



Fall Fest at the Farm | Saturday, October 18

WEEKLY REPORT

OCTOBER 17, 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, OCTOBER 20
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, 5:30 P.M.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the City’s Capital Improvement Program. *(Staff Contact: Randy Morrison, P.E., Director of Capital Engineering)*
- Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the community park naming process. *(Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)*

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. MONTHLY SALES USE AND MIXED BEVERAGE TAX NUMBERS

Sales Tax

Oct-24	October 2025	Diff \$	Diff %	FY2024 YTD	FY2025 YTD	Diff \$	Diff %
\$ 2,234,574	\$ 2,473,866	\$ 239,292	10.71%	\$ 26,968,399	\$ 28,114,443	\$ 1,146,043	4.25%

Note: October 2025 sales tax amount represents sales occurred in August 2025.

Mixed Beverage Tax

Oct 2024	Oct 2025	Diff \$	Diff %	FY2024 YTD	FY2025 YTD	Diff \$	Diff %
\$ 25,118	\$ 21,149	\$ (3,969)	-15.80%	\$ 241,545	\$ 261,261	\$ 19,716	8.16%

Note: October 2025 mixed beverage tax amount represents sales occurred in September 2025.

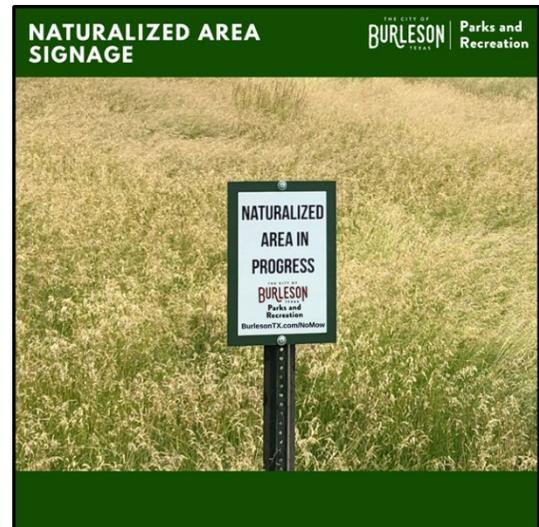
B. WEATHER AND LIGHTENING ALERT SIGNS INSTALLED

Weather and lightning alert signs have been installed at Chisenhall Sports Complex and select parks through a collaboration between parks, communications and emergency management. These signs provide access to real-time weather and lightning notifications, enhancing visitor safety during severe weather conditions.



C. NATURALIZED SPACES – NO MOW EXPANSION – PHASE 1 ROLLOUT

The parks and recreation department is moving forward with Phase 1 of the new Naturalized Areas Program, an initiative to convert select high-maintenance turf areas into low-maintenance, ecologically beneficial landscapes, as part of the existing No Mow Program. The program aims to reduce mowing and maintenance costs, improve soil and water health and support pollinators and wildlife across Burleson.



Phase 1 focuses on six sites that offer both immediate cost savings and strong community benefit: Heberle Trail, Lakewood Median, Renfro Median, Cedar Ridge Park, Hidden Creek Bridge, and the I-35 & Wilshire slope. Combined, these locations are projected to deliver ongoing operational savings and efficiency gains through a modest one-time seed investment.

Future phases will expand the program to additional parks and medians, increasing acreage and long-term labor efficiencies.

Educational signage and community outreach will help residents understand the purpose and environmental benefits of these new landscapes.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARKS COLLABORATION

The economic development department and parks department spent the day together as part of the economic development’s ongoing effort to connect with and learn more about different city departments. Last week, economic development staff spent time talking through operations, visiting and thanking crews in the field and discussing ways the teams can continue to connect and collaborate moving forward. It was a great opportunity to strengthen partnerships and gain a deeper understanding of how to continue supporting one another.



Pictured left to right: Alex Philips, Jessica Martinez, Jessica Torres, Joni Van Noy & Drew Pennywell

E. PARKS AND RECREATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY (TRAPS) MAINTENANCE RODEO

Parks staff showcased their skills and teamwork at the TRAPS Maintenance Rodeo this month, participating in a variety of timed technical challenges that highlight everyday parks maintenance expertise.

Congratulations to Jesus Castellanos, who placed first in the Backpack Blower competition, earning the opportunity to compete at the state level. The day was filled with skill-building, friendly competition, and valuable networking among peers across the region.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Some members of the Parks and Recreation team attended the NRPA National Conference, focusing on professional growth, industry trends and innovative practices in parks and recreation. Participation in this national event supports continued development, reinforces Burleson's commitment to operational excellence, and brings fresh ideas back to enhance our local parks system.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jen Basham presented on national accreditation and continues to serve the profession as an active NRPA member and Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) national accreditation site visitor, giving back to the field through leadership and service at the national level.



Members of Burleson parks team

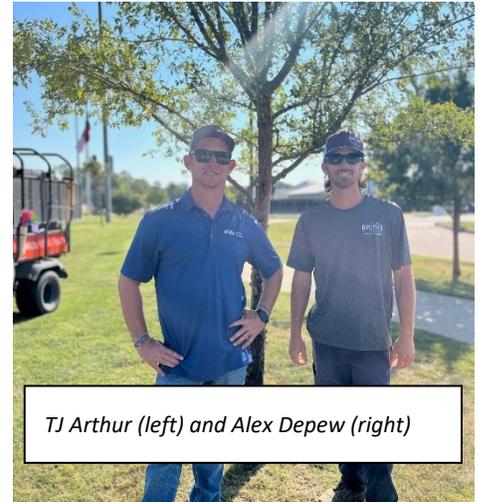


Jesus Castellanos



ALEX DEPEW PROMOTION

Alex Depew was recently promoted to senior maintenance worker after successfully completing the parks department's newly developed Senior Maintenance Progression Program, created as part of the department's overall succession planning goals. He was the first employee to take and complete the program, marking an important milestone for both Alex and the department. His advancement reflects strong performance, leadership growth, and the department's continued investment in staff development.



HIRING FIRST URBAN FORESTER

The parks department is currently recruiting the city of Burleson's first dedicated urban forester, a position made possible through a grant award from the Texas A&M Forest Service, which provided partial funding for the role's creation. This position represents a significant step forward in advancing Burleson's urban canopy management, sustainability initiatives, and long-term tree care planning.



More information can be found at the link below — sharing is encouraged!

[Urban Forester / Arborist](#)

F. BURLESON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Bat Program with Texas Master Naturalists

The library is going batty! Join them on **Friday, October 24, from 4–5 p.m.** for a special **Bat Program** with the **Texas Master Naturalists**. Families will enjoy a reading of *Stellaluna* and learn all about the fascinating bats of Texas. Hands-on activities will include a marble painting bat craft, paper bats and a touch table where participants can explore



representations of average bat weights and wingspans. This fun and educational program is open to **all ages**.

G. SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER PROGRAMMING

Ping Pong

Mondays, 1:45 p.m.

Tuesdays, 2:15 p.m.

Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.

Playing ping pong offers numerous health benefits, including improved hand-eye coordination, mental acuity, and cardiovascular fitness. It is a low-risk sport which promotes social interaction and can enhance overall well-being.



Crocheting

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.

Crocheting is a relaxing way to reduce stress and anxiety, boost your mood and improve fine motor skills — all while creating beautiful scarves, blankets and other handmade projects.

Crocheting in a group fosters community and provides a creative outlet, making it a wonderfully therapeutic activity. Come join the fun and see for yourself.



For those interested in learning more about the center's offerings, tours are available. The Burluson Senior Activity Center, 216 SW Johnson Avenue, is open to individuals aged 50 and up Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

H. PET OF THE WEEK

Chip is a friendly and playful 2-year-old Labrador Retriever mix with a heart as sweet as a chocolate chip cookie. Full of energy and personality, Chip loves toys, running around and getting treats, especially when he's learning something new.

Though he already brings a lot of joy, Chip is still working on basic manners like sitting on command and not jumping up, so he's looking for a home with someone ready to guide him with patience and consistency. Because of his spirited nature, he'd do best in a home with older children.

Chip's adoption fee is waived and includes vaccinations, microchipping, heartworm testing and neuter — meaning he's ready to go home today.

If you're looking for a fun and loyal companion, Chip may be the perfect addition to your family.

The shelter is **at capacity**, so if you are thinking about adopting, make us your first stop. View all adoptable animals at burlesontx.com/adopt

The Burleson Animal Shelter, located at 775 SE John Jones Drive, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



I. **FEEL GOOD FRIDAY**

We love hearing about the meaningful moments families experience at our community events, like this one shared by Christina Husfeld to a local Facebook group following Founders Day:

"Shout out to Burleson Police Department and Burleson Fire / EMS Department. We went to Founders Day yesterday and both took the time to show our kiddo their vehicles which he asks us to see daily."



These small moments of connection are what make events like Founders Day so special. Thank you, Officer Jay Davis and Firefighter / EMT Dakota Kirkwood, for taking time to engage with the youngest members of our community and create lasting memories.

If you have a Feel Good Friday story you'd like to share, email us at newsletter@burlesontx.com.

III. **ROAD PROJECTS**

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: ALSBURY BLVD BETWEEN CANDLER DR AND HULEN ST
City contractors continue work on S.W. Alsbury Boulevard between S.W. Hulen Street and Candler Drive for remaining improvements of the widening of the boulevard.

IV. **PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS**



[Click here to stay up to date on current park projects](#)

V. EVENTS

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

- **BURLESON FARMERS MARKET**
Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.
Free entry, items for purchase
- **DOGS AND DONUTS: HALLOWEEN EDITION**
October 18, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Burleson Bark Park, 616 Memorial Plaza
Free event
- **FALL FEST AT THE FARM**
October 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W CR 714
Free event
- **OLD TOWN PICTURE SHOW**
October 24 (*Hocus Pocus*) & November 21 (*Elf*), 6 p.m.
Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W Renfro St
Fee event
- **BOO BASH**
October 25, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Chisenhall Sports Complex, 500 W Hidden Creek Pkwy
Free event
- **COLOR WITH CLIFFORD**
October 28, 3 – 4 p.m.
Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.
Free event
- **ZUMBA NIGHTS IN THE PLAZA**
October 29, 7 – 8 p.m.
Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W Renfro St
Free event
- **MILITARY VETERANS TRIBUTE**
November 8, 10 a.m.
Veterans Memorial Plaza, 298 E Renfro St.
Free event

- **FAR OUT FAMILY CAMPOUT**
November 8-9, Noon – 9 a.m.
Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W County Road 714
\$30 per family of 5; additional family members will cost \$5 each
- **RUSSELL FARM COOKING SOCIAL**
November 14, 5-7 p.m.
Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W County Road 714
\$75 per person
- **RECYCLING EVENT**
November 15, 8:30 – 11 a.m.
Municipal Service Center, 725 SE John Jones Dr
Free event, open to Burleson residents only