

THE

# FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde  
and our Neighbors  
Issue 8 ☆ November 2014

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THE  
**FRONT PORCH**  
News

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

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# Mayor's Point



**Bill Krawietz**  
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

It's not possible to please everybody all the time, that's a given. Then there are those who seem to never be satisfied.

Some of the City's most vocal critics blame us for not doing enough to manage growth and development. I can assure you we do the best we can with our limited authority as a General Law City and with the amount of available data we currently have on hand to back up our regulations.

Those same critics cry out when we try to increase our authority or when we spend funds on studies and planning. I was recently called a "Pro Growth Liberal Zealot" by one individual. Believe me, that is not what the developers whose plans I review think.

Texas has very strong property rights and land use laws. That means a property owner has the right to develop their land within acceptable guidelines, and that is the way it should be.

For a city to pass arbitrary rules and regulations is just plain unethical, and won't hold up if challenged in a court of law. There must be supporting data to back up our regulatory guidance.

This is where engineering studies, public planning processes, and comprehensive plans come into play. If done properly, these tools help to manage development and can be enforced without question.

However, these planning efforts require spending money to hire experts to collect data and compile it. During this process the public is notified and is given ample opportunities to provide comments and suggestions. The public input process is extremely critical. The final step in the process is for adoption of the plan by the governing body during open and transparent public meetings. Only then are these planning efforts fully vetted.

We currently have three separate firms working on three different planning studies. The first is a drainage and storm water study for the Lewis Creek Watershed. The second is a Multi-Modal Master Transportation Plan. The third is the Village of Bulverde Visioning study.

None of these plans are intended to relax any of our existing ordinances or give developers a "free ride" at the expense of our citizen's health, safety, and welfare. To the contrary, these strategies will be used to protect our citizens from the negative effects that often come from overdevelopment and growth that is not properly guided by well-vetted community regulation.



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## National Night Out



The City of Bulverde and the Bulverde Police Department would like to extend thanks to everyone who assisted with making National Night Out another huge success this year. Members of the police department starting working several months ago gathering information and registering with the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) for National Night Out 2014. This is the first year the City of Bulverde entered to be eligible for awards, and we are very excited to see how we compared to other cities similar to Bulverde.

This was also the first year Bulverde Police conducted a NNO Block Party Host Appreciation Event at the Bulverde Community Park. Citizens, and their families, who agreed to host a block party event for NNO were invited to attend. On October 5th members of the Bulverde Police Department gathered with about 45 members of the community to celebrate their volunteer efforts for the Bulverde NNO and recognize those citizens who have participated for several years. It was a great opportunity for those Block Party Hosts to come together and meet each other and share different ideas. A very special thanks to Singing Hills and Chicken Express, our corporate sponsors for the appreciation event, who graciously provided food, beverages, and some awards as well; with their assistance, we were able to make the event very special for the Block Party Hosts.

National Night Out was celebrated on Tuesday, October 7th, with most block parties starting around 6pm and wrapping up around 9pm. This year there were 13 block parties in the City that were registered with the police department. This is outstanding participation considering there were only 36 total block parties registered in the entire County. Each location in

the City was visited by a member of the Bulverde Police Department, and many were attended by Mayor Krawietz, City Council Members, and City Administrator Hoppe. Each location was well attended, with an estimated 400 total attendees participating in this year's Bulverde National Night Out events. These participants help make the City of Bulverde a great place to live.

We are already looking forward to National Night Out 2015, with hopes we can continue to grow the event. It's always provides a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors. Neighbors watching out for their neighbors is the best practice we can have when it comes to fighting crime, and is the primary goal of National Night Out. Please remember to report suspicious activity as it's happening, not after the fact.

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As you may already be aware, the Bulverde Police Department (BPD) is in the process of implementing a volunteer program for which citizens can apply with the police department to assist the City in various volunteer capacities. The BPD is very close to officially launching the *Volunteer in Police Services* (VIPS) program, but wants to take the time to ensure that it's done correctly. The VIPS program in Bulverde is envisioned to enhance and supplement existing neighborhood and business patrols, with a strict "observe and report only" policy for volunteers. Additionally, volunteers may assist with special community events, assist officers with residential and business checks, roadway speed survey's, clerical duties, investigations, etc. There are many valuable benefits of a VIPS program, but the most significant component is community involvement, building partnerships with members of the community, and to create a safer Bulverde community.

VIPS policies and procedures have been written and are pending official approval, equipment is being prepared, and a training program is being developed, so now it's time to start searching for those people willing to make a commitment to BPD and their community. Volunteers will be expected to make a minimal commitment (12 hours a month) to the program, as the application process and training given to

each volunteer consumes valuable resources from the police department. Approximately 8 hours of volunteer training will occur, being split between the classroom and in the field (patrol car). Volunteers will be instructed on how to stay safe while volunteering, handle situations within the policies set forth for the program, and also what is expected of them while volunteering.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the VIPS program should send an email to [VIPsapplication@ci.bulverde.tx.us](mailto:VIPsapplication@ci.bulverde.tx.us) with your name, address and a contact phone number. Please feel free to include a short paragraph as to why you would like to volunteer for the VIPS program. Once your email has been reviewed, you will receive a response via email with an application attached. The application must be completely filled out to be considered for a volunteer position. Once your application has been submitted, it will be reviewed for completeness and forwarded for further administrative review and background investigation. Once this process is complete, those individuals who are eligible will be contacted for a short interview with a Bulverde police department administrator for final approval. We are very excited about VIPS and look forward to working together with members of our community to enhance public safety in Bulverde.



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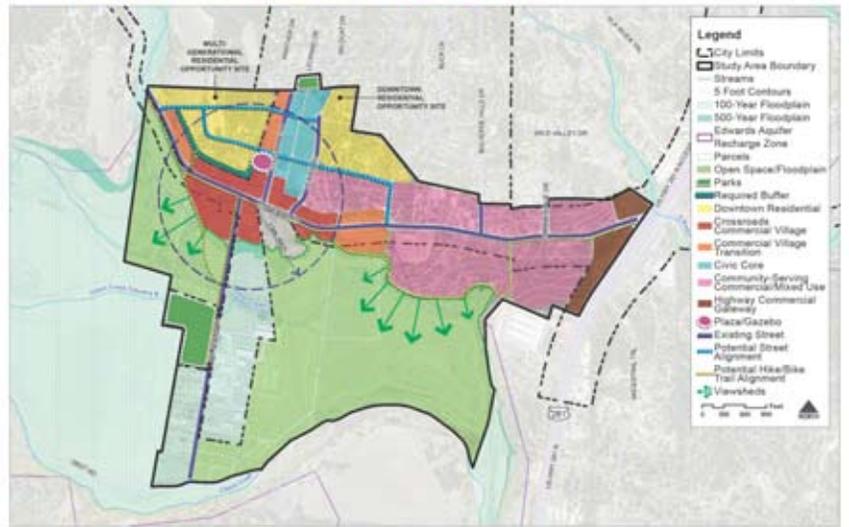
# A Vision *for the* Downtown Bulverde Village

At an October open-house meeting, citizens provided their opinions and ideas on the future of Downtown Bulverde Village (DBV) as the City and a team of consultants continue work on a strategy for enhancing the area. The DBV Visioning study is examining a number of facets of the Downtown Bulverde Village area, including existing conditions in the area, such as building stock, infrastructure, and the natural environment; the supply and demand for various land uses and building types in the short-, mid-, and long-term; and the community's shared values and vision for the future of Downtown Bulverde Village. The conclusion of the consulting team is that there is sufficient market demand to make a revitalized Downtown Bulverde Village successful, but the supply of services is currently lacking. At both the August and October Community Meetings, the consensus was that the DBV should maintain its quaint, rustic character, and incorporate features that would distinguish it from the more

commercial areas along Highways 281 and 46. A draft land-use and infrastructure plan was presented at the October meeting (graphically depicted here), with additional feedback sought from the community, stakeholders, and City Council. This feedback will be incorporated into a final recommendation that will likely be presented to the City Council in January 2015, and will include a set of potential strategies for implementing the plan once approved.

For more information, and to access the second DBV community survey, please visit: [http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us/default.aspx?name=aprojectpage\\_visioning](http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us/default.aspx?name=aprojectpage_visioning)

## Land Use Framework Plan - DRAFT



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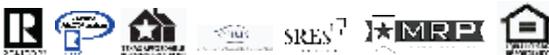
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# Getting to Know



## Richard Spears

After making an initial report with law enforcement, that case file often needs additional investigation. This is where the Bulverde Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division, or CID, steps in to complete that process. Detective Corporal Richard Spears is the primary Investigator for the Bulverde Police Department and is responsible for all cases forwarded to CID.

Richard was hired in November of 2004, just one month after the official inception of the Bulverde Police Department, making him the second most tenured member of the department. In November of 2014, Detective Spears will be celebrating 10 years of service to the Bulverde community. Richard brings almost 25 years of law enforcement experience to his service to the City with assignments in patrol, narcotics, evidence collection, property room inventory, hostage negotiations, CID, and DARE. In August of this year, Richard was promoted from Patrol to the position of Detective Corporal in CID. His primary

responsibilities in this role are follow-up work on pending cases, contacting witnesses, and interviewing possible suspects. Once each investigation is complete, he presents the case to the Comal County District Attorney's office for prosecution. Additionally Detective Spears also assists with presentations to our area schools, as well as Explorers Post 1700.

Many current officers will tell you they wanted to be a police officer as a child, or law enforcement is "in their family." Richards's story is a little different. As a child he wanted to be a radio disc jockey, which is a dream he followed working at a variety of radio stations in the Texas Panhandle and Dallas area. While attending college at North Texas State University, he took a summer job as a security officer responding to commercial and residential alarms. Upon responding to an alarm at a coin shop, Richard caught a burglar. While at the scene, an Amarillo Police Officer suggested Richard should apply to be a police officer, and so his career in law enforcement began. Six months later, Richard had completed the police academy and was working for the Amarillo Police Department.

When he's not working for BPD, Richard enjoys photography, watching movies, and riding motorcycles. He has a son, Rick who works in Amarillo as an officer for the Texas Department of Corrections. He has three grandkids (Lukas, Lillian, and Sadie). He is a resident of Bulverde, and is married to Judi Spears, with a son Collin who is 4 years old, and a step-daughter Kelly, 13. Richard has a passion for solving cases and truly enjoys bringing closure to the cases he is assigned. Should you require any investigative services from the BPD CID, or need to contact Detective Spears, he can be reached at 830-438-3612 ext 216.

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# Being in Bulverde GREEN

Living in the Bulverde and Spring Branch area has many benefits that one would expect from "country living." Residents enjoy a certain sense of peace that comes with being somewhat removed from the hustle and bustle of a big city environment. In choosing to live out here and to enjoy the less urban lifestyle involves a few tradeoffs when it comes to certain small conveniences of city living. One such convenience that is not readily available in our community is that of curbside recycling. Residents who strive to live a more "green" lifestyle have limited options available when it comes to recycling. One option is to pay an additional fee to their garbage collection vendor, not all of which offer recycling services in the area. Another option for recycling, which seems to be one of the best kept secrets in the area, is a free collection of recyclables provided by Comal County Rural Recycling. The recycling crews park their trucks in specified locations in the community on designated days, and residents can bring their recyclables for drop off. The materials do not have to be sorted, and the crew will courteously and efficiently unload your vehicle while you wait. You never even have to get out of the vehicle as long as the materials are accessible to the crew. This service is provided free of charge, with the exception of a small fee for certain items (e.g., tires). Many residents of the area are completely unaware of this service being provided by CCRR; hopefully this article will encourage residents to recycle more and to reduce the quantity of recyclable materials that end up in the landfills. It takes a little bit of planning and effort on the part of the residents, but it's worth it to help make the Bulverde area a bit more "green." A complete list of the recyclable materials that CCRR will accept or not accept is available on their website at <http://www.co.comal.tx.us/rec.htm>, or you can call 830.643.3781 for more information.

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## Recycling Collection Times and Locations

Bulverde	Friday: 6:30am to 11:30 am	Justice of the Peace #2 Building
Spring Branch	Monday: 6:30am to 11:30am	Fire Station, FM 311/Hwy 281
Recycling Center	Tuesday–Friday: 7:00am to 3:00pm; closed 12:00-12:30 Saturday: 8:00am to 12:00 pm	281 Resource Dr. off Hwy 46 West

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# A Day in the Life

## Bulverde Area Humane Society

By Carrye Franzel, Volunteer

Most visitors and volunteers have little idea of the work involved in caring for the animals, keeping up the maintenance of the grounds and facilities, and what it generally takes to operate an animal shelter. Caretakers are usually gone by the time visitors and volunteers arrive and much of the work goes on when the shelter is closed to the public.

The shelter day begins with the arrival of our dedicated caretakers early every morning, usually before daylight. First up is leashing and transferring 30 or more dogs from individual pens to one of several large fenced areas. This is where the dogs can first relieve themselves after a long afternoon and night in their kennels and where they join assigned playgroups for exercise with compatible dogs. While the dogs are in the play yards, caretakers are busy sanitizing the empty kennels, changing water, administering medications and preparing food for the animals. After the dogs are brought back to clean kennels with their morning feeding, the caretakers move on to clean play yards.

At the same time, other caretakers are at work in the cattery and a kitten/senior cat room cleaning litter boxes, feeding cats and administering medicines. Up to 30 litter boxes and a large sandbox are changed daily. Cat enclosures for young, sick or elderly cats must be cleaned out and sanitized. Premature, motherless kittens must be bottle-fed every two to three hours. Some are fostered in a caretaker's home until stable enough to be housed in the kitten room. Laundry must be done—towels and other items used for cleaning the facilities, bathing the animals and those used for bedding materials.

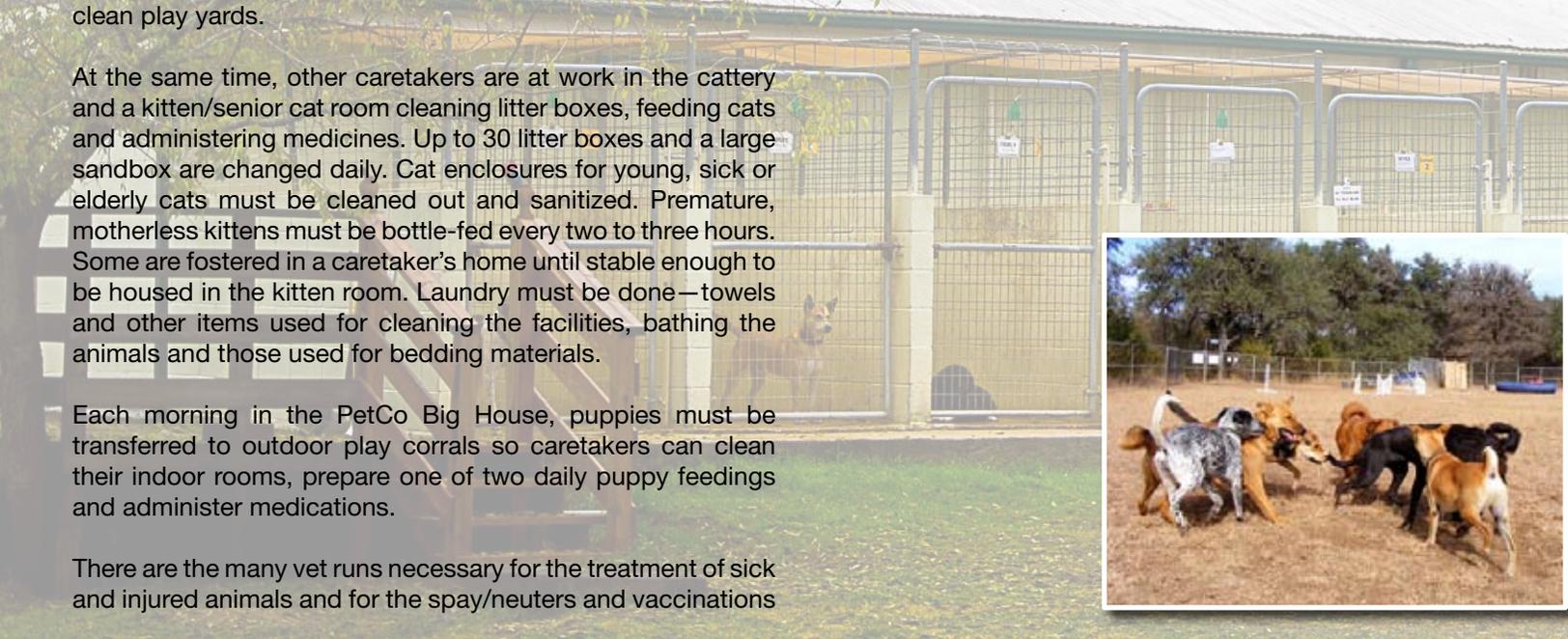
Each morning in the PetCo Big House, puppies must be transferred to outdoor play corrals so caretakers can clean their indoor rooms, prepare one of two daily puppy feedings and administer medications.

There are the many vet runs necessary for the treatment of sick and injured animals and for the spay/neuters and vaccinations



involved in getting an animal ready for adoption. Shelter supplies must be ordered, unloaded and put away and the telephone traffic managed. Calls come in about lost pets, found pets, people wanting to surrender a pet and others asking advice. Calls don't stop when the shelter closes. After-hours calls are retrieved and return calls often continue well into the evening.

After the shelter closes caretakers return for additional care and feedings required for puppies and kittens, to administer medications or other special needs of animals that cannot wait until the next early morning. Afternoons are also when caretakers return for maintenance of the facility and grounds—mowing, cleaning and repairs. It's all in a day in the life of BAHS.



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## Jane Wood Wins "The People's Choice" Art Exhibit

By Charles Schultz

The current exhibit at the Bulverde Area Arts Center is titled as "The People's Choice." It consists of member art, and everyone attending the opening night reception was given a ballot to select their favorite. Altogether, fifteen pieces of art received votes, but the clear winner was a pastel painting by Jane Wood entitled "Cold Day."



Jane has always had a passion for art and studied the subject at UTSA. She put her love of art aside when she opened the Emporium Antique Shop in Bulverde Village. Running the business required her full attention and "there was no time for art," she said.

Four years ago, she closed the Emporium and brought art back into her life. "I needed lessons so I began calling people," she said. That led to the founding of the Bulverde Area Arts Center. She is a consistent exhibitor at the gallery, displaying her oil paintings as well as works in pastel.

The BAAC Gallery is open Fridays and Saturdays from four pm to eight pm, and Sundays from 11 am to 3 pm. The gallery is located at 2355 Bulverde Road, #9, in Bulverde Village, across from Mike's in the Village. There is no admission charge to visit the gallery.

## It's Never Too Early to Learn Important Art Lessons

~~Courtesy of Comal ISD

Kindergarten students in Lizette Floyd's art classes at Bill Brown Elementary recently worked on developing hand orientation, placement and spacing of various lines.

This lesson is the foundation for building shapes, constructing letters, patterns and designs with lines in art.

Students explored the process of making different lines, the idea of repetition, developed a line vocabulary and an awareness of different kinds of lines.

"Lines have an endless number of uses in the creation of art," said Floyd. "Lines are all around us in everyday life."

Students were guided through the process of creating various lines using oil pastels. They then painted in between the lines using brightly colored tempera paints. This also allowed the students to work with various art media.



A Bill Brown kindergarten student works on his line-painting lesson in art teacher Lizette Floyd's classroom.

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The BSBEDF has relationships with several entities such as the UTSA Small Business Development Center, the Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber, several local financial institutions, and area utility providers to help connect you with the resources you need to start your own business and, most importantly, succeed! And, if you are interested in buying an existing proven business concept, we can help you find the perfect franchise opportunity.

When you are ready to launch your business, we can assist you with your search for a location, guide you

through the permitting process, and help you apply for training assistance, utility rebates, and other business incentives. Our services are provided at no charge. You may also visit the Business Toolbox page of our website at [http://www.bsbedf.com/Business\\_Toolbox.html](http://www.bsbedf.com/Business_Toolbox.html) to find a variety of resources to help you achieve your dream of business ownership.

With all the growth occurring in our community, the time to start your own business here in your community is now! We need more local entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams to ensure that the special unique rural atmosphere our community desires continues into the future.

Please visit us at [www.bsbedf.com](http://www.bsbedf.com) or call us at **830.885.4331** to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how we can help. The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth while maintaining our rural character and quality of life.

**Sherry Mosier**  
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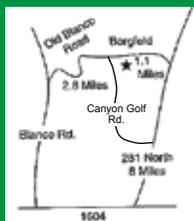
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## Bulverde Christmas Lighting



Celebrate the Holiday season kickoff at the 24th annual Bulverde Christmas Lighting. This family event takes place on **Friday, November 28, 2014** in Downtown Bulverde. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with the lighting of the Christmas tree and ending with a movie, Polar Express, at the Bulverde Community Park (the movie starts at 8:00 p.m.). There will be lots of free activities, visits with Santa, treats for children, entertainment, shopping, food, and family fun including a visit to Who-ville and a chance to play in real snow. Donations of canned or dry goods for Provisions, or new, unwrapped toys for the Lions Club will be accepted at the entrance to Who-ville. The event is a community effort hosted by the City of Bulverde, Bulverde Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce, Village of Bulverde, Spring Branch-Bulverde Family Lions Club, and numerous local organizations and businesses.




# FALL Market Days

We had a beautiful Chamber of Commerce day on Saturday, October 4, for our Fall Market Days. There were over 125 vendors (a new record!) at this event providing almost anything that you could imagine ranging from various types of jewelry, clothing, woodworking, guns and gun training, pets and food and drinks. Bill Krawietz, Bulverde Mayor, welcomed the public and led them in the Pledge of Alligence and the crowds were wonderful all day.



If you missed this one and are looking for unique Christmas presents, check out the Chamber's Community Calendar ([www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com](http://www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com)) as there are several other craft fairs and market day events occurring throughout our area over the next couple of months.

We would like to thank H.E.B., Bealls, Home Depot, Money Mailer, Blue Lion Train, and Digital Expressions for their continued support. Special thank you to River Crossing Golf Club for use of their golf carts, Bill Brown for parking, and Broadway Bank for use of their hand sanitizers.

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## Recent Ribbon Cuttings!

### BSB Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

**Every 3rd Wednesday**  
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**Every 4th Thursday**  
Chamber Business Networking Mixer

**Friday, November 28, 2014**  
Holiday Christmas Lighting  
5:30–9:00pm  
Downtown Bulverde

*\*\*For information on any of the above events,  
please see our website at  
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# Heartfelt Thanks!

Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS, Bulverde Fire, and Spring Branch Fire merged to become one service this year. We are now: Emergency Services and we are also now:

- Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS—one dynamic organization whose mission is to respond immediately with educated professionals through pioneering science and technology, creating profound good.
- The Centre for Emergency Health Sciences—a state-of-the-art training facility in our Central Station on Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch with a State Anatomical Board approved Cadaver Lab with established programs in EMS education and high school anatomy. On any given day, you may find the Department of Defense, Law Enforcement, one of 15 corporate partners (including Stryker, Smith & Nephew, and Johnson & Johnson), and research scientists from around the world engaging in cutting edge medical advances and research. The Centre currently hosts residency programs in orthopedics, emergency medicine, and oncology.
- Community Health Initiative (CHI)—volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and paramedics caring for over 584 uninsured/underinsured patients (to date) in our Central Station on Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch
- WOW – *Wellness on Wheels* –Thanks to the New Braunfels McKenna Foundation, we have a mobile

science classroom to travel to area high schools, and a mobile clinic to travel to food pantries and neighborhoods to treat those with no medical insurance or who are underinsured and have mobility issues.

This all happened thanks to the generous contributions of the Lowry Mays family, the McKenna Foundation, United Way of Comal County, Chuck and Sharon Knibbe, The GVTC Foundation, and the faithful support of so many individuals and our entire community. Over the last seven years, as we have shopped at HEB or the Bulverde Feed & Seed Store, or dined at Mike's in the Village, the "attaboys" we have received and the encouragement we have encountered from all of you folks has spurred on the work we do and the hours it takes to do it.

### So Thank You One And All.

All these services were created, and all of this profound change happened without one single delay in response to a fire or to any ill or injured citizen. What was once a little rural ambulance company is now Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services: a model Fire & EMS service operating a mobile and fixed medical clinic, while assuring best practices and unsurpassed medical care for the community through the Centre for Emergency Health Sciences.



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# Saving Lives and Property Through Collaboration

The Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services Council (Council) is an advisory body, and provides the primary means for collaboration between individual Emergency Services Districts (ESDs). The Council is composed of two Commissioners from each ESD and was formed through a Local Agreement in October of 2013. The Council provides a sounding board for the service provider, Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, and coordinates District-wide strategic planning activities, and makes policy recommendations. This September, the Council agreed that it was now time to bring in other emergency service agencies. A representative from the City of Bulverde and Comal County Sheriff's Department accepted the Council's invitation to join the collaboration and provide representation from all branches of emergency services. This standing group has the responsibility for coordination, prevention, preparedness, and response associated with emergency incidents, as well as supporting the strategic initiatives of the service provider, Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services. The Council is chaired by Paul Graf, who facilitates Council activities and recruits additional ad hoc members. The Council meets monthly and may also convene on an as needed basis for coordination of special activities or serious emergency incidents.

One item that is currently being evaluated is the removal of a ceiling of 6 cents per \$100 of taxable value for residents

living north of Hwy 46. Neighboring ESDs #1 and #5 are currently at the state cap of 10 cents. Comal County Emergency Services District #4 is asking voters to approve a 4-cent property tax cap increase that is expected to fund services and new equipment in its emergency services district. This will not mean a 4-cent increase on next year's tax bill; it simply raises the cap. Leaders of the Emergency Services District #4 state that they do not expect an immediate tax increase.

The item goes up for a vote in May of 2015 and would be the first property cap increase for Emergency Services District #4 since the voter imposed cap was established in 2004. If approved, the property tax cap for residents in ESD #4 would increase from 6 cents per \$100 of taxable value to a maximum of 10 cents per \$100 of taxable value. For homeowners, a 1-cent increase translates to an additional \$20 per year on a \$200,000 property.

"The tax cap increase would help Emergency Services District #4 fund a strategically planned station in the eastern district near Mountain Springs and FM 3159. Additionally, associated costs of skyrocketing insurance, equipment, and personnel must be covered along with care for a growing and aging population," said Larry Hull, President of ESD #4.

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# The Buzz From the Garden

Fall is in the air at the Bulverde Community Garden. Plots have been planted with cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, pumpkins, and other fall veggies. Okra is being harvested and flowers are blooming. Master naturalists Lea Anzalotta and Veronica Hawk are busy creating the key hole garden. Families, individuals, local businesses, and nonprofit groups are working their plots, benefitting from their involvement in the Garden...this is what different groups have to say~

Hatch 5 is a home grown business in the heart of Bulverde, and we are proud to join the community garden. The community garden is a visual delight that gives Grandma's herb garden a run for its money. It's a reflection of the love and culture the hardworking Bulverde community has always embodied. As many of our loyal patrons have already experienced, our culinary confections are prepared with the freshest and most natural ingredients available. Now we can boast home grown herbs. We invite everyone to work up an appetite at one the gardening classes then stop by Hatch 5 for a tasty treat washed down with a Cucumber Limeade. See you soon. ~Michael Pryor, Owner, Hatch 5 Market



available in our standard lines; Mint, Citrus and Lavender. ~Cathy Brownlow, Owner, Natural Beauty Body Products

We are off to a great start this fall with five plots dedicated to Provisions. Youth and adult volunteers from our local community have been busy collecting the final harvest of the summer bounty and preparing the plots with the fall/winter veggies of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and various types of lettuce. For the first time, we will be able to provide our clients with fresh produce during the cooler months. This is certainly a bonus to the type of products that we

normally can offer, and our clients definitely appreciate it! We are extremely grateful to Mike & Joanne Hall of South Texas Growers for donating all the plants and Cragg's for their donation of seeds—we are anticipating a bumper winter crop so come by for a visit! ~Laura Mendel, Volunteer Coordinator, Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach

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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](http://www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com) or contact [Joanne Hall@jothall@gvtc.com](mailto:Joanne.Hall@jothall@gvtc.com)



The Bulverde Community Garden Committee meets the third Monday of the month at the Bulverde Activity Center. The meeting is open to the public.

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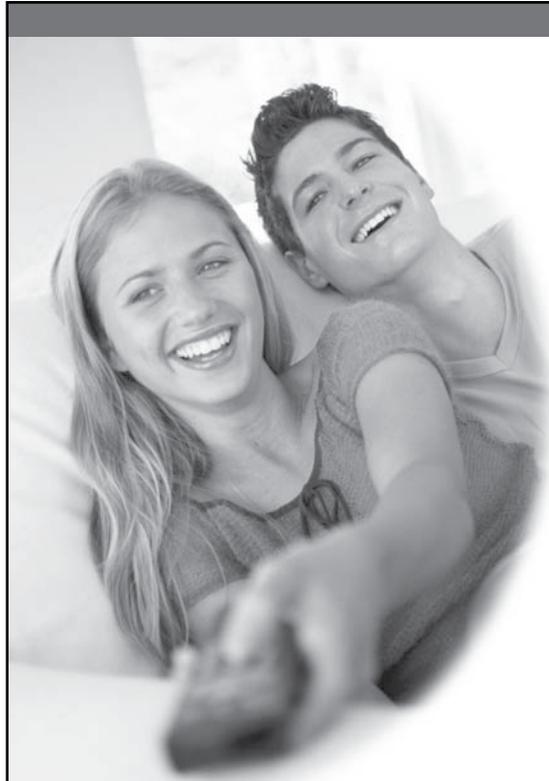




Bulverde Community Garden Chair, Joanne Hall, plot holders, Forrest and April McLain, and Mayor, Bill Krawietz receive a \$900 check for the Garden from Tom Hodges, General Manager of Canyon Lake Water Service Company. This donation will be used for Phase 2 of the Garden construction.

# Home Rule Charter Commission Appointed

At the October City Council meeting, the City Council appointed a committee of 15 Bulverde citizens to examine the municipal governance structure in Bulverde, and to begin the process of drafting a Charter that will be presented to the community at an election sometime in the future. The members appointed are: Cynthia Phillips, Lynda Binkley, Merri Harrison, Ted Wilcox (Vice Chair), Larry Sunn, Michael Rarick, Greg Den Herder, Eugene Wankowski, Bev Lemes, Michael Jones, Mechelle Salmon (Chair), Richard Parker, John Davenport, David Bullock, Thomas Turk, Margaret Sunn (Alternate), and Ralph Lemes (Alternate). A regular meeting schedule of the Commission will be set for the Charter drafting process and will be published on the City's website and via other communication avenues. The City Council encourages Bulverde citizens, businesses, and ETJ residents to actively participate in the process.



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# MOVIE NIGHTS at the PARK

It's great to see families having fun in the park! The park continues to be a favorite recreation site for Bulverde-area residents, and plans for improvements and family activities occupy the attention of the Friends of the Park.

The first 'Movies in the Park' night in August was a huge success, with an estimated attendance of nearly four hundred people. The Bulverde Police Department, sponsor of the event, had exhibits and activities for kids and adults, and refreshments like kettle corn and shaved ice were offered by several vendors.

The next 'Movies in the Park' night is Saturday, November 29 at 8:00 pm, following the Christmas tree lighting and Santa's visit to the Village of Bulverde. There is no admission charge to attend the movie, and you are advised to bring your own chair or blanket.



As a means of financing the movie nights and other activities, the Friends of the Park are offering bricks engraved with your name or a message, which will be placed in the walkways throughout the park. The area surrounding the flags at the entrance of the park is reserved for military and memorial bricks.



With Christmas just weeks away, you can shorten your gift list by giving an engraved brick. 'Buy a Brick for Christmas' for family or friends though the Bulverde Community Parks website at: [www.bulverdeparcs.com](http://www.bulverdeparcs.com) or by calling Merri Harrison [redacted]. Information about becoming a member of Friends of the Park can also be found on the parks website or by contacting Ms. Harrison.



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# Smoke Alarms **Save** Lives

By Larry Sunn, ESD #5 Commissioner for Emergency Services Districts #4 and #5

When was the last time you tested the smoke alarms in your home? Was it last week? Last month? A year ago?

If you're like many people, you may not even remember. Smoke alarms have become such a common feature of U.S. households that they're often taken for granted, and aren't tested and maintained as they should be.

However, working smoke alarms are a critical fire safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms can cut the chance of dying in a home fire in half. Meanwhile, NFPA data shows that home fires killed more than 2,300 people in 2013; many of these deaths could have been prevented with proper smoke alarm protection.

We firefighters and ESD commissioners have seen the devastating effects of fire first-hand; the burn injuries, the loss of homes and possessions are distressing. What's even worse is witnessing a family's anguish after a loved one has been killed in a fire. It's heartbreaking.

The Commissioners of ESDs 4 and 5 are promoting "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" to better educate the public about the true value of working smoke alarms.

Our sincere hope is that all Comal County residents make sure they have working smoke alarms installed throughout their homes. These simple steps can help you make a life-saving difference, and prevent the potentially life-threatening impact of fire.

Here are simple smoke alarm tips for you to follow:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout your home; when one sounds, they should all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they do not respond properly.
- Replace back-up batteries when you move your clocks forward or back each year.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.

To learn more about the "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" campaign, visit NFPA's Web site at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

<http://firemandave.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/ap-5de70da457b64c37ad20c7cdda1662902.jpg>



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## SVHS National Merit Semifinalists *and* Commended Students

Congratulations to Elizabeth Delgado, National Merit Semifinalist, and Eric Lindholm, Kevin Froboese, and Austin Petray, National Merit Commended students, on your stellar academic performance. "A student recognized by the National Merit Program has earned a distinctive mark of academic excellence," said National Merit spokesperson Kate Lohmeyer. "This is an honor that will stay with them the rest of their lives." Well done! (Photo courtesy of CISD)

## On the Cover



The pumpkin is an iconic symbol of fall, as the popular and photogenic gourd kicks off the season in many forms of jack-o-lanterns for Halloween, and then moves into November as a centerpiece for decorations that represent the change in weather to cooler temperatures, and as an ingredient in everything from latte to pie. Pumpkins aplenty can be found at local churches in pumpkin patches that offer ample photo opportunities for parents taking the annual fall

portraits of the kiddos, as well as pumpkins of all shapes and sizes for purchase to be used as décor both inside and outside the home. This lovely pumpkin and floral still life was taken at the Bulverde United Methodist Church pumpkin patch by the very talented local photographer Debbie Karnes, a resident of River Crossing. Debbie is a serious hobbyist in photography, and boasts a portfolio of beautiful images of varied subject matter. To see more of Debbie's work, please visit the Front Porch News Facebook page for a link to her website. Thank you, Debbie, for sharing your photo with us. We here in central Texas don't get to enjoy too much cool weather, but we know that when we see the pumpkins arrive at our stores and churches, it's almost time for a sweater! Happy November, everyone!

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# Odds 'N' Ends

## Comal Master Gardeners Accepting Applications

Comal Master Gardeners are now accepting applications for the 2015 Master Gardener class, **starting January 14**. Adult residents in Comal County wishing to improve their gardening and landscaping skills should apply soon. Class size limited and there are more applications each year than places, so don't delay. The classes are on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 5:00PM for 16 weeks. More information and an application can be found at the Comal Master Gardeners website, easily found with a search, or: [www.txmg.org/comal](http://www.txmg.org/comal). Or call AgriLife at 830-620-3440.



## UPDATE THE DATE: Electronics Recycling

The date for the electronics recycling at the BSB library has changed to **November 15th** instead of the 8th. The time is the same, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

## FREE CPR & First Aid Classes

Free & Easy!! On the 5th day of every month at 6:05 p.m. at the Central Station at 353 Rodeo Drive in Spring Branch, the BSB Centre for Emergency Health Services proudly presents the Comedy CPR and First Aid class called "Five Alive." The program is open to everyone (all ages) and is absolutely free. Go to their education website at [www.bsbcehs.org](http://www.bsbcehs.org) and hit the blue Register Now button. For more information, call 830-228-4504. The class is only an hour, and a fun way to gain knowledge and confidence to save a life.

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## Stuffed with Stuff?

By Pam Parmer, Animal Rescue Connections

You can help animals and declutter your home at the same time. Your clothes and household goods can be turned from "trash" into "treasure" during Animal Rescue Connections' collection drive on **November 22**. ARC is partnering with Goodwill Industries and their *Partners for Good* program. For every truck you help to fill, Goodwill will give ARC a donation to help rescue dogs and cats, and conduct trap-neuter-return (TNR) projects in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area. Bring clean, sellable clothes and household goods to My Place Bar & Grille at 29094 U.S. Highway 281 North in Bulverde. All donors will receive a tax receipt. For this event, Goodwill cannot accept car seats, infant cribs, playpens, furniture, large appliances, etc. Go to our website at [www.animalrescueconnections.org](http://www.animalrescueconnections.org) for the full list of items acceptable for donation.

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# Upcoming Events at Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

By Debbie Soelberg

The month of November is filled with many activities here at Bulverde/Spring Branch Library that will appeal to many varied interests; listed here is just a small sampling. Be sure to visit the BSB Library's website for a complete calendar of events: <http://bsblibrary.org/>

**On November 5, 6:00pm**, Mayor Krawietz will be holding another **Town Hall Meeting**. One of the top subjects of discussion is his desire to adopt Home Rule to create Bulverde's own charter. Come listen to the mayor and others discuss this important topic.

**Adult Education** continues with classes that can help you get ready for the holidays. **Beginning Knitting** will be on **Tuesday, November 4, at 6:30-7:45**, class will repeat on **Saturday, November 8, 3:00-4:15pm**. You will learn how to make a knitted dishcloth. The next class is **Genealogy Tree** will be on **Tuesday, November 18, at 6:30-7:45**, class will repeat on **Saturday, November 22, 3:00-4:15pm**. Learn how make a genealogy tree, find your ancestors and use the library's resources for genealogy.

Join the library in our patriotic celebration of **Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 1:00-3:00pm**. Come tour the library and see the Teen Patriotic Art Display along with quilts, and war memorabilia depicting generations of brave soldiers.

**Estate Planning and Easy Philanthropy Giving, Saturday, November 15, 10:30am-12:00pm**. One of the more sensitive items families are forced to address is how do Mom and Dad want their affairs handled in retirement or upon their death? Many times, the children, or parents, shy away from this subject because it is too morbid or too invasive. In truth, openly discussing estate desires and distributions before implementing an estate plan serves to keep family harmony which leads to a smooth transition from plan to action. Have you included the causes you love in your plans? A fund at a community foundation can help you continue to support the charitable causes you care about after you are gone.

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- Some stories about the impact donors have made; and
- How you can plan a gift through a community foundation.

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SVHS STUDENT ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK



Congratulations to Austin "Casey" Carter for obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout on Oct 4, 2014. Casey is a member of the Boy Scouts of America's Troop 848 at Clear Lake United Methodist Church, Houston, TX. He has been actively involved in scouting since Kindergarten and his path to Eagle culminated in his leading Troop 848 as the Senior Patrol Leader and gifting the St Jude Children's Research Hospital's young cancer patients through his Eagle Project. He is also a member of BSA's Honor Society, Order of the Arrow. New to the Smithson Valley High School community this fall, Casey, a junior is a member of the National Honor Society, plays football for the Rangers. and is on the SVHS Shooting Team. Outside of school, he enjoys playing violin and piano, church youth group, working out and flying at the local flight club. He plans to continue his service to others by joining the US Air Force after college graduation and looks forward to being a pilot.



**WE WANT YOUR  
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PHOTOS!**

This region of Texas often boasts some unique sights and scenery during the winter holidays, and we would love to see your photos of a Texas-influenced winter and holidays! We are always looking for pictures that represent scenery, people, places, or events of the Bulverde and Spring Branch area. If you would like to submit your photos for consideration for publication, please send them as a high resolution JPG or TIFF file to [editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us](mailto:editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us), along with some background information about the photo (including location taken) and the photographer's name. You will be notified in advance if your photograph is chosen for publication. Thank you!

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**NOVEMBER**

Bulverde  
*and other local events*

**DECEMBER**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)							1						
						1 Monthly Yard Sale (Bulverde Thrift Store) Trunk-or-Treat at the Park 5:00p (w/movie 7:00p) Bulverde Baptist Church Fall Festival 3:00p							
2 Daylight Savings ends (fall back 1 hour @ 2:00 am)	3	4 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	5 Mayor's Town Hall Mtg. 6:00p (BSB Library) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr) FREE CPR/First Aid class 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	6 Sip-n-See Tea Party 5:00p (BSB Activity Ctr.)	7	8		1 1 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	2 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	3 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center) BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr)	4	5 FREE CPR/ First Aid Class 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	6 Holiday Hunger Run 8:00a (Tejas Rodeo)
9	10 City Council 6:30p Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)	14	15 Craft Show 9:00a (BSB Activity Ctr.) Electronics recycling 10:00a-2:00p (BSB Library)	7	8 15 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	9 City Council 6:30p	10 Joint Mtg. BSBES & ESDs 4:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	11 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)	12	13 Living Christmas 6:30p (St. Paul Lutheran) Denim & Diamonds 6:30p (Knibbe Ranch)
16	17 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	18 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) Low Vision Seminar 10:30a (BSB Activity Ctr.)	19 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	20	21 BPD P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p S.T.A.G.E. ELFs recital; 6:30p (S.T.A.G.E.)	22 Shine the Park Day 7:00a-9:00a	14	15 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	16 Hanukkah begins Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	17 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	18	19	20
23 Free Outdoor Cat Control class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	24	25 Friends of the Park 6:00p	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Bulverde Village Christmas Lighting 5:30p Holiday Movie in the Park 8:00p	29	21	22	23	24 Hanukkah ends Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27
30							28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		