

The Burton Bulletin

“The Best Kept Secret in Texas”

December 2025



Merry Christmas

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

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

We at the Burton Bulletin wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New year! Be safe, especially if you are traveling.

Rooster Talk

As some of you know, my wife and I garden year-round indoors. We have several plants that have been harvesting for more than three years; without winter they thrive. It can be as easy as a window garden with supplemental lighting, or as complex as aquaponics. We set aside a room to grow our food, but a set of open shelves can do just fine. Growing vegetables indoors involves several elements and processes to ensure successful, healthy plants. Here's a summary of the main aspects and key steps:

Essential Elements

1. **Light:** Most vegetables need at least 6–8 hours of direct or supplemental light daily. LED grow lights are popular for indoor growing.
2. **Temperature:** Most vegetables grow best between 65–75°F (18–24°C).
3. **Water:** Consistent, adequate watering is vital — avoid both overwatering and underwatering.
4. **Air Circulation:** Good airflow helps prevent diseases and strengthens plants. Use fans if needed.
5. **Soil or Growing Medium:** Use high-quality, well-draining potting mix or consider hydroponics as a soil-less option.
6. **Nutrients:** Indoor plants require fertilization. Use balanced, water-soluble fertilizers appropriate for vegetables.
7. **Containers:** Ensure containers have drainage holes to prevent root rot.

Key Processes

1. **Seed Selection & Sowing:** Choose vegetables suited to indoor conditions (lettuce, herbs, tomatoes, peppers).
2. **Germination:** Start seeds in seed trays or small pots, keeping them moist and warm.
3. **Lighting Setup:** Place seedlings under grow lights soon after sprouting.
4. **Transplanting:** Move seedlings into larger containers when they outgrow initial pots.
5. **Routine Care:** Regularly water, fertilize, support taller plants, and inspect for pests or diseases.
6. **Pollination (if needed):** For some crops, gently shake plants or use a small brush if no pollinators are present indoors. (I prefer self-pollinating plants)
7. **Harvesting:** Pick vegetables at their peak for best flavor and yield.

With the right setup and attention to these elements, you can grow fresh vegetables indoors year-round!



Some indoor vegetables can live and produce for long periods, especially if conditions are favorable and you provide regular care. Here are some of the longest-lived indoor vegetables:

Perennial or Long-Lived Indoor Veggies

1. Herbs (some types):
 - *Chives, Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme, and Bay Leaf* – These can live for several years indoors with proper light, pruning, and care.
 2. Peppers (Capsicum):
 - Many sweet and hot pepper varieties are technically perennials and, with enough light, can live and fruit for 2–5 years indoors.
 3. Tomatoes (Certain Indeterminate Varieties):
 - Indeterminate (vining) tomatoes can live for 1–3 years if kept healthy with adequate support and continuous pruning.
 4. Basil (several varieties):
 - This plant can be grown for several seasons and regrows if pruned regularly.
 5. Leafy Greens (Cut-and-Come-Again Varieties):
 - *Swiss chard, kale, perpetual spinach* – With regular harvesting (removing outer leaves), plants can live many months or even over a year.
- Tips for Longevity
- Provide consistent, high-quality light (LED grow lights (red/blue) are best for long-term growth).
 - Keep temperatures stable and avoid cold drafts.
 - Regularly prune and harvest to encourage continued growth.
 - Repot and refresh soil annually if possible to prevent nutrient depletion and disease.

While some root crops and annual veggies have natural life cycles of just a few months, the above options can keep yielding for a year or more indoors!

Article Submitted by Pete Horn



BANKING THROUGH THE *Decades*—

HERE YESTERDAY.
HERE TODAY.
HERE TOMORROW.



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Burton City Hall Meeting

The City of Burton held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 5:30pm.

The City Council approved a proclamation recognizing small businesses of Burton on Saturday, November 29th.

The Council approved a resolution providing for eight votes allocated for the election of the Board of Directors for the Washington County Appraisal district. Four votes were given to Halee Kalkhake and four votes to Leslie Boehnemann.

An Ordinance providing for specific exemptions to permitting fees as described in the Occupational Licenses and Business Regulations Ordinance of 2001 was removed from the agenda for more information.

The Council approved on paying a third of the cost for four Plasticade Break-Away barricades for Local Cotton Gin, Chamber of Commerce and City Events. The cost to the city is \$970.43.

The Council discussed an ordinance regulating the parking of, storage of, and livestock transport trailers of property owners within the City of Burton. It was noted that there was a RV that was hooked up to city sewer for over 30 days. The owner explained due to a difficult situation that they were not able to move at this time. The council did express compassion and propose that the RV owner contact the Bridge Ministry for possible help.

The Council also discussed a possible partnership with Burton Veterinary Clinic in regards to capturing feral cats to be spayed or neutered and helps with partial payments for the services. There are many details to be discussed yet.

The City Hall will be closed on December 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas and on December 31 and January 1 in observance of New Year Eve and New Year Day.

The next City Hall regular meeting will be held on December 9th at 5:30pm.



Burton Light Up Your Block!

Hello Burton Residents

This year we are inviting you to join with your neighbors to create some holiday magic on your street. Thank to a generous donation from the Burton Corner Shoppe we have some lights available for use (first come first served available at the Texas Cotton Gin Museum).

All entries will be judged between December 9th thru December 13th. Winners will be recognized with a sign placed on the winning corners/streets, and of course bragging rights until next year! Help us make this the brightest year in Burton!!!!

How to enter: Send your display name and at least one contact name by December 5th to:

burtonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com

or call Steph Jarvis at the Texas Cotton Gin at 979-289-3378.

Thank you for your support!

Burton Chamber of Commerce & some festive friends

Stay tune for info on voting for winners!

www.burtontexas.org

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everlasting life

Romans 6:23

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our Lord

Romans 10:9

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Compressor for Burton Fire Department



Pictured are:

Ronnie Stanley, Don Townsend & Dennis Huebner

The compressor at the Burton Volunteer Fire Department had recently become inoperative and needed to be replaced. A concerned citizen, who asked to remain anonymous, came forward and provided the funds to replace the compressor. Thank you for your donation and thank you BVFD for providing safety for our community.

Burton Bulletin Advertising Rates

| Size | Prices |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 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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**Please make check payable to: David Zajicek and in
the notation line put Burton Bulletin. Thank you!**

A new strain of lice has been discovered and it is known to be resistant to all traditional treatments. It has left scientists scratching their heads.

**TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN –
A Series Highlighting Burton Blessings
What’s Great About Our Town:“
A Burton Renaissance”**

By Ned Ross, contributing writer

Some of you know that Lauren and I are restoring a Burton historic building at 601 N Main, most recently the Burton Bridge food pantry at the corner of Main and Washington. She and I are very excited to have an opportunity to bring the structure back to life and breathe another 100 years back into it. Looking around our tiny town, several others have proven a willingness to commit resources to improve our community; projects are popping up all over town. We are witnessing a Burton renaissance.

In the last couple of years, we have seen the following within the Burton city limits:

- A new home completed on the southeast side
- A new vet clinic
- Brazos Belle restoration awaiting its next new life
- The Roadhouse became Orvie’s for a variety of events
- The Blue Willow became Burton Steak and Seafood
- The Short Stop added the Ice House
- Victor’s containerized building venture along 290
- Burton ISD’s significant investment in new infrastructure
- Bridge Ministry’s new structure for its food pantry operations
- Weeren Park improvements
- And let’s not forget the major renovation of Citizens State Bank!

For a town this size, that’s a long list of projects. Although there are a handful of vocal people in town who wish to “keep everything the same,” or convert it back to “good old days” that were never truly as good as memory may serve, these projects are key to sustaining the town. If you believe there was a time when Burton was stable and little changed, you haven’t read the two volumes of history books lovingly compiled decades ago. Burton has been in a constant state of change since its founding, some good and some not so good. But change is constant and inevitable.

As for our little project at the heart of the town, the rebuild has been significant. Had we not peeled off walls inside and out of the building, we would not have discovered badly damaged framing, leaning walls, and other century-old delights that old house restorers can relate to. The building would have been at risk of demolition in a couple of decades. Our investment should breathe another 100 years of life into the building with new electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and other features. We have been careful to maintain the old look and feel of the building around the exterior for historical purposes. Burton Home Builders and their subs have done a great job of honoring the past with their work, and they have been very diligent to keep the site clean as all of the work was underway.

Did Lauren and I decide to commit significant resources to this project for the money? Anyone who has restored an old home or building can tell you it wasn’t done for profit. The seemingly endless “surprises” that a structure reveals as walls and floors are peeled back always lead to costs far above the

cost to start from scratch with a new building. No, we did this because we love historic structures. There’s a look and feel that cannot be recreated from those old buildings, a sense or permanence that can’t be added to something new. Lauren and I have restored five old homes in our lifetimes and enjoyed living in each of them (well, we didn’t enjoy the lack of closets and other shortcomings you encounter with homes built before HVAC or electricity). The willingness to restore is a labor of love.

Thankfully for all of us, the love of restoration is shared by many folks. Burton’s Dynamic Duo, Susan and Steph, provide a wealth of historical information about the structures that make it all the more rewarding. Owners of old structures in town participate in preserving and sharing that history. As for 601 N Main, it has served as a “car dealership, garage, service station, local watering hole, flower shop, pizza place, ice cream shop, home décor/gift shop, BBQ stand, and... resale store” (per our heritage Society data). Since that summary was prepared, it has also served as a food pantry. Think there was just one glorious past for our town? Every building in town has morphed over the decades.

Lauren and I completed restoration/renovation of our home in 2023, and I cannot tell you how many people stop to comment to us about it. We are always surprised to have folks ask if we would be willing to sell. On one occasion, Lauren returned home from the grocery and found a family on our front porch trying to find us and see if we would sell – or help them locate another home in town. They wanted to move a large family to Burton to enroll them in BISD and enjoy the small town lifestyle. People from out of town are recognizing the Burton renaissance as well. Great, c’mon!

There are only a few school-age children living within the city limits today, and I would like to see more children in town. That requires more homes suitable for families - more bedrooms and perhaps a two-car garage for kiddo storage needs and such. The land is available for new homes; many open lots and dilapidated structures can provide a rebirth of the town to sustain it well beyond my lifetime. But that requires foresight, planning, adequate water and road infrastructure, and other investments in time and resources. Let’s start today.

The renaissance has begun and can continue for years, but we must embrace the constant change that is Burton. I encourage everyone in town to learn about the incredible transformation of our town (e.g., some may not know that the ENTIRE town moved to its current location with the railroad coming through, and the population was once around 1200 that has dwindled to 275ish today). The Heritage Society meets several times a year and has speakers who present on our history. All are welcome!

And that’s what makes Burton great.

Boris and Natasha say Russian collusion is fake news – work of moose and squirrel.

Three old guys, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. One says “Windy, isn’t it. “No” answers the second guy, “It’s Thursday.” The third guys pipes up “So am I! Let’s grab a beer.”



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COFFEE ROASTERS

The Gift of Hospitality By Susie Tommaney

Some of you know that I help out at the local food pantry, ordering inventory and stocking shelves. We're never told in advance what produce will be delivered along with the twice-a-month shipments, so imagine my surprise when 100 fresh pineapples arrived on the November truck.

Pineapple is traditionally a summer fruit, at its best during the peak growing season of March through July. But this late-season offering also reminded me that the pineapple is considered a symbol of hospitality, a tradition dating back to at least the 18th or 19th centuries.

That's the theme that stays top of mind every time I think about this period of growth within the City of Burton. We've long enjoyed the warmth, comfort and welcome feeling we get when visiting the White Horse Tavern, Los Patrones, Neon Moon Coffee Roasters, and the Burton Short Stop. Now these mainstays have company – and plenty of it.

Last month saw three different ribbon cuttings within our fair City, including the Texas Toast Mobile Bar. It's just another feather in our cap for an exciting season of openings: Sandy Delacroix is serving coffee and baked goods in the freshly updated Brazos Belle, Orvie's Hall has found its footing with popular theme nights, and Burton Seafood & Steakhouse has managed to drop its hook and lure its regulars to a whole new location.

This can only mean good things for our region, and I am grateful that these business owners have chosen the City of Burton as a location for sharing their gift of hospitality. I know that there are some who are allergic to shellfish, or choose to teetotal, or might feel so strapped for cash that discretionary spending is a distant memory, but we can still collectively root for these business owners.

They're bringing jobs to this town, they're paying property taxes and – if they can manage to turn their dreams into prosperity – they'll also be paying state and local sales taxes. For a city that has been labeled "economically disadvantaged" based on average income, this growth can only have a positive impact.

So while the innkeepers of long ago would display a pineapple on their signs or doors to welcome travelers, it seems that we've created a whole new symbol for welcoming guests: open doors.

When a tourist turns at the spur to visit the Texas Cotton Gin Museum, or a treasure hunter shops here during antique weeks, or one of our relatives comes to visit, they'll discover a host of restaurants, bars, breakfast spots and eateries welcoming them with open invitations. Let's celebrate these hosts for their love of hospitality. Let's open our hearts and minds and offer them the support they need to succeed and thrive where others have failed before. Aloha!



Picture Submitted by David Zajicek

Great Great Grandpa Sherwood Stanley moved to this part of Texas in the late 1840s, early 1850s. The closest trading posts were Kerr, McClellan and Blackburn Settlements , all located about 5 miles west of modern day Burton. He ended up marrying Elvira Blackburn. My great grandpa, John Hugh Stanley was born to this marriage in 1856, he became an orphan at a young age and was raised by his Uncle, Frank Blackburn.

In 1876, The Bethany Church was started on what is now Christian Cemetery road, this church was attended by Blackburn family . This church then moved to Burton about 1919. My dad and grandfather , JP Stanley , made a point to bring the family out to the cemetery on Good Friday to give it a good cleaning and then have a picnic lunch.

After daddy died in 1983, we put a flagpole up in his honor, we used the flag momma received at his funeral (he was in WWII) we put it up every Good Friday. When it was decided to move the church back, the flagpole had to be moved and was misplaced, lost or stolen before it could be relocated. The church needed lighting for parking at night and it was decided to install a combination light pole with a provision for a flag. His commemorative marker was moved in front of this pole in remembrance of him.

Submitted by Ronnie Stanley

Subscription

Please remit \$36 payment payable to David Zajicek by the 15th of the month to receive a year subscription. Please note for Burton Bulletin in comment line.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Burton Bridge Ministry Grand Opening



The Burton Chamber of Commerce held the grand opening for the Burton Bridge Ministry Food Pantry/Office building on Tuesday, November 18th at 307 N. Brazos Street in Burton. Cutting the ribbon was Executive Director Dr. Cynthia Carter-Horn and President Barbara Donnelly Besides the food pantry, you can find many items in their store, including clothes, dishes cookware, decorations, furniture and many other items. For more information call (979)337-3370.

Burton Veterinary Clinic Grand Opening



The Burton Chamber of Commerce held the grand opening for Burton Veterinary Clinic on Wednesday, November 19th at 210 S. Railroad Street in Burton. The clinic is operated by Dr. Brooke Mueller and Dr. Brandon Schulte. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 8am to 5pm and the second and fourth Saturday. The phone number is (979) 289-1161.

How to Write Good

Avoid Alliteration. Always
Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
Avoid clichés like the plague. They're old hat.
Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
Writers should never generalize.
Be consistent!
Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
Who needs rhetorical questions?
Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

Texas Toast Mobile Bar Grand Opening



The Burton Chamber of Commerce held the grand opening for the Texas Toast Mobile Bar on Friday, November 21st at 615 N. Main St. in Burton. She offers her services for public and private events as well having her bar located on the premises. Proprietor Amanda Cano's goal is to promote local distilleries, wineries, and breweries. For information call (979)203-9008.

Letter from the Editor

The Washington County Appraisal District had recently mailed out the property tax statements. The delay was caused by Texas Proposition 13 that would increase the property tax exemption on homesteads for school tax from \$100,000 to \$140,000. This proposition among others was voted on November 4th and passed. If property taxes are paid early, there is a discount. The discount started in November, then slightly decreased for following months. Property taxes become delinquent if paid after January 31st.

Many homeowners were not able to enjoy the full discount for November because they did not receive their statements in time. Calling WCAD was not easy either as well as the long line at their office.

In my opinion, WACD should have offered the first discount for November and December. And that's the way I see it.

Submitted by David Zajicek

There is no English dictionary that has been able to explain the difference between the words "Complete" and "Finished". Some people say there is no difference, but there is.

When you marry the right woman, you are "Complete". When you marry the wrong woman you are "Finished". And if you marry a wife who likes shopping, you are "Completely Finished".

The other day I held the door opened for a clown. It was a nice Jester.

Pasteurize: Too Far to see

The Life and Times of Pete Horn (True Story Part 1)

David has occasionally suggested that I write a book about my life and travels. I find it hard to believe anyone would want or read such a book, but I'm writing this to see if articles about my journey might be interesting, or if my limited Public School Education has given me the necessary linguistic tools to make it worth reading.

I'm basically a "build it guy"; some clients referred to me as their translator between engineering and construction. My journey started in New England and took me to live and work on five continents before settling in the Brazos Valley. Basically, fifty-plus years of travel. Some of the folks I've met are in the news these days, and so I'll start there with my time in Russia.

In 1991, I was at a technical conference in Florida when one of the speakers demonstrated his complete lack of real-world experience with a specific technology. I made a less than polite comment to the engineer sitting next to me, and shortly afterward, the man sitting behind me tapped my shoulder and asked how I knew about the technology being presented. The simple answer was that I had been on project teams that had designed, built, and operated that equipment. The gentleman explained that he and the man with him (Minister of Energy) were from Tatarstan, an independent republic in Russia, and that they needed someone to help modernize their republic's energy sector.

A deal was struck, documents generated, and I began commuting from home in Downeast Maine, to the capital of Tatarstan, an ancient city named Kazan, a commute that would last until 1996. To put this all in context: the USSR had just collapsed, corruption was rife, and Russia was trying to determine its future after 75 years of the Soviet Union. My commute to Kazan was typically a 2-3 day journey from Bangor Maine, through NYC, Frankfurt Germany, to the International airport in Moscow, then by train (Trans Siberian RR) to Kazan. Generally, I was always surrounded by security and translators the whole time I was in Russia (although that failed on one trip and I ended up in jail). My time in Russia was planned, structured, and controlled from the time I arrived in Moscow until I got on the plane coming home. Meetings were many, and most of the time I wasn't told the plan or the desired goals, although after a couple of years the KGB (FSB) Col who was assigned to me became somewhat friendly (cautiously) and started to give me some insight into the "plan".

It was on one of the trips in 1991 (I believe) that they had arranged a series of meetings in Moscow for the initial few days of the month I had scheduled. My boss, the Deputy Prime Minister of Tatarstan, met me at the airport with the head of the Duma, the head of the national bank, and a small cadre of officials. That evening we went to the Bolshoi and afterward had dinner in some other part of the building that was gilded and very ornate. I was introduced to officials of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States, formally known as the USSR), including Vladimir Putin, Yegor Gaidar, and (for a short time over a meal) President Yeltsin. For this article, I'll share my thoughts about that evening and my reflection on the folks I met.

Continue on Page 9

(Continue from Page 8 – Life & Times of Pete Horn)

I'll start with President Yeltsin, whom I found least impressive. He was a big guy, loud and talkative, always the focus of attention in the room. We all stood up as his entourage entered the room, and he greeted my boss (apparently the highest-level official after himself) with a handshake, a hug, and a kiss on both cheeks (tradition). They spoke a bit then I was introduced. I parroted what I had seen: handshake, hug, and two kisses, and then he started talking with me. Key memories in that moment were that he was sweaty, and his bear hug totally engulfed me. Kinda like the hug you get from an uncle after too much New Years' celebration. His translator and mine did a great job of contemporaneously converting language and the conversation was pleasant. He has a deep, expressive voice, and even though he was definitely drunk, he made it clear that they were seeking a way to convert existing resources and technology to benefit the "New Russia". He then introduced me to Putin and Gaidar, and he left with about half his entourage to meet with others elsewhere.

Vladimir Putin and I shook hands, but no more. My translator said this was to honor our culture. His translator immediately started asking (from Putin) me questions about where I lived in Maine, the climate, the food, the people.... International chit-chat. He told me he had been to the US some times, but didn't elaborate. His fondest memory was a meal he had in NYC at a delicatessen. Pretty much an empty conversation. The striking element of that moment was his eyes. They reminded me of ball bearings. There was no expression, no empathy, no warmth. In my travels, I've always found eye contact gave me a sense beyond the spoken words. In this case, it was like a blank screen.... He was scanning me, but not allowing feedback into the conversation beyond the words. He sat at the table and I was given a seat at the table next to Yegor Gaidar. This turned out to be the high point of the evening.

A bit of background, in case you aren't familiar with this man: In 1991, the Soviet Union was still in existence for most of the year. During this period, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) appointed Yegor Gaidar as the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs in November 1991. Shortly after, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991, Yegor Gaidar became the Acting Prime Minister and maintained a leading role in economic policy, the main figure in charge of economic reforms in Russia starting late 1991.

Because his English was excellent, and perhaps because I have a minor in Economics, we had a fantastic conversation. His brilliance and vision were energizing, and his perspectives about the place of Russia and the potential of its economy were of such depth and clarity that, for me, it was an opportunity to speak with one of the greatest minds I had ever met. We talked for over an hour, and while I can't remember the whole conversation (vodka may have been involved) I remember the depth and openness of that conversation. Definitely a high point in my life. Of course, his grand vision was buried by the corruption of Russia, which, as with any

huge centralized government, has little tolerance for change that could upset the apparatchik's rice bowl. So the evening passed, and in 1992, Gaidar was an outsider retired to his country home, his Dacha. We crossed paths once again in 1995, and in a brief talk over a cup of tea and pastries, he told me of his sadness for his country's future and the failure to build on the opportunity that the breakup of the USSR had created. We interlocked arms as we drank to each other... one last toast of cognac as friends.

The five years I was in Russia were many things in my life that gave me a chilling perspective on a culture, a people, and a system in the current era. The people of Russia, the people of Tatarstan, and the myriad of events and moments of those years changed me in ways I don't have words for. I'm thankful to have been there, although it ultimately destroyed me financially, because it gave me perspectives I likely could not have had otherwise. I felt like I was living in a parallel universe, traveling from the USA to Tatarstan. Going from a place with a structure of rights and equality to a place of centralized rule and power plays. I often reflect on those days in light of the current era. And I remember when the Deputy Director of Gazprom called me after Obama became President and told me "You will love this new President and his administration, just like Russia, but in English."

Submitted by Pete Horn

Senior Fellowship and Meal

We welcome those 55 and older to join us most Friday at St. John's in the family life center located at 516 N. Colorado St. for the Senior Fellowship and Meal. No reservations are necessary for dine-in service. The suggested price is \$4. Fellowship and games from 10am to noon. Bingo at 11am. Lunch is served at noon.

December 5: Cowboy spaghetti, salad, garlic bread (Catering by White Horse Tavern, with volunteers from Zion Lutheran Church)

December 12: Chicken pot pie, winter salad, dinner rolls (Catering by Cindy and Madeline, with volunteers from Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church)

December 19: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread (Catering by On Deck, with volunteers from St. Paul Lutheran Church)

December 26: No meal (Christmas break)

January 2: No meal (New Year's break)

If you're 55+ and have health issues that keep you homebound, let one of our volunteers deliver a hot meal each Friday at no charge. For more information, call the Bridge office at 979-337-3370. Our delivery area is limited to Burton. If you will not be home to receive your meal, call Lois Mooney at 979-421-0617 or tell your driver.

For To-Go meals information, please call the Bridge office at 979-337-3370.

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