

A Community Newsletter
Produced by the
Torrance Refinery

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You're invited to... **Open House 2006:** **A Community Connection**

October 14 is a unique opportunity for us to come together as neighbors and learn not only about the refinery, but also about Torrance organizations making a real difference in our community.

This year's Open House is unique because we are inviting some of our nonprofit neighbors to host "community booths." Open House has traditionally been a day during which ExxonMobil employees hosted booths related to refinery operations and gave tours of the refinery. In addition to refinery-specific events, this year's Open House will highlight those nonprofit organizations with which our employees are involved.



WHEN:

- Saturday, October 14, 2006
- 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

- Pegasus Park, ExxonMobil
Torrance Refinery
3700 West 190th St.
Torrance, CA 90509-2929

INVITED GUESTS:

- All Torrance residents
- Nearly 2,000 of our neighbors attended the last open house!

ACTIVITIES:

- Refinery tours
- Entertainment (including a stilt walker and music)
- Interactive exhibits
- Barbecue lunch

COST:

FREE

RSVP:

Not required

QUESTIONS:

(310) 212-1852

What can you see at Open House 2006?

Squid, fish and sea urchins!



One of our guests at the "In Your Neighborhood" section of Pegasus Park will be the SEA Lab's "Traveling Tidepool." This mobile exhibit will bring the ocean to Open House with live sea creatures, information on local environmental issues and interactive exhibits for children and adults.

The SEA Lab is a hands-on coastal science education center in Redondo Beach that offers free and low-cost programs for explorers of all ages. All of the activities are operated by college students trained by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, who receive help from more than 100

dedicated local volunteers.

Charles (Chuck) Darnell, Torrance Refinery Technical Manager, recently joined the SEA Lab's advisory board as part of our Management Involvement Program (MIP). A resident of Redondo Beach and supporter of science education and research, Chuck invited the SEA Lab to Open House to share its mission with Torrance. "I've brought visiting relatives to the SEA Lab and celebrated with our refinery interns there. I want to share the great educational mission of the SEA Lab ... and for everyone to feel the sensation of holding a sea urchin in their hands!"

www.lacorps.org



ASK PETE



Q: *If you refine and produce gasoline at your facility, why are local gasoline prices higher than areas that are hundreds of miles away from a refinery?*

Dan Dickson, Torrance Resident

A: Dan, Thanks for your question ... gas prices are a “hot topic” lately and I regularly receive similar questions from my family and friends.

The short answer to your question is that stations close to our refinery aren’t necessarily “saving” money with their locations because 1) their costs of transporting gas from refineries to their stations are small parts of their total costs and 2) many variable factors affect gas prices at the pump. I’ll explain additional details below.

Several things impact the price you pay at the pump, including:

- price of crude oil
- gas stations’ ownership structures, traffic patterns, rents, and sources

- of supply
- fuel specifications
- government regulations
- taxes
- supply and demand forces

It surprises some people that ExxonMobil cannot set prices at all stations with “Exxon” or “Mobil” signs. ExxonMobil actually owns/operates fewer than 900 stations in the U.S. (out of more than 14,000 Exxon and Mobil stations in the country.) And we only own about 15 stations in all of Los Angeles County. Even the Mobil station next to our refinery is operated by an independent dealer. At independent stations, it is up to the dealer to set gasoline pricing, conduct facility maintenance, and decide whether to sell food and convenience items.

You may also be interested to know

that California prices are more variable than others because there are relatively few supply sources of its unique blend of gasoline. This keeps me and my employees in Torrance very busy — California refineries need to be running near their fullest capabilities in order to meet the state’s fuel demands.

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.

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ASK PETE

Pete Trelenberg, Torrance Refinery Manager, wants to hear from you! *Please submit questions you have about the refinery. 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.*

Q: _____

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

Address*: _____
Street City Zip Code

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.



Pondering Career Options? Think Outside the Office

Hands-on careers in process technology offer great office-job alternatives. New PTEC scholarships help pave the way for an exciting career!

Long before “Pomp and Circumstance,” many students are trying to figure out the right career path, not to mention a way to pay for training and education. The ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery is making that search a little easier for some students by spotlighting the exciting field of process technology, also called PTEC.

At local trade schools such as Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATTC) the process technology program prepares students to work as process operators in the California chemical, oil and gas, wastewater treatment, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and power generating industries.

A process technician controls and monitors the systems that run various plants. Technicians work both indoors and outdoors alongside chemical engineers, chemists and maintenance professionals.

As more and more students are realizing that a four-year college degree is not a guarantee of an immediate, well-paying job, companies such as ours are helping high school graduates learn about the PTEC field. With annual starting salaries of over \$55,000, plus steady work and benefits, the field offers a great option for many students.

In September, we plan to award PTEC scholarships to eight graduates from the Torrance Unified School District. This summer, students may apply for scholarships that cover nearly all the tuition costs for two semesters of process technology courses at LATTC, along with school fees, books and transportation costs.


“ExxonMobil has a tradition of supporting our students in Torrance, particularly in the areas of mathematics, science, technology and engineering,” notes Torrance Refinery Process Manager John McCall. “The PTEC scholarships are a great way to support the city’s workforce and the students of Torrance.”

The process technology field is expected to grow by as much as 17 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information on the PTEC scholarship program, please call Renee Madyun of LATTC at (213) 763-7318 or visit www.TorranceRefinery.com.


DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY?

Community Alert Sirens

 **You hear** – sirens wailing continuously for several minutes, followed by a short break, followed by continuous wailing

You should – “Shelter in Place” by going indoors immediately, closing all windows and doors and turning off heaters and air conditioners. Watch

CitiCABLE 3 or listen to local AM radio stations (Torrance CitiSOUNDS 1620AM) for additional information.

 **You hear** – chimes (such as the Westminster Abbey chimes)
You should – air out your home during this “all clear” period

SIRENS ARE TESTED ON

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY

OF EACH MONTH AT

APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

TEF Scholarship Winner Follows Her Dream

South High School Grad Pursuing Ph.D.

Sitting at the edge of the ocean in Australia, Laurel Plummer was a long way from her Torrance home. The South High graduate, whose passion for environmental science helped garner an ExxonMobil/Torrance Education Foundation Scholarship (TEF) in 2001, was at a crossroads.

She had graduated in the top of her class from the University of California at Santa Barbara's environmental science program, was working as a dental assistant, and was considering going to dental school. Laurel was taking a vacation when she says everything came into perspective.

"I finally had some time to think about what I really wanted to do that could make a real difference and contribute to the greater good," Laurel says. "I asked myself, 'what's the point in doing research if you're never going to apply it?' and realized I could earn my Ph.D. and use what I've learned to make a difference in the real world. For example, there's a huge gap between what's done in labs and universities and government and policy."

When Laurel returned to Torrance, fate intervened in the form of a UC Davis recruiter. "The recruiter introduced me to the faculty of the Environmental Toxicology Ph.D. program where students study how chemicals move within the environment and affect biological systems. It was really

impressive," she says.

It wasn't long after that Laurel was accepted into the competitive program, and she couldn't be happier. "It's a great program with a small group of 25 or so students. Plus, it's close to Sacramento, and I'd love to learn more about the political side of things."

Laurel starts the doctorate program in the fall, where her goal is to study air quality in the Central Valley. As for dental school, she laughs, and credits the TEF scholarship and the Australian waves with helping her follow her true calling.



Laurel Plummer in Melbourne, September 2005.

TEF was formed in 1992 to address the drastic need for funding of local schools. ExxonMobil has been a supporter of TEF since 1993, funding environmental science scholarships for Torrance high school students. Deborah Richter, ExxonMobil Department Head, serves on the TEF Board as part of the refinery's Management Involvement Program (MIP).

www.tef.tusd.org

Protecting the Refinery Means Protecting the Community

Recently, a man drove into the refinery parking lot. In his truck, he had a pistol. Possessing an ExxonMobil badge not belonging to him, he attempted to enter various areas of the Torrance Refinery. At all points he was stopped and security was alerted to his presence as well as the contraband.

The pistol was a fake and the man was part of a Torrance Refinery security drill. Drills like this take place regularly and are just one of the many components of the Refinery Protection Plan.

In a previous issue of *Neighbor to Neighbor*, Torrance Refinery Manger Pete Trelenberg mentioned that "safety is our number one priority." Our goal is the protection and safety of the public, our employees and others involved in our operations.

Highlighted below are some of the ways that we secure the refinery from external incidents:

- Physical perimeter barriers
- Patrolling security officers and off-duty police officers
- Rigid refinery access controls (inspection of badges and exterior/interior of vehicles; multiple patrolled entrances

prior to actual refinery entrance)

- Refinery Protection Plan integration with overall community planning, ExxonMobil Global Security and the Department of Homeland Security
- Refinery's security department liaisons with
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Railroads
 - Utilities
 - Local refineries
 - Industrial neighbors
 - Mutual aid responders

If you suspect a security breach related to the Torrance Refinery, please call the **24-Hour Neighborhood Hotline (310) 505-3158** or the **Torrance Police Department (310) 328-3456**