

# The Burton Bulletin

*"The Best Kept Secret in Texas"*

**April 2025**

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**Burton Seafood & Steakhouse**

The Burton Seafood & Steakhouse



**Khet and Jannifer Khean  
Owners**

Recently I met with the owners, Khet and Jannifer Khen of the future Burton Seafood and Steakhouse as they were busy working on the building. They are excited about having their business here in Burton and hope to be open in early May. I assured them that the citizens of Burton will be excited for having them here in Burton.

**The Burton Bulletin Newsletter is Back!**

I am bringing the Burton Bulletin Newsletter back to life. Due to health reason I decided to end the Bulletin in July 2019. After being approached about starting the Bulletin back up and with help, I decided it was time again to have local news presented by local people.

This first issue is an abbreviated version and hopefully we will expand it to its former glory. It will once again be a monthly issue. We will have the bulletin online. The web address will be as before: [www.burtonbulletin.com](http://www.burtonbulletin.com). Our email address is: [editor@burtonbulletin.com](mailto:editor@burtonbulletin.com). You will be able to find hard copies as well at the Burton Short Stop and we will distribute them to other locations as we rebuild our circulation.

**Submitted by David Zajicek**

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**The Burton Bulletin will be a monthly publication for the Burton Texas area.**

**Editor & Publisher: David Zajicek**

**Digital Editor: Keith Withington**

**Assistant Editor & Contributor: Lynda Zajicek**

**Contributor: Susan Tommaney**

**(Other contributors will be added in the following months)**

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## The Perfect Guest

By Susie Tommaney

I totally understand my neighbors who want Burton to remain unchanged. After all, what's not to love about this quaint little town with its tree-lined streets, charming architecture, and laid back vibe.

Then I find myself nodding in agreement when other neighbors talk about needing more folks or businesses to move in, to help pay for our infrastructure. That makes sense, too.

So wouldn't it be wonderful if we could find a way to bring money into the City of Burton without changing anything? A middle ground, so to speak. One option is through film and television. They're the perfect guest because they'll never overstay their welcome and they'll leave things nicer than they found them.

When a production company comes to town they'll rent vacant parking lots, infusing our churches and schools with some extra cash. If they rent a home or business, they'll often give the structure a new paint job after wrapping. Local restaurants and eateries get a boost, providing food for cast and crew, and area B&Bs get some off-season rentals. They'll hire extras to fill out the scenes with lead actors, and retain professionals who can offer carpentry, welding, animal wrangling or pyrotechnic services.

Burton has been established as a Film Friendly Certified Community with the Texas Film Commission. Several years ago City Council passed enforceable filming guidelines, and photos of locations have already been submitted to the LocationsHub database.

Maybe that's how this latest production found Malloy's Automotive, where a short film titled *Hitchhiker* was shot on April 11, followed by a weekend sunrise scene at the corner of Washington and Nueces.

When coordinating with Chap Edmonson of the Houston-based Aurum Branding Agency, who used Malloy's as a location and also to park production vehicles and the personal vehicles of cast and crew, he only had positive things to say about Burton.

"Burton has been awesome and as a native Texan I'm always talking highly of it," says Edmonson. And if you saw the art department's sign that said, "Do Not Pick Up Hitchhikers," please know that the sign is gone now, but the message still has merit.

We live in such a picturesque region, and our historic buildings and small town charm would make an excellent location for a period film or television show. There's not much traffic, there are no high-rises in the skyline to define the era, and we've got architecture from a variety of decades.

In fact, many towns in Texas have benefited from an immediate influx of cash when feature films, commercials, documentaries, video games and television shows are shot. And when one becomes a hit, the host cities are enriched for years to come.

Folks regularly travel to Baker St. Pub & Grill in Austin to see where Ron Livingston and Jennifer Aniston had their first date in *Office Space*, to Smithville's Main Street where Sandra Bullock was swept off her feet by Harry Connick, Jr. in *Hope Floats*, and to *Marfa's Hotel Paisano* where actors Elizabeth

*Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean gathered after a day of filming Giant.*

"Tourism is wonderful for a community," says Susan Kiel, secretary for the Burton Chamber of Commerce. "People will visit a city to see where their favorite characters acted memorable scenes. They'll spend money in our restaurants and shop in our stores. But the biggest financial impact comes from the production company itself."

Although the groundwork has been laid, we can increase our chances of luring productions to Burton. If you're willing to be inconvenienced — and compensated — by loaning out your business or home, then upload your photographs at [https://gov.texas.gov/film/page/your\\_property\\_in\\_production](https://gov.texas.gov/film/page/your_property_in_production). If you'd like to find work as a production assistant, there are workshops available to help get your first gig as a set PA, or working in the office, art department, wardrobe or with location scouts.

Get discovered and register your services at <https://gov.texas.gov/film/page/texas-production-directory-support-services>.

So if we can dream it, Hollywood just might come again. Wouldn't it be cool to see the Brazos Belle in a movie, or one of our vintage buildings get a fresh coat of paint, or the young folks in town have options when it comes to employment. Learn more at <https://gov.texas.gov/film>.

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### Disclaimer

The opinions, statements and advertisements made by others do not necessarily reflect the views of the Burton Bulletin.

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All candidates running for Burton City Council and Mayoral positions were contacted by email if they wished to advertise their candidacy in the Burton Bulletin at no charge. Not all candidates responded.

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## 36th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10am to 6pm

This is a Free family friendly event featuring a day full of fun and history! The day begins with a parade through Burton and continues at the ground of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum. Shop and eat at The Arts & Crafts Vendor Area and Food Court. Watch Folklife skill demonstrations like blacksmithing, butter churning, spoon carving and more. Tractors and Classic Cars on display as well as fun contests and games. Live Music starts at 11am. Tours of the Oldest Operating Cotton Gin are from 11am to 2pm. At 3 pm the Cotton Gin will come alive as a bale of cotton will be ginned. Come Join us for a fun time!!!



# JEFF ECKHARDT For Mayor

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Eckhardt is the leader who will

- Unite the community by inviting participation
  - Offer transparency with open dialogue
  - Support and encourage small businesses
  - Continue to strengthen infrastructure
  - Update the Comprehensive Plan
- 

## We'll Work TOGETHER.

Feel free to reach out!  
[jeffeckhardt5@gmail.com](mailto:jeffeckhardt5@gmail.com)



# **VOTE FOR BERNEAKE "PEANUT" GANTT**



## **BURTON CITY COUNCIL POSITION #4**

### **With your vote, I pledge to:**

- Champion "We the People" by prioritizing community-driven decisions.
- Ensure transparency in Burton City Council operations to build trust and accountability.
- Host regular town hall meetings to actively listen to and engage with community members.
- Address the real needs of the community with actionable solutions.

**EARLY VOTING** will be held on weekdays only from April 21 through April 29 at the Washington County Courthouse Annex, 100 S. Park St, Brenham. Hours for early voting are 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY** voting is Saturday, May 3 at Burton City Hall, 12200 E. Mulberry St. in Burton, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



**"Together, We Build a Stronger Community"**



**Stephanie Jarvis - Director of Texas Cotton Gin**

You've already seen the outdoor banners up on poles along Main Street, heralding that the annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival is coming up, scheduled for Saturday, April 26.

It's an exciting time of year for the families who come from all over to experience history through folklife skills (blacksmithing, butter churning and spoon carving); to marvel at the tractor, engine and classic cars on display; and to just have fun listening to live music, learning the two step and taking part in fun contests and games.

Cotton is a big deal around here. We've got bragging rights, for sure, as Burton is home to the oldest operating cotton gin in America. Early farmers made their living growing these crops and now cotton has found its way into our everyday lives through clothing, cooking oil, currency, rope, paper, packaging, biofuels and more.

But I always compare the festival to a beautifully pieced quilt. You start with bolts of 100% cotton — the most lasting and durable fabric — then create something beautiful with contrasting colors, geometric shapes, a border to give it structure and ornate stitching to bind it all together. The festival itself is the sum of months of planning, powered by a small museum staff and an army of volunteers, and the love that a tiny city shares when it opens its doors to thousands of visitors for one glorious, historic day.

What I love best, though, is volunteering as an insider at this massive event. It's exciting to see my friends and neighbors in a new light, slicing the Lady B birthday cake, taking photos in the tractor pull area, placing signage or tables and chairs at all the gates, and putting out toys for children in the sand pile. No matter your skill level, there's an opportunity for you.

We checked in with Stephanie Jarvis, Director of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum, and she says there are still opportunities to volunteer. "There are all kinds of fun ways to help," says Jarvis. "Greeting people inside the museum, greeting at our audio visual area beside the gin, selling items on the museum

front porch, helping with grounds cleanup during the event, helping with kids activities in our quilting area. These are just a few ways to help."

So why don't you add your piece to this creative community event known as the Burton Cotton Gin Festival? Visit <https://www.texascottonginmuseum.org> and follow the link to SignUpGenius, or contact the museum at (979) 289-3378 or [director@texascottonginmuseum.org](mailto:director@texascottonginmuseum.org). You will be rewarded with the smiles of thousands of children and families who will be experiencing history in this beautiful, picturesque town that we call home.

What: 36th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival

When: Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: 307 North Main, as well as satellite locations: Burton Depot, Wehring House & Shoe Shop, and Centennial Plaza

**Submitted by Susan Tommaney**

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### **Signs You're Getting Old**

You forget names, but it doesn't matter because other people forget they even know you.

You sleep better in a comfy chair in front of a blaring TV than you do in bed.

You read 70 pages into a book before you realize you've read it before.

Now that you can finally afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

You realize you're never going to be good at anything, especially golf.


Your kids are becoming like you and you don't like them, but your grandchildren are perfect.



**V**

**CHUCK JOHNSON**

**FOR BURTON CITY COUNCIL  
POSITION 1**



**PROTECTING THE PRESENT  
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTER 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE), TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY.  
Pd. Pol. Ad by the Chuck Johnson Campaign, Debra Johnson Treasurer

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## Vote For Paul McLaughlin Burton City Council Position 4

I appreciate the opportunity to let people know who haven't met me yet my vision for the city. My name is Paul McLaughlin my wife and I moved here nine years ago, we love the town. I am a member of the Burton Heritage Society, a member of the Burton Beautification Association and have been on the council for five years.

I would like to continue on and I'm always available to hear your concerns as citizens. The city needs to grow and its commerce needs to as well.

*Paul McLaughlin*

**General Election for the City of Burton, Texas**

To vote in the election for City Council and Mayoral race, you must be a registered voter within the city limits of Burton, Texas.

Early Voting will take place at the Washington County Courthouse Annex located at 100 S. Park Street in Brenham. Days and hours are Tuesday, April 22, 2025 thru Tuesday, April 29, 2025 (weekdays only) from 8am to 5pm.

Election day will take place on May 3, 2025 at the Burton City Hall located at 12200 E. Mulberry Street, Burton, Texas. Hours for voting will be from 7am to 7pm.

Candidates are as follow arranged by alphabetic order of last name per position.

**Mayoral Race**

Karen Buck (Incumbent)  
Jeff Eckhardt

**City Council Position 1**

Chuck Johnson  
Nathan Kalkhake (Incumbent)

**City Council Position 4**

Berneake Gantt  
Paul McLaughlin (Incumbent)

**Drafting Table For Sale**



**\$450.00 Cash Firm**

Top is 5' x 3'2" and is adjustable.  
Height is 3'4" and can go down to 2'8" + or - !

For more information call: (713) 553-4525  
and leave message.

Photo of Jeff Eckhardt on Page 3 by Mark Reyes  
Photo of Stephanie Jarvis on Page 5 by Gabri Means

**Fast Trac Gas Station & Truck Stop**  
**9924 Highway 290 W**  
**Brenham, Texas**  
**(Hwy 290 W & FM 1948)**  
**Ph: 979-571-9314**  
**Open 24 hrs.**



The convenience stores offers a variety of snacks, drinks and travel essentials. Also you can purchase BBQ sandwiches and plates, burgers, fish sandwiches, burritos and tacos plus breakfast sandwiches.

Their facilities include clean restrooms, showers, truck parking, ATM and Wi-Fi.





**A sustainable community embodies a holistic approach that harmonizes environmental, economic, and social aspects to create resilient and thriving places for current and future generations. By integrating these characteristics into community planning and development, communities can foster sustainability while enhancing the quality of life for all residents.**

**Below are some of the key characteristics that define such communities:**

**1. \*\*Environmental Sustainability\*\***

- **\*\*Resource Efficiency:\*\*** Efficient use of resources including water, energy, and materials to minimize waste and reduce reliance on non-renewable sources.
- **\*\*Renewable Energy:\*\*** Utilization of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power to decrease carbon footprint.
- **\*\*Green Spaces:\*\*** Inclusion of parks, gardens, and natural areas that promote biodiversity and provide recreational opportunities.
- **\*\*Sustainable Transportation:\*\*** Development of public transportation, biking, and walking paths to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-powered vehicles.
- **\*\*Waste Management:\*\*** Strong recycling and composting programs to minimize landfill waste and promote circular economies.

**2. \*\*Economic Sustainability\*\***

- **\*\*Local Economy Support:\*\*** Promotion of local businesses and agriculture to keep economic resources within the community and create job opportunities.
- **\*\*Diverse Economic Opportunities:\*\*** A mix of job types and sectors to provide resilience against economic downturns.
- **\*\*Affordable Housing:\*\*** Availability of accessibly priced housing options to ensure residents can live within their means.
- **\*\*Investment in Infrastructure:\*\*** Sustainable development practices in building infrastructure that lasts while minimizing environmental impact.

**3. \*\*Social and Cultural Sustainability\*\***

- **\*\*Community Engagement:\*\*** Active participation of residents in decision-making processes, promoting democratic governance and responsiveness.
- **\*\*Inclusivity and Equity:\*\*** Ensuring that policies and practices accommodate diverse populations, including marginalized groups, to foster social equity.
- **\*\*Education and Awareness:\*\*** Support for educational programs that promote sustainability knowledge and practices among residents.
- **\*\*Cultural Preservation:\*\*** Respecting and maintaining local history, culture, and traditions while integrating newcomers into community life.

**4. \*\*Health and Well-being\*\***

- **\*\*Access to Healthcare:\*\*** Availability of health services to ensure physical and mental well-being of residents.
- **\*\*Active Lifestyles:\*\*** Infrastructure and community planning that promotes physical activity, such as walking and cycling paths, recreation centers, and sports facilities.
- **\*\*Healthy Food Access:\*\*** Availability of fresh, local, and affordable food options, often facilitated by farmers' markets and community gardens.

**5. \*\*Governance and Leadership\*\***

- **\*\*Sustainable Policies:\*\*** Adoption of policies that prioritize sustainability in urban planning, housing, transportation, and economic development.
- **\*\*Collaboration and Partnerships:\*\*** Engagement with government, non-profits, businesses, and community organizations to implement sustainable initiatives.
- **\*\*Long-term Planning:\*\*** A focus on comprehensive planning that considers future impacts of today's decisions on community resilience and resource management.

**6. \*\*Technology and Innovation\*\***

- **\*\*Smart Infrastructure:\*\*** Use of smart technologies to optimize energy consumption, traffic management, and waste management.
- **\*\*Adaptability and Resilience:\*\*** Ability to adapt to challenges such as climate change, economic shifts, or social changes by employing innovative solutions.

**Submitted by Pete Horn**

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A new study found that people who take their coffee black are more likely to exhibit psychopathic traits. People who order a quad shot, non-fat, vanilla soy, extra foam, light whip with caramel drizzle are more likely to be their victims.

I asked a friend of mine, who is a retired chemist engineer, what has he been doing since he retired. He answered, "Well, with my background, what I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and bourbon into urine."

A highly secretive meeting was held at an army base that night. The armed guard at the gate was instructed not to allow anyone inside without a special pass that was to be attached to the windshield.

During the course of the evening several vehicles entered the base with the required pass. Later on a staff car pulls up to the gate with a driver and a general in the back seat. without the required pass.

"Sorry sir," said the guard, "I cannot allow you to enter without the required pass."

"Poppycock!" shouted the general, "Carry on driver"

"You can't!" argued the guard, "I have order to shoot!"

Again the general told his driver, "Carry on!"

The guard responded by pointed his rifle at the car and said, "Excuse me general, I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?"

**Little Known Books**

The Haunted House by Hugo First

Dash to the Bathroom by Will E. Makit (Illustrated by Betty Wont)

Aches and Pains by Arthur Ritis

Reading Difficulties by Liz Dexia

I Nearly Missed My Appointment by Justin Time

Don't Give Up by Percy Vere

Robots by Anne Droid

End of the Week by Gladys Friday

House Construction by Bill Jerome Holm

Rusty Bed Springs by I.P. Freely

★ COME ONE • COME ALL ★

**36TH ANNUAL**

**BURTON**

**COTTON GIN**

***Festival***

**APRIL 26, 2025**

**FREE ADMISSION 10 AM - 6 PM**

**Begins With Main Street Parade – Includes the Children's Bicycle Parade!**

Family Activities and Contests, Pie Eating, Seed Pulling, Food Court, 40+ Craft Booths, Engine & Tractor Show, Tractor Pull, Tours of Historic 1914 Burton Farmers Gin, Tours of Wehring Shoe Shop, Live Entertainment, Folk Life Demonstrations, Antique Engine & Car Exhibits and Lady B Birthday Party with Special Guests!

Halfway between Houston and Austin, exit 350 or Spur 125 off of Hwy. 290

**Events & Entertainment Schedule** (subject to change)

- 10:00am ..... Cotton Gin Festival Parade Begins
- 11:00am ..... Antique Engine/Tractor Show  
(Arts/Crafts/Food Vendors, Blacksmithing, Spoon Carving, Butter Churning, Classic Car Display, Farmer for a Day Area, All Begin)
- 11:00am-Noon ..... Lady B Birthday Party with Special Guests
- 11:00am-2:00pm ..... Gin Tours
- Noon ..... Tractor Pull Begins
- 12:15-2:00pm ..... Pie Eating Contest, Seed Pulling Contest & Chorus Contest
- 2:30-4:00pm ..... Music by the Czechaholics
- 3:00pm ..... Ginning of Historic Cotton Bales at the 111 Year Old Burton Farmers Gin
- 4:00-6:00pm ..... Music by Slim Bawb & the Stumpgrinders

✿ For more information, visit or call: [texascottonginmuseum.org](http://texascottonginmuseum.org) – 979.289.3378 ✿