



Burleson Progress Report

Volume 8 • Number 2

A City of Burleson Newsletter

March • April 2003



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KEEPING BURLESON CLEAN AND GREEN

The time for spring cleaning is here and Burleson is making it a community effort with some special events in April and May. These events will give everyone in the Burleson Community a chance to do some spring cleaning at their homes, businesses, and favorite community gathering places, all in the name of *Keeping Burleson Clean and Green*.

We all know how important it is to make a good first impression. For visitors to Burleson, their first impression of our city is often based on the condition of the grassy areas adjacent to our roads, streets, and boulevards, as well as the main entryways along I-35W and SH 174.

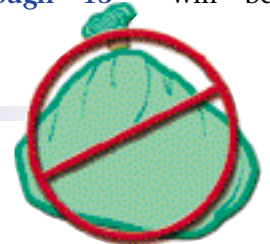
The Burleson Beautification Council has raised over \$15,000 since 2000 for beautification of the entrances into

Burleson. The landscape beds on I-35W were funded by the Beautification Council. Through their efforts, additional trees and landscaping will be planted and perhaps new landscape beds created. Through the City's Adopt-A-Street program, various community groups have volunteered to adopt certain streets within the city and ensure that they are free of trash and debris. Some groups even take the time and effort to landscape portions of their streets to make them more attractive.

The City of Burleson and the Burleson Beautification Council urge you to get involved in these programs and help in *Keeping Burleson Clean and Green*. So, to kick off this new initiative, the week of **April 7th through 13th** will be

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CITY INITIATES DON'T BAG IT!



Effective March 31, 2003, the City of Burleson will no longer pick up grass, grass clippings, or leaves as part of its curbside collection services.

The City will continue to offer citizens a wide variety of services that will assist in yard care, such as curbside brush collection and a municipal compost facility providing:

- Free mulch to Burleson residents
- Backyard composting assistance
- A brush and limb drop-off site
- A grass and leaves drop-off site

Discontinuation of the collection of grass and leaves is part of Burleson's participation in a nationally-recognized

program called *Don't Bag It!* This program encourages new approaches in lawn care, focusing on alternatives to bagging grass and leaves. By leaving clippings and leaves on the lawn and allowing them to work their way back into the soil, you will help produce a beautiful green lawn that will save you time, energy, and money. See the informational box on page 5 for alternatives to bagging grass and leaves.

Why are these changes being made? There are a number of reasons why the City will no longer pick up grass and leaves.

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Mayor Byron F. Black

FROM THE MAYOR

Spring is fast approaching and the City of Burleson is heading into this season of renewal with great anticipation. Burleson has long proclaimed that it offers its residents "the good life," and the coming months will offer us all the opportunity to help

ensure that truth for the foreseeable future.

Quality of life is important in Burleson. We see this in the community's fervent support of beautification projects, historic preservation, library services, recreational activities, and the like. One of the most important and obvious factors that affects quality of life in any community is its overall cleanliness. And how clean a community is depends on both the type and quality of services provided by the City and on the residents' willingness to take advantage of those services by disposing of waste regularly and responsibly.

This issue of the *Burleson Progress Report* announces plans for an initiative called *Keeping Burleson Clean and Green*. This series of special events will provide all Burleson residents an opportunity to do some "spring cleaning" at their own homes and in common areas of the community. This issue also provides information on some upcoming changes to the solid waste (trash) collection services offered by the City. These changes are partly an effort to provide more efficient services and partly an acknowledgment that we are part of a greater global community that is facing some serious environmental challenges.

As we plan these activities for spring, let us not forget to continue our examination of the character qualities that are part of the City of Character initiative. Our quality of focus for March is **Contentment**, which is *realizing that true happiness does not depend on material conditions*. **Cautiousness** is the watchword for April. That is *knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions*. These are both important concepts to consider as we begin our new community-wide initiative to preserve the quality of life to which we have become accustomed in Burleson.

And don't forget to check the calendar in this issue so you can make plans to join us for the annual Bunny Daze activities, the Friends of the Library Book Sale, the Fiesta de Burleson festival for Cinco de Mayo, and Honeyfest.

It's going to be an exciting spring in Burleson!

ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2003

Burleson's elections for both City Council and school board are slated for Saturday, May 3rd at Kerr Middle School, 517 S.W. Johnson Avenue. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Those wishing to vote early in either the City or B.I.S.D. election may do so at Burleson City Hall (141 W. Renfro) during the following dates and times:

- ◆ April 16-18; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ April 21-25; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ April 28-29; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For additional information about the May 3rd elections, please contact the City Secretary at 817-447-5400 ext 213.



Chisenhall Park was blanketed with white in the recent winter storm. While the roads were treacherous, the blustery blast made for a pretty picture.

GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S CENTER

In May 2002 Bubba Schafer reached out to help a neighbor and ended up helping to apprehend a man responsible for assaults on women in four Metroplex cities, including Burleson. On May 29, 2003, Schafer is bringing these events full circle, by hosting a golf tournament that will benefit the Women's Center of Tarrant County, which offers rape crisis and victim services.

The tournament will be held at Tierra Verde Golf Club in Arlington this first year, but plans are to rotate the tournament location in future years between Arlington, Benbrook, Burleson, and Cleburne – the locations of the assaults committed by the man Schafer helped apprehend. Schafer is seeking support for the tournament in the form of cash donations, merchandise for the raffle, silent auction items, and tournament teams.



For information on how to contribute or to register for the tournament, contact Bubba Schafer at 817-572-2766 or by e-mail at bubba4@dellepro.com. You may also contact Deborah Caddy at the Women's Center at 817-927-4039 or by e-mail at dcaddy@womenscenter.info.



HIDDEN CREEK IS READY FOR SPRING

The staff members at Hidden Creek Golf Course have completed most of their winter projects and they're just about ready for the spring golf season, with the greens in great condition. There is construction being done on the 9th green. This project will take about one month but, until it is complete, Hidden Creek will continue running construction rate specials. Current rates are posted on the course website, so visit www.burlesontx.com and click on the link to Hidden Creek Golf Course. A new sunset twilight rate will go into effect in March, so watch the website for more information on that as well. For any additional information on projects or rates at Hidden Creek, or if you wish to schedule time to play, call 817-447-4444 ext 5.

And whether you are a golfer or not, don't forget that the Hidden Creek Grill is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week. Come by for lunch and enjoy your choice of watching our big-screen TV or just taking in some of the best scenery in town!

CITY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION BRINGS MASS TRANSIT BACK TO JOHNSON COUNTY

Did you know that Johnson County now has its own mass transit system? It's true! And it connects Johnson County residents directly to The T and DART transit services in Fort Worth and Dallas.

Since November 2002, City County Transportation (CCT) has been providing bus service on the Interurban Route from the Cleburne Intermodal Center to the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center, with stops in Joshua and Burleson along the way. Connecting services are also available to other cities in Johnson County. The Burleson stop

is at the Wal-Mart at the corner of SH 174 and Hidden Creek Parkway. The fare for this service is \$2 per stop, so a rider boarding in Cleburne and riding all the way to Fort Worth (which includes three stops) will pay \$6. People riding from Burleson to Fort Worth and back will pay only \$2 each way.

Ron Parnell, purchasing/transportation manager for City County Transportation, says that beginning this spring, CCT will also be offering demand, or door-to-door, service throughout Johnson County. Parnell says that, "We're hopeful that

we'll be able to begin offering demand service in May." He also pointed out that, "While Interurban Route ridership is not yet as high as we hope it ultimately will be, it is increasing, and we are excited about the future of this service."

For more information about how you can take advantage of City County Transportation services via the Interurban Route, call 1-866-913-1800 or call Ron Parnell directly at 817-645-0951.

CLEAN AND GREEN CONTINUED

Adopt-A-Street and Beautification Week. If you'd like to adopt a street or know of a street you would like someone to adopt, call Kirk Barnes at 817-447-5400 ext 269.

Burleson's annual **Spring Creek Cleanup and Environmental Fair** will be held at **9:00 a.m. on April 26, 2003**. This event is held each spring at **Warren Park**, offering individuals and groups the opportunity to help clean trash and debris out of Town Creek. Participating volunteers will be treated to a free lunch, prize drawings, and the fun of karaoke after the cleanup. The cleanup is held in conjunction with the annual environmental fair, which offers games, entertainment, and educational information about what each of us can do to make our community an even cleaner, safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly place to live. To volunteer your family or group for the creek cleanup or just to receive more

information, call Environmental Services at 817-447-5400 ext 269.

Spring cleaning usually involves cleaning out the garage or storage building, where you're likely to find some old paint or chemicals that can't be thrown out with the regular garbage. With this in mind, *Keeping Burleson Clean and Green* will also involve a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 10, 2003**.

Join us at **Fire Station 2** (650 Memorial Plaza), **9 a.m. to noon**, and drop off your household hazardous waste materials for disposal. The City will accept a wide range of materials including acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, craft chemicals, degreasers, paints and stains, paint thinners, pest strips, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, oil filters, solvents, transmission fluid, and varnish. Items that cannot be accepted at this event include ammunition, asbestos, building materials, butane cylinders, explosives, medical waste, PCBs, propane cylinders, radioactive

materials, and chemicals from businesses. The materials collected at this event will be taken to special facilities in Fort Worth for disposal.

As you clean up around your home or business, we encourage you to recycle whenever possible to help reduce the amount of materials put into landfills. The City's Recycling Center accepts a number of recyclable materials including glass, paper, cardboard, metal, and aluminum. The center is located at 124 S.W. Haskew and is open Tuesdays and Fridays, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. and on Saturdays, 8 a.m. - noon.

If you have questions regarding the Keeping Burleson Clean and Green events, please call Kirk Barnes at 817-447-5400 ext 269.



DON'T BAG IT! CONTINUED

■ **Environmental Concerns** – Mulching and composting your grass trimmings and leaves will mean fewer chemicals are needed to keep your lawn healthy. Many times synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are only needed to compensate for the loss of nutrients and protection once provided by organic materials. Reality is that residential users apply more pounds per acre of chemicals to their properties than farmers do – often to the point of disrupting beneficial soil life. Using the organic material *from* your lawn back *on* your lawn will reduce the amount of chemicals you need, thus reducing the chemicals put back into our soil and water supply through runoff.

■ **Cost Distribution** – There are many Burleson residents who already choose to mulch or compost their grass and leaves rather than bag them. But because everyone pays the same monthly rate, those who mulch yard waste pay part of the cost of picking up thousands of bags of grass and leaves left by those who do not mulch or compost.

Where can you take grass and leaves if you still want to bag them? Residents who wish to continue bagging their grass and leaves may bring them to the City's Compost/Mulch Facility at 620 Memorial Plaza Drive, which is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Citizens are reminded to cover open loads of yard trimmings with tarps to prevent the trimmings from blowing or spilling onto the road during transport.

The City will not accept grass and leaves in plastic bags at this facility. Plastic bags do not decompose. When they are put through the grinding process they contaminate the compost, thereby reducing the quality of the final product. Therefore, grass and leaves dropped off at the facility will have to be removed from bags or containers. Please be sure to notify your hired lawn care service about the new *Don't Bag It!* policy.

If you have questions or would like other suggestions about ways to handle grass and leaves, please contact the Burleson Public Works Department at 817-447-5400 ext 270 or metro 817-516-0670.

CODE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

PART OF KEEPING BURLESON CLEAN AND GREEN

The City of Burleson Code of Ordinances exists to ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of everyone in our community are preserved and maintained. City ordinances reflect the minimum standards our community expects, but many people go above and beyond these standards.

Burleson's Code Compliance and Enforcement Department exists to educate citizens about our health, safety, and welfare ordinances and, when necessary, to make sure citizens comply with these ordinances. In certain cases, citations are issued to violators. If found guilty, violators must pay a fine. For those who continue to violate these ordinances and don't make any effort to comply even after a fine is issued, the City will remedy the problem and charge the property owner.

During late March and early April of 2003, the City will send out a number of teams comprised of City employees

to drive through Burleson and identify code violations. Residents and business owners will be sent letters from the City identifying the violations and instructing owners to correct them.

Types of violations that will be addressed include:

- High grass (over 12" tall)
- Overflowing dumpsters
- Junk vehicles – Those vehicles without current license tags or inspection stickers and those that are either:
 - ◆ wrecked, partially or completely dismantled, or discarded; OR
 - ◆ inoperable and have remained inoperable for more than 72 hours (if on public property) or 30 days (if on private property)
- Unclean premises – Those properties with an unsightly

accumulation of litter, garbage, or junk, including, but not limited to, tires, batteries, limbs, and brush.

If a violation is sighted on a property and the property owner is unable to correct the violation due to documented physical limitation or disability or financial hardship, they may be eligible for assistance in correcting the violation. The City will sponsor **Code Compliance Assistance Week April 7th - 11th**. This will involve local volunteers and charitable and civic organizations providing free assistance to persons who cannot correct violations due to physical or financial limitations.

If your community group would like to offer assistance for this event, please contact Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton at 817-447-5400 ext 220.

ALTERNATIVES TO BAGGING GRASS AND LEAVES

Use a mulching mower and follow the following suggestions to put your yard trimmings to use protecting and nourishing your lawn or garden.

■ **Don't bag your grass; mulch it.** Leaving mulched grass on your lawn will not cause thatching. It will help restore moisture to your lawn and reduce the amount of watering required to keep your grass healthy during summer months.

■ **Create your own leaf mulch.** Mulching mowers will shred leaves into tiny pieces that will fall through grass blades to the soil. If you have a lot of leaves, mow them several times to reduce their size. Shredded leaves also make excellent mulch for use under shrubs, in ground cover, in flower beds, and vegetable gardens. Use at least 3-4 inches of mulch. The leaves settle after watering to about half their

height. The mulch will protect the plant roots from the winter cold and help hold moisture evenly in the soil.

■ **Compost.** Grass and leaf mulch can be used to start a compost pile in your yard. The debris will compost in a few months with no turning (or faster, if you choose to turn the pile and create some natural heat). In the spring, use the finished compost in the landscape or flower beds or spread about 1/2 inch thick over the lawn.

And if you choose not to mulch your grass and leaves, find out if any of your neighbors compost. If they do, they might be willing to take your yard trimmings off your hands to create their own home-grown fertilizer!

CITY PHONE NUMBERS



Emergency (Police-Fire-Ambulance) 911

Public Works/Animal Control After-Hours
Emergency Hotline 817-295-1118

City Hall 817-447-5400
Metro 817-516-0670

Phone Menu:

- Special Trash Pickups/Brush Collection Press 1
- Water/Wastewater Press 2
- Animal Control Press 3
- Recycling Information Press 4
- Street Maintenance Press 5
- Human Resources Job Line Press 6
- Other City Facilities Phone List Press 7
- Return to Options Menu Press * twice

City Hall Departments, Direct Extensions:

- Animal Control Ext 241
- Building Official Ext 268
- Building Permits/Inspections Ext 229
- City Manager's Office Ext 212
- City Secretary's Office Ext 213
- Code Enforcement Ext 220
- Community Development Ext 236
- Communications/City Cable Ext 286
- Economic Development Ext 215
- Engineering Ext 238
- Environmental Services Ext 269
- Finance Ext 276
- Fire Marshal/Fire Prevention Ext 220
- Human Resources Ext 294
- Public Works Administration Ext 246
- Records (Public Information) Ext 237
- Utility Billing Ext 224

Fire Department
(non-emergency) 817-295-5498
Metro 817-516-0558

Police Department
(non-emergency) 817-447-5300
Metro 817-516-0619

Phone Menu:

- Administrative Offices Ext 355
- Crime Prevention Ext 316
- Criminal Investigations Ext 358
- Dispatch Ext 241, 242, or 243
- Property/Evidence Ext 356
- Records Ext 360
- Victim Assistance Ext 313

Other City Facilities:

- (answered only during business hours)
- Chisenhall Community Center 817-295-8168
 - Hidden Creek Golf Course 817-447-4444
 - Municipal Court 817-447-5360
 - Public Library 817-295-6131
 - Recycling Center 817-447-2750
 - Senior Activity Center 817-295-6611

24-Hour Information Lines:

- General City Information 817-447-5400
- Municipal Court 817-447-5360
- Parks & Recreation Department 817-447-DUNK (3865)
- Police Department (non-emergency) 817-447-5300
- Public Library 817-295-6131

DID YOU KNOW ...

To make it easier for all citizens to communicate with the City of Burleson, metro phone numbers have been installed. For **City Hall**, call 817-516-0670; for the **Fire Department**, call 817-516-0558; and for the **Police Department**, call 817-516-0619. These numbers are for non-emergency calls. **In the event of emergency, please call 911 .**

And for those not requiring metro lines to reach the City, the main phone number is still 817-447-5400.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Contentment

Realizing that true happiness does not depend on material conditions.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 17 | Adult Spring Softball begins, Hidden Creek Sports Complex | 18 | City of Character Steering Committee meeting, BISD Administration, noon |
| 17 | Library Board meeting, Library, 7 p.m. | 18 | Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, Heritage Visitors Center, 7 p.m. |
| 18 | Planning & Zoning-City Council joint public hearing, City Hall, 7 p.m. | 27 | City Council meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. |

National Poetry Month

April

Cautiousness

Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions.

- | | | | |
|------|--|----------|---|
| 1 | Planning & Zoning meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. | 15 | City of Character Steering Committee meeting, BISD Administration, noon |
| 2 | Friends of the Library Board meeting, Library, 10 a.m. | 15 | Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, Heritage Visitors Center, 7 p.m. |
| 2 | Spring Track Meet for Special Athletes, 8:30 a.m., Elk Stadium | 16-17 | Shattered Dreams presentation, Burleson High School |
| 6-12 | National Library Week | 21 | Library Board meeting, Library, 7 p.m. |
| 7-11 | Code Compliance Assistance Week | 24 | City Council meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. |
| 7-13 | Adopt-A-Street and Beautification Week | 25-26 | Friends of the Library Book Sale, Library, 10 a.m. |
| 10 | City Council meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. | 26 | Spring Creek Cleanup and Environmental Fair, 9 a.m. - noon, Warren Park |
| 12 | Bunny Daze, Chisenhall Park, 1 p.m. | 27-May 3 | National Volunteer Week |
| 15 | Planning & Zoning-City Council joint public hearing, City Hall, 7 p.m. | | |

May

Boldness

Confidence that what I have to say or do is true, right, and just.

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 2 | Fiesta de Burleson (Cinco de Mayo festival), City Hall, 6-11 p.m. | 19 | Library Board meeting, Library, 7 p.m. |
| 3 | Municipal Election Day | 19-25 | National Public Works Week |
| 3 | Honey Tour de Burleson Bike Ride, 7:30 a.m. | 20 | City of Character Steering Committee meeting, BISD Administration, noon |
| 7 | Friends of the Library Board meeting, Library, 10 a.m. | 20 | Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, Heritage Visitors Center, 7 p.m. |
| 8 | City Council meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. | 22 | City Council meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. |
| 10 | Honeyfest/Little Miss Burleson Contest, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. | 24 | Splash Day, Chisenhall Park Pool, 1 p.m. ** |
| 10 | Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, 9 a.m. - noon, Fire Station 2 | 26 | Memorial Day, City offices closed |
| 11-17 | National Police Week | 29 | Bubba Schafer Benefit Golf Tournament, 8:30 a.m., Tierra Verde Golf Club |
| 13 | Planning & Zoning-City Council joint public hearing, City Hall, 7 p.m. | | |
| 16-17 | Relay for Life, Kerr Middle School, 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. * | | |

* Note date change since previous issue

** Pool open May 24 - September 1 (weekends only after school resumes)

OTHER SOLID WASTE SERVICES NEWS



Changes coming for Special Pickup Service

Currently, the City offers all residential customers weekly special trash collection services on a call-in basis. Each week, residents call in, request a special pickup, and employees travel all over the city picking up mattresses, furniture, brush, electronics, and other special trash. Using this system, a resident could request and receive a special pickup at least 50 times per year. This system is expensive and inefficient.

In the near future, the City of Burleson will be implementing changes to this special trash collection service. The city will be divided into zones and residents in each zone will receive one collection per month (maximum 12 per year) during a designated time period. This should contribute to a cleaner city and more efficient provision of service.

Until the new zones are announced, weekly pickups will continue upon request as work schedules allow.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Doing Their Part – In November 2002, the City of Burleson employees held a “Clean Out Your Office” event to celebrate Texas Recycles Day. The result was a collection of approximately 3.5 tons of paper and cardboard and 1.58 tons of “end of life” electronic equipment, all of which was taken to special facilities for recycling.

City of Burleson

141 W. Renfro, Burleson, Texas 76028-4261

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City Council

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Jerry Allen, Mayor Pro Tem
Stuart Gillaspie, Jim Bailey,
Kenneth Shetter, Claudia Humphreys,
Rick Green*

The Burleson City Council normally meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall, 141 W. Renfro.
Call 817-447-5400 (metro 817-516-0670) for meeting dates.
Visit our website at www.burlesontx.com

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