

May 15, 2012

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The City of Burleson is hosting an Open House for the general public at Russell Farms on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Open House is in conjunction with a "Model A" car show on the property.

Russell Farms is an historic farm on the south side of Burleson that was donated to the City by the Boren family for historical, art and agricultural/natural uses. The 30-acre property is located at 405 W. County Road 714

The City envisions Russell Farm to be a "Center for Life, History and Art." Much of the programming at the farm is currently under development.

A citizen committee, the Historical Advisory Committee, was created by the City to develop and recommend programs for Russell Farms which acknowledge its history in the Burleson community.

Art programs have been conducted on the property for a number of years. These programs are provided through the Russell Farm Art Center, a Texas chartered 501(c) (3) non profit organization. The board of this non profit doubles as the Art Advisory Committee, created by the City to develop and recommend programs which develop and support sculpting, painting and other fields of art.

The Historical and Art programs will be conducted in the public areas which comprise about 11 acres. This area is also expected to be home to a public garden. A limited number of citizens will have the opportunity to tend a garden of their own.

Agricultural programs are also under development. The City is in discussions with the Burleson Independent School District to utilize approximately 16 acres of the property for the district's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. The City envisions FFA participants utilizing the property to house livestock for stock shows and as a "field laboratory" for ranchland training.

Finally, approximately three acres will be preserved as a natural grassland and vegetation reserve.

The ultimate uses for the property are currently in the conceptual stage. The Historical Committee and the Arts Advisory Committee will make

recommendations for their respective areas to the Boren Property Advisory Council (BPAC), which includes Charlsa Boren-Bentley as the chairperson. The BPAC will submit a comprehensive implementation plan for the various areas (historical, arts and agricultural/natural) to the city council for adoption.

During the May 19 open house, the public is invited to visit the property, tour various buildings, and see a variety of art that will be on display. Please leave your pets at home as pets are not allowed.