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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](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

The Burleson Police Department's 2012 Civilian Employee of the Year wears many hats. Steve Haas, records coordinator for the police department, was honored for his work in 2012.

"I am honored," Haas said.

The award winner grew up as one of three children in his family. He studied criminal justice for three years, 1993-1996, at Hill College in Hillsboro. Haas was hired by the Burleson Police Department in November 1999 as a dispatcher.

"I have an interest in public safety and I wanted to work in the community I grew up in," he said.

In 2009, Haas transferred to the department's records division as the alarm coordinator and is currently the records coordinator.

According to the nomination, Haas has "done an outstanding job as the alarm coordinator and has been commended for his work with the program. His other responsibilities in the records section of the police department keep him busy with data entry and working the front window of the police department. He still finds time to assist in our public safety communications center when needed and continues to work with the City's emergency management division and at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where he holds a key role in our City's emergency response to pending disasters."

The 38-year-old Burleson native serves as the logistics officer at the EOC.

Haas has served in more than one public safety capacity for the city. He joined the Burleson Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 1998. His police and fire roles overlapped until the volunteer firefighter program was phased out in 2010. He then became a volunteer firefighter for Briaroaks. Haas is a fire apparatus operator with Briaroaks. He is also a member of the Honor Guard for the Johnson County ESD #1.

Prior to his volunteer career in Burleson, Haas was a volunteer firefighter for the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department, 1995-1997 (served as assistant chief in 1996 and chief in 1997).

Public safety is in the award winner's lineage. His great-great grandfather, William J. Haas, was a captain with the Fort Worth Fire Department in 1900; grandfather Clifford McCargar was a volunteer firefighter in Union Gap, Wash., in the 1950s; uncle Randy McCargar is the emergency medical services chief for the Cherry Hill, N.J., Fire Department; and uncle Randy Polson is a lieutenant with the Fort Worth Fire Department.

"Steve's positive, courteous and kind attitude sets a great example in all that he does both within the police department and out in the public," according to the nomination.

Haas credits Jody Trumble, who is now a sergeant, as his mentor. She was his training officer in public safety communications.

"She taught me to have confidence and to be understanding in being a 911 dispatcher," Haas said. "Through the years we have seen each other excel at our careers."

Haas and his wife Rachel (Anderson) Haas met when she was a volunteer and he was a dispatcher with the police department. Rachel earned the Civilian Employee of the Year honor in 2001 as a dispatcher, so they now have two plaques to hang on the wall. The award-winning couple has a 9-year-old daughter Kylie and 6-year-old son Zane.