

## Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Halloween Issue

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.

Parents, guardians and supervisors, etc., it's not too late to think about your children's safety for Halloween. For a refresher, see the attached brochure.

**1. a. The Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force Is A Multi-Jurisdictional Unit That Encompasses 17 Counties In Texas.** - They cover Travis, Hays, Comal, Wharton, Colorado, Lee, Milam, Bell, Blanco, Bastrop, Fayette, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Llano, Gonzales, Wilson and Williamson counties.

With ten agents, one sergeant and a public awareness coordinator, Bell County personnel are assigned to seven of those counties.

Headquartered in Travis County, the agents are stationed in and work cases from their home county, as well as cases from other counties. When one agent needs assistance, the task force comes together and works as a group.

The unit has proven successful by actively working highway interdiction. Ford F-250's, Chevrolet trucks, semi trailers and utility trailers make up a large number of vehicles that have been recovered during interdiction operations.

A favorite location to work interdiction is Interstate Highway 35 in Comal County. It's rare not to recover several vehicles heading south on IH 35.

Some of these vehicles were sold to innocent purchasers, but many are with the actual suspects.

Public Awareness is a high priority to the Task Force. They speak to civic groups about auto theft and burglary of a motor vehicle. They hold VIN etchings and H.E.A.T. registrations.

They have received great response with the VIN Etchings. Dealerships charge upwards of \$250.00 to etch the vehicles identification number on the glass, but we do it free as a service to the public.

**b. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of Oct 31st, 2014** - [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>;

The featured criminal-at-large Wanted For: Aggravated Assault With Deadly Weapon, is



Canisius Defingin.

Defingin is a 32 y/o, 5'8", 210 lbs, Asian Male with BRO eyes and BLK Hair.

Defingin's was last known to live in Killeen.

For additional information please review the latest wanted poster at: [http://www.bellcountytx.com/departments/cscd%28adult\\_probation%29/most\\_wanted.php](http://www.bellcountytx.com/departments/cscd%28adult_probation%29/most_wanted.php)

If you have any information about these individuals, please call the Bell County Sheriff's Office at 254-933-5400, your local law enforcement, or CRIMESTOPPERS AT 1-800-729-TIPS (Local 526-TIPS). There is now an "on-line" crime reporting system for your convenience: [http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen\\_online\\_reporting\\_system/index.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen_online_reporting_system/index.php)

**c. From Austin** - Up to \$7,500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of: Alfredo Rangel.



Wanted For: Parole Violation (Original Offenses: Aggravated Assault Of Public Servant, Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery), Larceny, Engaging In Organized

Criminal Activity, CCH: Aggravated Assault Of Public Servant, Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, Theft Of Property, Theft Of Property Grave/Human Corpse LKA: 2302 Boulanger, Apt. 1, Laredo, TX.

Caution: Subject has ties with the Texas Mexican mafia gang, has violent tendencies and should be considered armed and dangerous!

Details: In April 2000, Rangel and two accomplices were involved in a violent assault on a Texas DPS state trooper during a traffic stop on interstate 35 near Cotulla, Texas. The trooper's weapon was taken and the trooper was left on the ground with serious injuries.

Rangel was apprehended several days later and was convicted of aggravated assault of a public servant, aggravated kidnapping, and aggravated robbery, and received a 15-year sentence in TDCJ prison. He was paroled in January 2012.

On August 15, 2014, Rangel and two accomplices robbed a local casino in Laredo, Texas.

**2. Crime Update: The Killeen Fire Marshal Is Investigating An Arson That Occurred At A House Located At 2606 Tracey Circle On Thurs., August 28, 2014, Just Before 1:30am.** - Multiple fires were set within the vacant residence with an ignitable liquid.

The arson suspects were seen earlier that evening in the area parked on Tucker Drive in a silver four-door vehicle, possibly a Kia.

The report says that one of the suspects exited the vehicle and was seen running from Tracey Circle towards Diane and Tucker Dr., with a gasoline container.

Bothe suspects then fled in the silver four-door vehicle.

LKA: Belton  
Investigators are asking anyone who may have information about this Arson or the suspects, to contact Bell County Crime Stoppers at 526-TIPS (8477) or go online anonymously at [www.bellcountycrimestoppers.com](http://www.bellcountycrimestoppers.com) or text BELLCO along with the tip to 274637. Text HELP to 274637 for help with the tip or text STOP to 274637 to stop the tip. All information is anonymous and confidential and if your tip results in the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the crime you could be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000 in cash.

Mathew Flater, 29, of Killeen was arrested on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>, after he confessed to intentionally setting his house on fire last month.

Firefighters were called out to the 3700 block of Daniels Drive on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Investigators found pieces of burned, lined paper behind the electrical outlets in the kitchen.

Flater confessed to putting some notebook paper in the outlet behind the cabinet and in the outlet above the kitchen.

The 29- year-old told officials, he set the house on fire so he could collect on a renter's insurance policy.

**3. Arson, The Psychology of a Firebug; In The Last 12 Months, Arson Was The Reported Cause Of 13 Fires In Bell County** - At a home in Morgan's Point and 1 in Nolanville, two houses in Temple, Harker Heights and in Belton, another 2 homes and a school yard in Killeen, and as recently as this week a house on FM 1670 has been damaged or destroyed arson.

Arson, setting a fire for an unlawful or improper purpose, is rooted in several causes: protest against governmental policy, envy against neighbors, sale of land for urban development, disgruntled firefighters, and to distract police by drug smugglers.

Arsonists start 9 of 10 wildfires, i.e. last November's wildfires in California.

Domestic violence sometimes results in the arson's damaging or destroying the victims' property causing personal injury.

In some cases arson can also be a method of committing murder.

Vandals may start fires in vacant or abandoned buildings that may risk lives of transient or homeless people that may be dwelling inside.

An environmental group known as the Earth Liberation Front committed arson as a political statement to spread its message of environmental protection.

## Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

### Halloween Issue

Examples of extremist/terrorist-motivated targets include government buildings, houses of worship, abortion clinics, slaughterhouses, animal laboratories, and furriers. Terrorist arsonists frequently claim their responsibility for the fire and use media attention to draw attention to their specific cause.

Arson studies define four primary motivations: youth disorder and nuisance; malicious; psychological; and criminal. The first covers vandalism, boredom and thrill seeking.

Some 5% of arson cases are malicious: fires set through revenge against a partner or family member, retaliation against an institution or an employer, rivalry, racism, or clashes of belief.

About 2% of arsonists have psychological problems while about 10% of those arrested are considered mentally ill.

Around half of all arsonists are males under 18; the majority of the rest are males under 30.

In arson cases involving older people, the motivation is usually for profit. About 90% of all arsonists are male and they are usually white.

The most common excitement motive is pure thrill-seeking; the suspect enjoys the chaos created by the act of starting a fire which may be the only incentive.

Excitement offenders may also want recognition as a hero (such as firefighter-arsonists). They crave attention and are excited by the idea that everyone is talking about and looking for them. The ability to create a situation requiring the response of the fire service and law enforcement provides these individuals with a feeling of empowerment over society.

Potential targets of the excitement motivated arsonist run full scale from nuisance dumpster fires to occupied apartment buildings during the night. Targets may escalate as the fire-setting of more benign locations no longer provides enough excitement. There may also be sexual gratification in fire setting for some excitement arsonists.

Arson is responsible for over 500,000 fires equating to approximately 25% of all fires each year, and is the most expensive crime in America. Estimates range in the loss of over 700 lives and an excess of annual costs of \$2 billion in property loss.

The most common reason for arson is profit for insurance purposes. But, that doesn't seem to fit for the fires purposely set in California.

For those fires, based on what's known, anger is a more likely explanation for what has resulted in one of the most widespread and expensive disasters in the state that engulfed some 600,000 acres and 2,000 homes.

It is often assumed that fire-setters are

mentally disturbed. Even if an arsonist does have a psychiatric illness, this may not be a contributing factor in the fire-setting behavior, or may be only one of many factors.

Genuine pyromania (an "unnatural fascination" with fire; deliberate and repeated fire-setting; arousal prior to the crime and intense gratification afterwards) is, however, very rare.

Finding the truth about what motivates an arsonist and identifying the "typical" profile is difficult because these crimes are rarely solved and the data is based on the few that are arrested.

Studies, however, indicate that typically arsonists' IQs fall between 70 and 90; well below the normal IQ range and about one in four fall in the below-70 IQ range that qualifies them as mentally retarded.

In these cases the crime is triggered by anger and does not suggest that all mentally retarded will become arsonist. It's that combination that is a catalyst; the mental illness masking the means to express anger except by acting-out.

Counselors for young arsonists say that many of their young firebugs have above average intelligence. Many have reading skills at the college level contradicting the commonly accepted less-than-average IQ of the typical arsonist.

Some are extremely computer-savvy and learn in a scientific way to set fires to get maximum impact.

But, the primary motivation to set fires by these 12 to 19 year-old youths remains to be anger.

The data collected on these teenagers indicates that they have been victims of neglect, abused and/or humiliated.

Arsonists tend to rationalize their crime, project external blame, and minimize the consequences.

Professionals in forensic psychiatry, criminal and fire investigation have developed classifications related to the motives behind fire-setting:

- Unstable childhood; often one or both parents missing from home
- Abuse or neglect by parents
- Childhood hyperactivity disorder
- Poor academic performance
- Antisocial behaviors and other crimes as an adolescent
- Cold or aggressive relationship with father; overprotective mother
- If married, poor marital adjustment
- If not married, still living at home with parents
- Lack of stable interpersonal relationships;
- poor social skills
- Poor occupational adjustment; employed in

- low-paying jobs often as a laborer
- Poor military performance
- Fascination with the fire service
- Alcoholism and/or substance abuse
- Mental Illness: personality disorders, depression, schizophrenia, suicidal tendencies

Recidivism relates to the tendency of an individual to relapse into criminal behavior. Most arsonists will continue to set fires until they are caught or they find another source of gratification. Mentally disordered fire-setters diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and mental retardation have higher rates of recurrence of fire-setting behavior than non-mentally disordered fire-setters. However, they commit fewer types of other crimes.

The most frequently found disorder among arsonists is an antisocial personality disorder. Antisocial individuals often engage in a range of criminal behaviors including fire setting as well as other destructive acts. The disorder is characterized by a failure to conform to social norms by repeated acts that are illegal, deceitful, impulsive, and aggressive.

It is normal for most kids at about age five to be curious about fire, or even start small fires. However, there are children who take this to the next level. The roots of a serial arsonist can be traced to childhood. The hallmark of a future arsonist is an adolescent with a conduct disorder. Behaviors associated with a conduct disorder include aggression, cruelty to people and animals, destruction of property, deceitfulness, theft, and disregard of parental or school rules. Youths with conduct disorders persistently violate the rights of others. When an adolescent with a conduct disorder starts a fire it will typically be with the intention of causing serious damage and perhaps endangering life. The budding arsonist is most often male and is impulsive.

- Children who start playing with matches or fire as early as age three
- Children who frequently engage in "daredevil" behavior, especially near fire
- Children who mix chemicals or engage in "secret" fire settings in which they try different mixtures
- Those who are noticeably excited while watching fires.

**4. On The Horizon: When Temperatures Start To Drop With The Onset Of Winter, Out Will Come The Space Heaters, Candles, Logs On The Fire and Holiday Aromas Emanating From The Kitchen - So Also, Will Come Higher Risk Of House Fires -**

<http://www.familyhandyman.com/smart-homeowner/home-safety-tips/how-to-prevent-home-fires>.