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As a City publication, the Front Porch News strives to maintain objectivity and accuracy in all published content. The newsletter must remain neutral in the publication of content that may be considered controversial, biased, or inflammatory within the community (e.g., political content or opinions, religious material, etc.). The newsletter differs from a newspaper in that opinion pieces are typically not included. Publication of contributing partner content is subject to review for applicability and appropriateness of a publicly funded communication initiative. The newsletter is produced in part through public funding, and is accordingly governed by the regulations set forth in Texas State Law.
The 2019 Legislative Session dealt the City of Bulverde a bad hand when it comes to managing new development.

Texas is booming and people are moving to the state at an alarming rate. This means big dollars for the developers. It appears they used their influence at the state level to increase profits and make things easier for themselves.

When it comes to development in Bulverde, I have always said, “We are not Flint Michigan; no need to settle in an attempt to attract people, we are a desirable community, let's keep it that way.” The main reason the City of Bulverde was formed was to “raise the bar” on development.

We have all seen areas that boom, then bust. Take, for example, Windsor Park Mall and the surrounding neighborhoods—when built, it was the new “hot spot” in San Antonio. The success of the area, however, was short lived. Eventually, retailers fled the area for newer developments farther north, and the local home values plummeted.

Conversely, there are much older areas that continue to have staying power. This is not a fluke; high standards during the development stage are usually the reason for the resilience. To have young families search out homes in older neighborhoods, often to remodel or even tear down and rebuild, says a lot about the community.

We all remember the fable of the Three Little Pigs. The mother told the pigs before they went out on their own, “Whatever you do, do it the best that you can because that's the way to get along in the world.” The pig who built his house with masonry avoided disaster and lived happily ever after.

Up until now, the City of Bulverde has required that all new construction have at least 75% masonry exterior. This percentage is much higher than most of the deed restriction requirements in some of our older neighborhoods. An examination of how older homes
held up over time was the reason the City adopted the higher standard.

Several months back, a Council Member who is a Realtor questioned if it was fair, and asked that Council take another look at the ordinance. There was a large turnout of concerned citizens voicing their objection to any thought of lowering the percentage, even a little bit. No change was made.

Well, the State of Texas has now ruled that cities can no longer require any amount of masonry. Yes, masonry is usually labor intensive and may cost more upfront, but if done right, can be cheaper in the long run and can last a lifetime with little or no maintenance. To me, the State did us a disservice, and this is a travesty.

The other major blow we received pertains to plats of new developments. It has been our experience that most developers and their engineers don’t even seem to read our standards before submitting. Or, maybe they just submit poorly designed projects, ignoring our standards, in the hopes that the City won’t catch their deficiencies, saving them big dollars.

Up until now, it has been a back and forth effort with the design engineers to work out all the details. We still had a timeline to review, but that basically started over with each revision.

Mind you that these plats can get very complex with all the utility, drainage, street, slope, buffer zones, and so on. Now the City has only one chance to make a list of all errors, and must do it within 30 days or the plat will be automatically approved by default. Sometimes we will get several phases of a project to review in a single month. It’s almost like they try to overwhelm our review process.

It’s not all bad news though. Due to citizen outcry, our State legislators got funding to install a local air quality monitoring station. This will aid in monitoring quarrying operations in our area, among other things. Currently, the closest monitor is located near the San Antonio Airport, quiet a distance away. It never made sense that such operations can operate with a monitor that could never realistically catch violations.

This is not a “silver bullet” in the fight against the proposed massive Vulcan Quarry at Hwy 46 and 3159, but more of a tool to monitor it if built and the others already in operation in our area.
BULVERDE JUBILEE 2019
SEPT. 21st 2019
10AM - 4PM
PARADE AT 11AM
COME ONE COME ALL
FOR A GREAT
FAMILY FUN DAY
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
GAME TRUCK INFLATABLES
DRUM CIRCLE PETTING ZOO

M.C. and the Mystics
SPONSORS FOR 2019
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CLEANGE PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES
HENRIQUEZ ENTERPRISES
DR. P. SMITH DDS
CRAGG'S DO IT BEST
SAM ROBERTS PHOTOGRAPHY

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: BULVERDEJUBILEE.COM
Shred Day a HUGE Success

After having to cancel the event in May, the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce hosted the Spring Shred Day event in late June at Bill Brown Elementary. The weather held out and did not keep the people away. Over 188 chamber members and residents took advantage of the service, and Ranger Shredding destroyed over 550 boxes of documents on their behalf. We had such a big turnout that we had to turn people away in the last 30 minutes. We are working on plans to increase the capacity for next time.

We would like to thank our Sponsors – GVTC Communications and Bulverde Boat & RV Storage. Without their support, we would have to charge more for the service. We would also like to thank Comal ISD – Bill Brown Elementary for allowing us to use their front parking area which allowed us to manage the traffic flow more efficiently.

We would also like to thank our volunteers for the day. Wade with Bulverde Boat & RV Storage for providing water to the attendees throughout the morning. The following volunteers helped the Chamber staff Christen Patterson, Sylvia Beatty, and Rhonda Zunker with this event: Judy Wilken - DLW Software; Mike Clark - Kiwanis Club of New Braunfels; Jeane Williams – Tupperware; Geri Ray - Independent Insurance Agent; Trey Hancock - The Hancock Team powered by JB Goodwin Realtors; Brenda Bueno - Sage Capital Bank; Kim Boren - Texas Regional Bank; Michele Woodman - Hope Center Food Pantry & Outreach; and Mark Maniscalco and children - Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More. We could not continue services like this without our wonderful volunteers.

Look for information on the next Shred Day on October 12, 2019.

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San Antonio, TX 78258
210-349-2437
SAVE THE DATE!

Musik in the Park Fall Series kicks off in September!

Musik in the Park is back from hiatus on Saturday, September 28th with our featured band Poor J. Brown!

Poor J. Brown’s sound is a Texas and Southern Louisiana blend, but it’s also the back porch roots music of the Texas Hill Country and the blues of New York and Chicago. Somehow all of these influences come together to create a sound that is strikingly original yet familiar. You’ll hear the influences, but even more than that, you’ll hear what happens when great songwriting comes together with great musicianship. Poor J. Brown is all about these combinations. Great guys and great music…the end result being one hell of a great time!

Bring your chairs, cooler, kids & dogs for a FREE concert at our Bulverde Community Park!

Sponsors Make Beautiful Musik Possible!

Musik in the Park wishes to acknowledge the contributions of our 2019 Concert Series sponsors. Thank you for your support!

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THE FRONT PORCH NEWS      PAGE 7
CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Bulverde Police Department had 836 Calls for Service.

Elm Valley 1 Hwy 281 144
Bulverde Crossing 9 Hwy 46 160
Bulverde Estates 40 Oak Village N 56
Bulverde Hills 92 Oakland Estates 4
FM 1863 54 Shepherd’s Ranch 5
City Hall/BPD Walk-ups 38 Berry Oaks 0
County 16 Outside County 1
Highlands 1 Windmill Ranch 66
Comal Trace 0 Singing Hills 34
Bulverde City Park 36 Kestral 4
Edgebrook 6 Ammann Rd 9
Persimmon Hill 8 Bulverde Road 50

ARRESTS – Total arrests – 25
Warrants ......................... 10
Unauthorized Use Motor Vehicle ......1
Unlawful Carry Weapon .................1
Driving While Intoxicated ..............2
Possession Controlled Substance....6
Evading Arrest ......................2
Fail to Identify .....................1
Possession Drug Paraphernalia ....1
Possession Prohibited Weapon .....1

ACCIDENTS - Bulverde Police investigated 20 crashes.

LOCATION PROPERTY INJURY FATALITY
Hwy 46 7 6 1
Hwy 281 7 6 1
FM 1863 3 3
Oakland Estates 1 1

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
Citations issued ..................... 472
Violations .......................... 599
Warnings .......................... 77

Average Speed Citation (mph over the limit)
Hwy 281 .......................... 18.9
Hwy 46 ............................ 16.2
FM 1863 .......................... 14.9
Other .............................. 16.1

Solicitors in Bulverde

At the start of the summer, the City received several solicitor permit applications for review and approval. The applications were reviewed in accordance with the City’s ordinance, and all applications were approved except for six of them. The six applications were disapproved due to missing information. Should the applicants come in and complete the required application correctly, they too will most likely be approved.

Once these sales people started soliciting in the City, several complaints were received through dispatch and at the City, with officers and code compliance personnel responding to the complaints. Most of the complaints were in reference to individuals soliciting, but if the sales people are complying with the City ordinance, no action can be taken. Please note that this does not mean that we cannot or will not respond to your complaints.

Bulverde officers responded to a call at a residence where the solicitor was knocking on the back door of the caller’s house. Another complainant stated, “I had to shut the door on the guy because he wouldn’t stop talking.” These solicitors are usually paid by commission, which sometimes leads to a very persistence and sometimes uncomfortable experience.

If someone, including a solicitor, is on your property and you do not want them there, the subject(s) can be trespassed (i.e., removed/evicted/banned) from your property. If you have a “no trespassing” signed posted at your gate and someone enters your property, they may be subject to arrest.

With safety being our top priority, we will continue to express that you should never open the door for a stranger, and at any time you need the assistance of your Bulverde Police Department, call 830-438-3612 during normal business hours, and after hours and weekends call 830-885-4883 and tell them you need an officer at your residence—we are always glad to assist. Hope to see many of you for National Night Out 2019, which is scheduled for Tuesday October 1st, anyone interested in participating, please contact Administrative Assistant Debbie Lisso at 830-438-3612 ext 217.
It’s All in the Family

At some time in our lives, we all need a hand, a little help. And where do we look for that help? To our family, of course. It may be our biological family, our family of friends, our community or church family. Or it might be a stranger that happens into our life. The point is, we are all one big family and we help each other. One of our greatest commandments is to love our neighbors as if everyone is our family.

The Bulverde Community Chorus brings the community together again with another production of Broadway Comes to Bulverde. With songs from the Wizard of Oz, Frozen, Toy Story, Hamilton and more, it’s all encouraging us to tell anyone we meet, “You’ve got a friend in me!”

Performances are on August 23 & 24 at 7 PM and August 25 at 3 PM at Bulverde United Methodist Church, 28300 Hwy 281 North, San Antonio. For more information, contact 830 980 7745 or vicki@bulverdeumc.org.

Summer Fun and Services at the BSB Activity Center

Fun is right around the corner! It’s summer time and we’re making sure everyone at BSBAC is enjoying every minute of it. Our members are enjoying day trips that include lunches, shopping, factory tours, and even a casino trip in August. While at the center, there are plenty of activities to enjoy, such as bingo, card games, craft classes, card creation, knitting, and of course, the popular Health & Wellness classes. Come enjoy the FREE Balance and Strength classes that are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and NOW FRIDAYS!

Do you have a referral for our Meals on Wheels Program? Do you know a homebound senior who would benefit from receiving five delivered meals each week? Do you have a patient with an upcoming surgery or who is recovering from surgery with limited mobility? Please refer them to us so we can determine their eligibility. For referrals and/or more program information, contact Sandra Faust at sfaust@bsbac.com or 830-438-3111.

At BSBAC we understand that aging isn’t optional, but we believe getting old is! We will host a variety of events and activities in September for Active Aging Week. There will be a Health Fair, free exercise classes, raffle prizes, information sessions and more!

If you are looking for the perfect space to host a meeting or event, rent our facility! BSBAC offers private meeting rooms, a full kitchen, and two large spaces to accommodate your needs. For rental rates and details, contact DeLisa Leopold at dleopold@bsbac.com or 830-438-3111.

Visit www.bsbac.com for center event and program details, or come visit us in person; we’d love to see you!
To all those who volunteered, sponsored, participated and enjoyed the 2019 Hill Country Fun fest; Thank you! We could not have such a fun, family-friendly event without you.

A special shout out to:

- The Canyon Lake JROTC did a fantastic job in getting drivers quickly into their parking spots and keeping jumpers safe in the bounce houses.
- The RBFCU, Broadway Bank and Sonora Bank volunteers who worked the front entry gate with a smile, were amazing.
- Tony Doyle from the Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club, Shelly Stagg from Supreme Lending and all the SBTA folks did an incredibly job getting cars in and out of the parking lots as quickly as possible.
- The Graves Family, David Lyndi and Calvin, worked from 8:00am to well past midnight! So many worked tirelessly to create a memorable experience for all.

Thank you everyone for the support of our community, our park and this event.

See you next year,
Erinn Murray
Executive Director
Spring Branch Tennis Association

Every tree needs a champion.

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210-655-4670
bartlett.com/San-Antonio-TX
Expires 7/31/19
Beat the Heat!

While many consider August to be the dog days of summer, remember that for community cats, the heat is always on. Because of the warm climate in South Central Texas, cats can go into heat three times a year starting as early as 6 months of age. Therefore, it's always the right time to beat the heat and have free-roaming cats spayed/neutered.

We urge everyone to join Animal Rescue Connections in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) projects to help control the outdoor cat population. We see the results of an unchecked population year-round as we get hundreds of calls and emails, especially in spring and summer, from people looking for help getting kittens adopted into safe and happy homes. Unfortunately, we are limited in the number of cats and kittens we can take in because we do not have enough foster homes to meet the demand.

Why help with a TNR project? You’ll be doing yourself a favor by keeping the outdoor cat population in check, so you won’t forever have to find homes for kittens. You’ll be doing the cats a favor by improving their health by stopping the endless pregnancies and limiting the number of cats that, unfortunately, become prey to larger animals and the dangers of urban and suburban living.

Each TNR project, even if it results in just one cat being trapped and sterilized, makes a big impact on the community. If one female cat is spayed, that generally results in 12 fewer cats being born in year 1, and 36 by year 2. Now imagine if a neighborhood got together and did one TNR project that trapped 12 female cats—the results are amazing with more than 140 births prevented in year 1, and more than 460 births prevented by year 2.

Animal Rescue Connections can help train you and your neighbors to conduct a TNR project and give you advice on low-cost spay/neuter services. Just email us at animalrescueconnections@gmail.com and a Cat Wrangler would be happy to speak to you about TNR. Together we can help solve this community-wide problem.

For more information, visit www.animalrescueconnections.org; for help, call our helpline at 210-474-0083.

Safe Summer Treats for your Dog

When the dog days of the Texas summer are upon us and we’re enjoying some nice, cool fruit to help beat the heat, it’s often tempting to share those sweet, cool treats with our furry friends. Many fruits are just fine for our doggos, but others can cause serious health concerns. It’s best to err on the side of caution when sharing human food with your pet. Take a look at this little chart to give you a good idea of what’s safe for your furbaby and what should be avoided.

Can my dog cat this?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANANAS</td>
<td>AVOCADOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich in potassium and vitamin C</td>
<td>Can cause vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUEBERRIES</td>
<td>CHERRIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High in antioxidants</td>
<td>Can cause cyanide poisoning in large quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIWIS</td>
<td>GRAPES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good source of vitamin C and potassium</td>
<td>Can cause kidney failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINEAPPLE</td>
<td>RAISINS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Try frozen for a cool treat</td>
<td>Can cause kidney failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRAWBERRIES</td>
<td>WATERMELON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High in fiber and antioxidants</td>
<td>... remove the skin first!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voluntary reductions encouraged every day of the week

If no address

CLWSC WATERING SCHEDULE

Irrigation is allowed on the following designated days based on the last digit of your street number. All landscape watering should occur between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

YEAR-ROUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 1</th>
<th>STAGE 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.2, 4, 6 or 8</td>
<td>0.2, 4 Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3, 5.7 or 9</td>
<td>1.3 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If no address</td>
<td>6.8 Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon/Thurs</td>
<td>5.79 Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues/Fri</td>
<td>If no address Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary reductions encouraged every day of the week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STAGE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.2, 4 Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8 Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.79 Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If no address Monday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Conditions - No Outdoor Watering of Any Kind

Once weekly watering

Watering with handheld hoses, soaker hoses, and drip irrigation system is allowed any day up to Stage 4.

Learn more at www.clWSC.com  830-312-4600
Sponsors, Vendors needed for Kids & Family Expo

The Comal ISD Council of PTAs is looking for community sponsors and vendors for its Back the Future Kids & Family Expo scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 5, at Pieper Ranch Middle School, 1106 Kinder Parkway in San Antonio.

Area businesses and organizations, which focus on family education, health services and activities, are asked to be a part of the event. From dental offices and after-school learning centers, to youth sports leagues and after-school care, the Expo will be a great opportunity to partner with the Comal Independent School District and provide parents and kids with options to support various interests.

“The goal of the Expo is to provide parents and families with community resources, after-school opportunities, health screenings, product demonstrations, food, shopping, games and more, all in one place,” said Chelsea Ormond, the event’s chair.

This is the Comal ISD Council of PTAs’ second year to host a district-wide family engagement event, which is free and open to residents in the district’s surrounding communities including Bulverde, Spring Branch, Garden Ridge, Canyon Lake, and New Braunfels.

“It’s also a great way to discover how PTAs at every Comal ISD campus backs the future by advocating for every student in the district,” Ormond said. “Back the future” is the Texas PTA slogan, demonstrating its mission to make every child’s potential a reality.

The deadline for Expo sponsorships with benefits which include a company logo or name on the event’s banner and t-shirt and social media promotion, is Friday, September 13; the deadline for vendor booths is Friday, September 27. For vendor booths and sponsorship information, contact Ormond at 830-221-2114 or email her at Chelsea.ormond@comalisd.org. For more information on the Expo, visit www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/pta.

Representatives of Apex Leadership Co. along with the H-E-B Buddy were among the sponsors and vendors at the Comal ISD Council of PTAs 2018 Health & Activities Fair.
The Gift of Life

Countless hours have been dedicated by so many in a collaborative effort among Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, and our own Centre team to bring the use of cold-stored, low titer O+ whole blood (LTOWB) to our emergency service ambulance units. Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS is now carrying whole blood for emergency transfusion in patients with severe hemorrhage. “This is a tremendous game changer in saving lives,” says Craig Manifold, EMS Medical Director.

Trauma is the leading cause of death for ages 46 and younger in the U.S.—yet up to 20% of trauma deaths are potentially survivable. Approximately half of all trauma mortalities are a consequence of hemorrhage, and most of these patients die within 6 hours of injury. Pre-hospital hemorrhagic shock due to injury accounts for approximately 25,000 civilian deaths. Hemorrhagic shock is a clinical state in which severe blood loss causes insufficient cellular oxygen delivery, leading to organ failure and, ultimately, death. Every minute that a massive transfusion is delayed for a patient who has lost half or more of his/her blood volume, mortality goes up by 5%.

Increasing numbers of EMS agencies are developing the capability to administer low titer O+ whole blood to trauma patients in need. In our area, San Antonio Fire Department EMS began carrying LTOWB on their ambulances in late 2018. Bexar County ESD #7, Karnes County EMS, and Wilson County ESD #3 were also among the early agencies offering this capability. Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS, as well as Comal County ESD #3 (Canyon Lake Fire/EMS), Bandera EMS, and Bexar County ESD #2 joined the ranks of emergency medical services organizations to carry LTOWB on their ambulances on July 1, 2019. Rescue helicopters in South Texas started carrying cold-stored whole blood for treating patients with major blood loss on their way to a hospital in January 2018.

Whole blood is the natural, unseparated blood collected from a donor. It contains all the components of blood that you’d find in healthy blood (red cells, plasma, clotting factors and platelets), because it is normal, healthy blood. Administration of blood to patients in hemorrhagic shock is associated with improved patient outcomes. The U.S. military has been successfully transfusing whole blood at the point of injury for severely wounded patients on the battlefield since World War I.

Stephen Rahm, Chief of Clinical Direction for the Centre, and Daniel Torres, Division Chief for Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services, were instrumental in this effort for our Bulverde Spring Branch community (pictured accepting our first unit of blood). “This capability will dramatically change trauma care for citizens in Western Comal County. It is also a shining example of how people and systems can come together to improve the delivery of emergency medicine where it matters most,” Chief Rahm stated.
Did you know that there is an Optimist Club in Bulverde?

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization committed to their local communities. An upbeat outlook and commitment to creating a more optimistic future for kids is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer opportunity. Communities in the United States, Canada, the nations of the Caribbean and other countries throughout the world have been touched by the powerful, positive force of Optimist Club Members. From sponsoring youth athletic leagues, to weatherizing the homes of the elderly, to conducting oratorical contests for young people – Optimist Clubs are responding to the special needs of local communities. Although members come from all walks of life, Optimist Club Members share one common trait. They know they make a difference in the lives of others.

The Bulverde, TX Optimist Club #06021 meets at the Bulverde Club House next door to Bulverde S.T.A.G.E. (1300 Bulverde Rd., 78163) the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Dinner is available at the meetings for $7.00. We are looking for new members to continue our mission to bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. Future opportunities include continued support of scholarships for local students and a family kite festival. Please contact Mandy Epley, President at 210-710-6719 if you have questions or would like more information.

As the historic drought that gripped much of Texas—and Comal county in particular—dragged on a couple of years ago, many community officials throughout the state were grasping for innovative solutions and eyeing two Texas communities’ foray into desalination and toilet-to-tap water processing with keen interest. Given the fall rains in Comal county last year, and the wet spring, it might seem an oxymoron to even think drought conditions. Weather, however, is cyclical, and another Texas drought is in the offing—we just do not know when.

The leaders using reclaimed water in the U.S. are Florida and California—areas with large populations and limited water sources. In response to the 2010–2011 drought, Big Spring and Wichita Falls, Texas, employed what is known as a direct, potable reuse (DPR) technology to supplement their scarce water resources. Wichita Falls connected its treated wastewater pipeline to the city’s water supplies in 2014. Big Spring, located in the dry environs of west Texas, beat its state compatriot in north Texas to the punch in 2013.

As California’s drought situation became increasingly dire two years ago, municipalities started to see shower, dishwashing, and toilet waters as a valuable resource. Orange County, south of LA, had been replenishing depleted groundwater reserves (Continued on page 15)
with treated household wastewater for several years. The direct potable reuse technique pioneered in Texas, however, offers a quicker and potentially more cost-effective process.

Unlike indirect processing systems, which require multiple piping systems to pass the water through an environmental buffer such as gravel or a natural water body to further treat wastewater, direct potable reuse systems utilize existing potable distribution systems; there are cost savings from eliminating the need for a separate pipeline distribution system to get the treated water to customers.

The $13-million water reuse system employed by Wichita Falls sends chlorine-treated wastewater from toilets, sinks, dishwashers, washing machines, and bathtubs directly to the plant where the water is purified for drinking water. There, it is combined with lake water from Lake Wichita where it then undergoes more disinfection, microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light treatment.

The city rushed into action after officials realized they were two years away from running out of water. “The city experienced its worst single year drought in 2011, when we had 100 days over 100 degrees and precipitation that was 40 percent of normal,” says Daniel Nix, utilities operations manager for Wichita Falls Public Works department. “That dropped our lake levels from 87 percent to 60 percent. At the beginning of 2012, when we calculated the worst-case projection of lake levels using a repeat of 2011 weather patterns, it was obvious we were going to be out of water by the summer of 2013. So, we needed to do something quick.” Since the Wichita Falls system started operating, it has produced 2 billion gallons of treated water.

In Big Spring, there was a greater imperative. Locals were already relying on bottled water due to the low-quality water. That, combined with low rainfall and speedy evaporation, presented the city with a time-constrained supply problem. Big Spring ended up with a system like that of Wichita Falls, recovering an estimated 2 million gallons per day.

Of course, cities have had to overcome public perception obstacles—with residents describing a “yuck factor.” Initial reports saw some Wichita Falls residents balk at the thought of toilet water—despite its treatment—going into the drinking water supply. But people have generally come around, according to Nix and the local Wichita Times Record News. Residents say the water flowing from the tap tastes better, the Times Record News reported. In August 2015, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality awarded the city’s drinking supply its highest possible rating.

In general, Wichita Falls and Big Spring residents welcomed DPR as a necessary step in ensuring reliable water supplies during resulting from depleted water sources. Water is life. Given dropping water tables in our Trinity aquifer and the onset of an extended drought here in Comal county, we might not have a choice either.

Comal County residents are encouraged to attend the CTGCD’s quarterly meetings held at 6:00 at the Curtis W. Bremer Building at 9850 FM 311 in Spring Branch—see the District’s website for next quarter’s meeting date. Help your Comal Trinity GCD Directors better conserve and protect our Trinity Aquifer. You can also connect with the CTGCD by visiting their website and signing up for their water conservation e-blast of upcoming agenda at www.ComalTrinityGCD.com.
New Members

A-John Portable Toilet Rentals, LLC
Belle Oaks
Helping Hands Food Pantry
Hughes Mowing Company
Lynch Pin Logic Inc.
Michelle McIlvoy - Living Well with Michelle
New York Life

Renewing Members

Fossil Creek Pools
Glass Geeks
Guadalupe River Gallery
Hampton Inn by Hilton
Hill Country Waste Solutions
J2 Servant Leadership, LLC
Jeffrey Law Firm, P.C. - Business Attorneys
KB Home
Kid’s Day Daycare and Preschool
Kiwanis Club of New Braunfels, TX
Peggy Kotara
McDonald’s
Mr W Fireworks Superstore
Office Depot
RADIO RANCH, LLC - 92.3 FM The Ranch
Rebecca Creek Baptist Church
Revo Sports
SJRC Texas
Sterling Pest Management
The Pillars Christian Learning Center
Tooth Transitions Pediatric Dentistry
Verde Bistro
William J. Sellers CPA, PLLC

Member of the Month

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www.ArmedInAmerica.com

Ribbon Cutting

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20630 Hwy 46 W, Ste 120, Spring Branch, TX
(830) 980-3306
www.HillCountryVisionCenter.com

Jeremy Fuller – State Farm Insurance
286 Singing Oaks, Ste 112, Spring Branch, TX
(830) 438-4345
www.InsureWithJeremy.com

Helping Hands Food Pantry
11755 Hwy 281 N, Spring Branch, TX
(830) 221-5526
www.RebeccaCreek.org

Page 16 August 2019
B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

August 15, 2019
Business Networking Mixer
Hosted By: GVTC Communications
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
Location: GVTC Communications
36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX
Member Only Event

August 21, 2019
Power Lunch – Open to all Businesses
Sponsored by SWBC and Peter J Story State Farm
11:30 am–1:00 pm
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event Center
499 Singing Oaks, Spring Branch, TX

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

Farm to Pharm CBD Wellness Boutique
20540 Hwy 46 W, #125, Spring Branch, TX
(830) 438-0613
www.FarmtoPharmCBD.com

Texas Hearing Associates LLC
2376 Bulverde Rd, Ste 108, Bulverde, TX
(830) 358-3675
www.TexasHearingAssociates.com

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Summer is in full swing at the garden. Most of the tomatoes have gone by, but the cherry tomatoes are still producing well, as are the peppers, sweet potatoes, string beans, herbs, etc. Along with the plots designated for Provisions Outreach, our local food pantry that is affiliated with the San Antonio Food Bank, many of the gardeners who have plots also donate their extra produce to Provisions. We are very fortunate here in Central Texas that we can grow various kinds of produce all year long. Just recently, we planted three new fruit trees to add to our pear, fig, and Meyer lemon tree. Over the course of the last 5 years, the Community Garden has donated almost 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to Provisions.

Provisions is located in downtown Bulverde and serves households in the four surrounding zip codes: 78070 (Spring Branch), 78163 (Bulverde), and 78260 & 78258 in far north Bexar County. The Spring Branch and Bulverde areas are the biggest source of their clientele. All told, the pantry serves about 300 families per month with about 1200 family members. From 2018 to 2019, their client numbers have increased by about 22%.

Clients utilizing Provisions are provided with a monthly allocation of “points” that they can use at the pantry. The number of points assigned is based on the number of people living in the household—more points are provided for more people. Essentially, the points spend like money in the food pantry. Perishables and nonperishables are assigned points (like a “price”), and the clients shop for the items that they want or need until they have “spent” their points. For example, fresh produce is “priced” at 1 point, but for that single point, a client can take as much produce as his/her household can reasonably use; large cans of tuna are 1 point each; yogurt cups are 4 for 1 point; milk is 1 point; a pound of hamburger meat is 1 point; etc.

Provisions gets their food in various ways. As a partner agency of the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB), Provisions is able to purchase staple groceries in bulk for pennies on the dollar through the SAFB warehouse. They are also provided with products through the San Antonio Food Bank’s retail rescue and proxy donor programs, in which excess items from retailers including Wal-Mart, Trader Joe’s, Target, and HEB are provided to the pantry at no cost. And, of course, Provisions receives food and toiletries through individual donations (you and I dropping off goods).

The pantry is open for client services on Tuesday through Thursday; on Thursday afternoons when they close at 3 pm, any perishables that cannot be kept over the weekend are donated to Wildlife Rescue and area farmers. The Community Garden has even taken some of the old produce that is going bad for our compost bin.

If you would like to know more about the Garden, find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1398031653803521/?epa=SEARCH_BOX If you are interested in having a plot or making a donation to the Bulverde Community Garden, please email jothall@gvtc.com

GARDEN NEWS: Through the end of June, Provisions has received 222 pounds of fresh produce from the Garden. Also, during the garden workday in June, participants planted three more fruit trees—a pineapple pear, peach, and plum. The trees were provided by a memorial contribution from Provisions honoring John Melton, a beloved volunteer who passed away last year. Hopefully these trees will yield plenty of fruit for the pantry in the future.
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Upcoming Library Events

Activities for Children

**Young Engineers: Monday, August 12; 2 pm–4 pm**
Stop by the library any time between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm to build machines and structures using kits from our Makerspace. No registration required; for ages 8–12.

**Learn about Insects: Tuesday, August 13; 2 pm–3 pm**
Join Ms. Margaret from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Bexar County to learn about insects. Enjoy a lesson on entomology complete with live insects, props, and an insect collection. Registration required. Children of all ages welcome.

**Friendship Bracelets: Wednesday, August 14; 2 pm–4 pm**
Stop by the library any time between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm to make a friendship bracelet. No registration required. Children of all ages welcome.

**Moana Sing-Along: Thursday, August 15; 2 pm–4 pm**
Join us for a showing of Moana. Sing along to all of your favorite songs while you enjoy themed snacks. Registration required. Children of all ages welcome.

Makerspace for Adults & Teens (13+)

**Makerspace Orientation: Fridays & Saturdays 4 pm–5 pm**
Join us for a comprehensive tour of the Makerspace and equipment. You must register and attend an orientation to become a member of the Makerspace and, in some cases, you must also certify to use the equipment.

You may also walk in during Open Makerspace hours to see if the instructor can offer an orientation at that time.

**Open Makerspace:**
- **Mondays:** 3 pm–5:30 pm
- **Wednesdays:** 10 am–12 pm; 1 pm–4 pm
- **Friday:** 10 am–1:30 pm; 4 pm–5 pm
- **Saturdays:** 10 am–1:30 pm

The library will provide access and basic instruction for a variety of Makerspace supplies. In a casual, come-and-go setting, members who have attended Makerspace Orientation can explore and use the items for their own projects.

Classes for Adults

**Home Buyer 101: Monday, August 5; 6:30 pm–7:45 pm**
This class is designed to help you navigate the purchasing of a house from setting your search criteria to moving through the process to the closing and taking ownership. Topics include working with REALTORS®, new homes vs. resale homes, custom homes, mortgages, the contract and negotiations, hidden costs, inspections, closing procedures, flood zones, etc. Registration Required.

**Watercolor: Tuesday, August 13; 1:30 pm–3 pm.**
Come learn some watercolor techniques taught by Debbie.
Please bring any supplies you want to use. We are limited on paint and brushes, but will supply the paper. Registration required.

**An Introduction to Soils and the Environment: Thursday, August 15; 6 pm–7:30 pm.**
Amy Clark will present on this introduction to soils will focus on soil profiles, classification, soil erosion, agriculture and soil conservation, sediment pollution, and land use and environmental problems of soils. Registration is required for adults and teens 13+.

A Movie Marathon for Teens (13+)

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<tr>
<th>August 14:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron Man @ 1 pm</td>
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<td>Incredible Hulk @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>August 15:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron Man 2 @ 1 pm</td>
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<td>Captain America: The First Avenger @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 16:</th>
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<td>Thor @ 12 pm</td>
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<td>Marvel’s Avengers @ 2:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 17:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iron Man 3 @ 12 pm</td>
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<td>Thor: Dark World @ 2:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 18:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain America: Winter Soldier @ 2 pm</td>
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<th>August 19:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guardians of the Galaxy @ 1 pm</td>
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<td>Avengers: Age of Ultron @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 20:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ant Man @ 1 pm</td>
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<td>Captain America: Civil War @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 21:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor Strange @ 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 22:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thor: Ragnarok @ 1 pm</td>
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<td>Spiderman: Homecoming @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>Avengers: Infinity War @ 12 pm</td>
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<td>Black Panther @ 3 pm</td>
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<th>August 24:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ant Man and the Wasp @ 12 pm</td>
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<td>Captain Marvel @ 2:30 pm</td>
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<th>August 25:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avengers: Endgame @ 2 pm</td>
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Please check the library’s online calendar or call (830) 438-4864 to verify program location before attending. The library calendar can be accessed at mfplibrary.libcal.com. All events are FREE unless otherwise noted.
New Great Decisions Series Kicks Off at the Library

Great Decisions is returning yet again for another series this year! Join us to kick it off on August 22nd!

Great Decisions Topics 2019 is America's largest discussion program on world affairs created by the Foreign Policy Association. (See more at www.fpa.org) The program provides background information and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year, and serves as the focal text for discussion groups across the country. Our library's program model includes watching the DVD and hearing a speaker related to the subject talk more in depth on it, prior to questions and discussion. Briefing books, which cover every topic that will be discussed, are now available for $20 at the library, while supplies last. A light meal will be provided at each scheduled meeting. All discussions are on Thursday evenings in August and September from 5:45pm–7:45pm.

Dates of Great Decisions Sessions:
August 22 and 29; September 5, 12, 19, and 26

Topics slated for discussion this year are:

**Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?**
Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not a new approach, to dealing with them. The President has met with Vladimir Putin as the New Start Treaty with Russia comes up for renewal in 2021, the first presidential summit ever with Kim Jong-un occurred to discuss denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations? Can the art of the deal apply to stabilizing our nuclear future? (Aug. 22)

**Decoding U.S.–China Trade**
Though arguably the most advanced economy in the world, the United States still uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of the U.S.–China trade relationship, shrinking America’s true economic size and competitiveness, while swelling China’s. Bad numbers give rise to bad policies that ultimately kill U.S. jobs and cede market share to China. What other tools can the United States employ to counter China's unfair trade practices? There are several available, yet they remain mostly unused. (Aug. 29)

**Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics**
Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21st century warfare. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats? (Sept. 5)

Additional September topics will be described in the September Front Porch News.

What our customers say about us:

We teach free knife-making classes for Veterans and First Responders. Patrick and Tracy heard about what we do and came to visit our little shop. They agreed to give us a discount on propane which will allow us to teach two more classes per year! What an amazing team who truly care about their community. Reforged and all of our future students thank you.

— Chad Caylor
★★★★★

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Additional Local Events

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

**Spring Branch-Bulverde Family Lions Club Bingo**
The SBB Family Lions Club hosts Bingo in Bulverde on the first Friday of each month. A family-friendly environment to play real Bingo with cash payouts and lots of fun! A snack bar is available, and children are welcome to play (they must play their own cards; no family sharing please). Bingo in Bulverde is held at the Bulverde Community Center at 1747 E. Ammann Road. Doors open at 5:00p, play starts at 6:30p.

**Native Plant Society of Texas**
The New Braunfels chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will be hosting monthly meetings at the Westside Community Center, located at 2932 S. IH-35 Frontage Rd., on the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings will be held from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. from January through June and then August through November. For more information about the Native Plant Society of Texas meetings, call the Westside Community Center office at 830-221-4630.

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**On the Cover**
This month, our cover is of a hummingbird at rest—an unusual sight for most to see! These little guys are usually moving so fast that they’re hard to focus on. Many thanks to local photographer Sergina Flaherty for sharing this photo with us! This particular photo not only demonstrates her great eye and technical skill with a camera (note the clarity of the fine cobwebs in the upper left of the branch and the details in the tiny feathers on the bird’s chest), but also shows Sergina’s ability to find a great shot anywhere! This photo was taken at the CVS Pharmacy on Hwy. 46 at US Hwy 281 N.—not what you would call a typical venue for nature shots, but Sergina saw an opportunity and made the best of it. Ms. Flaherty has submitted several photos to the Front Porch News; her specialty seems to be in shooting local birds and wildlife in wonderful detail. Watch for more photos of hers in future issues of the FPN.
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### August 2019

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| **NOTES:**<br> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend) | **1**<br> BUMC Rummage Sale 9:00a-2:00p (28300 US-281, 78163)<br>Bingo in Bulverde 5:00p (1474 E. Ammann) | **2**<br> BUMC Rummage Sale 9:00a-12:00p (28300 US-281, 78163)<br>Day of Services & Back to School Outreach 10:00a-2:00p (29815 Bulverde Lane, 78163)<br> **3**<br> S.T.A.G.E. Auditions 6:00p<br>Awards Show 6:00p<br>(1300 Bulverde Rd., Church, 28300 Hwy 78163)<br>Adoption Weekend, 12:00p–4:00p<br> **4**<br> Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:30p<br>Bulverde Garden Club 10:00a (Library, 131 Bulverde Village)<br>Bulverde City Council 6:30p<br> **5**<br> St. T.A.G.E. Annual Awards Banquet 6:30p (1300 Bulverde Rd., 78163)<br> **6**<br> Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:30p<br>Bulverde Garden Club 10:00a (Library, 131 Bulverde Village)<br>Bulverde City Council 6:30p<br> **7**<br> S.B.B. Lions 7:00p<br> **8**<br> B.H.S. & Heritage Party for a Cause 6:30p (River Crossing Club)<br> **11**<br> S.T.A.G.E. Annual Awards Banquet 6:30p (1300 Bulverde Rd., 78163)<br> **12**<br> Usda Food Distribution 11:00a (1300 Bulverde Rd., 78163)<br>Wall Street & Back to School Outreach 10:00a-2:00p (29815 Bulverde Lane, 78163)<br> **13**<br> Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:30p<br>Bulverde Garden Club 10:00a (Library, 131 Bulverde Village)<br>Bulverde City Council 6:30p<br> **14**<br> S.T.A.G.E. Annual Awards Banquet 6:30p (1300 Bulverde Rd., 78163)<br> **18**<br> Petco National Adoption Weekend ARC 12:00p-4:00p (1747 E. Ammann Rd, 78163)<br> **19**<br> Rural Library District mtg. 3:30p (Library)<br> **20**<br> Rumi Library District mtg. 3:30p (Library)<br>CTCC Meeting 5:00p (2830 FM 311, 78163)<br> **21**<br> S.B.B. Lions 7:30p<br> **22**<br> Bulverde Lions 7:00p (1747 E. Ammann Rd)<br>H.S. & Heritage Party for a Cause 6:30p (River Crossing Club)<br>Bulverde Comices to Bulverde concert 7:00p (Bulverde United Methodist Church, 28300 Hwy 281 N)<br> **23**<br> H.S. & Heritage Party for a Cause 6:30p (River Crossing Club)<br>Bulverde Comes to Bulverde concert 7:00p (Bulverde United Methodist Church, 28300 Hwy 281 N)<br> **24**<br> ESD #4 4:00p (33475 Johnson Way)<br> **25**<br> ESD #1 4:00p (33475 Johnson Way)<br> **26**<br> Labor Day<br> **28**<br> Comal ISD Holiday<br> **29**<br> P.O.E.T. Program 9:30p (City Hall)<br> **30**<br> **31**<br> **See additional list of local activities, including pet adoptions hosted by ARC, BAHS, and CLASS, inside the magazine.**

### September 2019

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| **1**<br> Labor Day<br> **2**<br> Planning & Zoning 6:30p<br> **3**<br> **4**<br> **5**<br> Bons in Bulverde 5:30p (1474 E. Ammann)<br> **6**<br> **7**<br> **8**<br> **9**<br> **10**<br> Bulverde City Council 6:30p<br> **11**<br> **12**<br> Bulverde Lions 7:00p (1474 E. Ammann Rd, 78163)<br> **13**<br> **14**<br> **15**<br> **16**<br> **17**<br> **18**<br> S.B.B. Lions 7:30p (9850 FM 311, 78163)<br> **19**<br> **20**<br> **21**<br> Bulverde Jubilee 10:00a (Downtown Bulverde, 2200 block of Bulverde Rd., 78163)<br> **22**<br> **23**<br> **24**<br> **25**<br> **26**<br> **27**<br> **28**<br> **29**<br> **30**<br> **31**

**NOTES:**<br>Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning & Zoning Commission, and Park & Rec Advisory Board meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)

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