

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## Independence Day Issue

### CELEBRATE 4<sup>TH</sup>-OF-JULY HOLIDAY SAFELY

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not express 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.

The Editor and Staff want to wish you a very joyful Independence Day. We celebrate this day July 4<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain and to remind us this Liberty should never be taken for granted. We hope your celebration: picnics, a day on the lake, backyard BBQ, or shooting fireworks, is done safely.

### BELL COUNTY SHERIFF TIP LINE:

#### WANTED AS OF JULY 1<sup>st</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/>



Tanieja Blunson is a 21 year old, 5'7", 165 lbs., B/F with Brown Eyes and Black Hair from Temple, Wanted For: Robbery.

**FROM AUSTIN:** The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announced that three on the Texas 10 Most Wanted lists were captured last month.



Dewayne Wynn, 35, was arrested in Dallas on June 12; Texas 10 Most Wanted

Jose Manual Avalos, 52, was arrested on June 18 in San Angelo (below) and Texas10 Most Wanted Sex Offender Jerry Don Holmes, 43, was arrested on June 20 in Oklahoma.

Working on tip information the County Sheriff's Office located and arrested Wynn (top) without incident at a Dallas residence. The arrest



was the result of a tip, and a reward up to \$5,000 will be paid.

Wynn was wanted for aggravated kidnapping and aggravated assault family violence. For more information, see his captured bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/fugitiveDetails.aspx?id=258>.

Avalos (center photo), a confirmed Texas Mexican Mafia gang member wanted for parole violation, was arrested in San Angelo. The DPS Criminal Investigations Division and the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest. The arrest was not the result of a tip, and no reward will be paid. For more information, see his arrest bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/capturedDetails.aspx?id=290>.

Holmes (right photo) was located in Tulsa and arrested by the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. The arrest was the result of tip information, and a reward up to \$3,000 will be paid. Holmes was wanted for assault and failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements. For more information, see his captured bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/capturedDetails.aspx?id=241>.



So far in 2015, DPS and other agencies have arrested 19 Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives and Sex Offenders, including 14 sex offenders and four gang members, and \$43,000 in rewards have been paid for tips that resulted in arrests.

To be eligible for the cash rewards, there are five different ways to provide anonymous tips:

Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

Text the letters DPS—followed by your tip—to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone.

Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.

Submit a Facebook tip: <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).

Submit a tip through the DPS Mobile App. The app is currently available for iPhone users on the Apple App Store: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/texas-dps/id902092368?mt=8>) and for Android users on Google Play: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microassist.texasdps&hl=en>).

All tips are anonymous – regardless of how they are submitted.

Caution: Subject should be considered Armed and Dangerous!

### CRIME UPDATE: INCIDENCE OF HOME BURGLARIES TRENDS DOWN FOR 2015!

During the time period between June 1, 2013 and June 31, 2014 there were a total of 1811 Home Invasions (Burglaries) reported. That's an average of approximately 151 burglaries per month.

In the preceding 12-month period, (July 1, 2014 – June 31, 2015) there was a 26% decline to a total of 1345 reports of Residential Burglaries for a monthly average of approximately 112.

The past 6 months (November 1, '14 – May 31, '15) the rate has dropped nearly another 40%, to a monthly average of only 132, the fewest during the June '15 of only 36.

however, despite the evidence, residence is cautioned not to relax taking appropriate preventative measures.

As recently as June 6<sup>st</sup>, a local homeowner's vehicle was broken into early on Saturday shortly after 4 a.m. The thief made-off with a tool bag but during his escape, his image was captured on a night sensitive "Game Cam". Neighbors were asked to be on the look out for the suspect fitting his description but as of today, the individual has not been identified.

Last week there were 2 reports of Burglary of Vehicle in the Hurley Ranch subdivision (vicinity of the UMHB campus) and 1 reported on Dunn's Canyon Road (Burns Addition).

### THE REAL CSI: How America' Patchwork System of Death Investigations Puts The Living At Risk - "CSI" (Crime Scene Investigation, Las Vegas) quickly became the most-watched program on TV, remains a top-five program and spawned two spin-offs: CSI Miami and CSI New York. More interestingly, the popularity of the CSI franchise, as well as other shows like Bones, Dexter, and the Law & Order franchise, created a fascination with forensic science by the American public and has lead to a rise in enrollment in forensic science and criminalistics programs.

But the work of a forensic science technician falls somewhat short of how Hollywood has promoted the profession; scoring extremely high in entertainment but very low on the scale in reality.

Contrary to the TV series, forensic science technicians are not the police and can't

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CAMP MABRY CRIME LAB (1937)

interrogate or arrest suspects. They help the police solve crimes more passively, by collecting and analyzing the physical evidence of a crime scene, and interpreting what occurred during the crime for the benefit of investigating detectives and officers.

And, in real life, forensic science technicians usually concentrate in only one aspect of the experience: crime scene analysts, who pick over crime scenes to process and collect evidence, lab analysts who stay in the crime lab and run tests on the evidence collected in the field, or specialized areas of forensics, such as fingerprints, DNA analysis, firearm testing, or trace evidence (such as hair, body fluids, and fibers).

Though CSI series do spread science and education about the technology, the caveat is that these same shows also exaggerate the forensic actors' abilities whose findings come easy, exact, fast, as a glamorous science which creates an elevated expectation of real-life forensic scientists that is referred to as the "CSI effect". The reality is that evidence collection and analysis can be a very long, tedious, and difficult task, and the evidence that is recovered may be incomplete or equivocal. That very often leaves jurors and others confused about the difference between real-life and television, and can be detrimental to those jurors who expect more from the science.

Despite using the correct techniques to collect and analyze evidence for that particular situation, in real-life it may not look as pretty as the state-of-the-art equipment on TV. Also, time frames are necessarily skewed; after all, the crimes have to be solved within the 1 hour (or less with commercials). For example, in reality what would normally take several days, if not weeks to obtain the results of a DNA or a fingerprint comparison is made available in 10 seconds in the TV series.

During a 2-year period a nation-wide evaluation of 2,300 coroner and medical

examiner offices found a deeply dysfunctional system that quite literally buried its mistakes.

Blunders by doctors in America's morgues have put innocent people in prison cells, allowed the guilty to go free, and left some cases so muddled that prosecutors could do nothing.

Medical examiner errors in Mississippi, Massachusetts and even Washington, D.C., have convicted the innocent, cremation of a corpse before

police could determine if the person had been murdered, misplaced bones lost bodies.

In one instance, a doctor in Detroit during autopsy missed finding the hole in the neck and the bullet lodged in the jaw of a body pulled from a lake.

Due to extreme shortages, more than 1 in 5 physicians working in the country's busiest morgues are not board certified in forensic pathology, failed the exams or failed their boards but are still employed by counties in Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and California.

In as many as 1600 counties, coroners having the final say on whether fatalities are homicides, suicides, accidents or the result of natural or undetermined causes, are elected officials who may not even be doctors or have no qualifications beyond a high-school degree. Also, many coroner and medical examiner offices suffered from underfunding and neglect resulting in cutting the number of autopsies authorized to be performed or declining to autopsy apparent suicides and most people age 40 and over who die without an obvious cause.

*The Camp Mabry Crime Lab,  
Established In 1937, Employs 279  
Forensic Scientists And 83 Support  
Personnel In Laboratories At 13  
Different Locations In Texas.*

Despite their shortcomings of inadequate resources, poor scientific training and substandard facilities and technology, some death investigation units do a commendable job. For example, while many coroners and medical examiners don't even have X-ray machines, New Mexico has a new facility equipped with a full-body CT scanner to help detect hidden injuries. Virginia has an efficient, thorough system, staffed by more than a dozen highly trained doctors. The autopsy suite in its Richmond headquarters is as sophisticated and sanitary

as a top hospital.

Another concern is that coroners often are closely aligned with law enforcement agencies. In 48 California counties, the local sheriff serves as coroner. In Nebraska, county prosecutors perform the coroner's duties. Any perceived bias, close ties to law enforcement that may provoke controversy in sensitive cases such as police shootings and police encounter deaths, requires investigators independent of law enforcement not to influence a jury pool.

There are "CSI" agencies with top-block credentials. At Austin's Camp Mabry, the Crime Lab that was established 1937 has developed from a 1-chemist operation into a system with approximately 279 forensic scientists and 83 support personnel in laboratories at 13 different locations across the state of Texas. Crime Lab personnel provide a variety of services to law enforcement agencies in the investigation of crimes and are nationally known for their abilities in forensic science (the evaluation and examination of evidence collected at the scene of a crime) and criminalistics (the science of recognizing, identifying, individualizing, and evaluating physical evidence by the application of natural science to law-science matters). The services provided by the other 12 DPS laboratories are strategically arranged for optimal access and support to the criminal justice community

The Crime Laboratory strives to keep abreast of the latest techniques in these areas in order to provide timely and accurate results to law enforcement agencies requesting assistance. Crime Lab personnel's investigative capabilities are further enhanced by the integration and exchange of local, state, regional, and national information via individualizing databases, including AFIS (fingerprints), NIBIN (firearms), and CODIS (DNA).

Accreditation issued by through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) has been part of a laboratory's quality assurance program since 1986, and includes proficiency testing, continuing education, customer liaison, and other programs to help the laboratory provide more effective overall service.

**ON THE HORIZON: Where Were You When The Lights Went Out? - Twice in the past 12 months, electrical power was interrupted for more than 12 hours; Having Weathered The Storms, What Have We Learned That Will Help Make Life a Little Easier The Next Time?** Find out in the next issue of the Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter.