

Request for Coverage

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Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance to host *Save the Heart of Texas!* A Regional Summit on the Edwards Aquifer and the Hill Country

What: A Press Conference to announce the Save the Heart of Texas Summit - Citizens from throughout the region will be there with signs announcing their issues.

When: Thursday, March 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

Where: *Bulverde Village* – a site now under construction. The devastation is visually dramatic. Bulverde Village is the first phase of the 1,500 acre Indian Springs project.

Here are the directions:

- Go north on US 281 to Evans Road. Evans Road is on your right 2 miles after you cross under the Loop 1604 overpass.
- Turn right onto Evans and go 2.1 miles to Bulverde Road.
- Turn left onto Bulverde Road.
- Go north on Bulverde approximately 1.6 miles to Bulverde Green St. and the entrance to "Bulverde Village" on the right side of the road. You will see a sign for "Bulverde Village, Centex, Pulte, Wilshire Homes" and a red rock tower that is under construction.
- Turn right onto Bulverde Green Street and go about 0.3 miles to the stop sign.
- Turn right onto Bulverde Oak (no street sign) and go to the top of the hill at the end of dead end street.

Texas has been blessed with one of the most pure and abundant natural sources of water to be found anywhere in the world - the Edwards Aquifer. Groups and individuals from across the 21 county Edwards Aquifer Region will be coming together at the Carver Community Cultural Center on Friday March 4th, Saturday, March 5th and Sunday March 6th to discuss how best to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, watersheds and the Hill Country that contributes to this marvelous resource. Citizens from throughout the region are faced with new developments that threaten their water resources. Hill Country communities are being fragmented and transformed by big box stores and parking lots, suburban subdivisions and golf courses. Because of these concerns, groups from throughout the Edwards Region are looking at new ways to develop based on sound science and sustainable economic principles.

All events are free and open to the public and will be held at the Carver Community Cultural Center at 226 N. Hackberry in San Antonio, Texas. A donation of \$10.00 is requested for lunch served during the Saturday and Sunday programs. For further information and to register for the Summit visit www.aquiferalliance.org or call (210) 320-6294 or (512) 389-0215.

On Friday, March 4th, from 1:30 until 5:00 GEAA will offer workshops designed to provide citizen activists with the tools they need to mount a successful campaign. Workshops in Campaign Planning and Action Organizing, Media Work, Fundraising, Framing the Issues, Legal Strategies, and Working with Elected Officials will be presented by top experts in these fields, including Michael Bacon, principal of Bacon, Lee & Associates, TJ Connolly of Connolly and Company, and environmental attorney Bill Bunch. Workshops are free and open to the public.

On Saturday, March 5th, GEAA will present panel discussions featuring scientists, elected officials, business leaders, public officials, experts, and concerned citizens in a dialogue about the future of our region and the Edwards Aquifer. Current growth and land use trends, major infrastructure investments and options available to promote sustainable development in Central Texas will be at the heart of the discussions.

Sundays' program will bring citizen and conservation groups with similar issues to plan on how to implement the Aquifer Protection Plan. Topics will include "How to Stop a Big Box Store", how to permanently protect land on the Recharge and Contributing Zones, "How to Stop a Quarry", and an agenda for the 79th Session of the Texas Legislature.

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