

October 16, 2013

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

The Burleson Police Department's COPs (Citizens On Patrol) class of 2013 graduated Oct. 3 in a ceremony at city hall. The new graduates include Sheila Ashcraft, Amber Salwicz, Gay Wynns, Amy O'Heren, Kathy Sinzinger, Linda Masters, David Ayars, Scott Fox, Danny Waltenbaugh, and J. L. Gunter.

Members of the Citizens On Patrol are graduates of the department's Citizens Police Academy, a free 10-week course that is offered every summer. CPA graduates then attend the 16 hours COPs Academy training that covers patrol procedures, patrol safety, laws and jurisdictions, preparing for patrol, courtroom testimony, observation skills and communication procedures, incident command for volunteers, civil liability, and community policing. Once the students graduate from the COPs Academy, they complete a 4-8 hour field training program with a COPs field training officer who helps them transition from the classroom to the field. The COPs field training officer helps them become familiar with the city's layout, spotting suspicious activity, reporting incidents to dispatch, and completing routine forms. Once that is complete a recruit is then eligible to patrol with another COPs member and is assigned to a COPs captain.

How are COPs utilized? They are trained to patrol neighborhoods, parks and businesses; report suspicious people and vehicles; report traffic hazards; perform traffic control at the City's special events; complete vacation checks and close patrols; co-host community events; educate the community about crime prevention; report City ordinance violations such as junk vehicles, curfew violations, and park violations; and patrol major retail parking lots during the holidays.

COPs recruits must be at least 21 years old, have a valid driver's license; be of good moral standing in the community (at least two references are required) and vision that is correctable to 20/30. COPs recruits undergo a criminal background check.