



# The Commissioner's Correspondence

News from the office of  
Jen Crownover,  
Comal County  
Commissioner Pct 4

VOL4, ISSUE 2: FALL 2018

## A note from Jen: Rise up and DO Something!



Just over four months ago, one of Canyon Lake's most precious landmarks was abruptly closed to the public after a 50-plus year tradition of citizen access.

The impetus for closing the Dam Access Road to pedestrian use was spurred by an accessibility complaint, but after further examination by the Corps of Engineers, there were other safety and security factors that played into their decision to close down citizen access.

This decision was a painful one, and met by an angry and hurt community grieving the access they once had and took for granted. In a very short amount of time, over 20,000 signatures were collected on a petition to reestablish access.

During the storm, I met with officials from the Corps, GBRA, and WORD. Soon after, the Dam Community Alliance was born. It is an organization that is raising money to help fund the improvements that need to be made in order to restore community access—including rails, a handicapped-accessible gate, and improved parking. We are working very closely with the Corps to get the solution in place as quick as we can. Read more inside!

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Over the past couple of months, you may have noticed some changes in the Animal Control Division of the Comal County Sheriff's Office.

There is a new leader of the department, and contrary to the 'dog catcher' stereotype, Kimberly Glover is fresh and motivated and bringing the department into the present tense with a new approach and new energy—and it shows!

In the past several months, Kim has helped lead an effort to make the entire Animal Control process—from your initial phone call to the officer response to the animal shelter to the courtroom—more seamless, streamlined, and effective. Through the evaluation process, we found several opportunities to improve the system as we serve our residents in areas where animals are involved.

"Now that we've brought together everyone involved, including Sheriff's Office leadership, the JPs, the DA's assigned prosecutor, Humane Society, Commissioners Court, and even members of the City of New Braunfels Animal Control team, we've been able to identify some areas of improvement," Glover said.



*Comal County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Team: Thomas Spry, Patricia Machuca, Zachary Braun, Kimberly Glover and Eric Mehall (l to r)*

*The Animal Control Office is located at 145 David Jonas Drive (New Braunfels) in the same building as JP#1, Constable Pct 1, and the Fire Marshal's office. PHONE: 830.620.3431*

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“Our office has done things the same way for a very long time, and there are some easy tweaks we will be making in the coming months to incorporate better education and technology into our processes, and those things will help the folks further in the chain to do their jobs better, and the whole process of Animal Control will be more effective because of it.”

This same group of folks is also evaluating the county’s Animal Control Order (Order #171 can be found on the county website) to see if there are opportunities to ‘beef it up,’ to better serve our growing population and make things safer for residents.



Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area

## At A Glance:

-  HSNBA handles approximately 4,000 animals per year, mainly dogs & cats.
-  Approximately 35% of dogs & 3% of cats are reclaimed by owners.
-  HSNBA has a staff of 18.
-  All pets adopted from HSNBA leave the shelter spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, & treated for parasites.
-  Adoption fees do not cover all of the costs incurred to care for animals, so the HSNBA relies heavily on donations from the community.
-  HSNBA relies heavily on volunteers, as well as pet foster families.
-  HSNBA is located at 3353 Morningside Dr., New Braunfels, or online at HSNBA.org.

The Comal County Animal Control office fields about 300 calls per month, and serves the entire unincorporated area of the county, as well as Bulverde and Spring Branch through interlocal agreements. Their total service area is 575 square miles.

Not all calls are requests to catch stray animals. The scope of our Animal Control office covers more than that. Our officers also conduct welfare checks of animals (food, shelter, water), they respond to and investigate animal bites, and deal with quarantine situations when necessary. Our officers also address injured or sick animals, and assist deputies and emergency responders when animals are present at various calls.

When animals are contained by Animal Control, they are taken to the Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area, which houses all animals picked up by our officers. Out of the dogs and cats brought to the Humane Society, about 35% of the dogs and only 3% of the cats are reclaimed by owners. The rest must be evaluated and hopefully adopted out.

Another exciting—and relatively new—program offered by Comal County, in partnership with HSNBA and the New Braunfels Cat Coalition is the Trap-Neuter-Return program (TnR). This program spays or neuters and vaccinates cats so they can safely



be returned to their environment without the ability to reproduce. This is a relatively new program for New Braunfels and Comal County, but the goal is to curb the overpopulation problems and spread of illnesses. These cats can easily be identified by their ‘tipped’ left ears.

By employing all of these tools, and making sure all county departments who interact with animal control issues are on the same page and working together, we are actively and meaningfully improving the safety and welfare of residents and animals in our county.

## Flu Shots Available at Public Health Office

Last year more than 7300 cases of influenza were reported in Comal County. This season, there have already been new flu cases reported. The Comal County Office of Public Health is prepared to help citizens avoid the flu.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone over 6 months old receive an annual flu vaccine.

Public Health accepts Medicaid and Community First CHIP for children age 18 and younger, and Blue Cross Blue Shield for all ages.

For information or appointments, call 830-221-1150. Walk-ins are also welcome. The office is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. at 1297 Church Hill Drive, New Braunfels.



**APPLY NOW!**

The 2019 **Comal Master Gardners Class** is accepting applications. The course is weekly and runs from mid-January through early May. Space is limited. Applications are available on the CMG website, <https://txmg.org/comal/> under the Training tab, or for more information, contact Emily Staats at [cmgtraining@gvvc.com](mailto:cmgtraining@gvvc.com).

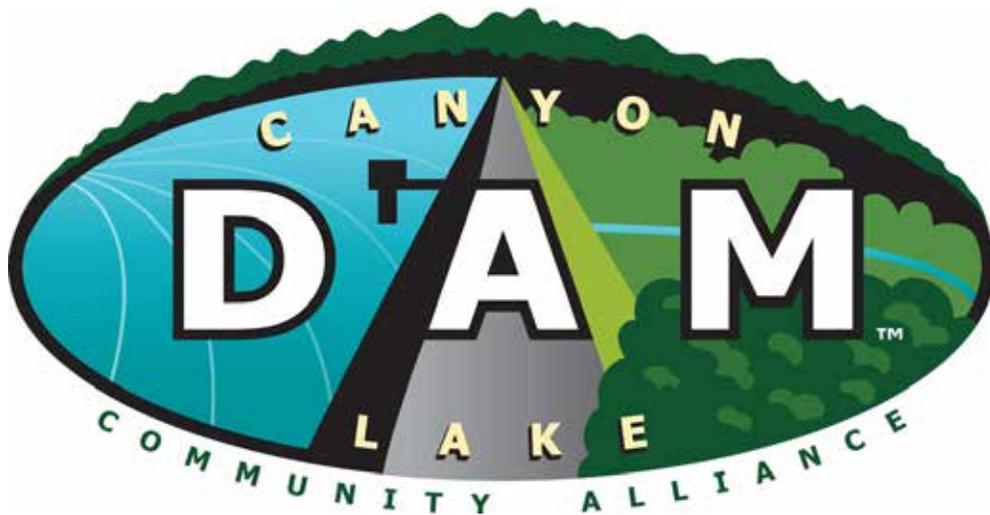
The **University of County Government** is accepting applications. UCG is an annual course offered by Comal County for those who would like to know how county government works. Classes run from March 5-May 7, and take place every Tuesday evening from 6-9 p.m. Applications are available at [ComalCountyTX.com/UCG](http://ComalCountyTX.com/UCG). Space is limited.

Want to learn more about law enforcement in Comal County? **Citizen Sheriff's Academy** will also be kicking off in the spring, but it is not too soon to get on the list. Email [smithsa@co.comal.tx.us](mailto:smithsa@co.comal.tx.us) for more information. Space is limited.

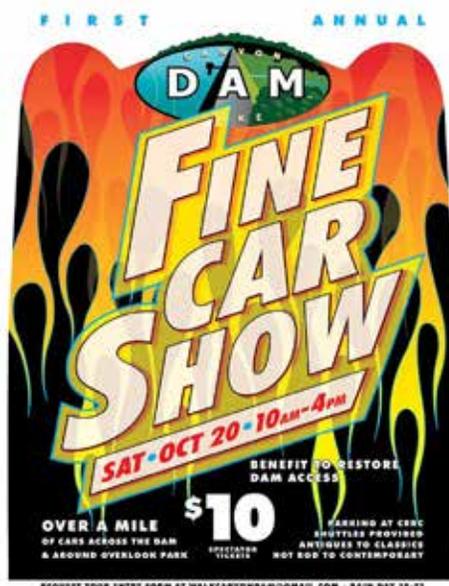
**Citizen Fire Academy** is a great way to learn more about our emergency services in Canyon Lake. If you'd like to sign up, please email Shawna at [Shawna.Bantis@ccesd3.org](mailto:Shawna.Bantis@ccesd3.org) for more details. Space is limited.

There will be a few **Emergency Service District** board openings at the end of this year. If you have interest in serving one of these boards, please email me at [JenCrownover@MyComalCounty.com](mailto:JenCrownover@MyComalCounty.com).

Interested in **Working for Comal County**? All job openings are published on the Human Resources page at [MyComalCounty.com](http://MyComalCounty.com)



*Uniting our community and raising funds to restore and enrich access.*



HOW TO CONTACT THE

**DAM COMMUNITY ALLIANCE:**

[WALKCANYONDAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WALKCANYONDAM@GMAIL.COM)

**FACEBOOK:**

[/DAMCOMMUNITYALLIANCE](https://www.facebook.com/DAMCOMMUNITYALLIANCE)

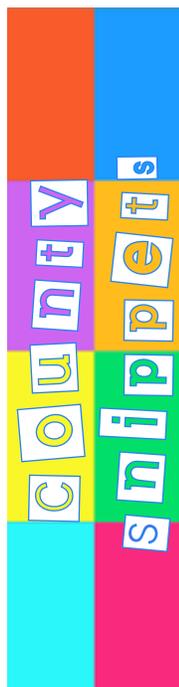
**WEBSITE:**

[DAMCOMMUNITYALLIANCE.COM](http://DAMCOMMUNITYALLIANCE.COM)

*(IN PROGRESS)*

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS:**

[COMALTRAILS.COM](http://COMALTRAILS.COM), CLICK DAM!



*Listed are a few items of public interest that the county has taken action on in the past several weeks:*

- Construction has started on the new Comal County Jail. Parts of the slab and many of the concrete tilt-walls have been poured. Due to the September rains, the project has been delayed some, but it will still open next fall.
- The Landa Building contract for remodeling has been secured, and we are working on the final tweaks to the design. A mock-courtroom has been put together for assessment by affected offices.
- The 2019 budget has been approved by Commissioners Court, and the tax rate has been set.
- Due to the recent rains, the burn ban has been lifted! Burn safely, my friends!
- At long last, the State of Texas issued a permanent injunction against the U.S. Hwy 281 junkyard, just south of BSB Fire Station #2. We should start seeing some action happening very soon—cleaning up the mess!

# General Election Voting Times & Locations

**Early Voting** October 22-November 2, 2018 **Locations**



- Comal County Elections Center, 396 N. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels
- Comal County Goodwin Annex, 1297 Church Hill, New Braunfels
- Comal County Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend, Bulverde
- Mountain Valley Middle School, 1165 Sattler Rd., Sattler
- Emergency Services District #4, 353 Rodeo Dr., Spring Branch
- Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge

Please see [VoteComal.com](http://VoteComal.com) for specific times at each location.

<b>Election Day</b> November 6, 2018 <b>7a.m.-7p.m.</b>	
401	Eden Hill Communities, 631 Lakeview Blvd, New Braunfels
402	Church in the Valley, 14181 FM 306, Canyon Lake
403	North Shore United Methodist Church, 23880 N. Cranes Mill Rd., Canyon Lake
404, 406	Christ Presbyterian Church, 1620 Common St., New Braunfels
405	Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, 11755 Hwy. 281 N., Spring Branch
407	River Chase Clubhouse, 436 River Chase Way, New Braunfels

For other precincts and sample ballots, please see [VoteComal.com](http://VoteComal.com)  
For further information about candidates/etc, please see [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

## Dates of Interest:

- Oct 2 National Night Out!
  - Oct 8 Comal County Tax Office (*all locations*) closed for in-service training
  - Oct 13 9-11:30a.m. Extension Office Kids Day in the Garden! FREE!
  - Oct 9 LAST DAY to register to vote for the November 6 election.
  - Oct 20 Dam Community Alliance: DAM FINE CAR SHOW, 10a.m.-4p.m.  
Email [WalkCanyonDam@gmail.com](mailto:WalkCanyonDam@gmail.com) for more info.
  - Oct 20 National Public Lands Day meet at CRRC Rec Center Pavilion at 8a.m.  
Email [Samuell.H.Price@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samuell.H.Price@usace.army.mil) for more information or to register your group in advance.
  - Oct 22-Nov 2 Early Voting. See locations above.
  - Oct 26 Last day to apply for a Ballot by Mail for Nov 6 Election (received, not postmarked)
  - Nov 6 Election Day! See locations above.
  - Nov 10 9-11a.m. **Extension Office** DIY Saturday: "Wreath Making"
  - Nov 12 County Offices closed for Veterans Day
  - Nov 22-23 County offices closed for Thanksgiving
  - Dec 4 Tax Sale (tentative) Check [ComalCountyTaxOffice.net](http://ComalCountyTaxOffice.net) for more details
  - Dec 24-25 County offices closed for Christmas
  - Jan 1 County offices closed for New Year's Day.
  - Jan 31 Property Taxes Due! (Notices mailed mid-October)
- All DIY Saturday classes are \$15/person. Please call to register in advance: 830.620.3440. Classes take place at the Comal County AgriLife Extension Office, located at 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels (next to the Comal County Recycling Center).*



**Need to get in touch with Jen?**

*It's easy!*

**EMAIL:**

[JenCrownover@MyComalCounty.com](mailto:JenCrownover@MyComalCounty.com)

**PHONE:**

830.221.1104

**WEB:**

[www.co.comal.tx.us/](http://www.co.comal.tx.us/)

[Comal\\_County\\_Precinct\\_4.htm](http://Comal_County_Precinct_4.htm)

**FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ComalCountyPct4)

[ComalCountyPct4](http://ComalCountyPct4)

Also, there is a calendar on my website that features my Canyon Lake and Spring Branch hours. Come see me at either location if it is more convenient!

### Jen's County Hours:

#### Canyon Lake

Fire Station #1

1074 Scissortail

1st & 3rd

Tuesdays

10a.m.-3p.m.

#### Bulverde/ Spring Branch

Fire Station #2

2016 Puter Creek Dr.

2nd & 4th

Tuesdays

10a.m.-3p.m.

### Comal County Recycling Schedule ~ For more information: [co.comal.tx.us/rec.html](http://co.comal.tx.us/rec.html)

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Fridays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>
6:30-11:30 a.m. Spring Branch Fire Station @ U.S. 281/FM 311	6:30-11:30 a.m. Garden Ridge City Hall on FM 3009 AND Canyon Lake Fire Station #2 (Oblate/Startzville)	6:30-11:30 a.m. VFW in Sattler River Road @ FM 2673	6:30-11:30 a.m. Mystic Shores Boat Ramp 22100 N. Cranes Mill Road	6:30-11:30 a.m. Bulverde County Annex 30470 Cougar Bend	8 a.m.-noon Recycling Center 281 Resource Dr.
Also, you can come by the Recycling Center anytime Tuesday-Friday from 7a.m.-noon or 12:30-3 p.m. to drop off recyclables or pick up mulch.					