

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 3 Issue 5 ☆ May 2016

THE
FRONT PORCH
News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

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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

Benjamin Franklin once said “believe none of what you hear, and only half of what you see.” This may seem a little extreme, but emphasizes a good point. It is very satisfying to dispel fallacies with fact.

I recently saw a Facebook post stating that Bulverde is nothing more than a “speed trap.” It’s funny that every person that gets caught speeding (breaking the law) suddenly thinks the community they got caught in is a “speed trap.” This person claimed to have been written a speeding citation for driving 5 miles over the posted speed limit. I was curious and skeptical, so I asked BPD staff to look into the issue and provide some statistics about the typical and average speeding citations that are issued within the City limits. After reviewing and discussing the stats, it seems extremely unlikely that this person was given a citation for only 5 mph over the posted limit. It is far more likely that they received a warning for a first violation, and then may have gotten a citation for a subsequent stop when

they were speeding significantly faster (10+ mph) more than the posted limit.

Good record keeping is important in law enforcement. BPD has records of every incident since the department was created a few years after the City incorporated. It helps determine trends and where to focus resources. It also helps to set the record straight.

BPD rarely issues citations for motorists traveling under 10 miles over the limit unless there is a history of repeat traffic violations. Most traffic stops where a citation is issued have drivers that were traveling, on average, a brisk 18 miles over the speed limit. Sorry, but if you’re going that fast, you deserve a written reminder to slow down. You’re jeopardizing all of our safety.

It amazes me how many people just disregard paying traffic citations. Unfortunately, Bulverde has a large number of unpaid citations, as most cities do. Did you know that a failure to appear at municipal court or pay your citation results in a warrant for your arrest? Bulverde and most other jurisdictions upload all warrants into a statewide database. As law enforcement personnel across the state check license plates against this database, those with unpaid citations may risk a trip to jail. DPS will also refuse to renew your driver’s license due to unpaid fines and citations.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

Many of our traffic stops result in warrant arrests. It's not worth going to jail and having your vehicle towed and impounded for something as minor as an unpaid traffic fine, not to mention the extra fees that will be associated for not paying in a timely fashion.

You would also be shocked to learn how many routine traffic stops result in solving crimes and picking up criminals who have outstanding warrants that are passing through our community. It must be very rewarding for the officer to find out they just stopped someone who is wanted on unrelated felony charges. Routine traffic stops help keep dangerous criminals off our streets and out of our Bulverde community.

A visible police presence is a huge deterrent to crime. To assist in this effort, the City of Bulverde is in the second year of operating a community-oriented policing program called VIPs: Volunteers In Police Services. Basically, area volunteers undergo a background check and receive a thorough training course, and then have the opportunity to patrol the neighborhoods and businesses of the Bulverde area in a retired BPD cruiser to assist the police department in a strict observe-and-report capacity. These volunteers do not make any traffic stops or respond to any emergency calls, but are a huge help to our community in providing a tremendous enhancement to the visibility of our police presence.

Bulverde has a top notch Police Department, and they truly make our community a safer place to be. Statistics show that our City has lower crime rates than the unincorporated areas just outside of our City limits. Apparently, criminals don't like to target areas with a strong police presence. That strong presence also results in phenomenal emergency response times. When you call the police in an emergency, every second counts.

We have also managed to consistently maintain, or lower, the accident rate on Hwy 46 and 281 over the years, even though traffic counts are up. This enhanced safety for you and your loved ones is attributed to a commitment towards rigorous traffic safety enforcement by BPD. Be neighborly folks; just slow down.

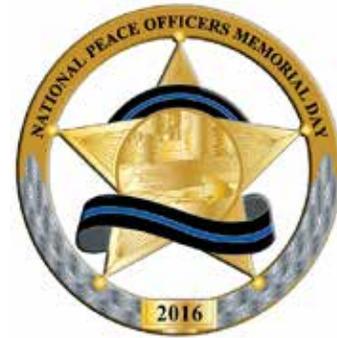
Next time you see one of one of the fine officers of the Bulverde Police Department, tell them how good a job they are doing. They deserve it.

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May is a special month for thousands of peace officers and their families all across the United States. In 1962, President Kennedy designated May 15 as National

Peace Officer Memorial Day, with the calendar week of the 15th as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. This year, National Police Week will be recognized May 15th through May 21st.

As of this writing, 30 peace officers across the nation have given their lives in the line of duty. Although that is down just a bit from 2015, the cause of death is reason for alarm. So far this year, 18 of those 30 deaths have been by gunfire, a statistic that is up 100% from last year.

Currently there are over 900,000 peace officers in the United States serving communities across the Nation. Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1791, over 20,700 law enforcement personnel have been killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, Texas leads that list, losing 1,682 officers, with the most recent being Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Jeffrey Nichols who was killed in a motor vehicle crash March 26th.

As in the past, the Bulverde Police Department is planning a ceremony to honor those and their families who have made that ultimate sacrifice. Every member of the police department attends the ceremony and are encouraged to invite their families. Traditionally, other city employees, council members, and the Mayor also attend. As always, the public is invited to attend—this is your community and your police department. The event will be held in front of City Hall on Thursday, May 19th at 5:30 pm. Regardless of where you live, please support your local law enforcement and their families, as these men and women are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect your communities. City Hall is located at 30360 Cougar Bend.



OFFICER SHADDOCK AND THE BPD D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

The Bulverde Police Department was founded in 2004 and shortly thereafter began working with Comal ISD campuses in the community to provide bike rodeo and career day events. Over the years, this relationship has flourished with additional career day events, mentorship programs, student safety training, educator in-service training, etc. Currently there are about 10,000 students who attend class every day within a 5-mile radius of the Bulverde Police Department.

In the summer of 2015, the City of Bulverde and Comal ISD solidified a partnership for the Bulverde Police Department to reintroduce a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program at four local elementary campuses in the community. As a result, about 450 elementary students were able to engage in a D.A.R.E. program during the 2015–2016 school year. Previous to this new partnership, those four schools were the only



elementary schools in Comal ISD that did not have a D.A.R.E. program.

As a result of this partnership, the Bulverde Police Department needed a D.A.R.E. Officer for the program. Officer Mike Shaddock was selected and has done an outstanding job. Officer Shaddock spent about three years on patrol with BPD and had just recently been selected to fill a different position within the agency when the D.A.R.E. opportunity was created. Officer Shaddock was very happy in his role with BPD at the time, and was a bit skeptical when initially asked about the new D.A.R.E. position. It didn't help that he had heard the required D.A.R.E. training was rather demanding. After some convincing, Officer Shaddock agreed to take on the new assignment, and the following weekend he was on his way to Louisiana for national D.A.R.E. training. It wasn't until after he left that BPD learned the Louisiana D.A.R.E.

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5)

program was the toughest D.A.R.E. training in the nation. Officer Shaddock took on the challenge, giving it his all, and graduated at the top of his class. We knew all along the right man had been selected for the job.

Since then, Officer Shaddock has excelled in his new assignment, teaching the D.A.R.E. program to more than 450 fifth grade Comal ISD students in his first year. Officer Shaddock also presents additional D.A.R.E. training to several hundred students in younger elementary grades above and beyond what is standard for the D.A.R.E. program. BPD has also been able to expand our student mentorship program that was started about 8 years ago with some great results.



BPD recently received an email from a counselor at one of the campuses where Officer Shaddock mentors. In part, it said that a young man who Officer Shaddock regularly mentors met a milestone of becoming a mentor to a younger student (while the counselor monitors). Upon completing the

mentoring session, the counselor commented on what a great job he had done making the younger student feel excited about learning, and his knack for making her feel "smart." He replied, "You know how I learned to do that? Officer Shaddock taught me. That's how me makes me feel about myself." What a wonderful result for a job well done by Officer Shaddock! It's comments like these that make it all worthwhile.



Officer Shaddock joined the Bulverde Police Department in March of 2011, coming to us from the Blanco Police Department, and we're sure glad to have him on our team. At a recent City Council meeting, Mike was recognized for his 5-year anniversary with the PD. Mike is a born and raised Texan, graduating from MacArthur High School. Mike is married to his wife Kerri and they have 4 boys—Mikey, Criss, Gabriel, and Eric. Mike lives in the community and is vested in continuing to make the Bulverde area a great place to live. The Bulverde Police Department, along with Officer Shaddock, are committed to reaching out with a positive message to as many local children as we can, as we firmly believe today's children are tomorrows leaders.



Hill Country Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

20845 TX-46 West, Spring Branch, TX. 78070
(Between Bulverde HEB and Spring Branch Middle School)
10:30am Sunday worship service with open communion each week.
Children's Church each Sunday and also a staffed nursery.

Saturday, May 14th, 9:00am-4:00pm.
Hill Country Christian Church
Community Rummage & Craft Sale
Email: lutzcal@gvtc.com for information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016



God's AMAZING Animals

July 18, 19, 20 - 6:00-8:30pm

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Bulverde Lions Club Donates to the 100 Club



Bulverde Police Chief Gary Haecker looks on as Bulverde Lions Club President Geoffrey Young presents a check for \$500 to Judd Earley of the 100 Club of Comal County. Founded in 2001, the 100 Club of Comal

County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of families of public safety providers who have fallen in the line of duty in Comal County. For more information about this organization, visit their website at <http://100clubofcomalcounty.org>



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The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation awarded a grant of \$26,960.00 to the Bulverde Police Department to be used towards the purchase of four Motorola multi-band radios, which will assist with interoperability among first responders. Representatives from the Bulverde PD and the City of Bulverde were on hand at the Firehouse Subs in New Braunfels for the presentation of the grant check. Pictured here are Franchisee Jaimie Armstrong, General Manager Kaylee Armstrong, Bulverde PD Lieutenant Larry Rakoski, General Manager Nick Perez, Bulverde PD Chief Gary Haecker, and Bulverde City Manager E.A. Hoppe.



Chief Haecker and Mayor Krawietz introduced Officers Chris Ahumada and Jacob Clark to City Council. Officers Ahumada and Clark are two of the newest members of the Bulverde PD.

FINGER PRINTING LESSON



In early March, Girl Scout Troop #1064 visited the Bulverde Police Department for a hands-on lesson and demonstration about fingerprinting. The Junior-level scouts, all in 4th and 5th grade, were working on achieving their official Detective Badge. Detective Richard Spears and Officer Kristopher Greenhill spent time with the troop, teaching them about the unique qualities of fingerprints, how to dust for, lift, and identify different shapes of fingerprints. The scouts got to use real police equipment to practice dusting for fingerprints on various surfaces, learning which surfaces were better (or worse) for holding on to fingerprints. The scouts were also given the opportunity to have their own fingerprints taken and placed on a Child Safe card to give to their parents. The Bulverde PD welcomes all opportunities to interact with the children and youth in the community, to develop a positive rapport and to educate kids about law enforcement and the officers who serve the community.



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I will be discontinuing my private practice at Primary Care and Specialty Clinic of Bulverde on May 12, 2016.

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Your medical records can be transferred to a new physician of your choice, after a **medical records release form is signed and received by the clinic no later than May 12, 2016. You may also pick up your records at the clinic no later than May 12, 2016.**

After this date, your records may be obtained from Kidney and Hypertension Specialist at 315 N San Saba, Suite 102, San Antonio TX 78224, call 210-277-1418 or fax 210-277-1458.

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I wish you continued health and wellness.*

Sincerely,

Jeff D. Ethridge, M.D



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A Fallen Hero Who Represents Many



Ten years ago, Bulverde-area resident Lance Corporal Luke B. Holler, a young marine, paid the ultimate price while serving our country in the Anbar Province of Iraq. Luke was only 21 years old.

LCPL Holler was one of the 823 American service personnel fatalities in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006. The number of soldiers lost in that particular conflict alone totalled 4,496 between the years 2003 to the present*. Luke's sacrifice, and that of his family, represents the enormous dedication and commitment that our service men and women have to the United States and to those our military protects on a daily basis. (*Source: <http://icasualties.org/>)



As American citizens, it has become customary to honor all military personnel who have lost their lives while serving in our Armed Forces. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is

a national day of remembrance for those who have died in service to the United States of America. Initiated in the late 1860s, it was declared by military leaders as a day to honor the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. Eventually, the day became an opportunity to pay respects to all fallen American soldiers from all military conflicts.

As a means to honor our local hero Luke, and to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of his sacrifice for our country, May 30th—which is both Luke Holler's birthday and the national observation of Memorial Day—has been designated by Mayoral Proclamation as *Lance Corporal Luke B. Holler Day* in the City of Bulverde. Luke's parents, Ruth and John Holler, were in attendance at the April City Council meeting during which Mayor Krawietz provided the proclamation.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United States of America has always depended on the selfless sacrifice of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces to protect and preserve our cherished way of life; and

WHEREAS, a member of our community, Luke B. Holler, rose to this challenge and honorably served in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal in the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve; and

WHEREAS, at certain times of grave crisis or urgent national need, some of service members have been called upon to lay down their lives in defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2006, Lance Corporal Holler fulfilled his commitment to his Country by sacrificing his life with honor and courage before the enemies of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the grateful people of the City of Bulverde wish to honor and laude the life, service, and sacrifice of Lance Corporal Holler;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Krawietz, Mayor of the City of Bulverde, Texas, do proclaim May 30, 2016 as:

LANCE CORPORAL LUKE B. HOLLER DAY

in the City of Bulverde, and encourage all citizens of the City to take a moment on said day to acknowledge and honor the contribution of Lance Corporal Holler to the peace, prosperity, and dignity of our Nation, our State, and our City.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City to be affixed this 12th day of April, 2016.



Memorial 5K Walk/Run

As Memorial Day draws near and most American make plans to enjoy the long holiday weekend, it is important to remember what the true intent of Memorial Day is—to honor those who died while in service to the United States. As a way to honor and remember Luke, the Holler family is hosting the **Luke Holler Memorial 5K Walk/Run** on Saturday, May 28th at the Bulverde Community Park. Luke's mother Ruth describes the event and invites all to participate, "On the 10 year anniversary of Luke's sacrifice, we commemorate this Memorial run in memory of our fallen heroes. Luke was a fun loving Recon Marine, and we hope you will experience that in this fun run for a cause."

All proceeds from the run will be donated to the Recon and Sniper Foundation. To learn more about them, go to reconsniperfoundation.org. Register for the run at athleteguild.com. Race day registration begins at 7:00 a.m., and the race starts at 8:00 a.m. The Bulverde Community Park is located at 29815 Bulverde Lane, 78163.



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COMAL COUNTY CORNER

by: Bobbie Koepp

The big March 1 Texas primary election featured record-breaking turnout, but in Comal County we're not quite done yet!

Several races, including two with potentially significant local effects, will be decided Tuesday, May 24, in a runoff. Here's what you need to know about this election.

- The voter registration deadline was April 24. If you're registered but did not vote in the March 1 primary, you can still vote in whichever party's runoff you like. However, you cannot switch parties. If you voted in the Democratic primary in March, you cannot vote in the Republican runoff this month.
- Early voting will be just one week long, May 16–20. Like in March, voting in the Bulverde area will be at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Public Library, 358 Bulverde Crossing. Early voting also will take place at the Comal County Elections Office, 178 E. Mill St., New Braunfels; the CRRC Building, 1909 FM 2673, Sattler; and Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge. Early voting will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all four locations that week, except Wednesday, May 18, in Garden Ridge, when it closes at 4 p.m.

- Polling places for the runoff are determined by the political parties, and will be different on May 24 than they were on March 1. In the Bulverde area, precincts 102, 106, and 405 will vote at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Public Library, and precincts 204 and 206 will vote at Bulverde City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all locations throughout the county.

- The election will feature the top two vote-getters from any races in which no candidate received more than 50% of the vote.

The Republican ballot includes races for the Texas Railroad Commission and the Court of Criminal Appeals, and, of special importance for Comal County, it includes District 73 state representative runoff and the county sheriff runoff.

For the Democrats, only one race is on the ballot, featuring two candidates for railroad commissioner.

You can get all of the early voting and Election Day times and locations, as well as sample ballots for each party, on the Comal County Elections website, votecomal.com. We'll see you at the polls on May 24!

Bobbie Koepp is the Comal County Clerk, which includes serving as the county's elections administrator.

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Pieper's Settlement:

*This excerpt from **Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas** by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann is the final installment in the series of excerpts recounting the history and development of Pieper's Settlement. The Front Porch News thanks Ms. Anderson-Lindemann for allowing us to reprint sections from her book. Copies of the book can be obtained from the author: call (830) 228-5245 or email to springbranchbrenda@gvtc.com.*

August and Johann Pieper had 8 children, all born in this homestead. 1) Mina Pieper was born 13 Jun 1852 on her father's birthday. 2) Augusta Pieper, born 12 Aug 1854, married Anton Friesenhahn after his first wife died, the late Christine (geb Acker). Augusta raised his children but she herself had none. 3) Lina Pieper, born 23 Mar 1855, married Peter Lex, the stonemason. They had 6 children and adopted another. They lived on their farm and ranched in Comal Co., as now restored by Col. Egon R. Tausch and known as Still Water Ranch. After Mr. Lex died Lina moved to Boerne and owned a nursing home for the sick called the Lex Sanitarium. 4) Wilhelm Pieper, born 23 Mar 1856, married Minna Rhinehart. They had 7 children. He was a mule skinner and freighted out of Fort Concho, San Antonio. 5) Fredrick Pieper, born 26 Nov 1858, married Augusta Ahrens. They had 5 children. First they lived on the Pieper Place, then moved to MacDona in Bexar Co. for 11 years, then to Beeville for 3 years, then to Floresville, Wilson Co. These were my grandparents: their second daughter Elizabeth married Paul Schulze, and I am their child, Lillian Schulze. I married Oscar Schneider and reside in San Antonio. 6) Emma, born 18 Jan 1861, married Otto Wehe. They lived at Anhalt, Comal Co., farmed and had 8 children. 7) Hermann Pieper, born 14 Feb 1863, married Helena Uecker. They lived on the

Pieper Place. He farmed all his life and they had 3 children. The boy died as a baby, Hulda never married but lived on the Pieper Place until she died in 1975. Thelka married Edward Wesenberg and still lives in San Antonio. 8) Sophie Pieper, born 20 Mar 1865, married Gustave Uecker. They farmed at Hye, the little community that has a close association with the late President Lyndon Johnson. They had 7 children. All the Pieper children attended Adolph Schlamues' school in the community. The school was consolidated with Bulverde School.

The years passed and life went on beside the Cibolo, upon this land that no one wanted. Pieper sold his land contract to John O. Meusebach for 10 cents an acre, signed on 2 May 1853. But still he never made application for the 160 acres of land he had settled on. Ten years had now gone by and no one questioned it. Then one morning, two strangers rode up. August went out to greet them. They said they were government surveyors and were sent to survey the land for Mrs. Thomas J. Robinson, widow of a San Jacinto war hero. What a shock! August and his two friends saddled up and went---not to Comal or Bexar Co., but straight to Austin to see the Governor. Johann Kabelmacher, Heinrich Voges and August Pieper told their story to Governor Edward Clark, who had succeeded Gov. Sam Houston. They explained how they had worked for 10 years improving this land, building homes, clearing the fields, building rock fences, digging wells. But the Governor said, "I am sorry, but, I was not able to see all the way from here to Pieper's Settlement, and the maps shows this land is unclaimed. So it now belongs to Mrs. Robinson. I will suggest you go see Mrs. Robinson and try to buy the land from her." They did just that! Met with John Burlage, administrator of the Robinson estate, signed a deed in Travis Co. on 12 Sep 1861 to August Pieper, Heinrich Voges and Johann Kabelmacher for 640 acres for \$320 cash, as recorded in Bexar Co., vol. 34, pp 203 and 204, Thad W. Smith, County Clerk, Bexar Co. The donation Warrant No. 85 to Mrs. Thomas J. Robinson was signed 13 Oct 1860.

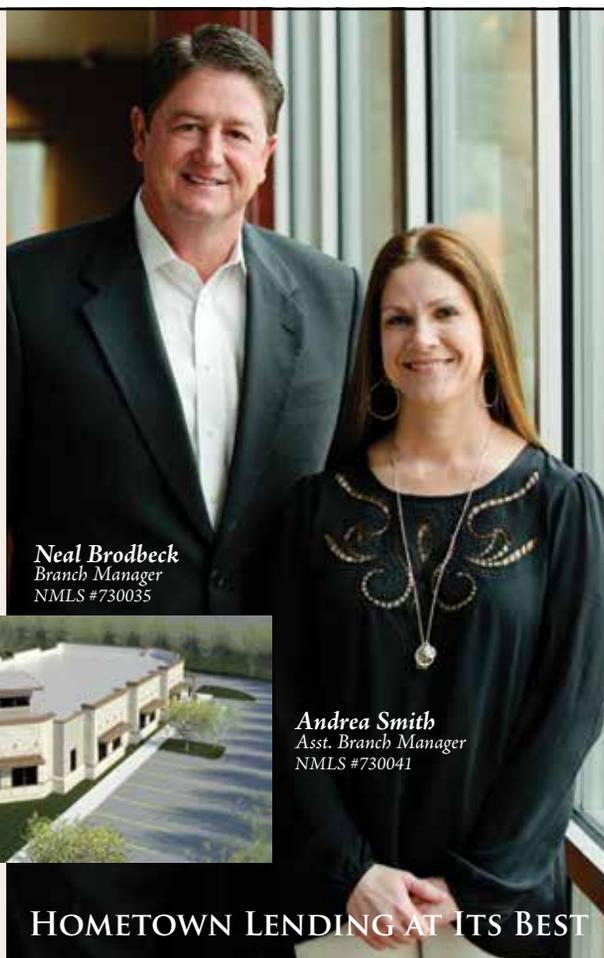


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Right here in Bulverde Spring Branch, teenagers ages 14–19 explore potential careers in first responder and public service. By explore, we mean they ride onboard ambulances, or fire apparatus to 911 calls, and help local police in their investigative duties. Sort of a “First Responder Club,” this organization is called J-Crew, and they meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire and EMS Central station at 353 Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch. Uniforms and equipment are provided through money J-Crew raises, and sponsorships from companies like Service King and DJL Ventures, the developer of Singing Hills.

J-Crew is also known as Explorer Post 1700, and as such, J-Crew members learn leadership, develop physical and mental fitness, and acquire the tools to transition with a running start in careers or higher education. Not only do members learn valuable skills, they also serve their communities in meaningful and lifesaving ways, in a safe environment. Thanks to our association with the City of Bulverde Police department and Chief Gary Haecker and his officers, J-Crew members can learn about investigating an accident, white collar crime, use of technology in investigations, crime scene investigation and more.

J-Crew members are known for their assistance with many community events such as the Bulverde Jubilee. They also play important roles as actor victims so that first responders can practice for National Registry exams. They have helped Firefighters construct ramps for Seniors, and completed many other beneficial community service projects.

J-Crew is an eye-opening, learning experience, which provides members with a first-hand look at the daily and often heroic life of a firefighter/EMT and a police officer. We invite you to attend a Wednesday night meeting for more information. Check out their Facebook page: J-Crew



J Crew attending ladder training



CSI evidence gathering session



J Crew member in timed race putting on Bunker gear

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The Commissioners of Emergency Service District (ESD) #4

In last month's article, *What in the World is an ESD*, we explained how Emergency Services Districts are organized and how they operate. In the upcoming issues, we will introduce you to the leadership of each of the ESDs. This month will cover the Commissioners for ESD #4, and they are:

- President—Paul Graf
- Vice President—Bret Barnett
- Secretary—Josh Dean
- Treasurer—Deena Clausen
- Commissioner—Curtis Bremer



Paul Graf has served on the ESD #4 Board as secretary, and currently, as president. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and is also a director on the Pedernales Electric Co-op Board. Graf and his wife Debi are both native Texans and have lived in western Comal County in the Spring Branch area for over a decade.



Bret Barnett is a former Business Development Manager at Hewlett-Packard. Mr. Barnett's community charitableness extends beyond the ESD and he is serving on the Guadalupe River Association as the organization's president, and as president of his property owners association, River Pointe. Mr. Barnett has two children, both college graduates, one from Texas State and the other recently from UTSA.



Josh Dean is a lifelong Comal County resident, an 18-year veteran of law enforcement, and is currently employed as Director of Security at the San Antonio Water System. Josh learned the meaning of service to the community at an early age, growing up, Josh watched his father, grandmother, and uncle serve with the Bulverde Spring Branch EMS. Dean is married to Cassidy, a speech therapist for Northeast Independent School District.



Deena Clausen, and her husband, Ray and their family, have lived in Smithson Valley since 2006. Deena, a generous volunteer as well, serves on the executive committee of the board of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, covering Comal County and 20 surrounding counties. Ms. Clausen is a Certified Public Accountant with over

30 years of experience, and has been with Ernst & Young, LLP for 21 years, currently as an Audit Executive Director.



Curtis Bremer was born and raised in Smithson Valley, remaining on his family homestead to ranch. In addition to ranching, Mr. Bremer is a real estate appraiser with over 43 years of experience and generously donates his time to other civic organizations in Comal County. He assisted in the formation of the Spring Branch Volunteer Fire Department (SBVFD) in 1960 and has continued to serve Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services for over 55 years with distinction.

The Emergency Services Boards are led by some extremely qualified, experienced, and generous individuals. The position is strictly a volunteer one and citizens are fortunate to have these folks stepping forward to contract with top notch professionals who provide prompt and professional response to emergencies.

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- Cardinal Strategies, PLLC
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- Grace Bible Church
- Kevin Lueck / Team Mechanical of Texas
- LMD Architects PLLC. - Lorraine M. Dailey
- Office of Paul Taylor
- Semperfi of Texas, LLC
- Villa at Cibolo Chase

Renewing Members

- Acacia Medical Mission
- Brian & Carla Arndt
- Athletic Foundations
- Beach Consulting, PLLC
- Berkshire Hathaway Don Johnson Realtors
- Bulverde Area Arts Center
- Bulverde Area Humane Society
- Carter Irrigation
- CASA of Central Texas, Inc.
- China King
- Coldchain Technology Services, LLC
- Digital Expressions
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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

May 6

Leadercast

7:30 am to 3:30pm

Hosted by the Bulverde Spring Branch Leadership Program

Location: GVTC Auditorium

36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132

May 12

Business Networking Mixer

5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by Wonderfully Well Center for Personalized Medicine

Location: 2614 E Ramblewood, San Antonio, TX

Member Only Event

May 18

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored by Pat Rodriguez,
Mary Kay Independent Sales

12 Noon–1:00 pm

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

May 21

Community Wide Shred Day

Location: BSB Chamber Office

121 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX

10 am to 12 pm (Chamber Members 9:00am)

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

Community Shred Day

SATURDAY MAY 21, 2016

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Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach Honored with Golden Apple Award



Each year, the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) recognizes outstanding partner agencies with their Golden Apple Awards. The awards are given in eight categories: Food Pantry of the Year, Best All-Around Multi-Service, Children's Program, Senior Program, Client Services Partner, Nutrition Partner, and Individual Volunteer, and Group Volunteer. This year, Provisions Outreach received the Golden Apple Award for Food Pantry of the Year. This is a huge honor for Provisions.

Formerly known as The Bulverde Food Pantry, Provisions has been serving the Bulverde-Spring Branch community since 1991. Originally started as a cooperative community outreach by three local churches—Bulverde United Methodist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church—it has since grown to have eight sponsoring churches and the support of the local business community and individual donors.

Provisions has enjoyed its partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank for several years, and Provisions Executive Director Dora Baker is appreciative of the relationship that has been established between the two organizations. Since joining Provisions in early 2015,

Dora has spent much time at the SAFB, learning from the SAFB team about ways to improve operating procedures at Provisions and ways to improve the services provided to the clients. Apparently, the SAFB thinks that Dora and her team of amazing volunteers have made great strides, and saw fit to award the Golden Apple for Food Pantry of the Year!



In 2015, Provisions served 7,590 individuals, which is an average of 633 people per month. Almost all of these individuals live within the 78163 and 78070 zip codes, and of the total number, 2,861 of the clients served were 18 years of age or younger (hungry kids). These statistics illustrate the need that exists in this community. Provisions provides groceries and other goods and support services, including clothing vouchers for use at the Bulverde Thrift Store, nutrition and cooking information, and financial and job coaching (e.g., resume writing assistance). All services are provided by volunteers who lend their time and talent to the organization.

The Golden Apple Award is a distinct feather in the cap of this outstanding Bulverde-based service organization. Congratulations to Provisions Outreach for this much-deserved recognition!

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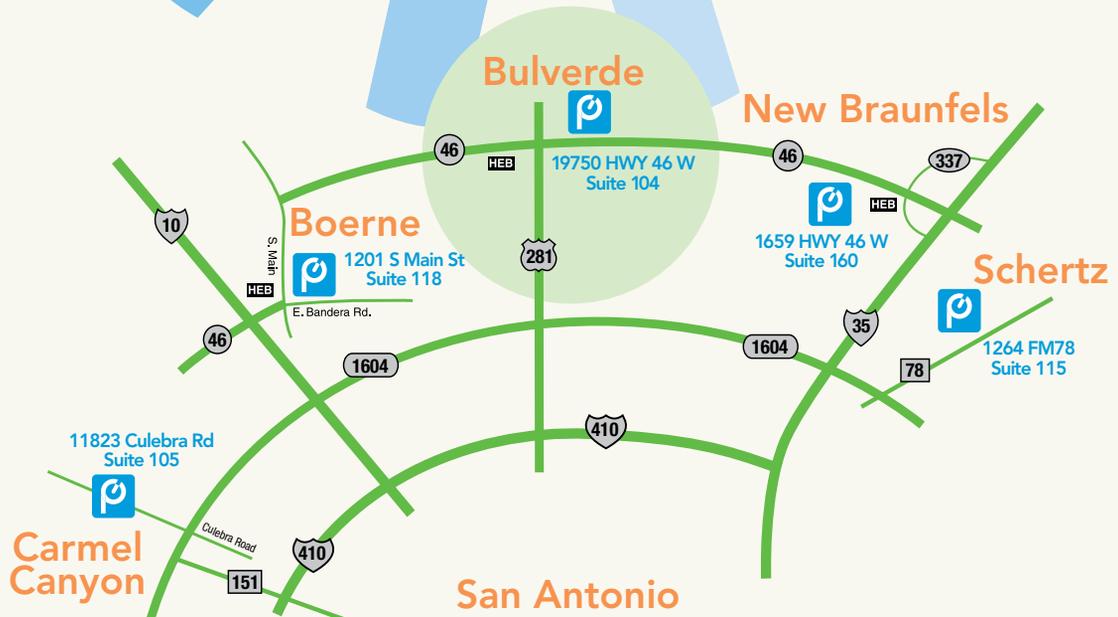
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BAAC Exhibits and News



During March, many of the BAAC artists began exhibiting their artwork at the invitation of Debbie Soelberg of the Bulverde Spring Branch Library. The genres range from every kind of medium. These unique works, by our own local artists, filled the Library hallways.

The Makery is graciously hosting four shows for BAAC this year, as well as featured artists periodically.

In May, The Makery will host artist Robert Pettigrew and feature his beautiful oil paintings.

In June, BAAC Members will hold another exhibit at The Makery from June 10-26.

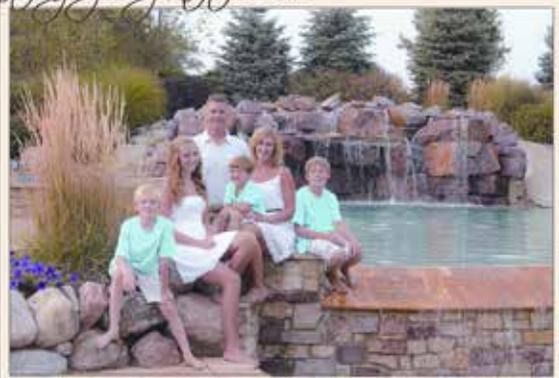
BAAC is looking for businesses that are interested in displaying our artwork. There are no costs involved and no sales expected. We have some tremendously talented artists who appreciate the exposure.

BAAC desires to add to our roster of 28 artists, so anyone feeling creative may want to explore our nonprofit association and heighten the flair for artistic expression in Bulverde.



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BAHS Pets of the Month



Bullet is a two year old male husky/heeler mix with a beautiful bi-color, short hair coat. Observed by a Good Samaritan being dumped, he and a doggie buddy were kept by the rescuer until space opened at BAHS. Bullet's buddy has a home now but Bullet is still waiting. He is great on a leash and

loves his people time. As a young, energetic dog, he will need a large fenced area to run or an owner with an active lifestyle. He's neutered, microchipped, and current on vaccinations.



Harper is a male domestic short hair cat, under two years of age. Harper was adopted as a kitten in November 2014, but returned in January 2016

when his owner could no longer adequately care for him. Harper is a sleek black kitty, very sweet and one who loves petting. He would be best suited in a home with one or two adults or older children. Harper is neutered, microchipped, and current on vaccinations.



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The Buzz From the Garden

Spring has sprung in the Bulverde Community Garden! Tomatoes, peppers, and beans are growing and cabbage, beets, carrots, and onions are ready for harvest. The pear tree is budding out; hopefully there will be a plentiful bounty this year.

The Garden Committee wants to thank the newest donors for their generous contributions: \$250.00 came from the Bulverde Garden Club and a \$100.00 donation was made by an anonymous supporter. Cragg's Do It Best also donated an abundance of seeds. The Garden continues to grow and thrive through the efforts of many volunteers and donors. Heather Swindall and her team of volunteers plant, tend, and harvest the garden plots dedicated to Provisions (our local food pantry). Last year, these plots had a yield of over 500 pounds of fresh produce. The Provision volunteers, as well as the rest of us, battle with unwanted weeds in the garden; fortunately, Heather has found a surprisingly simple remedy!



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 jothall@gvtc.com. Donations gladly accepted. Also, interested persons are invited to attend the Bulverde Community Garden Committee meeting on the second Monday of the month at 5:15pm at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center.

Salt: The Ultimate Weed Killer

By: Heather Swindall, Provisions Garden Volunteer

Every now and then, we all stumble upon something that makes gardening a little easier. This past summer I was told about salt. Yep, plain ol' table salt. While we use it to cook with, it has also been used for many years as a plant/weed killer.

As gardeners, we fight weeds every time we step foot into our gardens and sometimes think we can never win the battle. Well, salt is an inexpensive way to help ease this struggle. We don't suggest using it for a large area, just for those small garden beds that need some TLC.

Here is a salt recipe for an all-natural (no chemicals) way to combat those pesky weeds from www.gardenknowhow.com—

“You can add rock or table salt to water until it dissolves. Make a fairly weak mixture to start with—a 3:1 ratio of water to salt. You can increase the amount of salt daily until the salt begins to kill the target plant. Adding a little bit of dish soap and white vinegar helps with weed killing effectiveness. It lowers the surface tension of the water, which allows the salt solution to be absorbed by the plant.”

Be very careful not to damage the surrounding vegetation. Pour the mixture in the center of the plant (gardenknowhow.com suggests a funnel) and try not to splatter it (don't use a spray bottle). You can also water the surrounding plants to make sure the salt doesn't affect their root systems. Then stand back and watch the magic!

We use straight salt just before a heavy rain prediction on rock, driveway, and patio areas. These areas stay clear of weeds for months by using this method. Again, just take care regarding any surrounding vegetation that might be affected, as salt will kill and won't let it come back!

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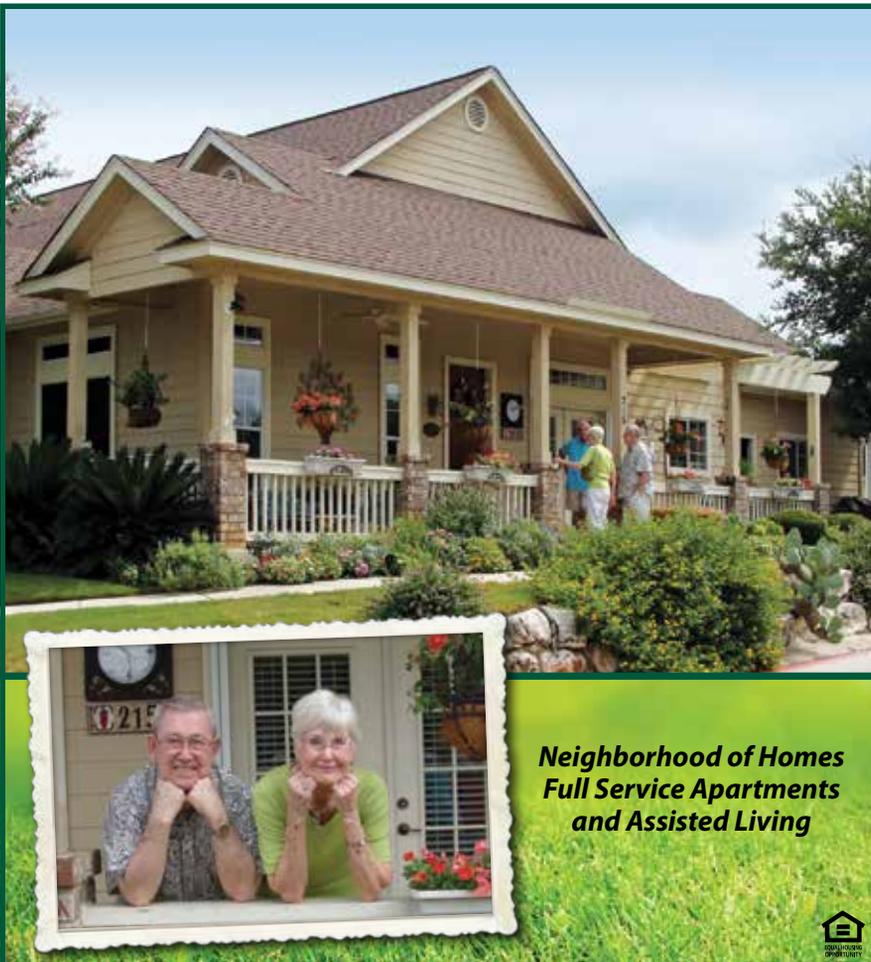
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Leadercast: Leadership Event-Be a Leader Worth Following. May 6, 2016, 7:30am-3:30pm, at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132. **Tickets can be purchased online at:** <http://event.leadercast.com/location/bulverdespringbranchems>.

Comal County Early Voting-Monday, May 16 through May 20, 7:00am-7:00pm, and **PRIMARY ELECTION FOR PRECINCT 102**, Tuesday, May 24, 7:00am-7:00pm.



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Bulverde Fun Fest Sponsorships and Activity Opportunities Available



The Bulverde Community Park Association, along with the Friends of the Park, are planning the 3rd annual **Bulverde Fun Fest** to be held on Saturday, June 18th, 2016 at the Bulverde Community Park on Bulverde Lane. Proceeds raised by the event will be used to fund shade structures for the Park.

Business Sponsorships range from \$1,500–\$250. More than 700 guests joined us in June 2015, and we anticipate a similar crowd this year as well. **Sponsor early to reserve your branding at Movies in the Park!** This year we invite families to get involved and show their support for the park. **Family sponsorships are available for only \$100.**

- **\$1,500 Live Oak–Business Sponsors**
2016 Sponsor brick in Park, 3 minute promo opportunity at event and logo* on event banner and all movie previews in 2016 (after receipt of sponsor form)
- **\$750 Red Oak–Business Sponsors**
2016 Sponsor brick in Park
Logo* on event banner & 2 movie previews in 2016
- **\$250 White Oak–Business Sponsors**
2016 Sponsor brick in Park
Logo* on event banner
- **\$100 Burr Oak–Individual/Family Sponsors**
2016 Sponsor brick in Park (special brick for this sponsor level)

Activity Booths and Volunteers are also needed. If you are unable to provide monetary support for this event but would like to participate in some manner, consider hosting an activity booth or volunteering for the event. Family-friendly activity booths should include games and activities that can be enjoyed by any age and at any level. Examples may include Sack Races, Ring Toss, Tic Tac Toe, Bubble Factory, Water Balloons, Kites, etc. Another idea is to provide a free, summertime snack—last year, Provisions provided watermelon and the Community Garden organization served homemade lemonade. There will also be a need for volunteers to help with set up before, operations during, and clean up after the event. Please contact Merri Harrison at 210.387.9332 or email BFF@BulverdeParks.com.

Request Your Sponsor forms via email:

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Make check payable to:

Bulverde Community Park Association
Logos must be received by May 15th to be included on Event Banner.

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Walt Goforth, Owner

Texas Water: Who Owns It?

The interrelationships between groundwater, aquifers, and springs are not obvious to the casual observer. When water bubbles up from springs—as it does in New Braunfels' Landa Park—it appears as though the earth itself is giving birth to cool, clean water. It is difficult to imagine the convoluted path water takes to arrive at a spring, from the sky down through seemingly solid ground, seeping through minuscule cracks between rocks to land in an aquifer, and then back to the surface again. The water is often used up before it has a chance to make it to a spring. Many factors contribute to the drying of Texas' springs, but groundwater law that encourages pumping of aquifers is a major factor.

One acre foot is a common measure used to explain water usage. An acre foot is equivalent to a football field filled to a depth of one foot—325,851 gallons. Texans use nearly 17 million acre feet of water each year—60 percent of this comes from groundwater. But wait—what are the differences between natural surface water, diffused surface water, and groundwater?

Texas links its law to the geological container holding the water, and laws have been developed for each category. Under the Texas Water Code, all natural surface water found in watercourses is owned by the state and is held in trust for the people. This water includes the ordinary flow, underflow, and tides of every flowing natural watercourse in the state (a watercourse has a definite bed and banks). Storm water and floodwater found within natural lakes, rivers, and streams is state water as is the water in springs that form headwaters of natural streams—like those in Land Park.

Diffused surface water does not flow in a defined watercourse; rather, it flows across the surface of land in a varied, unpatterned way. Generally, this is rain runoff, and courts have held that it belongs to the landowner until it enters a natural watercourse. Once it enters the watercourse, it becomes state water.

Groundwater is water that lies beneath the land surface that fills the pore spaces of rock and soil. It is the water that supplies wells and springs. Whereas surface water is considered state property, groundwater is considered the private property of the landowner. In a practical sense, the landowner does not actually "own" the water until they capture it. This Rule of Capture, has been referred to as the "law of the biggest pump" because a landowner pumping from his own land is not liable for any harm to neighboring wells. The Rule of Capture, however, may be regulated by a Groundwater Conservation District.

The 2015 House Bill #2407 that formed the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD), as well as Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, empowers our GCD to register and permit wells, keep drilling and well records, regulate well spacing and production, and generally engage in projects to conserve and protect the aquifer. Your CTGCD presently requires production fees on large commercial wells capable of producing more than 25,000 gallons per day. Only these large wells require permitting and water volume measurements. Normal home and agricultural wells are exempt from both metering and production volume fees since they produce only 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water per day.

Help your Comal Trinity GCD conserve the Trinity Aquifer; connect with us by attending the CTGCD monthly meetings or signing up for our water conservation e-blast at www.ComalTrinityGCD.com.

YOU ARE INVITED...



GVTC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center
375 S. Castell Ave.

~ Easy Parking Off S. Castell Ave & W. Garden St. ~

5:30 pm Doors Open • 7:30 pm Meeting Starts

Refreshments • Free Gift Bags • Register to Win Fabulous Prizes*

*For active members only. Must be registered & present to win prizes.

Capital Credit Check Important Information:

Capital credit checks will be distributed only to active members who are registered and in attendance at the 61st Annual Membership meeting. To receive a capital credit check at the meeting, bring your Annual Meeting Notice and proper identification. Members will not be allowed to pick up checks for other members. Capital credit amounts for active members not attending the meeting will be applied to the members' account on the next billing cycle after the Annual Meeting.



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2016 Comal ISD Graduation Schedule					
School	Day	Date	Time	Location	
Comal Academy	Thursday	June 2	6:00 pm	Smithson Valley HS Auditorium	
ACMECHS	Friday	June 3	6:00 pm	Canyon HS Auditorium	
Canyon High School	Saturday	June 4	9:00 am	Strahan Coliseum, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX	
Smithson Valley High School	Saturday	June 4	1:00 pm		
Canyon Lake High School	Saturday	June 4	5:00 pm		

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	2	3 Planning & Zoning 6:30p The Big Give (www.thebiggiveusa.org)	4 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	5 Cinco De Mayo Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	6 Leadercast 7:30a (GVTC)	7 Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.) Run for the Hills 5K/10K 7:00a (Activity Ctr.)
8 Mother's Day	9 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	10 City Council 6:30p	11	12 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.) Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	13 Movies in the Park (dusk 8:00ish; Bulverde Comm. Park) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	14 Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)
15 Peace Officers Memorial Day National Police Week begins (15-21) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	16 CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) Early Voting (Runoff Elections)	17 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) Early Voting (Runoff Elections)	18 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) Early Voting (Runoff Elections)	19 ESD #1,4 & 5 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) Early Voting (Runoff Elections)	20 Early Voting (Runoff Elections)	21 Armed Forces Day Chamber Community Shred Day 9a-12p (Chamber members) 10a-12p (non-members)
22	23	24 Election Day (Runoff Elections) 7:00a-7:00p Friends of the Park 6:00p	25	26 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	27 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	28 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
29	30 Memorial Day City Hall closed CISD Holiday	31	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)			

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)			1 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	2 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.)	3	4 CISD Graduations S.T.A.G.E. Ellis Performances 1:00p and 7:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)
5	6	7 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	8	9 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	10 Movies in the Park (dusk 8:00ish; Bulverde Comm. Park)	11 Oak Village North annual garage sale
12	13 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	14 Flag Day City Council 6:30p	15 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	16 ESD #1,4 & 5 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	17	18 Bulverde Fun Fest 10:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
19 Father's Day	20 Summer Solstice CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	21	22	23 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	24 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	25 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
26	27	28 Friends of the Park 6:00p	29	30		

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District