

CITY FOCUS

Vol. 5 • No. 8

A City of Burleson Newsletter

October 2015

SENIOR CENTER SUPERVISOR EARNS KUDOS



Paula Benjamin,
Employee of the Quarter

High praise from four of her co-workers earned Paula Benjamin the City's Employee of the Quarter award for the second quarter of 2015. The 55-year-old Benjamin is best known for her creativity and mentoring. She began her career at the City's first recreation center as the center supervisor, then became the supervisor at the Burleson Senior Activity Center. Benjamin was one of 15 nominated for the second quarterly honor. The nominees represent the City's recreation, parks, golf, and library employees. Nominations are based on an employee's efficiency, transparency, honesty,

innovation, and customer service. <http://bit.ly/BenjaminEmpofQtr>

HONOR OUR MILITARY VETERANS NOV. 7

The City of Burleson is hosting the annual Military Veteran Tribute/Veterans Day celebration at Veterans Memorial Plaza on Saturday, Nov. 7. The event begins at 2 p.m. at 298 E. Renfro St., at the corner of Renfro Street and I-35. The event includes the posting of colors and a ceremonial wreath, a firing party, bagpipes, and patriotic music. The City-owned plaza includes a fountain; bricks engraved with the names of local service members; the bronze eagle and Purple Heart memorial that were unveiled in 2009; and the names of veterans from the Johnson County Veterans Memorial – World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam – that were placed in the ground next to the Operation Remember kiosk in 2010.

A POW monument was also added in 2011. To add a brick to honor your veteran, call the Burleson Public Library at 817-426-9212 or go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com/operationremember. For more information about the tribute, call the parks and recreation department at 817-426-9104. #BTXCityevents



TRICK OR TREAT OCT. 24 AT BOO BASH!

Old Town will be taken over by superheroes, princesses, and more on Saturday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., for the City's eighth annual free Burleson Old Town Boo Bash. The fun takes place on Ellison Street, between Main Street and Johnson Avenue (124 W. Ellison St.). Children, birth to 12 years old, will arrive in their favorite Halloween costumes – trick-or-treat bags in hand – for the ultimate in trick or treating. Local businesses, churches, and civic groups set up booths and decorate their vehicles for trunk-or-treat fun. Children will enjoy free candy, games, bounce houses, a pumpkin patch full of free pumpkins to decorate, and a costume parade. Booth

spaces are free, but you have to fill out a booth application, which is available on the City website, <http://bit.ly/Boo2015app>. For more information, call 817-426-9112. #BTXCityevents



FIRE CHIEF ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

After more than 17 years as Burleson's first full-time paid fire chief, Gary Wisdom is turning off the fire radio, turning off the weather radar, and turning in his keys. The chief announced his retirement Aug. 11. He will work through the end of this year. Wisdom has served as Burleson's fire chief since 1998, when the City's population was just under 20,000, then added emergency management coordinator to his list of responsibilities in 2009. Fast forward to 2015 and Burleson now boasts more than 41,280 residents. Wisdom has served in the firefighting field since 1981, having started his career as an entry-level firefighter with the McKinney Fire Department. He was also a volunteer member of the Farmersville Volunteer Fire Department and served as its chief for two years. His father is a retired firefighter and his son serves in Grapevine. <http://bit.ly/Firechiefretires>

WE'LL TAKE YOUR CLUTTER NOV. 7

Start decluttering! The City is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Recycling, and Paper Shredding event Nov. 7 at the City's old service center, 133 N. Main St. The event is 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and is only available to residents who show proof of residency (water and/or trash bill from the City). Household hazardous waste items are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All electronics and appliances, including TVs, will be taken for free. There is no fee for paper shredding, but the volume is limited to three boxes per vehicle. For more information call David Lenartowicz, the City environmental specialist, at 817-426-9842. #BTXCityevents

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: www.burlesontx.com • Facebook.com/BurlesonTX • Twitter.com/CityofBurleson

PETS FOUND FOREVER HOMES VIA CLEAR THE SHELTERS



Aug. 15 was a great day for the Burlson Animal Shelter. Burlson participated in a national campaign, along with 54 other Dallas-Fort Worth area shelters, called Clear the Shelters. Participating shelters agreed to waive all adoption fees on that Saturday. The Burlson Animal Shelter adopted out 45 cats and dogs on Aug. 15, bringing the total since July 27, when the Clear the Shelters campaign began, to 82. The DFW event was hosted by NBC 5 and Telemundo 39. The last dog out the door Aug. 15 was the now famous Dudley, a pointer mix, whose videos went viral on Facebook with more than 33,800 views of his plea to be adopted and 31,700-plus views of the video with his adoptive family. The Duncans gave Dudley a new name, Hero. <http://bit.ly/CleartheSheltersuccess> and [#BTXCityevents](https://twitter.com/BTXCityevents)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IS BACK DEC. 5

The big guy from the North Pole is hosting the City's 16th annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 5, 7 a.m.-11 a.m., at the BRiCk. 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. Admission is \$4 for children and \$5 for adults if you buy the tickets in advance. On the day of the event, tickets are \$5 for children and \$7 for adults. Tickets go on sale at the BRiCk Nov. 3. [#BTXCityevents](https://twitter.com/BTXCityevents)



POLICE BRING HOME NINTH REACCREDITATION

They did it again. The Burlson Police Department achieved its ninth reaccreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. CALEA accreditation serves as the international gold standard for public safety agencies. Every three years, the commission provides a team of trained assessors to conduct an on-site reassessment of the agency. The accreditation program requires agencies to comply with standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. Burlson was the first police department in Texas to be accredited by CALEA in 1987. <http://bit.ly/BPDreaccreditation2015>

IT'S ALL ABOUT ARTS AND MANGA NOV. 14

The Burlson Public Library is touting the Burlson Arts & Manga Festival as "shaping up to be the biggest and best one yet!" The free event starts at 10 a.m. and wraps at 5 p.m. on Nov. 14 at the library, 248 S.W. Johnson Ave. Booked artists include David Doub, publisher and head writer for Dusk Comics; Chris "Oz" Fulton, a BISS graduate and professional mixed media artist, author, and tattooer; Elizabeth Howard, a graphic designer with an online shop; Kristen McGuire, voice actress; and Shonuff Studio with the "draw-matic duo" Halo Sama and Terry Parr, professional artists. Expect all of the same great events that you'd find at a full-scale convention, including autograph sessions, live game demonstrations and freplay, panel discussions with industry professionals, prize drawings, a cosplay contest, and a video game room. www.burlesontx.com/ArtsManga and [#BTXCityevents](https://twitter.com/BTXCityevents)

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR MOVES TO DEC. 12

You don't want to miss this. Stop by the Burlson Senior Activity Center on Saturday, Dec. 12, for the Christmas Craft Fair. The fair takes place 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and showcases one-of-a-kind handmade items – sewn creations, art, jewelry, and more – 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 Burlson Post Office. If you are a crafter and are interested in selling your unique handmade items, call the Burlson Senior Activity Center at 817-295-6611. [#BTXCityevents](https://twitter.com/BTXCityevents)

CITY FOCUS

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

City Hall
141 W. Renfro St.
817-426-9600

Burlson 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

Burlson 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 www.burlesontx.com/facilities. Hours are listed under each entry.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Yappy Hour
Friday, Sept. 25
7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Lost Oak Winery
2116 FM 731
817-426-9283

Burlson Trash Bash
Saturday, Sept. 26
9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Citywide
817-426-9842

Old Town Picture Show
Saturdays
Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10
Old Town Burlson
124 W. Ellison St.
817-426-9600

Founders Day & Bluegrass Festival
Saturday, Oct. 10
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Old Town Burlson
124 W. Ellison St.
817-426-9104

National Night Out
Saturday, Oct. 10
6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Citywide
817-426-9958

www.facebook.com/BurlesonTX/events

CHECK IT OUT ...

For City meeting times and dates, check the Public Notices page on the City website, www.burlesontx.com. Meeting times are subject to change.