

THE

FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors
Volume 3 Issue 10 ★ October 2016

THE
FRONT PORCH
News

CITY OF BULVERDE
ALL DEPARTMENTS

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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

When a community decides to incorporate, State law sets a maximum area size for the new City, based on population. For a community with a population less than 5,000, the maximum allowable territory is 2 square miles at the time of incorporation. This provision prevents small concentrations of voters from incorporating large amounts of sparsely populated land or extremely narrow and lengthy tracts of commercial properties.

This restriction, however, makes it challenging to incorporate an entire community while also achieving the balance of uses necessary to fund the overhead required to run a city government. It also nearly prevented Bulverde from blocking San Antonio's northward expansion, which was threatening to gobble us up.

State law recognizes the concept of "economy of scale" and "strength in numbers" though, allowing for multiple

smaller cities to be consolidated into a single, larger municipality. During the 1990s, Bulverde's municipal leaders were able to utilize this statutory mechanism to incorporate five separate municipalities (known as Bulverde North, South, East, West, and Northwest) and then combine them into the larger City of Bulverde. This effort took 5 years and 17 elections among the separate communities to achieve the consolidation objective. The end result was not only a city that was large enough to be financially viable, but one able to bridge the gap between New Braunfels and Boerne, effectively blocking the imminent expansion of San Antonio.

During the time when each municipality functioned as a separate entity, they passed various ordinances and land use zoning regulations. Once consolidated, the land use zoning of the smaller municipalities were reflected in the unified zoning regulations of the larger City. The approach to land use planning used by each smaller city was inconsistent among the five, which became quite apparent on the consolidated zoning map.

Following the adoption of Home Rule in May of 2015, which provides for the expansion of the City through the annexation of land, the need for a fresh look at land use zoning has never been greater. Earlier this year, City Council hired a consultant to revise and update our land use plan and zoning ordinance. The process involved

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

studying existing development, proposed development, and listening to public input and comments received at joint workshops of the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. The revision effort has now been completed.

The new ordinance reclassifies most of the US Hwy 281 corridor from a C3 (Heavy Commercial/Light Manufacturing) to a C2 (medium commercial) classification, which is a more restrictive classification. The table of uses has been expanded and is much more detailed, which will clarify help clarify exactly where specific uses are permitted.

A new category added to the ordinance is guidelines for Planned Developments. This refers to larger tracts that would be developed as mixed use. This category would require the plan to be thoroughly reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission and approved by City Council. It would allow for combined uses, such as different types of residential alongside varying intensities of commercial uses.

The ordinance also has more details to address parking requirements, drive through, and traffic impact analysis. Additionally, it adds landscape and architectural requirements, and more clearly defines what is acceptable as a masonry exterior finish. Additionally, some of the heavier commercial types of businesses (such as mini-storages) are still allowed, but new businesses will be required to arrange their site so that the less visually appealing aspects of the structure, such as bay doors and storage areas, will be oriented away from the roadway.

This revision to the City's land use ordinances should promote a more uniform, quality minded model for development. The goal of the City is to protect our existing residents from uses that would be detrimental to their quality of life brought on by new development.

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COMAL COUNTY CORNER

By Paul A. Anthony, Public Information Officer

Over the past year, Comal County has taken steps to increase both the quantity and the quality of the communication our residents see and hear from us.

This effort has included a new logo, more press releases, writing this column, and strengthening our partnerships with civic and business groups so that residents, especially those outside of New Braunfels, have more information about their county government.

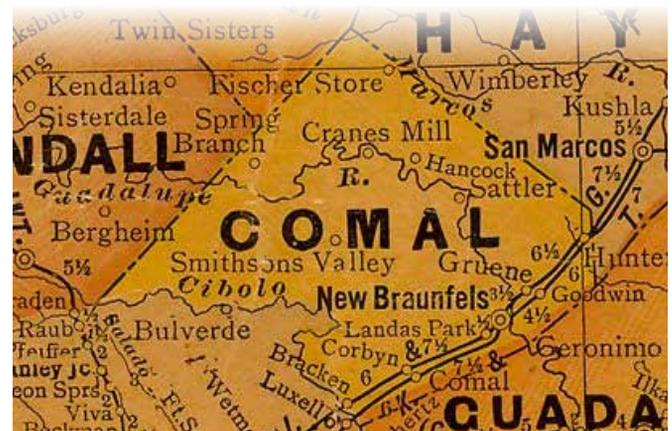
The most recent step is the creation of the Comal County Corner e-newsletter, a monthly email delivered to your inbox to keep you abreast of the latest news and information from the county and to provide opportunities for you to get involved in serving your fellow Comal County residents.

Accompanying the e-newsletter is a quarterly print edition, out this month. Along with containing information about the services and programs the county provides, the newsletters provide dates of upcoming events and meetings, profile departments and offices so you can learn about where to go with your questions and concerns, and keep you up to date on the latest county news.

We hope you'll take advantage of these resources by signing up for the monthly e-news at comalcountyforms.com/e-newsletter.htm, and by picking up the quarterly print edition of the Comal County Corner. They are available at the Comal County Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend and from our recycling crews. We'll also be working to get stacks in various locations throughout Bulverde and Spring Branch.

If you have questions you'd like to see answered in the newsletters, or if you have a story idea or suggestion, please email me at anthop@co.comal.tx.us.

Have a great October, and happy reading!





Haunting History

The history of Bulverde and the surrounding communities is robust with tales of the early German settlers who came to this central Texas region and built their homes and lives here. Families who put down deep roots in the region during the 1800s are still familiar names in the communities of Bulverde, Spring Branch, and Canyon Lake. Members of the Gass, Elbel, Knibbe, Specht, Neugebauer, Rittiman, Klabunde, Uecker, and Schaerkoeter families (to name only a few) still reside in the area and represent some of the key settlers who made the Bulverde region their home.

While some local history buffs take interest in historical documents, maps, drawings, and photographs of Bulverde's past, and others enjoy interviewing family members who have anecdotes to tell about a great grandparent or other distant relative's experiences as they settled the area, there may be a unique few who may take great interest in a different type of historical recounting—the stories that are told in the local, historical cemeteries.

Scattered throughout the area, family and small community cemeteries offer interesting details into the life and death of the earliest community settlers. While some may think the touring of a cemetery leans a bit toward the macabre, others will recognize the value in taking the time to walk through some of these forgotten graves and headstones. Names and dates of birth and death, the size and type of monument, the native language that is used to engrave the headstones, all tie together the details about these people and how they were and are related to Bulverde and the surrounding region. Small, plainly marked graves of infants and children, some even unnamed, tell of a family's heartbreak or trying times. Large ornate or heavily carved stones may give some indication as to person's status in the community or within his or her family. A walk through one of these small cemeteries will likely send you to the library to search for more information about a person who was laid to rest in 1885.

(Continued on page 6)

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Hwy. 46

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Post Office Bulverde Lane	2647 Bulverde Rd. 1/2 mile from US HWY 281	FM 1863

(Continued from page 5)

Guided by the very thorough documentation found in *Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County*[†], a stunningly well researched work about the history of the region by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann, an interested person can find many of these burial plots.* The Comal County Geographic Information System and Google are also reliable resources for locating these lost parcels of property, which are often tucked away in a small, overgrown corner of once-sizable ranchland properties. One of the larger historical cemeteries, the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, is fairly easy to find on Obst Road, and it is still in use today. Established in 1906, it is not the oldest cemetery in the area, but many of the markers date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. Some of the birthdates listed for individuals buried there date back to the very early 1800s. If you walk through the rows of monuments, you will surely recognize many familiar family names.

Another cemetery that is visible from a public access road is the Uecker/Hitzfelder family cemetery, which is on FM 1863 near US Hwy 281. Located on private property, the cemetery is not available for public access; however, it is situated along the fence line and can be seen from the shoulder of the road. Family names of Uecker, Klabunde, and Hitzfelder are clearly visible on some of the markers, most of which date back to the mid-1800s and into the early 1900s. There are also six unmarked graves in the plot. Many of the headstones are tilted due to the shifting ground and age, one has been broken and obviously repaired, and others are no longer legible, but the evidence of family ties and community is apparent.

When walking through these historical cemeteries, one cannot help but wonder about the lives of the people who lie at rest there. The lives of these early settlers become a matter of interest by virtue of their death and burial. Much understanding can be gained by tying the information available through traditional “book” research to the graves and headstones found in these family plots. One can certainly develop a more thorough appreciation for those individuals and families who came before us to settle in this region of the Texas Hill Country.

[†] Brenda Anderson-Lindemann’s book, *Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County* (© 2014), is available for purchase from the author; contact Ms. Anderson-Lindemann at springbranchbrenda@gvtc.com.

*Please note that almost all of the cemeteries discussed herein and in Ms. Anderson-Lindemann’s book are located on private property. Obtaining appropriate permission from property owners to gain access to a cemetery is imperative. Permission was granted for photographer to enter the property to take photos in the Uecker/Hitzfelder family plot.



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Bulverde Adoption of the Zoning Ordinance Update and Zoning Map

Submitted by Kimley-Horn



The City of Bulverde has completed several significant initiatives over the past year, among them, the adoption of a Home Rule Charter and the annexation of four square miles of land area into the City. These achievements created a variety of new opportunities and a need for an update of the City's Future Land Use Map, Official Zoning Map, and Zoning Ordinance.

A team of consultants was engaged in May to complete the update, which included a review of existing land uses within the City of Bulverde and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), and the future uses identified in the Bulverde Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Bulverde Visioning Study. The resulting Land Use Plan, adopted by the Bulverde City Council in July of this year, provides guidance for appropriate zoning of properties that may be incorporated into the City of Bulverde through annexation requests by property owners in the ETJ. This plan will also provide guidance in future rezoning requests that may come from property owners currently located within the City of Bulverde.

In addition to an update of the Land Use Plan, a review of the current Zoning Ordinance has been performed, resulting in a Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map that is more in line with the community's goals and current development standards and practices. On Tuesday September 6, 2016, the Planning and Zoning Commission conducted a Public hearing where the Consultant team presented the updated Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map based on comments which were received at an August 23rd joint work session with the City Council. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended the Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map for adoption at that meeting. The City Council Public Hearing was held in mid-September. At that meeting, the final Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map were presented for adoption by the City Council based on the comments and recommendations for the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on September 6th.

With the completion of the Land Use Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map, the City of Bulverde is well positioned to accommodate future development that conforms to the type and quality of development desired by its citizens.

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Thursday, October 27th
10:00am

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Tips to protect yourself from fraud presented by a Bexar County District Attorney Elder Fraud Prosecutor.

Thursday, November 3rd
10:00am



Many people would say that Halloween is the unofficial start of the fall and winter holiday season, and many of us here at Bulverde PD would probably agree. Halloween is the time of the year when we start seeing fall celebrations in the community, mainly Halloween parties. Working patrol on or around Halloween is always interesting given some of the costumes we've seen over the years.

Regardless of how you celebrate Halloween, most would agree that it is a day for children to put on their costume and go trick-or-treating in the community. Getting as much free candy as your bag can hold would make most any child excited to get out and get started. While Halloween is meant to be fun, we must also keep safety in mind. On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween as on any other

day of the year. Being in a rural area can sometimes make door-to-door trick-or-treating a bit more difficult, so members of the Bulverde Police Department will be participating in a trick-or-treat event here in the city to make it a little easier for kids to fill their sacks. The City of Bulverde and the Bulverde Police Department will be teaming up with HEB for an annual trick-or-treat event that occurs at businesses along the Hwy 46 corridor, so come join us on the 31st from 5:00pm-7:00pm for trick-or-treating at the old HEB site and the Creekside Shopping Center. Wear your best costume as there will be a costume contest with awards in front of Sun Time Tanning at 7:00pm sharp. Hope to see you there!

Safety is always one of our top priorities, so here are a few safety tips to follow while enjoying an evening of trick-or-treating:

- Walk safely by using sidewalks and crosswalks, and not crossing the street in the middle of the block. Instead, cross the street at corners, and always look both ways before you cross. Continue looking both ways while you are in the street.
- Put away electronic devices and pay attention to your surroundings by keeping your head up.
- Watch for cars that are backing up or making turning movements, as they may not always see you.
- Wear reflective clothing when possible and make sure costumes fit appropriately to avoid tripping or falling.
- Carry a flashlight, glow sticks, or anything else that will help others see you easier.
- Always go with an adult, as no one should ever go alone. Groups are much safer.

Additionally, drivers should also take precautions on Halloween such as slowing down, limiting distractions, and taking extra time to look for kids at intersections. Remember that kids are excited and may move in unpredictable ways. Most neighborhoods will see increased pedestrian traffic, so drivers should be extra careful on Halloween. These are just a few things that can be done to make Halloween as safe as possible. Let's do our part to make Halloween 2016 the safest Halloween yet.

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Election 2016

Voting Dates, Times, and Locations

Early Voting – Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

Oct. 24–28, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Oct. 29, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
 Oct. 30, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Oct. 31–Nov. 4, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8
7 a.m.–7 p.m.

Pct. 102: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing
 Pct. 106: GVTC Communications, 36101 FM 3159
 Pct. 204: Comal County Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend
 Pct. 206: Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Station #3, 30475 Johnson Way
 Pct. 405: Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, 11755 U.S. 281 N.

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Bulverde Jubilee Fun

It was hot, hot, hot, but that did not stop the fun from commencing at the Bulverde Jubilee! With the the music, the dancers, the food, the shopping, and the biggest parade in event history (with 49 entries!), there was something for everyone to enjoy. Kids had a blast at the Carnival and the petting zoo (which was graciously provided by first-time participants, the Smithson Valley High School FFA), while parents enjoyed shopping the variety of vendors, eating fabulous food, and rocking to the tunes of the Mo-Dels. The judges had a tough time selecting the winners of the parade categories—there were so many great entries! A few notable participants included Arlon Seay elementary school, which won the School Spirit award; the Wells Fargo Stagecoach; the Bulverde Hills Properties float; the gorgeous horses in the Texas Thunder Drill Team; and the shiny red corvette belonging to Mr. Brian Siegried. Of course, the parade was made complete by the four generations of the Wood family, presided over by Mrs. Jane Wood, the honorary Grand Marshal, celebrating 60 years in Bulverde!



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City Limits vs. ZIP Codes

Geopolitical Boundaries Compared to Postal Designations

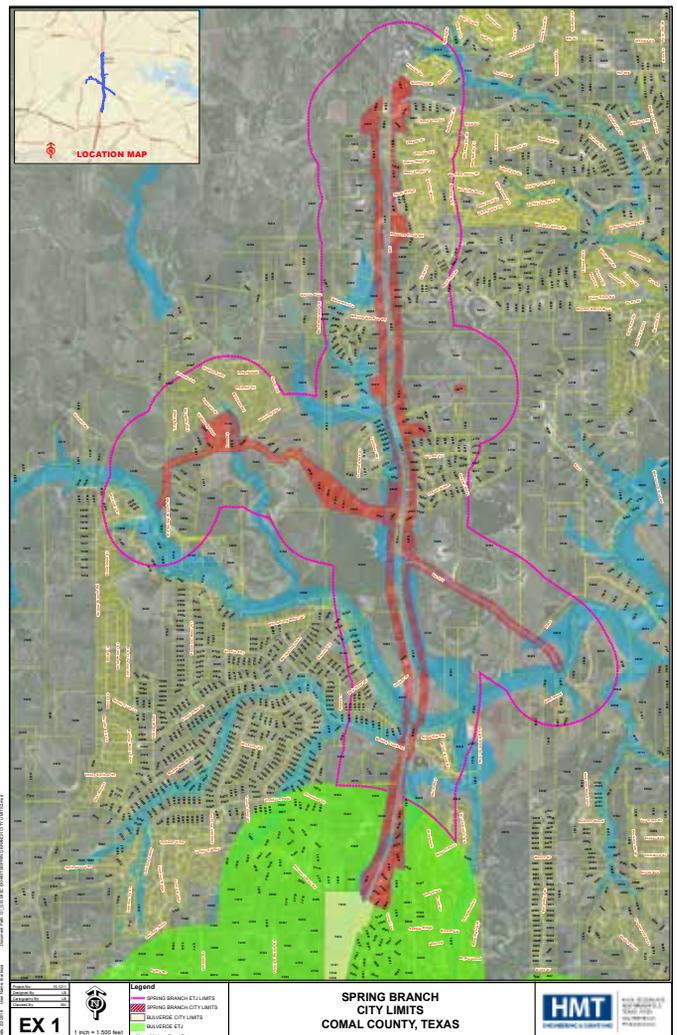
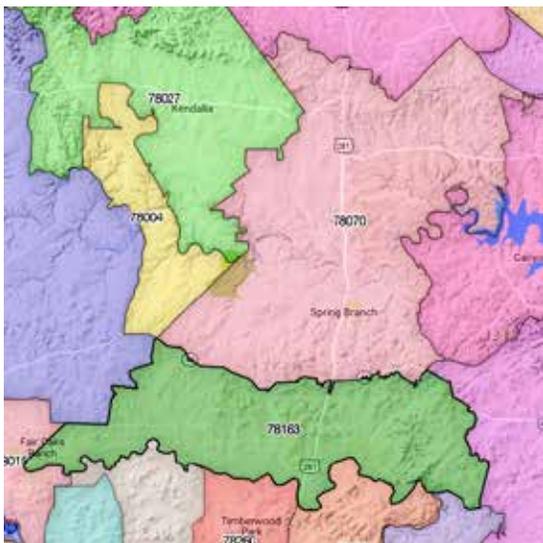
There is an ongoing confusion about the area that makes up the City Limits of Bulverde and the ZIP Codes typically associated with the Bulverde and Spring Branch communities. Neither the City Limit boundaries of Bulverde, nor the newly established City Limit boundaries of Spring Branch define the postal ZIP Codes and delivery routes.

The City of Bulverde has portions of the City Limits that are located in both, ZIP code 78070 (which is most commonly associated with the place name "Spring Branch") and ZIP code 78163 (which is most commonly associated with the place name "Bulverde").

In fact, almost 15% of the City's residents live in ZIP code 78070, and more than 35% of Bulverde's commercial properties are located in 78070. This commercial number is further complicated due to 78070 postal routes extending along the southern boundary of Hwy. 46 (which is commonly thought of as the boundary line for 78070). Unfortunately, much of the place designated as "Spring Branch" for the entirety of the 78070 ZIP code falls within the Bulverde City Limits, which is very confusing for our City's residents and businesses. As examples, the Berry Oaks shopping center (east of US Hwy 281) and the Chicken Express restaurant (west of US Hwy 281) properties are located along the south edge of State Hwy 46 and within the City Limits of Bulverde, however, both businesses have a Spring Branch, 78070 postal designation.

Interestingly enough, following its recent formal incorporation, the City of Spring Branch takes up only 2 square miles of the 78070 ZIP code. There is actually more land area in that 78070 ZIP code located within the City Limits of Bulverde than in the City of Spring Branch.

The included maps may illustrate the differences and overlap among the city jurisdictions and ZIP designations.



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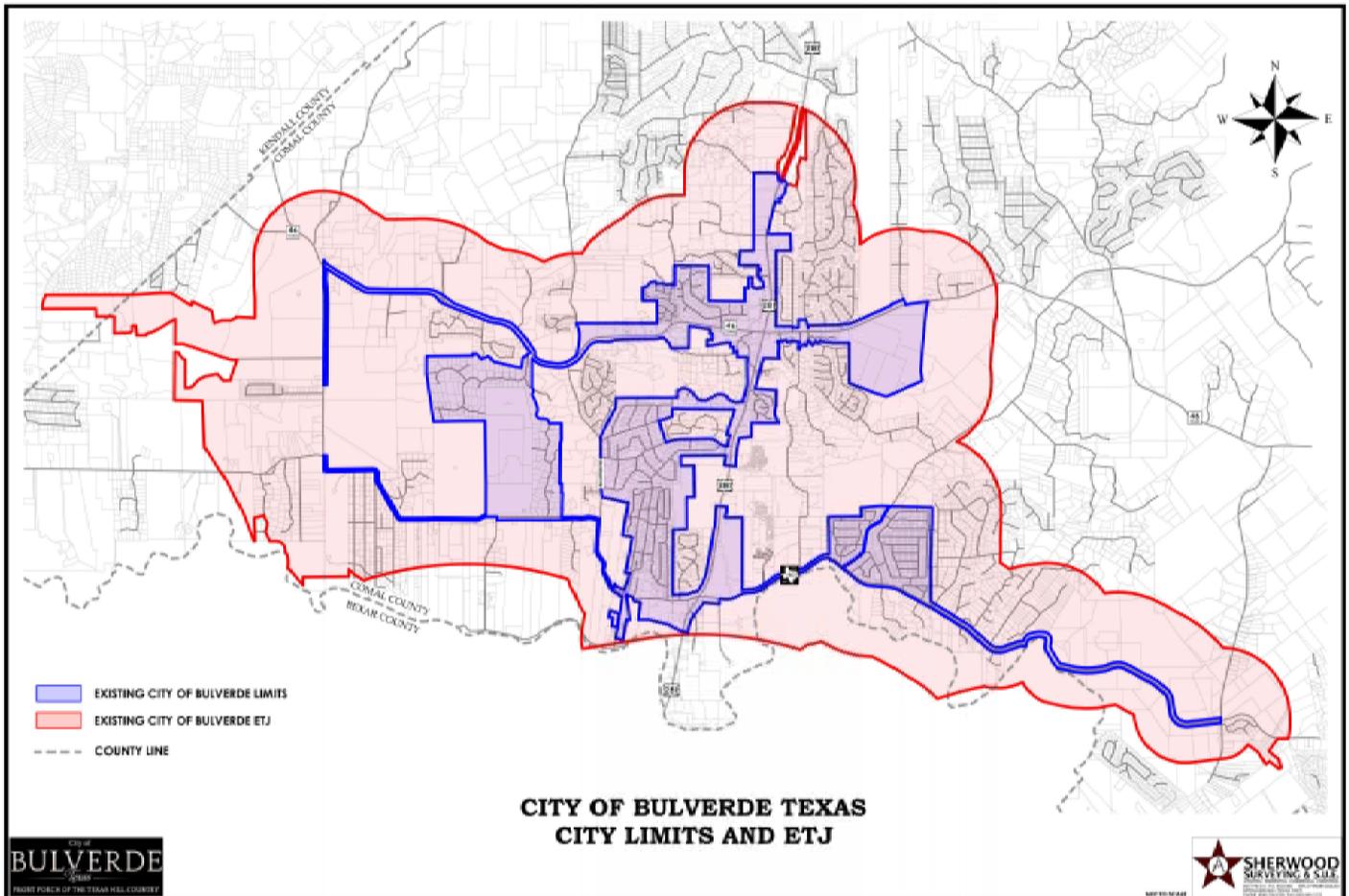
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How are boundaries for ZIP Codes defined?

According to the ZIPboundary.com website, the USPS does not define boundaries for ZIP Codes. Instead ZIP Codes represent groups of delivery points (addresses), designed for efficiency of delivery. In most cases, ZIP Codes resemble spatial areas because they comprise contiguous streets and address ranges. However, this is not always the case. In rural areas, ZIP codes can be collections of roads (rural delivery routes) that, in reality, do not look much like a closed spatial area. It is the job of a territory mapping vendor (like ZIPboundary.com / TTG, Inc.) to combine these points and lines into polygons. It may sound like a simple task to draw a perimeter boundary around a set of points to come up with the ZIP Code, however, it is more complicated than it may first appear. This is the reason that ZIP Codes from different vendors may appear differently on a map. Decisions about whether to include or exclude various topological objects such as lakes, ponds, forests and other similar unpopulated areas can radically alter the size and shape of a ZIP Code. This is why it is often said that to draw ZIP Code boundaries is more an art than a science.



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BSB FIRE & EMS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS is the most award-winning and decorated EMS-based fire service in the state of Texas. We were recently featured in the **Journal of Emergency Medical Service (JEMS)**, a leading national publication of our industry. **JEMS** is a 36-year-old magazine with a circulation of more than 450,000 in the US. The article recognized our organization as experts in medical care and fire suppression and demonstrated leaders in medical education and community service.

Measuring Success

Fractile response times for the last 5 years (the time it takes from a 9-1-1 call drop to First Responders arrive)

Goal: Respond to all Priority 1 emergencies within 10 minutes or less, 90% of the time.

2013 – Fire response 61.59%; EMS response 91.28%

2014 after 9 months of consolidation – Fire 75.59%; EMS 89.53%

2015 – Fire 83.85%; EMS 95%; Department 90.65%

2016 – Fire 87.91%; EMS 90.13%; Department 89.92% (to date)

The percentage of First Responders who have dual credentials in both medical and fire response, so no matter what the emergency, this group is ready to respond:

2014 prior to the consolidation of Fire & EMS – less than 20%

2016 – 90% dual credentials

Apparatus available for emergencies

2014 prior to the consolidation of Fire & EMS: 31

2016: 36

Other firsts allowing Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS to fill the gaps:

- Most award-winning and decorated EMS-based fire service in the State of Texas in both Best Practices and Care for Community Members
- Developed a state-of-the-art training facility with a Texas State Anatomical Board-approved cadaver lab to learn and practice emergent procedures that are infrequently performed in a rural setting

- Collaborated with Acacia Medical Mission to launch a brick-and-mortar medical clinic for the uninsured and under-insured
- Created mobile clinic/classroom called the W.O.W. (Wellness on Wheels) to visit food pantries, churches, neighborhoods, and high schools
- Hold specialized medical workshops for emergency medicine, orthopedics, oncology, and anesthesiology
- Hired Development Director to raise funds to reduce the level of tax burden to the community
- Established Mobile Integrated Healthcare program (MIH), a novel strategy to serve patients in their homes so that our community Seniors can age in place
- Fostered and participated in research that helps shape the future of medicine

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Pre-Fire Plan

PRE-PLAN TACTICS

Emergency Service Districts #4 and #5 contract with Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS to provide fire suppression and related services. When most people think of firefighters, they picture them working at the scene of a fire/emergency and often from an offensive position. However, interestingly enough, it is defensive work that keeps firefighters busy most days. Not unlike the physical training they perform on shift to always be fully prepared, defensive preparations such as “pre-incident planning” are vital to the readiness of firefighters.

Throughout the course of the year, firefighters from Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS make every effort to systematically visit each commercial building within the 216 square mile district through pre-arranged appointments.

A Pre-Fire Plan is not the same as a formal inspection, which is typically performed by the Fire Marshal. Instead, the primary purpose of a pre-plan is to give the firefighters an opportunity to update contact information that may have changed within the year and to document essential information that could be extremely valuable should an emergency take place within or around the structure.

In order to document all this data, the firefighters make quick sketches of all structures on the property. Back at the fire station, the information will be entered into a database. Typically, they make note of important characteristics of the structure, such as the location of the fire alarm panel and all the possible exits in the building. They document where the electrical shut-offs are, as well as where power lines are located on the property and the points at which they connect to the structures. Pre-plans are a great opportunity to make note of additional sources of water including hydrants, pools and holding tanks.

It’s also important to be aware that some buildings have a potential heavy fire load, which may be due to a higher than normal amount of combustible material onsite, such as chemicals or gas.

Being familiar with a commercial property prior to an emergency can save lives and property.





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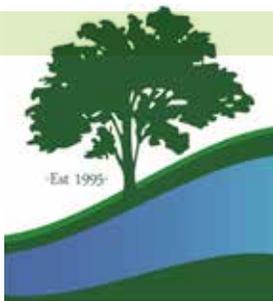
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- Plantiques Flowers by Brenda Fry
- Specht's Store
- Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
- SpyderwareTech.com Inc
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- Western Sky Wedding & Event Venue

Renewing Members

- AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments)
- Alamo Premier Mortgage Group, Inc.
- Amenity Systems Inc. / Amenity Real Estate Group / Texas Land Team
- Bahama Bucks TPC
- Bullet Flooring
- Jen Crownover
- Edward Jones - James Lacewell
- First Chance Foundation
- Gail Digman - Home Team of America
- Theresa Gordon
- Scott Haag (County Commissioner Pct #2)
- Hanson's Hill Country Catering
- Highland Lakes AC and Heat
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- Mendez Engineering
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- San Antonio Print Supplies
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- Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club
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B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

October 1

Chamber Fall Market Day
10:00 am–4:00 pm
(20475 Hwy. 46; Bealls Ctr.)

October 13

Business Networking Mixer
5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by: Sonora Bank & Sonora Mortgage
512 Singing Oaks, Spring Branch, TX
Member Only Event

October 19

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch

Sponsored By: Landscape Lighting Guru
12:00 Noon–1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

October 22

Community Wide Shred Day
BSB Chamber Office
121 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX
Members 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Community 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

October 22

Drug Take Back Day
Two Drop Off Locations 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Bulverde City Hall
30360 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, TX
BSB Fire & EMS – Station 1
353 Rodeo Dr, Spring Branch, TX

***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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Halloween Pet Safety Tips

by Megan Hughes, DVM Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital

Halloween is a fun time for children and families but it can be very scary for pets! Follow these tips to keep your furry family members safe and healthy this Halloween.

Trick-or-treat candy is not for pets

All forms of chocolate are dangerous for dogs and cats. Baking chocolate and dark chocolate are even more dangerous. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, rapid breathing, tremors, and seizures. Other Halloween candies and gums may contain an artificial sweetener called xylitol which is very poisonous to pets. Even small amounts of xylitol can be deadly. Symptoms can include loss of coordination and seizures. Pets are indiscriminate when it comes to eating tasty treats and can gorge themselves on snacks and food meant for humans. Large ingestions of sugary, high-fat candy can lead to gastrointestinal upset or pancreatitis in pets. Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas and very painful and sometimes fatal. Symptoms include decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and abdominal pain. Symptoms of candy related problems may not show up immediately but it is important to have your pets treated quickly. If

your pet consumes any candy or chocolate you should call your veterinarian immediately.

Don't leave your pets outside or unsupervised on Halloween

People wearing costumes and strange noises are very scary for pets! Fearful pets may escape and run away out of fear. Some dogs may feel threatened and could bite or injure trick-or-treaters. Sadly, some pranksters with bad intentions may try to steal your pets. Keep your pets in a secure room or kennel away from the door. Make sure your pets have identification on including your phone number. Having your pet microchipped and making sure the microchip contact information is up to date is also important.

Keep decorations, wires, lights, and toys out of your pet's reach

Chewing on wires could cause your pet electrical shock or an electrical burn in their mouth. Other lights and decorations can be very dangerous if chewed on or swallowed. Candles and jack-o-lanterns can cause burns. Glow sticks cause irritation to pet's mouth and gastrointestinal system.

Be cautious with costumes

Its sure is fun to dress our pets up in halloween costumes! Not all pets enjoy costumes so just make sure it does not cause too much stress to them. Poorly fitting costumes can cause rubs or sores. Make sure pets are always supervised so that they do not chew and swallow part of their costume.

Have a fun and safe Halloween from everyone at Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital!

Shweiki ad



The Therapist in Your Home

by Carrye Franzel



Why do we share our homes with dogs and cats? Shelter visitors often tell us they've come to adopt a pet for their child. Some have pets because "everybody does." The numbers bear that out. The ASPCA estimates the US dog population at 70–80 million, cats at 74–96 million. But let's face it. Sometimes the cat or dog is just there, just one more responsibility. Most of us lead busy, overloaded lives, with work, school, sporting activities, meals on the run, and 24/7 connectivity. We can easily forget the gifts our pets offer.

Science supports that the stroking of a pet's fur can lower blood pressure and slow a human heart rate. We know pets are some of the best antidotes to loneliness and depression. Organizations like Therapy Dogs International and Pet Partners know this, and for years have been sending handler-animal teams into hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes providing animal-assisted therapy. These are essentially social visits based on the known health benefits of time spent with pets. Read to the Dog programs are well-established throughout the U.S. They bring trained dogs and owners into schools, community libraries, and more to simply sit and listen to children who need practice with reading skills. Fears melt and confidence blooms when a child reads to a dog, the ultimate nonjudgmental listener. Our Bulverde Spring Branch Library has such a program, and BAHS just completed its first Summer Reading Program that brought 25 children to the shelter every Wednesday, putting children, books, and dogs together to amazing effect (pictured). The BAHS program returns next summer.



Several years ago, I was part of a Pet Partner team with my Springer Spaniel, Chipper. We were about to complete our rounds one Saturday visit to the nursing home when a middle-aged woman approached us in the hall. She said her father was near death, that he was missing his dog. She asked if I would let mine get in bed with her father. It would mean a lot to them both. Back in the room, I cued Chipper up on the man's bed, then into a down. He crawled closer until his body was against the man's. They remained like that, in the silence, for several minutes. It was unusual for Chipper to lie still that long. The man's eyes never opened. Yet as the daughter and I exchanged a look, it felt like something special was happening. That is what I remembered when Chipper and I returned the following week. This time the room was empty.

Our pets keep us company. They comfort us when we're down. They love us day in, day out, no matter what they get in return. Perhaps the writer Anne Lamott said it best, "Dogs are the closest we come to knowing the divine love of God on this side of eternity." If you don't have a four-legged therapist, for the price of an adoption fee you can bring one home from BAHS.

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- Meeting at our church are organizations like Al-Anon, Boy Scouts, Homework Haven Tutoring
- We are one of the oldest denominations native to the United States and we are a locally governed church

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The Buzz From the Garden

KEYHOLE GARDENS

Need more gardening space? Would you like to learn about and teach your kids about recycling, repurposing and sustainability? Building a keyhole garden may be the project for you.



Developed in South Africa where the harsh climate and limited resources make for difficult gardening, the keyhole approach has worked so well it is becoming a mainstay in sustainable living communities. The design has caught on and works perfectly in the extreme weather of the Texas Hill Country.

Essentially a raised bed garden with a pie shaped wedge cut out to allow access to the center, a keyhole garden is built around an active compost pile. The layers of the compost pile are made of a cardboard liner, tree limbs, leaves, manure, shredded paper, phone books, dirt, more cardboard and more compostables. The very center of the keyhole garden holds a vertical wire cylinder that allows a place for kitchen vegetable scrapes to be added and rain water to drain directly into the compost pile.



When deciding to build a keyhole garden at the Bulverde Community Garden, the challenge was to use material I already had and not to spend extra dollars. The walls are fieldstone I found

in my yard. The vertical composting basket is made from a very old piece of chicken wire that was part of an old fence. Everything used to build this keyhole garden was either found in my yard or donated by friends and fellow gardeners. Recycling and repurposing has been achieved. The sustainable part of a keyhole garden begins after it has been planted. As the cardboard, wood, and other compostables breakdown and make soil,

the plants thrive. When the plants reach the end of the growing cycle, they are added to the mix and more cardboard and other compostables are added to the top layer to continue the process. It is a real science experiment that grows food and makes its own soil. A perfect mix of learning, teaching and, most importantly, harvesting.



If you are interested in learning more about building and maintaining a keyhole garden, please join us at the Bulverde Community Garden on Saturday, October 29 at 10 AM for a talk by the Comal Master Gardeners. You can also find information online at these links:

<http://www.texascooppower.com/texas-stories/nature-outdoors/keyhole-gardening>

<http://www.debtolman.com/about.htm>

If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please 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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Library to Host Mayor's Town Hall Meeting and Other Events



The BSB Library has a full line up of events planned for the month of October. The following are just a few of the events and activities that are scheduled. Visit the Library's website at <http://bsblibrary.org/> to see their full calendar, or give them a call at 830.438.4864. The Bulverde Spring Branch Library is located at 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78162.

Indie Author Day

Saturday, October 8th, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Find out how you, too, 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.

Town Hall with Mayor Krawietz

Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 6:00pm-7:45pm

Mayor Bill Krawietz will conduct another Town Hall Meeting. The Mayor will answer questions covering topics regarding Bulverde and its surrounding areas.

Electronics Recycling

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 10:00am-2:00pm

The public is invited to drop off their unwanted consumer electronic materials at the lower library parking lot. Items such as computers, cell phones, and printers will be accepted for recycling. (No televisions will be accepted.)

Harry Potter Party

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Come visit the world of Hogwarts! Get sorted into your house, eat snacks that even Hagrid would be excited about, and make themed crafts.

Registration required for supplies count. Please register with the actual name of each participant so we can have the correct name for an acceptance letter to Hogwarts ready on your arrival.

BULVERDE SPRING BRANCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER MARKET DAY

Saturday, October 1, 2016
10am - 4pm
Hwy 46 at Bulverde Crossing

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SV GRADUATE EARNS ELITE PILOT CREDENTIALS

2005 Smithson Valley High School graduate, 1Lt. Cody R. Shields has successfully completed the intense 55 week Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) Program program and has received his U.S. silver wings. He has been assigned to pilot the F-15E Strike Eagle. A dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. The F-15E is designed for long range high speed, deep strikes against high volume targets; combat air controls and provide close air support for co-alition troops with max speed of over Mach 2.5.

In July 2016, 1Lt. Cody Shields was one of 12 U.S. pilots to graduate from the 80th Flying Training Wing's ENJJPT Program located at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. ENJJPT trains pilots from the U.S. and other NATO countries including Belgium, Turkey, Denmark, Germany, Italy The Netherlands and Norway. During the intense 55 week program the student pilots first fly the T-6, mastering contact, instrument, low level, and formation flying. Next they fly the supersonic T-38 to continue building skills necessary to become a fighter pilot.

After graduating from Smithson Valley, Shields trained at Lackland AFB, the Medina Annex, and Altus AFB, where he trained as a C-17A Globemaster cargo loadmaster. While serving as a loadmaster Shields was deployed to Al Udeid Qatar; Baghdad, Iraq; Kandahar and Afghanistan.

In 2010, 1Lt. Cody Shields attended UTSA's Air Force ROTC enlisted commission program. The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps provides undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to become a United States Air Force officer while completing their college degree. To be accepted into the ENJJPT program, Shields obtained a 3.9 GPA, 100% on Physical Training scores, and a TBAS of 97% (a hand-eye coordination test that is combined with the Air Force Officer Quality Test) Shields was one out of 52 throughout the nation to be chosen for this program. He also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology.

In November, 1Lt. Cody Shields, with his wife, Lindsay and two children, Jackson and Emma, will transfer to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina to begin his training in the F-15E Strike Eagle.



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Odds-n-Ends

OctoBARKfest!

Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital will be having an **Open House Saturday, October 22nd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.!** Please join us for fall family fun and adoptable animals from Canyon Lake Animal Shelter Society. Activities include a pumpkin patch photo booth, kids games, food and drink, pet care demonstrations, hospital tours, goodie bags, and raffle prizes! Friendly, leashed, and vaccinated pets are welcome. Pets in halloween costumes will get extra prizes! Pet food and cash donations will be accepted for Canyon Lake Animal Shelter Society. Please visit <http://springbranchvet.com> and click on "tips and news," or like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SpringBranchVeterinaryHospital/> for more information. See you there!

NPSOT Meeting



The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on October 18 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 Jay Daniel, Houston Memorial Park Manager. Jay will speak on "Memorial Park Invasives Eratification Program." The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

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Oct. 29 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Oct. 30 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Oct. 31-Nov. 4 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Election Day!
Tuesday, November 8
7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Pct. 102: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing
Pct. 106: GVTC Communications, 36101 FM 3159
Pct. 204: Comal County Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend
Pct. 206: Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS Station #3,
30475 Johnson Way
Pct. 405: Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, 11755 U.S. 281 N.

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	5 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	6 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	7 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	8 Big Trash Day 8:00a-12:00p (City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend) Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	
9	10 Columbus Day Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) BSB Library CLOSED	11 City Council 6:30p Deadline for Voter Registration	12 Mayor's Town Hall Meeting 6:00p (Library)	13 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	14 BAAC Exhibit Reception 5:30p (The Makery) POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	15 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	
16 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	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.) ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM 311) Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	21 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	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) Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	
23 Night Comes Early (S.T.A.G.E.)	24 BSB Activity Ctr. 25th Anniv. Celebration & Annual Mtg. 10:30a (Activity Ctr.) Early Voting	25 Early Voting	26 Early Voting	27 Parks & Rec Advisory Board 6:00p (City Hall) Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Early Voting	28 Early Voting	29 Early Voting	
30 Early Voting	31 Halloween Early Voting						

*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 Early Voting Planning & Zoning 6:30p Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)	2 Early Voting BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	3 Early Voting	4 Early Voting	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day 	9	10 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11 Veterans' Day City Hall Closed Veteran's Day Celebration 1:00p (Library)	12 Craft Show 9:00a-3:00p (Activity Ctr.)
13	14 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library) Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	15 City Council 6:30p	16 SBB Family Lions 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way)	17 Great American Smokeout ESD #1 5:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) ESD #4 5:30p (9850 FM 311)	18	19
20	21 Thanksgiving Luncheon 11:30a (Activity Ctr.) CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CISD Holiday	22 CISD Holiday	23 CISD Holiday	24 Thanksgiving Day CISD Holiday City Hall Closed	25 Thanksgiving Day CISD Holiday	26 Bulverde Christmas Lighting 5:30 (Downtown Bulverde)
27	28	29	30	NOTES: Bulverde City Council and the Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)		

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