



THE  
FRONT PORCH  
News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors  
Volume 3 Issue 11 ☆ November 2016

THE  
**FRONT PORCH**  
News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

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

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FRONT PORCH NEWS  
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# MAYOR'S POINT

**Bill Krawietz**  
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

During July, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) for the City of Bulverde. The purpose of the CAV was to identify any assistance needed to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. I have listed the highlights, both good and bad, of the report that was generated as a result of the visit.

General observations noted that "City of Bulverde is located in the Texas Hill Country and, as such, it will always have significant challenges with flash flooding and flooding in general. To that challenge is added phenomenal growth and development. Some of the older residential subdivisions that were developed prior to the time effective floodplain management provisions were in place and enforced have significant flooding problems."

It was further observed that the City "appears to doing a credible job of managing its regulatory floodplains as

substantial development is occurring. One of the projects is Singing Oaks [sic; FEMA meant Singing Hills] development. A Walmart and several other projects are being constructed that would create additional runoff of floodwaters. A large retention pond was constructed west of the Walmart and overall runoff is guided toward a drainage structure that goes under 281 and Highway 46. But according to the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated September 2, 2009, the identified floodplain does not even begin until just south of Highway 46 and it becomes Lewis Creek Tributary 14. In short, a great deal of flood drainage construction was studied and constructed in areas that are not shown on the FIRM as being high risk."

When the City's Flood Protection Ordinances were reviewed, it was suggested that several "points need to be considered or revised on the next revision of the ordinance. However, they are not reportable items for the purpose of this CAV."

The report goes on to list Reportable Items. "The primary finding that requires attention is that the floodplain development permitting system be revised." "The floodplain permitting portion of the Bulverde application does not list all of the necessary floodplain requirements and it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to document the required activities. It is therefore difficult to ensure all development criteria, engineering studies and other regulatory requirements are understood and accomplished."

*(Continued on page 4)*



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(Continued from page 3)

“During the visit, it became clear that many of the provisions required in the ordinance were being enforced even though they were not explicitly listed in the permit application.”

The review noted the City’s biggest issue managing flooding was the difficulty to inspect drainage feature located on private property in the Lewis Creek Watershed to “inspect for potential development and possible vegetation that might hinder the proper flow of storm water. This is a sensitive issue among Texas communities when city officials want to enter private property for regulatory purposes. However, many communities insert limited rights into ordinances that would allow for entry for official purposes. It is important to consult with a legal representative to determine what Bulverde law and policies will apply.”

It was also noted that “Older subdivisions and areas within the city such as Oak Village North are often flooded because the residences were constructed prior to the adoption of adequate floodplain management provisions.”

The report then examines the City’s Notable Success and Findings. “The City of Bulverde has developed an exceptional Storm Drainage Design Criteria Manual. The criteria expressed in the manual are excellent for a community the size of Bulverde.”

Immediately after the receipt of the report, staff began the process to implement the checklist mentioned as Notable and has completed the task. The other minor suggestions are in the process of being incorporated in our next ordinance revision.

Overall, the findings of the CAV were very positive and show that the City is working diligently to protect our health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. This, however, will not give the City a false sense of security, since the rapid pace of development (especially that of the high density nature) has the potential to harm our citizens in many ways. We will continue to fiercely fight some in the development community who maintain that it is not their responsibility to protect older properties that were built prior to effective floodplain management provisions.

## On the Cover



Do you recognize the Bulverde Community Garden from this bird’s eye view? The aerial photograph was taken by none other than Mayor Bill Krawietz! Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for providing this interesting image!

## November in Bulverde

Hard to believe it’s November already, but you just can’t seem to stop the hands of time. With that said, let’s mention a few things that will be happening in the community.

### The Bulverde Christmas Lighting

On November 25th, the community will celebrate the 26th year of the Village of Bulverde Christmas Lighting from 5:30pm–9:00pm in the Village of Bulverde. Several businesses will be on hand with giveaway items for children. Santa will, of course, be escorted atop the fire truck as he has in the past. After visiting with Santa, children can walk over the post office where they can send their Christmas list to the North Pole. A man-made snow event will also be available for children to play in. A great event sponsored by the Village of Bulverde, Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Bulverde. Hope to see you there the day after Thanksgiving from 5:30pm–9:00pm.



### Holiday Travel

Of course November is probably most recognized for Thanksgiving, one of the busiest travel days of the year. With fuel prices where they currently are, many travelers may elect to drive instead of flying. With more vehicles on the roads safety is a top priority. In conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation’s selective traffic enforcement program dates, the Bulverde Police will be actively enforcing the laws of the roads with an emphasis on speeding. Additionally, please remember to buckle up, seatbelts save lives.

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# COMAL COUNTY CORNER

By Sherman Krause, County Judge

Last month, property owners across Comal County began receiving their annual tax statements.

These statements are produced by the Comal County Tax Office, which calculates the taxes owed based on 1) appraisals performed by the Comal Appraisal District, and 2) the tax rates set by various public entities, such as the City of Bulverde, an Emergency Services District or the county itself.

How does the county determine its tax rate, and how does that affect your tax bill?

- The county's budget process begins each spring, when various departments and offices prepare their requests and submit them to the County Auditor.
- The Commissioners Court each July holds public hearings on the budget requests, asking department heads to justify their proposed expenditures. After those hearings, the County Judge prepares a recommended budget with input from the Auditor, who estimates the likely tax revenue.

- Those estimates include an effective tax rate – which would generate the same revenue as the previous year. With increasing property values, that rate is usually lower than the previous year's.
- The County Judge presents the recommended budget to the rest of the Commissioners Court in August, and the court then sets a schedule for public hearings and votes to consider the budget and corresponding tax rate.
- After multiple public hearings, the Commissioners Court adopts the final budget and tax rate, usually in mid-September. The final budget is then filed with the County Clerk.

This year, the Comal County Commissioners Court approved an \$84.02 million budget and 34.29-cent tax rate, which amounts to about \$700 per year for a \$200,000 home. The county has lowered or maintained the tax rate every year since 2012, although – because the adopted rate has been higher than the effective rate – that has led to an increase in the tax bill for many people; likewise, new construction in the county also contributes to increasing revenue despite a steady tax rate.

Although the process can be complicated, Comal County makes these decisions openly and offers multiple opportunities for public comment. We're here to serve you and spend your tax dollars as wisely and efficiently as we can. Thank you for the trust you put in us.



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# National Night Out

A year's worth of planning finally paid off as members of the Bulverde Police Department celebrated National Night Out with several hundred citizens and guests in the community.

National Night Out 2016 was celebrated on Tuesday October 4th with huge success as the Bulverde Police Department welcomed guests from the Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, US Border Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. These special guests attended several of the 18 local block parties that were hosted in the city, along with first responders and members of the City. Interim City Manager Danny Batts and Mayor Bill Krawietz rode along as well, making appearances at as many parties as possible.

Several months ago, things really began to take shape as sponsors from the community began to come forward expressing interest in being a sponsor for National Night Out 2016. Once again, Singing

Hills was this year's top sponsor, along with several other businesses that assisted with sponsorships, including Middleman Construction, Sonora Bank, RBFCU, HEB, and Wellmed, just to mention a few. With the sponsorship of these great businesses from the community, the Bulverde Police Department was able to make NNO 2016 the best yet.

On September 25th, the police department hosted an appreciation dinner for block party hosts at the BSB Activity Center catered by Pappasito's with about 60 people in attendance. Several door prizes were awarded, with each block party host receiving an HEB gift card to assist with their block party. On October 3rd, the police department hosted a luncheon at the BSB Activity Center for folks who may not make it out on National Night Out, which was a huge success with over 70 attendees! The meal was provided by Smoky Mo's, with members of the police department serving those in attendance. Thanks to all our sponsors and Laurie Wilson at BSB Activity Center for allowing us to use their facility.

## Bulverde's 2016 National Night Out Sponsors



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# How Did That Company Get My Info?

By Amy Hebert

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Are you getting calls or emails from a company you've never heard of? Wondering how they got your name or number—or how they know what you're interested in? The reason might be lead generation. Here's what you need to know.

## **What's lead generation?**

It's when companies gather information that people submit, often from online forms or applications. Lead generators sell that information to other companies offering products or services those people might be interested in.

## **Why should you care?**

It's your information getting collected and sold, and it might pass through a lot of hands along the way.

## **What's the upside?**

You might find out about products or services you're interested in, and get deals you wouldn't have heard about otherwise.

## **What's the downside?**

Even if you know you're giving information to a lead generator—like a site that matches people seeking loans with lenders—you might not realize your info could be sold and resold. If it's sold to anyone willing to pay for it, you might be contacted by all kinds of companies you've never heard of.

Sometimes, lead generation also results in deception or outright scams. Last year the FTC sued a company that got people's information from online payday loan applications, then sold it to non-lenders who raided people's credit and bank accounts for millions. In another case, a company settled charges that it used fake job ads to get leads for colleges and career training programs.

## **What can you do?**

Before you fill out forms or applications on a site, find out more about the company—on the site itself, and by doing an online search for the company with words like "complaint" or "review." How will they protect your information? And think long and hard before you give out your SSN or bank or credit card information. In the wrong hands, they can lead to identity theft. If you think information you've already shared has been misused, tell the FTC.

Retrieved from [https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/how-did-company-get-my-info?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/how-did-company-get-my-info?utm_source=govdelivery)

## Bulverde Veteran's Committee

The City is looking for Veterans, Active Duty personnel, military spouses, children of veterans, and/or anyone interested in military history to join the Bulverde Veterans Committee.

The Committee will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except Holidays).

Projects that the committee will work on include obtaining architectural proposals for the Bulverde Veterans War Memorial for the City of Bulverde.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please send an email to [vetmemorial@bulverdetx.gov](mailto:vetmemorial@bulverdetx.gov)

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Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center's

# Thanksgiving Community Luncheon

We would like to invite you to join  
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**Monday, November 21st  
11:30 AM**

Lunch will be  
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## First Annual, Area-Wide *Angel Tree* Program is Underway for Christmas!

For most who are lucky enough to call the Bulverde/Spring Branch area home, Christmas is a time of faith, family, friends, and fond memories of Santa's visits. Unfortunately, there are children who live among us whose families don't have the means to make Santa's visits a reality. Family services in our area have been few and far between over the years, so the needs of our less fortunate children have been met by a variety of nonprofit organizations, businesses, schools, and churches—each doing their best to make Christmas dreams come true for our young ones. The success of these projects is due to both the generous hearts of our wonderful community and oftentimes to the giving hearts of the men and women who take on this additional workload to their already busy responsibilities. In an effort to assist these dedicated organizations and individuals, we have formed the ***Bulverde/Spring Branch Angels***.

In creating our organization, we have met with the numerous individuals and existing programs to see how we can work together as a unified team to meet the needs of our children. Our primary focus this year will be to sponsor the first annual, area-wide ***Angel Tree*** project! We have worked throughout October to identify children through an application process, and now it's time to move into the second phase of the project—which is where YOU come in! We need generous and giving donors to provide the toys and other items needed and wanted by the children we are hoping to help.

If you would like to participate in the program by giving a gift this Christmas, there are two options available to you.

- **Option 1:** Angel trees will be set up at the following locations, and ornaments (with the wish or need of a child written on them) can be selected. The desired items can then be purchased, giftwrapped, and returned by December 9th.

Angel Tree locations include the Bulverde Thrift Store, American Bank, Kathleen Banse State Farm Agency, Hair Tech Plus Beauty Salon, the Bulverde Spring Branch Library, Provisions Outreach food pantry, Living Rock Academy, Be Fabulous Boutique, the Loft Coffee Shop, and Tammy's Crafts & More.

- **Option 2:** We are partnering with the Bulverde/Spring Branch Lions Club in their annual toy drive. All toys purchased and dropped in their collection boxes throughout our area will be matched to a child's wish list.

Lions Club collection boxes will be at the following locations: Anytime Fitness, Bulverde Spring Branch EMS, Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, Bulverde City Hall, BSB Fire & EMS, Bulverde Animal Hospital, Bulverde Physical Therapy, Texas Physical Therapy, Strutty's, Broadway National Bank, Eldyn L. Ingerick CPA, Smithson Valley Physical Therapy, Wells Fargo Bank, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, Reliance Residential Realty, Security State Bank & Trust, and WellMed. Collection boxes will also be available at the Bulverde Christmas Lighting on November 25.

The gifts will be packaged together for families to pick up at 46 West Storage, 26045 Highway 46W, between December 16 and December 22. If necessary, delivery may be available. Our goal is to have presents under the tree and stockings by the mantle so that there are many more smiles on children's faces come Christmas morning.

### Planning for the Spring, also...

After the winter holidays, keep your eyes open for more information coming soon about the Angels' second annual, spring ***Belle of the Ball*** program!

To donate, or for more information about the Angels' ***Angel Tree*** project or the ***Belle of the Ball*** project, please call committee chair Cindy Hurst, at 210-771-7639, or visit the Bulverde Thrift Store in the Beall's shopping center on Highway 46W.

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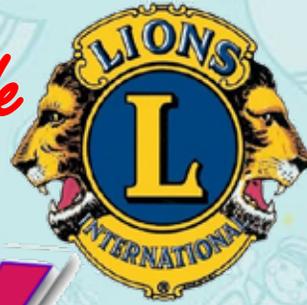
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# BEYOND HOSES & SMOKE



The responsibilities of today's firefighters extend well beyond the job title, which only describes the fire extinguishment aspect of their jobs. Firefighters must be able to think critically and clearly and solve problems quickly, under extreme stress, and training is the element that prepares them to be ready at a moment's notice to attack a fire or respond to a medical call. Handling a hose that has water pressure of 150 pounds per square inch is no easy task and a firefighter's equipment can weigh as much as 75 pounds. To be effective, firefighters must have both the mindset and the physical strength and endurance to carry out their job in a manner that is safe for themselves, their co-workers and the people they assist.

Due to the demanding elements of their job, regular training periods are scheduled into each shift's day. As a rule, at Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS, the minimum amount of time a shift spends in physical conditioning is at least one hour a day. Additional drills are also placed in the firefighter's training program. These drills, such as Rapid Intervention Team Drills and Consumption Drills, simulate difficulties firefighters may encounter while they are responding to a structure fire.

Rapid Intervention Team Drills involve an obstacle course which has a layout that guides firefighters to reach and recover a fallen firefighter who has been disabled. Consumption Drills demonstrate how much activity a firefighter can perform in the course of using a full tank of air. These drills not only measure strength and endurance, but they also build teamwork among the firefighters.

Another component of a firefighter's job is the state of Texas' continuing education hours required each year. Firefighters must complete twenty hours each year, and for hazardous materials training, an additional ten is required. Further, for each discipline specific continuing education area, personnel must attend two extra hours of instruction, and there are many discipline specific areas.

The newest methods and the most expensive equipment are useless without personnel who have the ability and expertise to implement the methods and utilize the equipment. This is only achieved through comprehensive and continual education and training. Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS gladly accepts these requirements in order to provide the best fire and rescue service to you.



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Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS has a distinguished Wall of Honor at their Central Station at 353 Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch. It contains an artistically designed series of shield-shaped pewter finished plaques in honor of, or in memory of, your friends, loved ones, community groups, and businesses.

The funds raised from the Wall of Honor help support the many programs and to purchase training equipment that guarantees that Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS continues to serve its community as a trusted and award winning 9-1-1 service. Each plaque is a \$300 donation to Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS, a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

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Contact BSB Fire & EMS directly at (830) 228-4206 for more information or if you have any questions.



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## B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

**November 10, 2016**

### Business Networking Mixer

5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by: Service King Collision Repair Center  
5371 Hwy 281 N, Spring Branch, TX  
*Member Only Event*

**November 16, 2016**

### Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: GVTC

12:00–1:00 pm

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

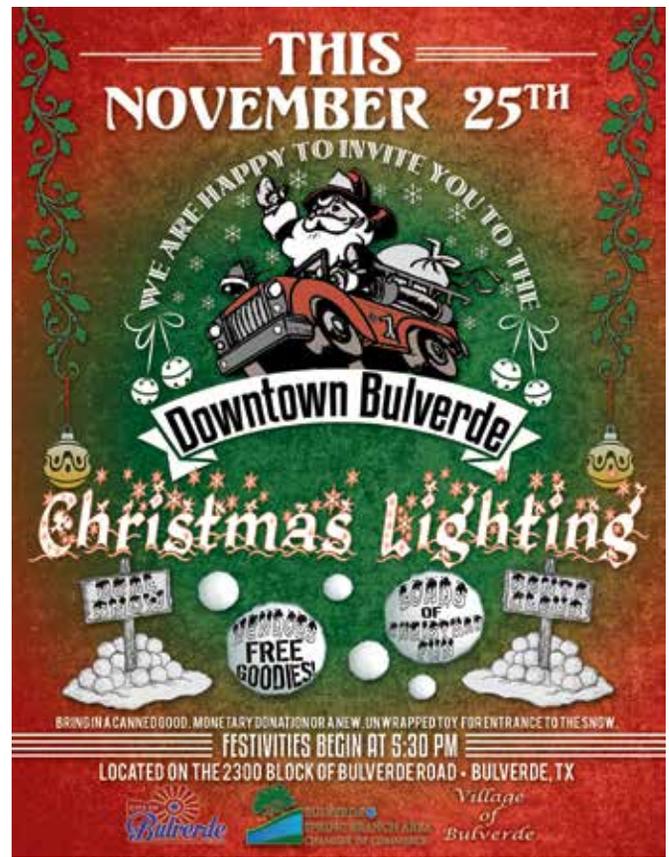
**November 25, 2016**

### Bulverde Christmas Lighting

5:30–9:00 pm

Downtown Bulverde  
2300 Block of Bulverde Road

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



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# Bulverde Area Arts Center Member of the Month

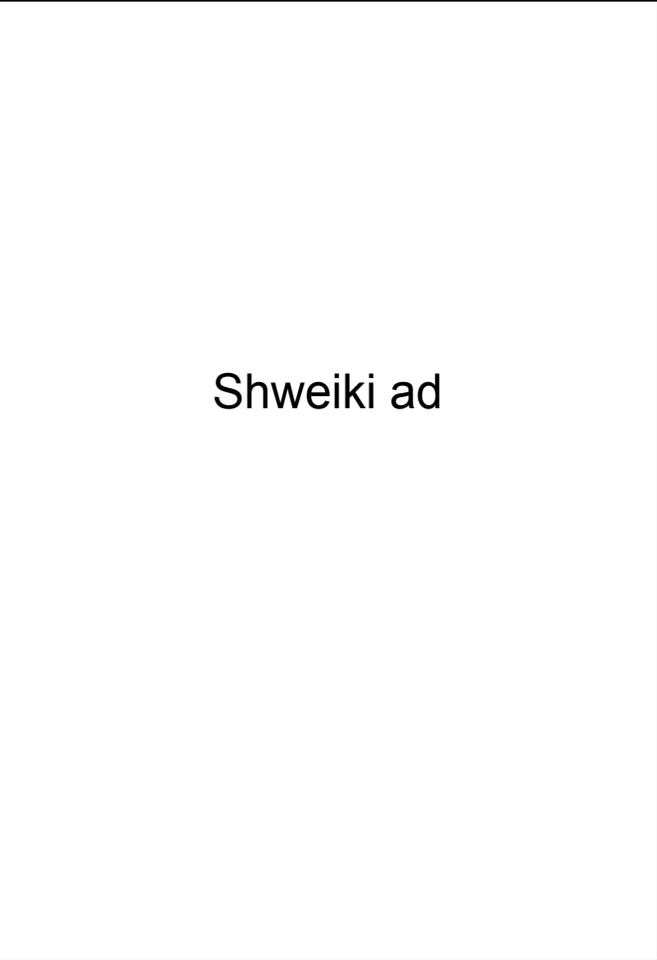
by Buzz Heye

How does a girl wind up teaching art to a bunch of Russian orphans who are descendants of convicts on the Siberian island of Sakhalin. First she elopes with a United State Marine then SHE works HIS way through civil engineering school at Texas A & M as a secretary using her high school typing to get the job. A job she hated. Fortunately, using her skills as an artist, she is soon promoted to the position of Artist I and put in charge of designing brochures and other promotional materials for the Engineering Extension Service which trains women for nontraditional female jobs.



CHERYL SUTTER WOOTEN obtained her very valuable art skills first by observing her creative father work as a designer and inventor and her mother's work as a gardener. She studied art at the University of California at Irvine and Fullerton College. Wooten picked up a few extra dollars while in College Station by selling her college projects done in California to art students at A & M who submitted them as their own.

Upon graduation her husband got a job with Exxon and it seemed in no time they relocated their home



Shweiki ad

twenty—five times. Wooten found work at each location in jobs as varied a dental assistant to map making. And that is how they landed in Russia, before the thaw, Cold War still at full tilt. Wooten also found time to have two children along the way, Chad and Shannon.

While working with the orphans in Russia she found they had no concept of creativity. They were good with their hands, but had to be taught the idea of creating something of your own. She taught them creativity with almost a missionary zeal but was hampered by a lack of art supplies. She contacted an art house in Houston and managed to have a large case materials donated and shipped to Siberia.

After living in Siberia, Stavanger Norway didn't seem so bad. To make extra money there she taught art to home schoolers, then it was to Glasgow Scotland teaching home schoolers once more before landing back in Houston, Texas. Husband was sent to Angola and that is when Wooten decided to buy seven acres in Somerville, Texas where she took up residence with goats, sheep, chickens, geese, ducks, geese and dogs that all came with the property. At that time Somerville was an art desert. Wooten and a friend opened an art gallery in Somerville and had to explain to passers-by that they didn't have to pay an admission to enter the gallery. She began her education of the community about art by giving short seminars at the local schools but "Bubba" didn't get it and the gallery eventually closed. Before leaving the area Wooten promoted a series of festivals, Arts at the Lake and initiated the Keep Texas Beautiful program in Summerville.

As part of her busy life, Wooten has found time to study at Chouinard and Glassell Art Schools. Over time she would benefit from the workshops of such well known watercolorist as Chen Kheer-Chee, Jean Dobie, Dan Burt, Jim Kosvanec, Jan Kunz, Judy Morris, Mike Bailey, Rick Dentinger and Karen Vernon. At the behest of her daughter-in-law, Wooten now lives in the beautiful Texas Hill Country and has memberships in the Canyon Lake Art Guild, the New Braunfels Art league, the Fredericksburg Art Gallery and The Gallery at Round Top.

Wooten is an elite signature member of the Watercolor Art Society-Houston, which requires having been juried into at least five international shows. She is a valued member of the Bulverde Area Arts Center and is our current featured artist. Her paintings may be seen at the Makery, which is next door to Mikes in the Village in the Downtown Bulverde.

# MAN'S BEST FRIEND

by Carrye Franzel



The dictionary defines *loyal* as an unswerving allegiance. Synonyms for this word include *faithful*, *devoted*, and *constant* to name just a few. *Loyal* and its synonyms accurately describe the great majority of the dogs who come into the Bulverde Area Humane Society. Even after being mistreated, abused, and forgotten, many of these animals are still eager to demonstrate—to the right person—that they can become a devoted and steadfast friend. Even the shy ones eventually warm up to the efforts of the BAHS staff and volunteers and become trusting of humans again.

Take for example Dawn, a female beige Lab mix who was obviously dumped on the roads around the shelter. She was observed on several occasions by both staff members and volunteers on the road leading to the shelter. Initial efforts using treats to entice her to come close were unsuccessful and she would keep just enough distance that would allow her to scamper away if someone attempted to touch her. Food and water was left out for her, but there was no way to determine if she or the local wildlife was eating the food.



After several weeks of periodic sightings, a staff member talked to the construction workers developing the land around the shelter to determine if they had seen Dawn. The workers advised that they had been feeding her from their lunches, and just that day Dawn had stolen a worker's lunch. The staff member searched the area where the workers had been feeding Dawn and saw her in the heavy brush. Using doggie treats, the staff member was able to entice Dawn to come close to him. When she was close enough, the staff member took a leap of faith and grabbed Dawn. She did not bite and eventually acquiesced to his control.

Dawn was carried back to the shelter and placed in a pen, and within a very short time it became obvious that she was a very sweet dog and could be made ready for a new forever home. Presently she is being fostered at the home of the staff member who corralled her until the right home—which will preferably consists of a young family—comes along and she can be adopted.\*

In spite of being dumped and left to survive on her own, Dawn did not become mean or distrusting of humans.

Instead, once reunited with humans she became eager to be a trusting and faithful friend.

Dawn is just one of the many dogs that have come into the shelter after being rejected or abandoned by humans, but are still eager to be accepted into a new home where they can demonstrate that they are truly man's best friend. Won't you consider becoming a dog's best friend?

\*Epilogue: Dawn has been adopted! Since this story was written, Dawn has found a wonderful forever home and family. She has kids to snuggle with and a comfy place to sleep! Lucky dog!



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# The Buzz From the Garden

SUBMITTED BY: LAN WU

Winter melon is a very popular vegetable in China. It's called winter melon because the whole squash will keep for a long time, through the winter, after being harvested. Winter melon has a taste and texture similar to that of watermelon. The rind is dark green and very hard, while inside the melon is juicy and fresh-tasting. Its mild taste allows it to take on the flavors it is cooked with. The seeds are roasted making a popular snack too.

Winter melon soup is a hugely popular dish throughout Asia. There are many variations, but the most common is to cube the winter melon and steep it in meat broth along with a variety of meats and seafood.

During Thanksgiving, when there are plenty turkey leftovers, I usually make winter melon soup with a little shredded ginger, scallions, salt, a bit of soy sauce, some oyster mushrooms, turkey breast, and tofu.

## Ingredients:

- 4-5 quarts water
- 1 lb. turkey breast, shredded into large chunks
- 2 thin slices ginger
- 1/2 cross section winter melon, skin removed, cut into 1-x-1-inch cubes (about 2 lbs.)
- 4-5 dried small squid, washed.
- 1/2 block of soft tofu, rinsed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4-5 oyster mushrooms, washed and separated
- Salt to taste
- Soy sauce to taste
- Scallions, chopped for garnish
- Cilantro, chopped for garnish

## Method:

- Pour water into a medium stock pot over high heat. When water boils, place turkey breast into the pot. Reduce heat to medium.
- Simmer the stock for 30 minutes, then add in ginger, winter melon cubes, squid, tofu, and mushrooms. Cook for another 30 minutes on medium heat.
- Add salt and soy sauce to taste.
- Remove from heat and serve warm. Garnish with some scallions and cilantro.



*If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please contact Joanne Hall at [johall@gvvc.com](mailto:johall@gvvc.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.*

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## November Events at the BSB Library

**Veteran's Day Ceremony to be Held at  
Bulverde/Spring Branch Library**

**Friday, November 11th**

**1:00pm**

Please join us in honoring our veterans during the annual Veteran's Day Observance at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library on Friday, November 11th, beginning at 1:00 pm. Guest speaker is Major Oscar Rodriguez, USMC. Major Rodriguez is the Operations Officer, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. A reception will follow the ceremony. Other participants include Rhonda Zunker (President Bulverde/Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce), Bella Russo, Smithson Valley High School Naval Junior ROTC, Spring Branch Middle School Band, and the Bill Brown Elementary School Choir. Names of local veterans will be posted in the library during November, as well as Sherry Sorbera's Fallen Texas Heroes quilt and art displayed from Smithson Valley High School Art Department students.

The Veteran's Day Program is sponsored by the Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, supplemented with funds from Synergy Federal Credit Union.

**FOL Annual Christmas Tea**

**Thursday, December 1, 2016**

**4:00pm - 6:00pm**

The community is invited to drop by and enjoy holiday spirit with the Friends of the Library. Each year the Friends celebrate the holidays by providing tea and other hot beverages as well as an array of delightful treats. Everyone is welcome to start the holiday season by enjoying great food and companionship!

### **Lunch and Learn- Hill Country Landowner Management Workshops**

Bring your lunch and learn something new! Troy Luepke with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service will be teaching a series for landowners on property management in the Hill Country at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library.

Making Plans for Your Property - October 26, 12-1:30pm

Simple Maintenance Ideas - November 9, 12-1:30pm

Irrigation Techniques for Your Landscape -  
December 14, 12-1:30pm

Brush Control for Small Acreages - January 11, 12-1:30pm

Choosing the Correct Fencing - February 8, 12-1:30pm

How to get Wildlife Tax Valuation for Your Property -  
March 8, 12-1:30pm

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## SMITHSON VALLEY HIGH NAVY JROTC RECOGNIZED BY COMAL ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees and superintendent Andrew Kim recognized the Smithson Valley High School Navy Junior ROTC Unit at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 29 at the Support Services Building in New Braunfels for being named the Best Unit in Area 10 for the third time in the past four years. Area 10 includes almost all of the state of Texas.

To earn this prestigious honor, the JROTC Unit is judged on multiple things such as community service, competitive drill teams and plans after high school such as college.

In the past seven years, SVHS students have earned more than 55 ROTC scholarships or Academy appointments. Commander (Ret.) Vince Quidachay has been at the helm of the SVHS JROTC program for the past seven years where it has grown from 105 students to about 260 students, the second largest Navy JROTC program in the state.



*Pictured back row (l-r) are SVHS instructor Chief (Ret.) Daniel Hansen, student officers Adam Montemayor, Boston Clattenburg, James Jones, Garrett Gorecki, SVHS instructor Commander (ret.) Vince Quidachay, student officer John Shaffer and SVHS instructor Lt. (ret) Roland Gonzalez. Front row: student officer Viviana Gonzalez, student officer Breanna Esperiqueta and booster club president Angel Curran.*

## Smithson Valley High Marching Band Wins Roosevelt Roughriders Contest

The Smithson Valley High School Marching Band took home the first place trophy in the 6A Division at the Roosevelt Roughriders Marching Contest Saturday October 1 at Heroes Stadium in San Antonio.

Marching to “Extreme Beethoven,” the Rangers rocked their eight-minute routine to take the top prize at the event.

“Getting a victory like this definitely boosts the confidence of our marching band,” said SVHS band director Matt Boening. “Anytime you’re holding a first place trophy after a competition it’s a great feeling. I know it helps spur our kids on because at this point in the season they’ve already put in 200-plus hours of hard work.”

This was the second competition of the season for the SVHS Marching Band.

They will compete in the Yamaha Cup at Judson High School on October 15 before heading back to Heroes Stadium to compete in the UIL Marching Band Competition on October 22.

Any band receiving a 1st Division rating at District will move on to Area Competition at Reeves Stadium in Austin on October 29. The final steps of the season will take place at the UIL State Marching Band Competition Nov. 7–9 at the Alamodome.



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# Odds-n-Ends

## Native Plant Society of Texas News

### Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award Winner

#### Deedy Wright, NPSOT



One of President Theodore Roosevelt's most lasting contributions to the world was the permanent preservation of some of the most unique natural resources in the United States. During a convention address in 1907, the President noted "... the conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others." Named in recognition of our 26th president, this award recognizes a citizen or group who advocates for studying, teaching, documenting, and preserving the natural resources in New Braunfels.

Deedy Wright of the Lindheimer Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) spearheaded efforts to supply Native Texas plants for the Fischer Park Nature Education Center's butterfly garden, increasing the native plant diversity around the NEC grounds. Deedy and other NPSOT members donated over \$2,000 worth of plants to collaborate with the Nature Center in

promoting the use of Texas Natives for landscaping and improving local habitats for wildlife, including pollinators such as Monarch butterflies. NPSOT also purchased plant ID signs for the NEC butterfly garden to help visitors to the park learn about Texas Native plants.

### Monthly Meeting

The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on November 1 at the GVTC Auditorium located at 36101 FM 3159, Smithson Valley (please note that this is not on the usual Tuesday of the month). The doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. The speaker will be John Davis, a New Braunfels Master Naturalist, a member of Lindheimer Chapter of NPSOT and the New Braunfels Men's Garden Club. Jay will speak on "Better Landscapes through Land Management." The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

### **Free Kids' Gift Making Workshop**

Grace Fellowship, located at 32445 US Hwy 281N at Casey Road, will host its 7th annual Kids' Gift Making Workshop on Saturday, December 3rd from 10 a.m. until noon. It's Free! Kids ages Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to come and make gifts for family and friends! Everyone is welcome! It's LOTS of fun!!!



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Pct. 102: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing  
Pct. 106: GVTC Communications, 36101 FM 3159  
Pct. 204: Comal County Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend  
Pct. 206: Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Station #3,  
30475 Johnson Way  
Pct. 405: Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, 11755 U.S. 281 N.

**NOVEMBER 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Early Voting Planning & Zoning 6:30p Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	2 Early Voting BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	3 Early Voting	4 Early Voting	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day 	9	10 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11 Veterans' Day City Hall Closed Veteran's Day Ceremony 1:00p (Library)	12 Craft Show 9:00a-3:00p (Activity Ctr.)
13	14 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	15 City Council 6:30p	16 SBB Family Lions 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way)	17 Great American Smokeout ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM 311)	18 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) S.T.A.G.E. Youth Production 7:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	19 S.T.A.G.E. Elfs Recitals 2:00p and 7:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)
20 S.T.A.G.E. Youth Production 2:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	21 Thanksgiving Luncheon 11:30a (Activity Ctr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CISD Holiday	22 CISD Holiday	23 CISD Holiday	24 Thanksgiving Day CISD Holiday City Hall Closed	25 CISD Holiday City Hall Closed Bulverde Christmas Lighting 5:30 (Downtown Bulverde)	26
27	28	29	30	<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council and the Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		

\*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

**DECEMBER 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						3 Holiday Halls 10:00a-3:00p (Johnson Ranch ES) Holiday Hunger Run, 6:30a reg./8:00a start (Tejas Rodeo)
4	5	6 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	7 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	8 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	9 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	10 The Living Christmas, 5:30p-10:00p (29797 Hwy 281)
11	12 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	13 City Council 6:30p	14 ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way)	15 ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	16	17
18	19 CISD Holiday	20 CISD Holiday	21 CISD Holiday	22 CISD Holiday	23 CISD Holiday	24
	25 Christmas	26 CISD Holiday City Hall Closed	27 CISD Holiday	28 CISD Holiday	29 CISD Holiday	30 CISD Holiday
						31

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