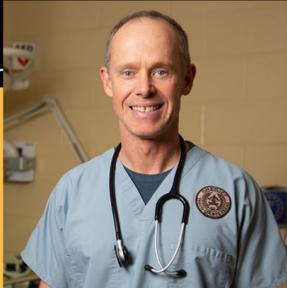




VOL 5: ISSUE 8



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Labor Day weekend generally marks the end of summer, but that's not the case in Texas. We'll continue to experience sunny, hot weather for weeks to come. That means area waterways will continue to be busy with swimmers and boaters.

Lake Travis is patrolled by TCSO deputies and unfortunately, they've had to engage in recovery missions for 9 swimmers reported missing so far this year. Tragically, this is not an unprecedented occurrence. 28 people have been reported missing on Lake Travis over the last 5 years. 24 of them have been recovered. As I write this, TCSO is still searching for 4.

When a person is reported missing on Lake Travis, multiple agencies to include law enforcement, fire, EMS, and Starflight move into immediate action in an attempt to locate and rescue the swimmer. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the mission shifts to recovery.

When TCSO launches a recovery mission, we execute shoreline, surface and aerial searches. TCSO's aerial searches are conducted using drones, and we are also often assisted by DPS and Starflight using their helicopters. TCSO's patrol boats are equipped with various types of sonar and we deploy all of our resources in the search effort. We're also assisted by other area agencies who have sonar search abilities, and in many instances, by search and rescue agencies who have search dogs.

Recovery missions on Lake Travis are often challenging and can be quite dangerous. The lake is a flooded canyon and is made up of a series of steep drop-offs. There are many hazards at the bottom of it to include houses, docks and orchards. Visibility is limited and the water is up to 210 feet deep. Working in depths below 100 feet is extremely dangerous and requires expertise. Divers only go down if a viable location has been indicated via sonar.



In this issue, you can read about safety requirements for boaters. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that while the lake is a fun place, it can also be deadly. We have never recovered a body from Lake Travis that was wearing a life jacket. It's the one thing you can do to guarantee yourself the opportunity of rescue in an emergency. Please, wear your life jacket and make sure your loved ones do as well. I don't want any more families to experience this horrible tragedy.

TEXAS CHALLENGE AWARD



The Texas Department of Public Safety's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Service event identifies the best commercial vehicle inspectors to represent the State of Texas at the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's Inspectors Championship. Senior Deputy Chris Kimmons placed first individually among Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program agencies in Passenger Vehicle Inspection and his team took first place in overall points.

CVE deputies are specially trained to identify safety issues associated with commercial vehicles. They inspect these vehicles and verify their compliance with state and federal laws to keep all of us safe on roadways throughout Travis County.

SUPPORTING OUTYOUTH



To show our support for PRIDE month, TCSO sold PRIDE t-shirts for our employees with proceeds benefiting OutYouth. OutYouth offers programs and services that promote the educational, mental, emotional, physical and social development of LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies.

Earlier this month, we were so proud to donate close to \$800 toward their efforts. Thanks to all the TCSO staff that supported this great cause!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF TEXAS



The Special Olympics of Texas is gearing up for their annual Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) which will take place toward the end of September. Throughout the month, we had the opportunity to participate in some of their LETR fundraising events such as Tip-A-Cop, Pancake Breakfast and Coffee for Champions. We always have a blast with all the partnering agencies and athletes at these events and look forward to attending the LETR next month!



FRESH START



On August 14th, our Community Outreach Unit hosted the Fresh Start: Back to School drive-thru event. With the generous support of Austin YES and the Keefe Group, we distributed over 200 school supply boxes and hygiene gift bags. We appreciate Chief Deputy Anthony Johnson and our Public Safety Cadets Post 1099 for their help in making this such a successful event.

NAMI WALKS AUSTIN



On September 25th, team TCSO Cares will be taking part in NAMI Walks Your Way Central Texas to raise awareness of mental illness and funds for NAMI's mission of mental health advocacy, education, support and awareness. One in three U.S. adults reported experiencing depression or anxiety since the pandemic began. NAMI's programs and advocacy are needed more than ever, and with your help, we can make a difference. You can join our team or make a donation by clicking on the icon button below.



PHONE SCAM ALERT



Please be aware that phone scammers are targeting Travis County residents again. The caller claims to be an officer with the Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and uses the name of an actual TCSO employee. The scammer aggressively claims the resident has failed to do any number of things, ranging from jury duty, to paying taxes, to bench warrants and tells the resident he/she owes a fine that must be paid immediately to avoid being arrested. There is a common element in all of the various phone scams - the caller seeks immediate payment via gift card or money pack. TCSO will never seek payment for anything via wire transfer, gift cards or money packs. For more information, please click on the icon button below or call 512-854-9770.



The Travis County Grand Jury indicted suspects in two homicide cases investigated by TCSO Detectives. Jose Fernandez-Martinez-Ruiz was indicted for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Murder for the May 31, 2021 incident in the 500 block of E Howard Ln. in which one person was killed and another assaulted. Erick Jhames Lovelace was indicted for Murder in a shooting that took place June 1, 2021 in the 2800 block of Lahlite Bend.

#TCSOcares FACE MASKS



TCSO employees were given the opportunity to purchase masks with our agency logo and hashtag. They proved to be a popular item, and proceeds from their sale generated over \$4,000 which was donated to the Sheriff's Memorial and Benevolent Society of Travis County, a non-profit organization that assists employees in times of great need. Thank you, Kaleen Frasher, for spearheading the effort!

LAKE SAFETY

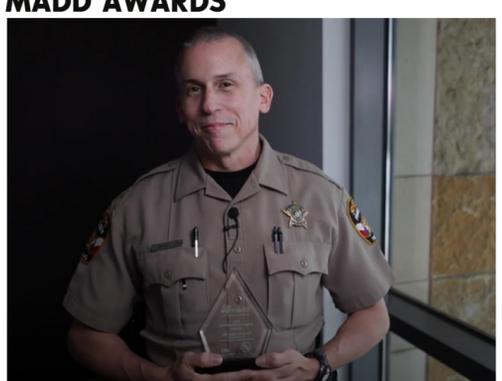


Labor Day is approaching and many people will go to area lakes for fun on the water. Please make safety your top priority. This summer has already proven deadly on Lake Travis with six deaths and three swimmers still missing.

Our Lake Patrol deputies will be on Lake Travis conducting safety inspections. Boaters must have a life jacket that fits for all passengers on board, a noise making device (horn or whistle), fire extinguisher and working safety lights. State Law requires boat operators born after September 1, 1993 to take the state boater education course.

"We ask that you be courteous on the water and wear your life jacket. We want everyone to have fun and most importantly, be safe." - Lake Patrol Deputy Joseph Fair

MADD AWARDS



Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Central Texas recently held a virtual awards ceremony which honors law enforcement personnel who went above and beyond in keeping their communities safe by working to end intoxicated driving and underage drinking. TCSO Senior Deputy Jan Eric Hendrix received a MADD Enforcement Hero Award for his exceptional dedication and hard work. We are so proud of his accomplishment. You can view the virtual awards ceremony by clicking on the icon button below.

