



THE
FRONT PORCH
News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 3 Issue 9 ★ September 2016

THE
FRONT PORCH
News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS

[HTTP://BULVERDETX.GOV](http://bulverdetx.gov)

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Gene Hartman, MAYOR PRO TEM **Yvonne Chapman**, COUNCIL

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COMAL COUNTY

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2
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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

The subject of Municipal Annexations is often contentious. No wonder, because some cities use annexation merely to expand their tax base while taking their sweet time to provide those newly acquired properties with a full level of city services. Some cities also pick areas for annexation based on economic class. Poorer or depressed areas that could benefit greatly from city services are often overlooked, while newer, more affluent properties that need little are chosen.

During the City's bid to pass the Home Rule Charter, we pledged to use annexation judiciously, only as a tool to responsibly manage growth. Following the adoption of Home Rule, we have remained true to that pledge, focusing the annexation plan mainly

on properties that are being marketed for sale, are proposed for development, or are being developed.

Bulverde has not annexed any existing residential neighborhoods, nor do we have any plans to do so. There is nothing we can change about these properties—they are already developed.

The only exception are a handful of houses that lie adjacent to the south side of Hwy. 46. The inclusion of these homes was done out of pure necessity because the existing City Limits was too narrow. State law requires that newly annexed areas must come off an existing portion of the city no less than one thousand (1,000) feet wide, so the existing City Limits had to be widened to form a "land bridge" extending over Berry Oaks and Comal Trace to reach a large ranch that is being developed to the east of US Hwy 281.

Furthermore, the City of Bulverde does not want to annex any existing agricultural or ranch land, and we encourage those owners not to develop. The rate of development we are seeing is accelerating at an unhealthy pace. At the current rate, the

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

congestion on our roads, increase in flooding, and exploitation of our limited water supply will affect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. Add to that the eventual loss of our beloved rural Hill Country lifestyle and charm. We need to tap on the brakes to slow the pace.

For the properties with agricultural or ranch status, the City has offered the property owners nondevelopment agreements. If the owners choose not to develop, the City will agree to not annex. This agreement, provided for in state law, enables the City to reach a developing property that is not contiguous with the existing boundary. Similar to the "land bridge" previously mentioned, the nondevelopment agreement allows the City to "leap over" the Ag land to reach the one slated for development.

Bulverde has begun the process for our 2016–2017 annexations. A complete list of properties slated for annexation can be found on the City's website at www.bulverdetx.gov.

Bulverde was formed to be a minimalistic form of government, primarily to address growth and development. Passing of the Home Rule Charter, thus allowing annexation, has given Bulverde one of the most effective tools to make sure that growth is managed in a responsible manner. It is unfortunate that Home Rule was not implemented sooner, as there are many things we could have changed to improve developments that have recently been built just outside our City Limits. Now, however, and as we go forward, if someone plans to develop in Bulverde, it will be done responsibly.

 **COMAL COUNTY CORNER**
By Bobbie Koepp

Believe it or not, Election Day 2016 is almost here, and there's not much time left to register to vote!

The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 11. If you turn 18 by the November 8 election, even if you didn't vote in any of the primary elections or runoffs, you can register to vote and cast your ballot in November.

To register, visit votetexas.gov and print, fill out, and send the application. It must be postmarked by October 11. You can also come to the Comal County Elections Office at 178 E. Mill St. in downtown New Braunfels and apply in person.

Of course, the presidential election has consumed a lot of attention, but we also have contested races for Comal County sheriff, District 21 U.S. representative and several state-level positions.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Early voting will be Oct. 24–Nov. 4. The locations were not yet finalized at press time, but you can visit votecomal.com for the full list.
- Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8. Your voter registration card will tell you at which precinct to cast your ballot. You can also enter your address at votecomal.com to find your polling place.
- You will need to present identification at the polling place. Your driver's license is the best option, but if you don't have one, check votetexas.gov for updates on what else you can use.

Our elections officials are here to help you register and vote. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call Cynthia Jaqua, our Elections Coordinator, or Donna Dandridge, our voter registrar, at 830-221-1352.

Bobbie Koepp is the Comal County clerk, which includes serving as the county's elections administrator.

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CRAYONS AND CARING



Bulverde's generosity was on display in fine form in early August, as 25 local nonprofits, ministries, civic organizations, and businesses gathered at the Bulverde Community Park to share school supplies and services for free or a very low cost to the residents of the Bulverde and Spring Branch communities. Children from all over the area received an abundance of school supplies, haircuts, health & wellness screenings and information, books, child safety/ID cards, and clothing, along with a sprinkle of fun stuff and good food—all for free! Adults could have their vision, blood pressure, and glucose levels screened. Walgreens administered 50 free flu shots. At the end of the day, more than 350 children and adults had been served. And, not to be left out of the fun, even some local pets got some much needed vet care and vaccinations from Dr. Suzie and her team.

Hosted by the Spring Branch-Bulverde Lions Club and the City of Bulverde, the Day of Services & Back-to-School Outreach featured an amazing group of organizations and individuals who volunteered to participate and donated all of the supplies and services for the free, public event. The Lions and the City want to thank all who participated and made the event a great success.

- Bulverde Police Department
- Comal County Sheriff's Office
- Hairdressers Leigh-Ann Shrum, Nita Garrison, and Robert Reyes
- Spring Branch-Bulverde Lions Club
- Dr. Damon Ross of Tooth Transitions
- Smithson Valley HS NJROTC
- Comal County Department of Public Health
- Walgreens
- Bulverde Baptist Church
- Trisha Mathis, RN, Methodist Healthcare Ministries
- Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center of Bulverde/Spring Branch
- Dr. Suzie Jardin, DVM
- Bulverde Area Humane Society
- Bulverde United Methodist Church
- CASA of Central Texas
- Grace Fellowship
- Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach
- Bulverde Spring Branch Library

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(Continued from page 5)

- Children's Centre Los Niños
- Rebecca Creek Baptist Church
- Bulverde Thrift Store
- Grampa's Plumbing
- American Bank of Texas
- Hope Center
- Wellness on Wheels
- South Texas Blood & Tissue Center

Several volunteers went a bit above and beyond, withstanding the heat to serve their community. Thanks and recognition go to Lions Gary & Patti Dawson, Jeanlyn & Adrian Valdez, Scott Miller, Tony & Melissa Doyle, Robert Evans, Willie Blank, Dayton Tatman, and Donna Richard. These Lions provided the ROAR for the event! Thanks also goes to Amy Lamb for organizing a group of volunteers from San Antonio (coming all the way from the Sea World area!) after finding out about the event from a website called JustServe.* Photographer Carla Perry provided her talent and captured some excellent photos during the event; her contribution is much appreciated! Undoubtedly, however, the star volunteers of the event were the Smithson Valley NJROTC cadets and Booster Club parents. The crew worked tirelessly throughout the entire event, from set up to break down and clean up. They worked hard for the event, provided food for the crowd, and even found some time to play, too! This group of young people and their parents are truly an asset to the Bulverde community.

Because one good turn deserves another, the Bulverde community also showed up to donate blood—the gift of life—to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center. Throughout the course of the event, the blood bank received 22 units of life-saving blood. The STBTC was hoping for 15 units, but in true, generous Bulverde style, donors exceeded that goal!

The Day of Services & Back-to-School Outreach is slated to be an annual event, always on the first Saturday of August, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bulverde Community Park. Planning for next year's event has already started, so if you would like more information about how to participate, please call 210.316.1940.

*JustServe.org is a website that matches volunteers to volunteer opportunities. It is a national website that you can search by zip code to find events or volunteer opportunities in your area that suit your interests. Conversely, if you have an event, cause, nonprofit, or organization that needs the services of volunteers, you may submit your event for consideration to be added to the website. Learn more at their website: <https://www.justserve.org>

Photos: Carla Perry, Hanna Randle, Thomas Lagoudis, and other volunteers! Thank you for sharing!



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Bulverde Jubilee

Join the Fun on September 17th

Calling all residents to visit an historic area and enjoy small town hospitality during the annual Bulverde Jubilee. Don't miss out on an old fashioned, good time, community celebration.

The City of Bulverde is the major sponsor of the 2016 Jubilee, with the Mays Family Foundation also being a generous supporter this year.

Bring the family to the streets of the old Village of Bulverde to watch an authentic, small-town parade, complete with marching bands, cheerleading squads, dance troupes, and floats representing local businesses and schools.

The parade kicks off the celebration at 11:00 a.m with Co-Grand Marshalls Jeanie and Earl Leonard and the San Antonio Food Bank Board Chair Travis Hodges. Jane Wood is Honorary Grand Marshall, celebrating 60 years of residency in the Bulverde Village.

After the parade, you are invited to stroll through the quaint village to experience live entertainment, taste local flavors, shop a variety of vendor booths, visit the carnival area, and enjoy loads of free activities for all ages. The Bulverde Jubilee showcases the best of small-town life.

This year's carnival rides (open from 12:30-4:30) suit all ages and include Blue Crush Water Slide (wear your bathing suit), Bungee Trampoline, Screamin' Demon, Tubs of Fun, and Chair Swing. Unlimited access to rides for \$10.00 per person. Additional amusements include Teens in the Driver's Seat Pedal Kart, balloon animals, face painting, Home Depot's craft kits, a drumming circle, and arts and crafts. Continuous live entertainment will be performed on two stages featuring music from The Mo-Dels, Texas Weather Trio Band, the Edison High School Mariachi Band, and Bulverde United Methodist Choir. Additional entertainment will be provided by Fire on the Mountain Cloggers, South Texas Gunfighters, Espana Viva Flamenco Dancers, and Joni's Dance Studio. There's much, much, more to see and do!

Proceeds from this year's Jubilee will benefit Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, the Bulverde food pantry. Provisions, serving this area for 25 years, provides not only food, but also basic necessities to individuals in crisis. This year, Provisions has been awarded the San Antonio Food Bank's coveted Golden Apple Award for Best Food Pantry from among all of their partner agency pantries. Donations of nonperishable food items are welcomed.

Bring the family and join the fun on September 17th.

This event survives on revenue from booth sales, sponsorships, and donations. If you would like to make a donation or become a sponsor please contact Nancy Wehrung at n.wehrung@gmail.com

For information and BOOTH & PARADE forms visit bulverdejubileeparade@yahoo.com

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**Saturday September 17th
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Parade starts at 11 am

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BULVERDE'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Yes, that's right, we are just a month away from National Night Out 2016. National Night Out in Texas is scheduled for Tuesday October 4th, and we are still looking for great folks to host events in their neighborhoods. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors and local first responders. As a block party host, you will essentially be providing a location for others in your neighborhood to gather and socialize, usually in the front yard. Some hosts provide everything needed for the event, and some hosts coordinate with their neighbors to provide a truly great party. Either way, the Bulverde Police Department is here to help you with ideas, invitations, and even gift cards to purchase goodies for your event. Those volunteering to host a block party will also be invited to an appreciation event scheduled for Sunday, September 25th at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center. This event is a great opportunity to meet other block party hosts from the area and share ideas. Dinner will be provided, gifts awarded, and goody bags distributed in preparation for National Night Out on Tuesday October 4th. The day before on Monday October 3rd, we will be hosting a National Night Out Senior Luncheon at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center at noon. Lunch will be provided and we will be giving away several door prizes as well. This event is a great opportunity for those seniors who may not be able to attend a block party in their neighborhood. The Bulverde Police Department is working hard to secure sponsors for this year's host appreciation event as well as the senior luncheon to ensure they'll be the best event to date.

Last year, the City of Bulverde placed 2nd in Texas and 11th in the U.S. for cities with populations under 15,000 in the National Awards program for National Night Out, and we are looking to become number 1, but we need your help. If you are interested in hosting a block party or are looking for a block party near you, please contact Mary Bell at the police department at 830-438-3612 and she will be glad to answer any questions and assist you. So volunteer to host a block party event in your neighborhood to make your community a safer place to live and be eligible for great prizes in the process. We look forward to working together with the community to make National Night Out 2016 the best ever.

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Denim & Diamonds

7th Annual
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at Knibbe Ranch

Thank you Bulverde Spring Branch community for making the last six years of Denim & Diamonds a HUGE success for Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS. This celebration is always a marvelous time and a magical evening! We're not sure which is the biggest highlight – the location at the beautiful and historic Knibbe Ranch (www.knibberanch.com), the 17-entrée dinner prepared by the San Antonio JW Marriott Hill Country Resort and Spa, the live music by noted band Straight Shot, or perhaps the additional entertainment. The live auction and wheelbarrow drawings have always been great successes – just ask all the lucky winners!



This year's Denim & Diamonds is **Saturday November 12, 2016.**

We love our Sponsors! We are currently accepting Sponsors for the event. What would it mean for you to be a Sponsor of the 2016 Denim & Diamonds? It would mean a

forever place in our community, a clear reminder **"I was here. I made a difference."**

Additional Benefits. All names of the 2016 Sponsors will be placed on a permanent 30"x20" metal honor panel prominently displayed at the event and then inside the front door of our Central Station. Your name will also be prominently listed on this year's invitations mailed to nearly 40,000 property owners in Bulverde and Spring Branch. Complimentary invitations with tickets to the event will be mailed to you (in case you want to pass your tickets to others), and special seating (chair vs bench) will be reserved for you, along with a memento of thanks. We love our amazing Sponsors so you will also receive an invitation to a private reception held in a premier home in our community in February 2017. All this, on top of your presence and delight at the best party of the year!



Proceeds. This year's revenues will go to education and provide additional training and equipment to those on the frontlines: firefighters and paramedics. Faced with a growing population and more chronically

ill patients, our ems-based fire service must diligently seek ways to provide *relevant* services to our community. The answer is Mobile Integrated Healthcare which is patient-centered and focuses on YOU. Without question we protect lives and property, but do you always need to go to a hospital? What about the times that you simply need a helping hand or an attuned ear after an accident, hospital stay, illness, or the loss of a family member? Our community heroes will receive the required skills to serve you better during a time of greatest need. Together we will make Bulverde Spring Branch not only a place to reside but the best place to LIVE.



Proud. Our medics and firefighters proudly uphold this distinction throughout the 216 square mile district of Western Comal County. Whether firefighters/medics are in your home for a medical or fire emergency, or help under the MIH program, they will be prepared and ready if needed.

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ESDs PROVIDE SAFETY INFORMATION



More than 78% of people in the US use social media in disaster situations to let their families and friends know that they are okay, according to the Brookings Institute. When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005, Facebook was the new kid on the block. There was no Twitter for news updates, and the iPhone was not yet on the scene. By the time the tornado slammed into Garland last year, social media had become an integral part of disaster response. Social media filled the void in areas where cell phone service was lost while millions of Americans looked to resources including Twitter and Facebook to keep informed, locate loved ones, notify authorities and express support. Gone are the days of one-way communication where only official sources provide bulletins on disaster news.

Social media enables Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS (BSB Fire & EMS) to quickly inform the public. Over the recent Memorial Day weekend, severe weather and flood warnings were issued in Bulverde and Spring Branch. While BSB Fire & EMS sent e-mails to the points of contact of our local homeowners associations, we also posted our messages on our Facebook pages and in Nextdoor. We discovered conclusively that Facebook and Nextdoor are the best means to immediately alert our community. It is worth noting that 89% of US adult Internet users are on Facebook. It is also worth noting that 70% of social media users do so on a cell phone.



Facebook has a new tool, called Safety Check, that's an easy way for users to let their friends and family members know if they're safe after a major crisis. When users are within the vicinity of an area affected by a crisis, they receive a notification from Facebook asking if they're safe. Selecting "I'm Safe" will post an update on that user's Facebook page. Facebook determines your location by 1) the city you have listed in your profile, 2) your current location if you've given Facebook location access, and 3) the city where you are using the Internet.

COMAL REGISTRATION: If there is a significant emergency in your area—flood, tornado, hazardous material spill, etc.—Comal County can send messages to make you aware and give instructions if you're registered. Go here to register <http://www.co.comal.tx.us/REAN/index.htm>

ESD Public Hearings

The three local ESDs will host Public Hearings to discuss the proposed 2016 tax rate.

ESD #1

- September 1, 2016 at 5:30 PM
- Meeting will be held at 353 Rodeo Dr., Spring Branch, TX 78070

ESD #4

- Sept. 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM
- Sept. 8, 2016 at 6:00 PM
- Both meetings will be held at 9850 FM 311, Spring Branch, TX 78070

ESD #5

- Sept. 1, 2016 at 1:00 PM
- Sept. 7, 2016 at 8:00PM
- Both meetings will be held at 30476 Johnson Way, Bulverde, TX 78163

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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

September 8

Business Networking Mixer

5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by: Texas Physical Therapy Specialists
 184 Creekside Park, Ste. 200 Bulverde, TX
 Member Only Event

September 21

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: ASEA

12 Noon–1:00 pm

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

September 23

Birdies & Blackjack

October 1

Fall Chamber Market Day

Vendors with crafts, food, activities,
 Pet adoptions and more!

Free to the public

10 am–4 pm

Hwy 46 & Bulverde Crossing



BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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***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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**It's Official! BSBEDF & City of Bulverde
 Land First Hotel and Visitors & Convention Center!**



It's official! I am pleased to announce that Hampton Inn-Bulverde broke ground in July at their new location in Singing Hills. This four-story, 84-room Hampton Inn by Hilton will be part of the Hampton's new Forever Young design initiative, and will feature a fresh modern guest space that is multifunctional, convenient, and comfortable. The hotel will also include our community's first visitors and convention center, a 5,300 sf. meeting, convention and pre-function space—the Bulverde Visitors & Convention Center. Charles Leddy, CEO of Presidian Hotels & Resorts, and Troy Malish, Project Manager and President of NHouse Group, expect completion of the project in August of 2017. An estimated 30 employees will work at this Hampton Inn location. The new Hampton Inn by Hilton will be managed by Presidian Hotels and the BSBEDF will relocate to the new Bulverde Visitors & Convention Center to aid the City of Bulverde in managing the facility. The Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce will also have a role in helping to run the visitors center.

We welcome Presidian Hotels & Resorts and Hilton Hotels to our community. This project marks a significant milestone for our community! We look forward to seeing the construction progress over the next year and to a long and collaborative relationship with our newest corporate partners!

Did You Know...?

The BSBEDF played a significant role and led the efforts to bring our community its first hotel and visitors & convention center. Attracting appropriate quality business and capital investment to our community to create new jobs, bring new services and increase

wealth is the purpose of economic development and an objective of the BSBEDF in helping to foster a healthy and viable economy.

The BSBEDF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public-private membership-driven partnership that relies solely on the financial support of its members and the economic development service contracts we have with local governmental entities. The public often gets confused and thinks of the BSBEDF as a component of the Chamber or the City of Bulverde, when in fact we are all completely separate organizations. Although the BSBEDF works closely with both entities, we are completely separate and operate under our own board of directors or council, budget and purpose. While the BSBEDF is a member of the Chamber, I serve on its board of directors, and their President and Board Chair serve on our board of directors, we are two separate organizations and distinctly different roles in the community. The same holds true with respect to the City of Bulverde. The BSBEDF has a contractual relationship with the City of Bulverde to perform economic development services on behalf of the City, and the City has two seats on the BSBEDF Board of Directors, but we are two completely separate entities.

The BSBEDF is diligently working on many new projects and we look forward to making future announcements. We are committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth and support our local economy while maintaining our rural character and quality of life. Please visit our website at www.bsbedf.com, visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bsbedf> or call us at 830.885.4331 for more information about the BSBEDF.

Sherry Mosier
 President, BSBEDF, Inc.

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Pets May Get the Back-to-School Blues

by Pam Parmer, Animal Rescue Connections volunteer



September is a busy month as the kids head back to school and families adjust to a new routine. You're not the only ones who have to make adjustments, though. Your pets also have to get used to schedule changes and may get a case of the back-to-school blues or separation anxiety.

Signs of separation anxiety in cats include decreased appetite, excessive crying when the family leaves the home, or a sudden stop in use of the litter box. For dogs, it can be lack of appetite, not wanting to play, drooling, chewing, digging, pacing, whining, or urinating or defecating in the house.

If you see these signs, do not punish or shout at your pet, as this will only make the situation worse. Remember, your pet is already upset that you have left it alone; if you change from being its best friend into a frightening, angry person, your pet will be even more confused and the behavior may get worse.

First check to see if there is a medical reason for the change in behavior. Next, make sure your pet feels safe, especially if there was a move or other life change at the



same time. Be sure cats have a cozy "nest" or high place that they can relax in. Likewise, dogs should have an area where they feel safe; if they were crate trained, make sure they can access their "safe crate" whenever they need to. This does not mean locking them up for hours. Already anxious dogs can experience severe panic when closed in and may hurt themselves in an attempt to escape.

Incorporate play and exercise time into your pets' before- and after-school routine. Ten to twenty minutes can help relieve anxiety and provide mental as well as physical stimulation. This play time can be a great thing for your kids, too, as they can relax and burn off some energy before starting homework. If right after school doesn't work, play after dinner.

Don't make a big deal out of leaving or coming home. This can heighten a pet's anxiety. Calmly say goodbye and go. You can give your pet a special toy that comes out only when you get ready to leave. Some toys hold treats that takes your pet's attention from their anxiety as they concentrate on getting the treat. When you come home, say hi and take a few minutes to do something else before spending time with your pet.

If you try these things and your pet still has the blues, you might consider a pet sitter, dog walker, or dog day camp. Please consider medications only as a last option and talk to your veterinarian about them first, even if they are an over-the-counter or natural medication.

Read more at these links

<http://tinyurl.com/Separation-anxiety-in-cats>

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-behavior-issues/separation-anxiety>

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Church office hours: M-Thur., 9:00-3:00 (Closed on Fridays)

Gypsy's Saga

by Tom Blacklock



Gypsy's saga began when a good Samaritan determined that Gypsy, a young black and white border collie and her puppy, were surviving on the streets by eating from dumpsters of several fast food restaurants and from handouts provided by the restaurant patrons and staff. Over the next month, this good Samaritan was able to catch the puppy and, after gaining Gypsy's limited trust with food, was able to coax Gypsy into a dog crate.



The Bulverde Area Humane Society agreed to take Gypsy into their program. Intake was on a busy Saturday, and while being removed from the dog crate, Gypsy managed to slip from a lead that had been placed around her neck and fled to a heavily wooded, back area of the shelter property. It was decided to allow Gypsy to stay loose until she calmed and when only the regular shelter staff was present. As the shelter property is enclosed with a six foot fence there was no concern that Gypsy could escape.

When the shelter closed, efforts to locate and capture Gypsy were not successful. For several days, food and water were continually placed out for her. Thorough searches were conducted in areas that were not overgrown and where access could be gained. Gypsy was not located, and it was feared she had escaped.

For weeks the search continued. The local animal control officer, neighboring ranches and businesses were notified that there was a loose BAHS dog.

While clearing the north border fence line from overgrown vegetation, it became obvious that recent rains had eroded the ground that allowed Gypsy to slip under the fence. Food and water were placed near this hole in attempts to lure Gypsy back onto the shelter grounds. A game camera was also placed near the food and captured excellent photographs of several raccoons eating the dog food.

A neighbor reported seeing a dog that matched Gypsy's description near the cattle guard. Bowls of food and water and a game camera were placed in a thicket close to the cattle guard. The game camera recorded Gypsy consuming the dog food!

That evening, a True Catch Coyote Dog Trap was placed in the thicket and at 4:00 the next morning Gypsy was discovered laying in the trap. Although somewhat fearful, she was not aggressive. The trap with Gypsy was moved to one of the shelter's quarantine pens and she was released to that area.

Gypsy quickly warmed up to the BAHS care takers and volunteers, wagging her tail when approached. She has now been spayed and vaccinated and enjoys playing with new friends in a play group. Come visit Gypsy at the shelter. She is a jewel who could be a perfect fit for you, thus ending her homeless saga.

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The Buzz From the Garden

A neophyte's harvest in the Bulverde Community Garden

Many of my friends around the US, England, and Canada are avid community gardeners. I was delighted to spot the Bulverde Community Garden when driving by to take care of various business matters in downtown Bulverde, especially at the old Post Office. Having a community garden in the neighborhood brings a sense of unity and well-being both to the gardeners, their families, and friends.



I signed up for an allotment late last year. My garden allotment took shape in February by carefully building up and tilling the soil, amending with compost and soil. My garden diary records what was planted and where, and included the following: Brussels sprouts, Kuroda carrots, basil, Italian flat leaf parsley, snow peas, radishes, beets, Bok Choy, and various varieties of lettuce. The snow peas were already showing when the rains came, but many of the seedlings disappeared. Surprisingly, the snow peas survived, as well as a Bok Choy and two scrawny radishes.



The Bulverde Community Garden promotes the use of organic compost and fertilizers. Water, our most valuable resource, is provided by the City of Bulverde.



With the warm spring weather, several types of beans were planted. The seeds were donated by one of the other community gardeners. A trellis was erected to support these very successful beanstalks that just grew and grew with beautiful white and purple flowers. The Hyacinth beans are well known in Asia and India but are met with less popularity here in America. They should be better known.

To eat these beans, they are shelled and boiled. The cooking water is changed twice and it takes about a total of 30 minutes to cook them. The magic comes from an old French recipe for Haricots Verts, in which the beans get sautéed in olive oil, anchovy fillets, and garlic for 5-10

minutes and then finished with a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar. Bon Appetite.

My special thanks to the Bulverde Community Park Association for promoting the Bulverde Community Garden initiative, to the City of Bulverde, and the Community Garden Committee for their generous support, and to all of the community gardeners who share their expertise and the fruits of their labor.

~~Submitted by one of the newest community gardeners

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@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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Reading Rodeo!



The One Book One Community committee of the Friends of the Library is having a **Reading Rodeo** on **Saturday, September 10, 2016** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The focus of the program is books of Western genre, and there will be a special display of Western library books to borrow and donated books for sale at unbelievably low prices in the FOL book nook. This will be a day of fun, food, and entertainment!

Kevin Fitzpatrick, trick roper, will start the day at 10:00 a.m. with a roping demonstration in the lower parking lot, followed at 11:00 a.m. by storyteller Sue Kuentz in the children's area. After a noon-time break for kids' games and a chuck wagon lunch of beans, cornbread, and cobbler, musician Mark Compere will entertain with genuine cowboy songs and history from long ago. The noon meal served to all will be a cooking contest—everyone is invited to submit an entry in one or more of three categories: beans, cornbread, and cobbler. Prizes will be given to the winners of each category.

There will also be a coloring contest for both adults and children, and multiple games for the kids—all with prizes to be awarded. Copies of the coloring contest pictures are available at the front desk for 10 days preceding the contest. Entries will be displayed and judged by age groups at the event.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Tejas Rodeo, HOOey, McDonalds, Whataburger, Starbucks, and Tractor Supply for donations of door prizes. Door prizes and the contest winners will be announced at the conclusion of Mr. Compere's performance. There is no charge for any of the games or entertainment session, and the event is open to all residents of the BSB Library area.

The BSB Library is located at 131 Bulverde Crossing, 78163. You may call 830.438.4864 for more information.

September Events



Great Decisions Discussions

Thursdays in September—8, 15, 22, and 29
5:45 p.m.–7:45 p.m.

The friends of the Bulverde/ Spring Branch Library host an annual program featuring Great Decisions discussion groups for the Foreign Policy Association. The group discusses eight of the most thought provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans. This month's topics include: Shifting Alliances in the Middle East, The Future of Kurdistan, The United Nations & Cuba and the U.S. Each meeting includes heavy refreshments, a short video clip, a speaker presentation and a Q & A session.

Lord of the Rings Day

Thursday, September 22
6:00 p.m.

Come join us for an evening of fun! We will have Lord of the Rings trivia, enough food to make even a hobbit happy, and a craft.

Indie Author Day

Saturday, October 8
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Find out how you can become a successful, independently published author. Our library will be participating in the first National Indie Author Day by holding a local Indie Author Panel Discussion followed by a book signing. Come enjoy refreshments and a lively question and answer discussion.

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Native Plant Society News

MONTHLY MEETING

The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on September 20 at the GVTC Auditorium located at 36101 FM 3159, Smithson Valley. The doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. The speaker will be Bob Fields, Landscape Photographer. Bob will speak on "Native Landscape Photography." The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information call Martha Guethle , 830-438-5996.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The NPSOT Linheimer Chapter will be offering The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level1: Introduction to Native Landscapes on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Tye Preston Library, Canyon Lake. The certification program was developed by the Native Plant Society of Texas to teach the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes.

The Introduction to Native Landscapes course teaches the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes, the differences between sustainable and conventional development, and an understanding of Texas vegetation regions and soils. Students will become

familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 invasive plants to avoid.

The course includes a classroom session and a 2-hour outdoor plant knowledge walk.

The Native Plant Society (NPSOT) offers two levels of certificates:

- Completion—attend the full day
- Competency—attend the full day and pass a test at the end of the class.

Students graduating with either certificate may progress to another class level.

Registration cost is \$37 plus \$10 for lunch options from Jason's Deli.

Please go to <https://s08.123signup.com/event/details/ntknk> for registration and more information or contact the following: Registration questions: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Location and class specific questions: Sara Riggs, Host Chapter Manager, Riggs_571@msn.com, 571-236-8571.

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| NOTES: Bulverde City Council and the Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend) | | | | 1 ESD Public Hearings (see inside) | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Labor Day City Hall Closed CISD Holiday | 5 | 6 Planning & Zoning 6:30p | 7 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) ESD Public Hearing (see inside) | 8 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) ESD Public Hearing (see inside) | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Patriot Day | 12 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) | 13 City Council 6:30p | 14 ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM 311) | 15 ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 16 | 17 Bulverde Jubilee 10:00a (Downtown Bulverde) |
| 18 BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 19 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) | 20 | 21 SBB Family Lions 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #5 4:00p (30476 Johnson Way) | 22 Fall begins Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 23 CISD Holiday (Fair Day) City Hall Closed Chamber Birdies & Blackjack 3:00p-10:30p (River Crossing) | 24 |
| 25 NNO Host Apprec. party, Time TBD (Activity Ctr.) | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) | |

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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| NOTES: Bulverde City Council and the Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend) | | | | | | 1 Chamber Market Day 10:00a-4:00p (20475 Hwy. 46-Bealls ctr.) |
| 2 | 3 | 4 National Night Out | 5 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Columbus Day Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) SBB Library CLOSED | 11 City Council 6:30p Deadline for Voter Registration | 12 | 13 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 14 BAAC Exhibit Reception 5:30p (The Makery) | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 18 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) | 19 SBB Family Lions 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way) | 20 ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) | 21 | 22 Community Shred Day 10:00a-12:00p (121 Bulverde Xing) Drug Take Back Day 10:00a-2:00p (30360 Cougar Bend AND 353 Rodeo Drive) |
| 23 | 24 BSBA Activity Ctr. 25th Anniv. Celebration & Annual Mtg. 10:30a (Activity Ctr.) | 25 | 26 | 27 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) | 28 POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) | 29 |
| 30 | 31 Halloween | | | | | |

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