

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Issue 6 ☆ September 2014

THE FRONT PORCH News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS
(COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE, ETC.)

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830-438-3612

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830-980-8832

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Bill Krawietz, MAYOR **Kirk Harrison**, COUNCIL
Rob Hurst, MAYOR PRO TEM **Gene Hartman**, COUNCIL
Yvonne Chapman, COUNCIL **Ray Jeffrey**, COUNCIL

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Hwy 281 Just south of FM 1863

Mayor's Point



Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

It would be a safe bet to say anyone who travels regularly on US 281 between San Antonio and Bulverde is frustrated with the traffic situation. What was once a smooth flowing highway has turned into an over-congested, traffic-light-laden hindrance to mobility.

Years ago, there was money appropriated to install overpasses at most of the major intersections existing along 281 at the time. One of the intersections at the bottom of the list to get improvements was FM 1863. It was slated to be one of the last built.

Fortunately, due to the efforts lead by the late Bulverde councilman Warren Alston, the 1863 intersection was moved to the top of the list and built. It was a matter of the "squeaky wheel getting the grease," and greatly enhanced safety and mobility in Bulverde.

Unfortunately, there were delays getting the other overpasses built, with claims of insufficient environmental studies and lengthy, drawn-out, right-of-way acquisitions. The issue when that occurs is that TXDOT just doesn't keep money idly sitting around waiting for projects when there are many needs around the State. If a project hits major snags, the money often goes elsewhere.

TXDOT's open house presentation last month at the BSB Library was intended to better explain a proactive plan they have put together to enhance future mobility for the portion of 281 in Comal County, but did little to soothe the frustrations with the traffic snarl that is common south of the Cibolo Creek. Many attendees left the meeting outraged because they misunderstood the purpose of the meeting, and the purpose of the proactive plan to help maintain mobility in Bulverde.

I like to stick to facts. Much of my time is spent dispelling rumors. One of the most outlandish I have heard is that the existing overpasses will be removed by TxDOT and replaced with and Super Street intersections. Totally false.

Statements have also been made that the City of Bulverde favors Super Streets over Overpasses. This is another untruth.

The City of Bulverde is on record by passing a resolution in 2011 for opposing the over-signalization of US 281, and instead favoring Grade Separated Crossings (overpasses). Our position was once again emphasized by a letter to TXDOT some two years later. In that letter it states that "As you may recall, the city's primary request is that grade separated crossings be required for all new major intersections with 281."

However, overpasses are expensive, TxDOT cannot usually require developers to exclusively install them, and our area is not the only region in the state of Texas experiencing explosive growth, which has made the competition for transportation funding fierce. Looking at which projects get funded has revealed something in common: local funding participation.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Mayor, Continued from page 3)

We have been told by TXDOT that our chances to attract funding dollars depend on local funding participation. If you don't believe this fact, just look at 281 north of the Guadalupe to the Comal County line.

This project was not even scheduled to begin until 2017 or later, yet it is almost complete. To the Comal County commissioners' credit, this is due to local funding participation from Comal County on that section of roadway.

The two largest developments currently under construction in our area are the Johnson Ranch and the Singing Hills developments. The problem with both of these projects is they are located almost entirely outside of the Bulverde city limits, thereby limiting any tax base growth for the City of Bulverde from those developments.

Since most of the commercial land inside our Bulverde city limits is already built out, Bulverde's chances of a significant increase in our tax base necessary to participate financially in such transportation projects are limited.

Yes, that means the sales and property tax generated by the new Walmart and the second major anchor in Singing Hills (believed to be a sporting goods store) will not go to the City of Bulverde.

Most cities in our situation would just annex the new commercial developments. It's only fair, since they're contributing to the burden on the city, that they would also contribute to the tax base to help ease those burdens. One major problem is that Bulverde is not a Home Rule City, and therefore does not have the ability to unilaterally annex these developments. Our General Law status is severely handicapping the city and its future ability to solve community issues.

If that is not bad enough, the city just recently discovered another financial setback. It turns out that the Certified City Tax Rate for fiscal year 2013-14, properly approved by the Bulverde City Council last fall, was improperly entered into the Comal County Tax Assessor/Collector's billing system in 2013. The amount entered was \$0.06 per \$100 valuation lower than it should have been. In other words, our citizens were undercharged on last year's property tax rendition.

For the average Bulverde household (valued at approximately \$210,000), this amounts to around \$12 that was uncollected by last year's misprinted tax statement. The total cumulative lost revenue to the city from this billing error is approximately \$18,000.

When I was first made aware of this situation, my first inclination was that the city could just absorb the County's mistake. To me it would be a very unpopular thing to go back and bill everyone for these small amounts. Besides being unpopular, just the cost of printing, mailing and collecting would be a huge cost to the County in itself.

So what does Comal County's Tax Attorney say about their mistake? The County will bear the cost of collecting and the tax must now be collected.

State Law is quite clear on the matter. Once a discrepancy is found in tax billing, the money MUST be collected. So could it just be added it to next year's billing as a separate line

item? State Law once again is quite clear on the matter: it must be collected in a separate, supplemental billing.

What I consider the worst part of the whole situation is that the supplemental bill, unlike the normal October property tax notice, must be paid within 21 days of the billing to avoid interest and penalties. Once again, the process is bound by State Law.

We are currently working with the Comal County Tax Collector to determine when the supplemental billings will be sent out, since the law does give us some flexibility in that regard. We don't want our citizens to get the supplemental billing confused with their normal 2014 property tax notice.

I am, however, pleased that the Comal County Tax Assessor/Collector's office admitted their clerical mistake, and are diligently working with the city to make this issue as painless as possible. Everyone makes mistakes, few own up to them, and we appreciate their help.

The City of Bulverde has one of the lowest property tax rates of any city in the entire state of Texas. The city services you receive (police protection, park and recreation, street maintenance, planning and zoning, etc.) for the low taxes we pay are a tremendous bargain. Your City Council is very fiscally conservative, and it is our intention to keep the tax burden on our residents minimal. As new developments continue to stress our infrastructure and city services, we must look for ways to grow our city boundaries strategically, grow our city's tax base responsibly, and recoup that cost from new developments to help ease the burden on our existing citizens.

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City Council Initiates Proactive Transportation Planning

Recognizing the transportation challenges of the rapidly growing Bulverde region, the City Council has initiated the completion of a *Master Transportation and Thoroughfare Plan* to proactively manage traffic and transportation in the community. Early this summer, the City Council met with consultants from HNTB Corporation, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Economic Development Foundation to set the vision and framework for the transportation master planning process. A full-day leadership retreat led to ideas, priorities, and future planning strategies. In July, two community focus groups that involved Bulverde's regional partners (Comal County, BSB Emergency Services, Alamo Area MPO, TxDOT, etc.) resulted in concepts and ideas to help manage the growth in the Bulverde community in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Master Transportation Plan benefits include:

- Enhancing mobility and connectivity
- Supporting quality economic development opportunities
- Fostering preservation of the area's Hill Country character
- Enhancing our quality of life during this time of significant growth for the region
- Accommodating population and employment growth in a responsible manner

Components of the study include:

- **Transportation and planning studies:** Information will be collected on existing roadways and transportation corridors, major highways, and local arterials and collector streets. Employment and population growth projections, environmental and safety issues, and public service operations and other regulations will be analyzed.
- **Develop solutions and strategies:** Problem areas will be identified, and possible solutions and strategies will be developed using a funding analysis that will propose expanded and new transportation facilities. Proposed improvements will be prioritized and cost estimates prepared.
- **Develop, review, and accept plans:** Implementation plans will be prepared that include feasible improvements. For some major improvements, funding availability may require a phased approach.
- **Public Involvement:** There will be public outreach throughout the process in the form of public and stakeholder meetings.

Timeline of the study

2014				2015	
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Study Begins	TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING STUDIES				Study Ends
	DEVELOP SOLUTIONS/STRATEGIES				
	DEVELOP PLANS				
	REVIEW AND ACCEPT PLANS				
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES					

An important aspect of this transportation study is community outreach. A broad range of activities are planned to provide continuing opportunities throughout the study to receive community input and provide information to public officials, stakeholders, and the general public on the progress of the study. Newsletters, media releases, and the project web site will provide the latest information. The input that you as a local resident, commuter, business owner, or property owner can provide will be very valuable to the success of the study. Your comments and suggestions will drive the course of the study to create the "blueprint" for transportation improvements for Bulverde for the next twenty years.

For more information on the project, and for details on upcoming public meetings and how you can get involved, please visit our website at:

http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us/default.aspx?name=aprojectpage_visioning

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A Vision *for the* Downtown Bulverde Village

This July, the Bulverde City Council kicked off an effort for the community to develop a future vision for the Downtown Bulverde Village area along Bulverde Road. The Sunrise 2025 comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 2004, suggested taking a special look at the downtown area; and in the 2013–2014 City Council *Goals and Near-Term Action Items*, a Downtown Bulverde Village visioning process was identified as a key priority for the Council.



The Council is utilizing the assistance of an experienced, professional consulting firm to assist with the evaluation of the existing conditions in the area, such as infrastructure and the natural environment; a study of the supply and market demand for various land uses and building types in the short-, mid-, and long-term; an evaluation of the community's shared values and vision for the future of Downtown Bulverde Village; and a set of potential strategies for implementing the plan once approved.

An initial community open-house was conducted in August, in addition to an online community survey. A follow up community open-house and Workshop presentation with the City Council is scheduled for October 14th. The final recommendation is anticipated to be presented to the City Council in January 2015.

More information on the Downtown Bulverde Village Visioning Strategy will be available in future editions and through the City's website and local email distribution lists as the project proceeds.



Are You Hungry?

During September, designated as *Hunger Action Month*, there is a national effort to increase community awareness

about hunger in America and in our own cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Indeed, hunger lives right here in Bulverde, Spring Branch, and throughout Comal County, in numbers that might surprise you.

According to the most current statistics, Texas ranks 5th in the nation in *food insecurity*. To live in a *food insecure* household is to not know if you and your family will have enough to eat today, tomorrow, or in the coming week or month. Many families struggle to meet the most basic of needs for everyone in their family, often having to make hard choices between buying food, gas, or medication, or even paying the rent or utility bills. This circumstance of being food insecure can happen at any time, to any family, in any town or neighborhood across the country. In fact, you probably have neighbors who are hungry—and you don't even realize it. Hunger and food insecurity are rampant and invisible.

Here in the Bulverde and Spring Branch areas, we have at least three* food pantries that serve residents in our immediate area: Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, Hope Center, and the Helping Hands Pantry (located in the Spring Branch Baptist Church). Each of these pantries provides food and other necessities to those who need help to sustain their families. In doing so, however, they, in turn, need the support of our community to be able to continue to serve in their mission. These nonprofit organizations are funded through churches, civic organizations, grants, and donations made by generous individuals. At this grassroots level, almost all donations are turned into immediate, tangible aid for the clients coming in to the pantries. For this reason, donations made to these local organizations are the most effective in terms of your donation dollars being "money well spent," as they are immediately put to work in feeding the hungry. Please consider supporting our local hunger relief organizations as they work to feed our neighbors in need. If you are or someone you know is in need of assistance with food, please call or go by any of these facilities.

Provision: A 25:35 Outreach: 2295 Bulverde Road, Unit 1 (behind Wine 101), Bulverde, TX 78163; 830.438.2899

Hope Center: 4476 N. HWY 281, Spring Branch, TX 78070; 830.980.HOPE

Helping Hands Pantry: 11755 US HWY 281 North, Spring Branch, TX 78070; 210.887.1009 or 830.885.3948

*Other food pantries operate in the larger area of Comal, Bexar, and Kendall Counties. The San Antonio Food Bank (210.337.3663 or 210.431.8326) and personnel at the three food pantries listed in this article can refer you to a pantry nearer you if you do not live within their service areas.

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Go to AlamoRMA.org to learn more and to see before and after images of the 281 North Improvement Project.

On the Cover

This sweet ride is a souped-up, dressed-up 1940 Ford, proudly owned by Nick & Karen Clevenger of Bulverde. Beautifully photographed by Sam Roberts, this car appears in the publicity shots for the Bulverde Jubilee, and will be making its way down Bulverde Road during the Jubilee parade on September 20th. Thanks to Sam & Diane Roberts for sharing their photo with us, and thanks to the Clevengers for sharing their fabulous hot rod car with our community! We're all looking forward to Jubilee and the parade!



Save the Date

October 7th 2014



Bulverde's National Night Out

A friendly reminder that **Tuesday, October 7th** is National Night Out in Texas, and we want you to participate. Texas again took the State category award in 2013, and San Antonio took 1st place in the Cities over 300,000 category. Every year, residents in Bulverde prove why this is such a great city to live in, with unsurpassed participation. Last year there were about 40 locations in Comal County with registered events; 13 were in the City of Bulverde and we are looking to make it even bigger. This year, the City of Bulverde registered to be eligible for national awards and we need your help. The date is fast approaching and we are looking for residents to host block party events. Additionally, this will be the first year the Bulverde Police Department is planning to host an appreciation event prior to National Night Out. If you are interested in hosting a block party or are looking for a block party near you, please contact Mary Bell at the Police Department at 830-438-3612. We look forward to another successful National Night Out in Bulverde.

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Michael Wahl Named Principal at SVHS



This summer, the Comal ISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Michael Wahl as the new principal for Smithson Valley High School. Mr. Wahl takes over for John Montelongo, who was named Executive Director for Secondary Education.

Mr. Wahl most recently served as a high school principal in Goose Creek CISD, located in Baytown, TX. He started his career as a teacher at Highlands Elementary in Goose Creek CISD after earning his Bachelor of Science in Education at Stephen F. Austin University. After earning his Masters in Educational Leadership, also from Stephen F. Austin, he became an assistant principal at DeZavala Elementary, and later principal at Harlem Elementary and then Baytown Junior High.

The City of Bulverde welcomes Mr. Wahl to the school and the community!

Getting to Know



Mary Bell

When contacting the Bulverde Police Department, you will likely be greeted with “Bulverde Police Department, Mary Bell speaking.” Mary Bell serves as the Police Department’s Administrative Assistant and was hired in August 2010. Mary was initially hired as a part time employee, but soon transitioned to a full time role in October 2011. Mary grew up in the Fort Worth area and graduated from college with a degree in Elementary Education. In 1991, Mary and her family moved to the San Antonio area, where she assisted with running their family business for many years.

Mary’s duties as administrative assistant are extensive, but her primary duties include being the point of contact for all incoming calls to the Bulverde Police Department. If you place a call to the Police Department, Mary will

most likely be the first person you speak with. Mary assists with many functions within the Bulverde Police Department and City, such as accident and incident report requests, citation processing, municipal court, equipment inventory, filing, data collection, application processing and warrants, just to mention few.

One program Mary is deeply involved with, and very proud of, is the P.O.E.T. (Police Officers Educating Teens) program. The program was initiated this year by Police Chief Gary Haecker, who asked Mary to assist with bringing the program to reality, and it has been a huge success. Additionally, Mary serves the community as the City’s liaison for the Bulverde Jubilee and National Night Out community events.

Mary has been married to her husband, Corky, for 45 years and has two daughters, Stephanie and Elizabeth, both graduates of Smithson Valley High School. In her free time, Mary enjoys pottery work and spending time with her pets, which include a horse, two dogs, and four cats. Although working within a police department was completely new for Mary, she loves her job and is passionate about serving the Bulverde community. Should you need any services of the Bulverde Police Department, or are interested in participating with National Night Out, please contact **Mary Bell** at **830-438-3612 ext 217**.

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Summer Reading Success at the Library



The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library's science-themed 2014 Summer Reading Program had record-breaking attendance, bringing readers of all ages into the library for books, crafts, programs and more. From June 14 through August 9, the library provided opportunities for area residents to play games, experiment, read new books, make things, get



active, and watch performers, all within the comfort of their own community. Over 1,000 library members participated in reading for prizes, and many more attended the weekly events.

This summer, the library debuted a special program just for babies and toddlers, giving each child a free board book for each week they read five books. With 84 participants, that's 424 books read over the course of the program, and 672 books given away! The over 700 participants in the reading program for children up to age 12 included incentives like McKenna Children's Museum tickets, Witte Museum tickets, and free books! Participants bought prizes from the "Libratory," earning tickets to spend by reading each week and attending library events. Teens also had their own prizes and events including a movie night, a *Doctor Who* party, and a performance by fire artists *Nocturnal Sol*.



The Adult Summer Reading Program was also popular, with over 200 participants, age 18 and older. During the Kick-off Party, families signed up and enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers, and were introduced to the science theme, "Literary Elements." Every few weeks there was another activity to enjoy: a movie with MuvChat, during which viewers could text their comments on the screen during the movie; a performance by Duffy Hudson, appearing as Albert Einstein; watercolor classes; Family Astronomy Night; and an Ice Cream Social. There were great prize drawings for writing book reviews or attending programs—HEB gift cards, Friends of the Library cookbooks, an Alamo Draft House gift card, and a State Parks pass. But the best was saved for last, a Kindle Fire HD!



As we see our community grow, more and more people are using our library, and we are thrilled to see the number of Summer Reading Program participants grow each year. Getting involved with the library is a great way to stay busy and have fun all summer long, but don't forget, we have programs all year! Visit www.bsblibrary.org to see what other exciting events we have in store.

One Book/One Community at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

By Debbie Neubauer, Friends of the Library Volunteer

Each year in September and October, the Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library sponsor a fantastic lineup of programs at the library surrounding one book that they encourage the community to read and enjoy. Whether you read the book or not, the programming (and food) are always spectacular. The focus this year is on the **150th Anniversary of the American Civil War**.

The 2014 One Book/One Community chosen book to read is *Wild Rose: The True Story of a Civil War Spy*, which is available for loan or sale at the library. For sheer bravado and style, no woman in the North or South rivaled the Civil War heroine, Rose O'Neale Greenhow. Fearless spy for the Confederacy, glittering Washington hostess, legendary beauty and lover, Rose Greenhow risked everything for the cause she valued more than life itself. In this superb portrait, biographer Ann Blackman tells the surprising true story of a unique woman in history.



The programming is sponsored by Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library with grants from Wells Fargo, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in cooperation with The Library of America and National Endowment of the Humanities, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The planned One Book/One Community events related to the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War begin with a family event on Saturday, September 27 at the library. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, dressed in period uniforms, will do firing demos and bring Civil War artifacts for viewing. There will also be a children's activity. Following the opening day, there will be seven more programs, all relating to the Civil War, including movies, music, author presentations, a History in Person presentation, and a cook-off.

All programs include refreshments, and the closing event will feature a cook-off with the attendees sampling "all the fixins." Additionally, Civil War quilts and quilt squares made by members of our community will be on display throughout the library during October.

We encourage the community to join the Friends of the Library this year in reading *Wild Rose* and other Civil War books, and enjoying as many programs as possible.

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2014 One Book/One Community Events

All events will be held at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

Saturday, September 27, 1:00pm

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Tuesday, September 30, 5:00pm

Movie: *Glory*

Thursday, October 2, 10:30am

Gardening Program: Antique Roses
with Robbi Will

Wednesday, October 8, 11:00am

Author: Edwin Mergele

The Boys Go to War

Ask a Civil War Soldier a Question

Saturday, October 11, 2:00pm

Storyteller/Banjo Player: Dan Gibson

Stories and Songs of the Civil War

Wednesday, October 15, 5:30pm

Movie: *Rebel*

Saturday, October 18, 11:00am

History in Person: Bill Perryman

*Underground Railroad and Abraham Lincoln:
The Conscience of a Nation*

Saturday, October 25, 2:00pm

Author: Michael Varhola,

Life in Civil War America

One Pot Meal and Bread Cook-Off



Civil war quilts will be on display at the library during the month of October. Prize winning "Civil War: The War Between the States" by Sherry Sorbera, won the National Quilt Association Certified Judge Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Quilting and Honorable Mention at the New Braunfels Area Quilt Guild, Quiltfest 2014.

Information Sessions **MEDICARE** at the Library

Welcome to Medicare

September 11, 10:30am-11:30am

Come listen to a presentation on Medicare, prescription plans and the enrollment basics. Question and answer period will follow.

One-on-One Medicare Questions Answered

Thursdays, October 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 1pm-3pm.

The Alamo Area Agency on Aging will be on hand every Thursday beginning October 16 through November 20, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Information on Medicare, prescription plans, enrollment and disenrollment. The Alamo AAA is not selling plans, nor are they funded by any of the private insurance companies. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Alamo Area Agency on Aging at (210) 362-5223.

These information sessions are free to the public.

Christ Centered Weekly Bible Study

Starting on Sunday, May 18th

Time: 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch

Activity Center

30280 Cougar Bend, Bulverde TX 78163

For more information:

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www.christpresnb.org





CHAMBER happenings...

By Rhonda Zunker, President

Since the beginning of the year, the staff at the chamber is working hard to bring improved benefits and services to its members.

In May, we introduced the new **Bulverde/Spring Branch Community Guide**. To better serve our members and to share the wonderful things about our community, we have developed "The Guide" to showcase the community including a map of the area along with the Chamber Member Business Directory.

This annual publication is a great resource and can be found at many chamber member businesses around the community or just stop by the chamber office at 29710 Hwy 281 N, Bulverde, TX for your copy. You can also view it online – just go to www.BulverdeSpringBranchChamber.com and click on the picture of the guide.

In May, we hosted an Unveiling Party for our supporters of the Community Guide. We want to thank Broadway Bank, Money Mailer, Affordable Furniture, and Singing Hills for providing the refreshments and door prize. In June, we introduced our **FRESH NEW WEBSITE** with some exciting

new features including a News/Press Release Section and Community Calendar along with the Business Directory. Make sure the Chamber Website is in your Favorites, as it will be the place to go when you are looking for chamber members that provide services to our local community.



Or if you want to know **what's happening in the area this weekend**, check out the Community Calendar. Anyone can submit a Community Event to the website, just click on Submit an Event and complete the form. It is as easy as that.

Another new feature of the website is the News/Press Release section. We will have the ability to post community News, Press Releases along with Educational information for Small Business Owners, Human Resource information and much more. These items will post directly to Facebook and/or you can sign up for the RSS Feed that would alert you when new items are posted in your areas of interest. We welcome news/press releases from anyone in the area. Please email your information to bsbacocpresident@gvtc.com or contact the chamber office at (830) 438-4285 for more information.

We are working on building our presence on the various Social Media networks. **Please like us on Facebook** to keep in the know...Till next time.

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Leadership Program Enables Student to Attend Texas Bluebonnet Girls State

The Leadership Bulverde Spring Branch Program assisted Madison Bush, incoming senior at SVHS, in attending the 2014 session of Bluebonnet Girls State at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin in mid-June.

During her week-long stay, she was elected the Municipal Judge of her City. Ms Bush stated that *"This is a position that I admire and desire to become in my own life, and I learned a great deal about state government systems and legislative proceedings. I wrote original legislation on the prohibition of firearm possession when illegally intoxicated and submitted it at the Texas State Capital utilizing parliamentary procedure."*

For over 5 decades, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have supported the Bluebonnet Girls State program, which:

- Works to educate our youth in the duties, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship;
- Gives young citizens, in a realistic manner, an opportunity to learn the problems of government by performing the same duties as real office holders in the everyday world;



- Informs them of the rights and privileges of American citizenship; and
- Instills a deep sense of the personal responsibility and obligation that this citizenship entails.

Ms Bush commented about her experience: *"Texas Bluebonnet Girls State was an incredible experience because it not only enhanced my knowledge about the workings of state governments and politics, but also allowed me to explore my personal beliefs regarding controversial topics and qualities of leadership. Through this program I became a stronger individual by learning how to become adaptable to difficult situations. The irreplaceable memories and sweet friends that I met at Girls State are treasures that will remain dear to my heart."*

The Leadership Bulverde Spring Branch program kicks off the 2014–2015 classes on September 3, 2014. Madison will be sharing her experiences with them, and will hopefully be able to attend some of the leadership sessions. Contact the Chamber office at 830-438-4285 for more information regarding this program.

Two upcoming Chamber events to put on your calendar

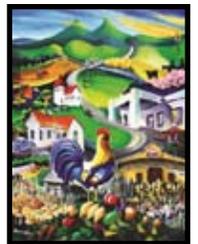
Fall Market Days will be held on October 4, 2014

This will be the 3rd year that the **Fall Market Days** will be held at the Bealls (Old HEB) parking lot off of Hwy 46 W. We look forward to hosting over 100 vendors of all types – Holiday decorating ideas, jewelry, woodworking, artwork, apparel & accessories, Childrens activities and much, much more.

Check out the chamber website (www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com) for more information or to locate a vendor form if you would like to sell your wares at this event.

14th Annual Taste of the Hills event at Boulder Springs.

On October 18th, we will be guiding your travels through the Bulverde/Spring Branch hill country restaurants and food vendors. When the attendees of the **14th Annual Taste of the Hills** arrive at their destination – Boulder Springs Legacy Room – they will be provided with a "Passport" to assist them with their travels through the delicious tastes and flavors of our areas cuisine. Tickets are \$55.00 each and are available through the Chamber's website or at the Chamber office. Purchase before September 30, 2014 to be eligible for the Early Bird discount. The artwork for this year's event was provided by Buzz Heye and will be auctioned off at the event.



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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER 10

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch*
Sponsored By Kathleen Banse State Farm Insurance
12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

SEPTEMBER 25

Business Networking Mixer**
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Sponsored by Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach

OCTOBER 4

Chamber Fall Market Days
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Bealls Parking Lot
See Chamber website:

(www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com)

Or call the Chamber office (830-438-4285) to register for a booth.

OCTOBER 15

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch*
Sponsored By A to Z Helpers
12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

OCTOBER 18

2014 Taste of the Hills Gala
6:00 – 10:00 pm
Location: Boulder Springs Event Center
For more information or to purchase your tickets now, visit www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com

OCTOBER 23

Business Networking Mixer**
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Sponsored by M & S Engineering, LLC

*Power Lunches: See Chamber website
www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com or call the Chamber office
(830-438-4285) to register.

**Networking mixers are Members Only events



Thank you!



Thank you to our June Power Lunch Speaker Maggie Titterington, President of the Schertz Chamber of Commerce.

This event was sponsored by Sheila McHenry with Smithson Valley Counseling Center, Inc.

Thank you to our July Power Lunch Speaker Michael Brough, CEO of Brough Writing Solutions.

This event was sponsored by Fleeta Taylor for ASEA.



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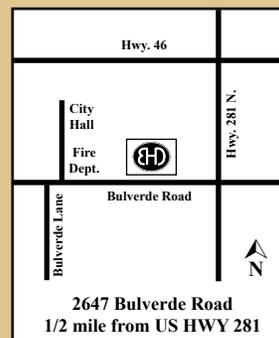
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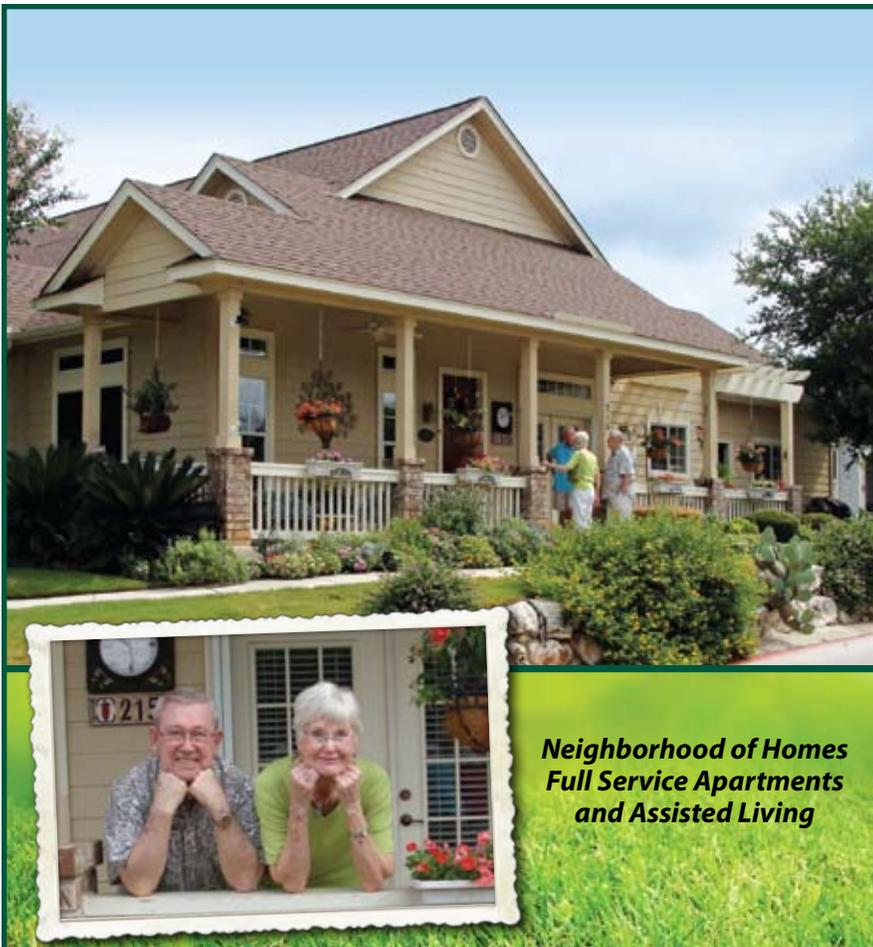
ANYBODY can do CPR!

CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is truly a lifesaving skill that everyone should know. YES, you can receive official training and certification but let's get REAL... when your heart fails to work properly, you can go into cardiac arrest, and the more people who know what to do the more likely you have a chance to survive!

WHY do seconds matter? Your body is like a car, it requires an engine to keep all of the parts moving. Every engine requires an electrical system; if the electrical system fails to operate correctly, the engine fails. In cardiac arrest, your heart (your engine) fails to pump blood effectively. If the brain and other vital organs cease to receive blood flow, they begin to shut down. The more time passes, the more likely irreversible damage occurs. CPR pumps the heart and continues the circulation of the blood.

HOW do you do CPR? If you are not trained in CPR and you find a person who doesn't respond to you and appears lifeless, **CALL 911**. Once the emergency crew is on the way, place your hands in the center of the chest and **push hard and fast** downward. It REALLY is that simple.

WHERE can you learn more? The Centre for Emergency Health Sciences is right here in your community. We offer free, fun community programs open to all ages and abilities, all the way to medical professional certification programs. Visit our website today to learn more! www.bsb911.com



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Meet Lucas

The “Chain of Survival” illustrates Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Service’s essential elements of emergency cardiac care (ECC). There are five “links” in the chain of survival: Immediate recognition & activation of 911, early CPR, rapid defibrillation, effective advanced life support, and integrated post-cardiac arrest care. Only our “well linked” Chain of Survival can improve chances of recovery for victims of heart attack, stroke, and other emergencies.



One hard fact we are faced with in cardiac arrest is a dismal survival rate if chest compressions (CPR) are not performed. Without high quality compressions, the cardiovascular system cannot provide adequate pressure to move blood and oxygen to the vital organs of our loved ones. The ability to perform consistent, perfect compressions each and every time, without fatigue, is humanly impossible—so enter the world of modern bioscience engineering!

In our Emergency Services, time is critical, portability is essential, and efficiency is paramount. The use of a compression device provides us the proven advantage of ensuring (the greatest extent possible) patient care perfection. Dr. Craig Manifold, our systems Medical Director, points toward the confluence of scientific data and modern technology in his efforts to measurably prove that lives are being saved. When collectively reflecting on the ability and care provided



within our system – there is little doubt that our families “are covered when in need.”

At Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, we use the Lucas II (CPR) device (shown). The Lucas II is a life-sustaining machine that provides adults with safe and effective compressions during cardiac arrest. Lucas allows our healthcare professionals to focus treatments by freeing up their hands and to address the unique problems for each patient.

Our Lucas device is a WIN-WIN for our community! It allows our emergency services to better utilize their human resources by preventing physical fatigue in a physically demanding job, improving safety (allowing seat-belts to be worn during transport) and reducing man-power needs during critical events (thus keeping more units available should other emergencies occur)—all while providing the BEST chance survival for our loved ones in peril.



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FIRE & EMS STATIONS—MORE THAN 911 LAUNCHING PADS

A critical element in health care and fire protection in rural locations is the strategic placement of Fire & EMS stations. To provide effective service, Fire and EMS crews must respond in a minimum amount of time after the 911 call.

WHY TIME IS CRITICAL

Fire growth can expand at a rate of many times its volume per minute. Time is also the critical factor for the rescue of occupants and the application of extinguishing agents to minimize fire damage and loss.

Minutes/seconds also matter in a medical call. Severe injury requires timely care for survival and recovery. Stroke and heart attack victims are more likely to recover and suffer less permanent disabilities if reached quickly.

Fire & EMS in the Bulverde Spring Branch rural area must deal with the vast landscape and limited stations to launch all rescues and calls. Neighbors can help by immediately calling 911. Most people do this in the case of fire, but sometimes not early enough. Call the minute the fire happens. Also call 911 in all medical emergencies (do not drive yourself!) for three reasons: better chance for survival, to reduce damage, and reduce recovery time.

THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN FIRE & EMS EMERGENCIES

The most important step in survival is future planning, so that when a neighbor has an emergency, there is a modern station close enough to respond effectively.

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS and your ESD leadership have been engaged in advance planning for years. They have been positioning future stations so the facilities are strategically located throughout the community to provide minimal response times and are excellent locations for healthcare outreach and community educational/informational sessions. Stations are located—

- right off of Highway 281, two miles north of Highway 46 (our central station);
- north on 281 near Highway 306; and
- a third station under construction on Highway 1863, 1.5 miles from 281 (photos).

STATION ARE VALUABLE ASSETS

Firefighter/medics should be seen as gatekeepers to the healthcare system. As the first contact for many patients, and the only contact that does **not** require a waiting room, they are uniquely positioned and trained to connect patients to the most appropriate, cost effective healthcare resource. These medics are an essential resource in achieving the *Triple Aim of Patient Protection*:

- 1) Reducing cost
- 2) Improving the health of a community
- 3) Improving the quality of care

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS stations have community rooms for meetings, medical clinics for the uninsured or underinsured, and education programs daily. These stations are also headquarters for community paramedicine, which helps neighbors who have medical needs or are struggling with daily living requirements.

The more community stations we place, the larger safety net for the healthcare needs of our community, and the protection from bush and structure fires which can disable a neighborhood or commercial area.

WHERE MORE COMMUNITY STATIONS ARE NEEDED

There are currently three areas in Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS's 216 square mile area that need community stations—

- One on Highway 46 west
- One on Highway 46 east
- One on Highway 306 at Mystic Shores

These three stations have been on the drawing board for quite a while, but the budget considerations have not allowed for construction. Our ESDs cannot issue bonds for station construction. Just like our great Bulverde and Spring Branch citizens, the ESDs must save up to pay cash or a down payment on a construction loan from a bank. Leadership in your Emergency Service Districts and Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS will continue seeking ways to make those stations a reality.



ESD New Station 3



ESD New Station 3



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Meet Loretta Nachand Sperling

Member of the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center

By Tonie Rogers, certified instructor, BSBAC

On September 21, 1931, Loretta Nachand Sperling was born in Queen Anne Hill community of Seattle, Washington. Quoting Loretta's father about Loretta, she was "the only good thing that came out of the Depression." I met Loretta almost four months ago, when she joined my *Balance With Strength* class I teach at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center. In three months, I had seen a wonderful improvement in her physical fitness, strength, and balance. At first Loretta could only handle balancing on one leg with both arms over head, for four seconds. Now, she can balance for ten seconds. That's just one thing she has improved on. I wanted to acknowledge and feature Loretta because she is a great role model. I love her positive attitude, her determination to improve, her dedication to come to every class, and her desire to live as independently as possible. Let me introduce you to Loretta—in her own words:

"I was raised by my Swedish grandmother in an all Italian neighborhood. I spent most of my formative years in the library or movie theatre along with all the other Seattle citizens. I went to the same grade school and high school as my Dad and his six siblings, and had many of the same teachers. This made for some entertaining stories from a few of the teachers.

I began traveling in 1944 at the age of 12. I traveled alone by ship to Kodiak Island, Alaska, to visit my Dad. During this voyage, there was a Japanese submarine following our ship through the Inside Passage. We had frequent gunnery practices to keep them at bay. I went again in 1946 and 1948. I've visited Hawaii, Scandinavia, Europe, and Mexico. My youngest child traveled with me in the later years.

I married in 1948, and by 1962 I had six children; I raised the children by myself. By their own hard work, they are all successful. I spent many years as a secretary to corporate officers or lawyers. In 1977, I worked for a psychologist. In 1979, I was a juvenile officer. Raising all those kids left me with no surprises, but I had to be appointed by a District Judge, as I had no degree. I spent five and a half years as a drug counselor for the state of Texas. This was mostly exciting and rewarding. I ended my career at an agency working with the mentally ill and mentally retarded (sic) in Tyler, Texas. When I retired in 2003, I was living on Lake Palestine, Texas.

I had a stroke in 2004 which drained me of much of my strength and stamina. Thankfully, with physical therapy, I was brought back to independence--which is something you must work on daily. You've heard the expression "use it or lose it"? It pinches with truth if you test it.

In 2012, while I was trying to sell my house and move to Bulverde to live with my daughter, Penny, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I had three surgeries and treatments daily for six weeks, and was exhausted by the time I reached Bulverde. This was my second cancer fight.

I am attending the *Balance With Strength Classes* taught by Tonie at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center. It made all the difference in me. I had a setback in January which made me start all over again. After two or three sessions with Tonie, my doctor said I was my old self again. My daughter visited for Mother's Day and said I looked ten years younger. My doctor said I looked wonderful and to "Keep it up!"

All are invited to the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center to meet Loretta and stay and exercise with us. These classes are free to BSBAC members. Please call the Activity Center for information: 830-438-3111.

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Art *is* Alive and Well *in* Bulverde

The Bulverde Area Arts Center was formed four and a half years ago to promote the visual arts in the Bulverde area. It began with forming an organization, establishing by-laws under which the organization would operate, remodeling a building in Bulverde Village and opening a gallery where the members could exhibit their art as well as provide meeting and classroom space for art programs.

Working as an all-volunteer organization, the BAAC has achieved a number of successes since its founding. It continues to look for new ways to promote the arts for adults and children in the Bulverde area. Some of the activities, past and present, conducted by the BAAC are:

- Sponsoring art classes for adults and children
- Conducting free art exhibits continuously at the BAAC Gallery
- Embracing all visual art forms and media
- Conducting free exhibits for area high school students
- Hosting children's art classes during the summer and at local events
- Conducting adult art classes with professional art instructors
- Participating in Bulverde area special events such as the Jubilee, Christmas Lighting, and Market Days.
- Hosting outside art groups such as the San Antonio Glass Guild with Gallery exhibits
- Supporting the Chamber of Commerce 'Taste of the Hills' event with free poster art by members
- Conduct monthly Wine and Art classes with a professional instructor

The Bulverde Area Arts Center is a nonprofit organization. Most events sponsored or conducted by BAAC are free to the public. A few have a minimal cost to cover the cost of materials. Membership meetings are held at the gallery on the first Wednesday of every month. Membership is open to everyone. You do not have to be an artist or to exhibit in the gallery to become a member. Activities and membership information is available on the organization website: www.bulverdeareaartcenter.com. Wine and Art classes are held at the gallery on the second Thursday of every month; if you would like to receive more information or to register for the Wine and Art class, contact Buzz Heye at heyehaus@gvtc.com.



A recent Wine and Art class shows off their finished art. They began with a blank canvas two hours earlier. The instructor for the class is Diane Parker, front left, art teacher at Smithson Valley High School.

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RX for Better Senior Health:



A Pet Dog or Cat

by Carrye Franzel

It's a fact: share your home with a dog or cat and be healthier and happier. Studies conducted by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institute of Health (NIH) confirm that pet owners have lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels than those who are not pet owners. This is thought to be related to the stress-reducing benefits of time spent with pets. Among individuals who have had a heart attack, pet owners have improved recovery rates. "Like any enjoyable activity, playing with a dog can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine--nerve transmitters that are known to have pleasurable and calming properties," states Blair Justice PhD, Psychology Professor with the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Caring for a pet has emotional and social benefits as well. A cat's need for lap time and play, a dog that needs leash walks--are motivational reasons to get out of bed and antidotes to depression. A dog can be your personal trainer, requiring you to walk regularly--with the added bonus of taking you outdoors and maybe meeting someone new. The therapeutic benefits of time with a companion animal are so well-known that today, animal-assisted therapy is often part of a patient's treatment regimen.

What makes a good pet for a senior? A mature dog or cat for starters, one past the housebreaking challenge, chewing stage, and high activity of a younger animal. A good senior companion thrives in a calm environment. Like Peate, a six year old pug mix who arrived at Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) after his owner's move to assisted living. His would be an easy transition from shelter to a quiet, adult home again. His moderate exercise needs and love of lap time fit well with a senior lifestyle. Or Callie, an adult long-haired calico cat at BAHS now because her owner could no longer care for her. She has only known a senior adult home and has never been around other cats. She seeks to engage any adult who stops to look, talk to her, touch her. She is waiting for a quiet indoor environment with one or two adults to give her love and attention. Many more like

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Peate

Peate and Callie are in shelters today, overlooked because they are no longer the cute puppy or kitten.

So if you're ready to fill the prescription for the health benefits of having a pet, visit Bulverde Area Humane Society, or any area shelter, and ask about the best pet candidates for seniors. You might just take home your next best friend. Visit us online at bulverdeshelter.com or find us on Facebook.

Editor's Note: In the July/August issue of the Front Porch News, the byline for the author of the BAHS article entitled "Dumped" was inadvertently omitted. The article was authored by Tom Blacklock, and we thank him for that contribution.

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BUZZ FROM THE GARDEN

WORKDAYS AND WORKSHOPS IN THE GARDEN

The first Garden workday and workshop took place on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Lee Franzel, Comal County Master Gardener, presented a discussion on preparing your Garden for Fall vegetables. He graciously donated Fall tomato plants to participants.

The next workday and workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Garden, located next to the Bulverde Activity Center on Cougar Bend. The workday will start at 8:00 a.m. followed by the workshop at 10:00 a.m. The topic will be composting, and is open to the public free of charge.

Watch for further developments in the Garden throughout the Fall! The Bulverde Community Garden Committee meets the third Monday of the month at the Bulverde Activity Center. The meeting is open to the public. If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost) or make a donation, please visit the garden website at www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com or contact Joanne Hall at johall@gvvc.com



Odds *N* Ends

Volunteers Needed

The Bulverde Thrift Store is in need of volunteers. Several positions are available, including working in the store during business hours, but the primary need is in the receiving and sorting of donations. If you have a few hours a week or a month, please contact Kristina Vickers, the Store manager, at (830) 438-8462 or bulverdethriftstore@gvvc.com

The Bulverde Thrift Store is a nonprofit organization that helps to support both Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Activity Center; the store is located at 30450 Cougar Bend.

Remember to Recycle!

Comal County Rural Recycling is on site every Friday morning, between 6:30 am and 11:30 am to collect your recyclable materials. The trucks are parked in the lot of the Justice of the Peace court building, across from Sweet's Store. The crew will unload the recyclables from your car or truck for you—you don't even have to get out of your vehicle. This service is offered free of charge.

Free Feral Cat "Trap, Neuter, Release" Classes

On the fourth Sunday of each month, Animal Rescue Connections offers a free class on how to control the feral cat population in your community. The class is held at the EMS facility at 353 Rodeo Drive at 2:00 pm. Please call 210.474.0083 for more information.

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Bulverde
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OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 Planning & Zoning 6:30p Special Meeting-Tax Rate, City, 5:30p	3 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr)	4 Special Meeting-Tax Rate, ESD 1, 4, & 5 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	5	6 Monthly Yard Sale (Bulverde Thrift Store)	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)			1 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr)	2	3	4 Monthly Yard Sale (Bulverde Thrift Store) Chamber Market Days 9a-4p (Bealls pkg lot)
7	8 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library) Special Meeting-Tax Rate, ESD 1, 4, & 5 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	9 City Council 6:30p (Final Adoption of Budget and Tax Rate) Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	10	11 Art & Wine 6:00p (Art Center)	12	13				5	6	7 National Night Out	8 Planning & Zoning 6:30p
14	15 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	16	17 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) Fall Prevention Class 12:30p (Activity Ctr)	18 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	19	20 Bulverde Jubilee 10a-6p (Downtown Bulverde Village)	12	13 Columbus Day Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	14 Open House: Downtown Bulverde Village Visioning 4-7p (Activity Ctr) City Council 6:30p	15 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	16 Transportation Forum 3-7p (GVTC) BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) EDS #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	17 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	18 Chamber's Taste of the Hills Gala 6:00p (Boulder Springs) "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)
21	22	23 Friends of the Park 6:00p	24	25	26 Fair Day (CISD holiday)	27 Garden Compost Workshop 10:00a (Activity Ctr)	19 "Skin Deep" 2:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	20 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	21 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	22	23 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	24 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	25 "Skin Deep" 8:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)
28 Free Outdoor Cat Control class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	29	30	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)				26 Free Outdoor Cat Control class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) "Skin Deep" 2:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	27	28 Friends of the Park 6:00p	29	30 Bunco/Costume Contest 5:30p (Activity Center)	31 Halloween	