

# *From the Heart. . .*

*. . . Life Skills for Today*

*By Sharon L. Benedict MS, ACC*



## ***Possessions—Your Home***

This month's topic is all about possessions...those wonderful things called "stuff" that fills your home and often times heart. So, I decided to start off with my acrostic version of the word "*Possession*" related to your home—that special place where family shares their everyday life together.

### **P = stands for Purpose**

No matter how much "stuff" we may accumulate in our lives, no possession, even our house we live in, can fill the heart with purpose. Although we often do things and buy things on autopilot, every thought, decision, and action taken will always impact the way we live our purpose. What really is our ultimate purpose? At the top of the list of dreams, goals, and all those "wants" is *relationship*. Where you live and in your home is where relationship is born, nurtured, and honored. Whatever you do under that roof and in that neighborhood, insure your home treasures relationship above all else.

### **O = stands for Opportunity**

Your home and possessions provide you with a unique opportunity to reflect you and your family's personalities, interests, interaction—all wrapped up in what is most important. The environment you create in and around your home

should, again, support relationship in every aspect, and offer peace and safety in that place. Yet, with opportunity comes mutual agreements and planning. Not just for next year, planning is a lifetime endeavor shared with those you love and care for. With the right planning and opportunities that present themselves along the way, your home and possessions will say “Welcome” to all who step into your world.

## **S = stands for Sharing**

How is your home and possessions shared with your family, relatives, friends, and neighbors? With your family, does your spouse and children have their own space and freedom to do what they want in it (except for trashing it and within reason, of course!)? Sharing your special place where you live your personal lives is a way to say “Welcome” to friends and neighbors. Sharing is a way to say “I love you” to your spouse and children. Arrange your home and possessions in such a way that gives freedom to all who abide in this special place.

## **S = stands for Selfishness**

This acrostic second “S” letter is the opposite of “S” for Sharing. For those female nesters who have to have everything just right and in place at all times, do your standards get too tight hindering your house from becoming a home? Walk around your house and reflect on how your home is shared or not shared with others. Everyone needs to have their own space that reflects who they are. If you disregard each other’s uniqueness, your life together will not seem as complete or fulfilling. As you cruise through each room, garage, and yard, what

changes would you like to commit to loosening your grip? Give it a try—you will never regret it! And this applies to you men also!

## **E = stands for Envy**

Here's another negative about possessions. Envy can drive anyone to possess far beyond their means. They visit a neighbor's house or drive down a luxurious gated community and say "I want this." This desire may be quite within reach for some, but not for others. Think about why you are getting these thoughts. Then rethink saying yes, no, or later to them. Are they SMART—Specific to your life and lifestyle, Measurable with your goals and commitments, Attainable to your cash flow, realistic for your life goals, and Time-phased for your age and life condition? I encourage to leave envy behind in all decisions. You will gain much more in your life than the "stuff" you later cannot afford to keep.

## **S = stands for Simplicity**

With this third "S" the word *Simplicity* rang out in my mind. Whether you have a house the size of a closet or a mansion, simplicity always creates an environment of balance, space, and harmony. Clutter rarely helps people feel at home and relaxed. There is always something they are running into or trying to step over. As you inventory your home, garage, yard, how does your place represent simplicity? Also, the paradox is that clutter is more in the eye of the beholder. For one person, the room may say welcome to them and may be perfectly comfortable with all the "stuff" around them; and to another when walking into the space may say, "Wow, I sure wouldn't want to be the one who

clears the dust off it all!” Based on your personality, preferences, and comfort zone, you decide what you consider clutter and what is deemed “simplicity.”

## **S = stands for Shelter**

The word Shelter implies protection from the elements but also supports the concept of Simplicity. Together, they offer some guideposts for what you may seek as a home. You not only want to choose a location where you feel protected and as safe as possible, but also support the simplicity that your life, health, and family desire. Even if you have a passionate desire to live in a 5,000 square foot house, your shelter needs to also match your cash flow throughout your life span. What do you consider adequate as well as desirable for you and your family’s lifestyle?

## **I = stands for Intention**

When embracing Purpose, Opportunity, Sharing, a commitment to relinquishing Selfish behavior & Envy, Shelter as protection & Simplicity, you come to “I” for Intention. This word says you are digging deep to find your motive, motivation, and meaning for why and how you live your life. As reflected in your home surroundings, all intention is readily seen as you open your eyes around you, observe those who share your abode, and do their best to get along together. Take a moment, two, or three, and write down those thoughts you are having right now. Ask yourself, “What is my intention or reason for how my home is arranged and functions?” Then share your thoughts with your spouse or close friend.

## **O = stands for Obsession**

Here's one other negative about possessions. Sometimes we get stuck and determined to have our way when it comes to the place we want to live, the type of house we want to live in, and the space we create within our home. When we have that kind of determination, think again. Maybe the more accurate term would be *Obsession*. Again, take a moment here to reflect on what you have discovered as your intention or reason for wanting to live in a certain location and have the type of house you envision. If you are single and head of household, then you have lots more options for having what you want in every detail. However, for most of us, we have spouses, family, relatives, and friends who are actively part of our lives and decisions. In either scenario, do you see any area where you may be somewhat obsessed about what you want? If so, what would you like to do about it?

## **N = stands for Neverland**

This might seem like an odd term that represents the letter "N," but give me a minute here to explain. In fact, you may already have an idea of where I'm going with this. Let's find out. The word *Neverland* typically takes us to the world of Peter Pan where Peter and the little children never want to grow up. Yet, in spite of the desire for a perfect world, even Neverland had its problems. In the end of the story, home, family, and relationships were what were most important and desired. Let it be true for us all.

So, as you look around your home and possessions, try to relax and not to take things too seriously. Accept that your house, home, and life will have its ups and down. Yet, you will find your house to be the home you always dreamed of.

With balance and peace you will eagerly understand and embrace the true meaning of the word, Possession—*Purpose, Opportunity, Sharing, Freedom from Selfishness & Envy, Seeking Shelter for protection, Simplicity, Knowing your Intention, Freedom from Obsession, and being reassured in the ups and downs of your own special Neverland.*

---

*Sharon L. Benedict, MS, ACC, is a certified life wellness coach-consultant, specializing in life skills, wellness, and creative arts development for individuals, businesses and organizations. She welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted at [seekreachachieve@gvtc.com](mailto:seekreachachieve@gvtc.com).*

*From the Heart. . .*

*. . . Life Skills for Today*

*By Sharon L. Benedict MS, ACC*



## ***Possessions & Your Community***

Do you ever think of your community as one of your possessions? And that your neighborhood and community and all its services directly impact how you purchase your possessions as well as live your life? Maybe if we did consider our community our very own possession, we would have a greater interest in what it provides and how to serve our community in some proactive way.

Think about all the services around you that you take for granted—our grocery stores, improvement centers, healthcare centers, restaurants, entertainment, parks, even the nonprofits association that surround us. Across our nation, many small towns are growing exponentially and struggle to preserve what they have, yet embrace manageable growth that is desired.

What do you see that you want to preserve for future generations? What do you see in your community that you need that is not there? In my own community of Boerne, my husband and I see all kinds of ways to preserve what is so special about Boerne and surrounding communities in our Texas hill country. For Boerne residents, we have a special opportunity right now to offer our perspective and input.

Rūdat is coming to town June 4 through 9, 2008 ([www.rudatboerne.com](http://www.rudatboerne.com)).

Rūdat is an acronym for *Regional urban Design Assistance Team*—a public visioning initiative of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for more than 140 towns and cities across our nation. Architect volunteers offer an intense five-day workshop to gather community input that will lay the foundation for creating an encompassing vision for our community—A *Civic Campus*, *Central Business District*, and *Cibolo Creek* waterway all integrated into a citywide design.

So, if you live in Boerne or Kendall County, you just might have this chance to make your voice be heard. And if you are one of the many nonprofit organizations as a major stakeholder for our community, here's your opportunity to make yourself known and become a vital part of Boerne and Kendall County's future. For my husband and myself, here are our thoughts on what we see as possibles for our community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

1. Collaborate and integrate the parks & recreation master plans together for Boerne and Kendall County. Preserve more park land and green space; add a skateboard park for our community; and a pedestrian and biking system throughout Boerne & Kendall County.
2. Create a *Civic Campus* that includes a—
  - a. Shared center for nonprofits, especially the Cibolo Arts Council, Christian Women's Job Corp, and others that do not already have a facility;
  - b. Expanded Library;
  - c. Conference Center & Community Meeting Rooms;



- d. Cibolo Cultural Arts Center for all the arts (performing, visual, literary, etc. in collaboration with Cibolo Arts Council and city of Boerne).
3. A *Central Business District* that preserves and supports the heritage of our community from North end to South end of Main Street, and a few blocks east and west; and collaborates with the Cibolo Arts Council for Public Arts throughout the city and county. Yet, allow for a separate distanced business district that provides for certain corporate services (e.g. Office/business supplies, non-polluting corporate offices to increase employee numbers that live in Kendall County, thereby bringing in increased revenues for core Main Street small businesses). These corporate services would be selectively chosen to insure they do not rob small businesses of their clientele but support a more attractive community for residents to be able to work and live in Boerne and Kendall County (no need to commute to work or major services).
4. A *Cibolo Creek* architecture from Main Plaza to River Road Park that offer side street walkways, trails along and under bridges going all the way to Cibolo Nature Center and Ag Heritage Center, expanded picnic features, water play features (w/ safety kept in mind). In addition, certain businesses along this route would be given assistance in cleaning up their facades facing street. We

would love to see these features extended all the way to Herff &  
River Road on both sides of Cibolo Creek.

I am sure there are many more ideas that could be envisioned by us all. I encourage everyone to come to Rūdat's public meeting and complete their questionnaire to forward to the City of Boerne Planning Department at 402 E. Blanco Road.

In the meantime, write down what you want to preserve for future generations and what you would like to see in your community. Then share it with your family, friends, neighbors, and city officials. You will then begin to see your community as your very own possession as you contribute to its future welfare.

---

*Sharon L. Benedict, MS, ACC, is a certified life wellness coach-consultant, specializing in life skills, wellness, and creative arts development for individuals, businesses and organizations. She welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted at [seekreachachieve@gvtc.com](mailto:seekreachachieve@gvtc.com).*

*From the Heart. . .*

*. . . Life Skills for Today*

*By Sharon L. Benedict MS, ACC*



## ***Home Buying Time?***

Are you looking for a new home in this current market? Has Texas hill country been on your radar while you are trying to sell your place in California or back east? Recently, a home builder mentioned that this part of the Texas territory is being considered somewhat “recession proof” from what is going on in the rest of the nation with foreclosures and reduced selling prices.

Although, I am sure others may not agree with this builder as you look around at the many houses and lots that have come on the market in the past several months vying to get the best deal they can. Could these sellers know something we don’t know and may want to get out from under before some correction hits home? Or is this just another curve in the bend as most markets experience now and again—and prices will turn around on the next curve up in a couple years? Are we moving into a buyer’s market or is the seller still the driver?

Whatever your perspective and persuasion may be, buying a home at this time can be a taunting task for anyone trying to make the right decision for themselves and their family. So, I decided to resurrect a portion of one of last year’s articles on home buying tips.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers nine home buying steps (<http://www.hud.gov/buying/index.cfm>):

Step 1: Figure out how much you can afford

Step 2: Know your rights

Step 3: Shop for a loan

Step 4: Learn about home buying programs

Step 5: Shop for a home

Step 6: Make an offer

Step 7: Get a home inspection

Step 8: Shop for homeowners insurance

Step 9: Sign papers

As part of those steps, you basically need to plan and save. Consider every possible obstacle to plan for—such as high costs, credit, insufficient funds, long-term affordability. Get a copy of your full credit report, not just the score from all three major agencies—Experian, Equifax, TransUnion. See if you have any errors in each report and get them corrected ASAP.

Pre-qualify for a mortgage to see how your home fits your budget. Compare loans with required down, contract rate and annual percentage rate (APR), conditions for locking in an interest rate, application and origination fees, term of loan, loan and closing costs rollover into loan. Check out government and local housing agency programs for first-time & low-moderate income buyers. Select a real estate agent and start home shopping.

This is where we get to step 5: Shop for a home—where HUD's **Wish List and Checklist** will help you get started and stay focused. Yet, I believe the basics of their Wish List really belongs with step 1—Figure out how much you can afford. **A few considerations on that Wish List are:**

1. What part of town (or country) do you want to live in?
2. What price range would you consider? No less than but no more than
3. Are schools a factor and, if so, what do you need to take into consideration (e.g., want specific school system, want kids to be able to walk to school, etc.)?
4. Do you want an older home or a newer home (less than 5 years old)?
5. What kind of houses would you be willing to see?
6. One story 2 story split foyer bi-level tri-level townhouse or condo mobile home
7. What style house appeals to you most? contemporary traditional southwestern colonial no preference
8. How much renovation would you be willing to do? A lot A little None!
9. Do you have to be close to public transportation? Yes No
10. Do you have any physical needs that must be met, such as wheelchair access? Yes No
11. Do you have any animals that will require special facilities? Yes No. If so, what?

The wish list goes on with what you want and can afford—the lot, must have/like to have, yard, fencing, garage, patio/deck, pool, outdoor spa, extra parking, other

buildings (barn, shed, etc.), special view; then the interior—number of bedrooms, bathrooms, square footage, features such as A/C, carpet, tile/hardwood floors, kitchen, separate dining room, formal living room, family room, great room, separate den or library, basement, separate laundry room, fireplace, workshop, no interior steps, “In-law” apartment, indoor spa, lots of windows, community association and amenities

When touring homes, the **HUD Checklist** will help you answer the most important question of all: Can you and your family be happy living in this home? Remember to be realistic. HUD suggests you make several copies of this checklist and fill one out for each home you tour. You will mark *good*, *average*, *poor*. Then look over your Wish list ratings for easy comparison. Go to website link to download pdf forms for both Wish List & Checklist).

Although all these features are important when home buying, you will undoubtedly spotlight certain ones depending on your lifestyle and budget preferences—energy efficiency, community services, appliances, fixtures, average maintenance cost, property taxes, market value appraisal, house inspection, just to name a few. Can you now see why it’s so important to plan, save, and use a Wish List and Checklist as you hopefully enjoy your home buying adventure!

---

*Sharon L. Benedict, MS, ACC, is a certified life wellness coach-consultant, specializing in life skills, wellness, and creative arts development for individuals, businesses and organizations. She welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted at [seekreachachieve@gvtc.com](mailto:seekreachachieve@gvtc.com).*

# *From the Heart...*

## *... Life Skills for Today*

*By Sharon L. Benedict MS, ACC*



## ***Home, Hearth, & the Herff Legacy***

This last weekend I checked out my community's *Art in the Park* sponsored by the Cibolo Arts Council (CAC, [www.ciboloarts.org](http://www.ciboloarts.org)), and the near and dear *Herff-Rozelle Farm Heritage Day Open House* sponsored by the Cibolo Nature Center (CNC, [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org)). I came away with the very clear belief that I am very fortunate to live in Boerne, Kendall County, and our special Texas hill country.

And since this month's topic is on Home and Possessions, I'm going to take this opportunity to share my thoughts about why I think we, as a community, are so very lucky to have these organizations in our midst right here at home. I began to more clearly see how our home, hearth, and the Herff Family Legacy are beautifully intertwined with the Arts and History as valuable community assets for our neighborhoods and businesses alike.

First, for the past five years, a handful of people with a passion for the arts have made Boerne and Kendall County an arts Mecca for every creative endeavor, whether by hobby or professionally. Both are warmly welcomed. As a former professional artisan for over 25 years, I can attest to the many opportunities we have right in our neighborhoods.

As I strolled among the many fun art activities on this blissful cool Saturday, I saw children and parents everywhere. They were sweetly laughing and enjoyed doing bead work together, pottery painting, artists painting the scene of children before them, watching craftsmen from Majestic Ranch Art Foundation do woodturning, and clowns giving out delightful animal-shaped balloons topping the heads of children. And let's not forget the theatre groups showing off their enchanting talents for the crowds. What a way to enjoy your own home town and to say hello to friends and meet new ones along the way.

This CAC spring event is only just one of the many events sponsored—such as FotoSeptembrie, Fall Festival of Arts & Music in October, Art in Conservation, and sharing the Parade of Artists tours with the Boerne Area Artists Association every year. I would encourage the many arts groups and individuals to get connected to the CAC ([www.ciboloarts.org](http://www.ciboloarts.org)) to find out how this organization can serve your needs in our thriving community.

Before heading home, I then visited the CNC *Herff-Rozelle Farm Open House* and was so glad to drop by this awesome piece of living history in the making. As I walked up the drive to the old Herff/Rozelle farm homestead of the mid 1800s through the early 1990s, I was greeted by Boerne's own Herff twin sisters, Juanita Herff Chipman and Carolyn Herff Kennan—the great, great granddaughters of the notable Texas pioneer surgeon, Dr. Ferdinand Herff. From 1852 to 1935, this historic farm was the original home of Dr. Herff's family where six sons enjoyed the Cibolo Creek and were raised for much of their growing years amidst the Herff 10,000 acre ranch.



Then I met Rita Rozelle Schimpff whose grandfather purchased the farm in the early 1930s. Her grandfather and father resided on the Farm until the early 1990s. Rita has preserved many stories and pictures of life on the farm during these years.

In addition—Oh, the stories I heard from these precious 85 year old twins about their growing up years on the Cibolo in Boerne and about the Herff historic contribution to all of Texas and our hill country life! And now Juanita's own daughter, Carolyn Chipman Evans, continues to pioneer the Herff family legacy, not only with the CNC but also with this living history right before us.

In the beginning around 1988 there were just a handful of friends to establish the Cibolo Nature Center that is now located on what was once the Herff Ranch. Over the years, as a 501c nonprofit organization, the CNC has been supported by thousands of volunteer hours and supported by generous donors. Today, Carolyn's visionary journey has now embraced this additional valuable Kendall County community asset for all posterity to enjoy.

Yet, this Herff Farm part of the dream is not yet reality. With the Herff Farm now considered to be eligible as an historic site, much work is yet to be done. Each day a part of the dream of restoration has only just begun. First, volunteers have restored a couple upstairs windows and the barn was cleaned out. Then the Boerne White Sox Vintage Baseball team can now play on a designated portion of the farm land.

Yet, this is just a glimpse of what is possible to make this Herff-Rozelle Farm a living museum for us all. Remember, this homestead was built in 1852.

Many volunteer hours are needed and additional donors are definitely welcomed in order to see this vision come true for our whole community. Memories like this should never be lost. For when they are lost, we all lose part of our own life legacy living in this beautiful part of God's country.

So, I again encourage you to become a proactive part of the restoration. Step up and find out more about this Herff Farm dream. Donate your time, materials, and money to help these over 100 year memories become part of your own hill country community (to volunteer e-mail Becky at [Volunteer@cibolo.org](mailto:Volunteer@cibolo.org) or donate on line at [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org)).

Let the synergy of the Arts and History of our community be honored and supported as a legacy for your very own children in the years ahead.

---

*Sharon L. Benedict, MS, ACC, is a certified life wellness coach-consultant, specializing in life skills, wellness, and creative arts development for individuals, businesses and organizations. She welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted at [seekreachachieve@gvtc.com](mailto:seekreachachieve@gvtc.com).*

# *From the Heart...*

## *... Life Skills for Today*

*By Sharon L. Benedict MS, ACC*



## ***Parks—A Valued Community Possession***

Have you ever lived in a place where there were no parks? Was the closest green space for walking and having a picnic a small patch of grass in front of your business where you were lucky enough to have available a slightly wobbly table and chair to plant yourself for lunch?

If this has been your experience, then living in the Texas hill country is beginning to offer you all kinds of additional green space possibilities for a more enjoyable place for play and peaceful repose. In fact, our Boerne and Kendall County communities are raising the bar on more outdoor amenities in the near future. Over the past three years, in particular, Boerne created a 10 year parks and recreation master plan (2007-2017) and has already been bringing many features into reality (<http://www.ci.boerne.tx.us/Default.aspx?alias=www.ci.boerne.tx.us/parks>).

Yet, parks have been a part of Boerne history since 1852 when the Main Plaza was dedicated, known as the “Public Square.” Today, there are nine parks designated as mini, linear, and large community parks—totaling 311.6 acres.

As Boerne continues to grow, their Master Plan includes 13 priorities.

1. Development of Community Park at Boerne City Lake
2. Purchase of undeveloped open space

3. Trails
4. Skate board park
5. River Road park upgrade
6. Practice sites for baseball/softball and soccer
7. Swimming pool
8. Dog park
9. Soccer field lighting
10. Baseball/softball field lighting
11. Renovation of existing tennis courts
12. Community park development
13. Indoor recreation center

With eight funding strategies being sought, these priorities have short-term, mid-term, and long-term implementation based on available funds. Within the first five year implementation plan, Boerne City Lake development is already 95% complete with a disc golf course, butterfly garden, and playground going in by early fall completion. The park is actually already open for families to have fun throughout the Lake Park with pavilion and restrooms now available.

The Softball/Baseball & Soccer Field Lighting is already complete at Northrup Park. An above ground modular skateboard park is in the works with a LCRA property location currently under consideration with a final decision any day. River Road Park upgrade has \$400,000 available in 2009. Design firms are being interviewed right now that will be designing a four pedestrian trail system approved in the bond election for \$1.9 million—River Road Park Trail, Heart of Boerne Trail (Ye Kendall Inn along

Cibolo to new bridge on Main Street), Curington Trail (old #9 to Curington Elementary), Currey Creek Trail ( on 9 acre Adler Road Park). Public Input meetings will be announced in the near future; and construction should begin in 2009.

An off-leash dog park is in the works for late Fall with funds already in the city budget. Finally, within this first five years, the swimming pool will be renovated. Currently, a Dallas firm is being considered that will include additional upgraded bath houses and future water features as funds become available. If you think this is incredible, check out what is planned for the next five years! Be sure to drop in and say thank you to all who have worked so hard to make all this a reality, and more to come in order to be ready for even more increase population stats coming our way.

The ten year Kendall County Parks Recreation & Open Space Master Plan (<http://www.co.kendall.tx.us/development/parks-master-plan>) is also well on its way to creating a county parks and recreation system. The general goal is *to provide a network of county parks and open spaces tailored to meet the recreational needs of county residents, while preserving and enhancing the unique environmental attributes and historical character of the county.* In addition, the county master plan will provide:

- *river and stream recreation opportunities including e.g. hiking, biking, fishing and canoeing, that are consistent with resource conservation principles, and best practices of land management—protecting and managing selected river and stream natural areas that provide essential support for regional biological diversity;*
- *access to undeveloped, or restored, river and stream natural areas that are uniquely characteristic of the greater Edwards Plateau - Balcones*

*Escarpment region, and that showcase the natural features, and the natural beauty of the central Texas hill country region;*

- *for conservation and management of regional biological diversity.*

With the purchase of two parks in the past 5 years and the recent hire of two park managers, Patrick Boyle (Programs & Facilities) and Steve Lowe (Naturalist), county communities will be able to enjoy many park areas along our hillsides, creeks, springs, and the winding Guadalupe River. Ongoing collaboration between Boerne and Kendall County will serve to provide a diversity of park and recreational needs for all.

The first 26 acre passive county park along the Guadalupe River in Comfort is named James Kiehl River Bend Park to honor the Kiehl family whose son, James, was killed in action in Iraq. The Kiehls share this recognition with all the courageous war heroes and veterans who have sacrificed their lives to protect our nation. The recent groundbreaking ceremony on May 12 was officiated by County



Judge Gaylan Schroeder, Gene Miertschin

**James Kiehl River Bend Park**

(Commissioner Pct 2), Jane and Randy Kiehl, Darrel Lux (Commissioner Pct 3), Ann Reissig (Commissioner Pct 1), and Kenneth Rusch (Commissioner Pct 4).

Judge Schroeder spoke and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Kiehl for James' service & sacrifice. Mr. Kiehl thanked KCPP and county for naming park in honor of James. The groundbreaking was attended by the Commissioners Court, Kendall County



**Mr. & Mrs. Randy Kiehl**

Partnership for Parks (KCPP), James Kiehl Family and Friends, Park Managers, former Commissioners, members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, representatives of local paddling groups (i.e. Saturday Paddlers), and members of the press, and interested residents. Kendall County Partnership for Parks Board members, and park supporters throughout the county.



**Gene Miertschin, Gaylan Schroeder, Jane Kiehl, Randy Kiehl, Darrel Lux, Ann Reissig, Kenneth Rusch**

This event begins the work to construct the necessary parking, fencing, and put in/put out area for kayaks and canoes, along with picnic areas, 2 mile walking and bird watching trail. James Kiehl River Bend Park is estimated to be open end of summer or early fall this year.

The second park purchased by the county is Joshua Springs Park & Preserve (JSPP)—a 405 acreage beauty that has a spring running through it along with a small lake, a park office, maintenance buildings, and a large home on a hillside for future gatherings and meetings for the community.



**Joshua Springs Park & Preserve**

On June 7, AdventureFest will offer a chance to see this awesome park and enjoy the many events and activities throughout the day—such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, mountain biking, archery, horseback riding, bungee trampoline, rock climbing wall, paintball, and a kid fishing tank. The many exhibits, booths, and tables include birds of prey, cowgirl caravan, live snakes and lizards, Texas Parks & Wildlife,



RC airplanes. There will be live music all day and visitor tables for Cibolo Nature Center and Cibolo Arts Council.

So, be sure to come out and make the most of this fantastic event in our Texas hill country park extravaganza! Also, remember, on June 10, Tuesday, 6:30pm, at Comfort Park (Hwy 27 Downtown Comfort), there will be The Second JSPP Community Input Meeting on ways to develop this park. For more information on parks coming your way, contact the following resources:

**City of Boerne**, Parks & Recreation Department , <http://www.ci.boerne.tx.us>,  
(830) 249-9511

**Kendall County Parks Dept**, <http://www.co.kendall.tx.us/node/304>, (830) 537-3711

**Kendall County Partnership for Parks**, [www.kendallcountyparks.org](http://www.kendallcountyparks.org), (830) 755-8179 or (830) 249-9900

--

*Sharon L. Benedict, MS, ACC, is a certified life wellness coach-consultant, specializing in life skills, wellness, and creative arts development for individuals, businesses and organizations. She welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted at [seekreachachieve@gvtc.com](mailto:seekreachachieve@gvtc.com).*