

# TIMES-CALL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009 | LONGMONT, COLORADO

## Community must not stand for domestic violence, abuse

October has been designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is an all too common occurrence in our society, which extends beyond the stereotypical male-beating-female scenario. In a recent dispute in Longmont, a woman was charged with suspicion of stabbing her husband. Many times, the dispute involves the harming of a child.

According to a story published by the Times-Call in May, Longmont police made 398 arrests in domestic violence incidents. In 26 cases, both people involved in the incident were arrested. Police took an additional 320 reports that did not result in arrests.

It is a sad commentary on our society that these events take place and an even sadder point that we are quick to overlook or even excuse violence in relationships.

Domestic violence is a serious crime that must be dealt with in all communities. Domestic violence is not just an incident between two people, which affects only that

couple. It isn't a matter of other people minding their own business and staying out of the situation.

Often there are children present during incidents. Frequently, a domestic violence incident is part of an escalating series of events. At times, the incident will end with the death of one or both of the parties involved.

In Longmont, the coalition Longmont Ending Violence Initiative is tasked with educating the public about domestic violence.

LEVI is a great resource and a good starting point for anyone wanting to get involved in stopping domestic violence or anyone who is the victim of abuse.

The community is fortunate the Longmont Police Department has a dedicated domestic violence unit that works with community organizations, such as LEVI, to intervene before violence escalates.

For more information about LEVI, visit [www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org](http://www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org) or call LEVI at 303-774-4534.

EDITORIAL