

GRUENE'S HALL
Refreshments DANCING

Gruene Hall was formerly known as Gruene's Hall. It has continually operated since its opening in the 1840s.

**A glimpse into
GRUENE**

The Gruene Historic District in New Braunfels is known for its rich history and slow-paced charm.

3 paths:
Gruene Road, Hunter Road and New Braunfels Street

First settled in **1845**

Gruene is **1 of 3** nationally recognized historic districts in Comal County

The district is made up of **200+ acres**

1 river runs through Gruene—the Guadalupe River

Gruene Hall is **6,000 sq. ft.**

COURTESY MOLAK CORP.

SOURCE: MOLAK CORP., TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Renowned historic district survived many challenges

Those close to Gruene say the famous settlement continues to evolve as the area grows

BY **RACHEL NELSON**

Each year, tourists and locals flock to a small piece of Texas to experience the scene in Gruene. Located off of FM306 and Hunter Road in

New Braunfels, the largely preserved Gruene Historic District shines a light on what once was.

"It has its own special character that nobody else can compare [it to],"

said Kristen King, social media coordinator for the Molak Corp., which owns and manages a significant portion of Gruene. "You kind of step

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New Braunfels Utilities awaits state's decision

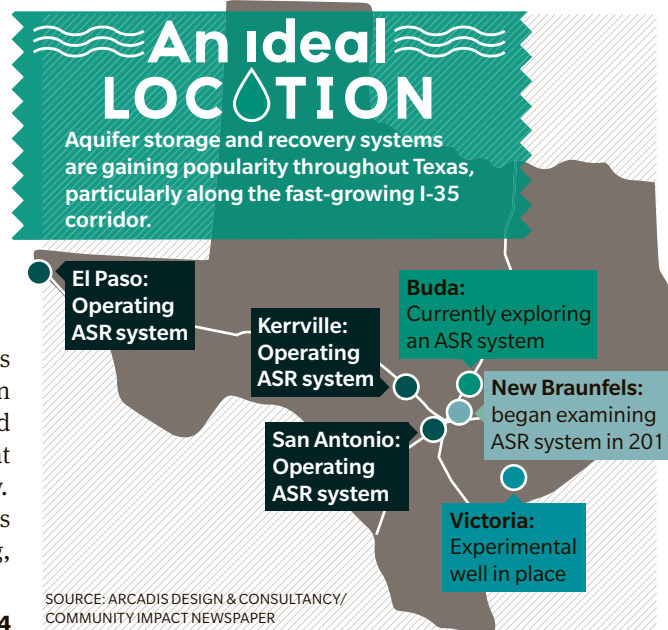
\$23M aquifer storage and recovery project will move forward if bills pass through legislature

BY **RACHEL NELSON**

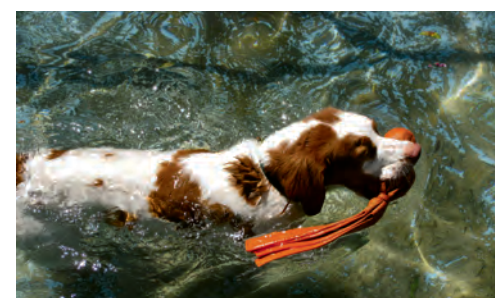
Since 2011, public power utility provider New Braunfels Utilities has explored the feasibility of incorporating an aquifer storage and recovery, or ASR, system that would allow for a large underground water storage area that could be accessed during times of drought or emergency.

"It doesn't bring you any new supplies, but it gives you a water-management strategy," said Fred Blumberg, engineer for Arcadis Design and Consultancy Team,

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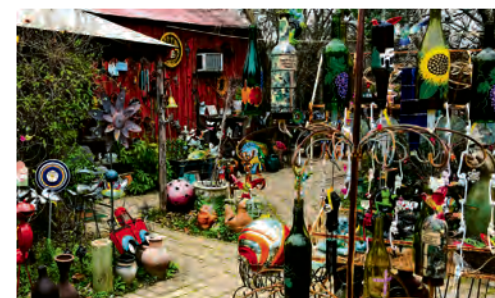
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Now Open, Coming Soon & More



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Local live music and more



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19 BUSINESS FEATURE
Dancing Bear



21 DINING FEATURE
Myron's Prime Steakhouse

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John and Jennifer Garrett began *Community Impact Newspaper* in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team.

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Learn things you never knew about Gruene

One of our front-page stories this month covers the history and making of the Gruene Historic District. You will find some interesting tidbits about how it all evolved.

Gruene, initially named Goodwin, has become a destination for tourists and remains a great community source for live music, shopping and dining.

Another front-page article is about a new aquifer storage and recovery, or ASR, system that New Braunfels Utilities is proposing. If the state Legislature supports it, it will become one of four like it in the state. The planned ASR would store water underground that could be accessed during an emergency

or drought.

The Dancing Bear is our business feature this month (see Page 19). You can find great, unique gifts for the garden and home at this adorable boutique.

Our dining feature on Page 21 highlights Myron's Prime Steakhouse located in downtown New Braunfels. I had no idea the building began as a movie theater in 1924. It sounds like I may have to check out Myron's wine selection as well.

As a friendly reminder, early voting for local elections begins April 22. City Council and New Braunfels ISD seats are up for grabs, and the city bond election will also be on the ballot. Election day is May 4.



Heather Demere

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ASK THE EDITOR



Rachel Nelson

Rachel Nelson
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Do you have a question about how local government works or something going on in town? Send it to nbffedback@communityimpact.com.

Does 'Community Impact Newspaper' follow the legislative session?

Unlike previous legislative sessions, *Community Impact Newspaper* does not have a dedicated reporter or team covering ongoing talks by lawmakers at the Texas Capitol. However, we are monitoring bills and conversations that will undoubtedly impact our local readers.

As legislation is passed throughout the spring, we are looking at ways to show what those laws mean for Central Texas. We are also following the actions of local entities and actions they take in response to legislative changes.

Our partnership with The Texas Tribune also allows us to publish state updates periodically online.

The current legislative session began Jan. 8. The regular session could run a maximum of 140 days, or to May 27. However, Gov. Greg Abbott has the ability to call a special session over the summer to continue work on crucial legislation.

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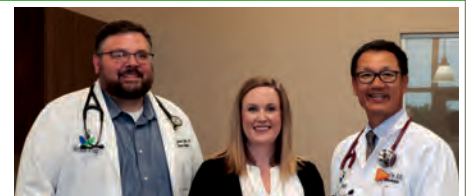
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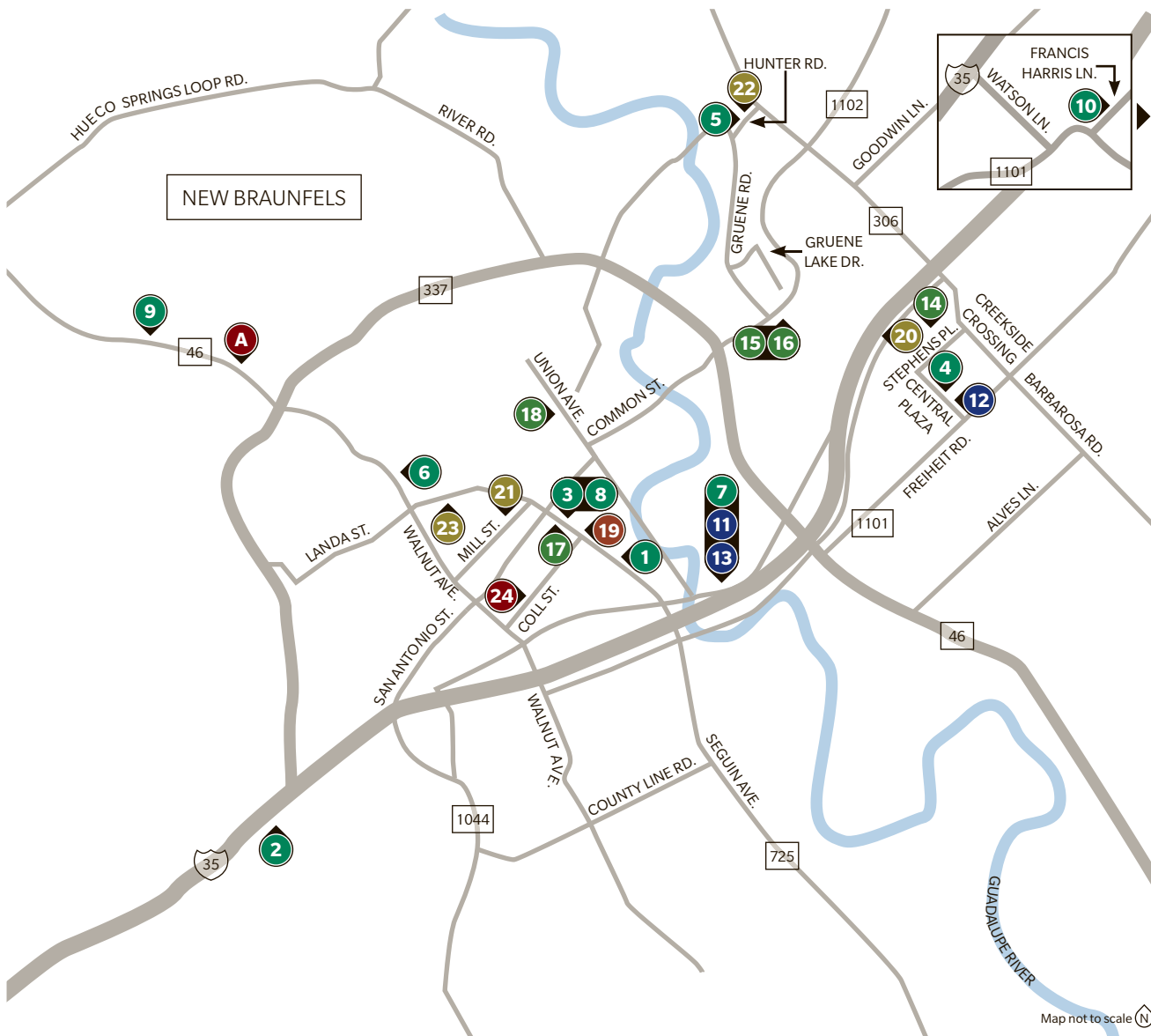
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NOW OPEN

1 Bring Your Own Parts opened at the end of March at 619 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels. The auto repair shop started in San Antonio and only charges customers for the cost of parts—without markups—and installation. 210-682-2967. www.bringyourownparts.com

2 Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc., an electrical supply house, opened at 3939 I-35, Ste. 115, New Braunfels, on April 1. 830-460-3060

3 Fickle Pickles opened a new location at 161 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels. The store sells pickles and vintage decor and also has a location in Gruene. 830-627-8999. www.ficklepickles.com

4 Freiheit Farmers Market's opening

day was March 20 at 2032 Central Plaza, New Braunfels. Located in Freiheit Village, the farmers market will take place every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. during the spring, summer and fall months. All vendors are located within a 150-mile radius of New Braunfels and farm, make or produce their own products. 830-542-8448. www.freiheitvillagefm.com

5 Gruene Hat Co. opened March 6 as the self-proclaimed “tinest little hat shop in

Texas.” The shop is located at 1601 Hunter Road in the Gruene Historic District. www.gruenehatco.com

6 Hope Haus Bakery opened Feb. 23 at 1102 N. Walnut, New Braunfels. It serves handmade cookies, cupcakes and treats for all occasions. 830-481-3584. www.hopehausbakery.com

7 Little Land Play Gym opened March 23. The business focuses on providing an indoor unstructured play area for children of all ages. The new location is at 651 N. Business I-35, Ste. 1310, New Braunfels. www.littlelandplaygym.com/location/new-braunfels

8 Market on Main opened a new location at 161 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, inside Fickle Pickles. The store sells vintage home decor and antiques. 830-627-2727

9 Mr. C's Fried Chicken & Waffles opened March 27 at 2188 W. Hwy. 46, Ste. 109, New Braunfels. The restaurant serves “soul food” including chicken and waffles and macaroni and cheese.

Nelson's Millinery & Mercantile opened in February. The business provides custom hats that are made from the ground up using a raw felt body that goes through a process of steaming, ironing and sanding before bands and liners are added. The result is a shaped hat that is velvety to the touch. Nelson's specializes in western hats but can also create fedoras and other styles by request. 830-643-4636. www.facebook.com/nelsonshatshop

10 Pop's BBQ held a grand opening event March 23. The barbecue restaurant, which also serves banana pudding, is located at 3745 Francis Harris, New Braunfels. 512-920-5396. www.facebook.com/popsbbqnbtx

COMING SOON

11 A Pocketful of Grace Boutique will open a storefront in June at 651 N. Business I-35, Ste. 1140, New Braunfels. The grand opening is slated for June 29 with a shopping event along with its sister company, Standout Dance Center. The store has been operating online, and this will be its first brick-and-mortar location. It sells tops, dresses, jewelry, accessories



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and gifts. Drinkware, as well as baby and kids clothing, are also available. www.apocketfulofgrace.com

12 Hiccups Churroholic Restaurant & Tea House will open its New Braunfels location at 2031 Central Plaza, Ste. 103, New Braunfels, in 2019. The establishment, which originated in Long Beach, California, serves Asian fusion cuisine with a variety of specialty drinks and boba. www.hiccupsteahouse.com

13 Standout Dance Center will open a new dance studio in June at 651 N. Business I-35, Ste. 1140. The grand opening will be June 29, and the store will be hosting a free dance day. www.standoutdancecenter.com

RELOCATIONS

14 Chic Beautique relocated to 2115 Stephens Place, Ste. 1010, New Braunfels, in Freiheit Village at the beginning of March. The business offers non-invasive skin care with its own cannabidiol product line. 803-556-0815. www.chicbeautique.org

15 Express Employment Professionals relocated to 1528 E. Common St., Ste. 24, New Braunfels, in February. The business connects job-seekers with local employers for full-time, temporary and part-time employment. 830-626-2300. www.expresspros.com

16 Ultra Vision relocated to 1528 E. Common St., Ste. 1, New Braunfels, in February. The business offers refractive, cornea and cataract surgery. It also offers LASIK surgery, contact lenses and eye exams. 830-625-2335. www.lasic2c.com

17 Urban Civil Engineering moved to a new location at 190 S. Seguin Ave. in downtown New Braunfels. The business provides a wide range of solutions for all aspects of design and implementation for civil engineering projects. 830-606-3913. www.urbancivil.com

18 Utility Engineering moved from its location at 256 Comal Ave. to 191 N. Union Ave., New Braunfels, on April 1. The company has a combined 25-plus years of experience providing professional engineering services for municipal and public sector clients. 830-214-0521. www.uegpros.com

COMPILED BY **CHELSEA BAGLEY AND RACHEL NELSON**
News or questions about New Braunfels?
Email us at nbfnews@communityimpact.com.

EXPANSIONS

19 Naegelin's Bakery, the oldest bakery in Texas, is now open on Sundays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 125 S. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels. 830-625-5722. www.naegelinsbakery-hub.com

ANNIVERSARIES

20 Go Green Botanicals is celebrating a year in business April 20 at 2090 N. I-35, Ste. 4106, New Braunfels, with a family-friendly event including free refreshments, obstacle courses, prizes and more. The business sells products infused with cannabidiol, or CBD. 830-608-9446. www.gogreenbotanicals.com

21 Jackalope Provisions of Wear celebrated its first anniversary at the end of March. The boutique clothing store is located at 230 W. Mill St. in downtown New Braunfels. 830-302-7454. www.facebook.com/jackalopeprovisionsofwear

22 Gruene Outfitters celebrated its 30th anniversary in March. The store sells outdoor clothing, footwear and fly-fishing products in the Gruene Historic District. It is open Sunday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1629 Hunter Road. 830-625-4440. www.grueneoutfitters.com

23 Smile Advanced Dental Center celebrated its first anniversary in February. The business plans to expand its space this summer at 385 Landa St., New Braunfels. 830-625-3818. www.newbraunfelstx.dental

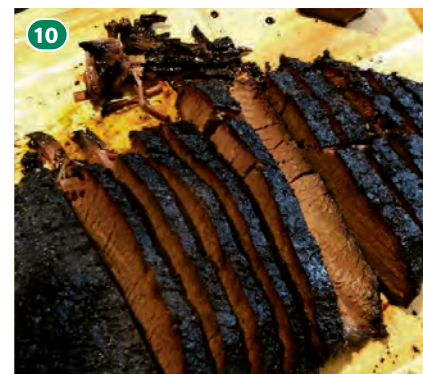
IN THE NEWS

24 American Legion Riders Post 179 in New Braunfels is holding its 2019 Denim Drive through Dec. 15. Donations of new or nearly new denim boys and girls jeans sizes 4-T to 12 are being accepted Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Legion Hall, 410 W. Coll St., New Braunfels. All donations and proceeds will benefit local children. 830-625-0179. www.alpost179tx.org

FEATURED IMPACT—IN THE NEWS



Lori Trotter, owner of **MY SALON Suite** of New Braunfels, 1928 Hwy. 46, Ste. 105, New Braunfels, won the Rising Star Award from its nationwide franchise. She was honored at the company's annual convention in Las Vegas in March. My Salon Suite is a 4,500-square-foot beauty complex that features 24 individual suites that are leased to a variety of beauty professionals. My Salon Suite operates more than 100 locations in 16 states. 830-542-8299. www.mysalonsuite.com/new-braunfels.html



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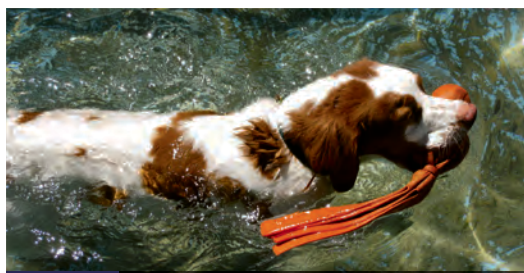
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APRIL 20 CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL ROCKIN' R RIVER RIDES

The Rotary Club of New Braunfels hosts the Hill Country Craft Beer Festival. More than 100 beers from 20 breweries will be showcased. The event will feature live music and food trucks. Proceeds support the Sally M. Kingsbury Sarcoma Research Foundation. \$35. 12-8 p.m. Rockin' R River Rides, 1405 Gruene Road, New Braunfels. 830-629-9999. www.hccbf.com



APRIL 21 DOGGIE DIP DAY LANDA PARK AQUATIC COMPLEX

Doggie Dip Day is for pooches that love the water. Dogs must wear a collar and have proof of current vaccinations. \$8; \$2 per additional guest (2 maximum). 12-4 p.m. Landa Park Aquatic Complex, 350 Aquatic Circle, New Braunfels. 830-221-4350. www.nbtexas.org/154/parks-recreation



APRIL 27 THRU THE CHUTE RACE CITY TUBE CHUTE

Witness community members brave the city tube chute in homemade cardboard vessels. The event, which is free to spectators, will begin at 10 a.m. New Braunfels Tube Chute, 100 Liebscher Drive, New Braunfels. 830-221-4350. www.nbtexas.org/1443/thru-the-chute-boat-race

APRIL

16^{23 & 30} DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

For the gamers looking to get started with Dungeons & Dragons, an opportunity to learn takes place every Tuesday night. Beginners to advanced players welcome. Free. 6-10 p.m. 7 Monks Café, 540 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels. 830-837-5401. www.7monkscafe.com

17^{AND 24} FARMER'S MARKET

The Freiheit Village Farmer's Market takes place every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. The family-friendly event features shopping, live entertainment and more. Free. 2032 Central Plaza, Ste. A, New Braunfels. 830-542-8448. www.facebook.com/freiheitvillagefm

25 4TH ANNUAL CHUCK WAGON EXTRAVAGANZA

Enjoy an evening of food trucks, local vendors, live music and family fun at the fourth annual Chuck Wagon Extravaganza. 6-9 p.m. Gruene Outpost River Lodge, 1273 River Terrace, New Braunfels.

26 LANDA LAKE DATE NIGHT

Plan a special evening under the stars with your special someone during a moonlit date on Landa Lake. Dinner will be provided from Cravings in downtown New Braunfels. Preregistration is required. Age 16 and older. \$40 (per couple). 6:30-7:30 p.m. Landa Lake Boathouse, 164 Landa Park Drive, New Braunfels. www.nbtexas.org/154/parks-recreation

27^{THROUGH 29} CRAWFISH NB

Crawfish NB will take place at the Comal County Fairgrounds, 701 Common St. The event features live music, a gumbo

cook-off, 5K, a crawfish eating contest and more. \$10 (general admission), \$15 (crawfish plates). 11 a.m.-1 a.m. (Sat.), noon-12 p.m. (Sun.). 210-827-2222. www.crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com

30^{THROUGH MAY 3} PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

The New Braunfels Art League is sponsoring the 2019 Two Rivers Plein Air Festival and Sales Event. The four-day painting competition features nationally recognized artists whose work will be for sale at various locations. 512-781-2467. Visit www.tworiverspleinair.com for complete details.

MAY

03 FIRST FRIDAYS

The public is invited to gather downtown from 6-8 p.m. on the first Friday of each month to stroll through shops, grab a drink, enjoy a bite to eat and listen to music. 500 Main Plaza, New Braunfels. www.downtownnewbraunfels.com

04 CRUISIN FOR CANS CAR & BIKE SHOW

The third annual Cruisin for Cans Car & Bike Show will present a classic car show with raffle prizes and live music, supporting the New Braunfels Food Bank. 1-5 p.m. Villa at Gruene, 1190 Gruene Road, New Braunfels. 830-620-3440

04 5TH ANNUAL FAMILY PROMISE BED RACE

Christian Brothers Automotive presents the 5th annual Family Promise Bed Race, where teams of six race their way to the finish line with a bed they have built. The event will also feature local vendors, a raffle, contests and kid's activities. \$100 per team. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Church Hill Middle School, 1275 N. Business I-35,

New Braunfels. 830-214-0024. www.nbbedrace.com

11 TO HECK WITH THE BLUES

This fundraising event will benefit River City Advocacy & Counseling Center. It will feature live music, a raffle, a silent auction and tournaments in corn hole, washers and shuffle board. Tavern in the Gruene, 830 Gruene Road, New Braunfels. Free entry. 830-643-0200. www.rivercityadvocacy.org

14 A LESSON ON CAVES

Join the Comal County Conservation Alliance as it continues its mission to conserve land, water and wildlife in Comal County. Guest speaker Geary Schindel, chief technical officer for the Edwards Aquifer Authority, will speak about the mysterious world of caves. FVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels. www.comalconservation.org

14 HEALTHY EATING CLASS

Learn how to manage your meals and health at this educational seminar, which will provide tips for eating out, controlling blood sugar and more. The class is presented by a registered dietitian and includes a Q&A session. Guests may buy a lunch at the Leaf Café or bring their own. Free. 11:30 a.m. Resolute Health Hospital's Leaf Café, 555 Creekside Crossing, New Braunfels. 830-500-6900. www.resolutehealth.com

19 AMERICANA MUSIC JAM

The 23rd annual KNBT 92.1 FM Americana Music Jam will celebrate the genre with showcase artists. Proceeds will benefit a local nonprofit organization. Cost of tickets to be announced. Doors open at noon. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Road, New Braunfels. 830-606-1281. www.gruenehall.com

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April

26 Black Hawk with Fast Movin' Trio

May

03 Curtis Grimes

12 Marcos Orozco Y Grupo Rebelde

NUMBER TO KNOW

27 The New Braunfels Post Office will participate in 27th annual Stamp out Hunger Food Drive benefiting the Share Our Spirit Food Bank, 248 Merriweather St., New Braunfels. In coming weeks, postal carriers will deliver bags to every address in three ZIP codes—78130, 78132 and 78133. Citizens are encouraged to fill the bags with non-perishable items such as canned goods, dried pasta, canned meats, beans, rice, cereal and pet food. Filled bags will be collected May 11.

COMING UP

April 20 | Earth Day Celebration
www.headwatersatthecomal.com

May 11 | AHA Heart & Stroke Walk
www.heart.org

June 8 | Backyard Chickens & Eggs
www.co.comal.tx.us/ext.htm



Find more or submit events at communityimpact.com/event-calendar. Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.

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ONGOING PROJECTS

1 Live Oak drainage improvements

The project includes storm drain improvements at the intersection of Live Oak Avenue and Katy Street as well as reconstruction of the low-water crossing at Dry Comal Creek.

Status: utility work in progress; long term road closure and detours underway through the end of the project

Timeline: November 2018-spring 2020

Cost: \$42.3 million

Funding sources: city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program, New Braunfels Utilities

2 Solms Road/Morningside Drive/Ruekle Road widening project

Solms Road and Morningside Drive will be

widened to three lanes and will include a center turn lane. Ruekle Road will be widened to include two lanes on each side with a center turn lane.

Status: water and sewer work underway

Timeline: summer 2018-2020

Cost: \$15.4 million

Funding sources: city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program, New Braunfels Utilities

3 Klein Road widening

Portions of the roadway will be widened to three and five lanes, including a center turn lane.

Status: utility, drainage and road work underway

Timeline: June 2018-2020

Cost: \$11.5 million **Funding source:** city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program

4 Common Street project

The project spans from Gruene Road to Sundance Parkway and includes new sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps and pedestrian signals

Status: finalizing design plans

Timeline: design completion in spring 2019

Cost: \$58,700 (design)

Funding sources: city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program

5 Alves Lane reconstruction

The project includes developing three lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Status: utility and roadway work in progress

Timeline: January 2018- 2020

Cost: \$12 million

Funding sources: city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program, New Braunfels Utilities

6 Union Avenue project

The project includes a mill and overlay, spot base repairs, new sidewalks and curbs, and ADA-compliant ramps at intersections.

Status: final design ongoing

Timeline: design completion in spring 2019

Cost: \$56,000 (design)

Funding source: city of New Braunfels 2013 bond program

7 Posey Road bridge construction

A new bridge will be constructed over I-35 at Posey Road. The I-35 frontage roads will be converted from two-way to one-way traffic, from Posey Road to York Creek Road.

Status: Traffic switch is ongoing; bridge demolition to take place in May

Timeline: March 2019-early 2021

Cost: \$31.8 million

Funding sources: Hays County, TxDOT

8 FM 1101 widening

The project will widen the road to provide a continuous left-turn lane from Hwy. 46 to 0.5 miles north of FM 306, or 2.79 miles, and also includes bike lanes and sidewalks.

Status: expected completion by end of April

Cost: \$5.69 million

Funding source: TxDOT

9 Loop 337 expansion

The project will widen Loop 337 for 6.7 miles. It will be converted from two to four lanes and will include pedestrian accommodations, improving safety and mobility.

Status: The project is ahead of schedule. A traffic switch is in effect in front of New Braunfels High School.

Timeline: November 2018- March 2021

Cost: \$42.3 million

Funding sources: local funding, TxDOT, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization



10 San Antonio Bridge

Weight restrictions and narrow travel lanes and sidewalks will be addressed by a construction project that will expand the lanes to 15 feet wide. The new sidewalks will be 8 feet wide. The project will also include new dark sky-compliant light fixtures and new railing.

Status: Construction will begin after Labor Day.

Timeline: Project is expected to take 15-18 months

Cost: \$4.5 million

Funding source: TxDOT

All information on this page was updated as of 3/22/19. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at nbfnews@communityimpact.com.



HOW IT WORKS

Legislation proposal would double traffic fines on dangerous roadways

A new bill in the Texas Legislature could set up traffic safety corridors and increase traffic fines on the state's most dangerous roadways.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, there has been at least one fatality from motor vehicle crashes on Texas roadways every day since Nov. 7, 2000, resulting in 60,000 deaths.

While TxDOT has brought awareness to trying to end the streak, an Austin lawmaker has proposed legislation to increase fines in newly created traffic safety corridors.

State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, introduced House Bill 2841 to the Legislature on March 1. The proposed bill would allow TxDOT to designate areas with high traffic fatality rates

as safety corridors. TxDOT would determine the zones based on data, according to Goodwin.

A sign would be placed at both ends of the corridor and traffic violations within those areas would bring double the fine to motorists. Revenue collected would go back to supporting law enforcement efforts in the corridor.

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Citizens await final decision from state on rock quarry plant planned for local residential area

Residents spoke at final hearing before fate of project is decided

BY ANNA DAUGHERTY

The six-month-long contested case proceeding regarding an air quality permit for Vulcan Construction Materials began March 6 at the Comal County Courthouse. Approximately 200 area residents gathered in the courtroom to protest the permit for a quarry and rock-crusher to be built along State Hwy. 46 and FM 3009.

After two public comment periods in 2017 and 2018, the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) turned the case over to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) which will conduct the proceedings.

SOAH Judge Rebecca Smith held the March 6 hearing and finalized the list of affected parties, which includes Comal ISD, Stop 3009 Vulcan Quarry, the Smithson Heritage Valley Oaks POA, and others. The case must be determined within 6 months.

"The administrative law judge will make recommendations to the commissioners of the TCEQ for their consideration in approving or denying the permit application," Andrew Keese, public relations specialist at TCEQ said.

Because the rock-crushing machinery is portable and could potentially be transported to different areas within the quarry's land, many residents were concerned that their homes may be affected, even though they were outside of the affected area indicated in Vulcan's proposed map. Smith allowed residents up to five miles away to be included in the case.

Those that spoke at the hearing brought up concerns about air quality and dusty winds; local roads and increased traffic; the effects on animals from earth tremors during quarry blasts; and water quality and conservation, as the quarry is located on the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers.

Chris Hopmann, spokesman for the Stop 3009 Vulcan Quarry group, said the quarry may even bring down home values in the surrounding area as well.

"This is a beautiful property," Hopmann said. "And there are people with homes and businesses out here

who are going to be hurt by this."

Vulcan Construction Materials says rock will only be extracted from above the water table, and the water they use will be recycled.

Of the 1,500 acres of Vulcan property, they say 60 percent will be used for mining while the remaining 600 acres will be saved for setbacks, non-mining use, and natural landscape.

Though based in Alabama, Vulcan operates 15 quarries throughout Texas, and has been mining in the San Antonio area since the 1970s. Spokesman Scott Burnham said the company is aware of the requirements to operate in Texas.

"We operate in one of the most regulated industries in the country," he said. "For more than a year, we've been listening and working with the community on developing a safe and responsible plan."

When Smith makes a recommendation to TCEQ at the end of the contested case, Hopmann said it is likely that TCEQ will uphold that opinion, though there have been instances in the past when they have overruled it. Hopmann said he would expect to see either side of the case appeal, depending on the outcome.

Tell us what you think.
Comment at communityimpact.com.

CLOSE TO HOME

Many residents within five miles of the proposed Vulcan Quarry oppose the project.



At a contested case proceeding March 6, area resident Michael Zimmerman reviews the boundary map of the proposed Vulcan Quarry with Vulcan legal representatives to debate the inclusion of his property as an affected area.

TRACKING THE PROCESS

Nearly two years ago Vulcan Quarry began the steps to be able to set up shop near residential neighborhoods.

JUNE 27, 2017

Vulcan Quarry files a permit with the TCEQ

**JULY 5, 2017–
AUG. 30, 2017**

First public comment period

AUG. 8, 2017

First public meeting

FEB. 27, 2018

Second public meeting

**JAN. 19, 2018–
FEB. 27, 2018**

Second public comment period

SEPT. 9, 2018

TCEQ executive director provides formal written responses to the comments

MARCH 6, 2019

Public meeting—contested case hearing

FALL 2019

SOAH judge will issue a verdict on the permit

SOURCE: TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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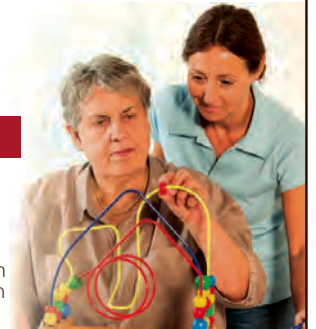
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NBISD criminal justice students to compete in state competition

NEW BRAUNFELS ISD After winning first place at the district competition in February, Liam Domer, a sophomore at New Braunfels High School, will compete at the SkillsUSA state competition in the job interview category.

Five of Domer's teammates also placed at the district competition and will compete at the state level. The competition will take place in Corpus Christi on April 4-7.



Six criminal justice students won first place at their district competition.



A few Comal ISD students who will be among the first to attend the district's High School No. 5 donned hard hats at the official ground breaking ceremony March 4.

Comal ISD's fifth high school is set to open in 2021

COMAL ISD Students, parents, school board members and administrators braved the 28-degree temperature to officially break ground on High School No. 5, located at 810 Kinder Parkway, on March 4.

Comal ISD Superintendent Andrew Kim spoke to event attendees about the impact the new campus will have on the growing district once it opens in August 2021.

The school is located on the land adjacent to Pieper Ranch Middle School. It was funded through a \$263.5 million Comal ISD bond initiative that was passed by voters in 2017. Of that, \$123.8 million will go toward the

2,500-student capacity high school.

Hosted by architect Pfluger Associates LP and contractor Bartlett Cocke General Contractors, students, parents, school board trustees, district employees and community members attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

A small group of PRMS students who will be among the first to attend the district's newest school wore hard hats and picked up gold shovels to participate in the groundbreaking event. They were joined by PTA representatives.

Comal ISD board of trustees members were also in attendance.

San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame inducts NBISD's Jim Streety

NEW BRAUNFELS ISD Athletic Director Jim Streety was inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame during a reception and dinner March 9 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

Streety joins other 2019 inductees Bruce Collie, a former NFL player; Malik Rose, a former San Antonio Spurs player; and Dr. David R. Schmidt, an orthopedic surgeon and team physician for the San Antonio Spurs.

In 2014, Streety assumed the position of NBISD athletic director. With 343 career wins as a football coach, he currently ranks No. 5 in Texas high school football. During his 40-year career, he coached two teams—New Braunfels High School and Madison High School. His teams made the playoffs 26 times, with seven of those teams making it to the state semifinals.



Jim Streety

Eighth-grader Jenna Wenzel wins second annual Comal Speaks competition

COMAL ISD Thirteen middle school students showcased their speaking skills Feb. 22 as they competed in Comal ISD's second annual Comal Speaks contest.

Jenna Wenzel, an eighth-grader at Church Hill Middle School, was named the district champion of the competition for her confidence, voice and speaking skills.

The students representing each of the district's seven middle schools competed for the championship title at the district's headquarters.

The competitors were each given a topic related to character traits, consisting of responsibility, respect, judgment, honesty, integrity, courtesy, confidence, teamwork, empathy and perseverance. The students were given

three minutes to prepare their responses and three minutes to present their speeches to three judges.

Wenzel said perseverance was the trait she feels is hardest to manage, providing a personal example.

"It is sometimes hard to convince yourself to keep going," Wenzel said, adding that she showed her own perseverance by attending the day's competition although she was not feeling well.



Jenna Wenzel

MEETINGS

Comal ISD Meets April 25 and May 14 at 6 p.m. • CISD District Office, 1404 N. I-35, New Braunfels • 830-221-2000 www.comalisd.org

New Braunfels ISD Meets April 15 and May 20 at 6 p.m. • NBISD Education Center, 430 W. Mill St., New Braunfels 830-643-5705 • www.nbisd.org

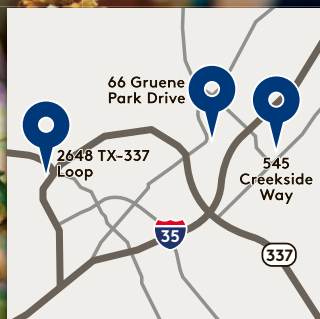
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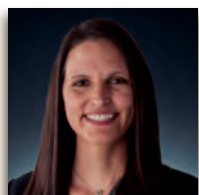
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City recreation center now offers book kiosk to serve New Braunfels Public Library cardholders

NEW BRAUNFELS In a March 15 news release, the city of New Braunfels announced the implementation of a book kiosk at Das Rec, located at 345 Landa St., New Braunfels.

The kiosk comes as a gift from the New Braunfels Public Library Foundation. It is a vending machine that may be accessed by library card holders.

"It would be difficult to overstate how well-received Das Rec has been in the New Braunfels community," Library Director Gretchen Pruett said. "It was the ideal location for the library's book kiosk, and it will enhance the experiences of both library and Das Rec patrons. We cannot thank the foundation enough for supporting this vision."

Items from the kiosk are available for standard library loan periods—three weeks for books and audio-books and one week for DVDs.

The foundation is a nonprofit



Visitors of Das Rec are now able to access library resources on site.

whose mission is to secure private funding to meet the library's needs for program development and improvement of services and facilities that are not normally met by public funding.

City seeks to erect 2 gateway monument signs along highway

NEW BRAUNFELS In preparation for the city's 175th anniversary in 2020, the city hopes to install two gateway monument signs along I-35.

Stephen Hanz, a member of the New Braunfels Chamber committee that is steering the 175th anniversary celebration, presented the designs to City Council on March 25. The council approved the design of the signs. The structures also require approval from the Texas Department of Transportation because they will be located within the state's right of way along I-35.



This rendering shows the nighttime view of two planned city gateway signs.

New Braunfels edition • April 2019

Data: County benefits from bond, house arrest

COMAL COUNTY On April 21, Allison Saylor of the county's adult probation division provided data to the Comal County Commissioners Court on showing county savings that resulted from inmates being released on bond or house arrest. She shared between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018, 66 defendants were released by district and county court-at-law judges.

MEASURABLE BENEFITS

The data reflects the financial impacts of bond and house arrest cases between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018.

1,549

Days of jail time eliminated

\$117,724

Total county savings

19

Defendants sentenced to house arrest

\$1,180

Court fees collected



Citizens push for weed mat removal in Lake Dunlap

NEW BRAUNFELS Citizens at the March 25 New Braunfels City Council meeting advocated for the removal of weed mats from Lake Dunlap. The mats are made up of the accumulation of aquatic vegetation.

While the lake is not located in the city limits, Charles Irvine, an environmental lawyer representing the Preserve Lake Dunlap Association, said the city has a responsibility to remove the mats.

"We come to you in a spirit of cooperation and

a spirit of coordination," Irvine said. "We've been in discussions with staff and the city attorney to try and figure out what is the way that we can try to move past this."

Dr. Thom Hardy, chief science officer at the Texas State University's Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, analyzed where the mats are coming from. His findings concluded a majority of them originate in Landa Lake before making their way down the Comal River before spilling into Lake Dunlap.

Irvine and the PLDA said the mats accumulate litter as they float downstream, posing health and safety risks.

"Maybe we can reconvene in the fall and see where we end up," Irvine said. "... We're not about to file any lawsuits right now; I mean this is not where we are. We want to work with the city and find a solution to this problem."

The Meadows Center will cover the costs and logistics of conducting the first test run of weed mat removal this summer.

City passes ordinance banning electric scooters

NEW BRAUNFELS At its March 25 meeting, the city approved the final reading of an ordinance prohibiting shared mobility services in New Braunfels, including motor-assisted scooters and electric bikes.

The permanence of the regulations

will depend on ongoing safety studies and the development of future infrastructure in the city, officials said.

Council Member Shane Hines cast the one dissenting vote, citing that there is not yet enough information surrounding the issue.

NUMBER TO KNOW

5

The Comal County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the acceptance of five German shepherd puppies that were donated by Dr. James Rierson, a veterinarian at Creek View Veterinary Clinic in New Braunfels. The dogs are named Gunner, Bandit, Big Tex, Joker and Ranger. They will be used in the Comal County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit.

QUOTE OF NOTE

"WE'RE GOING TO DO THE [CENSUS] DIFFERENTLY NEXT YEAR. WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO IT ONLINE, OVER THE PHONE OR YOU CAN STILL DO THE PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE, BUT YOU HAVE TO REQUEST IT NOW."

— RICHARD CASTANON, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

COMAL COUNTY Those interested in attending Commissioners Court meetings will no longer have to make their way to the Comal County courthouse. At the March 21 regular meeting, County Clerk Bobbie Koepp announced video streaming will be implemented for the court meetings in coming weeks.

COMAL COUNTY The Comal County Commissioners Court held a workshop March 28 to consider implementing a new voting system that will allow all county residents the flexibility to vote at any polling location. The change will require approval from the Commissioners Court as well as the secretary of state. If the initiative passes through the proper channels, voters will have the choice of casting ballots at 25 locations.

MEETINGS

New Braunfels City Council Meets second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. • 550 Landa St., New Braunfels • 830-221-4000 www.nbtexas.org

Comal County Commissioners Court Meets Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. 100 Main Plaza, New Braunfels 830-221-1100 • www.co.comal.tx.us

Guadalupe County Commissioners Court Meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. 101 E. Court St., Seguin • 830-303-8869 www.co.guadalupe.us



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★ IMPORTANT DATES

First day of early voting: **April 22**

Last day to apply for ballot by mail: **April 23**

Last day of early voting: **April 30**

Election day: **May 4**

COMPILED BY **RACHEL NELSON**



Ballot and Polling LOCATIONS

Registered voters in New Braunfels can cast their ballots at the Comal County Election Center during early voting. Election day locations are organized by precinct.

Elections

City of New Braunfels

District 2

Justin Meadows, incumbent

Bryan Mortenson

Krystal Bolden

New Braunfels ISD

Member at large candidates

Wes Clark, incumbent

David Heefner, incumbent

Michael Trevino

New Braunfels ISD has two at large seats, and the top two contenders will fill them.

Early voting locations

1 Comal County Election Center

396 N. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels

Early voting hours

April 22-23, 25-26, 30: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 24 and 29: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

April 27: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Election day locations

2 District 1: Westside Community Center

2932 S. I-35, New Braunfels

3 District 2: New Braunfels First Church of the Nazarene

210 W. Klein Road, New Braunfels

4 District 3: Seele Elementary

540 Howard St., New Braunfels

5 District 4: Faith United Church of Christ

970 N. Loop 337, New Braunfels

6 District 5: Lamar Elementary

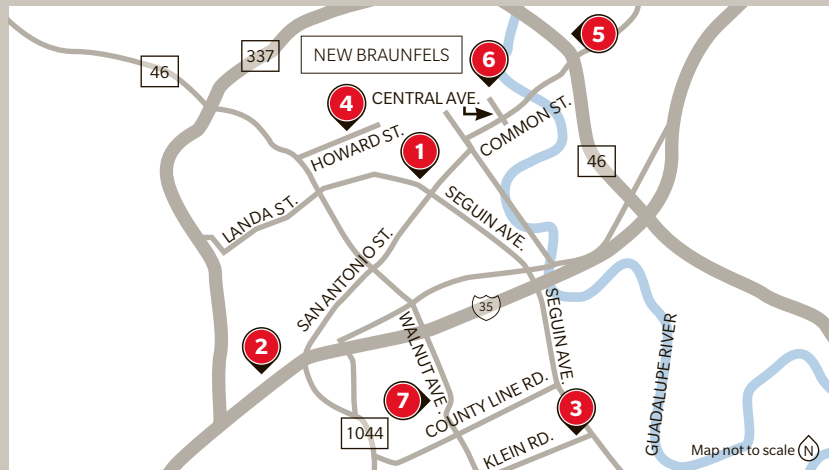
240 N. Central Ave., New Braunfels

7 District 6: Walnut Springs Elementary

1900 S. Walnut Ave., New Braunfels

Election day hours

May 4: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



SOURCES: CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, COMAL COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

2019 BOND ELECTION

Projects for the \$120 million city bond package are listed below. An additional \$3 million would go toward preliminary engineering reports.

Proposition 1—streets: \$44.51M*

Goodwin/Conrads Lane reconstruction: \$21.4M

Klein Road reconstruction, Phase 2: \$13M

Citywide streets improvements: \$15M

Additional streets funding: \$3.11M

*\$8 million of funding would be contributed

SOURCE: CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

from roadway impact fees.

Proposition 2—parks and recreation: \$16.55M**

Comal Cemetery wall stabilization: \$5.26M

Sports field complex construction, Phase 1: \$25.78M

All-abilities park enhancements: \$500,000

**\$15M would be contributed from the New Braunfels Economic Development Corp.

Proposition 3—public safety: \$50.42M

Fire Station No. 3 replacement: \$6.74M

Police department facility: \$36.31M

Fire Station No. 2 replacement: \$7.37M

Proposition 4—library: \$5.53M

New library: \$5.53M

Voter ID REQUIRED

Texas voters are required to present one of seven specific forms of photo identification before they may cast their ballots. Voters must present one of the following forms of ID to vote:

*ISSUED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SOURCE: SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE'S WEBSITE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



Texas driver's license*



Texas Election Identification Certificate*



Texas personal ID card



Texas License To Carry a handgun



U.S. citizenship certificate with photo



U.S. military ID card with photo



U.S. passport

Voters who cannot obtain one of the seven acceptable forms of photo ID due to a reasonable impediment may present a supporting form of identification and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

Supporting forms of ID that can be presented for voters with a reasonable impediment are:

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Original certified birth certificate
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with voter's name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

For additional information regarding voter ID laws, go to the Secretary of State Office's website, www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/need-id.html.

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Changes to the non-drought watering schedule take effect **June 1, 2019.**

Knowing the new watering guidelines is what matters.

A change to the Code of Ordinances will allow New Braunfels Utilities Customers to water **TWO DAYS PER WEEK** during non-drought, rather than any day of the week. Watering methods and times will remain the same. The new watering schedule is based on the last digit of your address:

LAST DIGIT	WATERING DAYS
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1, 3, 5, 7, or 9	Tuesday/Friday
No Address	Monday/Friday



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Dancing Bear

Historic business offers eclectic mix of goods

The building that now houses the Dancing Bear was built in the early 1900s as a wedding gift for H.D. Gruene's daughter. Gruene is the son of the site's original settlers.

Now owned by Oscar Dueñas and Beth Fuselier, Dancing Bear has an eclectic mix of home goods, jewelry and accessories. The pair brings together new and innovative finds from various independent artists and designers.

"We always look for local people when we [source for merchandise] instead of finding things that are more corporate," Dueñas said.

Dueñas and Fuselier purchased Dancing Bear in 2008 after running Gruene Gardens—in the backyard of Dancing Bear—for two years prior. Before purchasing the Gardens, they each worked in the corporate world, and they said they had never given much thought to owning their own business.

From their previous jobs, Dueñas had experience with pottery, and Fuselier was familiar with plants and florals, so he said Gruene Gardens was an easy purchasing decision. Once

they started running that business, they fell in love with Gruene and took the opportunity to own another piece of the town.

Dancing Bear was once called Ella's Emporium, named after Gruene's daughter. Each room of the emporium was privately owned by one of seven women, which gave the store a unique variation of goods and products. As the emporium changed ownership through the years, Dueñas and Fuselier said it has always kept that same eclectic feel as one walks through the various rooms.

"We want to create an experience and a destination spot for customers. ... As you walk through the store, you'll notice that everything is different [in each room], even the music. We want to touch the five senses," Dueñas said.

In June 2014, Dueñas and Fuselier had the opportunity to open more shops in New Braunfels, this time inside Resolute Health Hospital.

Their stores, both Treehouse Gifts downstairs and The Nest in labor and delivery, still carry the unique finds Dancing Bear is known for.



1. The first business Oscar Dueñas and Beth Fuselier acquired was Gruene Gardens, which is in Dancing Bear's backyard. Dancing Bear carries a mix of items, including home goods, jewelry and accessories. 2. Fuselier and Dueñas like that their store appeals to all five senses. This room in particular aims to appeal to a customer's sense of smell. The scent chips at Dancing Bear (seen in the lower left corner of the photo) are made nearby in San Antonio. 3. Fuselier and Dueñas said they enjoy owning a business in the Gruene Historic District because they get to meet so many new people and learn about different cultures.

Dancing Bear

1632 Hunter Road, New Braunfels
830-629-2059

Mon.-Wed. 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Thu. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. and Sun. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-7:30 a.m.



One of Gruene's oldest structures

The building was constructed in the early 1900s.



H.D. Gruene gifted the structure to his daughter, Ella.



The business was once named

ELLA'S EMPORIUM

Oscar Dueñas and Beth Fuselier purchased the property in 2008 and opened Dancing Bear.



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THREE THINGS TO TRY



The wasabi-seared tuna is a popular non-steak menu item (\$17.95).



Guests can enjoy the colorful caprese salad as a meal or add it on to another dish (\$12.95).



The wine menu is longer than the steak menu, and the waitstaff is well-versed in its offerings.

Myron's Steakhouse

136 N. Castell Ave., New Braunfels

830-624-1024

www.myronsprime.com

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 5-9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5-10:30 p.m.
The bar opens at 4 p.m.



A fine dining atmosphere

Guests who walk into Myron's Prime Steakhouse in downtown New Braunfels will notice an upscale, dimly lit environment. Steve Francoviak, who manages the restaurant with his wife, said it is not uncommon for customers to visit from out of town.

Myron's Prime Steakhouse

Former theater now houses upscale downtown restaurant

BY **CHELSEA BAGLEY**

Steve Francoviak and his wife, Jenny, met at Myron's Prime Steakhouse 16 years ago. Jenny's family had just opened the restaurant, and Steve was hired as the bartender.

Today, Steve and Jenny manage the restaurant together, and Steve said they love every minute of it.

The building began as a movie theater called the Palace Theatre in downtown New Braunfels in 1924. When the Brauntex and Seekatz Opera House became more popular, the Palace Theatre closed and became a cafe in 1932.

Jenny's father, Myron "Bill" Been, opened a steakhouse at the location in 2003.

Been had worked at multiple steakhouses since college and moved from Dallas to San Antonio to manage a restaurant there. Once he was living in the San Antonio area, it was not long before he found New Braunfels and fell in love with the city.

Been knew he wanted to open his own steakhouse eventually, and he had discussed plans with friends

and colleagues for years prior. He considered many different locations, including in New Braunfels and San Antonio, but when the opportunity came to open the restaurant in downtown New Braunfels, Been went for it.

Steve said people would often drive from out of town just to eat at Myron's, so they decided to open a second location in San Antonio in August 2011.

The couple said they attribute the restaurant's success to a family atmosphere and amazing customer service.

"We'll go out of our way to make things right," Steve said. "We've always stayed by that."

The restaurant has special events throughout the year, including a spirits dinner on the second or third Thursday of the month and a wine dinner on the last Thursday of the month. The restaurant also offers regular daily specials, usually consisting of a soup du jour, a chef-selected fish entree and a steak that is not regularly offered on the menu.

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MOMENTS in time

The Gruene Historic District has seen highs and lows through the years. Here are some highlights of how the area has evolved.

1830

1840

1850

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

2000

2010

1845

Ernst Gruene immigrated to Texas from Germany, settling in the area that was then called Goodwin. He and his wife planted cotton, and other families came to sharecrop the land. A dance hall was built that served as a social center.



1922-29

In 1922, the town cotton gin burned down. The stock market crashed in 1929, and a boll weevil infestation destroyed the cotton crops.



1929-70

Gruene becomes a ghost town, with the exception of Gruene Hall, which still operated as a bar and dance hall.



1975

Pat Molak saw an ad in Texas Monthly magazine advertising businesses for sale in the area. Molak was in the market for a saloon and dance hall and ultimately purchased many of the buildings in Gruene.



TODAY

The Gruene Historic District serves as a tourist attraction as well as a local hot spot. The unique businesses are an economic generator for the city of New Braunfels.



SOURCE: GRUENE HISTORIC DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

boiler room, which is the three-story part of the Gristmill [restaurant] now," Kinman said.

Seven years later, in 1929, Gruene was not immune to the stock market crash. To make matters more dire, an infestation of boll weevils destroyed the cotton crop.

"Everything just kind of went downhill from there," Kinman said. "... It was a ghost town except for [Gruene Hall] until the 1970s," which has been the only establishment to survive Gruene's ups and downs.

Today, Gruene Hall is Texas' oldest continually operating dance hall, Kinman said.

"No matter what you're doing, you always need a drink," Kinman said.

A RESURGENCE

In the 1970s, a kayaking trip by a University of Texas architecture student sparked a vision that helped bring Gruene back to life.

"[Chuck Kaufman] was kayaking down the Guadalupe River and thought he would just come up and check it out," Kinman said. "He just found all these buildings up here and fell in love with them. He was kind of the one who started getting this area on the national register."

While there were talks of tearing the historic structures down to build condos, Kaufman began cataloging the buildings, taking photos and making steps to historically protect them.

The effort to preserve Gruene continued in 1975 when stockbroker Pat Molak was looking to change his career path. He saw an ad in Texas Monthly advertising businesses for sale in the area. Specifically, Molak had been in the market for a bar, saloon and dance hall.

"He came and checked out the buildings, and they actually walked in the front door here [in Gruene Hall], and there were some people up there drinking some beer, and he had to use the restroom. He saw [the back of the building] and had to have it," Kinman said.

Largely attributable to Kaufman and Molak's efforts, the Gruene Historic District was officially adopted into the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

"When they get those designations it helps them bring in heritage tourists, which, of course, helps them bring in more dollars to benefit the community," said Leah Brown, media relations coordinator for the Texas Historical Commission.

According to Brown, a district must

be at least 50 years old to qualify for the national designation. It must also undergo an evaluation to determine the significance of a district in a given period.

"[Historic districts] like Gruene are important because they preserve the historical fabric of different communities that played an important part in what Texas is and how Texas became the state that it is today," Brown said. "National districts are particularly interesting because they tell a more cohesive story."

Although Kaufman had a passion for Gruene, Kinman said he fell on hard times at one point and almost sold Gruene's most iconic feature—the water tower. He owned the building where the Gristmill restaurant operates today as well as the tower.

"He had a crane [attached to the water tower] and was going to sell it," Kinman said, adding that he was stopped in the act. "If you look, there is still a dent where the crane was attached."

MODERN-DAY GRUENE

King remembers an empty pasture where the Gruene River Village shopping center sits today. Although not part of the Gruene Historic District, new businesses along Gruene Road are beginning to move toward it.

"There's just so much growth in this area. There is nothing we can do to stop it, and I don't know if we would want to if we could," Kinman said. "I don't think it's affected us too much. We're just kind of our own little town. We're happy for it. We're glad they're coming."

King said she has heard Gruene's unofficial motto is "Gently resisting change since 1872." However, even with the historic structures still intact, Gruene continues to evolve.

"We're always just trying to enhance this and make things better with our businesses and events and offer different kinds of food," King said, adding that the strawberry cake at Mozie's is "the best dessert in the world."

New Braunfels resident Coy Miller said he is also a frequenter of Mozie's. He has lived in New Braunfels for 10 years and said he visits Gruene a few times a month.

"The best part would probably be Gruene Hall, the venue," He said. "There are so many random people coming around playing, and there's a couple good spots to eat over there, too."

Although many of the live music events in Gruene are free to the public,

CONTINUED FROM 1

back in time once you step over [into] that historic district, it feels like. It's never changed."

According to Crystal Kinman, marketing manager for the Molak Corp., Ernst Gruene immigrated to what is now known as Gruene in 1845. He and his wife planted 9,000 acres of cotton and started a family. A sharecropping opportunity drew 20-30 families who helped work the land.

The early days consisted of a mercantile, bank and post office. A dance hall—now operating as Gruene Hall—was built to serve as a social center.

"So it was pretty much a little town, you know?" Kinman said.

DEVASTATION STRIKES

The 1920s threatened to end Gruene's heyday for good. In 1922, the cotton gin burned down.

"All that's remaining is the brick

Miller said he has gladly purchased tickets to see acts such as Ryan Bingham, Charley Crockett and Tyler Childers.

"I could go back for years," he said. While some of the businesses in Gruene are decades strong, such as Mozie's and Gruene River Outfitters, others continue to make a home in Gruene. Gruene Hat Co., which opened in the Mercantile Building at 1601 Hunter Road in March, is the most recent establishment to emerge. The business sells name-brand cowboy hats.

"We think it's a perfect fit and kind of want to be a nice component or missing link there, if you will, to Texas heritage," owner Cody Courtney said.

"Our whole goal is to enhance the Gruene, Texas, experience."

Courtney said he felt validated with his business venture when the first customer was a tourist from Germany who wanted to immerse himself in the Texas culture.

"Life's better with a hat on," Courtney said.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

Many free happenings, such as the Holidays in Gruene series and a monthly Market Days event, create a sense of community, King said.

"It's still a place for people to gather—for people to bring their friends and family and really enjoy being together," King said.

Although it has been revived from the stagnant place it was 40 years ago, King said those who visit Gruene today are able to slow down and remember a time of less hustle and bustle. Screened windows welcome a breeze into Gruene Hall where ceiling fans take the place of air conditioners, and only cash is accepted at the bar.

"People over 100 years ago would gather to eat, drink and dance the night away, and people still are, in the very same buildings, even today," King said.

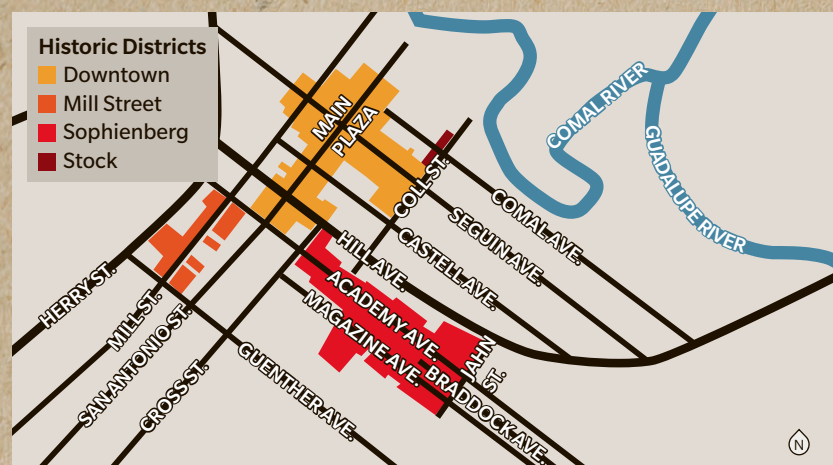
While Gruene is largely touted as a tourist's community, Miller views it as a place for locals to enjoy year-round. He said he takes friends and family to enjoy Gruene when the opportunity presents.

"I patronize that area when it's not so much tourist season," Miller said. "When tourists are in town, it just gets so crowded that I don't go quite as much, but it's a cool spot to be seen by all."

For more information visit communityimpact.com.

Small-town ROOTS

While Gruene is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the city of New Braunfels has designated four local historic districts in the community.



Downtown Historic District

After experiencing a slump in the 1980s, the heart of New Braunfels has seen a revitalization effort in recent years that has given the area new life.



Mill Street Historic District

New Braunfels ISD is headquartered in this district. Many historic homes are located in the area, which is also marked by mature trees.



Sophienberg Historic District

The Sophienberg Historic District is home to the Sophienberg Museum and Archives, which houses many artifacts that tell the story of New Braunfels' roots.



Stock Historic District

The Carl Stock House is the epicenter of this district. It is named for German immigrant Carl Stock. He and his family died in 1847's cholera epidemic.

SOURCE: CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



Along the beaten path

Clear Springs lies to the east of New Braunfels on Hwy. 46.

The staple structure in Clear Springs is Clear Springs Restaurant, and a lakeside neighborhood sits behind it. Although Clear Springs is not a city or national historic area, the restaurant—formerly a saloon and dance hall—is a designated state historic site that dates back to the 1800s.

"You walk in the doors and you get that old-timey feel, especially with the antiques and everything on the walls," said Clear Springs Manager Harry Kelly, who has worked at the restaurant for 28 years.

SOURCE: HARRY KELLY, CLEAR SPRINGS RESTAURANT

PHOTOS BY RACHEL NELSON/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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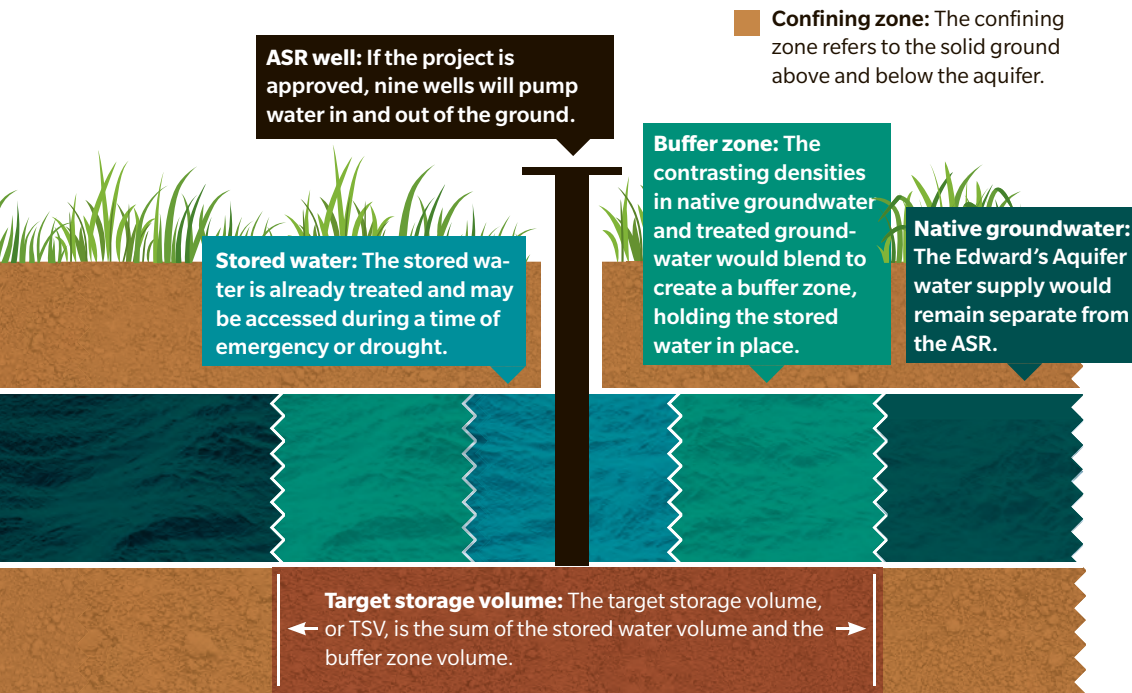
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Aquifer storage and RECOVERY SYSTEM

New Braunfels Utilities is working on a un underground water storage project. Here is how the system would work.



SOURCE: NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

CONTINUED FROM 1

has been working closely with NBU on the feasibility and logistics of the ASR.

The \$23 million project is part of NBU's 5-year financial operating plan and would be funded by revenue.

STATE APPROVAL

According to NBU CEO Ian Taylor, the entity hopes to pump a mixture of water from its five blended ground and surface water sources to use in the ASR, but the initiative would need to receive the go-ahead from the Texas Legislature in order to move forward.

Mark Friberg, executive director of external and regulatory affairs for the Edwards Aquifer Authority, said the

clearance is needed because current regulations prohibit injecting outside sources of water into the aquifer.

NBU's ASR system would be the first to be located in the Edwards Aquifer, while there are three ASRs currently operating in other aquifers across Texas.

Currently, NBU and the EAA are working together through an interlocal cooperative contract for the development and use of an ASR.

"We have an agreement that lays out all the things they need to do from a monitoring standpoint to make sure there are no negative impacts on the Edwards [Aquifer] or the spring system," Friberg said.

NBU Chief Operating Officer

Ryan Kelso said the utility provider will monitor the area to ensure the integrity of the aquifer is not compromised. The oversight will be completed by drilling monitor wells that will be positioned between the ASR site and the freshwater springs.

"So if we start to see any communication into that monitor, well, that would be an indication that [water is] moving. We would have to alter operations," Kelso said.

Taylor said preserving the aquifer's integrity will continue to be a top priority and stressed that NBU would not incorporate treated reusable water or wastewater into the ASR.

"Ultimately, this ASR project is designed to make our water supply resilient, and

that water supply includes the Edwards Aquifer, so we don't want to do anything with an ASR project that may harm the aquifer we try to protect," Taylor said.

MOVING FORWARD

The NBU and the EAA hope to see two ASR bills pass during the 2019 legislative session that will allow for the EAA to alter its regulations and allow for NBU's project.

The Texas House Natural Resources Committee that oversees water policy convened March 26 to hear testimony supporting House Bill 481. Senate Bill 520, which is sponsored by state Senator Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, and co-sponsored by state Senator Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, passed through a senate committee the following week.

State Rep. John Kuempel, R-Seguin, filed HB 481.

"It's important," he said to the committee. "It allows NBU to more efficiently manage its treated surface water and groundwater by storing excess drinking water when it is available."

Kelso said the bills will next move to the House and Senate floor before potentially receiving final approval from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

"I don't know if and when they may actually act on the bills," Kelso said. "We're pretty confident they're going to vote on it here pretty soon, but you never know."

State Rep. Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, the House committee chairperson, expressed a

positive outlook on the emergence of more ASR systems in Texas, namely the New Braunfels project and another that is being pursued in Buda.

"It's encouraging to see the technology, and it's starting to proliferate across the state because of evaporation, and people want to hold their drinking water," Larson said.

HOW IT WORKS

The area where the water would be stored is referred to as the brackish portion of the aquifer where high salt levels become prevalent.

Blumberg said the contrasting densities between the brackish and fresh water would allow for a barrier, creating a bubble that would hold pre-treated water.

"One of the real benefits to ASR is the fact that you're able to develop these projects in measured steps based on previous work leading up to what you're about to do," Blumberg said. "You're taking these kind of stairstep decision points based on success at other decision points."

NBU's planned ASR project would hold 14,000 acre-feet of water. For perspective, Kelso said to imagine 1 acre of land covered in water that is 1 foot deep.

Once implemented, 7,000 acre-feet of water would blend into a mixing zone of clean

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More about the ASR

New Braunfels Utilities' ASR would hold **14,000** acre-feet of water.



7,000 acre-feet will be accessible when needed

7,000 acre-feet of the water will be used as a buffer zone



NBU hopes to implement **9 wells** for the ASR



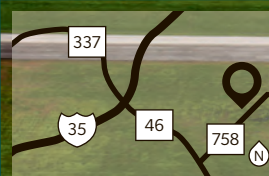
1 well =

100 gallons pumped per minute

There are **3 operating** ASR systems in Texas

SOURCE: NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Here are some fast facts about the local ASR. When an acre-foot of water is referred to, imagine an acre of land with water on top of it that is 1 foot deep. Because the ASR system would be located beneath the city-owned New Braunfels Regional Airport, the supply will be secure from others tapping into it.



and brackish water, while the remaining pretreated half would be accessible when needed.

The numbers, Taylor said, were modeled after the amount of water that would be needed during a repeat of the drought of record, which occurred in the 1950s.

According to Taylor, the approach is more economical than other areas that have stored water and treated it post-extraction through expensive water desalinization plants.

"So we chose the option behind curtain No. 2, which is to leave half [of the water] in the ground," Taylor said.

THE LOCATION

Through the feasibility study process, Arcadis was led to what it believes to be an ideal location for the ASR that rests below the New Braunfels

"ULTIMATELY, THIS ASR PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE OUR WATER SUPPLY RESILIENT, AND THAT WATER SUPPLY INCLUDES THE EDWARDS AQUIFER, SO WE DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING WITH AN ASR PROJECT THAT MAY HARM THE AQUIFER WE TRY TO PROTECT."

— IAN TAYLOR, CEO OF NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES

Regional Airport.

According to Taylor, the location is beneficial because it would secure the supply.

"The airport will protect us from people drilling in and taking our water," Taylor said. "... We worked closely with the city of New Braunfels, which included a trip up to Fort Worth to visit with the Federal Aviation Administration to figure out how we can develop

this non-aviation use for the regional airport."

GARNERING SUPPORT

In addition to support from the EAA, local municipalities have voiced their approval as well.

During March, the ASR project received formal resolutions of support from Comal and Guadalupe county commissioners as well as the city of New Braunfels. The Comal-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District also gave its blessing, and Taylor said NBU received a \$250,000 grant from the Texas Water and Development Board to go toward the project. If HB 481 and SB 520 are signed into law, NBU said it is ready to begin drilling wells.

"So we're at that point," Taylor told the House committee. "We're at that point in the project where we're ready to go forward."

Friberg said the educational opportunities that will result from the project could pave the way for others to implement ASR systems in the Edwards Aquifer.

"It's also an opportunity for us to learn more about the saline zone of the Edwards [Aquifer]," Friberg said. "We feel like this is a good project that would be beneficial to the region and Edwards [Aquifer] so we can learn more about the aquifer. It may be [of value] to future projects depending on what we learn."

If the bills are signed into law, there could be potential for NBU to expand its ASR project.

"So there's the genesis of an ASR right there," Larson said. "So you've got nine injection wells; You're going to have to protect all the land. ... The city of New Braunfels has an airport, so they're storing it under the airport."

"If you want to grow it, you need to lease the property next to you, or you can have a city ordinance that restrict any wells that would come in and harvest water that you're storing, so [the project] could grow if the area is conducive to it."



For more information visit communityimpact.com.

ADVOCATING AT THE CAPITOL

New Braunfels Utilities CEO Ian Taylor (far left) sits next to NBU Chief Operating Officer Ryan Kelso at a state House committee meeting March 26 where the ASR legislation was discussed.



RACHEL NELSON/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

MEET THE ENGINEER

Fred Blumberg has helped develop aquifer storage and recovery systems around the world.

- Blumberg is part of Arcadis Design & Consultancy team, which is working to develop an ASR program for NBU. He has more than 45 years of experience in the planning, development and operation of water, wastewater, hydroelectric and reservoir facilities.

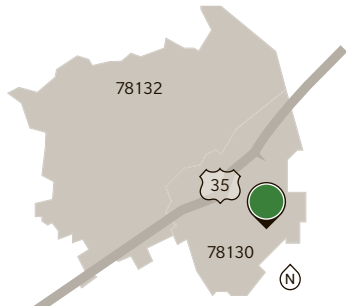
- In the past, Blumberg served as the deputy general manager and chief operating officer of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority of Texas. His work has contributed to aquifer storage and recovery systems, municipal and industrial water supply planning, watershed master planning, water rights consulting, and dam safety and operations.

SOURCE: FRED BLUMBERG/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



AVERY PARK, 78130

Avery Park, located east of I-35 on Hwy. 46 in New Braunfels, has reached capacity and is moving into its next phase. Dirt is moving on another section of the development that will put dozens of new homes on the market as early as this summer. The development's sole builder, D.R. Horton, says Avery Park offers affordable homes with a countryside feel and the convenience of the city.



Current units
853

Development will have
938
lots at full build-out

New homes coming in Summer 2019
85

Current occupancy
100%

Builder
1

Build-out year: 2019
Builders include: D.R. Horton
Square footage: 1,300-2,500
Home values: \$210,000-\$275,000
HOA dues (estimated): \$115/quarter
Amenities: Avery Park features a pool and neighborhood park. The area is served by Comal ISD, and Clear Spring Elementary School is located inside the development.
Schools: Clear Springs Elementary School, Canyon Middle School, Canyon High School
Property taxes (in dollars):

City of New Braunfels	0.3579
Comal ISD	0.139
Guadalupe County	0.3819
Total (per \$100 valuation)	0.8788

A LOOK INSIDE



A desirable location

Avery Park is located in Guadalupe County near the edge of the New Braunfels city limits. With Clear Springs Elementary School located within the development, it is served by Comal ISD.



A wide variety

D.R. Horton, Avery Park's sole developer, caters to various clients by offering multiple floor plans for buyers to choose from.



Live and play

A children's playscape is part of the development's neighborhood park. It is located in close proximity to the swimming pool and recreation center.



Beat the heat

Residents may cool off in a large, gated community swimming pool that includes a splash pad area.

*As of 3/30/19

Neighborhood data provided by Avery Park.

The Grove at Vintage Oaks
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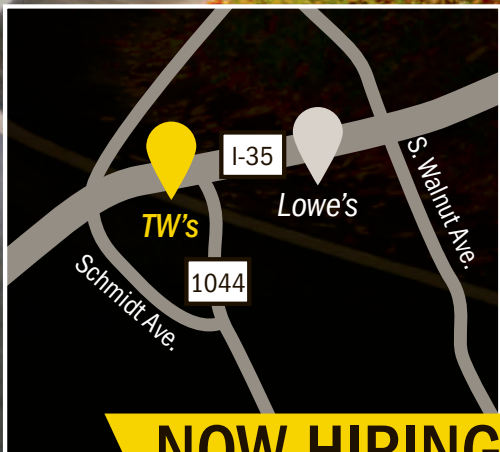
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Los Gallos Taco House.....	30
Riley's Tavern.....	28
San Marcos BBQ	29
Stout's Pizza	30
The Gruene Olive Tasting Room	29
Thundercloud Subs	28

HOME & GARDEN

Alla Prima Art Studio.....	30
Cardinal frame & Art	30

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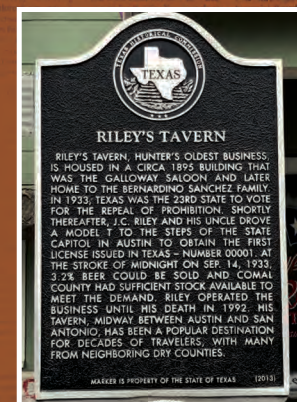
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