

Lakewood News

(Continued from Page 111)

LCSW Rolls Out New Vehicle

When the Lakewood Civilian Safety Watch was founded several years ago, it was greeted by some skepticism from the populace. Many were unsure if there was a need for a civilian patrol to augment existing police services, and others, who had already cleared that mental hurdle, were unconvinced that the nascent organization would be able to carry out its job effectively. In the months and years that followed, all those doubts have slowly faded, as the LCSW has become part of the fabric of this town and has won the admiration and appreciation of citizens and elected representatives.

"It's a great organization that does so much to keep Lakewood safe," State Senator Bob Singer said at a recent organizational event. "It's an auxiliary to the police department. It's really the best of both worlds. This is how the private sector helps out the public sector. We saw this in the case of [Hurricane] Sandy, how much they did for the town. They provided generators, they had emergency services, helped people with food and water... We're very proud of the work they do in Lakewood, and very honestly, it's a great example for the rest of the state to follow, where private groups come in and help police out, help townships out. And certainly, in tough budgetary times like this, it's worth its weight in gold."

More evidence of public approval of the organization was on display last week at the National Night Out Against Crime in Pine Park, when Honda Universe, a car dealership located on Route 88, rolled out a brand new patrol vehicle to help the volunteers keep Lakewood safe. This is the second such donation LCSW has received in the last few months.

Mayor Isaac Akerman, Committeeman Menashe Miller, Fire Commissioner Larry Loigman and Honda Universe representatives took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new SUV.

The new vehicle, dubbed the "Stay Safe with Honda" patrol vehicle, is emblazoned with the LCSW insignia and a tasteful tribute to the benefactors at Honda Universe, and has already hit the streets and joined the growing fleet of volunteer operated community surveillance vehicles.

"It's a pleasure to be able to give back to the community through such a worthy organization," said Chris Straccia, Parts and Service Director at Honda Universe, who was highly instrumental in organizing the donation.

General Sales Manager James Frederick, Straccia, and a host of the movers and shakers of Lakewood's security scene celebrated the donation.

Straccia says the dealership has been a staple of the Lakewood business scene for over fifty years. "It's third generation at this point," he says.

LCSW also presented a plaque to Chief Robert Lawson, Captain Tom Langenberger and Captain Greg Meyer of the Lakewood Police Department for their constant support of LCSW. Chief Lawson has said on numerous occasions that he feels fortunate to be chief of police in a town with so many able and willing volunteer resources.

Adults Need Vaccines, Too

With lots of focus in recent months about the importance of vaccination in young children, the Ocean County Health

Department is making an effort to ensure that parents aren't overlooking the importance of their own immunizations.

"To celebrate the importance of immunizations throughout life - and to help remind adults that they need vaccines, too - the Ocean County Health Department is promoting National Immunization Awareness Month," said Ocean County Freeholder Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the OCHD. "Many adults don't realize they still need protection against vaccine-preventable diseases. Adults still need certain vaccines, both to protect themselves and their loved ones from certain diseases. This is the perfect opportunity to remind adults they need protection against diseases like flu, whooping cough, tetanus, shingles, and pneumococcal disease."

"The Ocean County Health Department is recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month by focusing on different age groups each week and this week we want to remind adults that vaccines are not just for kids," said Daniel Regenye, Ocean County Health Department Public Health Coordinator. He added, "Even healthy adults can become seriously ill and can pass illness on to others. Immunization is especially important for older adults, and for those who have a chronic conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes or heart disease. Immunization is also important for anyone who is in close contact with the very young, the very old, people with weakened immune systems, and those who cannot be vaccinated."

The vaccines adults need change as they grow older. Everyone age 6 months and older should have a flu shot every year. And every adult should get the Tdap vaccine once to protect against pertussis (whooping cough), and then a Td (tetanus, diphtheria) booster every 10 years. Other vaccines for adults - shingles, pneumococcal, hepatitis, HPV - depend on one's age, occupation, travel, risk factors and health status.

The Health Department is getting ready to begin its annual flu and pneumonia vaccination campaign, which will kick-off in September this year. The OCHD also offers Tdap and Shingles vaccinations. Anyone over the age of 19 can come in for a Tdap vaccination without an appointment. Shingles vaccinations are available for those over the age of 60, but an appointment is necessary. Both vaccinations are offered from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday and Thursday of each month. You can call the Ocean County Health Department at 732.341.9700, ext. 7604, with questions and to make an appointment for a Shingles vaccination.

Black Bear Loose in Lakewood Vicinity

Six Flags Great Adventure has reopened its Safari Park to great fanfare. Maybe they would like another creature as a resident. Their hometown Jackson populace would really appreciate it.

A black bear has been spotted for a third time in the last few months roaming freely along a busy highway in nearby Jackson Township. The bear was seen on Veterans Highway, a boulevard utilized by many Lakewood residents, as it meets Hope Chapel Road. The bear had previously been seen on the Lakewood-Jackson border as well as in Howell. It is unclear if all three sightings were of the same bear, but that possibility seems likely.

Although black bears tend to keep to themselves, they can be dangerous if agitated or pestered by humans.



Chief Robert Lawson, James Frederick, Chris Straccia and Sgt. Tommy Langenberger.



James Frederick, Mayor Isaac Akerman and Chris Straccia with the new vehicle.



Mayor Isaac Akerman, James Frederick and Chris Straccis of Honda Universe, Fire Commissioner Larry Loigman, Committeeman Menashe Miller and Sgt. Tommy Langenberger at the ribbon-cutting.



The new "Stay Safe with Honda" patrol vehicle.