

CITY FOCUS

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A City of Burleson Newsletter

November 2014



REIN-DONKEY RETURNS FOR CHRISTMAS AT RUSSELL FARM

Get your picture taken with Joey, the “Rein-Donkey,” during the three-day Christmas at Russell Farm festivities. The City’s 30-acre historic farm at 405 W. County Road 714 is the site for fun Dec. 18-20. The hours on Thursday and Friday are 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Saturday’s hours are noon-8 p.m. The festivities are free. The fun includes pictures (bring your own camera) with a donkey wearing antlers; checking out the Christmas trees decorated by community clubs and organizations; hay rides; handmade crafts for sale; tours of the historic Russell-Boren house as well as the Russell Farm Art Center gallery; and hot chocolate, cookies and coffee. Call 817-447-3316 for more information about Christmas at Russell Farm. To learn more about the farm, go to burlesontx.com/russellfarm.

IT'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA DEC. 6

The big guy from the North Pole is hosting the 15th annual Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 a.m.-11 a.m., at the BRiCk on Summercrest Boulevard. The event is geared to children from birth to 12 years old (children 2 and younger get in free). Saint Nick’s elves will be up before the crack of dawn flipping pancakes, cooking sausage, and serving the orange juice and coffee. Santa will be in the BRiCk’s Winter Wonderland until 11 a.m. to hear Christmas wishes, so bring your camera. Then stop by Santa’s workshop to make holiday crafts. Advance tickets are available at the BRiCk starting Nov. 3, or you can buy them at the door Dec. 6. Advance tickets are \$4 for children and \$5 for adults. Tickets at the door are \$5 for children, \$7 for adults. For more information, call 817-426-9104.



DON'T MISS THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS DEC. 6

The Burleson Rotary Club is hosting the Parade of Lights that steps off from Kerr Middle School at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6 and winds through Burleson’s Old Town. Twinkling lights are a must on each parade entry. Fees in the four categories range from \$10-\$30. Santa will be on that last float, and then he’ll make his way to the corner of Johnson Avenue and Ellison Street, which will be bustling with dancers and singers. The big finale is at 7 p.m. with the lighting of the City’s Christmas tree and a low aerial fireworks show choreographed to holiday music. After the tree lighting, Santa will head to his sleigh to listen to Christmas wishes. For more information about the tree lighting and fireworks show, call the BRiCk at 817-426-9104. For more information about the parade, call Lisa Keese at 817-447-7300.



BUDGET AND RATES APPROVED BY COUNCIL

The new City budget, given thumbs up by council in September, should help to improve public health and safety with the addition of two firefighters, two police officers, a fire inspector/investigator, and a code enforcement officer. The budget also includes changes in various rates. The 2014 ad valorem tax rate is \$.7400, which includes an increase on the debt service rate for bonds approved by voters in November 2013. Water/wastewater system capital improvements are being funded via a 6 percent increase in the base and volumetric water rates. Trash and curbside recycling rates will increase slightly (\$18.10 to \$19.20 for residents) because the contract the City has with the provider (Progressive) includes automatic inflation-based increases. For more information, go to bit.ly/FY15budgetplanning.

POLICE PARTNER WITH NEXTDOOR TO REACH NEIGHBORHOODS

The Burleson Police Department added a new tool to the toolbox. It’s called Nextdoor, and it’s a private social network for neighborhoods. The partnership allows Burleson Community Resource Officer David Wardlaw to communicate online with residents in Burleson neighborhoods to work together to improve safety and strengthen neighborhood watch efforts. Officer Wardlaw will work with homeowner association presidents as well as neighborhood leaders to share information on crime prevention and safety, public events, and emergency notifications. There are currently 25 active and six inactive Nextdoor neighborhoods in the city limits of Burleson. To learn more or sign up online, go to bit.ly/bpdnextdoor.

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 • Facebook: [City of Burleson, Texas](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBurleson) • Twitter: [City of Burleson, Texas](https://twitter.com/CityofBurleson)

STREAMLINING TIP PAID OFF FOR FOUR CITY EMPLOYEES

Four City employees received \$125 each for a tip that they submitted to save the City money. Honored at the Sept. 15 Burleson City Council meeting were Margie Kallmayer, accounting technician with the City's finance department, and Terry Hambley, Lee Westcott, and CaShan Clark, city marshals with municipal court. Staff was asked to look at getting a courier service to replace the bank run service that has been provided by the city marshals. Instead, the four came up with a way to streamline the bank run service to minimize the time required by the marshals (no more waiting at the bank for the return of bags, deposit slips, and requests for change). The TIPS program was developed in response to the council's desire to incentivize employees toward a leaner city government. bit.ly/tipsreward



Mayor Ken Shetter, Marshal CaShan Clark, Councilmember Jerry Allen, Marshal Terry Hambley, Councilmember Matt Aiken and Accounting Technician Margie Kallmayer

PROGRAMS GET A BOOST THANKS TO HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDS

Burleson City Council approved \$72,700 through hotel/motel occupancy tax dollars to help fund the events/programs of six organizations. An additional \$17,500 was earmarked for sports tournament promotion, historic tourism, and arts-related tourism. The winners include the Burleson Wine Crawl (November 2014), Whataburger Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament (December 2014), Salsa/Margarita Festival and 5K Run (April 2015), Red Hot Balloon Festival (May 2015), Honey Tour Bike Ride (May 2015), and the AAU Track Meet (June 2015). The chamber of commerce's tourism initiative and the Burleson Heritage Foundation's services and promotion also garnered dollars. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is generated by each hotel room stay in Burleson. The City levies a 7 percent tax that results in approximately \$140,000 in revenue each year. The City received 10 applications from eight organizations that totaled more than \$176,000. bit.ly/hotmotofunds



STOP BY FOR SOME GREAT GIFTS

Stop by the Burleson Senior Activity Center on Saturday, Dec. 6, for the Christmas Craft Fair. The fair takes place 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and showcases one-of-a-kind handmade items from area vendors. This is a great time to get that special gift for friends and relatives. The center is located at 216 S.W. Johnson Ave., next to the Burleson Post Office. For more information, call the center at 817-295-6611.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Boo Bash**
Oct. 25, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Old Town Burleson
124 W. Ellison St.
817-426-9104
bit.ly/BurlesonBooBash
- Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Recycling & Paper Shredding**
Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
133 N. Main St.
817-426-9842
- Burleson Anime & Manga Festival**
Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Burleson Public Library
248 S.W. Johnson Ave.
817-426-9205
- Military Veteran Tribute**
Nov. 8, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Plaza
298 E. Renfro St.
817-426-9104

LOOK TO THEM TO REPRESENT YOU

More than 60 people have been appointed to 10 City boards, committees, and commissions by city council. The chairs include Dr. Ryan Camp, Rick Roper, Aaron Childress, Melissa Guthrie, Tim Davis, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Boutwell, Walter Norwood, Dan McClendon, and David Rubenkoenig. The boards, committees, and commissions include the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, Building Codes and Standards, Cemetery Board, Library Board, Old Town Design Standards Review Committee, Parks Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Burleson Type A Community Economic Development Corporation, and Burleson Type B Community Service Development Corporation. See the roles these boards play and who is representing you at bit.ly/cityboards.

CHECK IT OUT ...

For City meeting times and dates, check the Public Notices page on the City website, 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. Hours are listed under each entry.