

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Issue 1 ☆ January 2015

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THE
FRONT PORCH
News

CITY OF BULVERDE

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

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COMAL COUNTY

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FRONT PORCH NEWS

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Mayor's Point



Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak at several public forums and HOA meetings regarding a Home Rule Charter for Bulverde. Communicating in a one-on-one manner with the public often brings to light many concerns that were not previously expressed or known.

As you may know, the construction of the new Singing Hills Development will bring with it the first large scale, commercially viable wastewater/sanitary sewer system in the Bulverde area. In the terms of our Development Agreement with the developer of the project, the City will become the owner of the system after it is fully constructed.

The system is being paid for by the developer and a Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) separate from the City. A WCID is a political subdivision of the State that is empowered to construct and maintain everything necessary to provide wastewater and drainage services. A WCID can collect taxes and charge service fees to those it serves. WCIDs are often used by developers to fund capital intensive infrastructure in unincorporated areas.

Only those served by the WCID and included within their boundaries are subject to their taxing authority.

One resident recently questioned the rationale for utilizing taxpayer dollars for engineering fees associated with the City evaluating the acquisition of the wastewater system. The City Council has consistently stated that the City does not want existing citizens to pick up the bill to provide a service they will not receive. So why did the City undergo this study?

Originally, the system was going to be turned over to the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) to own and operate after being completed by the developer. GBRA is well versed and experienced with the design and operation of such systems, and also contributed to this system's initial design. The City, however, has little experience in the design or operation of such a facility. Therefore, it was prudent for the City to hire an independent, third-party engineering firm to review its design and evaluate its long-term viability before agreeing to accept the system from the Developer. The Council also felt that an unbiased, outside expert could best review the plans and comment on its feasibility in an objective manner. The engineers recommended some very minor changes, but overall gave the design a very high rating.

The City has since signed the agreement to take eventual ownership of the system, and is ironing out the final details in negotiations with GBRA to operate the system for us.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Mayor, continued from page 3)

One reason the City thinks it is important to get into the sewer business is to allow for smart growth along our major commercial corridors. In our agreement with the Singing Hills developer, the City negotiated to be able to extend the wastewater system to other commercial properties located along the other three corners of the Hwy 46 and US 281 intersection.

What this community has experienced up to this time is a proliferation of small onsite sewage facilities (OSSF) at most of our commercial properties. Some have worked well, but many have proven to be troublesome. To continue down this path is not in the best interest of the public's health and safety.

However, there is absolutely NO INTENTION by the City to force or retrofit sewer service to any existing residential neighborhoods. This rumor simply lacks any fact, and I hope to dispel it. First of all, the system as designed will not have the capacity to do so. Second, it would not be financially feasible to expand the system beyond the commercial businesses at 281/46. It would be outright crazy, and government gone wrong in my opinion.

Even if I were no longer Mayor, I would fight tooth and nail to the end to prevent something like this from ever happening.

The local business community at 46/281, however, has shown great interest in connecting to such a system. Several commercial operators are looking forward to decommissioning their problematic OSSFs. This will also allow for many of the vacant properties in that commercial corridor to develop into appropriate uses that actually benefit the community.

So the tax dollars spent by the City on the initial engineering review and design will be rolled into the impact and connection fees of those commercial properties the system will eventually serve. Those customers, and ONLY THOSE CUSTOMERS, will pay for the construction, expansion, maintenance, and operation of the system.

The City has utilized a small amount of your tax dollars to ensure the viability of this endeavor, and those costs will soon be recovered. It is truly an investment in our community's long-term future.

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A Vision *for the* Downtown Bulverde Village

On January 13th, the City Council will receive the final recommendation on a strategy for the future of the Downtown Bulverde Village area. The plan was developed over a period of seven months, with input from the City Council, City staff, business and property owners in the Village area, realtors familiar with the market, and public and nonprofit entities interested in the area, as well as citizens from throughout Bulverde. This input was obtained at community meetings and through stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and Council briefings held since August of 2014.

The study included an evaluation of several aspects of the Downtown Bulverde Village area, such as the existing building stock, infrastructure, and natural environment; the supply and demand for various land uses and building types in the short-, mid-, and long-term; and the community's values and visions for the future of the Downtown Bulverde Village.

Throughout the process, several themes have emerged relative to the vision.

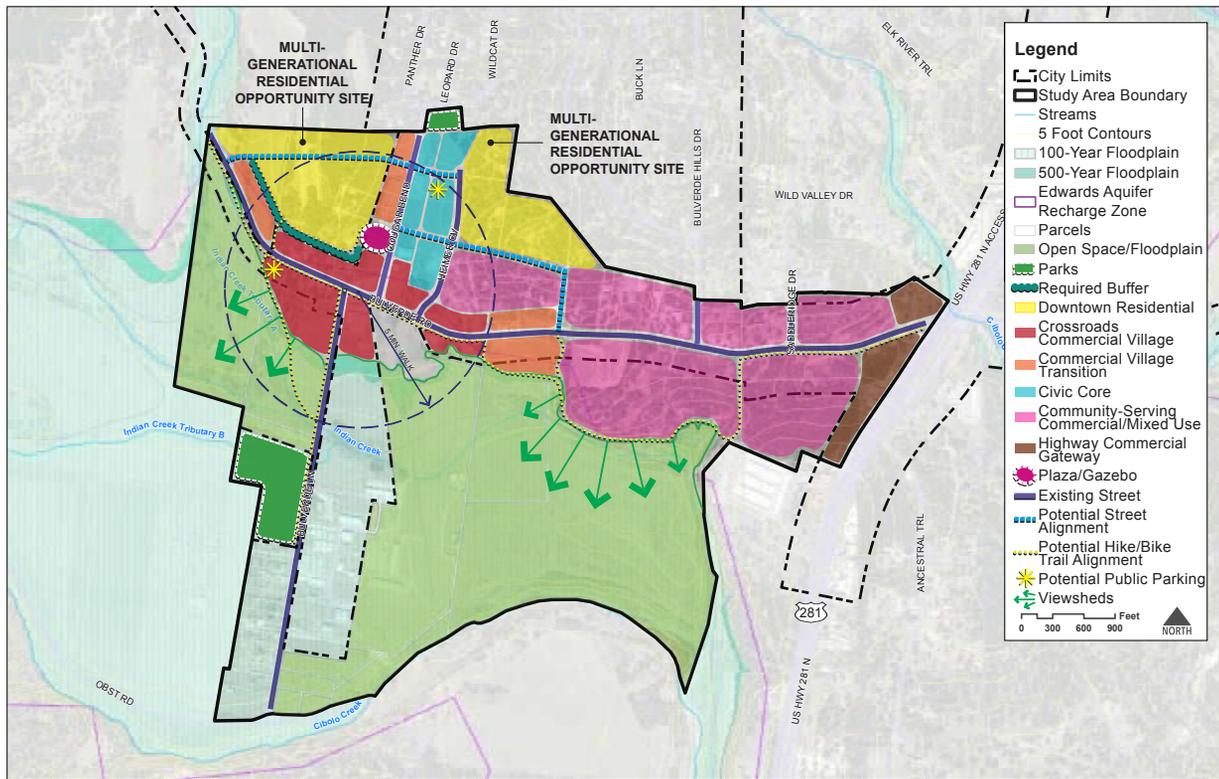
- **The charm and rustic character of the Downtown Village area should be maintained, and standards necessary to ensure this should be adopted**
- **Natural areas should be preserved**
- **The infrastructure should be improved**
- **Accommodations and activities for pedestrians and bicyclists should be provided**
- **Attracting new businesses consistent with the desired character and image of the future Downtown Village should be a priority**

The final recommendation will be presented to the City Council at their meeting on January 13, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend. The briefing will encapsulate the findings from the study, a recommendation for new uses and building types, urban design elements and street standards, and a set of strategies for achieving the vision. For more information, please visit:

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

(See map on page 5)

Land Use Framework Plan - DRAFT



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Home Rule Charter Drafted

In October 2014, a group of citizens was appointed by the Bulverde City Council to draft a Home Rule Charter that will be submitted to the citizens of Bulverde for future approval. After intense deliberation, the Home Rule Charter Commission submitted a draft Charter to the citizens of Bulverde for public review at a December 11th Community Forum. To assist in explaining the key tenants of what has been drafted by the Commission, the following overview was produced. An additional Community Forum is scheduled for 6:30PM Wednesday, January 7th at the BSB Activity (Senior) Center. To view the full Home Rule Charter draft, or to learn more about what a Home Rule Charter is, please visit the City of Bulverde homepage: <http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us>

What's New?

Changes to the Mayor & City Council:

- The Mayor's position will become primarily policy oriented by giving it a full vote on the City Council

and transferring the remaining administrative duties to the City Manager.

- The number of elected Council Members will be increased from 5 to 6 in order to provide more representation.
- The terms of office for the Mayor and City Council Member positions will be increased from 2 years to 3 years. This change will only take effect after the election of new members under the Charter, and no current incumbent's term will be extended under this provision. Term limits will be implemented.
- The Members of City Council will be elected by place, meaning that candidates will run for specific seats on the Council. However, Council Members will continue to be elected City-wide.
- The Members of the City Council will be elected by majority vote, and any election in which no candidate receives a majority will be settled in a runoff election between the top two vote getters.

(Continues)



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Changes to Governmental Accountability and Direct Democracy:

- The Citizens will gain the right to remove any elected official from office by filing a recall petition.
- The Citizens will gain the right to require Council passed ordinances to be ratified by the voters by filing a referendum petition.
- The Citizens will gain the right the right to enact ordinances directly by filing an initiative petition.
- Vacancies in the office of Mayor or City Council member will generally be filled by special election instead of Council appointment.

Changes to Municipal Boundaries & Regulation:

- The City will gain the ability to expand the City Limits up to 10% in any given year, subject to state law and procedures.
- The City will gain the ability to prohibit certain nuisances, such as illegal dumping grounds or illicit junk yards, within certain portions of the ETJ.

Changes to City Administration:

- The City Administrator's position will be renamed "City Manager," but will continue to serve as the City's chief administrative official.

What's Staying the Same?

- Members of the City Council will continue to be elected from the City at large and to represent the City at large. (The City of Bulverde has never elected Council Members from geographic districts)
- The City's authority to tax, per the Texas Constitution, is based on population, not form of government. Therefore, the City's taxing authority is the same under General Law or Home Rule.
- The City's extra-territorial jurisdiction is also based on population, not form of government. The extent of the City's ETJ will not be changed if a Home Rule Charter is adopted.
- The City's power of eminent domain is granted and restricted by state law and the state Constitution, and is the same regardless of whether the City has a Home Rule Charter.
- The City's options for the issuance of debt are the same under both Home Rule and General Law.
- The City's zoning authority is derived from state law, not the Home Rule Charter. Therefore, the City will have the same zoning authority under Home Rule that it currently has under General Law.

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... 'Twas the Lighting Before Christmas...

The Bulverde Christmas Lighting Planning Committee wants to extend a huge thank you to all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who made the 24th Annual Bulverde Christmas Lighting such a great success. The Christmas tree provided by the City of Bulverde and all the lights were perfect, making Downtown Bulverde look like a Winter Wonderland. The children were so excited to see Santa arrive on the BSB Fire Truck, and they were able to visit with Santa and Elf Anna in the special Santa house provided by Storage Solutions.

The vendors provided great food and goodies. Tom's Quick Lube and Anderson Aviation gave away over 1,200 hot dogs, and people enjoyed delicious fare given out by Mike's in the Village Restaurant, Hatch 5, and Hair in the Village. Community Bible Church-Bulverde provided sausage wraps, and many other businesses and organizations were very generous in the goodies they gave away to visitors. Several of the booths had fun activities for the children, as well as some great early Christmas shopping opportunities. The entertainment was enjoyed by all. Charlie Wood provided music in front of his shop and Brenda Varne performed Christmas tunes in Who-ville, an exciting new addition to the event made possible by Texas Carpet Baggers. Members of Joanie's Dance Studio also performed their dance numbers at the Stage. All evening, children were able to send off their letters to Santa from the Bulverde Post Office.

Again this year, two big attractions were enjoyed by all. Children played in real snow in the amphitheater sponsored by the following donors: Friends of the Village, Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club, Jeffrey & Harris, Hairtech Plus, The Favor Girls, South Texas Growers, and theOutlawGang.com. Admission to the snow area was a donation of nonperishable food for Provisions or toys for the Lions Club. Lots of food items and toys were collected. Many children delighted in a ride on the Blue Lion Train offered by the Spring Branch-Bulverde Lion's Family Club.

Bulverde Police Chief Haecker and his officers worked tirelessly to ensure event participants were safe and that the event ran smoothly. Children enjoyed face painting at their booth as well.

For the first time, the festivities continued at the Bulverde Community Park with a Movie in the Park—The Polar Express. The movie started at 8:00p.m., and over 125 people attended. The Movie in the Park program is sponsored by the City of Bulverde and the Friends of the Park, as well as various local businesses and organizations.

This holiday celebration is a community effort hosted by the City of Bulverde, the Friends of the Village, the Spring Branch-Bulverde Family Lion's Club, and the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce. The event has grown tremendously and would not take place without the cooperation of many businesses, civic groups, and individuals. A special thank you is extended to Bulverde United Methodist Church, Sam Roberts Photography, Robert Evans, Grandpa's Plumbing, Home Depot, and all the many businesses, organizations, volunteers, and vendors who worked hard to make the 24rd Annual Christmas Lighting such a magnificent local event.

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A LOOK BACK AT 2014 FOR THE BPD

It's hard to believe 2014 is behind us and we are beginning a new year. 2014 brought many firsts for the Bulverde Police Department. This was the first year Bulverde PD conducted a National Night Out (NNO) Host Appreciation event at the new Bulverde Community Park. Bulverde PD teamed up with corporate sponsors Singing Hills-DJL and Chicken Express to provide a great opportunity for NNO Block Party Hosts to get together with members of the police department and to visit with other NNO Hosts from the community. The event went so well that Bulverde PD is already looking forward to next year's event in the hopes we can make it even better.

As always, the great citizens of Bulverde came out to support National Night Out with about 450 citizens participating. This was the first year Bulverde entered the National NNO awards program to see how we rank with other communities similar to Bulverde. We were notified that we placed 6th in Texas in the "Under 15,000 Population" category out of 232 total entries. Kudos to BPD Assistant Mary Bell for working very hard putting together the requirements for Bulverde's NNO entry.

Another first was the inception of the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) program, which was rolled out in late 2014. The plan was introduced to City Council late in 2013, and 2014 was spent putting all the pieces together to create a solid foundation for the volunteer program to prosper. Applications started arriving and the first training session was held in December, which was also the same month volunteers hit the streets, just in time for the holidays. The VIPS program is a great opportunity for citizens to get involved in their community and immediately make an impact. Should you be interested in volunteering for the VIPS program, or for the City of Bulverde in general, please send an email to vipsapplication@ci.bulverde.tx.us with your name, address, and a contact number. Feel free to include any information regarding your willingness to volunteer and what type of volunteer work you would like to do. Your interest in making the Bulverde Spring Branch area a great place to live is appreciated; working together makes a difference.

Property Tax Statements

By Cathy C. Talcott,
Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector

Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector Cathy Talcott would like to remind property owners that property taxes are due January 31. Statements were mailed in October, and the Bulverde Tax Office is now accepting payments, located at 30450 Cougar Bend. Penalty and interest will begin to accrue as of February 1, 2015.

"For those having difficulty paying their bill in full, we are more than happy to accept partial payments at any time and in any amount," says Talcott. Property owners who have received a Disabled, Over 65, or Disabled Veteran exemption from their Appraisal District have the option of making quarterly payments. This is accomplished by dividing their balance by 4, and making their payments by January 31, March 31, May 31, and July 31.

Payments may be paid in person at any of the three Comal County Tax Offices located in New Braunfels, Sattler, and Bulverde. A drive-thru drop box is located in Garden Ridge in their municipal building parking lot, as well as at the Sattler and New Braunfels locations. "If you wish to print out your statement or a receipt, you may do so on the Tax Office website at www.comalcountytaxoffice.net. "We are happy to mail taxpayers a receipt, and ask that they include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their payment," said Talcott.

For the most convenient method of payment, a taxpayer may scan the QR Code with their mobile device to pay instantly. Payments are accepted in cash, check, money order, cashier check, credit and debit cards. Credit and debit card payments will include a \$0.30 + 2.2% required fee imposed by the credit card vendor, and may be made in person or online. "We also accept a new method of echeck payments online," says Talcott, "with a fee of only \$.50 per transaction."

If payments are mailed, they must be postmarked no later than January 31 to avoid penalty and interest. For questions, visit the Tax Office website, Facebook, or call the office at 830-221-1353 or toll-free at 877-724-9476.

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A Look Back at 2014 and a Look Ahead to 2015 for the BSB EDF



2014 was a busy year for the Bulverde Spring Branch area. The Singing Hills development broke ground, Johnson Ranch subdivision continued construction, Park Village subdivision began construction, CVS Pharmacy opened, Walgreens began construction, Dot's Burgerz N Brewz opened on FM 306 near US 281, Daddy O's Mexican Restaurant opened on Hwy. 46 just east of Blanco Road, Max's Roadhouse opened its new kitchen, Diamond Dance Academy opened in the Bulverde Market Center, Carpet Baggers opened in the Bulverde Village, and Tex-Mix received its air quality permit for their concrete batch plant in the Spring Branch area, just to name a few. Sadly however, 2014 saw a few of our local businesses close their doors, such as Berry Oaks Pharmacy and local icon and longtime favorite, Texas 46 Bar & Grill.

The City of Bulverde established an aggressive set of goals and near term action items for its fiscal year 2014. As a result, the City initiated the Downtown Bulverde Village Visioning Study, a Master Transportation and Thoroughfare Plan, and a Drainage Analysis for the Lewis Creek Watershed. The City also accepted the transfer of ownership of the Singing Hills Waste Water Treatment Facility, and began a feasibility study to determine the impact fee structure to connect other Commercial users at 46/281. The results of these studies will be presented to City Council early this year. In addition, the City of Bulverde appointed a Home Rule Charter Commission to draft a Charter to be considered by the voters of the City. Moreover, the Bulverde Community Park officially opened in June with a very successful grand opening event, and has hosted more community events since then, such as "Movies in the Park" and "Trunk or Treat" on Halloween. The new Bulverde Community Garden took root as well.

Various stakeholders came together once again to look at creating a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) to protect the resources of the Trinity Aquifer. In the early 1990s, due to concerns regarding the resources of the Trinity Aquifer, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) created the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA), which includes western Comal County. In the early 2000s, legislation was enacted requiring a GCD to manage a PGMA and gave TCEQ the authority to create a GCD or attach a PGMA area to a nearby existing GCD if citizens didn't create one on their own. Because our area had twice rejected the creation of a GCD, TCEQ recommended last year that our PGMA be attached to the Trinity Glen Rose GCD. Commissioner Haag, with support of the Comal Commissioners Court, intervened and asked TCEQ to allow our area one last chance to create a local GCD so the local citizens could manage their own groundwater resources without State interference. TCEQ has put its previous recommendation temporarily on hold, for now, to allow our area the opportunity to enact our own GCD. The stakeholders met numerous times over a two year period to draft legislation to create a GCD encompassing all of Comal County, and this legislation was presented to several of the local municipalities, Commissioners Court, and other community organizations. Support was received to move the proposed legislation forward for presentation to Senator Donna Campbell and State Representative Doug Miller to request their sponsorship of the bill for the 2015 legislative session.

Last but not least, several transportation issues occurred. TxDOT began construction on the turnarounds under US 281 at Hwy 46, which is slated for completion in late

(Continues)

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(Continued from page 10)

spring 2015. The US 281 Expansion Project north of the Guadalupe River was completed, with the exception of the portion near the SB Post Office. TxDOT held a public meeting regarding future intersection/cross over plans for US 281 from the Cibolo Creek to the Guadalupe River. The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) held several public meetings throughout the region to assist in formulating the project list for the region's Mobility 2040 Plan. I am pleased to report that the AAMPO took note of all the public input, and as a result, several sections of Hwy. 46 from New Braunfels to Boerne have a presence on the plan, including a section through Bulverde. Many thanks to the City of Bulverde, Comal County, the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce, our regional partners who came together with the BSBEDF to form the Hwy. 46 Corridor Coalition, and many others who joined forces with the BSBEDF to support this effort to bring attention to the need for expansion of Hwy. 46 across the region. We ask the public to get more involved in this process. The BSBEDF, City of Bulverde, and BSB Chamber post information regularly about transportation and other matters affecting our community; please be informed and help your community plan for the future.

2015 is expected to be just as busy. The new Walmart at Singing Hills is projected to open sometime in late summer or early fall, along with other retailers and

service providers that will locate within Singing Hills. Johnson Ranch will continue to add new homes, Park Village will likely be well underway, and efforts will continue for enhancing the Downtown Bulverde Village. In addition, the City of San Antonio will continue to pursue their plans for annexation of the US 281 Corridor from their existing city limits at Marshall Road north of the Cibolo Creek to the City of Bulverde Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) line. Finally, the City of Bulverde Charter Commission will continue to formulate a Home Rule Charter for presentation to the voters. Adopting a Home Rule Charter will provide the City more ability to manage the growth that is coming our way, as the County is very limited in what they can do. Comal County is projected to grow in population by 140% by the year 2040 (from 108,472 in 2010 to 260,133 in 2040) and a large percentage of that growth will be coming to our area, so we need to do everything we can to be prepared to manage and promote smart growth that maintains our rural character and quality of life.

Additional information regarding several of the projects or initiatives mentioned above can be found by visiting our website at www.bsbedf.com or calling us at 830.885.4331. 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, President, BSBEDF, Inc.

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Bulverde-Area Transportation

Our areas' transportation future is moving forward in an exciting way. Several months ago, the Bulverde City Council retained an experienced transportation engineering firm, HNTB, to develop a comprehensive Master Transportation Plan for the greater Bulverde area. The study area included not only the city limit boundary, but also the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

Why does our community need a Master Transportation Plan (MTP)?

An MTP assists in planning for new growth and redevelopment, capital improvements, policy and ordinance development, and an efficient transportation system. It also has the benefits of promoting safety and orderly development, improving economic development, allowing for *planned* improvements versus *crisis* improvements, and gathering input from the community on such matters. The MTP considers and includes reviews of previous transportation studies completed by the County and other regional partners, development of strategic direction and vision statements, existing and future conditions, transportation needs analysis, master transportation planning, transportation plan implementation, and funding options. The MTP is a tool that can be used to demonstrate to citizens, other public agencies (Comal County, Bexar County, TxDOT, etc.), and developers that there is a coherent plan the City is using to justify infrastructure needs (right of way dedications and reservations; roadway, bridge, bike trail and hike and bike facility standards; and needs that will be required of agencies, developers and the City). The MTP provides the regulatory authority to require improvements from the development community. The MTP is also critical to gain regional funding for our local transportation projects, like HWY 46. The planning effort began with a review of Sunrise 2025, the first Comprehensive Plan for the City of Bulverde (adopted by the City Council in 2003). The Comprehensive Plan was developed to provide an initial, long-range guide for the future growth and development of the City of Bulverde and the surrounding area. In June of 2014 the City Council met with the Planning and Zoning Commission in a meeting facilitated by the HNTB engineers to begin visioning the transportation master planning process for the community. A full-day leadership retreat led to transportation ideas, priorities and future planning strategies. In July, two focus groups that involved our regional partner agencies resulted in transportation concepts and ideas to help manage the growth in our community in the most efficient and effective way possible. The data gathered during these efforts were used to develop a preliminary MTP.

An important aspect of this Bulverde-Area Master Transportation Plan is community outreach. Newsletters, media releases, and the City's web site were utilized to provide the latest information and to solicit public input. The input that you as a local resident, commuter, business owner or property owner provided has been very valuable to the development of the study. Additionally, public input was solicited during the October City Council meeting where a preliminary MTP was presented. Comments received during that meeting lead to modifications to the preliminary MTP. Also in October, the City participated in the community's first "Transportation Forum" held at the GVTC Auditorium. The revised preliminary MTP was presented and additional public input was garnered. This additional input will be used to create the final MTP, which the City anticipates adopting in January, or early, 2015.

It is important to note that the MTP is not a full project document. Rather, it is a general guideline of what needs to be accomplished in the future to accommodate the area's transportation needs. Much more detailed analysis is required to actually establish exact facility locations, and specific roadway alignments and configurations. The more detailed analyses are typically completed during private property development, or when more comprehensive projects are created by the City or other agencies. The information in the MTP is often used to develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is utilized to prioritize and create actual construction projects. The MTP is also used by other public partner agencies to help refine their capital improvement plans.

To accomplish the community's long-term transportation goals, the City will need to partner with others in order to get many of the items in the MTP completed. These partners include Comal County, private developers, and local property owners, as well as the following organizations:

Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)

The TxDOT San Antonio District plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains the state transportation system in several counties, including Bexar and Comal County, and has planned and implemented improvements that tie in to the study area. TXDOT is a critical partner in achieving improvements to Hwy 46, US 281, and FM 1863 in our area.

(Continues)

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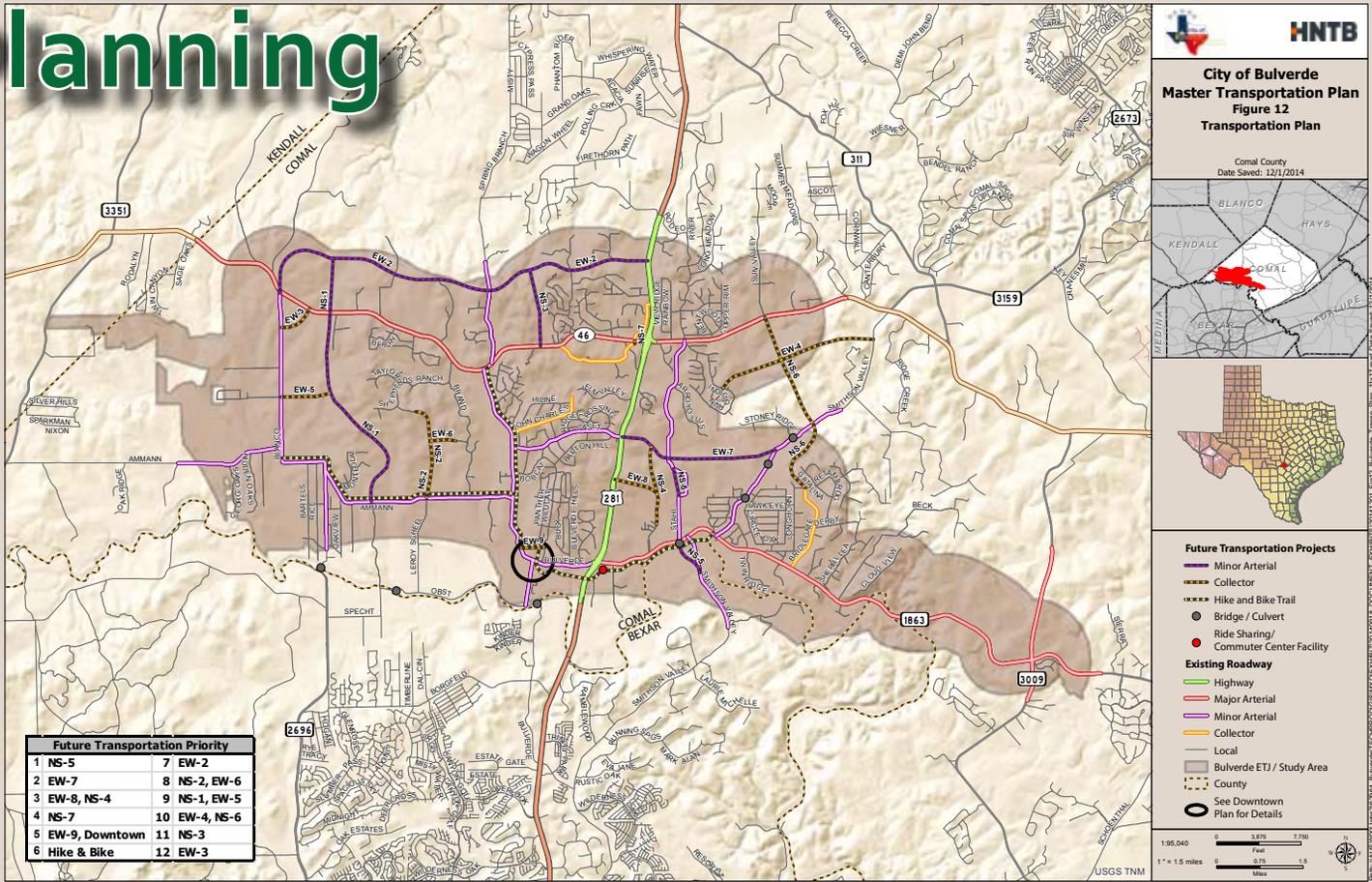
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Planning



(Continued from page 14)

Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO)

The MPO carries out the transportation planning process that allows all of Bexar, Comal and Guadalupe Counties, as well as a portion of Kendall County, to receive federal and state transportation funding. Once funding is authorized at the federal level, it is sent to metropolitan areas by formula, and through state departments of transportation, for funding multi-modal projects in each region's short and long-range plans. A new long-range transportation plan, "Mobility 2040", was adopted in December. Mobility 2040 identifies goals, strategies and transportation projects for the next 25 years based on probable growth scenarios for the Alamo Area MPO region.

The San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCo)

SAMCo is a partnership that advocates at the local, state and federal levels to secure funding for highway, arterial, transit, and freight rail projects for the greater San Antonio region. In partnership with appropriate government and business entities, SAMCo identifies and coordinates transportation infrastructure improvements for the San Antonio Metropolitan Area.

Once adopted, the Bulverde-Area Master Transportation Plan is intended to be periodically reviewed, updated, and modified as time goes on. It is a "living document" that changes as the needs of the Bulverde community change. Typically, an MTP is reviewed and updated every five (5) years. That schedule can be shortened or extended depending on the desire of the community.

The revised preliminary MTP for Bulverde can be viewed at the City's website at: http://www.ci.bulverde.tx.us/default.asp?name=aprojectpage_mtp



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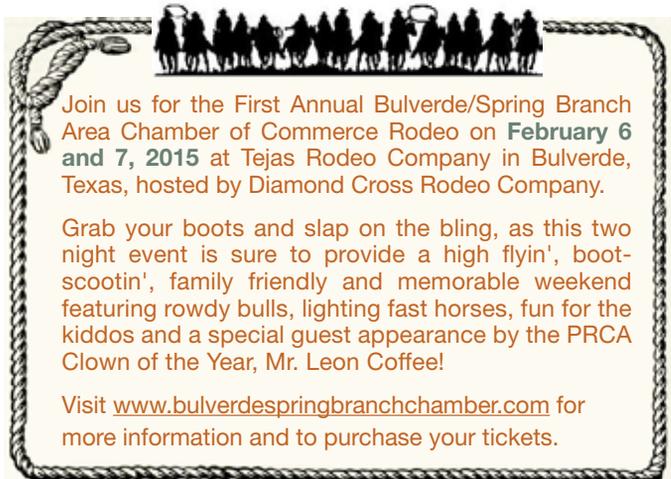
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Join us for the First Annual Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Rodeo on **February 6 and 7, 2015** at Tejas Rodeo Company in Bulverde, Texas, hosted by Diamond Cross Rodeo Company.

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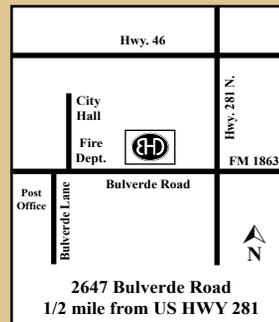
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911 Responders With the **WOW Got Wowed!**

In March of this year, ESD 1, ESD 4 and ESD 5 entered into a joint service provider agreement with Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS to provide emergency services. This revolutionary sharing and collaboration between Emergency Service Districts did not go unrecognized. We are proud that the State of Texas recognized this achievement and we want to share their story with our community.

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS came to their annual Texas EMS conference in November 2014 to exhibit their new WOW (Wellness on Wheels) medical clinic and classroom to their peers (made possible by the McKenna Foundation of New Braunfels, Texas), and walked away with the top state award.

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS was selected as the EMS Provider of the Year for the second time in six (6) years. The selection was made by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) which is the licensing agency for more than **871** EMS providers in the state of Texas. The award was announced at the 2014 Annual EMS conference in Ft. Worth, Texas on November 24, 2014.

DSHS said Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS exemplifies the best that EMS/trauma has to offer in Texas. The award honors a ground or air EMS organization that demonstrated leadership in patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education or training. Chief Executive Director Mechelle Salmon, Board President Steve Stevenson, Chief Scotty Bolleter, along with their EMS Medical



THE WOW AT THE CONFERENCE

Director Dr. Craig Manifold accepted the award. Salmon said she was honored by the selection, which is a direct reflection of the support from the community and the exceptional team of Fire & EMS personnel at Bulverde Spring Branch.

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FIRE & EMS STEPS FORWARD TO SERVE MORE

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS has been in the business of providing emergency services for 36 years. We have a history of embracing new opportunities for service delivery which includes being one of the first agencies in Texas to initiate a Community Health Service Delivery Model utilizing Paramedics, Nurse Practitioners, and Physicians nearly 4 years ago. We believe the time has come to adapt the Fire/EMS Department's service delivery. This new model will expand services through home visits, which will leverage existing resources to meet all community needs.



Imagine being the mother of two young active boys, and you suddenly discover that you no longer have health insurance. This is the situation in which Chanel Wilkinson found herself. Searching for a place to take her young family for primary care in western Comal County, she quickly discovered that...there was none. Through this experience, Chanel went on to create Acacia Medical Mission (AMM) in 2006.

Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS formed a strategic partnership with AMM and begin to see uninsured and underinsured patients in 2011 at their local station. Services that were available immediately were primary care, medication compliance, and assistance with prescriptions. Mental health counseling for our clinic patients soon followed.

In 2013, an analysis was done which showed there was a 10% decrease in 911 calls. This was directly attributed to taking care of basic health needs before they reached an emergency level.

Each year, through strategic planning, Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS and AMM were able to stay one step ahead of our community's increasing health care needs. Following that trend, in 2015 we have hired that same Chanel Wilkinson, who is a long-experienced and highly skilled Nurse Practitioner. Chanel will work with a Paramedic team utilizing an available ambulance to perform home visits to those who are ill or disabled. In the best of all worlds, should 911 calls deplete our ambulances in the field, Chanel and the Paramedics will be utilized to respond immediately to our neighbors in need. Come by our Central Station to take a tour, or to meet Chanel Wilkinson—who knows firsthand the challenges of finding medical care.

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Meet *Tonie Rogers*

Member of the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center

Tonie Rogers is the Fitness Coordinator and lead exercise instructor at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center. She has been involved with the activity center in many different roles for more than 20 years.

Tonie is a native Texan, born and raised in the San Antonio/Bulverde area. Exercise and fitness became an important part of her life when she was diagnosed with osteoarthritis at an early age. She took her first aerobic exercise class at age 31 and was hooked. Her instructor, Jan Day, took her under her wing and Tonie began teaching classes and acquiring certifications. When her parents began having heart problems, Tonie changed her focus to helping them get in better shape. She would “drag” them to McCreless Mall to walk, where she noticed many older adults also walking for health purposes. At this time, Tonie and

her husband Rod had moved to the Bulverde area. The Bulverde Senior Center had just formed and was using the Community Center for their activities. Tonie decided to see what type of fitness activities were offered for older adults. It was there she found her next direction, helping those 60+ to live a more active life.

She received a certification to teach easy pace aerobics for seniors. After establishing a class and watching the participation increase, Tonie went to Jane Wood and Ruth Herr about teaching at the Senior Center. As interest in her exercise classes grew, so did her involvement with the Senior Center. She volunteered her time and energy and became the first executive director under Jim Herrington, president of BSC, in the late 1990s. With the help of many volunteers and the Bulverde Chamber of Commerce, they began fund raising for the first building fund as well as different events including the first Sweetheart Dinner/Dance and the Run for the Hills 5K. Both are still major events for the center to this day.

Still going strong after 22 years, Tonie teaches 3 classes a week and volunteers countless hours. Her name is synonymous with the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center. Tonie has dedicated her life to helping others lead a more productive life. She fills the fitness room every Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:00 and again at 12:30 on Wednesday afternoon. Some of her students have been exercising with her for over 20 years. When you talk with students in her class you will hear things like “I love Tonie, she helped change my life;” “I would not be able to do the things I do today if it had not been for her;” “She makes exercise fun, even when it hurts;”and “She’s the best.”

On the Cover

Baby, it’s cold outside!! Well, as of press time (mid December), we have yet to experience any really cold temperatures in our area, but that doesn’t mean that we NEVER see the icy or fluffy white stuff. A few winters ago, the Bulverde area suffered a pretty severe cold snap accompanied by a thick layer of ice on everything. Local resident Stephen Price spent two days iced in, so he “wandered around the property gawking at the spectacle.” But what he considered to be some quick “snaps” rendered some beautiful images of the blanket of ice. When common objects and plants are glazed in ice, they can be transformed into something completely unfamiliar visually, especially when viewed as a close-up detail, like the spent Crepe Myrtle blooms pictured on the cover or the prickly pear pads and spines seen here.



Mr. Price is a graduate of Purdue University and an Acoustical Engineer. Photography has been a long-time hobby, an interest he and his wife share. He has lived in the Bulverde area since 1989, and in the Skyridge subdivision since 1999. We appreciate Mr. Price sharing his chill-inducing, yet lovely, photos with us.

Stay warm, everyone!

Shweiki ad



Special Help Needed for a Special Dog

by Carrye Franzel, Bulverde Area Humane Society

Over 400 dogs and cats pass through BAHS annually on their journeys to find homes. Each animal is assessed by a veterinarian, brought current on vaccinations, and medical needs addressed before being put up for adoption. Occasionally, an animal's medical needs exceed the norm.



that he must spend more quiet time in his kennel than other dogs, like the good-natured dog he is, but is happiest when a caretaker or volunteer joins him in the kennel, sits a while and offers a lap for a headrest. The dysplasia affects one hip; the other is completely normal. Because every once in a while a dog

In the fall of 2013 we took in a litter of yellow lab pups; all were quickly adopted. Eight months later, a male named Marley was returned by his owner. The once healthy and active pup came back with obvious mobility issues, bunny hopping to get around and favoring one hind leg. Vet exam and x-rays confirmed hip dysplasia, an inherited condition of an improperly formed hip joint. Because the joint is loose, the dog's leg bone moves around too much, causing painful wear and tear. With hip dysplasia, even normal daily activities are painful and, over time, the condition progresses to complete disability. Total hip replacement surgery is the only option to return a dog to a normal life.

comes along who embodies the best of the species; and because Marley is a young dog with so much to give back, given the chance.

Shelter staff and volunteers were particularly touched by Marley's dilemma. We decided to do something we've never done before—solicit funds for one dog. A total hip replacement surgery costs \$7,000.

To donate toward Marley's surgery, go to **bulverdeshelter.com**, Click on the orange **Donate Now** button on the right side of the page, **fill in Amount**, click the blue **One Time button** and at the bottom, **complete the Special Purpose box with "Marley's surgery."** No donation is too small.

Why all this for one dog? Because without surgery, his disability will ultimately be complete. He can toss a ball now but can't run after it. He hops on three legs to get around, tiring easily when outside his kennel. Marley seeks human contact, no matter the situation. He accepts

We are also in search of a special volunteer to care for Marley in a home environment during his six week recovery period. Prior experience caring for a senior animal or one recovering from surgery is a plus. All costs associated with his care and feeding during this period will be covered. This volunteer opportunity might be a good fit for someone who can no longer have a dog long term but would enjoy playing a critical role in one dog's recovery.

To apply to foster Marley, email bahsadoptions@bulverdeshelter.com; include why you want to foster, prior experience that would help you with this, and contact numbers.

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The Buzz From the Garden

by April McLain,
Bulverde Community Garden Committee

Happy 2015 Bulverde! It is time to review the last year and set some resolutions for the coming year. The Bulverde Community Garden has grown exponentially since this time last year. What started as a handful of plots has grown to more than 20 gardens, including trellis and round, raised plots. The storage shed is finished and the composting bins are on the way. Through the generosity of donations from Home Depot and Canyon Lake Water Company, plans for 2015 include a gazebo and additional ground plots.

Another new addition can be found right here and begins this month. "What's in the Gardener's Kitchen?" features recipes showcasing fruits, vegetables and herbs that are in season. Lemon Rosemary Cookies takes advantage of hardy rosemary, which weathers well in our zone 8b climate.

These winter days are perfect for sowing seeds indoors to transplant into the garden once the last freeze passes. Peat pots, nursery containers, or egg cartons are perfect seed starters for asparagus, carrots, lettuce, kohlrabi, broccoli, cauliflower, radish and spinach. Six to eight weeks is all it takes to have strong seedlings ready for springtime planting.

Lemon Rosemary Cookies

1 cup unsalted butter, softened,
plus a little extra to flatten cookies
¾ cup sugar, plus extra to flatten cookies
2 tsp fresh snipped rosemary
2 tsp finely grated lemon peel
½ tsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, beat together butter, sugar, rosemary, lemon peel, baking powder, salt and vanilla extract until completely combined. Beat in flour, one cup at a time, until combined. Shape dough into 1-inch balls and place on prepared cookie sheet. Using a flat-bottomed glass that has been buttered and dipped into the extra sugar, flatten each cookie. Bake for about 8 minutes, or until cookie edges are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet for one minute before transferring to a cooling rack. Yield: approx. 40 cookies. Note: icing is optional Source: Emily Saul

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. 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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Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach would like to thank all of the sponsors who contributed to the 4th annual Holiday Hunger Run & Walk that took place in early December: Verbalocity, Bob and Judy Barrar, Tejas Rodeo, Athlete Guild, Bulverde North Family Dental, Bruce & Carol Cauley, Community Bible Church Bulverde, Dots Burgerz N Brewz, Hendrix Auto Repair, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc., Broadway Bank, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, Texas Landmark Surveying, LLC, Urgent Care & Occupational Health Centers of Texas, Wood/Munkres Families, Cragg's Do It Best Lumber and Home Center, Fresh Air Filter Service, Inc., Gail & Marsha Johnston, Schoolcraft Ranch, L. B. Shallcross-Attorney at Law, Strategic Wealth Solutions, Bulverde/Spring Branch Activity Center, Kathleen Banse State Farm Insurance, South Texas Growers, Inc., Ronnie Cauley, and Barry Martin.

The generosity of our community enables us to continue to help neighbors in need. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much, and here's wishing you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

S.T.A.G.E.

There are a few significant events going on at S.T.A.G.E. in January, so please mark your calendars!

- Sunday Jan 4 at 4 p.m.: Auditions for *Second Samuel*
- Saturday Jan 10 at 10 a.m.: Registration for Theatre Arts Class
- Saturday Jan 17 at 6 p.m.: Members potluck

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The Comal Master Gardeners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service invite you to their Spring seminar **We ♥ Vegetables!** featuring *Tomatoes, Keyhole Gardening, and Nutrition*, at McKenna Events Center in New Braunfels on February 21, 2015. Proceeds from the seminar will go to the Comal Master Gardener Association Scholarship Fund, which provides four \$1,000 scholarships to provide financial support to an undergraduate or graduate student at a Texas college or university who is pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences, Landscape Design, Turfgrass Management, or a related agriculture degree. Seminar speakers include William D. Adams, author of *Texas Tomato Lover's Handbook*, along with coauthor Thomas LeRoy, *The Southern Kitchen Garden, Commonsense Vegetable Gardening for the South, and Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South*. Certified Master Gardeners completing the seminar will earn 6 CEUs. Call 830-620-3440 for more information.

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PLANT OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

POSSUMHAW HOLLY, ILEX DECIDUA

Text by John Siemssen. Photo by Joseph A Marcus,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



While driving along the back roads of the Hill Country during the early winter, some of the most conspicuous color comes from the brilliant red fruit of this deciduous holly. Unlike the evergreen Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), this plant loses its leaves in the winter, allowing the berries to stand out and leading to its' other common name, Deciduous Holly. The fact that it is often found growing along fence rows is testimony to the fact that the berries are eaten by (and subsequently 'planted' by) birds, but small mammals also enjoy the fruit.

Possumhaw can grow in a wide variety of soils. It has a medium to low water requirement and can tolerate poor drainage. While it will grow in part shade, the best berry production occurs in full sun. Berries are born on the female plants, and can vary in color intensity, so buy plants which have berries on them to be sure you get the color you prefer. It can become a small, 15' – 30' tall tree, but is most often seen as a shrub. It is locally available in nurseries. Plants propagated by seed will be variable in their berry production and color.

Small Art Exhibit Draws

a Crowd at BAAC



◀ Making Christmas tree ornaments with glue and glitter is a natural attraction for kids.

➤ People attending the Christmas Tree Lighting filled the gallery all night, viewing the "small works" of art on display.



If it's the day after Thanksgiving in Bulverde, the place to be is in the village at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Bulverde Area Arts Center is fortunate to have their art gallery located in Bulverde Village, and is proud to be a part of the annual holiday lighting event.

Long before Santa rode in on a fire truck, the crowd quickly filled the streets. Children were everywhere, going from booth to booth to sample the hot chocolate or munch on another cookie. In the BAAC Gallery classroom, children lined up to make their own colorful Christmas tree ornaments under the guidance of gallery members. In the main gallery, attendees viewed the members' exhibit entitled "Small Works," featuring small canvases measuring approximately 12 inches by 12 inches. This exhibit will run through January 24. Also in the main gallery, a silent auction of original art attracted bidders, who were hoping they would have the winning bid. In the end, 12 lucky bidders became owners of a variety of art, all created by Bulverde-area artists.

In addition to the "small works" currently on exhibit at the Gallery, BAAC members have created 23 pieces of art that are on display at the Bulverde Spring Branch Library through January 5.

For the third year, BAAC will host the Smithson Valley High School Art Show with a month-long exhibit in February. The public is invited to come and meet these talented young artists at the opening reception **Friday, January 30, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm in the BAAC Gallery.** The show will be open during regular gallery hours in February: Fridays and Saturdays 4 pm to 8 pm, Sundays 11 am to 3 pm.

The Bulverde Area Arts Center gallery is located at 2355 Bulverde Road in Bulverde Village, across from Mike's in the Village. There is no admission charge to visit the gallery.

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Leaving a Trust for Your Pet



By Pam Parmer

Animal Rescue Connections

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Make one of your resolutions to set up a trust for your pet.

You love your pets and want to make sure they are taken care of in the future. If you do not have a family member or friend who can care for your pets should you become unable to do so or in the event of your death, you can make provisions for your pets in advance of these circumstances.

Texas allows people to create trusts for their pets, with no human beneficiary. A pet trust is designed to take care of your animals and ends only when the last surviving animal dies. You must choose a caretaker who will have custody of your pets and provide daily care. Be sure the person you choose agrees to this responsibility. It is also a good idea to name an alternate caretaker. Be sure to also name someone who will go to court to enforce the trust, if needed.

Next, estimate the amount of money needed to care for your animals. Don't overestimate this amount or the trust may be challenged in court. You'll want to specify the care you expect the animals to receive and include instructions for the caretaker. And if your pets die before all the money has been spent, specify where the rest of the money should go.

If you cannot find a caretaker on your own, talk to a representative of a rescue organization about other options. Some sanctuaries will take care of your pet in return for a trust that will pay the expenses.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

A year ago, the Friends of the Park and the citizens of Bulverde were watching the renovation of the Bulverde Community Park becoming a reality. There was still a lot of dirt showing, trucks and construction equipment were still visible throughout the park, but you got the idea that something good was happening.

A year later, people are looking at the park and saying, "This is great!" The dirt is now covered with grass, the trucks are gone, and the workers have been replaced by families enjoying the playgrounds, walking the walkways, exercising in the gazebo or on the basketball court, and others are watching their kids enjoy the outdoors.

The Friends of the Park are also looking at the park, and asking, "How can we make it better?"

Fortunately, visitors to the park have not been shy about giving us their opinions on how we can make it better, and for that we are grateful. We appreciate your suggestions and your criticisms. Input from the community is going to drive us to make improvements and upgrades that will make your park experience even better for years to come.

Based on input from the community, we have developed a "Wish List" of the items that people want to add to make the park better; but to accomplish these improvements, we need your help.

The budget for the park does not provide for all of the desired equipment and improvements, so we are asking for your support. Please take a look at the items in our "Wish List" and select one you may like to help fund. Some of the items have cost estimates included in this list, while others have a price range based on variable factors. You can donate funds to purchase a specific item, or pool your resources with friends or family. You can make individual donations in any amount. (Recently, one anonymous donor provided funds for the new multi-function playground equipment that is now being installed near the north pavilion.)

If you would like more information about making a donation, contact Merri Harrison [redacted] or visit our website at: www.bulverdeparcs.com/GetInvolved. The Bulverde Community Parks Association is a 501 (c) 3 corporation and your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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Step up



Push up



Bench dip

STATIONS

Friends of the Park new amenities "Wish List"
Exercise stations could be installed at various locations around the walking paths in the park. These may include: Joint Use Chin-Up Bar Station (\$1,300); Push-Up Station (\$1,100); Bench Dip Station (\$1,600); Body Curl Station (\$1,500); Step Up Station (\$1,400); Wobble Board Station (\$800); and Shade Structure(s) (price varies based on types of materials used and the size- \$15,000 to \$30,000).

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JANUARY 2015

Bulverde
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FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)</p>							1 New Year's Day	2 FREE CPR/ First Aid Class 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	3	4 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions)	5 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	6 FREE CPR/ First Aid Class 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	7 Chamber Rodeo 7:30p (Tejas Rodeo)	8 Chamber Rodeo 7:30p (Tejas Rodeo)
4	5	6 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisions)	7 BAAC Mtg. 6:30p (Art Ctr)	8 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	9	10	8	9 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library)	10 City Council 6:30p	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 St. Valentine's Day	
		6 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	7 Community Forum: Home Rule Charter 6:30p (Activity Center)	8 ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	9 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)	10		9 Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	10	11 Wine & Art 6:00p (Art Center)	12 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr)	13	14 Winter Dance 6:00p (Activity Center)	
11	12 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library)	13 Downtown Village Visioning Fnl Draft Presentation 5:30p (City Hall)	14 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	15 Chamber Annual Awards 6:30p (The Lodge at the Falls)	16	17	15	16 President's Day	17 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	18 Ash Wednesday	19 Chinese New Year	20	21	
	12 Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	13 City Council 6:30p	14	15	16 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	17		16 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	17 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	18 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	19 BSBES 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	20	21	
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	21 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	22 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr)	23 BPD P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p (City Hall)	24	18	19 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	20 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	21 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	22 ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	23	24	
	19 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	20	21	22	23	24	18	19 Community Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Center)	20 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	21 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	22 ESD #1, 4, & 5 7:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	23	24	
25 Free Outdoor Cat Control Class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	26	27 Friends of the Park 6:00p	28	29 Special City Council Mtg. (Transportation Plan) 6:30p	30 SVHS Art Show 5:30p (BAAC)	31	22 Free Outdoor Cat Control Class 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	23	24 Friends of the Park 6:00p	25	26 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr)	27 P.O.E.T. Program 6:00p (City Hall)	28	
												<p>NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)</p>		