

# THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 10

JAN - MAR 2013

A Quarterly Publication for the  
Trophy Club Emergency Services Academies Alumni Association

## *Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism*

### **The Chief's Corner**

*By Chief G. Scott Kniffen*

**A**t the last graduation of the Citizen's Police Academy, one of the graduates, Scott Spooner, was talking to me about the concealed handgun class that I teach. The class is limited to residents and employees and their families and I will be teaching the next class near the end of March, having just finished the Winter, 2013 class. Normally we would have the class quarterly but I have a waiting list for the next class that is so long that I moved it from April to March to accommodate them.

**A**nway, Scott mentioned that there were probably folks in town who owned guns or had guns in their homes who really had little interest in them or knowledge of how to maintain and store them safely. These residents probably have little interest in obtaining a CHL. He suggested that we put together a firearms safety course for these folks.

**S**ince then, Scott and Tim Gamache and I have met and established a plan to develop a training curriculum to teach a basic firearms safety class. We hope to have the first class in February. It will be two to three hours long, on a week night, and will be open to residents and their children ages 16 and up.

**I**said all of that to say this: It is wonderful that volunteers like Scott who, like many of our volunteers, was not hesitant to bring an idea or suggestion forward. A program like this will enhance the safety of the community through an



educational effort and will be partially taught by volunteers.

**I** imagine that this will have a significant impact on our recruiting efforts. Volunteers are in the programs such as Citizens on Patrol and CERT because they want to help their community. When other potential volunteers see citizens taking part, not as students, but as teachers it can't help but help us recruit more folks who want to help.

**A**nd we will put them to work. Thanks to all of our volunteers!

### **The Editor's Spotlight**

*By Elaine Voigt*

#### **VOLUNTEERS...SPECIAL PEOPLE**

**H**ave you ever wondered why someone would put in hours at a place of business, then come home, only to leave again to spend another few hours going to volunteer meetings or working at a volunteer function? Why someone would take time out of their busy schedules to put in hours of hard work setting up tables, preparing food or standing hours in the hot sun directing traffic just so their community could enjoy an event, and so their city budget could get a break on the cost of hiring people to do the same thing the volunteers are doing for free? Or being retired, taking it easy, but deciding instead of going fishing to be out at night for four hours



being a second pair of eyes and ears for the police officers on duty?

**I** asked the volunteers to give me some reasons they do this and here are some of their answers. "To support the Trophy Club Police & Fire Department"; "I wanted to give back to the community"; "I wanted to contribute to the success of our town"; "To be prepared for and to help the town in times of emergency, i.e. tornadoes, flooding, etc."; "Bored, curious, looking for community volunteer opportunities"; "Attending the Citizen's Police Academy got me interested in the other volunteer venues, i.e. CERT, Citizen's On Patrol, etc."; and "As a payback for the Trophy Club Fire Department making the correct decision to CareFlight my husband which saved his life".

**M**y first reason was to see my husband, Officer Scott Voigt, more often. Then I got more involved because the people I met were so wonderful, giving and fun! I want to thank all of our volunteers for their valuable time, and especially the ones on the Volunteer Newsletter committee, Twyla Berry, Sandra Millett and Chuck Goodrich. Without them, being chairman would be harder.

## ***YOU ARE THE BEST!!!***

### ***REHAB - The realities***

*By Twyla Berry*

**W**hile I've had the privilege of working with our Trophy Club Police Department on numerous occasions, I have now, for the first time, had the opportunity to actually assist our Fire Department in the role of "rehab volunteer". On Christmas morning I received a phone call from Office Scott Voigt to let me know that assistance was needed on the scene of an active house fire on Trophy Club Drive. My quiet morning quickly changed as I threw on clothes, grabbed bottled water and headed out.



**A**s I arrived on the scene I was amazed to see fire personnel from several surrounding cities on hand to help our guys battle and contain the blaze that I later found out was caused by a lightning strike. They had been on site for a couple of hours with the biggest challenge being to keep it from spreading to any of the surrounding houses. Complicating matters it was cold, gusty and rainy that morning.

**W**hen I handed over my bottled water at the command center I was told what they REALLY needed was HOT COFFEE! Another of our volunteers had already left to try and find some. Since it was Christmas morning our local Starbuck's was closed making this task more difficult. So I went to the station where I knew they had a fast-brewing system and a pump pot to put the hot fresh strong coffee in to take back to the guys.

**T**hat done I returned to the scene where I joined my fellow volunteers and we served coffee to the firefighters who wanted it. It was amazing to watch the teamwork of these guys. To see men from different departments work together to 1) put out the fire, 2) keep it from spreading, and 3) watch each other's back. And when the job was done, they all worked together to prepare the gear to be put away on each truck, regardless of who's it was. It was an excellent example to me of teamwork between departments.

**T**here has been some discussion between several surrounding cities' Fire Departments regarding joint rehab training for volunteers like our Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association members to prepare us to assist in similar situations and support our sister cities with resources in times of need. Watching these firefighters work together that day solidified in my mind that I would like to be a part of this kind of training in order to be able to help in a more prepared way, not only in our town, but as needed in the surrounding communities.

**I** am so proud to be a part of TCEVA and to have the opportunity to serve my community

in ways such as this. I've been able to work with our Police Department, primarily at community events, and look forward to doing so. Now I can add an active role with our Fire Department to my list of experiences.

**Y**ou, too, can help your community like this. If you have not already done so, all you need to do to be able to participate in these kinds of community service events and activities is to complete either the TC Citizen's Police Academy or Citizen's Fire Academy. Check the town website and calendar for the dates of upcoming Academies, complete the application and prepare to be enlightened. The information learned through these classes is invaluable!

## ***Planning for 2013***

*By Scott H. Voigt*

**P**lanning has been ongoing for the past few months and in our monthly meetings I have been trying to keep all of you up to date.



The newest wrinkle in the mix has been the plumbing issues with the Police Department. Hopefully by the next issue we will be able to report back as to what will be taking place with that. But, for now, the building is not habitable and we are working out of spaces graciously provided to us by the Fire Department.

**S**ignups are going along for the Citizen's Police Academy, we have seven people signed up as of this writing which is about the norm. I expect as the last couple of weeks unfold we will get a few more people showing interest. Being that the time conflicts with Fire Academy for the first few sessions I had planned on having the first few classes in the Police training room. Right now, that is looking rather unlikely, so I am working on other arrangements.

**S**gt. Simmons is looking at his schedule so that we can schedule a NCIC/TCIC class for the volunteers. This will be the first step in being able to help out CID (Criminal Investigation Divi-

sion) with some of their workload. With the relocation of everyone, this has thrown us a little bit of a setback, but as soon as we can get some dates put together, I will let you know. This class will be at a minimum, four hours in length. Depending on just which class he will teach this could go a little longer. Either way, plan on this being a Saturday class.

**I**f the scheduling stays true to form, I should be back on my normal schedule by the middle of March. This will allow me to start working on our Crime Prevention initiatives a bit more and finally start working on the in house Citizen's on Patrol basic class. Depending on our building situation, there may or may not be a bit of a hindrance in getting all of this started, again, I will keep all of you informed as to how we are progressing.

**W**e've started up another Neighborhood Watch program in Town, this one is for Avenue Twenty. Join me in welcoming them to our Crime Prevention Family, I am looking forward to working with them. We have an Alumni member working on trying to get his neighborhood involved and I wish him luck.

**M**r. Hummer has been doing a great job with the COP program but has been struggling trying to get weekend ride outs filled. Please don't forget to try to set aside one weekend night a month to help patrol our streets. People do see you out and about and you are a great help, even if you may not get exciting things happening with each shift. Crime Prevention is not very sexy, but it is very effective and we need everyone's help to make these programs work.

**M**r. Mills has been busy with monitoring the Trophy Club Park cameras. We haven't seen our stalker back, but maybe he is waiting for some warmer days. There has been some activity caught on camera that needs addressing, and we have had patrol units out looking for some of the transgressors. Hopefully, we can locate some of these people and educate them on the proper way of using our parks.

**S**peaking of Mr. Mills, please, any time you do ANY kind of work for the Alumni, please report the hours to Mr. Mills. Looking at some of the data, it appears that there may be some under reporting going on. Training, meetings, helping out with functions or even moving vehicles around or sitting at the front desk, all of these hours need to be reported so that we can accurately gauge just how much work you are putting into the organization and how much you are helping out the Town.

**W**e have enjoyed seeing some of the new faces from our last class at the meetings, I am hoping that we get to see more new faces once some of you have finished the Fire Academy. The more people that we can get involved in the business of the Alumni, the better we can make this Association. If you have ideas for moving the Association forward, please contact your board members and let them know that you would like to make it an agenda item for the next meeting. If you don't speak up, you can't help make changes.

**F**or those of you, who have been to the TLOFT classes in the past, please take a little bit of time to think about what was good about those classes and what was not quite so good. As I get ready to put our own classes together, I would like to hear from you on what you think would make for an even better experience. This is going to be our chance to tailor this class to the needs of Trophy Club and make it an even better experience. I am going to reach out to a couple of our neighboring communities and see if they would like to attend our classes. I think that



this is a great chance for our COP members to meet their brethren from the neighboring communities and share experiences and see what they do. Understanding each

other's issues may help us understand even better some of our very own issues.

### Q1-2013 Calendar of Events

TCEVA	January 22 February 26 March 26
CHL Class	January 26
TCCPA	Begins February 10
TCCFA	TBA
CPAANT	February 2 in Arlington March 2 in Lewisville April 2 in Waco
Northwest ISD Spring Break	March 11 – 15, 2013



**Next  
Citizen's Police  
Academy  
March 14th**

Tell your friends, get the word out.  
Sign up NOW!  
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**The Volunteer View is published by the  
Trophy Club Emergency Services Academies  
Alumni Association  
Editor - Elaine M. Voigt**