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Travis County Sheriff's Office

# NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism



## In the Community



### JUNIOR DEPUTY SUMMER CAMP

During the last week of June, TCSO hosted its annual Junior Deputy Summer Camp for youth ages 9-12. Campers enjoyed a week of hands-on learning, interactive demonstrations and presentations from specialized units including Patrol, SWAT, K-9, Forensics, Motors, Lake Patrol, Criminal Investigations and more.

The week also featured field trips to the Travis County Jail, Travis County Court #6 with the The Honorable Denise Hernández, the University of Texas (UT) Police Department, the UT football stadium, [Spare Time Texas](#) and [Austin's Park](#).

We were fortunate to spend the week with an enthusiastic group of young campers who embraced every opportunity to learn. Despite the Texas heat, it was a fun and memorable experience for both the campers and our deputies.



### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

TCSO was proud to participate in the Central Texas Juneteenth Parade in East Austin. Sheriff Hernandez and TCSO staff joined residents, local organizations and community partners to honor freedom, history and cultural pride. The event was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the significance of Juneteenth, connect with the community and celebrate our shared commitment to unity and public service.



### HANDBAGS & BACKPACKS FOR HOPE

TCSO joined the [Texas Advocacy Project](#) for the kickoff press conference of its annual [Handbags & Backpacks for Hope](#) campaign, which collects new handbags and backpacks for survivors of power-based abuse across Texas.

Each donated item contains information that can help connect survivors with free legal and social services when they need them most. The campaign serves as a powerful reminder of how community support, advocacy and public safety partnerships can come together to help individuals and families move toward stability, healing and hope.

## Public Safety Spotlight




### CORRECTIONS TACTICAL SEMINAR

TCSO's Corrections Tactical Unit hosted a four-day Corrections Tactical Seminar at the Training Academy, bringing together 24 participants from 11 agencies across Texas. The seminar focused on response-to-resistance liability, tactical response procedures, officer safety, teamwork and decision-making under pressure. Participants shared knowledge, discussed real-world challenges and strengthened tactical response strategies for correctional settings. The event reflects TCSO's ongoing commitment to professional development, operational readiness and safer outcomes for staff, inmates and the community.



### LAKE SAFETY

Lake Travis is full, and sunny weather is in the forecast. It's a great time to be out on the water. As people return to all the fun activities Lake Travis has to offer, TCSO reminds everyone to put safety first by not drinking alcohol while driving a boat, keeping track of everyone in your group, staying hydrated and wearing life jackets. Should you have an emergency on Lake Travis, please remember these important actions listed above.



**EMERGENCY ON THE LAKE**  
**CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!**

-  Throw a flotation device to distressed person
-  Know where you are on the lake - Use maps & landmarks
-  Don't assist anyone unless you're wearing a life jacket
-  Alert boaters around you - Yell • Whistle • Horn



## From the Sheriff

Next weekend we will celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. I love joining Travis County neighborhoods for parades, hot dogs, snow cones and all the things. The little kids in their red, white and blue with their big smiles and wide eyes bring me joy.

Something about this season and the specialness of the anniversary have awakened gratitude for me. I recently spent time with a group of people, talking about mental stamina and fortitude. I heard so many great things about the power of gratitude. There are hundreds of inspirational statements about it.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."  
- John F. Kennedy

"I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness - it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude."  
- Brene Brown

"Gratitude is riches. Complaint is poverty."  
- Doris Day

I'm grateful for the many blessings in my life. I've been looking at everything from the biggest to the smallest and realizing how much I truly have. Amongst the greatest of those blessings is the opportunity to serve as sheriff and to serve alongside the wonderful men and women of TCSO. They inspire me every single day. They innovate in brilliant ways. They show deep compassion for the people society shuns. They run into danger when others run away.

I know some of you read this and scoff because the world is so full of ugliness, uncertainty, disappointment and heartache. None of us are immune to that. But I'm telling you, gratitude is the antidote. I hope you'll give it a try. See if the attitude of gratitude doesn't make a positive difference in your day.

## Wellness + Culture



### DIVINE CANINES

More than 100 TCSO employees have benefited from visits by licensed therapy dogs through a new partnership with local nonprofit [Divine Canines](#). The program features brief therapy dog visits designed to provide staff with an uplifting break and support overall wellness in the workplace. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with one employee sharing that the visit "lightened the mood in the office and improved my mood overall."

The pilot program will continue through the end of the year, with visits coordinated by the TCSO Wellness and Peer Support Team as part of ongoing efforts to support employee well-being.

## FOCUS!

Prevent Underage Drinking  
Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Program

This summer, TCSO and the [Travis County Attorney's Underage Drinking Prevention Program](#) remind drivers to stay alert and drive safely. With many teens earning their learner's permits and driver's licenses, our roadways will see an increase in new drivers gaining valuable experience behind the wheel throughout the summer months.

Help keep our community safe. Under 21? Don't Drink. Over 21? Don't drink and drive! Together, we can make our roads safer for everyone.

## Proud Highlights



### MADD RECOGNITION

On June 30, [MADD Texas](#) hosted its South and Central Texas Law Enforcement Recognition event, honoring law enforcement professionals and community partners dedicated to combating impaired driving and promoting roadway safety. The event recognized the commitment and collaborative efforts that support DUI enforcement, prevention and public safety education.

Congratulations to Deputy Viorie Naranjo on receiving the Outstanding Rookie award and dedication. TCSO is proud to stand alongside MADD Texas and our law enforcement partners in recognizing those who work tirelessly to keep our communities and roadways safe.