

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 3 Issue 2 ☆ February 2016

The
FRONT PORCH
News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

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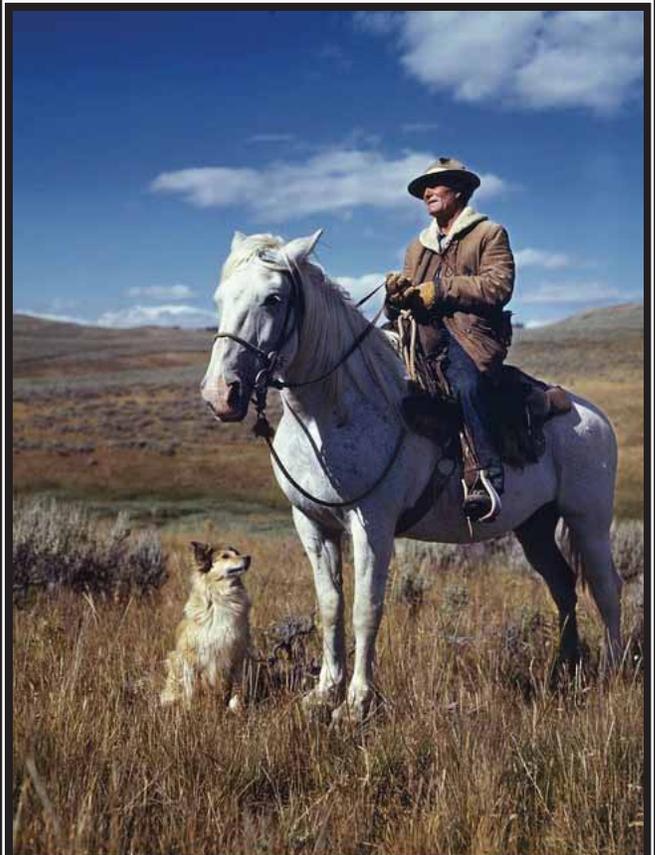
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FRONT PORCH NEWS
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BULVERDE EXPANDS BOUNDARIES TO HELP MANAGE DEVELOPMENT GROWTH



Over the course of the fall and early 2016, the municipal boundaries of Bulverde expanded in several critical areas throughout our region. In fact, almost four square miles of adjacent property were brought into the City limits (see accompanying map).

These properties were primarily located along the region's major transportation corridors (US281, FM 1863, and SH 46), and were predominantly owned by investment companies that were in the process of creating near-term plans to either develop their properties in some way or they were marketing their properties for future sale and development. As these properties were located in the unincorporated portion of Comal County, very few of the Bulverde community's development standards would have been applicable when they developed. In addition, as promised, the City Council avoided annexing existing residential neighborhoods except in a few rare instances where it was necessary in order to reach a

large developer-owned property that was slated for near-term development.

Fortunately, by bringing these investor/developer-owned properties into the Bulverde City Limit as a growth management tool, the City Council was able to extend the community's development standards to now be applicable to these properties. Bulverde's citizens will now have the ability to have a say in the types of land uses that will be allowed to locate on these properties before they develop and also extend a multitude of other "quality control" type regulations, such as architectural and building standards, that help ensure an appropriate blending with our region's existing hill country atmosphere. The Bulverde City Council was able to utilize these new growth management capabilities to help protect this precious hill country locale because the citizens of Bulverde overwhelmingly approved the Home Rule Charter in May 2015.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

The City was able to accomplish this boundary expansion of nearly 39% due to several large properties (around 800+ acres each) voluntarily annexing into the City limits via negotiated development agreements. However, had the City not had the capability to unilaterally annex these larger tracts (via the Home Rule Charter), these property owner/investors would likely not have entered into agreements with the City, and only the less stringent and very limited regulatory capabilities of the unincorporated county and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) would have been applicable. By negotiating strong development agreements with these large property owners, the City Council was able to help limit the eventual development intensity, have certainty regarding the land uses, require more stringent stormwater drainage standards, require the reuse of wastewater effluent as irrigation on their own property, require the minimization of light pollution, require current building and architectural standards be applicable, and other development standards as well.

The examples of the enhanced development standards within the City versus the more lax standards in the unincorporated county are no more evident than as seen driving down Bulverde Road just west of US 281. Within this area you may have noticed several new developments being constructed in the last six months. One project on the north side of the road, near the intersection of Saddleridge Road, is a fine example of the City's applicable development and architectural standards. The property owner utilized building finishes that are common to the hill country, protected the existing oak trees on the property and incorporated them into their building design, and even utilized some less common pervious parking infrastructure to help minimize stormwater runoff.

Unfortunately, a different example of recent development on the south side of Bulverde Road was in progress prior to the City being able to bring it in to the City limits via annexation. It was built just outside of the City limits so the community's development standards were not applicable. The structure that was moved in does not meet the community's building standards, nor the desired aesthetic quality of the Downtown Bulverde Village area. Health and safety building inspections were not required of the facility prior to its opening, as it was constructed just outside of the City. The lighting that was installed was not required to minimize light pollution, as it would have been if it had been built in the City. The parking and other infrastructure did not have to meet the community's more stringent in-City requirements. In short, it is a

project that does not meet the quality development standards that our hill country community has put in place. Thankfully, the City Council has now brought that entire southwest corridor of Bulverde Road and US 281 up to the airport property into the City limits, so any future renovations or construction on those properties will have to comply with the community's more stringent development standards.

As western Comal county continues to experience the rapid growth associated with being located along the intersections of major transportation corridors in the 9th fastest growing county in United States, the Bulverde City Council will continue to implement the strategic growth management tools that the citizens have Bulverde have made available via their local Constitution, the Bulverde Home Rule Charter.

For more information on the City's new city limit and ETJ maps, and the applicable zoning, please visit the City's website at: <http://tx-bulverde.civicplus.com/164/GIS-Mapping> For interactive GIS mapping information please visit: <http://www.cceo.org/gis/gismain.asp>

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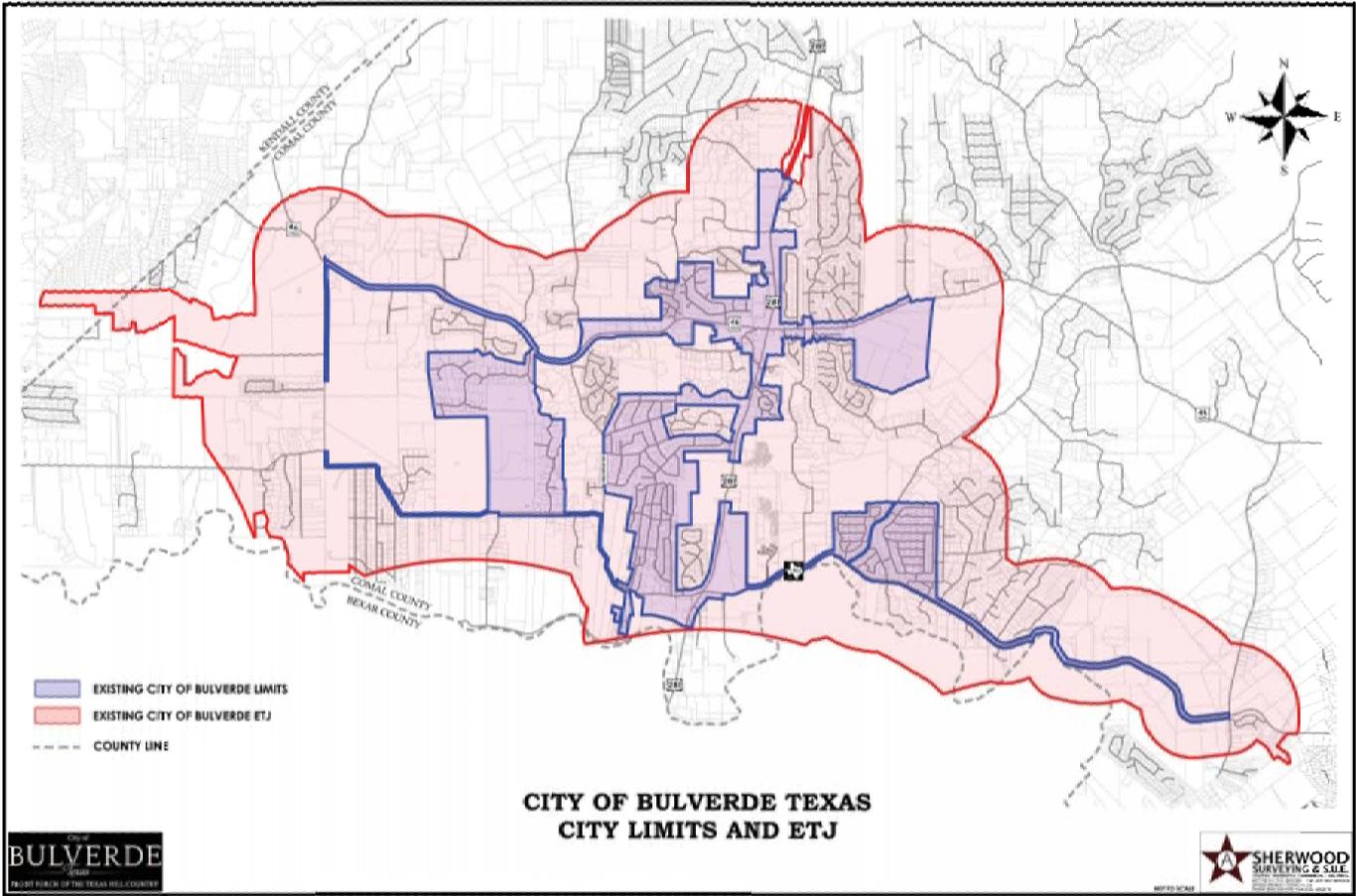
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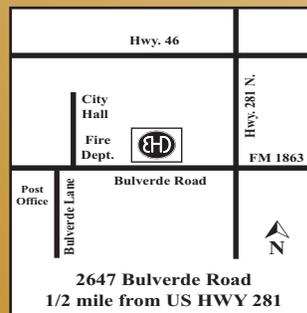
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Photography by Sam Roberts

In the coming months, *The Front Porch News* will be featuring excerpts from a new book entitled *Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas, 160th Founding Edition* by local author and historian Brenda Anderson-Lindemann. We hope that our readers will enjoy these snapshots of local history that will include photos, maps, and biographies. We thank Ms. Lindemann for sharing her work with us. This month's first installment includes an introduction to the book and a small piece about Pieper's Settlement. Next month's installment will explore Pieper's Settlement in more depth.

Local "Historic Treasure" Revealed

New History Book on Spring Branch and Western Comal County

A new book, **Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas**, celebrates the 160th anniversary of Spring Branch and the many surrounding communities. Brenda Anderson-Lindemann, author and a fifth generation native, has studied and researched historical material for this unique book for over twenty years. Filled with details and descriptions on the founding and development of the area, this new book has been called a "Historic Treasure."

The settlements, founders, and development of the territory from New Braunfels to Boerne to Blanco and almost to San Antonio are documented in detail. The book describes the creativity, craftsmanship, hardships, and sacrifices of the area's founders. The many, tiny German settlements eventually supported lumber, shingles, corn and flour mills, as well as cotton gins, blacksmith shops, general stores, post offices, schools, churches, dance halls, and nine-pin bowling clubs. All reflected the predominant German influence of customs and family heritage.

This edition captures the evolution of each community in western Comal County. History is included on:

- roads, bridges and river road crossings;
- original post offices with memorabilia, facts, maps, and postmasters and mail riders of the era;
- charted family cemeteries and tragic events of untimely deaths;
- early businesses, churches and schools;
- Guadalupe River and Cibolo Creek history, flood events, historical weather data and droughts;
- recorded encounters with the Indians;
- telephone and electric history;
- rare news clips of clergy, civic, clubs, choirs and fires and personal letters and obituaries;
- significant facts of this territory today, and much more.

Quite simply, Brenda's new book "bridges" the past to the present.

The German settlement of Spring Branch was founded in 1852, situated twenty plus miles northwest of the town of New Braunfels and nestled in the hills of the Guadalupe River and along four river crossings. This book honors the 160th anniversary of the founding of Spring Branch (1852–2012).

Besides Spring Branch, the book includes all neighboring settlements—real and ghost—such as Wesson, Guadalupe Valley, Demijohn Bend, Rebecca Creek, Smithson Valley, Cranes Mill, Startzville, Mountain Valley, Sattler, Canyon Lake, Hancock, Gruene, Hunter, Devil's Backbone, Fischer's Store, Twin Sisters, Middletown, New Pittsburg, Blanco, Sisterdale, Hodges Mill, Curry's Creek Settlement, Kendalia, Tusculum, Boerne, Guadalupe, Schiller, Bergheim, Honey Creek, Anhalt, Bulverde, Pieper's Settlement, Vogel's Valley, Mission Valley, Schoenthal, Solms, Comal, Bracken, Garden Ridge, Wetmore, Van Raub, Leon Springs, and the "mother colony" of New Braunfels, to name a few.

Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas, 160th Founding Edition by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann (© 2014) can be obtained from the author: call (830) 228-5245 or email to springbranchbrenda@gvtc.com.

Pieper's Settlement

Pieper's Settlement was located on the north Bexar Co. line, situated in one of the finest mountain districts in southwestern Comal Co. An early German settlement on the banks of the Cibolo Creek, the first white settler was August Pieper in 1850, who freighted through this area with two other teamsters named Heinrich Voges, Sr. and Johann Kabelmacher. The men had not received any land via the contract they had taken part with in Germany prior to their passage to Texas. They had stopped to camp many times on the Cibolo Creek while hauling supplies and passengers between New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

(Continued on page 7)



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(Continued from page 6)

The land on the Cibolo was still uninhabited and unclaimed so Pieper, Voges and Kabelmacher chose to claim 160 acres, settle and make improvements on the banks of the Cibolo, creating Pieper's Settlement, since 1880 known as Bulverde.



By Author. Courtesy of August Pieper Family History by Lillian Schneider (text from p. 259; photo courtesy of Cheryl Ferguson, p. 245). Pieper's Settlement is now operated as a special events venue called The 1850 Settlement and is located at 29360 Bulverde Rd, San Antonio, TX 78260.



COMAL COUNTY CORNER

by: Bobbie Koepp

Believe it or not, it's election time in Comal County. Early voting for the 2016 primary elections begins this month, and if you're registered to vote, you've got a few candidates to choose from. Although the presidential race takes up a lot of the attention, on the Republican side there are several contested races in which to vote:

- Four candidates – Josh Dean, Brent Paullus, Mark Reynolds and James Walker – are running to replace Comal County Sheriff Bob Holder;
- Precinct 1 Commissioner Donna Eccleston is running for re-election against Garrison Maurer;
- District 73 State Rep. Doug Miller is running for re-election against Kyle Biedermann and Chris Byrd;
- Several contested races for state offices include railroad commissioner, Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals seats; and
- U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith is running for re-election against Matt McCall, John Murphy and Todd Phelps.

On the Democratic side, in addition to the presidential race, Tejas Vakil and Tom Wakely are running for U.S. House District 21, Lamar Smith's seat.

The registration deadline to vote in the main primary election has already passed; however, you can still register to vote in the May 24 runoff, if one is needed (the deadline is April 25), and the Nov. 8 general election (Oct. 11 deadline).

Early voting for the primary election runs from Feb. 16–26, and you can vote at any polling place countywide, no matter what voting precinct you're in. Early voting polling places are:

- Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing;
- Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway;
- CRRRC Building, 1909 FM 2673, Canyon Lake; and
- Comal County Elections Office, 178 E. Mill St., New Braunfels.

Voting times vary based on the location, so visit votecomal.org for a full list of dates and times, as well as polling places for Election Day on March 1.

Bobbie Koepp is county clerk of Comal County. Her role includes serving as elections administrator.

Primary Election Information

Feb. 16: First day of early voting, Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

Feb. 26: Last day of early voting, Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

March 1: Election Day, voting 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pct. 102: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

Pct. 106: GVTC, 36101 FM 3159

Pct. 204: Bulverde City Hall

Pct. 206: Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS No. 3 (Johnson Way)

Pct. 405: Rebecca Creek Baptist Church

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The SBB Lions Provide Food and Christmas Gifts for Children in Need



Lions from the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club pose with an assortment of food and toys from their 12th annual holiday drive. Toys were delivered to the staff of Bill Brown Elementary School in Bulverde for wrapping by the BBES PTA and subsequent delivery to youngsters in the greater Bulverde Spring Branch area. Over 500 pounds of food was also delivered to the area's Provisions food bank. Toy and food collection boxes are annually placed throughout the community from Thanksgiving to mid-December thanks to space donated by participating local businesses.



Start Your Engines... The SBB Lions ROAR FOR KIDS CAR SHOW is Right Around the Corner!

Calling all gearheads and car enthusiasts! Start your engines and get ready for the 3rd annual Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club ROAR FOR KIDS CAR SHOW! The Lions are hosting this excellent show on Saturday, March 19, at Bulverde Baptist Church. There is still plenty of time to register your car to show, so mark your calendars and plan to bring your favorite hot rod, classic car, or tricked out ride to Bulverde. Custom-made, unique trophies will be awarded for several categories, including "Most likely to be pulled over," "Best under the hood," "Best interior," the "Mayor's trophy," and the "Lion's pride." This show is open to the public and all spectators get in FREE! Bring the family for fun, food, and a show of some amazing cars. There will be door prizes, raffles, and other fun activities! All proceeds from the ROAR FOR KIDS CAR SHOW go toward sending children to Texas Lions Camp, a summer camp that caters to children who have special needs.

Participants can register early online at www.BulverdeCarShow.com for only \$25.00. Show-day registration opens at 7:00 a.m., and the fee is \$30.00. Judging starts at 10:00 a.m. Bulverde Baptist Church is located at 1331 Bulverde Road, Bulverde TX 78163. For more information, contact Eldyn Ingerick at (210) 854-1543 or elicpa@gvtc.com.



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Public Meeting Scheduled for the SH 46 Improvement Project

Work continues on the SH 46 Improvement Project from Bulverde Rd to FM 3159 (Smithson Valley Rd). The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in conjunction with the City of Bulverde and Comal County, will host a public meeting to present initial findings and possible alternatives for SH 46 and collect public feedback. Since the study began last summer, the project team has been collecting and analyzing data on the project area including land surveys, geotechnical studies, traffic studies, water and drainage needs, and impacts to the public and environment. Using all of this information, the project engineering team will present potential alternatives to the public.

Community members and all interested in the project are invited to attend the public meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2015, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Smithson Valley High School (14001 SH 46, SBTX 78070).

The meeting will be in an open house format with no formal presentation, so attendees can come at go at their convenience. Attendees will have the opportunity to view maps and schematics of the proposed alternatives, visit with



team members, ask questions, and share their comments and feedback on the project.

Project Details

The SH 46 Improvement Project may include expansion of the road from four to six lanes and bicycle and pedestrian improvements from Bulverde Rd to FM 3159 (Smithson Valley Rd). TxDOT, the City of Bulverde, and Comal County look forward to working closely with the

community throughout this project. This is the first public meeting for this project and it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held in late summer of 2016 to share a preferred alternative for the project. Updates will be provided via email as they are available.

SH 46 Project Contact Information

Phone: (210) 660-4546

Email: sh46info@gmail.com

**If you are interested in receiving project updates, send an email with "Updates" in the subject line. Website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/san-antonio/sh46-bulverde.html>*

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Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS hopes you will visit one of their stations to meet, to learn, and/or for medical service. Some or all of these opportunities are available at the Central Station on Rodeo Drive, the Johnson Ranch Station on Johnson Ranch Way, and the Putter Creek Station off FM 311. Our satellite station at the corner of FM 311 and Rebecca Creek Road is equipped for firefighting and EMS services only.

MEET: Do your property owners association boards or committees need a place to conduct a meeting? Does your sewing group require multiple tables to complete a project? Nonprofit and community organizations can reserve meeting rooms for no cost during normal operating hours at our primary fire stations. Fire and EMS personnel are delighted when community groups are in the building.



LEARN: Our state of the art facility on Rodeo Drive connects with our community for educational purposes. Our Comedy First Aid & CPR classes are like no other. It's a two-hour, fun-filled time designed for all ages to learn what to do before Fire & EMS arrives. Are you interested in an activity packed, hands-on learning experience centered on life? Another truly remarkable experience, that's more than just "a night out with the kids," is our F.A.N. (Family Anatomy

Night) Club designed to unlock the mystery of modern medicine, the reality of the human body, and the emergency steps needed to save a life.

SERVICE: We also have a medical clinic for uninsured/underinsured low-income individuals residing in Comal County. The clinic is open all day Monday and Wednesday. New patients may call for eligibility screening at (830) 228-4219. The clinic is located at 353 Rodeo Drive, Spring Branch inside our Fire & EMS station. The clinic is also out in the community several days each month with our mobile W.O.W. (Wellness on Wheels) unit. Additionally, you can receive vital signs monitoring at our three stations.



If you have any questions on any of these opportunities, please call (830) 228-4501.



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Join During Our Annual Campaign in Our 38th Year



Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS invites you to join as a member and become part of our community's mission. The more members, the stronger the community and our vision to identify, serve, and champion the needs of others. Over the last 38 years, your membership has allowed us to fund extraordinary equipment, such as the LUCAS automated Chest Compression Systems and Video Laryngoscopes. BSB Fire & EMS is a 501(c)3 and membership is tax-deductible as allowed by law. There are two types of memberships:



1. The Link membership is \$95 per household which includes you, your spouse, and anyone living permanently in the home. Included:

- The Link is not insurance, but is in addition to any secondary insurance or medical benefits you may already have. It does not waive your deductible, but in most cases, we accept your insurance payment and do not bill any additional charges. If you have a high deductible or no insurance, you will receive a 60% discount off your ambulance bill. (If you are enrolled in Medicare, this ambulance discount would not be a benefit, but all the other benefits apply).
- Home Visits by Paramedics After Hospitalization: for help with medical equipment, medications, or any care needed
- Blue Reflector Sign & Decal: one reflective address sign and vehicle decal per Link member
- Smoke Alarm Experts: Firefighters will change batteries (supplied by Fire & EMS) in Link member's smoke alarms upon request
- Burn Ban Notification: you will be e-mailed when Burn Ban goes on...and when Burn Ban goes off

- Vote in the elections for the Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Board of Directors
- High Water Alerts: Link members e-mailed Comal County Engineer's Flood Indicator map
- Exclusive Invitations: to Grand Openings, Unveilings, Celebrations, etc.
- "Live Long and Happily in Comal County": through interactive events

2. The Associate membership is \$30 per household and includes a vote for one member of the household in the elections for BSB Fire & EMS Board of Directors.

To enroll in either The Link or The Associate membership, use the return envelope that you received in the mail in January with the Annual Meeting notice. **Checks are made out to BSB Fire & EMS.**

If you would like to electronically join The Link, please visit: www.bsb911.com and click the "Enter" on the left side of the flashing ambulance image. Once the new page opens, click the green "Support Us" button to be directed to a set of four additional green buttons, one being "Join the Link." Complete the information on the form to sign up TODAY!

For help with any issue, contact Judy Millspaugh by e-mail at judy.millspaugh@bsb911.com or by telephone at (830)228-4206.

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Bulverde Lions Club
Bulverde North Family Dental
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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

February 6-7, 2016

Annual Chamber Rodeo
Tejas Rodeo Company
401 Obst Road, Bulverde, TX 78163
Saturday, Rodeo Begins at 7:30 pm
Sunday, "Family Fun Day," Rodeo Begins at 2:00 pm
Stock Provided by Diamond Cross Rodeo Company

February 8, 2016

BAR-W & Chamber Candidate Debate
Moderated debate Comal County Sheriff Candidates
6:00 pm: Meet & Greet
7:00 pm: Program
GVTC Auditorium
36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132

February 11

Business Networking Mixer
5:30-7:30 pm
Sponsored by Singing Hills-DJL Development
Location: To Be Determined
Member Only Event

February 17

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch
Sponsored By: Sandy Hancock, JB Goodwin Realtor
12 Noon-1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

***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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GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES & JOB SEEKERS



As mentioned in previous articles, one objective of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation (BSBEDF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to take action to improve conditions for existing local businesses. In that respect, the BSBEDF continues to work in partnership with Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) to bring valuable resources to our local businesses. There are several programs that WSA offers to the 12 county region they serve, which includes Comal County. Please refer to WSA's article within this publication entitled "Nonprofit Offers Untapped Resources at No Cost to Help Businesses Succeed" for information on the various programs available to our local businesses.

Additionally, the BSBEDF continues to spearhead area job fairs in collaboration with WSA, the Chamber, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library and the City of Bulverde. The purpose of these FREE EVENTS is to connect area employers with job seekers throughout the region.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Spring Job Fair
Thursday, March 31, 2016 2pm to 6pm
Bulverde/Spring Branch Library
131 Bulverde Crossing
Bulverde, Texas 78163

Whether you are a local business seeking employees or a job seeker looking for your next career opportunity, we hope you will join us.

Job Seekers will be able to participate in On the Spot Interviews with Local Area Employers, WorkinTexas.com Registration, and Online Application Support. Professional Resume Services and Mock Interviews will also be available.

Interested Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Employers will need to complete and return the Employer Registration Form to ensure your place at the event. Space is limited, therefore, Employer participation will be honored on a first come, first served basis. So register today! For more information about the Job Fair and to download the Event Flyer and/or Employer Registration Form, please visit our websites at www.bsbedf.com, www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com, <http://www.bsblibrary.org> or www.ci.bulverde.tx.us.

The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth while maintaining our rural character and quality of life. Please visit our website at www.bsbedf.com, our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bsbedf> or call us at 830.885.4331 to learn more about who we are, what we do and how we can help you with your business needs.

Sherry Mosier
 President
 BSBEDF, Inc.



Nonprofit Offers Untapped Resources at No Cost to Help Businesses Succeed



At Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA), our goal is to utilize a vast network of service providers and contractors to connect business with people, creating growth and career opportunities throughout the 12-county region we serve. Our services are designed to help businesses save money, increase productivity and gain a competitive edge without charging a dime. Here's what we can do to help you.

Grow Your Business at a Reduced Cost

Partnering with us will help you fully staff your business or expand your workforce at a reduced cost. Employer survey data shows that when businesses pair up with On-the-Job (OJT) training programs or offer Subsidized Work Experience

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(SE), they can create new positions or fill roles that they couldn't afford to fill otherwise. Whether you're interested in creating a new position or filling empty seats, hiring subsidized employees is a positive, cost-effective strategy that will increase productivity, improve the financial health of your business and increase customer satisfaction levels.

We Can Help With Your Hiring Needs

It's essential to hire well-matched, high-performing employees to drive your business operations and reduce turnover costs. We can help you find the right talent for the job, providing you with opportunities to include assessments of candidates that meet your minimum requirements so you only see the candidates that meet your needs. We use social and media outreach activities to market hiring needs to help you find great quality candidates for your business. Through our services, you will have access to a diverse labor pool comprised of veterans, underemployed individuals, dislocated workers and many more.

Have Access to Quality Workers with the Support They Need to Succeed

We're in your corner to ensure that our participants perform well on the job. In addition to paying their wages or reimbursing a percentage of the wages you pay, we offer continuous support to our participants, including weekly job coaching sessions with their Career Development Specialist (CDS) and overcoming barriers to fulfilling their daily job responsibilities. Our surveys indicate that employers favor hiring subsidized workers because they have met or exceeded expectations compared to unsubsidized employees with regards to attendance, punctuality and occupational skills.

In fact, an overwhelming majority of employers prefer offering job opportunities to subsidized workers over unsubsidized workers for these reasons.

State-funded Training

The Skills for Small Business Fund offered by the Texas Workforce Commission is one more reason why Texas is a great place to do business. Customized training through state-funded grants will help upgrade the skills of your current full time workforce industry-specific training so your business can maintain a successful, competitive edge. Examples include training for Quickbooks, workplace Spanish and Microsoft programs. Skills for Small Business successfully merges business needs and local training opportunities into a winning formula to increase the skills levels and wages of the Texas Workforce. Since 1996 Skills grants have helped 3,263 employers to create 76,191 jobs by upgrading the skills of 208,630 workers.

These are just a few of the ways that Workforce Solutions Alamo can help businesses save money and improve productivity by being your Human Resources Department to help you with your HR hours. Call us for a quick and simple assessment of your needs! Contact Willi B Martinez, Business Engagement Specialist at Workforce Solutions Alamo via email at wmartinez@wsalamo.org or by phone at 210.581.1085.

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Stray Cats – A Community Problem and Solution

by: Carrye Franzel



Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) is not only an animal shelter, but also an advocate for stray and feral cats. Consider that an unsterilized female cat is capable of having five litters in 52 weeks, with an average of five kittens per litter. That is why we are partnered with Animal Rescue Connections (ARC) and San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition in the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program, a proactive, community-based approach to the proliferation of stray and feral cats. With TNR, cats are humanely trapped, taken to a vet for sterilization, given vaccinations and after a brief recovery period, returned to the area where originally captured. While under anesthesia, a quarter-inch tip is removed from the cat's left ear, the universal sign of a sterilized community cat. BAHS provides overnight recovery space for cats in the TNR program.



TNR benefits to the community

- **Fewer cats:** According to Alley Cat Allies, over time TNR reduces the size of stray cat colonies anywhere from 16% to 66%.
- **Less expensive:** The majority of stray cats brought into an open admission, city or county shelter in our area are euthanized. TNR is cheaper than euthanizing all the strays picked up. TNR is generally funded by charitable initiatives and grants, not tax dollars.
- **Less smell:** Neutered male cats will mark their territory less, cutting down on the smell.
- **Less noise:** Neutered cats make less noise and fight less. In fact, some research indicates that animal control receives fewer feral cat complaints when TNR is implemented in a community.
- **Rodent control:** TNR cats benefit our neighborhoods and rural areas by naturally keeping rodents at bay.
- **Disease reduction:** Cats that have been through the TNR program are vaccinated; this helps ensure healthy cat populations in our neighborhoods.

Data supports TNR as an effective approach to reducing stray cat populations. The University of Texas-Austin has fully embraced TNR on their campus. Carin Peterson, a training and outreach coordinator, makes the distinction between feral cats that have had no contact with people for a long period versus stray cats that have recently been without human contact because they have been lost, abandoned or have strayed. It is UT-Austin's policy to humanely trap the ferals, sterilize and return them to their territory. They try to find an owner for stray cats that are found and reported. Peterson states "Cats in these colonies are managed by volunteers who feed and water them and also practice Trap-Neuter-Return. TNR stabilizes the colony, identifies cats that can be socialized and adopted, and controls the influx of new strays/ferals who may bring health issues with them."

Remember, to feed stray cats without taking a role in their sterilization is to compound the problem. Help is available. Free TNR classes are held regularly. See <http://sanantonioferalcats.org/tnr-schedule> or contact ARC, SA Feral Cat Coalition for more information.

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Former SVHS star student-athlete Devin Clark competes for U.S. Junior National Team

Former Smithson Valley High School standout student-athlete Devin Clark, who is currently in the middle of her freshman year at the University of Arkansas, recently competed with the United States Junior National Team in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Team USA finished second in the Great Edinburgh Cross-Country International Challenge, which is comprised of two junior teams (age 19 and under), two senior teams (over age 19) and one senior relay team.

"I think it's every runner's dream to wear the Team USA jersey," said SVHS head coach Brittney Lanehart. "I know it's an honor for her to have this opportunity at this age. I hope it's the first of many chances she has to run for our country. Devin told me that when you hear people in the crowd cheering for the USA that it was the first time she really felt the magnitude of what she was there for."

Clark is coming off an impressive first semester in college in which she made the All-Southeastern Conference Cross-Country Team and qualified for the NCAA Cross-Country Meet.

Before graduating from Smithson Valley High last June, Clark set a Comal ISD record by earning 12 career medals in UIL State Cross-Country and Track and Field events.



Pictured is the United States Junior National Team in Scotland. (L-R) Judy Pendergast (Naperville North HS), Maryjeanne Gilbert (Peoria Notre Dame HS), Katie Rainsberger (Air Academy HS), Amy Davis (University of Wisconsin), Carlene Jeffers (Brown University), and Devin Clark (University of Arkansas).

Also pictured is Clark in full concentration mode during her race in the Great Edinburgh Cross-Country International Challenge.



Bulverde Area Arts Center Moves to New Location



The Bulverde Area Arts Center welcomed the new year by moving to a new location and electing new officers. The new location is across the parking lot from the previous gallery location. The move to the Makery (formerly Roadhouse Arts) was effective on January 1 of this year. BAAC will have access to exhibit space for specific exhibits during the course of the year in addition to a permanent exhibit area that will feature member's art throughout the year. Members are excited about the new location, especially the ability to access the exhibits from the parking lot entrance or the inside entrance connecting with Mike's in the Village Restaurant.

As the move was developing, new officers were elected for the 2016 year. Laura Heye was elected as President at the December meeting along with Robert Pettigrew as Vice President, Francesca Watson as Secretary, Charles Schultz as Treasurer, Dolores Schultz as Exhibits Chair, and Mararita Collazo as Hospitality Chair.

The next BAAC member exhibit will open on February 12 in the new location. A wine and cheese reception will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The public is invited to come by to view the art and meet the artists.

BAAC membership meetings will also be held in the Makery on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. Membership meetings in other locations will be announced in The Front Porch News and listed on the magazine calendar.

Membership is open to everyone. You do not have to be an exhibiting artist to become a member of BAAC. Membership dues are \$35.00 per year. More information is available on the BAAC website at: bulverdeareaartcenter.com. Click on Members to access a membership application form.

The Makery is located at 2355 Bulverde Road in Bulverde Village in the building adjacent to Mikes in the Village and is across the parking lot from the previous gallery. The exhibit will be open Wednesday: 11 am-6 pm, Thursday: 11 am-6 pm, Friday: 11 am-9 pm, Saturday: 11 am-9 pm, Sunday: 11 am-3 pm.

Admission to the exhibits and receptions is free to the public. The Bulverde Area Arts Center is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Donations to BAAC are tax deductible as allowed by law.



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The Buzz From the Garden

COMPOSTING: ADD IT TO YOUR LIST OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

A New Year's resolution that we should all try to stick to in 2016 is composting. According to multiple sources, organic materials make up as much as one-third of the trash we throw away. Collecting your yard and kitchen scraps in a backyard compost bin is a great way to add much needed nutrients to garden soil and lawns. With a small investment in time, you can improve the health and appearance of your yard and save money on fertilizers and mulch, all while preserving natural resources and protecting the health of your family and pets.

HOW DO I MAKE COMPOST?

Add brown and green materials (usually three parts browns to one part greens), making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded. The ideal compost pile contains browns and greens (of varying sizes) placed in alternate layers of different sized particles. Mix grass clippings and green waste into the pile and bury fruit and vegetable waste under 10 inches of compost material. As materials break down, the pile will get warm and on cold days you may even see some steam. Every time you add to the pile, turn over and fluff it with a pitchfork to provide aeration, unless your compost bin has a turner.

When material at the bottom is dark and rich, with no remnants of food or yard waste, your compost is ready to use. There may be a few chunks of woody material left; these can be screened out and put back into a new pile.

The resulting compost can be applied to lawns and gardens to help condition the soil and replenish nutrients. And watch how your garden grows!



WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S OUT?	
WHAT TO ADD	WHAT NOT TO ADD
GREENS Uncooked fruits and vegetables Bread and grains Coffee ground and filters Grass clippings Paper tea bags, without staple Hair and fur Chicken, rabbit, cow, and/or horse manure BROWNS Cotton or wool rags Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint Nut shells Sawdust Hay and straw Yard trimmings Houseplants Used potting soil Wood chips Leaves Shredded newspaper Cardboard rolls Clean paper NEUTRAL Fireplace ashes Eggshells	Aluminum, tin, or other metal Glass Dairy products Fats, grease, lard, or oils Greasy or oily foods Meat scraps Seafood scraps Bones Citrus peels Pet waste Soiled diapers Plastic Stickers from fruits/vegetables Rhubarb leaves Insect infested plants Coal or charcoal ash Treated or painted wood
<i>SOURCE: The Resort Municipality of Whistler, British Columbia, Canada</i>	

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



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Hungrytown is American folk music at its zenith, retro yet shiny and new, like a freshly minted copper penny. If you've been craving folk music of substance, head off to Hungrytown!" —Ferdinand Lewis

The duo's mostly original material blends smart modern lyrics with a traditional Americana feel. —Dirty Union

All the vocals are wonderful, pitch-perfect and set in motion perfectly paired with Anderson's harmonies. Hall and Anderson have cultivated a wonderful musical support that will order them to many as they continue to tour and record. —Levin Days

Rebecca Hall presents one of the most enjoyable vocal performances that we have ever heard! **** —Keith Fine Report

"I love the sound of Rebecca Hall's voice. There's a sweetness and a worldly wisdom, in perfect balance." —Roger Delahunty



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music that feeds the soul
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Saturday, February 27
5:00-6:00pm

Hailing from Vermont, come listen to the blue grass music of Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson.

Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163 830.438.4864 www.bsblibrary.org

LIBRARY BOARD SEEKING TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



On May 7, 2016, an election will be held to fill three positions on the Board of Trustees of the Bulverde Area Rural Library District (BARLD), the governing board of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. Trustees are elected by the voters of the district, in the western part of Comal County, every two years in May—three positions in even years, two positions in odd years. Candidates must reside in the district in order to run for a position on the board. The deadline to file applications for place on the ballot is during library open hours from Wednesday, January 20–Friday, February 19. Please consider helping with this valuable community asset. Qualified candidates may pick up an application at the library during open hours.

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FEBRUARY BSB LIBRARY EVENTS

The BSB Library has a full and robust calendar of events for the month of February! Events range from holiday-themed crafts to AARP tax aid; Chinese New Year celebrations to a home organization class; a history and tasting of chocolate to learning new watercolor techniques; a folk music concert by the artist duo called Hungrytown to all types of technology classes. Please visit the Library's website for a complete listing of their events: <http://bsblibrary.org/>

In addition to all of the events, the BSB Library is also a polling location for early voting in the Primary elections. Voting times are listed:

February 16–19: 8am–5pm

February 20: 7am–7pm

February 21: 10am–3pm

February 22–26: 7am–7pm

Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Sets Fee Schedules



At its December 21st public meeting, Directors of the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD) voted to set a fee schedule for Comal County commercial wells that draw water from the Trinity aquifer. The fee schedule took effect on January 1, 2016. Funds generated by this schedule will be used administratively by the CTGCD to conserve, protect, and preserve the County's Trinity groundwater resources.

The adopted schedule does not impact exempt wells. An exempt well includes private homeowner wells. Most home and ranch wells are exempt from fees because they are not capable of pumping more than 25,000 gallons of water per day. Most homeowner wells can only pump 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water per day. So, for these personal wells, there is no fee; there is also no requirement to meter any exempt well.

Wells that are affected by the new rule are those commercial wells capable of extracting more than 25,000 gallons per day. These wells are termed "non-exempt"; that is, they are high volume wells that are not exempted from the rules. Even the impact on customers served by these commercial purveyors of water is minimal. The rule increases water cost to the average water customer by about 3½ cents per 1, 000 gallons billed. So, the average annual cost for each of the 12,300 Canyon Lake Water Service Company (CLWSC) customers would come to about \$2.85 per year.

The CTGCD Board of Directors also enacted rules for administrative oversight. Persons interested in reading the administrative rules (Chapters 1 through 3) or the actual fee schedule (Chapter 12) may do so by selecting "Chapter 12 Fees" under the "Rules" tab on the District's website at www.ComalTrinityGCD.com.

CTGCD is now accepting resumes through February 15 for the District's General Manager position. Position requirements can be found on the District's webpage under the green "News" link. Interested persons may email resumes to ComalTrinityGCDSecretary@gmail.com or forward resumes via USPS to the CTGCD at PO Box 450, Bulverde, Texas 78163.

AT THE BULVERDE COMMUNITY PARK

Submitted by: A Park Enthusiast



I recently spent some time in the early morning at the Bulverde Community Park. I had decided to start walking on a daily basis as my New Year's resolution. So I started on my first trek on the trail around the baseball field; my goal being to walk twice around the field. It was a beautiful, clear January morning; the air was crisp and fresh. Another glorious factor was there wasn't a soul around, which was unusual. It was just me and my thoughts.

I walked the trail a couple of times and then headed to my car, along the way I came to one of the round brick inlay sections in the sidewalk. In this section the brick I had purchased honoring my father who passed away a long time ago is located.



Of course I knew it was there, but I hadn't spent much time at the Park in a while and it took me by surprise. Something about that morning, the solitude and quiet, struck such an emotional chord in me. Seeing his name in such a peaceful, serene place was a truly moving and cathartic experience.

I encourage everyone to spend some time at the Park enjoying the beauty and tranquility. Also, having a brick placed in the Park is a wonderful way to honor your loved one. Furthermore, there is a specific area dedicated to our veterans under the flag poles.

If you would like to purchase a brick please visit the website: www.bulverdeparcs.com or contact Merri Harrison at 210-387-9332 for assistance. Bricks range in size from 4"x8" to 8"x8" and in price from \$45 for to \$300. Bricks can be placed in various places in the Park as well as the Bulverde Community Garden on Cougar Bend.

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The Color of Stars



S.T.A.G.E., Inc. is honored to present The Color of Stars, a drama by Dwayne Hartford. A story of family, patriotism, fear and prejudice set during World War II. When a stranger arrives in town, events are set in motion that will challenge family ties and friendship and questions the definition of patriotism and civic duty.

The show opens on February 18 and runs through March 6. The opening night performance on February 18 is a benefit for Friends of the Village of Bulverde. All seats are \$18 for the February 18 performance, and no season tickets will be accepted. A reception follows immediately after the performance for an opportunity to meet the director and cast.

Ticket prices for all remaining shows vary between \$10 and \$18 (call for more details). An optional dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. before the 8 p.m. curtain on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. with a 1 p.m. lunch available.

The KRAUSE HOUSE THEATRE (Home of S.T.A.G.E., Inc.) is located at 1300 Bulverde Road in Bulverde TX 78163 (S.T.A.G.E. is wheelchair accessible). The phone number is (830) 438-2339.

COMAL MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT THE SPRING SEMINAR



The Comal Master Gardeners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will present their Spring Seminar featuring "Plants For All Seasons, Magnificent Monocots, A to Z" at McKenna Events Center, 801 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels on Friday, February 19, 2016 from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Registration is \$55 which includes lunch, snacks, and seminar handout. Dr. Flo Oxley, Professor of Biology at Austin Community College, will give an introduction to Monocots; Joanne Hall, owner of South Texas Growers of Bulverde, will give an overview of ornamental grasses in the landscape; Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, a member of the American Hemerocallis Society and a Region 6 Daylily Judge, will cover Daylilies; David Will, Texas Certified Landscape Professional and owner of Landscape Details, will speak on bulbs; Dotty Woodson an AgriLife Extension Specialist, will instruct us on how to make a rain garden. Seating is limited so register early to save your place. Registration forms are available at <http://txmg.org/comal/event/seminar/>. For additional information, call 830-620-3440.

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FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day Planning & Zoning 6:30p	3 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	4 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.)	5	6 Chamber Rodeo 7:30p (Tejas Rodeo)
7 Super Bowl	8 Chinese New Year Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:30p (Library)	9 Mardi Gras City Council 6:30p	10 Ash Wednesday	11 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	12 BAAC Exhibit Opening Recep. 5:30p (The Makery)	13
14 Chamber Rodeo 2:00p (Tejas Rodeo)	15 President's Day City Hall Closed CISD Holiday CTGCD* 6:00p (JR Fire/EMS station)	16 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	17 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	18 ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	19 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.) CMGardener Spring Seminar 8:00a (McKenna Ev. Ctr.)	20 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)
21 St. Valentine's Day	22 Friends of the Park 6:00p	23	24	25 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	26 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	27 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)
28 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	29	NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)				

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES: Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		1 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	2 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	3 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Crk.) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.) TxDot Public Meeting 5:30p (SVHS)	4 Casino Night 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) The Color or Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	5 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)
6 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	7 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library)	8 City Council 6:30p	9	10 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins (spring forward 1 hour) S.T.A.G.E. Auditions: Alone Together Again	14 CTGCD* 6:00p (JR Fire/EMS station) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) CISD Spring Break	15 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) CISD Spring Break	16 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) CISD Spring Break	17 St. Patrick's Day ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CISD Spring Break	18 CISD Spring Break	19 SBB Lions Club Car Show 10:00a (Bulv. Baptist Church)
20 Spring Begins	21	22 Friends of the Park 6:00p	23	24 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	25 Good Friday CISD Holiday City Hall closed	26 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
27 Easter	28	29	30	31 Job Fair 6:00p (BSB Library)		

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District