

THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 18

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A Quarterly Publication for the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism

Chief's Corner

Chief Danny Thomas



Sitting on the Tailboard

What a great year! We started with one of the coldest winters on record and had more ice than we ever wanted and made the best of the experience. The world as we know it stopped for several days, as everybody slipped into a new year. Then there was the “Big Fire” that exposed our northern border and endangered our community. We had 22 fire departments, 156 firefighters along with state and county resources and fought the fire for 3 days. This event brought our community together with the greatest show of compassion and the helping hands of all our neighbors. Our emergency service volunteers rallied around supporting the firefighters with food and refreshments and started a drive to stock a supply for the next event. Out of all of this was the birth of our next support group made from the volunteers called the “Red Hats”. This group will be trained to support the firefighters under the standards of NFPA 1584, where they will learn the rehabilitation process during emergency operations and trainings. Please join us and learn about what we bring to the community by enrolling into the next Citizen Fire Academy or Police Academy.

In October we started a new budget year with excitement as to adding new equipment to the department. Two specification committees were formed to replace our 1995 Quint ladder truck and the 2007 AEV ambulance. After several months of meetings and a bid process we signed the contract with Pierce manufacture for an Arrow XT 105’ heavy duty aerial ladder truck due to deliver in mid July 2015. The next committee started the process for the replacement of the ambulance due late 2015. Our staff has been very busy with training and the process of bringing on

a new medical director, as of January 2015 we will partner with Baylor Medical Center Grapevine and Doctor Justin Northheim. All that we do is a testament of support from our community be it council, boards and volunteers. I want to thank this community for making this the best place to call home.

Tidbits from the Editor

Donna Schlenger



Hello to all. Also a big THANK YOU to Elaine Voigt who has been our editor of the View for many years. Great job Elaine and I hope I can fill your shoes! I would like to introduce myself to all that read THE VOLUNTEER VIEW. I am Donna Schlenger and plan to try my luck as Editor of the View and I am hoping for lots of assistance from our great group of volunteers.

Who am I? Long, long time ago I was born in New York City on a sunny day in May. My one and only son now lives in NYC with his wife and are loving the Big Apple! As a child I also lived in Albany, New York as well as cold snowy Buffalo. When I was in 6th grade my family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where I finished my school years. The seventeen years that followed were in the suburbs of Chicago. My husband, son and I moved to Trophy Club in 1987.

I started with Delta Air Lines in Chicago and continued with them at DFW. I recently retired with

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.

35 years of service. So now I finally have the time to travel and I DO! My bags remain packed and ready to go, in fact as I write this I am sitting at Kansas City Airport going home after a cold TCU football game. I am a Horn Frog Fan but admit I like the warm games! Next trip will be over Thanksgiving, a Christmas time cruise on the Danube River!

In 2014 I completed the Citizen Police and Fire Academies to learn more about our town and I did. After learning there are plenty of volunteer opportunities, I joined the alumni group to assist when possible. You can get information regarding the academies on the town website or through the police and fire departments. I hope you will join us in 2015.

Happy New Year to everyone.

TCEVA Calendar- Q-1 2015

TCEVA General Meetings -

7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the TCFD Training Room (Fire Station)

Monday, January 12th Annual Meeting
Monday, February 9th
Monday, March 9th

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of North Texas (CPAANT)

General Meetings - 10 AM on the 1st Saturday of the month

January 10th * Dallas Prosecutor Group *
February 7th * Dallas County Advocacy
March 7,th * ?

Denton County CERT - 7 PM on the 1st Tuesday of the month at:

Denton County EOC - 9060 Tasley Lane, Denton, TX
January 6th
February 3rd
March 3rd

North Texas Crime Prevention Association

(NTCPA) Training -

10 AM on the 3rd Thursday of the month
January Mid Winter Conf, no general meeting.
February 19th
March 19th

Town Events

January 17th - Trophy Club 30th Anniversary-
Saturday- 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Trophy Club Country Club
February 7th Beach Clean Up (weather permitting)-
1st Saturday each month volunteers welcomed to participate
March 28th Eggstravaganza- Site: To be Announced

SAFETY WITH LIGHTING

Conni Mayatt - Volunteer

Are there ways you could increase your safety with home lighting? Can first responders locate your home quickly in an emergency? Is it easy to determine you might be away on vacation?

One of the first things I noticed when I began making patrols with TCEVA's COPs (Citizens on Patrol) is that, at night, the addresses of many homes are difficult to see/find. While first responders are much more familiar with every street in our town, in general many addresses are hard to locate. I think most of our homes have beautiful address numbering on the structure itself. Some are lighted, but most are not. Over time, some have been blocked by shrubbery or trees. If there is no lighting on the address or if something is blocking it, the next place to look for numbering is on the mailbox or curb. How easy is it to locate your home at night? What if you need an ambulance, have a fire, or an intruder is in your house? Would added lighting be helpful for first responders and others?

Another thing commonly noticed is no lighting at all in a home. Does this mean no one is home? Are they away on vacation? Maybe they're just inside watching TV, but what is your first assumption? Probably, no one is home. Others may well suspect the same thing. There are numerous ways to make you and your home safer with lighting. First, let's get the address more

visible. Next, let's look at what can be done to the outside of the home.

Outside lighting should be as even as possible. You want to avoid dark areas and overly bright spots. To be "green" and save in ongoing costs, select low-voltage, energy-efficient lighting. Carefully place the lights to expose hideaways and also regular walkways. Up-lighting is an easy way to avoid flooding an area with light. Place these lights approximately four feet from the area requiring light. It is also used for accenting trees and shrubs, which helps provide even lighting for the entire area. For patios and decks, consider using path lights and lights with a shielded light source. Using timers and/or photo cells make the lights work automatically, which is especially useful when away from home.



If there are other areas outside that are not as easy to cover, consider motion sensor lights. These might be placed above the garage doors or at the eaves where there is no other light coverage. Sensor lights come in both electric and battery units. Many varieties and coverages exist, which makes it easy to target exactly what you require.

Okay, there are two more outside lights that are already installed; the front porch and the back porch. You can install timers for these that replace the light switches. Then, automatically, you have lights on and off for security that you don't have to be home to operate. These timers can be found about five minutes from Trophy Club, just saying. ☺

For the inside, timers are very inexpensive and easy to use. You just plug lamps into the timers and you're all set. In addition to the timer which has been around for years, there is a newer version. This one automatically allows about five minutes or so flexibility around the time you set it. That way, should someone be watching your house, they won't see the lights go on and off at exactly the same time each day.

Just a note, I used to use these timers only when I went on vacation to keep my home from looking vacant. After some thought, I now leave certain lamps on timers all the time. That way, no one can really tell if you're home or not. The same goes for the porch

lights. During vacation, I left the porch lights on, as I had no way to turn them on and off. If anyone was paying attention, it would be easy to determine someone wasn't really there since the light was never turned off.

The idea is to make everything seem a normal routine when you're away from home. A light in the front of the house should probably turn off before a light in the bedroom.

So, with a little planning, you can make your home easy to find and make yourself and your home safer.

Nature Trail and Biking Safety Tips

Robin Conarty

Trophy Club offers numerous opportunities to spend time outside on bike trails, the dog park, nature trails, and community outdoor activities through the year. These include family camp outs, events at Trophy Club Park, our Town's 4th of July celebration, fun runs, bike rallies, etc... Below are some basic Tips to help ensure an enjoyable time.

The BASICS for all outdoor activities:

- Check the weather report - don't get caught in a thunderstorm
- Apply sunscreen and bug repellent - all year around and in all weather conditions.
- Be aware of your surroundings - people, creatures and rough terrain.
- Wear appropriate clothing, including sunglasses and hat.
- Drink lots of water and rest frequently
- Go with a companion
- Carry a cell phone
- Bring basic first aid supplies
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

More Nature Trail Safety Tips:

- Perform warm up exercises prior to setting off
- Place pets on a thick, short leash and check paws often
- Observe but don't provoke or surprise the wild life
- Know where you are - take pictures of trail markers along the way
- In case of emergency, call 911 with trail marker information
- Pack energy bars for long walks
- Bring plenty of water



Biking Safety Tips:

- Make sure your helmet and bike are the proper size and fit for the rider
- Check equipment including brakes, tires, gears and safety lighting are all working correctly
- Know turning and stopping hand signals
- Use reflectors and bright lights at night along with reflective clothing
- Ride on far right side of street and obey all traffic signs, signals and laws
- Make eye contact with drivers - make sure they are aware of you
- Unless specifically designated, nature trails are off limits to bicycles
- Bring plenty of water

Community Services

Officer Scott Voigt

Another busy year has come and gone and all of you have been stepping up the pace. The TCEVA has been getting more involved this year with all of the Emergency Services, ramping up with the Red Hats (rehab), getting more involved with Citizens



on Patrol (COPS) and helping out with numerous projects around the Police Department as well as helping out with safety programs in both Fire and Police. Volunteer hours are up yet another year, and all of you make me very proud. Believe it or not, you have put in 354 hours in December alone and 3,608 hours for all of 2014.

The coming New Year is going to bring many changes with it. We are starting off with the new renewal process for the volunteers. This is new for the Association and was brought about with the changes in the By-Laws at my request. This will allow for better tracking of people who would like to be actively involved in the Association. I hope to get everyone's forms back by the end of the month. We will also be doing some more in depth vetting of some members who will be much more involved with the inner workings of the Police Department. Like I said, we are going to be involved in some very interesting times.

We will be starting another Citizens Police Academy in March. I need all of your help in getting the word out to your friends and neighbors about the Academy, I would love to fill the seats. We are also looking at putting some changes into place for the Academy that will make it even more fun. We are also looking at more fun training opportunities for y'all when activity slows down a bit at the Department.



I am looking forward to working with the new Officers of the Association over the coming year, please give them your support so that we can continue to move forward and do good things. Lastly, please welcome Chief Arata to our volunteer family. You are going to see some great things from this man.

**The Volunteer View is published by the
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Editor - Donna Schlenger**