

# BRIGGS

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*Work continues on the school building!*

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Summer 2026

## COMMUNITY NEWS & CALENDAR

### GROUNDWATER UPDATE

The **Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD)** has adopted new rules establishing the **Northeast Burnet County Trinity Aquifer Management Zone (NBCTAMZ)** following a comprehensive public process. The zone was created in response to limited aquifer drawdown, increasing water demand, and concerns about well yields and water quality.

The NBCTAMZ is intended to protect existing wells, reduce groundwater decline risks, support long-term aquifer sustainability, and promote responsible growth. This is especially important because many area residents rely on private wells, and groundwater availability is limited. Pumping from multiple wells can affect aquifer water levels. The management zone was developed through scientific analysis, groundwater data review, stakeholder input, public meetings, and a formal hearing process. Final rules were revised based on public feedback before adoption. The rules apply only to wells within the management zone boundary. Effective January 23, 2026, tracts of 10 acres or less are limited to one authorized Trinity Aquifer well, regardless of the date the tract was created or subdivided. Ten acres is considered the minimum tract size appropriate for a well on properties platted after that date. Existing lawful wells may continue operating under CTGCD rules.

Wells drilled after January 23, 2026, for uses other than domestic, livestock, or poultry must be metered and obtain an operating permit. Additional well construction requirements may apply, and operating permits are subject to a production limit of 1/4 acre-foot per Contiguous Controlled Acre per year.

Many longtime residents recognize the Trinity Aquifer's natural limitations, and the management zone formalizes concerns that have existed for years. With conservation-minded water use and proper well design, the aquifer can remain a reliable resource into the future. CTGCD will continue monitoring conditions and evaluating aquifer performance.

Before buying property, building, or drilling a well, contact CTGCD to determine applicable rules, permit requirements, well limitations, and alternative water supply options. Additional information, including rules, reports, and studies, is available at [www.centraltexasgcd.org](http://www.centraltexasgcd.org).

### TRANSMISSION LINES

Central Texas is the focus of a massive statewide infrastructure expansion, with 765 kV transmission lines proposed to cross northern Burnet County. Hopefully, everyone directly affected by these proposed extra-high-voltage transmission lines is aware of what may be constructed. Unfortunately, there are multiple proposed routes these lines could take through the Briggs community.

One of the most significant concerns affecting area residents is the visual impact of the unsightly towers, which could range from 150 to 190 feet in height. These extra-high-voltage transmission lines require 200-foot-wide right-of-way easements. Concerns have also been raised about the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields associated with the transmission lines.

A good source of information on this project is:  
[www.stopthisline.com/essentials](http://www.stopthisline.com/essentials)

There has been significant opposition to these proposed lines, and the issue has attracted the attention of numerous state legislators. They have asked the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which is the agency responsible for approving the project, to take a closer look at the actual need for these high-voltage transmission lines. It would be beneficial if more members of the Briggs community contacted their state representatives and expressed their concerns regarding the project. Contact information for elected officials is provided below:

Governor Greg Abbott:

<https://gov.texas.gov/apps/contact-us/opinion>

Senator Pete Flores: <https://senate.texas.gov/member.php?d=24>

Representative Ellen Troxclair:

<https://house.texas.gov/members/4385/email>

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

**-Briggs Baptist Blessing Box:** Located between the church and tabernacle. Take what you want and leave what you can.

**-Oakalla Community Pantry:** Located at NEBCFD (Facing the community center).

**-Summer meal pickup for kids** through July 29th (closed July 6-10): Bertram Elementary Tuesdays 2PM-5PM; Hoover Valley FD Tuesdays 10AM-11AM; Briggs Community Center Thursdays 11AM-12PM.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

We are in negotiations with the City of Burnet EMS to add an additional 24/7 Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) ambulance to its system and locate it at Northeast Burnet County Fire Rescue (NEBCFR) Station 2 in Briggs. Currently, Burnet County provides ambulance service from Bertram or Burnet when someone in our district experiences a medical emergency or injury.

The new ambulance will enhance, rather than replace, the current service. In some situations, more than one ambulance may be needed. In addition, there are times when multiple emergency calls occur simultaneously. Burnet EMS occasionally has additional personnel available to staff an extra ambulance. When that occurs, the ambulance will be stationed at NEBCFR Station 2 to help cover our district until a full-time ambulance can be assigned there. We are currently working with NEBCFR on space allocation, equipment, and furnishings needed to support the full-time placement of the new MICU ambulance and its crew at Station 2.

If you are conducting a controlled burn or outdoor welding, please let us know. Visit [www.nebcfr.org](http://www.nebcfr.org) and click "Burn Permit." It's quick, free, and valid for one year. Simply activate it on any day you plan to burn. Burn ban status is also posted at the top of our website, or call 737-973-3999.

### Rent the Oakalla Community Center!

Now available for your special events. Full kitchen and two rooms. The larger room has fifteen 8-foot tables and a stage. We now have central heat and air conditioning. We do not have a cleaning service, so renters are responsible for cleaning and removing their trash. It is a beautiful historic building.  
Call or text Sandra Cole 512-968-6188.

### Visit the OAKALLA LIBRARY

28981 FM 963

#### HOURS:

Tuesday 3pm-8pm  
Thursday 10am-1pm  
Friday 10am-1pm  
1st Saturday each month 10am-1pm



**Community garden, book groups, kids' events & more!**

Contact: [oakallalibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:oakallalibrary@yahoo.com)

Stay up do date on the Oakalla Library Facebook page.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

### Briggs

- **Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social** Monday, July 13 at 6:00 PM at the Baptist Church. Meet your neighbors, bring homemade or store-bought ice cream, and compete for "Best in Town."
- **4th of July Fireworks Show** (5th Annual) Bounce houses and food trucks begin at 6:30 PM, fireworks at 9:30 PM. Location: End of the Trail (3225 US Hwy 183). Coolers allowed – no glass bottles. Please bring donations for the food drive.
- **Back to School Bash** Thursday, August 6 starting at 6:00 PM at the Baptist Church. Free backpacks filled with school supplies, fire truck tour, hot dogs, and bounce houses. Sponsored by BCCI, Briggs Baptist Church, and Northeast Burnet County FD.
- **Briggs Community Connection for Ladies** Thursday, Starting August 27 from 9:30–11:30 AM at the Baptist Church. Dominoes, bingo, and fellowship. Everyone welcome! Second and fourth Thursdays of each month.
- **Briggs Homecoming** Save the Date: Saturday, October 17. More details coming soon.

### Joppa

- **Coffee at Joppa** First Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM at the entrance of the old bridge site.
- **4th of July Celebration Coffee + Breakfast** starting at 7:30 AM, followed by Pet Parade (pets optional) at 9:00 AM. View details, updates, and weather plan at [joppacommunity.com](http://joppacommunity.com)
- **Quarterly Potluck Supper & Meeting** Monday, July 20 at 6:00 PM at Joppa Church Fellowship Hall.

### Oakalla

- **Low-Cost Vet Clinic** (cats & dogs) Sunday, June 28 from 1:00–4:00 PM at the Community Center.
- **Community Center Meet & Greet** Potluck Dinner First Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.
- **Master Gardener Presentation** (Oakalla Library) Tuesday, June 30 from 4:00–6:00 PM.
- **Meet the Raptors** with Austin Area Wildlife Rehab (Oakalla Library) Friday, July 10 from 10:00–11:00 AM.
- **Redbud Extension Education Club** Sunday, July 20 at 11:30 AM at Briggs Baptist Church. Program by Home and Community Health Agent Mia Bengé. Please bring a salad bar item or dessert. Contact: Roberta Eacott, 512-734-2089.
- **Crafty Fridays Art Hour** (Oakalla Library) 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 11:00 AM. (All ages)
- **Chess Club** (Oakalla Library) 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 6:00–8:00 PM. Other board games available.

Stay tuned for the **Oakalla Library Fish Fry** coming in October! Date & time TBD.