

THE  
FRONT PORCH  
News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors  
Volume 11 Issue 5 ☆ May 2024



©Cover photo by Sergina Flaherty



THE  
**FRONT PORCH**  
News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

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

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**Bill Krawietz, MAYOR**  
**Yvonne Chapman, COUNCIL**  
**Mechelle Salmon, COUNCIL**  
**Mark Morkovsky, COUNCIL**  
**Charles Hughes, MAYOR PRO TEM**  
**Clint Hays, COUNCIL**

COMAL COUNTY

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JUDGE  
830-221-1105

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**Kevin Webb, COMMISSIONER PCT. 3** **Jen Crownover, COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4**

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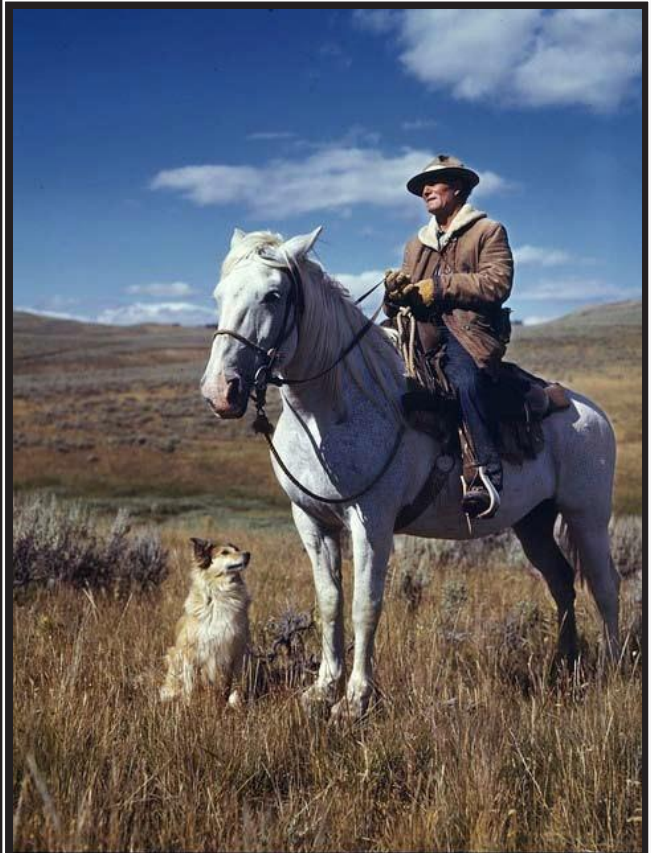
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# MAYOR'S POINT

**Bill Krawietz**  
Mayor of Bulverde, TX

At the regular April meeting, Bulverde City Council approved two Development Agreements to add an additional 172.5 acres of ranch land to the Belle Oaks Subdivision. Belle Oaks is a gated 1+ acre residential neighborhood that is currently developing on the east side of Blanco Road, north of Amman, and South of Hwy. 46.

The City was able to negotiate with the seller and developer additional protections for residents of Shepherds Ranch, an existing large-lot neighborhood that borders the properties to the east. First, there will be no connection of any roads or infrastructure between the new and old. Secondly, a 100 foot strip on the entire eastern boundary will remain as an undeveloped natural landscape buffer between any new lots in Belle Oaks and those existing in Shepherds Ranch.

There were several residents from Shepherds Ranch who emotionally spoke out against the agreement, who wanted a much larger buffer and much larger lots as neighbors. The concern was that the new homes could be visible from their property and would ruin their land values. I argued that this demand was unrealistic and in no way could the city negotiate any further concessions from the developer. I don't blame these residents for speaking out and asking for more, though. I tell my children all the time, it doesn't hurt to ask. In reality, it's how the City got Southerland Properties to dedicate the 100 foot buffer in the first place.

As a hillside resident of Bulverde Hills with a single house on three lots, I have had my once-pristine panoramic view of the Cibolo Valley spoiled. My view now looks down on an endless sprawl of rooftops of the densely developed neighborhoods such as Kinder Ranch just south of the Cibolo in Bexar County. To make matter worse, the new massively expansive CISD High School off of Borgfield Rd. is now a brightly glowing blob of lights, which brightly illuminates the night sky from dusk to dawn. Oh, how I wish that the City of Bulverde rules applied out there.

The City has made great advances in the management of new developments. To me, Belle Oaks Ranch is a shining star to which all other new developments in the area should be compared. It is a result of years and years of work to raise our standards as well as the leverage we gained through Home Rule and the unilateral annexation of raw ranch land. I know many residents would like the City to stop any further development, but others have the right to develop their land, so that will not happen.

*Amazing Photo Taken in Bulverde*



*At the end of March, we were blessed to witness a gorgeous double rainbow visible throughout the Bulverde area. Reader Tara Leggett took this amazing photo and shared it with the Front Porch News, so we wanted to share it with everyone else. It's beautiful! Thank you, Tara!*



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# From the City Manager's Desk

By Charles West

It's May 2024, hard to believe at the end of this month I will have served two years as the City Manager for Bulverde. Along with that we moved here two years ago when I accepted the position, which can be a little scary, when you have lived in the same area for your whole life and to up and move across the state to an area where you do not know anyone or have any family is a big change and adjustment. I am happy to say we would do it all over again as we believe Bulverde is a special place and we absolutely love it here. The community has welcomed us with open arms and made us feel welcomed and provided support when needed. I could not ask for a better group of people to work with in the City of Bulverde, from staff, to volunteers, and the elected officials, everyone cares about this community.

At the May Economic Foundation Quarterly meeting this month I will be providing a State of the City presentation to the members and visitors in attendance. In preparing that presentation I am pleased to report the outlook for Bulverde is great. We are financially sound and continue to see unprecedented growth, which has been a challenge to manage, but with our current elected officials we have been able to stay in front of it. I understand there are some that believe we are too strict in some areas of development regulations and that we have caused some developers to avoid working within Bulverde. I do not know if that statement is true or not as I can attest that we receive inquiries daily regarding new and potential developments to be located here. Therefore, I must disagree with the statement that developers do not want to work with the City of Bulverde. The standards are higher here than in other areas, which I believe is one of the reasons this is such a great place to live, work, and play. The developers who work here understand that while it may have challenges at the end of the day the value of their project is going to be protected and in the long run, they will more than likely see a higher profit on their project here versus another area. With that said I am not saying our ordinances, regulations,

and processes are perfect, as we are currently working on updating and cleaning up some inconsistencies between ordinances and streamlining or simplifying some of our processes. This is not an easy task and will take some time to get everything reviewed and make any needed changes. One of the ways you can help us is to participate in a survey that is underway for updating our comprehensive plan and show up and voice your concerns at townhall meetings or just send an email to staff or I to let us know your concerns.

Other things happening in the city are improvements and repairs are being made to the park. Concrete is being replaced that could be potential trip hazards. Landscaping is being updated along with repairs being made to the irrigation system. Another change that will be occurring soon is all lighting is being upgraded to LED lighting and additional lighting being added in some areas. This is being done to make the park safer during low light hours, conserve on energy, and ensure we are dark sky compliant. With these improvements are important let's not forget there are events that happen each Spring and Fall such as Movies in the Park and Musik in the Park, so watch the website and for fliers advertising these events, its free to the public to attend and a great way to meet other people in the community.

Speaking of parks, we have recently experienced some vandalism occurring to the restroom facilities. Our park sees a lot of visitors each day and while we do our best to monitor and keep up with everything, it is not possible for the city to have staff at the park at all times of the day to keep an eye on things. If you see someone doing something that should not be doing, please report it. Yes, we are going with the saying "if you see something, say something." Our park is one of the best amenities we have and sees lot of use each day, and it is not cheap to maintain. While the park does generate a small amount of revenue through rental fees, these fees are not enough to maintain the park, therefore we rely on sales tax revenue and property tax revenue to maintain the park.

Yes, I used that dreaded word everyone hates to hear each year: property tax. Unfortunately, it is that time of year when we begin looking at what our tax rate may or may not look like for the upcoming year. Each year in April we usually receive estimated property values for the year, which allows us to get an estimated revenue expectation for the next budget year. This used to be an easier process until the legislature decided that the way it was calculated was not fair and needed to be improved. It may be easier in their minds, but from my standpoint they have over-complicated the process. The City of Bulverde takes pride in having one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Texas for a city our size and each year when developing the budget, we look for ways to conserve and stretch our revenue as far as we can without sacrificing any of the services we provide. Like you I pay the same property taxes within the city limits that you do, and I want to make sure the tax dollars are used in a conservative and prudent method. I will go more in depth into the budget and taxes in next month's article. I encourage you to watch for posted meetings concerning the budget and tax rate as these meetings are open to the public and when the time gets closer to adopting the budget and tax rate for the upcoming budget year, there are public hearings that allow you the opportunity to speak and ask questions. Draft budgets and proposed tax rates will be posted on our website and advertised in the newspaper prior to adoption.

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The last topic I have for this month's article since it will be close to summer when this article is printed, is street projects. The summer months are when we prefer to do major street maintenance due to the warm weather having a positive effect on street repair and maintenance projects. In speaking with our Public Works Director, one of the bigger projects for us this summer will be Stahl RD as we receive calls daily concerning the state of repair the road is in. This project has been placed on hold in the past due to an agreement that when the development referred to as Diamante Ranch begins development Stahl Lane will be relocated taking the extreme curves out of the road and allow for a straight road to be constructed on the West side of the church located in the curves of Stahl RD. Since the cost of making these repairs is going to take a majority of annual allotted budget for road and maintenance, we were hoping this project was going to happen sooner than later, but that does not appear to be the case, therefore it was decided to make the necessary repairs this summer instead of putting this project off any longer. There are other street repair and maintenance projects that will be occurring this summer and as those are scheduled, we will post a list on the website to keep you informed to allow you to make alternate route plans if needed.

Please remember if you have any concerns or just have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to city hall to speak to staff or myself.

Thanks,  
Charles

# Free Movies In The Park!

Always 2nd Friday  
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May 10th  
June 14th



bring your own chairs/blankets  
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# Bulverde Police Department

The following information is an excerpt from the March 2024 Monthly Report presented at the April 9, 2024 City Council meeting. The complete report can be viewed/downloaded from the City of Bulverde's website in the April 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/177/files/agenda/1467>

## CALLS FOR SERVICE:

**Bulverde Police Department had 1,526 Calls for Service.**

|                        |     |                  |     |
|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Blanco Road            | 1   | Hwy 281          | 223 |
| Bulverde Crossing      | 27  | Hwy 46           | 119 |
| Bulverde Estates       | 5   | Oak Village N    | 263 |
| Bulverde Hills         | 74  | Oakland Estates  | 7   |
| FM 1863                | 198 | Shepherd's Ranch | 42  |
| City Hall/BPD Walk-ups | 6   | Belle Oaks       | 6   |
| County                 | 8   | Outside County   | 0   |
| Centennial Ridge       | 0   | Windmill Ranch   | 0   |
| Kestral                | 1   | Singing Hills    | 198 |
| Bulverde City Park     | 167 | Highlands        | 0   |
| Edgebrook              | 29  | Ammann Rd        | 6   |
| Persimmon Hill         | 3   | Bulverde Road    | 119 |
| Elm Valley             | 23  | Saddleridge      | 1   |

## ARRESTS: Total arrests – 30

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Evading Arrest using Vehicle.....    | 1 |
| Driving While Intoxicated.....       | 3 |
| Resist Arrest.....                   | 2 |
| Possession Controlled Substance..... | 5 |
| Warrants.....                        | 8 |
| Public Intoxication.....             | 1 |
| Assault Causes Bodily Injury.....    | 1 |
| Theft \$100-\$750.....               | 4 |
| Theft \$750-\$2500.....              | 4 |
| Burglary of Habitation.....          | 1 |

## ACCIDENTS: Bulverde Police investigated 15 crashes.

| LOCATION          |   | PROPERTY | INJURY | FATALITY |
|-------------------|---|----------|--------|----------|
| Hwy 281           | 3 | 3        |        |          |
| Hwy 46            | 3 | 1        | 1      | 1        |
| FM 1863           | 5 | 5        |        |          |
| Bulverde Crossing | 1 | 1        |        |          |
| Bulverde Road     | 2 | 1        | 1      |          |
| Bulverde Hills    | 1 | 1        |        |          |

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Citations.....  | 576 |
| Violations..... | 896 |
| Warnings.....   | 274 |

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

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Hwy 281..... | 21.4 |
| Hwy 46.....  | 15.3 |
| FM 1863..... | 16.5 |
| Other.....   | 19.6 |

## INVESTIGATIONS

### Code Compliance

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Code Compliance.....      | 17 |
| Cases Closed.....         | 17 |
| Follow Up Activities..... | 0  |
| Citations Issued.....     | 0  |
| Warning Citation.....     | 1  |
| Pending.....              | 0  |

### BPD Cases

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Assigned.....              | 22  |
| Interviews.....            | 51  |
| Filed County DA.....       | 17  |
| Filed Municipal Court..... | 0   |
| Warrants.....              | 3   |
| Subpoenas.....             | 0   |
| Citation.....              | 1   |
| Closed.....                | 43  |
| Supplements.....           | 132 |
| Calls for Service.....     | 6   |
| Reports.....               | 0   |

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COMAL COUNTY  
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## CCCA May Community Program: Nature for the Long Run

Join us on **Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00-7:30pm** at The McKenna Events Center for an enlightening evening with Ben Eldredge, Executive Director of the Cibolo Conservancy. The Comal County Conservation Alliance presents its May Community Program, "Nature for the Long Run," to explore the vital role of natural systems



in our lives. Discover how these systems clean the air and water, mitigate flooding, sequester carbon, and moderate temperatures. Learn about the profound impact nature has on our mental, physical, and emotional health, as well as its benefits for children's development, curiosity about the environment, social skills, emotional stability, and ability to learn. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of the importance of conservation in our community.

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Musik in the Park wishes to acknowledge the contributions of our 2024 Concert Series Sponsors.

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## Twenty-two Comal ISD seniors receive Ready, Set, Teach graduation stoles

Comal ISD students interested in pursuing a career in education, participated in the district's Ready, Set, Teach Conference at the Support Services Building. They were treated to a closer look into what it is like to work for the district from onboarding and job searching to first-year teaching support.

Among the 32 students in attendance were 22 seniors who were presented with a 'Ready, Set, Teach' graduation stole as well as a letter of intent from the district stating that they are guaranteed a job interview with Comal ISD once they have completed their education degrees and teaching certificates. Superintendent Dr. John E. Chapman III was on hand to congratulate them.

"There is no other career that will make an impact on a generation," Dr. Chapman said. "You will have challenges, but there is nothing more rewarding than when you receive that 'thank you,' from a student. We want you to come back home when you are ready to begin your career."

These future educators have been a part of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program known as education and training which prepares students for careers related to teaching, instruction, and creation of instructional and enrichment materials. Comal ISD named it 'Ready, Set, Teach.' It familiarizes them with the processes for developing curriculum, coordinating educational content and coaching groups and individuals.

In Comal ISD the teaching and training courses within the education and training program of study are offered at Canyon High School, Davenport High School, Pieper High School and Smithson Valley High School.

As part of the hands-on approach of CTE courses, students complete teaching internship at district elementary campuses through this program. Those elementary include Bill Brown Elementary, Garden Ridge Elementary Goodwin Frazier Elementary, Indian Springs Elementary, Johnson Ranch Elementary, Kinder Ranch Elementary, Oak Creek Elementary, and Timberwood Park Elementary.

Furthermore, students will earn Educational Aide I certification once they have completed education and training program.

### Comal ISD Ready, Set, Teach Graduating Seniors

#### Canyon High School–Jennifer Baker, teacher

- Chloe Cross
- Hannah Edenburn
- Sophia Gaitan
- Jasmine Martinez
- Bryleigh Morgan
- Ava Rayburn
- Sophie Smith

#### Davenport High School–Evelyn Fallon, teacher

- Amber Bassett
- Aviana Ramos
- Breana Stewart

#### Pieper High School–Amanda Adams-Wier, teacher

- Reymie Hernandez
- Sienna Martinez
- Viviana Rodriguez
- Anggie Ruiz Gonzalez
- Ella Steen

#### Smithson Valley High School–Cassie Pahl, teacher

- Kaylee Carmichael
- Emerson Devivo
- Amaia Largaespada
- Addison Pozzi
- Sydney Rakowitz
- Juliana Roman
- Adyson Sublett



Ready, Set, Teach seniors from Pieper High School.



Ready, Set, Teach seniors from Smithson Valley High School.

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# News from Our House to Yours



## Understanding Mutual Aid

Firefighters from across the state were actively involved in efforts to extinguish five intense wildfires blazing in the Texas Panhandle in early March. Our strike team was deployed as part of the Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System. Initially assigned to tackle the Windy Deuce wildfire, our crew was subsequently reassigned to address the challenges posed by the Smokehouse Creek wildfire. They were actively engaged in operational duties such as fire suppression, fire line holding, and mop up.



### What is the Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)?

In 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature passed SB11, establishing the framework for mutual aid response in Texas. Collaborating with the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, TIFMAS was developed and is managed by the Texas A&M Forest Service. It serves as a structured mechanism for mobilizing, deploying, organizing, and managing local fire-related resources across Texas to aid in mitigating emergencies and disasters, both within the state and nationally, upon request. TIFMAS was first utilized during Hurricane Ike in 2008 and has since been activated on numerous occasions.



By mobilizing local resources from unaffected areas, TIFMAS fills a critical surge capacity need that cannot be met using out-of-state resources. Furthermore, it fosters a spirit of reciprocity among its beneficiaries, encouraging a "pay-it-forward" mentality when assistance is needed.

### Local Mutual Aid

In addition to TIFMAS, firefighters also rely on local mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to effectively combat large or unique fire conditions. These agreements allow local



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jurisdictions to respond without state assistance in most fire situations. As fires expand and become more complex, state resources may be required. BSB Fire & EMS extends mutual aid to our nearby departments, including Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department, Blanco Fire Department, Canyon Lake Fire/EMS, Kendall County Fire/EMS, and Bracken Volunteer Fire Department.

These cooperative efforts, including initiatives like TIFMAS and local mutual aid agreements, highlight the importance of working together to better serve the public and effectively respond to emergencies and disasters across Texas.

*Photos: Texas Panhandle Wildfires*



## STOP THE BLEED & HANDS-ONLY 2024 CPR CLASSES

### Wednesday Class Dates:

June 12th  
September 11th  
November 13th  
Classes begin at 6:00 p.m.

### Saturday Class Dates:

June 12th  
September 28th  
November 23rd  
Classes begin at 9:00 a.m.

ALL CLASSES HELD AT STATION #4,  
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## Helping Tiny-but-Mighty Kittens: The CASA Method

When it comes to caring for newborn kittens or a litter of tiny felines, knowing when to intervene can be crucial. Fortunately, Hannah Shaw, also known as The Kitten Lady, has provided a simple yet effective tool called the CASA method to help determine when human intervention is necessary. Let's break it down:



**C—Condition:** The first step in assessing whether intervention is needed is to observe the condition of the kittens. Are they clean and alert, or are they dirty, covered in waste, or infested with parasites? Look for signs of distress such as visible blood, labored breathing, or a sickly appearance. If the kittens appear healthy, plump, and well-fed, it's best to leave them alone. Mom is likely out hunting for food, so monitor from a great distance to avoid disrupting and/or scaring her. It might be a good idea to leave a small amount of food 10 feet or more away from the litter to supplement mom's feeding but far enough so predators are not right next to the helpless babies.



**A—Age:** Age plays a crucial role in determining whether intervention is necessary. Kittens 5 weeks and younger typically need their mother's care and should remain with her as long as possible. If intervention is required, consider options such as trapping the entire family (including mom) and housing them until weaned, or leaving them in their current location until they're old enough to be independent. Knowing the age of the kittens can help guide the appropriate course of action.



Characteristics of kittens change rapidly as they age, but you can tell their general age by a few traits. Kittens 5 weeks and younger are uncoordinated, have closed or blue eyes, and are nursing. Kittens 5–12 weeks old are playful, coordinated enough to walk and run, and can eat independently. This age group is of optimum age for socializing with a foster for future adoption. Kittens 12 weeks and older are usually over 3 pounds with lanky bodies and are no longer nursing. These are the hardest to socialize and may be happiest if returned to their colony home after their spay/neuter surgery.

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**\$10 Coupon**  
for Grooming!  
When you get pet groomed between March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>

**Happy Spring!**  
from Bluebonnet Grooming!

[www.BluebonnetGrooming.com](http://www.BluebonnetGrooming.com)  
28120 U.S. Hwy 281, #106, San Antonio, TX 78261  
Proof of current rabies vaccines required on all pets over 16 weeks of age.

- PACKAGES**
  - Bath and Brush
  - Full-Service Groom
  - Puppy Groom
- OTHER SERVICES**
  - Tooth brushing
  - Nail Trimming
  - Nail Grinding
  - Ear Plucking/Cleaning
  - Anal Gland Expression (Dogs only)
  - Spot On Flea Treatment
  - Tick Removal (25cents per tick)
  - De-matting
  - Shave down

**S—Situational:** Every rescue situation is unique, so use your best judgment to assess whether intervention is warranted. If there's a caregiver, shelter, and access to food, the family may be best left in its current situation. In some cases, they may simply need to be sterilized and allowed to continue living in a familiar environment.

**A—Ability:** Finally, consider your own ability and resources to provide support to the kittens and their family. A caring heart and support of a local rescue is usually all that is needed. A caring heart can bottle feed newborns without their moms. A caring heart can offer housing for 4–6 weeks until a feral family is weaned. A caring heart can transport to medical appointments. A caring heart can offer to foster a family. A caring heart can be a matchmaker (adoption counselor). A caring heart can provide financial support. A caring heart can join our Trap-Neuter-Return team.

For more information and resources on helping kittens in need, visit [www.kittenlady.org](http://www.kittenlady.org). Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these tiny but mighty creatures.



## Upcoming Events at the Mammen Family Public Library

**It may be heating up outside, but did you know you can enjoy library resources without leaving the comfort of your home?**

The library offers multiple digital resources that allow you to access eBooks and eAudiobooks for free with a Mammen Family Public Library card. CloudLibrary, Libby, Hoopla, and SimplyE all provide access to eBooks and eAudiobooks at no cost to you. We even have resources with free magazines, online puzzles, TV shows, movies, and more. Visit [mfplibrary.org/digital-resources](http://mfplibrary.org/digital-resources) to learn more or ask a staff member next time you visit the library!

**This May, we have teamed up with the Bulverde Area Humane Society to host a pet supply drive at the library in celebration of National Pet Month! Visit our lobby or [bulverdeareahumanesociety.com](http://bulverdeareahumanesociety.com) to view the list of needed supplies. We will be collecting supplies all month long. We'll continue our celebration of pets with many pet-related programs (making pet toys, pet tags, clay animals, and more!), daily features of staff pets on our Instagram story, and with an animal themed book display at the library. We hope you will join us in celebrating our furry friends and in supporting the Bulverde Area Humane Society.**

**May the Fourth be with you! Visit the library between 10am and 1pm on Saturday, May 4th as we celebrate everything Star Wars.** We will have fun for the whole family, including Jedi training, lightsaber crafts, Makerspace demonstrations, photo ops and more.

**The Friends of the Bulverde Area Rural Library District have been busy spring cleaning and are having a garage sale! Stop by the front patio on Saturday, May 18th between 10am and 2pm to see what treasures they have for you to take home.**

**Mark your calendars, as summer is just around the corner! We hope you are able to join us on Saturday, June 8th between 10am and 1pm to kick off the 2024 Summer Library Program.** Sign up for the Summer Library Program, get a free t-shirt, and enjoy fun activities for the whole family. In order for library staff to prepare for the Summer Library Program, youth programs will be on a break from May 8th through June 7th.

Visit our online calendar at [mammen.librarycalendar.com](http://mammen.librarycalendar.com) to learn more about programs for all ages and to register to join us. We have an exciting summer of free programs ahead, and we hope to see you at the library!





# WATER CONSERVATION SERIES

By Dr. Larry Sunn and Dr. Steven Grainger

A weekly series to improve Hill Country residents' understanding of our limited local water resources, raise awareness about our personal relationships to these resources, and heighten our sense of personal agency to ensure future generations enjoy healthy streams and clean water resources.



These free workshops were developed by Dr. Steven Grainger and Dr. Larry Sunn in response to common questions and concerns about our ongoing drought conditions and various topics related to water conservation, water quality, pollution increases, and gardening issues. The workshops provide a brief overview (with questions and answers) for residents to better understand where

our water comes from and how to protect this increasingly scarce resource.

<https://www.rainbees.com/> will present twelve 1.5-hour sessions, from 12:00 to 1:30, on successive Mondays beginning June 5th through August 19th. It is OK to bring your lunch.

Help us know how many chairs to stage, by registering for the different topics online at <https://mfplibrary.org/adults/> under the <Programs> tab. Topics include:

**Aquifers** – We'll discuss aquifer types, current Comal County water table levels, our two types of aquifers, common misconceptions about aquifers, rates at which groundwater moves through an aquifer, depletion and replenishment rates, and natural filtration.

**Rain Harvesting** – Learn how to capture rain for potable or irrigation purposes. We'll discuss understanding rainwater needs, storing rainwater, assessing a rainwater collection area, filtering leaves & debris, water filtration, monitoring the water level, and caring for your system.

**Rain Barrels and Wicking Gardens** – The basics and benefits of rain barrels; we'll build a rain barrel on site. We'll give the barrel away to a lucky attendee and discuss how you can build your own rain barrel with basic supplies and some simple steps. The session also includes a demonstration on how to build a wicking garden system. A wicking garden prototype will be built as part of the workshop and it, too, will be given to an attendee.

**Drip Irrigation** – We'll show you how to install a system from the spigot out to the garden. You do not need special, dedicated water pipes. Bit by bit, fitting by fitting, we'll discuss installing the system components as you watch and learn.

**Landscape & Lawn Care** – Find out how much water your lawn and native plants need to thrive and how often to get water to them. We'll cover the basics of proper lawn

maintenance, fertilizing, mowing, and watering a beautiful, water-efficient lawn.

**Find and Fix Leaks** – This workshop will guide you through the process of finding common household water leaks, as well as providing tips for optimizing indoor water efficiency. You'll learn how to check your toilet for leaks, inspect common places you may find leaks, and how to find those "sneaky leaks."

**Xeriscape, Rain Gardens, & Prairie Ponds** – In this session we'll discover design techniques used for planning, building, and maintaining a rain garden. This session will cover some background science, site investigation, design, plant and material selection, as well as installation.

**Bees, Butterflies, and Hummingbirds** – Discover the best native plants to attract butterflies and beneficial wildlife. This session is presented from an artistic and scientific point of view and is designed to appeal to all levels of pollinator gardening.

**Composting** – Procedures for composting are discussed, along with options for establishing a compost container, bin, or pile.

**Pruning and Winterizing** – This workshop will focus on the essentials of when and how to prune trees and shrubs. We'll cover making proper cuts, different forms of pruning and most importantly pruning plants at the correct time.

For further information contact the Mammen Library or visit <https://www.rainbees.com/>.

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# Local Events

## EVENTS

## MAY

## JUNE

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Election Day: Bulverde City Council and County Elections                     | May 4th: Visit the Bulverde city website for all information:<br><a href="https://bulverdetx.gov/153/Election-information">https://bulverdetx.gov/153/Election-information</a> |  |
| Bulverde City Council (2nd Tuesday)  | 14th; 6:30p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  | 11th; 6:30p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  |
| Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission (Thursday following City Council mtg.) | 16th; 6:00p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  | 13th; 6:00p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  |
| Bulverde Community Park Committee (4th Thursday)                             | 23rd; 6:00p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  | 27th; 6:00p<br>30360 Cougar Bend, 78163  |
| Hill Country Kiwanis Club (1st & 3rd Wednesday)                              | 1st & 15th; 8:00a<br>Ay Chiwawa, 403 Singing Oaks, 78070   | 5th & 19th; 8:00a<br>Ay Chiwawa, 403 Singing Oaks, 78070   |
| Bulverde Area Rural Library District Board (3rd Thursday)                    | 16th; 9:30a<br>MFP Library, 131 Bulverde Xing, 78163   | 20th; 9:30a<br>MFP Library, 131 Bulverde Xing, 78163   |
| Bulverde Lions Club (2nd & 4th Thursdays)                                    | 9th & 23rd; 6:30p<br>1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163   | ; 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163  |
| Bulverde Market Day<br>2541 Bulverde Road, 78163 (2nd & 4th Saturday)        | 11th & 25th; 9:00a–2:00p   | 15th & 29th; 9:00a–2:00p   |
| Bingo in Bulverde hosted by the BSB Chamber of Commerce (1st Friday)         | 3rd; 5:00p (doors open), 5:30p (Early Bird games start), 6:30p (regular games start); 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163  | 7th; 5:00p (doors open), 5:30p (Early Bird games start), 6:30p (regular games start)<br>1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163                            |
| VFW Bulverde Post 12205<br>Monthly Meeting (2nd Tuesday)                     | 14th; 7:00p<br>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163  | 11th; 7:00p<br>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163  |
| VFW Bulverde Post 12205<br>Burger Night (3rd Friday)                         | 17th; 5:00p–8:00p<br>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163  | 21st; 5:00p–8:00p<br>30280 Cougar Bend, 78163  |
| Movies in the Park (2nd Friday)<br>Bulv. Community Prk                       | 10th; Movie starts at dusk<br>Free   | 14th; Movie starts at dusk<br>Free   |
| Musik in the Park<br>Bulverde Community Park; 29815 Bulverde Lane            | 18th; Music starts at 7:00p<br>Free  | 16th; Rain date if needed.   |
| The Cibolo Moondance Outdoor Concert Series                                  |  | 22nd; Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Rd.<br>Boerne, TX 78006<br>TICKETS: <a href="http://cibolo.org/moondance">cibolo.org/moondance</a> |

|  <b>Graduation Information</b> |  |                        |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Smithson Valley High  | <b>Wed., May 22, 7:00 p.m.</b>                               | Texas State University |
| Comal Academy   | <b>Fri., May 24, 1:00 p.m.</b>                               | Pieper High Auditorium |
| Hill Country College Preparatory High   | <b>Fri., May 24, 4:00 p.m.</b>                               | Pieper High Auditorium |
| Memorial Early College High   | <b>Fri., May 24, 7:00 p.m.</b>                               | Pieper High Auditorium |
| Canyon High   | <b>Sat., May 25, 8:30 a.m.</b>                               | Texas State University |
| Canyon Lake High  | <b>Sat., May 25, 12:30 p.m.</b>                              | Texas State University |
| Davenport High  | <b>Sat., May 25, 4:00 p.m.</b>                               | Texas State University |
| Pieper High   | <b>Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m.</b>                               | Texas State University |
| Living Rock Academy   | <b>Thur., May 23</b><br>Call school for complete information |                        |

# BRACKEN

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# The Buzz from the Garden

## Sweet Potatoes

(Information provided by Comal Master Gardener Association)

Sweet potatoes are a warm-season crop, unlike the Irish potatoes. These are vining plants and they thrive on heat. Sweet potatoes originated in Central and South America.



**VARIETIES:** Recommended sweet potato varieties include Beauregard, Centennial, and Jewel. Some gardeners pick up a sweet potato or two at the grocery store and use them for potato slips.

**SITE AND SOIL:** Sweet potatoes require at least eight hours of direct sun each day. They like well-drained soils in raised beds. Till or spade in several inches of compost and one pound of a complete fertilizer (19-5-9) per 100 square feet of bed or every 35 feet of row. (This is less than most vegetables.)

**POTATO SLIPS:** If you place a whole sweet potato in the ground, cover it with soil, and water it, it will make vines and roots (called SLIPS). After the vines are 3-4 inches long, dig up the potato and cut off the vines and plant them in the ground (12 inches apart). These slips or root cuttings will produce long vines and lots of potatoes per plant.

**PLANTING:** Place the root cutting in the ground about 12 to 16 inches apart. If the cutting has leaves, be sure they are above the ground. Water them before covering them with soil. Then water them again to eliminate air pockets.

**FERTILIZING:** About 4 weeks after planting, side-dress them with a complete garden fertilizer (19-5-9) at half pound per 35 feet of row. Keep the plants watered.

**HARVESTING:** Sweet potatoes are generally ready to dig out in 90 to 110 days or more. They don't tell you they are mature, but are dug when they reach a usable size. Always inspect the base of a few plants to check their size before digging them. When digging them, be careful not to damage the sweet potatoes. Allow them to dry for 3 to 4 hours in the shade before placing them in a warm, humid area to cure for two weeks. Use your garage or shed and place them in containers covered with moist burlap. They can then be stored for up to 3 months if they're kept in a cool place (55 degrees).



**GARDEN NEWS:** Bulverde Community Garden volunteers have been tending and harvesting designated plots for Provisions, our local food pantry. During the month of March, more than 15 pounds of vegetables have been donated to Provision families.

If you or your family would like to obtain a garden plot (for a small donation) please contact [JoanneHall@jothall@gvtc.com](mailto:JoanneHall@jothall@gvtc.com)



## Chamber 4th Annual Clay Shoot a Success!

The BSB Chamber held their 4th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on March 21st at Good Bull Ranch. We appreciate the time and effort provided by Good Bull Ranch's Eric Bernal and Ryan Gold to host this wonderful event. We had more than 84 shooters participate, including 3 student teams.

We could not host an event like this without our Sponsors. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor—Field Construction, Inc.; Tumbler Sponsor—Texas Regional Bank; Gold Sponsors –Frost Bank, GVTC Foundation, and M & S Engineering; Shooter Bag Sponsor—Leitrim Enterprises; Lunch Sponsor—Sage Capital Bank; and Safety Briefing Sponsor—Mr. Electric of San Antonio.

Thank you also to our Interactive Station Sponsors—Bulverde Hills Dental and Red Line Landworx; Towel Sponsor—The Water Company; Porcelain Station Sponsor—Shamrock Plumbing; and Station Sponsors –Noah's Ark Self Storage, Bulverde Business Solutions, and The Branch Neighborhood Grill.

Last but not least—Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping make this event possible, with special thanks to the Committee and Staff –Geri Ray, Vivian Garcia, Trisha Barney, and Amber Rainwater.

Mark your calendar now so you can join us at our 5th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot in Spring of 2025.



## LWV Comal Area Provides In Person & Online Nonpartisan Election Information

The League of Women Voters Comal Area (LWVCA) is visiting Mammen Family Public Library in Bulverde several times each month to register new voters, help voters update their current registrations, provide nonpartisan election information and answer voters' questions ahead of the May 4 local elections, May 28 Primary Runoffs, and the November 5 General Election. To see the dates and times League volunteers will be on hand go to [https://lwvcomal.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=4001&club\\_id=596314](https://lwvcomal.org/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=596314).

LWVCA hosted a virtual forum with the 4 candidates for Bulverde City Council, Place 6, which is available for public viewing on [Youtube@lwvcomalarea7096](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iwvcomalarea7096)

The nonpartisan, online Voters Guide at [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org) is live for the May 4 election. This one-stop shop for election information provides Texas voters with simple, accessible tools to help them navigate the voting process for this and future elections. VOTE411 provides personalized candidate information, voter registration details, polling place locations, and other helpful election information for all voters nationwide. Comal Area voters can also visit [lwvcomal.org/voting](https://lwvcomal.org/voting) for links to sample ballots, polling locations and more. "Our goal is to provide voters the resources they need where it is convenient for them whether that's online, in-person or available in a printed format at their public library or other community location," explains LWVCA President Jerrie Champlin.

The League of Women Voters is a 501(c)3, nonpartisan, political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties. To join or donate, go to [lwvcomal.org](https://lwvcomal.org).





## Annual Renewals and Member Anniversaries

Savour  
Schertz Bank & Trust  
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Steel Horse Constructors, LLC  
Texas Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

### New Members

#### **Business Builder Members**

Bramare Wine LLC dba Vine in the Village  
Inkling Books

#### **Business Members**

Adaptations Wellness  
Blushing Belle Intimates  
HUB International  
New York Life Insurance Co Mark Quenga  
Pontita Vineyard and Winery  
Rustic Cigar Haus  
Seth Prescott

Simple Luxuries Travel by Michelle  
Sonic Homes

The PREP School of Kinder Ranch  
University Title

### 15 Year Anniversary

Coldchain Technology Services, LLC  
Sitterle Homes

### 5 Year Anniversary

Fresh Air Filtration Systems, Inc.  
Shamrock Plumbing  
Villas at Bulverde  
Vulcan Materials Company

### Annual Renewals

AFLAC - Richard Tiritilli  
American Dance Co  
AR Technology  
Bracken Christian School  
Comal County Friends of the Night Sky  
Connections Individual & Family Services  
Cragg's Do It Best Lumber and Home Center  
Digital Expressions  
El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant  
Hope Center Food Pantry & Outreach  
Bill Krawietz (Mayor)

L B Shallcross & Associates  
Ed La Grone

Lariat Property Maintenance  
Ralph & Bev Lemes

Mr. W Fireworks Superstore  
Olsen Spine and Wellness

OMNI Health Chiropractic + Rehab  
On the Grind

Pet Galaxy Inc.

Physicians Premier

PMI Bluebonnet Realty

Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union  
REOC Development, LLC

## SUPER STAR TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

### *Elementary Level*



**Terrina Hendry**—1st Grade Teacher  
Rebecca Creek Elementary School

### *Secondary School Level*



**Jenny LaRocca**—Math & History  
Bracken Christian School High School

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## Ribbon Cutting



Capital Farm Credit - Ribbon Cutting—New Location



Uplifting Medi Spa - Ribbon Cutting



Fun Buns of TX at District on 46 - Ribbon Cutting



iPlanned - Ribbon Cutting

## B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

**May 3, 2024**

**BINGO IN BULVERDE**

Presented by Marcus Baca  
—New York Life

1st Friday of every month  
Doors open at 5:00pm with Early Bird  
Starting at 5:30pm

Regular games start at 6:30pm

Sponsored by:

The Hancock Group, Realtors  
Held at the Bulverde Community Center  
1747 Ammann Rd, Bulverde, TX 78163

**May 4, 2024**

**Lemonade Day**

Sponsor: Broadway Bank  
Location: Around the Bulverde Spring  
Branch

**May 8, 2024**

**Coffee with the Chamber**

Presented by: S.T.A.G.E. Inc

7:30 am–9:00 am

Sponsor: Texas Regional Bank  
Bulverde Visitor & Event Center

**May 15, 2024**

**BSB Chamber Foundation**

**Power Lunch**

Presented by: Cynthia McGee Team with  
Magnolia Realty

11:30 am–1:00 pm

Sponsors: Meant to Soar Foundation,  
Inc. And Project 10:27 Inc.  
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event Center

**May 17, 2024**

**Veteran's Networking Breakfast**

Presented by: Noah's Ark

Self Storage

7:30 am–9:00 am

Monthly Sponsor:

Pedernales Electric Cooperative  
Location—Ay Chihuahua! Mexican Café  
(All Veterans are Welcome)

**May 23, 2024**

**Business Networking Mixer**

Hosted by: SNatural Bridge Caverns  
Location: 26495 Natural Bridge Caverns  
Rd

San Antonio, TX 78266

5:30 pm–7:30 pm

(Member only Event)

For information on the  
above events or other  
community events, please

check out our website at

[www.bsbchamber.com](http://www.bsbchamber.com)

or Follow us on Facebook

@BSBChamber.

## On the Cover

Isn't our cover bird a beauty? Although so handsome, he has a bit of a sad story. This amazing photo was taken by Sergina Flaherty, a frequent contributor of photography to the Front Porch News. Sergina found him in her yard and was enjoying the interaction, but soon realized he was injured. Here is the story of this handsome guy, in her own words.

"This beauty, Red-shouldered Hawk, was standing on the ground in my front yard this afternoon when I arrived home. At first I thought it had prey and was extending its wings to cover as hawks do normally. However, I soon realized it was injured. I watched as it tried to fly and it could not beat the right wing. I called a local rehabilitation center and waited with it for an hour. I talked softly to it and told him he'll be ok. Help was on its way! Of course, this was an opportunity of a lifetime. I took many photographs of this beauty!!

A bit of a sad epilogue to this story is that Sergina was later notified by the rehab center that the hawk's injury was not an acute injury—rather something that was older and had taken more of a toll than thought. Ultimately, the injury was insurmountable, and the bird was humanely euthanized. We are blessed that Sergina had the opportunity to capture his beauty and share it with us.

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