

The Informant



THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO OUR HOMETOWN HEROES

We recently lost two of our Hometown Heroes. One was Salem Fire Chief John Santos, pictured left. Read more about John and his memorial service on page 3. We also lost a "trailblazer"; retired Brenham Police Sergeant Willard Mays. He was the first African-American Sergeant in our department, and considered an icon in the community.



In Memory Of

John Santos

September 14, 1970 – January 25, 2016



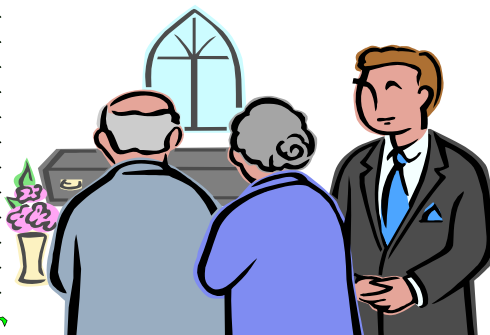
FUNERAL SERVICES FOR RETIRED BRENHAM POLICE SERGEANT WILLARD MAYS WILL BE THIS SATURDAY AT 12 NOON AT THE NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 704 W. JEFFERSON STREET. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

Dates to remember this month

- CPA class 6:30pm 3/10
- CPA class 6:30pm 3/24
- CPA class 6:30pm 3/31
- General Meeting 7pm 3/14
- Sgt. Mays' Funeral 3/12
- Guns&Hoses9am3pm 4/28

March Birthdays

- Off. Hunter Andras 3/2*
- Res. Off. Bob Lawrence 3-11*
- PSO Angela Kahn 3-22*
- Capt. Dant Lange 3/29*



COP NEWS

Thanks to the following COPs for their help:

2-7-16 Chief John Santos Funeral and Escort Assignment: Rob Aguilar, Clarence Steinfeld, Tex Davis, Clyde Averitt, Jack Murski, Corina Smith, Mark Smith

2/11-12-13/16 Valentines Day Flower Delivery: Annette Tiemann, Corina Smith, Juanita Hickey, Jean Winters, Dorothy Antkowiak, Dale Green, Sue Braun, Bob Cothorn, Michael Cowan, Wayne Miller, Carole Petzolt, Monroe Petzolt, Ron Upchurch

2-21-16 Senior Center Grand Opening Parking/Safety Assignment: Ron Upchurch, Clyde Averitt, Albert Green, Howard Mead, Dorothy Antkowiak, Clarence Steinfeld

2-25-16 New Life Ministries Parking Assignment: Dale Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Mark Smith, Corina Smith, Annette Tiemann, Albert Green, Clyde Averitt, Wanda Aguilar, Rob Aguilar

2-29-16 Lois Kolkhorst Ice Cream Social Traffic/Safety Assignment: Dorothy Antkowiak, Clyde Averitt, Bob Cothorn, Albert Green, Dale Green, Tony Smith, Annette Tiemann, Stan Ford, Ron Upchurch

3-4-16 First Baptist Fundraiser Traffic Assignment: Dale Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Albert Green, Corina Smith, Mark Smith, Bob Cothorn, Ron Upchurch, Wayne Miller, Clyde Averitt, Wanda Aguilar, Rob Aguilar

February COP Hours

Rob Aguilar	41.25
Wanda Aguilar	7.5
Dorothy Antkowiak	29.5
Clyde Averitt	21.25
James Bassett	14
Kevin Braun	2
Sue Braun	10.75
Wayne Brown	8
Willie Brown	16
Sandra Clinkenbeard	7.75
Bob Cothorn	34.25
Michael Cowan	17.25
Glen Daugherty	12
Tex Davis	22.25
Stan Ford	66
Albert Green	37.5
Dale Green	23.5
Juanita Hickey	19.5
Millie Keller	10
Howard Mead	17.75
Wayne Miller	21.5
Steve Oneill	2
Don Peloquin	16
Monroe Petzolt	7.5
Carole Petzolt	18.75
Corina Smith	31.5
Mark Smith	11.5
Tony Smith	6
Clarence Steinfeld	24.5
Annette Tiemann	29.25
Ron Upchurch	58.25
Ceci Wagner	2
Jean Winters	11.5
Ron Wise	4
Catherine Wood	12
Chuck Wood	2
Billy Yawn	4

TOTAL 705.25



Above left: Bonnie Schulte, Kristie Wensel, and Terry Boeker were our tour guides at the BSSLC. Above right: Glinda Blank, Kristie Wensel, Carole Petzolt, Albert Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Annette Tiemann, Wanda Aguilar, Ron Wise and Rob Aguilar at the Expressions Gift Shop. Read about our tour of the BSSLC on pages 4 and 5; we had a great time!!

Spring Forward
this Sunday at 2 am

Hometown Hero

On January 25th Brenham lost one of its “Hometown Heroes”, Salem Fire Chief, John Santos. John was 45 years old and was a member of the National Guard; having seen tours in the Middle East. John had been a member of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department since 1996 and Chief of the Department since 2014. He was laid to rest on February 7th, in a fitting Fire Department/ Military Honors service held at Champion’s Fellowship Church. The church was filled to capacity with family and friends and a very large contingent of firefighters from neighboring departments; along with Police, Sheriff’s Deputies, DPS Troopers, EMS personnel, Military personnel and COPs. The College Station Fire Department Honor Guard was there to provide a dignified amount of pomp and circumstance to the proceedings. The service was presided over by Pastors’ Allen McClure and Tim Webb. A few of John’s military and fire department friends spoke at the ceremony; and showed us insights into John’s honorable and giving character. The Honor Guards’ “Bell Ceremony” and the Dispatch Offices’ “Last Alarm” ceremony brought tears to my eyes; actually I don’t think there was dry eye on the premises.

John’s body was then carefully loaded onto Brenham’s antique 1950 American LaFrance pumper truck, Invader, for John’s transport to the Fairgrounds where it would be met by the hearse that would transport him to Killeen, Texas for burial at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery. At the cemetery he would have a graveside service with full military honors. It was now time for the procession to begin, and the 4 COP units had their assigned intersections. BPD would also help with the escort, though with all the flashing lights, I don’t think they were actually needed. There were so many emergency response vehicles in the procession, all with flashing (red, white and or blue) lights; I could only wonder what the citizens on the streets were thinking as they all passed by.

It warmed my heart to see so many public service responders attend John’s service. It was Super Bowl Sunday, after all! While I would like to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules; I am sure they would all say that they were happy they could make it there, and would hope their service would be that well attended. But, I would like to thank the BPD contingent that was there to celebrate John’s life and to represent us. From BPD we had Sgt. Kelvin Raven, Cpl. Tommie Kurie, Cpl. Chris Jackson, Cpl. David Dudenhoeffer and Ofc. Sierra Newell. COP’s present were Clyde Averitt, Clarence Steinfeld, Tex Davis, Mark Smith, Corina Smith, Jack Murski and myself. One final note; I think our department needs an Honor Guard in the event the unthinkable happens or one of our retired members passes. Perhaps it could be a joint effort with the Sheriff’s Office and or the Fire Department? Just something to think about!



Institution or Home

By Rob Aguilar

On Wednesday morning, February 17th, a group of COPs went on a field trip. Under the guise of a training session, a tour of the Brenham State Supported Living Center (BSSLC) was set up for us. While only seven of us could be there for this outing; it was beneficial to us as well as for them. Our Citizens on Patrol (COP) group and the BSSLC have built a solid relationship in the past; and the bond keeps getting stronger. We have assisted them with patrols, parades, parking assignments and Christmas gift distribution. While they continue to do good work for our community and their clients; and continue to be a major area employer.

Perhaps you don't see the benefits? It does look a little one sided if you don't look at the big picture. Let me explain. They employ around a thousand people, making them our areas largest employer. The job they do is very commendable; they go above and beyond what is needed. They help families that are physically or financially unable to care for a "special needs" loved one in the proper way. They transform this institutional setting into a cohesive home-like environment. The people employed there are committed to their clients; and are passionate in the way they perform their duties. We saw these things first hand while we toured certain areas of the facility. So, it's in our best interest to help when we can!

Our tour guides for the morning were Kristie Wensel, the Community Relations Director, Bonnie Schulte, Coordinator of Volunteer Services and Terry Boeker, Assistant Coordinator of Volunteer Services. Our first stop on this 200 acre campus tour was the wheel chair fabrication shop; where they make and maintain wheel chairs. Doesn't sound like it would be that interesting or important; but nothing could be further from the truth. This stop was eye-opening; and the three man crew of Brian Kraft, Larry Dannar and Vincent Downey are to be commended for their passion, commitment and problem solving skills. Not to mention the amounts of money they save their clients and the quality custom products they manufacture there. Think about it, over a hundred of BSSLC clients are in wheel chairs and most have other medical issues as well. So a custom chair that is ergonomically comfortable, highly functional and budget friendly is a dream realized at this facility.

Our next stop took us to the "cottages", the living quarters of many of their more ambulatory clients. On the way there our guides pointed out the food preparation facility (building) and maintenance shop building; as well as other buildings on campus. The cottages were set up like homes, with a living area, kitchen, dining room and sleeping quarters. Here we learned that the dietary needs of each individual was handled in a unique manner; all were fed the same meals, except the consistency of the meals differed to meet the needs of the client, and many were on feeding tubes. The impressive part was how clean the clients kept their rooms; and almost all were off at work.

Continued on page 5

Continued from Page 4

Yes, the clients like their independence, their jobs and their spending money. There are several places here in Brenham that employ clients of the BSSLC; it's a partnership that benefits both parties.

The next stop was Driscoll Gardens (all buildings on campus were named after famous Texans - Driscoll, Bowie, Childress, etc.), this was their more medically staffed unit that houses their more medically fragile clients. The nurses and aides there were very knowledgeable and compassionate. Terry Strickland, Home Manager was in charge of the nurses that morning and explained how the ward worked. The Driscoll unit was separated into several uses which included sleeping quarters (with hospital beds), a sensory stimulation relaxation room (where all the senses could be stimulated to relax the clients), supply closets, offices and therapy rooms.

Our last stop on the tour was the Education and Training Building (formerly known as the Austin Building). This building housed a sensory stimulation room, wood working room, painting room, embroidery room, and crafts rooms; as well as the Expressions Bistro and Gift Shop. We got to see firsthand, the clients hard at work in the wood working, crafts room and painting room. At the Bistro and Gift Shop our host was Glinda Blank. She explained how anyone can come in the Bistro and buy a coffee or tea and something sweet. They can also purchase any number of items in the Gift Shop that were made on site by the clients. The items ranged from personalized (embroidered) blankets, sport's team logo signs and memorabilia, pictures, paintings, drawings and other handcrafted one of a kind items. You can even request something special and they may be able to fulfill that request with a custom item. Glinda doted on the talents of the clients and the quality of the items on display. I must confess, our group purchased a few items before our departure; and my wallet was a bit lighter.

All in all, the time we spent on the short tour of this large complex left all of us with a new understanding of the fine work that is done there. And further, a great appreciation for the compassionate and knowledgeable staff members that we met that day. There are twelve other State Supported Living Centers in Texas; however, I think our facility is probably one of the best. We now know the main reason this facility has remained open, despite the closure scares of the recent past. It's because of all the hard diligent work of the passionate people that make this institution feel like a home to its residents and anyone who visits! While the State funds the basic necessities of food, housing and medical care; the Volunteer Services Council (VSC), which is the facility's non-profit organization, works with families, staff and the community to enrich the lives of the residents. The VSC provides fiscal and human resources beyond that which is provided by the State and serves to add more "Good Things" to the lives of the residents who live, work and play at BSSLC. The VSC board currently consists of ten active members. The 276 residents range in age from 10 to 76; and of those, 28 attend Brenham ISD schools. So I urge anyone to contact the facility and set up a tour; see your tax dollars at work, you'll be glad you did!

Valentines Day deliveries were a big success again this year!!

THANK YOU

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the CPAAA/COP members that came out to deliver flowers Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Your efforts garnered us a check for \$470; that's a bit more than last year, and a great effort by all involved.

Your grateful Fundraiser Committee,
Clarence Steinfeld and
Annette Tiemann



Pictures from the John Santos Memorial Service and Funeral Escort



If any CPAAA/COP member is interested in a License to Carry Class (LTC), it's the old Concealed Handgun Class; let me (Rob) know and I can see about possibly getting the class together just for us. Below, that's Sheriff Hanak teaching Stan Ford's wife Jeanette, how to shoot. From the looks of that target she's a great shot or Otto's a great Instructor? Stan and I also took the class, *it was fun*; but our targets weren't quite that good. We need more practice!!



Class 30

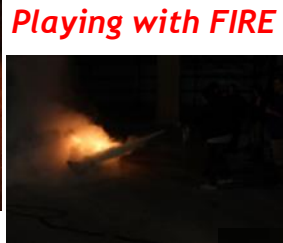
Class 30 is well underway; here are some photos from their 1st four sessions: Jail, Communications, Fire Department, and Handcuffing. *Anyone look familiar??*



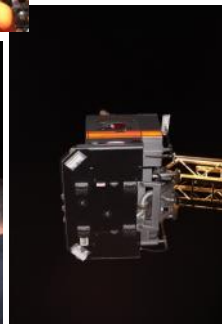
Washington County Jail Tour continues with Lt. Lowery

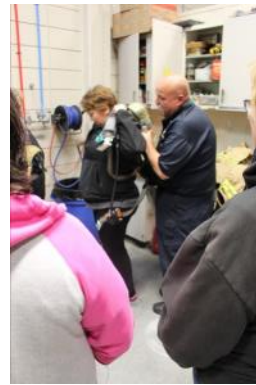


Brenham Fire Department



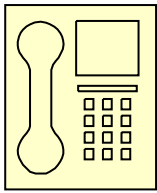
Playing with FIRE





Thank you to the Brenham Fire Department. Thank You to Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Asst. Chief Brian Scheffer, Capt. Tank Neinstedt, Driver Operator's: Cecil Wright, Justin Schroeder, Jeff Daniels, and Ryan Swor for the great tour of the EOC, Fire Station, Trucks, equipment, your safety demonstrations and a fun ride into the hemisphere.

A Tour of the Communications Center



9-1-1



Thank You to Communications Director Nathan Preston for the tour. And a Big Thanks to all the 9-1-1 Operators and Dispatchers for all the great work they perform daily!



Happy St. Patrick's Day 3/17/16





The Texas Best Practices Recognition Program is discussed in class. Chief Craig Goodman and Sgt. Judson Hall are the lead instructors.



Other subjects taught on this fourth night of class were Officer Training, Internal Affairs; and for the hands-on portion of the class—HANDCUFFING (pun intended). We had lots of instructors on hand: Captain Lloyd Powell, Sgt. Judson Hall, Cpl. Chris Jackson, Ofc. Ashley Burns, Ofc. Jose Perez, and Cpl. Jared Campbell. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the Officers that show up for class nights!



2016 Board of Directors

President: Ron Upchurch

theups@att.net

Vice-President: Ceci Wagner

ceciwagner@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mark Smith

mss5124@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sue Braun

suebeehoney@sbcglobal.net

Clarence Steinfeld

clarencesteinfeld@gmail.com

Carole Petzolt

csocjp@yahoo.com

Albert Green

Albert.green99@yahoo.com

Corina Smith

mss5124@yahoo.com

Clyde Averitt

cruh.averitt278@gmail.com

Past President: Bob Cothorn

rqcothorn@hotmail.com

Reminder: Sunday March 13th is the start of Daylight Savings Time. So remember to move your clocks forward ONE HOUR. (Spring Forward, Fall Back).



**Holy Week
& Easter**

**HAPPY
EASTER**

3-27-16



Your 2016 Board of Directors wishes to remind all members that membership dues must be paid by June 1st to be kept on the roster. Thank you.