



VOL 7: ISSUE 10



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

Community policing is a term I've written about in several, if not many, of these monthly messages. It's a crucial relationship between neighborhoods, residents, and law enforcement. Deputies can't be present in neighborhoods on a constant basis, but homeowners are.

You are the first line of defense for your neighborhood. You know what's normal, and you certainly know when something just isn't right. Tips and information help us help you and can make a big difference for your safety and overall quality of life.

Recently, we received information from a resident on Lime Creek Road that is an example of how effective our relationship can be. The resident made us aware of an increase in dangerous commercial vehicles in the area.

Our West Command Captain assigned a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) deputy to monitor the roadway and his findings confirmed what the resident reported. Commercial trucks on Lime Creek Road were overloaded, had equipment violations and unlicensed drivers. TCSO organized a commercial vehicle inspection initiative in partnership with DPS and other local agencies. The results speak for themselves, and you can find them in this newsletter.

We will continue to monitor this roadway and others within our jurisdiction where commercial vehicles are prevalent.



The resident's call improved the safety of his neighborhood and the quality of the roadways he and his neighbors travel on each day.

If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, there are several ways you may reach us to report it:

- Call 911 in an emergency.
• Call our non-emergency number if the matter isn't urgent at 512-974-0845, option 3.
• Submit a report online.
• Call the TCSO tip line at 512-854-1444 or submit a tip online.

I encourage you to embrace the term "See something, say something." We care, and we're here to help.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



October is an important month for TCSO to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This year, we were honored to work with the Travis County Commissioners Court to recognize October as DVAM here in Travis County. Additionally, TCSO's Victim Services Unit (VSU) hosted an internal "Purple Brunch" where we invited local agency VSUs to help us recognize DVAM. Finally, our Victim Services and Family Violence units also hosted a special Building Bridges community dialogue session on October 20th, inviting the public to join us for an important discussion on how TCSO processes family violence cases. TCSO is committed to raising awareness about domestic violence and offering resources and support for victims and their loved ones.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT



On October 28th, we hosted our 3rd Annual Trunk-or-Treat. It's a free, fun, and safe way for families to enjoy Halloween trick-or-treating. TCSO units really go all out for the much-heated "Best Decorated" competition. All the vehicles were decorated above and beyond, but congratulations goes to this year's winner Corrections Command for their out of this world Star Wars theme.

Additionally, this year, we were excited to partner with Austin ACES to provide Blue Halloween buckets for autistic individuals and to raise awareness on autism. You can find more autism Halloween tips here.

Thanks to all the TCSO teams, sponsors and local businesses that made our event a spooktacular event!

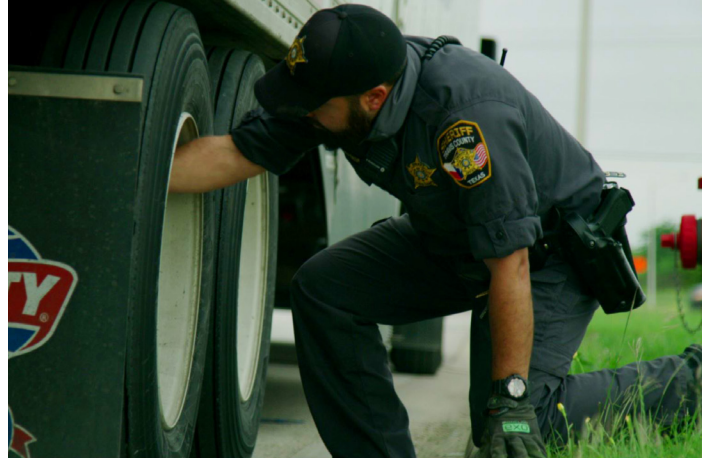


BROWN SANTA



Brown Santa is a non-profit organization sponsored by TCSO. The program provides toys, books, and food to families and elderly residents who live outside the geographic city limits of Austin. It all started back in 1981 when a few deputies, out of their own pockets, helped 25 needy families in Travis County. The program takes its name from the Sheriff's iconic brown uniform. Today, Brown Santa serves approximately 2,000 households annually. There are lots of ways to join TCSO and volunteer. And you can donate via Amazon!

LIME CREEK ROAD INITIATIVE



In response to a concerned resident who reported a dramatic increase in commercial trucks on Lime Creek Road, TCSO launched a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) initiative along with DPS and other local agencies. TCSO's involvement in the initiative uncovered 108 total violations (most vehicles had multiple violations) and seven vehicles were removed from service due to serious violations. CVE Deputies will continue to monitor the roadway as construction continues at sites in the area.

DEL VALLE H.S. STUDENT VISIT



Earlier this month, Sheriff Hernandez welcomed students from the Del Valle High School Workforce Development and Career Technical Education (CTE) Law Enforcement program to learn about some of the careers at our Central Command. TCSO staff from our Command, Public Information Office, Criminal Investigations Division, Internal Affairs, and Recruiting shared insights into their career with the agency as well as their daily operations. After visiting Central Command, the students met with our dispatchers and took a brief tour of the Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications Center.

FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND



On October 9th, we joined the Austin Police Department and the Austin Police Office of Community Liaison for a community bowling event at Highland Lanes in support of the national Faith & Blue weekend. Faith & Blue engages law enforcement and faith-based communities to work together to make their communities thrive. It was a great opportunity for meaningful conversations while bowling and networking with one another - lots of fun and fellowship!



MOUNTED PATROL SCHOOL



Congratulations to TCSO Sergeant Andy Viruette for completing the Basic Mounted Patrol School in Harris County, TX. The class consisted of over 22 students and 30 riders and was held at the Crosby Rodeo Fairgrounds in Crosby, TX. Upon completion of the class, students earned their "Sabre Pins." As a member of the TCSO Honor Guard, Viruette's goal is to incorporate Mounted Honor Guard into community and Honor Guard events.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



On October 3rd, TCSO was proud to celebrate National Night Out (NNO), a national community-building effort promoting partnerships between law enforcement and the people they serve. This year, we had around two dozen communities sign up for the festivities, inviting TCSO deputies and command staff into their neighborhoods for good food, games, live music, and great conversation. NNO is truly one of our favorite nights of the year, and we're already looking forward to meeting even more residents of Travis County for what we're expecting to be an even bigger NNO in 2024.

