

# THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 14

JAN - MAR 2014

A Quarterly Publication for the  
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

## *Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism*

### *The Chief's Corner*

*Chief Danny Thomas*



#### **Citizen's Fire Academy**

The Trophy Club Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy is taking applications for Class #3. Please mark your calendar for January 9<sup>th</sup>. This academy will run for 10 weeks, meeting every Thursday from 6:30pm- 10:00pm. A participatory education experience, CFA is geared to teach citizens about firefighting and the Fire department through an interactive process. Participants will learn what we bring to the community and the level of skill. Classes cover topics such as behind the scenes station tours, fire basics, fire scene operations, EMS and medical operations, hazardous materials response tactics and aero-medical operations. CFA culminates with the opportunity to participate in live fire training along with vehicle extrication.

Our commitment to the community is in part a larger commitment to resource management and partnership with our neighbors in both counties. This academy will have the opportunity to visit with some of our larger community's investment in equipment and training and see what we have access to.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to build a group of devoted volunteers that support our emergency services. This is an opportunity for education that does not require volunteerism, if you just want to see what we do for the community please come join the fun. Come learn the basic skills of fire protection around the home, work place and community.

### *The President's Prose*

*Dena Boudreau*



I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new president of TCEVA. I am fairly new to the TCEVA as well, graduating from CPA in 2012 and CFA

in 2013. As with most things in my life, I jumped right in and tried to find a way to support our first responders.

I have lived in Texas all of my life, and with the exception of 10 years in Houston due to a job transfer, all of it has been in the DFW area. In 1997 I earned my EMT and continued to study for Paramedic while working as a 911 dispatcher for Plano, and I've always had a strong interest and commitment to public safety and welfare. I consider our first responders to be men and women of considerable commitment, incomparable to any others, and extremely deserving of our support.

Trophy Club is a very safe town with very low crime rates. I cannot stress enough that it is this way because of our officers' diligence and watchful eyes. Trophy Club may be small in square mileage, but our population continues to grow. We now sit close to 10,000. We also sit along a highway in a major traffic corridor. What does that mean to us? It means that as we and the area around us continues to grow, we need to be even more watchful as our area becomes open to crimes of opportunity and "cut through" crimes coming off the freeway.

More than ever our officers can use our support and hands-on help in providing this watchful eye. Unfortunately, our COPS volunteer hours have been slipping significantly. One of the reasons cited is boredom on the patrols. To this I say GREAT! FANTASTIC! WONDERFUL! Because if you stop and think, one of the reasons it might be boring is because YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB! One of the reasons it is safer, that there is less crime being committed, is because you, as a COP volunteer, are out there assisting with a watchful eye and helping our officers.

#### The Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association (TCEVA)

What we do—assist emergency personnel in various capacities such as providing provisions during extended emergency situations and raising funds to purchase equipment for volunteer activities. With further training, volunteers help direct traffic for special events, assist in first aid, search and rescue, as well as other important activities.

So I would like to ask each of you for a commitment as these officers are committed to us and our safety. Commit to the COPS training, and then start with a commitment of 4 hours a month on patrol. With your help and commitment, we can continue as a visible force of support to our officers, our firefighters, and our community and make 2014 a safe and productive year. I look forward to working with each of you and seeing you at our monthly meetings (fourth Tuesday of the month, Jan 28, Feb 25, and Mar 25 this quarter).

*Thank you!*

## **PETS and FIREWORKS**

*Conni Mayatt  
Volunteer*

I learned the hard way that pets don't mix well. It was my first Club and I thought it would be Yorkie, Sadie, with me to the fireworks display. Less than a minute into it, I realized what a mistake I had made. She was trembling, scared to death, and trying to get away from the sound. I left immediately and took her home. The damage was done. Sadie had never been afraid of thunderstorms before, but that changed immediately. Since I live fairly close to where we celebrate with fireworks, I started taking her away in the car so she wouldn't be so scared. Realizing there was no escaping the sound of fireworks, I gave her sedatives the vet supplied.

Dogs can hear higher frequencies than humans and about 4 times the distance. So, what we hear at 20 feet, our canine friends can hear at 80 feet. Cats can hear even better than dogs and about 3 times better than us. Understanding their hearing ranges can help us to protect them better.

Keeping pets secure:

- Provide a safe hiding place to access when stressed (typically our pets like to have something to get under), maybe provide blankets, etc. to use as cover
- Ensure your pet has been let outside or walked prior to the fireworks display
- Close curtains to muffle outside sounds
- Close interior doors

- Turn on the TV or put on music to help mask the sounds
- Ignore the fireworks yourself
- Try not to react if your pet shows fear; coddling can actually make it worse
- Never punish your pet when it is reacting to fear
- Be sure they have tags on and are micro-chipped in case of escape

Hopefully, a little planning can prevent your pets from becoming afraid of fireworks, unexpected loud noises, and thunderstorms. If they do have a problem with fear and panic, please contact your vet. There are several things that may help, including sedatives, pheromones, and Thundershirts.

## **From the Editor**

*Elaine Voigt*

Behind every successful venture, there are lots of people making it happen. The Volunteer View Newsletter is no different. I want to thank the wonderful people who take time out of their busy schedules to research, write and submit articles.

From the beginning there has been Police Chief Scott Kniffen, Fire Chief Danny Thomas, Scott Johnson, Twyla Berry, Sandra Millett, and Chuck Goodrich. New to the Volunteer are Conni Mayatt, Robin Conarty and our new TCEVA President, Dena Boudreau. Last but not least, Officer Scott Voigt who also writes articles for the Newsletter, plus, he formats the articles and publishes the finished product. Words cannot describe how much you all are so greatly appreciated by me!!! Without you, things would be a lot harder and less exciting. Thank you!!!! And have a FANTASTIC 2014!!!!

## **Walking in the Dark**

*By Sandra Millett*

After living in Trophy Club for fourteen years, you would think I'd be used to walkers who are doing a good imitation of a covert midnight operation. Worse, their grasp of potential danger is zero. But it's not just these unseen seekers of exercise treading the byways of Trophy Club who are in danger. Bike riders seem equally oblivious. And they do it with speed; zipping



around dark corners like a bat seeking a bug on the fly.

I have good reason to be leery. The other evening, I pulled out of my driveway and was lucky I didn't land in jail. My saving grace was that I swung the car in a wide arc or three people would be flatter than the leaves in my gutter. Their dog, too.

You see, it was dark and not one of the walkers, out for a lazy evening stroll, had any illumination strips on their jackets or shoes. And no one carried a flashlight. The leashed dog was equally as invisible.

I moved here from Oregon, the land of Prefontaine, where walking and running are genetic and people mow their yards in the rain—really! The land where garments come with illumination strips sewn in, where bikes have reflective tape on wheels and handlebars and lamps on both ends. It's the land where it is winter dark at 3:30 and you better be visible. Texans need to learn these lessons. If nothing else to save me from becoming jailbait.

## *New Year Notes from the PD*

*Scott Voigt*

I happy New Year everyone! I hope that your holidays were filled with fun and family. Now that life has subsided back to normal, it is time to start planning for 2014. The Executive Board for the TCEVA will be holding its first meeting for the year to begin its strategy planning for goals and how to go about achieving them. If anyone has ideas for your board members, now is the time to contact them and let them know what you would like to see for training and direction of the group.



I hope to have some different training available to everyone this year, with January's meeting kicking off a new and different training session. I hope that those of you who haven't made a meeting in awhile come and take a look. We are going to show you how a case is handled from the first report up until the conviction. It is a long and drawn out process, but we will try to encapsulate it for you to show you each of the steps that have to be taken by Patrol, CID, the DA and the judicial system from start to finish. I think that it will be eye opening for everyone. If y'all like this, we have other types of classes that we will go into that will go into more detail about different operations at the Police Department that were briefly gone into at the Citizens Police Academy.

Speaking of the Citizens Police Academy, the next class is tentatively scheduled to begin right after the Citizens Fire Academy finishes up this spring. Right now we are looking at starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. We will finalize this once the CFA starts and we have a good end date. If you enjoyed the CPA, please tell your friends and neighbors about it, let them know what you got out of the class and why it would be good for them to attend. The very best advertisement for the class is word of mouth. The announcement will be coming out very soon through the Town's website, e-mail blast and FaceBook page. Please share it with all of your friends.

The Police Department is in the planning stages for a new Police facility. We have a basic needs assessment completed and we have a committee of employees who are looking at best practices and lessons learned from other facilities. We are looking at what has and hasn't worked at other locations and trying to plug them into our needs so that we can get the best bang for the buck. One of the next major steps before going further is finding a plot of ground to build the station on. The Town is in negotiations with different property owners now trying to make that happen. As soon as this takes place, we should see more movement on design of a facility. I hope that by the next issue of this Newsletter to be able to tell you where the site is going to be and give you more details as to the footprint of the building.

We are still holding steady at three Neighborhood Watches in Town. I keep hoping for more, but have had a hard time convincing people that a Neighborhood Watch is good for them and their neighbors. I need your help in communicating the need for Neighborhood Watch and why it is good for a neighborhood to start one. If you have questions or if you want to know how to go about selling Neighborhood Watch in your area, please come and visit with me.

It seemed like it was taking forever, but everything finally came together and the CERT trailer has been marked up with official CERT markings and now shows not only what it is used for, but for whom it is used by. I think that the collective work of the TCEVA did an excellent job in making this happen, both with the tweaking of the design and helping pick the design from the multitude of en-





tries from the Byron Nelson High School Art Department. The design that was finally chosen came from art student Connor Duffy, a Trophy Club resident. I hope that all of you like the final design and enjoy the functionality of the trailer. Next step will be working on the interior of the trailer to make it more user friendly for deployments.

CPAANT Regional Meetings – 10 a.m.  
([www.cpaant.org](http://www.cpaant.org))

- January 11<sup>th</sup> - Coppell
- February 1<sup>st</sup> - Plano
- March 1<sup>st</sup> - Denton

North Texas Crime Prevention Association  
([www.ntcpa.us](http://www.ntcpa.us))

- January – Winter Conference, Tyler
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – SMU, Dallas
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Collin County Sheriff's Office, McKinney

- Baylor Health Care System Training
  - January 14<sup>th</sup> – SkyWarn Storm Spotter Training, McKinney
  - February 9<sup>th</sup> – Helicopter Landing Zone Safety, McKinney

## TCEVA Calendar 2014 - Q1

TCEVA General Meetings – 7 p.m. TCFD Training Room

- January 28<sup>th</sup>
- February 25<sup>th</sup>
- March 25<sup>th</sup>

TC Citizens Fire Academy – TCFD Training Room  
Begins January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for 10 Weeks

Town of Trophy Club Events

- January 4<sup>th</sup> - Rescheduled Santa 5K Race at 9 a.m.

Denton County CERT ([www.dentoncountycert.org](http://www.dentoncountycert.org))  
Monthly meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m.

**The Volunteer View is published by the  
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