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Keep Burleson Beautiful (KBB) was tapped as one of 55 Texas communities to be honored with Gold Star Status by Keep Texas Beautiful. Bianca Chafin, the City's environmental programs specialist/KBB executive director and Donna Hollowell, president of KBB, accepted the honor from Cathie Gail, executive director of Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB). The honor was announced during the 44th annual conference.

Keep Texas Beautiful also recognized Bianca Chafin with second place in the Individual Leadership Award category. This is a once in a lifetime award that recognizes individuals who provide leadership in improving and enhancing Texas' environment.

At Monday night's Burleson City Council meeting, council also honored Keep Burleson Beautiful, including Chafin, Hollowell, and KBB officers and board members Patsy Dumas/vice president, Donna Confessore/secretary, and Pat Dexheimer/board member.

KTB, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement organization, has more than 360 affiliates. Gold Star recognition is the highest status any community affiliate can achieve.

In 2010, KBB successfully implemented programs to prevent litter, reduce waste, educate local citizens, and beautify community areas. During the Burleson Trash Bash and Burleson's Great American Cleanup Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off events, approximately 265 volunteers donated 530 hours to rid the city of more than 3,100 pounds of litter and debris. Burleson Independent School District third graders were treated to a show by the Don't Mess with Texas Litter Force in which the Litter Force battles with Evil Trash. Other successful programs included Adopt-A-Spot, the Ann Heberle Business Beautification Award, Burleson Environmental Education contest and awards, and support of independent beautification projects. To stay in good standing with KTB, community affiliates must annually submit a report, pay a fee, attend at least one training session and participate in at least one KTB-endorsed activity.

In 2004, KTB introduced the Gold Star recognition to reward communities that went above and beyond the requirements. Affiliates are required to meet additional benchmarks - share information on their mission and goals, answer questions about educational programs and solid waste initiatives, participate in

the KTB or Governor's Community Achievement Awards programs, and provide a letter of support from the community.

KBB is a community-based volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the health and prosperity of the city through litter prevention, solid waste minimization, education, and beautification. KBB is also an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. For more about how to get involved, call Bianca Chafin, 817-426-9842 or go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com. Click on Departments, Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services, then Keep Burleson Beautiful.