

THE COURTHOUSE CONSTABLE

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2015

CARLOS B. LOPEZ, CONSTABLE, TRAVIS COUNTY PRECINCT 5

Fall is in the Air

Last issue I had just returned from an officer's funeral. I have since attended another funeral, deputy Daron Goforth's of the Harris County Sherriff's Office. Similar to Sgt. Kelley, deputy Goforth had a wife and two small children that he left behind. My condolences go out to Mrs. Goforth and her family including the HCSO and my good friend, Sheriff Ron Hickman.

As we wrap up our annual Child Support Roundup I'm so thankful that we had no incidents with negative results. On the contrary, many citizens ended up getting the support that they desperately needed. Again, I attribute this to our training, expertise and the way we handle individuals. We treat

people with respect, professionalism, and most of all with compassion.

I look forward to hopefully cooler weather in the fall, and attending events such as the Hyde Park Fire Station festival, National Night out at Mueller, Windsor Park and other fall festivals that our schools in Precinct Five will be hosting.

October begins a new fiscal year for Travis County Government. As the year progresses we must find new ways to increase efficiencies

but at the same time discover ways of helping our community within our means.

– Carlos B. Lopez



Congratulations CN5 Staff



Congratulations to Lieutenant Deputy Charles Lanterman for graduating from Leadership Education Achieving Developmental Success program.

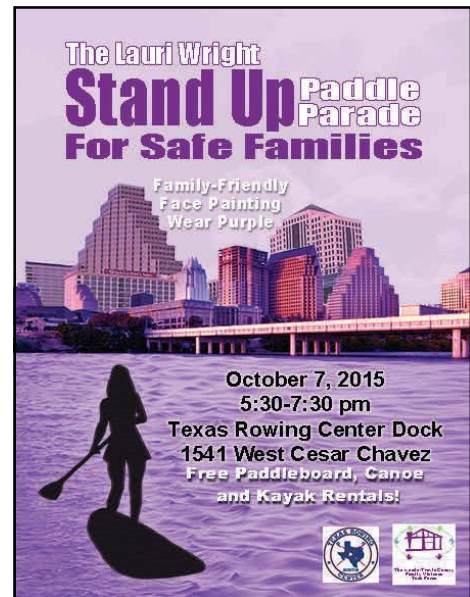
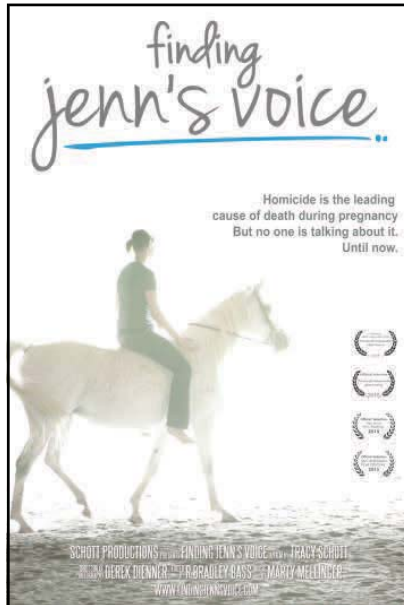
Congratulations to Senior Deputy Constable David Morris for 20 years of dedicated service to Travis County.



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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In 2014, there were approximately 200,000 reported cases of domestic violence in Texas. Studies show that nearly 74% of all Texans will experience domestic violence or will know someone who has. Domestic violence is the single greatest cause of injury to women in the US: greater than mugging, rape, and automobile accidents combined. Homicide is the leading cause of death in women during pregnancy. It is estimated that businesses lose \$727.8 million annually due to domestic violence. On September 29, 2015, the Travis County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation acknowledging October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Travis County.

CN5 has been a member of the Austin-Travis County Family Violence Task Force for many years. During the month of October, there are several events that we will be taking part in, and have actively participated in the planning of, along with ATCFVTF.

Join us for the 5th annual Lauri Wright Stand Up Paddle Parade for Safe Families on October 7 between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. Bring your families. There will be face painting, snacks, and free paddleboard, kayak, and canoe rentals. Don't forget to wear purple!

Join us again on October 19 at 7:30 pm at the Alamo Draft House on South Lamar for the screening of *Finding Jenn's Voice*, a documentary about domestic violence during pregnancy. Reserve your seats in advance: <http://gathr.us/screening/12944>



DPE Sting over Tax Free Weekend



During Tax-Free Weekend, August 7-9, Travis County Precinct 5 stepped up their education and enforcement efforts throughout the county to ensure compliance with disabled parking laws.

With 10 volunteers and 10 deputies participating in the effort, 106 citations were issued and 10 illegally used placards were seized. This is a huge problem in our community and we will continue to provide education and enforcement until the problem no longer exists.

Ms. Wheelchair Texas, Shelly Gray puts it best: “A few months ago, I met a friend for dinner, and parked in an accessible space, with plenty of room for my ramp. When we came out after dinner, someone had parked a motorcycle in the access space, blocking my ramp. Two dudes came out of the restaurant, looked at me and the situation, lifted the motorcycle and put it on the sidewalk. Remember, it’s more than just a spot!”

AG Warrant Roundup

Travis County Pct. 5 Constable’s office arrested 36 Travis County parents who violated court orders requiring them to pay child support during a “sweep” that lasted from September 19-25 and was conducted in conjunction with the Texas Attorney General’s Child Support Division. The effort focused on parents who were the subjects of arrest warrants because of their failure to pay child support. The 36 arrested resulted in 39 warrants cleared for a total of \$888,419.86 in arrearages. Individual arrearages ranged from \$1,400 to over \$91,000. The cash bonds that were paid for jail release went toward the custodial parent who was owed the money.

Back to School Time



The kiddos in the area started back to school in August. CN5 conducted our first annual back to school drive to help out with some of the most needed items for schools in our Precinct. It was a huge success! We even had one staffer refer to it as “Christmas in August.” It was a great way to reach out to our community, and we look forward to doing this again next year. It was wonderful talking with the Principals, teachers, and staff from Harris Elementary, Pease Elementary, and Ridgetop Elementary.

The Courthouse Constable

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us on social media!**

Shout out to Legislators



After a very successful 84th Legislative session, Constable Legislative Chair Carlos B. Lopez, along with Justice of the Peace Co-Chairs Becky Kerbow of Denton County and David Cobos of Midland County, were honored to award some of the stand out legislators who really helped with issues that are important to constables and JPs. Forming these relationships goes a long way when it comes to issues that affect CN5, constables, and JPs throughout the state. Some of these Legislators include, Senator Eddie Lucio, District 27, Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, District 20, Senator John Whitmire, District 15, Representative Eddie Lucio, District 38, and Representative James White, District 19.

