (S.T.A.G.E.)	7 Second Samuel (S.T.A.G.E.)	<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)						1 April Fool's Day SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr.)	2	3 Passover	4
8 Second Samuel (S.T.A.G.E.) Daylight Svgs Time begins (Spring Forward @ 2:00a)	9 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	10 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions) City Council 6:30p	11	12 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center) Bulverde Lions 7:30p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	13	14	5 Easter Sunday	6	7 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions) Planning & Zoning 6:30p	8	9 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center) Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	10 Movie in the Park dusk 8:30ish (Bulverde Comm. Park)	11 Big Trash Day 8:00a (City Hall, Bulverde residents only)			
15	16 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center) CISD Spring Break	17 St. Patrick's Day Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) CISD Spring Break	18 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) CISD Spring Break	19 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CISD Spring Break	20 First Day of Spring CISD Spring Break	21	12	13 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	14 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions) City Council 6:30p	15 Tax Day SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	16 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	17	18			
22 Free Outdoor Cat Control Class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	23	24 Friends of the Park 6:00p	25 Mayor's Town Hall Meeting 6:00p (BSB Library)	26 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	27 P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p (City Hall) SBB Lions Annual Car Show 10:00a (Bulv. Baptist Church)	28 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)	19	20 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	21 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	22 Earth Day	23 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	24	25 Beekeeping Workshop 10:00a (Activity Ctr.) Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)			
29	30	31	<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)				26 Free Outdoor Cat Control Class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) Spring Chicken Festival 10:00a (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	27 Early Voting (City Hall)	28 Early Voting (City Hall) Friends of the Park 6:00p	29 Early Voting (City Hall)	30 Early Voting (City Hall) Bracken Christian School Preview 6:00p	<p>Early Voting @ City Hall: May 1-5 Voting Day: May 9</p>				