

# THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 16

JUL - SEP 2014

A Quarterly Publication for the  
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

## *Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism*

### *The Chief's Corner*

#### *Summer Safety*

*By Fire Chief Danny Thomas*



With the arrival of summer, many of us are looking forward to spending more time outdoors. Our department has always made safety a top priority; I thought it important as Fire Chief to remind everyone to keep your personal safety and the safety of others in mind, especially during this time of year. School is out, so there are many children going to and from, and participating in, outdoor activities throughout the day. Adults, too, are taking advantage of the longer daylight hours, so let's all commit ourselves to staying alert and staying safe. Adults, remember that you set the example for the children that may be watching you.

**S**hare the road. When operating a motor vehicle, remember that the law requires you to share the road with other vehicles. Did you know that cyclists, skateboarders and inline skaters have the same rights and responsibilities under Texas law as a moving motor vehicle? Sharing the road means knowing, and executing at all times, your responsibilities, not just your rights. Because one of your responsibilities as a vehicle operator is to always keep yourself informed of the rules of the road.

**P**edestrians - be alert and be seen. Use sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, walk as close as possible to the side of the road and face traffic. Make sure you can be seen. Wear bright colors or better yet, clothing with reflective markers, especially when it's dark out. Be predictable. When crossing a street, use a marked crosswalk whenever possible.

**C**yclists - be alert and be seen. Cycling is a fun, healthy and popular means of personal transportation for all ages. As discussed above, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as a moving motor vehicle. The wearing of helmets, are recommended regardless of age. Make sure you can be seen by others. Know that cars and trucks have blind spots.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.



**D**o not use fireworks. Trophy Club's ordinances on fireworks are very restrictive for good reason - to prevent personal injury and to prevent igniting a fire. Please everybody have a great summer and be safe.

### *From the President*

*Dena Boudreau*



**D**isclaimer: I am not a writer, professional or otherwise. I always received poor grade marks on any papers I turned in, so I'll ask for your patience.

**L**ate last year I was nominated and elected as president of the TCEVA, and it has been challenging, but very interesting. We had several things that had been placed on the back burner for various reasons. However, I am excited to say that we are reaching some long held goals made possible by our wonderful and exceptional volunteers, our liaison Officer Scott Voigt, and our Chiefs Danny Thomas (fire) and Scott Kniffen (police).

**W**e've increased volunteerism at our events and on our COP patrols, a big step in the right direction of supporting our community and our police and fire departments. We continue to look for opportunities to lend our help and support to these exceptional men and women. Per Tom Mills, our volunteer hours for the year to date have increased by 49% over last year at this time - over 1580 hours logged! This quarter alone we had an 82% increase over last year - very impressive!

**W**e had a very successful Pancake Breakfast on May 10! We owe much appreciation to Kathryn Urbanszewski, Richard Gregory, our Pancake Breakfast committee and volunteers, for securing all the wonderful donations, their organization, their hard work and effort. The ALERRT Training June 23-26 was equally successful because of their efforts, and now we are looking forward to our July 4<sup>th</sup> events!

#### 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.

We were able to unveil the new CERT trailer, complete with insignia(s) and now we are working to organize and stock it with necessary equipment so that we are properly prepared to assist our fire and police departments. In conjunction with this, we've begun our classes on rehab and look forward to full training!

Through the assistance of members Bob Glueck and Conni Mayatt, we've purchased work Tshirts for our members, so that we are easily found, and more importantly, easily recognizable. We are in the process of purchasing reflective safety vests as well, an essential piece of safety clothing.

We also have been given the use of an Expedition to use for our COP patrols and other needs. The process to equip and mark the vehicle appropriately has begun. We are very excited about this development!

Our biggest accomplishment so far is the rewriting and clarification of our bylaws and our policies, in preparation for our incorporation and 501c3 designation. This has been a lengthy, time intensive process, and once it is accomplished and approved, will enable us to "up our game" in terms of the support we can offer our police and fire departments, and our membership in terms of training and equipment.

I look forward to the next few months working with each of you, and want to thank you for all you have contributed in time, effort, thought and work. All of your efforts are effective, and although it may be in little ways, know that they are very much appreciated!

## TCEVA Calendar 2014 - Q3

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

July 22<sup>nd</sup>

August 26<sup>th</sup>

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Town of Trophy Club Events

July 4<sup>th</sup> Events      Patriot 5K & Fun Run  
Parade of Patriots  
Celebration & Fireworks

August 26<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School

Denton County CERT ([www.dentoncountycert.org](http://www.dentoncountycert.org))

Monthly meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m.

CPAANT Regional Meetings – 10 a.m.

([www.cpaant.org](http://www.cpaant.org))

July 12<sup>th</sup> – Burleson CPAAA

July 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Texas Citizens Police Academy Alumni  
& Law Enforcement Annual Training, San Marcos

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grand Prairie CPAAA

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Forest Hill CPAAA

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

July 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Crime Prevention Association  
Summer Conference, College Station ([www.tcpa.org](http://www.tcpa.org))

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Denton County Sheriffs Office

September 18<sup>th</sup> – University Park PD Public Library

TC Citizens Police Academy – TCFD Training Room  
Mid-August (date TBD) at 6:30 p.m. for 11  
Weeks

## From the Editor

*Spotlight on People*  
By Elaine Voigt



For such a small fire department, Trophy Club has one of the best and most qualified staff around. One such qualified fireman is Engineer Shawn Garrett. Shawn was born when his Marine father was stationed in Hawaii. He moved to Fort Worth in 1967 and graduated from Azle High School in 1981.

Shawn has been with the Trophy Club Fire Department since 2006, and has been associated with several Fire and Emergency services since 1989. His education and training include EMT class at Saginaw Fire Department; First Night Fire Academy at Tarrant County College; Paramedic School at Hugley Hospital, plus he is a licensed Pyro technician and an advanced Open Water Scuba Diver. An additional accomplishment is that in February 1999 he received the Medal of Valor from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association. Not everyone gets one of these awards.

Shawn enjoys spending his time away from work with his wife, Sheree, and their three children, Lisa, William and Amanda. He, also, has lots of fun with his four year old grandson, Nolan. Another of his off-duty pleasures is golf, which he tries to play as much as possible.

It is always an adventure talking with Engineer Garrett. He is so interesting, and what I had planned to be only a thirty minute interview usually ends up covering an hour and a half of fascinating subjects. I learned so much from my time observing his off-duty time with the Saginaw Fire Dispatch. It's amazing the equipment they have and the skill they need to coordinate a working fire.

Thank you so much, Shawn, for your service to our community and our State.

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

BY SANDRA MILLETT

It's summertime, the days are easy and pool water draws children like a magnet. And it's time for all parents to not only be alert, but to be wary. First, be sure to keep the chemical treatments in correct balance or keep swimmers out of the water. Untreated water is also a mosquito breeding ground. And we all know about itching bites and disease-born bites.

I suggest that at the beginning of every season, an adult (with an observer) dive to the bottom of the pool and check that the drain is functioning properly and cannot suck hair or

clothing into the vent that can trap a young swimmer or someone with long hair. There is a special suction valve to prevent such accidents.

Swimming also requires extra vigilance while children are swimming or playing poolside. Two minutes of inattention can be disastrous. During parties, assign one person to watch the pool—no going inside for even a minute—and switch guards about every fifteen minutes.

Keep a rescue float and throw rope handy. Not everyone can swim, and emergency rescue equipment can save a life. A special reminder to all boaters or lake swimmers: don't dive in to save someone, throw a safety line. And at the same time, learn CPR, it does save lives.

While everyone thinks of children in regard to pool safety, adults need to be cautious also. Here's my own story of what can happen. One of my husband's golf foursome had a pool. He came home early one afternoon while his wife and both daughters were out. Frank decided to prune the tall bushes that ran along the back fence and bordered a narrow pool walkway. The tall scissors ladder tipped over throwing Frank onto the walk's decking cement. He hit his head and rolled into the pool. These facts are all assumption.

What is fact is that one of his daughters came home from school and found her father on the pool's bottom. Frank was 48. He left a widow, who has never remarried, and two teenage daughters. Pool safety is for everyone.



## *Whats Happening at the Police Department*

*Scott H. Voigt*

As usual, we have been busy at the Police Department. If you have been reading the Police Blotter (available online under the Police Department tab on the Town website) you have seen that issues in Town have been keeping us on our toes.

Training has been ongoing and this last month has seen us doing emergency training at the high school with our department and our partner agencies that would assist us in an emergency. For four days we hosted our entire department as well as officers from Northlake, Argyle, Roanoke, Southlake, Keller and some of our Federal partners in realistic hands on training being taught by instructors from Texas State University at San Marcus (ICJS) who specialize in this type of training. The TCEVA was instrumental in helping make this training effective for everyone and the participants were very, very happy with what all of our volunteers did for them while they attended the training.

Speaking of training, this last quarter we have had some rehab initial training for the TCEVA which starts us out with the knowledge of what is needed for rehab. In the following months we will be working on policies and procedures for setting up a rehab program and getting follow on training rolled out to everyone.

By the time you read this, we should have everything set up for our next Citizens on Patrol Academy for class later in July. As soon as everything is set in stone everyone will be notified as to the class date. I hope to see a lot of new faces in class.

Speaking of the Citizens on Patrol, the last few months I have seen quite an increase in patrols and I couldn't be more pleased. I expect that the next couple of months will slow down a little bit with everyone on vacation and dealing with company. But with new members coming on line in the next couple of months, I hope to see our patrol numbers climb again. Your eyes and ears out on the road help us with finding crime and keeping our crime numbers some of the lowest in the region. They aren't there by chance, it takes a combination of tactics to keep our Town safe, the COPS's are one of those arms that help us in achieving our goals.

Detective Burris has finally received his new vehicle so the old Expedition will be coming to the COP for use and has already been used on one patrol. The TCEVA has expressed interest in helping both mark up the vehicle to make it readily apparent to other people that it is a Citizen Patrol vehicle, as well as equip it with safety lighting to ensure the COP's safety when working on the side of the road. I am working with the Executive Board in finding cost effective ways in doing this. I am hoping that by the next issue of the Newsletter you will see a fully equipped vehicle.

Lots of other training coming up too, there will be a rehab class for emergency responders in the metroplex on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July which I will be attending. The Texas Crime Prevention Association will be having their Summer Conference the week of the 7<sup>th</sup> of July and I will be attending that as well. The Texas Citizens on Patrol Conference will be on August 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> in Cleburne. In the past this has been a great training opportunity for our COP's and I highly suggest attending it.

I still have hopes in putting on a Crime Scene class for y'all, but Sgt. Simmons has been swamped and has not been able to break free to do the class. As soon as his life slows down a little bit, we will try to get the class scheduled. I think that you will find it quite interesting to learn how and why we do a crime scene.

As always, if you have questions about anything related to the police department, volunteering, or the TCEVA, please stop by and chat or give me a call. I am always happy to talk with you.

## *Stop Sign Etiquette*

*Robin Conarty*

How many times have you been in this situation?

You're stopped at a stop sign waiting for traffic to clear so you can make a right hand turn. You look left, all clear, you look right, all clear, you look left and ARGHHHH! A huge truck or SUV has pulled right up next to you and you can no longer see the oncoming traffic to your left.

Don't you just want to roll down your window and shout?

"Dude! How Rude! I was here first, I'm the one in the little car, I'm the one that can't see past YOU! Have you no consideration for your fellow drivers? And, must I remind you that I WAS HERE FIRST!?"

Usually, the second driver can stop back somewhat and see both ways over the other vehicle. I know I can when I'm next to a smaller car or even one the same size. Then, when the traffic clears, the driver(s) can proceed.

There are many drivers that will be courteous and not block the other driver's view. I want to give them a shout, too. **Thank you!**

*Editors Note; If any vehicle pulls up to a stop sign or stop light, they are required to pull up to the stop line that is normally painted on the pavement. If you haven't reached it yet due to other vehicles or stopping so that you can see beyond another vehicle. You are required to stop at the stop line before proceeding.*

## Anole, Lizard, Gecko?

Conni Mayatt  
Volunteer

Have you ever wondered about the lizard-like creatures that frequent our yards? I have. So, I set out to learn a little about them. Some look like we should be frightened of them, some are very friendly, and some we find inside our home with us.

### Green Anole -

The small green guys are Green Anoles. When I was growing up, we just called them lizards, as they were the most common of all lizards. They are native to the U.S. and are typically found in the southeastern parts, but can also be found in the Caribbean.

They are sometimes called the American Chameleon because they can change color, but they are not related to chameleons. The color can change from bright green to shades of brown. It is thought that the color changes occur due to their health, mood, surroundings, or weather temperature. They are usually about 5-8 inches in length, with the female being smaller than the male. The males have pinkish-red dewlaps under their chins. The dewlaps flare when threatened by another male. This is also when you see the push-up like behavior and head bobbing. The flaring is also used by the males to attract females, which have no dewlap.

They have long slender bodies with pointed snouts and tails. Like the Mediterranean Gecko, their tails can break away to protect them.

They can be entertaining, as well as beneficial. When watching them, they cock their heads toward you like they're trying to understand what you're going to do. They are active during the day and help control insects, spiders, moths, and crickets.

Beware if you try to catch one. They look very docile, but will bite and have the tendency to not let go. Blood won't usually be drawn nor will there be injury, but it will make you think twice.

### Texas Spiny Lizard -

The multi-colored scary looking larger lizard is a Texas Spiny Lizard. They are native to the south central U.S. and northern parts of Mexico.

They usually range from 7-11 inches. Patterns of gray, white, black, and reddish-brown blotches seem to vary with the locality. These patterns help them camouflage against tree bark and ground litter. Their undersides are light gray and the males have blue patches on their sides. Their bodies have scales which are spiny in texture. Long toes, sharp claws, and muscular legs assist in their climbing.

Like the Green Anole, the male shows dominance by doing push-ups with an offender, until one retreats.

Though somewhat fierce looking, they are rather shy and will retreat when approached. That being said, they can make an ideal small pet. Not for me, perhaps!

Once again, they are beneficial to us. They dine during the day on beetles, moths, insects, and spiders. That includes wolf spiders and small tarantulas. While it doesn't happen often, if one gets in your house, they can be gently guided by a broom etc. to leave.

### Mediterranean Gecko -

The almost translucent ones that hang around our outside lights and race to gain entry to our homes is the Mediterranean Gecko. Though common to the Mediterranean, they have spread to many parts of the world. In the U.S., they are found mostly in the south, but are also in Virginia, California, North Carolina, and Kansas. The increase in their range is due to being highly resistant to pesticides and having few predators.

Typically, they are about 4-6 inches in length. This time of year you will see babies of varying lengths, with the smallest being about an inch long. They have a rounded snout, large eyes with no lids, vertical pupils, and granular skin that feels soft to the touch. Their bodies vary from a pale translucent pinkish white to gray and tan. The tail is round and has light and dark bands.

Sometimes you see them with little or no tails. This is a result of their defense system casting the tail off.

But, not to worry, they can regenerate a new one.

The males emit mouse-like squeaking during fights. It is also believed they use that to claim territory. During breeding season, the male courts the female with clicking sounds.

They are beneficial to us since they eat insects, spiders, and moths. Their peak activity is around 2:00 a.m., so we rarely see them during the day. But, at night, be careful when opening and closing your doors. They are really fast and will gain entry to your home. Luckily, they are fairly easy to catch and release back outside. They will bite, if afraid, but are not aggressive. Like the Green Anole, their bites don't break the skin. I've saved quite a few from indoors and have never had a bite.

**The Volunteer View is published by the  
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