

THE
FRONT PORCH
News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Issue 9 ☆ September 2015

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THE FRONT PORCH News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

[HTTP://BULVERDETX.GOV](http://bulverdetx.gov)

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Rob Hurst, MAYOR PRO TEM **Yvonne Chapman, COUNCIL**

Kirk Harrison, COUNCIL **Gene Hartman, COUNCIL**

Ray Jeffrey, COUNCIL **David Payne, COUNCIL**

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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

One of the main elements that Bulverde has always struggled with when it comes to managing growth in the area is that the vast majority of recent new developments have occurred just outside of our City Limits, limiting our regulatory authority to influence the quality of the project. A few recent projects have had a small percentage of their property under our direct oversight, but most typically fall completely in our Extra Territorial Jurisdiction. When this occurs, most of the City's standards, which are aimed at preserving our unique Hill Country lifestyle and character, are not fully applicable to the project.

The main reason why the Bulverde community moved towards incorporation back in 1997 was to help fight back the urban sprawl moving north out of San Antonio and to control our own destiny in shaping the community as it evolves. We have had many successes, but we have also been reminded many times over the years that our hands have been tied as a general law community in so many ways. With the community's recent overwhelming adoption of a Bulverde Home Rule Charter, it looks like we may finally break free of those restraints and have the opportunity to get ahead of the curve in managing the growth the way we have always intended.

I wish we could turn back time on many of the development projects that are already underway in our area's ETJ. We could do so much more to lessen their sometimes negative impact on our community and better insure the quality standards that are applicable with in-City development regulations. With the tools the City now has in place for in-City developments, coupled with the ability to bring new developments into the municipal boundary via annexation, the concerns regarding storm water regulation, traffic impact, wastewater discharge, and development intensity will not be such a concern for so many of our residents and neighboring long-time landowners.

Historically, many cities in Texas have used unilateral annexation to "swallow up" existing, built out residential neighborhoods to increase their tax base. Instead, the Bulverde City Council has developed a plan to utilize this newly gained ability to bring in nearby vacant properties that are on the market, have recently sold to investment firms, or have a high likelihood of near-term development. It is this Council's intention not to annex existing residential properties, wherever possible. The main intent of the Council's near term annexation goals are to "fill in" many of the existing City limit gaps, primarily along our major transportation corridors, especially in likely commercial areas that we know have near-term development prospects. Bringing them into the municipal boundaries is the only way the City can insure they develop in a responsible manner.

Are we excited about the now vacant areas, or former ranchland, developing? The answer is simply no. This City Council actually wants to encourage those properties to stay rural through non-annexation, non-development agreements. That's right; if an agriculturally tax-exempt property wants to remain agricultural

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

in nature, all the property owner has to do is simply sign a Non-Annexation/Non-Development Agreement with the City, insuring the community that they will not develop the property, and then the property will not be annexed. The City will be offering ALL current Ag-exempt status properties identified in the near-term annexation proposals this opportunity. And we hope they take it!

I recognize that annexation is often associated with negative instances when other cities may have abused this valuable tool. In my opinion, it should only be used in a careful and thoughtful way that helps preserve and protect the existing community's health, safety, welfare, in addition to the character and charm of the community. I can assure you, this is the goal of this City Council. We are thankful that the community has now entrusted us with this capability, and we are committed to using it responsibly.

Bulverde
September 19, 2015
Jubilee

SEPT. 19TH, 2015
10AM - 5PM
FOR PARADE INFORMATION EMAIL:
MELISSA WOOD
sweetmelissa1234@hotmail.com
FOR VENDOR INFORMATION EMAIL:
NANCY HOTALING
ndhotal@aol.com

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Bulverde will be holding public hearings on several proposed annexations. The hearings will be held by the City Council of the City of Bulverde in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, TX 78163 at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, the 10th of September, 2015 and at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th day of September, 2015. All persons, including residents and property owners of the area under consideration for annexation, may appear at these hearings and are invited to make suggestions, recommendations, or objections to the proposed annexation. PLEASE NOTE: NO FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PROPOSED ANNEXATION AT THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS. More information on the proposed annexations is available, and questions or comments about the proposed annexations can also be submitted, on the "Annexation Information" page on the City's website: www.bulverdetx.gov

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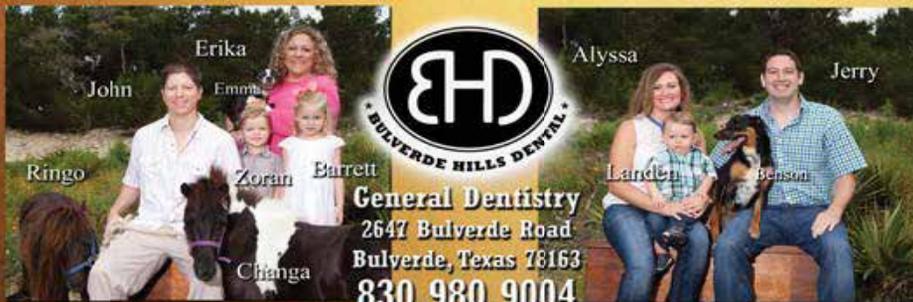
SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 6TH 2015

Bulverde's National Night Out



Yes, that's right! We are just a month away from National Night Out 2015. National Night Out in Texas is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th, and we are still looking for great folks to host events in their neighborhoods. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors and local first responders. As a block party host, you will essentially be providing a location for others in your neighborhood to gather and socialize, usually in the front yard. Some hosts provide everything needed for the event and some hosts coordinate with their neighbors to provide a truly great party. Either way, the Bulverde Police Department is here to help you with ideas, invitations, and even HEB gift cards to purchase goodies for your event. First responders from the Police Department and BSB Fire & EMS will be stopping by as well. Those volunteering to host a block party will also be invited to an appreciation event scheduled for Sunday, October 4th at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, which is a great opportunity to meet other block party hosts from the area and share ideas. Dinner will be provided, gifts awarded, and goody bags distributed in preparation for National Night Out on Tuesday. Members of the Bulverde Police Department are working hard to secure sponsors for this year's host appreciation event, which will be the best one yet. We encourage you to explore volunteering to host a block party event in your neighborhood and get to know your neighbors, because neighbors' watching out for neighbors is one of your greatest assets to combat crime in the community. Anyone interested in hosting a block party event, or wanting to sponsor an event, can contact Mary Bell at the Police Department at 830-438-3612. We look forward to what we hope is another record breaking, and award winning, event.



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LET'S TALK WASTEWATER

Wastewater collection and treatment systems collect and dispose of wastewater generated from toilet use, bathing, laundry, kitchen and cleaning activities, and various commercial uses. Sewage per capita is essentially the same as water use. In America today, the average water use rate is 100 gallons a day per person.¹ Toilets, clothes washers, and showers account for over 60% of the total.

The wastewater generated must be controlled and regulated to protect the environment and public health, as all wastewater is eventually discharged to the surface in some form or capacity. Therefore, any structure with running water, such as a house, office, restaurant, retail store, gas station, etc. must be connected to one of the following wastewater disposal systems.

Centralized Systems

Large-scale public sewer systems (municipal wastewater treatment plants) are centralized systems. These systems generally serve established cities and towns, and transport wastewater to a central location for treatment. These systems are often conventional gravity sewers (deeply placed with manholes & lift stations) with one treatment facility (normally activated sludge variation) and the treated water is eventually discharged directly to the surface adjacent to or into "water in the state" (as defined by Section 26.001(5) of the Texas Water Code).

Where appropriate, centralized systems are preferred to decentralized systems, as one centralized system can take the place of several decentralized systems, minimizing the risk of system failures. Centralized systems are more economical, environmentally friendly, allow for greater operational control, require fewer people to maintain, and produce only one discharge to monitor instead of several.

Centralized systems are most useful when you have larger end users who dispose of greater volumes of waste in various forms. For example, restaurants produce quite a bit of waste from food and beverage disposal, but they also produce greases and solids that are typically intercepted by grease traps before they enter a wastewater system. Public wastewater typically contains small amounts of oils which enter into septic tanks and treatment facilities to form a floating scum layer that is slowly digested and broken down by microorganisms in the anaerobic digestion process. However, very large amounts of oil from food production in kitchens and restaurants can quickly overwhelm a septic system or small on-site treatment facility, causing a release of untreated sewage into the environment. Consequently, most restaurants do not like septic systems.

Decentralized Systems

Homes and other buildings that are not served by public sewer systems depend on decentralized septic systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. Most decentralized systems are on-site systems (wastewater is treated underground near where it is generated). On-site systems are the most common wastewater treatment system used in rural areas. These systems can be a single septic

system and drain field serving one residence, or a large soil-absorption system serving an entire subdivision.

Wastewater in decentralized systems can also be treated by a small, private wastewater treatment plant. These plants can have similar treatment processes and equipment as centralized systems, but on a much smaller scale.

Decentralized wastewater treatment consists of a variety of approaches for collection, treatment, and dispersal/reuse of wastewater for individual dwellings, industrial or institutional facilities, clusters of homes or businesses, and entire communities. An evaluation of site-specific conditions is performed to determine the appropriate type of treatment system for each location. These systems are a part of permanent infrastructure that are typically low cost, shallow systems and can be managed as stand-alone facilities or be integrated with centralized sewage treatment systems. They provide a range of treatment options from simple, passive treatment with soil dispersal, commonly referred to as septic or on-site systems, to more complex and mechanized approaches such as advanced treatment units that collect and treat waste from multiple buildings and discharge to either surface waters or the soil. They are typically installed at or near the point where the wastewater is generated.² Systems that discharge to the surface (water or soil surfaces) require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or in Texas, a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit. NPDES is a federal regulatory program to control discharges of pollutants to surface waters of the United States. The State of Texas assumed the authority to administer the NPDES program in Texas on Sept. 14, 1998.³

Most decentralized treatment systems are like a fancy, but larger, septic tank designed for a very specific capacity in mind. Some have drain fields and some are of an aerobic nature, and more often than not, once you go over capacity there is no way to expand the capacity of the system without tearing it out and building a completely new facility, which often requires additional land. Land, as we all know, is

2. Environmental Protection Agency Decentralized Wastewater Program Brochure

3. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality website

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1. Environmental Protection Agency Website

very expensive and the land owner would have to dedicate the additional land, which could be utilized for other higher-and-best purposes. Because site specific systems are typically designed for a very specific capacity, if the end user creates more waste than the original intended user (e.g., auto supply store vs. hair salon), the system can run over the permitted and designed capacity creating a leaky system that pollutes the environment. This is one of the main dangers of poorly maintained and undersized septic systems.

However, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, if properly executed, can protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and maintain economic vitality in a community.⁴ For example, the EPA concluded in its 1997 Response to Congress that *“adequately managed decentralized wastewater systems are a cost-effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water quality goals, particularly in less densely populated areas.”*⁵

Unfortunately, in far too many cases, septic systems are installed and largely forgotten for years until problems begin arise. In fact, the EPA has publicly stated concerns about small on-site wastewater treatment and septic systems because an estimated 10–20% of these systems malfunction each year, causing pollution to the environment and creating a risk to public health.

Nearly one in four households in the United States depends on an individual septic system (also referred to as an on-site system) or small community cluster system to treat their wastewater.⁶

4. Environmental Protection Agency Website
 5. Environmental Protection Agency Website
 6. Environmental Protection Agency Website

Decentralized systems can be useful in certain situations, and this option should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

However, from a business perspective, most quality businesses will not locate in areas that don't have centralized systems due to the time, cost, and liability involved in an on-site septic system operation and maintenance.

On a completely separate note, our new Walmart is now hiring! A job fair was held at their new location on August 20th but they are still in need of additional employees. Applications will continue to be accepted at this location Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until all positions are filled. Interested applicants may also apply online at <http://careers.walmart.com> or www.workintexas.com.

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BULVERDE'S MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN

In March of 2015, the City Council adopted a Master Transportation Plan (MTP). Adoption of the plan was the end result of a nearly year-long process of gathering public and partner agency stakeholder input. A copy of the Master Transportation Plan can be found on the City's website at: <https://tx-bulverde.civicplus.com/171/Master-Transportation-Plan>

What is a Master Transportation Plan (MTP)?

It is important to note that the MTP is not a full project document. It is a common misconception that the MTP is the City's immediate plans to construct new roadways or roadway improvements identified in the plan. It is also a common misconception for people to think the roadways or improvements indicated in the plan will be exactly located as depicted in the plan. Rather, the MTP is a general guideline of the identified infrastructure to be accomplished in the future, sometimes several decades into the future, to accommodate the area's transportation needs as growth and development inevitably occurs. Much more detailed analysis is required to actually establish exact infrastructure locations, and specific roadway alignments and configurations. These more detailed analyses are typically completed during private property development, or when more comprehensive projects are created by the City or other agencies (TXDOT, Comal County, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, etc.). The information in the MTP is often used to help develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is utilized to prioritize and create actual construction projects. The MTP is also used by other public partner agencies to help refine their capital improvement plans. The MTP is also considered a "living document," meaning that it is reviewed periodically and modified as the community and

the community's needs change over time. Typically, an MTP is reviewed and updated every five (5) years. That schedule can be shortened or extended, depending on the desire of the community.

Why does our community need a Master Transportation Plan?

The MTP is critical in that it helps provide the City with the regulatory authority to require improvements to be made by the development community. With a few minor exceptions, the development community will be required to dedicate right-of-way and construct most of the roadway improvements indicated in the MTP. This will only occur if and when those properties develop, and is a critical way in making sure the "new guy" in town pays their fair share. It also ensures that public infrastructure goes in the "correct" locations, as vetted by the community, not just wherever the property developer want it to be. An MTP assists in planning for new growth and redevelopment, capital improvements, policy and ordinance development, and an efficient transportation system. It also has the benefits of promoting safety and orderly development, making sure roadway intersections align appropriately, improves economic development, allows for planned improvements verses crisis improvements, and assists in gathering input from the community on such matters.

The MTP is also a tool used to demonstrate to citizens, other public agencies (Comal County, Bexar County, TXDOT, etc.), and developers that there is a coherent plan the City is using to justify infrastructure needs (right-of-way dedications and reservations; roadway, bridge, bike trail and hike and bike facility standards; and needs that will be required of agencies, developers and the City). For example, the City's MTP was a key element in getting future Hwy 46 improvements (proposed from Bulverde Road to FM 3159) onto the regional Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Capital Improvement Plan process this past year. Because of this success, the City is now currently working with TXDOT to perform the required design, environmental review, and construction plans for these much needed community improvements.

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How was the Bulverde Master Transportation Plan created?

The planning effort began with a review of the Sunrise 2025 plan, the first Comprehensive Plan for the City of Bulverde (adopted by the City Council in 2003). The Comprehensive Plan was developed to provide an initial, long-range guide for the future growth and development of the City of Bulverde and the surrounding area. In June of 2014 the City Council met with the Planning and Zoning Commission, in a meeting facilitated by the MTP consultant team, to begin visioning the transportation master planning process for the community. A full-day leadership retreat led to various transportation ideas, priorities, and future planning strategies. In July of 2014, two focus groups that involved our regional partner agencies (TxDOT, Comal County, BSB Library, BSB Fire and EMS, BSB Activity Center, etc.) resulted in brainstorming transportation concepts and ideas to help manage the growth in our community in the most efficient and effective way possible. The data gathered during these efforts were used to develop a preliminary MTP. The MTP process considered and included reviews of previous transportation studies completed by the County and other regional partners, development of strategic direction and vision statements, existing and future conditions, transportation needs analysis, master transportation planning, transportation plan implementation, and funding options.

An important aspect of the Bulverde-Area Master Transportation Plan was the community outreach that was involved. Newsletters, media releases, and the City's web site were utilized to provide the latest information and to solicit public input throughout the development of the plan. Local resident, commuter, business owner, and property owner input received was very valuable in shaping the final adopted plan. Additionally, public input was solicited during the October 2014 City Council meeting where a preliminary MTP was presented. Comments received during that meeting lead to modifications to the preliminary MTP. Also in October 2014, the City participated in the community's first "Transportation Forum" held at the GVTC Auditorium. The revised preliminary MTP was presented and additional public input was garnered over the next several months. All of the public input received was utilized to develop the final MTP.

The Final MTP was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council during a joint public meeting on February 3, 2015. This meeting allowed for additional public input and any final edits to the proposed plan. The MTP was formally adopted by the City Council on March 10, 2015 during a public City Council meeting.

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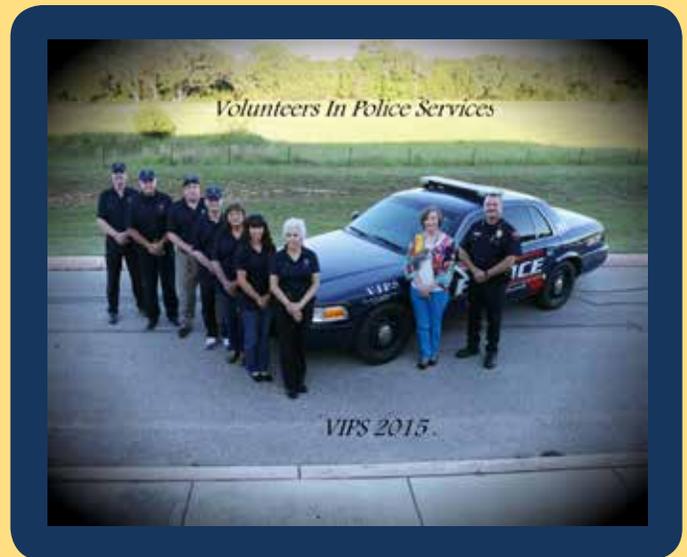
VOLUNTEERS IN BULVERDE

Although volunteerism has been around since the pioneer days of America, it definitely reached a modern peak in 2001 following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Many Americans were looking for volunteer opportunities to assist, especially in the days and months that followed 9/11. There are many great local volunteer opportunities right here in Bulverde including serving on the City Council, Volunteers in Police Services (better known as "VIPS"), the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), the newly formed Zoning Board of Adjustment (BoA), and many others. The City would like to take the opportunity to recognize one of those citizens who has volunteered their time so graciously over the years, and in multiple arenas for the City.

Greg Den Herder is one of those volunteers who has dedicated countless hours of selfless service to the Bulverde community and the City. Greg has lived in Bulverde for the past 14 years and has been volunteering for the City for the past four years. He has served on the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Home Rule Charter Commission, and was one of the first members of the VIPS program, which also makes him a part of our Project 365 for National Night Out. Greg is no stranger to serving, as he first served his country as an Officer in the United States Army and then 35 years as a civilian with the Air Force. Greg has held various assignments at the Air Staff, major commands and activity levels, with many of those positions being in Washington D.C., and even at the US Air Force Headquarters. Greg spent his last years with the Air Force at Randolph AFB, where he retired as a member of the Senior Executive Service. Greg, who is a member of Bulverde United Methodist Church, is married with a daughter and five grandchildren.

While there are many volunteers here in Bulverde who deserve to be recognized, but we felt the need to appropriately recognize Greg before he leaves town. Yes, unfortunately for us, Greg will be moving out of state soon to be closer to family, and we wanted to make sure he was commended for his tremendous volunteer service to the Bulverde community. Job well done Mr. Den Herder! We appreciate all that you have done for the City of Bulverde and the community; you will be missed. We wish you all the best in your new endeavors up north. Stay warm!

Of course, we have many volunteer opportunities available here at the City of Bulverde and within the Police Department. If you are interested in serving your community in this capacity, please send an email to vipsapplication@ci.bulverde.tx.us with your name, address, and a contact number and someone will gladly assist you.



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A Cause Worth Supporting and Celebrating

Denim & Diamonds



Yesteryear: Denim & Diamonds (because that's what Mr. Knibbe called it) began in 2010 and was an instant success in that it was lively and entertaining and raised money for critical equipment. Over the years, you and our community have made us feel very supported with your enthusiastic participation. It is hard to believe that what started out as a fundraiser for Fire & EMS lifesaving equipment with two pet longhorns, turned out to be a beautiful and awe-inspiring affair with many surprises!

The 6th Annual Denim & Diamonds

When: Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Where: Sharon & Chuck Knibbe's beautiful and historic Knibbe Ranch in Spring Branch
Preview this phenomenal ranch with this fly-over: <https://youtu.be/27txoy8i8co>

Why: The why is really about the men and women who work for us who save lives and property daily. The medics and firefighters all have something in common—they love our community, and they share their hearts and a high level of skill for all of our benefits. But Denim & Diamonds is still a fundraiser hiding in a wonderful shindig, and again this year, the funds raised will have a dual purpose.

#1. Top skills need top equipment. The majority of funds raised will go to purchase Air packs for firefighting. The packs are needed to replace ones which will soon be out of compliance and for our newly organized professionally trained volunteer group. This is an apparatus for firefighters to wear on their backs to provide breathable air and consists of a high pressure tank, in a backpack-like structure, face mask and voice amp. Each Air pack costs \$5,844.14.

#2. For the second year, a small part of your donation for the 6h Annual Denim & Diamonds will be applied to the Legacy Campaign called the Chief's Circle. Only the interest out of Chief'sCircle is ever expended. A legacy gift of any size can positively impact our community for years to come.

Ticket are available for purchase by visiting our website at: <http://bit.ly/1inF90x>.

This will be a wonderful evening with an amazing group of friends and a cause worth supporting and celebrating.

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FIRE HYDRANTS AND WATER NEEDS FOR FIGHTING FIRES IN OUR RURAL AREA

Water is a critical resource in firefighting, both for suppressing structural fires and for defending structures from possible wildland fires. Large cities use the public water supply for fire protection. Large fire hydrants connected to large-diameter water pipes deliver the necessary flowrate for fighting fires. The water stored in the community reservoirs and water towers is often adequate without disrupting service.

Small community water supplies, however, may sometimes be challenging for fighting fires. As most may have observed, fire hydrants around and within Comal County are sometimes far and few between. Fortunately, small communities have several options available for the development of water reserves for fire protection. For example:

- Large and high hazard sites can construct elevated water storage tanks.
- Natural and constructed bodies of water, such as stock tanks, swimming pools, and our own Guadalupe River can serve as additional emergency sources of water.

Your Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS organization is well equipped to bring water to emergency situations in a variety of ways. First, the fire engines carry some water; one with 750 gallons and the other has 1,000 gallons. Our three brush trucks also carry approximately 500 gallons each. The main water carrier, though, is Tanker 60. Tanker 60 carries approximately 2,200 gallons and has some firefighting capability, although its primary

purpose is water supply. During firefighting operations, the prime duty of Tanker 60 is to run water shuttles from a water source to the engines fighting the fire. As mentioned earlier, while fighting a fire, departments will look to those unique natural resources of water, and Tanker 60 has the capability to load from a standing water source, such as a swimming pool or stock tank.

Engine 60 Fire Pump is rated at 1,250 gallons per minute at a pressure of 150 PSI, so you can see at that discharge rate, it does not take long to empty its 750 gallons. This is where the assistance of other tankers is needed, and they are provided by neighboring fire departments with whom we have mutual aid agreements.

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS has reliable water sources at our disposal to address the firefighting needs of our community.

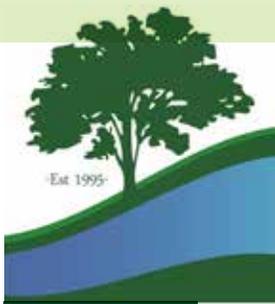


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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

September 16

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch
Sponsored By: Money Mailer Centex
12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

September 19

Bulverde Jubilee
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Location: Old Village of Bulverde
2367 Bulverde Road, Bulverde, TX

September 24

Business Networking Mixer
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Sponsored by G.J. Gardner Homes
Location: 1738 River Way, Spring Branch, TX
Member Only Event

September 26

DEA Drug Take Back Day
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Drop Off Locations: Bulverde City Hall,
30360 Cougar Bend &
BSB Fire & EMS Main Station, 353 Rodeo Drive

October 3

Fall Chamber Market Day
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Corner of Hwy 46 and Bulverde Crossing
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
Vendors: Contact the Chamber for Booth Information

October 17

Community Wide Shred Day
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Members can bring up to 20 bankers boxes for FREE
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Location: BSB Chamber of Commerce Office
121 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX

**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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The Buzz From the Garden

By: Members of the Bulverde Community Garden Committee

Butterflies and bees are both excellent pollinators and needed to make any garden thrive. The Community Garden recently applied for and received a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas to participate in the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program.

Our first step was having the 5'x8' bed built by Youth Serve of St. Joseph's Honey Creek Church. Seven youth and three adults participated in building the bed and preparing it for planting.

Monarch butterflies use certain milkweeds to be host plants (to lay their eggs) and certain plants to be their source of nectar. We planted native antelope horn milkweed, tropical milkweed, and common milkweed as their host plants. The nectar plants include Gregg's mistflower, Purple coneflower, Liatris or gayfeather, Maximilian sunflowers, Salvia farinacea, Frostweed, and Gomphrena fireworks. Most of these plants are native and can provide nectar to the monarchs during spring and fall migration.



Additionally, a solar water fountain has been placed next to the bed so that birds and butterflies have access to a water source. We've seen Queen and Black swallowtail butterflies enjoying the flowers already. Here's hoping the Monarchs will find us in the fall!

The Provisions plots have had a high yield this spring and summer. Over 150 pounds have been distributed. The Provisions plots are still buzzing with bees. Sweet basil, Thai basil, and lemon basil are flourishing. The bees are all over these plants. Eagle Scout, Logan Nowak plans to protect our bees as follows:

The stingless bees' primary goal is to pollinate. Recently, though, there has been a swift decline in the bee population, attributed to harmful insecticides. One way to stop the drastic fall of pollinators is a natural alternative: the bee condo. A bee condo is a rendering of recycled materials to house solitary non-stinging bees, harmless to people and naturally helpful to plants.

As a Troop 58 boy scout, my eagle project plan is to create a bee condo in the northeast corner of the Bulverde Community Garden, adjacent to the butterfly garden. The bees will encourage speedy growth for the fruits and vegetables, including those sown by the Bulverde Food Pantry. This will be accomplished with a simple, nature-inspired home for bees.

Here is a great recipe for all that basil growing in your garden.

Perfect Pesto

- 4 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup pine nuts, toasted
- 3 cups packed fresh basil leaves
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley, optional
- ½ cup olive oil
- Juice from one lemon, optional
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt, pinch or to taste



Combine garlic and pine nuts in the bowl of a food processor or blender. Process for 15 seconds. Add basil and parsley. With the processor running, slowly pour the olive oil and lemon juice in through the feeding tube and process until the pesto is smooth. Add the Parmesan cheese and process for 1 minute. Add salt to taste. Use right away or store in the refrigerator. Pesto may be frozen in ice cube trays for later use. Add a thin film of olive oil on top before freezing.

Source: *allrecipes*

If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please visit the Garden website at www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com or contact Joanne Hall at johall@gvtc.com. Donations gladly accepted. 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.

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Finding Forever Homes



By Carrye Franzel



There's a lot more to an animal shelter than temporary kenneling and feeding. Many arriving here get long-overdue veterinarian visits, treatments, and vaccinations. Some need extra help before being put up for adoption. Our volunteers play a key role, socializing

cats and dogs to help overcome fear and shyness—often the result of animals' prior experiences. Sometimes our reach goes beyond shelter boundaries to help an animal in need.

Tanner is a male lab-greyhound mix who arrived at Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) in December 2014. He was repeatedly passed over by shelter visitors looking to adopt. Why? He retreated to the back of his kennel run whenever visitors approached for a closer look. Tanner was shy unless someone took some time with him first. Sometimes he bounced off the cement walls of his run. Recently, lethargy and skin problems developed. We thought Tanner might improve with a break from the shelter. Lisa Frasch, trainer, offered to take him as a board-and-train candidate at Red Barn Kennels, where fewer dogs and more individual attention are the norm. Nine days after his transfer to Red Barn, Tanner was a different dog, one fully engaged in play with other dogs, a dog approaching to greet visitors. Gone were the stress-related behaviors and skin issues. It took a temporary change in environment for this dog to blossom into a great family pet prospect.

Gizmo's history with us is different. A male beagle mix, he was adopted as a puppy from BAHS six years ago. We first heard of him again when contacted by Harris County Animal Control after he was picked up as a stray. They had no response from the owner; the microchip scan linked him to BAHS. The dog would be euthanized for lack of space unless claimed. A volunteer made the round trip to Houston and back. Gizmo has returned to BAHS, looking for a truly forever home.

The crisis of pet overpopulation and overflowing shelters is greatest in the South and Southwest where homeless animals far exceed available homes. In other parts of the US, where a majority of pets are spayed and neutered and there are no large stray populations, there is a need for adoptable shelter animals.

Last year BAHS initiated out-of-state adoptions to tap into this additional resource for rehoming. Six of our dogs have found forever homes in the Pacific Northwest. This summer we worked with another organization to transport and adopt 14 puppies to Minnesota homes. Odds were high several would have remained with us well past the puppy stage had we not sent them out of state. We continue to explore new ways to expand the opportunities for homeless dogs and cats.

(*PUPDATE: Since this story was written, Tanner has found a forever home!)



Gizmo



Tanner

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COMAL COUNTY CORNER

NEW COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN BULVERDE

Scott Haag, Precinct 2 Commissioner

Dirt is moving next door to the Comal County satellite tax office on Cougar Bend in Bulverde, and soon people will be, too.

We broke ground August 19 on the new Bulverde satellite office. Thanks to those who came out to celebrate with us the beginning of a project that has been needed in western Comal County for a long time.

The new building will be 9,000 square feet and combine county services that currently are spread across multiple facilities: the Tax Assessor-Collector's Office, the Precinct 2 Constable's Office, and the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Office and courtroom. It also will include an employee from the County Clerk's Office.

That means residents from the Bulverde/Spring Branch area will have one place where they can register their vehicles; pay their tax bills; and access deeds, birth certificates, and other land and vital records, as well as take care of traffic tickets and other law-enforcement-related matters.

We're excited to finally offer these services in a larger building with adequate parking. It's no secret that Bulverde is growing, and Comal County is committed to making access to our services as convenient as possible for the expanding community west of New Braunfels.

The building itself, next door to the current tax office facility, is projected to be complete in January, with another month scheduled for the construction of the parking lot.

Thanks to all of you who have patiently waited for this project to begin, and thank you for your continued patience as we eagerly await its completion.



Pictured L to R: Mayor Bill Kraweitz, Cathy Talcott (tax assessor-collector), Bobbie Koepp (county clerk), County Judge Sherman Krause, Constable Mark Cheatum, Justice of the Peace Larry Shallcross

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Prior to joining the mortgage industry, Merrily was the Creative & Media Director at CrossBridge Community Church.

Merrily lives in the far north side of San Antonio with her husband Randy. She has 4 sons, 2 daughters, and 6 grandchildren scattered across the United States.

When away from the office, Merrily enjoys women's ministry at her church, Crossfit and poker.

Contact Merrily directly at merrily@alamolending.com .



Fall Chamber Market Day

Saturday, October 3, 2015

10 am - 4 pm

Vendors & Artisans featuring jewelry, gifts, decor, food items, pet adoptions, raffle prizes & kids activities.

Community Shred Day

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Chamber Members • 9:00 am - Noon

Up to 20 Bankers Boxes Free

Non-Chamber Members • 10:00 am - Noon

Up to 10 Bankers Boxes for \$2 Per Box

Juried Art Show at BAAC Gallery



The Bulverde Area Arts Center is currently showing the works of local artists in their Fall Juried Art Exhibit. The exhibit opened Friday, August 21 with a full house of enthusiastic visitors. The artwork on display includes oils, watercolors, pastels, acrylics and other mediums.

The juried exhibit will run through October 10. The BAAC Gallery is located at 2355 Bulverde Road in the Village, across from Mike's in the Village. The gallery is open Fridays and Saturdays from 4 pm to 8:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. The Bulverde Area Arts Center is a 501 (c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Art by Buzz Heye



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A Fashionable Day at the Center

It was fashions galore at the annual Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center's Dress to Impress Style Show and Luncheon. Guests enjoyed unique, beautiful tablescapes, were treated to a delicious lunch, and viewed the latest styles. The table hostesses provided a variety of themes ranging from "Christmas" to "Who Let the Dogs Out" to "Spurs Basketball." Their creativity was enjoyed by everyone. Guests were entertained by the music of Breeze Premier Music Ensemble while dining.

Models of all ages wore specially selected fashions provided by Dress Barn at the Village at Stone Oak and make-up courtesy of Pat Rodriguez (Mary Kay). Styles included casual, business, and special occasion wear. Gentlemen from our local fire department were on hand to escort our models.

The gift basket raffle is a favorite of this annual event. Lovely baskets filled with décor, jewelry, wine, gift cards, etc. are donated by community members and businesses. Everyone waited anxiously until the end of the style show to find out if they would walk away a winner. Thirty winners were announced.

The annual Style Show and Luncheon is by far the center's most popular fundraising event. This year was the largest to date, with 23 decorated tables, 30 raffles, and 225 attendees. Kathleen Banse, who has been a table hostess over the years, said "This was the most fun I've had at the Style Show." Community support of this fundraiser is absolutely amazing. It is easy to see why this event is sold out each year. If you are interested in being a hostess, model, sponsor or basket donor, please call the office at 830-438-3111. Check our website, bsbac.com, for next year's date to be announced. Buy your tickets early and join the fun!



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Getting to Know the Bulverde Community Park Association



DID YOU KNOW...

The Bulverde Community Park Association (BCPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan group of Comal County citizens dedicated to improving the lives of all Bulverde and Spring Branch area residents through the preservation, expansion, proper maintenance, management, and safety of local public parks, recreational venues, sport fields, and open spaces. Since our founding in 2001, we have been committed to ensuring greater access to public recreation opportunities and equal access for people of all physical abilities. We work closely with the Bulverde City Council and city staff via the Friends of the Parks to involve citizens and community groups throughout the greater Bulverde area while encouraging ecologically and environmentally sound use of the area's open areas, as well as increasing public interest and awareness of park advocacy.

The Mission of the BCPA is to significantly increase the amount and effectiveness of personal, business, City, State, and Federal funding, to foster greater government accountability for recreational resources, and to achieve the equitable distribution of park services.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

The BCPA is actively raising funds to purchase shade structures for areas of the Bulverde Community Park currently void of any shade? We plan to bring shade to the splash pad and new playground structure recently installed near the north pavilion but, SHADE IS EXPENSIVE so we need your help! Because the BCPA is a 501(c)(3) corporation, your donations are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

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Good Through Nov. 25, 2015

Honeycreek Festival Where Oom-Pah Meets Tex-Mex

St. Joseph will be hosting the Honeycreek Festival, Labor Day Sunday, September 6, 2015 from 10 am to 5 pm. In addition, for the first time, a concert will take place in the main church from 4 pm to 7 pm. The festival tradition began as an annual parish gathering and homecoming, and has quickly become a Hill Country community festival that blends German heritage foods and Tex-Mex fun. All area residents and their families are encouraged to attend the festival for food, craft booths, games, music, silent auction, live auction, raffle prizes, and much more. A big draw every year is the traditional German all-you-can-eat pot roast meal for only \$10 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. So, come on hungry cowboys, belly up, Oma wants to feed you her famous German potato salad and roast! Tex-Mex and other food booths will also be available. Festival admission is free and concert tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.



Native Landscape Certification Workshop

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is presenting a Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level 1 workshop on September 26, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 Access Road, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133. NLCP offers training about the sustainable use of native plants in the urban environment. This program will educate members of the Society, the public, and landscape professionals about native plants; provide credentials for landscape professionals; promote the use of native plants in residential, public and commercial landscapes; and will increase awareness and stewardship of the natural Texas plant communities. This Level 1 workshop is an introductory course and will cover the value of including native plants in landscapes; teach the differences between sustainable and conventional development; explore Central Texas vegetation and soil types; and teach 45 native Texas plants recommended for the landscape. CEU hours are available for landscape professionals, and optional certificate of competency available to all registrants. For more info and to register, browse online: <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas, Lindheimer Chapter.

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SEPTEMBER 2015

Bulverde
and other local events

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			BAAC mtg 6:30p (Art Center) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.) Planning & Zoning 6:30p	Juried Art Show Opens (BAAC)	
6 Honeycreek Festival 10:00a (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.)	7 Labor Day CISD HOLIDAY	8 City Council 6:30p	9	10 City Council Public Hearing 6:30p Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11 Patriot Day 9/11	12
13	14 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library)	15 City Council Public Hearing 6:30p Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	16 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	17 BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodco Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodco Dr.)	18	19 Bulverde Jubilee 10:00a (Downtown Bulverde)
20	21 International Day of Peace Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	22 Friends of the Park 6:00p	23 Fall Begins Mayor's Town Hall meeting 6:00p (Library)	24 Bulverde Lions 7:30p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	25 CISD Holiday: Fair Day	26 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park) Drug Take Back 10:00a (City Hall & BSB EMS)
27	28	29	30	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		

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)Cougar Bend)				1	2	3
				Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.) Writer's Workshop 1:00 (Library)		Chamber Market Day 10:00a (Bealls ctr. Hwy. 46)
4	5 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	6 National Night Out	7 BAAC mtg 6:30p (Art Center) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	8 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	9	10
11 Juried Art Show Ends (BAAC)	12 Columbus Day	13 City Council 6:30p 10:00a Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library)	14	15 BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodco Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodco Dr.)	16 Watercolor Opening Reception 5:30p (BAAC)	17 Chamber Shred Day 9:00a (121 Bulverde Xing)
18	19 Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	20 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	21 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	22 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	23	24 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
25	26	27 Friends of the Park 6:00p	28	29	30 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	31 Halloween