



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors Volume 11 Issue 2 ☆ February 2024





CITY OF BULVERDE ALL DEPARTMENTS

HTTP://BULVERDETX.GOV

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830-221-1100

JUDGE 830-221-1105

COMMISSIONERS COURT

Donna Eccleston, COMMISSIONER PCT. 1 Scott Haag, COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2 Kevin Webb, COMMISSIONER PCT. 3 Jen Crownover, COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2 830-387-7600

CONSTABLE, PCT 2 830-438-3117

ANIMAL CONTROL 830-608-2016 ROAD & BRIDGE 830-608-2090

SHERIFF'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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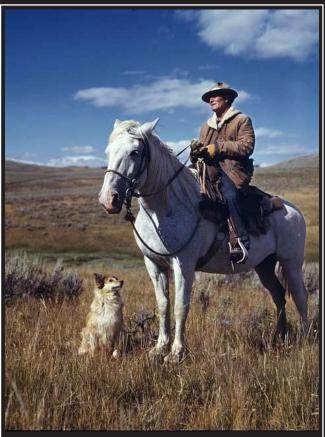
FRONT PORCH NEWS

editor@bulverdetx.gov

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Mayor's Point

Bill Krawietz Mayor of Bulverde, TX

On the Bulverde City Council's agenda January 9th, was an item "Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the 2024 Street Maintenance Plan." This was actually the second time before Council, it was also discussed at length at our December meeting, but a decision was made to table the item.

We usually receive agendas and there are supporting documents, information, maps and whatnot in advance, which gives us time to study and prepare. That did not happen for this one item. Our City Engineer waited until the meeting to present his project recommendations.

There were several areas of the proposal I questioned in December, most notable though was changing the intersection of Bulverde Lane and Bulverde Road from a traditional through street and intersecting road with a stop sign, to a Traffic Circle or Roundabout. This intersection was also ranked as the number one priority. I disagreed with that ranking as well, since I drive through that intersection multiple times a day going to and from the airport for work.

Instantly, I saw flaws and negatives in the proposal. The main concern was there physically isn't enough room for it. I voiced my concerns and a lengthy discussion followed. I

was really the only one who had strong opposition to it at the time. Remember, this proposal came as a surprise without any previous mention from staff.

Roundabouts have advantages and disadvantages. They are not used much in the United States but they proliferate most of Europe. Larger roundabouts typically are in excess of 150' in diameter and have multiple lanes. Vehicles that need to circle more to reach their exit stay to the inside, vehicles exiting move outward and turn. The one proposed for the intersection would be classified as a mini-roundabout at only 80' in diameter, the absolute minimum recommended size.

The downtown Village of Bulverde has been recognized by Council as special. The whole district has a zoning classification as a Planned Development District. There are special rules for development and a higher level of scrutiny of what can be built there.

I have a townhouse at the Horseshoe Bay Resort of Lake LBJ. Our unit is literally about 500 feet from one of the most beautiful roundabout's you will find anywhere in the world. It has a raised center section with a fountain, benches for seating circle the fountain. There is an abundance of flowers, shrubs and other ornamental vegetation around that. The street in the circle is brick and the roads leading up to it are of a divided parkway style.

New Braunfels has a roundabout with a large pavilion in the center across from the courthouse. To have something similar to either of these in the Village would be wonderful.

The problem is, there simply isn't room between the Old Country Store, Hatch 5 and the two professional buildings on the north and south side of the road to the east. There are

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very large majestic oaks at each corner as well that would likely have to be removed.

I prepared Google Earth printouts showing several local roundabouts with their dimensions. I also showed and spoke of how the proposed project would greatly limit customer vehicle access thus hurting the surrounding businesses, since for a roundabout to be safe, it needs a raised median on the approaches to direct traffic into the circle, basically blocking their drives or parking. Also pointed out that large trucks could in no way navigate the circle without driving over the island in the center.

I proposed alternative measures such as a stop bar to be painted on the road for Bulverde Lane. Because larger vehicles have taken out the stop sign over the years, it has been moved way back. The law dictates that in the absence of the white bar, you must stop behind the stop sign. Well this poses a problem of sight. I sat for a good time watching drivers at the intersection. Most would stop at the sign and cannot see, so they inch up. Some drivers do this four or five times, that alone backed up traffic.

The intersection also has a very big oak and a garden with tall vegetation blocking the view. I proposed getting rid of the vegetation, and have received the okay from the landowner of the property do so.

Councilman Dave Bullock was taken back by my position on the matter. He was determined the roundabout was the right choice. As he has done many times before, he repeatedly told me to just "trust the experts" or "trust the professionals."

I started speaking from my long experience with the City, of the many times "the experts" didn't give the best advice or were flat out wrong.

The discussion became more heated. Then more Council Members, that indicated they were in favor of the roundabout in December, began to speak of how it may not be the right choice. They gave examples of their own experience with them.

The discussion went downhill from there. I was accused of ignoring the safety of our citizens, not being proactive in managing growth and looking to future needs. I rebutted.

At that time Councilman Bullock got up, said he resigns and left the meeting.

After his departure we went through the road improvement list. The roundabout was dropped in favor of the low cost improvements listed above.

On several other things that I had doubts about and questioned in December, after much study I suggested minor changes to them. Those changes will improve on the presented design and/or save money. I got the nod from our in staff engineer and Council voted unanimously for staff to prepare the necessary documents and go out for bid ASAP.

Roads continue to be a top priority for the City of Bulverde. Last year's funding, which for the first time was in excess of one million dollars, broke somewhat of a milestone. This year's budget boasts a significant increase on top of that at one point five million.

In closing, I would like to offer an apology to Dave Bullock and anyone who was at the meeting. I should have not let things get out of control as they did. Mr. Bullock is like me, if he believes in something, he fights for it. We both have unwavering passion and love for Bulverde and the Hill Country. He is a very intelligent individual, and has worked hard representing the citizens of Bulverde. What he brought to the position will be missed.

It looks like we have a candidate to appoint to his position in the interim. Both positions of Dave Bullock, Place 5, and Michelle Salmon, Place 6, are up for election in May. Filing deadline is February 16th.



From the City Manager's Desk

By Charles West

Hope everyone has recovered from the holidays. As I write this, the first month of 2024 is almost halfway done. 2023 seems to have flown by and it looks like 2024 is going to do the same thing.

If we do not have any more hiccups by the time this article is printed, our Police Department should be moved into their new building. Not everyone realizes that they currently operate out of the top floor of City Hall, and they have been out of space for some time as their department has grown over the years. The new building is not only going to provide them with more space, but also allow for future growth because the top floor has been left unfinished. With the growth in our area, it may not be long before that space is utilized. The protection of our community is a priority, and our Police Department does a great job of keeping us safe. With more people in the area, there is an increase in the number of calls for service, which leads to an increase in the number of Officers in the department. Not only do we have to increase the Police Department, but we must increase road and drainage maintenance, along with maintenance and expansion of our parks.

One of our priorities is managing the growth and improving our service to the community. We are currently working on several different projects to help with the improvement of services provided, as well as a complete review of our ordinances to ensure that they meet our needs and any conflicts within them are addressed. Unfortunately, there is not a magic wand we can wave to make all of this happen overnight. This is a process that involves not just one person or small group of people making decisions; it is going to take community involvement and input. We are planning for some town

(Continued on page 5)

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hall meetings and digital surveys to receive feedback and suggestions from people that these items affect the most—which is you, members of our community. If you are not able to make any of the meetings or participate in the surveys, you are welcome to share any concerns or suggestions you may have with the Mayor, Council Members, or me, and we will make sure the topic or issue is discussed during the process of updating our comp plan and ordinances.

Another thing we are currently working on from the administrative side of things is transparency. We are working on not only having all ordinances and budgets readily available on our website, but other documents such as development agreements, and audio and video recordings of all public meetings (City Council, Planning & Zoning, Board of Adjustments, and the Parks Board). The equipment upgrades for the audio and video are scheduled to be installed the last week of January, so hopefully something else we will be marked off the list by the time this article is printed. I am not holding my breath, however, because when it comes to technology and construction projects, something always seems to delay them.

I am not someone that does New Year Resolutions, but for this year (which will be my second year of having the privilege to serve as the City Manager of this great community) I am committed to improving not only things in our community but also the leadership role with which I have been entrusted. Many people think when they finish college and begin a career that their learning is over, which is far from the truth. Everyone always has room for improvement and the ability to learn and evolve as your surroundings and duties change. Everything seems to be

in a constant state of change these days from growth in our community to technological advancements and the rules and regulations we must follow. I do not know if I would call this a New Years Resolution or not, but for this year I am committed to being a better person not only at work and in the community, but in my personal life as well.

As I have stated many times, I have an open-door policy and if you would like to stop in, call, email, or any other type of communication with me regarding concerns or issues you have within our community, I will be more than happy to listen. I do not know everything and am always interested in hearing someone else's perspective on things. You never know, you may be able to change my mind on something we may not agree on.

Social media is not the best place to get information. While I do try and keep an eye on what is being said on social media as it is sometimes comical and entertaining, it can also be worrisome what some individuals think when it is far from the truth. Very seldom will you see me post or respond to anything on social media, including my personal account. I am just not a fan, but it can be a good tool when used properly. If you stop in and I am not able to visit, please ask whomever you speak with to schedule a time to meet. I hope to have a set time in the future to be readily available for anyone to just stop by to share their concerns, ask questions, or even just say "Hi!" and meet me in person. When I get details for that worked out, I will share on our website, in my monthly article, and on the City's social media accounts.

Lastly, thank you to everyone that has reached out to me to tell me they enjoy my articles each month. The last thing I ever thought I'd be doing is writing a monthly article for publication, but I appreciate the support.





Rain Harvesting – Taxes and Rebates

By Dr. Larry Sunn and Dr. Steven Grainger

With the tax season approaching, thoughts turn to ways we can save some of our tax dollars. Yup, rain harvesting comes with tax incentives. Additionally, New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) has recently announced a substantial increase in their rain harvesting rebate program.

Although Comal County has yet to designate any specific property tax savings for installing water catchment systems, the 2001 Texas Legislature created a sales tax exemption to encourage Texans to harvest rain. The exemption, which took effect September 1, 2001, applies to equipment, supplies, and services used solely for water conservation. For this exemption, "solely" means the equipment, services, or supplies are used exclusively for conservation. For example, a water dam in a toilet tank is used only to save water; therefore, it qualifies for the exemption. A washing machine with special features to conserve water does not qualify, because it's also used to wash clothes, not solely to reduce water use. The exemption covers several conservation types that are now exempt from sales tax.

For rain harvesting, it includes rain barrels; gutters used to route the water into rain barrels or rainwater collection systems; conveyance piping and filtration to potable water; tanks; screens and filters for the gutters, barrels or tanks; and even a collection surface area not used as the roof of a structure or a storage area. Second, processes that reduce or eliminate water use such as timers attached to sprinkler systems, water displacement devices for toilet tanks, and

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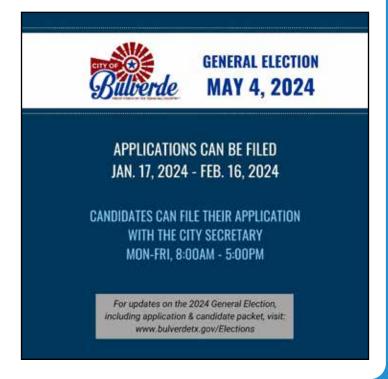
faucet sensors that shut off water flow. Not exempt are items that do not meet the "sole purpose" test, such as your home's roof, water-efficient appliances, pumps for fountains or water displays, tools used for landscaping or lawn care, low-flush toilets, and water hoses.

The purchaser of equipment used for the sole purpose of water conservation or reuse must present to the seller, at the time of sale, a Texas sales tax exemption certificate stating valid qualifications for the exemption. The certificate must show the purchaser's name and address; description of the item, reason the purchase is tax exempt, purchaser's signature, date, and seller's name and address. To claim this exemption, purchasers complete Tax Exemption Application Form 01-339 at the time of purchase. You can find a downloadable copy of the state tax exemption form on either the home page of the RainBees website (https://www.rainbees.com/) or at: https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/forms/01-339.pdf (you need only complete the second page).

In other recent news, the manager of NBU's Conservation and Customer Solutions department, Andrew Cummings, has announced an increase in what he termed the "rain barrel" rebate. Don't let the name fool you; it includes larger systems, too—up to 5,000 gallons and pays out a maximum of \$2,500 (\$0.50 per gallon).

The NBU rebate form is posted on their website under the "Rebates" tab https://www.nbutexas.com/rebates/. Cummings stated that "Rainwater harvesting is an amazing conservation technique and we needed to allocate more funds to it to accommodate more wholistic integration of rain harvesting across our service territory."

The website states that the "NBU Rain Barrel and Cistern Rebate program offers compensation to NBU water customers for the proper installation and maintenance of <non-potable> rain barrels or cisterns." There appears to be no installation date requirement, but the program requires an inspection and a receipt for the purchases. The rebate pays \$0.50 per gallon of storage toward the purchase of rain barrels or tanks used in a rainwater harvesting system for a maximum rebate of \$2,500. Funds are paid as a credit on your NBU water account.





Bulverde Police Department

The following information is an excerpt from the December 2023 Monthly Report presented at the January 9, 2024 City Council meeting. The complete report can be viewed/downloaded from the City of Bulverde's website in the January 9 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/174/ files/1403

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Bulverde Police Department had 1,380 Calls for Service.

Comal Trace	0	Hwy 281	191
Bulverde Crossing	28	Hwy 46	168
Bulverde Estates	12	Oak Village N	152
Bulverde Hills	34	Oakland Estates	28
FM 1863	11	Shepherd's Ranch	5
City Hall/BPD Walk-ups	22	Belle Oaks	19
County	15	Outside County	0
Centennial Ridge	0	Windmill Ranch	22
Berry Oaks	1	Singing Hills	255
Bulverde City Park	158	Highlands	2
Edgebrook	69	Ammann Rd	1
Persimmon Hill	12	Bulverde Road	171
Blanco Road	4	Elm Valley	0

ARRESTS

Total arrests - 15

Public Intoxication	1
Driving While Intoxicated	3
Injury to Elderly	1
Possession Controlled Substance	4
Warrants	6

ACCIDENTS

Bulverde Police investigated 20 crashes.

LOCATION		PROPERTY	INJURY	FATALITY
Hwy 281	9	8	1	
Hwy 46	9	7	2	
Bulverde Hills	1		1	
Singing Hills	1	1		

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Citations	552
Violations	814
Warnings	255

Average Speed Citation (mph over the limit) Hwy 281 22.0 Hwy 46 19.3 FM 1863 18.3 Other 18.4	
INVESTIGATIONS Code Compliance Code Compliance 3 Cases Closed 3 Follow Up Activities 0 Citations Issued 0 Warning Citation 1 Pending 0	
BPD Cases Assigned 19 Interviews 39 Filed County DA 22 Filed Municipal Court 1 Warrants 2 Subpoenas 0 Citation 0 Closed 26 Supplements 141 Calls for Service 10 Reports 0	









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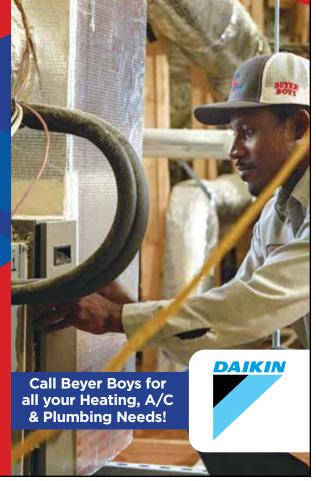
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- Tires, car batteries, and large pieces of metal (car fenders, engines, etc.)
- · Used oil filters or any hazardous or toxic waste







Angel Tree Thanks and Recap

As I sit here in the quiet of winter, I attempt to put into words just what the work of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Angel's Christmas Tree Project is all about. It is about the smiles and tears on the faces of parents who are struggling, who receive gifts for their children and feel cared about by people whose names they will never know.



It is about the joy, fellowship, laughter, and tears that are shared by the countless volunteers who work countless hours to help bring Christmas joy to a child. It is about our community members, schools, churches, organizations, and businesses coming together for one simple reason: 'to make Christmas a bit brighter" for all of "our" children. 2023 was the eighth year of our project and was truly a success, we served over 500 children from around 180 families!



Thanks to everyone that selected Gift Wish Ornaments from our trees, Christmas morning saw smiling faces on children who opened warm coats, shoes, clothing, trucks, dolls, curling irons, sporting equipment and even bikes as well as countless other gifts that made their

Christmas wishes come true. Thanks to Erin Murray & Coach Kendall at Jumbo Evans Tennis Center for including ornament adoption at their annual Serving 4 Santa Tournament and to Cliff Heck @ Keller Williams for hosting their annual, Claus for a Cause Toy Drive benefitting Angel Tree. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the GVTC Foundation & their Partner Callix Corporation for awarding us one of their annual Foundation Grants! We would also like to give special thanks to ESC Learning Systems for providing us with a much needed Home-Base and the support of their staff for the past three years. Special thanks goes out to all of our 2023 sponsors: Cypress Level sponsors: Brian Smith Orthodontics, Lela Fishburn & Kathleen Banse State Farm Agency. Spruce Level sponsors: Bev & Ralph Lemus, Steve & Mary Ann Hensley, Vine in the Village, Choices & More. Pine Level Sponsors: Patsy Miller, 46 W Storage, Jimmy & Diana Mendoza, Jason & Dawn Bone, & JDF Performance. In addition to the GVTC Foundation, Fir Level Sponsors were Michael O'Neill and Pat & Wendelin Welch.

The Angels would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the following for contributing to Merry Christmas Mornings for "our" kids: Jeremy Fuller State Farm Agency's Space Heater Drive & Bill Brown Elementary Student Council's Blanket Drive, which literally made their holiday warmer; to the Bulverde Police Department & Physicians Premier for together providing 32 bikes for our children to ride on Christmas morning! Many thanks also go out to Timberwood Park Elem. & Kendra Scott Jewelry for holding Wrapping Paper Drives for our use. In addition to our official "Angels," we were joined by the GVTC Foundation members, The Kiwanis Club of the Texas Hill Country, and Smithson Valley High School Students and Staff volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the many volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their precious time to make Angel Tree Possible. Without EACH of you, our mission could not have been successful.

Finally to our wonderful "Angel Tree Sites," without whom Angel Tree would not be possible, we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for allowing us to put our trees at your site, be willing to talk to people about our organization and then collect and store gifts until we can collect them! Our 2023 Tree Sites included: CISD Schools- Arlon Seay Elem., Indian Springs Elem., Johnson Ranch Elem., Kinder Ranch Elem., Specht Elem., Timberwood Park Elem., Pieper Ranch Middle, Pieper High, Spring Branch Middle, and Smithson Valley High. Community Sites included: Aye Chi Wawa Mexican Café, The Branch Bar & Grill, Bulverde Baptist Church, Bulverde Chamber of Commerce, Bulverde Dental, Bulverde Feed &



Seed, First United Bank, Hope Arise Church, Jeremy Fuller State Farm, Kathleen Banse State Farm, The Loft Coffee Shop, The Mammen Family Library, Premier Dental, River Crossing Country Club, Smith Valley Family Medicine, The UPS Store of Bulverde, Vine in the Village, and Vision Source. We would also like to thank the CISD School staff, who together with Provisions Outreach, The Hope Center, and Helping Hands Food Pantry assist us in identifying our families in need.

Annually, in an attempt to end this article of thanks to our wonderful Bulverde/ Spring Branch Community with words that summarize the mission of our Angel Tree Project I return to Christian author, Ruth Carter Stapleton, "Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most"...with our deep felt thanks for making it Christmas for "our" wonderful kids and their families.





Community Health Program

Addressing the challenges posed by a growing pop-ulation and an increase in chronically ill patients, Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services has im-plemented innovative solutions, with our Community Health Program emerging as a pivotal strategy. Although the program's groundwork began several years ago, its official establishment occurred in 2015. It stands out for its unique approach to healthcare, connecting individuals with local resources and organizations, fostering a healthier community, and significantly reducing non-emergency 9-1-1 calls.

Recognizing a specific need in the community, we have adopted a community health program that restructures care delivery, offering needs-based, at-home integrated care. The program distinguishes itself through synchronized multi-provider patient-driven partnerships tailored to local needs and resources. The primary objective is to enhance access to healthcare services and bridge gaps in rural areas, with a particular focus on overcoming obstacles related to mobility and transportation.

In 2023, the Community Health Program had 765 patient contacts. Referrals to the program are sourced from various channels, including repetitive 9-1-1 calls, Bulverde Spring Branch



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Activity Center, Meals on Wheels, local churches, and word of mouth. Beyond the program's positive social impact, we have also realized substantial economic gains through cost-avoidance measures when addressing the needs of these citizens through means other than 9-1-1 services.

The Community Health Program demonstrates a transformative approach to healthcare delivery, emphasizing community connection, patient education, and cost-effective solutions.

For more information, contact Richard Britz at (830) 358-9621 or richard.britz@hiscentre.com.



February Library Events

What a year 2023 was! The Library added book lockers for 24/7 pick-ups, expanded our hours, added new outreach programs throughout the community, welcomed 2,992 new library holders, and much more. Thank you to the volunteers who contributed 8,068 hours last year to help make this possible. Our patrons saved \$3,051,702.71 in 2023 by borrowing books and other materials from the library instead of purchasing them new. This number only includes physical items checked out from the library, can you imagine the cost savings if we included our digital resources and library programs?

With the New Year in full swing, February is packed full with free programs for all ages! AARP Foundation volunteers will be returning for the popular Tax-Aide program, offering free tax help to community members. Beginning on February 20th, we will also be learning about the power of communication in a weekly Great Courses series titled "Propaganda and Persuasion".

Have a teen looking to meet some new people? We have Teen Thursday every week at 6:00pm and volunteer hours every Saturday. Come check out our new club for ages 10-18 that meets monthly to play competitive multiplayer games such as Mario Kart 8 and Super Smash Brothers. Want to play games with other kids but not video games? We also have a Kids Chess Club that meets every Monday at 4:30pm.

We have plenty of other programs in store for all ages, visit our online calendar at mammen.librarycalendar.com to learn more!

Thanks from the Chamber for a Successful Event!

The 2023 Bulverde Christmas Lighting was a huge success. The BSB Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of our Sponsors along with a huge thank you to the City of Bulverde and the many volunteers who helped make it the best ever. We hope to see you on November 29, 2024.



The Bulverde Garden

CREATE A NATIVE HABITAT FOR TEXAS WILDLIFE

(TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE)

Creating "backyard habitat" through the use of native and well adapted

plant species not only provides habitat, but also assists in reducing water uses as well as the need for potentially harmful chemical fertilizers. Homeowners can provide the essential ingredients for a variety of wildlife—food, water, shelter, and space. This is done by planting and maintaining native vegetation, installing birdbaths and ponds and creating structure. Feeders can supplement native vegetation, but can never replace it. The goal is to provide places for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife to feed and drink, escape from predators and raise their young.

Creating a "backyard habitat" with native and well adapted plants not only benefits wildlife, but it's less expensive and easier to maintain. These plants are typically more drought-tolerant, so they need less water and care. Since these plants are also more tolerant of native insects and diseases, they do not rely



on potentially harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides, thus reducing potential risks to the environment.

Using native and well adapted plants attracts a variety of wildlife. Hummingbirds, for example, are attracted to tubular flowers like salvia, coral honeysuckle and cardinal flower. You can also attract songbirds to feast on agarita, beautyberry, or anacacho orchid trees you have planted. Imagine sharing territory with wildlife and experiencing the thrill of seeing a creature in the wild without having to travel any further than your own backyard.

By inviting wildlife to seek refuge on your property, you can enjoy and understand the role wildlife plays in your community. Attract wildlife by planting trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at your home, at school, or at work. It helps our wildlife, and it's fun. You can do more than just attract birds. Every species has its own specific habitat requirements. If you know those requirements, chances are good that whatever you desire—butterflies, frogs or even lizards will be visiting your site!

WILDSCAPE DESIGN TIPS:

- Inventory your yard. Drought tolerant plants attractive to a variety of wildlife may already exist in your yard. Don't remove plants that require little maintenance or watering unless they detract from the design.
- Before installing native and well adapted plants, know their height at maturity. A four-inch potted plant may turn into a ten-foot shrub! This will avoid planting in the wrong locations.
- Plan to create a multilayered effect. Offering tall, medium and short plants grouped together in a tiered arrangement is very appealing to wildlife. Include evergreen plants in your design. They keep their leaves year-round offering cover for wildlife throughout the year.
- Choose a selection of plants that bloom or fruit at various times of the year, so there is always food for wildlife. Supplement with clean bird feeders if natural food sources are lacking or becoming established.

- Add a water source to your landscape. It's important to offer clean water to wildlife year-round. Water can be provided easily in the form of a simple pan, birdbath, or shallow pool.
- Snags, which are dead or dying trees, can be left standing to provide cavity nesting sites. Supplement with nest boxes when natural tree cavities are lacking.
- Install berms or mounds, and use curved lines to add interest. Rock walls and logs can be attractive features while providing homes for butterflies, lizards, and other small wildlife. Planting in the cool season (late fall or early spring) will allow trees, shrubs, and hardy perennials, to establish before the hot and dry summer.
- Use organic gardening techniques, including compost and organic sources of fertilizer, to supply nutrients to plants. Try spraying insect infestations with a forceful spray of water before resorting to pesticides. Use 2-4 inches of mulch to reduce weeds and the need to water. Recycle leaves and grass clippings by composting or using as mulch.

For more information see the Texas Wildscapes Website: https://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildscapes

GARDEN NEWS: The Bulverde Community Garden Committee has a garden work day planned for Saturday, February 24, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The garden is located next to the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center at 30280 Cougar Bend in Bulverde. The public is welcome to attend.

If you are interested in obtaining a garden plot (for a small donation) please contact Joanne Hall at iothall@gvtc.com.





We are always excited when our dogs and cats find their forever homes. Some times that may take longer than we like, but we are committed to finding the right family for every animal. We recently learned that our very own Ashley was living in Spain! She came to our shelter at 6 months of age and resided with us for 2.5 years. That's a long time for a dog to be without a home of her own. Ashley's family didn't give up on her and sent us this update:



Almost 4 years ago, I was working for the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center (BSBAC) when we held an event with the Bulverde Area Humane Society (BAHS). I spent most of the event talking to Penny, one of BAHS' dedicated volunteers. Penny explained that Ashley was amazing around people and was being used to train volunteers, but that lately her demeanor had changed and she was becoming more withdrawn. The more we talked, the more I felt compelled to help this wonderful dog find a loving family of her own.

Our family was still grieving the loss of our 5-year-old female Cane Corso, who we lost unexpectedly the previous year. We had no plans to welcome another dog into our family, knowing that our other Cane Corso wasn't social with other dogs. After much contemplation, we decided to introduce Ashley into our home. The first 2 weeks were painfully difficult. We had to keep the dogs away from each other and walk both on a leash in the yard to slowly introduce them.

I noticed from other dog interactions that Ashley was not an alpha dog and I knew she wouldn't charge at our male. We made one last attempt by putting a muzzle on our male, had the water hose ready to go and let them loose in the yard (this might not be the best way to introduce two dogs, but after several weeks we didn't know what else to do). To our surprise, nothing happened! They continued to ignore each other for months after this "real" introduction. Then one day we had a breakthrough, they ate dinner next to each other!

There were additional challenges when we brought Ashley home. She was terrified of everything, from hearing cars or keys jingling to seeing people in boots or hats. We had to literally move her out of the walk-in closet to go to the bathroom. It took at least a year for her to become comfortable around us. She did not like being outside by herself and only wanted to lay down in her bed. In 2022, we were contemplating a move to Spain and, after intensive planning, emigrated in January of 2023.

The beginning of the trip to Spain was an absolute nightmare. It took almost 3 hours to get the dogs checked in at the terminal and I was in tears by the time we were done. We specifically flew Lufthansa because Frankfurt is considered to be the best layover terminal for animals. Our arrival in Valencia coincided with Three Kings' Day so there were loud fireworks which scared Ashley. Both dogs settled into the new house fairly quickly, and after a few months Ashley even walked outside in the yard by herself.

We have since moved to another house and Ashley is finally developing into a happy and more secure dog. She tries to play with our male dog while outside and is content around us. It took us 4 years to get here, but we wouldn't have it any other way!



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Local Events

EVENTS FEBRUARY MARCH Bulverde City Council (2nd Tuesday) 13th; 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 12th; 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 **Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission** 15th; 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 14th; 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 (Thursday following City Council mtg.) **Bulverde Community Park Committee** 22nd; 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 28th; 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163 (4th Thursday) Hill Country Kiwanis Club 7th & 21st; 8:00a; Ay Chiwawa, 6th & 20th; 8:00a; Ay Chiwawa, (1st & 3rd Wednesday) 403 Singing Oaks, 78070 403 Singing Oaks, 78070 **Bulverde Area Rural Library District Board** 15th: 9:30a: BSB Library. 21st; 9:30a; BSB Library, 131 Bulverde Xing, 78163 131 Bulverde Xing, 78163 (3rd Thursday) **Bulverde Lions Club** 8th & 22nd; 6:30p; 14th & 28th; 6:30p; 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163 (2nd & 4th Thursdays) 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163 **Bulverde Market Day** 2541 Bulverde Road, 78163 10th & 24th; 9:00a-2:00p 9th & 23rd; 9:00a-2:00p (2nd & 4th Saturday) 2nd; 5:00p (doors open), 1st; 5:00p (doors open), Bingo in Bulverde hosted by the 5:30p (Early Bird games start), 5:30p (Early Bird games start), **BSB Chamber of Commerce** 6:30p (regular games start); 6:30p (regular games start); (1st Friday) 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163 VFW Bulverde Post 12205 13th; 7:00p; 30280 Cougar Bend, 78163 12th; 7:00p; 30280 Cougar Bend, 78163 Monthly Meeting (2nd Tuesday) VFW Bulverde Post 12205 16th; 5:00p-8:00p; 21st; 5:00p-8:00p; **Burger Night** 30280 Cougar Bend, 78163 30280 Cougar Bend, 78163 (3rd Friday) Monday, February 19 Presidents' Day Bulverde City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday. S.T.A.G.E presents *Rope*, a murder thriller. Feb 15,16,17,18,23,24,25, and Mar 1,2,3 www.stagebulverde.org or call Opening night is a benefit for the Friends of the Village of Bulverde. STAGE is located at 1300 Bulverde Road, 78163 (830) 438-2339 Saturday, February 24: 9:00 a.m. The garden is located next to the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center at 30280 Cougar Community Garden Work Day Bend in Bulverde. The public is welcome to attend. Volunteers are appreciated. All Dolled Up March 16 & 17. Saturday. 10:00–4:00: Sunday 12:00–4:00 Low Cost Prom Dress Sale Mammen Family Public Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing., 78163



Save the Date: April 13 ~ Big Trash Day at Bulverde City Hall, 8:00am-12:00pm





New Members

Basic Business Members

Big O Foot Services Kuper Sotheby's International Realty McKnight Title Veterans United Home Loans

Individual Members

Cox, Robert and Dixie Kinser, Larry

Renewals and Member Anniversaries

5 Year Anniversary

Edward Jones – Paul Barton Spring Branch Pharmacy

10 Year Anniversary

Tupperware – Jeane Williams

15 Year Members

Choices & More...

Wellmed @ Bulverde/Robert Noland MD Spring Branch Tennis Association

20 Year Members

Bulverde North Family Dental Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority SWBC Professional Employer Services

25 Year Members

Sam Roberts Photography

Annual Renewals

AFLAC - Richard Tiritilli Bill Miller Catering

Blanco Rd Mulch & Landscape Materials

Bourbon & Branch

Bulverde Baptist Church

Bulverde Community Center

Bulverde Lions Club

Bulverde Spring Branch Conservative Republicans Bulverde Springs Management Company LLC

Capital Farm Credit

Carter Landscaping & Land Services

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★★ SUPER STAR ★★ TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

Elementary Level



Laura Mendez-2nd Grade teacher Mountain Valley Elementary School

Secondary School Level



Garrett Schatte-Ag Teacher Canyon Lake High School

BRENTING SOLUTIONS 210-349-4024

B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

February 2, 2024 BINGO IN BULVERDE

Presented by Marcus Baca-New
York Life
1st Friday of every month
Doors open at 5pm with Early Bird
Starting at 5:30pm
Regular games start at 6:30pm
Sponsored by: Roadrunner Septic
Services
At the Bulverde Community Center

78163 February 14, 2024 Coffee with the Chamber

1747 Ammann Rd, Bulverde, TX

Presented by: S.T.A.G.E. Inc 7:30 am-9:00 am Sponsor: Olsen Spine & Wellness Bulverde Visitor & Event Center

February 16, 2024 Veteran's Networking Breakfast

Presented by: Noah's Ark Self Storage 7:30 am-9:00 am Monthly Sponsor: Texas Physical Therapy Specialist At Ay Chiwawa! Mexican Café (All Veterans are Welcome)

February 21, 2024 BSB Chamber Foundation Power Lunch

Presented by: Cynthia McGee
Team with Magnolia Realty
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Sponsors: Edward Jones-Paul
Barton
And Bulverde Spring Branch
Activity Center
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event
Center

February 22, 2024 Business Networking Mixer

Hosted by: Meant to Soar
Foundation
Location: To Be Announced
5:30 pm-7:30 pm
(Member only Event)

March 21, 2024 4th Annual Clay Shoot

Presented by: Field Construction Location: Good Bull Ranch Shoot starts at 2:00 pm

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.

Because Every Girl Deserves to Feel Beautiful at Her Prom!



Once again, the Bulverde Thrift Store will host the annual All Dolled Up low cost prom dress sale at the Mammen Family Public Library. This event is open to all young ladies from all area schools who are looking forward to a spring prom, formal, or semi-formal event. Dresses of all styles and sizes are available to browse, as are shoes, jewelry, bags, and other accessories. The sale will be held for two days this year to give shoppers ample time to peruse the selections and try them on. It's a fun, casual environment, and all of the items are truly unique bargains that any student would be proud to wear to a formal or semi-formal event. All dresses are only \$15 each, and shoes and other items are only \$5 each! So mark your calendars and plan to shop for your dream prom dress while not breaking the bank.

All Dolled Up is scheduled for **Saturday, March 16** and **Sunday, March 17**. On Saturday, hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Sunday, hours will be from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The MFP Library is located a 131 Bulverde Crossing, 78163 (across from Home Depot).

As always, the Bulverde Thrift Store supports two local nonprofits—the BSB Activity Center and Provisions food pantry—so all proceeds from sales are directed right back into our community.



Bulverde City Hall 30360 Cougar Bend Bulverde, Texas 78163

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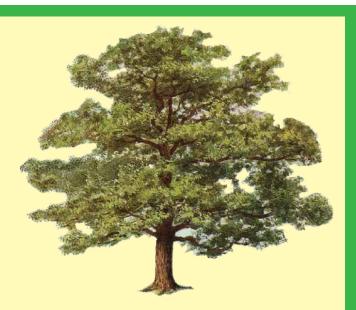
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