



VOL 7: ISSUE 9



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

I recently read the character of justice defined as, "taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true." Justice is a powerful, driving force that rights a wrong. It never erases the damages caused by wrongful actions, but somehow, it restores a sense of balance.

I can't stand the thought of any family living without knowledge, closure, or the opportunity for justice when a loved one has been murdered. It's the mission of TCSO to seek justice, and to do it in a way that's pure, right, and true. To that end, we're launching a renewed effort to solve cold homicide cases.

We've launched a new [cold case page](#) on our website and along with it, we're producing a series of video vignettes to offer the public a deeper dive into these cases. The first case we're featuring is the murder of Ruth Bettis. Ruth was 19 years old, and her body was found on November 25, 1982, on the side of Sprinkle Cut Off Road.

Ruth had a good number of friends and acquaintances in Austin/Travis County. Some of them knew her as Gibson.

I sincerely believe that someone has been holding onto information about her, or her death for decades. No detail is too small, especially when you factor in advancements in technology.



Ruth's precious mother has been longing for answers for over 40 years. The families of these victims languish in the misery of not knowing why their loved one was killed. They deserve justice and you might be the one person who can turn hope into reality for them. It's not too late to do what's pure, right, and true. [Please contact us.](#)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



There are some invitations you'll never forget. When Sheriff Hernandez was invited by retired Brigadier General Richard Baughn to attend his 100th birthday party, she happily accepted. Lost Creek Country Club hosted the event; after all, Baughn is a regular there, still playing tennis several days a week. His advice to the crowd, "Now that I'm this old, I've adopted a diet of eating whatever I want, as long as it's loaded with preservatives." Congratulations, sir!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



On September 23rd, TCSO hosted a National Night Out Kick-off Celebration at Mueller Lake Park. We're grateful to [Hello Nabr](#) and all of the first responders and community organizations who participated. The community had a blast checking out all the fleet vehicles, visiting with our deputies and watching the K9 demonstration.

We look forward to all the neighborhood parties on Tuesday, October 3rd. If you're community isn't hosting a celebration, we encourage you to leave your porch light on to show support.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EVENT



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and TCSO invites you to join us at our annual [DO SOMETHING Awareness Event](#) on Thursday, October 5th from 4 - 6 PM at the Domain Northside (by the sculpture near Culinary Dropout). We'll have Amy's Ice Cream (while supplies last) as well as a photo booth wall and resource table with information on our [DO SOMETHING Domestic Violence Awareness campaign](#). Come out & get to know your victim advocates!

FORENSICS APPRECIATION



TCSO was proud to celebrate National Forensic Science week from September 17-23. The annual week aims to recognize the contributions that forensic science makes to the criminal justice system and the scientists who work to make it happen. At TCSO, our Crime Scene Specialists go to great measures to help bring closure to victims and their families. Their dedication is unparalleled.

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION



The Texas Jail Association's (TJA) 2023 [Jail Management Issues Conference](#) took place throughout the week of September 11-15 in Galveston, and several members of TCSO were in attendance. We had a great time visiting with sheriff's offices from across the state, working together at the TJA conference to tackle challenges across the field of jail management.

We'd like to send a special thanks to the members of the TCSO team who shared their expertise during keynote and breakout sessions to include Crime Scene & Evidence Manager Renee Luna, Corrections Captain Edwardo Jackson, Corrections Lieutenant Frances Dembowski and Life Safety Manager Steven Wentrcek.



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.

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|---|--|
| Jason Jewert – 32 yrs. of service | Michael Herman – 21 yrs. of service |
| Karen Portillo – 32 yrs. of service | Kelly Overdorff – 20 yrs. of service |
| Jennifer Jennings – 30 yrs. of service | Wade Bolling – 20 yrs. of service |
| Bradley Klaerner – 29 yrs. of service | Stephen Harris – 18 yrs. of service |
| David Carroll – 26 yrs. of service | Anthony Ward – 18 yrs. of service |
| Desiree' Sorber – 26 yrs. of service | Rashidah Williams – 16 yrs. of service |
| Belinda Mangum – 25 yrs. of service | Emily Estes – 15 yrs. of service |
| Steven Alcorn – 23 yrs. of service | Scott Hall – 14 yrs. of service |
| Daniel Hernandez – 23 yrs. of service | Michele Cawley – 12 yrs. of service |
| Edward Nocker – 22 yrs. of service | Sonya Hogan – 12 yrs. of service |
| Salvador Hernandez – 22 yrs. of service | Valerie Smith – 8 yrs. of service |
| Brian Peals – 21 yrs. of service | |

NAMI WALKS CENTRAL TEXAS



On September 30th, Team TCSO Cares joined the [National Alliance for Mental Illness Central Texas](#) (NAMI) in their annual NAMI Walks Your Way Central Texas. The walk raises funds and awareness to advance NAMI's mission of improving the lives of people affected by mental illness through advocacy, education and public policy. NAMI is a vital partner with TCSO, supporting families in our community and providing specialized training for deputies and corrections officers. Team TCSO Cares proudly raised over \$25,000 - thanks to all of our supporters!



SHOUT OUT

“Abby Gibson was on her way to Krause Springs with her family over the Sept. 8 weekend when her car tire suffered a blowout. Luckily, Sr. Deputy James McDaniel was nearby to help out. “It was an answered prayer,” she said. “It was very hot out and I had my two small children with me, and my insurance roadside assistance was not able to help. Thank you, thank you, TCSO.”

We love hearing stories like these and appreciate any opportunity to give our deputies props. We thank you, Abby!

TC LEADS GRADUATION



TCSO's Travis County's Leadership Education Achieving Developmental Success (TC LEADS) course contains 120 hours of class/homework over a three month period. Participants, both civilian and sworn, are required to attend all three weeks and complete the final project/ group presentation in order to obtain credit for the course. TC LEADS concentrates on multiple levels of leadership and how to improve employee motivation, satisfaction, and performance. The first week of class focuses on understanding the individual, along with leadership theories and principles. The second week moves on to understanding group dynamics and how groups work in an organization; week two also focuses on "you - the leader." The third week encompasses the organization and the community. The course concludes with a Leadership Round Table where local leaders share their advice and experiences with students.

Congratulations to the following graduates: TCSDO - John Ellen, Jeff Ford, John Frazzell, Jason Garcia, Gabriel Hernandez, Jeff Irough; TABC - Renee Balboa Paz, Matt Yerger, Stephen Seetaram, Marcia Velasquez, Marcus Wilkinson and Kristin Yarborough; TABC - Chris Balboa and Wesley Boyer; Round Rock Police Department - Shelby Ingles and Anita Todd; Pflugerville Police Department - Ryan Lunch; Williamson County Sheriff's Office - Carol Walter.

Special thanks to Hays County Sheriff Gary Cutler, Round Rock Police Chief Allen J. Banks, Texas Commission on Jail Standards Executive Director Brandon Wood, and Sheriff Sally Hernandez for being on our panel.

EMPLOYEE MASTHEAD (L TO R): Sr. Corrections Officer Juan Campos, Sr. Chaplain Lamar Claypool & Sr. Victim Counselor Keemi Hamlin