



**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY TO MARCH 2010**

**VOLUME 44**

**GREETINGS FROM TORRANCE POLICE CHIEF  
JOHN J. NEU**

It is hard to believe that 2009 is now behind us, but as we enter 2010, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy New Year. As all of you are aware, 2009 provided us with many challenges, but with those challenges came opportunities for us to enhance the service we provide to the citizens of Torrance. The most significant enhancement will be our transition to Team Policing later this month. Teams of officers will be assigned to one of three specific areas within the city along with a lieutenant and sergeant. This policing model will enable us to have more officers on the streets of Torrance at the times and places where they are needed the most in an effort to further reduce crime.



Reducing crime is our primary goal, but we realize we cannot do it alone. We were once again successful in 2009 by significantly reducing Part I crimes. To be successful in reducing crime there has to be collaboration and cooperation with all of our employees, outside law enforcement agencies and you, our community members. Without all three, we will struggle in achieving our goal of crime reduction.

As you can see, we recognize the importance of Neighborhood Watch and the importance of community based crime prevention efforts. We would be completely ineffective without the help and assistance of attentive citizens who care about their neighborhood and their neighbors. The most talented

officer that we have will never know as much about your neighborhood than you do, such as what cars belong, and what time your neighbor leaves for work and gets home from work. In short, we need you to continue to be our eyes and our ears because without your active participation, it will be much more difficult to succeed.

Thank you for participating in Neighborhood Watch, for choosing to be a part of the solution to crime reduction, and for your decision to work with us as partners. Just as I continue to be so impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of our outstanding police department; I have also been gratified at the support and kindness that is regularly demonstrated by the citizens of Torrance. Thank you and have a great 2010.

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**FAREWELL LT. D' ANJOU**



Lt. Steve D'Anjou, center.

The Community Affairs Division is saying good-bye to Lieutenant Steve D'Anjou. He will be returning to the Patrol Division to help kick off Team Policing. Steve has raised the bar for us in Community Affairs, holding the Division accountable for deeper, more meaningful community outreach and building community partnerships.

Steve contributed a great deal to the Community Affairs Division, the Torrance Police Department, and the Torrance Community during his tenure here. In a short two years, he was instrumental in tripling the Neighborhood Watch membership; he updated our website and acquired Facebook and Twitter accounts so we could communicate with our community more efficiently; he introduced the Return Home Registry to assist families with elderly or developmentally delayed family members who could get lost; he was the face and voice of safety messages via CitiCable and Time Warner Cable programs.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Steve has a passion for community outreach that will sorely be missed. He is a board member for a variety of community organizations such as Pediatric Therapy Network, Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run Council, and Switzer Learning Center, to name a few. Though there were many wonderful events this year, the highlight was watching Steve play Santa for so many special children in our community this holiday season.

Steve... Thank you for leading by example and for all the contributions you have made, particularly to the citizens of our community. We wish you all the luck in Patrol!

The Torrance Police Department's Return Home Registry is an innovative program designed to assist officers in locating lost or wandering persons when they go missing from their home or caregivers. Because these can be critical times, the program assists in getting vital information to law enforcement personnel to assist in locating your loved ones sooner. The goal of this registry is simply to reunite families as soon as possible

Police Officers frequently respond to calls from citizens with requests for assistance in locating loved ones. This searchable database will provide police officers with the vital information they need to locate and return your family members. The database will allow officers in the field to find information, including photographs of missing persons to help identify persons they locate who cannot identify themselves and/or remember where they live. It will greatly reduce the amount of time needed to successfully reunite missing persons with their loved ones.

This voluntary program is offered at no cost to participants. This program is geared towards persons of all ages who suffer from conditions that would make it more difficult for them to find their way home, such as persons with Alzheimer's, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome or other debilitating illnesses and children with special needs. This program is NOT for persons who voluntarily run away from home for other reasons and/or have behavioral issues not related to a special need.

For more information, you can contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391/6392/353 e-mail us at [CommunityAffairs@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:CommunityAffairs@TorranceCA.gov) or visit our website at [www.Police.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.gov)

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In 2006, newly appointed Police Chief John Neu, initiated a major restructuring of Community Affairs which took this office with two employees, and turned it into a Division. The primary function of the Community Affairs Division is outreach to the community; our main outreach program being **Neighborhood Watch**. Neighborhood Watch was introduced in the City of Torrance over 20 years ago. Although the program has been modified since then to meet the ever changing needs of our city, the goals of the program remain the same:

- Citizens help the Torrance Police Department by becoming the eyes and ears of the community.
- Neighbors look after each other .
- Citizens establish a power of presence and in doing so they establish a zone for criminals where the risk of being caught is too high for them to practice their profession.
- Citizens are empowered to remain in control of their communities.



Since the creation of the Community Affairs Division, we have gone from 500 active neighborhood watch members to close to 2000. Our goal for 2010 is to increase the number of Neighborhood Watch participants by at least 10%. We are certain that as members of current groups share their experiences and the benefit of this program with other Torrance residents, this goal will be easily achieved.

The format of the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting has also changed. In the early years of the program, meetings were attended by a Services Officer and when possible, a Police Officer was present. Currently, each meeting is attended by the patrol unit that is working in the area, a representative from the Traffic Division, a representative from the Community Affairs Division, and when possible, an on-duty Sergeant and the Watch Commander are also present. In this initial meeting, citizens are made aware of what could potentially be criminal/suspicious activity on their block and they are given the necessary tools to report this type of situation to the Police Department. In 2009, we had close to a dozen arrests stemming from Neighborhood Watch members reporting suspicious activity on their block. The Torrance Police Department strongly commends these individuals for getting involved and making a difference in their community.

Over the last two years, Community Affairs has also implemented new programs such as: Home Security Inspections, E-mail Alerts, Business Watch and Safety Training Days, and we have increased awareness of our Vacation Security Check Program. To learn more about these programs log on to our website at [www.Police.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.gov) (on-line services) or contact our office at (310) 618-6392 /6391.

The most recent change in the Community Affairs Division is bringing the Emergency Services Division under its umbrella. This merger will benefit Torrance residents in many ways including the expansion of the Map Your Neighborhood program which is disaster preparedness through Neighborhood Watch.

We look forward to our ongoing work within the community and in doing so insuring that Torrance residents continue to live in a safe city.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Safety Training Workshops

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is scheduled from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and will take place at the Torrance Police Department (3300 Civic Center Dr.) You may register online at [www.police.torranceCA.org](http://www.police.torranceCA.org) or contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 35 people who register. Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

### SESSION I

DATE: Wednesday, February 3rd  
Topic: Identity Theft

Avoid being a victim of the quickest rising crime in America

### SESSION II

Date: Wednesday, April 7th  
Topic: Internet Safety

Keeping our families safe from online threats

The goal of these workshops is to teach people how to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property. The safety topics will be taught by Police Officers with expertise in their particular subject matter.



*Torrance*  
**POLICE**

*Excellence through Teamwork*

**TIP-A-COP  
2010**



Our first Tip-A-Cop event for 2010 will be in the month of March (location and date to be determined). Please check on-line for further details or call the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6392.

In 2009, the Torrance Police Department raised close to \$15,000.00 from Tip-A-Cop events to support Special Olympics. If you would like to know more about this fundraiser, contact Services Officer Luz Aceves in the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6392. You can also e-mail her at [laceves@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:laceves@TorranceCA.gov) or visit our website at [www.Police.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.gov)



Have you ever thought what it would be like to walk in the shoes of a Police Officer? Imagine being seated in a police unit as it pursued a suspect vehicle at a high rate of speed or being able to talk to SWAT Officers while you were allowed to handle their firearms and equipment. Or what about seeing a Police K-9 up close and witness demonstrations by the K-9 Officer?

This opportunity is available through the **"Partners In Policing"** Program offered by the Torrance Police Department. This program is offered twice a year to adults who reside or work in the City of

Torrance, who belong to local organizations or have ties to the city. The Partners In Policing Program is an 11 week course held at the Torrance Police Department on Thursday nights, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Each night you will hear from different Officers as they share their stories regarding their current assignment. The classes are free and the class is comprised of 25-30 people.

Every aspect of the Torrance Police Department is covered through lectures, hands-on exercises and demonstrations. By graduation, participants will have learned why we do certain things and have had the opportunity to actually experience certain training scenarios. The program is fun and informative.

For more information and to register for the program, go to [www.Police.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.Police.TorranceCA.gov) or contact Officer Chad Farley at (310) 618-6391. You can also e-mail Officer Farley at [CFarley@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:CFarley@TorranceCA.gov)

