



## Marketing & Communications

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### **Burleson Police announce department honors**

The Burlleson Police Department honored some of their own during their annual awards banquet this month.

#### **Officer of the Year**

The 2018 Officer of the Year is Andrew Prieskorn, a six-year-veteran, assigned to the Operations Support Bureau. He responded to over 1600 calls for service in 2018, completed the highest number of offense reports and arrested the most DWI's for dayshift, all while serving as an Officer in Charge for a significant amount of his duties. He volunteers to cover additional shifts when staffing shortages occur and leads by example.

Prieskorn was described in his nomination forms as "dedicated, selfless, motivated, a team player and a very customer oriented officer." Serving in a leadership role, Prieskorn's productivity remains high and he excels in documenting the facts of the case in an articulate manner. His decisions are described as solid, his ethics above reproach and he is known throughout the department to stand up for what is right and in the best interest of the Burlleson Police Department.



In addition to his normal assignment, he is as a SWAT team operator and serves as a bike officer and coordinator.

## Rookie of the Year

Officer Colby Smith was selected as the 2018 Burleson Police Department Rookie of the Year. Officer Smith joined the department in August of 2018, although his desire to become a Burleson police officer started years ago. Officer Smith's journey to serve the residents of Burleson started in 2012 when he joined the Burleson Police Explorer Program. He graduated from Burleson Centennial High School in 2015 and obtained his Associate Degree from Hill College in 2017. Colby then entered the police academy in November 2017, graduating as the Salutatorian.

Officer Smith made 39 arrests, including 11 DWI's in 2018. He answered 1260 calls for service, leading the midnight shift, worked the most crashes and completed the most reports. Also, he responded to a burglary call and stopped a vehicle leading to the identification and arrests of four people involved in 23 suspected break-ins.

Within his nomination forms, he was described as loyal, hard-working, mature, reliable, thorough, and professional.

## Supervisor of the Year

The 2018 Burleson Police Supervisor of the Year is Sergeant Jae Berg. Sergeant Berg, a thirteen year veteran of BPD has been a sergeant for three years. He is assigned to the Operations Bureau as an evening shift supervisor.

In addition to his supervisory responsibilities, Sergeant Berg served as the Field Training Coordinator, making him responsible for the field training of all new officers. He coordinated schedules, assignments, and monitored daily reports for the eight trainees last year. New officers attend over four months in field training, and daily reports are completed to document each trainee's progress. Sergeant Berg reviews all daily reports for new officers to ensure they meet the standards, documents monthly synopsis of each trainee, and adjusts training based on their progress. This tedious process ensures all new officers are prepared to serve in a solo status. Sergeant Berg often mentors these officers as well as his patrol officers to ensure they understand our mission and have the tools they need for success.



## Civilian of the Year

Burleson Police Department's civilian staff works diligently behind the scenes in support of the department's mission, the department is proud to recognize Sabrina Rivera as the Civilian of the Year. Rivera began her career with BPD in 2010 and she was selected as the Lead Communications Specialist in 2015. She was awarded the Masters Telecommunications Proficiency Certification in March 2018. She serves as the training coordinator for all new communications employees and she built a new, automated field training program for dispatchers. Her duties include updating logs, pulling digital files to be included in case dispositions, monitoring protective orders, as well as dispatching. She manages many records and files for Communications.

2018 was a difficult year for Communications staffing as they experienced three vacancies with just a staff of ten. Since the hiring and training process is very lengthy, all hands were on deck. Sabrina altered her schedule to accommodate many different shifts to lessen the burden on staff.

Her nominations included comments that reflect her dedication, professionalism, flexibility to include returning to work on her day off to accommodate schedules, as well as great respect for who she is and what she represents.



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