

The Burton Bulletin

"The Best Kept Secret in Texas"

May 2025

Burton Home Builders

Burton Home Builders recently enjoyed a ribbon cutting event at their new location at 9706 Highway 290 Brenham, Texas, by the Burton Chamber of Commerce. Their location is at the intersection of Hwy 290 and FM 1948, across from the Fast Trac Gas Station. It was originally the Kunkel Store.

The founder and owner, John Hohlt, worked years building homes before he started his own company in 2014. He is passionate about his work and takes great pride in creating a home for his clients.

John and his wife Brianna both graduated from Brenham High School and met through mutual friends. They have been married for 7 years and enjoy raising their daughter, Camryn, who is nearly 2 years old



John & Brianna Hohlt

Katy Duran works in the front office and will greet you as you as you enter their office with a friendly face. She is very knowledgeable and has been with John for several years.



Katy Duran

The office number is 979-277-5619. John's cell is 979-530-6870. Website is burtonhomebuilders.com and their email is info@burtonhomebuilders.com.



**Better Home Builders
9706 Highway 290
Brenham, Texas**

Calendar

May 3 rd	Local election at Burton City Hall
May 3 rd	Kentucky Derby
May 11 th	Mother's Day
May 23 rd	Burton ISD Graduation at 8pm Panther Stadium
May 26 th	Memorial Day

The Burton Bulletin is a monthly publication for the Burton Texas area.

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Why do people who know the least, know it the loudest?

SUSTAINABLE BURTON

Burton is a rare jewel in America's landscape. It has retained a sense of respect for its history and self-respect among its citizens while striving to stabilize its culture and character in a rapidly changing social environment.

Building on my first article, I'd like to address some of the key elements that Burton must face and master to succeed as a long-term stable community that maintains its unique charm while adjusting to changing economic and social realities.

Environmental Sustainability is at the top of the list and reflects both the cultural and physical environment. The cultural aspects of our City are akin to those of a large, diverse family, as our founding fathers stated: "from many, one." Folks who live here may have widely diverse backgrounds, from those who trace back family roots to generations here to recent arrivals from all points of the compass, but all share the love of the soul of Burton, of the community family of Burton. The soul of Burton has remained relatively stable since its creation in 1972, even as its population declined and local businesses closed or moved operations out of the city center. So it is the soul of Burton that we focus on keeping, while updating the infrastructure and conveniences to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

In the decades I lived in Maine the common expression was that Maine's greatest export was its people. That seems to be the challenge in Burton as well. There are few "jobs" or organizations that offer local residents income and a career path that aligns with the current economy. Fortunately, we are wealthy in agriculture and energy, yet not diverse enough to give local students a path of economic opportunity to allow them to plan a life here without a long commute or the benefit of working the family farm or ranch.

Burton must improve its recruitment of new economic opportunities and strengthen local businesses and agriculture promotion to keep economic resources within the community and create job opportunities. A key element to this, in my opinion, is leveraging BISD's new school complex to attract new economic opportunities for its students and graduates, and attracting a mix of job types and sectors to provide resilience against economic downturns. There is significant growth in our region in the technical and agricultural markets; we simply need to be open to integrating them into the soul of Burton. We need an Economic Development Zone with appropriate efforts made to populate it. Businesses that fit the community and do no harm to its fabric are needed. Some basic conveniences, plus advanced "clean industry", remote employment, and enterprises that enhance the self-sufficient nature of our community. Soon we will have a new veterinarian; it would be nice if we also had human medical services as well, beyond EMS.

A major problem everywhere is the availability of accessible, affordable housing options to ensure residents can live within their means. That is no different here. Compounding the problem is an aging infrastructure without sufficient design flexibility to grow with the community. Housing need not be crowded or poorly made; neither of these characteristics is acceptable in Burton, but there are options available in the contemporary market that will both fulfill the need and enhance the community... if only we had the infrastructure to support it. Fortunately, the State of Texas has new programs

being funded to improve the water infrastructure of rural communities and this could be Burton's path to creating the infrastructure base that keeps the city viable. It is critical to the existence of our city that sustainable development practices be used in building infrastructure that lasts while minimizing environmental impact. This requires both vision and planning by the citizens, and the support and insight of the City Administration.

As we repair, replace, and update the core infrastructure of our city, we need to be mindful of access to safe, convenient, and controlled access to our city. This means addressing the primary access points on Route 290, particularly from the eastbound side. Playing "Frogger" to travel towards Houston is almost as bad as the necessary "drag race" start to going westbound to Austin. The difference is that the game of "Frogger" is likely to result in fatalities, unnecessary fatalities, while the westbound entry is likely survivable. We are already seeing the effect of a single truck stop on the north side of Route 290 in terms of traffic problems. Should we pretend there won't be more?

Submitted by Pete Horn

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**"Today we need a nation of minute men; men who are not only prepared to take up arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as a basic purpose of their lives."
President John F. Kennedy – 1961**

**"The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government"
Thomas Jefferson**

**"Arms in the hands of the citizens may be used at the individual discretion for the defense of the country, the overthrow of tyranny or private self defense."
John Adams**



Peacock Perch - Burton, Texas

Enjoy the atmosphere of a unique small town just minutes away from Round Top and Brenham. A charming cozy room with a bath for a quiet stay. The Historic downtown is just a "hop and a skip" away. www.airbnb.com/rooms/28243714

Senior Fellowship and Meal

Bridge Ministry of Burton Texas welcomes anybody 55 and older to join them most Fridays for the Senior Fellowship and Meal. No reservations are necessary for dine-in service, and the suggested price is \$4.

This gathering takes place at St. John's United Church of Christ's Family Life Center, located at 516 North Colorado. They host fellowship and games from 10 a.m. until noon, with Bingo beginning at 11 a.m., and then lunch is served at noon.

Upcoming Menus:

May 2 — Pork roast, beans, broccoli salad, dinner rolls (home cooking by Madeline and Cindy), with volunteers from Greenvine Baptist Church

May 9 — Cowboy Spaghetti, salad, bread (catering by White Horse Tavern), with volunteers from St. John's United Church of Christ

May 16 — King Ranch casserole, salad, bread (catering by On Deck), with volunteers from Zion Lutheran Church

May 23 — Smothered steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls (home cooking by Madeline and Cindy), with volunteers from Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church

May 30 — No meal (Memorial Day)

If you want a "to go" meal, call 979-337-3370 by Tuesday. They suggest you arrive at 12:10 p.m. to pick up your meal.

If you have health issues that require you to stay home, let one of their volunteers deliver a hot meal to you each Friday at no charge. Their delivery area is limited to Burton. Call 979-337-3370 for more information. If you will not be home to receive your meal, call Lois Mooney at 979-421-0617 or tell your driver.

What It Really Means.....

"I can't find it." Really Means, "It didn't fall into my out-stretched hands, so I'm completely clueless."

"That's women's work." Really Means, "It's dirty, difficult, and thankless."

"Will you marry me?" Really Means, "Both of my room-mates have moved out. I can't find the washer and I'm out of peanut butter."

"It's a guy thing." Really Means, "There is no rational thought pattern connected with it and you have no chance at all of making it logical."

"Can I help with dinner?" Really Means, "Why isn't it already on the table?"

"It would take too long to explain." Really Means, "I have no idea how it works."

"I'm getting more exercise lately." Really Means, "The batteries in the remote are dead."

"Honey, we don't need material things." Really Means, "I forgot our anniversary."

"It's a good movie." Really Means, "It got guns, knives, fast cars, and good looking women." (I don't see anything wrong with this one.)

TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN – A Series Highlighting Burton Blessings

What's Great About Our Town: How About that Short Stop?

By Ned Ross, contributing writer

The founders of the Bulletin were kind enough to ask if I would write something for the new paper. I was flattered and happy to oblige. Choosing one of many topics to choose from was the challenge.

What better to write about than life in a small town? My experiences only cover a few years I have spent in two small towns since 2020. Many of you have spent decades or perhaps your entire lives in Burton or other small towns.

I invite you to share your experiences with Bulletin readers by posting stories on the Burton Bulletin Facebook page. But I want to kick this series off with a hat tip to the Short Stop.

Lauren and I came to town in 2022 to look at a house. The realtor suggested we eat lunch at the convenience store down the street called the Short Stop. We expected to have good hamburgers and leave. But there was so much more to this town.

In a big city, walking in the back door of a restaurant is rare and usually results in the dishwashing crew chasing you out of the kitchen. But the Short Stop back door leads you into a seating area away from the noise and activity around the counter. That day there were a couple tables full of local men who were playing cards and laughing. Most small town folk give outsiders "stares and glares" because they don't want you coming into their town.

Not so here, not in Burton.

The men welcomed us, introduced, themselves, shook our hands, took an interest in our visit, and wished us well. We were shocked. Could the town be that accepting of outsiders and even city dwellers? The folks who waited on us at the Short Stop were so cordial as well. A little kindness goes a long way.

As Lauren and I restored our 1905 farmhouse, we lived in the tiny guesthouse in back that had no kitchen. The Short Stop became our kitchen (as well as Los Patrones, Blue Willow, and other restaurants, but that's for another column). I bet I was in the SS 5 days a week, and I knew the entire staff. When I contracted COVID, Karen and others would walk the food out to my truck. Karen had recently recovered from COVID, had no fear of getting sick again, and was so kind to keep me fed and away from other patrons. They kept a running tab and waited for me to recover to collect what I owed. Try that in the big city!

I would frequently eat dinner there and listen to three or four couples tell stories and jokes at the back table as they drank a beer or two. No names mentioned here, but listening to the banter was pure entertainment and among the best experiences of small town living.

Not content to just dish out burgers and fries, Cathy decided to expand the SS menu. The taco salad with

beef is amazing, the local cheesecake chef's offerings are a huge surprise, and more recently she added pizzas that are fantastic. All meals come with a smile. As good as the food is, I enjoy it more knowing that a local family owns and runs it. Cathy has honored her mother's dream to run the place, and she has thrown herself into making it a success. Short Stop merch is always donated for local charitable events, and when someone in town is struggling there's a fundraiser to assist them.

When they opened the Ice House, one of the first improvements was an outdoor space for small children to play, allowing parents to relax and visit with friends in a fun atmosphere. I have never seen anything that resembles bad behavior in or around the place, a testament to the owners creating a fun, relaxed environment. And hey, the one and only Kountry Chick spins karaoke on Thursday nights for more laughs.

Running a retail food establishment was quite an adjustment and commitment for the Liles. It's a family affair with several family members pitching in. What a blessing for a small town. What memory do you have about the Short Stop?

Future stories: Neon Moon and Roosters, Los Patrones family, impressive students, Cotton Gin Festival/Texas Ranger Day, and The Dynamic Duo of Burton.

Utility Aid Cost Reduction Program by Susie Tommaney

During the April City Council meeting, an ordinance was approved that outlines payment procedures for water and sewer service and rates. At this time, there won't be a change in the cost of the water or trash components, but there will be a change in how the City bills for sewer services.

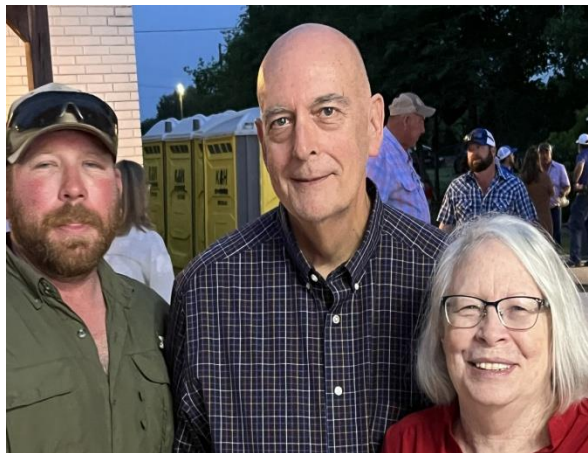
The new billing more accurately reflects the City's actual out-of-pocket costs to process our wastewater, and it will result in an increase for everybody's utility bill.

There is a different rate structure for those who live outside the city limits but who still depend on the City's infrastructure for water and sewer services. Those individuals who live in the extraterritorial jurisdiction aren't sharing the cost of our new water well (by paying City of Burton taxes), so their costs will be adjusted higher to help compensate.

But there is assistance for those residents who are struggling financially. The City can freeze sewer rates for residents who qualify (based on income), as long as they use less than 4,000 gallons of water a month. There is an application process, so please visit Rachel Belvin at City Hall during regular business hours. For more information, call 979-289-3402 or email: burtonutilities@cityofburton-tx.gov.

**Highlights of Burton Cotton Gin Shrimp Boil
Held April 25, 2025**

The food was fantastic, boiled shrimp, sausage, corn on the cob and potatoes.
We enjoyed it immensely. Thank you Burton Cotton Gin,
And a big thanks to Neon Moon for inviting us!



Free Rides to City Hall on Election Day



by Susie Tommaney

Burton Bridge Ministry's new bus service is available to all residents of the City of Burton, regardless of income level. In just its first few months of service it has taken riders to Brenham for trips to Walmart, H-E-B and Norman's Pharmacy, or here locally to Dollar General and the Manna Food Pantry.

There are limitations to its routes, however. The bus isn't designed for recreational pursuits, such as visiting a friend or going to the movies, and the ministry prefers to schedule multiple riders on the same route, like the first-of-the-month big shopping trip to Brenham. For physician appointments the ministry still recommends that riders contract through Brazos Transit District (1-800-272-0039).

But the ministry is running two routes on election day, which is Saturday, May 3, and is signing up riders now for either the morning or afternoon voting slots. Book your ride to City Hall now by calling the ministry's transportation coordinator, Deborah Moore, at (979) 530-5626.

The location of the election day polling place is Burton City Hall at 12200 East Mulberry Street, and voting will take place all day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Voters have the opportunity to elect the Mayor, as well as the Councilmember #1 and Councilmember #4 positions.

When casting a ballot in person, voters should show one of the following approved forms of photo ID: a Texas driver license, a Texas personal identification card, a passport, a Texas handgun license, a military identification card, a citizenship certificate, or a Texas election identification card.

Candidates are as follows 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)

Respect

When practiced as a reflection of God's love, signifies valuing and cherishing all individuals, acknowledging their inherent worth and dignity, and treating them with kindness and consideration. It demonstrates an understanding that everyone is created in God's image and therefore deserves respect, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Here's a more detailed look at how respect can be seen as a reflection of God's love:

Acknowledging God's Image:

Scripture teaches that humans are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27), implying that everyone possesses inherent value and dignity. Respecting others is a way of recognizing this image and showing that we value them as beings created by God.

Loving Neighbor as Yourself:

The Bible commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), which includes showing respect, empathy, and kindness towards others.

Showing Compassion:

Respect can manifest as compassion and concern for the needs and well-being of others. This can involve offering assistance, listening actively, and showing understanding.

Acts of Kindness:

Showing respect can be expressed through random acts of kindness, such as helping someone carry groceries, offering a sincere compliment, or holding the door open.

Maintaining a Respectful Relationship with Authority:

In certain contexts, respect might be directed towards those in positions of authority, such as parents or leaders. This doesn't imply blind obedience but rather a recognition of their role and a willingness to listen and learn.

Celebrating Individuality:

Respecting others' individuality means acknowledging their unique perspectives, beliefs, and experiences. This fosters a more inclusive and understanding community.

God's Love as a Foundation:

Ultimately, the foundation for showing respect lies in God's love for us and His desire for us to reflect that love in our interactions with others. By showing respect, we are demonstrating our love for God and our love for our neighbor.

Submitted by Alene Whitesides

A frog telephoned the Psychic Hotline and was told, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you." The frog said, "This is great! Will I meet her at a party, or what?" The psychic said, "No, you will meet her next semester in her biology class."

The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

Photos From Cotton Gin Parade



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