Mayor’s Point

Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

National Night Out was October 2nd. This year, I was able to make it to five block parties, a new record. For the last couple of years, Bulverde has been second in the State for turnout in our City’s size class. Nationally, we also placed eleventh one year and seventh another. That’s remarkable since we are at the lower end of our population grouping. Bulverde is competing with Cities almost three times our size.

Attending such events lets me receive valuable feedback from people that I may not usually hear from. Throughout the evening, many comments and few suggestions were made about the City’s well-being. I can honestly say that those comments have both delighted and reenergized me to continue to work diligently to stay ahead of development.

Three and a half years ago, the citizens of Bulverde voted for the charter that made Bulverde a Home Rule City. Since that time, we have used that new authority to bring properties in our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) slated for development into the City limits. That has proven to be the single most powerful tool to raise the bar on development. Too bad Home Rule had three failed attempts, as we can now clearly see the result of those defeats in the form the clear-cut and scraped landscape where houses outnumber trees.

Since Home Rule, we have had some real successes protecting our beloved Hill Country. I would like to list a few.

The property known as the McCarty Ranch, which sits off of the east side of US 281 south of Casey Rd. This neighborhood was originally had a Master Development Plans submitted as a high density neighborhood. The owner has since worked with the City in making it less dense; it will now have about 150 one-plus acre home sites.

A somewhat larger property off of Blanco Road, Belle Oaks Ranch, will develop as a gated community with approximately 700 one-plus acres lots.

What I consider the “Crown Jewel” is the Cole property off of Amman Road. Mr. Cole originally signed a Non-Annexation, Non Development Agreement (NANDA) with the City. He later sold the property. The new owner submitted plans for a high density neighborhood. The City
held firm on the NANDA. That owner then sold the property to Southerland Properties, the same that developed River Crossing. In September, City Council unanimously approved a development agreement on the property. Southerland has agreed to be voluntarily annexed into the City and build a gated residential community with approximately a 150 five-plus acre home sites.

There was a decent sized crowd at the September Council meeting. When Council approved the agreement with Southerland, the audience actually applauded the developer. Our City attorney stated that he believed that was the first time he knew of that a developer’s plan has received applause.

The City is opposed to the formation of Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs). Developers should fund infrastructure cost and recoup those costs when they sell the lots, that way the buyer has a better idea of what the property will actually cost them. MUDs also create a completely separate governmental entity that typically charges an exorbitant amount of tax on top of the traditional sewer service fees. Since Home Rule, the City has stopped the formation of a couple of MUDs and has limited the scope of others.

Home Rule also gave us the power to control nuisances up to 5000 feet outside of our City limits, such as noise, unsightly matters, brush piles that can impede storm water flow, and animal control. The City has cleaned up, prevented, or seen several of those activities locate elsewhere.

Some Cities go crazy when they receive Home Rule status. They target established, affluent neighborhoods and properties for annexation as a mere “tax grab,” ignoring others that could truly benefit from City services. They also tend to start regulating “everything under the sun,” basically abusing their power.

Bulverde has always tried not to annex existing developed property. There is nothing that can be changed and it isn’t about the tax dollars to us. Bulverde has tried to stay true to what the founders of the City promised it to be, a minimalist form of government focused solely on managing growth and controlling our own destiny.

As I have mentioned in the past, you can’t stop development—people have the right to develop their land. The City, however, has an obligation to its citizens to establish standards that will protect them from those who may not have their best interests in mind. The City of Bulverde will continue our efforts to raise those standards, to make sure as thing develop, we maintain a community we can all be proud of.
A sure sign of fall, even when the weather is still warm, is when property tax statements begin arriving in the mailboxes of Comal County residents.

Our Tax Office prepares and sends these statements each October, calculating the taxes each property owner owes based on the Comal Appraisal District’s valuations of their property and the tax rates established by more than a dozen public entities – from Comal County itself to school districts, cities, utility districts and emergency services districts.

For Comal County, those statements mark the conclusion of the months-long budget process during which Commissioners Court approves the county’s budget and tax rate.

The process starts in the spring, when individual county departments prepare their requests for the next year’s budget and submit them to County Auditor Jessie Rahe, who compiles and circulates them to Commissioners Court for a public hearing, where department heads and elected officials explain their needs and priorities.

Based on those requests, the County Judge works with the County Auditor to create a recommended budget for Commissioners Court to consider based on the auditor’s estimate of tax revenue the county can expect based on appraisal data.

Commissioners Court in August considers the budget and holds public hearings on both the budget and the tax rate necessary to fund it. Final adoption usually occurs in late August or early September, and the budget is then filed with the County Clerk’s Office.

The final tax rate approved by commissioners is used in the Tax Office’s calculations.

This year, Commissioners Court approved a $108.81 million budget with a tax rate of 35.79 cents per $100 of property value, which amounts to about $714 per year for a $200,000 home.

Although the process can be complicated, we make these decisions openly and seek public input through multiple meetings and hearings. The final product, our 2019 budget, is available on the Comal County website, www.comalcountytx.com.
The November Bulverde Musik in the Park Concert will be held at the Bulverde Christmas Lighting on Friday, November 23rd, from 5:30–8:30 pm in the courtyard of Texas Carpet Baggers for a special engagement. This is the second year we have had this concert for the Holiday Lighting and it is a truly enjoyable experience for all. We welcome back Matt Zarder for this event! He is an accomplished artist with a blend of folk, bluegrass, and old country styles. His influences are John Prine, Neil Young, Don McClean, Old Crew Medicine Show, and Mandolin Orange. He lives in New Braunfels and enjoys playing around town. Bring the kids out to see Santa and enjoy a free concert as well!

EPA Acceptance of the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River Watershed Protection Plan

The City of New Braunfels, along with stakeholders and local agencies, has been working collaboratively since 2015 to develop a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to restore and protect water quality in the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River watersheds. The watershed planning process led to key recommendations for addressing E.coli bacteria in both watersheds.

The WPP includes specific bacteria management measures aimed at reducing bacteria loading to the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River. These management measures include, but are not limited to wildlife management, pet waste management and initiation of education & outreach activities.

The WPP was submitted to both the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review and comment. On September 21, 2018 the City of New Braunfels received notification that the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River WPP was accepted by the EPA.

The City of New Braunfels recently received federal grant funding from the EPA through the TCEQ to implement bacteria management measures outlined in the WPP. Activities outlined in the WPP are currently underway and being implemented by the City and its project partners.

More information on the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River WPP, as well as a copy of the WPP, can be found on the New Braunfels city website at www.nbtexas.org/WPP. Contact Mark Enders at 830-221-4639, or at menders@nbtexas.org, with any questions or for additional information on this initiative.
Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club to Host 2nd Annual Turkey Trot for Diabetes Awareness

In support of World Diabetes week and the American Diabetes Association, the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club (LFWCC), along with Living Rock Academy (LRA), is pleased to host the 2nd Annual Turkey Trot for Diabetes Community Walk on Saturday, November 17, 2018. The walk will take place in downtown Bulverde beginning at Living Rock Academy.

Diabetes is increasing worldwide and is a disease shared by young and old, rich and poor. Over 360 million people have diabetes. The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that, by 2030, more than 550 million people, worldwide, will have the disease. Every 8 seconds, someone in the world dies from the complications of diabetes. It is among the top 10 causes of disability: tens of millions of people with diabetes suffer serious conditions including heart disease, stroke, lower limb amputations, diabetic retinopathy (vision loss or blindness caused by diabetic eye disease), and kidney failure.

We need members of the community like you to help us fight the battle against diabetes and continue to promote a healthy community. We invite your business to review the 2018 sponsorship levels and consider joining our team. Information about sponsorship is found on our website at the link https://www.sbblions.com/sponsorship-information. Proceeds raised in this event will benefit American Diabetes Association and the community to continue to promote diabetes education awareness and provide funding for those in need of diabetic medical supplies. We hope that you will consider supporting us!

If you would like more information regarding the Turkey Trot for Diabetes event, please feel free to contact Melissa Doyle, Services Activity Chair/Event Coordinator, call (217) 320-2773. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to include your business as a team member at our event!
National Night Out 2018 was once again a huge success for everyone in the City of Bulverde. There were 20 block parties in the community with more than 700 attendees at these events. There are several important components to National Night Out that help make the event a success, but one of the most important is the support from our local business community. Business sponsorships for National Night Out make it possible for the police department to host events like the Senior Luncheon Event at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, as well as the Host Appreciation Dinner at the Bulverde Events Center located at the Hampton Inn.

The Host Appreciation Dinner was held on September 23rd with about 60 attendees and was catered by Papasitos. On October 1st, employees from the police department served Smokey Mo’s Barbeque to more than 80 guests at the Senior Luncheon Event. Special guests from the DEA, Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Senator Donna Campbell, and many others joined us for National Night Out on October 2nd.

Now that National Night Out 2018 has concluded, Mary Bell from the police department will continue to work hard submitting information to the National Association Town Watch to see where the city will fall in the National Rankings for cities under 15,000 (population). We will be sure to update everyone once we find out. Thank you, Mary Bell, for all your hard work, and thanks to our Chamber of Commerce and the businesses of the community that helped make this great event a possibility.
Every tree needs a champion.

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The Day the Rains Came

By Francesca Watson

When I woke up on Saturday morning, September 21st, I didn’t even realize it had rained overnight. So when my husband Nick and I headed out to our studio in the Village, we were surprised to discover low water crossings closed in Oak Village North, and the Lewis and Cibolo Creeks raging along 1863.

Just as we crossed under Highway 281, my phone rang. It was my friend Kate, who had come all the way from California with her friend Tammy to take a workshop in our studio. Her tone was serious. “Francesca, we’re in the water and the car is stuck.”

“What?” I said, shocked. “Are you alright?”

“No, we’re not. It’s bad,” she said.

Kate and Tammy had been staying at the Tejas Rodeo casitas on Obst Road for the weekend, and headed out a little before 9:00 that morning to come to class at our studio. Unfamiliar with the area and the possibility of serious flooding after heavy rain, they had gotten themselves caught in rapidly rising water not far from the property.

We heard sirens behind us and as we pulled over to let them pass, I heard Kate say, “We have to get out of the car.”

When we got to the scene, I was horrified to see how bad the flooding was. Because the water had turned the car, I could see both women clearly through the passenger window and I flashed them thumbs up. They gave me thumbs up in return, and I turned to one of the EMS team members.

“I’ll stay out of your way, but I’m staying,” I said. He nodded.

Suddenly the EMS team was moving faster, putting on gear and uncoiling ropes. I stepped back, out of the way, and called to one of the EMS team members.

“They’re coming,” I kept saying. “They’re coming.”

“We can’t get the doors open. The windows are up. And there’s water in the car,” she repeated. “This is bad, right?”

“They’re going to get you out,” I said. “It’s going to be ok.” I was trying to be reassuring, but I was terrified.

“We have to get out of here,” Kate replied. “I’ll call you back.”

I looked at my husband. “Oh my god,” I said, my heart in my throat.

We dropped our guest instructor at the studio, and raced towards Obst Road. When I called Kate back, I could hear Tammy in the background talking with the 911 operator. “Kate,” I said, “we saw the trucks – are they there yet?”

“I don’t see anyone, Francesca. And there’s water in the car now,” she replied.

“They’re coming,” I kept saying. “They’re coming.”

“We can’t get the doors open. The windows are up. And there’s water in the car,” she repeated. “This is bad, right?”

“They’re going to get you out,” I said. “It’s going to be ok.”

When I hung up, there were two men halfway to the car, roped and uncoiling ropes. I stepped back, out of the way, and called a friend. “Pray,” I urged. “This could be bad.”

Then the back end began to swing around in the rushing current, and Kate’s voice shot up an octave. “Francesca? The car’s moving!”

Suddenly the EMS team was moving faster, putting on gear and uncoiling ropes. I stepped back, out of the way, and called a friend. “Pray,” I urged. “This could be bad.”

When I hung up, there were two men halfway to the car, roped to the truck, walking slowly through the water and using a long pole to probe the area in front of them as they moved. (Tammy told me later the 911 dispatcher kept telling her a boat was coming, and asking her if she could see it. Finally, Tammy said, “I see two guys with a stick. Do you call that a boat here in Texas??”) By the time the men reached the car, the water had almost reached the windshield.

The rescuers broke both passenger side windows and passed the women life preservers. It took a few minutes for them to start crawling through the window—not an easy feat wearing a bulky life preserver—but before long both women were safely

Were you denied life insurance benefits because your insurance company claims your loved one lied on the policy application?

While this is one of the tactics used by insurance companies to deny life insurance claims, the standard necessary to prove such misrepresentation is very high in Texas. Don’t let a life insurance company take advantage of you. Contact us at (210) 733-4177 to set up a free consultation on your life insurance denial claim. We will fight to get you the benefits you deserve.

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at the water’s edge. The rescuers even got their luggage out of the car!

In the meantime, the second low water crossing on Obst Road had flooded—we were stuck. We spent several hours waiting for the waters to recede; Tammy had a cut on her hand from the window glass and Kate was understandably shaken, but otherwise both women were unharmed. And as we looked at the photos and video, we realized what a near miss it had been. Not long after they escaped, the car was almost completely submerged.

This is a cautionary tale, even for those of us who live here and are more attuned to the hazards of quickly rising water. Roads that are passable one minute can be dangerous the next. Even in cases where the rain has stopped, water can rise for hours afterwards—frighteningly fast, in some cases—as it flows down out of the higher ground to our north and west.

It’s also a chance for us to recognize how fortunate we are to have such a well-trained and dedicated team of EMS professionals serving our community. Each and every one of the young men on that team were focused, selfless and impressively calm in a situation of great danger and stress. Afterwards, they dealt with us kindly and thoughtfully, and even a little humorously. “I’m bringing you brownies or something to say thank you,” I told one of them. “We’re with the Johnson Way station,” he replied. “Make sure the other station doesn’t get our goodies.”

So the next time you see one of our EMS professionals, thank them for all they do. And when you see water on the road, turn around and don’t drown!

About the author: Francesca Watson is a metalsmith and nationally known jewelry instructor. She and her husband Nick, a painter, own The Makery in the Village of Bulverde.

DID YOU KNOW?
• Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide.
• Twelve inches of water can float many cars. Two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs and most other vehicles.
• Water across a road may hide a missing segment of roadbed or a missing bridge.
• In flash floods, waters rise so rapidly they may be far deeper by the time you are halfway across, trapping you in your vehicle.
• Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to see how deep waters may be or how fast water is rising.
• Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Retrieved from the Texas Department of Safety website. For more information go here: https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/threatawareness/tadd.htm
It’s Time to Register!
The 8th Annual Holiday Hunger Run 5K is right around the corner!

Get ready to lace up your running shoes once again for the annual Holiday Hunger Run & Walk 5K, a benefit event for Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach, the Bulverde food pantry. This is the 8th year that runners, joggers, walkers, and even a dog or two will set out to beat hunger in our community. The Holiday Hunger Run & Walk 5K will take place on Saturday, December 1, at the Bulverde Community Park. Managed by Athlete Guild, the run boasts a fast, flat course and chip timing. Participants of all skill levels are welcome to participate. There’s even a holiday costume contest for those of you who want to walk or run dressed in your favorite holiday attire! Registration is available on the Athlete Guild website (www.athleteguild.com), just search “Holiday Hunger Run” or “Bulverde” to get all the details and to register.

Sponsors Still Wanted!
Provisions is also seeking event sponsorships from the community. All monies raised through these sponsorships go directly toward the cause of fighting hunger in our community. There are several levels of sponsorships available, each with marketing benefits and complimentary registrations for the run. If you, with your business or as an individual, would like to be a sponsor for the event, call Weslea Miller at 210.316.1940 or visit the Provisions website at http://provisionsoutreach.org for more information.

BSBAC Posted Record Numbers for Active Aging Week and Health Fair 2018

In September, the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center celebrated our “Inspiring Wellness” Active Aging Week with a record number of people attending our Health Fair and various events throughout the week. We welcomed 120 guests and signed 4 new members. We had wonderful raffle gifts donated by our community partners including a Keurig coffee maker and numerous gift cards. Our fitness instructors hosted demonstration exercise classes including Yoga and Line Dancing. One of our members said that “It was the most fun she’s had in a long time.” These 25-minute classes gave members and guests a chance to try something new.

In addition to those fitness classes and our Lunch and Learn presentation with River Oak Insurance, 28 additional vendors participated. Walgreens hosted a Flu Shot Clinic during which 46 flu shots were administered. Vision screenings were provided by Bulverde Vision Source, and Blood pressure/ Glucose screenings were offered free of charge by WellMed.

Another fun addition to the week’s activities was our kickoff event, Walk Across Texas, when we started a journey of 830 miles in 8 weeks with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services. Thirteen enthusiastic walkers came to start their walk to better health. At the kick off, WellMed, our main sponsor, provided healthy breakfast snacks and water to encourage walkers to maintain healthy food habits while exercising.

We will continue to meet every Wednesday at 9:30 am at the Bulverde Community Park for walking and presentations by various health agencies. Recently, we welcomed Bert Pickell, Director and Coach of San Antonio Walks and
FitCity SA. He discussed the proper use of walking shoes and shared some techniques with us.

Don’t forget to join us every Wednesday for Walk Across Texas, and make plans to attend our annual Craft Show on Saturday, November 10th from 9 am–3 pm. For more information about Walk Across Texas or to create/join a team, you can visit www.walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu, or contact Jessica Rosario at 830-438-3111 or email jrosario@bsbac.com.

As always, we welcome anyone who is interested in learning about our Activity Center and events. For more information, visit our website at www.bsbac.com or call us at 830-438-3111.
A Generous Legacy
The Brennan Livaudais Memorial Scholarship

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” —Eleanor Roosevelt

Brennan Livaudais had a dream of becoming a firefighter in order to save lives and to help his community. After graduating from Ronald Reagan High School in 2006, he began his journey to achieve that dream. Brennan graduated from the Fire Academy and became a certified firefighter by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. He also had become a state-certified and Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician.

This year, Brennan would have turned 30, and we can only imagine how rewarding his career as a firefighter/paramedic would have been to him. However, on a very ordinary day in August 2010, Brennan’s dreams were cut short. While helping his father paint a home, he was stung by a bee on his lip and stomach, causing an anaphylactic reaction, which then resulted in Brennan’s death at the age of 22.

Yet, while we may think the beauty of Brennan’s dream to help others had been diminished by his death, it was not. He was a generous organ donor, creating futures for those who had been struggling, and through these gifts of life, he was able to give other families their miracle.

Even more so, Brennan’s dream still lives on through a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to those with similar goals of community service so that they will be able to make their dreams a reality, too. Brennan’s father, Ken, was the visionary for this scholarship program, and the objective of the Livaudais family is to help as many individuals as possible who are experiencing difficulties in affording the basic certification classes.

Over 30 students in EMT classes in our Centre for Emergency Health Sciences division have been awarded the Brennan L. Livaudais Memorial Scholarship since the start of the program in 2012. It is administered by a five-person committee and is composed of one firefighter, one EMT, and three members of the community. Recipients of the scholarship have been employed by BSB Fire & EMS, New Braunfels Fire Department, San Antonio Fire Department, Gillespie County, Kerrville Peterson Hospital, and several private ambulance companies.

At this season of thanks, we count our blessings to have had Brennan in our lives, and we remain so grateful that his dream lives on through the devoted efforts of his generous and loving family. We remember always…

“If we love never go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, But always near, So loved, so missed, So very dear.”

If you would like to further Brennan’s dream of service to others, and to honor his life, please consider a donation. Visit our website, https://www.hiscentre.com/livaudais to contribute to this worthy funding offering or to apply for the scholarship.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO TRIM THOSE OAKS

NOW IS THE TIME TO TRIM THOSE OAKS
**ARC Barn Cats Can Work for You!**

Living out in the country (or the out of the reach of the big city, anyway) brings many benefits—more open spaces, less noise and less traffic, among them. It also offers the ability for us to have farms and ranches of varying sizes.

Many people enjoy the chance to have a large garden or to keep a few horses, goats or other livestock, but with the garden seeds and livestock come mice and other pests. Not to worry, though. There’s a cat for that—a barn cat, that is!

These wonderful felines help keep mice and other animals out of animal feed and can be a joy to watch whether they are at work or napping in the sunshine on a hay bale or fence. And all they ask in return for this organic pest control is food, water, and a safe place to live.

Where do these barn cats come from? Often, they come from Trap-Neuter-Return projects where the cats can’t be returned or from situations in which outside cats must be relocated due to the death or medical issues of their caretaker.

All cats that are part of this program are healthy, have been spayed or neutered, and are up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. We’ll help match the appropriate cats to the environment they will be patrolling. We’ll also deliver the cats (we recommend having at least two so they can warn each other of imminent danger or predators), and we provide information on the relocation protocol so that your new working cats don’t take off looking for their former “home.” The relocation protocol helps the cats acclimate to their new surrounds, feeding routine, and caretaker.

And ARC is there to support you every step of the way to make sure this venture is successful. We don’t charge an adoption fee for barn cats, but gladly accept donations to support the rescue work.

If you have the space to devote to a barn cat or two—whether or not you have a farm or ranch or just want to have some outdoor cats—please let us know by emailing Animal Rescue Connections at animalrescueconnections@gmail.com

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426 Singing Oak, Spring Branch, TX 78070
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www.texasmedclinic.com/location/hwy-281-hwy-46/

28th Annual Bulverde Christmas Lighting
Friday, November 23, 2018
Festivities begin at 5:30 PM in downtown Bulverde
Located on the 2300 block of Bulverde Road 1 mile west of Highway 281

We invite you to enjoy a free family fun holiday event complete with:
Pictures with Santa
Real snow! Supporting Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach Vendors providing gifts for kids
Tree Lighting Ceremony
Holiday Entertainment
Grinch Village
Event sponsored by:
B/ SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

November 10, 2018
Red, White & Blue Breakfast
Honoring those that serve us
Veterans, Active & Retired Military
Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS
Location: BSB Fire & EMS Station 3
Johnson Ranch, Bulverde
8:00 am–10 am
Free event–Please join us
Co-hosted by Bulverde Area Republican Women & BSB Chamber of Commerce

November 14, 2018
Chamber Monthly Power Lunch
Sponsored By: ASEA and Sharon Herbert with Fore Properties
12 Noon–1:00 pm (Doors open at 11:30)
Location: Bulverde Visitors & Event Center

November 15, 2018
Business Networking Mixer
Hosted By: Security State Bank & Trust
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
Location: 3131 Bulverde Rd, Bulverde TX
Member Only Event

November 23, 2018
Bulverde Christmas Lighting
5:30 pm–9 pm
Old Village in Downtown Bulverde
Free to the Public

December 8, 2018
Bulverde Spring Branch Holiday Tour of Homes
Featuring 10 model homes throughout our communities.
For more information on the homes and to purchase your tickets go to www.BSBTourOfHomes.com

For information on the above events or other community events, please check out our Website at www.bsbchamber.com

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Our grief support is offered to anyone in the community who needs it... not just to those families whose loved one was on Hope Hospice’s service.
Gardening With Deer-Resistant Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental grasses are deer resistant plants that many people are unfamiliar with. Ornamental grasses are fabulous, under-utilized plants in any landscape throughout the year, yet it seems the majority of them show their majestic beauty during the autumn in our area. There are many magnificent grasses, especially native grasses, which can be utilized to compliment and add drama and depth to the garden that are drought-tolerant and can thrive in the south Texas environment.

Fountain grasses (Pennisetum) are wonderful in the fall garden. These grasses appear dramatic when used to define a corner site, as well as being positioned to rise out of an area of lower growing plants. Purple Fountain Grass (Pennisetum setaceum, ‘Rubrum’) is extremely drought-tolerant and adds terrific contrast to the garden with broad purple leaves and arching feathery pink-colored flower spikes that bloom throughout the growing season. Purple Fountain Grass is cold tolerant to 20 degrees. Black Flowering Fountain Grass is a smaller grass clump producing black furry caterpillar-like plumes. Two dwarf varieties are used often in the area: ‘Little Bunny’ and ‘Dwarf Hamelin.’ ‘Little Bunny’ seems to be used more, growing to 16 inches in height and is the smallest of the pennisetums. ‘Dwarf Hamelin’ grows to 24 inches and is slightly more compact.

Chinese Silver Grasses (Miscanthus sinensis) are elegant upright grasses. These ornamental grasses range in height from 4 ft. to over 10 ft.; from plants with fine needle-like leaves to specimens with wide arching blades. Maiden Grass (M.s. ‘gracillimus’/’graziella’) varieties produce large, free hanging, silver-white plumes protruding out high above the foliage. This drought-tolerant plant is quick to establish itself and grows to approximately 5.5 ft. Undine Miscanthus grows to 6.5 ft. and is known as the bigger sister of ‘Graziella’, but with a remarkably light and elegant inflorescence. Silver Feather Miscanthus produces pinkish blooms that develop to silver, reaching 6.5 ft. in height. Two dwarf varieties, ‘Adagio’ and ‘Yakushima’, are attractive tufted erect clumps, which show delightful pinkish-brown flower plumes.

Mexican Feather Grass (Stipa) is a wonderful smaller native ornamental grass that adds drama to any garden, especially when the blooming flower heads attractively move in the wind. This plant forms tufts of pale green leaves, which can roll up during drought conditions. The different Stipa varieties produce long, fine, golden hue flower heads, which bloom in the spring and fall, however are more dramatic in the spring.

Gulf Muhly Grass (Muhlenbergia capillaris) also adds rose-colored, feathery blooms to the garden. These native evergreen grasses grow to approximately 3ft. in height and are spectacular when used in native landscape themes. Big Muhly (Muhlenbergia lindheimeri) is another glorious native grass which adds interest to any landscape. This clumping blue-green grass producing a wheat-like feather bloom.

The native plant demonstration bed at the Garden boasts some fabulous native grasses which are in full bloom at this time of the year.


OTHER NEWS: 678 lbs. of produce have been grown at the Garden for Provisions as of the end of September.
**Additional Local Events**

**November**

**Election Day**
*Tuesday, Nov. 6*
7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

**Texas A&M Ag Extension DIY Saturday – Wreath Making**
*Saturday, Nov. 10, 9:00a–11:00a*
Taught by Krystal Snider; $15.00 fee
Call 830-620-3440 to register and for additional details.

**December**

**S.T.A.G.E. Auditions**
*Sunday, December 30, 4:00p*
*A Funny Little Thing Called Love*

**Ongoing/Repeating Events**

**Pet Adoptions**
- Animal Rescue Connections hosts Cat Adoptions every Saturday, 12:00–4:30 pm at the Stone Village Petco, 23014 US Hwy 281 N, SATX; and on each Sunday, 12:00–4:30 pm at the Stone Ridge PetSmart, 21019 US Hwy 281 N, SATX.
- Bulverde Area Humane Society is open for pet adoptions on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10:00am–1:00pm and on Sunday 1:00pm–4:00pm; 3563 Kingsnake, Bulverde, TX., 78163; (830) 980-2247
- Canyon Lake Animal Shelter Society is open for pet adoptions on Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00am–5:00pm; 2170 Old Sattler Road, Canyon Lake, TX., 78133; 830-899-2527

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**Bulverde Area Humane Society Pet of the Month**

**Pix**

Pix is a sweet, sweet boy with the most gorgeous green eyes for a tabby. He has some white under his chin and a white spot on his chest. Pix is 4½ yrs old and gets along with other cats with no problems. He is easy going and enjoys being brushed and loved on; he actually looks forward to it! He will either lie beside you or on you while you do it, he loves it so much! He loves hanging out and being with you. Pix weighs about 10 pounds. Pix is microchipped, neutered (as indicated by his clipped ear), vaccinated, combo tested and negative for FIV and leukemia. If you would like to meet Pix, you can visit him at BAHS on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday from 10am–1pm and on Sunday from 1pm–4pm.

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**TECH NEWS: STAYING SAFE ONLINE OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NERDSTOGO**

**Emails: Caution**
- Do not click on any links or download attachments unless you know the sender. If the email looks unusual from the sender you know, call the sender and confirm they sent the email.
- Look out for fake ads, shipping notifications, and e-cards from those you don't know. These could lead to viruses and other issues.

**Shopping Online**
- Before entering any payment information online be sure the business is reputable and will actually deliver the products or services you paid for.
- Do internet search of vendors and check their reviews.
- If you are unsure about a website don’t take the chance. Try finding the item(s) on a reputable website like Amazon or other large online retailers.
- Avoid doing any shopping on a public or unsecure network. Use a VPN if necessary.

**Scams: Charities and Donation Requests Online**

**FTC Warning Signs: Possible Charity & Donation Scams**
- Detailed information isn’t provided by the charity on how donations will be used.
- You are pressured to donate now and they won’t give you time to think about it.
- The charity wants cash donations, gift cards, or money to be wired to them.

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This November, the Mammen Family Public Library will celebrate 10 years with Library Director, Susan Herr. Susan Herr has been the Library Director at the Mammen Family Public Library, formerly Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, since November 2008. Aside from being a respectful, warm, caring, giving, and intelligent woman, Susan goes above and beyond for the community and the staff of the library. She is adept at grant writing, works well with the library support groups (Friends of the Library, Library Foundation), serves on the city Chamber board and is an active member of the League of Women Voters. Despite her busy work and personal life, Susan takes the time to cook lunch for her 22 staff members (and a few volunteers) for the library’s monthly staff meeting. She does all this with good humor and a sense of “let’s get it done.”

Over the years, Susan has proven to be an asset to not only the library, but to the community. Over the years, the Library District Board has received numerous letters from library users praising Susan for her uplifting personality, her management of the library but also for her dedication to the library members who come in each day. One particular letter dated January 5, 2018, thanked Susan for her willingness to help with writing and submitting a resume just before the library closed. The letter states that a week later, the member was hired and were it not for Susan, a wonderful opportunity could have been missed.

In spring of 2016, through a vision of Susan’s and with her assistance in the writing of some grants, the Library Foundation obtained a technologically equipped mobile unit to personally and digitally connect the community to the library called the Biblio Techno Trekker (locally known as the Trekker). This vehicle has played a large part in assisting underserved parts of the Bulverde Spring Branch community by taking books and technology to neighborhoods and local food pantries. Through the Trekker, thousands of community members have been reached and helped.

Susan is constantly striving to make the library a better place by successfully managing her staff, coordinating a large expansion effort, and continually pushing for educational and cultural programming. In particular, Susan is a very big supporter of technology focused programs. She encourages the programming team to explore coding classes for all ages, social media classes, and general computer related programs. In doing so, not only is she making the library a better place for senior citizens and adults to be, she’s opening the door for kids and teens to see the library as a good hang out spot.

For the almost 10 years that Susan has been Director at the library, she has brought many changes and grown the small town library into a modern place for community members to meet and learn.

From all the staff, volunteers, FOL, BARLD, and Foundation, thank you Susan for all the work you have done, continue to do, and will do in the next few years.

Inspired by Susan’s library story? The Mammen Family Public Library will be launching a Libraries Transform campaign in November 2018. Library users, community members and more are invited to visit the library to share their library stories. A station will be set up at the library main building where you can select a card with a Libraries Transform theme, write your library story (publicly or anonymously), and display it in the library hallway. We look forward to seeing how the library has transformed your life!
Odds-n-Ends

Bingo in Bulverde!
The Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club will be hosting community BINGO on **Friday, November 30, 2018**, at the SSB Activity Center, 30280 Cougar Bend, Bulverde, Texas 78163.
- Doors open at 5:00pm
- Sales begin at 5:15pm (CASH only, please!)
- Games begin at 6:30pm

Players from age 5 and up are welcome! (Child players must stay with parent/guardian and remain seated during play.) A snack bar with some basic munchies will be available also. Visit the SBB Lions Club website at https://www.sbblions.com or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/SBBLionsClub/ for all the details!

Free Kids’ Gift Workshop at Grace Fellowship
Grace Fellowship in Bulverde will be having its annual gift making workshop on **Saturday, December 8**, from 10:00a–12:00p. The address is 32445 Hwy 281 N (at Casey Rd). The event is free! It is meant for children ages pre-K through 5th grade, but everyone is welcome. The children will have a chance to make quality Christmas gifts for family, friends, or teachers. There will be tables set up inside the sanctuary with each table offering a different set of supplies, with samples to look at and a volunteer staff to help. It is a lot of fun! Cookies and hot chocolate will be served, and Christian entertainment will be provided, including balloon making and a short message for the kids. Please join us! gracefellowshipabc.com

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SVHS Teacher Watkins Earns Outstanding Educator Award

Kirsten Watkins, who teaches AP English and English III at Smithson Valley High School, was recently selected as a University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award winner, based on a nomination written by one of her former students.

Paige Brann, a current student at the University of Chicago, wrote, “The pride you had for our development was unmatched by any teacher I had ever met. You have truly pushed me to examine my own thoughts, actions and purpose every single day. I thank you for your public service and for the blessing you are on all the classes that come after me.”

This year marks Watkins’ seventh year of teaching. She has a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of the Incarnate Word, a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Utah State University and a master’s degree in arts administration from Goucher College.
Comal ISD’s Dads of Great Students

The ‘mom’ volunteer is a staple in schools all across the nation. Moms do everything it seems, but dads are equally important when it comes to volunteering in their children’s schools, and one volunteer program was made just for them.

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a nationally recognized organization created to get fathers and father-figures involved in schools. Since it began in 1989, it has helped thousands of male role models volunteer in their local schools with more than 6,450 schools hosting a Watch D.O.G.S. program on their campus.

“I am proud of how this program has grown within our district,” says Superintendent Andrew Kim, who recommended Watch D.O.G.S. be implemented in Comal ISD six years ago. “I believe that providing more opportunities for equal partnerships with our parents makes our schools stronger.”

Currently, every Comal ISD elementary campus has a Watch D.O.G.S. program, and they have been hosting kick-off parties since the beginning of the school year in order to sign up dads, uncles, grandfathers, and other father figures for the new year.

These dad volunteers generally choose one or more days in the year to spend on their child’s campus. On those days, they may help in the classroom by reading to students or working with them on math problems, play at recess, eat lunch with them in the cafeteria, patrol the school’s entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up and participate in whatever activity may be happening that day on campus.

According to a U.S. Department of Education study concerning family engagement in schools, children are more likely to earn higher grades, participate in extracurricular activities, and enjoy school if their fathers are involved in their schools.

In his seventh year as a Watch D.O.G., David Drott is helping launch the program at the newly opened Pieper Ranch Middle School and believes Watch D.O.G.S. gives fathers, like himself, the perfect opportunity to see what it’s like to be a kid in school today.

“I always say that when I was in school, if my dad was on campus, it wasn’t a good thing,” Drott says. “Being a part of Watch D.O.G.S. has really opened my eyes to what kids go through on a daily basis at school, and it gives me a chance to be a part of it.”

As the volunteer administrator of the program at Pieper Ranch, Drott is helping Comal ISD to expand Watch D.O.G.S. to its middle school campuses and eventually to high school campuses. While the reasons for having dads on campus remain the same at the middle and high school levels, to provide positive male role models and give dads an avenue to volunteer, Watch D.O.G.S. in these upper grades also provide an extra set of eyes and ears for the campus safety and security.

“Each campus is allowed to structure the Watch D.O.G.S. program to benefit its needs and the needs of its parents,” says Joe McKenna, Comal ISD director of safety and security. “Currently, the district is working with helping the program gain momentum at the middle school level and helping to set some guidelines. Of course, the more eyes we have on our campuses, the better, but also, this program provides the other important piece which is father figures providing positive role models to all students.”
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NOTES:
Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend).

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 Early Voting 2 Early Voting 3

4 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back!)
5 Election Day
6 Planning & Zoning 6:00p
7 Art Class 12:00 (30280 Cougar Bend)
8 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ct.)
9 Red, White & Blue Breakfast 8:30a (30476 Johnson Way)
10 SBBAC Craft Show 9:30–10:00p (30380 Cougar Bend)
11 Civility at the Table 1:00–2:30p (135 Ave. Ln, NB 78132)
12 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library)
13 City Council 6:30p (30280 Cougar Bend)
14 Art Class 12:00 (30280 Cougar Bend)
15 ESD #1 4:00p (500 Rodes Dr.)
16 James & the Giant Peach P.7:30p (S.T.A.G.E., 1300 Bulverde Rd.)
17 Civility at the Texas Capitol 11:00–2:30p (135 Ave. Ln, NB 78132)
18 Diabetes 8:30a (2500 Bulverde Rd. 78130)
19 Rural Library District 3:30p (Library)
20 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC)
21 ESD #5 5:00p (30476 Johnson Way)
22 Thanksgiving Day Bulverde City Hall (Library)
23 Lighting of Bulverde 5:30p (Downtown Bulverde, 2295 Bulverde Rd.)
24 Small Business Saturday, SHOP SMALL!
25 ESD #4 5:00p (135 Ave. Ln, NB 78132)
26 Run&Walk 5K 8:00a (2295 Bulverde Rd.)
27 Thanksgiving Day Bulverde City Hall (Library)
28 Art Class 12:00 (30280 Cougar Bend)
29 Park & Rec Advisory Board 6:30p
30 BINGO in Bulverde 5:00–6:00p (30280 Cougar Bend)
31 S.T.A.G.E. Auditions 4:00p (30380 Cougar Bend)

See additional list of local activities, including pet adoptions hosted by ARC, BAHS, and CLASS, inside the magazine.