



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

November 2007

Proposition 4 election days away: Nov. 6

On November 6, Texas voters will vote on 16 constitutional amendments, including Proposition 4, which would allot up to \$1 billion in bonds for DPS and eight other state agencies. Of that \$1 billion, DPS would receive \$200 million for construction projects across the state--the second largest share of money for the affected state agencies.

If voters approve Proposition 4, DPS would use the money for:

- An Emergency Vehicle Operations Course in Florence (Williamson County) that would also be available to other law enforcement agencies and would allow for high-speed pursuit training, skid control, off-road driving, and urban and tactical driving;
- Expanded or new crime lab buildings at existing labs in Austin, Abilene, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston and Tyler;
- A Hidalgo County Regional Office, including a crime lab and driver license office;
- A Lubbock Regional Office, including a crime lab and driver license office; and
- A Rio Grande city area office, including a driver license office.

For more information on the proposed projects for DPS and the other state agencies, please visit www.proposition4.org.

New trooper recruiting incentive takes effect

Keep an eye out for people who are good trooper material and it could mean extra money for you under a new DPS policy. For every recruit referred to DPS who makes it to probationary trooper, employees will get a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond. Previously, a DPS employee would receive recognition leave.

Make sure that the trooper recruitment form (HR-83) is provided to the trooper applicant before they submit the State of Texas Application so that the signed document can be submitted with the application upon initial submission to the Department. **The form cannot be submitted separately or added to the application at a later date.**

Employees primarily assigned to full-time recruiting and/or testing as part of their normal duties are not eligible to receive a recruitment award. If you have more questions, call 512-424-5958.

Dear fellow employee,

Please join me in saying farewell to Commissioner **Louis Sturns**. Governor Perry recently appointed Mr. Sturns as judge of the 213th Judicial District Court serving Tarrant County. I personally thank Mr. Sturns for his dedicated service to DPS. It was a pleasure working with him for the short time he was on the Public Safety Commission.

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Later this month, many of us will be traveling to see loved ones across Texas to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Please be careful.

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In late September, almost 200 trooper-trainees reported for the C-2007 and D-2007 classes. I welcome these new DPS employees. As amazing as it may seem, we still need more qualified applicants. Please see the article to the left of my column for an exciting new recruiting incentive program.

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On Nov. 6, be sure to exercise the most precious right we have as U.S. citizens: Vote.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Awards

Tr. **Brett Wheelis**, HP San Antonio, received a Director's Citation for helping pull a man from a burning pickup after a one-vehicle crash in San Antonio. He and another officer used their bare hands to extinguish the fire on the man's clothes and moved him to a safer location after the burning pickup exploded two times. Despite Wheelis' valiant efforts, the victim died from his injuries.

Driver License Technician **Neshell Williams** received a Director's Citation for administering emergency CPR on a woman who collapsed in the Vantage Parkway DL office in Houston. The woman passed out and stopped breathing. However, Williams used CPR to revive the woman, who was then transported to the hospital. Williams's timely intervention probably saved the woman's life.

Sgt. **Jason Brewer**, Training Austin, received a Director's Citation for helping save a young boy from drowning in Mustang Island State Park in Nueces County. Brewer was off duty and fishing with a friend when they noticed two young boys being swept out into deep water by a strong undertow current. Brewer dove into the water and swam about 60 yards, guiding the boy safely back to shore. Brewer's friend, Baltazar Ordenez, received a Director's Award for diving in and rescuing the second boy.

A now-famous investigation into the alleged sexual abuse of student inmates at the Texas Youth Commission facility in Ward County, earned Sgt. **Brian Burzynski**, Rangers Fort Stockton, a Director's Citation. Despite numerous obstacles, he doggedly

pursued the investigation, which led to the Attorney General's office assigning a prosecutor and investigators to the case. His investigation played a significant role in a comprehensive investigation of TYC facilities across the state.

Two DPS troopers were honored with Star of Texas Awards in an annual ceremony to recognize first responders killed or seriously injured during the line of duty. Gov. Rick Perry presided over the ceremony September 11 in Austin. Among those honored were Tr. **Todd Dylan Holmes**, HP Gilmer, who died in a March 14 traffic wreck while on duty; and Tr. **Rick Smith**, HP Waxahachie, who was shot and injured in August 2006 during a standoff with a suspect in Midlothian.

Briefs

Arts & Crafts

The Annual TPEA (Texas Public Employees Association) Arts & Crafts Fair takes place Thursday, November 8 at DPS Headquarters, Building A. Call **Jennifer** at 512-424-7297 or **Claudia** at 512-424-2000, ext. 3194, for booth information.

Mile Markers

Promotions

DL

Bonnie Kay Moore, Sgt., DL Austin to Lt., DL Waco; **Michael Paul Sparks**, Cpl. III, HP Midland to Sgt., DL Beaumont.

CLE

Kenneth Dean Wadsworth, Tr. V, CVE Ozona to Sgt., MVT Eagle Pass; **Daniel Roy Collins**, Tr. II, HP Henderson to Sgt., MVT Hurst; **Andrew Dylan Dorow**, Tr. II, HP New

Braunfels to Sgt., MVT Austin-HQ; **Mary F. Foster**, Sgt., DL Weatherford to Sgt., MVT Wichita Falls.

Deaths

John C. Ferguson, ret. Admin. Asst. II, DL Arlington (July 1996 – July 2004) died August 28, 2007; **Billy Gerald Rowan**, ret. Tr. IV, HP Pearsall (August 1967 – February 1990) died October 15, 2007; **Baylus Earl Wagnon**, ret. Tr. II, HP El Paso (October 1952 – December 1981) died September 20, 2007;

Robert Stark, ret. Capt., DL Corpus Christi (November 1954 – March 1992) died September 28, 2007; **Inez Lisa Villalva**, Clerk IV, HP Austin-Capitol (February 2000 – September 2007) died September 29, 2007.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Erasmus Balderas**, CVE McAllen, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

Sgt. **Donald Clendennen**, CLE Austin, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

Tr. **Richard Cook**, HP Anderson, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

Tr. **Fernando Gonzalez**, HP San Marcos, injured while on man-hunt;

Tr. **Brian Kemp**, HP Beaumont, injured arresting suspect;

Tr. **Carlos Rodriguez**, HP Weslaco, injured in foot pursuit.

Good news! Tr. **Paul Middleton**, CVE Sherman, has returned to work.