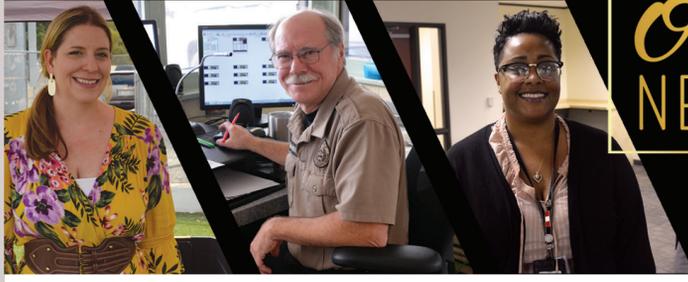




October NEWSLETTER

VOL 3: ISSUE 10



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, our Victim Services Unit (VSU) hosted a luncheon for our detectives and support staff as we recognized Domestic Violence Awareness month. Our VSU is an exceptional team of men and women dedicated to giving their very best to people experiencing the very worst. We were so excited that former VSU Director Charyl Naron joined us for the day. Serving together makes us family and we're always happy to welcome back one of our own.

VSU consists of eight full-time employees and over 50 volunteers. They focus on offering assistance to victims, witnesses and survivors of crisis situations to include sexual assault, homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, family violence, child abuse, family disturbances, harassment, residential burglaries, and vehicular crimes. This unit serves over 5,000 people annually and is available to respond to scenes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

These amazing people offer compassion and support in various ways. Whether it be sitting on a sidewalk next to a shaky teen who just experienced a major car collision, holding the hand of a rape victim as she's transported to the hospital, providing resource information to a man whose brother is in a mental health crisis, or holding a

young mother who just lost a child, our VSU staff member or volunteer is the rock

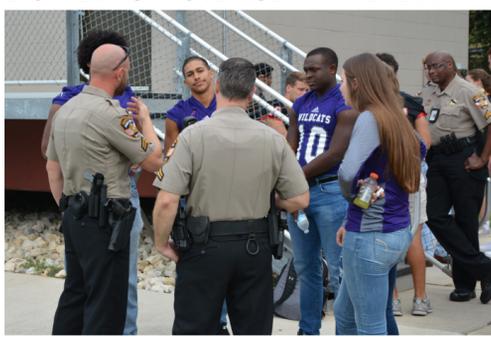
who holds the survivor steady and has the answers that make the next steps less traumatic.

VSU staff and volunteers are also trained to recognize signs of physical abuse that might not be obvious to the untrained eye. They're an asset to both the survivor and detectives.

Your Travis County Sheriff's Office is full of employees who operate every day as unsung heroes. Our VSU shines brightly among them. If you think you might want to be a VSU volunteer, please visit [Victim Services Volunteers](#) to learn more about it.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



For the ninth consecutive year, we observed Domestic Violence Awareness month through a campaign called "Football is a Contact Sport. Love Shouldn't Be." To show support, varsity football players wore purple ribbon stickers on their helmets and varsity volleyball players wore purple shoelaces. Nearly 4,000 participating athletes from 12 area independent school districts and 30 high schools committed to learning from deputies and coaches about healthy dating as well as behaviors that are unacceptable. The athletes will carry those conversations onto their peers and are committed to setting a good example as influencers in their respective schools.



MEXICAN CONSULATE



The Honorable Pablo Marentes, Consul General of Mexico in Austin, invited Sheriff Hernandez and other local law enforcement executives to kick-off their week-long Domestic Violence Awareness campaign. Sheriff Hernandez spoke about our partnership with the Consulate and how we're all working together to support individuals affected by domestic violence and the importance of reporting. [TCSO Victim Services](#) participated in the Consulate's resource fairs, providing essential information on victimization and safety to the community.



MISS SWEETHEART PAGEANT



On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we once again joined officers from other local law enforcement agencies as escorts in the annual Special Olympics of Texas Miss Sweetheart Special Needs Pageant. This year, Chief Anthony Johnson served on the panel of judges. These beautiful young ladies strutted their stuff on the runway and reminded us all what true beauty looks like.



WALK & BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY



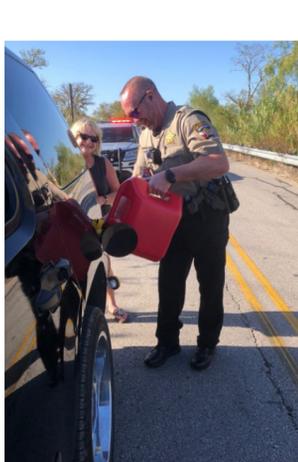
The first Wednesday in October is [National Walk & Bike to School Day](#). The event is meant to inspire health and safer routes for students to walk and bike to school. For another year, TCSO joined the Rowe Lane Elementary community in supporting this important safety initiative.



8:27 AM

You know you're back in Texas when a very sweet Travis County police officer, who helped keep our synagogue safe tonite, graciously offers you his arm to personally escort you back to your car. I had loitered too long after Erev Rosh Hashanah services talking to sweet friends, and thus was one of the few people left there by the time I headed out around 10PM tonite. That wonderful officer walked me the entire way back to my car, which was parked some 3 blocks away. He also insisted on staying with me until I actually started my engine in order to make sure that I was safely on my way before he departed. That dear man is a perfect example of the kind of sweet and thoughtful behavior that I grew up with – behavior that is much more the norm than the exception in my home state...I failed to get my terrific officer's name tonite, but I want to give a big shout out to the Travis County Sheriff's Office for being there for us and for me. And I want to give a special shout out to my sweet, chivalrous, and very professional guardian. I appreciate you from the bottom of my heart...If anyone out there knows who my hero is, please give him a big pat on the back or a big hug around his neck. He deserves some special recognition for going above and beyond his duty to help me tonite. It was much, much appreciated!!! Way to represent sir!!!

Your hero is Deputy Russell Thompson and you have surely given him special recognition. Thank you for your kind message.



WED 4:41 PM

I was hoping that ya'll could maybe post a photo that I took today of an amazing officer helping me today. He went above and beyond what he had to and I was hoping to recognize him within our community of Manor.

Well done, Deputy Garrett Kunz!



On June 3, 2018, a 17 year-old called her family from the side of the road, saying her boyfriend had strangled her to the point of losing consciousness. Several days after the assault, the victim's mother reached out to TCSO. Sergeant Aaron St. Clair began an investigation and discovered video evidence of the strangulation as well as an additional assault.

Stephen Rojas, 42 years old, was found guilty on two counts of family violence. He was sentenced by Judge Cliff Brown to 30 years in prison on each case to run concurrently.

On February 3, 2018, TCSO began an investigation into the stabbing death of 36 year-old Emily Villareal. The death was especially tragic as the victim had been murdered in front of her juvenille children. Roberto Degollado plead guilty and was sentenced by Judge Tamara Needles to life in prison.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



TCSO deputies spent the evening of October 1<sup>st</sup> celebrating [National Night Out](#) (NNO) with a number of community activities from all over Travis County. We had such a great time visiting with folks at their neighborhood block parties.

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that enhances the relationship between law enforcement and neighborhoods. For more information about creating a Neighborhood Watch Program in your community, please contact our [Community Outreach Unit](#). Let's work together to keep our communities safe!

