

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 4 Issue 1 ☆ January 2017

THE FRONT PORCH News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS

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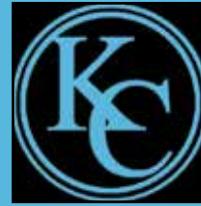
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As a City publication, the Front Porch News strives to maintain objectivity and accuracy in all published content. The newsletter must remain neutral in the publication of content that may be considered controversial, biased, or inflammatory within 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

Nobody likes waiting in traffic. Congestion not only wastes time, it cuts into the productivity of busy individuals. Now think about our First Responders and how frustrating it must be for them when trying to respond to an emergency and all they can see ahead is brake lights.

The City is diligently working with TXDOT to widen and increase capacity on State Hwy. 46 from Bulverde Road to FM 3159. Engineers have been working with landowners and utility companies to find the least intrusive way to fit the much wider road into a somewhat narrow right of way. There is no doubt that additional land will be needed and utilities be relocated to make the project work.

TXDOT requires local governments to pay at least 10% of the cost to acquire right of way and to

relocate utilities. The City is still waiting for the estimated cost for our share. The number is likely to be several million dollars.

The City of Bulverde has just over 5000 residents. State Hwy 46 is used by a lot more people than that. It clearly would not be fair for just those within the City limits to pay this right of way cost through the collection of property taxes alone. I could not support imposing this burden solely on the Citizens of Bulverde. The most equitable method would be through the collection of sales tax, which would be paid, in part, by people who shop at our local businesses but do not reside in the City.

State law caps sales tax at 8.25%. In western Comal County, the rate is at the maximum. The State of Texas gets 6.25%. The County and the Library District each collects 0.5%. The remaining 1% is collected either by the Emergency Service District (ESD) or the City of Bulverde.

Bulverde started collecting sales tax within the City limits in 1999. The ESDs started collecting

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

their sales tax in 2009, but could only do so from businesses located outside of the City limits because the cap had already been met inside the City limits.

The City of Bulverde has played a major role in the economic development of the area, bringing new business to the region. We have large retailers that built their facilities straddling our incorporated City boundary or just outside of the boundary, within the Bulverde ETJ. This directly affects the distribution of the sales tax that is generated by these businesses. As one example, some of the cash registers at HEB collect sales tax for the City, while others collect for the ESD. Another example is the new Walmart, which was built entirely outside of our city limits. Even though that store requested to be annexed for the benefit of our City Police protection, we don't receive any sales tax because the ESD already owned that territory.

The ESDs do a great job of providing vital emergency services, and I am grateful for what they do for the Citizens of Bulverde. Honestly its makes my job as Mayor easier not having to worry about Fire and EMS services.

Now back to the State Hwy 46 expansion and how the sales tax issue relates. It is unfortunate that the City can't get its one cent sales tax on newly annexed property, especially when most of the increased traffic comes from developments located outside of our City limits. This sure would help defray the cost expanding the highway.

Talks have begun between the City of Bulverde and the ESDs relating to the issue of public safety with congestion on State Hwy 46. No matter how good an emergency service provider is, if they can't reach those in need, it's a serious issue. When there is a structure fire, car accident, or a medical emergency, seconds matter.

I am optimistic that an agreement can be made in which some of the sales tax revenue generated by the new businesses Bulverde helped bring to the area can be used to increase capacity on Hwy 46. After all, it's more than a traffic problem, it's a safety hazard.

From the Comal County Sheriff

By Mark Reynolds



I was humbled and honored in November to be elected Comal County's first new sheriff in 20 years. Thank you to all who participated in the election!

As sheriff, I see myself as the representative for law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county. I'm excited to step into this office and take on that role, and I'm excited about the future. I hope you are, too!

The 2016 campaign made clear that many people in the western part of the county feel they need better representation and stronger communication from their Sheriff's Office. My pledge is that we will work every day to make sure you feel your voices are heard and your concerns addressed.

I've begun working on plans for town halls and other ways to encourage community feedback to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, I want you to know I am available personally. Please email me at soarmw@co.comal.tx.us or call 830-620-3420 with any questions, concerns, or suggestions, and I will respond to you.

As we all know, Comal County is growing rapidly, and maintaining the safety and security of our county can only happen if we work together as a team. Every county resident and every sheriff's deputy, administrator, dispatcher, and staff member are on a team together.

I'm looking forward to continuing the work we began during the campaign to ensure a stronger, safer Comal County.

Mark Reynolds was sworn in as Comal County Sheriff on Jan. 1.

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26th Annual Bulverde Christmas Lighting

What a wonderful night was enjoyed by all that attended the 26th Annual Bulverde Christmas Lighting in the Old Village in Downtown Bulverde. The Planning Committee wants to extend a huge thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who made the Lighting such a wonderful time for all. The Official Bulverde Christmas tree provided by the City of Bulverde was lit by Bulverde City Manager Danny Batts, Bulverde City Councilman Ray Jeffrey, and Comal County Commissioner Scott Haag. Walmart provided many of the lights that brighten up the Downtown Bulverde area and the windmill Christmas Tree behind Bags and Brews and helped make Downtown Bulverde



look like a Winter Wonderland. The children were so excited to see Santa arrive on the Bulverde Spring Branch Fire Truck. Over 190 kids were able to visit with Santa in the special Santa house provided by Storage Solutions.

The vendors provided great food and goodies. Anderson Aviation gave away over 1400 hot dogs, while Holy Smokes provided sausage wraps for many. The attendees enjoyed delicious fare given out by Mike's in the Village Restaurant, Hatch 5, Hair in the Village, and many more. Popcorn Friday as well as many other businesses and organizations were very generous in the goodies they gave away to visitors. Many of the booths had fun activities for

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from page 5)

the children as well as some great early Christmas shopping opportunities.

The entertainment was enjoyed by all. Charlie Wood with Third Stream Music provided holiday tunes in front of his shop and Christmas tunes were enjoyed at the Santa house. The Grinch was a big hit at Bags and Brews. All evening children were encouraged to send off their letters to Santa from the Bulverde Post Office. Joni's Dance and Diamond Dance Academy performed by Wine 101.

Again this year, children had the opportunity to play in real snow sponsored by the following donors: Frost Bank, Friends of the Village, Hairtech Plus, In Covenant Window Cleaning Services, McDonalds, The UPS Store, South Texas Growers, Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club, and the Wood Family. Admission to the snow area was a donation of nonperishable food or toys to Provisions. Lots of food items and toys were collected.

Bulverde Police Chief Haecker and his officers worked tirelessly to ensure event participants were safe and that the event ran smoothly. Children enjoyed face painting at their booth as well. Robert Evans, with the help of the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, provided shuttle service from the Bulverde Community Park and the parking behind the Activity Center to the event.

We would like to thank Security State Bank and Trust and Living Rock Academy for sponsoring the Programs for the event, Kathleen Banse State Farm for sponsoring the Tote Bags, and Clear Visions for printing the flyers for the event.

This area holiday celebration is a community effort hosted by the City of Bulverde, Village Merchants Association, and the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce. The event has grown tremendously and would not take place without the cooperation of many businesses, civic groups, and individuals. A special thank you is extended to Pastor Larry Garcia, Kim Compton with RRR, Sam Roberts Photography, Robert Evans, Grandpa's Plumbing, Home Depot, Landscape Lighting Guru, and all the many businesses, organizations, volunteers, and vendors who worked hard to make the 26th Annual Christmas Lighting such a magnificent local event.

FLU VACCINES AVAILABLE

It's not too late for Comal County residents to get their flu shots, which are available at the county's Public Health Office.

Vaccinations against the influenza virus are effective through the end of flu season, which can last through May, said Gwen Mills, Comal County director of Public Health.

"Last year, the highest number of cases in our area didn't occur until February, March and April," Mills said. "So even though it's started getting cold and feels more like winter, it's not too late to protect you and your loved ones from the flu."

Influenza sickens millions, hospitalizes hundreds of thousands, and kills thousands of people every year. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone at least 6 months old. This year, the CDC is not recommending a nasal-spray form of vaccine because of concerns about effectiveness.

The Comal County Public Health Office offers flu shots by appointment. It takes cash, CHIP, Medicaid, Medicare Traditional Part B and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Call 830-221-1150 for cost information and to set up an appointment.



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Are you a Distracted Driver? Statistics indicate that more than likely, you are.

With more than 100,000 traffic crashes in Texas each year involving distracted driving, TxDOT is reminding drivers that using a mobile phone when behind the wheel is a risky habit they should break. In 2015, 38 percent of Texas drivers admitted to talking on their mobile phone while driving at least some of the time, according to a survey conducted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and more than one-fifth (21.2%) of drivers said they read or send text messages or emails when behind the wheel.

What is distracted driving?

Distracted driving is ANY activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. While mobile phone use is the most recognizable driving distraction, TxDOT also urges drivers to avoid the following high-risk behind-the-wheel activities:

- Posting to social media
- Checking email
- Eating
- Grooming
- Reading
- Programming a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

What are ways to end distracted driving?

The best way to end distracted driving is to educate drivers—especially young drivers—about the danger it poses. Any type of behavior that draws a motorist's attention away from driving is dangerous. Some simple tips to end distracted driving includes waiting until later to talk or text, use an app to disable texting when driving or safely pull over to the side of the road if a phone call or text cannot wait.

You Talk. You Text. You Crash.

Save the Date! Spring Job Fair

As we kick off the New Year, The Bulverde/Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation, in collaboration with the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Bulverde, has already scheduled the Spring Job Fair. It will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 3pm to 7pm. The location and a list of participating employers will be announced in the next issue. If you are an employer who would like to participate, please contact me at 830.885.4331 or sherry.mosier@bsbedf.com. You may also contact Rhonda Zunker, Chamber President, at 830.438.4285 or president@bsbchamber.com.



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SBB Lions Club Provides Vision and Hearing Screening for Local Children



On a cold and wet December day, members of the Bulverde Spring Branch Lion's Club donned their boots and rain gear to go perform vision and hearing screening tests for students attending Gloria Deo Academy in Bulverde. The Gloria Deo Academy is part of a new and fast-growing alternative to total home-schooling or total classroom immersion in which students attend school two days per week and are home-schooled three days per week.

Eight certified club members screened 155 children ranging from pre-K thru 11th grade. The Lions used audiometers and a state-of-the-art detection device called a Spot Vision Instrument to conduct the **Kid Sight Eye Screening**. Chairman Jerry Janosek explains that, "Early detection of eye difficulties increases the likelihood of effective treatment."

Children as young as 6 months old can be screened for acuity difficulties that might require eyeglasses. The Spot Vision instrument also detects amblyopia—an early childhood impairment that can be treated if detected early. Incoming President Tony Doyle indicated that, "Unless treated in early childhood, amblyopia can persist into adulthood; it is the most common cause of permanent one-eye vision impairment among children."

While this annual screening of area youngsters is not diagnostic, the SBB Lions are fully trained to operate the Spot Vision equipment. When abnormalities are detected, Lions will suggest that children be further examined by an eye care professional such as an optometrist (OD) or ophthalmologist (MD).

The SBB Lions are pleased to provide no-cost screening to youngsters anywhere in the greater Spring Branch and Bulverde area. Schools, preschools, churches, and daycare facilities are encouraged to contact Lion Jerry Janosek at 830.221.7872 to arrange for this critical, no-cost screening; the screening is conducted on-site at your facility. If you have any questions about **Kid Sight Eye Screening**, please feel free to contact the SBB Lions Club at 210.286.8050 or visit their website at www.SBBLions.com.



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St. Jude's Christmas Donation



Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club Treasurer Gary Dawson, along with GVTC Foundation Board member Bruce Forey, and other Lions, present a check for \$1000 to the staff of St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The funds, donated by the GVTC Foundation to the Lions to build the deck shown in the photo, will be used by the St. Judes staff to purchase much-needed Christmas decorations for the various dorm buildings on campus. Because the Lions built the deck themselves, used the volunteer labor of painter Justin Weinman to paint the deck, and received donated paint from Sherwin-Williams, the deck building project came in \$1000 under budget. The surplus deck-building funds were happily reallocated for this Christmas gift. It made for a very Merry Christmas, indeed!



Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach Donation



A donation in the amount of \$2,000 was made to the Bulverde food pantry, Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, this fall by the Property Owners' Association of Kestrel Air Park. The check represents one of the largest individual donations Provisions has received.

Holding the "big check" is Steven Salberta, President of the Association. With Steve from left to right are Coy Armstrong, a member of the Kestrel Board of Directors and Connie White, another Board member and the person who suggested the donation. To Steve's left is Barbara McFarlane, a Kestrel resident and volunteer at Provisions; Gail Digman, a Kestrel Board member and Secretary of the Association; and Cliff McFarlane, Treasurer of the Association and the person who issued the check. The residents of Kestrel Air Park hope this gift will help bring some of the bounty of the holidays to those in need.

New Year's Resolutions!

1. Find a comfortable church community that is self-governed, Bible-based, financially sound and accepting of diverse people and opinions.
2. See number one!

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Another Stellar Year for Business in the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area

(Part 2)



Kudos for Local Businesses Throughout the Year

Recently, the San Antonio Business Journal announced their list of finalists for Business of the Year and Frost Bank, a BSBEDF and BSB Chamber member, made the list. Stay tuned for the results.

In October, the *San Antonio Express-News* announced the "Top Workplaces 2016" and we had several local businesses make that list:

- GVTC Communications has earned top workplace for the last 5 years. They employ 225 people in the region, created the employee supported GVTC Foundation, and formed the GVTC GigaRegion®—a private/public partnership to promote the existence of gigabit speeds in our area.
- M & S Engineering, a full-service engineering firm based in Spring Branch, employs 141 people in the region and currently has three (but soon to be four) satellite offices throughout Texas.

- Randolph-Brooks FCU, located on Bulverde Crossing, has been named top workplace for the last 5 years and employs 1,369 people in region.
- Presidian Hotels & Resorts is building an 84-room Hampton Inn and 5,300 sf. Bulverde Visitors and Events Center, currently under construction in the Singing Hills development. They currently employ 65 people in the region. The development of this Hotel and Visitor/Events Center has been a collaborative effort among Presidian, the City of Bulverde, the BSBEDF, and the BSB Chamber of Commerce.
- Security Service FCU has been named top workplace for 6 years in a row and employ 1,255 people in the region.
- Express Lube, located in The Shops at Faithville Park, employs 215 people in the region.
- Quest Diagnostics has been named top workplace for 4 years in a row and employs 263 people in the region.
- Barry Savage Allstate Agency, located in Creekside Park, has been named top workplace for 4 years in a row and employs 1,670 people in the region.
- Nationwide Agent, Nihill Insurance Services, LLC, located on Forty Six Parkway, has been named top workplace for 4 years in a row and employs 266 in the region.

In July, M & S Engineering was listed as one of the "Top 500 Design Firms for 2016" by *Engineering News-Record*. This list is similar to the Fortune 500 list and ranks the top 500 engineering, architect, and construction firms in the nation/world. What an accomplishment to be on this list and what an honor it is for this community

(Continues on page 11)

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to have one of our homegrown companies make that list! Congratulations M & S Engineering!

In May, the *San Antonio Business Journal* announced the winners of the “2016 Best Places to Work” awards and we had four area companies make the list:

- **Futurex** once again made the list of mid-sized companies—that’s eight years in a row! That’s impressive! They employ 99 people in the region, they are one of the top cybersecurity firms in the world according to Cybersecurity Ventures’ list of the “Top 500 Hot Companies to Watch,” and they were ranked among The Silicon Review Magazine’s top 20 fastest growing data security companies of 2015.
- **Quest Diagnostics, Randolph-Brooks FCU, and Service King Paint and Body LLC** all made the list of very large companies, have a branch location here in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area, and each employs 250 or more in the region.

Comal County’s Community News

On another note, let’s not forget to recognize Comal County, which invested \$1.6 million to construct a new 9,000-square-foot annex for the citizens of western Comal County that opened in September. This new facility is located at 30470 Cougar Bend and houses Bulverde-area representatives of the Comal County Tax Office and County Clerk’s Office, as well as offices and

courtroom for the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace and Constable. What a beautiful addition to our community! Thank you Comal County!

Also in October, Comal ISD broke ground on its new middle school in the Kinder Ranch subdivision, located roughly one mile west of US 281 off Borgfeld Road in Bexar County. This new 171,000± sf. school is part of the \$147.4 million bond issue passed by voters in 2015, is being built for 1,150 students, and will relieve overcrowding at Spring Branch and Smithson Valley Middle Schools. This new school couldn’t come soon enough, as Comal ISD recently set enrollment history by surpassing the 22,000 enrollment mark.

Stay tuned for more businesses to come to our area in 2017!

Please visit our website at www.bsbedf.com, our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bsbedf> or call us at 830.885.4331 to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how we can help you start or expand your business. The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth while maintaining our rural character and quality of life.

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Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center Celebrates 25 Years!

In 1991, Bulverde residents Ruth Herr and Jane Wood were walking, as they did on a regular basis, when Ruth suggested they get a group of friends together and create a senior center where people could meet, socialize, and host events. Ruth told Jane that her participation was vital because of all the people she knew. Not long after that conversation, Jane gathered people together to discuss the idea. A board of directors was established, board members made financial pledges, and the Comal County commissioners gave their support. The Bulverde Senior Center (BSC) was born. Gil Kinder, a local landowner, generously donated several acres of land on the east side of Cougar Bend to the Bulverde Landowners Association (BLA) to be used for public service entities and nonprofit organizations. When BSC grew to a point of needing their own facility, the board of directors contacted the BLA asking for a tract of land on which to build a facility of their own.

The association graciously donated the tract of land at 30280 Cougar Bend. Fundraisers were held and generous grants from Kronkosky Charitable Foundation and United Way of Comal County were received to help finance the center building.

As word spread throughout the community, more people began joining and growth flourished. Irene Scholz worked an untold number of hours maintaining business records and keeping meaningful correspondence with the members. Bill and Lura Wurzbach, along with Jim Herrington, received recognition for their volunteer work from the local Lions Club in 1997–99. Tonie Rogers received the Volunteer of the Year award for serving as executive director.

BSC, now known as Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, continues to grow. Today the membership is 600+. Senior Outreach provides services and resources to the homebound including Meals on Wheels and transportation. Daily activities consist of different card games, crafts, fellowship meals, and variety of fitness classes and gym. The gift shop offers jewelry, seasonal decorations, and one of a kind cards that have been created by our Card Creation group.

If you have not visited the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, stop by and take a tour. Our business hours are 9:00 am–4:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am–1:00 pm on Friday. In celebration of our 25th year, anyone joining the month of January will receive one month of free membership to the fitness program.



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A Heartfelt Thanks from Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach!



Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, the Bulverde food pantry, would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who sponsored the Holiday Hunger Run 5K/10K. It is through the generosity of these contributors that the pantry is able to continue to provide food and other necessities to our neighbors in need.

Mother Nature, however, was not as generous to the run coordinators on that Saturday morning, offering up heavy rain, lightning, and flood advisories, so the run did not take place after all. Provisions volunteers and the run management team reluctantly made the early-morning decision to cancel the event in an effort to keep everyone safe and dry. If you were registered to run or walk in the Holiday Hunger Run and would still like to collect your t-shirt and registration packet, they are available for pick up during Provisions' regular hours of operation—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Thank you again to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who support our mission and the HHR event. We couldn't do it without you!

Provisions 6th Annual Holiday Hunger 5K-10K Run-Walk

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7th Annual Denim & Diamonds



Through the generous support of our community, the contributions made to Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS's 7th Annual Denim & Diamonds event will help to fund advanced education, training, and equipment to Firefighters and Paramedics to support our Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program. The MIH program is patient-centered and focuses on YOU. It provides mobile resources in the out-of-hospital environment by integrating existing infrastructure and resources to better serve you in your home during a time of greatest need. Firefighters and Paramedics must have national and state licenses, as well as certifications, and this involves a triad of schooling, training, and testing. To work at BSB Fire & EMS, medics and firefighters must pursue that triad continuously. Success means always having the right equipment and enhanced educational opportunities available in all our stations.

Certainly, the focus of this event was to secure funds to keep our Firefighters and Paramedics at the top of their game. Additionally, your first responders see this as an opportunity for residents and businesses to come together, not just for support, but also to have fun and socialize. Another appreciated benefit behind Denim & Diamonds is the community meets our CEO, Chiefs, Firefighters, and other personnel from Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS in a relaxed setting. A night of appreciation for all that the community and the first responders accomplish every day.



Our delightful hosts, Chuck and Sharon Knibbe, once again opened up Knibbe Hall for our magnificent event, where friends mingled, shared dinner and drinks, and even found time for a spin around the dance floor. Chances were taken on tickets for our infamous "It's a Girl Thing" and "It's a Guy Thing" wheelbarrows that were overflowing with an assortment of gifts donated by our local businesses. Two new offerings were Squares for an opportunity to win three gorgeous jewelry creations by James Avery Jewelry and a fun card game with winners receiving tokens for wine tastings.





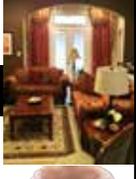
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Pancake Breakfast (no charge) & Annual Report to the Community
 Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS
 Saturday, January 28, 2017

Griddle Heats Up @ 8:00 a.m.
 Johnson Ranch Station
 30475 Johnson Ranch Way
 Bulverde





Emergencies: Any Time, Any Place

How to Prepare



A few articles ago, we detailed the number and kind of vehicles that respond to an emergency scene. This time, we'd like to share the basic items you can do to prepare for an ambulance call. We all know an emergency can

happen at any time or at any place and it is a situation demanding immediate action. Early arrival of emergency personnel increases the victim's chances of surviving a life-threatening emergency and your response may help save a life.

- What to do until help arrives—if the dispatcher gives you specific instructions follow them and don't panic. Don't move someone who is injured (unless they are in danger) because some of the victim's injuries may be internal and not visible.
- Provide first aid until help arrives—this step should only be taken if you are trained in first aid. If you are not, try to keep the victim calm until first responders arrive.
- Prepare for the ambulance to arrive—make sure your home can be identified, even in the dark. Your house number should be visible and large enough to read from the road (consider purchasing one of our reflective address signs that light up like a beacon in the night). Turn on an outside light. If possible, have someone go outside to wait for emergency responders.
- When the ambulance and first responders arrive—first responders will immediately begin caring for the ill or injured. Along with the reason for the current complaint/injury, first responders will need to know the patient's medical history, current medications (over the counter and prescribed), allergies, physician's name and hospital choice. Keep a current list of medications (include the medication name, dose and administration frequency) and a



BSB Fire & EMS reflective address sign

complete past medical history in a readily accessible place. This will help ensure the necessary patient information is relayed to medical providers.

Two other reminders to assist the first responders in the emergency situation are to make sure you have a wide, straight path through the house. This will aid in movement of the stretcher to the patient. Secondly, if you have a pet, secure it in another room. Even the friendliest pet can turn violent when strangers burst into the room and they could possibly block the way of specialized medical equipment used by the crew.

In a medical emergency, seconds count. Taking these simple steps now to prepare your family and home could be invaluable if you ever need to call for help.



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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

January 18, 2017

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: Smithson Valley Counseling Center
 12 Noon–1:00 pm
 Location: BSB Library
 Member Only Event

January 28 & 29, 2017

3rd Annual Chamber Rodeo

Saturday Night Military Tribute – 7:30 pm
 Sunday Family Fun Day – 2:00 pm
 Location: Tejas Rodeo Company
 401 Obst Rd, Bulverde, TX

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

Area First Responders Honored

The First Responders in the Bulverde Spring Branch Area are first rate. Recently at the BSB Chamber's Annual Meeting, we recognized Bulverde Police Chief Gary Haecker for going above and beyond for the community for the past 14 years. We appreciate all that he does and all that he gives back. Look for more honored first responders in the February edition.



BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER RODEO

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 28²⁰¹⁷ @ 7:30 PM
 A PORTION OF THE NIGHT'S PROCEEDS BENEFITING TRINITY OAKS WITH A SPECIAL MILITARY TRIBUTE TO OUR CURRENT AND RETIRED MILITARY.

FAMILY FUN DAY
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 29²⁰¹⁷ @ 2:00 PM
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New Years Resolutions for Pet Owners

By Megan Hughes, DVM

The New Year is the perfect time for setting goals and starting fresh.

For pet owners out there, shouldn't we be including our furry family members among our top priorities for the New Year? Having pets has been shown to improve both our physical and mental health, so it is only fair to return the favor to our pets. There are many ways we can improve the health of our cats and dogs and the New Year is a great time to get started.

Resolution #1: Make your pet's weight a priority

Did you know that over 50% of pets in the US are obese! Many people do not even realize that their pets are overweight or obese. Pet obesity in dogs and cats is a major cause of many diseases such as diabetes, joint problems, and respiratory diseases. Have a conversation with your vet about your pet's weight and discuss a diet plan if they are overweight. Use a measuring cup to measure your pet's food every day. Many pet parents 'eyeball' their pet's daily food intake and pour that into a bowl, often resulting in overfeeding and weight gain. Be very careful with the amount of treats you give your pet. Treats may not look like a lot, but remember, your pets are much smaller than you and require a fewer daily calories.

Resolution #2: Take your dog on more regular walks

Regular walks help both your dog's physical and mental health. Assuming your dog is healthy enough for this kind of exercise, daily walks are very important to keeping them fit and not overweight. The mental stimulation will also reduce bad behavior and keep them happy. Walking is also not a bad way for us to stay fit too.

Resolution #3: Play with your cat more

Just like dogs, cats need exercise too. New games and toys give cats more exercise and more mental stimulation. Cats have a natural hunting instinct, so playing is very important for indoor cats. Mentally stimulated cats are also less likely to have behavioral problems.

Resolution #4 Set up play dates

Resolve to bring more joy into your pet's life in 2017. One easy way is by setting up pet play dates. Remember, this is only appropriate if your pet gets along well with other pets and is not aggressive. Call up a friend with a similarly sized and friendly pet for a play date. Interaction with other animals is great for your pet's mental health, and can vastly improve their social skills.

Resolution #5: Prevent losing your pet

Many pets go missing every year. You should do everything you can to prevent losing your pet. Make sure your yard fence is secure to reduce the risk of your dog getting out. Make sure your pet always has a collar with your phone number on it. Get your pets microchipped and make sure the phone number registered is current.

Resolution #6 Teach your pet to play a new trick

Teaching your pet a new trick can be great for stimulating their brain. It also helps you bond with your pet. Plus, it's fun to show off your pet's tricks! Make your pet's mental health, and overall behavior, a top priority in 2017

Resolution #7: Make time to play

Your pet loves you unconditionally and loves spending time with you. Make it a priority to play with them more in 2017. It will give them some much-needed exercise, and will provide you both with some crucial one-on-one time. Everybody is busy, but your pets still need time that's devoted solely to them. Resolve to play five or 10 minutes a day—tossing a ball, tugging a rope. The attention makes them feel important and loved.

Resolution # 8: Go to a trainer

Nothing prevents a pet parent from fully appreciating your pet like persistent behavior problems. Identify any issues you have with your pet, like potty training problems or tugging too hard on the leash, and talk with a trainer. Consult with a dog trainer and devote time every day towards working on your pet's behavioral problems.

Resolution #9: Start a pet savings fund

Pets medical needs can be expensive if they get sick. Start saving up now! There is nothing worse than being in a financial bind when your furry family member has a sudden sickness or injury. Having a pet savings fund will ensure that you never have to compromise when it comes to getting your pet the best care possible.

Resolution #10 Visit the vet regularly

Perhaps the most important resolution for any pet owner to make is vowing to take your pet to the veterinarian at least once a year. As much as we love our pets and pay close attention to them, there can sometimes be things that we can't see going on underneath the surface. Make sure to take them in for an annual checkup. Remember, they can't tell us if something hurts.

Happy New Year from everyone at Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital!



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Petey is a one year old domestic short hair boy with tiger stripes and green eyes. He's very affectionate and loves to be held. A playful boy, he loves to jump for the fishing pole or chase a ball for hours. His ideal home will be as the only pet, just as he was for the senior gentleman who loved him first. Petey wants a lap, a toy or two, and a home.



All BAHS pets are microchipped, spayed/neutered and current on vaccinations.

BAHS is located at 3563 Kingsnake, Bulverde, TX 78163 and the phone number is (830) 980-2247. You can also visit their website at <http://www.bulverdeshelter.com> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BulverdeAreaHumaneSociety/?fref=ts>



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The Buzz From the Garden

The Bean Arbor Project

By: Dave Eastman; Bulverde Community Gardener



My interest in the Bulverde Community Garden has been, and continues to be, that of demonstration and experimentation of vegetable gardening best practices. I have been an avid vegetable gardener for about 40 years and grow all the produce I need to eat at my home. What I plant and grow at the community garden is intended to demonstrate the techniques that I have learned and developed to help fellow



gardeners learn by example. I have had a plot since the first season the garden was open and then had a trellis plot for the last few seasons as well.

When I was offered the trellis plot, I wanted to grow a new pole bean variety that I had great success with at my home. This variety is named Fortex, remember it as “For Texas” although it is a French Fillet bean. I discovered this variety while watching the Victory Garden on PBS and they praised it as their new favorite. The trellis that had been constructed by others had a small spaced fencing wire that I could not get my hand through and was placed so close to the outside fence that harvesting from both sides would be difficult. I replaced the fencing with 10 gauge concrete reinforcing wire that has 6 inch spacing and allows for easy reach through when picking crops. I use this same reinforcing wire to make my tomato cages, as it is the most cost effective product and also is very strong and lasts many years. I grew the Fortex beans on that trellis for two seasons with great success and saved the seeds for other gardeners and for the Arbor Trellis.

I had seen pictures of arched arbors over the years and thought that would make a great addition to the community garden and the arch design would be perfect for the Fortex beans, as the long beans would hang down inside for easy harvesting. Fortex beans grow to 10–12 inches long and are stringless with a nutty flavor. The arbor would also provide shade for a bench in the late Spring where gardeners could take a break. The arbor is made from cattle panels with the first wire cut off to create spikes to anchor the panels into the ground. I had some 16-foot-long panels at my house and they were not long enough to provide head room, so I used 20-foot panels and cut them down to 18 foot 6 inches, as 20 foot was too long. These are supported by re-bar uprights for stability. One of the nice things about a metal panel arbor is at the end of the season cleanup is made simple by using a weed eater to mow the vines down off the trellis. The heavy panels can take the beating of the string line without damage.

As I have gotten older, I try to use the KISS method and keep gardening as simple as possible. I also don't like to grow bush beans anymore because my back doesn't appreciate the stoop labor required to harvest the beans. Fortex beans have been a blessing to my back and they have been the most productive beans I have grown. They have a great flavor, too. I have developed a recipe based on the stir-fried beans that most Chinese buffets usually have on the menu. Enjoy!

Better Than Buffet Beans

- 1 pound fresh Fortex green beans, snapped in half or whole if using a short variety
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil (I use black sesame oil)
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce

In a large pan or frying pan, bring enough water to boil to cover the beans. When water is boiling, add the beans and make sure they are covered with water for even cooking. Stir if necessary for even cooking. To preserve the green color of the beans, do not cover with a lid. Boil for approximately 5 minutes, less for a crunchier bean, or more for more tender beans. The beans should not be over cooked. Watch carefully. Drain the beans and remove them from the pan.

Add the sesame oil and oyster sauce to the pan over medium heat to warm. Return the beans to the pan and lightly stir to coat the beans completely with the sauce. Cook until thoroughly hot or as desired.

Serves one if you are hungry, more if you can share.

If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please 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.

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January Events at the BSB Library

GED Spring Registration

Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 10:00am–1:00pm

Free and open to adults who want to improve their basic skills and/or obtain a GED.

- Students must be 18 years of age to register.
- Students must arrive on time.
- Childcare is not provided.

For more information, contact: Bethanie Corder, bethanie@bsblibrary.org or call 830.438.4864.

Region 20 ESL Spring Registration

ESL (English as a Second Language) is provided by Region 20 and is a free program offered to anyone that is interested in improving their English

These classes are offered by Region 20 at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library during the following times:

- Mondays from 5:00–7:30 pm
- Tuesdays from 10:00 am–1:00 pm
- Thursday from 10:00 am–1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm–5:30 pm

Registration is required for these classes. For more information, contact: Bethanie Corder, bethanie@bsblibrary.org or call 830.438.4864.

The library also offers ESL classes on Wednesday and Thursday nights from 6:00–7:30 pm that do not require registration.

Estas clases son ofrecidas por la Región 20 en la Biblioteca Bulverde/Spring Branch durante los siguientes horarios:

- Lunes de 5:00 a 7:30 pm
- Martes de 10:00 am a 1:00 pm
- Jueves de 10:00 am a 1:00 pm y de 3:00 pm a 5:30 pm

El registro es necesario para estas clases. Para más información, comuníquese con: Bethanie Corder, bethanie@bsblibrary.org o llame al 830.438.4864.

La biblioteca también ofrece clases de ESL los miércoles y jueves por la noche de 6:00–7:30 pm que no requieren registro.

Blood Drive with South Texas Blood and Tissue Center

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 10:30am–2:30pm

Come donate blood for a good cause to help those who can't help themselves. Sign up for a time that is convenient for you by either signing up at the circulation desk or by calling 830.438.4864. Time slots are in 1/2 increments.

Hungrytown Folk Music Concert

Sunday, January 29, 2017, 3:00pm–4:00pm

Back by popular demand! Come enjoy an afternoon concert by Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson--otherwise known as the folk duo Hungrytown hailing from Vermont.

They released their first CD, *Hungrytown*, in 2008; *Any Forgotten Thing* in 2011; and *Further West* in 2015.

See more at: <http://hungrytown.net>

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WATER WISE TIPS



Grandpa always said, “Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.”

Sometimes it is hard to judge when your lawn needs water or fertilizer. Here’s a handy summary from your Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD) to help you in January.

Lawns seeded with winter rye grass:

Fertilizing: Apply ½ lb. Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. Phosphorous is beneficial now.

Watering: Water every 7 to 14 days, depending on the weather, to a depth of 4 to 8 inches.

Mowing: Recommend regular mowing at 1½ inches. DO NOT mow or walk on frosted turf.

Non-seeded lawns (dormant)

Fertilizing: None

Watering: Because grass is dormant, water to a depth of 4 to 8 inches once per month—less frequently if it rains.

Mowing: None, grass is dormant

Find the turn-off valves. Know how to manually turn off your automatic watering system in the event of a rain, malfunction, or leak. Either choose the “off” setting on your controller for rainy days or mishaps, or in the event of an emergency, malfunction or leak, turn the shut-off valve on the main line entering your home. It is usually located close to the outside faucet near the front of the house (see photo).



All Comal county residents are encouraged to attend the CTGCD’s monthly meetings held at 6:00 on the third Monday of the month at the Curtis W. Bremer Building at 9850 FM 311 in Spring Branch—the old fire station just East of Hwy 281. By providing your thoughts you can help your Comal Trinity GCD Directors better conserve and protect our Trinity Aquifer. You can also connect with the GCD by visiting their website and signing up for their water conservation e-blast of upcoming agenda at www.ComalTrinityGCD.com.



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at Stone Oak

Open House

Breakfast and Tour of Homes

Meet our friendly residents and see why they *Love* the Independence Hill Life!

We look forward to seeing you on
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th
9:00 AM

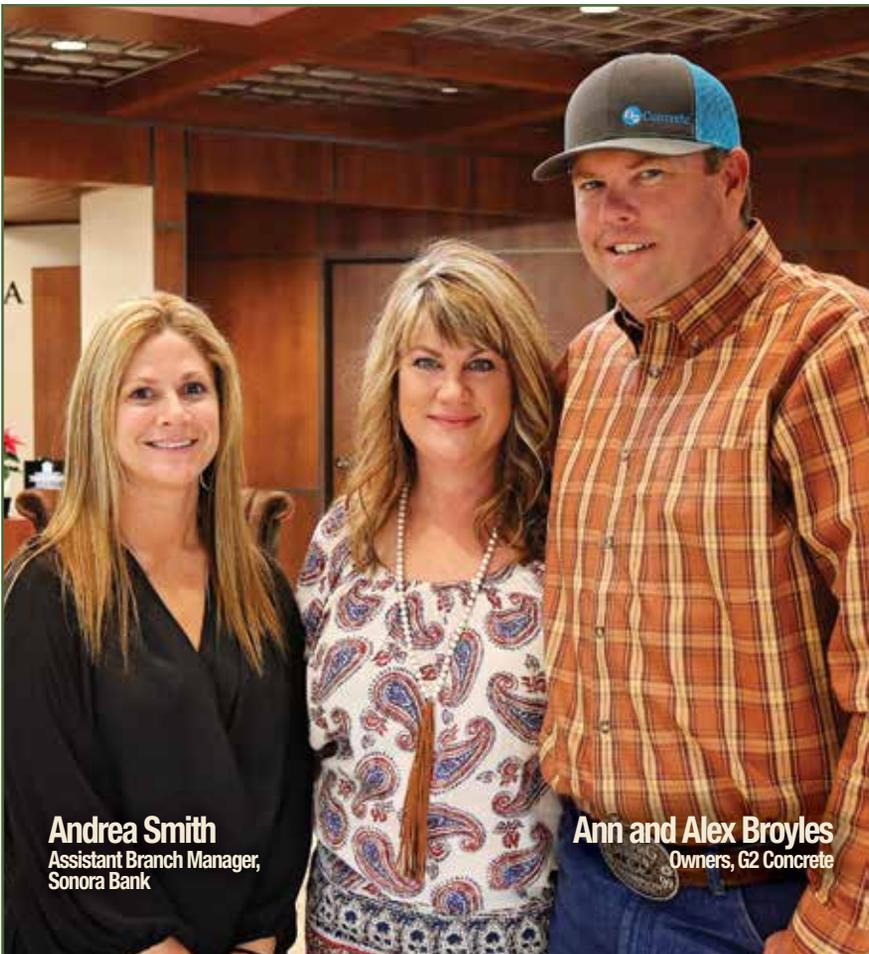
Kindly RSVP by January 23rd
(210) 209-8404

20450 Huebner Road
 San Antonio, Texas 78258
www.independencehill.com



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Full Service Apartments, Assisted Living and Neighborhood of Homes



Andrea Smith
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 Sonora Bank

Ann and Alex Broyles
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Bulverde City Hall
30360 Cougar Bend
Bulverde, Texas 78163

Time Dated

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JANUARY 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 New Year's Day | 2 CISD Holiday | 3 CISD Holiday | 4 CISD Classes resume | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| BSB Library Closed County Offices Closed | City Hall Closed BSB Library Closed | Planning & Zoning 6:30p | BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) | | | |
| 8 | 9 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) | 10 City Council 6:30p | 11 | 12 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 M L King Day City Hall Closed CISD Holiday CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) County Offices Closed | 17 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) | 18 ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way) SBB Family Lions 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) | 19 ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Park & Rec Advisory Board 6:00p Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 27 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) | 28 Pancake Breakfast & Annual Mtg. 8:00a (30476 Johnson Way) Blood Drive 10:30a (BSB Library) Chamber Rodeo 7:30p (Tejas Rodeo) |
| 29 Chamber Rodeo 2:00p (Tejas Rodeo) | 30 | 31 | NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend) | | | |

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

FEBRUARY 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------|
| NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend) | | | 1 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Planning & Zoning 6:30p | 8 | 9 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) | 14 Valentine's Day City Council 6:30p | 15 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way) | 16 ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Presidents' Day BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 21 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) | 22 | 23 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Park & Rec Advisory Board 6:00p | 24 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District