

The Burton Bulletin

“The Best Kept Secret in Texas”

August 2025



Percy, Burton’s Town Mascot

Photo provided by Alene Whitesides.

When Lynda and I moved to Burton in October 2006, Burton had a town peacock known as Blue Boy by some and Burton Ernie by others. We were told that he had escaped from a petting zoo that had visited Burton. He met an untimely death, but before he died, a group of six peacocks ventured into town in April 2016. It is believed that they were frightened from their place of residence, a short distance from Burton, during a storm. The owner was unable to catch them, so they wandered around Burton following Blue Boy.

After awhile their numbers dwindled down to two. The other four either left town or met with some other fate. During this time Blue Boy met his demise and then there were only Percy and Chester left.

Peacocks are highly territorial birds and eventually Percy, being the alpha male, chased Chester out of town where he met his fate with an 18 wheeler.

Every evening around dawn, Percy comes walking down our street and roost in one of our oak trees at night. During the day

he loves to venture around town, displaying his feathers, eating at different locations and aid in slowing down traffic.

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

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Burton Bulletin Subscription

To ensure that you receive a copy of the Burton Bulletin, we will mail you a copy of our newsletter for a cost of \$36 a year. Unfortunately the cost of postage and the envelopes we had used in the past has risen.

If you are interested please send payment by check or money order, no later than the 15th of the month, payable to

Burton Bulletin
PO Box 374
Burton, Texas 77835

Please remit \$36 payment by the 15th of the month to receive the next month issue.

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Home Energy Stability & Conservation

Over the past few years, the government and many unqualified or semi-qualified salespeople have been promoting solar as THE renewable solution for the energy future. Well. It's not. It is just one of many technologies needed to ensure a safe, reliable and affordable energy future for residential use. With over 50 years of experience in the power industry, designing plants that run on everything from plastic, wood, coal and gas.... not to mention nuclear.... I am convinced that we need all fuel sources and must improve them as we go. For residential energy, solar power offers numerous benefits – such as generating both electric and hot water – making it an increasing popular choice for homeowners. Here are some of its key attributes.

1. **Renewable Energy Source:** Solar power harness energy from the sun, which is abundant and sustainable.
2. **Cost Savings:** After the initial investment in solar panels, homeowners can lower their electricity bills and sell excess energy produced back to the grid, providing additional savings or income.
3. **Low Maintenance:** Solar power systems generally require minimal maintenance. Regular cleaning and occasional inspections are often sufficient to keep the system running efficiently.
4. **Energy Independence:** Solar power allows homeowners to generate their own electricity, reducing reliance on utility companies and increasing energy security, especially during outages.

5. **Increased Property Value:** Homes equipped with solar power systems often see an increase in property value, as potential buyers recognize the long-term savings and environmental benefits.
6. **Technological Advancements:** Continuous improvements in solar technology lead to more efficient panels, better storage solutions and integration with smart home systems, enhancing overall energy management.
7. **Flexibility and Scalability:** Battery systems can be tailored to meet the specific energy needs of a home and they can be expanded as energy needs grow or as additional renewable energy sources are added.

Now all that is great as long as the sun is shining, but what about cloudy days or night time?

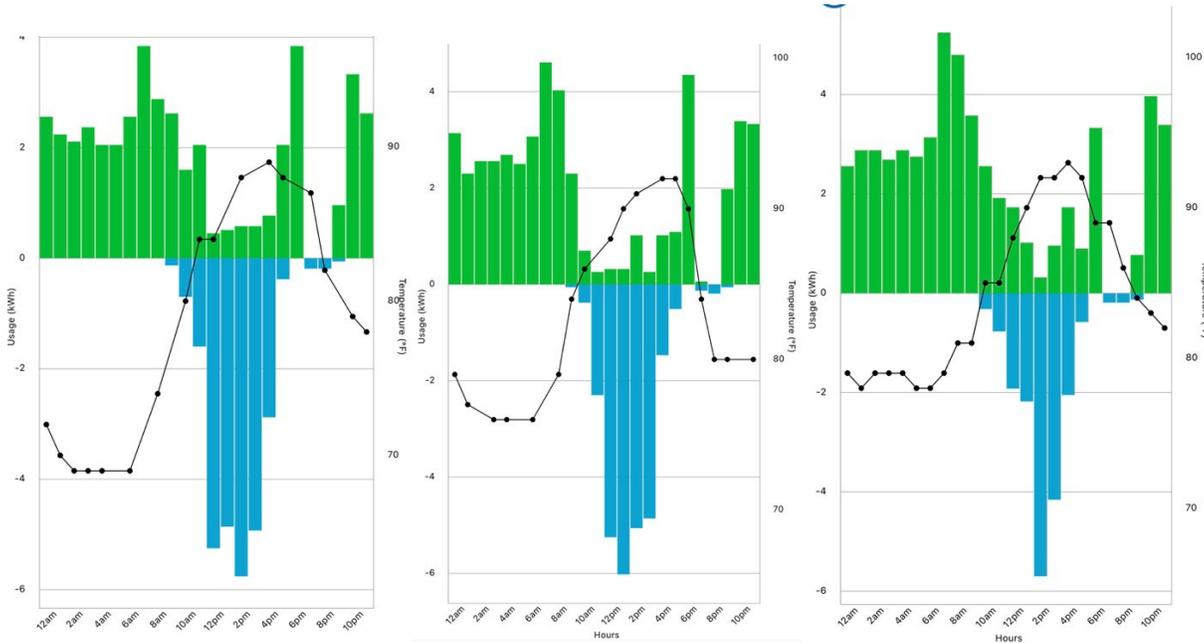
In those times when the normal source of power is interrupted, battery storage for residential use offer several significant benefits, enhancing the overall energy of a home. Here are some key advantages:

1. **Energy Independence:** Battery storage allows homeowners to store energy generated from solar panels or the grid, reducing reliance on utility companies and increasing energy security.
2. **Backup Power:** In the event of a power outage, battery systems can provide backup power, ensuring that essential appliances and systems remain operational.
3. **Optimized Solar Usage:** Battery storage maximizes the use of solar energy. Homeowners can store excess solar energy generated during the day for use at night or during periods of low sunlight, increasing self-consumption rates.
4. **Grid Stability:** By using battery storage, homeowners can contribute to grid stability by reducing demand during peak periods, which can help avoid blackouts and improve grid reliability.
5. **Smart Energy Management:** Many battery systems come with smart technology that allows homeowners to monitor and manage their energy usage, providing insights into consumption patterns and optimization opportunities.
6. **Increased Property Value:** Homes with battery storage may see an increase in property value, as potential buyers appreciate the added benefits of energy independence and backup power.
7. **Flexibility and Scalability:** Battery systems can be tailored to meet the specific energy needs of a home and they can be expanded as energy needs grow or as additional renewable energy sources are added.

Battery systems properly sized and supported by an existing energy source, will result in continuous power availability and improved security. In our home, for example, we have a battery directly connected to the solar panel, which serve the entire house. We also have smaller, inexpensive systems which serve our refrigerator and freezer. All these systems operate continuously and serve to provide both savings and security. **(Continue on page 3)**

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To illustrate an average day I've captured these graphs from the month of May, 2025.



These graphs represent the Utility meter. We have a “net metering” system (allowed under 50k we installed) in which our production essentially turns the utility meter backwards. The green is consumption and the blue is production. There is a transitional time between the sun setting and the house feed battery kicking in. This can be observed as a green spike at sunset every day. The middle graph shows the effect of doing laundry (dryer load) and cooking (2pm). The right graph shows the effect of charging an EV.

All the graphs exhibit typical residential usage peaks at 6AM and 6PM common in the USA, The benefit of solar power in Texas is that the hottest part of the day, along with peak air conditioning demand, occurs the same time as the highest solar output. The house’s dedicated battery is 18 kWh and due to the HVAC load, lasts about two hours a day (our average total kWe load is roughly is 9 kWe with summers HVAC, 6 kWee in winter).

The average cost of a house solar panel system with 10% battery backup is US\$5 to US\$7 per installed watt. Without battery backup, the cost is US\$4 to US\$5 per installed watt. Localized battery backup, which can power critical load, is significantly less at US\$1 to US\$2 per kWh.



These small units can power essential loads during an outage or be sized to power an entire home with solar panels or a generator by storing utility energy for use during an outage. When combined with solar panels, they can supplement the grid or enable complete off-grid independence. Going off-grid is technically simpler than interfacing with the grid, as there is no need to synchronize or provide safety interrupts to protect linemen. Small battery systems are “plug and play,” offering significant benefits with minimal effort.

There you have a “Cliff Note” approach to Energy. Everyone’s need is different, but all are achievable.
ENJOY!

Article Submitted by Pete Horn



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**Proceeds go to the Burton Beautification Association
For Burton Beautification Projects**

The Secret Worth Sharing: Burton's newest nonprofit set to share it

By Tiffany Eckhardt

Tucked along quiet roads just off the beaten path, there's a town most people aren't aware of as they pass by on Hwy. 290. Burton, with its rural charm and history, has long been one of Texas's best-kept secrets. Once discovered, this little town leaves people wanting to explore more.

This secret is soon to be out with Burton's newest nonprofit: **Destination Burton Association**, a freshly minted nonprofit with a simple but powerful mission — to share the magic of Burton with the world.

Creating Experiences

The idea behind Destination Burton is more than just promoting a place. It's about creating experiences, building partnerships, and generating economic growth by inviting others into what locals already know — this town is something special.

Tourism isn't just a passing trend. It's a lifeline that fuels small towns across the state. Just look at our neighbors. In 2024, **Destination Bryan** welcomed a staggering 4.8 million visitors. Without that influx of travelers, each household in Bryan would've needed to spend an extra \$5,500 just to keep their economy humming. That's the power of tourism.

And the state is paying attention. Governor Greg Abbott has launched the Tourism Friendly Texas Certified Community program — an initiative that gives towns across Texas the tools and recognition they need to grow through tourism. He's already recognized Brenham for its efforts, calling it a model for local economic development.

As Jennifer Eckermann, former director of Visit Brenham once said: "Tourism is economic development."

The Beauty of Being Discovered

But here's the part that really makes hearts beat faster: people aren't just traveling anymore — they're *seeking*. They're hungry for stories, simplicity, and soul. They crave authentic experiences that reconnect them with nature, heritage, and hands-on creativity.

That's where Burton shines.

Whether it's exploring the historic Texas Cotton Gin Museum — home to the oldest operating cotton gin in America — or strolling through a guided *Soundwalk* that whispers stories of Burton's past, visitors are invited to slow down and step into a living history.

Nearby gems like **Deeply Rooted Ranch** and **Ranch Milk and Honey Ranch** offer guests the chance to roll up their sleeves and reconnect with the land, animals, and traditions that define rural Texas life. This is experiential tourism, and Burton is already doing it beautifully — even if we haven't called it that until now.

The Road Ahead

At a recent meeting in May, the board of Destination Burton buzzed with energy and ideas. There was talk of curated itineraries, handcrafted maps and community events. Plans are already in motion to collaborate with local businesses, short-

term rentals, and nearby attractions to turn Burton into more than a stop — but a true experience.

Social media campaigns and a future website will help tell the story. Grants and state programs will help fund it. But it all begins with a shared belief: Burton is ready to open its doors a little wider.

Because when a tourist pays sales tax, it means Burton profits — without asking more of the people who already call it home.

And maybe, just maybe, the best-kept secret in Texas won't be a secret for much longer.

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Business Card	\$ 9 per month or \$ 90 a year
Half Page	\$14 per month or \$140 a year
Full Page	\$22 per month or \$220 a year

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Burton Bulletin PO Box 374	David 979-530-5210 Lynda 979-530-3044

<u>Website</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
www.burtonbulletin.com	editor@burtonbulletin.com

Road Work Scheduled for Burton

Burton City Hall has been notified that the County Road Crew will be in Burton to complete some much needed road repairs. Streets include in this round of repairs are Live Oak Street, E. Cedar Street, Brandie Lane, W. Washington Street and San Marcos Street. They will also dig out ditches on S. Main Street and possibly S. Railroad Street. Work will begin the first week of August unless weather causes a delay.

Long Life Brotherhood Annual First of August Event

August 2, 2025 3pm to Midnight
At 12419 E. Branch Street
Burton, Texas

Special Guest Performer
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Burton City Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the Burton City Council was held on July 8, 2025 at 5:30pm. The subject of the water well being drilled was discussed. The drilling company is expected to lay the cement for the casing of the new well. Dustin Lozano, Burton utility contractor stated that the well needed to be shut off for 24 hours to allow the cement to dry. The water tower holds approximately 90,000 gallons and would be sufficient for the city's consumption during the time it would take for the concrete to set.

The first item on the agenda was the future of the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction water line under FM 2780 that served several homeowners. It was estimated to cost \$40,000 to bore under the road where the cost would be absorbed by the residents. The other option would be for the landowners to drill their own wells, which seemed the way that they decided to do. The item was removed from the agenda.

The second item on the agenda was to authorize a contract amendment for the GLO 24-065-042-E534. This was in regards to a change in the water well contract where an additional 12 inch cement casing along with carbon steel pipe and stainless steel screen. The change was for the amount of \$32,790 but help deduct the original plan by a savings of \$1,000. The item was approved.

The third item was to amend the fiscal year 2025-2026 budgets reflecting actual income and expenses. This item was approved. The next regular council meeting will be held on August 12, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Texas Toast Mobil Bar and Cocktail Lounge

Coming soon! Texas Toast Mobile Bar and Cocktail Lounge! Just in time for the holidays, a new cocktail lounge and mobile bar is set to open down from Market Realty at 615 N Main in Burton. Amanda Cano with the help of Susan Kiel is spreading the Texas Spirit one cocktail at a time by only stocking our local beer, wine, and spirit producers from right here in Washington and surrounding counties. We are so blessed to have access to some of the best producers in the state, possibly the country right here in our own backyard! Texas Toast is dedicated to promoting our local producers by making them available for tasting under one roof. This holiday season, be sure to stop in for a drink or contact Amanda about mobile bartending and event planning services to add a little Texas spirit to your private or corporate event!

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, call us at 979-203-9008 or email txtoastinfo@gmail.com

For every person with a spark of genius, there are a hundred with ignition trouble.

Some people drink from the fountain of knowledge while others only gargle.



BANKING THROUGH THE *Decades* -

HERE YESTERDAY.
HERE TODAY.
HERE TOMORROW.



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Washington County Strategic Planning Survey Meeting

I attended the Washington County Strategic Planning Meeting on July 16, 2025 along with other concern citizens. They held meetings as well in all precincts during the month of July. The subjects that were brought up to the public were: what is your connection to Washington County. How well do you think the County communicates with the public, what are the biggest challenges facing Washington County, what type of businesses would you like to see in Washington County and what areas of Washington County would you like to see improved, revitalized, or grow in the future?

There were several answers that were given to the committee. Most people seem to agree what we need better internet and cell service for the rural areas as well as county road repairs and drainage. Noise from oil and gas wells was a concern as well as the truck traffic. Also better communication was a concern as several people felt that Precinct 4 has been treated as step children compared to the other precincts.

If you missed the meeting you can fill the survey online by going to <https://survey.washingtoncountytexas.gov>. The survey should be on line for the month of August.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call the Washington Court House at 979-530-5210

I have never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call them, they like to stay out all night, and when they're home, they like to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.

With sufficient thrust, pigs fly just fine.



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