

THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 21

OCT - DEC 2015

A Quarterly Publication for the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism

From the Chief

Danny Thomas

“From the Tail Board”

What a great year! After about two years of planning and strategies we as a department working with the Municipal Utility District approved the purchase of a new ladder truck.

The design process started with building a team from staff, management and members of the community. The history to this process started in early 1994 with the build specs of our current ladder truck “Quint 681”. Purchased to cover the growth of our community and help cover the larger buildings in the Solana complex, this 75’ ladder was the latest in technology.

The new member of our Department is a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT-HD with a ladder reach of 105’. Please come by the fire station and see the new truck.

Ok, now back to the rest of the year. Budget went well and we were able to add another firefighter, this will put 5 firefighters per shift. Emergency Medical Services replaced a patient cot that was due at a small cost of \$14,000 with a back-up in the budget for this current year. We started a new



medical control program back in January with Baylor Hospital and a new Medical control doctor. This will bring an exciting new level of education for all the medics.

Why Do I Volunteer?

Scott Spooner

During the fall of 2012, I attended the Trophy Club Citizen’s Police Academy. I was very impressed with the dedication of the police officers and gained a better understanding of how the citizen volunteers can assist non-policing activities, allowing the officers to concentrate on police activities. In 2013, I also attended the Trophy Club Citizen’s Fire Academy and again witnessed the same dedication of the fire/EMS staff. At any one time, both the Trophy Club Police and Fire Departments have minimal staff on-hand patrolling our streets or answering calls. This is where volunteers are a critical part of their operations.

After completing the Citizen’s Police Academy, I decided to take the Citizen’s On Patrol (COP) classes. I was amazed at how appreciative the officers were of the COPs, for providing the extra sets of eyes out on the streets, especially on weekends. There have been several cases where COP members have reported suspicious activities which have led to arrests. In 2014, I became very active, along with several other



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.

volunteers, in assisting at the TCPD with the Property/Evidence Room inventory and clean-up. Without the volunteers, this would have taken officers off their full-time positions or meant the department spending a huge amount in overtime. It was not only interesting to learn about property administration, it was a great glimpse into the criminal justice system. I have also had the opportunity to assist the TCPD by transporting vehicles for maintenance and equipment outfitting; leaving police officers on the streets of Trophy Club.

With the Trophy Club Fire Department, I became a member of the “Red Hats”, which provide support to the fire fighters during emergencies. Our very first callout was for a house fire less than two blocks from my house. The volunteers provided drinks and snacks for the 5 local fire departments that fought the blaze. I recently ran into a firefighter from Southlake that remembered us being there and thanked me for our service.

I enjoy volunteering knowing I am supporting our local police and fire, meeting new and interesting people, and having the opportunity to work a flexible schedule. This has been my way to give back to the community; something I have always wanted to do but never thought I had the time, until I started volunteering and found out that you do not need a lot of time.

VIALOFLIFE.COM

Donna Schlenger

There are several different reasons why there is a need for the Vial of Life program. Often, responders go to emergencies where the person is unable to speak or may be confused. The Vial of Life program will speak for these patients when they are unable to. The Fire Department encourages you to utilize this program so they can provide the best customer service possible.

- The Vial of Life is a program that is designed to provide important information about you when you are unable to speak for yourself.
- It is FREE for all participants.

- Fill out a simple questionnaire about your medical history. When completed it should be placed on your refrigerator. It will provide first responders with patient names, age, drug allergies, primary care physician, current medications and past medical history.
- Participants will be given a Vial of Life decal that should be placed on the front door to alert Emergency Responders.
- Pick up information at the TROPHY CLUB FIRE DEPARTMENT or VIALOFLIFE.COM

WHY TRACK VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND SERVICE HOURS?

Tom Mills

Many volunteers donate their time because they enjoy the activity, they want to help and have resources, or they like to socialize while contributing. Most of us don't care about tracking and reporting activities. So why are we asked to report our time? To answer this question, Town and State organizations were contacted. What follows is a compilation of their responses.

Some organizations provide limited **insurance** for volunteers working on its activities or property. To ensure appropriate coverage, the insurance company requires the number volunteers and hours involved, in addition to the type of activities performed.

Many beneficial activities require **training** for the volunteer to complete the tasks safely, effectively and with discretion. Knowing what training a volunteer has completed helps organizations to match volunteers with tasks, or choose to outsource if necessary.

Organizations provide **funds** for basic tools and materials so volunteers can carry out their activities efficiently. Knowing how many volunteers and how much time is expended allows organizations to budget adequate funds. **Grants** are also available from governments and corporations for larger expenses and capital

projects completed by volunteer groups. The more volunteers and service time reported, the potentially larger grant from the sponsors.

When organizations have a data base of volunteer names and past contributions, they can better decide if a project could be handled by volunteer talent, skills and resources **valued at \$22.55 per hour**, versus adding staff or hiring contractors. Volunteers contributed thousands of hours recently in North Texas park and lake cleanup activities following the spring floods. Of course tracking time allows organizations to recognize volunteer contributions and milestones. One of my responders reminds us that “**you measure what you value**”.

The Holiday Turkey Deep-Fry

Robin Conarty

This relatively quick and easy method of cooking your holiday turkey produces delicious, juicy meat on the inside with a tasty, crispy skin on the outside. However, the dangers posed by cooking fryers that use oil, as currently designed, are so great that the National Fire Protection Agency believes that the fryers are not suitable for safe use.

With that said, and your unwavering desire to fry that bird, please seriously exercise the following precautions and make preparations if something should go awry. Further details can be found at

<https://learningcenter.statefarm.com/safety-2/15-turkey-fryer-safety-tips/>.

- ✓ Fry outdoors only, off decks, out of garage and away from trees and structures
- ✓ Make sure fryer is on a level surface and will not need to be moved during cooking
- ✓ Keep away from water, don't fry during rain or snow and make sure turkey is dry inside and out
- ✓ Use a temperature-controlled fryer and turn fryer off if oil starts smoking

- ✓ Don't overfill oil and keep burner two feet from fryer when using propane-powered fryer
- ✓ Turn off burner while lower turkey into pot. Once submerged, turn on burner, again.
- ✓ Keep children and pets away from fryer and never leave it unattended by an adult
- ✓ Choose an 8-10 pound turkey, completely thawed, unstuffed and avoid water-based marinades
- ✓ Wear proper safety products to protect eyes, hands, arms and body
- ✓ Have a “Grease-Rated” fire extinguisher available for immediate use
- ✓ Carefully remove pot, once finished, and place on a level surface, cover and cool overnight
- ✓ Consider an oil-less fryer that uses infrared heat to cook turkey

TCEVA Q-4 Calendar 2015

TCEVA General Meetings

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

Oct. 12

Nov. 9th

Dec. 14th

Denton County CERT-7 PM on the 1st Tuesday of the month
Denton County EOC-9060 Tasley Lane, Denton, TX

Oct. 6th

Nov. 3^{ed}

Dec. 1st

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of North Texas (CPAANT)

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

When: All meetings held at 10:00 AM

CPAANT

The November 7, 2015 CPAANT Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Fort Worth CPAAA

North Texas Crime Prevention Association (NTCPA)

Nov. 19th

NCTCOG-Regional Police Academy

624 Six Flags Dr., #125

Arlington, TX 76011

Phone: 817-608-2300

Topic: "UPDATE TABC LAWS- INCLUDES NEW OPEN CARRY LAWS"

Presenter: TABC Agent

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Dec. 17th

Christmas Luncheon

Babe's Chicken Dinner House 1006 W. Main St.

Carrollton, Tx. 75006

972-245-7773

Crime Prevention Corner

Scott H. Voigt

It is that time of year again. The holidays are upon us, the happy family gatherings along with the spreading of cheer. However, with that are the people who want to be the Grinch in our lives. So while you are enjoying your holidays with family and friends be vigilant both at home and away.

Keep your doors locked even when you are home, don't leave your garage door open unless you are actually working in it (it only takes a few seconds to take what they want). Don't populate your Christmas Tree with gifts until Christmas, this keeps you from advertising to the world that you have items worth coming and taking. If you can schedule your gift deliveries, try to do so when you are home. The theft of packages on doorsteps is on the rise in the Metroplex.

When out shopping, keep your purchased items out of plain sight in your vehicle. If possible,

shop with friends, going out with a bunch of people is always safer. If you are going to go out at night, try to park in well lit, and heavily traveled areas. Keep aware of your surroundings and if someone is following you, try to find other people and don't be afraid to call the police to report it immediately. Keep your car doors locked all the time, and as you are walking to your car have your keys ready to have your car unlocked just as you walk up to it. With most modern vehicles, as you unlock your vehicle, the lights come on. Take advantage of this to look at the interior of your car as you walk up to it. Make sure that you don't have an unwanted guest waiting for you. Be vigilant at all times, not just for yourself, but for others around you as well. Through being vigilant, you may be the one who helps save someone else by being able to summon help if someone is less fortunate than you.

For those of you who are now trained observers, use your skills to help law enforcement, we need all of the trained eyes we can get. You are in a great position while you are out and about to observe and report. You are well camouflaged while out enjoying yourself, you don't look like you are out prowling for thieves, you blend right in to the thieves eyes.

The holidays also bring on extra workload for the TCEVA, we have Town events that we need help with as well as heightened patrols to help keep our citizens safe. I want to thank all of you ahead of time for putting aside some of your free time for us, it is people like yourselves who make this such a great Town.

I would also like to thank all of you for sticking with us through all of the changes that have been taking place. Our staffing is finally getting back to where it should be, and hopefully we now will have the time to devote to more of your needs. There are more changes coming in 2016 and we will need all of your help to make them come to fruition. Please stay safe and enjoy these times with family and friends.

**The Volunteer View is published by the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association
Editor - Donna Schlenger**

