



VOL 5: ISSUE 7



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Every year, we recognize exceptional work in an awards ceremony. It's one of my very favorite evenings. We recognize those who've been with TCSO 25, 30, even 35 years or more. The stories of their success and the pictures from decades past bring a sense of pride, and at times, a good laugh! We also recognize award recipients who did exceptional things to earn the respect of their peers and this agency.

This year, the ceremony was bittersweet. Bitter because Covid restrictions kept us from being together in a large venue. Sweet because technology allowed us to have a virtual ceremony via a live video stream.

It's important to me that in a time such as this, we make every effort to stay connected and not abandon the things that really matter. As I listened to the amazing acts of bravery and compassion performed by our employees during 2020, I was so encouraged. Lives were saved, the desperate were rescued, potentially deadly encounters were deescalated to peaceful resolution, our deputies and corrections officers ran toward monstrous challenges

when instinct would say, "Run away." In a year of uncertainty and fear, they stood steady and got the job done.

Your Travis County Sheriff's Office is a special place where men and women serve with reckless abandon for their own safety. In this issue, you'll find a link to the ceremony. I hope you'll find their stories an inspiration. I'm so glad we take the time to celebrate their bravery and commitment. I look forward to next year when we will celebrate again in person.



ROAD TRIP

If you're planning to hit the open road for a summer vacation, check out these travel tips for a safe and enjoyable trip.

- CAR MAINTENANCE**
Consider having a technician service your car before a long trip - check the oil, battery, tires, coolant, belts and hoses.
- EMERGENCY KIT**
Pack an emergency kit with a flashlight, batteries, warning devices (i.e. flares/reflective triangles), jumper cables, a first-aid kit, and plenty of water.
- FUEL**
Don't let the gas level get below 1/4 of a tank.
- SECURITY**
Lock your car when you leave it, and keep valuables out of sight.
- ROUTE-PLANNING**
Plan your route ahead of time and make stops 100 miles/2 hours to avoid drowsy or fatigued driving.

KORZILIUS EOW DONATION



Patrol deputies gather before shifts or missions to be briefed by their supervisors. Some agencies refer to it as "roll call." We call it "show up." In addition to gathering valuable information, insights and advice, it's a time to connect and fellowship with each other. When an officer is killed in the line of duty, there's a person missing in the room and that silence is deafening.

Saving a Hero's Place is an organization that understands the grief. They build custom chairs for law enforcement agencies who have lost a brother or sister in the line of duty. The chair remains in the meeting room; a lasting testament to a treasured soul who is missed. And a commitment that future deputies will know of his or her sacrifice.

Unfortunately, Saving a Hero's Place has built three chairs for TCSO. One for Deputy Keith Ruiz and one for Deputy Jessica Hollis. This month, the third chair was presented in honor of Deputy Chris Korzilius. We extend our sincere thanks for this priceless gesture of kindness and support.

COMMUNITY POLICING COLLECTIVE



On July 21st, our Community Outreach Unit hosted an inaugural Community Policing Collective meeting. The quarterly meetings consist of partnering law enforcement agencies from all over the Central Texas region. The Collective provides a collaborative and creative space to network while addressing best practices around community policing. We believe developing strong partnerships between agencies is essential to public safety and enhances the quality of life for the communities we serve.



Congratulations!

- Administration & Support Bureau:** Account Associate Ruth Porter
- Corrections Bureau:** Sergeant Brandon Bell
- Law Enforcement Bureau:**
Central Command | Telecomm 911 Specialist Nora Culp
East Command | Deputy Christophe Williams
West Command | Senior Deputy Michael Spinner

BACK TO SCHOOL



- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**
- For the upcoming school year, TCSO will have School Resource Officers (SROs) in Eanes ISD and Leander ISD: Senior Deputy Kim Richards and Senior Deputy Josh Garrison at Vandergrift High School and Senior Deputy Brian Peals/K9 Vito (pictured above) and Deputy Garrett Kunz Westlake at Westlake High School.
- Recently, the SROs assisted Eanes ISD with the standard response protocol for critical incidents. Additionally, they facilitate a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program at Westlake High School and will be developing a CERT program with Vandergrift High School.



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

TCSO hosted a Back to School Supplies Drive July 19 - 30. We know the community is excited to get back to in-school learning this year and wanted to provide area kiddos some basic classroom essentials to make their transition easier. Thanks to all the TCSO employees, community members, and a big SHOUT OUT to [Hensel Phelps](#) for their donations!



You can view the annual TCSO Awards Ceremony, honoring 2020 recipients, by clicking on the below icon.



BASIC HONOR GUARD COURSE

The TCSO Honor Guard held their Basic Honor Guard Course July 22 - 23 which consisted of the following courses: Honor Guard History, Drill and Ceremony. Congratulations to the newest Honor Guard members: Deputy Brent Derringer, Cadet Corrections Officer Brandon Gromada, Deputy Larry Jackson, Deputy Kyle M'Grarrh, Corrections Officer Andrea Rios, and Senior Corrections Officer Antonio Serna.

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION

- IN THE U.S., A VEHICLE IS STOLEN EVERY 41 SECONDS.
- THIEVES CAN STRIP A VEHICLE OF PARTS IN 30 MINUTES OR LESS.
- 80% OF VEHICLES WERE STOLEN UTILIZING THE VEHICLE'S KEYS/FOB
- NATIONALLY, NEARLY 42% OF STOLEN VEHICLES ARE NEVER RECOVERED.

TOP CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- VEHICLES LEFT UNLOCKED
- VEHICLES LEFT RUNNING
- KEYS/FOB LEFT INSIDE VEHICLE
- VALUABLES/GUNS LEFT IN PLAIN SIGHT

TOP THEFT LOCATIONS:

- RESIDENCE
- APARTMENT PARKING LOTS
- GAS STATIONS
- STORES

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- KEEP VEHICLES LOCKED AT ALL TIMES, EVEN WHILE DRIVING
- NEVER LEAVE KEYS/FOBS INSIDE THE VEHICLE
- NEVER LEAVE VEHICLE RUNNING & UNATTENDED
- NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES/GUNS IN PLAIN SIGHT
- PARK IN GARAGE IF AVAILABLE/PARK IN WELL-LIT AREAS

IF VEHICLE IS STOLEN, IMMEDIATELY CALL THE POLICE & KNOW YOUR LICENSE PLATE #, MAKE, MODEL, VIN# & ANY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VEHICLE.