

THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 17

OCT - DEC 2014

A Quarterly Publication for the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism

The Chief's Corner

Chief Scott Kniffen

By now, most folks know that I'll be retiring September 30, 2014. My wife, Joanne, and I are already making plans to fill our time with various activities when we move to Clyde, Texas (near Abilene) and get situated.

Planning for and thinking about retirement is essentially a concept plan until you actually set a date.

Then it becomes real. As time grows shorter, I find myself reminiscing about the past but, more often than not, I'm thinking about the future. I'll be turning the page on a chapter in my life that is 40 years long. What will the next 40 years hold, if I am blessed with that? It's a little bit daunting but a little exciting at the same time.

I grew up around Clyde and Joanne and I will be retiring there and, at some point, building on five acres we purchased from my parent's estate. My childhood home is right next door. The house my dad was born in used to stand right across the road. Clyde has always been a farming community and I'll be putting in a fall garden, building fences, and improving the property as time goes on. Currently we are building a large shop for our projects that will include a covered space for our 5th wheel trailer and smaller, climate controlled mini shops for our hobbies. All of the things that go along with country living – installing water lines and a septic system, getting electrical and propane service established, and deciding the final layout of the property will need to be done before we move. Eventually we'll build our home on the property. For now, we'll be living in our 5th wheel with our dogs and ferrets.

I'm looking forward to having time to catch up on some of the projects that got put aside for various reasons. I have a harvest table, a secretary desk, and an arm chair to refinish. I have some chairs that I need to put together and finish for the table. I have a few leather-working projects I need to do. I have some of the lumber salvaged from the house in which my Dad was born and will build something from that material. There is a community theater in Clyde that I plan get involved with and, of course, Joanne and I will be searching for a church home.

There is a Cowboy Action Shooting club near Abilene as well as a western reenactment organization so I'll try to participate in both those activities as time permits. Of course, I'll have a little more time to spend on the deer lease. All of which will, of course, be contingent on me getting my chores done.



There may be some employment opportunities that would intrigue me. Some retired chiefs fill in as Interim Chiefs when a city is searching for a full-time chief. There might be some opportunity to teach at a community college or provide training for small agencies. More than likely, I'll find a place to continue to teach Concealed Handgun Licensing courses but I won't be in any hurry to be employed on a full-time basis.

I plan to spend much of my time like I spent most of the last 40 years: Serving. The older section of the Clyde cemetery needs some TLC and, as time permits, I want to spend some time improving that, leveling headstones and such. Joanne is interested in helping develop a historical tour of the century-plus old cemetery.

There will be no shortage of opportunities to give back. There's an old saying from an unknown author, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Until my retirement date, I will continue to work as if I was going to be here forever. The budget I've developed includes additional funding for volunteer training and supplies, as does the Fire Department budget. We continue to work toward becoming a recognized agency. But I've started packing some things in my office all the same.

My time here has been enriched by my involvement with the volunteers in Trophy Club. I have never worked in a community in which there were so many capable, caring, dedicated volunteers. Trophy Club is truly blessed with a volunteer spirit. From the folks who pick up trash along the trails to the Mayor and Council, Trophy Club citizens exemplify that saying, above.

I appreciate all the time our volunteers have served alongside our first responders. Whether it was directing traffic in a down-pour or in the blazing sun, helping the Fire Department with rehab, training together, serving in administrative duties, or something else the volunteers undertook, their activities provided the Town with much needed services. Thank you all. It's been a privilege. ***The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it. -- John Ruskin***

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.

From the Editor

Elaine Voigt

Well, they say all good things must come to an end, and so it is with my tenure as the Volunteer View's chairman and editor. This has been such a wonderful experience learning how to be in a leadership position, working with a great committee and interviewing so many interesting people, in this, our great Town of Trophy Club.

I want to thank my committee members, Twyla Berry, Sandra Millett, Conni Mayatt, Robin Conarty and former member Chuck Goodrich. Without these wonderful and dedicated people, my job would have been so much harder and less fun. Your articles have always been informative and thought-provoking. I want to thank all of the people I interviewed who sat patiently, answering my questions and giving not only of their time but a part of their life and themselves. There are so many worthy employees in Trophy Club who give a lot for the citizens. You will, forever, be my heroes.

To Police Chief Scott Kniffen & Fire Chief Danny Thomas for contributing articles, on a rotating basis, to each issue. Also, to the TCEVA Presidents and Vice Presidents who contributed articles on a rotating basis. Your lives are busy enough, so I especially thank you for your time.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Officer Scott Voigt who put in so much time formatting and publishing each issue. Thank you, Officer Voigt, for adding articles which were informative and so interesting regarding Law Enforcement. Also, thank you for showing me I could be more than I thought I could be.

On another note, if any active members of the TCEVA would like to take up the gauntlet to be chairman and committee members, please let me or our President, Dena Boudreau, know. *It has been a pleasure serving you.*



©Prawny Vintage * www.ClipartOI.com/1119717

in to help. With no power, Safeway pushed open its sliding doors and invited flashlight-at-the-ready residents in to shop, then told them to pay later.

We were lucky since we were packed to move to Oregon. Only our grandfather's clock opted for an early departure by walking two feet into the dining room. We were lucky, most tall clocks crashed. Which brings me to relating how to keep things where they belong, whether from earth's movement or inquisitive little hands at Christmas time.

One year, we had a toddler when Santa was about to visit. My husband wanted to purchase a small tree and put it on a card table for safety. However, this put hanging ornaments at grasping hand level. Better to get a large tree and wire the top of the tree to the wall to keep it from tipping over. Also check all tree lights for safety. Replace burned out blubs and discard those strings that have damaged sockets or wiring. If you plan on hanging outdoor lights, *always* have a spotter holding the ladder. Too many incautious decorators spend the holidays sitting in a chair with a leg wrapped in plaster.

Want to save frustration and money? One holiday my oldest son just finished peeling about ten pounds of potatoes. I walked in as he reached to flip the disposal switch, I hollered, but too late, the motor turned over and immediately halted, jammed with peelings. Much later that day, after he handed over a large check, the sink was in operation again.

If you love candle's glow, please keep them away from both real and artificial trees. And blow out when leaving the house or going to bed. Both burn and its best not to meet our TC firemen on an emergency call.

Whether holiday or any day, keep a fire extinguisher nearby and be safe.

LIGHTNING

Conni Mayatt

While you're reading this, there are about 1800 thunderstorms occurring.

Who gets struck? Approximately 81% of lightning fatalities are men and the largest age group is 20-29. Many think that golfers are the most likely to be hit/killed by lightning. They are wrong!

Fishermen take the top spot with more than three times the fatalities as golfers. In fact, golfers come in behind fishermen, campers, boaters, beach-goers, soccer players and yard workers. For work-related activities, farming and ranching are at the top of the list.

Where are the most fatalities? In this case, we really don't want to be number one. Florida holds the top spot with approximately twice as many casualties as any other state. That said, Texas *does* come in second. There is an average of 33 deaths reported per year in the United States.

When do most fatalities occur? The peak time for lightning activity coincides with the peak time of outdoor summer activities in June, July, and August. So, approximately 70% of lightning deaths occur then, with most on the weekends.



Jingle, Jingle -- CRASH!

By Sandra Millett

After living in California for thirty-eight years -- San Francisco for ten years -- I've learned how to modify the CRASH! Especially when the earth comes at you in two-foot-high waves. Napa's recent August 6.1 earthquake brought our experience of a 7.3 Richter reading rushing back. Twenty-five years ago we lived in the Santa Cruz area when it hit. While it's referred to as a San Francisco earthquake, the epicenter was four miles from our house in Rio del Mar. Downtown Santa Cruz was devastated, chimneys lay crumbled on roofs, older homes were pushed eighteen inches off their foundations and antique store owners faced piles of crumbled glass. While some camped in their front yards, everyone pitched



What precautions can I take? Don't talk on the phone during a thunderstorm. This means cell phones and land lines. About 1% of all lightning deaths occur to someone using their land line inside the home.

Stay off computers and don't use other electrical equipment that puts you in direct contact with electricity.

Avoid plumbing fixtures, including baths, faucets, and sinks.

You will be safer inside a car than out. However, remember that it is not the rubber tires that are protecting you, but the metal roof and sides. So, don't lean on the doors during a storm.

If you're caught outside, do not lie flat on the ground, take shelter under a tree, or get close to power lines, wire fences, bleachers, or any body of water. A common myth is to lie on the ground, but we now know that it increases our chance of being affected by deadly ground current. Make yourself a low target, stay away from tall objects, and seek proper shelter.

Be aware that not all lightning strikes occur in the middle of the thunderstorm area. Strikes are often more than three miles away from the center and can occur ten-fifteen miles away and completely outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. So, give a little more caution when we know thunderstorms are occurring in Grapevine, Keller, etc.

Sadly, media reports are showing that many victims were either headed to safety or just steps away. So, we must learn to react sooner and when danger appears to be further away.

What about survival? The good news is that about 71%-90% (depending on resource) of people struck by lightning survive. Typically, death is the result of cardiac arrest. Death may also be caused by damage to internal organs and the nervous system.

Even if someone survives, they may often suffer from psychological and other serious health problems such as impaired hearing, constant pain, loss of memory, and insomnia.

How close is it? Without going into the speed of light and sound, you can approximate the distance to a lightning strike by timing the interval of when you first see it and when you hear it. If you can count three seconds in between, it was about one kilometer (.62 miles) away. Likewise, if you can count five seconds, it was approximately a mile away. Obviously, those times when you see lightning and hear thunder at almost the same time – it's very close!

A safety message from NOAA – When Thunder Roars Go Indoors!

Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association Calendar – Q4

TCEVA General Meetings – 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the TCFD Training Room

October 13

November 10

December 8

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of North Texas (CPAANT)

General Meetings – 10 a.m. on the 1st Saturday of the month

October 4 – Fort Worth Police Academy Auditorium

November 1 – Richardson CPAAA

December 6 – DeSoto CPAAA

Denton County CERT – 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at Denton County EOC

October 7

November 4

December 2

North Texas Crime Prevention Association (NTCPA)

Training – 10 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month

October 16 – Plano PD

November 20 – Rowlett Community Center

December 18 – Babe's Restaurant in Carrollton

Town Events

October 7 – National Night Out from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

October 11 – Trophy Club Fire Department Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

October 18 – Community Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

October 31 – Halloween (COP patrol)

December 6 – Christmas Celebration and 5K Run

December 7 – Christmas Tour of Homes

Chief Kniffen Thank you!

Scott Johnson



I have been involved with the volunteers in Trophy club for over 5 years. During that time I have gotten involved with other local and regional emergency volunteer groups.

They are great people with big hearts for their communities. You find all kinds of backgrounds and experiences with the volunteers. They also have all kinds of opinions and levels of training.

We are very lucky to have people like Chief Scott Kniffen & Chief Danny Thomas at the head of our police and fire departments. They have a heart for the community and the volunteers.

Volunteers are not professionally trained like the police, fire, and Paramedics, but they train to learn more. The professional emergency responders have thousands of hours of training. A volunteer usually has about 20-30 hours of training. If there is interest and effort made, a volunteer might get closer to 100 hours of training. Someone has to have an interest to offer the training to the volunteers. Our Chiefs have provided training for us. The professionals have chains of command, reports to file, procedures and policies to follow, and government agencies to report to. Volunteers ask "Rules?"

What makes it work? To have a vision for the community that sees beyond the 4 walls of an office and the exterior of the building. The citizens ARE the reason the departments exist and function. There is a choice to be made between an "us vs. them" mentality and the community of "we". In Trophy Club it is "we", together.

Chief Kniffen has always been professional and thoughtful. He brought humor and insight to our efforts. He often brought us quick to the point of what action to take next. I attended a

training with him for CERT. The instructors commented they were not surprised he was the Chief of Police. He has a command posture and voice of authority they all noticed.

Since organizing volunteers can be like herding cats, at times, (I can say that because I am one) Chief Kniffen was kind enough to give us Officer Scott Voigt. Officer Voigt has a huge heart for the volunteers. Chief Thomas is right there too. I have worked with all 3 of them over these years and can't even guess at the hours they have put in, paid or not, to help the volunteers and Trophy Club.

While this is a heartfelt thanks to all 3, this is a chance to publicly say thank you to Chief Kniffen as he leaves us for a new and exciting stage of life. Enjoy your retirement with the thanks of the Trophy Club Emergency Volunteers Association. You are appreciated for all your time and service. Thank you for the vision to see we are stronger while working together.

I thank you personally for the encouragement you have shown me.

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

Robin Conarty

BE SEEN!

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

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

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

Tell children not to 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 that no one is home and place it where it can be seen from the sidewalk. There is nothing worse to a child than finding that they've spent their valuable candy collecting time waiting for someone to NOT answer the door.

Short Note From The Liaison

Officer Scott Voigt

Lots of things happening with the Volunteers and by next meeting I hope that we will be sharing some new information with you, not the least which will be who our next Chief will be.

YOU have made it possible for the volunteers to now have a fully outfitted COP vehicle. You've seen the "new" 10 year old Expedition which has been decked out with a new livery and very soon we will have equipment on it to make your work both easier and safer. By our next issue, we should see some pictures of the vehicle.

Hopefully by the next quarter we will also be able to start rolling out some plans for future development of the TCEVA and additional opportunities for all of you. This will come with additional requirements and training, but I think that you will enjoy where we are trying to go.

Watch this space for the new opportunities as they become available. By the next issue, we hope to see the bylaws in place as well as be on the way for the forming of the TCEVA's 501 (c) 3, from there more good things coming up.



**The Volunteer View is published by the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association
Editor - Elaine M. Voigt**