



VOL 7: ISSUE 1



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Throughout my career, and especially in my role as Chief Investigator with the Travis County District Attorney's Office, I saw first-hand, the struggles people with mental illness face as they and their cases move through the judicial process.

As your Sheriff, I serve on the front lines of one of our state's biggest mental health issues. I've written about this matter several times. Approximately 40% of the inmate population in our jails have a mental health designation of some kind.

As we continue to push for solutions on both the state and local level, we have to do everything we possibly can to humanely care for those in our custody. As we know better, we must do better.

Trauma Informed Care is a basic realization of trauma and its effects, recognizing the signs of trauma, proper response, and efforts to avoid further traumatization.



I'm so excited that Karen Ranus has joined TCSO as our Trauma Informed Program Administrator. She's a force to be reckoned with and an expert in her field.

I find myself once again, thinking about those moms. They and their loved ones need our help. As we seek lasting solutions that will end the misuse of jail facilities as mental health institutions, TCSO will continue to maximize our resources to improve the quality of life for them and for our employees who serve them.

MLK CELEBRATION



On January 16th, TCSO joined the community to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Austin Area Heritage Councils Community March and Festival.

ELEMENTARY CAREER DAYS



January is a busy month for our Community Outreach Unit participating in various Career Days across Travis County elementary schools.

VSU VOLUNTEER AWARDS



On January 20th, our Victim Services Unit (VSU) held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony. VSU Volunteers assist on the front lines of crisis intervention, providing immediate response to victims of various criminal and crisis circumstances.

Volunteers were recognized for Years of Service, Gold and Silver Star Shifts and Most Shifts Taken. A special congratulations to Officer of the Year Detective Tim Parrish and Volunteer of the Year Rebecca Pruitt!



HERDING DOGS UPDATE



Last year, we introduced you to TCSO's herding dogs Sam and Zeke. In their first year on the job, they've proven to be man's best friends, greatly reducing the amount of time deputies need to be on the scene of loose livestock.

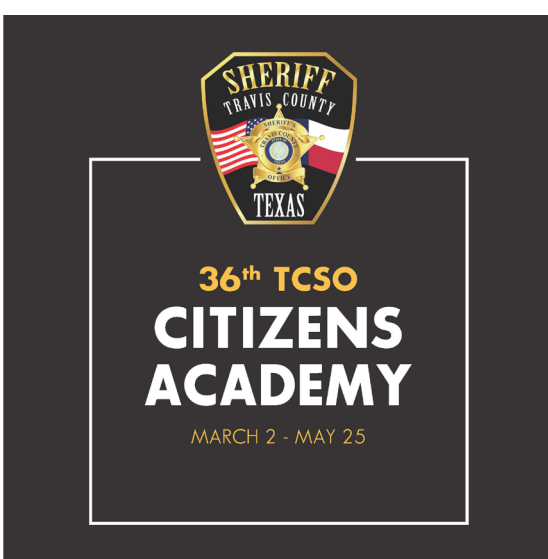
TRAUMA INFORMED PROGRAM



TCSO is thrilled to welcome Karen Ranus to lead the Trauma Informed Program! Karen is an undisputed leader in the field of mental health awareness.

Most recently, she served as the Vice President of Impact for Lucero Speaks, helping launch a health tech brand start-up focused on addressing youth mental health up-stream before crisis.

READ MORE



Our Community Outreach Unit will host the 36th Citizens Academy March 2nd - May 25th. The 12-week program provides citizens valuable insights on the criminal justice process and the how's and why's of TCSO operations and services.

SUDANESE CELEBRATION



On January 14th, Sheriff Hernandez, Corrections Major Raul Bonasco and Law Enforcement Major William Poole were honored to attend the Sudanese Community of Austin's celebration of Sudanese Independence Day.



On January 20th, our Building Bridges program hosted Refugee Awareness of Texas (RST) in support of Human Trafficking Runyan presented a very informative session on the elements and misconceptions of human trafficking.