

# CITY FOCUS

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A City of Burleson Newsletter

August 2014

## CITY'S CREDIT RATING GETS A BOOST

The City earned a boost in its credit rating in June. According to the City's financial advisor – Boyd London, managing director with FirstSouthwest – the City “was upgraded. You had an AA- rating and it was upgraded to AA. Triple A is the best. AA+ is the next step and I anticipate you will get to AA+ within the next few years.” The rating came from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. “You are now among the top cities in the Metroplex in terms of rating, financial condition, and policies,” London said. “This statistic is specific to Burleson – 70 percent of your debt is gone in 10 years. That is a good number. Typically we see that percentage in the 50s and 60s at best so 70 percent is pretty good.” The upgrade came in conjunction with the City selling/issuing \$24.49 million in general obligation bonds and \$11.05 million in certificates of obligation (\$5.95 million for water and wastewater improvements and \$5.11 million for the extension of Vantage Drive to FM 917). [burlesontx.com/creditboost](http://burlesontx.com/creditboost)

## FOUNDERS DAY IS OCT. 11

Mock gunfights, arts and crafts, great food, and two stages of entertainment are on tap for the City's 22nd annual Founders Day. The celebration starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, and wraps by 6 p.m. in the City's Old Town, 124 W. Ellison St. Founders Day is hosted by the City and the Burleson Heritage Foundation. Heritage members dress in period costume for the daylong event. BHF members provide historical and tourist information to visitors at the Burleson Visitors Center and in the City's two rail cars, Rail Car #330 and Parlor Car #411. Burleson was founded Oct. 10, 1881, and incorporated in 1912. More than 18 mayors have been elected and served since the 1912 incorporation. To learn more, call 817-426-9104.



## CALLING ALL HOAs, NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS . . .

Are you part of a Homeowners Association or organized neighborhood group in Burleson that keeps everyone in the loop on programs, localized crime information, and more? Please contact Community Resource Officer David Wardlaw. He already has contact information for several active groups in the city, but he wants to make sure everyone is involved who wants to be involved. If you are the leader of your HOA or neighborhood group, all you have to do is email your name, the name of your neighborhood, and the email address that he can use to send you timely neighborhood and city information. The leaders of each group can then forward that information to neighbors. And, if you receive this newsletter before Aug. 5 and you haven't signed up for the Aug. 5 National Night Out, sign up now. Call 817-426-9958 or email [dwardlaw@burlesontx.com](mailto:dwardlaw@burlesontx.com).

## ARE YOU READY TO BEAUTIFY BURLESON?

Burleson's Trash Bash is Saturday, Sept. 20. What is your commitment? Two hours, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. During the event, volunteers remove litter and debris from retail corridors, waterways, drainage channels, streets, parks, and other public areas. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, but youth participants are required to have adult supervision. After the cleanup, volunteers will convene at Warren Park, 301 S.W. Johnson Ave. Registration starts three weeks prior to the event. You can register online by going to [burlesontx.com/trashoff](http://burlesontx.com/trashoff) and clicking on the registration form, then download the volunteer information packet. Call the City's environmental services office at 817-426-9832 for more information.



## LOOKING FOR A GRANT?

The Burleson Public Library has what you need. Nonprofit organizations and other grant seekers have access to a valuable new collection of databases and print resources at the library, which has become a Funding Information Network partner with the Foundation Center of New York. The Center's core collection of resources includes Foundation Directory Online, profiling more than 120,000 U.S. grant makers; Foundation Grants to Individuals Online; Philanthropy In/Sight; print directories; and proposal writing guides. Library staff will also be hosting training sessions on how to use the resources and about the grant-seeking process. [burlesontx.com/librarygrantresource](http://burlesontx.com/librarygrantresource)

The City Focus newsletter is created by the City of Burleson's Office of Communications. The newsletter is mailed to all City residents who have an account with the City's utility customer service department. This is an official publication of the City of Burleson.

Website: [burlesontx.com](http://burlesontx.com) • Facebook: [City of Burleson, Texas](#) • Twitter: [City of Burleson, Texas](#)

## MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL ADDS MEMBERS

There are six new faces on the Burleson Mayor's Youth Council. In June, the Burleson City Council approved Lindsey Douglas, Katelyn Depoy, Jonathan Espinoza, Jaden Griffin, Aidan Rasor, and Aaron Todd. The six join Chair Elisabeth White, Vice Chair Ethan Johnson, Secretary Noah Peters, and members Keegan Craddock, Bailey Douglas, Cory Hood, Devon Martinez, Hunter Preston, Shelby Priddy, and Zachary Terrell. The goal of the MYC is to identify current issues affecting area youth, advise the city council on teen-related matters, plan activities and projects for Burleson youth, and maintain youth council bylaws and structure. [burlesontx.com/June2014MYC](http://burlesontx.com/June2014MYC)



## WHAT'S COMING UP IN FY 2015?

The City's budget presentation process for the 2014-2015 fiscal year started in May, with the next budget session slated for Wednesday, Aug. 13. A link to the May 21 video is posted here, <http://bit.ly/1tnjqdT>. Public hearings will take place in August and September. To keep up with what's being proposed, go to [burlesontx.com/FY15budgetplan](http://burlesontx.com/FY15budgetplan).

## PROPER MAINTENANCE = GOOD WATER QUALITY

A lawn can be a work of art or become an environmental disaster. Proper lawn maintenance is not only required for a healthy and beautiful lawn, but it is also important for good water quality. Excessive amounts of fertilizer and pesticides on lawns can end up in our water supply, causing major problems. Lawn grass clippings and leaves that are blown or raked into the street can clog storm drains and cause flooding. The nutrients from the grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizers can cause the aquatic life in the waterways to die by depleting the oxygen levels in the water. You can help ensure our waterways remain clean by following the manufacturers' recommendations when using pesticides and fertilizers, and be sure to keep your yard trimmings and leaves out of the storm drain. For more information, please visit [burlesontx.com/environmental](http://burlesontx.com/environmental).

## TEEN SWAG IS BACK SEPT. 4

The Teen SWAG Affair is coming back! It will be Thursday, Sept. 4, 4 p.m.-8 p.m., at the Ron Harmon Subcourthouse located across from Burleson High School at 247 Elk Dr. Typically, SWAG refers to a person's appearance, style or presentation, but at this free event the message is Sober – Wait – Awareness – Guidance. There will be food, fun, prizes and giveaways as well as lots of educational and fun information. The event is hosted by the staff of the Burleson Municipal Court. Call Constance White, director of court services, at 817-426-9220 to learn more.



### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### Boo Bash

Oct. 25, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
124 W. Ellison St.  
817-426-9104

#### Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Recycling & Paper Shredding

Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.  
133 N. Main St.  
817-426-9832

#### Military Veteran Tribute

Nov. 8, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Park  
298 E. Renfro St.  
817-426-9104

### CHECK IT OUT ...

For City meeting times and dates, check the Public Notices page on the City website, [burlesontx.com](http://burlesontx.com). Meeting times are subject to change.

#### Animal Shelter

775 S.E. John Jones Dr.  
817-426-9283

#### City Hall

141 W. Renfro St.  
817-426-9600

#### Burleson Recreation Center

550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd.  
817-426-9104

#### Compost/Mulch/Recycle Center

620 Memorial Plaza  
817-426-9830

#### Fire Department

Main: 828 S.W. Alsbury Blvd.  
#2: 650 Memorial Plaza  
#3: 245 Lakewood Dr.  
817-426-9170

#### Burleson Visitors Center

124 W. Ellison St.  
817-447-1575

#### Hidden Creek Golf Course

555 E. Hidden Creek Pkwy.  
817-447-4444

#### Library

248 S.W. Johnson Ave.  
817-426-9210

#### Municipal Court

247 Elk Dr.  
817-426-9220

#### Municipal Service Center

725 S.E. John Jones Dr.  
817-426-9830

#### Police Department

225 W. Renfro St.  
817-426-9910

#### Senior Activity Center

216 S.W. Johnson Ave.  
817-295-6611

For hours at each facility, go to [burlesontx.com/facilities](http://burlesontx.com/facilities). Hours are listed under each entry.