

# 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://bellcounty.crimestoppers.com>; No Changes.

The Bell County authorities request anyone with information concerning the alleged murder of 62-year-old Belton resident to call: 1 254-526-TIPS (8477).

On Friday, December 19, 2014, officer's arrived to the crime scene where the male decedent, identified as John Hayes Hill, of 830 W. Avenue I, was found lying on the floor in the living room; COD was determined to be from a blunt force trauma to the head.

The victim had not been seen since Tuesday, December 16, 2014, so the witness entered the residence through the unlocked front door to discover the body.

**b. From Austin - A Tip and a \$7500 Reward Resulted In The Arrest Of: Alfredo Rangel.**



Race: W, Sex: M, DOB: 12/29/76, HT: 5'9", WT: 200 lbs, AKA:

Alfredo Angel, SMT: Scars above right eye and on stomach. Mole above right eye. Wanted For: Parole Violation, Aggravated

Assault of Public Servant, Larceny, Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity. CCH: Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, Theft of Property, Theft of Property Grave/Human Corpse.

Details: In 2000, Rangel got 15 years in prison when he and two other accomplices assaulted DPS state trooper during a traffic stop near Cotulla, Texas. The trooper's service weapon was taken and was seriously injured. In August 2014, Rangel and two accomplices were involved in an armed robbery at a local casino in Laredo, Texas.

Rangel was captured November 20, 2014, in Nuevo Laredo, by the Mexico Capturing Agency and turned over to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) at the Gateway to the Americas Bridge in Laredo, TX.

**2. Crime Update : On Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 9:34 PM Temple Police Officers responded to a home invasion in progress in the 1200 block of W. Avenue E. - Responding officers were advised that three (3) armed**

suspects had forced entry into the residence through the front door.

One of 2 suspects fleeing the scene was seen throwing something into an adjacent field where officers recovered a 12-gauge shotgun.

A 9-millimeter handgun was also recovered from some bushes in the 1300 block of W. Ave E where the suspects ran into an alley between 25th and 27th Streets.

While entering the alleyway, the second suspect collided with a became trapped under another patrol car called to the scene. That suspect was apprehended and transported to Scott & White after Temple Fire and Rescue lifted the patrol vehicle.

During this, the first suspect returned to the scene and was taken into custody. A canine unit located the third suspect near S. 25th Street and W. Central Avenue; he too was arrested.

All suspects were identified as juveniles. Two were transported to the juvenile detention facility in Killeen. The injured suspect was transported to a hospital in San Antonio for treatment for burns caused by contact with the engine.

Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams – from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly – calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send mail or place ads to convince you to call them.

**3. Phone Scams: Fraud Isn't Limited To Race, Ethnic Background, Gender, Age, Education, Or Income.** - Everyone's a potential target. Some scams, however, do seem to concentrate in certain groups. Older people may be targeted because of their assumed vulnerability – they're more polite, may live alone, or have a nest egg.

If you get a call from someone you don't know who is trying to sell you something you hadn't planned to buy, say "No thanks." If they pressure you about giving up personal information – like your credit card or Social Security number – it's likely a scam. Hang up and report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Scammers may call you or use mail, texts, or ads to get you to call them to promote, fake prizes, products or services as bait.

Some scammers focus on specific causes to play on your generosity. Rip-off artists often focus on emotional appeals or disasters in the news. Do your research to avoid fraudsters to make sure any contributions you make actually go to the cause you support.

Social media warn users about a phone scam that can trick people into incurring large phone bills via international phone charges and per-minute fees for "premium" phone services. Some reports suggest that the user could be

charged up to \$19.95 for the international call and as much as \$9 per minute for the premium service call.

The warnings explain that scammers are making phone calls and then hanging up after only one ring in the hope that users will return the missed call and be charged accordingly.

On variation of this ploy is the use of auto-dialing software to call random cell phone numbers then hang-up after just one ring. The goal is for you to call back either out of simple curiosity or because of a mistaken belief that the call was cut off.



This appears to be a variation by old long distance phone scammers who leave messages on consumers' answering machines or their email accounts with messages urging consumers to call a number with an "809," "284," "876," or some other area code to collect a prize, find out about a sick relative, or engage in sex talk.

IRS and tax-related phone scams are being reported to the Better Business Bureau nationwide.

(Note: This number changes from 254-693-7065 to 202-506-9026 in 1 second.)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH9XGRozHqY>

The claims in the warnings are valid. The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the Attorney General's Office in several US states have issued alerts about this scam.

Note that this legitimate warning should not be confused with a much earlier message that provided greatly exaggerated and misleading information about 809 area phone scams.

If you receive one of these one-ring calls, do not call back. The FTC advises that people tempted to call back would be wise to check the number via an online directory. The directory should tell them where the call came from.

Often, scammers who operate by phone don't want to give you time to think about their pitch to get you to say "yes". Some may gladly answer your questions, direct you to a website or otherwise send information featuring

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"satisfied customers." These customers are shills that fake praise for the company.

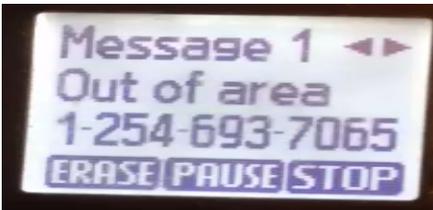
By keeping you on the line as long as possible, the more money the scammers make. These calls may have area codes that appear local but originate from outside the U.S. - Antigua, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada, and the British Virgin Islands, or have area codes that include the following: 268, 284, 473, 664, 649, 767, 809, 829, 849 and 876.

If you answer the phone and hear a recorded message instead of a live person, it's a robocall. Recorded messages that are trying to sell you something are generally illegal unless you have given the company written permission to call you. Others may claim to represent a "debt collection agency" tempting you with a "call back" number or face legal consequences.

The BBB has received nation-wide complaints about a voicemail messages allegedly from the IRS threatening the recipient of legal action or arrest if they fail to contact the IRS about taxes owed.

Another suspicious call people are reporting are those from individuals claiming they are with the U.S. Treasury; this too is a scam.

The IRS says they never contact taxpayers by phone or e-mail requesting money. The IRS will only contact you by U.S. mail if there are issues with your taxes.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm4RMz\\_fWak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm4RMz_fWak)

In response to an incoming call, never give out any personal or financial information such as your Social Security number, financial information or any passwords and other identifying information.

BBB recommends the following tips if you receive one of these scam phone calls:

**Hang Up** - Don't provide any information over the phone. Call the IRS directly using the phone number found on their legitimate website. <http://www.irs.gov>

These and other measures are recommended not to become a victim of phone fraud:

- Register your home and mobile phone numbers with the National Do Not Call Registry. This won't stop all unsolicited calls, but it will stop most.
- Before you make a donation, check out the charity and be suspicious of urgent requests for recent disaster relief efforts are especially

common on the phone. For businesses, get advice on how to vet fundraising professionals before you hire them and how to give wisely to local public service entities.

- Don't fall for promotions for credit and loans, advance fee loans, payday loans, credit card protection, and offers to lower your credit card interest rates, or exaggerated business or investment opportunities, especially during a down economy.
- Pitches for high-stakes foreign lotteries are illegal which prohibits the cross-border sale or purchase of lottery tickets by phone or mail. What's more, you may never see a ticket.
- Scammers find out what kind of car you drive, and when you bought it so they can urge you to buy overpriced – or worthless – plans. "Free" trial offers that "aren't". Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products – sometimes lots of products – which can cost you lots of money because they bill you every month until you cancel. If you hear a line that sounds like this, say "no, thank you," hang up, and file a complaint with the FTC: "You've been specially selected (for this offer); You'll get a free bonus if you buy our product; You've won one of five valuable prizes; You've won big money in a foreign lottery. This investment is low risk and provides a higher return than you can get anywhere else. You have to make up your mind right away. You trust me, right? You don't need to check our company with anyone. We'll just put the shipping and handling charges on your credit card." Why am I "confirming" my account information – or giving it out? Some callers have your billing information before they call you. They're trying to get you to say "okay" so they can claim you approved a charge.

The law allows telemarketers to call only between 8 am and 9 pm. A seller calling earlier or later is ignoring the law.

Some Additional Guidelines:

- Resist pressure to make a decision immediately.
- Keep your credit card, checking account, or Social Security numbers to yourself. Don't tell them to callers you don't know – even if they ask you to "confirm" this information. That's a trick.
- Don't send cash by messenger, overnight mail, or money transfer. If you use cash or a money transfer – rather than a credit card – you may lose your right to dispute fraudulent charges. The money will be gone.
- Don't agree to any offer for which you have to pay a "registration" or "shipping" fee to get a prize or a gift.

Research offers with your consumer protection agency or state Attorney General's office before you agree to send money.

Beware of offers to "help" you recover money you have already lost. Callers that say they are

law enforcement officers who will help you get your money back "for a fee" are scammers.

- Report any caller who is rude or abusive, even if you already sent them money. They'll want more. Call 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).
- If you get a robocall: Hang up the phone. Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other key to take your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.

Consider asking your phone company whether they charge for blocking phone numbers. Remember that telemarketers change Caller ID information easily and often, so it might not be worth paying a fee to block a number that will change.

Report your experience to the FTC online or by calling 1-888-382-1222.

Do I want more calls like this one? If you don't want a business to call you again, say so and register your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. If they call back, they're breaking the law. If you get phone service through Internet or cable, you might want to look into services that screen and block robocalls. Try doing an online search for "block robocalls." Your wireless phone rings once or twice and then disconnects the call. When the number appears in your wireless phone log as a missed call, it appears to be a typical domestic telephone number; or you get an email or voicemail telling you to call a phone number with an "809", "284", "876" or some other three-digit international area code.

Look Out for Spoofing - Part of scammers' sophisticated tactics include 'spoofing,' which happens when the caller masks their own number and causes the number of a well-known service, like the IRS, to appear on caller ID.

Contact the FTC - File a formal complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint). From the complaint homepage, select "Other" and then "Imposter Scams". In the notes, include "IRS Telephone Scam".

What to Do If You Are a Victim of This Scam If you are billed for a call you made as a result of this scam, first try to resolve the matter with your telephone company. If you are unable to resolve it directly, you can file a complaint with the FCC. There is no charge for Fax: 1-866-418-0232, 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) . TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) 445 12 St. SW. Washington, DC 20554 Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. [www.fcc.gov/consumer-governmental-affairs-bureau](http://www.fcc.gov/consumer-governmental-affairs-bureau).

**4. On The Horizon: Annual Drug Related Crime Analysis And Synopsis - How To Identify and What Can Your Neighborhood Do To Combat Illicit Drug Trade.**