CITY OF BULVERDE
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MAIN NUMBER
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METRO LINE
830-980-8832
FAX
830-438-4339
Bill Krawietz, MAYOR
Charles Hughes, COUNCIL
Gene Hartman, COUNCIL
Ashley Orndorff, COUNCIL
Mechelle Salmon, MAYOR PRO TEM

COMAL COUNTY
MAIN NUMBER
877-724-9475
JUDGE
830-221-1105
COMMISSIONERS COURT
830-221-1100
Donna Eccleston, COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
Scott Haag, COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2
Kevin Webb, COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
Jen Crownover, COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2
830-387-7600
ANIMAL CONTROL
830-608-2016
SHERIFF’S OFFICE
830-885-4883

CONSTABLE, PCT 2
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830-608-2090
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830-387-7621

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NON-EMERGENCY LINE
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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.
Are You Registered to Vote?

To vote in Texas, you must be registered. Simply pick up a voter registration application, fill it out, and mail it at least 30 days before the election date. Get your application online via the VoteTexas.gov website.

You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of the county where you submit the application;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old, and you are 18 years of age on Election Day;
- You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole); and
- You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

Are you already registered?

To confirm your voter registration status, you may search the VoteTexas.gov website in any one of three ways:

- Your Texas driver's license number, if you provided it when you applied for voter registration;
- Your Voter Unique Identifier (VUID), which appears on your voter registration certificate; and/or
- Your first and last name.

If you’re not registered, here’s how! It’s easy!

Step One: Register!

Pick up a voter registration application at your library, any government office, or download one from this site. Mail your completed application to the Voter Registrar in your county. Upon acceptance, your voter registration will be effective 30 days from registration. For more voter information specific to Comal County, visit this website: https://www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm

Step Two: Where, when, and how to vote.

You’ll be mailed a voter registration certificate or card with your name, address, and the number of the precinct in which you’ll vote. (A precinct is a geographic area in your

(Continued on page 4)
October 5, 2020 is the last day to register to vote for the November 3, 2020 election.

*Per Sec. 13.143(e) of the Texas Election Code, if the 30th day before the date of an election is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, an application is considered to be timely if it is submitted to the registrar on or before the next regular business day.

This and more information about voting and elections is available on [https://www.votetexas.gov/index.html](https://www.votetexas.gov/index.html), a website powered by the Texas Secretary of State.

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**Where There’s a Need, There’s a Lion**

The Spring Branch–Bulverde Lions Club is looking for a few good Lions! We are hoping to grow our club with service-minded individuals who would like to make a difference in our community! The Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club, “The Family Club,” is committed to a single goal: to make the world a better place by starting right where we are. We are a nonprofit service organization dedicated to helping others overcome challenges, while helping build better lives for our neighbors in the greater Spring Branch Bulverde community.

At the heart of Lions clubs there is one constant: service. Giving your time and energy to others is a fantastic way to help your community. Yet, it also provides a great feeling for you that can spread and have a positive impact in your life and how you approach the world.

The SBB Lions provide support and services to several local causes: providing vision screenings for young children at local schools, supporting and assisting at Texas Lions Camp, hosting the annual Day of Services & Back to School Outreach, collecting and distributing school supplies and Christmas gifts to local children in need, supporting activities for SJRC Texas and the Bulverde Spring Branch Pregnancy Care Center, offering scholarships for local graduating seniors, offering camp sponsorships to Texas Lions Camp for children with special needs, and supporting Provisions (the Bulverde food pantry), just to name a few.

Additionally, we host the monthly BINGO IN BULVERDE on the first Friday of each month. This monthly bingo game is what provides the funding for our Foundation and enables us to help so many folks in our community.

There are over 48,000 Lions clubs around the world. Each is filled with people like you who’ve decided to take action and serve others. Lions form unique friendships and meaningful connections that can last a lifetime.

The SBB Lions Club welcomes everyone! Families, Couples, and single members are all encouraged to come visit our club to see if our organization might become your civic and service home.

We are also in need of a few volunteers to help us with our monthly bingo game. We play on the first Friday of each month at the Bulverde Community Center on E. Ammann Road. We could use some extra hands to help with all aspects of the evening, from set-up to tear down.

If you’re interested in becoming a Lion, or simply helping us out with the bingo game, please feel free to contact us! We have our regular monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church (29797 US Hwy 281 N., 78163). We welcome visitors! Our website is [https://www.sbb lions.com](https://www.sbb lions.com). For more information, you can call Wesley Miller at 210.316.1940 or Melissa Doyle at 217.320.2773, or send an email to the club at [secretarysbb lions2017@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysbb lions2017@gmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you! ROAR!!
Supporting the Bulverde Community by GIVING LOCAL!

The Big Give is South Central Texas’ 24-hour online day of online giving fueled by the power of generous donors, creative nonprofits, social media, collaboration, and you!

The goal of the Big Give is to support the nonprofits in our region that are committed to making South Central Texas a great place to live, work, and play.

The Big Give S.A. will take place from midnight to midnight on Thursday, September 10, 2020. With several Comal County nonprofits participating, there is certainly a cause to fit your passion, all of which provide valuable services in our community and who depend on the support of neighbors to continue with their missions.

Why should you give to The Big Give 2020?
Over the last 6 years, our region has come together to give over $25 million dollars to our local nonprofits through the Big Give.

Whether you care about the environment, arts, animal welfare, or entrepreneurship, the Big Give is a great opportunity to show our community what matters to you! Remember to get involved in all of the day’s activities by following along on the social media channel of your choice and monitoring #BigGive2020!

Together we can make our region a great place to live, work, and play! Together, we are the Big Give.

The Bulverde and Spring Branch area is truly blessed by the presence of so many active and vital nonprofits, all of which provide important services to our area. By supporting our local service organizations, you are investing in our community. Just a few of the several participating Bulverde/Spring Branch area nonprofits include:

- Animal Rescue Connections
- Bulverde Area Humane Society
- Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center
- Friends of the Bulverde Area Rural Library District
- Provisions, the Bulverde Food Pantry
- S.T.A.G.E., Inc.
- SJRC Texas

To support your favorite, regional nonprofit on September 10, or for more information about the event, visit the Big Give website at https://www.thebiggivesa.org/

*Additional local nonprofits are registered to participate; check the Big Give website for a complete, up-to-date listing of participating Comal County nonprofits.
Water Conservation through Shopping

By Jessica Rosario

Most Comal households are familiar with the words “drought” and “water conservation.” We keep an eye on what stage we are in, know when and how to water our yard or vegetable garden, and we install water efficient toilets to reduce the amount used. In addition to conserving water at home, did you know that going shopping can help with water waste? Yes, that’s right, I’ve just given you an excuse to grab your credit card and head out the door! However, before you go, let’s clarify the type of shopping associated with conserving water: “Thrifting”!

Thrifting is the action of purchasing used goods, such as clothes, books, and furniture. It saves you money while helping the environment. Before you roll your eyes and let out the here-comes-the-environment-lecture sigh, no I’m not going to tell you what car to drive, what food to eat, or what clothes to buy. However, I will tell you that we need around 1,800 gallons of water to grow enough cotton for one pair of jeans. I don’t know about you, but my closet definitely has more than one pair of jeans hanging in it.

There has been a stigma surrounding thrift stores for several years. Fortunately, because of Millennials’ interest in fashion, the environment, and saving money, these stores have received a much-needed boost. Imagine spending $5 instead of $25 on a shirt that your child will wear once, or saving 80% on a drum set, knowing that your child may decide to play the oboe next week. Let’s also not forget the party where a formal dress is required and you don’t feel like spending hundreds of dollars on a dress you will wear for one night.

Wouldn’t it be amazing if you could save money, help the environment AND support two nonprofits in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area at the same time? You can! The Bulverde Thrift Store was created to generate revenue for two local nonprofits: Provisions (the Bulverde food pantry) and the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center (the Bulverde Senior Center). Thus, by donating* or purchasing goods at the Bulverde Thrift Store, you are indirectly helping hundreds of individuals in the Bulverde/Spring Branch area without spending extra money.

Many local businesses are suffering because of the ongoing pandemic, and nonprofits are definitely not immune to changes in the economy. Please help support the community and spend your money on local businesses where a little investment can go a long way. Additionally, support your wallet by buying secondhand items and pat yourself on the back for conserving water! Now, who would like to pitch the idea of a discount program for secondhand buyers to the local water companies? No? Well, discount or not, please know that we appreciate your visit to the Bulverde Thrift Store and hope that you find what you’re looking for!

Don’t forget our Active Aging Week, September 21–26!

*Due to space restrictions, there may be times when larger donations are difficult to store so please contact the thrift store before making a large size donation.
Musik in the Park wishes to acknowledge the contributions of our 2020 Concert Series sponsors. Thank you for your support!

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Bulverde Musik in the Park Presents:
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2020 Concert Series
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Saturday
The fun starts at 6:00pm
Bands go on at 6:30pm

September 12
WITH
Zach Waither Bond

September 26
WITH
The Georges

October 17
WITH
David Lee

November 7
WITH
Hitmen

November 27
WITH
Matt Zardaer
Bulverde Lighting

www.bulverdemusikinthepark.com facebook.com/bparks.ig: Instagram: bulverde_park_music
The year 2020 will be one to remember, as it has been anything but a routine year. Many different things are going on in the Nation and Texas, changing the way we go about our daily business, and changing our future as well. One of the biggest challenges of 2020 has been dealing with changes brought on as a result of the coronavirus. In 2019, would’ve ever thought we would be dealing with a nationwide shut down in 2020 as the result of a virus?

The coronavirus has caused many events to either be cancelled or postponed all around the world. With that said, the future of Texas’ National Night Out is another event that is unknown. National Night Out 2020 is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th, and the Bulverde Police Department will still celebrate the event, it may just look a little different this year. Historically, sponsorship opportunities for local businesses would be offered. All money received through these sponsorships was used for National Night Out events. A pre-event dinner was held with catering from Pappas during which we would give away about a $1000 in door prizes. We would also do a catered senior luncheon with door prizes at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center on the day of National Night Out. With the nationwide shutdown that occurred, coupled with other challenges local businesses have had to deal with, we didn’t feel it was appropriate to ask for sponsorships this year. Additionally, group gatherings are not recommended, so we felt it best to cancel the dinner event and the senior luncheon for NNO 2020.

Although NNO 2020 may not have the same events as in the past, we are still actively looking for residents to host NNO events in your neighborhood. BPD will still provide support and attend all events. We have also sent out many invitations for guest attendees from Border Patrol, Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigations, DEA, etc.

If you have any questions about National Night Out 2020 or would like to host a National Night Out event in 2020, please contact Debbie Lisso at the Bulverde Police Department at 830-438-3612, ext 217. Help us make National Night Out a success, despite all the challenges 2020 has brought.
## Local Events

### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bingo in Bulverde</td>
<td>4th, Friday; 5:00p; Bulverde Com. Ctr., 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
<td>2nd, Friday; 5:00p; Bulverde Com. Ctr., 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde City Council</td>
<td>8th, Tuesday, 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
<td>13th, Tuesday, 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</td>
<td>10th, Thursday, 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
<td>15th, Thursday, 6:30p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Community Park Committee</td>
<td>24th, Thursday, 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
<td>22nd, Thursday, 6:00p; 30360 Cougar Bend, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Lions Club</td>
<td>10th, Thursday; 24th, Thursday, 7:00p, 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
<td>8th, Thursday; 22nd, Thursday, 7:00p, 1747 E. Ammann Rd., 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Branch Bulverde Lions Club</td>
<td>16th, Wednesday, 7:30p; 29797 US Hwy 281 N</td>
<td>21st, Wednesday, 7:30p; 29797 US Hwy 281 N, 78163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulverde Optimist Club</td>
<td>8th, Tuesday, 6:30p; 1360 Bulverde Rd., 78163</td>
<td>13th, Tuesday, 6:30p; 1360 Bulverde Rd., 78163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that all events are subject to change or cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Check local media and social media sources for updates to specific events.

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Peeling the Onion

“Shrek: Ogres are like onions.
Donkey: They stink?
Shrek: Yes. No.
Donkey: Oh, they make you cry.
Shrek: No.
Donkey: Oh, you leave 'em out in the sun, they get all brown, start sproutin’ little white hairs.
Shrek: No. Layers. Onions have layers. Ogres have layers. Onions have layers. You get it? We both have layers.”

Animated movie lovers know that Shrek and Donkey’s journey together enabled them to peel back their layers and learn to discover and appreciate one another. The Centre also has a great many facets to our organization that are not always readily seen that we hope our community will enjoy discovering as we peel back our layers.

LAYER #1
Our first layer is one most easily recognized by many of our community members – training and education programs for our emergency responders, locally and from our surrounding counties in pre-hospital medicine and critical care medical procedures. Thousands of military and civilian healthcare professionals, including first responders, law enforcement officers, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians pass through our doors each year, receiving training on airway management as one example. Maintaining an airway and ensuring effective ventilations is a cornerstone to patient care. Human specimens allow on the spot confirmation of skills, absolute realism and unparalleled tactile feedback for each skillset required in a given situation. Also, in this educational layer, one would find the existence of our high school and post-secondary human anatomy classes and associated labs. These classes contribute directly to the heart of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education (subjects collectively known as STEM), and oftentimes are the catalyst for a student’s decision to pursue a STEM career.

LAYER #2
As we have exposed the first layer and move into the second, one will discover our pre-hospital setting research layer. The aim of pre-hospital emergency medical services research is to guide the field with respect to clinical interventions and system designs. Research provides an evidence base to support the application of particular medical treatments and raises red flags when interventions are demonstrated to cause harm to patients. Advancing the science base to determine what constitutes effective care in the pre-hospital setting allows for improvements in emergency care over time. Some of our published research includes:

- Pediatric Extremity Hemorrhage and Tourniquet Use – Will My Commercial Tourniquets Even Work on Small Children?
- Randomized Control Hands-on Defibrillation Study-Barrier Use Evaluation

LAYER #3
Our next layer finds us facilitating and hosting corporate workshops where physicians practice and hone their techniques, as well as experiment with development of new surgical techniques or devices that can improve an individual’s quality of life. Our innovative medical world continues to advance and improve surgical techniques, resulting in very sophisticated procedures that doctors must master. We all probably know someone who has been stopped in his or her tracks by bone, muscle or joint pain, and equally likely, we know someone who has had a hip or knee replacement surgery. It is also tremendously likely that the orthopedic surgeon performing this intricate surgery on you, your spouse, your child, your mom or dad, or just a friend has practiced his technique at the Centre.

Peeling back the layers, we hope you have discovered that the Centre is redefining healthcare in a broad spectrum of ways.

1Shrek, DreamWorks Animation, ©2006

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Pursuing life in health, strength & beauty!
Three military veterans are continuing to defend democracy by serving on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Comal Area (LWV-CA). Vice President for Voter Services Ada Conlan and Treasurer Peggy Ornelas served in the Air Force, while Vice President for Program Daphne Spraitzar retired from the Army before joining LWV-CA.

Conlan was looking for “an organization that would have a positive impact for people. During my time in the military I’d served as the unit voting officer, and voter registration was a big part of the position but for all 50 states, as well as, applying for absentee ballots. Needless to say I had some experience with voter registration and advising members about their voting rights. LWV-CA was an excellent fit for my background and desires.” She has expanded the League’s outreach to underserved communities and employed her organizational skills in improving data collection about League activities to assess and expand the impact of Voter Services. Currently, Conlan is working on Voters Guides and online local candidate forums for the fall election, and National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 22, activities.

A passion for “the right and responsibility to vote” brought Ornelas to the LWV-CA. Living abroad with the Air Force and then teaching for the Department of Defense for 26 years in 6 different countries and her belief in racial justice and equality informs her focus on the League’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program priority. She is organizing a December 2020 public forum on racial justice and equity for LWV-CA. Ornelas finds inspiration in her favorite Eleanor Roosevelt quote, “You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.’ You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

Spraitzar joined the League because it is “nonpartisan and provides the opportunity to support solutions and make positive contributions to our community, state and country.”

She is spearheading the local efforts advocating for a fair, open and transparent redistricting process after more than 20 years as an Army Legislative Affairs Officer and liaison to the US Congress. Spraitzar is coordinating a January 2021 public forum about redistricting and what action local citizens can take.

“The progress made in the 100 years since women gained the right to vote is illustrated in these three women and we are thrilled to have them as leaders in the League’s efforts to empower voters and defend democracy here in Comal and Guadalupe Counties,” comments LWV-CA President Roxanna Deane. “Because of their efforts and the efforts of our other members, we are able to provide nonpartisan election information that voters need and to assist new voters in getting registered and informed.”

The League of Women Voters is a 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. For more information, to join or to donate go to lwvcomal.org. Find personalized nonpartisan election information at VOTE411.org.

ACACIA MEDICAL MISSION
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Our new address is
1781 E. Ammann Rd, Bulverde, TX 78163
(Located where Rahe Primary used to be, next door to Bulverde Community Center)

Our mission is to provide high quality, low-cost, affordable healthcare for the medically uninsured and underinsured in Comal and Blanco Counties through a non-profit, faith-based health care clinic. We serve patients 10 years old and older whose family income may not exceed the 200% poverty level. We offer physicals (including CDL), women’s health screening, minor mental health, treatment of chronic health problems such as COPD, Diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, medication assistance, diagnostic and laboratory services, and specialty referrals.

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A Tale of Two Kitties

By Elena Magallanes

While we may strive to pamper our pets with the best of everything, we may be denying them what they need most: the companionship of one of their own species. Many feline behaviorists, such as Jackson Galaxy, agree that cats generally lead happier lives if there is another cat in the home. Even if the cats never become best friends, just sharing the house with another living creature while you are away helps to break the monotony and loneliness. If two cats become playmates there is the added benefit of exercise and entertainment especially needed by kittens and young adult cats. Many cases of playful aggression directed toward the owner as well as various forms of household destruction, can be prevented if a cat's energies are focused on a playmate.

Benefits:
- Kittens who live with one of their litter or foster mates tend to be healthier and happier as well as better socialized pets than those who are isolated from others of their kind at an early age.
- A pair of kittens will keep each other company (and out of potential trouble) while their human is away.
- A pair of kittens will learn from each other and be more likely to develop good habits.
- Kittens will naturally wrestle and play bite with each other, thus not directing that behavior at humans.
- Kittens have lots of energy. This can be overwhelming for an older cat or a human who is balancing work and home life. Two kittens of the same energy level will keep each other much happier than a different companion.
- As kittens grow over time they can develop a close, bonded relationship that lasts a lifetime.
- An added bonus can also include tons of adorable kitten cuddling pictures!

With so many benefits of letting kittens grow up together consider adopting a pair as opposed to a lone kitten. They will be “fur-ever” thankful.

Feature Cats of the Month – Saber & Sarge

We are a pair of super sweet boys that will wiggle our way into your heart, and we do mean wiggle. We survived Panleukopenia, a feline virus, but ended up with hyperplasia. This limits the use of our back legs (Sabre has a more adorable wobble than Sarge). We still get around the house, just in our own time. We really need a loving family that understands and will support our physical limitations. Please give us the chance we deserve!!

To learn more about Saber & Sarge and the other adoptable cats at ARC, please visit our website or Facebook page and Petango (zip code 78163).

If you would like to make a donation or have a furry addition to your family, please contact Animal Rescue Connections at animalrescueconnections.org or via email: animalrescueconnections@gmail.com.
Summer is the perfect time to rethink your landscape. But when it comes to landscaping in dry climates, you often hear the terms “Xeriscape” and “zeroscape” used interchangeably, but they are definitely not the same. Xeriscape comes from the Greek word “xeric” meaning dry or arid. Zeroscape is basically a mispronunciation of Xeriscape—“zeer-i-scape” vs. “zee-ro-scape.”

Xeriscape is a type of landscape design that uses low-water-use and drought-tolerant plants that require little to no supplemental irrigation. While Xeriscape refers to a landscape with plants and sometimes turf, zeroscape describes a sterile landscape of gravel and maybe a boulder, a palm tree, or a cactus.

Just because we central Texans live with only about 30” of rain per year doesn’t mean our yards must look barren. A Xeriscaped yard planted with many species of beautiful drought-tolerant plants can be lush and beautiful while enhancing the beauty and function of our Texas landscape. Xeriscapes not only beautify the neighborhood, reduce cooling costs, and create a sense of place; they also attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other desirable wildlife. Xeriscaped yards make sense because they are water-efficient. But contrary to popular belief, a Xeriscape is not rock and cacti.

For planning your successful xeriscape consider how will you use your landscape and what it will look like during each season of the year. All you need is 4 to 6 inches of good soil and a selection of native plants—including trees. Ideally your xeriscape should include no more than one-third of your landscape as grass, preferably a drought-tolerant one that requires less watering. The good news is that minimal irrigation is needed once your landscape is established. Design your landscaping so you water by plant zone and utilize shady areas to water less. Installing drip systems conserve water and are aided by a good layer of mulch – liberally apply mulch to retain moisture, cool root zones, and reduce weeds. Replenish mulch once or twice a year, trim and prune plants as needed, and irrigate only as necessary. Simply put, your Xeriscape uses design and planning, while a zeroscape lacks design and planning.

(Graphic retrieved from https://takecareoftexas.org/hot-wire/its-here-your-ultimate-guide-xeriscapetm-landscaping)
Lt. Dan Needs You!

This adorable guy is Lt. Dan! He was found on the fourth of July. Lt. Dan is 22 pounds of cuteness, rolled in sunshine and sprinkled with joy! It is impossible to have a bad day with him around. Lt. Dan is good with people and animals and he is house-trained. We believe he is a Terrier mix and between 10 and 12 years old.

Lt. Dan has a heart murmur. He also had a full dental work-up where he had 11 teeth pulled. He is doing great and ready to go home with his new family!

Lt. Dan is neutered, microchipped, and current on all vaccinations. He takes preventative flea/tick/heartworm medicine. As with all our dogs, Lt. Dan must be an indoor dog.

If you are interested in adopting Lt. Dan please email bahshelter@yahoo.com. If there are other dogs in your home, we require a meet and greet, which you can schedule via email at bahshelter@yahoo.com.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions started August 22 and takes place every Saturday morning through October 17th (except September 5th, Labor Day weekend). Come join the group! We will be viewing the DVD from the FPA.ORG. We will watch a speaker online, followed by a discussion period.

Remaining topics this year fall will include:
- Red Sea Security
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle
- China’s Road into Latin America
- The Philippines and the U.S.
- Artificial Intelligence and Data

Sponsored by Mammen Family Public Library. For more information on our topics, visit our Library’s LibGuide. Books are available for purchase at the Drive-Thru for $20ea.

Back to School for Adults!

Our adult education classes will start a new semester in September. Join us for Beginning and Intermediate French, Spanish, and Italian language classes; also, GED and English as a Second Language programs. These are all online and free to join. View the events on our calendar and email bethanie@mfplibrary.org with questions or to receive link to join.

Upcoming Online Events

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.

Adults & Teens

Please register to get the meeting link or you can email debbies@mfplibrary.org for it!

Online—Watercolor Class: Tuesday, September 8 from 1:30 pm–3 pm
Join our Zoom meeting to learn some watercolor techniques taught by Debbie. Please use any supplies you want that you have at home. For adults and teens.

Online—Beginning Modern Calligraphy: Tuesday, September 8 from 6 pm–7:45 pm
Come join our Zoom meeting to learn the fundamentals of Modern Brush Calligraphy. We will take you through the
strokes helping you to form your shapes and create your own brush lettering style. Please use any supplies you want that you have at home. Handouts will be emailed to you prior to the class for you to print out.

**Online—Storysharing: Wednesdays from 1 pm–2 pm**
Connect with others online through sharing stories. Effie will lead us through the art of sharing our stories. This program is open to anyone teen through adult and will meet weekly throughout the year. Email Bethanie at bethanie@mfplibrary to receive Zoom connection instructions.

**Online—Calligraphy Styles: Thursday, September 7 from 1 pm–3 pm**
We will practice brush lettering or calligraphy using brush pens, ink and nib pens, watercolor using water pens and paint brushes. We will be reviewing the emphasizing strokes, flourishes, and other hand lettering techniques. Please use any supplies you want that you have from home.

**Online—Understanding Your Social Security Benefit Options: Tuesday, September 22 from 2 pm–3:15 pm (adults only)**
One of the most important decisions you need to make before retiring is when, and how, to claim your Social Security benefits. Almost all retirees apply for Social Security as soon as they become eligible at age 62. By doing so, you may significantly, and permanently, impact your income and benefits for the rest of your life. The difference between the best and worst possible decision about when to start Social Security can be well over $100,000! Learn important rules that affect the amount of retirement benefits you collect, as well as strategies for coordinating Social Security with other sources of retirement income.

**Teens**
These programs will be held via Zoom, so please register or email Ms. Elizabeth (engelman@mfplibrary.org) to get the meeting link!

**The Marvel Cinematic Universe: Thursday, September 3 from 6 pm–7 pm**
With no summer blockbusters this year, let’s revisit some older ones and talk about what works and doesn’t work in this month’s talk about the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

**Book Club for Teens—Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children: Thursday, September 10 from 6 pm–7 pm**
Welcome to Teen Book Club! This will be a twice monthly program to discuss a particular book or any books you may have read and really enjoyed. At the end of September, we will resume Teen Advisory Board and one of the topics will be which books we will read as we go forward with the club. We will begin our book club with Miss Peregrine’s home for peculiar children! You can pick up the book at the library or check it out as an eBook or audiobook through the Libby app.

**Homemade Bread Making: Thursday, September 17 from 6 pm–7 pm**
Make bread with Elizabeth! In this class, we will be making a quick bread and a kneaded bread together on Zoom. We’ll talk about the difference between a quick bread, a leavened bread, and an unleavened bread and talk a little about why each one works.

Kits with the ingredients will be provided and can be picked up starting Monday, September 14th after 3 pm until Thursday, September 17th at 5 pm. You must register no later than Wednesday, September 16th by 5 pm to receive an ingredient kit. The kit must be refrigerated until 1 hour before the class begins.

**Online Teen Advisory Board: Thursday, September 24 from 6 pm–7 pm**
Help us come up with ideas for future Teen classes and events! *(This event counts towards volunteer hours.)*

**Kids**
In the fall, we will have Craft and Chat on first and third Thursdays, Family Storytime on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Family Game Night every Wednesday night, as well as Book Club and Girls Who Code.

Our special events for September include:

**Scavenger Hunt**
Join in on a fun Zoom Scavenger Hunt! We will name things for you to find and you will have limited time to race around your house and grab them! You don’t want to miss a chance to win a fun prize. This will take place on Saturday, September 22nd.

**Chalk Challenge**
Join us for an exciting back to school chalk challenge September 1–15. Chalk creations will feature kindness and encouragement to face the new school year! Check our calendar for specific times and details.
New Members

Highlander Senior Village Apartments
Honey Creek Development, LLC
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Annual Renewals

AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments)
Adam Bruggeman, MD
Altarf A. Safri, Financial Services Professional
Animal Hospital of Smithson Valley
Barbara’s Bookkeeping & Tax Service
Sylvia G. Beatty
Jimmie & Lynda Binkley
The Branch Neighborhood Grill
Bulverde Assisted Living
Bulverde Car Wash
Crosscutter Enterprises
Dawson’s Doubles
Faces & Places Smithson Valley Magazine
Fine Print Farms
Fischer’s Neighborhood Market
Germania Farmer Verein–Anhalt Hall
Grace Fellowship–A Baptist Community
Hampton Inn Bulverde Texas Hill Country
Hendley & Hodges Law PLLC
Home Depot
IC Clearview Services
Independent Insurance Agents of San Antonio
Innovative Drywall, Inc., Est. 1999
Kendalia Halle
Master Care Landscaping, Inc.
The Mercantile on Blanco
Mr Handyman of Stone Oak, Garden Ridge, and Bulverde
Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
Texas Lone Star Title, LLC
Vape Away
Verde Bistro
West Ridge Construction

Ribbon Cutting

Dermatology of San Antonio
524 Singing Oaks Ste. 280
Spring Branch, TX
B/ SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

September 9, 2020
Coffee with the Chamber
In Person or Virtual
7:30 am–9:00 am
Speaker: TBD
Sponsored by: Presto IT
Location: To be Determined

September 16, 2020
BSB Foundation Power Lunch
In Person or Virtual
11:30 am–1:00 pm
Sponsored by: The Heights of Bulverde and Legacy DLC Inc.
Location: Bulverde Visitor & Event Center
499 Singing Oak, Ste. 101, Spring Branch, TX
(Seating may be limited)

September 24, 2020
Business Networking Mixer
5:30 pm–7:30 pm
Location: Texas Physical Therapy Specialist
184 Creekside Park Road Ste. 200, Spring Branch, TX
(Member Only Event)

October 17, 2020
Community Wide Shred Day
9:00 am–12:00 pm–Chamber Members - Free
10:00 am–12:00 pm–Community residents
$5.00 a box up to 10 boxes

October 19, 2020
2020 Chamber Classic Golf Tournament
River Crossing Golf Club
4 man–Shotgun Start 9:00 am

November 5, 2020

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.

We love kids!

Rebecca Wilson, D.D.S.
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F: 210-742-2888
24815 US Highway 281 N., Suite 111
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The Buzz from the Garden

The following information was presented at a recent Native Plant Society of Texas Lindheimer Chapter meeting by Mark de Kiewiet, a local bee expert. Thank you to Charlotte Wright for providing the article.

Next time you hear a buzzing in your garden, don’t be too quick to shoo away the bees. The pollinators may be native bees, which are adapted to using native plants as their food source. Your garden will benefit from the fact that native plants and insects are in sync.

Bees won’t do well if they cannot access their original food plants, stated Mark de Kiewiet, a local bee expert. Mark has studied Texas wild bees for 8 years and is a Comal County beekeeper and Texas Master Naturalist. Mark is a native South African but has called Texas home for over 20 years.

As homeowners in this area work to maintain green, lush lawns, they may be inadvertently killing bees, he said at a recent meeting of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Lindheimer Chapter. Comal County had an estimated 222 species 2017, according to the University of Texas at Austin.

Insecticides are neurotoxins that are fatal to bees along with other insects. But the bees also may take the toxin back to the hive, where baby bees are killed. He urged homeowners to avoid insecticides of any kind. Rather, he encouraged homeowners to find ways to nurture bees, such as creating insect corridors filled with a variety of native plants that are planted in clumps and leaving the ground undisturbed because most bees are ground dwelling. A short grass mix of buffalograss, blue grama and curly mesquite grows 3-8 inches and is good for bees as well, he said.

To buy bees or honey, he recommended dealing with local apiaries. He urged people to buy local bees, not European honeybees. For example, Mason bees, not native to Texas, may be from Oregon and should be released when the specific plants they feed on are in bloom. He said Mason bees will not mate or breed in Texas.

At the chapter meeting, one person asked about bee swarms, a large ball of living bees, on houses or trees near houses. The bees are looking for a new home, he said. They will probably stay 1 to 3 days in a tree before moving on. If they stay, the new home is good for the tree because bees will clean out rotting wood, and honey is antimicrobial. For bees that are settling in too close to a house, he recommended putting drops of almond oil near bee holes or swarms and the bees will go somewhere else. Conversely, lemon grass is an attractant for the bees.

Resources with more information about native pollinators include:
- Texas Beekeepers Association (texasbeekeepers.org);
- Texas Parks and Wildlife (https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/nongame/native-pollinators/native-bee-needs.phtml);
- American Native Seed for Thunder Turf and other native plant seeds (seedsource.com);
- Jha Lab, Shalene Jha, associate professor, University of Texas Austin, Department of Integrative Biology, (http://w3.biosci.utexas.edu/jha/ for links to sites about bees and pollinators).

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NPSOT LINDHEIMER CHAPTER:
- Chapter Website https://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/
- Information on joining https://npsot.org
- Email npsot@wanderingbob.com

The Bulverde Community Garden’s bee condo provides a safe place for bees to live and be protected while they pollinate plants in the garden. The bee condo was an Eagle Scout project completed a few years ago, and is both functional and entertaining.

GARDEN NEWS: 171 pounds of fresh produce was delivered to Provisions from the Garden in July. Year to date the total is 619 pounds making this amount more than the total for the whole of 2019. Many thanks to the volunteers and sponsors that have made this happen.
GUY PETERSON, DDS

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Academic Calendar 2020 - 2021

School Hours: ☀ Elementary: 7:35 am - 3:10 pm ☀ Middle School: 8:15 am - 3:50 pm ☀ High School: 8:55 am - 4:30 pm

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July 4 — 4th of July Holiday

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August 25 — First Day of School

**September 2020**

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September 7 — Labor Day: Student/Staff Holiday

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October 12 — Teacher Preparation & Planning

**November 2020**

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November 23 to 27 — Thanksgiving Student/Staff Holiday

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December 21 — Holiday Break

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January 4 — Teacher Preparation & Planning

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February 11 — Teacher Preparation & Planning

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March 15 to 19 — Spring Break: Student/Staff Holiday

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April 2 — Good Friday: Student/Staff Holiday

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May 21 — Teacher Preparation & Planning

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June 21 — Last Day of Classes (Early Release)

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**Tradition • Performance • Opportunity**

- First/Last Day of School
- STAAR Testing
- Bad Weather Make Up Day
- Teacher Prep & Planning
- Graduation
- 2 Hours Early Release
- 2 Hours Student Early Release
- Teacher/Staff Development
- 2 Hours Early Release: Parent/Teacher Conference (Elem Only)

- Beginning of 9 Week Grading Period
- End of 9 Week Grading Period

Board Approved: 2/25/2020
Revised: 07/07/2020
Serving Bexar and surrounding counties for over 15 years!

Quality Work • Prompt Professional Service • Competitive Rates

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- Septic inspections for real estate transactions
- Aerobic installations - new residential & failing conventional replacements
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or email us at mjseptic@mjseptic.com
September is HUNGER ACTION MONTH!
How Can You Help?

Have you ever been really hungry? Did you ever question how or when you'd be able to have your next meal? While you may not have personally experienced hunger or food insecurity, it’s almost assured that you know someone who has. All across the United States, in every city, town, and rural community, there are people who struggle to simply meet the basic need for food for their families. In Comal County, 12.1% of the county’s population lives in a food insecure home; 19.7% of the CHILDREN in the county live in these food insecure homes. Food insecurity and hunger are pervasive and invisible. These conditions affect our friends and neighbors, most often without our knowledge, and it can happen to anyone at any time.

It’s important to note that the above stated local statistics were gathered before the coronavirus pandemic. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment has soared and food insecurity is on the rise. In 2020, more than 54 million people in America, including up to 18 million children, may face hunger because of the effects of coronavirus.

September is Hunger Action Month, a time for communities to band together to fight hunger in their area. In the immediate Bulverde and Spring Branch area, there are four operating food pantries: Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach (the Bulverde Food Pantry), the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, the Hope Center Food Pantry & Outreach, and Helping Hands Food Pantry at Rebecca Creek Baptist Church. A bit farther afield is the food pantry at the New Braunfels Food Bank, CRRC at Canyon Lake, and the pantry at Summit Christian Center on Marshall Road in San Antonio. All of these nonprofit organizations are working to provide supplemental food for the families in need who live on our region. All of these organizations rely on the support of the community to continue in serving their missions to assist neighbors in need.

So how can you help? There are a several ways!

1. Donate money. These small nonprofits are primarily volunteer run with a very low overhead, so you know that your monetary donation is going directly toward their mission to feed people. These organizations, as partner agencies with the San Antonio Food Bank, can leverage the purchasing power of the Food Bank and increase the spending value of each dollar. Every $1 received as a cash donation can be utilized to purchase between $3 and $7 of groceries from the Food Bank as compared to making retail purchases. Your monetary donation can go a long way.

2. Donate food, toiletries, and personal care items. Every food pantry needs help to keep their shelves stocked. Host a food/toiletry drive with your school, business, church, health club, scouts, sports team, service organization, or in other social or professional circles. Youth and children often find a terrific sense of accomplishment as they collect items and watch the
bins fill up. Identify a particular need at your local food pantry and work to fill the void. Items like canned tuna; peanut butter and jelly; canned beef stew; dry beans, rice, or pasta; and personal care items like shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, and toothpaste are all very welcome donations in most pantries.

3. Volunteer! Food pantries need all kinds of support in terms of man power. Can you volunteer during their hours of operation? Great! If not, can you volunteer in the evening or weekends to fill a need other than that of daily client services? Are you an accountant? Are you computer savvy and good on social media? Are you a database whiz? Are you a graphic designer? Can you advocate for the cause? Will you attend special events as a representative of the organization? Do you have a truck or trailer and the time to pick up a donation once a week? These are just examples of how you can volunteer your time, talent, or treasure to a hunger relief organization near you.

4. Provide long-term, ongoing support. These small outreach programs often struggle from week to week and month to month, as the normal and typical expenses of maintaining a “business” (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.) are a given, but any unexpected expenses or financial burdens like a major facility/equipment repair, an unexpected surge in clientele, or a change in funding status can throw wrench into already tight budgets. Benefactors who are willing to partner with an organization and commit to long-term monthly donations help to ease the concern around an unexpected crisis.

So during this Hunger Action Month, make a point to seek out one or more of these food pantries in our community. Go visit, take a tour, and talk to the director. See if there is a need that you can fill. Your neighbors in need depend on the services of these organizations to make it through a tough time. In turn, these organizations rely on the support of the community to be able to continue to serve.

- **Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach**, the Bulverde Food Pantry, 2295-1 Bulverde Rd., Bulverde, TX 78163 (behind Wine 101) 830-438-7899
- **Hope Center Food Pantry & Outreach**, 6260 US Hwy 281 North, Spring Branch, TX 78070 830-980-4673
- **Helping Hands Food Pantry @ Rebecca Creek Baptist Church**, 11755 Hwy 281 N., Spring Branch, TX 78070 830-885-3948
- **St. Vincent de Paul at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church—Honeycreek**, 25781 State Hwy 46 W., Spring Branch, TX 78070 830-438-8058

- If you and your family live in the B/SB area and need supplemental food assistance, please call any one of these listed agencies for more information about getting the help you need.