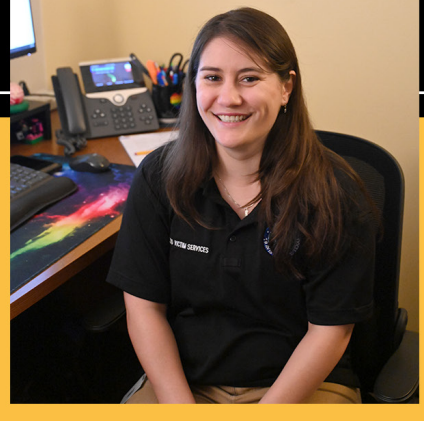




VOL 7: ISSUE 7



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

A few weeks ago, I enjoyed giving a tour of the Travis County Jail to a group of elected officials including Judge Nicholas Chu, District Clerk Velda Price, and County Clerk Dyana Limon-Mercado.

As we stood in the main lobby, we took a few minutes to look at a plaque commemorating the building's construction in 1981, and reminisced about the elected officials; most notably the Precinct 3 Commissioner who would someday be Governor Ann Richards.

That moment brought fresh perspective to the daily challenges TCSO faces keeping a 42-year-old building operating securely and up to today's standards 24 hours a day, every single day of the year. In 1981, the population of Travis County was just over 430,000. Today, it's over 1.2 million. Ronald Reagan took office as President in 1981 and IBM released a new computer; they called it a PC.

You get the picture. We're currently processing, housing, and securing over 40,000 arrestees annually in a building constructed when files moved from desk to desk on paper, communication happened by telephone and U.S. Mail, and an era in which if we wanted to know something, we asked someone else or looked it up in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

This trusty old building has been repurposed, patched, and mended countless times. It's becoming more and more expensive to keep it running. TCSO's efforts to bring modern technological solutions into a cinder block building constructed to be impenetrable are nothing short of brilliant.

It's time for change. In the last 40 years, we've not only seen extraordinary technological advances, but we've

also seen the development of innovative ways to better serve those who cycle in and out of your county jail due to mental illness. We've also made great strides in understanding how trauma and abuse directly link to the stunning rise in the number of incarcerated women nationwide.



Think about all the ways in which innovation has completely changed our experiences in restaurants, transportation, education, entertainment, and health care over the last 40 years. Kids today don't even know what a phone booth is! And yet, we continue to run our local jails like relics, broken and patched. We can do better for the exceptional men and women who work in these buildings day after day, and we can do better for the people in our care and custody, who have temporarily lost their civil liberties, but not their human dignity.

As TCSO and the Commissioners Court endeavor to construct a new Central Booking facility and develop a diversion center, I look forward to what the future holds. This is near and dear to my heart. My mission has always been and will always be figuring out better ways to deal with complex challenges. The mental health crisis and aging facilities we use to carry out our vital role within this community continue to be at the top of that list.

AAYHF SUMMER CAMP



On July 6th, TCSO spent the morning at the [African American Youth Harvest Foundation's](#) Urban University Summer Camp. The goals of the six-week program are to prevent summer learning loss and equip youth with the intellectual, social and creative resources necessary for academic, career and life success. We were honored to present to these kiddos about the amazing opportunities we have at TCSO.

AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE



This month, the multi-county [Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force](#) (SCATTF) conducted multiple operations in sectors seeing a rise in auto theft or recovered vehicles.

As a part of SCATTF, TCSO helped out in an operation on July 6th here in Travis County. Units from TCSO patrol, K-9, Vice and more helped recover a stolen motorcycle and a Chevrolet truck. The truck was recovered with catalytic converters and miscellaneous tools in the bed.

On July 20th, TCSO deputies assisted in another operation out in Guadalupe, Gonzales and Caldwell counties, focusing primarily on IH-10, which is commonly used for the trafficking of stolen vehicles and heavy equipment. SCATTF members were able to recover a stolen motor vehicle, a motorcycle and a gun. Officials also arrested five people and recovered 2 kilograms of methamphetamine and 9 ounces of cocaine.

4th of JULY CELEBRATIONS



TCSO Command Staff and deputies enjoyed celebrating the July 4th holiday at events in the Wells Branch, Knolls of Slaughter Creek and West Cypress Hills neighborhoods. The communities really turned out with lots of energy and fun activities. We had so much fun visiting with everyone! The day was an excellent reminder of how grateful we are to serve such a wonderful community.



BACK to SCHOOL
Supply Drive

THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE 2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

COLLECTION DATES:
JULY 17 - AUGUST 4

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

- Crayons
- Pencils
- Markers
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Bottled Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Rulers
- Notebook Paper
- Construction Paper
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Backpacks

DROP-OFF SITES:
RUIZ BLDG. | EAST COMMAND | WEST COMMAND
TCCC VISITATION | TCJ BREAKROOM

QUESTIONS?
512.854.7786
TCSOCommunityOutreach@traviscountytx.gov

BASIC PEACE OFFICER COURSE GRADUATION #25



Class #25 graduated from the Basic Peace Officer Course on July 14th. We would like to congratulate the following TCSO employees on this well-earned recognition: Adam Barnett, Jessica Cabrera, Sergio Esparza, Joshua Garcia, Ashley Hagen, Holden Hodge, Joshua Hofer, James Johnson, Maceo Johnson, Pedro Lopez, Trey M'Dowell, Jessica Martinez, David Mojica, Spencer Morgan, Joshua R. Price, Joshua T. Price, Luke Russum, Richard Silva, Scott Skolaski, Traivon Smith, Ashley Whaley and James Williams.

TCSO INMATE PSYCHIATRIST



TCSO is proud to welcome Dr. Andrea Wright, MD to serve those in our care and custody as our Chief Psychiatrist. She's known for her deep passion to help those in need, and her commitment to bridge the gap between the mental health field and the legal system was a key factor in her decision to come work for TCSO. She joins our team of two physicians and four advanced nurse practitioners.

Dr. Wright earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and stayed there to complete her General Psychiatry Residency. She then moved to Austin to complete her Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at what was then the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Austin. From there she went to Georgia to complete her Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at Emory School of Medicine. After completing all her training, she moved back to Austin in 2014 to begin serving the community of Travis County.

Over the last seven years, Dr. Wright worked at the Austin State Hospital where she balanced a clinical focus with a compassionate, patient-centered approach. She's excited for this opportunity to serve and hopes her history with the state and her experience with multiple legal jurisdictions will result in continued excellence of care for all patients.

SHOUT OUT

Deputy Moore helped us so much with a hit and run!!! He was so sweet with my kids. The morning after the 4th of July, my husband woke up to find our 4th car severely damaged - presumably a hit and run. We called the non-emergency line for the Travis County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Moore arrived very quickly. Deputy Moore took the time to listen to our concerns, was empathetic, and thoroughly interviewed the other party. After Deputy Moore collected all of the evidence from both parties, he happily took pictures with my kids and answered all of their questions. Deputy Moore made a very bad day easier for us! We are so thankful!