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On The Cover



The Interurban express car #330 calls to mind our community's history, as preserved by people like Mary Norris.

Photo by Jennifer Spears.

Contents

August 2012 • Volume 6, Issue 8



14

8

Preserving Heritage

Mary Norris marks 40 years as a dedicated Eumathian woman.

14

Comfortable Elegance

At Home With Gary and Sheila Whites.

24

Character of Champions

Inspired by a friend's exceptional character, Maddie Perry reveals her own.

30

He Never Looked Back

Philo Waters plans to retire at the end of this school year after a long career educating countless students.



24



30

36 BusinessNOW

38 Around TownNOW

40 FinanceNOW

44 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Hello Friends!

My how time flies! School will be starting soon, but there is still time for gazing at the heavens on a hot August night — one of my favorite pastimes this time of year. Those with children can enjoy the summer nights in one of our city parks, which are open into the evening and offer playing fields for youth and adult ball players and bleachers for their families.

Right now, those bleachers have room for more.


Dale Cheatham, Burleson's new city manager, predicted at a recent Lions Club meeting that in five to 10 years the population of Burleson will be 50,000 to 60,000. That is almost double the number of people living here when *BurlesonNOW Magazine* launched its first issue five years ago. Thank you all for welcoming us! We will continue celebrating your lives by giving you our signature: good stories about good people in our good community.

Enjoy your time under the summer skies!

Melissa

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A vibrant illustration featuring a large wooden-framed chalkboard in the center. The chalkboard has the text 'back to school' at the top and a numbered list of three items. Surrounding the chalkboard are various school supplies: a pink highlighter, a ruler, a pencil, a paper airplane, a baseball, a green ruler, a purple pencil, a yellow pencil, a blue pencil, a pair of scissors, a paper clip, a watercolor palette, and colorful letter magnets. The background is filled with autumn leaves.

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PRESERVING

Heritage

— By Sarah Anderson

A dedicated volunteer and longtime Burleson resident, 86-year-old Mary Norris, is often the familiar face patrons see when they enter the Burleson Visitors Center. Complete with historical displays

dating back to the early days of American Indians, the visitor's center, supported by the Burleson Heritage Foundation, has preserved many treasures that tell the story of Burleson's rich history.



Mary, as both a member and the current first vice president of the Heritage Foundation, is instrumental in keeping the organization's displays and historical records. She works closely with the foundation's second vice president, John Duke Smith, and its other members to promote the significance and value of their city's roots. Even though she's only scheduled to volunteer one day a week, she typically finds herself there four days a week. "Sometimes, they call and need my help, so I come up. I'm happy to," she said.

"Mary is the glue that holds this place together," John said. "She's in charge of our displays, both here and the one at the library, and she decides what goes in and what comes out. She is the star of our group."

The Burleson Heritage Foundation is not the only organization that gets to enjoy Mary's dedicated determination and good humor. She is a member of the Republican Women, volunteers at the Cleburne historical museum once a week and is a longstanding member of the Burleson Eumathian Club, the oldest ladies club in Burleson. She joined the Eumathian Club one year after she and her late husband, Loy Norris, returned to Burleson following his 30-year career in the Air Force. Loy grew up in Burleson and knew everyone, but Mary grew up on a farm just west of Wichita Falls. "I didn't know anyone, and I needed something to do," Mary said. "So when an old friend of Loy's invited me to a meeting, I decided to go. I had been a part of the Air Force Wives Club when Loy was in the service and thought attending the Eumathian Club would be a great way to meet people."

Now four decades later, she is still a member, and until recently, she still served on the board. Two years ago, she stepped down from her 22-year tenure as the club's secretary. "No one else ever wanted to do it, so I was happy to continue," Mary said. As a result of

taking countless minutes, she combined them with other historical minutes to create a commemorative book for the Eumathian Club's centennial in 1999. "I've learned a lot over the years, and I'm very proud to be a part of the group. The women before us did a lot for this city, and we are still active in the community today."

Historical records tell the story of how the Eumathian Club formed 113 years ago. In the late 1800s, nine women felt deprived of culture and wanted to stimulate their minds and enhance their social life. Because their responsibilities at home and lack of transportation kept them from exploring these things in other cities, they decided to create it for





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themselves. They started meeting in each other's homes to discuss literature, history and other cultural interests. As they developed official bylaws and considered a name for their newfound club, they chose Eumathian because it meant "right thinking." It was a combination of two



Greek words they felt best represented their goals and values.

History shows that the club wanted to contribute to their community, so they immediately set out to start the first circulating library in Burleson. By 1900, they had 68 books available in a local department store. The women not only made books available to the community, they also spent a great deal of time studying books themselves. They often performed works of Shakespeare and musical pieces.

As time went by, the Eumathian women worked to create a city park and were instrumental in other historical



landmarks. In addition to the Burleson Library, which they still run today, one of their most notable projects was guiding the city in the creation of a sewer system in 1938. They took the initiative to meet with Fort Worth city officials and later returned to Fort Worth with Burleson's mayor and city secretary to meet with Fort Worth city engineers about the process. "They were strong women, and looking back through our history, it's clear that when they put their minds to something, it usually happened," Mary said.

Mary's friends would say the same of her. "Mary is a sweet, friendly lady. She always has a smile, and she was always willing to do anything the club needed her to do. She still is, and she kept excellent records of our club and was always very informed," said Mary Ruth Arnold, one of Mary's longtime friends and fellow member of the Eumathian Club. Mary Ruth and Doris Jo Haas are





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the only two remaining members who joined with Mary 40 years ago.

"We have a lot of nice memories together," Doris Jo said. "Mary is a wonderful person and always willing and involved in something. She really makes a difference in everything she does." One of Mary's favorite memories of their time together as Eumathian women is the program they put on to celebrate the club's 100th anniversary. Several women, Mary included, dressed up in costumes representing different periods through the years and described that time to guests at the library, the same library the Eumathian women had worked so hard to develop. By then they had raised enough money to move the library into the Renfro Clark home, the oldest house in Burleson.

"I wore a three piece, knit, black dress with a caramel colored, sleeveless coat," Mary said. "It was a dress I wore many years before in the '70s, and it still fit. One lady dressed up as a flapper for the '20s and another lady dressed up from the late 1800s for when the club was first founded. We really had fun with our outfits."

As the city of Burleson approaches its centennial, Mary is thrilled to be a part of it. Although she is not originally from Burleson, her many years here combined with her husband's extensive Burleson heritage have made it home. "I have met some really nice people and formed meaningful friendships over the years," she said. The Eumathian Club is at the heart of that for Mary. "Through the Eumathian Club, I have met people from all walks of life. Some are native Burleson people, some were just passing through and others are like me. They came, and they stayed." **NOW**



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— By Melissa Rawlins

Raider and Little B have it made. This four-legged father and son duo share their great outdoors with a two-legged couple named Gary and Sheila Whites, whose creative gardening and building skills provide a variety of refreshing spaces for the dogs and their people. When not refinishing, refurbishing and repurposing furniture, walls, floors and decor for their house, the Whites lounge in their well-tended yard with their canine companions. Whether they

choose the settee, the hot tub, the swing or the antique bistro chairs inherited from Sheila's mother, the couple relaxes in their outdoor living space as often as indoors.

Their comfortably elegant home has seen many renovations since they moved in. But its bright yellow trim will never change, because it makes them happy. They both love yellow.

The home's white roof, white brick and yellow trim drew them to the model home on a corner lot 30 years ago, when Summercrest dead-ended at Burleson's baseball fields. The white roof has been replaced with forest green shingles. And



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Summercrest has been extended all the way to Alsbury Road, which was merely a meandering country road when the Whites first moved in. Back then, Burleson used to hold the Fourth of July fireworks display where the BRiCK is now. The family would sit in their front yard and have everybody over to watch the fireworks.

Gary and Sheila made many friends in Burleson. Gary taught and coached at Burleson High School for 25 years, and then served students at Hughes Middle School as athletic coordinator and track and football coach for five years, before retiring in 2000. Gary still coaches at two schools in Fort Worth — track and field at Southwest Christian and football at Lake Country Christian.

This summer, Gary and Sheila have installed a water fountain

in their backyard and are slowly redecorating the master bedroom. She is scraping all the popcorn from the ceiling and will repaint it a light salmon color. Gary is refinishing a sofa for the bedroom.

The couple has been project-oriented since they married 50 years ago. Originally from Cleburne, they built their first house there right after the wedding. Gary worked in new construction plumbing, and Sheila taught school. The two were charter members of Crestmont Baptist Church in Burleson and had a group of friends here, so they decided to move and, in 1964, bought their first Burleson home on Summercrest not far from where they live now. "Through our 15 years there, we renovated that whole house. That's where we learned how to do a lot



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of stuff," Gary said, adding, "At that time, Summercrest stopped where the swimming pool is now."

Still members of Crestmont, the Whites have helped Burleson grow from the town of 4,000 to which they first moved. "You knew everybody in town, and everybody knew you. You didn't have to lock your doors, and everybody watched over everybody's kids," Sheila said. "There were only two restaurants in Burleson when we moved here: the Bowling Alley and the Drug Store. Then Dairy Twin was built. To go to eat or shop, you had to go to Fort Worth." As Burleson grew, Sheila and friends, Mark and Sherry Saunders, started an antique business in the '90s. With booths in stores from Granbury to Burleson, the Saunders and the Whites delved into the world of furniture refinishing. Whenever he was not coaching, Gary helped Sheila move furniture from warehouses to booths. Gary had open heart surgery in 2000, and then Mark passed, and finally, the Whites left the antique business to Sherry. Sheila worked for 10 years for Citi Financial, retiring just last year. She and Gary continue to work together on projects, both inside and out.

"Sheila has good ideas," Gary said. "As far as stuff in the yard, I have good ideas, and she accepts them. In the house, she tells me what she wants, and I figure out how to do it." They no longer do as much and as fast as they used to, yet they never tire of trying.

Sometimes, Gary will experience a problem as the construction moves forward and has to change his course. That happened in the hall bathroom, which took the couple a year to completely renovate. They took out the tub and built a shower, so that as they age, they can safely get in and

out of their bath. They replaced old fixtures, transferred cabinets from one corner to the other and installed Sheila's grandfather's refurbished dresser to hold linens. "I used the bronze-colored mosaic glass tiles to make the room look a little bit bigger," Sheila said. "And I love the way it turned out!"

While in the antique business, Sheila was frequently called upon to design interiors for customers' homes. One look at her own and you see her creativity pop from every corner and even every ceiling. Her Country French kitchen once had fluorescent lights, but Gary removed those, and Sheila filled the recessed ceiling with bronze pressed tin and track lighting. Her collections of chandeliers produce fantastic effects and keep them both smiling. In the laundry room, for example, she hung part of Gary's frog collection from a leafy chandelier that she painted white. In the den, Sheila hung a larger brushed-bronze chandelier with shades she decorated with bright red miniature feather boas above the glass table where family often eats or plays board games. Their sons, Ward and Wade, and Wade's wife, Kelly, have given them a grand total of four grandchildren: Blaize, McKenna, Hayden and Ryan.

Sheila's touch with color is apparent outside, too, where she used bright turquoise to coat her collection of birdcages from the '30s. She repainted a dresser from the old Alvarado Hotel — which was on the original Chisholm Trail — an off-white that perfectly matches the color of the blooms on one of Gary's orchids. He grows them under the entrance-hall skylight, across from the old dresser and its mirror, which reflects even more light onto his treasures. Around the corner, in the formal living room, Sheila displays cut glass handed down by her mother, grandmothers and aunts.

Down the hall, in their grandson's room, there is a color that no one would expect from Sheila: shiny black and blood red set the mood for this Texas Tech University sophomore, who made the dean's list last year. Whether the room will stay that vibrant after Blaize graduates is still to be seen. Two things are certain: Sheila will always be redecorating her house, and Gary will never stop dreaming up new projects from his swing outside. **NOW**



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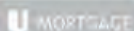
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— By Sarah Anderson

Even though she only came to his waist, Maddie Perry felt 10 feet tall when she accepted her first-place award from former Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl champion Chad Hennings. He was the keynote speaker at the Burleson Character Council luncheon, where 13-year-old Maddie was recognized for an exceptional essay she entered in the Character Council's annual character essay contest. With a moving description of how a friend displayed tremendous character and inspired her, she earned the district-wide contest's top award along with \$50 cash and a \$50 savings bond. She even came away with Chad Hennings' autograph.

"I was so excited when I found out," Maddie said with a big smile. "I showed my teacher the letter, and we just started jumping up and down."

The Burleson Character Council includes the Burleson Independent School District, Burleson Chamber of Commerce, the city of Burleson and the Burleson Ministerial Alliance. Last school year, they invited third- through 12th-graders to participate.

Sabrina Heinsen, Maddie's mother, heard the good news during her 60-mile trek on the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. "I was in my little tent listening to my voicemail and heard Maddie's message. I had to play it several times because there was so much going on, but I could hear them screaming in the background. I was very excited for her," she said.

Maddie, a cheerful and outgoing seventh-grader at Hughes

Middle School, wrote her award-winning essay about her friend and fellow seventh-grader, Skyelar Armstrong. "Skyelar changed my whole outlook on everything I do. She doesn't know how great an effect she has on others," Maddie wrote in her essay.

Skyelar was an obvious choice as a person of good character. "Skyelar does so much for people and never expects anything in return," Maddie emphasized. "Sometimes, people don't even thank her, but she doesn't care. She even does nice things for people when no one is looking."

According to Amanda Cloy, head of the Hughes Middle School language arts department, Maddie's inspirational classmate is not the only student who demonstrates remarkable character.



Maddie, herself, has left quite an impression. "Maddie is a vivacious young lady and an extraordinary student," Ms. Cloy said. "I was more than thrilled when she won but certainly not surprised."

As the gifted and talented specialist at Hughes, Ms. Cloy has had the pleasure of teaching Maddie for the last two years and looks forward to having her again this school year. "She always has a bright smile on her face," Ms. Cloy shared, "and I can't recall when I've ever seen her down."

Having been in gifted and talented classes since early elementary school, it was no surprise when Maddie chose

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nearly all AP classes going into middle school. "Academics are very important to her, and she strives to do her best on each and every assignment," Ms. Cloy added.

Ms. Cloy, whom Maddie described as one of her favorite teachers, was also behind Maddie's decision to enter the Burleson Character Council Essay Contest. She said it gives her students an opportunity to give back to the people who are important in their lives, while building their confidence as writers.

Maddie agreed wholeheartedly. Language arts is Maddie's preferred subject, and winning the contest has encouraged her even more. "I love language arts, and I love writing," she said. She has even started writing several books. "I would love to be a famous author one day, with a really cool pen name," she smiled.

Sabrina shared Ms. Cloy's thoughts on the essay contest. "This has been a good self-esteem booster for Maddie. It was a great accomplishment," she said. Sabrina went on to say she could not be more proud of Maddie. "I am so blessed. She's such a good kid. She's not only a good student, but she's giving and caring, too."

Maddie's fellow students would also attest to that. A loyal and trustworthy friend, she is known for sharing her supplies with classmates who may need a pencil or paper during class, and she never hesitates to spend time assisting her friends with their homework. "I'm always happy to help, if I can," she said.



But Maddie's peers are not the only people who appreciate her generous and good-natured spirit. Maddie shines in everything she does. Last year, she was chosen to be one of the school librarian's teacher assistants. As an avid reader, Maddie said the library was the perfect place for her. "I just love being around books," she said. Every day she and two other students helped repair and shelve books. They dusted the computers, and some days they even got to water the librarian's pet tarantula. "It was pretty cool," Maddie said with a grin, "and Mrs. Humphrey, our librarian, is great. I loved being able to help her. We had a lot of fun."

Between volunteering as a teacher's assistant in the school library, making stellar grades in her AP classes and helping her fellow students, Maddie still finds time to play volleyball with the Cathy Sports Association in Burleson and hopes to soon volunteer at a nearby nursing home.

"She has a lot of heart," her mother said proudly. "I tell her all the time that we are blessed beyond belief, and that we should always reach out to others."

One of the family's favorite expressions is, "You can catch more bees with honey than with vinegar." "It sounds funny, but it's true," Maddie laughed.

When Maddie manages to squeak out some free time, like most 13-year-old girls, she heads straight for the mall. "I love shopping. Even if it is just looking

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in the windows," she said. So much so, her parents surprised her with a day at the mall for her last birthday. "It was the best present," Maddie exclaimed. "I had never been able to do anything like that before." Her mother said they like to do a little extra for milestone birthdays. Becoming a teenager deserved something special.

As Maddie looks to her future, she sees many more milestones ahead. For college, she has her sight set on Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University or even Stanford University, but determining a career has not been as easy. "It's hard to say right now," she said. Writing is at the top of her list, but she also sees herself designing clothes or possibly teaching kindergarten. "I even wanted to be a veterinarian at one point, but I realized I would have to put animals to sleep. I could never do that," she shuddered.

No matter what path she chooses, Maddie knows the sky is the limit. "I want Maddie to follow her dreams," her mother said. "I know she can do anything she wants to. We are behind her 100 percent." **NOW**



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He Never LOOKED BACK

— By Rick Hope

What started in 1972 at a salary of \$6,000 a year in the small town of Slidell has turned into a lifetime of memories, and an undying devotion to making an impact on the lives of young children. Over those years, Philo Waters has seen many changes in the education system and in

the way public school operations are carried out. Still, he wouldn't trade a single minute.

"We are not always successful, but our efforts are always worth it."



Philo, who plans to retire at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, is the principal at Ann Brock Elementary in Burleson. "It is the most diversified campus in Burleson," Philo shared. "Some of the children here have not had the same opportunities economically as in other parts of town. We have to work a little harder to give them the same base knowledge that other children are naturally afforded due to their economic status." Still, he says it is right where he wants to be. "They could offer me any other school in the district," he confessed, "and I would have to say, 'No.'"

When Philo first entered the field of education, he was 27





years old and just back from serving his country in Germany during the Vietnam War. During that time, he wore many hats including teaching fifth, sixth, ninth and 10th grade science; junior high physical education; and two high school history classes. He coached all junior high athletics and was an assistant basketball coach for the high school. Keep in mind that all of these duties were performed during the same time period, and he drove the school bus as well!

Over the years, Philo has served as assistant principal and high school principal for a number of school districts including Mansfield, Joshua, Denison and Itasca. However, the majority of his career has been in the Burleson area. He did leave the education field for just over five years, but soon felt pulled back in. He's never looked back since. Philo has always said that if he was offered a position in ISD administration he would have to decline. "I'd rather be around people instead of paper."

Philo especially enjoys the campus level of school administration because, in his words, "That's where the action is!" Money, he said, was never a major concern. "It's all about the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. To not necessarily change a life, but add to it. And in my mind, the best gift that we can give someone is to teach them how to read." Philo feels that one of the main goals of education is to develop good citizens. "We are not always successful,

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but our efforts are always worth it," he stated.

Though he looks forward to retirement, Philo still characterizes his job as fun. His favorite part of the job is the students. He enjoys interacting with them and joking around with them. "They keep you young," he said.

In Philo's mind, school needs to be fun while also being productive. In order to help accomplish that goal as a

"We have an environment that is able to maximize their learning potential."

principal, Philo works hard to be very approachable. He is known for wearing a variety of colored shirts adorned with such decorations as balloons or characters from Winnie the Pooh. He wants the children to feel safe. His goal is safety first, and then education. He believes that the more approachable he is, the safer the children will feel in the learning environment. "If I walk in this building smiling and portraying a positive outlook, I believe that I am contributing to producing better teachers and better

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students," he explained. "I heard someone once say that if a child knows that at least two people at the school want him to be there, he'll keep coming back." Philo takes great pride in being one of those two people.

Philo feels that Burleson is a very warmhearted school district and describes its teachers as good, caring people. "It is people like the ones I work with who make it still fun to come to school after approximately 37 years in education," he shared. "We have an environment that is able to maximize their learning potential."

Philo knows firsthand that the field of education has improved in a major way over the years. "There are more opportunities available to all students. We do a much better job of educating all children," he said. However, while technology has greatly aided instruction, Philo has found that the computer age hampers interactions. He believes the economy also has had an adverse effect on education. "Parental involvement is not what it used to be," he admitted. "Because parents have to work so hard, they don't get to participate in the educational process as much as they would like to."

Of course, when one spends 40 years in one particular field, good memories are bound to accumulate, and that is certainly the case with Philo. While at Burleson High School, he remembers finding one student crying in the hallway.

What Women are Saying

Since **Dr. Chandra Chellappan** opened her obstetrics/gynecology practice last summer, **hundreds** of local women have **appreciated** her **fresh approach** to women's care. Here's what women are saying:

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Barbara M.

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He asked her what was wrong, and she told of trouble getting along with her mother. Philo looked at her and said, "I still love you." Many days later, Philo was wandering the halls and found himself in a very discouraged mood. That same student noticed this and asked him what



was wrong. Philo simply replied that he was having a bad day. "Mr. Waters," she said, "I still love you." Philo has never forgotten that interaction.

Not every student has the same memories. Philo tells with a smile about being at an event in Weatherford when a middle aged man asked him if he was Philo Waters. When Philo affirmed his identity, the man said, "You made me write sentences when I was a kid!" and turned and walked away. "I thought to myself, *Goodness! That man needs to get over it!*" Philo said with a laugh.

What advice would Philo offer to someone currently involved in or considering the field of education? "One word: patience," Philo answered, without hesitation. "You may not always get what you want in this field. You may not always accomplish all your goals. It's a little harder than it used to be, but this is still the greatest profession of them all. And the rewards and responsibility are tremendous."

Obviously, Philo is blessed for having spent so many years in education. And without a doubt, there are many students and former students who feel blessed for having known Philo, the man that never looked back. **NOW**



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Cristin Leoni and her staff of professional instructors keep local dancers on their toes. Registration for fall classes is open through August 3.

Graceful Leadership

At Studio C Dance, the spark comes out in young and old alike!

— By Melissa Rawlins

Working for a performance, Cristin Leoni drills her students in arabesques. The owner of Studio C Dance gracefully leads the children to walk on their toes to their position, modeling their moves in the 50-foot-long mirrored wall. Underneath a glittering disco ball, surrounded by three larger-than-life silhouettes of disco dancers and an impressionistic painting of a 1920s-era ballroom, the children line up and perform their grande jete (big jump) with which they finish every class. “We like to go out with a bang,” Cristin said.

Preparing students to dance, recreationally and professionally, Studio C instructors include a hip-hop expert, a ballet teacher with an advanced ballet dance degree from Texas Christian

University and a musical theater teacher, who leads the Broadway Star program. This program includes vocal and musical theater. Cristin’s expertise is performance dance, and she teaches advanced tap and children’s classes.

Studio C Dance just entered its 11th year. “Some of our students started for recreation, and then it became their passion, as it did for me,” she said. Starting her dance career in a studio, where Orr & Associates is now, and then dancing her way through Joshua High School, while maintaining all A’s, Cristin went on to graduate from the University of North Texas with a degree in journalism and English and a minor in dance. She began dancing professionally by the age of 16 but made her

career in publishing before deciding to teach dance full time.

When she hired a local designer to build the bright yellow, modern structure on Newton, Cristin insisted that one dance studio be larger than standard proscenium stages on which her students will perform. "As we practice, they are able to travel around the floor," Cristin said, "and experience the joy of dancing!" Here, as well as in the smaller studio for the younger children, dance floors are constructed with a sprung floor system that is very comfortable for people doing a lot of jumping. Its non-slip surface provides a safe place for dancing.

Studio C Dance provides a strong foundation in technique. Cristin teaches most of the 3- through 6-year-old classes. "Keeping them interested, encouraging them, and letting them know the

"We like to go out with a bang."

structure is vital when they're this age," she said. As a child, Cristin was always the leader on stage and in the class. She encourages every student, and challenges those showing leadership potential. "I prepare my students for the exact dance steps that will be required in an audition, whether for Casa Mañana or Six Flags or a theatrical group in New York City."

"I look at the student who struggles in other areas of their life and see that in dance the spark can come out," Cristin said. One of Cristin's students, who started when Cristin opened Studio C Dance, is graduating from college this year with a degree in theater and dance — inspired by Cristin's journey.

When Cristin returned to her roots and opened a business, she invested her talents in the community. "My first studio was opened right down the street, and here I am with my life and my family and just happy as I can be in the place where I came from." And now, Studio C's dance company is entering its third year, giving Cristin's students the opportunity to be ranked at a national level. **NOW**

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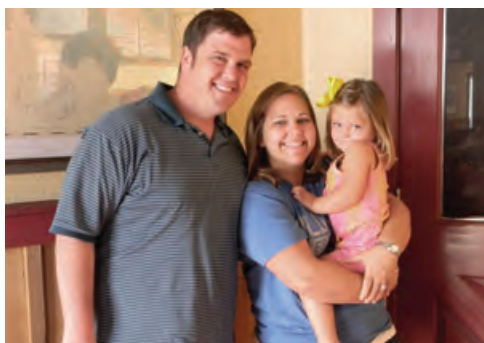
Burleson Police Chief Tom Cowan leads the memorial during Police Appreciation Day.



Brad, Brady, Melissa and Danielle Frazier at Jelly Stone RV park for the Red, White and Blue Parade.



For the second year in a row, Happy Tails Too has entered a most unusual float in the Burleson Lions Club 4th of July Parade.



Holland, Mariah and Savannah enjoy dinner out at Spring Creek Barbeque in Burleson.



Alena Snell, lifeguard at Pirate's Cove, chats with the Warner family.



On a Friday morning at Crowley Public Library, Caden Helteel and Layton Davis make crafts with Mary Helteel and Wanda Glenn.

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Don't Take a Vacation From Investing

Summer is here — which means a vacation most likely isn't far away. Whether you're hitting the road, jumping on a plane or even enjoying a "staycation" at home, you're probably looking forward to some down time with your family. But not every aspect of your life should be relaxed. Specifically, you don't want to take a vacation from investing — which means you need to become a diligent, year-round investor.

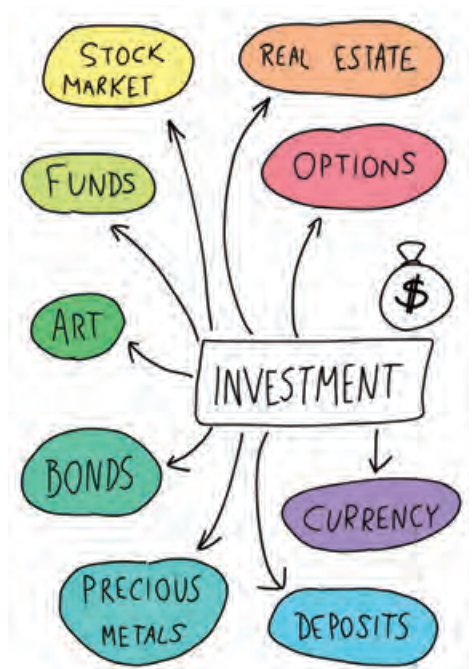
Here are a few suggestions that can help:

- *Keep on investing.* Don't head to the investment "sidelines" when the financial markets experience volatility. You don't want to be a nonparticipant when things turn around because, historically, the early stage of any market rally is generally when the biggest gains occur. (Keep in

mind that past performance of the market is not a guarantee of future results.)

- *Keep learning.* In just about any classroom, the best students are the ones who get the most out of their education and put their learning to the best use. And the same is true of the investment world: The more you know about the forces that affect your investments' performance, and about why you own the investments you do, the more likely you are to make the right moves — and the less likely you'll be to make hasty and unwise decisions.

- *Keep your focus on the long term.* As an investor, you need to look past those events — such as natural disasters, recession fears and political instability abroad — that may have noticeable short-term effects on the financial



Add an Important Item to Your Back-to-school List.

For parents, back-to-school season means it's time to stock up on school supplies. But it can also be such a good time to think about how to save for your child's future education.

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markets but little impact over the longer term. So instead of making investment decisions based on today's headlines, think about what you want your financial picture to look like in 10, 20 or 30 years — and take the appropriate steps to help make that picture materialize. These steps include following a long-term, disciplined investment strategy that's suitable for your individual needs, making adjustments as time goes on and working with a professional financial advisor who knows your situation and can help you make the right choices.

- *Keep looking for growth opportunities.* To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you'll need to own growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and other investments that contain equities. The percentage of your holdings devoted to stocks should be based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and proximity to retirement. But no matter what your situation, you want a portfolio that's designed to help you meet your investment goals.

- *Keep relying on "hardworking" investments.* To help ensure your investments are working hard for you, choose those vehicles that can help you in multiple ways. For example, when you invest in a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, your money grows on a tax-deferred basis, which means it can accumulate faster than if it were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. (Keep in mind that taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.) Plus, you typically fund your 401(k) with pretax dollars, so the more you put in each year, the lower your taxable income. Furthermore, with the choices available in your plan, you can create a good mix of investments.

Enjoy your vacation this summer. But no matter what the season, don't take a break from investing. Your efforts may pay off nicely for you in the future. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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August 6-8

Treasure of the Forgotten Island: 9:00-11:30 a.m., Vacation Bible School is hosted by Joshua Church of Christ, 110 N. Main Street. For children ages 4-15. Call (817) 229-4828.

August 10

Senior Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Burleson Senior Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Come join the ball! Call (817) 295-6611.

August 11

FUMC Burleson School Uniform Bash: 9:00 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church of Burleson, 590 N.E. McAlister Road. Bounce houses, popcorn, face painting and ice cream sundaes! Bring in your old uniforms, and we will exchange them for uniforms for the next school year! Donations of gently used uniforms are gratefully accepted any time and will be sorted and distributed at the Uniform Bash. Contact Shelby Grabeal at (817) 874-5335 or tgrab@sbcbglobal.net.

Wildlife Expo: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane. Call (972) 937-8860.

Crowley Independent Soccer Association

meeting: 5:30-7:00 p.m., Crowley Soccer Fields.
Call (817) 297-4211.

August 15

Joshua Chamber Quarterly Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 2601 South I-35, Burleson. United Cooperative Services hosts and sponsors the lunch at their newly remodeled Burleson location. After lunch, break-out groups take educational tours to learn about “green building” and see demonstrations of alternative power sources, such as wind and solar power. RSVP to Kim Henderson at (817) 253-7233.

August 17

Power of Heels: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., First Baptist Church Burleson. "Before You Click: Internet Safety for Children" presented by Tammy King of Children's Advocacy Center of Johnson County. Cost: \$15 for members of the Burleson Chamber of Commerce, \$20 for nonmembers or \$30 at the door. Half of all ticket sales will be donated to the CAC of Johnson County. RSVP at (817) 295-6121.

August 21

BISD New Employee Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Burleson High School Cafeteria. The

public is invited to come take a seat next to a new employee and fill them in on Burleson happenings. Prizes by exhibit table sponsors. Meal provided by Mr. Jim's Pizza. RSVP to the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce at (817) 295-6121.

August 27

School starts for Crowley and Joshua ISDs. To prepare in Joshua, visit www.joshuaisd.org. This year, Crowley ISD is auto-enrolling all students who were actively enrolled in the last day of the previous school year in a Crowley ISD school, provided they complete the online registration process prior to the first day of school. Call Crowley ISD at (817) 297-5800.

August 28

School starts for Burleson ISD. Visit www.burlesonisd.net.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.

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In The Kitchen With Kathleen Larussa

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Reared in Cleveland, Ohio, in a family of Germans and Slovaks, Kathleen Larussa began cooking Sicilian-style 49 years ago, after marrying the love of her life, Philip. His mother taught her what her own mother had not already passed on. Kathleen's children enjoy the meal presented below — which takes almost 24 hours of Kathleen's attention. Frying up the meatballs and sausage the night before, she returns to the kitchen at 8:00 a.m. to prepare the sauce, which simmers with the meatballs until 2:00 p.m. She serves a salad on the side. The rest of the week, she keeps it simple: no pasta and no salad. Her favorite part of cooking is seeing everyone who sits at her table enjoy the homemade meal. **NOW**

Sicilian Spaghetti

Meatballs:

2 lbs. ground chuck
1/2 lb. ground pork
1/2 lb. ground veal, if desired
3 eggs
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. onion powder
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 cups bread crumbs
2 cups warm water
1 cup oil for frying

Pork Butt and Sausage:

1 pkg. Johnsonville mild Italian sausage
2 lb. pork butt
Salt and pepper, to taste
4 cloves fresh garlic, minced

Sauce:

2 28-oz. cans tomato puree
1 28-oz. can tomato sauce

1 28-oz. can Aldis crushed tomatoes
3 28-oz. cans water
1/4 cup dried onion flakes
4 large cloves garlic, whole
1 tsp. beef bouillon powder or cube
2 packets Splenda or 2 tsp. sugar
2-3 large bay leaves
1 tsp. dried parsley flakes
1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
1 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 tsp. dried basil leaves
1/2 tsp. dried red pepper flakes, crushed
1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper

1. Combine beef, pork and veal in a large bowl. Add next 6 ingredients.
2. Using your hands, blend ingredients. Blend bread crumbs into meat mixture. Slowly add warm water, a cup at a time, until mixture is quite moist. It should be firm enough to hold its shape when fried.
3. Shape into medium-sized balls (2 1/2 x 3 inches).
4. Heat oil in large skillet on very high heat, but not smoking. Fry meatballs in batches.

When bottom half of meatballs are brown and crisp turn over and fry until brown on top. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels. Place in a large bowl to cool.

5. Prick sausage on both sides with a fork and fry until brown on both sides.

6. Remove to large bowl with meatballs.

7. Cube pork butt into 3-inch pieces. Season with salt, pepper and garlic. Fry on both sides until brown and crispy. Place into large bowl with the other meats.

8. When all meat is cool in bowl, transfer to a gallon freezer bag and place in refrigerator overnight.

9. The next morning, mix all the sauce ingredients in a large 5- to 8-quart pot, adjusting seasonings to your taste.

10. Turn heat to simmer, add the meatballs, sausage and pork butt.

11. Stir meat gently into sauce mixture. Simmer on low heat 3 hours with the lid ajar. Do not cover completely. Stir occasionally and skim off any grease with a ladle as it accumulates on top.

12. Serve with spaghetti or gnocchi.

Ricotta Cookies

2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/4 cup ricotta cheese
1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla
1 egg
Glaze:
1 cup powdered sugar
2 tsp. milk
1 dash vanilla
1/4 cup colored sugar

1. In a bowl, combine flour, salt and baking soda.
2. In a large bowl, combine butter, ricotta, sugar, vanilla and egg. Blend in flour mixture. Beat with mixer until combined.
3. Drop dough onto cookie sheets by mounded teaspoonfuls. Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes, or until golden on bottom. Remove to racks, under which you have placed waxed paper to catch glaze.
4. Mix powdered sugar, milk and vanilla with whisk until smooth.
5. While cookies are warm, drizzle with glaze and sprinkle with colored sugar.

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