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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

In 2011, Officer Tim Mabry took home the 2010 Rookie of the Year honors at the Burleson Police Department banquet. In 2012, the officer earned the department's Community Policing Award.

The intent of community policing is to both develop and enhance relationships throughout the community with all citizens and community organizations; to listen to concerns; to evaluate crime-related data; and to provide timely and realistic proactive, and when necessary, re-active responses to the citizens.

According to the nomination, Mabry has "truly embraced the concept of community oriented policing. He is always searching for better ways to perform his job and serve the community. He has set the highest standards for himself in all that he does at the department. He is dedicated to the concept of teamwork within the community and sets an example for others to follow."

Mabry, a third watch officer, said actually practicing community policing can be hard when you work the midnight shift.

"The concepts of community policing are achieved by incorporating the community in being an active role in reporting crimes and providing vital information," the award winner said. "You have to educate citizens about crime and crime prevention. It is difficult to educate education citizens on the third watch so I tend to be proactive by finding vacant homes and keeping an eye on them. I look for open doors and windows. My hope is to keep the home from becoming a party house because it is commonplace for juveniles to break into a home and hold underage drinking parties."

The award winner earned a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice/public administration at Stephen F. Austin State University in 2008. His public safety background includes serving an undergraduate internship with the Nacogdoches County Attorney's office, 2007-2008; undergraduate internship with the Nacogdoches Police Department in white collar crimes, 2008; and as a police dispatcher with the City of Arlington, 2008-2009.

The native of Kingman, Ariz., was hired by the Burleson Police Department in March 2009. Mabry is certified as a basic peace officer, advanced accident investigator and hostage negotiator.

His lifetime mentors are his grandparents, parents and two sisters “who played a large role in the development of who I am today,” he said. “My father and grandfather taught me a lot about responsibility and integrity. Professionally, my professors at Stephen F. Austin, my supervisors in my internships and my sergeants and field training officers here at the Burleson Police Department have all been mentors.”

This is the second year that the Burleson Police Department has presented the Community Policing Award.