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1538 Post Avenue • Torrance, CA 90501 • (310) 320-6054

March 9, 2004

**Dear OTNA Member:**

As you know, but hopefully have not personally experienced, your identity can be stolen in seconds, yet it can take you a lifetime to get over it. If your identity is ever stolen, you'll need to act quickly to restore your good name and credit. On Wednesday, March 17th, Economic Crime Detective Kyle Goffney, a 15 year veteran on the Torrance Police Department (TPD), will discuss preventive measures that can be taken to secure your data and protect you from one of the fastest growing crimes — *Identity Theft*. He will cover:

- Identity Theft
- Access Card Theft
- Internet Theft

The increase in identity theft has been astounding. Last September, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that 9.9 million Americans fell victim to identity theft *in the previous year* — a number 10 times greater than the FTC earlier estimated. While you cannot protect your identity 100%, there are some basic precautions you can take. Detective Goffney will share those with us on the 17th.

The TPD is always trying to stay one step ahead of the "bad guy" by being proactive. Last month, for example, they called a community meeting for one area within the OTNA boundaries, Ketler Knolls, that had been receiving a lot of press due to an unusual amount of crime that occurred during the end of last year and the beginning of this year. The meeting was held in the Torrance High School Auditorium. There were over 16 uniformed officers, including the Chief of Police and all four Community Lead Officers, present to address concerns and to answer questions. The TPD explained to the 100+ neighbors in attendance that the recent crimes were all unrelated, and that they were adding more patrol in that neighborhood. They also encouraged the neighbors to work with them as a team and to call and report any suspicious behavior, as they are the real "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood.

It's this proactive initiative to "problem" solving that is helping to keep the crime down in Torrance. I hope you will join us at the Bartlett Center at 7:00 PM, on Wednesday, March 17th, for what is sure to be an informative meeting.

Sincerely,

**Debbie A. Hays**  
*OTNA President*

*P.S. This mailing was sponsored by the **Red Car Brewery & Restaurant**. And now, a word from our sponsor . . . Nestled in Historic Downtown Torrance, the Red Car Brewery & Restaurant, now in its 4th year of operation, features wood-fired pizzas, pastas, seafood, burgers and more! The small brewery produces English-style ales and also serves wine. Starting in the Spring, we will be open for business on Sundays. And, for you sports buffs, we've added six new 32" TV's! Call us anytime at (310) 782-0222.*