

# THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 13

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A Quarterly Publication for the  
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

## Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism

### Chiefs Corner

Chief Kniffen



Last month, Scott Johnson and I attended the "train the trainer" class in order to teach the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class in Trophy Club. This was a class that I had been waiting to attend for a while. I attended the CERT Instructor training in 2005. At that time, the class was essentially the basic CERT training with a little instructor training thrown in.

The class Scott and I attended had more in-depth information on being an instructor, evaluating the program and students, and planning the classes. Needless to say, it was a great class, taught by Master Instructors from around the region, and encompassing the things a CERT instructor will need to do to make the class a success. One of the great things about the class was meeting other folks in the region that are interested in teaching CERT. We met a nurse who is interested in assisting us with the first aid portion of the class and who will probably call on us to assist when she gives a class of her own. The willingness to share the instructional duties spoke very well for the folks who attended the class.

One of the things the Master Instructors encouraged us to do is to develop a 30 second "sales pitch" for CERT. Keeping my "sales pitch" to 30 seconds will be a challenge. That's not something I'm very good at. I think that CERT is one of the best ways a volunteer can give back to their community.

CERT provides trained personnel to assist professional first responders in an emergency situation. We've fielded our CERT trained volunteers in an emergency and utilized their willingness to serve on several occasions. We've received grants to equip our CERT and are exploring ways to expand our capabilities. I'm excited about teaching CERT here in Trophy Club again.

After the basic CERT class, Denton County CERT has frequent classes to expand and enhance a CERT member's ability. Scott has attended several of the classes and it's a great opportunity to learn more about CERT and develop new skills as well as meet other volunteers who have similar objectives.

While we haven't planned the class yet, I suspect that there will be a CERT class opportunity shortly after the first of January. So if you're interested, let Scott or me know.

### Be Aware

Scott Johnson



There have been a number of events recently that point to the importance of being aware of what is going on around you.

There was the vehicle loaded with explosives at Times Square in NY. Someone was aware enough to notice there was something wrong. They notified the police so someone could check it out. They SAID SOMETHING.

There was a murder of 2 men in Dallas a few years back. They owned and worked at a Christian Music Studio and were shot and killed in the parking lot. Someone who knew them knew they had to be up to no good. They stopped by late at night wanting to hang out instead of going home. When they heard what had happened they SAID SOMETHING. A few days later the police found them because of the lead.

Frustration for law enforcement is when people report things, but not until hours or days later. There is little or anything they can do.

There is more to watch for than the nuts with bombs and guns.

Rising crime is Human Trafficking. You may think this is just smuggling people into the country. That might be a part of the crime, but it involves pressing anyone into forced labor, prostitution, and other crimes. You just might BE AWARE and see something to help.

#### 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.

Is there a house or apartment near you where there seem to be too many people living there? Or constantly a cycle of different people staying there and moving on. Only to be replaced by new people?

Do you see businesses where the same work staff is there working all day through several shifts? (I am not talking about a family business). Do you see businesses where all the workers come at the same time and leave at the same time in one or two vehicles? Does it seem like they never visit the other shops nearby where they would be out alone? Human trafficking can involve someone forcing just 2 or 3 people to work for them.

Please BE AWARE and SAY SOMETHING! Help keep your family and community safe. If you get that "funny feeling" about something, your feeling is probably right. Let the authorities know.. NOW.. do not wait until it is too late. Do not wait until the people have left the area. You might be wrong but there is only one way to find out.

## Holiday Essentials

*Sandra Millett*



It's almost time for sugar plum fairies and the big guy in the red suit to arrive. That means now is the time to dig the Christmas lights out of the far corner of the attic or garage and do some fire prevention work. After all, who needs a singing Santa?

Check for frayed cords before doing a light test. Next, make sure all bulbs are firmly attached and replace burned out or flickering lights. When in doubt, buy a new set. Better to spend a few dollars than have a group of guys arrive in a big red truck.

Has your chimney been cleaned in the last year? Thank goodness we're past the time of chimney sweep boys or pulling a bundle of brush down the flue to clean it, but removing flammable creosote is still essential. This leads to the admonition to not burn Christmas wrappings in the fire box. High flames can set the creosote on fire, resulting in another reason for sirens and the big red truck to arrive.

Another troublesome item is overloaded electrical outlets or surge protectors crammed with plugs. Save your family from a dark house by having appropriate electrical sources. And while you're at it, after you've tested the Christmas lights, have someone hold and spot you while on a ladder. Broken bones will definitely dampen your holidays.

When the season is morphing into warm memories, do safely dispose of your Christmas tree. Please use trash pickup or centralized collection locations in Trophy Club to be announced. Don't risk putting dried branches in the fireplace. If the chimney hasn't been cleaned, they can

make a grand swoosh that leads to another visit from the big red truck.

Have a joyful, safe holiday.

## The Trick to making Halloween a Treat-Tips and Reminders

**BE SEEN!**

*Robin Conarty*



Reflective clothing and lighted accessories help drivers identify walkers when dark.

Apply reflective tape to costumes at shoulders, waists and ankles.

Glow sticks, necklaces and bracelets provide long-lasting light. Children love them.

Flashlights are perfect for lighting the way and for personal visibility.

### PARENTS and GROUPS!

Parents should always be with children to ensure their safety from strangers and road hazards (cars, dogs, attack cats, etc.).

Large groups are easier seen by drivers than a lone child and parent.

### PREP CHILDREN!

Masks should fit properly allowing unobstructed vision. Like a vehicle's "blind spot," a mask can create a blind spot for your child.

Avoid baggy clothing that can catch on things causing falls. Closed-toed shoes without heels keep feet protected and help prevent falls.

Have your child repeat the Road Rules back so you know they're understood.

Do not step out into the street any further than the adult is standing, look both ways, lean out to look around parked cars before proceeding, and listen for traffic.

A planned route going down one side of the street and back on the other side minimizes crossing the street.

### CANDY CHECK

Make sure there are no signs of tampering. Wrappers with small pinholes, torn coverings that appear taped or glued back together should be discarded.

Homemade items should only be eaten if made by someone known and trusted.

**SPECIAL TIP...** "Closed" for Halloween? Make a yard sign letting children know.

## The Dangers of Deep Frying Turkeys

*Shawn Garrett*

In recent years deep-frying turkeys has become increasingly popular, especially during the Holidays. The cooking method

requires placing the turkey in three gallons or more of oil, heated by propane. Cooking with deep-fat turkey fryers can be very dangerous as they have a high risk of tipping over, overheating, or spilling hot oil. That could lead to fires, burns, or other serious injuries.

Here are 5 dangers associated with deep frying a turkey:

1. Units can easily tip over, spilling hot cooking oil over a large area.
2. An overfilled cooking pot or partially frozen turkey will cause cooking oil to spill when the turkey is inserted.
3. A small amount of cooking oil coming into contact with the burner can cause a large fire.
4. Without thermostat controls, deep fryers have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
5. The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles can get dangerously hot, creating severe burn hazards.

In light of these dangers, if you decide to fry your turkey this Thanksgiving, these precautions should be followed:

- Fryers should always be used outdoors, on a solid level surface a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials.
- Never use a fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage or enclosed space.
- Do not overfill the fryer.
- Never leave the fryer unattended because, without thermostat controls, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use or after use as the oil can remain hot for hours.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts and wear long sleeves and safety goggles to protect from splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed before it is placed in a fryer.
- Keep all-purpose fire extinguishers nearby.
- If a turkey fryer fire occurs, call 911 immediately.

## Spicy Chili Dip

With chili powder, red pepper flakes and picante sauce, this dip has plenty of kick!

Take this dip to your holiday parties and don't worry about taking home any leftovers!

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
  - 2 cups (16 ounces) sour cream
  - 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
  - 2 garlic cloves, minced
  - 1 tablespoon chili powder
  - 1/2 teaspoons crushed red pepper flakes
  - 1-1/2 cups picante sauce
  - 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- Fresh vegetables and corn *or* tortilla chips

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and sour cream until smooth. Beat in the onion, garlic, chili powder and pepper flakes. Stir in picante sauce and mozzarella cheese. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Serve with vegetables and chips. Recommend green broccoli, red and green pepper slices, and cauliflower for holiday color. Yields about 5 cups.

## Editors Corner

*Elaine Voigt*

In this issue, I am going to get on my soap box so bear with me. So many times someone will come up to me and say... "The police need to be nicer"... "I waved at them but they didn't wave back"... "I was going 40 mph in a 30 mph speed zone, what's the big deal"... and one of my favorites... "I don't see why the cyclists have to stop at the stop signs or red lights especially if they are in a group".

First of all, a police officer is NOT Superman, Ironman or Wonder Woman. They have feelings, emotions, aches, pains and the occasional irritability. So if an officer stops you and isn't as "nice" as you think they should be, put yourself in their place. Also, don't take their demeanor as mean if they are not smiling while conducting business. There is a flip side of that coin as well, if an officer seems too happy, that too can make people angry. They try to strike a balance when working with the public, you have to remain somewhat detached yet professional. You need to try to keep your emotions in check, not too stern nor too happy. How would you handle a conversation with someone when they start out, "don't you have anything better to do?" Just because we live in a wonderful, little town of Trophy Club, it doesn't mean we don't get the same problems and challenges as a big city. You might want to think about the old saying, "If you see someone without a smile, give them yours". I'm sure an officer would like to get a few more smiles a day, too.

Now when you wave at the police officer and he doesn't wave back, it could be because he doesn't see you (reflection off of glass). He may be looking in your direction but he is scanning the area. If you've been

around a law enforcement person long enough, you will notice they are always aware of their surroundings. This is what helps them be prepared for any situation and could save their lives as well as someone else's. Plus, the officer could be looking at his instruments, while stationary, in the car and not see you wave at all. Don't take it personally if he doesn't wave.

**S**peed Limits!!!! There is a very good reason for them. But first, in all fairness, I had only been living in Trophy Club three months when I was stopped for going 40 mph in a 30 mph speed zone. I was in college and was worried about a very important test coming up, and didn't have my mind on the speedometer when I was coming down a hill. When the officer stopped me I was prepared for a ticket and "sucked it up", not giving the officer a "Why are you stopping me" attitude. Because I was honest about why I was speeding and giving the officer the respect he deserved, he only gave me a warning ticket. After that, I always watch how fast I am going. When you are going 30 mph it is much easier to stop if a child, animal or adult, for any number of reasons, runs out in front of a moving vehicle. When you are going 40 mph, it takes longer to stop and can mean the difference between an accident, being injured or being dead!!! Just remember, you are not Superman with the ability to go back in time to change events. Texting comes to mind in this category. I was coming home from a trip last week and nearly had **THREE** accidents because of some obviously busy person texting and not paying any attention to the road. Not only was my life placed in jeopardy, but other lives were put in jeopardy, as well. I don't know about most of you, but I really would like to live to a ripe old age and still be able to be ambulatory with my mind and body intact as much as possible. Life throws a person enough curve balls, so having someone think they can drive without having their eyes, hands and minds completely on driving is an accident waiting to happen.

**N**ow for my favorite...Cyclists. Cyclists must go by the same rules of the road as a motor vehicle. **PERIOD!!!!** The only exception is when it is a controlled, monitored situation such as a closed race or rally. From my own experience, I've nearly hit a cyclist when he ran a stop sign. Scared me out of 10 years of my life, and of course, I said a few select words, the idea of hitting someone was so horrifying to me! Luckily, I was cautious, knowing how many of the cyclists have no regard for the rules or their safety, so I slowed when I saw him nearing the stop sign.

**I**f you really want to be educated and have all your questions answered about why a police officer does what he does, attend a class of the Trophy Club Citizens Police Academy. It's an 11 week course that meets one day a week. The classes form twice a year, and trust me, they are well worth the time and effort!!! Even being married to a police officer, I've learned a LOT and appreciate our men and women in blue so much more. If you are interested in

the Academy, please contact Officer Scott Voigt at 682.831.4651 or svoigt@trophyclub.org .

**I**n conclusion, please be considerate of others. It doesn't cost anything to have manners and consideration. Who knows, it might make your day if you do a kindness to someone who might need it even more than you realize.

*Be Safe Always!!!*

## TCEVA Calendar of Events – Q4

<b>TCEVA General Meetings</b>	October 29 <sup>th</sup> November 19 <sup>th</sup> December - TBD
7 p.m. at the TC Fire Department Training Room	
<b>FD Open House</b>	October 12 <sup>th</sup>
TC Fire Department 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
<b>Urban Shield Exercise</b>	November 9-10 <sup>th</sup>
Various locations in DFW	
<b>Skywarn Storm Spotter Training</b>	November 18 <sup>th</sup>
in Plano, TX	
<b>CPAANT General Meetings</b>	October 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 7 <sup>th</sup> -
in Duncanville, TX	
in Flower Mound, TX	
TBD	
<b>North Texas Crime Prevention Association</b>	October 17 <sup>th</sup> November 21 <sup>st</sup>
Training Meetings in Rockwall, TX	
in University Park, TX	
<b>Trophy Club Town Events</b>	October 12 <sup>th</sup> October 19 <sup>th</sup> November 5 <sup>th</sup> December 7 <sup>th</sup> December 20 <sup>th</sup>
North Texas Bicycle Rally	
Town-Wide Garage Sale	
Election Day	
Christmas Celebration	
Last Day of School before Holidays	

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