



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

# The Patroller

“Creating a Visible Safety Presence”

Oct. 2009

## Castro Street Fair was Fun and Productive



Patrollers handed out more than 1500 safety flyers and whistles to fair goers.



CCOP worked with Triangle Martial Arts Association to move cash to the treasury.



Ten people registered to be trained as new volunteers on 10-NOV-09.

## Castro Patrol and the FEMA Citizen Corps

Ken Craig – Vice Chair, Director of Training and Emergency Services Liaison

In a major speech to close out the September National Preparedness Month events, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano called preparedness a “shared responsibility,” saying, “when we act together, we contribute to our nation’s security....and that is part of good citizenship.”

“More than 2,500 organizations joined the National Preparedness Month coalition this year. It underscores the importance of what the American Red Cross, Citizen Corps, and individuals and organizations across the country do every day to prepare for disasters and threats of all kinds.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Citizen Corps was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

Castro Patrol is a part of the FEMA Citizen Corps, working closely with the community, neighborhood and business organizations, local government, and the emergency services professional respon-

ders in a cohesive and collaborative way to maintain and improve safety and security in our neighborhood.

Following the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, state and local government officials increased opportunities for citizens to become an integral part of protecting the homeland and supporting the local first responders. Officials agree that the formula for ensuring a more secure and safer homeland consists of preparedness, training, and citizen involvement in supporting first responders. In January 2002, the President of the United States launched Citizen Corps, to capture the spirit of service that emerged throughout our communities following the terrorist attacks.

In October of 2006 the Castro community came together to combat two violent crime incidents in the neighborhood, and the Castro Patrol was born. Holding our first training class on November 11, 2006 in

See FEMA: Page 2

## Sr. Patrol Volunteer Training Nearly Ready

A draft of the new training curriculum for the Senior Patrol Volunteer is being reviewed by the CCOP Board. The first offering of this new program will be scheduled for release shortly after the holiday season for anyone who has completed patrol training and volunteered for at least four patrols in the previous six months.

The new curriculum provides details on subjects such as basic self defense, the legalities of making a citizen’s arrest, and other areas that help to lead a patrol team more effectively. We encourage anyone who is eligible to take this new course. It will extend the volunteer’s certification period for 2 years, so it can be taken in lieu of other re-certification work.

Your certification can also be extended by assisting with any new-volunteer training. Encourage friends to register for the next event on 10-NOV-09 and then join them to extend your own certification.



# I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair



The theme we have adopted in our public outreach is: "In a community, we take care of each other." That has been the message around whistle campaigns since the days of Harvey Milk: If you see trouble, make noise, and if you hear a commotion, call the cops. Instead of 70 trained patrollers we can have thousands of alert citizens, thanks to the whistle and flyer campaign of the past year.

In the past 3 months we have been fortunate in building strong working relationships with other organizations that can help in our work. This started with the Community Safety forum put together by Scott Wiener last autumn, and then built during our work in providing security around the Prop 8 activities. Recently, we have worked closely with the Castro CBD, MUMC, and UMA. All of these have given us better information about the types and numbers of crimes in our community.



## Mark Your Calendar:

**11-OCT-09 3:00 PM–7:00 PM** Jock Fund Raiser, Lookout 3600 16th Street

**19-OCT-09 8:00–9:30 PM** Board Meeting, Chase Bank Community Room, 2112 15th Street (at Market)

**23-OCT-09 9:00 PM–Midnight** Fund Raiser, Powerhouse 1347 Folsom Street

**10-NOV-09 7:00 PM–9:00 PM** New Volunteer Training, Chase Bank Community Room, 2112 15th Street (at Market)

**16-NOV-09 8:00–9:30 PM** Board Meeting, Chase Bank Community Room, 2112 15th Street (at Market)

**18-NOV-09 8:00 PM–10:00 PM** Third anniversary celebration, Community room, Bank of America, 18th and Castro

## Donating to CCOP

Castro Patrol is a program of SF-SAFE, the organization that advises neighborhood watch groups. You can make tax-deductible donations through SF-SAFE at: <http://www.sfsafe.org/get-involved/donate/> Click the "Donate" link and include "CCOP" in the "Designate my donation" field.

More recently, we have formed a tighter alliance with Jane Warner's Patrol Special officers. Jane and her officers spend time with our patrols, and our volunteers have been able to provide backup to them, making both groups more effective.

We have been monitoring crime statistics (see website) for over two years. Until recently, it was not possible to separate minor incidents from those that were actionable. Since working more closely with these other groups, we are learning that several of these incidents each month are both serious and preventable.

We can't say that the number of serious incidents is higher than before, but now have the descriptions of time, place, and suspects to be more involved in reducing the occurrences. At the same time, our credibility continues to build, giving us even more ways to build community.

### ☛ FEMA: from Page 1

which 26 people completed training, the Patrol has since conducted 17 basic training classes, certifying over 180 citizens as Castro Patrol Volunteers and de-facto members of the FEMA Citizen Corps. In November of 2009 we will celebrate our 3rd anniversary of service and commitment to the Castro / Duboce Triangle communities we serve.

In addition to our Castro Patrol duties, the Citizen Corps Affiliate program expands the resources and materials available to volunteers by partnering with Programs and Organizations that offer resources for public education, outreach, and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their community safer; or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities, and community safety efforts such as :

- o **The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT)** Program trains people in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medicine. Using their training, NERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. The program is administered by DHS.

- o **The Fire Corps** promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue

departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. Fire Corps provides resources to assist fire and rescue departments in creating opportunities for citizen advocates and promotes citizen participation. Fire Corps is funded through DHS and is managed and implemented through a partnership between the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

- o **USAonWatch (UOW)-Neighborhood Watch** works to provide information, training and resources to citizens and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, Neighborhood Watch programs have expanded beyond their traditional crime prevention role to help neighborhoods focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response and terrorism awareness. USAonWatch-Neighborhood Watch is administered by the National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

- o **The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** program strengthens communities by helping medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies. MRC volunteers work with existing local emergency response programs and also supplement existing community public health initiatives, such as outreach and prevention, immunization programs, blood drives, case management, care planning, and other efforts. The MRC program is administered by HHS.

- o **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. Funded by DOJ, VIPS is managed and implemented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

So as we near our 3rd anniversary of Castro Patrol, take a moment to pat yourself and your fellow patrollers on the back for a job well done. Not only are you giving freely of your own time to make the neighborhood a safer place to live, work, and play, but you are also an integral part of the entire nation's response to tragedy represented by 9/11 and a vital part of the emergency preparedness for our community. Not bad for spending a couple of hours a month on patrol, huh !