

THE COURTHOUSE CONSTABLE

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**CARLOS B. LOPEZ, CONSTABLE, TRAVIS COUNTY
PRECINCT 5**

Constable's Update

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous Easter weekend.

I would like to thank my Assistant Chief Deputy, Jay Alexander with Travis County Parks in putting together a comprehensive safety plan in preparation for the Solar Eclipse Event. It has been a tremendous task involving all the Travis County Departments in ensuring that we make this event a safe and pleasant experience.

In the month of April, we will work with our partners to bring awareness to the ever-growing issue of Child Abuse. Last year in twelve months we received several Court orders removing 12 children from their homes. This year in just six months we have already removed 20 children because of Court Orders deeming the children at risk or in danger.

On the bright side, I am looking forward to our annual fundraiser at Pease Park on April 27th. All the monies we raise go toward helping our community and helping families and victims whenever they are in need.

Outside of the office, I am currently 2nd vice president of the Justices of the Peace and Constable's Association of Texas and looking forward to being elected President Elect this June in Fort Worth Texas, wish me luck.

In preparation for the Solar Eclipse:

The Solar Eclipse takes place next Monday, April 8th, 2024. The eclipse starts around 12:17 p.m. with totality at 1:36 p.m. Austin will have more than 2 minutes in totality beginning at 1:36 p.m. The eclipse will be over by around 2:58 p.m. The County Judge has issued a Declaration of Local Disaster in anticipation of extremely large crowds, increased traffic, and enormous strains on first responders, hospitals and roads on the days leading up to, on, and after the day of the solar eclipse.

- Plan ahead for heavy traffic.
- Make non-urgent appointments for a different day, if you can.
- Get gas and groceries and run other errands before the eclipse day.
- Watch at home or at a location near home.
- You will need specialized solar viewing glasses to watch the eclipse safely.

- Carlos B. Lopez



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Signature Care

We started off the new year with a little wellness to get us going in 2024.

Thank you to Dr. Rudy Rose with SignatureCare Emergency Center—South Austin. They provided a class to the CN5 office to discuss ways to prevent injury, discuss mental health awareness and provided some overall good health tips.



Austin Baptist Church

Thank you to Sgt. Harris and Sr. Deputy Criswell for their engaging presentation on “Who are Constables” and “Stranger Danger” to the kids at Austin Baptist Church.

Being out in the community and educating is a huge part of what we do in our efforts to Keep Families Safe.



Constable Pct. 5 Employee Awards

CN5 recently swore in some new hires both for the Parks Department and the CN5 Office. Their commitment to serving our community is truly commendable.

Congratulations to Travis County Parks new hire, J. Barrientes and to Travis County Constable Precinct 5 new hires, R. Silva, S. Leitdke, and C. Becerra.

Congratulations to Travis County Parks Sgt. D. Gaona on his promotion and to Travis County Constable Precinct 5, Corporal R. Cantu and Corporal P. Pace.



Accessible Parking Class

In April of 2022, the CN5 office taught their first Accessible Parking Training Class to those looking to “take care of” their parking tickets for parking illegally in disable parking spaces.

But, what you may not know is that we now offer this class in Spanish as well. The Spanish version of this class has been well received and we look forward to continuing this training in the future.

These classes are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The first Wednesday, the class is taught in person and on the third Wednesday, it is online via Teams. So far, 142 people have completed these trainings.

The Courthouse Constable

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Travis County News April

Happy Earth Month from the Sustainability Team! The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics, so we wanted to provide some helpful tips on how to reduce your plastic consumption:

Bring Your Own Reusable Bags: Carry reusable bags when shopping to avoid single-use plastic bags.

Use a Reusable Water Bottle: Opt for a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water, reducing plastic waste, and saving money in the long run.

Choose Glass or Metal Containers: When storing food, opt for glass or metal containers instead of plastic ones.

Avoid Single-Use Plastics: Refuse single-use plastics such as cutlery, cups, and plates, and opt for reusable or biodegradable alternatives.

Shop in bulk: Buy items like grains, nuts, and spices from bulk bins using your own reusable containers or bags. This reduces the need for individually packaged products.

Choose products made from alternative materials: Look for products made from alternative materials to plastic, such as bamboo toothbrushes, stainless steel razors, and cloth shopping bags. You can also buy bar soap, shampoo, and other products that come in cardboard packaging.

Bike or walk to work: The main material used in the production of plastic comes from oil and natural gas. Create a healthier you and a healthier planet with this tip!

Spread Awareness: Educate others about the importance of reducing plastic consumption and inspire them to adopt more sustainable practices.