

BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2024



Backing the Blue

Vicki McElroy
volunteers to keep
Burleson safe

2024 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Emma McKay

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:
Lone Star Insurance Agency

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Vicki McElroy aids the BPD through fundraising and volunteering.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Gobble 'til you wobble!

Although its name tries to trick you into thinking the holiday is about gratefulness, we all know what Thanksgiving is about — the food! For some families, this is the holiday to end all holidays. They prepare their menus and perfect their recipes all year in hopes of putting their loved ones into a food coma. For others, their celebrations might be eating take out, while watching Bob Belcher from *Bob's Burgers* comically try his best to put this meal together amidst his family's antics. Whether it be deep fried turkey or a Mexican-inspired buffet, every family has their traditions surrounding Thanksgiving meals.

My Thanksgiving traditions have evolved over the years. When I was little, my family used to celebrate by going over to my grandmother and granddaddy's house for a traditional meal. In high school, my parents would take my brother, my grandparents and me to Texas de Brazil (I know, weird place to take your vegetarian daughter. But what can I say, their table bread slaps!) The last three years, I've spent the day in Atlanta, making a non-traditional, but still autumnal, meal with my friends. This year, I have no clue what I'm doing, but I know I'll be eating something tasty.

As your editor, I've loved getting to know the people of Burleson through the recipes they share for our "CookingNOW" story. If you're interested in sharing your love of food and your traditions surrounding it with the community, please email me at emma.mckay@nowmagazines.com. I'm eager to get to know *you* through your food!

Whatever your traditions may be, I hope they're delicious!

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Backing THE BLU

— By Emma McKay

“We want to always be around and to be available to help,” said President of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (BCPAAA) and Assistant Coordinator of the Citizens on Patrol (COP) Vicki McElroy, who spends most of her days volunteering to aid the Burleson Police Department and better her community. “I guess you could say it’s a full-time hobby,” she joked.

“I worked at the community pool when it was where Chisenhall Fields are now,” Vicki said. She started as a lifeguard, then got promoted to assistant manager and, later, manager. “I regularly had to call the police because people had broken in or had thrown things in the pool or tried to cause damage.” As she got to know the officers, Vicki wondered about the behind-the-scenes work the police department does. When Burleson began their Citizens Police Academy in 2005, she eagerly signed up. Through the program, Vicki learned about the different departments in class and went on ride-alongs with officers. “You learn why they do or don’t do different things. It’s very informative.”

Once the seven-week CPA course ended, Vicki became a member of its

Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) charity organization dedicated to raising money to buy equipment for the BPD. “We purchase items that aren’t necessarily in the budget right then.” The Alumni Association adopted the bike unit by purchasing all their equipment. “We paid for a maintenance course for a couple of the bike officers to go to, so they can fix their bikes.” They also adopted K-9 Sonic, providing him with extra tools, such as a cooling vest and a portable elevated bed, so he can safely do his job in the Texas heat.

“I go to the chief to check with him before we buy equipment, just to make sure we are purchasing items that they need.” During her early days visiting the police department, Vicki discovered that what the officers desperately needed were more jump boxes, which



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jump start car batteries. “They had one at the PD already, but when they needed it, it could never be found. I got frustrated with hearing someone call on the radio, ‘Can you bring me the jump box?’ And nobody could find it,” she lamented. “We bought six of them to keep in the sergeant’s office, so they always know where one is.”

Each month, Vicki and the other Alumni Association members meet to discuss what they can do to support the officers and plan their two big fundraisers: Grumps’ Burgers and Badges and the Got your Six 5K and 1-mile Fun Run. For their Burgers and Badges fundraiser, Alumni Association members and police officers set up at Grumps, serving burgers, refilling drinks and bussing tables. “It’s raised through tips, and we get a percentage of the food that’s sold there,” Vicki explained. “The officers have a lot of fun doing that. Last year, we had a yelling contest. They decided who could yell out orders the loudest.”

Five years ago, they started the Got Your 6 5K and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk, and split the responsibilities with the Burleson Police Officers Association. “Burleson is good about supporting the police. We’re fortunate there, that we have a lot of sponsors,” Vicki said of the event. They have so many sponsors for the fun run that they can’t list them all on the event T-shirts. “It’s a good problem to have.”

When the Citizens on Patrol program started in 2006, Vicki began volunteering there, too. In 2011, she became the assistant coordinator, a position she’s maintained ever since. “We are extra eyes and ears for the police department.” Working in groups of two, Vicki and the other 25 COP members take turns patrolling neighborhoods and parking lots,



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2016. Naaman met James when he went to work for him in 2015. Naaman had been working in insurance on and off for years and hoped to one day start his own agency. “He knew that was my goal. There were these few agents who were retiring soon, so I said, ‘We’ll go talk to them, and offer them a buyout. I’ll manage this, and we’ll work out a partnership.’ He came back a couple of weeks later and said he wasn’t interested, but he offered me his whole business.”

Over the years, Naaman has found that most people who don’t like insurance don’t understand it. “I like being the one who can answer your questions. Most people don’t like giving money to an insurance company and never filing a claim, but the true purpose of insurance is to transfer the risk,” he explained. “I’d rather transfer the risk and pay the money than take the chance of losing my life’s savings or having to dip into a retirement account. It prevents you from financial burden.

“Service is a lost art, so we try to impress customers. We try to go the extra mile when we can.” Naaman and his agents strive to give the best quotes and suggest money-

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“Service is a lost art, so we try to impress customers. We try to go the extra mile when we can.”

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Naaman strives for Lone Star to cement itself as a staple in Burleson. “I hope we can continue to take care of our customers and keep them pleased,” he expressed. “We would like to see Burleson thrive and grow, and we would like to be part of that growth and continue to support the local community in any way we can.” **NOW**

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A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.

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PINK FRIDAY
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Zoomed In:
Hunter Corbell

By Emma McKay

“I’ve always enjoyed helping people,” said Firefighter Hunter Corbell. “I started out as a volunteer and fell in love with it.” After graduating high school, Hunter began volunteering with the fire department, eventually getting hired by the Stephenville Fire Department, where he worked for a year-and-a-half. Ten months ago, he transferred to the Burleson Fire Department. “It’s all one big dream,” he shared.

In addition to getting to serve the community, Hunter enjoys the brotherhood he’s gained working at the station. On their off days, he and his friends play golf together. During his free time, Hunter also participates in team roping rodeo events. He noted, “I’ve been doing it since before I could walk.”



Mandi Short-Vega and Jay Vega enjoy Date Night at the Burleson Farmers Market.



Shannon Archer and Janeth Savage attend the 10th Annual Burgers and Badges with Chief of Police Billy Cordell and Collier Albright.



The Keep Burleson Beautiful team hosts a citywide cleanup with their Trash Bash.



Local band LanceBattalion performs at Torque Grill & Cantina.



Bethany Christensen, Averie Riddle, Riley Castillo and Andrew Uzzel at Heim Barbecue provide quality smoked meats for the community.



As the seasons change, Glenna Fowler discovers Moonflowers blooming in her yard.



The ladies at Galliant Autism Care spread the word of their services at Fall Fest at the Farm.



Burleson gets up and moving at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.







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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* EMMA MCKAY

— By Becky Walker

BurlesonNOW Community Editor Emma McKay enjoys finding ways to substitute different ingredients while cooking. “I didn’t really start experimenting in the kitchen until I became a vegetarian at 14,” she said.

Though she picked up many things from baking with her mother and grandmother, the most valuable lesson she learned came from *Strawberry Shortcake: Cooking Up Fun* (2006). “Strawberry advised to clean up your space while you cook. If you clean while you cook, you have less to clean once your dish is finished,” Emma said.

Her favorite dish to make for others is her grandmother, Julia’s, chocolate chip cookies. “Growing up, my family took many road trips, and my mom would always make two to three batches of them. Now, whenever I go on trips with friends, I feel the need to make those cookies to share during the car ride.” NOW

deep pan. Add the garlic and onions; let fry until the garlic is fragrant and the onions are translucent. Be careful not to burn!

3. Add the tomato paste and heavy cream, whisking until well combined.

4. Add the vegetables, if desired. *Note: I like to add spinach, diced tomatoes and oven-roasted broccoli.*

5. Season the sauce with salt, pepper and Italian seasoning; add the cooked pasta, stirring to combine.

6. Plate and serve with Four Cheese Texas Toast. To reheat, add a little tomato paste and heavy whipping cream in a pot and add your leftovers, cooking until warm.

Julia’s Chocolate Chip Cookies

Creamy Tomato Pasta

1 1/2 cups pasta (I prefer penne.)
1 Tbsp. olive oil
3-4 garlic cloves, whole
2-3 onion slices, cut in half moons
2-3 Tbsp. tomato paste
3/4 cup heavy whipping cream

Your preferred vegetables, to taste (optional)
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
Italian seasoning, to taste

1. Boil the pasta until *al dente*.
2. While the pasta cooks, heat the oil in a

3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup Crisco
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. water
2 1/4 cups flour, sifted
1 tsp. salt

- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Cream the sugars, Crisco, eggs, vanilla and water.
3. Slowly add the flour, salt and baking soda until well combined. Slowly incorporate the chocolate chips and pecans, if using.
4. Form the dough into balls and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
5. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.
6. Let cool, then serve.

Italian Fried Zucchini

- 1 large zucchini
- Olive oil, for frying
- 1 egg
- 1 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded (optional)

1. Slice the zucchini into thin medallions.
2. Pour half an inch of oil into a skillet; turn the burner on medium heat.
3. Crack the egg into a bowl and whisk. Pour the breadcrumbs into a shallow dish. Soak the zucchini slices in egg, then coat them with the breadcrumbs.
4. Fry in the oil until both sides are golden brown. Set the fried zucchini aside on a parchment-lined baking tray to cool.
5. *Optional:* Scatter the shredded Parmesan cheese over the zucchini, and pop them in the oven at 350 F until the cheese melts.
6. Serve immediately with either marinara sauce or ranch dressing.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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- Virginia Woolf



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- Virginia Woolf

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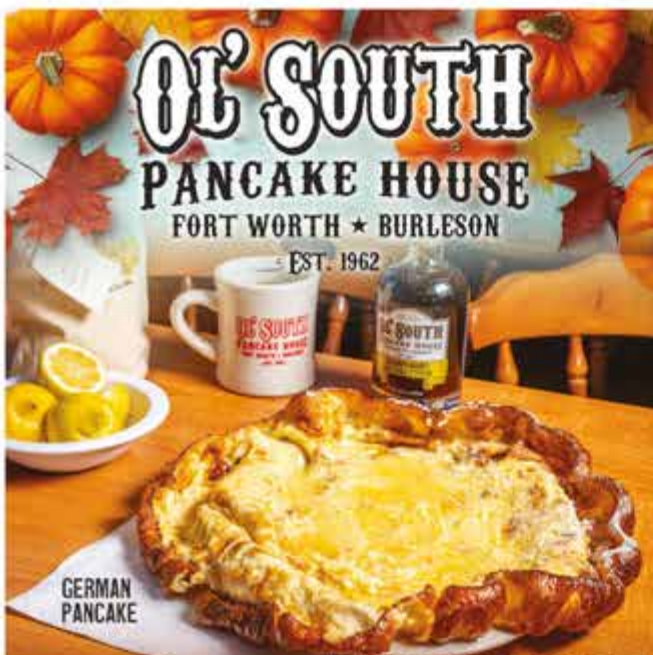
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Karen Schaefer

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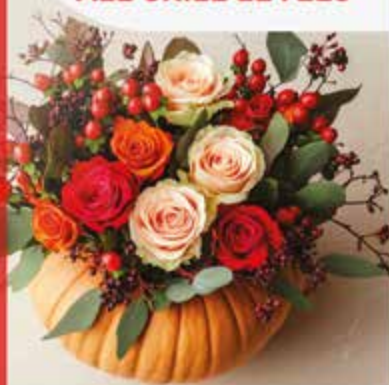
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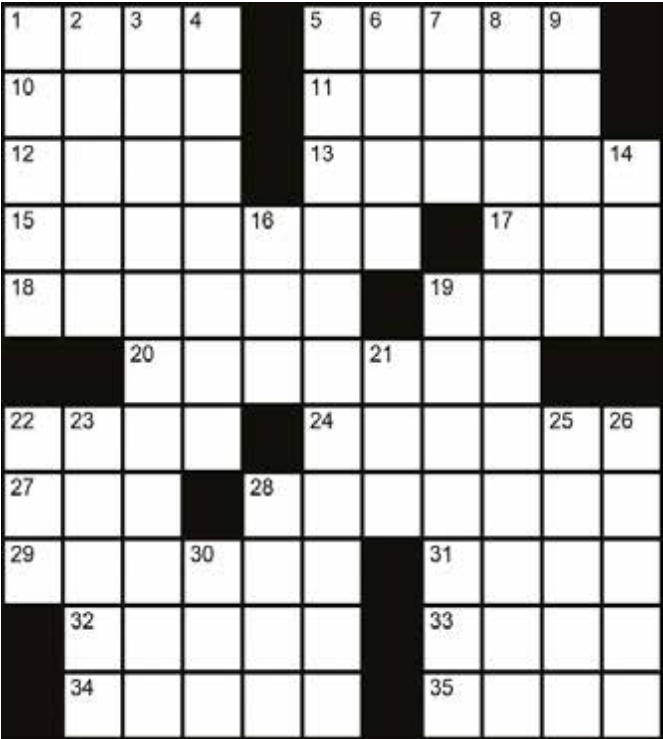
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Gray-haired
- 5 WWII female fliers
- 10 Free from doubt
- 11 Scrub
- 12 Filly's father
- 13 Domingo and Bocelli
- 15 Made suitable
- 17 By way of
- 18 Empyrean streaker
- 19 Immerses
- 20 Neck of land
- 22 Diplomacy
- 24 Alleviating
- 27 Rather like
- 28 Design for a painting
- 29 Cambodian mass murderer

- 31 Upon
- 32 Oddball
- 33 Food source
- 34 First unelected president
- 35 Split

Down

- 1 Indian tea state
- 2 Museum employee
- 3 All over the place, clearly Rita is all over the place
- 4 Most profound
- 5 Boiler
- 6 "And gentlemen in England now --"

- 7 That's my boy
- 8 Temporary
- 9 Divest
- 14 The United Kingdom's Delta Force equivalent
- 16 Trike rider
- 19 Bring back into use
- 21 Impair
- 22 Ask for a loan
- 23 High up
- 25 Orléans "our"
- 26 Pixie
- 28 Distilled coal
- 30 Comrade

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

	2	1					6	
			5	9	4			2
							7	3
	3			2				
	6	5						
				1				8
8					3	7		6
1				5	8	2	4	

Medium

				8		7		
4		9			6		3	
		6						
	5			4				7
				1		3		
		7				9	5	
1					9		4	
	9		8		1			
5			4			6		

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NOVEMBER

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press.
Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

11/2

Kindness Club:

Have fun decorating Thanksgiving placemats to donate to Meals on Wheels. All ages are welcome to attend. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

11/9

Recycling Event:

Bring your old electronics, tires and paper for shredding. We will also collect clothing for donation to Harvest House. For Burleson residents only; proof of residency required. 8:30-11:30 a.m., Municipal Service Center, 725 SE John Jones Dr.

Military Veterans Tribute:

Come honor the service and sacrifices of military veterans at the city of Burleson's 14th Military Veterans Tribute. The guest speaker this year is Brian Vines. This is a free event. Event begins: 1:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Plaza, 298 E. Renfro St.

11/9-11/10

Far Out Family Campout:

Burleson Parks and Recreation invites you and your family to spend a night in the great outdoors. There will be archery lessons, nature hike, guided bird walk, campfire, hot dog dinner and s'mores. Bring your own tent and lawn chairs. Pre-event: \$25 per family of five.

Day of: \$30 per family of five. 1:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. For more information or to register, visit burlesontx.com/events.

11/9 and 11/16

Old Town Picture Show:

Bring your own blanket or lawn chair and get ready to enjoy a family-friendly movie on a giant screen! This is a free event. 7:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

11/12

Homeschool Canning Class-Holiday Jam:

Let's get hands-on and create some delicious memories! Make a jar of delicious Holiday Jam to have for Thanksgiving or Christmas on your family's table. Great gift idea for friends and family. Learn safety techniques for the canning process. It will be a lot of fun working with others to make jam! For ages 12-18. \$30 per student. 1:00-4:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. For details or to register, visit burlesontx.com/events.

Network@Night:

A night of networking, cocktails, appetizers and door prizes with the Burleson Chamber of Commerce. Meet new clients, promote your business and expand your network. 4:30-6:00 p.m., Wings of Hope,

4200 County Road 806, Cleburne.

11/16

Russell Farm Cooking Social:

Enjoy a fun cooking demo with the chef and owner of Burleson Brunch House! Learn to make three delicious sauces to top off chicken, paired with potatoes and pasta. You'll also learn how to make your own Caesar salad dressing. Stay for dinner and enjoy s'mores for dessert. It's a great chance to learn new techniques and meet fellow food lovers! \$55 per person. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. For more information or to register, visit burlesontx.com/events.

Third Tuesdays

Heart & Soul Writers:

A Christian writers group designed to encourage, support and improve skills. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Alsbury Baptist Church, 500 NE Alsbury Blvd. Contact lisabell@bylisabell.com or (817) 269-9066.

First and Third Wednesdays

Government Assistance Enrollment Program:

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benefits, help will be available at the library. Please bring your ID. Noon-5:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

Thursdays

Toddler Storytime:

Join staff to read books, sing songs and make a craft together. Geared toward 2- to 4-year-old children, but families welcome to attend together. 9:30 a.m., Burleson Public Library. www.burlesontx.com/1539/Story-Time.

Saturdays

Open Art Saturday:

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