

A Community Newsletter
Produced by the
Torrance Refinery

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Be on the lookout in upcoming issues of Neighbor to Neighbor as we shine the "spotlight" on ExxonMobil's commitment to education and our partnerships in the community.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

How I Spent My Summer Vacation - Part 1

Torrance Educators Attend Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy

"How I spent my summer vacation" is an essay staple in many of our past educational experiences. For several Torrance elementary school teachers, their essays would include attending a summer camp especially designed for them. Summer camp for teachers might seem like a strange concept, but for the past three years, Dr. Ramona Chang, director for curriculum for the Torrance Unified School District, has invited elementary school teachers to participate in the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy for a week of learning and bonding.

The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy is a five-day training seminar for third through fifth grade educators. Professional golfer Phil Mickelson, his wife Amy and ExxonMobil created the Academy to provide selected teachers with the opportunity to enhance their mathematics and science teaching skills, as well as discover new ways to motivate their students. The 2007 conference was held in the Washington, D.C. area and was attended by teachers from across the country.

Dr. Chang started attending the camp



ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS: Front Row (L-R): Cheryl Thom, Amy Jackson, Dr. Ramona Chang, Pam Glavas, Debra Owens, Johnson Liu. Back Row (L-R): Chris Nelson, Xylina Osland, Amy Mickelson, Phil Mickelson, Karen Kasper, Suzanne Erving.

in 2005 with nine teachers from the local elementary schools, and every year since then she's attended the academy with nine different teachers. Dr. Chang's goal is to rotate teachers each year until all of the elementary schools in the district have been represented. Eventually, she would also like to have the principals at each school attend.

For Dr. Chang and the teachers in Torrance, this academy is an opportunity to learn important tools to enhance their

teaching and also spend time with fellow educators from various schools throughout the country. The academy also allows the teachers to see how different schools are approaching education.

"These teachers start off the week as strangers, and at the end of the week they are professional collaborators who have bonded in a very unique way," says Dr. Chang. "The academy makes learning fun and helps the teachers remember why they went into the profession in the first place."



Q: Why is Mobil fuel more expensive than other brands in the Torrance area?

James D. McGee, Torrance resident

A: Dear James, Gasoline prices are impacted by a number of factors. Most notably, supply and demand in the U.S. are having the biggest impact on prices today. Other factors, such as changes in the price of crude oil, changes in fuel specifications, government regulations, taxes, transportation costs and dealer pricing also drive the prices we pay at the pump.

ExxonMobil gasoline stations nationwide are owned and operated by either ExxonMobil or by franchised dealers. All gasoline stations in the City of Torrance are franchised dealers. A franchisee is an independent dealer who either leases a station from ExxonMobil or owns a station that is supplied by ExxonMobil. As an independent business operator, the franchisee, not ExxonMobil, decides how they will price their fuel. When setting their prices, dealers consider several factors, including:

- the price they pay for the gasoline;
- the prices posted by their competition;
- their personal business plan.

Regardless of the circumstances, we

encourage our independent Exxon- and Mobil-branded dealers and distributors to price responsibly.

As a driver myself, I can relate to your frustration at the pump and I appreciate you taking the time to share your views with us.

Q: Can you please tell us a little local history of the refinery? Where do the products come from? Where do they go?

Frances Koo, Torrance resident

A: Dear Frances, Long before Los Angeles emerged as a world center for trade and commerce, a sea captain from Scotland named John Barneson dreamed of using crude oil from California's inland oil fields to fuel ships at Los Angeles Harbor. The project called for construction of a long-distance crude oil pipeline and a refinery to be built near harbor waters. His dream eventually became the Torrance Refinery.

When it began operating in 1929, the Torrance Refinery gave a significant boost to the local economy—especially during the Great Depression when new jobs were scarce. In the 1940s, the facility was expanded to produce the high octane aviation fuels needed for the war effort. A major modernization program in the 1960s became like building a whole new refinery. In the 1980s, the largest refinery upgrade in Mobil history was completed at a cost of more than \$200 million.

The refinery sits on 750 acres of what were once bean fields. Today, we continue to upgrade our facilities so we can offer a full

range of petroleum products to our consumers. The refinery has the capacity to process 150,000 barrels of crude oil a day (1.8 billion gallons of gasoline per year). More than 70 percent of each barrel of raw crude is refined into high quality, specially formulated low emissions gasoline sold in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. We provide jet fuel to Los Angeles International Airport via pipeline and our other products are transported via pipeline, tanker truck and or railcar. Besides gasoline, the refinery produces jet fuel, diesel fuel, petroleum coke, liquefied petroleum gas and carbon black.

The harbor, the airport, the railroads, the trucking industry and the general public, all depend on our facilities and our people to help meet their growing need for fuel.

Thank you for taking the time to write with your question. If you're interested in learning more about our refinery, our processes and products, I encourage you to visit our refinery during our next Community Open House, which we anticipate will take place in 2008.

PUBLISHER'S BOX

Neighbor to Neighbor is published periodically as a community service by the

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ASK MAX

Max Ocansey, 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) 212-1852.

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 Max • 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 Youth Attends ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp

Dissecting fish, learning about robotics and building rafts may not sound like fun to many of us, but for several Torrance area students, it was the highlight of their summer. The students were selected to attend the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp (BHSSC) held at the University of Southern California (USC) campus.

Originally founded by American astronaut Bernard Harris, BHSSC is a free two-week overnight camp held at multiple university and college campuses nationwide. The camp, now in its 13th year, primarily caters to students entering the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The camp emphasizes the enjoyment of math and science education while offering real-world encouragement and career advice. The three Torrance students who attended the camp were Zack Ferrin and Rick Hong of Hull at Levy Middle School, and Cassandra Harris of MacGruder Middle School.

ExxonMobil began its partnership with The Harris Foundation in 2006, helping to sponsor camps in Houston and Oklahoma. Just one year later, the two organizations have expanded the number of camps from two to 20 across the country.

Campers at USC this summer were treated to a special "ExxonMobil Day," where students had the chance to conduct hands-on experiments, participate in highly interactive demonstrations and learn about engineering and other science careers with ExxonMobil engineers and scientists. Mike Leevy, maintenance manager, and several other engineers from the Torrance Refinery were on hand to help the campers build rafts with straws and aluminum foil, and then see which raft would hold the most pennies and still float.

Also joining the festivities was Bernard Harris. Sharing with the campers how science and math education enabled him to excel as an astronaut, Harris also answered questions and helped campers with their rafts.

"All in all it's a great camp," said Leevy. "Math and science education is extremely important, and it's great to see the campers realizing that for themselves."



Learning a hands-on lesson about pollution's effects, Cassandra Harris and Elissa Herrera dissect a white croaker at the summer science camp. ROBERT CASILLAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ARTICLE REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION OF THE DAILY BREEZE.

SEA CURIOSITY

Kids take a look at marine life at summer science camp



A Summary of BHSSC
By: Cassandra Harris

This summer I had the privilege of attending the Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp. It was very educational and lots of fun. We had two classes that we went to; one the first week and the other the second week. One was about robotics, where we learned to build and program our own robots. The other was about physics. There, we learned about Newton's Third Law and how to wire a simple circuit that included a battery pack, motor, and power switch.

In addition to our classes, we went on four field trips. One of these, my personal favorite, was a trip to an IMAX theater in the Science Center to see *Dinosaurs Alive!* It was a 3D movie about how paleontologists find and put fossils together, and how the dinosaurs would have looked. It was really cool. Another field trip we went on was to the Southern California Marine Institute. At SCMI we got to dissect a fish, and then go fishing for the same fish we had just examined. The SCMI trip was fun, and something I'd like to go and do again.

One thing is certain, without the support from the staff this camp couldn't and wouldn't have happened. Our counselors were looking after us 24 hours a day! They took time off from their summers to help us out. Our teachers were fabulous; they helped us through our daily classes. However, we can't forget who helped fund this wonderful camp. I want to say a huge thank-you to EXXON MOBIL. Without them, none of us would have gotten to have this awesome summer. The BHSSC was an educational experience that I'll never forget.

MacGruder student "Cassie" Harris was showcased in The Daily Breeze and shared her experience in a letter to ExxonMobil.

REFINERY INVESTS IN NEW EQUIPMENT

Highly Efficient Filtration Device Captures Air Pollutants

On the evening of October 17, 2007, at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Refinery Manager Max Ocansey and ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Project Manager Gene Weber presented information to neighbors about an 18-month project designed to improve the refinery's environmental performance.

Refinery modifications are currently underway to accommodate a new piece of equipment called a dry Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) that will target reducing refinery emissions.

A staging area has been established on the east side of the refinery grounds near 190th and Crenshaw Boulevard. Temporary tents and equipment are visible from 190th Street. The new ESP equipment will be assembled in this area through year-end 2007 and neighbors may see large cranes that are required to assemble the equipment. In July of 2008, the assembled ESP will be relocated deeper into the refinery. Project completion is targeted for January 2009.

The refinery regrets any inconvenience this project may cause to the community in the way of increased traffic. Deliveries of building materials and equipment can be expected six days a week, with the likelihood of occasional work on Sundays. Evening lights will be turned toward the



Proposed view from 190th street

refinery and the community may observe noises that differ from the normal operating activities during the pre-assembly phase through the first quarter of 2008.

The refinery will make every effort to minimize community disturbance. Questions, comments or concerns can be directed to refinery's Public Affairs Department during regular business hours or call our 24-Hour Neighborhood Hotline at (310) 505-3158 to speak to an Environmental Surveillance Supervisor after hours.

OUR BEST YEAR EVER!

Employees Celebrate Significant Safety Performance Milestone

On July 28, 2007, our refinery employees achieved our best ever safety performance — one year without an OSHA¹ Recordable Incident (no work related injuries or illnesses) and over one year without a Lost Time Incident (injury or illness that causes days away from work).



Anyone who has visited the ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery, or has met our employees, knows that we embrace the corporation's safety vision of "Nobody Gets Hurt." Maintaining a safe work environment is our top priority — for our own sake, as well as the sake of the community.

¹ Occupational Safety Health Association's mission is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information on OSHA, visit www.OSHA.com.

EXXONMOBIL GAS CARD GIVEAWAY

Congratulations to the 25 Torrance residents whose response cards were randomly drawn by our refinery turnaround team to receive a \$20 ExxonMobil gas card! The refinery received 479 cards in response to the turnaround brochure mailed to Torrance residents in September 2007. The brochures provided information about the turnaround and answered questions regarding the refinery. We thank all the participants for taking the time to share their views about the refinery with us. To the winners...drive safely!

Drawing Winners: Virginia Araoyo, Kimberly Brown, Alex Corona, Mary Ehrlich, Candy Gandia, C.R. Getchius, P. Goepfner, R. Heibuck, Susan Huniu, Brenda Jones, Margaret Kemberling, Tony Kostas, Yu-Ming Kuo, Mary Law, Josephine Lee-Nozaki, Carrie Marley, Julie McGarry, Henry Nguyen, Frank Paour III, Linda Plaza, Daniel Romero, Mary Shields, Lori Tanimura, Frank Yeager, Rose M. Wieck.