

CENTRAL BOOKING FACILITY

SEPTEMBER 2025

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWSLETTER

## WORDS FROM THE SHERIFF



In countless movies, television shows, podcasts and novels, crime scene specialists are portrayed collecting items and looking for even the tiniest pieces of evidence on the scene of an incident. Our culture considers them cool; I revere them as critical.

TCSO's crime lab is a place where science and the laws of physics are applied to evidence to provide solid answers that help solve cases. Our crime scene specialists are dedicated to their work and to the mission behind it. They are firmly committed to their role in getting justice for victims.

This month, we celebrated National Forensics Science Week. During that week, our Forensics Unit didn't enjoy parties and accolades—they loaded, hauled, and unloaded truckloads of equipment and evidence into their brand new building!

After decades of growing out of space at East Command on Burleson Manor Road, TCSO now has a building dedicated to forensic sciences on the campus of the Travis County Correctional Complex.

I'm so proud of the work our Forensic Unit does every day and I'm looking forward to the grand opening and ribbon cutting event for this new building coming up in early October. We'll share more about that in our next newsletter!



Congratulations to our recent retirees! Thank you for your dedicated service to this agency and the citizens of Travis County. We wish you the best of luck in your new adventures.

Andre Caldwell – 31 yrs. of service  
Shawne McGruder – 23 yrs. of service  
David Hogate – 21 yrs. of service  
Tyrone Davis – 20 yrs. of service  
Donna Listz – 19 yrs. of service  
Brett Gallion – 16 yrs. of service  
Tammy Adams – 16 yrs. of service  
Bryce Mangum – 15 yrs. of service  
Donald Sieck – 15 yrs. of service  
Frank Rodriguez – 13 yrs. of service  
Kenneth Ellason – 11 yrs. of service



Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO Corrections employees attended the [Texas Jail Association](#) Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference. TJA President and TCSO Lieutenant Frances Dembowski led the conference, which focused on several key topics including maintaining jail compliance and building strong compliance teams, trauma-informed care, leadership training and even podcast creation. The JMI Conference provides valuable opportunities for training, networking and collaboration within the field of corrections.



This month the nation and TCSO recognized some very important people. September 12 was National Police Woman Day, which recognizes the courage, resilience and passion of women in law enforcement. September 14-20 was National Forensic Science Week, honoring the scientists whose hard work helps to secure justice for victims and their families. And September 26 was National HR Professionals Day, a day to applaud the many great HR staff members who do everything from facilitating the hiring process, managing daily office life and serving as a lifeline to employees across the entire sheriff's office. We salute you all!

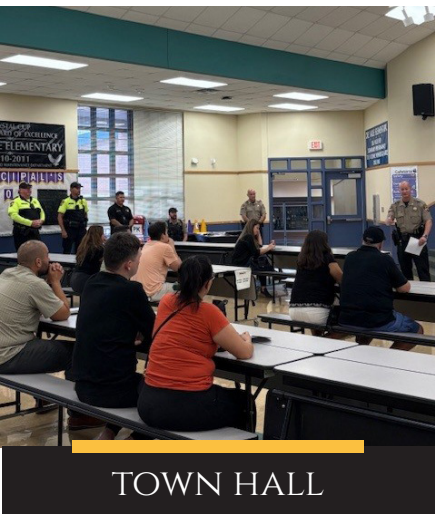
## 9/11 MEMORIAL TOWER CLIMB



On September 11, more than 160 members of the TCSO family participated in the [Samaritan Center's](#) 9/11 Memorial Tower Climb at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in honor of the victims and first responders who lost their lives that infamous day in 2001. Sworn and civilian staff joined first responders from other area agencies and members of the community for the climb. TCSO's community partners contributed over \$20,000 for the Samaritan Center, which supports TCSO employee wellness through the [POWR Program](#). The annual event, which is open to the public, is a meaningful way to reflect, show appreciation and invest in the health of those who carry the invisible weight of service.

We hope you'll join us next year!

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TOWN HALL

On September 16, TCSO East Command hosted a community town hall to strengthen TCSO's partnership with residents of the Longview and Sun Chase neighborhoods in the Del Valle area. The event provided an open forum for neighbors to share concerns, ask questions and learn more about ongoing safety initiatives. We're grateful for the active participation and look forward to continuing these important conversations to keep our community safe and connected.

If your neighborhood is interested in hosting a town hall, please contact the [TCSO Community Outreach Unit](#).



SHERIFFS CONFERENCE

Sheriff Hernandez joined sheriffs from across the nation at the [Major County Sheriffs of America](#) (MCSA) Annual Conference. The association is comprised of sheriffs offices serving counties larger than 400,000 in population. The gathering was a chance to share best practices, network and bring home practical strategies to benefit Travis County. Sessions focused on disaster readiness, recruitment and retention, jail health and wellness, violent crime reduction, technology, and community partnerships that keep our neighborhoods safe.



NATIONAL K9 DAY

September 1 marked National Police K9 Day. In recent months, several TCSO K9s moved on to their well-deserved retirement, and new K9s have joined the agency. Here's a look at our current team of four-legged officers.

JP – Law Enforcement  
Shadow – Law Enforcement  
Sly – Law Enforcement  
Tucker – Law Enforcement  
Ringo – Law Enforcement  
Odin – Law Enforcement  
Zaja – Corrections  
Jira – Corrections  
Sam – Estray  
Zeke – Estray

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BECOME A MENTOR

[Seedling](#) is a local 501(c)3 non-profit supporting children in Central Texas impacted by parental incarceration. Each year, Seedling seeks reliable volunteer mentors to be matched with a student in K-8th grade, and visit that student weekly during the mentee's lunchtime. Matches typically spend their time together playing games, drawing, or chatting. No special skills or experience are required. Seedling provides training and ongoing 1:1 support for the entirety of the match. Please join us for an upcoming virtual community info session to [learn more!](#)

## TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION



## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



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