



# The Beeline News

## A City of Laguna Niguel Community Publication



Laguna Niguel Police Services

October — December 2009

### City Council

**Robert Ming**, Mayor

**Linda Lindholm**, Mayor Pro Tem

**Joe Brown**, Councilmember

**Gary Capata**, Councilmember

**Paul Glaab**, Councilmember

### Chief of Police Services

**Lt. Andy Ferguson**

### **EMERGENCY 9-1-1**

**NON-EMERGENCY 770-6011**

**Admin Sergeant 362-4308**

**Admin Deputy 362-4309**

**Business Watch 362-4306**

**Crime Prevention 362-4365**

**Parking Concerns 362-4307**

**Emergency Management 362-4312**

**Vacation Checks 362-4346**

**Animal Control 470-3045**

### In This Issue:

<b>Alert OC Is Here</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Disturbing the Peace</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Halloween Safety</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>You Are Not Alone</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ready , Set, Go!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Safe Driving Practices</b>	<b>4</b>



**AlertOC** is a mass notification system used by the County of Orange and participating cities, including Laguna Niguel, to quickly provide important information to residents and businesses. Public mass notification systems have become a critical component of emergency preparation and response. The primary use of the **AlertOC** system is to disseminate messages pertaining to the health, safety or the welfare of a community that is being affected by a perceived, emerging, or imminent emergency event. Based on the severity of the event, **AlertOC** may be used to contact residents by one or all of the following methods: home phone, work phone, cell phone, text message, or e-mail. The information relayed to you may include directions on how to respond to the emergency or where you may obtain more information regarding the current situation. The **AlertOC** system supplements, but does not replace, other communication methods used by emergency responders. During an emergency, County or City emergency information lines will still be available. Television, radio, and county/city web sites will continue to broadcast important announcements as well.

There are no fees associated with registering for the **AlertOC** notification service, which will include voice messages, e-mail messages, or mobile text messages from the City or County in which you live and/or work. You may choose how many types of alerts you would like to receive in the event of an emergency or disaster. For busy signals, call waiting signals, or when there is no answer, the automated call will be repeated several times in an attempt to reach you. If the phone is answered by a message recorder, the automated message will be left on the answering device. If after several attempts the call does not successfully go through, the system will stop attempting to call.

To get more information on the **AlertOC** system and when it will be used, or how your personal information will be kept secure, please visit the web site at [www.alertoc.com](http://www.alertoc.com) . You may register for the **AlertOC** program at this same website. If you would like Laguna Niguel specific information, contact Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Paul Russell via email at [alertoc@ci.laguna-niguel.ca.us](mailto:alertoc@ci.laguna-niguel.ca.us) or by calling (949)362-4347.



## Halloween Safety

In a few weeks, goblins, super heroes, and princesses will be standing on your doorstep declaring “trick or treat” in true Halloween spirit. Here are some tips to help keep your children safe:

- Carry a bright flashlight to illuminate sidewalks and pathways.
- Use face make-up instead of masks, which limit your visibility.
- Trick-or-treat in familiar neighborhoods.
- Only go to homes with the lights on.
- Stay on well-lit sidewalks avoiding less-traveled shortcuts.
- Have older children walk together in groups.
- Tell children to never enter someone’s home or vehicle.
- Instruct your children to bring all candy home to be examined before they are allowed to eat anything.
- Notify law enforcement if you see suspicious activity.
- Teach kids how to “STOP, DROP, & ROLL” in the event that their costume catches fire.



## You Are Not Alone

Laguna Niguel Police Services is offering a new community care program for our residents called “**You Are Not Alone**”.

This **FREE** service is conducted by our PACT team volunteers and is designed to provide a measure of safety and well-being for people who are primarily living alone, homebound, disabled, or may not have family members or friends who visit on a regular basis. This program consists of scheduled visits to your residence. Our volunteers will check on the welfare of you or your loved one to ensure that no additional care is immediately needed.

If this sounds like a program fitting your needs or the needs of a loved one, please contact Deputy Contreras at [rcontreras@ci.laguna-niguel.ca.us](mailto:rcontreras@ci.laguna-niguel.ca.us) or call (949)362-4309 for more information or to request an application.

## Disturbing The Peace: Penal Code Section 415

There are two major public misconceptions about disturbing the peace. First, deputies search for loud and rowdy teen parties to break up. Second, only after 10:00 pm can a person complain about loud or disruptive noise in their community. Neither of these are true.

The law states that a person is in violation of the law if they “maliciously and willfully disturb another person by loud and unreasonable noise.” Notice, there is no reference to a magical hour when the law goes in to effect. Your peace may be disturbed at any time of the day, so long as it meets the conditions stated above. A noisy game of Saturday afternoon football in the park is probably not a violation, but an excessively loud and rowdy afternoon pool party may qualify as disturbing the peace. Each incident has a unique set of conditions and the responding deputy will evaluate all of the circumstances before making a determination as to whether or not the elements of disturbing the peace have been met.

However, there is one issue to consider before calling in a noise complaint. The law states that a police officer’s peace can’t be disturbed. Therefore, a deputy can’t take action until a formal complaint is received from a citizen. Once the complaint is received, the offender will be asked to quiet down. For the deputy to take any further action, the complainant must sign a Citizen’s Arrest Complaint. Disturbing the peace is a misdemeanor offense, so law enforcement must have a victim, who is willing to prosecute, in order to make an arrest.

# Safe Driving Practices

Driving is not a right, it is a privilege that many people take for granted. It requires learning and knowing many laws, making good decisions, and exhibiting responsible behavior. Here are safe driving practices to help ensure you and your passengers are safe every time you drive!

**Buckle up:** Make sure you and all of your passengers use their seat belts and have them on correctly (that means you too, Mom and Dad)! Proper use of safety belts reduces the risk of death and serious injury by 40-60%.

**Slow Down!** Speeding is one of the leading causes of accidents. By traveling the speed limit and thinking about the road, you will be able to anticipate and react better to unexpected events like children running into the street or road hazards. Slowing down will only cost you a few seconds in travel time; isn't the safety of our community worth it?

**Put down your cell phone:** Distracted driving is another leading cause of car accidents. Pull over or use hands-free Bluetooth devices if you need to make a call. Cell phone laws are strictly enforced in an effort to keep you safe.

**Obey All Traffic Signs!** Each sign is posted for safety reasons, either for drivers or pedestrians. No parking signs keep visibility high around congested area such as schools; speed limit signs are not "suggested speeds", they show the maximum speed that is safe for the surroundings. Do your part and obey the signs.

**Don't Drink and Drive!** Drinking and driving is against the law. You might not just lose your license, you could lose your life or take the life of someone else.

## Ready, Set, GO!



The most unpredictable and dangerous fire you're likely to encounter is a wind-driven wildfire. As winds change intensity and direction, a wildfire can either lay down and smolder, or it can

turn into a roaring freight train. Knowing how to protect your home, your family, and when to leave in the event of a wildfire will be essential if you're to remain safe when disaster strikes. Leaving your home when a wildfire is approaching is a difficult and emotional decision, and as a result many people decide to stay before the fire front arrives. However, when it does arrive, many people change their mind (or panic) and decide to leave - and at that time, it's too late. Many fatalities that have occurred in wildfires around the world are the result of people leaving too late. Here's a plan for you to consider:

### **Get READY:**

- Create defensible space around your home by removing brush for a minimum of 100 feet.
- Assemble emergency supplies and prepare a list of the things you want to take with you if you need to evacuate.
- Plan your escape routes. You should know at least two different ways out of your neighborhood and community.

### **Get SET:**

- If a wildfire threatens, act immediately.
- Back your vehicle into the driveway and roll up the windows.
- Load your vehicle with everything you want to take with you. Make certain your valuables are either in your vehicle, or are safely stored in a fireproof safe.

### **GO!!**

- The latest information suggests you should not wait to be told to leave. *Go early!*
- You've done what you can to protect your home and property, so *go early!*
- Firefighters need room to work. By leaving, you give them the best chance to protect your home and your neighborhood.

## *Citizen Academy*

### *New Class Begins February 3, 2010*

Laguna Niguel Police Services is now accepting applications for the upcoming Citizen Academy. This is a 15-week interactive, educational series designed to give Laguna Niguel residents and business owners an inside look at the daily operations of Police Services and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The classes meet in Laguna Niguel on consecutive Wednesday evenings for 3 hours.

The Citizen Academy is a fun way to learn about your community, its citizens, and the deputies working in Laguna Niguel. Some of the currently scheduled classes will include: *Narcotics Recognition, DUI, K-9 Unit Demo, OC Jail Tour, Patrol Stop Scenarios, CSI & Forensics, Dispatch & Emergency Management Center Tour, Gang Enforcement*, as well as a *Patrol Ride Along*. The Citizen Academy is intended for personal growth only and does not certify participants to become law enforcement officers, nor does it meet the requirement for court appointed community service hours.

If you are at least 18-years of age and interested in receiving more information on the upcoming class, please contact the Laguna Niguel Police Services Community Support Unit at (949) 362-4309.