

# Local Life

MORE THAN JUST A MAGAZINE!

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ON THE COVER  
**SALLY LORENZO**  
OWNER OF  
**ISLAND MASSAGE**

INSIDE  
**LOCAL LOVE**  
**BEAUTY SERVICES 2021**

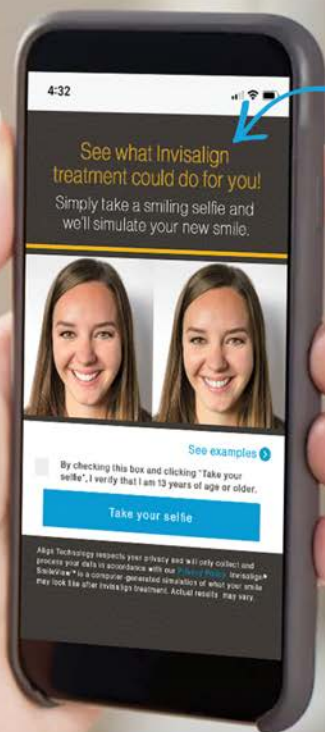
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# Local Life

MORE THAN JUST A MAGAZINE!



**HELLO SUMMER!** By the time you read this, the kids will be out of school, and the city election will be done... two things I am looking forward to. I guess you can say both those things have been far from normal this year. School was not normal for all the obvious reasons. I wonder how it will go next year when kids actually have to go to school and get their butts out of bed. As far as this city election goes (insert eye roll), I am so ready for it to be over. I feel like the attacking has been going on forever, and I am beyond done with it. I

am hoping after all this is over, people can get back to their everyday lives and Burleson social media groups won't be so hostile. If you are in any of the groups, you know what I am talking about. Someone has to complain about their neighbor, someone's mean grandma, and then a local business. Or the crazy post where a person posting in a social media group before they actually call the police. If I could, I would get out of every group but I can't because I want to be able to tell my clients if someone is talking negatively about their business. It always baffles me that people would air it out on social media instead of talking to a manager or the owner to try and get their complaint fixed. I just wanted to remind all the negative Nancies that is still an option. The moral of the story is don't be a Debbie Downer. Ha ha! I hope you get my humor.

This issue was a fun issue to put together. We did our first ever Local Love for the beauty industry. I thought the cat claws would come out with all the lady drama, but it was a pleasant surprise that everyone was really great to work with. Congratulations to all the winners. We had over one thousand votes, and it is a real honor to be picked as a local favorite. Please take some time to read about my friend Sally that owns Island Massage. It is a great story of overcoming your circumstances and not letting your situation define who you are or who you want to be!

Well, I want to close out this month a little story about me. I wake up every morning not wanting to talk or look at anyone or anything. You know, the usual morning grumpy mood. Just like every morning, I got up started my sleepy walk to the bathroom. I opened the door, and the dog ran out. I didn't think anything of it until I slipped on DOG PEE and had to catch myself from falling by grabbing the towel rack. Now I am not just grumpy but *mad*. Then I take another step and step in DOG POOP! UGH! Hopefully, this kind of stuff doesn't happen to you, and hopefully, I made you smile. Pass that smile on to someone else!

Have a great June! See you next month!

Tiffany J. Griffin  
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# Healing



When you walk into Island Massage you walk into a place of rest and rejuvenation, and a retreat from the stress of life. The sense of peace you'd get from a tropical vacation welcomes you. The hope is that you leave better than you came, refreshed to face the next challenge or task. This oasis is what Sally Lorenzo set out to create as a small business owner, which is all a part of her mission to serve people and share hope.

Sally exudes joy and knows how to provide a place of healing. Without knowing her story, one might think that Sally has lived a carefree life without challenges. But Sally is able to create a place of peace and rest because she knows how badly she needed a place like that when her life was anything but peaceful and safe. To understand who Sally is now, and the heart behind Island Massage, you have to know her full story.



Sally's story begins in a house of poverty in a dangerous part of Fort Worth. There was violence and chaos happening in the bar across the street from her house, but that did not compare to the violence and chaos happening within the walls of her home. Sally was the second oldest of five children. Her parents were deeply committed to their church and pastor, which Sally considers to be more of a cult than a church. The church had many strict rules and the pastor was controlling. Out of desire to worship God and not knowing any better, her parents worshiped the pastor and dedicated their whole lives to serve the church. Her father earned a decent living but the family lived in poverty because of their willingness to do anything for the church including paying for a truck that was one of the multiple vehicles that belonged to the pastor. They held the pastor in such high regard that they chose the names of their children based on what the preacher approved of.

Both at home and in her church, Sally did not feel safe or loved. They were at the church whenever possible and when they weren't, the kids went to the school at the church. If Sally were to make any mistake during the day, it was reported to the parents. This is when Sally's parents started physically abusing her. She would find punishment at both the school and her home. The pastor taught that a child's discipline should involve corporeal punishment and the parents followed that instruction to an extreme. So extreme, that her mother would have blisters on her hands after administering a punishment. The rules of the church required the female members to wear long skirts and sleeves, so the beatings were not apparent to anyone on the outside.

At age seven, Sally remembers a particular beating that became a transformative moment for the rest of her life. She doesn't remember what she did wrong at school that day but remembers seeing her teacher talking to her parents that evening and just knew that she was in trouble. Their house was in close proximity to neighbors, so the parents had to make sure the kids' yells of pain weren't heard by anyone else. That night, similar to many other nights, her father held his hand over her mouth and nose while her mother administered the beating. Sally began to feel the life passing out of her as she suffocated at the hands of her father. To this day she remembers telling God she was ready to die and was at peace with it. But God had other plans.

The physical and verbal abuse was only the beginning. It continued to spiral to sexual abuse. At the age of seven her father began to sexually abuse her, and that lasted for six years. Despite it all, Sally took comfort in disassociating from her reality and creating fantasies of the life she dreamed of. The church school closed during that time and Sally went to a public middle school. It was there that she confided about the abuse to a friend, who was also a neighbor. Fortunately, that ended the abuse being inflicted on Sally. However, this didn't end for her siblings. She learned of the sexual abuse that started to happen to one of her younger sisters. Seeking to protect her siblings from the pain she suffered countless nights, she fearfully stood up to her father. This courageous act, that jeopardized her life, had no effect on her father's actions. The abuse continued until he was caught in the act by their mother and unsuccessfully sought help from the pastor. When his pastor said he couldn't help him, he



went to a counselor. By law, the counselor was required to report the abuse to the authorities and Sally's father was arrested. Sally testified of the years of abuse and her dad was found guilty and given five life sentences. The abuse ended with his sentence, but the struggles in life did not. Because Sally's father was the sole provider, her mother struggled to financially make ends meet. Sally ended up leaving public school at age fourteen so that she could help her mother earn money by working at a fast-food restaurant. A life filled with terror and hardships of that magnitude would defeat many people. Sally refused to let that be the end of her story though.

In search of love and family, she married a boy she met at church when she was seventeen. Because she was desperate to escape her childhood home, she settled for him. The church didn't allow time alone with each other so the only times they talked were chaperoned. Because of that, they fell in love with an idea of each other. After they married, Sally became connected with the city of Burleson, reconciling with extended family members, particularly her grandmother,

who had become estranged from Sally's family as her parents became more involved with the church in her childhood. During her marriage, she gave birth to three daughters. As time went on her and her now ex-husband grew older, they realized they weren't meant for each other. After eight years of struggling to make the relationship work for the sake of keeping her family together, she became a single mom. Her daughters became her motivation, and she found purpose in being a strong example and provider for them.

At 26, when Sally met her second husband, she finally had a home filled with the happiness and peace she searched for her whole life. Before they married he took her to Hawaii, a place that he called home. After a childhood filled with fantasies, she became emotional when she stepped onto the beautiful island, realizing this was her reality. As she stood in the sand, tears formed in her eyes. She thought of her childhood and how most children that grew up the way she did might never experience a place like Hawaii. The feeling she felt there is what she wanted to recreate with Island

Massage. She wanted it to be a place where someone could escape; a paradise. She dreamed of a place where anybody, in any walk of life, would be welcomed and could afford a good massage. This is the purpose behind Island Massage.

Thus begins the story of Island Massage, in Burleson, Texas. Sally opened Island Massage in February of 2017, ten years after that moment on the beach. Going back to her roots she started a business in the place where she reconciled with her grandma. A family member helped her find a place to rent. This led to a meeting regarding the property on Renfro Street that houses Island Massage today. The initial setup costs were beyond anything Sally could afford but God provided her with enough money to start. Although Island Massage began with frugal beginnings, Sally remained committed to using the business to serve God and help people. That philosophy continues to be at the forefront of Island Massage today and all of the employees operate under it. Sally took the comfort she experienced from God and turned it into a life where she can extend that comfort to others.



Sally Lorenzo, Owner of Island Massage



She held onto the belief that she survived her childhood for a purpose and clung to the promise she heard from God as a young girl that “everything was going to be alright.” She believes what the Bible teaches in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

With the desire to fully understand what her employees (therapists) were trained to do, she enrolled in the massage therapy program at Tarrant Community College. During her enrollment, she would manage the spa as the receptionist all day and then go to classes at night. Massage Therapy students are required to have practicum hours where they practice the massage techniques. One day during class, a professor she respected made the comment that she was “a natural healer.” It was during that time that she learned of her God-given gift for helping others heal. That encouragement, along with the joy she found in bringing comfort and relief to clients, motivated her to obtain her massage license. Sally believes that “those who have been hurt the most have the greatest ability to heal.”

From frugal beginnings when she had one part-time massage therapist to four years later having a staff of 15 (and growing), Sally is a self-made businesswoman. With little education but constant dedication, creativity, and hard work, she has learned most of her business techniques through trial and error. Island Massage has survived challenges that even seasoned business owners struggled through, including being closed for more than two months during the COVID-19 shutdowns in 2020.


Staying true to her purpose, Sally has remained committed to making Island Massage a place where anyone can get an affordable massage. As part of this commitment, there is an Island Club for a monthly fee of \$59 which includes a full 60-minute massage, a free

add-on, discounts for other services and products, and a special gift from Sally every month. This membership allows people to experience healing and therapy at a reasonable cost. Island Massage also extends this commitment by proudly giving a 10% discount off of Island Club to members of the military as well as members of the fire and police department.

The first goal is to meet the needs of the client. Sally and the family that makes up the Island Massage team believe in the philosophy to always give their client more than the business takes. One of her favorite parts of being a business owner is having the freedom to offer care to clients based on their needs, not what a corporate office allows. Sally’s work ethic and tenacity has opened up endless opportunities for her. She has recently been invited to be a part of the advisory board for the massage therapy program at TCC, so she will be able to give back.

The circumstances of her young life could have broken Sally, but she chose to be shaped in a positive way by them. Sally wants to make a lasting difference to young girls and women currently in or coming out of abusive situations. Although it is painful, she is willing to share her story. In pursuit of wanting to help and inspire other women, she is currently working on writing a book to share her story. Below is an excerpt from her story:

“Here I stand, a woman at the crossroads, just like I’ve stood all my life. My life happened in between these streets. And today, my life is still built upon these crossroads. Between despair and hope. Bitterness and forgiveness. Hate and love. Being a victim or a victor.

“This is not a sob story. My story is full of experiences that are devastating, heartbreaking, painful, and tragic. Everything that happened to me could have crushed my soul and left my spirit in pieces. But still, this is not a sad story. This is a story of triumph. This is a story of survival. Believe it or not, this is even a story of love—love from God. This is a story of a girl forever destined to return to these crossroads.” 



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# LOCAL BEAUTY SERVICES

## EDITION

YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL SALONS, STYLISTS, BROWS, NAILS AND MORE

From time to time, we want to know what you think. This month, we asked for your favorite Local beauty services businesses. You voted and told us. Here are the top nomination recipients and *Local Life* favorites.

### LOCAL SALON

- 1 **FIRST IMPRESSIONS SALON.SPA.BOUTIQUE** *Page 11*
- 2 **FIERCE AND FABULOUS**
- 3 **NOVAK HAIR STUDIOS**

### STYLIST

- 1 **KRISTI MITCHELL,**  
FIRST IMPRESSIONS SALON.SPA.BOUTIQUE
- 2 **TIFFANY JOHNSON,**  
FIERCE AND FABULOUS
- 3 **KAREN RHYS,**  
SHEAR CREATIONS

### LASHES

- 1 **EMILY WINTERS** *Page 10*
- 2 **DULCE CLOWERS**
- 3 **CODI COOPER**

### BROWS

- 1 **EMILY WINTERS** *Page 10*
- 2 **CODI COOPER**

### AESTHETICIAN

- 1 **EMILY WINTERS** *Page 10*
- 2 **CODI COOPER**

### BARBER SHOP

- 1 **FOUNDERS BARBERSHOP**  
*Page 10*
- 2 **THE GARAGE** *Page 10*

### MASSAGE

- 1 **ISLAND MASSAGE** *Page 8*

### NAIL SALON

- 1 **LUXX NAIL SALON**
- 2 **PEARL NAILS**
- 3 **LEGACY NAILS AND SPA**

### NAIL TECHNICIAN

- 1 **TORI, LUXX NAIL SALON**



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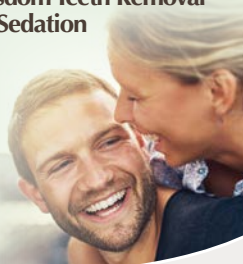
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# Burleson Wash and Lube

## A Car Wash, an Oil Change, and a Tomato Plant

by **JORDAN DeWALD**

When Dustan Duncan purchased **Burleson Wash and Lube** in March of 2019, he knew he wanted to use his business to be a blessing to the Burleson area community. After a remodel in 2019 and adapting to and surviving the shutdown and changes brought on by 2020, Duncan remained held on to that commitment and has spent 2021 finding creative ways to give back to Burleson.

Duncan was born and raised in a small town. That upbringing shaped his affinity for being an active part of what was going on in his local community. He has the quintessential American dream story of an entrepreneur and small business owner. He started out with very little in respect to finances and worked his way up through corporate America in the car washing business. Duncan grew weary of that environment though. The impersonal nature of the way employees were treated was contrary to what he believed should happen in a business. Knowing the individual employee as a person and appreciating their contribution

to the business' success is what mattered, and still matters, to Duncan. He also had ideas and the desire to use the business as a platform to give back to the community, but he didn't have the freedom to do that. One day Duncan had enough. He and his wife made the decision to break away from the security of the corporate world and embrace the fulfillment that comes with small business ownership. They purchased an existing car wash in Burleson in 2019 and rebranded it to Burleson Wash and Lube.

The new ownership of Burleson Wash and Lube made it essentially a brand new business. Beyond the rebranding, Duncan remodeled the business and has worked hard to build a positive reputation in the community. He finally had the opportunity to find out how he could shape the business to be a generous member of the community and has not given up on that long-time desire. Duncan has spent time identifying where the needs are and has thought creatively about how he could make long-term investments of help, as opposed to one-time gifts. One thing



that kept coming up was the fact that 2020 and 2021 have brought a lot of challenges for people, particularly financial and food insecurity.

When remodeling Burleson Wash and Lube, Duncan had a decision to make about the outside aesthetic of the building. He considered the traditional landscaping of businesses with flowers and shrubs. A conversation with a friend sparked another idea though. His friend, who lives in Phoenix, AZ, told him about successfully growing vegetables in containers in the Arizona heat. So instead of investing money into decorative landscaping, Duncan decided to plant vegetables instead that he could then donate to Harvest House of Burleson. He researched container gardening and using repurposed wine barrels, he planted a variety of crops including onions, bell peppers, and tomatoes. He has learned a lot through the early stages of the project and has plans for growing it over the years. This won't be a one-time donation of harvested food. It will be a garden that will produce food that will benefit Burleson families for the years to come.

Duncan speaks of this project as a starting off point for more opportunities to provide for Harvest House. Just as he learned about container planting from a conversation with a friend, he hopes conversations about the Burleson Wash and Lube vegetable garden might encourage other businesses to start their own gardens as a way to provide fresh food to our community. He shared the thought- if he can do a little, and another person does a little, and then a few more people do a little, then the result is a lot.

Duncan has other plans to benefit the local community for the long term. He is currently in discussions with the athletic department of school district for long term donation opportunities through a partnership, so the kids continue to receive the benefit. He has dreams for a scholarship down the road, which has unlimited potential in the life changing difference that could make for a young person. He has lots of ideas, and even more importantly he has the desire.

The purchase of Burleson Wash and Lube has given Dustan Duncan what he wanted in this stage of his career, the chance to return the blessings he has experienced. He started out with very little and has never forgotten his roots. As a small business owner, he is looking forward to the future of giving generously to his community. ①



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