

April 2014

# The Informant

Newsletter of the Brenham, TX Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association



## CLASS 28 to Graduate

If you would like to attend the Class 28 Graduation Banquet on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Blinn Student Center, E-mail Cpl. Chris Jackson- [cjackson@cityofbrenham.org](mailto:cjackson@cityofbrenham.org) or call him at 337-7324.

Tickets are \$15.00 each payable to the CPAAA and must be reserved by 10AM on Monday 4/14.

### Dates to remember

General Meeting 7pm	4/14
Nat'l Telecommunications Week	4/13-19
CPA Grad 6pm @ Blinn	4/17
Bake Sale Fundraiser	5/10
Nat'l Police Week	5/12-18



### New Corporals

New Corporal's Steven Eilert and Richard Bobbitt with their Command Staff L-R: Chief Rex Phelps, Sgt. Curtiss Schoen, Cpl. Steven Eilert, Cpl. Richard Bobbitt, Sgt. Lloyd Powell, Lt. Dant Lange, and Sgt. Kelvin Raven



### April Officer Birthdays

Mark Pierce 4/7



# Citizens on Patrol

## MARCH COP Hours

Rob Aguilar	77.75
Wanda Aguilar	24.75
Dorothy Antkowiak	27.5
Clyde Averitt	2.5
James Bassett	71.25
Scott Boll	22.25
Kevin Braun	2.5
Sue Braun	9
Dustin Brown	24.5
Wayne Brown	8
Willie Brown	12
David Clinkenbeard	5.25
Bob Cothorn	12
Michael Cowan	8
Glen Daugherty	25
Tex Davis	61
Louis Garcia	4.5
Patty Goerlitz	2.5
Albert Green	62
Dale Green	10.5
Juanita Hickey	19.5
Helen Jordan	11.5
Bernadette Kamprath	3.5
Millie Keller	16
Charles Lewis	6
Julia Moore	2.5
Jack Murski	23
Tom Painter	51.25
Don Peloquin	16
Corina Smith	23.5
Tony Smith	18
Annette Tiemann	9
Ron Upchurch	39
Darrell Weed	28
Ron Wise	2.5
Catharine Wood	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>752</b>

Thanks to the Following COPs for their help at the Baylor Scott and White Seniors Day 4-2-14: Rob Aguilar, Wanda Aguilar, Tom Painter, James Bassett, Clyde Averitt, Ron Wise, Bernadette Kamprath, Helen Bassett, Jack Murski, Albert Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Dale Green, Darrell Weed.



Sheriff Otto Hanak was on hand to help Lt. Rob Aguilar present Sgt. Dorothy Antkowiak her Lt's Gold Whistle Award. The Award was presented at Blue Bell Creameries after a tough day of parking cars during Spring Break.

A Special Thanks to all of the COPs that helped park cars at Blue Bell Creameries during Spring Break (a two week assignment): James Bassett, Tom Painter, Albert Green, Rob Aguilar, Ron Upchurch, Tony Smith, Dorothy Antkowiak, Corina Smith, Wanda Aguilar, Scott Boll. With a Double Thank You to James, Tom, Albert and Rob—James was there every day and Tom, Albert and Rob missed one day. Talk about dedication!

Thanks to the following Cops for their help when called out on 3-21-14 to assist with a traffic accident at 1800 W. Main Street: Rob Aguilar, James Bassett, Albert Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Dale Green.

Thanks to all the Cops that helped park cars and direct traffic for the Salem F D Fundraiser 4-6-14: Annette Tiemann, Jack Murski, James Bassett, Clyde Averitt, Clarence Steinfeld, Darrell Weed, Albert Green, and Rob Aguilar



In a re-presentation ceremony; Cpl Chris Jackson presents Clyde Averitt with his recent Award for "Perfect Attendance" at our CPAAA Meetings for the past seven years. No one else can boast of such a feat; Clyde has the Bragging Rights!!!

## Here Come Da Judge!

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A Big **THANK YOU** to Municipal Court Associate Judge Robert G. Wright. The honorable Judge Wright spoke at our March Meeting, and educated us on many subject's related to the law and the court system. He explained the differences between the types of courts: Municipal, Criminal, Civil, State, Federal, etc. He told us about all the players in the system: Bailiffs, Clerks, Court Administrators, Judges, Jury, Witnesses, Defendants, Attorneys. We learned about types of fines, their ranges, court costs and the like. He imparted some of the wisdom that he gained from many years on the bench; and shared some anecdotes. Lastly Judge Wright left us with "His Court Rules": be on time, dress appropriately, show respect for the Court , don't eat or drink, don't chew gum, don't use your phone or other electronic devices, and stand when speaking to the Judge.

## Curiosity is Peaking

By Rob Aguilar



I don't know about you, but my curiosity is peaking. In just a couple of weeks, the CPA Class will graduate. With that graduation will come a new crop of members for the CPAAA, and hopefully will yield some new COP's. In fact I'm sure that it will, because a few of the students have voiced their interest in our group and our COP Program.

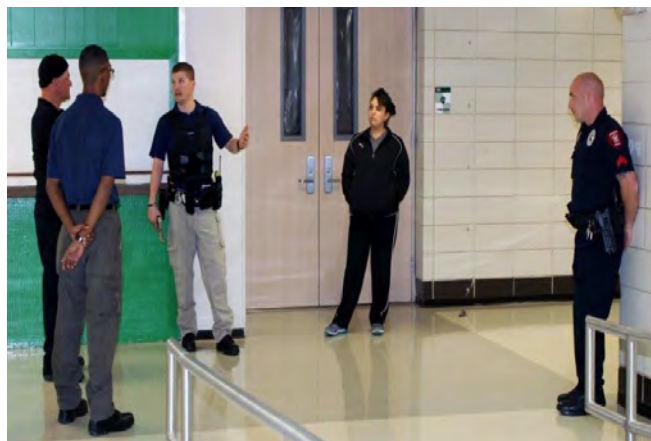
I hope that all of you are as curious as I am; because new members bring so much to an organization. "New Blood" means new ideas, new enthusiasm, new friends, and a larger workforce. Our organization has been moving forward in a positive direction and impacting our community in many positive ways. A new infusion of members at periodic points, say yearly, is necessary for an organization's growth; and also, for its existence.



I know that many of you have attended this year's CPA Classes and have had interactions with the students. Everyone I speak with about the Class has only good things to say. I am also quite sure that our members have made a good impression on the students as well. One can only conclude that we will be lucky to have any or all as new members.

My curiosity is peaking; I don't know if I can wait until after graduation to find out how we will fare. How many will join our organization, and more importantly, how many of these promising people will want to become COP's. Time will tell, but in the interim I will just have to try and think about something else. Something else like their COP Class Schedule, their handouts, their ride-alongs, all that extra work. **Well there's nothing like extra work to kill your curiosity!**







Angela Hahn/Brenham Police Department

## Standoff ends peacefully

Brenham police Cpl. Joseph Mertley talks to Christopher Michael Anderson after Anderson barricaded himself in the attic of his home at 401 W. Sixth St. Friday morning. The police department's SWAT team was called in, and officers negotiated with Anderson, 24, for about two hours before convincing him to come out. Anderson was charged with making terroristic threats. There were no injuries.



## “The Grass Is Green”

By Rob Aguilar

At 10:23 a.m. this Friday morning (2-28-14) an EMS call dropped for an MHMR case on W. Sixth Street. I was just leaving Max Donuts, as I needed some coffee after my traffic assignment earlier that morning. I decided to head that way in case I could be of some assistance; when another MHMR case came in at Alton Elementary School. I made the mistake of going by Alton first; well it wasn't a mistake because I did guide Squad 1 to the proper location (they had initially parked on Kerr Street, as the incident location was stated as 303 Kerr Street, instead of by the Office on Mangrum Street). 3111 (Officer Casey Thumann) had the situation under control, and another EMS Unit was now on scene; so I decided it was time to leave and head to Sixth Street. On my way there, 3140 (Sgt. Kelvin Raven) was asking for more manpower. I turned down Key Street from College Avenue and Sgt. Raven was waving me past and he was behind his Patrol Unit holding his duty rifle. As I passed, 3138 (Officer Lance Weiss) asked for the COP Unit on Key Street to identify. I did, and he asked me go to Day and Sixth Street to block that intersection. I got there and since I had a traffic assignment at 10:50 a.m. (in just 7 minutes) I notified him that I had placed traffic cones at the location and would return momentarily; he acknowledged, and I proceeded back to Austin and Houston Streets for my traffic assignment. In retrospect, I should have stayed at Day and Sixth Street until relieved by another unit, or Command, or when the incident was terminated.

I spoke with COP Sgt. Jack Murski on Austin Street (my partner in the traffic assignment) and informed him of the now confirmed "stand-off" on Sixth Street. He agreed to make location after our current assignment was over. By this time, COP Lt. Darrell Weed had heard the commotion on his scanner and he called Communications and asked if he could be utilized. Communications asked Command and they said yes, and he was assigned to Fifth Street at Key. I returned to find my old intersection was being manned by Deputy Al Gomez (former BPD Cpl); so I headed to Fifth and Key, Darrell had just arrived and Jack was assigned to Jackson Street at Sixth. The perimeter was well secured; so I stationed myself with Darrell and we observed the scene as best we could from our vantage point. From our vantage point we could clearly see the rear and west side of the residence and the positioning of 3121 Officer Heather Sowders, 2735 DPS Trooper Nicholas Kraus and 3125 Cpl. Joe Merkley; along with various BPD vehicles and the staged Fire Apparatus blocking Key at Charles Lewis. All units on the scene were earlier told to go to the Swat Tactical Radio Channel; which was quite useful to keep apprised of the ongoing, ever changing situation (especially since we could only see a portion (quarter shot) of the scene).

Next, I was contacted by 2735 (Trooper Kraus) - I called him back on the Tactical Channel but got no response. I then went to our primary channel and he responded with the message that the resident in the house directly behind the subjects' was evacuating in her grey Tundra. I had to move my vehicle so she could exit safely. I later learned that DPS Troopers don't have our SWAT Channel and that the Trooper was kept informed because of his close proximity to 3125 Cpl Merkley. Several residents, and several "lookey loos" stopped to ask us questions - if they could return home, what was happening, etc. We watched and listened attentively, this was a learning situation, especially for us (it was a learning situation for all on the scene). In my opinion, the constant and pertinent radio updates made the whole operation go that much more smoothly. The calm demeanor of the updates and the commands given on scene (over the radio, anyway) were a good indication to me that our Officers and the SWAT Team members were well trained and ready to diffuse any situation.

Well, we were into this incident only a short time (a couple of hours); and as incidents with barricaded subjects' go; I thought we would be there for several more hours. Command had a plan in place and it was time to implement that plan, as everyone (the SWAT Team) was in place and ready to go. This is the point where the "Title" of this article comes into play, and it becomes quite evident that this article is not about gardening or lawn care. Lt. Dant Lange calmly says "the grass is green", and one second later, a loud boom could be heard. That boom was the tear gas being launched thru the upstairs window. The SWAT Team waits briefly by the front door, ready to breach after the gas takes affect. About twenty seconds later I could see smoke coming from the eaves of the 1 ½ Story home; the tear gas was dispersing nicely. Next, we hear that the back door is opening; the subject is exiting the back door. Then we heard a loud authoritative voice yelling "get on the ground, get on the ground NOW"; that was 3121 Officer Heather Sowders! She had me going to the ground, figuratively speaking. I saw her moving in and the SWAT Team coming around from the eastside of the residence to detain him. I lost sight of the subject when he went to the ground, as the privacy fence was blocking my view, and I saw SWAT Team members following him to the ground in order to cuff him. The next radio message was "the subject has been detained" (what a nice way to say he was in cuffs).



I went back to Day and Sixth Streets to pick up my traffic cones; and walked into the scene to assist the Fire Department who had just been cleared to enter the scene and check the house for any possible fire. Fire is a real threat after tear gas and or smoke bombs are launched into a structure. As luck would have it, only a bedspread (comforter) was burning and it was carried out to be extinguished. I assisted with ventilation of the structure, but the fire unit on scene only had a "smoke ejector" on board, no positive pressure ventilation fans (PPV). That meant that we would draw (suck) the smoke out of the structure instead of forcing fresh in and bad air out. Well, I had the distasteful task of switching on the unit; and I immediately got a big whiff of tear gas. The power was remotely shut off, and the fan was turned around to inefficiently try to push clean air in and bad air out of the second story window, where it wouldn't affect anyone's breathing. I then left the scene and headed back to BPD to work on the newsletter. I finished the first page, and decided I was quite hungry. Half way into my sandwich, Darrell called and asked if I would like to attend the "after action debriefing" (critique) to be held at BPD in ten minutes. So much for a leisurely lunch, as I was across town; but I surely didn't want to miss another great learning opportunity, even though, there was a chance that I might get chewed out for entering the scene on Key Street (of course we were not told of the type of incident in progress and we don't have MDT's; and the Staging Area & Command Post were not yet established).

I arrived just as the critique was getting started. A critique is supposed to be a positive learning experience; no one is to be called out harshly for their actions; constructive criticism is the main focus. Several tactics were discussed and evaluated, such as gaining control of the subject's phone line (allowing only BPD calls to come in and none to go out), Communications, the Command Post and Staging Areas, etc., were all talked about. It's a way to learn from mistakes, to call attention to faulty SOPs, and to commend those that performed well. Well, there was lots of praise to go around; as many things went well at this incident. The incremental updates over the radio were a big plus to the smoothness of the operation. Officer Lance Weiss handled the phone negotiations well, despite the fact that the subject was easily agitated by things he could not control. Cpl Merkley negotiated face to face with the subject when the subject peered out of the upper story window. Perimeter control was good, and Chief Phelps commended the COPs for their assistance. Officer Sowders was commended for her loud and forceful commands to the subject upon his exiting of the residence. All in all, it was a good operation, with a good outcome. No injuries, minimal damage. There was a lot to be learned from this incident and a lot to take away from the critique; I was glad to have been on duty that day. **I do know that I don't ever want to smell tear gas again! Isn't that right Chris?!!**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In support of my continuing effort to increase participation of members in the activities of the CPAAA and COP organizations, I am presenting the following little story which came from The Pastor's Story File.

### SOMEONE ELSE

*I know that all of you will be saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valuable acquaintances – **SOMEONE ELSE**. Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill.*

*Our friend had been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone did more than the normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was called for, this wonderful individual was looked to for inspiration as well as results.*

*Whenever there was a job to do, a problem to tackle, a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips. "Let Someone Else do it," everybody would say. It was common knowledge that whenever the need arose, Someone Else was one of the biggest contributors of time, spirit, self, and resources. Whatever the shortfall, everyone assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was an extraordinary person, almost superhuman. But a person can only do so much.*

*Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Someone set a wonderful example for us to follow. But now, Someone is gone.*

*Who is going to do all the things we expected Someone Else to do? We can't depend on Someone Else anymore.*

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In our organization we have approximately fifteen Someone Elses who really would like for it to be twenty-five or thirty. For the past two weeks (March 10 – 21), we were supposed to provide people to Blue Bell Creamery to park cars for Spring Break. On a busy day, we need eight people to provide the necessary parking service. On our busiest day, March 14, we did the job with only four people. I know the frustration they felt because I was one of the four. If those four hadn't shown up, we would have let down our biggest contributor. Where were you?





An elated Chris Jackson comes by the Brenham Police Department Booth at the Baylor Scott & White Seniors' Day to talk with COPs that were manning it. Helen Bassett, Millie Keller, Bernadette Kamprath, Ron Wise. Clyde Averitt, Dorothy Antkowiak and Wanda Aguilar also had desk duty there as well as their parking lot assignments.



More Scott & White Senior's Day photos. Upper Left Rob, James & Darrell. Top Right: Jack & Wanda. Lower Left Dorothy drives the people mover. Lower right Tom is shifting positions.



### 2014 Executive Board

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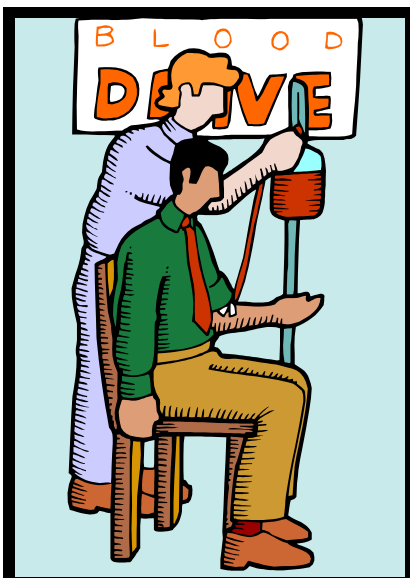
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Annette Tiemann—Outgoing

President

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## **Blood Drive**

### Brenham Guns and Hoses

Tuesday, April 29

9:00 am—3:00 pm

Donor Coach located at City Hall

(200 W. Vulcan)

Sign up online at [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org)

Using sponsor code :L126