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More than 40 people devoted 10 weeks of their summer to learning more about law enforcement.

Thirty-one graduated from the Burleson Police Department's Basic Citizens Police Academy and 10 graduated from the Advanced Citizens Police Academy during a ceremony Aug. 18 at Burleson City Hall.

Police Chief Tom Cowan and Dist. 58 State Rep. Rob Orr, a longtime Burleson resident, addressed the graduates. The Citizens Police Academy program is coordinated by Sgt. Brian O'Heren who is assisted by Officer Jae Berg.

The graduates of the 17th Basic Citizens Police Academy include Kevin Bell, Lisa Bennett, Christal Bloomer, Kimberly Bunker, Joe Crow, Mildred Crow, Paul Faulks, Mark Fleming, Patricia Fleming, Derald Freeman, Augie Gardino, David Hernandez, Ernesto Hernandez, Humberto Hernandez, Robert Kinney, Phyllis Lavender, Julie Maceyra, Colleen Mink, Jill Nix, Amy O'Heren, Lynda O'Rourke, Ron Potter, Stephanie Rausch, Pat Rodgers, Kathy Sinzinger, Sandra Smith, Mark Solomon, Nathan Thompson, and Tina Thompson and Robbie Williams.

Graduates of the Fourth Advanced Citizens Police Academy include Melissa Chambers, Alice Ehlers, Mike Gibson, Pat Gibson, Chris Hendrick, Tricia James, Ken Lewis, Carla Martinez, Shirley Mayes and Julie Stracener.

The academy is open to men and women, 18 or older. Citizens must submit an application packet which consists of the application, a waiver form, and consent for criminal history check.

The free academy consists of one three-hour class each week. Students in the basic academy learn about the department's organization, recruiting process, Texas Penal Code, criminal investigations, search and seizure, building searches, traffic law enforcement, narcotics investigation, SWAT, patrol procedures, and more. Instructors demonstrate techniques used to search a building for an intruder, then participants practice what they've learned. Participants try their hand at solving a mock homicide. Students may also ride along with a police officer or monitor the police department's communications office.

O'Heren and Berg recruit officers from within the department, and outside the department, to share their expertise with the students. The Advanced Citizens Police Academy is open to those who have graduated from the basic academy.