

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not reflect any opinion, directive, or policy of the Woodlake Property Owners Association members or Board of Directors.

The primary purpose of the newsletter is to convey information designed to assist us to reduce or prevent crime in our community.

The information presented is available through various public access sources, personal interview, or observation. Your comments as to how we can improve this effort are welcome.

**1. a. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015** - [http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd\(adult\\_probation/most\\_wanted.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd(adult_probation/most_wanted.php) , and/or: <http://bellcountycrimestoppers.com>; No Changes.



On December 12, 2014, at 3:13pm this suspect walked into the Texell Federal Credit Union located at 2208 Sunny Lane, gave a note to the teller demanding money; he referred to

having a weapon however the teller didn't see one. The teller complied with the demand and the suspect fled southbound on foot, jumping a residential privacy fence.

**b. From Austin - Up To \$8,000 Reward Offered for Information Leading to the Arrest of: Jerry Holmes;** Wanted For: Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registration Requirements, Assault of a Family/House Member by Impeding Breath/Circulation, Bond Surrender Forfeiture.



Race: American Indian sex: Male  
DOB: 10/05/71 Ht: 5'9" Wt: 220 lbs. SMT: Tattoo of tribal art (unknown location) as well as other tattoos on right arm, left leg, and left hand. Scar on forehead. Indecency with a Child by Exposure, Assault of a Family/House Member by Impeding Breath/Circulation, and Probation Revocation LKA: 17232 County Road 829, Pearla, TX.

Details: In 1996, Jerry Holmes was found guilty of Indecency with a Child by Exposure for which he received 5 years probation. In 1998, he violated probation and was sentenced to 2 years confinement. In Livingston, in 2010, he assaulted and choked a family member. Holmes was indicted, secured bail, but never showed up for his court date.

In May 2012, Holmes moved to Pearland, Texas, but he never checked back in with authorities. In June 2012, a warrant for Assault of a Family/House Member by Impeding Breath/Circulation was issued by the Polk County Sheriff's Office. In August 2012, a warrant for Bond Surrender Forfeiture was issued by the Polk County Justice of the Peace.

In April 2013, a warrant for Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registration Requirements was issued by the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office.

Holmes was born in Tulsa, OK, and has ties to several cities in Texas, including Pearland, Pasadena, South Houston, Shepherd, and Livingston. He has been known to work in the boating and trucking.

**2. Crime Update : Drug Related Crime Statistics For Bell County & Sparta Valley Area In 2014. Of The (Estimated) 246 Counties In Texas; Bell County Ranks 16<sup>th</sup> In Population. -**

The raw data indicates that a total of 2039 drug related incidents were reported countywide in 2014. That represents an increase of 109 reported incidents greater than the total in 2013. The per annum population in Bell County has grown, however, at a rate that varies, depending on location, from 1.7% - 2.5%. Thus, by conservative estimates the actual drug related crime per capita rate for 2014 dropped by nearly 8 per/1000 due to improved enforcement efforts in the cities of Belton (-.26/1000) and Nolanville (-9.4/1000). Rural Bell County per capita rates of drug related crime didn't change from 2013 but they were slightly higher in Harker Heights, Killeen and Temple.

Based on current estimates and county growth rates, the Sparta Valley area (5 mile radius from the intersection of Water Works Road and Cedar Cove Road) with eastern margin of Nolanville and the western margins of Belton and Temple, experienced a per capita rate drop by .95/1000. Granted, the data is skewed by the influences of the tri-city relationship but that

**3. On A Saturday Night In October, Waco Police Made Several Arrests While Observing A Suspected Drug House (KXXV.Com).**

The Waco PD Street Crimes Unit was watching a suspected drug house in the 400 block of N. 34th St. where they'd made several traffic stops on vehicles leaving the house.

Two of those stops resulted in arrests for minor amounts of dope, while the third resulted in a seizure of 28 grams of meth. Robert Medina Jr. has been charged with possession of a controlled substance (meth).

There are drug houses in all types of neighborhoods, and they don't just happen. There are four things that make a drug house:

- Product
- Buyer
- Seller
- Location

Most neighborhoods have very little control over Product, Buyer, or Seller. Drug dealers look for Locations where neighbors do not communicate and isolate themselves. This makes it easy to intimidate those neighbors that do notice drug activity. Drug dealers like neighborhoods that say, "It can't happen here."

Money is a key element for the drug dealer. If they establish a drug house in a neighborhood where kids and adults have money to buy drugs, business will thrive.

If any of these warning signs exist, your neighborhood just may be hosting a "drug house":

- Excessive foot traffic to and from a house or property
- Loitering in or around a house
- Frequent and unusual traffic patterns such as: Stop - Enter - Leave
- Traffic frequently stops and a resident comes out and talks briefly with occupants of car
- Threats of intimidation connected to a residence
- Open exchange of drugs and money
- Gang activity in the neighborhood
- Graffiti on structures in the area
- Major alterations such as bars on the windows and doors, or heavy-duty outside doors.
- Sudden increase in criminal activity
- The lookout. Usually the same person will sit for hours at a time, day after day on the steps of a house down the block holding a whistle, a cell phone or walkie-talkie.
- A big electric bill (usually applies to marijuana growers). You probably don't pay the electric bill, and a dope dealer wouldn't want you to, because you would question the huge amounts of electricity they use. Even so, the power company can tell you if electric usage has jumped since those tenants have been in the property.
- Wiring around the meter (marijuana growers again). If they bypass the electric meter they can avoid the big electric bills.

You can reduce the chance that a drug house moves into your neighborhood. Prevention is the best way to stop drug houses!

What should you do if there is a drug house in your neighborhood?

One of the tools of the drug dealer is intimidation. There is safety in numbers.

- Start a Neighborhood Watch or build a cooperative effort with other neighbors.
- Log all activity connected to the suspected drug house.
- Talk to your Police Officers and give the information from your activity log to them.
- Speak with property owners about problems that the tenants are causing for the neighbors. If you are having problems, the property owner is probably having problems too.
- Report all problems to the appropriate agency. Police, Fire, Health, Public Works are just some of the agencies that you may call with problems.
- Park on the street and watch for a while. If you see many people going up to the door and leaving quickly, be suspicious. Major alterations not visible from the outside. Look for phony windows, such as plywood coverings for windows with lights inside to make them look real. Reinforced doors, not obvious from the outside and boarded up windows are two more suspicious indications.

The tenant doesn't want you in the house. Either that or there are certain parts of the house

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

where he doesn't want you to go, such as the room where they grow the dope.

The house stinks. Be wary of any unusual odor. Methamphetamine smells like the world's worst cat box. Marijuana has its own odor.

Extra ventilation. Methamphetamine fumes are deadly poison. Cooks will vent them out of the house. They also go outside to smoke, since the fumes are highly combustible.

The tenant is never there but someone else always is. That person may or may not have heard of the person you rented to, who has since disappeared. Even so there are always 20 or 30 people in the house. Many times, after police shut down a methamphetamine production facility, or meth lab, those nearby are shocked to learn that drugs were being produced in their neighborhood without them knowing.

Police say a meth lab looks like any other home. There may or may not be a lot of people coming and going, depending on whether the drug is sold out of the home, or if the "cook" delivers it to different customers.

Local police say that while it may be difficult to pinpoint suspicious activity at a meth lab, there are a few things to look for.

#### Advertisement

There may be unusual amounts of home garbage as the cook tries to get rid of equipment that can't be reused in cooking another batch.

Many times, cooks will dispose of the used meth gear away from the lab. This results in what is called a "meth dump," which can be a roadside ditch, a wooded area or remote public place.

The trash can look innocent enough -- soda bottles, household cleaning bottles, and small

lengths of plastic hose used in the cooking process.

This trash is classified as hazardous waste! These discarded items, if touched, can cause skin irritation from chemical residue.

Police say people may be noticed carrying away trash for disposal, or putting trash in dumpsters at businesses or other sites.

Meth production creates an odor.

It can be flammable and highly dangerous, depending on the recipe, and police say there are many different kinds.

Ingredients can include muriatic acid, a chemical used for cleaning concrete; camp fuel and automotive starting fluid, all which have strong odors on their own.

According to one website offering meth recipes, the smell of cooking meth with these ingredients can range from a rotten egg and chemical aroma to ammonia or cat urine smell, depending on the ingredients.

The smell can dissipate soon after the cooking is done. If cooked indoors, there is generally an exhaust or fan system rigged up to ventilate the cooking area, since the fumes generated can make the cook sick.

When the "Shake and Bake" method is used, all chemicals are placed in a 2-liter soda bottle. It takes fewer cold pills than other methods, which require large quantities. With the need for fewer pills, cooks are able to more easily get around strict regulations limiting the purchase of over-the-counter cold medicines that contain pseudoephedrine. It was because of the onslaught of cooks purchasing the pills that legislation mandated all pharmacies keep records of who was making such purchases and how much they were buying.

With this method, the pills are crushed, combined with household chemicals and shaken together in the soda bottle. No flame is needed to cook the ingredients.

If meth is being cooked in a home, windows might be covered to prevent others from seeing what's going on.

It is also reported that sometimes, people who cook or use meth have telltale chemical burn sores on their skin. Heavy meth use can also cause a degradation of tooth enamel, leading to decay. There can be a rapid change in personal appearance even during the course of a month.

An anonymous drug reporting tip line routes calls to the proper local authorities: 1-800-GIVE-TIP or 1-800-448-3847.

All state and local police agencies strongly urge anyone with a question or concern to contact them.

#### **4. On The Horizon: Crime Of Opportunity; Offenders Choose Targets That Offer A High Reward With Little Effort And Risk - Annual Crime Of Opportunity Update, Analysis And Discussion.**

Thousands of "crimes of opportunity" happen every single day. Unlocked cars, distracted cell phone users, and open windows create thousands of opportunities for criminals to commit crimes every day. All you need is an environment where property is left unprotected, and adds people who don't mind breaking the law. If they know they can get away with a crime and won't get caught, then it's going to happen. That simple formula creates environments where robberies, theft, graffiti and other crimes occur daily.