

April 2021

The Informant

Newsletter of the Brenham, TX Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association



The Washington County Emergency Dispatch Services, E-911. Celebrated 30 years of Service to our community with an event that was open to the public. E-911 **Director Kristy Stamnes** served barbeque, cake and ice cream and had a brief program just outside the offices. City and County dignitaries in photo below right: **Dorothy Morgan, Joy Fuchs, Anita Pitt, Kristi Stamnes, John Durrenburger, Milton Tate, Don Kester**. More on pages 3 and 4

Dates to remember

Gen. Meeting 6:30pm 4-12-21

Nat'l Telecomm. Week 4/11-17



April Officer Birthdays

Alex Saenz 4/7

Tommy Kurie 5-2

Marley Mayo 5-4

Above Left: At the March 25th City Council Meeting, Mayor Milton Tate presents **Sgt. Jason Derrick** a plaque in recognition of his **25 Years of Service** with the Brenham Police Department.

Above: At that same Council Meeting, **Det. Kejan Mehlhorn-Hock** was presented a "**Chief's Commendation**" in recognition and appreciation of his dedication and achievements as a Criminal Investigator. More about Jason and Kejan on page 7.



Citizens on Patrol

Thank you to the following COPs for their help on:

3-5-21 First Baptist Fundraiser Parking/Traffic Assignment: Dorothy Antkowiak, Annette Tiemann, Dale Green, Doug Feist, Kevin Braun, Wayne Miller, Steve Oneill, Kathleen Siemsglusz, Jon Siemsglusz, Tony Smith, Ron Upchurch and Rob Aguilar.

3-5-21 First Friday Farmers Market and Artisan Event: Tex Davis, Richard Jares.

3-6-21 Guns and Hoses Emergency Blood Drive: Wanda Aguilar, Kay Reichwein, Richard Jares, Jon Siemsglusz, Kathleen, Siemsglusz, and Rob.

3-9-21 Emergency Call-Out to Henderson Park: Tex Davis, Rob Aguilar.

3-9-21 Emergency Call-Out to take PD vehicle to Stafford: Bob Cothorn.

3-10-21 Emergency Call-Out to Henderson Park: Ron Upchurch and Ernest Dever.

3-10-21 Emergency Call-Out to help at Front Office: Stan Ford and Catharine Wood.

3-12-21 Emergency Call-Out to Henderson Park: Tex Davis.

3-18-21 Emergency Call-Out to Traffic Accident 2300 Hwy 290 East: Tex Davis and Richard Jares.

3-27-21 Guns and Hoses Blood Drive: Wanda Aguilar, Jon Siemsglusz, Richard Jares, Dale Green, Dorothy Antkowiak, Annette Tiemann, Clarence Steinfeld, and Rob Aguilar.

MARCH COP Hours

Rob Aguilar	65.5
Wanda Aguilar	18.5
Dorothy Antkowiak	24
Patricia Badough	37.25
Kevin Braun	4.5
Sue Braun	4
Willie Brown	10
Bob Cothorn	33.5
Michael Cowan	12
Tex Davis	166.5
Ernest Dever	4
Peter Emerson	2
Doug Feist	80.5
Stan Ford	31.75
Dale Green	22
Jerry Jares	9
Richard Jares	150
Wayne Miller	22
Sherry Parker	2
Kay Reichwein	19
Jon Siemsglusz	9
Kathleen Siemsglusz	10.5
Corina Smith	4
Mark Smith	6
Tony Smith	9.5
Laura Sparks	2
Clarence Steinfeld	9
Annette Tiemann	48.5
Ron Upchurch	77.25
Darrell Weed	14
Julie Wilson	2
Catharine Wood	18.25

TOTAL 928

Photos left and below: Fireman's Fish Fry Traffic Assignment. **Good Job!!**



We are so lucky to have a state-of-the-art 911 system here in our little community. I was told that in the old days in Brenham, when there was a fire people would ring the church bells to alert the firefighters. Today we have one-way radios that alert us as well a text from the dispatch office and two-way radios to report our findings and speak with responding units. I was also told that at one time when Brenham residents needed the police after hours, they would call a 24-Hour Downtown Diner and the waitress would turn on a light that would alert the officer on duty that he was needed. That was not in the too distant past, according to my sources. And I can remember having the phone numbers to the Fire Department, Police Department and Ambulance Service listed right next to my heavy black rotary dial phone. A single 3 digit number to call for any and all emergency services was a handy idea (wish I would have thought of that). While it was a great idea, it also had international appeal and 3 digit numbers for emergency services are used all over the world. We have a great 911 system here in Brenham and Washington County, along with great people to run it. The E-911 Director, Kriti Stamnes and Operations Manager, Kristy Thomas have very capable and dedicated employees to perform, what I feel, is the difficult task of interface between a caller (usually a victim) and the responders in oftentimes the worst moments of that caller's life. I have great respect for our dispatchers who do an awesome job dealing with crucial life threatening incidents on a daily basis. Below is a "press-release" about our Washington County E-911 30 Year Celebration written by Anita Pitt, 9-1-1 Program Manager, Brazos Valley Council of Governments.

Washington County Celebrates 30 Years of 9-1-1

By Anita Pitt, Program Manager, BVCOG

On April 3, 1991, Washington County, Texas activated the first 9-1-1 system in the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) Regional 9-1-1 Program area. The 9-1-1 system was installed at the Washington County Sheriff's Office located on East Alamo Street in Brenham in a small, white-framed two-story house that is no longer standing. The basic 9-1-1 system consisted of a big black phone and a small box that displayed an 8-digit phone number with a single digit representing the area code. The phone rang...it was answered and that was it.

How far we've come since then! In the 30 years since that first phone call, much as changed, thanks to modern computers, and the mapping of wireline calls with rural addressing and cell phone location services. In June of 2015, Washington County 9-1-1 took another big step, as the first in the nation to deploy fully integrated text-to-9-1-1 services. As part of that project, the center also worked with NICE, Voice Products, Inc. and Motorola Solutions, Inc. to become one of the first in the nation to record VESTA 9-1-1 text messages using the NICE recording system.

In 2021, Washington County 9-1-1 continues to move the needle forward. Last year, the County was part of an Alpha testing group for two cloud-based services – Smart Transcription and Citizen Input – being the first in the country to test Citizen Input. Citizen Input allows a 9-1-1 caller to send a video or picture to 9-1-1 after a call or text-to-9-1-1 has been placed. In June 2021, Washington County's 9-1-1 system will have come full circle with the deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1 replacing the legacy network with the Motorola Solutions, Inc. VESTA Router using an Internet Protocol (IP) network and technology.

On Thursday, April 1, 2021, Washington County 9-1-1 will be marking 30 years of providing 9-1-1 service to its citizens with a special celebration at our dispatch center located at 301 N Baylor St, Brenham, TX. The celebration, which will be open to the public, will be a come and go from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and a light lunch and cake will be provided. There will be a short program beginning at 11:00 AM. All products and services for this event donated by our local businesses and Motorola Solutions. Come and meet Cell Phone Sally and Josh and say thanks to some of our local heroes – our 9-1-1 call takers!

Pictures of the celebration on page 4



March and into April many COPs have donated their time at the Sub-Hub Vaccination Site at the Expo Center (Fairgrounds). Many have worked the site multiple times ensuring that our community and much of Texas gets its much needed Covid-19 vaccinations. They include: Dorothy Antkowiak, Richard Jares, Doug Feist, Annette Tiemann, Dale Green, Patricia Badough, Tex Davis, Wayne Miller, Ron Upchurch, Bob Cothorn. **Keep up the important work Guys!!**

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 11 - 17, 2021

Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. Our unsung heroes, “heroes with headsets”, the 911 dispatchers. Every year our organization tries to do a little something for the Communications Office, our dispatchers. Any ideas? We will discuss them at this Monday Night’s Meeting.



Kristy



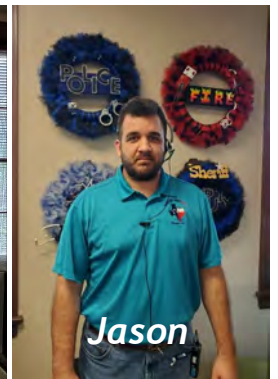
Heather



Julie



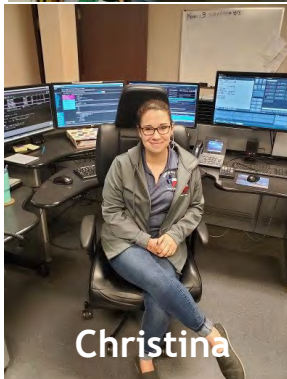
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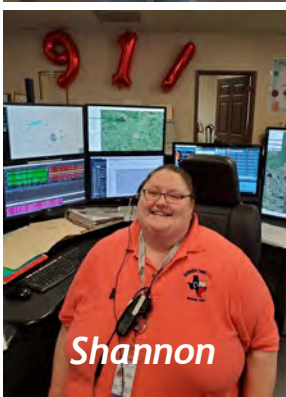
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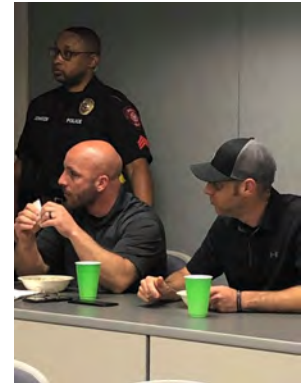
Shannon



Above: Some of our “Heroes with Headsets”; our Dispatchers, “Professionals Answering the Call”!



I heard last weeks home-made tortilla soup was a big hit with CPA class members. Tonight it's frito-pie, I don't keep up with what they're teaching, just what they're eating! I am sure they are learning lots of good stuff too!! **Way to go girls!**



Breakfast with a Cop

Breakfast with your favorite Cop was a prize for the First Baptist Church-School Fundraiser. That prize was won by Corey and Kristi Stegent for their daughter Olivia. Olivia could bring 2 friends along with her for this prize. The prize included breakfast with her favorite police officer and a ride to school in his patrol car. Sgt. Joe Merkley was chosen as the Officer and the other two girls were Sabrina Covin and Joe's daughter Madison. The restaurant of choice was Santa Fe Café. Sgt. Merkley also arranged to have on duty officers Cpl. Jose Perez, Ofc. Grayson Marburger, Ofc. Conner Caskey and Ofc. Jimmy Ha come and surprise the young winners. Well, Ofc. Caskey and Ofc. Ha had calls to respond to and didn't make the breakfast. The girls had a wonderful time and a good breakfast. It was also great public relations for our department. Good job Joe; keep up the good work!





Left: **Ofc. Armando Guerra** gets information from BFD Apparatus Operator **Ryan Swor** at an accident in front of the Expo Center. Right: **Ofc. Lawrence Garnett** and **Ofc. Guerra** speaking with accident victims same scene.



Guess who I ran into? Above: I ran into **Willie Brown** Below: I ran into Ret. **Sgt. Carl Wiesepape** with **Lt. Curtiss Schoen**.



Above: **Det. Sgt. Jason Derrick** is recognized for his **25 Years of Service** with BPD. His Service Award is proud displayed in his office.



Below: **Det. Kejan Mehlhorn-Hock** receives a "Chief's Commendation" Award which also is proudly displayed in his office.

Photos in this issue by:
Annette Tiemann
Rob Aguilar



We will have a CPAAA/COP Awards Ceremony at this Month's General CPAAA Meeting. The CPAAA Member of the Year, COP of the Year and Officer's Choice Award winners will be named. Certificates and Vouchers will also be awarded. Come early, at 6pm for refreshments, before the Meeting begins.



Left: A Troopers' Convention in Chappell Hill.

Right: Shift change at BPD. Officers' **Michael Alston, Conner Caskey, Tina Bruno, and Jimmy Ha**. They were chillin, but ready to go!

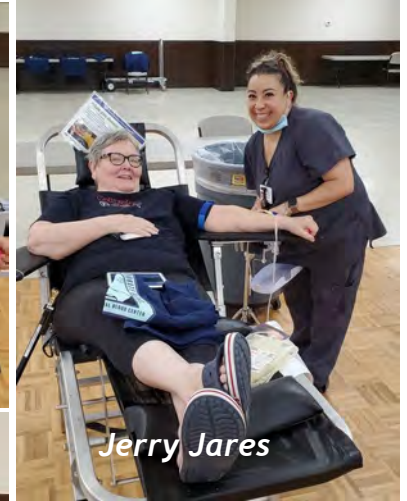




Lange Flisowski



EMS Captain Joshua Guelker



Jerry Jares



Grayson Marburger



Robert Buchman



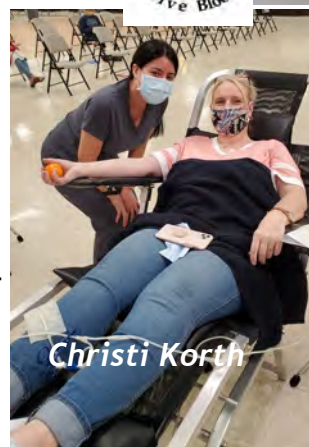
Sandra Buchman



Another successful pair of Guns and Hoses Blood Drives. The first was on March 6th and the second was on March 27th. We received 34 and 40 total blood products respectively for our efforts. Thanks to the COPs that came out to help. A special thanks to our sponsors: KTEX, KWHI, KLTR, Max Donuts and a new sponsor arrived bearing Pizzas for our donors, Pizzaiolo's surprised us with pizza pies for our donors and crew at the March 6th drive; delivered by CPA Alum Rosie Langford.



Rosie Langford



Christi Korth



Soft Drinks
Coke



Right: Our March 6th Crew: Kathleen, Wanda, Richard, Jon and Kay. Thanks a lot Guys!!

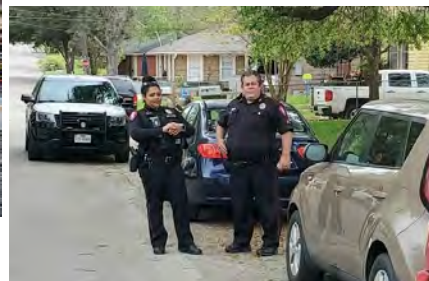


Cristi Korth





Left and the 2 photos above: **Sgt. Joe Merkley** and DPS Trooper Smith work the scene of an accident with entrapment on Eastbound Hwy 290 West under FM 389. BFD freed the entrapped driver and EMS rushed him to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.



Left: **Ofc. Michael Alston** shows **Ofc. Zack Greig** where he spotted the smoke and called in this house fire. BFD found food burning on the stove and removed the smoke from the structure. While that house fire was going on 2 photos above and right show **Cpl. Tommy Kurie** and **Ofc. Crystal Buckner** handling a traffic incident on Washington Street.



6 DPS Troopers worked the scene of this 6 vehicle accident on Hwy 290 East in Chappell Hill. 2 Troopers were from our area, the other 4, I had never seen before. Quite an accident scene.



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