

The Burton Bulletin

"The Best Kept Secret in Texas"

September 2025



The History of Labor Day

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, by the Central Labor Union.

It is not clear who first proposed the holiday for workers, but it is believed that two workers can make a claim to the event. Some say that Peter J. McGuire, who was the General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, suggested setting aside a holiday for the laboring classes.

Others have said that Matthew Macquire, a machinist and Secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York, proposed the holiday.

By 1894, 23 more states, along with New York had adopted Labor Day. So in that year, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a nation holiday. Regardless of who actually came up with the idea, Both Maguire and McGuire attended the country's first Labor Day parade in New York that year.

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

Editor and Publisher: David Zajicek

Assistant Editor and Contributor: Lynda Zajicek

Digital Publisher: Keith Withington

Contributing writers: Pete Horn, Ned Ross and Susan Tommaney

Website: burtonbulletin.com Ph: 979-530-5210

Email: editor@burtonbulletin.com

Facebook: Burton Bulletin

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<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
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

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Circular Economy in Central Texas

The circular economy is a transformative approach that aims to redefine growth by focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It is about gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. In a community setting, adopting circular economy principles can lead to sustainable development, improved resource management, and enhanced community resilience. By keeping supply chains short and local, wherever possible, the various facets of implementing a circular economy aim to stabilize the economic base and maintain the quality of life. Developing a circular economy in central Texas involves leveraging the region's unique assets—its agricultural roots, thriving tech sector, and diverse, growing communities.

Here's how such a transformation might unfold:

1. Resource Mapping and Local Collaboration:

Communities can start by identifying local waste streams—from agricultural byproducts to urban materials. Collaborations between farmers, ranchers, businesses, universities, and local governments can create shared platforms for materials reuse, repair, and innovation. Economic Development based on existing local resources produces employment, markets, and stability.

2. Community Composting and Urban Agriculture:

Central Texas's strong farming culture makes it ideal for widespread composting and local food production. Cities and towns can encourage composting programs and use the results to support community gardens, school orchards, and urban farms, reducing food miles and enhancing food security. There is huge value in cooperatives between FFA, 4H, and other organizations working with local land owners to produce food crops and develop technologies to enhance the quality and quantity of food and water resources for both local consumption and sale into other markets. Our physical location, with large cities close by and served by an excellent highway system, supports both our precious country lifestyle and economic stability to support our city and its inhabitants.

3. Technology, Repair Cafés and Small Business Support:

Without disturbing our quality of life, modern technology opens the door for robust and high-demand enterprises in data systems, AI, and the requirements of the future. These people are living here today, yet they often work remotely or physically from significant distances from where they chose to live. By supporting technology and repair-focused businesses, as well as establishing community workshops, central Texas towns can extend the life of products, reduce landfill waste, and

create local job opportunities and skills training. There are extensive opportunities to enhance the current businesses in antiques and food services by asking the simple question: "What do you need?" The answer often can generate expanded business opportunities or create an entirely new business to fill the need.

4. Water and Energy Looping:

With water scarcity a concern, water reuse programs—like greywater systems for irrigation—can play a pivotal role. Water sources are precious and need to be developed sustainably. Water from aquifers can be supplemented with atmospheric water collection and processing of crops to recover both water and nutrients. Electrical generation, storage, and management in community-level Agrivoltaics, solar power, battery storage, Micro Grid, and VPP (virtual power plant) technology in town reduces dependence on external energy sources, creates employment, and supports a stable economic environment.

5. Materials Innovation:

Local universities and tech hubs can drive research into bio-based packaging, recycled construction materials, and new uses for agricultural waste, turning regional byproducts into business opportunities. Our area is blessed with several excellent Higher Education Institutions, many offering community support at little or no cost to the municipalities.

6. Policy and Education:

Municipal governments can champion circular principles through procurement policies, waste reduction targets, and public education, helping residents and businesses shift old habits toward shared, regenerative practices.

By tailoring circular economy solutions to central Texas's needs and resources, communities can create resilient local economies, protect the environment, and improve quality of life for everyone involved.

Article Submitted by Pete Horn

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**TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN –
A Series Highlighting Burton Blessings
What’s Great About Our Town: “NORM!”**
By Ned Ross, contributing writer

“Cheers” was one of the most successful and loved sitcoms of the 80s and 90s. Aside from a terrific cast, the attraction for viewers was a fictional place in which city dwellers in Boston find a place where “everybody knows your name.” This line from the theme song was played out in each episode when bar patrons would shout, “Norm!” every time the heavy-set, jovial character would walk in the door. Most of us live for those moments in our own routines -to be seen a celebrated.

I loved the show partly because I lived in cities and suburbs until the last few years. Familiar faces anywhere in a city, particularly a city that is exploding with new people, is so scarce. We all long for being recognized, and city living has become increasingly impersonal, cold, and even hostile.

Social dynamics and courtesies are so different between big city and small town life. Contrast “Cheers” life with that in Burton. Some differences can be subtle like the small town “two-finger wave” from steering wheels as pickups pass each other on the local FM or a stranger holding the door for you as you enter the Short Stop. You never get a wave and rarely get a door held open in a city.

Others are more noticeable every day. When you pass people on a sidewalk in Houston or Dallas or Austin, you don’t get so much as a glance from passers-by. Why? Well, making eye contact with hundreds of people passing you at lunch hour in downtown Houston can be exhausting. But also making eye contact – simply acknowledging the presence of another person in your space – can actually be frowned upon or challenged, possibly interpreted as a threat. That’s sad. To

further frustrate common courtesies and recognition, pedestrians are dodging a growing and increasingly aggressive homeless population that begs for money – or worse. Want your windshield cleaned at an intersection? Just make eye contact with them and watch the squeegee fly across your view just before they beg for cash.

I’d rather look at bugs than deal with that.

Contrast this with life in Burton. Failing to make eye contact and say howdy is uncharacteristic and rude. Few things identify you more readily as a city dweller than applying urban antisocial tactics in Neon Moon, the Short Stop, or Los Patrones. Locals give a nod, a wave or a hello when encountered here – and that goes for anyone they encounter. Perhaps the most friendly and disarming part of Burton living is that there is no overt social status. Everyone treats each other the same. I still couldn’t tell you who is wealthy and who is poor, who is over-educated and who dropped out of first grade. Frankly, nobody cares. Everyone gets the “Norm!” in our town.

The personal nature of small town interaction is a huge part of what makes it great, unless you suffer with a severe case of introversion, and then you need DoorDash and HEB delivery to hide at home. I grew up in Spring which is 20 miles north of Houston. As a child in the early 70s, Spring was the sticks, the outer area of Houston. Drivers waved to each other as they passed because there weren’t as many folks in Spring, Texas in those days. There were more cows and horses and chickens than people. That all ended in just a few years as the area grew – the fastest growing area in the country at one point. The rural feel of the town was gone, and folks began ignoring each other on sidewalks. The two-finger wave was long gone. Spring had become the city. (Continue on page 5)



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(Continue from page 4 – What’s Great about our town)

In the three short years Lauren and I have been Burtonites, we have met most people in and around town and come to know a good many of them. I’d like to meet and get to know everyone! There are truly outstanding individuals and families here. Locals patronize the businesses knowing how essential they are to our town, people support the philanthropies and schools, and neighbors assist neighbors without a second thought. We know the superintendent of BISD and many of the teachers, we know the small business owners, and we care for all of them.

And that’s what makes Burton great.

The Corner Shoppe

Burton Bridge Ministry’s resale program accept gently used donations of clothing, goods, household décor, appliances and furniture. These items are lovingly curated and sold at affordable prices to the community.

Sept. 4-6

It’s the first full weekend of September and clothing and jewelry are half price. It’s time to start thinking about the fall wardrobe. We have a constant flow of new merchandise coming in – so check it out.

Sept. 11-13

Time to switch from that summer purse in something more suitable for fall? Then come in and view our selection of purses that are half price this weekend. Shoes and luggage are also half price.

Sept. 18-20

Whether you are planning a new quilt top or redoing the bedroom, savvy decorators won’t want to miss the half price deals on fabrics and linens this week.

Sept. 25-27

This is a good weekend to browse our collection of dishes. Select dishes will be half price.

The Corner Shoppe

307 North Brazos, Burton

Open 10 am to 3 pm Thursday-Saturdays

979-289-2223

Facebook.com/burtoncornershoppe

Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook. Preview selected merchandise prior to each Thursday’s opening on Facebook.

979-530-5533 (furniture store)

Facebook.com/people/Burton-Bridge-Furniture-Store/
61556829382230

If the police arrest a mute, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

Why do shops have “Guide Dogs Only” signs? The dogs can’t read and their owners are blind.

Why do they put Braille on the drive-through ATM machines?



The Vacation Bible School class at St. John's United Church of Christ collected child-friendly foods for food-insecure area children. The Sunday School class from **St John's United Church of Christ** delivered these offerings to the Manna Food Pantry on Sunday, August 10. Thank you!

Executive Director Position

Bridge Ministry of Burton Texas

Bridge Ministry of Burton TX, a 501c3 nonprofit, seeks to employ a person in the role of part-time Executive Director. This position requires someone who can work well with others, is self-motivated, has excellent organization and communication skills, and a passion for helping others. The applicant should also be skilled in computer technology, communication, spreadsheet, and record keeping software, website maintenance and creating / posting content to social media.

Bridge is a fifteen-year-old community outreach organization that began as a collaborative effort of 13 area churches. Dozens of volunteers serve in our six ministries: Senior Meals, Youth, Food Pantry, Helping Hands, Transportation, Community Building, and The Corner Shoppe and Furniture Store. The Corner Shoppe and Furniture Store, our resale stores, financially support the work of our ministry.

The Executive Director supports and oversees the ministries, a small staff of part-time employees and a large contingent of volunteers. The Executive Director must be a champion for Bridge with excellent communication and outreach skills. The Executive Director is our primary spokesperson and must have the ability to work well with other agencies, organizations and volunteers. The Executive Director must search for increased funding through grants and donor development.

Job duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Overseeing the operations of our 501c3 non-profit organization, maintaining the status with local, state and federal government agencies to ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and policies.
2. Possessing sound knowledge of the Bridge's ministries and mission and clearly communicating this to others.
3. Maintaining and improving our relationship with clients, area churches, service agencies, current and potential donors, and the larger community.
4. Scheduling the annual meeting with the Pastors' Advisory Board. Making presentations at churches on Bridge activities, including recognizing the churches contributions and their members' volunteer work.
5. Staffing the Bridge office in Burton as well as working offsite (as needed) at least three days a week for a total of 15 hours. Exact hours are negotiable but must be set within a month of employment in order to meet the needs of those we serve.
6. Helping to organize and strengthen the working relationship among key ministry teams, ensuring that all people involved have the same timely information plus other organizational tasks and communications as requested by the Bridge Board Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and any other board members) who will be the Executive Director's supervisors.
7. Helping people who contact the office seeking assistance and directing them to the appropriate Bridge Ministry leader, partner agency, or government agency.
8. Overseeing all Bridge oral and written communication, including the monthly newsletters, press releases, written correspondence, website, and social media.
9. Supervising and overseeing all Bridge administrative tasks, including all forms of communications, all forms of record keeping, including financial, bill and staff pay, and the maintenance of orderly electronic and paper files.
10. Assisting in the search, preparation, and implementation of fundraising activities (including the capital campaign) and grants that will strengthen existing ministries and/or create new ministries as need arises for them.
11. Attending all regularly scheduled and specially called Bridge Board meetings.
12. Being an active "face" and advocate for Bridge Ministry in Burton and the greater Washington County community.

Beginning pay is \$22,000/year based on an expectation of 25 hours worked per week. Since we acknowledge that we are seeking someone with a much greater skill set than the salary reflects, the person taking this position should see the work as part of their personal ministry as much as a job. We have hopes that, as the ministry of Bridge continues to grow, we will be able to increase both the pay and the hours for this position.

To apply, please mail your résumé and letter describing why you are interested in this position to Barbara Donnelly, Board President at:

Bridge Ministry of Burton Texas, burtonbridgeministry@gmail.com, 979-337-3370, PO Box 68, Burton, TX 77835

The deadline to apply is September 16, 2025.

Taking Care of Business

by Susie Tommaney

Here's a fascinating fact I learned by reading the City of Burton's budget for 2025-2026. Sales tax revenue is expected to bring in \$194,792 during the fiscal year, which is an amount that's even greater than projected property tax revenues (around \$149,191). Add in franchise taxes (\$12,446) and mixed beverage sales (\$3,219), and their contributions are only magnified.

In a small pool of about 270 residents, these are numbers that make me sit up and take notice. Were it not for these brave entrepreneurs – many of them “mom and pops” – then each of us would have a much larger financial obligation when covering the City's expenses.

So I feel the need to nurture and cherish the relationships we have with these business owners. They've already gone out on a limb by positioning their businesses on land that is sometimes triple the value of other parcels in Washington County. They can't claim a homestead exemption and, if the owner doesn't also live within the City of Burton, they have no say about tax increases at Burton City Hall.

Everybody's heard the phrase, “Shop Local,” and that obviously is the best way that we can support these area businesses. But not all of us have discretionary income after paying for property taxes, utilities and groceries.

Other ways to support the small businesses that power this community include recommending them to visitors and tourists, posting positive comments and reviews on their social media pages, and greeting business owners with a friendly smile and wave when you see them at the post office.

Lastly, I would encourage those who govern us at Burton City Hall to consider how the decisions they make affect these local businesses. I understand that we will be paying for two different bonds for almost three years, and so increasing our tax rate from 0.297267 per \$100 valuation to \$0.3363, which is about a 12% increase, seemed like the easiest way to handle our debt.

But what is the tipping point for a small business, when they decide it just isn't worth it anymore? Last year Los Patrones paid \$10,124 in property taxes and Burton Short Stop paid \$10,441 in property taxes. For these businesses, any increase in taxes affects their bottom line.

The property tax hearing is set for Tuesday, September 9 at 5:30 p.m. There is nothing that we, as voting citizens, can do to change the fact that our new tax rate will be 12% higher. But we can have conversations with our city council members that, moving forward, we would like to see a series of cost-saving measures implemented so that next year's tax rate could be adjusted back down.

Let's take care of Burton's businesses, because they take care of us.

No sense being pessimistic. It probably wouldn't work anyway.

Senior moments are like vitamins. Everyone gets one a day.

Savvy Seniors: Steps to Avoid Scams

Presentation Date:

Friday, September 12, 11am to Noon

**Place: St. John's UCC Family Life Center
516 N. Colorado St. Burton, Texas**

Rachel Foster, Program Coordinator, with the Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging, will give you tips on how to avoid scams.

Ms. Foster is a state trained benefits counselor who works for you, the taxpayer. She will present on the top five scams targeting older adults. Defrauding older adults is a lucrative business. Wouldwide, people age 60+ lost a combined \$3.4 billion to financial scammers in 2023 alone.

Knowledge is power. Learn how to identify and stop the top financial scams and what to do if you are someone you know is a victim of fraud.

Senior Fellowship and Meal

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

Where: St. John's UCC, Family Life Center, 516 North Colorado

When: Fellowship and games from 10 a.m. until noon
Bingo at 11 a.m. Lunch is served at noon

Upcoming Menus:

Sept. 5: Sour cream chicken enchiladas, Mexican corn. (Catered by On Deck with volunteers from Greenvine Baptist Church.)

Sept. 12: Pork roast, wild rice, broccoli with cheese. (Catering by Cindy and Madeline, with volunteers from St. John's United Church of Christ.)

Sept. 22: Taco Lasagna, salad, garlic bread. (Catering by White Horse with volunteers from Zionsville Lutheran Church.)

Sept. 26: Swedish meatballs, noodles, broccoli salad, dinner rolls. (Catering by Cindy and Madeline, with volunteers from Greenville Lutheran Church.)

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're 55+ or 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.

They're always looking for relief drivers to help out when one of their regular drivers is unable to make the deliveries.



**COME JOIN US FOR
“FUN IN THE PARK”**

October 4, 2025 2pm to 7pm

**Laas-Weeren City Park / Neon Moon
12500 Texas Street, Burton, Texas 77835**

*Craft Beer, Specialty Wine, Cigars, Sausage
Refreshments for Children*

Music By: Nathaniel Goldblatt and Kountry Chick Karaoke

Corn Hole Game, Silent Auction

Tickets \$30 for 6 Tokens

For More Information Call: (979)530-3044

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS!!!

(Rain Date October 18th, 2025)

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

Neon Moon Manager Kanoë Ucci



Kanoë is the manager of Neon Moon Coffee Shop in Burton. She is originally from the Hawaiian island of Oahu. Born Kanoelani (Heavenly Mist) Ruiz, she graduated from the University of Hawaii majoring in Psychology. Kanoë comes from a large family of 4 brothers and 3 sisters. She has 10 years of experience as a barista, starting at the Honolulu Coffee Shop.

She met her husband, Joshua at a coffee shop in Hawaii while he was in the military. She married Joshua and moved to Texas in 2023. She started working at the Neon Moon in February 2025 and became manager in July of this year. Her husband does residential carpentry work.

She has blended into the Texas way of life and has chickens, turkeys and cats. She enjoys cooking and baking. She loves to read and has already read a total of 55 books this year so far. Her favorite books are fantasies and science fiction. Her favorite coffee is Brazilian. Welcome to the Burton Community Kanoë!

Burton City Hall Meeting

The City of Burton held its regular meeting on August 12, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The discussion of the water well was discussed about the weekend of Friday, August 22nd thru Sunday, August 24th, when the well was to be tested for 36 hours. Dustin Lozano stated that since the wells were so close together that both wells were to be shut down during this time and the citizens should watch their use of water at this time to prevent the water tower from being emptied.

In regards to the Subdivision Committee, Paul McLaughlin stated that they got a lot done and would be making a presentation to the council soon.

The council voted to increase property tax rate to \$0.3363 per \$100 valuation tax rate for 2025-2026. This would result in a \$0.43823 Maintenance & Operational rate and \$0.292477 in and Sinking Rate (Debt Service) A property tax public hearing will be held on September 9, 2025.

The council approved an agreement with the Texas A&M Texas Target Communities Program.

(According to the Texas A&M web site, this is a service learning initiative that focuses on community engagement and sustainable development. It aims to transform communities from high-risk to equitable, resilient, and adaptive by addressing economic, environmental and cultural challenges.

The program has worked with over 90 low-capacity communities, providing technical assistance and training to help them develop comprehensive plans and strategies for growth and sustainability. Its efforts have been recognized for their impact, with projects valued over \$11.6 million and student involvement exceeding 407,000 hours. The program is part of the Institute for Sustainable Communities at Texas A&M University, which focus on tackling environmental justice issues through interdisciplinary research and engagement.)

The council approved for authorizing road closures for the Trick or Treat Trail on October 25th from 5pm to 8pm.

The council approved hiring Lampe Surveying, Inc. for approximately \$2,000 to survey portion of the creek property at La Patrones to convey to Lizveth Galvan. The city has agreed to pay \$1,000 towards the survey.

The council approved moving the November meeting to Wednesday, November 12th to not conflict with Veteran's Day.

City Hall will be closed on September 1, 2025 in observance of Labor Day.

The next regular city council meeting with is on September 9, 2025.

Disclaimer

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

My mother taught me religion. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about time travel. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week."

My mother taught me about irony. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about Hypocrisy. "If I told you once, I told you a thousand times, don't exaggerate."

My mother taught me about the circle of life. "I brought you into this world and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about medical science. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

My mother taught me genetics. "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about behavior modification. "Stop acting like your father."



TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL 2025

10.25.25 | 5:30-7:30PM
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