

Burleson

PROGRESS REPORT



Volume 12 • Number 6

A City of Burleson Newsletter

November • December 2007



BURLESON CITY MANAGER CURTIS HAWK SPOKE ABOUT THE TRAGEDIES OF SEPT. 11, 2001, DURING THE 9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY IN FRONT OF BURLESON CITY HALL ON THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS.

VETERANS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

The City of Burleson, Dist. 17 Congressman Chet Edwards, Rocky and Angie Bransom and Jim and Sarah Garrett of B&G Commercial Investments, and American National Bank are joining forces at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, to salute, honor and remember those who have served in the military for the United States of America.

The ceremony will take place at Renfro Square, near the fountain between the B&G buildings at I-35W and Renfro Street. Bricks engraved with the names of Burleson veterans are being placed around the fountain.

The event will include speeches by Mayor Ken Shetter and Congressman Edwards. Lonnie Kitts, a junior at Burleson High, will play *Taps*.

Purple Heart veterans will receive special recognition. In conjunction with the ceremony, videotaped interviews of local Purple Heart veterans will be available for viewing at the Burleson Public Library.

For more information, call the City's public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.

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SANTA'S BREAKFAST

If you want to have breakfast with Santa, change your calendar!

All of the City of Burleson's Christmas festivities, including Santa's Breakfast, have moved to Saturday, Dec. 1.

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The good guys kill the bad guys during a mock gunfight at the 15th annual Founders Day celebration in Old Town Burleson.

Pay utility bills online!

First, you could pay municipal court tickets online. Then, on Sept. 18, City of Burleson utility customers started paying utility bills online.

Between Sept. 20 and Sept. 30, there were 119 transactions.

The new service allows City utility customers to look up the status of their water, sewer and trash account; view payment and consumption history; and pay the bill over a secure Internet connection using either MasterCard or Visa. Utility customers can access their account and pay their bill 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All payments received by 4 p.m. will be posted to the account on the next business day.

Customers must register for the free service by logging on to the City web site at www.burlesontx.com, then clicking on the button "Online Utility Payments."

For more information, call the utility customer service office at 817-447-5400, ext. 227.



FROM MAYOR **KEN SHETTER**

Someone once said, “The world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Try, if you can, to belong to the first class. There’s far less competition.” I would like to take this opportunity to salute one of Burleson’s true unsung heroes, someone who constantly works to make Burleson a better place, never caring who gets the credit.

When Betty Shelton decides something needs to be done, you have two choices, either pitch in and help or get out of her way because she knows how to get things done! As long as I’ve known Betty (and that’s my whole life), she’s always had a cause. Lately her cause has been making sure Burleson honors the contributions of its veterans.

On Nov. 10 we will realize the fruits of Betty’s labors when we dedicate a special memorial to Burleson’s veterans in Old Town (of course, Betty would be the first to point out that this would not have been possible without Rocky and Angie Bransom, Jim and Sarah Garrett, American National Bank, and others). Creating this memorial isn’t just a nice thing to do for our veterans – it will serve as an important historical record of our friends, loved ones and neighbors who have served this country in the armed forces. As another public gathering place that honors and preserves our heritage, this memorial will be one more thing that makes Burleson a great place to live.

Betty, I know you weren’t expecting any praise or credit, but thanks for everything you do!

RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Are you thinking about buying a Christmas tree before Thanksgiving? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one in every 22 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death between 2000 and 2004.

Keep your family and your home safe with these tips from the Burleson fire marshal’s office and the NFPA.

- * Always use holiday lights listed by a testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratory or UL).
- * Don’t use a string of lights that are worn, frayed or broken or that have loose bulb connections.
- * Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- * Keep live trees moist. Don’t buy a tree that has dry or dropping needles. Place your tree in a sturdy tree stand that won’t tip over.
- * Cut the bottom of the trunk straight across, approximately half an inch from the end, to allow the tree to absorb water. The water level should stay above the fresh cut.
- * Make sure your artificial tree is labeled as flame retardant.
- * Don’t let children play with wiring or the lights.
- * Keep the tree at least 3 feet from a heat source, keep the tree near an outlet so the cords don’t run across a room, and don’t block an exit with a tree.
- * Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house, garage, or placed against a house. To check for dryness, firmly grasp a tree branch, then pull your hand toward yourself. If the needles fall off easily, the tree should be removed.

For more information about how to keep your home safe during the holidays, log on to nfpa.org, click on research and reports, click on fact sheets, click on seasonal safety, then click on Christmas tree fires.



ONLY FOUR PETS ARE ALLOWED IN CITY LIMITS

You can only have four.

Burleson City Code allows a maximum of four adult dogs and cats, in combination, per home. Those who want to keep more, as pets, can apply for a multi-pet permit.

The permit process allows animal services professionals to inspect the property to make sure the size is adequate for the number of animals and that the animals aren’t and won’t become a nuisance to neighbors. Multi-pet permits cannot be issued to a pet owner if the City has had to take enforcement action for violations of animal care and control

codes within the previous 12 months. The permit can be revoked if problems arise.

To apply for a multi-pet permit, log on to the animal services page on the City’s web site at www.burlesontx.com or stop in the permits office at Burleson City Hall. For more information call animal services at 817-447-5426 or visit the Burleson Animal Shelter.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS WILL GO LIVE IN NOVEMBER

As of the deadline for the *Burleson Progress Report*, the City expects the red light camera program to go live on Nov. 26, the Monday after Thanksgiving. There will be a 30-day warning period before citations will be issued for drivers who run a red light.



The red light cameras will be set up at Hwy. 174 and John Jones Road (FM 731), Hwy. 174 and Elk Drive, Hwy. 174 and Gardens/Summercrest Boulevard, and Hwy. 174 and Newton Street.

SANTA'S BREAKFAST CONTINUED

Santa's Breakfast kicks off the big day with pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee served by Santa's elves from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Starting Nov. 1, tickets will be available at the Burleson Community Center for \$3 for children and \$4 for adults. Tickets at the door are \$5 for children and \$7 for adults.

Children can eat breakfast, talk to Santa, and create crafts in Santa's workshop. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras.

Last year approximately 1,000 people attended and ate 4,000 homemade pancakes and a plethora of sausage.

For more information, call the parks and recreation department at 817-295-8168.

WILL BURLESON HAVE CURBSIDE RECYCLING?

As Burleson has grown, the number of requests for curbside recycling has grown. The City conducted a citywide survey and hosted three public meetings in June and July. The survey said 32 percent wanted residential curbside recycling.

Staff began negotiations with a private contractor to provide curbside

recycling. A contract should be presented to council at a meeting in October or November 2007. Should council approve a contract, curbside recycling will begin in January 2008. When and if the contract is approved, information regarding schedules, items to be collected, bin delivery, and instructions, will be included

YES!

with utility bills, posted on the City's web site, and sent to local media outlets.

The anticipated increase in monthly collection fees will be about \$2 per month.

TRASH RATES INCREASE

Effective Sept. 6, the rates for twice-a-week manual residential trash collection in Burleson increased from \$12.71 a month to \$15.83 a month.

This is a 24.55 percent increase. The same increase was made to all commercial rate classes.

More than 50 percent of the citizens surveyed said they were willing to pay the higher rate to keep the collection method the same, which is twice a week in bags, not carts.

The public works department staff is working on a contract for a private contractor to handle curbside recycling, which would utilize 18-gallon bins, not carts (see related story).

BPD and BFD square off for charity

Members of the Burleson Police Officers Association and Burleson Professional Firefighters Association will square off on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. for the annual Blue vs. Red charity football game.

The flag football game will take place at the stadium at Kerr Middle School on Johnson Avenue. Admission is one unwrapped toy.

This is the seventh year the two departments have hosted the event to help the less fortunate during the holidays. The police department will be looking for revenge as they try to even up the rivalry with one in the win column.



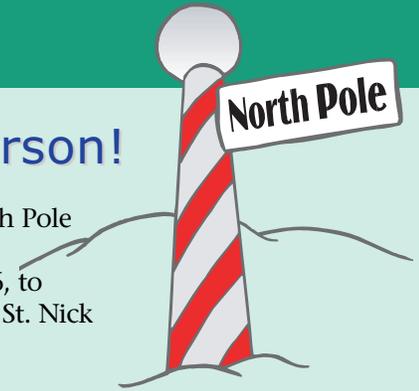
NORTH POLE CALLING

It's almost as good as talking to him in person!

Burleson children will receive a personal phone call from Santa Claus thanks to the North Pole Calling program coordinated by the City of Burleson's parks and recreation department.

Children have to send their parents to the Burleson Community Center, starting Nov. 26, to make an appointment with the most famous North Pole resident. Santa's helpers will help St. Nick coordinate phone calls, which will be made between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Dec. 10-13.

For more information, call the parks and recreation department at 817-295-8168.



CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Burleson Rotary Club is hosting the "Texas Christmas" lighted Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 1.

All floats are required to have Christmas lights. Music is also encouraged.

The parade lineup starts at 4 p.m. in the Kerr Middle School stadium parking lot. The parade steps off at 6 p.m. and will travel the usual route down Johnson Avenue, through Old Town, and back to KMS.

For an entry form, log on to the Rotary web site at www.burlesonrotary.org.

LIGHT THE TREE, SEE FIREWORKS, AND TALK TO SANTA

If the children miss talking to Santa at Santa's Breakfast on Dec. 1, make sure they are at the City of Burleson tree lighting at the corner of Johnson Avenue and Ellison Street at 7 p.m. that same day.

Santa is riding in the Burleson Rotary Club's "Texas Christmas" lighted Christmas parade, but he will jump off the final float just so he can listen to the children in front of the City's 25-foot Christmas tree. But first, St. Nick has to flip the switch, with the assistance of at least two special helpers, to turn on the 10,000 lights on the City tree.

Santa will make his way to his sleigh after the fireworks extravaganza that will light the sky at that same corner. The fireworks are choreographed to music.

For more information about the tree lighting, Santa's visit, and the fireworks show, call the parks and recreation department at 817-295-8168.



Yield to emergency vehicles

Drivers must yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles. Emergency vehicles include police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and any other emergency vehicle that is sounding a siren, bell, or flashing a red light. Drivers must pull to the right side of the road and stop. If traffic is so congested that a driver cannot pull over, then slow down and leave a clear path for the emergency vehicle. Stop and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed. **If you do not comply, this ticket will cost you \$168.**

THIS GROUP HAS THE MAGIC TOUCH

Good things don't happen overnight.

Founders Day, Christmas in Burleson, North Pole Calling, the Daddy/Daughter Mother/Son Valentine's Day Dance, Bunny Daze, Hot Sounds of Summer, July 4th Fireworks and Concert, Veterans Day Memorial Service, and athletic events don't come to life without the hard work of more than a dozen of the City of Burleson's parks and recreation department employees.

At Founders Day, parks and recreation employees are marking booth spaces and hooking up electricity for vendors at least three hours before the event opens. And, they are there hours after the event closes at 6 p.m. to restore Old Town to the way they found it.

Parks and recreation employees are also responsible for scheduling the entertainment and advertising for Founders Day.

City employees will put in as many as 18 hours on Dec. 1, when Burleson rolls out the red carpet for Christmas in Burleson (see stories, this issue). Employees and volunteers are at the community center at 4:30 a.m. to set up the winter wonderland and start making 4,000 pancakes for Santa's Breakfast. When that wraps up, Santa's sleigh and reindeer are moved to the City Christmas tree at the corner of Johnson and Ellison for the tree lighting. Parks and recreation employees bring in entertainment for the tree lighting, pyrotechnicians for the fireworks show, and get

Santa from the Christmas parade to the tree so he can listen to the children.

City employees give St. Nick a hand by helping him make phone calls through the parks and recreation department's North Pole Calling program. In 2006, City employees helped Santa compile his gift lists for more than 500 Burleson children.



Parks and recreation department employees include David McDowell, Fulgencio Mena, Cody Aaron, Dennis Chittum, Paula Benjamin, Jeff Scott, David Rosenbam, Johnny West, Charlene Logan, Charles Spradlin, Paul Upton, Rudy Perez and Ike Vera. Not pictured is Peter Krause.

The parks and recreation department celebrates Valentine's Day with the Daddy/Daughter Mother/Son dance, which attracted 250 couples in 2007.

Bunny Daze includes the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunt, vendors and entertainment. Weather permitting, that event takes place within a week of Easter.

The Hot Sounds of Summer concert series starts at the end of May and runs through June. Old Town is the site of those free Friday night concerts.

The event that pulls in the most City employees from at least half a dozen departments and the City's volunteer forces is the July 4th concert and fireworks celebration at Hidden Creek Sports Complex. City employees make sure the festivities go off without a hitch.

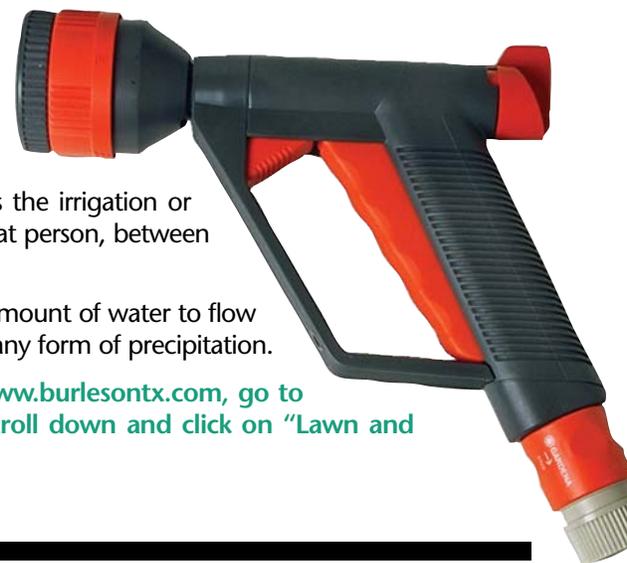
Parks and recreation department employees are busy year-round with other events such as track meets, softball tournaments, and cross country meets; maintaining City fields for the Burleson Youth Association; assisting with creek cleanups; and helping with Honeyfest.

DID YOU KNOW ...

You can't water your lawn between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., no matter what time of year it is. Except for hand watering and the use of soaker hoses, a person commits an offense if that person irrigates, waters, or causes or permits the irrigation or watering of any lawn or landscape on property owned, leased or managed by that person, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

It is also an offense if a person is reckless with watering and allows a substantial amount of water to flow into the street or other drainage area or, if the property is being irrigated during any form of precipitation.

To view the entire ordinance, log on to the City of Burleson web site at www.burlesontx.com, go to online features on the home page and click on "City Ordinances," then scroll down and click on "Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Restrictions."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

Nov. 5-9

Curbside yard waste collection event
Set recyclable brown paper yard bags of grass and leaves by the curb by 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 5
Call 817-447-5410 for more information

Thursday, Nov. 8

Burleson City Council meeting, city hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10

Household Hazardous Waste Collection, service center, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Call environmental services at 817-447-5410, ext. 269, for more information

Veterans Ceremony, Renfro Square, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 13

Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, Visitor's Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Senior Thanksgiving lunch, senior activity center, noon

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23

Thanksgiving holiday, City facilities are closed

Tuesday, Nov. 27

"The Holidays and Elder Care: Changing Family Traditions, Grief, and Finding Peace," library, 6:30 p.m.



ARC UNLOADS VEHICLES

The Sept. 22 E-Waste Recycling Event was a great success. The City and ARC International

Corporation of Arlington collected 19,191 pounds of material. Of that, 16,405 pounds was electronic waste and the rest was tires. Another event is in the works for 2008.

KNOWWHAT2DO ...

Emergency management staff from the City of Fort Worth manned the **KnowWhat2Do** booth at the Disaster Preparedness Show at Home Depot in Burleson on Sept. 22. Residents took home plenty of free information about how to prepare for a disaster.



December

Saturday, Dec. 1 (see stories, this issue)

Santa's Breakfast, community center, 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Burleson Rotary Club's Parade of Lights, 6 p.m.

City tree lighting, corner of Johnson and Ellison, 7 p.m.

City fireworks show and visits with Santa, corner of Johnson and Ellison, 7 p.m.

Dec. 3-7

Curbside yard waste collection event
Set recyclable brown paper yard bags of grass and leaves by the curb by 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 3
Call 817-447-5410 for more information

Saturday, Dec. 8

Police Department vs. Fire Department charity football game, Kerr Middle School stadium, 3 p.m.
(see story, this issue)

Dec. 10-13

North Pole Calling, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
(see story, this issue)

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, Visitor's Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Burleson City Council meeting, city hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17

Christmas lunch, senior activity center, TBA

Dec. 24-25

Christmas holiday, City facilities are closed

Friday, Dec. 28

Senior New Year's Party, senior activity center, noon

Monday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve, City facilities are closed

COMMUNITY GUIDE

There is so much going on at the Burleson Public Library and with the City parks and recreation department during the months of November and December that we couldn't fit it all in this newsletter. For a list of all programs and events, log on to the City of Burleson web site at www.burlesontx.com, click on "Departments," click on "Parks and Recreation," then click on the "Activity Guide" on the left sidebar. There are 12 pages of activities listed in the Fall and Winter 2007 Burleson Community Guide.

THIS COUNCIL MEMBER CAN'T SIT IDLE



Jill and Jim Wadlow on their Cushman Scooters.

Don't expect this Burlson City Council member to sit idle. When he's not serving the citizens of Burlson, 75-year-old Jim Wadlow is riding his Cushman Scooter alongside his wife, Jill, who is also an avid rider.

That's how the Place 2 council member, who was elected in May 2006 to replace outgoing veteran Jim Bailey, convinced his wife to go out with him. The couple has been married for 51 years.

"We dated on my Cushman Scooter in Lincoln, Neb., when we were in junior high," the council member said. "Through the years the scooter went from basic transportation to a hobby that we have shared with collectors for more than 25 years."

The council member is a past president of both the Texas Cushman Club and the Cushman Club of America. He, his wife, and hundreds of collector/riders attend a national meet, in a different state, each year.

Wadlow was born in Table Rock, Neb., lived 15 years in Lincoln, Neb., then moved to Arlington, Texas, where he lived for 37 years before moving to Burlson in 1999.

He has served on the City's parks board since 2000 and was chairman of that board from 2005 to 2006, when he had to resign after he was elected to city council. Wadlow helped develop and promote the Park Pals program, which encourages community members to do volunteer work through the parks and recreation department.

The council member has also helped host community events, landscape City parks, and gets involved in the programs and issues that affect the quality of life in Burlson.

"I have always been interested in public service and simply doing whatever I can for my community," Wadlow said. "I learned early that Burlson citizens care about both promoting history and reaching into the future."

The council member served in the United States Naval Reserve where he tested and placed personnel. He is retired from a career in multimedia that included experience directing an advertising agency. He also did announcing and on-camera work.

One special moment in April 1973 involved Lady Bird Johnson and Willie Nelson. Lady Bird introduced Wadlow to the famous country singer right before the LBJ Ranch Country Dinner began. Since Wadlow was working in public relations, he was able to spend two days with Lady Bird as well as Lucy, Linda and Liz Carpenter.

"Believe it or not, we rolled silverware into checkered table napkins," Wadlow said. "The event was her contribution kickoff of the Austin Town Lake Beautification Project."

Wadlow is a member of the Burlson Heritage Foundation and Friends of the Burlson Public Library. He and his wife attend Saint Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

His other hobbies include reading, woodworking, and refinishing.

Wadlow's most famous relative is Robert Pershing Wadlow. He was almost 9 feet tall and is the tallest person on record. Robert Wadlow was called the Gentle Giant.

The council member and his wife have one daughter, Jeannette, who lives in Houston; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Jim Wadlow

WHERE IS THAT?

Ever wondered where the Compost Center is? Need the Burlson Public Library for a homework emergency? Here's a quick reference guide to City facility locations.

Animal Shelter – 1695 John Jones Dr. (FM 731, south of SH 174/Wilshire Blvd.)

Burlson Memorial Cemetery
490 Memorial Plaza
(off East Renfro, past Fire Station 2)

City Hall – 141 W. Renfro
(building faces Ellison)

Community Center – 500 Chisenhall Park Lane (off Hidden Creek Pkwy., south of SH 174/Wilshire Blvd.)

Compost Center – 620 Memorial Plaza
(off East Renfro behind Fire Station 2)

Fire Station 1 – 828 S.W. Alsbury Blvd.
(between Summercrest and FM 731)

Fire Station 2 – 650 Memorial Plaza
(off East Renfro)

Heritage Visitors Center
124 W. Ellison
(corner of Wilson and Ellison)

Library – 248 S.W. Johnson Ave.
(across from Warren Park)

Municipal Court – 247 Elk Dr.
(in Burlson Sub-courthouse)

Police Department – 225 W. Renfro
(corner of Bransom and Renfro)

Recycling Center – 124 S.W. Haskew
(near First Baptist Church)

Senior Activity Center – 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. (next to post office)

Service Center – 1675 John Jones Dr. (FM 731, south of SH 174/Wilshire Blvd.)

