

THE

# FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors  
Issue 8 ☆ August 2015

# The FRONT PORCH News

## CITY OF BULVERDE

ALL DEPARTMENTS  
(COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE, ETC.)  
[HTTP://BULVERDE.TX.GOV](http://bulverde.tx.gov)

MAIN NUMBER  
830-438-3612

METRO LINE  
830-980-8832

FAX  
830-438-4339

**Bill Krawietz**, MAYOR

**Gene Hartman**, COUNCIL

**Rob Hurst**, MAYOR PRO TEM

**Ray Jeffrey**, COUNCIL

**Yvonne Chapman**, COUNCIL

**David Payne**, COUNCIL

**Kirk Harrison**, COUNCIL

## COMAL COUNTY

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COMMISSIONER, PCT 1  
830-221-1101

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2  
830-438-2266

COMMISSIONER, PCT 2  
830-221-1102

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830-608-2090

COMMISSIONER, PCT 4  
830-221-1104

SHERRIFF'S OFFICE  
830-885-4883

CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2  
830-438-3117

TAX OFFICE  
830-438-6172

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CENTRE FOR EMERGENCY HEALTH SCIENCES  
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## BSB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## BSB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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## BSB LIBRARY

830-438-4864

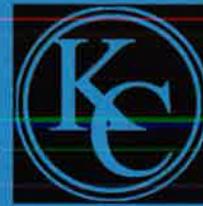
## FRONT PORCH NEWS

[editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us](mailto:editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us)

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

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# MAYOR'S POINT

**Bill Krawietz**  
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

Now that the Special Election has been completed to fill the additional Council seat created by the newly adopted Home Rule Charter, it's time to refocus on the strategic goals for the community. The best way we have found to do this is for the City Council Members to have a planning and goal-setting session, separate from the normal business of our routine Council meetings.

This practice was initiated when we hired City Manager E.A. Hoppe three years ago. After hearing requests and suggestions from individual Council members, some similar and some varying, it was decided it would be best if the Council came together to brainstorm and achieve consensus on the list of goals and objectives for the City in the coming year. That list each year has been quite ambitious, but not surprisingly, our hard-working City staff has tackled many of those tasks with the strong policy guidance of the City Council. It's amazing what can get accomplished when elected officials work together on common goals.

The City has now completed several major planning initiatives to help address the onslaught of future growth, including a Master Transportation Plan, Visioning process for the Downtown Bulverde Village, and hydrology study of the Lewis Creek Watershed. These comprehensive planning processes are critical to both vetting our stringent development standards with the community and insuring that they are legally defensible if ever challenged.

Potential flooding due to our unique topography and increased land development is a serious concern in Bulverde. Unfortunately, the competitive grant funding the City applied for with the Texas Water Development Board to study various mitigation strategies for Lewis Creek was just shy of being accepted this year. The Council will need to decide if, and to what extent, the City should launch that initiative this next year. Regardless, the City now has valuable data from the abridged study completed last year on the lower Lewis Creek as it pertains to Oak Village North and the proposed developments upstream. With this study complete, the City can now assure that proposed development will not make the drainage situation worse. However, further study is needed to identify possible mitigation strategies to make the current situation better.

It has always been the policy of the City of Bulverde to assure that all new developments are of the highest standards to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. There will always be persons who speak negatively of our actions and doubt the Council's intentions. One such statement that always bothers me the most is that we just "rubber stamp" developers plans. This could not be further from the truth.

I would like to give a little insight into what has gone into our negotiations with various developers over the years to assure you that the Council always has what's best for our community at the forefront of our minds during these lengthy processes. For example, it took over a year to work out the details on the Singing Hills project located at Hwy 46 and 281. The outcome is a project that includes tree preservation, enhanced drainage detention, dark sky compliance, and architectural guidelines that it otherwise would not have had. May it also be noted that this project was recently awarded the "Best New Development" and "The Best New Development Retail" by the San Antonio Business Journal for 2015 for the entire San Antonio area.

*(Continued on page 4)*



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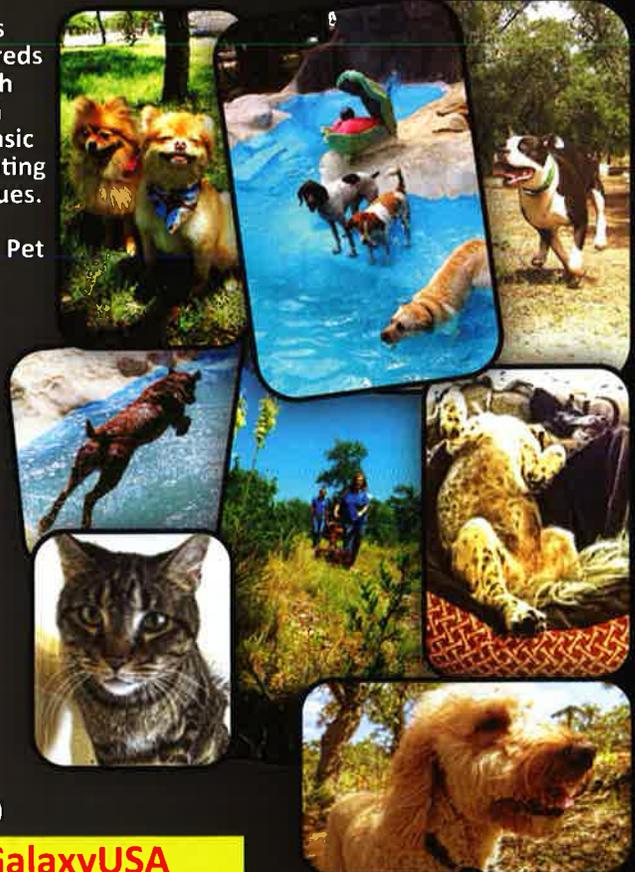
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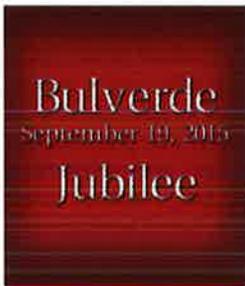
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(Continued from page 3)

Another example of lengthy development negotiations is the 6+ months that went into the preliminary agreement on 4S Ranch off of Stahl Lane, which was eventually signed in December of 2014. The ultimate agreement provided for enhanced storm water drainage features, storm water mitigation funding, and open/green space requirements that otherwise would not have occurred. In addition, with the new Lewis Creek Watershed hydrology study completed by the City last year, the developer must now "prove up" their Storm Water and Drainage plan against our independent engineering model. This will be no easy task in my opinion.

Once the upcoming brainstorming and goal setting work session has been conducted, the Council will formally adopt the City's goals and objectives for the next fiscal year at a public meeting. This usually coincides with the annual public budget hearing process. Let me assure you, your Mayor and City Council will continue to work hard for the Bulverde community.



**SEPT. 19TH, 2015**  
**10AM - 5PM**  
**FOR PARADE INFORMATION EMAIL:**  
**MELISSA WOOD**  
**sweetmelissa1234@hotmail.com**  
**FOR VENDOR INFORMATION EMAIL:**  
**NANCY HOTALING**  
**ndhotal@aol.com**

# SAVE THE DATE

**OCTOBER 6TH 2015**



## Bulverde's National Night Out

Last year marked the first time the City of Bulverde participated in the National Awards program for National Night Out (NNO). Additionally, the City hosted the first ever appreciation event for those citizens hosting a NNO block party event, which was held the Sunday before National Night Out. It was a great opportunity to distribute gift bags to block party hosts, as well as an opportunity for hosts to visit with each other and share block party ideas. Bulverde placed 6th in Texas for cities under 15,000 in population, a respectable finish considering it was the first year to participate in the national awards program. National Night Out 2015 is scheduled in Texas for Tuesday October 6th, and members of the Bulverde Police Department are looking for individuals who would like to either host or co-host a block party event. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and local first responders, and to discuss ideas for a safer community. If you are interested in hosting a block party, or are looking for a block party near you, please contact Mary Bell at the Bulverde Police Department at 830-438-3612. We look forward to working together with the community to make National Night Out 2015 the best ever.



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# WANTED



The Bulverde Police Department is looking for additional businesses who may be interested in sponsoring events for Bulverde's National Night Out (NNO) programs. Last year, Chicken Express and Singing Hills graciously sponsored events for the Bulverde Police Department's National Night Out events. Donations from these great community partners made it possible to have the first ever Block Party Host Appreciation Event for those citizens from the community who volunteered to host block party events in their neighborhoods. It was a great opportunity to get together and share ideas, meet other block party hosts, distribute gift bags, share a meal, and meet all those that make National Night Out in Bulverde such a great success. What a great occasion to show support for the community as well as a great opportunity to showcase your business name in the community. A business sponsorship will allow for your business logo and or name to be on select National Night Out banners that will be prominently displayed in the community, advertisement opportunities in host bags and an invite to the host appreciation event and national night out block events. This year we have teamed up with the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce to assist with recruiting local businesses, but sponsorships are limited. Businesses interested in sponsoring this year's National Night Out events can contact Rhonda Zunker at the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce at 830-438-4285 or Mary Bell at the Police Department at 830-438-3612.



"Committed to Our Community"

## Bulverde POLICE DEPARTMENT

Presents

### *Police Officers Educating Teens*

*Teens and parents are invited to sign up and see how making the wrong choice or decision can affect the rest of your life.*

*Topics to be discussed are:*

- *Decisions*
- *Drinking and Driving*
- *Distracted Driving*
- *Drugs*
- *Bullying*
- *Cyberbullying*
- *Sexting*
- *Social Media*
- *Driving Habits*
- *Speeding*
- *Risks vs Rewards*
- *Respect*

The intent of this program is to help young adults understand that they have a choice and to assist them in making an educated decision. The program will be taught by police officers and members of the court with occasional guest speakers. The program consists of 2 hours in a classroom setting with written, visual and audio material. Attendees will be encouraged to interact with instructors and ask questions. The class and all materials are free to attendees. Contact Mary Bell at 830-438-3612 ext. 217 for questions or to reserve a seat as class sizes are limited.

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# BULVERDE JUBILEE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Come one, come all to enjoy the hospitality of a historic small town during the annual Bulverde Jubilee. Don't miss out on an old fashioned, good time, community celebration. Once a year, area families line the streets of the Village of Bulverde to watch an authentic, small-town parade, complete with marching bands, cheerleading squads, dance troupes, local celebrities, and floats representing local businesses and schools.

After the parade, families stroll through the quaint downtown village to hear live music, taste local flavors, shop a variety of vendor booths, and enjoy loads of free activities for all ages. The Jubilee showcases the best of small-town life, just outside the limits of America's seventh largest city.

Following the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001, a handful of community-minded citizens known as "Friends of the Village" created the Bulverde Jubilee as a celebration of patriotism and a symbol of community solidarity. Through the years, the Bulverde Jubilee has grown into a well-attended family event with wide appeal, and survives on revenue from booth sales, donations, and sponsorships from local businesses and citizens.

Last year, the City of Bulverde became the major sponsor of the Bulverde Jubilee and is again the major sponsor of the 2015 celebration. Proceeds from this year's Jubilee will benefit the Bulverde Community Park Association, with funds being designated for playground equipment for special needs individuals.

The parade kicks off the celebration at 11:00 A.M with Grand Marshalls Gordon and Morgan Hartman along with several players from The Scorpions soccer team. A variety of activities for all ages and over 100 vendor and food booths will open immediately following the parade.

Some of this year's activities include carnival rides and amusements, a texting while driving simulator, a DWI pedal car course, a petting zoo, Home Depot's craft kits, the Blue Lion Train, a drumming circle, and arts and crafts. Continuous live entertainment will be performed on two stages featuring music from The Mo-Dels, Sylvia and Family, the Edison High School Mariachi Band, and The School of Rock. In addition, Fire on the Mountain Cloggers, South Texas Gunfighters, and Joni's Dance Studio will perform. There's much, much, more to see and do! Don't miss out - come and join the family fun at the Bulverde Jubilee on September 19th.

Like us on Facebook@Bulverde Jubilee

For information and BOOTH & PARADE forms visit  
[www.thevillageofbulverde.com](http://www.thevillageofbulverde.com)



**BULVERDE JUBILEE**  
Saturday September 19th  
10am-5pm  
Proceeds Benefit Special Needs Playground  
Equipment for The Bulverde Park.

Parade starts at 11 am  
Midway Rides  
Blue Lion Train  
Bounce House  
Arts and Crafts  
Children's Activities Area  
Food Booths  
Monster Photo Booth  
Music by:  
The Mo-dels, School of Rock  
Sylvia Kirk & Family  
Special Shows by:  
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 **Parade Entry Info**  
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# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY



It's hard to believe that we are already thinking about going back to school, but sure enough it's just around the corner. Comal ISD will resume classes August 25th, with elementary campuses hours being 7:45am-2:45pm and secondary campus hours being 8:30am-3:55pm. With students returning to the classrooms, this also means school zones will once again be active, school buses and children at local bus stops, and more traffic on local roadways. There aren't as many children who walk or ride bikes to school in our community, but motorists should stay vigilant for these children as well.

Returning to school after the summer break can be stressful for many people. Both children and parents can become anxious or jittery with the start of the new school year, as well as teachers and administrators. With thousands of teachers and children returning to school campuses, this will significantly increase the number of vehicles on local roads, which can also become quite stressful. As always members of the Bulverde Police Department will be available and assisting at local

campuses in and around the City to include enforcement in school zones.

In 2014, the average speed citation issued by Bulverde Police was 16.5 miles per hour over the limit, so please slow down. Once the school year begins, wake up a little earlier to allow yourself extra time during your morning travels. Also, please remember that a vehicle operator may not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone or on school property unless the vehicle is stopped or the wireless communication device is used with a hands free device. Just as a wireless device can be a distraction for drivers, it can also be a distraction for students both in and out of the classroom, so keep your heads up and put the phones down! Regardless of how you approach returning to school after the summer break, most folks have a few fears and anxieties that come with the start of a new school year. Remember to be considerate, both on and off the roadways; it will make a difference in someone's day!



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Check refrigerant	✓	✓
Inspect all electrical components/motors/compressors	✓	✓
Inspect/Clean primary drain line	✓	✓
Inspect indoor and outdoor coils	✓	✓
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# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Always had an interest in serving your community? Ever wanted to serve on a Board or Commission for the City? Now's your chance!

The City Council recently adopted a Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA). The five-member Board (plus one alternate member) will serve as a quasi-judicial body that hears testimony, makes findings, and issues orders, much like a court of law. The authority of the board is limited to:

- Hearing appeals of administrative decisions made by staff related to the zoning ordinance
- Granting variances to the terms of the zoning ordinance

If you are interested in serving, please visit the City's website for additional information and to download an application. The City Council will likely make appointments to the Board at their regular August meeting.

Find us on **facebook**



The Front Porch News is now on Facebook!

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/BulverdeFrontPorchNews> and "like" our page. We will post additional articles and photos, as well as information about local events and news.



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## Day of Services for the Bulverde Community

**Saturday, August 15th**  
**10:00\* a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

\*CCSO—9:00 to 1:00 / Vet clinic—10:00 to 12:00 / All other providers on site from 10:00 to 2:00

**Bulverde Community Park on Bulverde Lane**

Join the SBB Family Lions Club for the first *Day of Services for the Bulverde Community*. Local service providers will be at the Park to provide convenient, free or low-cost services to Bulverde-area residents.

Bulverde-area residents are invited to enjoy the convenience of having several Service Providers in one place at the same time. Service Providers are offering a selection of their services for free or at a reduced rate as a courtesy to Bulverde-area residents. Please check the Front Porch News Facebook page for an updated list of Service Providers.




The Friends of the Park are looking for additional volunteers to participate in the monthly Shine the Park days, which take place at 8:00 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month. If you have a little bit of time each month, please consider spending it with the Friends and keeping the Bulverde Community Park shining. Volunteers help with various chores and tasks around the Park to keep it clean and in good repair. For more information, visit the website at [www.bulverdeparks.com](http://www.bulverdeparks.com) and click on the "Get Involved" tab.



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# LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO "GIVE BACK" TO BULVERDE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS



The SBB Family Lions Club will be hosting the first **Day of Services for the Bulverde Community** on Saturday, August 15th at the Bulverde Community Park on Bulverde Lane. From 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., several local service providers will gather together to provide a selection of their services for free or at a reduced rate for the residents of the Bulverde community. All are invited to enjoy the convenience of several services being made available in one place, at one time. Some of the services available\* at the event include low-cost pet vaccinations (from 10:00 to 12:00), free blood pressure and glucose screenings, low-cost basic haircuts for children (ages 10 and younger), free health coverage counseling for seniors, free school supplies for children, free anti-theft VIN etching on vehicles (from 9:00 to 1:00), child vaccination counseling and local appointment scheduling, free child vision screenings, free oral hygiene screening and instruction for children, and free child safety fingerprinting kits, among other things. Local nonprofit organizations will also be on site offering low-cost or free concessions and goodies, and information about their available services. These will include Provisions Outreach, the SVHS NJROTC, Light Shine Ministries, the BSB Library, and Living Rock Academy, to name a few.

Volunteer service providers and volunteers to help man the event are still needed. If you would like to participate in the Day of Services, or would like to contribute to the event in the way of a donation, please contact Weslea Miller at [sandwMiller@msn.com](mailto:sandwMiller@msn.com) or 210.316.1940 for more information. Visit the Facebook event page also: <https://www.facebook.com/events/505416986276300/>

*(Please note that attendees are encouraged to bring an ID with them that indicates the zip code of their residence, as some service providers may wish to track data about attendance at the event. \*Services and providers are subject to change.)*

## The Carol Griffith Group



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# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is a serious crime. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. More than 11 million Americans have their identities stolen every year. It's a crime that can ruin credit, destroy a small business' reputation, or make someone's savings vanish. In 2013, identity fraud accounted for nearly 25 billion dollars in financial losses. Identity theft is a problem in Bulverde just as it is all across America.

One of the best ways to combat identity theft is education and learning how to protect yourself from becoming a victim. Let's start with learning some of the common practices used by thieves to steal your personal information.

**Dumpster Diving.** Rummaging through trash looking for bills or other papers containing your personal information.

**Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

**Phishing.** Pretending to be financial institutions, companies or government agencies, and send email or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

**Hacking.** They hack into your email or other online accounts to access your personal information, or into a company's database to access its records.

**Old Fashioned Stealing.** They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; preapproved credit offers; and new checks or tax information.

These are just a few ways identity thieves work to obtain information about you for fraudulent purposes. Now let's look at some ways you can protect yourself.

**Personal Information.** Never give your credit card number or other personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with.

**Bank Checks.** When you order new checks, consider removing extra information such as your social security number, driver license number, middle name and telephone number.

**Credit Report.** Check your credit history and bank records frequently. Look for signs of inaccurate or suspicious activity.

**Records.** Keep detailed and accurate records of your banking, check writing, credit card and ATM usage. Ensure that carbons on credit card receipts are destroyed.

**Shred.** Purchase a home shredder or completely destroy any items that may have personal information and identifiers, such as address, date of birth, social security number, driver license or identification card number, and account number(s), rather than discarding them in the trash.

**Minimize.** Do not carry extra credit cards, your social security card, birth certificate or passport in your wallet or purse, except when needed.

**Be Vigilant.** Always take a close look at any device you may be inserting your card into.

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Look for anything that appears suspicious. If it doesn't seem right don't use it and report it to the appropriate persons / law enforcement.

If you find that perhaps you have been a victim of identity theft immediately take action to minimize the damage thieves can continue to do by doing the following.

**Notify Law Enforcement.** If you believe that your identity has been fraudulently used by another person without your consent, contact your local Police Department or Sheriff's Office to file a criminal report.

**Contact a DPS Driver's License Office.** After you have filed a criminal report, you may contact any local driver license office for assistance in determining the best course of action for your individual situation. There are programs available to assist you.

**Notify Creditors and Merchants.** If unauthorized charges appear on your legitimate credit cards, cancel those cards and request replacement cards with new account numbers. Cancel all unauthorized credit cards and close those accounts.

**Notify your banks.** Ask them to flag your account and contact you regarding any unusual activity. Take the following action in the event of such activity; if checks were stolen, place stop payment orders on them; if bank accounts were opened without your consent, close them.

**ATM Cards.** If your ATM card has been stolen or compromised, contact the issuing financial institution and request a new card, account number, and password.

Education as to how identity theft occurs, what to look for and how to respond in case it does happen, is the best defense to combating identity theft. There are many resources available to assist you such as The Federal Trade Commission, Social Security Administration Fraud Department, Texas Department of Public Safety Identity Theft and of course the Texas Attorney General's Office. The Theft Victims Kit on the Texas Attorney General's Office website at [www.texasfightsidtheft.gov](http://www.texasfightsidtheft.gov) seems to be one of the most comprehensive kits available to assist individuals that may have had their personal information compromised. If you suspect that someone has stolen your identity, contact the Bulverde Police Department and we will do our very best to assist you.

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# KIDS, PLAY IT COOL!



It is that time again; Texas' sultry heat, outside playtime, ramping up with two-a-days for fall extracurricular activities and sports. Anyone who plays sports or is physically active in hot weather is at risk for heat illnesses. Fortunately, it is easy to prevent, and if needed, treat heat illness when identified early.

Sometimes you can't "beat the heat," but you surely can take precautions to stay safe. Sweating is the body's best method to cool itself. Since children sweat less than adults do, parents and coaches must team together to make certain that children are properly acclimated to the heat and humidity and are hydrated before, after, and during activities.

## PARENT TIPS:

- Inform the coach of any health related challenges your child has, including previous heat illness. Consider a physical examination by a physician prior to activities.
- Make sure that you child is drinking fluids at home—before and after practices—and even at mealtime. Water is best, but sports drinks are acceptable.

If you would like a copy of the "Got Hydration?" chart, email [Judy.Millspaugh@bsb911.com](mailto:Judy.Millspaugh@bsb911.com)

## ACTIVITY LEADERS TIPS:

- Remind children to drink water. Hydration time should be deliberate, frequent, and easy for all participants.
- Make certain your emergency action plan is current: How do you recognize heat illness? What is the treatment plan? Post-heat illness plans? How do you access emergency medical personnel?

How can we determine the hydration level of our children? For our body to function we must urinate. In order to urinate, we must take in fluids. The frequency of urination is variable; however, children should generally have the urge to urinate every two to three hours. In addition to frequency, the color of the urine is a valuable indicator of the hydration status of the body—light yellow is good and dark yellow is not. If you are ever in doubt when you are dealing with someone overwhelmed by heat, begin cooling them down and call 9-1-1.



## Got Hydration?

Urine Color Assessment

1		If your <u>urine matches</u> the colors in lines <b>1, 2, or 3</b> , You are <u>well hydrated</u>
2		Continue to consume fluids at routine intervals and amounts
3		At this point <u>consider</u> increasing your intake if planned activity to continue
<b>Below THIS RED LINE YOU ARE dehydrated!</b>		<b>Decrease activity level and hydrate</b>
4		If your urine color is below the <b>RED LINE</b> you are Dehydrated! <b>DRINK FLUIDS</b>
5		<b>IF YOU CONTINUE - YOU ARE at risk for heat related illness STOP &amp; DRINK NOW</b>
6		<b>STOP ALL ACTIVITY DRINK FLUIDS NOW!</b>
7		<b>STOP YOU NEED FLUIDS EMERGENTLY</b>
8		<b>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION</b>

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# 5

## Reasons Transparent Leadership in Emergency Services is Clearly Best

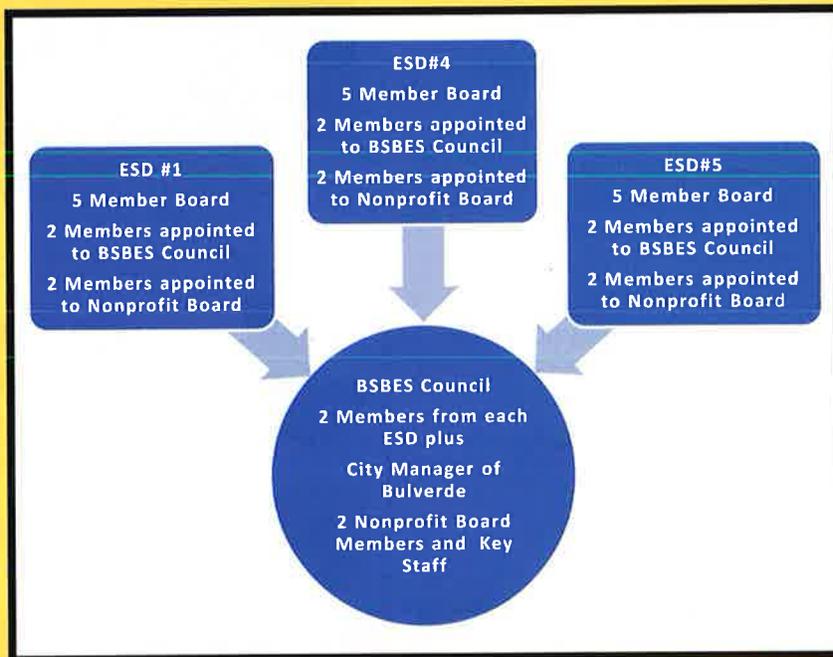


### 1. Problems are solved faster

17 months ago ESD 1, 4 and 5 entered into a Joint Service Provider Agreement for Fire and EMS. We have learned more about one another, have openly shared our concerns, and have solved problems faster. For example, when each entity began to share the struggles with aging vehicles and the rising costs for maintenance and repairs, a committee was formed from the BSB Emergency Services Council (BSBESC). Over a two month period a research project was conducted and an Apparatus Replacement Plan adopted, with budget projections through 2035.

### 2. Teams are built easier

Transparency forces teams to work smarter together and to be able to openly discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the team. This creates a platform to strategically match individuals to projects based upon the performance requirements. Another example of how transparency is a powerful unifier is in the appointment of ESD members to the Nonprofit Joint Service Provider Board called Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services. Selecting two members from each ESD to serve on the Nonprofit not only allows for the continuous sharing of information, but also allows the group to find creative ways to discover the best approach to deliver performance expectations.



### 3. Relationships grow authentically

Comal County Commissioners appoint the 5 members to each Emergency Services District for two year terms. Transparency brings commissioners together that may have not known or worked with one another. One thing we discovered is that the character traits and tendencies of these individuals were different, but often complimented one another. Often relationships do not truly begin to take shape until a problem is identified and resolved together. The result of working through these solutions is a vibrant team of uniquely different leaders assembled into a powerful relationship, not by choice – but by a commitment to the community they serve and ultimately to each other.

### 4. People begin to promote trust in leadership

Transparency promotes a safe environment to thoroughly weigh the pros and cons about the leadership. No one person or project is perfect: to be free to be transparent, especially when things are not going as planned, strengthens the leadership team as a whole. Trust is developed as the leadership team confidently shares their strengths and weaknesses. One example of this was recognized when a finance committee formed through the BSBES Council. A combined seven year financial forecast was desired in order to determine that the needs of emergency services would be met in the years to come. This process required a penetrating transparency, to

become vulnerable, in relation to the financial health of each organization. The successful outcome of this endeavor not only forged a trust amongst the committee members but also inspired hope and opportunity for the delivery of emergency services to our community for decades to come.

### 5. Higher Level of Performances Emerge

Each of the preceding examples provides a building block to a higher level of performance in Emergency Services. Effective problem solving + the ability to build teams easier + the development of authentic relationships + trust = award winning medical and fire performance in Western Comal County.

Our community is invited to attend any of the Board Meetings of ESD #1, ESD #4, ESD #5 or the Nonprofit which are held the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Central Station at 353 Rodeo Drive. The August meeting will be August 20, 2015.

Some information for this article contributed by Glen Llopis of Forbes Magazine.

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## BSB Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

### August 15

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch  
Sponsored By: Smithsonian Valley Counseling Center 12  
Noon – 1:00 pm

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

### August 25

Business Networking Mixer  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Sponsored by GVTC

Location: GVTC Auditorium Member  
Only Event

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



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## On the Cover



### Keeping Cool in the Heat!

Smithson Valley Sea Dragon swimmer Kaylee C. (9) competes with her breast stroke during a swim meet at Smithson Valley High School. Kaylee swims with the SV Sea Dragons during the summer season and competes with the San Antonio WAVE throughout the rest of the year. Both swim clubs practice at the SVHS pool. While both clubs accept young children, the SA WAVE is the more competitive of the two, and generally requires higher skill levels among their swimmers. Kaylee, who will be starting 4th grade in the fall, has been swimming for several years, having started her training at the Love To Swim School. She has been a member of the SV Sea Dragons for four summers, and with the SA WAVE for two years. If she keeps going at this rate, this little fish may have quite a competitive career ahead!

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# The Buzz From the Garden

By: Members of the Bulverde Community Garden Committee



The garden has been yielding a tremendous quantity of produce this past month. Tomatoes, onions, peppers, carrots, okra, eggplant, and green beans have been in abundance. Basil and mint of all kinds are thriving.

Garden member Lan Wu has been growing hyacinth beans, and they have been prolific. Many of us grow this vine for its beautiful flowers, foliage, and purple beans. In Lan's native China, this bean is used in many popular dishes. One of Lan's favorite recipes, baby ribs stew with hyacinth beans, is posted on the garden website at [www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com](http://www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com).

It is hard to think of planting your fall garden in the heat of August, but it is time to get prepared. According to Dave Eastman, long time gardener in Comal County and a member of Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, August is the time to buy tomato transplants and pot them up into one gallon containers. It's time to plant seeds of lima beans, chard, corn, beans, squash, cucumbers, and pumpkin. Transplants of garlic, cloves, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant can also be planted.

Eagle Scout Sam Vaille and members of Troop 58 have completed four more plots made out of pavers, as well as a paver path. Two of these plots will be used in a future project between the Native Plant Society's N.I.C.E. (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) and the Smithson Valley High School environmental club, Humans of Smithson Valley. The project will involve the development of demonstration plots featuring select native plants during the fall.

*If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please visit the Garden website at [www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com](http://www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com) or contact Joanne Hall at [johall@gvtc.com](mailto:johall@gvtc.com). Donations gladly accepted. Also, interested persons are invited to attend the Bulverde Community Garden Committee meeting on the third Monday of the month at 5:15pm at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center.*

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# Battling Pet Obesity



By Kathy Rodriguez

What is pet obesity? In our Pet Tech classes, we teach that pet obesity is defined as your pet's weight being 15-20% over their ideal body weight. Many dogs and cats become obese under owner care. It happens without us really knowing; it's an extra treat here and there, table scraps, free feeding and lack of exercise which can all lead to pet obesity. Whenever your pet has excessive calorie consumption paired with a lack of adequate exercise, obesity is eminent for that pet. Basically, we are killing them with kindness.

Just like in people, pets that are obese are at a much greater risk of hypertension, cardiac fatigue, pancreatitis, diabetes, colitis and other life-threatening diseases. To add to the problem, if your pets have arthritis, hip dysplasia or other joint problems, any extra weight can also aggravate those conditions as well.

So how do you help your pet maintain a healthy weight? It's easy, and the good news is that you can start today. First, get to the vet! According to Whole Dog journal, a small percentage (less than 5%) are suffering from an endocrine disease such as hypothyroidism, insulin imbalance, or hyperadrenocorticism. For these dogs, simply reducing calories and increasing exercise could be seriously detrimental to their health. Do not undertake a weight loss program for your overweight pet without a veterinary exam!

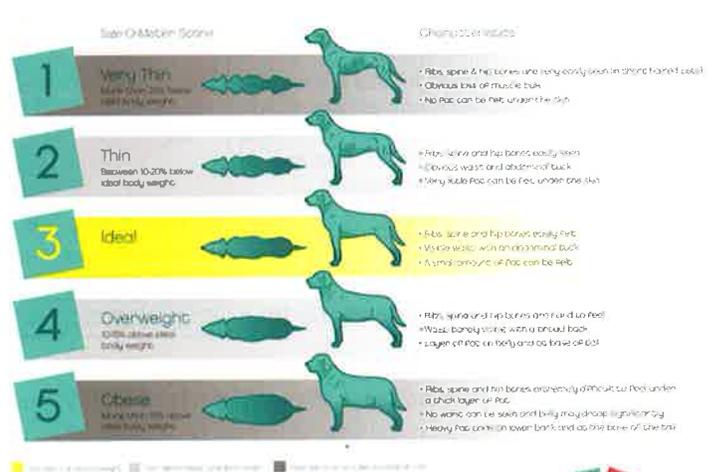
Next have your vet approve a weight loss plan for your pet. It should include reduction of caloric intake, and increase of caloric output. Start measuring your pet's food intake with a measuring cup - no more free feeding. Move over to a healthy weight loss management kibble. Make sure that you get out and start walking or throwing balls for your chubby pup daily. If it's your cat have them chase toys and feathers every day. Just get them moving.

Before you know it your portly pet will be back to a normal weight, feeling much better and so will you!

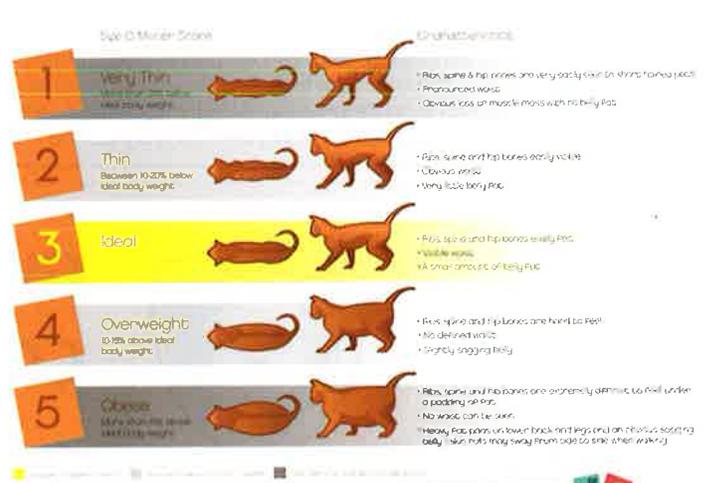
By Kathy Rodriguez, owner of Royally Spoiled Pet Services; Pet Tech First Aid & CPR Instructor #1820 -for more information go to [www.royallyspoiledpetservices.com](http://www.royallyspoiledpetservices.com).

Pet Size-O-Meter

Pet Size-O-Meter



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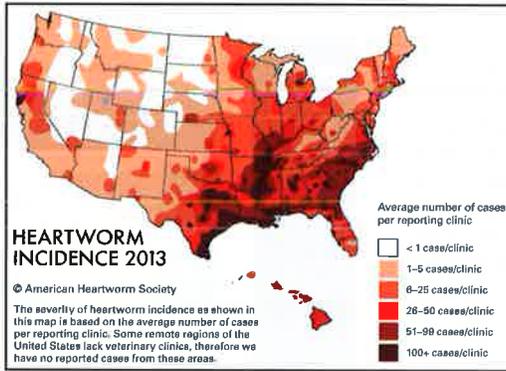
# Heartworm Prevention – Why it Matters

by Carrye Franzel

One of the most deadly, preventable conditions in dogs today is heartworm disease. It has been reported in all 50 states but is dramatically higher incidence in the South and Southwest. As many as one million new cases are reported each year. It affects dogs, cats, and up to 30 other species of animals. Key points to keep in mind:

- All it takes is one infected mosquito bite to transmit the disease;
- Indoor pets are at risk, too;
- An untreated dog will eventually die from the disease;
- Prevention is cheap and easy;
- Treatment for an infected pet is expensive—up to \$1,000.

Initially, there are no symptoms with heartworm disease but as the worms move to the heart and lungs, problems begin. First, a cough develops. Physical activity becomes more tiring. As the worms proliferate, there is increased fatigue, weight loss and gradual decline progressing to lung disease and ultimately heart failure and death. The treatment for heartworm disease in dogs is a series of injections of Immiticide, an arsenic-based solution that presents its own risk. Dosing is critical; too much can kill the dog. The after-effects of treatment are significant, and leave the dog in a weakened condition. As worms are killed off and expelled, there is the risk of blood clot formation, which is why it is critical for weeks after treatment that a dog's physical activity be limited and he be protected from heat exposure during the recovery period.



In dogs, mature heartworms produce larvae, called microfilaria, that circulate in the bloodstream. Heartworm disease is seen in cats although it affects them differently. Treatment of cats with heartworm infestation is less common than for dogs.

It is only discovered after intake of a new animal at Bulverde Area Humane Society if we have a heartworm positive case. The first veterinary visit/blood test confirms the diagnosis. To date, 2015 has been particularly costly with five heartworm positive dogs in as many months; each one an expensive treatment, a significant

recovery period with risks, and a several month wait before a dog can be heartworm-free and available for adoption. And every single case was preventable.

Heartworm preventative is available in monthly chewable pill or topical application for as little as \$7 a month. An area grocer is offering a generic equivalent for even less. The preventative requires an initial blood test and a veterinarian's prescription and can be purchased at the vet office, some major discount retailers, and online as well. Owning a pet in our area makes heartworm prevention an absolute must.

Heartworm Incidence map retrieved from <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/incidence-maps>



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## BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM WAS A **SUPER SUCCESS!**

Holy Summer Reading Batman! We have had a ginormous amount of children, teens and adults sign up for our superhero themed Summer Reading Program here at Bulverde/Spring Branch Library! More than eight hundred and fifty children and teens and two hundred adults signed up to read and listen to books during the six week program. Whether they checked out physical books here at the library, borrowed them online from Overdrive, or OneClick Digital, kids of all ages entertained themselves this summer by escaping into the world of books, meeting local heroes and attending special summer programs.

Summer may be almost over, but the fun doesn't have to end! Are you into flying machines? We are holding a two-part Drone series. On August 8, 10:30am-12noon, listen to a family-friendly talk on safety, legality, history, and technology of drones in our society. Watch a flying demonstration with drones of various sizes and capabilities. Then, on August 22, 10:30am-1:30pm, attend our DIY Drone Building Class, a hands-on beginning drone building workshop. The parts list will be available on our calendar page at [www.bsblibrary.org](http://www.bsblibrary.org). Please order parts early enough to participate. This event is open to all ages. For more information about this and other programs at Bulverde/Spring Branch Library visit [www.bsblibrary.org](http://www.bsblibrary.org) or call 830-438-4864.



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For more information, call Gayle Jenson at (830) 885-2247, or visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) or call our 1-888-OURAARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS.



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO CONSTABLE MARK CHEATUM



Recently, Constable Mark Cheatum of Comal County Precinct 2 graduated from the 11th class of the Texas Constable's Leadership College of the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

The Leadership College consists of three modules of training, including all aspects of modern law enforcement management techniques, styles, and philosophies.

Constable Cheatum said "I have learned how to be a better manager, and how to provide Comal County innovative ways to work with the resources we have." The Leadership College program is provided through LEMIT, a nationally recognized law enforcement institute, at no cost to the agencies or participant.

Constable Mark Cheatum is currently the Constable for Comal County Precinct 2. Congratulations to Constable Cheatum on this accomplishment!

## COMAL COUNTY CORNER

"IT'S TIME TO IMMUNIZE"  
Gwen Mills, Public Health Director

If you want to beat the crowds and get your kids vaccinated before school starts, there's no better time than now.

The Comal County Public Health Office offers vaccines year-round, and that means you can come in anytime to make sure your children are up-to-date in time for the first day of school. We get increasingly busy as school gets closer, so the sooner you can come in, the better!

Our office is located at 178 E. Mill St., Suite 210, in downtown New Braunfels. Call ahead, 830-221-1150, to check on cost, which varies based on your insurance plan, and to schedule an appointment so you don't have to wait when you come into the office.

We accept Blue Cross Blue Shield, children's Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Community First, and eligible members of the Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net programs.

Keep in mind that children aren't the only people who should be immunized. We also vaccinate adults who need their Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and other boosters, and later in the fall, we also will provide flu vaccines.

All clients are encouraged to make sure they are registered in ImmTrac, the state's immunization registry. Once you're registered, you can get a free copy of your immunization record from us, your medical provider, or even many schools.

Your county Public Health Office is here to serve you however we can. Along with offering vaccines, we provide disease-prevention education and limited clinic services, as well as preparing for potential public-health emergencies.

In 2014, we served nearly 4,000 people and on average, we immunized more than 200 people per month, nearly half of them in August and October.

Vaccines are the easiest way to make sure you and your children avoid contracting disease—not to mention protecting infants and others who cannot be immunized for medical reasons. By working together, we can help keep Comal County healthy.

So give us a call, make an appointment and get prepared for the upcoming school year!

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# LET'S RAISE THE ROOF ON SHADE IN THE PARK!

We hear you Bulverde! The Friends of the Park love to receive your comments about what you enjoy most about the Bulverde Community Park. Our faces light up with smiles as we drive by and see how many people are enjoying the park each day. We enjoy seeing the kids gathered at the splash pad to cool off from south Texas sun or families packed around the new playground equipment waiting for their youngsters to show off their skills at scaling the little climbing wall or whiz down the slides. Unfortunately, we also see and have heard that our park is lacking an important feature and that feature is SHADE.

Friends of the Park Chair, Merri Harrison, states "SHADE IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY for the Bulverde Community Park! We realize the need to cover several key areas of the park so our guests can enjoy the park at all times during the day, and we are working diligently to accomplish this goal."

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

There are several ways you can support the Friends of the Park in our efforts to purchase shade structures:

1. **Buy a Personalized Brick...** just visit [www. BulverdeParks.com](http://www.BulverdeParks.com), scroll to the middle of the home page and click on "Online Brick Order Form. You can order your personalized brick and designate where you want your brick to be permanently placed in the Park or Community Garden, if desired. Bricks range from \$45 - \$300 and can be ordered to honor a loved one and recognize your family or business.
2. **Make a donation to our fundraising group,** The Friends of the Parks, through the Bulverde Community Park Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your amenity sponsorship, purchased bricks, and other donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor for more information.
3. **Visit the Concession Booth on Movie Night** (every 2nd Friday - April to August) and enjoy a family-friendly priced meal before the movie. We serve hotdogs, drinks, candy and freshly popped popcorn!

If you are interested in learning more about how you can make a donation to or learn more about the Friends of the Park, feel free to contact us at: [Info@BulverdeParks.com](mailto:Info@BulverdeParks.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



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## SVHS Student Receives Air Force Honor

Rising SVHS Senior, Austin "Casey" Carter was recently selected as the United States Air Force Reserve Command's Youth of the Year. Casey is the son of Air Force Pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Kari Hill, Lackland AFB, TX. Because of his leadership and academic performance, he was chosen to represent Air Force Reserve Command as a leader and voice for other military youths. Casey has grown up as a military child, and particularly the child of a Reservist. The demands on a reservist and their children can be just as demanding as those who belong to our country's active duty military component. Casey has moved over 10 times, experienced his mother's absence during 5 deployments, and multiple temporary duties that take her away regularly. As recent as 2014, Casey and his mother and sister moved again, thus Casey began his junior year at SVHS. During all of these changes, Casey continued to excel scholastically and as a leader, mentor, and volunteer in each community while picking up where he left off with his extracurricular passions. Casey, was most recently selected and attended Boy's State, and was chosen to attend the AF Teen Leadership Summit and advise on military youth issues to the General council. Casey is an Eagle Scout, member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, plays football for the Rangers, and is on the SVHS Shooting Team. Outside of school, he enjoys playing violin and piano, volunteering for the American Red Cross, 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.

*~article and photo provided courtesy of CISD*



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# Odds-n-Ends

## St. Paul Lutheran Church to Have Annual Youth Garage Sale



The St. Paul Lutheran Church annual Youth Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, August 8th, 2015, from 8 am to 1 pm. St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 29797 US Hwy 281, just south of FM 1863 on the west side - the "Red Roof Church!" Proceeds of the Garage Sale will benefit the youth programs of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Bulverde, including youth mission trips, camp, and other similar activities.

## Native Plant Society to Discuss Medicinal Plants

The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on August 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the GVTC Auditorium located at 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels. Daneshu Clark, from the Boerne NPSOT Chapter, will present *Native Plants of the Texas Hill Country: Medicinal and Edible*. Born and raised in the Texas Hill Country, Daneshu is a retired secondary education teacher, retired from the Navy Reserves in 2002, and is currently President of the Native Plant Society of Texas – Boerne Chapter. She is an herbalist, and her specialty is making medicines from our native and adaptive plants. This presentation will introduce you to plants that have been used for centuries for medicines and food. The public is welcome. For more information, see our website at [npsot.org/wp/lindheimer](http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer)



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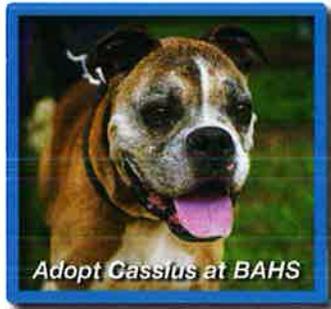
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**AUGUST 2015**

Bulverde  
and other local events

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Forbidden Broadway (S.T.A.G.E.) Garden presentation: Beet 10:00a (Activity Ctr.)
2 International Friendship Day Forbidden Broadway (S.T.A.G.E.)	3	4 Wellness on Wheels 9:00a (Provisional) Planning & Zoning 6:30p	5 BAAC Mtg 6:30p (Art Ctr.) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	6 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.)	7	8
9	10 Friends of the Library Board 1:30p (Library) Library District Board 4:00p (Library)	11 City Council 6:30p	12	13 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	14 Movie in the Park dusk 8:00ish (Bulverde Comm. Park)	15 Bulverde Community Day of Services 9:00 (Bulverde Comm. Park)
16 S.T.A.G.E. 36th Annual awards and show 6:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	17	18 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	19 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	20 BSBES 5:30p (353 Roddeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Roddeo Dr.)	21	22 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulverde Comm Park)
23 Auditions for Death by Design 4:00p (S.T.A.G.E.)	24	25 CISD First day of school Friends of the Park 6:00p	26	27 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	28 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Planning & Zoning 7:30p	2 BAAC mtg 6:30p (Art Center) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	3 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.)	4	5
6	7 Labor Day CISD HOLIDAY	8 City Council 6:30p	9	10 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11 Patriot Day 9/11	12
13	14	15 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	16 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Center)	17 BSBES 5:30p (353 Roddeo Dr.) ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Roddeo Dr.)	18	19 Bulverde Jubilee 10:00a (Downtown Bulverde)
20	21 International Day of Peace	22 Friends of the Park 6:00p	23 Fall Begins	24 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	25 CISD Holiday: Fair Day	26 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
27	28	29	30			

**NOTES:**  
Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)