



Russell Farm Art Center



WEEKLY REPORT

JANUARY 24, 2025

TO: MAYOR FLETCHER AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: TOMMY LUDWIG, CITY MANAGER

THE CITY OF
BURLESON
TEXAS

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
141 W RENFRO, BURLESON, TX 76028 | (817)426-9622

I. COUNCIL SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, 5:30 P.M.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the Equipment Replacement Fund (ERF) Policy, which is designed to provide financial stability to the purchase of vehicles and equipment. *(Staff Contact: Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager)*
- Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding proposed fees and service changes associated with the solid waste program. *(Staff Contact: Richard Abernethy, Administrative Services Director)*

All meetings will be held at Burleson City Hall Council Chambers, 141 W Renfro St. The meeting will be conducted in the council chambers and is also available via live stream, <https://www.burlesontx.com/watchlive>

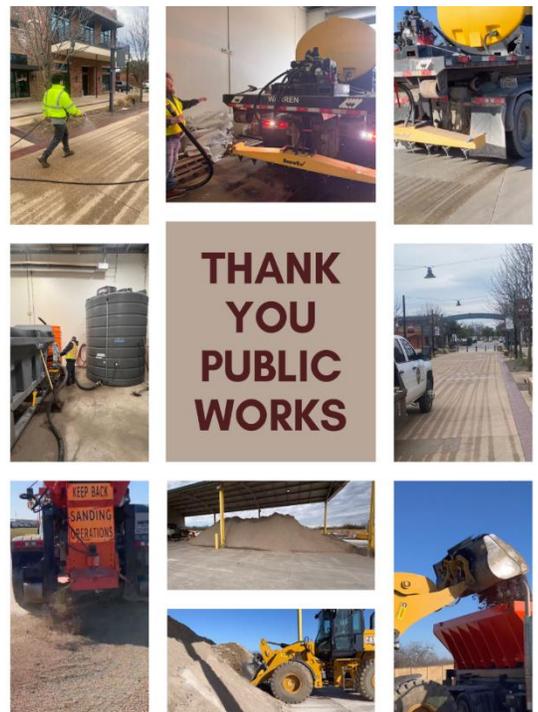
II. GENERAL AND STATUS UPDATES

A. WINTER OPERATIONS UPDATE

During the recent winter weather, public works divisions—streets, water, facilities and traffic—dedicated countless hours preparing streets, intersections, facilities, and infrastructure to mitigate potential issues and ensure public safety.

Efforts included:

- Applying 3,000 gallons of brine
- Spreading 24 tons of sand
- Distributing 26 tons of salt
- Servicing 95 lane miles



A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team of professionals who take great pride in keeping essential operations running smoothly, regardless of weather conditions.

B. SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES UPDATE

Have changes been made to the city's solid waste and recycling services?

We've gotten a lot of questions about this, and we're here to clarify—not yet! Proposed updates to the city's contract with Waste Connections were presented to city council on January 6, 2025, and staff was directed to bring back additional information. Council will receive an updated presentation during the February 3 meeting.

For more details, check out the FAQs document on page 12-13 or [here](#).

[View the Commercial Solid Waste & Recycling Services FAQs.](#)

C. BTX 311 HOSTS CITY OF FORT WORTH CUSTOMER CARE TEAM

On December 18, 2024, the BTX 311 team hosted the city of Fort Worth's customer care team, represented by Sharon Gamble, Kathy Cabello, and Erica Burns, for a collaborative visit focused on advancing customer service excellence. As part of this ongoing exchange, the city of Fort Worth hosted the BTX 311 team on January 23, 2025.

The meetings fostered an exchange of insights on performance metrics, industry standards, software platforms, and innovative team engagement strategies. Both teams emphasized a shared commitment to delivering exceptional customer service.

Sharon Gamble shared a key takeaway from the visit, stating, "While staying inviting as a small town, they drive big-city results in their back-office processes." Key discussions highlighted strengthening relationships with internal and



external customers and exploring future-focused initiatives like outreach planning and enhanced accessibility.

The teams also discussed innovative solutions such as ChatBot and Live Agent Chat to improve responsiveness and expand their reach.

Although Fort Worth only recently launched its dedicated 311 phone number, its call center has been operational since 2015, showcasing a commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and citizen engagement.

BTX 311 remains committed to adopting best practices and innovative tools to meet the evolving needs of our community, ensuring that Burleson continues to set the highest standard for exceptional customer service.

D. EGRET DETERRENT OUTREACH UPDATE

As egret nesting season approaches, Animal Services staff have placed yard signs in known nesting areas, reminding residents to report egret activity and use deterrents. Examples of the signs are shown below. Additionally, social media posts were shared on city platforms and in the Shady Oaks group. Egret deterrent information was included in the city's e-newsletter, and an Everbridge alert was sent to residents in nesting zones, highlighting free deterrent kits available from the city. Many neighbors have already utilized the kits, and awareness efforts will continue through spring and summer. Staff have also placed informational signage in the majority of city vehicles that show what egrets look like and inform staff to report any that are seen while they are out in the field.



SET UP EGRET DETERRENTS NOW

MORE INFO:

[BURLESONTX.COM/EGRETS](https://burlesontx.com/egrets)



SCAN ME

MAKE SURE YOUR TREES ARE EGRET FREE

MORE INFO:

[BURLESONTX.COM/EGRETS](https://burlesontx.com/egrets)



SCAN ME

The yard signs sparked the interest of a local Burleson resident who also happens to be a Star-Telegram reporter and contacted community services to learn more about the program. An article ran in the Star-Telegram on January 22, about the havoc egrets caused and Burleson's outreach program. The article is attached and can be found starting on page 14.

Animal Services staff was also able to successfully secure both a depredation permit and a salvage permit for egrets from U.S Fish & Wildlife Service.

This is a step to assist residents in egret control and mitigation. However, it is important to note that the depredation permit does not grant staff carte blanche authority to remove any and all egret nests.

As stated in the permit:

(2) Active Nests (nests containing chicks or viable eggs):

You are authorized to take (relocate or destroy) the following active migratory bird nests, including viable eggs or chicks if, the safety of the migratory birds, nests, or eggs is at risk, or the migratory birds, nests, or eggs pose a threat of serious bodily injury or a risk to human life. You may not use this authority to destroy or relocates nests for situations in which migratory birds are merely causing a nuisance or inconvenience.

If in the event staff needs to remove a nest, they must coordinate with the local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service representative. Whenever possible, relocation is preferred. Any relocated or destroyed nests must be reported to the Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office. The permit limits staff to removing or relocating a maximum of 50 Cattle Egret nests, 50 Snowy Egret nests, 5 Little Blue Heron

nests, and 5 Great Egret nests. It is important to note that the permit **does not allow for the removal of all nests**. An instance could occur where staff would be allowed to remove one nests from a tree, but leave the other remaining nests in the same tree.

The permit also allows staff to relocate inactive migratory bird nests that do not have viable eggs or chicks.

E. LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

The Great Giveback

Saturday, January 25, 9-11 a.m.

Join the Burleson Public Library for The Great Giveback this Saturday from 9-11 a.m. This event offers residents the chance to connect with local nonprofits and explore ways to give back to the community. Representatives from various agencies will be on-site to share their volunteer opportunities and answer your questions.

Participating organizations include:

- Johnson County Texas Hunger Coalition
- Rio Brazos Master Naturalist
- TX Health Huguley Hospital
- Wings of Hope
- CASA of Johnson County
- Center for ASD
- CERT - Community Emergency Response Team
- Reinspire
- Rooted Families Rooted Communities
- Keep Burleson Beautiful
- Children's Advocacy Center of Johnson County
- Friends of Russell Farm
- Joshua Community YMCA
- Friends of Burleson Library
- Lions Club

Whether you're looking to give your time or learn more about the needs in your area, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved.

Participation in this event, including the involvement of various community groups, does not constitute an endorsement by the Burleson Public Library.



**Teen DIY Animal Masks
Saturday, January 25, 11 a.m.**

Let your creativity shine at our Teen DIY Animal Masks program. Teens ages 10 and up are invited to create their own unique animal masks. This event is part of our Teen Takeover series and was suggested by one of our awesome teen patrons.



F. SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING

Join the Burleson Senior Activity Center Wednesday, January 29 at 10 a.m. for the Price Is Right game. Have fun with friends old and new as you guess the price (without going over) for your chance to win prizes. Please call 817-295-6611 to register.

For those interested in learning more about the center's offerings, tours are available. The Senior Activity Center, located at 216 SW Johnson Avenue, is open to individuals aged 50 and up.



G. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS



City Council and Animal Control Officer Shelby Welsh with Adoptable Pet of the Quarter, Dakota, during the January 21, 2025 city council meeting.

H. PET OF THE WEEK

Buckley is a charming two-year-old English Coonhound mix. This friendly fellow knows basic commands and is always eager to please. He has a particular fondness for tennis balls and squeaky toys – the louder, the better!

Buckley may be a big boy, but he loves to cuddle and will happily curl up on your lap like a much smaller dog. He's looking for an active family who can provide him with plenty of exercise and mental stimulation.

His adoption fee is waived and includes shots, microchipping, and heartworm testing, and neuter.

The shelter is currently at capacity for dogs. View all adoptable animals at burlesontx.com/adopt

I. FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

The Burleson Animal Shelter recently received an extraordinary act of kindness. An anonymous donor contributed over \$32,000—the exact amount needed to purchase the shelter’s much-anticipated animal adoption trailer.

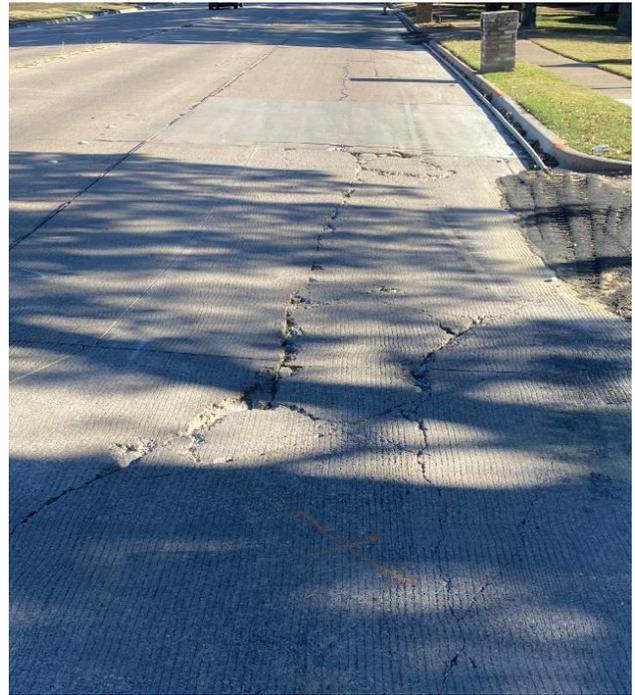
For the past eight months, the shelter has been working hard to raise funds for this project, and this generous gift made the dream a reality. The new trailer will allow the shelter to bring adoptable pets directly to community events, making it easier for these sweet animals to find their forever homes.



ALSBURY BOULEVARD REPAIRS UPDATE

The streets division of public works recently partnered with a contractor to complete road repairs on Alsbury Boulevard. The repairs focused on the inside and outside northbound lanes from the Newton Block to NW Tarrant Ave. Despite delays caused by the holidays and winter weather, the project is now complete, and the roadway is open to traffic.

BEFORE



AFTER



Next, road improvements began on January 22, on the westbound 700-block of Hidden Creek Parkway near Lisa Street. These repairs are expected to take approximately three weeks, weather permitting.

IV. PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS

PROJECT	STATUS	TIMELINE
Oak Valley South – Scott Street Trailhead Improvement	Construction in progress	Anticipated completion: January 2025
Chisenhall Turf Conversion (7 fields)	Construction in progress	Anticipated completion: March 2025
Centennial Park	In production to be delivered – January 2025	Anticipated completion: March 2025
Parks Master Plan	Engagement	Anticipated completion: April 2025
Shannon Creek	Design / Bidding Goal	January 2025
Green Ribbon	Finalizing design in coordination with TxDOT	Ongoing
Community Park	Design	Ongoing
BRiCk Renovation	Equipment package approved on September 9, 2024. Interior Renovation & Pool Resurface approved on October 21, 2024.	November 2024 – Lobby Renovation construction started August 2025 – Pool Renovation construction start September 2025 - HVAC construction start

V. EVENTS

Event information can be found at www.burlesontx.com/events

- **THE GREAT GIVEBACK**
 January 25, 9-11 a.m.
 Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave
 Free event
- **CITYFEST**
 February 6, 4:30 – 7 p.m.
 BRiCk, 550 NW Summercrest Blvd
 Free event
- **DATE NIGHT EXPERIENCE**
 February 15, 6-8 p.m.
 Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W CR 714
 \$55 per couple
- **BTX OFF ROAD**
 March 1, 8 a.m.
 Chisenhall Sports Complex, 500 Chisenhall Park Ln
 \$20 per vehicle
- **DOGS & DONUTS MARDI PAWS**
 March 1, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
 Bailey Lake Park, 280 W Hidden Creek Pkwy
 Free event

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Solid Waste and Recycling Services FAQs.....page 12-13
- Star-Telegram article.....page 14-17

1. HAS A CHANGE TO SOLID WASTE SERVICES BEEN APPROVED BY COUNCIL?

No, not yet. On January 6, 2025, the City Council was briefed on recommended service delivery changes, and there was a consensus to move forward. The City must finalize a new agreement and present it to the Council for final approval.



2. WHAT SERVICES WOULD CHANGE?

The city is proposing a change from twice-a-week trash pickup in bags to once-a-week trash pickup in a 95-gallon cart. Recycling pickup will remain once a week, with the potential to increase to a 95-gallon cart pending council's final decision.



3. WHAT SERVICES WOULD STAY THE SAME?

- Once-a-week small brush & bulk pickup and once-a-month large brush & bulk pickup. Quantities would remain the same for both.
- Residents will still have access to Turkey Creek Landfill two (2) times per year with a City water bill as proof of residency.
- Curbside assistance will still be available for eligible residents (e.g., seniors or those with disabilities) who have difficulty placing carts at the curb.



4. WILL THE COST FOR SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING BE REDUCED?

Yes. The current monthly rate for solid waste & recycling pickup is \$24.43, plus tax. Under the new proposal, with the increase to a 95-gallon **recycling** cart, residents would pay a monthly rate of \$17.78, plus tax.



5. IF I NEED EXTRA CARTS, WOULD THAT BE AVAILABLE AND HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

Yes, extra carts would be available to residents for \$7 each per month, plus tax.



6. WHAT IS THE CURRENT TRASH COLLECTION LIMIT COMPARED TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

Currently, residents can set out up to 10 bags of trash twice a week. Under the proposed changes, trash collection will shift to once a week using a 95-gallon cart, which holds approximately seven (7) standard 13-gallon trash bags. Residents can also use the weekly small bulk & brush pickup to put approximately six (6) additional trash bags outside of their cart.



7. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TRASH RESIDENTS DISPOSE OF EACH WEEK?

According to Waste Connections, our residents generate an average of 45 pounds of trash per week. With a heavy kitchen trash bag averaging about 15 pounds, this equals approximately three (3) bags of trash per household each week, or about 1.5 bags per service day.



8. WHEN WOULD THE NEW SERVICE GO INTO EFFECT?

If approved, the new service would begin the first quarter of 2026.



9. WILL OUR SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING PROVIDER CHANGE?

No. Waste Connections, the City's current vendor, will continue to provide these services.



10. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR CARTS VS. BAGS?

Garbage Containment: Using carts reduces litter, prevents animals from tearing bags and minimizes windblown waste.

Easy-to-Move Carts: Designed for easy tipping and movement, eliminating the need for heavy lifting.

Extra Carts Available: Residents can request additional carts if needed, offering flexibility for larger households.

Curbside Assistance: Assistance will still be available for eligible residents (e.g., seniors or those with disabilities) who have difficulty placing carts at the curb.



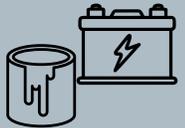
11. WHAT GUIDELINES WILL THERE BE FOR CART STORAGE?

The city does not require screening for carts but does require them to be stored behind the building line of the home. **Please note:** Homeowners' associations (HOAs) may establish their own restrictions, which are independent of city oversight or control.



12. WILL ADDITIONAL SERVICES BE ADDED?

Yes. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) curbside collection will be available once a month. Residents must schedule the service in advance and place items on the curb for pickup. This service costs \$1.00 per month per home and is included in the monthly rate of \$17.78, plus tax, pending council's decision for recycling cart capacity.



13. WHAT ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED FOR HHW COLLECTION?

Accepted items include:

- Batteries (all types)
- Paint (all types)
- Light bulbs (all types)
- Household cleaners
- Aerosol cans
- Automotive fluids and fuels
- Lawn and garden chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, weed killers)
- Pool chemicals
- Varnish strippers, turpentine, stains
- Glues and epoxies
- Used motor oil and cooking oil (secure screw-top lid)



Please note: Electronic Waste (E-Waste) is not accepted under this program.

14. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HHW CURBSIDE COLLECTION?

The City has historically offered an annual event for HHW disposal and access to Fort Worth's facility at 6400 Bridge Street. However, the event often cannot meet demand, and Fort Worth's location is not convenient for many residents. The HHW curbside program will replace the annual collection event, providing a safer, more convenient way to dispose of hazardous waste. This will serve to reduce risks and long-term accumulation in homes.



15. WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS?

BTX311 📞 817-426-9600 🌐 burlesontx.com/311 ✉️ 311@burlesontx.com

CONTACT US



LOCAL

Cry fowl! Noisy egrets bringing a smelly mess to Fort Worth area neighborhoods

By Matthew Adams

Updated January 22, 2025 11:34 AM |  1

Long ago, the vulture was believed to signal impending doom. In modern-day Tarrant and Johnson counties, it's the cattle egret we dread.

Over the past 60 years, the eastern half of Texas has become a popular nesting ground for cattle egrets, which can grow to nearly 2 feet in height with a roughly 3-foot wingspan. The trouble begins when these birds come to urban and residential areas and establish rookeries — nesting colonies — inhabited by hundreds, if not thousands, of adult egrets and their young. What follows can resemble a Hitchcockian nightmare of noise and feces.

Egrets typically create rookeries in February or March, after which waves of birds will arrive, laying eggs and raising chicks until mid-September or October. Last year, more than 100 egrets formed a rookery in the Shady Oaks neighborhood in northwest Burleson. According to Burleson Community Services Director DeAnna

n.com/news/local/article298580573.html

Egrets plague tree-lined Fort Worth area neighborhoods | Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Phillips, these birds were largely concentrated on one homeowner's property, where they ended up damaging trees, lawn and landscaping, primarily due to the large amount of excrement.

Hoping to avoid a repeat, the city of Burleson has embarked upon a [public information campaign](#) urging residents to be vigilant for signs of egrets and to notify Burleson Animal Services if any are spotted. But Burleson is hardly alone.

"It's something we deal with every year," said Christopher Lirette, code compliance superintendent for the city of Fort Worth.



Egrets young and old fill the trees of two houses in Arlington in this file photo. Parts of Tarrant and Johnson counties have become a popular nesting ground for the birds. Paul Moseley pmoseley@star-telegram.com



Egrets by the hundreds nested in the trees of two homes in an Arlington neighborhood in this file photo. Paul Moseley pmoseley@star-telegram.com

He mentioned the Stone Meadow and Meadows of Candleridge neighborhoods on the south side and the Park Glen and Sterling Creek neighborhoods on the north side as having been impacted by egrets in recent years, and he said the extent of the damage these birds can cause would surprise people.

“We’ve seen citizens have to tear up their whole yard,” said Lirette, adding that the damage can also extend to structural components like roofs and gutters.

“The birds like to fish,” Lirette said. “They bring the fish back to their nests to feed the young, and you end up with parts of fish on your roof and in your yard, and the smell can be terrible.”

Like his counterparts in Burleson, Lirette wants Fort Worth [egret sightings](#), as well as sightings of yellow-crowned herc blue herons and great blue herons, all of which can cause t headaches as cattle egrets.

“People start seeing them, and they think it’s cute,” said Lirette. “The problem is when they nest. The birds like to fly in around dusk. If they don’t get disturbed, they’ll start nesting. I tell people if they see birds flying down into the yard and picking up twigs and things, they’re up to something.”

What proactive steps can residents take?

Since cattle egrets are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, killing, capturing or forcibly removing them is prohibited, but it is legal to harass the birds using things like [air horns and visual deterrents such as “scare eye” balloons and reflective tape](#) in trees. The harassment must stop, however, once the egrets have settled into nests for the season and lay eggs.

Adam Henry, a Fort Worth-based urban biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said cattle egrets are attracted to neighborhoods with 30- to 40-foot-tall mature trees and a dense limb canopy. Because of that, he said the trees are the first line of defense against egrets.

“Arborists recommend you trim trees to a 70% canopy, trim the top of the trees out,” Henry said. “Don’t just trim around the bottom of the trunk; go around the trees out.”

Tree trimming can be expensive, so Henry suggests neighbors band together and share the cost. Even if it’s pricey, it’s money well spent in Henry’s experience.

It’s especially important for residents in areas previously affected by cattle egrets to double down on their efforts, since the birds will often return to the same nesting places. In addition to trimming back tree canopies, those who have dealt with egrets in the past should also remove remnants of abandoned nests to discourage resettlement.

Christopher Lirette said his team will be out in force in the coming days handing out flyers and reminding people to be on the lookout for egrets and their migratory bird cousins.

“If [a rookery] is over your house, over your backyard, over your whole summer’s done,” he warned.



Matt Adams

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



817-390-7014

Matt Adams is a news reporter covering Fort Worth and Tarrant County who joined the Star-Telegram in January 2025.