Mayor's Point

Bill Krawietz
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

The City of Bulverde recently switched the engineering firm used for outside services from Halff Associates to Freese and Nichols. Halff was used for many years, but Council decided it was time for a change. Feese and Nichols has a strong background in utilities and drainage.

The City has traditionally employed an engineer on staff, to head up our Public Works department. Council also recently prompted a personnel change in that position as well. The City Manager has found and hired someone who looks like he will be a great asset to the City. His name is Tim Parker and he comes to us from TXDOT.

Now that the US 281 project leading up to Bulverde is nearly complete, it is anticipated that development activity in our area will greatly increase. There are many people living in San Antonio who want to move out of it. Many have refused to even consider living in Bulverde and Spring Branch due to the traffic on 281. Now that the commute is no longer an issue, they will seek this desirable area in droves. If you think growth has been fast paced up to now, well I'm afraid you haven't seen anything yet.

As far as the rest of US 281 through Bulverde, the City has been working with TXDOT on the plans for Phase 3 of US 281. That section will go from Borgfield Road to a couple of miles north of Hwy 46.

The plan is progressing well; however, TXDOT says funding for such a project is many years out. I have told them, to cut down on costs and possibly get funding sooner, maybe they should focus on the area from Mustang Vista to up past Singing Hills. To me, the stretch from the Cibolo Creek to FM 1863 could be delayed for many years. We need to focus on the problem area to the north. It needs attention now.

The City is better-leveraged now to manage the growth and development than ever before. There are many people who believe the growth is due to us “being a City.” That could not be further from the truth. From when the City was incorporated back in 1997, Bulverde has worked tirelessly to defend and preserve our Hill Country from unchecked development.

In the early days of the City, we created a Comprehensive Master Plan called Sunrise 2025. That plan has guided the City well over the years. To me, it has been much more than a plan, it’s our Mission Statement.

As the name indicates, it was to guide us through 2025. As the sun is starting to set on this plan, we will begin the process to update it. There is a delay in printing this publication, but Council is expected to give the go ahead (Continued on page 4)
at our June meeting to planners at Freese and Nichols to begin the process of revising it.

I was very involved, as were many other members of our community, with developing the original. It was a great and exciting process to work on.

Much of the original document is still valid and will not need to be rewritten. We have so much more experience now and can use our hindsight to fine tune the document that will steer the direction of the City for another 20 years.

The original plan had 16 community focus groups meetings to gather information and input for the planners to compile. I don't know if we need that many this time around. If you would like to be part of the process though, stay tuned for instruction on how you can share your vision.

(Continued from page 3)

From the City Manager's Desk

By Charles West

Hard to believe it is July already. You would think it would be easy to write an article each month talking about the various things happening around the city and at City Hall, but unfortunately, there are some things I am not allowed to discuss due to confidentiality and project owners asking that things be kept quiet until they are ready to go public. Plus, I am not a writer. When I was in college, I would wait until the last minute to write research papers and other documents, so why would I change now that I am writing a monthly article? I guess old habits are hard to break and for any of our readers in college or school, do not get in this habit. While I have been able to make it work for me, it does not mean it will always work.

Getting back to the point I would like to make, which is while the city is not able to prohibit development from occurring, we are doing our best to manage it, and preserve Bulverde and what makes it special. There are processes and ordinances in place to assist in accomplishing this. Not everyone agrees with how things are done—including myself at times—but the State Legislature has taken a lot of the resources away from cities such as ours. Recently they passed legislation that takes away more of our ability to manage growth by limiting or prohibiting some of the rules that we were allowed to implement and enforce within our ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction).

One of the things you can do is talk to your State Senator or Representative and encourage them to allow control to stay at the local level. The one-size-fits-all approach does not work for every municipality within the State. Just like Bulverde is unique, other areas of the State have things that make them unique to that region (even though, in my opinion, none are as special as Bulverde). While the legislature has taken away some of our control and made it more difficult for us, we are going to continue to do everything within our power to manage the growth we are experiencing (which appears to not be slowing down anytime soon). Over the next several months, the city will begin the process of updating the Master Plan and development ordinances. This process is going to take several months to complete and will seek public input before any updates are completed, therefore we ask that you be on the lookout for meeting dates and possible surveys that will be coming out.

At the time of writing this article, it is early June and as I’ve mentioned before, we are beginning the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. In late July or early August, there will be a public hearing on the budget and proposed tax rate. Bulverde is fortunate to have one of the lowest property tax rates within the state of Texas. Our plan is to keep our tax rate low yet provide the quality of service you are accustomed to and expect. I would encourage you to be involved, attend the public hearings, and provide any comment you may have regarding the budget or tax rate. Don’t be afraid to speak up. I should note that the city does not have any control over property valuations or what other entities are doing regarding their tax rates.

In the coming months, my article will cover more about current projects and any future projects. We encourage you to visit our website and download the Bulverde app once it is ready for distribution (which should be within the next few weeks, once the developer is able to get a minor bug worked out). In the app you will be able to see when meetings are scheduled, report concerns you may have, and track the status of the concern you have reported. Looking forward to writing the August article updating you on progress being made on several of our current projects.

On the Cover

We want to thank Eliza Bushn, a talented writer and award-winning photographer for giving us this month’s cover photo. There is nothing better than a float down the river to help beat the Texas July heat!

Ms. Bushn has traveled all over Texas recording sights and stories for publications such as Texas Hill Country magazine. In addition to being a published author and photographer, Eliza has a doctorate in ministry. She lives near Canyon Lake with her husband Bob, and has taken many beautiful pictures of our surrounding water features including the lake and the Guadalupe River. With some luck, we will be seeing more of Eliza’s photos on the pages of the Front Porch News.

The legislature has taken away some of our control and
Bulverde Methodist Church
Annual Rummage Sale

For more than 17 years, Bulverde Methodist Women have had a Rummage Sale to benefit local, national, and worldwide organizations that support women and children. Through these years, many thousands of dollars have been donated to several charitable organizations. The Bulverde Women want to continue supporting these vital charities as we have in the past, and we invite your partnership.

You can count on finding something you will treasure as we have Clothing, Housewares, Home Décor, Furniture, Craft supplies, Toys, Books, Baby items, Sporting goods, Linens plus much more.

The Rummage Sale is scheduled for
August 4 & 5, 2023
at 28300 US Highway 281 N.
from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

We hope you will support our mission efforts by shopping for your new treasures!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 830-980-7745 Bulverde Methodist Church.

A Note of Thanks from Jane Wood

I am the luckiest 93-year-old woman in the world.

I was honored with a Service Award from the United States Postal Service (after 64 years of service). I received a proclamation from our wonderful City, and honored with a “Jane Wood Day.” Then, the City and BSB Chamber held a reception for me. So I say, “How fortunate can one person be?”

I think I am lucky because of the people in my life. People made all this happen. My life is filled with wonderful, kind, generous, hard-working people who I see every day. So, I say I am the one to say “Thank you!” I am so grateful for all you do!
Texas’ National Night Out 2023 is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd and members of the Bulverde Police Department are looking for individuals or businesses who would like to either host or co-host a block party event. An estimated 800 citizens participated in NNO in 2022, which is a great community turnout.

National Night Out is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and discuss ideas for a safer community. It’s also a great opportunity to meet your local first responders from the Police Department and Fire/EMS entities, the same people that will be responding should you call for assistance.

We are also looking to partner with local businesses that would like to be a sponsor for National Night Out 2023. Donations from these great community partners make it possible for host appreciation events and the luncheon for seniors at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center who may not be able to get out on the night of NNO.

These events create a great opportunity to get together and share ideas, meet other block party hosts, distribute gift bags, share a meal, and meet all those who make National Night Out in Bulverde a great success. What a great occasion to show support for the community and showcase your business name at the same time. A business sponsorship will get your business logo and/or name on all National Night Out banners that will be displayed prominently in the community, advertisement opportunities in host bags, and an invite to the host appreciation event and National Night Out block events. This year, we have teamed up with the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce to assist with recruiting local businesses, but sponsorships are limited. If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring a National Night Out event this year, please contact Debbie Lisso here at the Police Department at 830-438-3612, or you may also reach out through the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce who can also assist.
What’s Happening at BSB Activity Center

By DeLisa Leopold, Executive Director, BSBAC

The first part of this year was a busy one for BSBAC. We kicked off our string of fundraisers with our annual BBQ Cook-off, hosting more than 30 area cooks who showed off their skills. The cook-off was our most successful one to date. In April, we had our Inaugural Gala, “Celebrating the Journey.” We were blessed with an amazing turn out and outstanding support that made the Gala our largest fundraiser in Center history. And then, to wrap up this group of events, we held our annual Run for the Hills. This event is always great fun for the entire community. We have great things planned for next year as we celebrate 25 years of Run for the Hills.

Aside from a busy event season, we broke records. As of the end of May, we have 853 members. This is an all-time high for BSBAC. What makes that even more exciting is that our participation numbers are also rapidly increasing. That means that the word is out—there is something for everyone at BSBAC! We have an amazing community of members. If you haven’t joined us, why not???

Our volunteers have already logged over 3500 hours this year and we know there is no slowing them down, so the year is still full of opportunities. If you are interested in joining this mighty force of giving individuals, give us a call or come by and visit. We love our volunteers!

We have a full calendar for the rest of the year, and we hope you will join us! Check out www.bsbac.com for more info about the Center and to see our activity and fitness schedules.

Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center
30280 Cougar Bend, Bulverde
Office Hours (best times for visits or tours):
M–Th, 9am–4pm and Friday, 9am–3pm
830-438-3111

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First Flush—Do I Need One?
By Dr. Larry Sunn and Dr. Steven Grainger

A few articles ago we committed to three topics for further discussion, water filtration, a wet vs. dry system, and first flush. Two down, one to go.

First flush is a term used for a simple contraption that diverts the first flow of water away from your rainwater storage tank. As rain falls, the initial rainwater in a storm sort of "washes your roof" of sediments that have collected on your roof since the last rain. The idea is that diverting the first few gallons of this rainfall can help ensure cleaner water in your rainwater storage tanks. A section of down-facing pipe at a "T" intersection is the first flush diverter. The dirtiest water enters the system from the roof, sediments sink to the bottom of the down-facing pipe, a ball inside the down pipe floats to the top, sealing off the bad water, and cleaner water spills over the top of the ball into your rain tank.

First flush diverters should discard a minimum of 20 gallons per 1000 square feet of roof area—if you intend to use the water for potable purposes. Discarding this initial wash of water helps ensure the safety of the collected water. However, contamination does not normally occur if rains happen within about a week or so of each other—because the roof is still clean.

There are many different first flush alternatives available, and all are touted by the respective sellers as “the best.” Some first flush systems will include a filter to remove smaller particulates—these filters must be cleaned regularly. Additionally, you must periodically inspect the roof, gutters, and piping to ensure they are free of debris or buildup that may cause your first flush system to fail. Leaf guards on your gutters are important to make sure that leaves and debris do not build up in your downspouts and pipes—these could damage your plumbing and make your first flush pointless. Regardless of the type of first flush system used, it is important to inspect it regularly to ensure it’s working properly.

However, many rainwater harvesting professionals aren’t so encouraging, noting that over the years they’ve often hired to remove a first flush. So, why wouldn’t folks use a first flush diverter if it’s so easy to do? First, if your roof has many downspouts, installing and maintaining several first flush diverters—one on each downspout—can be a chore.

Second, if your first flush is too big, you waste water and limit your ability to fill your collection tanks. If your first flush is too small (most often the case), the unit will be overwhelmed, limit your ability to fill your collection tanks. If your first flush is too small, the unit will be overwhelmed, limiting your ability to fill your collection tanks. If your first flush is too large, your first flush diverter may cause your first flush system to fail. Leaf guards on your gutters are important to make sure that leaves and debris do not build up in your downspouts and pipes—these could damage your plumbing and make your first flush pointless.

Regardless of the type of first flush system used, it is important to inspect it regularly to ensure it’s working properly.

Feel free to send rainwater capture questions or contact Dr. Sunn or Dr. Grainger via the RainBees.com website; their rain catchment consultation services are offered to the public without charge. They do not sell anything, nor do they try to get you to buy anything—their consulting is offered as a public service by the CTGCD and Comal Master Gardeners.
Bystander CPR Truly Does Make a Difference! (Part II)

Last month, we shared the importance of bystander CPR during cardiac arrest emergencies. Notably, if performed immediately, effective CPR can double or triple the chance of survival from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Testimonial to the potential for an increased positive outcome are two recent out-of-hospital cardiac arrest events in our community. Bystander CPR, along with medical interventions by BSB Fire & EMS first responders, ultimately saved lives.

Jack Mudge, a senior at Smithson Valley High School at the time of the incident, was working on a home remodeling site in the Oak Village North neighborhood when he and his boss heard a commotion across the street. Mudge looked over to see an older man collapsed on his porch and ran over to help. His boss called 9-1-1 while Jack performed chest compressions for about seven minutes before first responders arrived. Stephan Rahm, BSB Fire & EMS’s Clinical Director, said, “If it wasn’t for what he did, then our job and what we do would not have worked.”

The second event occurred at one of our local restaurants where lifesaving CPR was started by the individual’s supervisor. BSB Fire & EMS arrived on scene, taking over patient care and performing CPR. The patient was ultimately transported to Methodist Hospital Stone Oak and received additional interventions. Again, with bystander CPR, a successful outcome was achieved. The individual was released approximately a week later with no deficiencies.

Cardiac arrest is a time-sensitive medical emergency, and every second counts. When you witness a cardiac arrest event, immediately calling 9-1-1 is the first step. While bystander CPR is important, it should ideally be performed by individuals who have received proper CPR training and certification. Proper training ensures that bystanders are familiar with the correct techniques and can perform CPR effectively and safely.

MONTHLY REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 2023</th>
<th>May 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Initial Calls</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Integrated Health Contact</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Related</td>
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<td>15</td>
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The following information is an excerpt from the May 2023 Monthly Report presented at the June 13, 2023 City Council meeting. The complete report can be viewed/downloaded from the City of Bulverde’s website in the June 13 City Council meeting agenda packet. The Bulverde PD presents this report every month and it is available in its entirety for public review.

https://bulverdetx.portal.civicclerk.com/event/20/overview

**CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

Bulverde Police Department had 1,630 Calls for Service.

- Blanco Road .................................................. 2
- Bulverde Crossing ........................................... 18
- Bulverde Estates .................................................. 79
- Bulverde Hills .................................................. 85
- FM 1863 .......................................................... 20
- City Hall/BPD Walk-ups .................................. 43
- County .............................................................. 17
- Centennial Ridge ........................................... 0
- Berry Oaks .......................................................... 1
- Bulverde City Park ........................................... 138
- Edgebrook .......................................................... 7
- Persimmon Hill .................................................. 1
- Elm Valley .......................................................... 0

**ARRESTS**

Total arrests – 30

- Evading Arrest Using a Vehicle ........................................ 2
- Driving While Intoxicated ................................................. 3
- Warrants ......................................................................... 10
- Driving While Intoxicated 2nd Offense ............................ 2
- Unlawful Carry Firearm .................................................... 1
- Driving While Intoxicated >.15 BAC ................................. 1
- Possession Controlled Substance <1G ........................... 5
- Unauthorized Use Motor Vehicle ..................................... 1
- Refused to Sign Promise to Appear (traffic) ................... 1

**ACCIDENTS**

Bulverde Police investigated 5 crashes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROPERTY</th>
<th>INJURY</th>
<th>FATALITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hwy 281</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwy 46</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing Hills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Village North</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

- Citations issued .................................................. 585
- Violations ................................................................ 774
- Warnings .................................................................. 143

**Average Speed Citation (mph over the limit)**

- Hwy 281 ................................................................ 19.2
- Hwy 46 ................................................................ 19.0
- FM 1863 ................................................................ 14.3
- Other ..................................................................... 18.0

**INVESTIGATIONS**

- Code Compliance ..................................................5
- Cases Closed ......................................................... 5
- Follow Up Activities ............................................... 0
- Citations Issued ................................................... 1
- Warning Citation ................................................... 1
- Pending ................................................................. 0

- BPD Cases
  - Assigned ..........................................................33
  - Interviews ......................................................... 57
  - Filed County DA ................................................. 10
  -Filed Municipal Court ........................................... 0
  - Warrants ............................................................ 6
  - Subpoenas .......................................................... 4
  - Citation .............................................................. 0
  - Closed ............................................................... 18
  - Supplements .................................................... 142
  - Calls for Service ............................................... 3
  - Reports .............................................................. 1

- Bluebonnet Grooming
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- 830-488-7670, TTY 711
- Select Silva Agency
- 5525 Blanco Rd., Ste. #103, Castle Hills, TX 78216

The Front Porch News     Page 9
Give Them Their Independence
(from foster care)

Animal Rescue Connections has some wonderful cats that do not show well during adoption events and at our PetSmart location and we would love to introduce you to a few.

First up is a bonded pair, Alice and Hans Solo. This dynamic duo was returned to ARC when their mom of 9 years became ill and could no longer care for them. Hans is the outgoing one, and Alice is a shy love bug. Because they are almost 10 years old, they get overlooked. Both are healthy and have many years of love to give. Alice is a Domestic Shorthair Dilute Tortie, and Hans is a Domestic Shorthair Grey/cream Tabby. Alice and Hans would love to meet you so please call ARC at 210-474-0083 and leave a message to schedule a visit.

Next up is Imogen who has been in foster care for almost 3 years. PetSmart can be a very stressful place for animals who get to stay and play, and Imogen stops eating when it’s her turn for fun. She is a Domestic Shorthair Brown Tabby who is sweet lover that enjoys lower tummy rubs and being brushed. She loves catnip toys and is ready for her own family. Imogen is a special kitty who has lost her teeth due to an infection. She is now living a very happy life without her troublesome teeth. She eats dry and wet food like a champ when she is in foster care. You can call or email info@animalrescueconnections.org to schedule a visit.

Last, but not least, is Maggie aka Kitty Koo. She is approaching her 11th birthday and would love to be in her forever home. She is a Domestic Shorthair Orange Tabby who gets along with other cats and calm dogs as long as everyone know she is queen of the castle. Kitty Koo loves human attention and would love a home to call her own. Could it be yours? We would love to schedule a visit for you to meet her.

In addition to all these wonderful seniors, we have many cats and kittens arriving weekly at the Stone Ridge PetSmart (Highway 281 and Evans Rd). Please call to schedule an adoption visit or to schedule a volunteer shift. We give training, and who wouldn’t love playing with cats and kittens for 3–4 hours one day each month?!

Like cats? Would you love to help them find new homes? Then join the ARC team in adopting cats and kittens at our adoption center at Stone Ridge PetSmart. Counselors must be adults and undergo a short training period to learn how to evaluate potential families to find the best homes for our fur friends. Shifts are available on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:30 to 4:30 PM, and can be as few as once a month. Join us in giving cats their best life possible through adoption. For more information, email us at info@animalrescueconnections.gmail.com or leave a message at 210-474-0083.

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Simple Steps to Lawn Care
Daphne Richards, County Extension Agent-Horticulture
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County [Excerpt]

Lawns can seem difficult to keep healthy in our urban environments, with our hot, drought-prone summers and our alkaline, easily compacted heavy clay soils. However, there are some simple ways in which you can boost your lawn’s health and avoid the problems with diseases and pests that are so common in our area.

Give your lawn a great soil and it will vastly improve its overall health.
Lawns need 4”–6” of well drained, organic-rich soil for the roots to be able to access oxygen, moisture, and nutrients. Compacted clay soils do not have good airflow, and can prevent water from soaking down to the roots, or conversely can hold moisture at the roots for too long once it does finally soak in. Organic matter in the soil breaks up those hard, compacted clay lumps and allows air and water to flow through the soil, while also feeding beneficial microorganisms. Before you seed or sod turfgrass, till compost or a good garden soil into the native soil. You will be able to feel the difference right away. If you already have a lawn and need to amend the soil under it, apply compost annually as a thin top dressing and let the grass grow up through it.

Choose the right turfgrass for your yard.
Each of the four turfgrasses that grow well in our area have widely different growing needs, so they are not interchangeable. If you have a lot of shade, you will need St. Augustine; if you have a combination of sun and shade then Zoysia will better fit your needs. If you have full sun you can grow bermudagrass or buffalograss, which are both drought tolerant, but only bermudagrass will tolerate a lot of walking. If you want a low-mown grass, go with bermudagrass; if you want a grass that needs no maintenance once established, try buffalograss. If you have the right grass in the right spot, you will have a lawn that thrives, but if you try to grow grass in conditions it does not like, then it will always look stressed.

Mow your lawn at the right height to avoid stressing it out.
St. Augustine is a shade grass, and so in order to get enough light to photosynthesize it needs to have long, wide blades that are kept cut at about 3.5” in height. That means you let it grow to 4” and cut it back to 3.5”. If it is cut too short it cannot make its own food and will stress out, making more runners and fewer blades. Zoysia japonica varieties prefer to be kept at a height of about 2.5”.

Bermudagrass likes to be kept mowed low, at about 1.5” depending on the variety. When bermudagrass is not mowed low frequently, it gets leggy and less dense. Buffalograss likes to be left alone or kept high at about 4”.

One sure way of killing St. Augustine is to grow it in full sun and mow it low. If you don’t like the shaggy look of St. Augustine, it would be better to try a different turfgrass.

Train your grass roots to grow down deep into the soil by watering 1/2” once a week.
If turfgrass is watered too frequently, and only a little at a time, the moisture stays in the upper one or two inches of soil and that is where the roots stay. But then in the heat of summer that top two inches of soil dries out very quickly, leaving the roots literally high and dry, even if you watered that day. By watering deeply and infrequently, you put moisture in the lower part of the soil profile, and when the upper few inches dry out over the course of the week, the roots grow deeper to access the moisture that is still there at the bottom. When the summer comes, the roots are happy and so are you. To test your irrigation system to check how long it takes to put 1/2” of water on the lawn, put out a straight-sided can marked on the inside at 1/2” up from the bottom, and time how long it takes for the water to reach the mark.

Following these simple steps will help keep your lawn healthy throughout the year, and will reduce the need for chemical pesticides.

If you or your business or SCHOOL would like to secure a plot (for a small donation), please contact Joanne Hall at jothall@gvtc.com. Donations are gladly accepted.

*Editor’s Note. The above article is an excerpt from a longer article available from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension website at https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Simple_Steps_Lawn_Care_2009.pdf. For additional information about aeration and fertilization, please access the online document.*
Leadership Class of 2023

Congratulations on your Graduation!

The BSB Chamber Foundation is passionate about developing future leaders in our community, and we are excited to share that the 2022–2023 Leadership Program has concluded with great success. These 19 students have completed 9 months of rigorous training, which included personality evaluation, team building, networking, and leadership skills. Additionally, they have learned about health and social services, education, economic development, and city, county, and state government in our area.

We are proud to have honored the Class of 2022–2023 at their Graduation ceremony this May. They have shown great dedication, perseverance, and commitment towards enhancing their leadership abilities. We believe that this program has equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become effective leaders in their respective fields.

Congratulations to our Graduates Kim Barton—The Share Center; Paul Barton—Edward Jones; Norma Blackwell—CASA of Central Texas; Christine Blain—BSB Chamber; Clint Blundon—Payroll Vault; Jennifer Burggraaf; LeAnn Burns—Waldo Services, LLC; Isidro Carreno, Jr.—AC Vera Group; Kim Gilbert—Sonora Bank; Alyssa Gonzalez—Frost Bank; Amanda Green; Sarah Hackelman—Vantage Inc.; Brandon Lopes-Baca—Guadalupe River State Park; Matt McKee—The Water Company; Yolanda Potts—Frost Bank; Mario Quesada—Prestige Paint & Body; Tarik Rhadbane—BSB Fire & EMS; Reghan Swenson—BSB Activity Center; and Chelsea Whitlock—Jeremy Fuller State Farm.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor for this Class—Hermie the Loan Hunter; Gold Sponsor Noah’s Ark Self Storage, Class Sponsors Pat Rodriguez—Mary Kay Independent Sales Director and Howard Payne University.

A huge Thank You to the program facilitators for this class DeLisa Leopold—BSB Activity Center and Matt Hester—Edward Jones Financial Advisor. We appreciate the assistance of Jay Johnson with J2 Servant Leadership who has served as our Leadership Programming consultant.

We encourage anyone who is interested in participating in the Class of 2023–2024 to contact us at (830) 438-4285 or via email to Christen@bsbchamber.com. This program offers a unique opportunity for individuals looking to grow their leadership skills, expand their network, and gain valuable knowledge about our community. The program is designed to provide a well-rounded experience that will prepare participants to lead with confidence, vision, and purpose.

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AUTO / HOME / LIFE

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SJWTD/CLWSC is now called The Texas Water Company.

txwaterco.com
Congratulations to the Comal ISD Seniors of 2023

This year, Comal ISD graduated 1,878 students who are pursuing military, career, or college plans. In a packed week of graduation ceremonies which began Wednesday, May 24, and ended Saturday, May 27, Comal ISD honored the graduating class of 2023 from its five high school campuses*. Collectively, these recent graduates have persevered, accomplished many goals, and created memories that will last a lifetime.

Class of 2023 Stats:
• $30 million in scholarships earned
• 1,878 graduates from five high schools
• 37 enlistees in United States military
• 4 appointments or admission to military academies
• 2 National Merit Scholars

Smithson Valley High School—Rangers
• 794 seniors graduated 8 p.m. Thursday, May 25, at Ranger Stadium.
• Valedictorian: Mason Mock, a National Merit Scholar winner, plans to attend Texas A&M University to study electrical engineering.
• Salutatorian: Sophia Goodwin, a National Merit Commended Scholar, plans to attend Swarthmore College on a track scholarship.
• 37 student athletes signed letters of intent to play the sport of their choice at the collegiate level.
• 17 Rangers have committed to serve in the United States military; three have appointments to military academies; and one has received an ROTC scholarship.
• The Ranger Class of 2023 earned $9 million in scholarships.

*Editor’s Note. Due to the local distribution of the Front Porch News, this article has been truncated to focus on Smithson Valley High School. The full article reporting on all of the CISD high schools is available on the CISD website at https://www.comalisd.org/apps/news/article/1773711

On July 11, the Comal County Conservation Alliance will present a free community program featuring speaker Annalisa Peace.

The steady increase in population over the past decade has put Comal County at the forefront of development. What does this growth and development mean for its water availability future?

Since the Edwards Aquifer is our primary water resource, this steady increase in residential population has resulted in water management challenges for Comal County and its municipalities. They must meet increasing water demands while facing reduced water resources, and also deal with wastewater discharge issues that challenge water quality.

Learn what other counties and municipalities have done to protect their water source and manage growth. Hear about how private lands are part of the solution. Explore the challenges and opportunities that face Comal County and its municipalities now and in the future.

Annalisa is the Executive Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), a position she has held for almost 20 years. She leads the effort to protect the Edwards and Trinity aquifers and their contributing watersheds, and is the “Go-to” person for aquifer-related issues in South/Central Texas.

This program will be held at 6:00–7:30pm at the McKenna Events Center at 801 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, TX. It is free and open to the public. All are welcome.
America’s Loneliness Epidemic
By Connie Clark

In a May 2023 All Things Considered report on Texas Public Radio, it was cited that, “There is an epidemic of loneliness in the United States and lacking connection can increase the risk for premature death to levels comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to a new advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General.” The consequences of isolation of older adults include increased risks of heart disease, stroke, and dementia. A new national program is in the planning stages to strengthen solutions to promote the quality of connections to alleviate loneliness and its medical manifestation.

Project 10:27 is a Christ-centered not-for-profit providing services in the Bulverde – Spring Branch area and was born out of the recognition that isolation and loneliness are deadly to our senior adult population. This unique organization provides one-on-one care to seniors throughout the community. The name reflects its commitment to this primary mission as stated in Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The organization recognizes that social isolation, especially in senior adults, appears in all communities and neighborhoods. Care is offered to homebound seniors who are experiencing difficult times in life such as grief, loneliness, and chronic or terminal illness. Volunteers connect with each senior through telephone contact, monthly correspondence, in-person visits, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and social outings to assist them in reconnecting with their community.

In 2022, Project 10:27 had a roster of 58 senior adults. Volunteers contributed 706 hours to meet that year’s goals. The Ministry made 613 home visits; 98 nursing home visits; 344 telephone calls; and mailed 768 cards and letters. Through March 2023, the roster increased to 70 senior adults and volunteers contributed 331 hours. One of the goals for 2023 is to see a marked improvement in the overall mental health of clients through ongoing social engagement.

Most of the seniors participating in Project 10:27 programs (63%) are living independently in either their own homes or in an apartment while 37% reside in long-term care facilities. The majority of those served are women and the average age is 78.96 years. All those being served suffer from social isolation and intermittent loneliness; many suffer from depression. All the population being served would fall into the food insecure category with a large portion (96%) being active recipients of the Meals on Wheels Program or receiving food donations from area food banks or churches.

The outreach of Project 10:27 has increased to the Bulverde Spring Branch area with 43% living in zip code 78070 and 31% in zip code 78163. Shane Carter, Executive Director makes initial contact to assess the living conditions and economic and physical needs. A baseline loneliness survey is taken to better understand the severity of the isolation. A volunteer visits each senior in their home each month. At each visit, additional opportunities are identified, such as scheduling a time to mow a yard, pick up a prescription, give rides to physicians, and meet other needs.

If you want to join in this work or for more information about Project 10:27, go to www.Project1027.org.

Smithson Valley High School Key Club receives Community Volunteer of the Year award

The Smithson Valley High School Key Club received the 2022 Community Volunteer of the Year award by the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce in February and was recognized by the Comal ISD Board of Trustees during its May meeting.

With 44 active student members, the SVHS Key Club was nominated for the award because of the work it has done in the community. Part of the Hill Country Kiwanis Organization, the Key Club, is a service leadership program.

The SVHS club has been busy this school year with many service events including these:

- Making dog toys for area dog shelters;
- Writing ‘words of kindness’ notes to senior citizens;
- Giving pins and notes to breast cancer survivors;
- Painting faces at the campus’ Fall Festival for younger students in the district;
- Volunteering with the Salvation Army bell ringing at Walmart;
- Volunteering with the Friday night Bingo in Bulverde;
- Volunteering to set-up the awards banquet;
- Volunteering with the community shred day;
- Volunteering with the drug take-back day; and
- Leading a diaper drive for SJRC Texas and The SHARE Center.


The SVHS Key Club advisers are teachers Carol Speelman and Debbie Shewbridge.

Pictured are a few of members of the Smithson Valley High School Key Club, which received the 2022 Community Volunteer of the Year Award by the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce. From left is Andrea Morales, Angela Morales, Genesis Gonzalez-Wong, Amanda Speelman, Ainsley Milikien, Isabella Reyen, Emily Ingram, Olivia Ingram, Carissa Mendoza and Madeleine Chaney.
## Local Events

### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde City Council (2nd Tuesday)</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>6:30p;</td>
<td>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>6:00p;</td>
<td>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Community Park Committee</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>6:00p;</td>
<td>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Country Kiwanis Club (Thursday following City Council mtg.)</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>6:00p;</td>
<td>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Area Rural Library District Board</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>9:30a;</td>
<td>131 Bulverde Xing, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Community Park Committee (4th Thursday)</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Country Kiwanis Club (1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday)</td>
<td>5th &amp; 19th</td>
<td>8:00a;</td>
<td>Ay Chiwawa, 403 Singing Oaks, 78070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Area Rural Library District Board</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>9:30a;</td>
<td>BSB Library, 131 Bulverde Xing, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Lions Club (2nd &amp; 4th Thursdays)</td>
<td>13th &amp; 27th</td>
<td>7:00p;</td>
<td>1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Market at Bulverde (1st &amp; 3rd Monday)</td>
<td>3rd &amp; 17th</td>
<td>10:00a–3:00p;</td>
<td>2541 Bulverde Road, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo in Bulverde hosted by the BSB Chamber of Commerce (1st Friday)</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>5:00p (doors open), 5:30p (Early Bird games start), 6:30p (regular games start); 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Bulverde Post 12205 Monthly Meeting (2nd Tuesday)</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>7:00p;</td>
<td>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Bulverde Post 12205 Burger Night (3rd Friday)</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>5:00p–8:00p;</td>
<td>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Country Fun Fest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>July 3rd, Jumbo Evans Sports Park, 101 Jumbo Evans Blvd., 78070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Happy 4th of July!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE Theater production of “Grumpy Old Men—the Musical”</td>
<td>July 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sundays Are Matinees at 2:30pm. All other dates start at 8:00pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Methodist Church ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>August 4 &amp; 5; 8:00a–1:00p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comal ISD FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>August 21, 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New project?

Now reach our full listing of vetted and reliable service providers ONLINE

NeighborsWeb.com Online Business Directory

Yes, the businesses that you have come to know and love in your newsletter are now available in our NEW Online Service Directory.

[QR Code]
New Members

**Business Builder Membership**
- Brad Moore Builders LLC
- Camping Is EZ LLC
- GO Carwash
- JPMorgan Chase & Co
- Olde Town Plumbing, LLC

**Business Membership**
- Cana Wine & Spirits
- Fiesta Disposal LLC
- Green Mountain Maple
- Joyce Yannuzzi
- K & D Travel
- Old Republic Title

Member Anniversaries & Annual Renewals

**15 Year Anniversary**
- Comal Roofing
- Hope Hospice

**5 Year Anniversary**
- BlindsNMotion
- Buck & Doe's Mercantile
- Pillars Christian Learning Center

**Renewals**
- A-John Portable Toilet Rentals, LLC
- Altair Investment Management
- Bconnected Welcome Service
- Becky Smith with E.R. Anderson
- Bluebonnet Grooming, LLC
- Chicken Express
- Connections Individual & Family Services
- Connie Can Write
- Consolidated Reinforcement Inc.
- D. A. Mawyer Land Surveying, Inc.
- Darling Dentistry
- Dermatology San Antonio
- Don’s & Ben’s Liquor
- Eugenia Southwell
- Fieldhouse Campus Outfitters
- Freeland Turk Engineering Group, LLC
- Frog Prince Photography
- Gina Pearce / Coldwell Banker Realtor
- Grandpa’s Plumbing, LLC
- Debbie Hannasch
- Heights of Bulverde
- Helping Hands Food Pantry

Hill Country Wound Care Vascular & Hyperbolic
Howard Payne University - New Braunfels
Independent Insurance Agents of San Antonio
William Krawietz, Mayor
M & S Engineering, LLC
McDonald’s - Spring Branch
Momentum Group
Payroll Vault
Prestige Paint & Body
Sage Capital Bank
Seashell Esthetics LLC
Smokey Mo’s BBQ
Subway
Texas Water Company
The Vine Wellness Group
Trilogy Dance Center Hill Country
Vulcan Materials Company
Walmart Inc. #3056
Warrior Oak Fitness - Warrior Park CrossFit

Ribbon Cutting

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Comal & Guadalupe Counties**

**Kendall County Women’s Shelter**

**Bandy Pest Control**
July 7, 2023
**BINGO IN BULVERDE**
Presented by AC Vera Group
1st Friday of every month
Doors open at 5pm with Early Bird Starting at 5:30pm
Regular games start at 6:30pm
Sponsored by: Reliance Residential Realty
Held at the Bulverde Community Center
1747 Ammann Rd, Bulverde, TX 78163

July 12, 2023
**Coffee with the Chamber**
Presented by: S.T.A.G.E. Inc
7:30 am–9:00 am
Sponsor: Physicians Premier
Speaker: TBD
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event Center

July 15, 2023
**Community Wide Big Trash Day**
Presented by Cleangie Professional Cleaning & Services
7:30 am–10:30 am
Jumbo Evans Sports Park

July 19, 2023
**BSB Chamber Foundation Power Lunch**
Presented by: Cynthia McGee Team with Magnolia Realty
11:30 am–1:00 pm
Sponsors: Physicians Premier and New York Life–Curtis Johnson
Speaker: TBD
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event Center

July 21, 2023
**Veterans Networking Breakfast**
Sponsored by: Noah’s Ark Self Storage
7:30 am–9:00 am
Ay Chiwawa! Mexican Breakfast
All Veterans or active Military invited

July 22, 2023
**Casino Night benefiting the BSB Chamber Foundation’s Veterans Program**
Presented by The Loan Hunter powered by Geneva Financial
6:00 pm–9:30 pm
Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center

July 27, 2023
**Business Networking Mixer**
Hosted by: Capital Title
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
18534 Forty Six Parkway Ste. 1-C, Spring Branch
(Member Only Event)

For information on the above events or other community events, please check out our website at www.bsbchamber.com or Follow us on Facebook @BSBChamber.
Summer programming is in full swing at the Mammen Family Public Library! This July, we’re featuring live music, a history talk, a trivia night, teen book clubs with tacos and brunch, a teen anime club, tie-dye, a family talent show, and a kids entrepreneur workshop.

With more than 100 events planned for this month, be sure to visit the Library’s online calendar at https://mammen.librarycalendar.com/events/month for a full list of activities! The MFP Library is located at 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163, and the phone number is (830) 438-4864.

Here are just a few examples of the offerings for the different age groups!

**Adult Programs**

**July 14: Sounds of Summer Concert: The Peterson Brothers**
Grab your friends and family and join us at the library for a concert by The Peterson Brothers! The Peterson Brothers combine infectious energy and modern grooves with jazz, funk, blues & soul to create their own unique sound.

**July 26: History Talk: From Manuscript to Print**
From Manuscript to Print: Reflections on how medieval art and thought changed in the Renaissance and age of the printing press. Join us for this illustrated presentation by Dr. Alan Cottrell.

**July 20: Trivia Night**
Put your knowledge to the test by joining us for a night of trivia! Fourth of July may have passed, but we’re thinking of the stars and stripes all month long. Join us for some snacks, friendly competition, and lots of Americana-themed trivia.

**July 8: Mindfulness Meditation**
Join instructor Mike Brown as he guides us through a meditation session. Participants will be invited to try various simple techniques that bring about awareness in the present moment. We’ll learn about the practice of meditation, techniques to get started, and about the many benefits of this practice.

**July 6: Documentary Club**
This summer the library is starting a Documentary Club! Just like a regular book club, members will watch the documentary beforehand and then meet at the library to discuss the documentary. All of the documentaries are available on one of the library’s digital resources, Hoopla.

**Teen Programs**

**July 6: Teen Taco Talks**
In July we will be discussing historical fiction. As an added Summer Library Program bonus, we are also going to make and then eat walking tacos while we talk about the books that we’ve read and are currently reading!

**July 8 & July 22: Books and Brunch**
For the last half of the 2023 Summer Library Program, we are going all in on book talks, with the added bonus of brunch! Join us for a light brunch while we talk about all things book-related!

**July 7: Anime Club**
Calling all anime fans! Come check out the library’s anime club! Anime fans can come hang out with our resident anime expert and learn about new anime, talk about their favorite anime, and of course, watch anime!

**Children’s Programs**

**July 5: Tie-Dye and Yard Games**
Come tie-dye at the library! Stay for oversized yard games and sno-cones! We will be dying outside in the parking lot in order to keep the mess to a minimum!

**July 19: Talent Show for Families**
Calling all kids and teens! Come share your talents with us at the Library Talent Show!

**July 29: Kids Entrepreneur Workshop (ages 8+)**
Ever thought about starting your own business? You can totally do it – even as a kid! Come enjoy a fun workshop to learn how to be an entrepreneur. We’ll actually work on business and sales strategies, marketing ideas, and branding concepts. Come learn with Kori Ashton who started her first company at the age of 12!
Comal ISD students choose military post high school graduation

This year, 44 Comal ISD students have chosen to serve in the U.S. military upon graduation either as enlistees or through military academies and ROTC scholarships.

Here is a list of Smithson Valley High School students who have chosen to serve in the military from the Class of 2023 by military branch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Branch</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Army</strong></td>
<td>Luke Brandner, Christian Campos, Jalen Polk, Justin Schrubb, Victoriano Villarreal and Olivia Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Army National Guard</strong></td>
<td>Cara Wilks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coast Guard</strong></td>
<td>Gunnar Kelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marines</strong></td>
<td>Jabin Allen, Corry Coleman, Dylan Hager, Donovan Hays and Samuel Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Navy</strong></td>
<td>Kevin Patterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States Naval Academy</strong></td>
<td>Gavin Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States Military Academy West Point</strong></td>
<td>Trieste Perciavalle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States Air Force Academy</strong></td>
<td>Madisyn Maley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROTC Scholarships</strong></td>
<td>Nolan Larson—Army ROTC at Texas A&amp;M University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students from Smithson Valley High School have chosen to serve in the military. Front row from left is Gunnar Kelley, Luke Brandner, Justin Schrubb, Christian Campos, Victoriano Villarreal and Olivia Ward. Back row from left is Kevin Patterson, Jabin Allen, Donovan Hays, Corry Coleman, Dylan Hager and Samuel Morris.

*Editor’s Note. Due to the local distribution of the Front Porch News, this article has been truncated to focus on Smithson Valley High School. The full article reporting on all of the CISD high schools is available on the CISD website at https://www.comalisd.org/apps/news/article/1772719*
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