

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 4 Issue 3 ★ March 2017

THE
FRONT PORCH
News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS

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

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MAYOR'S POINT

Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

A city's job is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. Sadly, many cities choose to look for ways to increase revenue instead of guarding those they serve. It is not always easy to do the right thing, especially when dollars are the low hanging fruit. Some may say Bulverde has sold out to the highest bidder. This could not be further from the truth. From the day it was formed, the City has looked closely at the negative effects of development.

Water is a fluid that has the dynamics to create great change. Life cannot exist without water, and water can take life. Water can carry the largest of objects while at the same time some of the smallest particles such as silt, bacteria, and microorganisms.

Residents of Bulverde receive their water for domestic use from several sources. Some property owners rely on private wells. Others get theirs from a utility which rely on a network of marginally producing public wells. The rest have water piped in from Canyon Lake.

Cities like San Antonio are fortunate to have a plentiful source of high quality water from the Edwards Aquifer. Bulverde is not as fortunate. Our aquifer is tight and often finicky.

Protecting our fragile source of ground water has always led Bulverde to err on the side of caution. This limited supply is not capable to meet the demands of high density development. High density development also has the potential to introduce contaminants that could cause anything from dirty laundry to serious illness.

Developers fight hard to defend their right to make as much money as possible. There is only so much money to be made from land sales. The real profit is in construction. The denser the buildings, the greater the payout.

Vegetation and open space are one of nature's best filters. Pavement and rooftops, on the other hand, are the most prolific collectors of contaminants. If one does not balance the two, those contaminants will concentrate and enter the ground water supply unfiltered.

Residents of Oak Village North are very aware of these pollutants entering their water source from new development. What has been observed is a larger impact from lesser rainfall events.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

Since its incorporation, Bulverde has looked at ways to keep nature's filters in place. The City encourages larger lots. If the developer chooses higher density, the city then requires either open space or buffer zones.

Buildings mean property tax. Most cities look for ways to cram as many tax-generating structures as they can inside their boundary. When it comes to annexation, most cities only look at properties that will immediately generate income, not at those who could benefit from city services. Bulverde has always targeted undeveloped land slated for development so we can have some protective oversight on them.

Development in Bulverde is growing exponentially. Monitoring this growth has become more of a challenge. Some changes have been made to City staff to allow for better oversight. The former, single, City Engineer has been replaced with both a City Planner and a Public Works Manager. Engineering services and platting review has now been contracted out to a third party provider.

The revised staffing will allow each individual or team to more closely follow a project. During construction, things can change quickly. It is imperative that more frequent visits be made to job sites to ensure that protective measures are in place. After all, isn't that the purpose of government?

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COMAL COUNTY CORNER

By Scott Haag, County Commissioner, Precinct 2

If you've been down Cougar Bend lately, you've seen a flurry of activity where the old Comal County Tax Office used to be.

That's Phase 2 of the Comal County Annex project. Last year, we finished Phase 1, building and opening the annex, which houses not only the Tax Office but also the Comal County Clerk's Office and the Precinct 2 Constable and Justice of the Peace.

This winter, Phase 2 has included removing the old blue tax building, smoothing the land, and laying down asphalt for a parking lot that will make getting into and out of the annex much easier. By the time you're reading this, the work should be almost done.

The new annex belongs to you, the taxpayers. If you haven't yet, I invite you to come check it out. It's 9,000 square feet and includes a beautiful courtroom you are welcome to walk through.

We're excited to have the annex open and all work on the site finally complete, and we appreciate your patience and support through the process.



New Staff Hired to Fill City Planner and Public Works Manager Positions

The City of Bulverde has welcomed two new members to the staff at City Hall. Brandon Melland has joined the City in the role of City Planner, and Jason New has filled the position of Public Works Manager.



Mr. Melland, a Boerne native, is happy to be gravitating back toward South Texas. He currently commutes from South Austin where he resides with his wife Wynne and their three children, Aidan, Cole, and Liana. Wynne is an LPC and works as an Adoption Specialist with families throughout Austin and San Antonio.

They are looking forward to moving to the area once Aidan and Cole finish their school year.

Brandon comes to Bulverde from the City of San Marcos where he served as Senior Planner. He began his Planning career with the City of Midland and has also worked for the cities of San Antonio and Oklahoma City, as well as McCann Adams Studio in Austin and JMS Architects in San Antonio. He is a UTSA graduate

with a Bachelor's and a Master's of Architecture, with special focus in Historic Preservation. In his spare time Brandon enjoys hiking, jogging, reading, and doodling house plans.



Mr. New comes to Bulverde from MJ Boyle General Contractor, where he served as a construction project manager. Born in Corpus Christi, New was raised and attended high school in La Vernia. His educational background includes his bachelor's degree in

Construction Management awarded in 2005 from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Mr. New states that his near-term goals with the City are to develop systems within the Bulverde Public Works Department to help ensure customer satisfaction.

Jason lives in New Braunfels with his wife Ashley and their two children, Parker and Travis. He enjoys spending time with his family, doing home improvement projects, fishing, and generally spending time outdoors.

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Bulverde Improvement, Inc.



The Bulverde City Council has long demanded that keeping taxes low is a top priority for the City, and members of the police department share that sentiment. Low taxes are a priority for the Mayor and City Council, which is reflected in the City's current tax rate of 13.94 cents

per hundred—one of the lowest in the state. The current City tax rate is actually lower now than what it was in 2004 when the city was first created.

Exploring additional funding sources has always been a primary concern for the police department; notably, we have received about \$300,000 dollars in grants over the recent years. Last year, individuals interested in supporting our great community formed the Bulverde Improvement, Inc. (BIC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to provide an avenue for those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation.

In return for the community's support, during the past year, Bulverde Improvement, Inc. has been able to make donations to several local charitable organizations that provide much needed services in the community. As approved by the BIC Board of Directors, each of the following organizations received a \$250.00 donation from Bulverde Improvement, Inc.

- Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, the Bulverde Food Pantry
- Bulverde Police Department
- Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center

- Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County

Bulverde Improvement, Inc. was created as a nonprofit with a mission to make the Bulverde area a better place to live, while creating an opportunity for donors to utilize the tax deduction when filing their tax return. Donors can request their donation to be allocated to specific expenditures or projects, such as parks, public safety, etc.

In addition to relying on traditional monetary donations from the community, the Bulverde Improvement Inc. has partnered with Amazon in their Amazon Smile program. Anyone making a purchase through Smile.Amazon.com can designate Bulverde Improvement Inc. as their charity of choice, and a portion of that purchase will be donated to Bulverde Improvement Inc. The greatest part of the Amazon Smile program is that it doesn't cost the purchaser anything extra, the donation actually comes from Amazon. Participation in this program is just one more example of how your leaders of Bulverde are looking for and creating funding opportunities in an effort to keep taxes low for residents.

If you are interested in making a donation to Bulverde Improvement, Inc., you may do so at Broadway Bank on Highway 46—you must specify your donation to the "Bulverde Improvement Inc." You may also mail your donation directly to Bulverde Improvement Inc. at P.O. Box 129 Bulverde, Tx 78163. If you would like your donation to be allocated for a specific use, please include that request with your donation.



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Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or any item containing CFC's must be tagged by a licensed technician certifying Freon removal, white goods (i.e. hot water heaters, washer and dryer machines, bath tubs, stoves, sinks, and furniture)

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- Gasoline, motor oil, paint, chemicals, and similar flammable liquids
- Medical waste (including needles and syringes), animals or human waste
- Tires, car batteries, and large pieces of metal (car fenders, engines, etc.)
- Used Oil Filters or any hazardous or toxic waste

On the Cover

Prom season is here! These lovely young ladies from Smithson Valley High School and Living Rock Academy joined together with the Belle of the Ball Prom Dress Program to model a selection of the prom dresses that were being made available to area girls at a very low cost. Each girl who modeled was given the opportunity to have professional modeling photographs taken in the studios at Bloom Photography & Design.

Photographer Norma Mitchell has donated her talent to Belle of the Ball and other local charity organizations for various fundraisers and publicity photos. Norma is a gifted artist, and the Bulverde community is blessed by her talent and giving spirit. Norma's portfolio is multifaceted, exhibiting wonderful photographic talent with a variety of subjects and in numerous environments. She does fabulous work with moms-to-be, babies, kids, couples, families, and pets—both in the studio and on location.

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The 2nd Annual Belle of the Ball Prom Dress Boutique Provides Girls With a Cinderella Experience



Growing up, most girls think about going to their prom and dream about the dress that they will wear. Prom is not just a dance; it is a milestone, a rite of passage in the life of any girl. In the U.S., the current cost of a prom dress ranges from \$200–\$750! For many girls, this cost is simply too far out of reach, and hopes of going to prom soon fade.

The Belle of the Ball Prom Dress Project, sponsored by the Bulverde/Spring Branch Angels, has been able to help several local girls realize their dream of looking gorgeous for their prom, wearing a dress that is everything they wanted—sparkly or sleek, flirty or demure, short or long, classic or trendy, sophisticated or playful. They had an abundant collection to choose from.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bulverde/Spring Branch community (and beyond!) and the dedication and hard work of several champions for the cause, about 250 prom dresses were donated/collected, cleaned and steamed as needed, sized, categorized, and covered for storage. Shoes and accessories were also donated/collected, inventoried, sorted and matched, and attractively packaged.

In February, the Be Fabulous Boutique, owned by Cathy Scroggins-Brownlow, hosted a fashion show to showcase the styles of dresses that were being collected and would be for sale. Girls from Smithson Valley High School and Living Rock Academy volunteered as models, each representing for their schools and extracurricular organizations. Norma Mitchell of Bloom Photography & Design donated beautiful studio photographs of each girl looking gorgeous in their gown.

In early March, a Prom Dress Boutique, complete with shoes and accessories, was set up at the First United Bank on Highway 46. Girls were invited to shop at the Boutique, try on as many styles as they wanted, and pick out a dress they loved, along with shoes and jewelry, for only about \$20–\$25 for the entire outfit. Such a fun time was had by all, as the girls got to enjoy the experience of being pampered and helped as they picked out their favorite outfit for that special night! More fun was added as gift prizes for hair and makeup packages, photography packages, and restaurant gift cards were donated by area vendors.

Many thanks go out to all who donated dresses, shoes, and accessories! You have made a girl's prom experience everything she hoped for! This project will repeat next year, but dress collections will be ongoing throughout the year. Planning will begin to accelerate again in December 2017 and January 2018 for the next spring prom season. Please keep the project in mind throughout the year in case you come across a dress that might be donated.

Special recognition goes to the Bulverde/Spring Branch Angels, Cindy Hurst, Becca Adams-the BSB Angels social media administrator, the Bulverde Thrift Store, Kristina Vickers, Be Fabulous Boutique, Cathy Scroggins-Brownlow, Bloom Photography & Design, Norma Mitchell, Hairstyles by Sydnee–Sydnee Eklund, Hair & Makeup by Julia Salinas, the Spring Branch-Bulverde Family Lions Club, Melissa Doyle, Annabelle Fey, First United Bank, A & E Air Conditioning, Koby Rule Construction, Mike Johnson, and the numerous volunteers who solicited and gathered donated dresses and shoes, sorted, cleaned, and assisted in the events. This program is only successful due to the dedication of this crew. Please visit our website to see a complete list of our sponsors and benefactors: <https://www.sbbliions.com/bulverde-angels>

Any additional proceeds raised by the boutique sale will be donated to Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, the Bulverde Food Pantry and to the Bulverde Thrift Store.





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SBB Lions Club Car Show ROARS to Life!



The 4th Annual ROAR FOR KIDS Car Show hosted by the Spring Branch-Bulverde Family Lions Club is revving up! The show gets underway at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 25th on the campus of Bulverde Baptist Church. The Lions are hoping to host 200 cars, so if you have a sweet hot rod, classic car, or customized ride that you want to show off, there is still time to register!

There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Roar for Kids Car Show, with food booths, door prizes, craft and product vendors, music, and raffles with EXCELLENT prizes! Even if you're only along for the ride with a gearhead, you'll have plenty of fun. If you have a love and eye for photography, there is plenty of great subject matter to shoot—nothing like some shiny chrome and bright colors to attract a shutterbug.

Admission to the show is free for spectators. Car owners and product/food vendors should contact the Lions for rates to enter the show or have a booth at the event. There is still time! There is also still time to provide some sponsorship support if you are interested in helping the Lions to put on this outstanding car show. Contact Larry Sunn for all of the details (see photo of event flier for all contact information).

There are several classes of cars in which to enter, with three trophies to be awarded in each class. And let's talk about those trophies—these are not your average, run-of-the-mill trophies! No sir! Each of these trophies is a hand-crafted work of art, sculpted by two of our SBB Lions, Gary and Patti Dawson. The Dawsons spend all year making these unique beauties by hand, and there are no two alike! They are quickly becoming the coveted trophies to win among the car show set.

All proceeds raised by the event will be reinvested into our community through the community service projects that the SBB Family Lions Club support, host, and participate in. The SBB Family Lions Club is active in many events that benefit the underserved children in our area, as well as other endeavors that have a bit of a farther reach, such as the Texas Lions Camp located in Kerrville.

So plan to be at Bulverde Baptist Church on Saturday, March 25th for a great car show! ROAR!

Visit the SBB Family Lions Club website for complete details about the club, the car show, and other events and activities the Lions are a part of! <https://www.sbbliions.com/>

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Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club

three trophies in all classes



4th

Annual

Roar for Kids

2017 Bulverde Car Show



Saturday, March 25th

Judging: 10:00 - 2:00 Awards @ 3:00

Rain or Shine

Staging: 7:00-10:00

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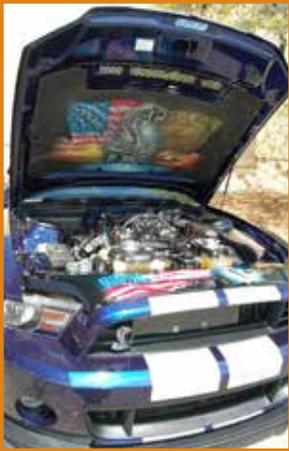
Show awards

- Best in Show
- Lion's Pride
- Best Paint
- Best Interior
- Mayor's Trophy
- Best Under the Hood
- Most Likely to be Pulled Over

Helping send kids to Texas Lions Camp



The 2017 SBBLions Roar for Kids Bulverde Car Show Awards



Best in Show
Awarded to the 2017 Bulverde Car Show vehicle scored as having the judges' highest overall score.



Lions Pride
A special 2017 Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club award presented to the vehicle having been scored with the judges' 2nd highest overall score.



Most Likely to be Pulled Over
The vehicle local law enforcement feels is most likely to garner police attention



Best Under Hood
Awarded to the vehicle that: 1st, scores or ties as best under the hood and 2nd, if ties occur, of these cars, scores the judges' highest overall score.



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Business Continues to Flourish



The BSBEDF and our collaborative partners, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce (BSB Chamber) and the City of Bulverde, would like to thank the following local employers who participated in our February 16th Job Fair:

- A & E Air Conditioning
- American Income Life
- AutoZone
- CLEANGIE Professional Cleaning and Services
- Comal ISD Maintenance & Operations
- Comal ISD Transportation
- Cricket Wireless
- Futurex
- Hampton Inn Bulverde
- Hanson's Hill Country Catering
- JDK Associates Inc
- Kwik Kut Painting & Remodeling
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- Mustang Equipment
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- Schlotzskys #2596
- SportClips
- Taproot Chiropractic
- Tejas Rodeo
- The Shops at Faithville Park
- Touchstone Communities - The Heights of Bulverde
- Walmart

And once again, we would also like to thank St. Paul Lutheran

Church of Bulverde (the "Red Roof Church") for allowing us to hold the event at their Christian Faith Center and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library for allowing us to use their laptops so job seekers could complete online applications on the spot.

As you drive around the community, you'll notice construction happening in various stages throughout the area.

- Physicians Premier ER, a freestanding emergency room, is now under construction at the end cap of the old HEB location near Bealls where the pharmacy used to be located.
- Texas 46 BBQ is now under construction at the former Texas 46 Bar & Grill across from The Antler Café.
- The Shops at Faithville Park continues to undergo redevelopment with some much needed infrastructure related improvements, improved signage, three bed and breakfast cottages, a couple of new restaurants, a few new shopping venues and some new service related establishments...stop by and check them out.
- The Hampton Inn-Bulverde is in full bloom of construction and has quite a presence from its hilltop location in the Singing Hills development.
- The Heights of Bulverde, a Touchstone Communities Skilled Nursing and Long Term Care Facility, is complete at Singing Hills just northeast of the hotel and is expected to open at any time now.
- The first inline retail strip center in the Singing Hills development (next to Popeye's) is complete with various new additions to our business community expected to open very soon to include Schlotzskys, SportClips and Mattress Firm among others.
- The Bulverde Assisted Living facility located at 1396 Bulverde Road near the Bulverde Baptist Church and S.T.A.G.E Theater is nearing completion and expected to open sometime this spring.

The Bulverde Professional Center located at 29710 U.S. Hwy. 281 N, just south of Bulverde Animal Hospital, has been purchased by a local investor and is undergoing renovation to provide much needed executive office suites for area entrepreneurs. There is also office space available for lease next to Kathleen Barse State Farm located at 33200 US Hwy 281 N just south of SH 46 and at Bulverde Hills Properties located at 2877 Bulverde Road in Downtown Bulverde where A & E Air Conditioning & Heating is located. I'm sure I haven't captured all the happenings in the area but this will at least give you an idea of some of the activity that is happening around the community.

On another note, the BSBEDF is excited to announce that we are undergoing a complete website redesign to better market our community to site selectors, investors, and companies looking to relocate, startup, or expand within our community. We will keep you abreast as we get closer to the launch date.

Please visit our current 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, find a location and/or navigate the governmental process. You can also find out how to partner with us to help drive appropriate economic development for our area. We are committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth and support our local economy by helping to bring capital investment, jobs and increased tax revenues while maintaining our rural character and quality of life.

Sherry Mosier
President
BSBEDF, Inc.

Looking for a friendly church?
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10:30AM Sunday Worship Service
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- Bible studies are offered throughout the year.
- Summer Bible camps for children in grades 3-12 at the Disciples Camp in Gonzales, TX.
- Evening Vacation Bible School, June 19-21, 2017 6:00-8:30PM.

Jesus is My Superhero! is our theme this year. A lite meal will be served each evening. Registration forms are available on line at www.trymychurch.com.

2017 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9, Palm Sunday Service @ 10:30AM followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

April 13, Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00PM
This will be a special experiential evening with those in attendance participating in some of the "Stations of the Cross."

April 14, Good Friday Service @ 6:00PM

April 16, Easter Sunday
8:30AM - Sunrise Service with guest singer, Peaches Kelley
9:30AM - Potluck breakfast
10:30AM - Easter Worship Service

20845 TX-46 West, Spring Branch, TX. 78070
(Between Bulverde HEB and Spring Branch Middle School)
Senior Pastor: Rev. Larry Garcia • Associate Pastor: Rev. Janie Harrison
Church office: 830-980-2019 • Church office hours: M-Thur., 9:00AM-3:00PM
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Smithson Valley High School Boasts New Scholarship Recipients



Smithson Valley High School senior volleyball player Madeline Ferguson signed a national letter of intent recently to continue her career on the court and in the classroom at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. Ferguson was a three-year letterman at SVHS at outside hitter and was Academic All-State her senior year. She is pictured here with her parents, Rusty and Sandra Ferguson, and SVHS coaches Liana Gombert (back row, left) and Jordan Madill.



SVHS senior linebacker Jack Gibbens signed a scholarship offer to play at Abilene Christian University recently. Gibbens was a two-year starter for the Rangers and was named First-Team All-District this season. He helped SVHS to the Regional Quarterfinals as a junior and the Area Round of the Playoffs as a senior. His combined stats during his junior and senior seasons were 228 tackles, 28 tackles for loss, and 7 quarterback sacks. Gibbens is pictured here with SVHS coaches (l-r) Craig Wersterfer, Larry Hill, and Andy Cox.

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AH CHOO! But Be Aware of a More Severe Allergic Condition



Central and South Texas have the dubious distinction of being one of the allergy capitals of the country. In 2014, San Antonio ranked fifteenth on the Asthma and Allergy

Foundation of America's list of worst cities for people with allergies. We all seem to have a runny nose, itchy eyes, and bouts of sneezing at some point during the year. We also share our community with a good number of biting and stinging critters – bees, mosquitos and wasps – who can leave a red, itchy mark on our skin after an encounter. These stings are usually a discomfort, but in small quantity, to most, they are just a nuisance.

However, there is an allergic condition known as anaphylaxis that has rapid onset and can be deadly. Tragically, even the first episode of anaphylaxis can be fatal. The severity of anaphylactic reactions can be minimized by early recognition of the symptoms and seeking emergency medical care promptly. Persons who have been previously treated may even have a rescue medication, an epinephrine auto-injector, to provide a potentially lifesaving dose of epinephrine. If you, a friend, or a family member have an epinephrine auto-injector, you should become familiar with the device so you can assist them should they have a severe allergic reaction.

Epinephrine is the best treatment for anaphylaxis and is prescribed by a doctor. It works best if it is given within the first few minutes of a severe allergic reaction. A person who is having an allergic reaction should use their epinephrine auto-injector immediately if they:



- are having trouble breathing
- feel tightness in the throat
- feel lightheaded or think they might pass out

If you are treating a child with an allergic reaction, also use the auto-injector if the child:

- is not responding, seems groggy, or passes out during an allergic reaction.
- has food allergies or is vomiting repeatedly shortly after eating, especially if these symptoms are accompanied by flushing or hives.
- is coughing repeatedly during an allergic reaction.
- had a previous anaphylaxis and develops widespread hives after possibly eating a trigger food.
- has definitely eaten a trigger food that previously caused very severe anaphylaxis.

Enjoy the outdoors, but please stay safe!



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With a Spring in Our Step, We Offer These Tips

As spring approaches, thoughts turn to cleaning up from our brief winter cold. We envision making repairs around the home and enjoying the outdoors. By keeping a few safety thoughts in mind, you can make your spring experience a much better one.

Inside the Home

- Check and clean smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Remember, change your clock; change your batteries!
- Check fire extinguishers and always have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible. Check the gauges to make sure they are charged and ready to use.
- Replace all extension cords that have become brittle, worn, or damaged. Exposed wires may cause arcing, which will produce heat and can start a fire.
- When cleaning windows, check them for ease of opening as you may need them as a means of exit in case of fire.
- Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents.
- Clean the kitchen exhaust hood and air filter. Keeping this clean of cooking grease will lessen the chances of a stovetop fire from spreading.
- Clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper, and space under the dryer. Poor maintenance allows lint to build up in the exhaust duct and cause a fire.

Outside and Around the Yard

- Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses.
- When using ladders, check for safe and proper placement. Be aware of any obstructions, overhead wires, electrical, cable, phone, and tree branches.

- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances.
- Have your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.

In the Garage or Shed

- Clean up and properly store paints, pool, and yard chemicals
- Dispose of old cans of paint and thinners and accumulated newspapers and magazines. Check local newspapers for times and locations to drop off household hazardous materials.
- On gas operated equipment, check fuel lines and connectors for leaking fuel. Never use or store gasoline indoors.

Spot the Hidden Dangers

If someone asked you to think of a place where you feel safe, chances are your home would be near the top of the list. However, your home can be full of potentially dangerous situations. Can you spot the six potential hazards in the picture? Visit the Emergency Services Districts website for the answers: www.myccesd.com



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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

March 15, 2017

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: Pat Rodriguez, Mary Kay
12 Noon–1:00 pm
Location: BSB Library
Member Only Event

March 23, 2017

Business Networking Mixer

Hosted By: Reliance Residential Realty
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
Location: To be determined
Member Only Event

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

Chamber Recognizes Area First Responders

At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the BSB Chamber of Commerce, First Responders from the Various Departments were recognized for their service to the community. Deputy Rich Ormsby was recognized for the continued service in protecting the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area. Thank you for your service.



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9:00am
RSVP by Tuesday, March 28th

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10:00am - 12:00 noon
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The Buzz From the Garden



by a Bulverde Community Garden Tomato Lover



Today, at many local supermarkets in San Antonio there is abundance in the varieties of colorful red, orange, yellow, black, and green poma d'oro, paradeisapfel, paradeiser, or just plain tomato. These beautiful fruits can be used in many different ways as sauces, jams, pastes,

beverages, or eaten au naturel in a salad.

While the origins of the tomato have been traced back to South and Central America, the native variety of tomato did not have the same appearance we know today. Records show the early tomato was more like a yellow cherry tomato. In Mexico, the Aztecs cultivated a species of a "plump thing with navel," which was called xitomatl or jitomates. The Nahuatl people, part of the Aztec culture, grew the fruit and called it tomatl. With the Spanish colonialization of the Americas, the fruit became known as tomate, and thus the English name of tomato. The Spanish differentiated the tomato by calling the green-husked variety tomatillos.

We are not sure if it was Hernán Cortés, who captured the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan (today's Mexico City) in 1521, or Christopher Columbus in 1493 that brought the tomato to Europe. From an historical record, Pietro Andrea Mattioli, an Italian physician and botanist wrote in 1544 that the tomato could be cooked and eaten like an eggplant. The Mediterranean climate was ideally suited to the cultivation of the tomato, and it is known to have been eaten by the local population shortly after the introduction to this new climate. However, in parts of Italy and in the rest of Europe, the tomato was grown as an ornamental plant for the garden and used as a table decoration.

There was controversy with this new fruit. The 1595 scientific classification *Lycopersicum* associated the tomato fruit with its shiny skin with that of the deadly nightshade family, and it is from German myths of werewolves and witches that the new fruit (the tomato) became known as the wolf peach with rumored deadly consequences. The leaves, stems, and green unripe fruit do contain poisonous toxins.

In 1753, another controversy arose between the well-known Carl Linnaeus, the Father of Taxonomy who unified the scientific nomenclature for the classification of animals and plants. Linnaeus placed the tomato with the potato in the genus *Solanum*. The tomato is *Solanum lycopersicum*. While in 1768 Philip Miller created a new genus *Lycopersicon esculentum* for the tomato. While there are many similarities between the tomato and potato, Linnaeus' classification prevailed.

The tomato has travelled on an incredible journey around the world. The Spanish introduced the tomato throughout their colonies in

the Caribbean. Later, the Spanish in their colonial expansion took the tomato to the Philippines, it then spread to Southeast Asia and the entire Asian continent.

In England, tomatoes were not grown until the 1590s. Two hundred years later, the Encyclopedia Britannica in 1820's references the tomatoes daily use in soups, broths, and as a garnish. By the middle of that century, tomatoes were to be found in many of the vegetable markets in England.

An English diplomat in Aleppo, Syria introduced the tomato to the Middle East around 1799-1825, and it was used mostly in cooked dishes at that time. Today, the tomato is widely cultivated and eaten all over the Middle East and is used pretty much the way we would use it but with the addition of unique local spices.

And, in 1710 British North America, herbalist William Salmon reported that tomatoes were seen in South Carolina and that those tomato plants may have had their origins in the Caribbean, but brought to America by the slave trade.

It is now March 2017 and here in Texas it is the right time of year to plant your own wonderful variety of tomato plants. Prepare your vegetable garden by improving the soil with organic compost. Do not plant your tomatoes in the same place each year as they need to be rotated and in full sun.

In Comal County, tomatoes are usually grown from transplants bought from a local nursery (to insure varieties suitable to our soils and hot weather) or from seeds planted indoors. Plant from the last week of March to the beginning of June--the earlier the better. Try to get healthy plants and plant the root and lower stem as deep as you can, removing the lower leaves that will be buried. The entire underground plant will grow the roots to support the plant above and the fruit, which can ripen 60-100 days later. Earlier varieties are preferred, because our area reaches a temperature where fruit growth stops by mid-July. Try growing Celebrity, Large Red Cherry, Solar Fire or any of the Texas Superstars - Tycoon, Valley Cat, Bobcat, Red Deuce, etc.

So when you pick your first tomato of the season, think back to the incredible journey it has made to your dinner plate and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

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

Open Evenings and Weekends

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March Events at the BSB Library

Cookbook Dinner Club

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:00pm-7:45pm

Calling all Foodies! Do you want to stretch your gastronomical tastes and culinary talents? Then join the Cookbook Dinner Group with other people passionate about food. The cookbook will be up at the printer's station by the front desk to sign up and choose your recipe from the monthly selection. Ask to have a copy of the recipe and bring it made up to share with others. Bring along your friends.

This month's cookbook selection is: Peace Meals: a book of recipes for cooking and connecting: a cookbook by the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

*They will not be meeting April & September (Great Decisions) nor December (FOL Christmas Tea)

12th Annual Book and Author Luncheon

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 11:30am-2:30pm

The Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library invite you to join them in raising funds to furnish the library's new children's area. The Book and Author luncheon will be held at the Western Skies Event Center at Tejas Rodeo with a catered lunch by True Flavors. A silent auction will be held and includes items such as Southwest Airline travel tickets, a western-themed quilt, and a thirty minute helicopter ride around the Bulverde/Spring Branch area. Other items have been donated by Hampton Inn, Guada-

lupe Brewing, Brauntex, South Texas Growers, Plantiques, HEB, Chick's Prime Meat Market, S.T.A.G.E., Home Depot, Feel Safe Gun Training, and Pet Galaxy. Following lunch, five Texas authors will give a brief presentation and be available to sign purchased books for attendees. Tickets for the event cost \$60 per person, \$30 is tax deductible, and may be purchased in person at the library or on the library's website: bsblibrary.org.

Teen Art Classes

Saturday, March 11, March 18, & March 25

Beginning March and lasting through May, the library will be offering art classes for teens. Classes will cover techniques such as primary colors and composition, shadows, pen and ink and watercolor pencils, acrylics, calligraphy, and abstract art and media.

Decorate a Spring Cake Pan Contest

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 3:00pm-4:45pm

Using our cake pans, everyone is invited to decorate a Spring Themed Cake! Judging will take place at 4:00pm. Bring your cake anytime on Saturday but be there for the judging to win. Cakes will be judged on decoration techniques, taste of cake and frosting, and adherence to the theme. Great prizes for winner in each category and age level, plus an overall winner.

Please check out one of our cake pans and adapt it to be a Spring Theme!

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Spring Pet Health Tips

Megan Hughes, DVM

Spring is in the air! Along with the warmer weather, springtime also means that mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, and other pests, are going to be more prevalent. Here are some spring pet care tips to help you manage a few of these pests.



Mosquitos pose a DEADLY threat to dogs and cats! Mosquito bites transmit heartworm disease to dogs and cats. Heartworm disease is a very lethal disease in which the adult worms live in the pulmonary arteries and heart of dogs. If left untreated heartworm disease causes heart failure in dogs, and can cause respiratory disease or sudden death in cats. Symptoms include coughing, lethargy, a bloated abdomen, and respiratory distress. Unfortunately, sometimes by the time the symptoms are seen in a pet it can be too late. Heartworm prevention is imperative to keeping your pets healthy. Heartworm prevention must be purchased from a veterinarian and it comes in several forms from monthly chewable tablets, topicals, to a twice yearly injection. Dogs should be heartworm tested by a veterinarian once yearly. Heartworm disease is extremely prevalent in Texas, so all dogs and cats should be on heartworm prevention all year.

Fleas can be a problem all year in Texas, however they tend to like warmer, more humid environments. Fleas can become out of control on your pets and in your home very quickly. One flea can multiply into 1,000 fleas in just 21 days! Typically, your pet

will pick up fleas by being outdoors or by spending time with other infested animals. Fleas lay their eggs in the environment and can quickly infest carpets and bedding. Fleas feed on your pet's blood. They are very irritating and lead to itching, scratching and sometimes hair loss or skin infections. Fleas can also cause anemia, severe dermatitis, tapeworms (by ingesting an infected flea that is carrying tapeworm larvae), and other infections. There

are many flea prevention products available but they are not all effective. Many over-the-counter flea shampoos and other products are not effective because they do not control the flea eggs and they are not long lasting. There are effective flea prevention products sold by veterinarians that are much more effective, including topicals and chewable tablets.

Your pets can also pick up ticks when they are outdoors. Ticks can be in hard to detect places. Ticks can cause a variety of health risks, anemia, and skin infections. Ticks transmit serious blood-borne-parasite diseases such as Erlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Lyme disease. Tick prevention products should be purchased from a veterinarian.

At Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital we are happy to speak with you about a parasite prevention program that will fit your pet's individual needs. Call us for an appointment 830-438-7800 www.springbranchvet.com.

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Our Volunteers – Crazy Enough to Love it!



The Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center recognized and honored all of their volunteers from the past year at the Annual Appreciation Luncheon on February 3, 2017. The event was attended by 100+ volunteers. The lunch was catered by Smokey Mo's, with volunteers from GVTC serving the meal.

Wendy Hahn - Senior Outreach Coordinator, Monica Conkins - Kitchen Coordinator, and Jean Larson - kitchen volunteer coordinator put together a program that included videos of several Meals on Wheels clients. Wendy recited a poem written by a WWII Veteran who was in attendance and also a Meals on Wheels client.

In 2016 the BSBAC volunteers logged in 9438 service hours! During this past year, the center had 36 volunteers who had logged in over 100 volunteer hours. Mrs. Pat Souza led the group with 500 hours! These members were presented with a shirt that read "SKILLED ENOUGH TO BECOME A BSBAC VOLUNTEER – CRAZY ENOUGH TO LOVE IT."

Volunteers are always needed at BSBAC. There are many opportunities for volunteering. These opportunities range from assisting with the nutrition program, the front desk, gift shop, and on-site sharing library. The center could not serve the area seniors if not for our volunteers. If you are interested in giving some of your valuable time to help others, please call us at 830-438-3111. As Mrs. Marlene Mueller says, "It's a place for fun, frivolity, and fellowship."



Receive a Rain Garden in Your Neighborhood!

If you can answer yes to these questions your neighborhood could qualify to receive a rain garden:

Do you live in a Neighborhood over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone?

Is there community property in your neighborhood where a garden could be installed?

Can you organize a group of 4 or more persons to work on the rain garden?

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) is searching for neighborhoods over the recharge zone that have residents interested in creating a rain garden. GEAA has experts to work with your community to design a multifunctional rain garden and the funds to build it. The benefits from this rain garden include:

- Reduce water pollution
- Reduce flooding
- Increase our water resources
- Cool the air
- Save money
- Beautify neighborhoods
- Provide habitat for wildlife

For more information go to <http://www.aquiferalliance.net/> or call (210) 320-6294



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TRAVELING SOON? SAVE WATER DURING YOUR TRAVELS



You may think that while you are away, you are limited in the ways in which you can conserve your water use. This is not the case! For starters, you can book your travel with hotels that are a part of the Rainforest Alliance. These hotels work to conserve water use throughout their properties and spread water conservation awareness to their guests.

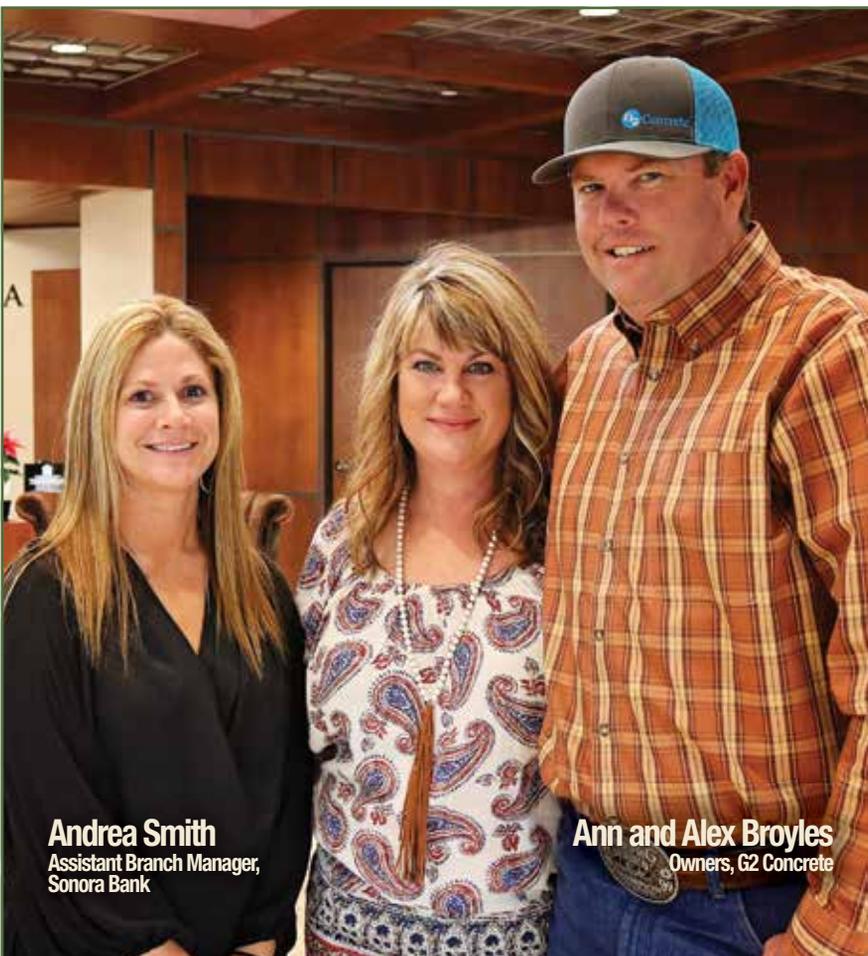
Even if you are not staying in a hotel in this network, there are other ways you can conserve water during your time away. For instance, you can reuse your bathroom towels and bed sheets during your stay instead of having fresh ones delivered each day. This helps the hotel cut back on water usage because they have less laundry to do each day.

If you are going on a weekend getaway, pack light clothes that you can wash and line-dry in your hotel room, rather than using a washing machine or laundromat to clean your clothing.

If you are going to be outdoors at a theme park for much of your trip, pack a refillable water bottle to drink from. You'll save money and help conserve water usage!

Still another great way to conserve water during your trip is to take less time showering and to never take a bath. Quick showers use the least amount of water, and taking less time in the shower leaves you with more time to enjoy your trip!

By utilizing these methods during your travel, you are guaranteed to help conserve water wherever you are. Comal county residents are encouraged to attend the CTGCD's monthly meetings held at 6:00 on the third Monday of each month at the Curtis W. Bremer Building at 9850 FM 311 in Spring Branch—the old fire station just East of Hwy 281. 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.



Andrea Smith
Assistant Branch Manager,
Sonora Bank

Ann and Alex Broyles
Owners, G2 Concrete

"We like the connection Sonora Bank has with their customers. They know us by name and support our business."

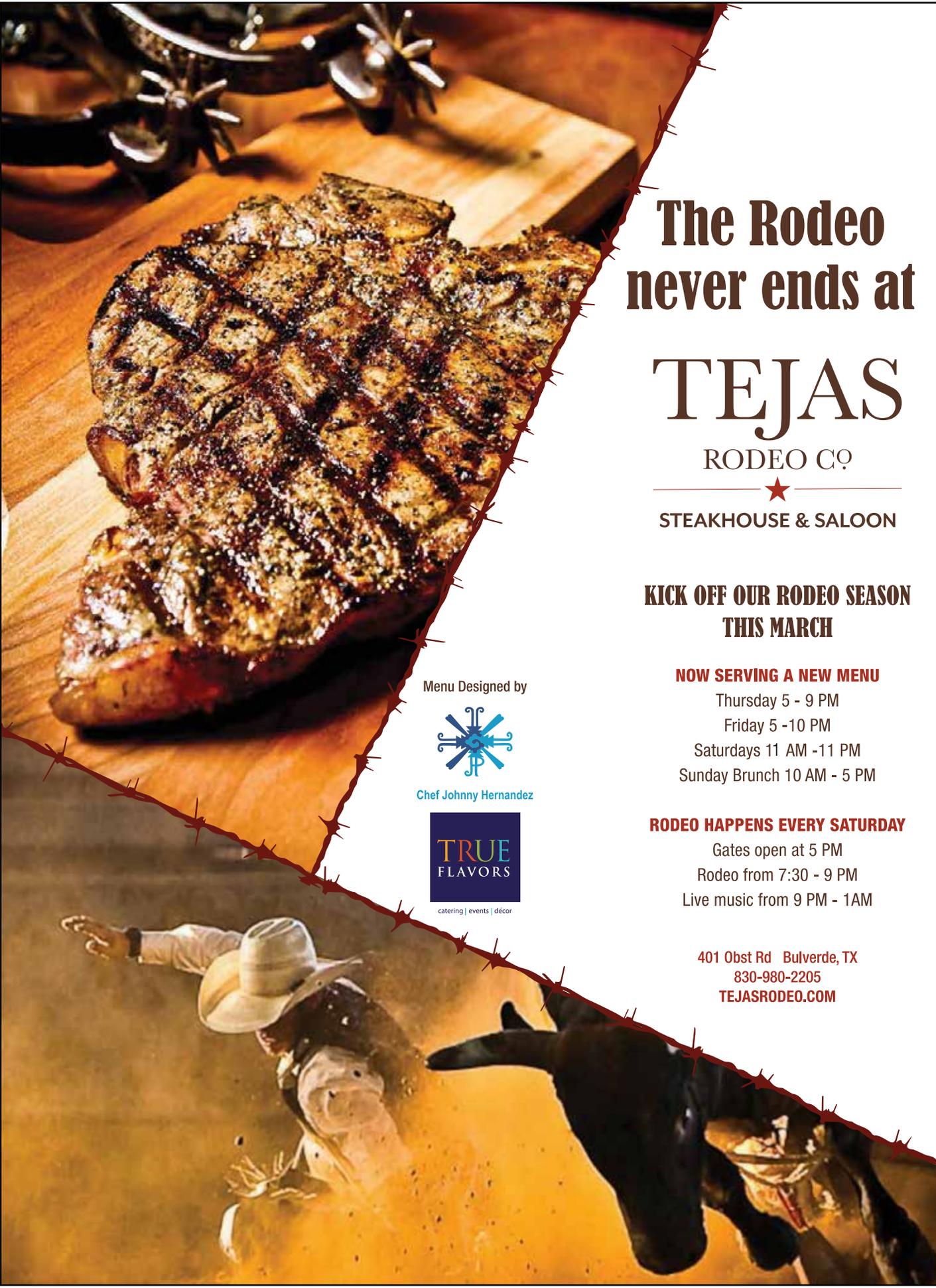


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MARCH 2017

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	2	3	4	
		SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery)	Liberty Valance (S.T.A.G.E.)	Liberty Valance (S.T.A.G.E.) Casino Night 6:00p (Activity Ctr.)	Liberty Valance (S.T.A.G.E.)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Liberty Valance (S.T.A.G.E.)		Planning & Zoning 6:30p	ESD #5 5:30p (30476 Johnson Way)	Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	CISD Spring Break Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM311)	CISD Spring Break BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) City Council 6:30p	CISD Spring Break SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	CISD Spring Break ESD #1 4:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	St. Patrick's Day CISD Spring Break	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)		Park & Rec Advisory Board 6:00p Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Emotional/Mental Health Gathering 5:30p (BSB Library, 131 Bulverde Xing)		Big Trash Day 8:00a-12:00p (30360 Cougar Bend) ROAR FOR KIDS Car Show 10:00a (1331 Bulverde Rd, Bulv. Baptist Ch.)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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APRIL 2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Planning & Zoning 6:30p	SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery)			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 5:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM311)	City Council 6:30p	ESD #5 5:30p (30476 Johnson Way)	Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	Good Friday	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Easter Sunday	BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	ESD #1 4:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Park & Rec Advisory Board 6:00p 1940s Radio Hour (S.T.A.G.E.)	POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) 1940s Radio Hour (S.T.A.G.E.)	Chamber Market Day 10:00a-4:00p (20475 Hwy. 46) 1940s Radio Hour (S.T.A.G.E.) Drug Take Back 10:00a-2:00p (City Hall & Fire/EMS Station)
30				NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		
1940s Radio Hour (S.T.A.G.E.)						

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District