

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 3 Issue 4 ☆ April 2016

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THE
FRONT PORCH
News

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FRONT PORCH NEWS
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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

Roadway traffic and congestion is so counterproductive to our community and our livelihoods. It's wasteful of our fuel, time, and money and is trying on our patience. It can also lead to accidents and fatalities.

It's simple physics, only so many vehicles can occupy a given space. The most significant way to help alleviate traffic and congestion is to increase roadway capacity by adding lanes and omitting bottlenecks.

Highway 46 in our community is reaching (or has already reached in some areas) its maximum capacity, especially during peak travel times during the day. The situation will only continue to get worse as more residents flock to our highly desirable community. Fortunately, TxDOT and the San Antonio Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) also recognize this fact. Plans to expand the road are underway, and the County and MPO have already

formally recognized HWY 46 roadway improvements as a key priority.

TxDOT has been hard at work over the last year to complete the preliminary engineering and design work to expand and improve HWY 46 from Bulverde Road to FM 3159 (Smithson Valley Rd.) They started this effort from scratch, scrapping the plans from years past, while looking at the project with a fresh set of eyes.

The first TxDOT open house to show these plans and receive public input on the proposed project was held March 3rd. The event was well attended by the public, with over 220 attendees. There were ample personnel from TxDOT and Klotz, the contract engineer on the project, to answer questions and record public input. The initial design is far from being set in stone. The public input received from local residents will be incorporated and will help them create a better overall project design.

As I mentioned, the expansion plan calls for the widening of Hwy 46 to six lanes from Bulverde Rd. to FM 3159. Some people have questioned why six lanes is necessary when doubling the current roadway capacity to four lanes might be sufficient. Unfortunately, even four lanes would not be adequate given today's traffic counts during peak

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

traffic. It would also be short sighted not to plan for future growth and have a roadway that would be obsolete by the time it's finally constructed. In addition, roadway construction that utilizes federal funding must be built to accommodate traffic projections 35 years into the future. You may have also heard rumors that the City is trying to sell the six lane concept because we plan to make the highway a hazardous cargo route between I35 and I10. This is absolute nonsense. There has never been any discussion of doing so. In reality, HWY 46 is not currently a hazardous cargo route, and there is absolutely zero intention for the City, County, or TxDOT to designate it as one.

The current project design also indicates a raised median in the higher traffic areas of HWY 46, limiting left hand turns for motorists that would dangerously be trying to cross six lanes of traffic. I wish that this was not necessary, but for safety reasons it is simply a must. National statistics show that raised medians have reduced severe (injury/fatal) crashes by 25-31% when implemented on suburban/urban roadways. Left hand turns across the current two lane road are almost impossible during peak times. Imagine the risk trying to do so across six lanes of traffic.

Recently the City had a raised median installed on Hwy 46 just west of US 281 to Singing Oaks, in front of the 7/11 Chevron Station, restricting left turns that would be going westbound. This has been the site of a staggering amount of traffic accidents over the years. As a result of the median addition, accidents have dramatically decreased at that location almost overnight. The proposed raised medians will have periodic "cuts" to allow traffic to make some turn movements. Voicing your opinion on these median cut locations during the public input process is critical to where they will ultimately be placed.

There is still a tremendous amount of work left to be done on the design engineering work for HWY 46. Attention will be given to minimize the impact on landowners located along the roadway. Right-of-way purchases will be needed from some properties along the roadway in some locations. This is always a tough subject, and one that TxDOT is very sensitive too. They have created a proposed design that minimizes the necessary roadway width, especially in places that already have developed adjacent land.

If all goes well, expect construction to begin sometime in late 2018.

Scan this QR Code for more information or visit the TxDOT website and search for SH 46: www.txdot.gov



COMAL COUNTY CORNER

by: Bobbie Koepp

A new building means new services for Bulverde-area residents.

The opening of the Comal County satellite building on Cougar Bend (hopefully later this month!) will mean that for the first time, a representative from the Comal County Clerk's Office will be in Bulverde full time to handle your needs.

That's an exciting addition for us, and it'll be a valuable one for the Bulverde community.

The County Clerk's Office serves as the record-keeper for Comal County—not just files for the county courts-at-law and minutes of Commissioners Court meetings—but records for county residents, as well. We keep on file deeds, liens, plats and vital statistics, including birth, marriage, and death certificates.

That ends up being a lot of paper—170 years of it, in fact—which is why we're moving not just toward electronic recording of land records, but electronic viewing of them, as well. It's a long process to digitize nearly two centuries of records, but as the county continues to grow, it will be an important part of making sure we're best serving our customers in the 21st century.

Another part of providing the best service we can is by having a clerk in Bulverde at the new satellite building. We won't issue marriage licenses there just yet, but once the facility opens, we will immediately begin recording land records, both hard copy and electronically, and issuing certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses recorded since 1996.

So please give Laura Jendrusch a warm welcome as she begins working in Bulverde—and let her know how the Comal County Clerk's Office can best serve you! Bobbie Koepp is the Comal County Clerk.

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Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach would like to recognize and thank Dr. Leoncio Garza of Millennium Dental for his outstanding commitment to our community.



Dr. Garza loves the Bulverde area so much he decided to open up this unique practice, Millennium Dental, in the beautiful town of Bulverde and settle down here with his family.

In 2015, Dr. Garza began helping Provisions by donating tooth brushes and toothpaste for our clients. Since the beginning of last summer, every Wednesday afternoon Dr. Garza dedicates time to help clients of Provisions who are in need of dental work but do not have the means to take care of their dental health.

Provisions is grateful to Dr. Garza for his generosity and dedication to helping those in need in the community.

Dr. Garza graduated with Honors from the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio Dental School in 1997. He continued his education by doing a One-Year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency. He then served on active duty in the US Army for 4.5 years. He continues to maintain many hours of Continuing Education and has also received a Fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry.

You can contact Dr. Garza by visiting his website <http://www.bulverdedentalcare.com>, calling him at 830-438-4081; or visiting his office at 30070 Hwy 281 N. Bulverde, Tx.

(The Bulverde Food Pantry dba Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency)

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."
 ~Ralph Waldo Emerson



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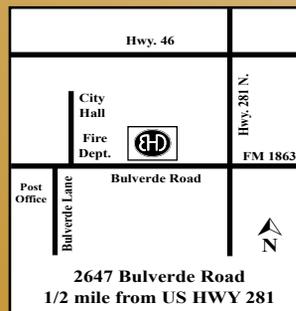
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HIGHWAY 46 PUBLIC INPUT MEETING DRAWS A CROWD

In early March, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in conjunction with the City of Bulverde and Comal County, hosted a public meeting to inform the community about the proposed improvements to State Highway 46. There was a great turnout from the community, with more than 220 attendees. If you were unable to attend, don't worry! All materials presented are available online at the project website : <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/san-antonio/sh46-bulverde.html>

Highlights

The proposed SH 46 Improvement Project would include widening the roadway to 6 lanes, providing bicycle lanes and sidewalks throughout the project (federally mandated), drainage mitigation, smoothing of some curves, and installation of medians. This project is being planned as a 6 lane roadway to address current safety concerns and traffic needs, as well as to accommodate anticipated traffic increases over the next 20 years. Providing 6 lanes also helps reduce delays at traffic signals, provides safer driveway access, and better accommodates U-turns. A similar example of 6 lane roadway can be found just a few miles east as HWY 46 meets Loop 337 in New Braunfels.

At the meeting, background information and a preliminary design schematic was shared with the public. Attendees had the opportunity to visit with project team members and provide feedback on specific areas of the design. Many official comments from the public were received and the project team will develop a public meeting report highlighting the input received.

What's Next?

The project team will analyze comments and input from the public and continue to update and modify the proposed design schematic. A public meeting report with all comments will be posted online and project updates will be shared as they are available. Project team members are available to visit to address questions and concerns, please reach out to them for more information.

Anticipated Project Schedule

Engineering/Design, Env. Documentation/
Assessment, Public Input: Summer 2015 to Fall 2017
Right-of-Way Negotiations and Purchases: Fall 2017
to Fall 2018

Earliest Construction Target: Fall 2018

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> (or visit www.txdot.gov and do a search for SH 46)



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Highway 46 Improvement Project FAQ

Why are bicycle lanes and sidewalks included in the project design?

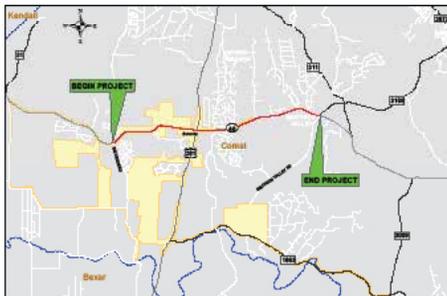
Federal funding will likely be utilized for the construction of this project; therefore, federal guidelines requiring bike and pedestrian accommodations must be followed. For the length of this project a designated striped bicycle lane and a separate sidewalk will be provided to comply with Federal regulations. This improvement would increase safety for both cyclists and pedestrians, provide for alternative modes of travel, and provide ADA accessibility as required throughout.

Is stormwater drainage being factored into the design?

A major component of this project is mitigating drainage and storm water runoff. Engineers evaluate water flow direction and volumes to determine the best drainage solutions. There are two different types of drainage designs for this project. In some areas, drainage will be accommodated with grass lined ditches and culverts. In some areas curb and gutter with storm drains and underground storm sewer lines will be used.

Is SH 46 going to be turned into a hazardous materials route?

SH 46 is currently not a hazardous materials route and there is no intent to designate this as a hazardous materials route in the future. This project is being designed to enhance the safety and mobility of current residents and businesses and to plan for local growth.



SH 46 From Bulverde Rd to FM 3159

Why does the proposed design incorporate six lanes of roadway?

A six-lane design helps reduce delays at traffic signals, improves safety, and allows for better U-turn accessibility.

Short Term Needs/Long Term Design

This project is being designed to address immediate safety and traffic operational needs and accommodate traffic for the next 20+ years. In a project of this scope and size, it is not a good use of tax payer resources to design, plan, and construct a 4 lane road, knowing 6 lanes are currently needed.

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Reducing Delay at Traffic Signals

The use of 6 lanes will allow more vehicles to pass through traffic signals more efficiently. The additional lane of traffic cuts down the queueing of cars and reduces delays at intersections along SH 46, versus a 4 lane intersection.

Safety Improvements

In the 6 lane configuration, the outside lane provides safer driveway access allowing for better deceleration and acceleration in and out of driveways. This still allows the inside 2 lanes to continue moving uninterrupted by the vehicles turning in and out of driveways.

U-Turn Accessibility

The additional lane allows for safe and efficient U-turns to be made.

Why is additional right-of-way needed on some curves?

Due to the combination of the rolling terrain and sharp curves along SH 46, additional right of way will need to be purchased to improve sight distance. The improved sight distance will provide a safer roadway for vehicles traveling along this corridor.

Why does the design include retaining walls?

Along some steeply sloped areas of this project, retaining walls will be used in an effort to minimize the purchase of new right-of-way and grading, while still providing improved sight visibility for traffic.

Why are medians necessary?

The use of medians improves safety along roadways with large volumes of traffic by reducing conflicts of turning and crossing vehicles. Medians also allow for protected left turns without impeding traffic flow. Research has shown that raised medians, where implemented, have reduced severe (injury/fatal) crashes along urban/suburban roadways by 25-31%. Source: AASHTO Highway Safety Manual, 2010.

Mosquito Control Efforts Urged

With the warm weather already here, the City is urging citizens to begin efforts to help control mosquitoes in our area. The Texas Department of State Health Services has request that local government leaders take initiatives to help prevent or delay Zika virus from being transmitted by local mosquito populations in Texas. They are encouraging everyone to take measures and sustain these efforts throughout the regular mosquito season as an effective way to help protect against all mosquito-borne diseases, including Zika and West Nile.

The Centers for Disease Control is also referring citizens to www.cdc.gov/zika for recommendations concerning the exposure of pregnant women, and those trying to become pregnant, to the carriers of the virus and the City recommends that everyone review this information as well.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of exposure to these viruses, the most important being to eliminate mosquito breeding areas in your environment and limit your exposure to feeding mosquitoes. A few suggestions include the following.

- Empty out containers that hold water around your home or business
- Clean out gutters
- Remove standing water from around structures and from flat roofs
- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools and bird baths frequently
- Rinse and clean flower vases and other indoor water containers frequently
- Maintain pools and hot tubs
- Cover trash containers
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand
- Screen rain barrels and opening to water tanks or cisterns
- Report illegal dump sites and standing water
- For areas that cannot be drained adequately, use standing water treatment tabs (commonly called "mosquito dunks")
- Treat front and back door areas of homes with repellants if mosquitoes are abundant nearby
- Cover up with long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors
- Maintain window screens
- Limit outdoor activities during peak mosquito times (dawn and dusk)
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents as directed."

SVHS Navy JROTC Cadets Earn \$720,000 in Scholarships

The Smithson Valley High School Navy Junior ROTC has continued its tradition of earning ROTC scholarships this year. In February, the program at SVHS awarded its fourth \$180,000 scholarship during the 2015-16 school year to Colt Hermesch.

Before the SVHS Navy ROTC team headed out to their state championship drill meet at Texas A&M University, Cadet Hermesch was presented with his Navy ROTC scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Earlier that morning, Cadet Ben Alino found out he received a \$180,000 Army ROTC scholarship to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Back in October, Cadets Andrew Howard and Landry Maddox were presented with their Navy ROTC scholarships to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Smithson Valley High School has earned more than 50 ROTC scholarships or Academy appointments in the past seven years.

Commander Vincent Quidachay, (USN Ret.) is the lead Navy JROTC instructor at SVHS. He is assisted by Chief Petty Officer Daniel Hansen (USN Ret.) and Lt. Roland Gonzalez (USN Ret.).

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Pieper's Settlement:

*This excerpt from **Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas** by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann is the third installment in a continued series of selections recounting the history and development of the Bulverde and Spring Banch communities.*



worked to improve their land. They dug rocks from the Cibolo bottom near the low-water crossing and dragged them up the east bank of the stream with oxen. August cut some of the larger oak trees and made beams some 16 inches square according to the German style of building, and began constructing a rock barn with 2 large rooms on the east end. Peter Lex was a stonemason and help cut the rock. This rock barn was the first home to be built in Bulverde, then called Pieper's Settlement, and this barn is still standing today.

Later, a two-story stone house was built with a cellar, two rooms and kitchen down, and a large room upstairs. The cellar had a ceiling with insulation made of clay and hair, then the downstairs floor laid over that. Thus,

August Pieper's homestead began when he married Johann Kabelmacher's step-daughter, Johanna, on 27 Apr 1851, as recorded in Comal Co. Together they

August and Johann Pieper were the first couple to settle this Bulverde area. The house is still standing today on the Bexar Co. side of the Cibolo, and is used for storage.

The dug well has the date 1851 on it. This well is lined with the rock out of the Cibolo, all done by hand, and is still there. At first all their water was bucket drawn from this first dug well in the community. Then a hand pump was bought---Oh! What a thing it was! August built a "wasser schlucht." People from miles around came to see it carry water from the well to the barn. Then came the windmill. Soon windmills appeared throughout the neighborhood. Today August's well has an electric pump. Johanna's kin, the Kabelmachers, and the Voges soon came to live at Pieper's Settlement, then others followed. Travelers between New Braunfels and Fredericksburg stopped to camp there and Johanna always had big pots of food ready. The 2-room barn was used to sleep the weary sojourners.

Johanna became the community doctor, cooking drugs from roots and herbs, making salves and ointments. Many nights a neighbor came for her help when sickness struck suddenly. And many nights August got up hitched the horse to the buggy and took her to treat the sick Indians. She had wool cloths to sweat out fevers, tonic for the tired and weak, salves for infections. She left the midwife work to Mrs. Karl Uecker.

The history of Pieper's Settlement will conclude next month.

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“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else.”

~Benjamin Franklin

For being such a small city, Bulverde has a huge heart for volunteerism. This community is rich in volunteer spirit, with many organizations that boast amazing crews of volunteers who help them daily to meet the



needs of the community. From City Hall to the local food pantries, volunteers provide services and support that keep local public agency and nonprofit operations running smoothly. Without even realizing it, it is likely that you are touched by the work of a volunteer daily. You may also be one of those volunteers—someone who gives freely of your time and talent in service to others.

The volunteer is the unsung hero who takes on the projects—both big and small—that need to be done so that someone else can have a hot meal, something appropriate to wear to a job interview, a clean home when they come home from a stay in the hospital, or a child has the supplies needed to go to school. Volunteers in our area include the PTA parents; the scout leaders; the food pantry “staff”; the Bulverde Police Department V.I.P.S.; the Sunday school teachers; the Thrift Store “employees”; the Meals on Wheels cooks and drivers; members of the City Council, members of service organizations like the Lions Club; the animal caregivers and rescuers at the Humane Society who help abandoned, neglected, and injured animals; the folks who help keep the park clean and plan community events; and the neighbors who collect donations for causes like the Heart Association or the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

The week of April 10th through the 16th is National Volunteer Week. It’s a time during which organizations express thanks and appreciation for the volunteers who work so hard every day. It’s also a time when they can reach out to the community to inform people about volunteer needs and opportunities. If you are inclined to volunteer some of your time and talent, the opportunities to volunteer in and around Bulverde are numerous. There are several non-profit organizations that may need help with everything from the day-to-day helping of clients and stocking shelves to professional services provided by volunteer accountants, web designers, nurses, lawyers, dentists, and grant writers. Whatever your talent, profession, or passion, there is a need that you can help fill in service to our community.

To find an area nonprofit for which you might volunteer, you can visit the BSB Area Chamber of Commerce website and search the Member Directory for the keyword “non-profit” (<http://web.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com/list>). Several local charitable organizations are listed. Additionally, the Guidestar website (<http://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>) is an excellent resource that you can search by zip code. To search for volunteer opportunities that match your interests or skill set, the VolunteerMatch.org website (<http://www.volunteermatch.org>) provides information about volunteer needs in the area, with options sorted by categories of interest. Talk to your friends, neighbors, employer, and church members about volunteering opportunities in the community and within your sphere of influence—you may be pleasantly surprised by how easily you find something that suits your talents, interests, and availability.

To those of you among us who volunteer without expectation of recognition or compensation, thank you for all you do! You are priceless and appreciated!

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

~Mahatma Gandhi












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Supporting the Bulverde Community by GIVING LOCAL!

The Big Give S.A. is a 24-hour day of giving that brings donors and nonprofits together by creating a shared, region-wide experience, and connecting people to the causes that matter to them the most. Last year, donors came together to raise \$4.3 million dollars for 882 charitable causes in 24 hours! This year, with a goal of \$6,000,000, they are hoping to do even more for South Central Texas.



The Big Give S.A. will take place from midnight to midnight on May 3, 2016. With several Comal County nonprofits participating, there is certainly a cause to fit your passion.

Why should I get involved?

Besides being a great way to give back to the charitable organizations that do so much for our community, the Big Give S.A. adds a fun, competitive element to giving. In addition to helping the nonprofits capitalize on the Big Give S.A., additional prize money is available to nonprofits that reach specific goals and milestones, such as bringing in new donors and money. Not only does your money support the agency you care about, but it also helps them potentially win more! Last year, in addition to the funds raised by nonprofits, the Big Give S.A. distributed roughly \$400,000 in prize money, thanks to generous sponsors!

Participating* local nonprofits include

Acacia Medical Mission

Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center

CRRC of Canyon Lake

Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach

Animal Rescue Connections

CASA for Children of Central Texas

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Triple Me Mac Equine Therapy

Bulverde Area Humane Society

Comal County Habitat for Humanity

Hope Center

To support your favorite, regional nonprofit on May 3, visit the Big Give website at www.TheBigGive.org.

**Additional nonprofits may register between press deadline and delivery of the FPN; check the Big Give website for a complete, up-to-date listing of participating Comal County nonprofits.*

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29750 U.S. Highway 281 North, Bulverde TX 78163



THE CHIEF'S CIRCLE



Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS has a Legacy program called The Chief's Circle. A legacy gift to The Chief's Circle enables a donor to make a contribution, while allowing the donor to achieve financial and tax benefits.

A gift of any size will positively impact your community for years to come. We honestly hope you will have a grand life and live a lot. We also hope you will remember the Firefighters of Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS and leave a little or whatever gift best represents your heart.

THE HOW: There are nine ways to join the Chief's Circle—bequests, cash donations, beneficiary designations, gift annuities, remainder trusts, Lead trusts, donor advised funds, endowed gifts, or home deeds (but live for life).

THE WHY: There are folks in their homes right here in Bulverde and Spring Branch without much family, or family who can help, who need us. These are often older couples, those with disabilities, or some who have health challenges. These are our neighbors in our 216 square mile region, and we heartily want to help them. We don't want any of them struggling to go from bed to bathroom, or bathroom to kitchen, or having trouble with medical equipment, or hassles with medicines. With Chief's Circle funding we can help these people.

The Legacy Campaign is a way for a good-hearted woman...or a good-timing man, to make a measureable and positive difference in their community.

Funds for the Chief's Circle can also be used for scholarships, and education for medical personnel, research/medical advances, and for valuable and lifesaving equipment. The funds can be used for anything that serves our vision to identify, serve, and champion the needs of others.

The people who join the Chief's Circle by naming Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS in their will for example, even with a small gift, will make the care and concern for their neighbors a lasting reality. No matter how small the gift, the dollars will be added together to create huge capital in comfort and compassion.

And that is the kind of Legacy anyone would be proud of. The Chief's Circle is a Lasting Legacy of giving. Be remembered for your passion for life.

Live a lot. And then.... give.

For More Information: call Judy Millspaugh at 830-228-4206 or email her at Judy.Millspaugh@bsb911.com



All are Invited to the Firemen's Cookout!

Bring the kids and an appetite to the Bulverde Community Park on Saturday, April 16th to enjoy fajitas prepared just for you by the fine crew of the Bulverde-Spring Branch Fire & EMS. See our firefighters pull the engine in an exciting team competition against... will it be against the Sheriffs, City Council members, Chamber Board members, or the Bulverde Police? Come between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to enjoy some fine fare, enjoy the amenities of the Bulverde Community Park, and help support the amazing BSB Fire & EMS organization, all at the same time. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$60—\$15 for a single ticket, a Family 4 Pack is \$40, a Family 6 Pack is \$60, and the babies 2 years old & younger are FREE!

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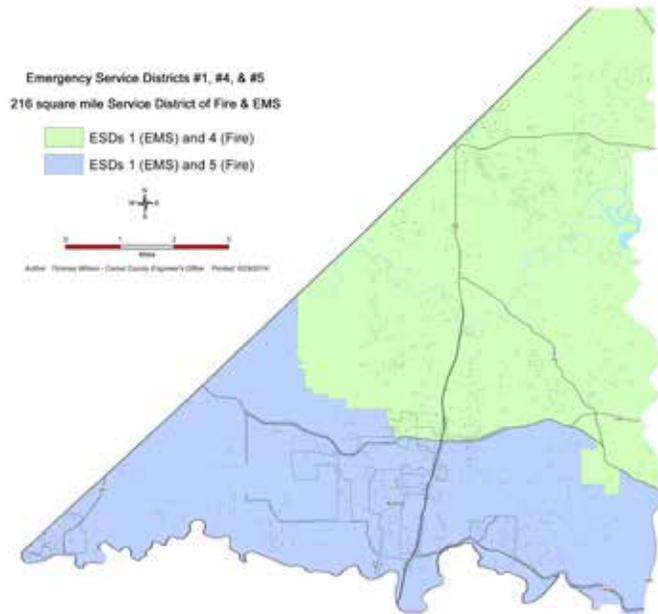
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What in the World is an ESD?

As rural fire departments across the rapidly growing state of Texas have struggled with providing effective and efficient fire and EMS services, Emergency Service Districts (ESDs) are on the cutting edge of providing or contracting for fire protection and emergency medical response to large portions of the state. Authorized under the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 775, Emergency Services Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Texas, similar to a School District, Library District, or Hospital District. In the Bulverde Spring Branch area, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Prevention/Protection services are contracted by three separate ESDs. From the graphic, you'll see that ESD #1 provides EMS response, while ESDs #4 and #5 provide Fire Department services. Under an Interlocal Agreement, the three local ESDs collectively contract with Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, a Texas 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation d.b.a. Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS.



ESDs are not extensions of the County, but are independent government bodies. A board of five commissioners governs each ESD, with the County Commissioners Court appointing each one of them to two-year terms. ESD Commissioners are required to receive orientation and trainings in areas such as the Texas Public Information Act and the Texas Open Meeting Act. ESD Commissioners attend monthly meetings and periodic conferences. Within each ESD, the board of commissioners develop and approve the annual operating budget and establish the local ad valorem tax rate. The annual operating budget pays for emergency responder contracts. Expenses included under this contract are maintenance of firefighting and ambulance vehicles, maintaining emergency response/fire stations and emergency responder operational equipment and supplies. Additional ESD expenses include purchase of new fire trucks

and ambulances and purchase of land, design, and construction of new emergency response/fire stations.

Additionally, our three ESDs are members of the State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts (SAFE-D). Since 1990, SAFE-D has been the only association dedicated to bringing these local government entities together for shared learning experiences, to stay abreast of current legislative and regulative directives, and to become better stewards of

your taxpayer dollars. Most recently, a majority of our 15 ESD Commissioners attended the annual SAFE-D conference to further their knowledge.

Fire and EMS are essential public services. Unlike some governmental outputs which are discretionary, or whose level can be increased or decreased as resources are available, fire and EMS services cannot be diminished or increased easily—the level and quality of these services must be provided in all economic conditions. With our area's rapid growth, the ESDs and BSB Fire & EMS face many challenges in meeting the community's current and future needs. ESD contracts that provide funding, along with dollars raised directly by Fire & EMS, result in the best emergency services for Bulverde and Spring Branch.

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Welcome New and
Renewing Members

New Members

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- Action Specialties, LLC
- Amegy Bank of Texas
- Bulverde Mulch
- Clark, Michael & Jan
- Comal Custom Concrete / Edgar Quintero
- HBI Small Business Consulting, LLC
- Huber, Holly
- Jasinsky, Mike & Cordie
- Private Jets Inc.
- Rhonda Riedel, L.L.C.
- Shelly Borgfeld at Limestone Country Properties
- Tejas Cowboy Church
- Teri Heck, Independent cabi Fashion Stylist
- The Makery

Renewing Members

- A to Z Helpers, LLC
- All About Skin
- Brumley, Margaret A.
- Bulverde Community Park Association
- Bulverde Express Care
- Call Me 4 Insurance.com
- Frost Bank
- DHJB Development LLC
- Guadalupe Star Landscape Co.
- GVTC
- H & R Block
- Habitat for Safe Seniors
- Holder, Bob
- Independence Title
- Kathleen Banse State Farm Insurance
- Kight Home Inspection
- Kim Compton with Reliance Residential Realty
- Melody Rackley with Reliance Residential Realty
- Menig, David B.
- Michael A Arnold, PLLC
- Michael Horner / Gold Financial Services
- Noah's Ark Self Storage
- Oak Hills Pest Control Inc.
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- Reliance Residential Realty
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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

April 14

Business Networking Mixer
5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by Hanson's Hill Country Catering
Location: 238 Campestres, Spring Branch, TX
Member Only Event

April 20

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: Smithson Valley Counseling Center
Noon–1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

April 30

Chamber Market Day

Location: Old HEB parking Lot
20475 Hwy 46 W, Spring Branch, TX
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 30

Drug Take Back Day

Collection Sites at Bulverde City Hall
And Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Station #1
Collection from 10 am to 2 pm

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



**BULVERDE
SPRING BRANCH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber Market Day

April 30, 2016
10am - 4pm
Hwy 46 at Bulverde Crossing

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Saturday, April 30th,
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Collection sites in the
Bulverde Spring Branch Area will be at:

Bulverde City Hall - 30360 Cougar Blvd
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Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Station #1
351 Indro Dr
Spring Branch, TX 78070

Drugs can only be dropped off during the event

For more
information,
please visit
www.dea.gov



Hill Country Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

20845 TX-46 West, Spring Branch, TX. 78070
(Between Bulverde HEB and Spring Branch Middle School)

- 10:30am Sunday worship service with open communion each week.
- Children's Church each Sunday and also a staffed nursery is available.
- Summer camps for children in grades 3-12.
- Vacation Bible School 2016 is July 18th, 19th & 20th, 6:00pm to 8:30pm. We'll serve the children supper each evening. **Pre-registration is required.**

Saturday, May 14th, 9:00am-4:00pm.
Hill Country Christian Community Rummage/Craft Sale
Registrations for available spaces are now being taken.
Email: lutzcl@gvtc.com information

Our church is host to several community organizations.

- Homework Haven tutoring for grades 1-8. After school Tuesday-Thursday. See their website www.hhtutoringservices.com for more information.
- Bulverde Boy Scout Troop 548 meets here every Tuesday at 7:00pm. Information can be found on the scout website: www.alamoareabsa.org/Pack-548-Bulverde-TX
- Al-Anon meetings are here every Thursday at 7:00pm.

**If you are looking for a friendly and comfortable place to worship,
COME VISIT US, WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!**

Church office: 830-980-2019
Church office hours: M-Thur, 9:00-3:00 (Closed on Fridays)
Website: www.trymychurch.com / Email: debhccc@gvtc.com

Thank You Bulverde/ Spring Branch Area Employers for Another Successful Job Fair!



Many thanks to several of our local Bulverde/
Spring Branch area employers for your
participation at our Spring Job Fair held on
Thursday, March 31, 2016 at the Bulverde/
Spring Branch Library. Participating employers included:

- Bluebonnet Grooming
- Comal ISD
- Express Lube
- Futurex
- HEB
- Home Depot
- Home Instead
- Kathleen Banse State Farm
- M&S Engineering, LLC
- McDonald's
- Pet Galaxy
- Promptu Immediate Care
- River Crossing Club
- Sonora Bank
- Walmart
- Whataburger

We greatly appreciate our collaborative partners and our
awesome volunteers who helped make this event possible.

The event was a huge success because of all of you!
What an awesome community we have!!

The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in
its efforts to manage growth and foster a prosperous local
economy 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 with your business needs.

Sherry Mosier
President
BSBEDF, Inc.



A Long Running Tradition Continues



The Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center (BSBAC) is getting ready for its 17th year of the Run for the Hills 5k/10k and Health Fair, which will take place on May 7. Year after year this fundraiser has proven to be the most successful in bringing in funds that support Meals on Wheels and other activities that the members benefit from and enjoy.

Run for the Hills provides a beautiful run or walk through downtown Bulverde and the countryside. It is a family-friendly event great for all ages...last year the most senior participant was 80! Strollers and dogs (on leashes) are also welcome!

The Health Fair gives each participant the chance to utilize the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) van provided by the Bulverde Spring Branch Fire and EMS. The WOW van offers many services, including vital signs screenings. Local businesses also set up booths, handing out freebies and sharing information.

For more information or if you would like to help, please call Lindsey Cox at (830) 438-3111.



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Friday, April 8	<i>Inside Out</i>
Friday, May 13	<i>The Good Dinosaur</i>
Friday, June 10	<i>Minions</i>
Friday, July 8	<i>The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie</i>
Friday, August 12	<i>Planes: Fire and Rescue</i>

Bring the entire family or get a group of friends together for a night of fun at the Bulverde Community Park on Bulverde Lane (across from the airport). Concession booths will be open and other activities such as face painting will be available.

Movie Sponsorships Available

If you are a business owner and want to get more exposure locally, then we invite you to consider becoming a movie sponsor. As a sponsor, your advertising message will be displayed on the large screen prior to the movie showing. After the movie begins, the ad messages will run on a continuous loop on a screen near the concession area.

Sponsor rates are \$100 for one movie, \$250 for three movies, and \$375 for all movies played in the year (minimum 5 movies). If you would like to become a sponsor or if you need more information, please contact us at Movies@BulverdeParks.com or call Larry Sunn @ 210-286-8050 or Merri Harrison @210-387-9332. (Movie sponsorships not shown on reserved movie date due to weather or other unforeseen events will be credited and carried over to next movie showing in the park.)

Pre-Movie Activities—Slots Available

We are looking for groups or organizations that would like to share a “free” pre-movie activity with our movie guests prior to movie show time. Simple games like “bean bag toss” or “pin the tail on the donkey” might stir up some fun for all in attendance. Contact us at Movies@BulverdeParks.com to reserve a slot!

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Bulverde Area Arts Center— Volunteer Artisans Bring Amazing Creations to Our Town



BAAC is a dedicated group of people with passion. Art inspires, intrigues bringing joy into the lives of those who come in contact with these creations of all kinds; paintings done with oils, acrylics, watercolors, batik, abstracts, 3-D wood working of unique items, jewelry, sculptures and more.

We are 28 committed volunteer members strong and desire to grow. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this fun, hard-working group. Join us!

Jeanne Keller is our featured artist for March. You can see her work now, hosted by the Makery (just next door to Mike's in the Village). Jeanne's forte is amazing oil paintings of blossoming flowers. It is as though you can actually feel and smell them when you gaze in awesome amazement before them. If you missed her program, it was a treasure trove of information and inspiration. Accomplished oil painters were amazed by her methods and strategies to accomplish visual texture, reflection, shadows, and lighting.

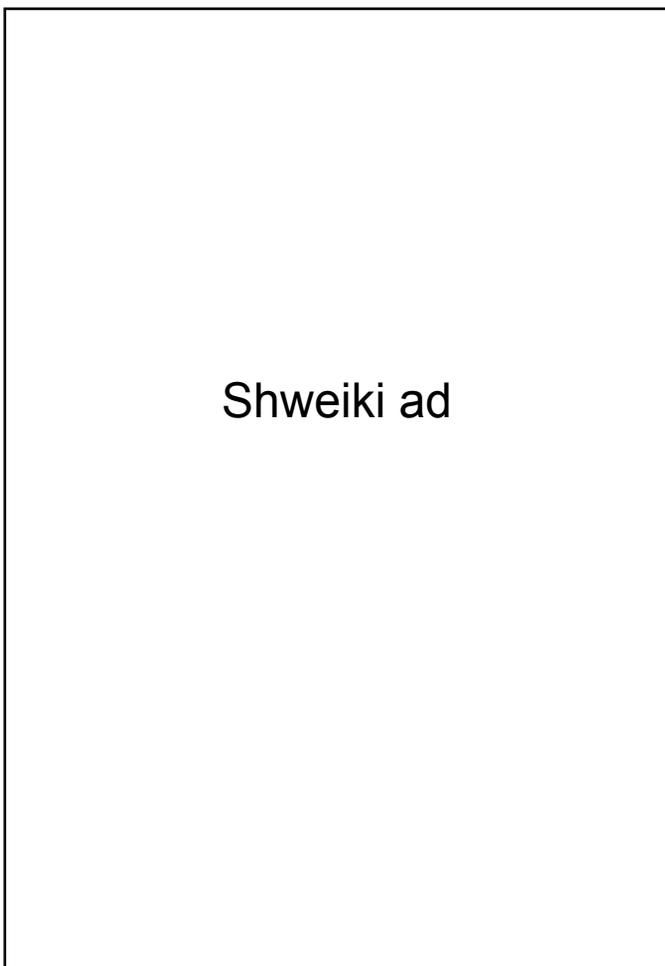
Many of our members will have works up at the Bulverde Library this month. Take a stroll down the hallway and become lost in a world of beauty, outrage, and every human emotion a person can experience.



BAAC hopes to be offering classes soon to adults, and eventually children, in different kinds of media with professional instructors. We hope to also bring back the Art & Wine sessions that have been in demand. Individuals need not bring a thing (except their favorite beverage) and they will leave with knowledge derived from the professional artist and their completed masterpiece.

Always craving to become better artists and sponges for new techniques, BAAC will offer workshops of all kinds as well as opportunities to bond with one another as we visit local museums and break bread together.

The Makery will be hosting the next exhibit of BAAC artist's creations beginning with a reception on April 8th from 5:30–8:00pm. The public is encouraged to attend this festive event. Of course, there is no charge except to come ready to meet and share enthusiasm with all in attendance.



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BAHS and ARC Partners Helping Animals

by: Carrye Franzel and Pam Parmer



Many are unaware that two area nonprofits work collaboratively to help animals in need. Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS) and Animal Rescue Connections (ARC) are out in the community helping animals, day in and day out. Although their approaches may differ and vary, the cause is the same.



Since its founding in 1977, BAHS has focused on the rescue, sheltering, rehabilitation and rehoming of stray, abandoned, and surrendered dogs and cats. Today, BAHS claims a 3.25 acre tract as home in this effort, with indoor/outdoor dog kennels, a cattery, agility field and fenced play yards for exercising dogs. Two years ago, a nursery/surgery recovery building was added. Half of that space is dedicated to the post-surgical recovery of cats ARC humanely traps for sterilization as part of its Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, a community-based initiative to reduce breeding of free-roaming cats. Up to 20 cats at a time may be overnight residents at BAHS, recovering from spay/neuter surgeries.

ARC, founded in 2004, shelters animals for adoption in home foster care and works to solve the cat overpopulation at its source through its active role in TNR—conducting trapping projects, training and encouraging others to launch TNR projects, and promoting TNR with local government. This helps BAHS by reducing the numbers of unwanted cats pouring into the shelter. Through its foster network, ARC has secured safe places where cats and dogs can be cared for and socialized until they can be placed into loving, forever homes.

BAHS and ARC are two local groups who are—paws down—making a difference in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area. Through their joint and individual efforts, hundreds of dogs and cats have found new homes, received medical treatment including spay/neuter and vaccinations, and found their way home after going missing.

How can you help? Contribute during The Big Give, a 24-hour online giving event that will run on May 3, 2016 from midnight to 11:59 p.m. BAHS and ARC will be seeking

help that day to fund their missions—two nonprofits who have found that their partnership is greater than the sum of their parts. Watch your email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts for ways you can help BAHS and ARC continue their work in your community.

Beyond a donation, how can you support these organizations? Volunteer! Both BAHS and ARC depend on volunteers to accomplish their

missions. With more help, more can be accomplished. For more information on volunteering at BAHS, call or email 830-980-2247 bahshelter@yahoo.com and for ARC 210-474-0083 or animalrescueconnections@gmail.com.

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The Buzz From the Garden



Something's a buzzing in the Bulverde Community Garden—the exciting new addition is a bee condo. Many people ask how they can attract more native pollinators to their garden. The answer is artificial bee nests, or “bee condos.” If you build them, they will come! And now the Garden has one, made possible by Eagle Scout Logan Nowak. The garden committee extends a special thank you to Logan for designing and installing this new addition that will bring more pollinators to the Garden.

Bee condos provide a perfect habitat for native bees, which actually perform more efficiently in pollinating than honey bees. Treasure Coast Beekeepers Association states that two hives of honey bees (that's approximately 50,000 bees) can pollinate an acre of fruit trees, whereas only 250 native mason orchard bees can pollinate the same area. Many of the wild bees you may encounter in your yard make their burrow homes in the soil. Some bees create hives in a dead or dying standing tree, or in living trees with broken branches or in holes. The man-made nesting blocks in the bee condo will encourage bee residents. Bee condos are easy to make using pieces of wood, hollow sticks, bamboo, gourds, and broken pieces of clay. The tunnels created by these materials should be placed horizontally in a warm, dry place protected from predators. For more information, visit the Xerces Society @ www.xerces.org.

In other Garden news, vegetables are thriving in the plots, and there should be a tremendous bounty this spring due the rain and warmer weather. Cabbage, onions, lettuce, beets, and carrots will be harvested soon. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, and beans will be ready in the late spring.

The 2016 Rodeo tomato, Red Deuce is now available. Each year a new variety is presented at the rodeo; these varieties are developed by Texas A&M to handle our south Texas heat and rainfall. The Red Deuce tomato is a reliable medium to large fruited heat setting Beef steak slicer. If grown and maintained correctly, each plant has the potential of setting 25 plus pounds of high-quality fruit. The fruit are very tasty and consist of a superb sugar to acid flavor. The plant is also disease resistant.



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 jothall@gvtc.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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BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS



As usual, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library is hosting a huge array of classes and events throughout the month of April. The full events calendar, descriptions, and registration requirements are available on the Library's website <http://bsblibrary.org/> or by calling 830.438.4864. A few of the more notable events include:

- **AARP Foundation Tax Aide** - Every Friday through April 15, 10:30am–3:30pm. Free tax preparation and filing from 10:30am–3:30pm. Anyone, with some exceptions, can take advantage of AARP Tax-Aide especially those low-to-moderate income taxpayers and those age 60 and older. **Services are strictly by appointment only.** Call 830-885-2247
- **Town Hall with Mayor Krawietz** - Thursday, April 19, 6:00pm–7:45pm. The Mayor will answer questions covering topics regarding Bulverde and its surrounding areas.
- **CASA Voices Tour International Session** - Tuesday, April 26, 6:00pm–7:45pm. CASA serves neglected and abused children in Comal, Caldwell, Hays, and Guadalupe counties. Court appointed special advocates, sworn in by a judge to advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. Come to this meeting to find out more information on becoming a CASA Volunteer. Presented by Eloise Hudson from CASA.
- **Leadercast: Leadership Event**—Be a Leader Worth Following. May 6, 2016, 7:30am–3:30pm, at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132. *Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://event.leadercast.com/location/bulverdespringbranchems>.*

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Members of the Kinder Ranch Elementary chess team finished in the top five and won a trophy for their efforts in the 3rd Annual Comal ISD Chess Tournament. Congratulations to Carson Diamond; Dylan Klaus, (team coach), Mason Mock, Andrew Kingdon, and Tyler McGinnis.

JUNIOR DEPUTY ACADEMY 2016 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The 2016 Junior Deputy Academy is now accepting registrations for its three summer camps. Church Hill Middle School will host the first camp from June 13–17, followed by Mountain Valley Middle School from July 11–15, and then Smithson Valley Middle School from July 25–29.

“The first academy was in 2008 and it’s grown from there,” said Sgt. Rick Cardenas. “We heard from the community and they wanted us to expand it, so now it’s in three different geographic areas. The school district has been gracious to partner with us each year.” The goal of each week-long academy is to reach children at a critical age before they reach adolescence. “It’s a proactive approach to promote leadership and teambuilding. We also show the consequences of actions,” Cardenas said.

The academy serves as a show-and-tell too, with deputies from various parts of the Comal County Sheriff’s Office visiting along with local agencies, including the Fire Department and EMS, Air Life, and CASA. Within the Sheriff’s Office, children get to learn about the K-9 Unit, Crisis Negotiations, Crime Prevention, Narcotics Drug Awareness, and even the SWAT team. The week also includes a tour of the Sheriff’s Office facilities.

“It interests children in future career opportunities,” Cardenas said. “The kids keep coming back. They love it,” said Herman Medina, Crime Prevention/Community Resource Team officer, stressing that the week is cost free to families. The camps are aided by volunteers and community donations, meaning there is no cost to taxpayers either.

“The best part is the testimonies from teachers and parents. They ask us what we did, and I tell them, we just spent a little time with (the children),” Cardenas said. “We want them to run to law enforcement officers, not run away.” Medina echoes his thoughts, noting the relationships the officers are able to build with students normalizes the role of police officers. “We get to know the kids and they definitely don’t forget us,” he said. The program is open to all Comal County resident children, ages 9–11. New applicants are accepted on a first come, first served basis, followed by repeat attendees. Each camp takes place from 8 a.m. through noon, Monday through Friday. Maximum class size is 100 children per camp, so register today to reserve your child’s space!

Visit the Comal County Sheriff’s Office website for more information and to register. http://www.co.comal.tx.us/so/Junior_Deputy_Academy.html



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S.T.A.G.E. News

Alone Together Again

S.T.A.G.E., Inc. is honored to present Alone Together Again, a comedy by Lawrence Roman, on April 28 through May 15. After spending 30 years raising 3 active sons, Mom and Dad look forward to the peace, quiet and privacy of an empty nest. But when their parents show up unexpectedly, each with problems, Mom and Dad struggle to empty their nest a second time. A funny and wise look at getting to that enviable alone time.

Opening night on April 28 is a benefit performance for Bulverde Area Humane Society. All seats are \$18 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 are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors 62+/military and \$10 for students. 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.

Auditions for BARK!

Auditions for BARK!, a quirky musical that follows six canines for one day at Deena's Doggie Daycare. The show is presented entirely from the dogs' point

of view. Open auditions for 6 roles will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at Krause House Theatre, 1300 Bulverde Road in Bulverde. The show will run throughout July, 2016.

Native Landscape Program Offered by NPSOT

The Lindheimer Chapter of the NPSOT will sponsor the Native Landscape Certification Program Level 1: Introduction to Native Landscapes on April 30, 2016 from 8 am until 4 pm at the Tye Preston Memorial Library, Canyon Lake. The goal of the program is to learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes. The classroom session will cover 45 native Texas plants recommended for landscapes and 5 exotic invasive plants to avoid. There will be a 2 hour knowledge walk in the library gardens. Students graduating with either certificate may progress to Level 2 or Level 3. Native plants will be on sale. For registration questions: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. For location and class specifics: Sara Riggs, Class Coordinator, Riggs_571@msn.com or 571-236-8571. Cost of the class is \$37. Go to <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/> and click on "register" beside our class.



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*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

MAY 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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