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If you have been waiting to get an inside look at the new Burleson Police Department building, then Jan. 30 is your day. The Burleson Police Department will be hosting a come-and-go open house on that Saturday, 12 p.m. -3 p.m., at 1161 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. (Wilshire at Elk Drive).

This is all about you, so there won't be any speeches. You can check out the different teams and divisions of the department, including the SWAT team with the Bearcat tactical vehicle; Crisis Negotiation team members with their vehicle; the Mobile Incident Command Unit that you see at some major events; traffic unit (Dodge Chargers and Harley Davidson motorcycles); the bicycle unit; Police Explorers; Citizens on Patrol; Burleson Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association; Community Resource Officers; Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force; and the department's communications staff. The Burleson Lions Club will be serving up free hotdogs and drinks, provided by H-E-B.

Bring your camera! If your children still have their police uniforms from Halloween, dress them up and bring them out so we can take pictures of them with our officers.

Take a tour of the new digs, which are more than twice the size of the former 10,000 square foot building at 225 W. Renfro St. that officers and employees called home since 1983. The building at 1161 S.W. Wilshire Blvd., which was formerly owned by Huguley, is just over 23,000 square feet, according to Burleson Police Chief Billy Cordell. This building does not include a jail, since the City contracts with Mansfield to house the BPD's arrestees.

The new building does include a community room where community partners are welcome to meet. The room also allows the police staff to meet with homeowner associations, neighborhood groups, and other partnering groups for crime prevention efforts as well as educational opportunities.

The new building was part of a bond election approved by voters in November 2013. Voters approved \$5 million for the police project. The building at 225 W. Renfro St. had served as a post office before 1983. When it was expanded to the current 10,000 square feet, Burleson had 46 police department employees. As of January 2016, the department now has 65 certified police officers and 21 civilian employees.