

A Community Newsletter
Produced by the
Torrance Refinery

Vol 17 • No 1
Winter 2006

New Executive Director of Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation Broadens Programming to Appeal to Wider Audience

Attracting people to live theater is becoming more challenging with the popularity of alternative entertainment such as the Internet, video games, DVDs and TiVo. But it's a challenge that Ray Solley is willing to tackle. Ray is the new executive director of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation (TCACF).

A South Bay resident for 16 years, Ray was appointed to his new post in Summer 2005. He is responsible for programming at the Cultural Arts Center, while focusing on its main mission — to bring high quality culture to the South Bay.

One of his primary goals is to expand the breadth of shows at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center to reach a wider audience — especially for those people who grew up

More Information?

Are you part of a community organization or professional association that is interested in learning more about the ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery, energy industry or related topics?

Depending on the subject matter, we may be able to provide you with a speaker or materials for your upcoming meetings.

Please contact Public Affairs at
(310) 212-1852.



Ray Solley

in the information age and typically spend time staying home, immersed in technology. Although he plans to continue some of the mainstay programming at the center, such as the well-received big-band shows, he also wants to incorporate some popular musical acts from recent years.

“I want to build on what the Foundation has been doing for the last 13 years,” he said. “Going to live theater is a unique experience — I want to make sure there are plenty of shows for a variety of audiences and give local residents more opportunities to get out of their homes to experience a live show.”

Ray also owns his own consulting company, The Solley Group, which helps producers create television shows and place them with networks. Prior to that, Ray worked in the entertainment industry for 25 years, including a long-standing career with the William Morris Agency. There, he worked to put together television shows and sell them to networks. He currently resides in Redondo Beach.

Through the Torrance Refinery's Management Involvement Program (MIP), ExxonMobil leaders provide professional time and expertise on boards of nonprofit organizations. Dr. Elyn McIntosh, Site Occupational Health Manager, began the new year as a new member of the TCACF's Board of Directors.

www.torrancearts.com

Tanks

Approximately 200 storage tanks are at the Torrance Refinery and you can see many of them from streets adjacent to our property. These storage tanks are different sizes and shapes, depending on what they store.

What's in those tanks?

Tanks store liquids in different stages of the refining process. For example, many of the larger round tanks contain crude oil, gasoline and other petroleum products. Once the crude oil is refined into gasoline, the gasoline is stored and tested, and then shipped via underground pipelines to various gasoline terminals throughout Southern California and as far away as Arizona. Sphere-shaped tanks are pressurized storage vessels containing propane and butane, which also are products produced in the refining process.

How are leaks prevented?

The Torrance Refinery is following

Refinery Lingo

"TANK FARM" – The area on the refinery's 750 acres where most tanks are located – between Crenshaw and Van Ness.

"FLOATING ROOF" – A tank cover that floats on the stored liquid via specially designed pontoons. Its buoyancy enables the cover to float up or down, depending on the volume of liquid in the tank. Both the buoyancy and seals (between the roof and tank's inside wall) prevent vapor loss to the atmosphere.

"DIKE" – An earth or concrete wall providing a specified liquid retention capacity.



Can petroleum products evaporate out tank roofs?

Above-ground storage tanks are designed to keep potential emissions and petroleum products contained during operation. Emissions are highly monitored and regulated. In addition:

- We install specialized covers on our tanks to prevent evaporation of product to the air. Steel roofs, and aluminum geodesic dome roofs combined with floating roofs, not only alleviate vapors, but they also help keep the product free from contaminants such as rainwater and dirt.
- We employ vapor recovery systems while loading and unloading various tanks in order to trap and condense potential vapors.

a focused, systematic approach to leak prevention, including proactive tank-integrity initiatives and selective upgrades.

- Tanks are built to last for more than 50 years.
- We regularly examine both the internal and external tank components using sophisticated testing methods.
- Walled containment areas, called dikes, surround each tank. Tank dikes are sized to contain the entire contents of each tank; this helps prevent the spread of a potential problem if a tank does leak.
- The double bottoms we have on some tanks provide multiple layers of protection from corrosion. Moreover, these bottoms, and parts of the tanks' internals, are coated to minimize corrosion and further extend external tank life.

What types of laws affect tanks?

The Torrance Refinery's operations, including how it stores petroleum products, are under the jurisdiction of various governmental regulatory agencies and their laws. For example, Rule 463 of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) establishes both emission control and inspection standards for organic liquid storage. The refinery's personnel who inspect our tanks for Rule 463 compliance attend SCAQMD training courses and are SCAQMD certified.



Geodesic dome roof is installed on a tank



Ask PETE

Q: Concerning the excess gases that are occasionally routed to the flare system: Is there any way to capture the energy produced by the flames and power a couple of light bulbs, or is it not even worth it?

Asked by Sanford Fitelson, Torrance resident

A: Dear Sanford, You have highlighted an issue that is important to the people here at the refinery – efficiency. We currently have an extensive vapor recovery system in place to capture the materials from process units and tanks that might otherwise be “wasted.” Once we treat these materials we can put them to good use, either by transferring them to power plants, like the one in Redondo Beach, or by using them to fuel the refinery’s processing units.

Under normal operations, you may see a small “flame” coming from our flare; this is like a pilot light in your home. We are not sending “gases” to the flare.

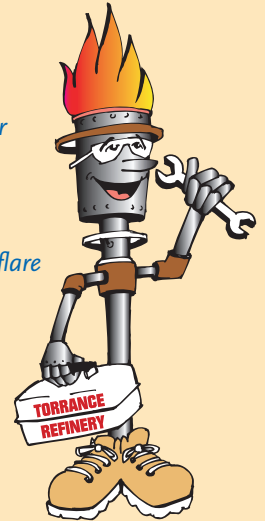
In fact, we do everything we can to avoid flaring. When we do flare, we are doing so to ensure the safe operation of our facility during operational upsets or maintenance activities. Those materials that are consumed during the occasional flaring cannot be safely recovered and reused because they are in excess of recovery capacity. For example, imagine the extreme force at which liquids and gases are traveling through our refinery’s pipes and system. When a unit is shut down, existing technology cannot contain this pressure, and thus, we must use our flare system. We report and carefully record flare emissions.

The most important thing to remember is that flaring is a safety measure. Flaring combusts most of the materials that pass through the flare system, rather than releasing them to the air.

Turnaround 2006

Recently, I mailed letters to Torrance residents and businesses regarding our major maintenance activities. Please remember the following:

- You may notice use of our flare system, particularly during the beginning and ending of the turnaround period.
- You also may notice additional noise, lights at night and increased traffic.



This turnaround is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that the Torrance Refinery operates at peak reliability and efficiency.

As always, if you have any questions please call our 24-Hour Neighborhood Hotline at (310) 505-3158.

Thank you for your patience.

Pete Trelenberg

“TURNAROUND” – A major maintenance project on refinery equipment.

A S K P E T E

Pete Trelenberg, Torrance Refinery Manager, wants to hear from you! Please submit questions you have about the refinery and Pete will answer as many questions as space allows in each edition of Neighbor to Neighbor. Questions not printed in the newsletter will be addressed by direct mail or by phone. If you have an immediate concern, please contact Public Affairs at (310) 212-4756. We can't wait to hear from you!

Q: _____

Name*: _____ Daytime phone number*: (_____) _____

Address*: _____
Street City Zip Code

Comments: _____

**To submit your questions tear off this form and mail to:
 ExxonMobil • Public Affairs/Ask Pete • 3700 West 190th Street • Torrance, CA 90509**

* By submitting your name, you agree to be identified in Neighbor to Neighbor as the author of the question you submitted. Only questions submitted with name and contact information will be considered for publication. Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes and follow-up and will not be published.

Torrance Refinery
Neighborhood Hotline
(310) 505-3158

Green Team Participant Reflects on Past and Sees Bright Future

North High graduate Nick Salinas spent the summer before his junior year working for the Torrance Parks and Recreation Department. Little did he know that the experience would help take him to one of the most highly rated military institutions in the country – the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Now in his junior year, studying economics and engineering, this extraordinary young man is in the midst of some exciting adventures and challenges. He believes that the skills he uses each day were mastered during his first job in high school – a job he acquired through the Green Team Program.

ExxonMobil founded the Green Team Program 11 years ago. In a unique partnership with Torrance Unified School District and the City of Torrance, the Torrance Refinery's annual \$100,000 contribution provides summer jobs and academic enhancement to Torrance youth.

The most important result of the program is the lasting impact it has on its students. Nick looks back on his Green Team experience with great fondness.

"Green Team gave me a chance to experience a real job," he explains. "It taught me to be responsible and to live up to the duties that were expected of me. It was great preparation for where I am today. I learned a lot about respecting authority, working hard and giving it your all."

After he graduates from West Point, Nick will begin his five-year service as a commissioned officer in the Army.

The Green Team Program is for 10th- and 11th-grade students who live in Torrance. Applicants must have passed the California High School Exit Exam. Applications can be found online at www.torrancerefinery.com



PUBLISHER'S BOX

Neighbor to Neighbor is published periodically as a community service by the ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery • 3700 West 190th Street • Torrance, CA 90509-2929.

Pete Trelenberg
Carolyn A. Keith
Laura Paredes

Refinery Manager
Public Affairs Manager
Public Affairs Advisor

Barbara Burgett Stadler
Public Affairs Office
Public Affairs Advisor
(310) 212-1852