

141 W. Renfro
Burleson, TX 76028-4261
817-426-9622
www.burlesontx.com

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City announces 2016 Employee of the Year
Jules Knight, firefighter, received the honor

Spearheading the fire department's first ever Open House in 2015, training a fellow first responder who then became the first female firefighter hired by the Cleburne Fire Department, and for her most recent endeavor of serving on the City's community risk reduction program earned Jules Knight the City of Burleson's Employee of the Year honors. The award was announced at the City's annual awards luncheon Dec. 14.

The community risk reduction program focuses on increasing the awareness of fire and life safety risks involving children. "Drowning prevention and water/pool safety are especially important topics right now, however, helmet (bicycle/skateboard) safety and hyperthermia (abnormally high body temperature) are other hazards," the award winner said.

"Our department and community are blessed to have Jules Knight as one of our firefighters," said fire chief, Ken Freeman. "She is a true example of a servant leader role model through her consistent positive attitude as she performs her daily duties as a firefighter. Without a doubt, our department would not be the same if Jules had not listened to her calling to become a firefighter. The Burleson Fire Department is very proud of her for receiving this honor."

When Knight was hired by the Burleson Fire Department in June 2009, she marked a milestone as the department's first career female firefighter.

Knight was one of four vying for the City's top honor for 2016. The Employee of the Year nominees/2016 Employee of the Quarter winners are Burleson Recreation Center Maintenance Technician III Marc Whitten; Senior Meter Service Technician Terri Joslin; Code Enforcement Officer Joshua Frost; and Knight.

Whitten is responsible for ensuring the safe and efficient operation of all mechanical equipment and maintenance of the Burleson Recreation Center. He uses his gifts to serve others and his primary concern is the safety of the guests at the BRiCK.

"Marc is incredibly humble, and no matter the challenge he is routinely one of the first to start sharing ideas to make things better," says David McDowell, deputy director of recreation.

Joslin is best known for her hard-work, knowledge and dedication to her job. She is always thinking of ways to do her job more efficiently. She suggested that the city utilize public work's large industrial vacuum to clean out meter boxes instead of small hand-pumps. This saves her department time during meter maintenance.

"She goes above and beyond her job description to help customers locate a possible leak," according to her nomination. "And she is always helpful to city staff regarding questions with meter functionality."

"Alton leads by example and shares his knowledge willingly to all who wish to learn all they can about pavement operations," according to his nomination. "If Alton is given a task, you can rest

assured it will be done and done correctly.”

DeAnna Phillips
Marketing & Communications Director
dphillips@burlesontx.com
(817) 426-9622