NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 46 JULY—SEPT 2010

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2010

The "27th Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for **Tuesday, August 3, 2010**.We cordially invite you and your community to be a part of our National Night Out Celebration.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over **36 million** people participated in National Night Out 2009 .

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local Anti-Crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond the one night.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods 'celebrate' NNO with a variety of events and activities such as:

*** block parties *cookouts * contests * youth programs**

*** visits from Torrance Police Officers.**

If you would like to know how your Neighborhood Watch Group can participate in this year's National Night, please contact Services Officer Luz Aceves at (310) 618-6392.

If you are one of our returning National Night Out participants, contact Community Affairs so that we may include your Block Party on our roster.

We hope to see all of you on August 3rd!!!

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Torrance Police Department "Did You Know" campaign continues...

The Torrance Police Department is continuing with our "Did You Know..." campaign. The goal of this campaign is to bring awareness to our community about the different free services we provide. As you travel around the city, you will continue to see large poster advertisements located in several of our bus stop shelters.

The second part of the "Did You Know" campaign will focus on the Torrance Police Department recruitment efforts. The Torrance Police Department realizes many vacancies each year through retirements. Trying to identify and hire qualified police applicants is an ongoing effort. The City continues to test on a regular basis for entry level police recruits as well as for lateral police officers. Also, due to addressing budget issues within the City, the Department is currently in the process of civilianizing many positions within the Department that used to be filled by sworn officers. If you or someone you know is interested in working in a Police related field, visit the City's job website at :

www.TorranceCA.gov/516.htm

Over the next several months, we will also feature many of our other free services. Keep an eye out for Business Watch, Neighborhood Watch, Return Home Registry, and Home Security Inspections to name just a few. Please go to our website at www.police.TorranceCA.gov or call our office at 310-618-6391/6392 if you would like more information on any of these services.

Keeping your home safe while you are away on vacation.....

The Torrance Police Department would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer. We know that this is the perfect time to get away and recharge your batteries. We have some tips to help keep your home safe while you are gone:

- Have a good lock on all doors and windows and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (proceeded by a "CA") or other identification number. Torrance Police Department has engravers you can sign out to engrave your property. For additional information contact Community Affairs
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.
- Stop all deliveries or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.

The Torrance Police Department also offers Vacation Security Checks. While you are away, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is a free service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance. To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to our website at www.Police.TorranceCA.gov and click on the "Online Services" tab. The information requested on the form will be entered into our dispatch system so that our Patrol Officers will be notified at the beginning of their shift and be reminded to check your residence while you are away.

Please feel free to complete the form and submit it so that our officers have the opportunity to provide you with the level of service you deserve as a Torrance resident. If you have any questions regarding this service, you can contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391/6392.

TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS REACHING OUT

Over the last two years, we have increased our use of different social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter with great results. This has given us the ability to disseminate real time information to the public whenever we have traffic or safety concerns in the city due to police activity. The feedback we have received from the community has been outstanding. Our followership on both Facebook and Twitter continues to grow faster than we ever expected. Our latest endeavor into the realm of Social Media was when we launched our own YouTube channel on June 8th. YouTube has been a very useful tool in helping us take a proactive approach to keeping you safe through training and informational videos that are relevant and current based on ongoing crime trends and investigations. By reaching out to our community in this way, not only have we been able to solve more crimes, but we have also accomplished the more important goal of preventing many crimes before they occur. So if you haven't already, check us out at:

- www.facebook.com/TorrancePD
- www.twitter.com/TorrancePD or
- www.youtube.com/TPDCommAffairs

From our Detective Division

The Torrance Police Department wants you to help reduce auto burglaries in fitness centers and business parking lots, by remembering these parking lot safety tips:

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle; when possible, leave them at home.
- Do not leave gym bags, purses, briefcases, etc. in plain view.
- Do not "hide" your purse in the trunk after you have parked.
- Do no leave GPS or cell phone chargers in the outlet.
- Lock your doors and close your windows completely.
- Notify police if you see suspicious activity.

Auto Burglars will:

- Sit in the parking lot and watch you come and go.
- They will watch you hide your purse under the seat or in the trunk.
- They are better at seeing you than you are at seeing them...it's what they do for a living.
- Opportunists will walk around a parking lot, lifting door handles to see who left their vehicle unlocked.

Don't be a victim... protect yourself and your property.

If you notice suspicious activity, report it immediately to the Torrance Police Department at (310)328-3456. For crimes in progress, call 9-1-1.

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Upcoming Events:

Community Safety Training Workshop

DATE: Wednesday August 11th
LOCATION: Torrance Police Department
TIME: 6:00 PM
TOPIC: Burglary Prevention

Learn how you can keep your home, vehicle and family safe from opportunistic criminals. This session will be presented by expert Torrance Police Department Detectives.

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE PROGRAM is a nationally recognized self-defense program for women. It is a free 12hr training seminar that will teach you how to protect yourself and the ones that you love by detecting, preventing and deterring violent encounters.
Our next session for the RAD program will be in the month of September (dates to be announced). For more information, log on to our website at www.police.TorranceCA.gov or call (310) 618-5675.

The CERT Basic Training Course is designed to provide volunteers with the basic skills and information needed to be prepared for and respond to emergencies and disasters in the community. All volunteers must complete this training to be eligible to become registered with the City of Torrance as a Disaster Service Worker. This training is provided free of charge to residents and business members of the Torrance community. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a certificate verifying they have completed the course.

Those interested in attending an upcoming CERT Basic Training Course may register by calling the Community Services Department at (310) 618-2720. The dates for the next CERT Basic Academy are September 4, September 11, and September 18 (Saturdays) from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Summer Safety

Summer is a great time in the lives of our kids. They are free from the walls of school and ready to soak in all which that freedom carries. Unfortunately, with that freedom also comes more risk. But don't worry. By teaching your kids a few easy safety tips, you can keep them much safer.

Check First—Check with parents before you go somewhere with someone, accept a gift, or change your plans.

Take A Friend—Take a friend-whenever you go outside to play or go somewhere. There is safety in numbers and it is always more fun.

Lock Up—Always keep the doors locked when at home and don't open the door for anyone without making sure you **Check First**.

Helmet On—Always wear your helmet when riding your bicycle, skateboard, scooter, etc.

Say NO! — Don't be afraid to say no, get away and tell a trusted adult whenever someone makes you feel weird or confused.

Wear Sunscreen—Nothing ruins a summer vacation like a bad sunburn. Put it on in the morning and reapply often.