



Volume 2, Issue 4.
March 7, 2012

Woodlake Property Owners Association 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 better improve this effort are welcome.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted <http://www.bellcountytexas.com/cscd/cscdwanted.htm>

Four of our suspects this issue were last known to have lived in Temple: Wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon is 32 year old, 5'8", 200 lbs, James Garcia is a W/M with brown eyes and black hair. Tonya Schiller is a 5'2", 150 lbs, 36 y/o, W/F, with brown eyes and brown hair, wanted for burglary of a habitation. Morris Shelton, 5'11", 180 lbs, is a 50 y/o, B/M with black eyes and black hair who is wanted for DWI w/child passenger. And, Gilbert Jimenez is 31 yrs/o, 220 lbs, W/M with brown eyes and black hair wanted for possession of a controlled substance.

From Killeen, suspect Bryan Harrison is 26, 6'2", 175lbs, B/M with brown eyes and black hair and is wanted for assault of a family member. Ondria Hardeman is a 29 y/o, B/M that is 6', 164 lbs with brown eyes and black hair. Hardeman is wanted for robbery and is also from Killeen.

If you have any information regarding 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). **ALL CALLS WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

2. Crime Update -

Killeen - A man is accused of fondling a 7 year old girl. Two individuals are now in jail after beating a man up and taking off his cash. Police are investigating the death of a 34-year-old man involved in a shootout with an officer on Tuesday. Preliminary autopsy results show the primary cause of death to be suicide.

Temple - Temple Police have tracked down a man in possession of two stolen firearms.

3. Part Four of the Ongoing Series to Review the Fundamentals of the Neighborhood Watch Program, Target Hardening

Simple, common sense crime prevention practices can make your home and property less attractive and less available to the criminal.

- Avoid some risks - Start by securing some items in a safer location like a safe deposit box at your bank.
- Employ some basic home target hardening techniques like installing alarm systems with monitors, buying a dog that announces the arrival of anyone, installing alarm systems with monitors, stronger windows, doors, and locks.

- Spread and manage some risks - Detect the criminal first or cause him to hesitate or delay might be a deterrent by careful selection locks, installing dusk to dawn lighting or timers on existing lights, making noises or visuals (interior lighting, TV, or stereo playing) that make a would be burglar believe there is someone in the house.

Assess the physical structure of the home to identify likely points of ingress or break-in.

- Doors - Exterior doors should be metal or solid wood and have strong hinges with hidden or non-removable pins. Install good quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and on any doors that open to attached garages.

- Locks - Deadbolt locks should extend at least one inch and half when in the locked position have reinforced strike plates and extra long mounting screws. Change all the locks immediately when you move into a new residence.

- Windows - Windows are the second most-utilized access points. Have locks on them or ask a professional what you can do to make them more secure.

- Lighting - Good lighting is a deterrent but make sure your lighting audit is completed after dark to evaluate artificial illumination and not daylight. Check for things like shadowing, color recognition and identification. Consider motion detectors or sensor lights.

- Alarms - The mere presence of an alarm system may deter potential burglars. Signs in the yard, stickers in windows and visible contacts or keypads may also be deterrents. Potential thief may decide to move on to a location that does not have an alarm system. There are many different types to choose from so the options can get complicated, confusing and expensive.

- Garage Doors - Garage door security is often taken for granted and the door that connects the garage to the house is quite often overlooked and electronic garage door openers give the owners a false sense of security. When you are at home you should always park your car in the garage with the garage door shut. <http://lifelifehacker.com/5549366/how-to-unlock-your-garage-door-from-the-outside-and-how-to-prevent-it>

- Exterior Appearances - *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) crime prevention, maintain or improving appearance.* Fences, walkways, and shrubs tend to direct access, limit entry or call attention to individuals who deviate or evade them. Plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult. Cut tree limbs that might allow access to windows, landscape the yard to provide maximum visibility, and trim shrubs, trees and bushes that may provide shelter.

Studies have shown the use of recognizable, traceable markings on your personal property enhances the chances of recovering your lost, strayed, or stolen items; often discourages their theft; and increases the probability of apprehending and prosecuting the criminal. Most items are stolen for resale. Marking your property complicates this. Would-be thieves will usually seek easier targets.



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Operation Identification, O.I.

1. Obtain a personal Operation Identification number from your sheriff or use your driver's license number.
2. If available, obtain electric etching engravers and heavy-duty stamping tools or carbon pencils.
3. Apply your OI number to all your personal property.
4. Photograph each valuable item of property not lending itself to ordinary marking methods, due to surfaces, aesthetics, etc. Place a card with your OI number in the photograph.
5. When identifying your property, place a legible mark in a uniform location in a second number in a hidden, less obvious place. In the event the thief removes the visible markings, there is still sufficient evidence for a prosecution and to verify your claim on the property.
6. Buyers should put an OI number below yours. Do not remove old OI numbers, serial numbers, etc.
7. Maintain inventory sheets of all marked property, including: description, individual item inventory number, and the value and location of visible and hidden numbers. Include manufacturer numbers as well. Keep in a safe place with other valuable documents.
8. Post OI signs or decals where visible to publicize that your property is marked, traceable evidence.
9. Report lost or stolen property immediately and provide all information as to markings, descriptions, etc. as maintained on your inventory forms. This information is enterable in the stolen articles file of the FBI's National Criminal Information Center computer which increases the chances of recovery.

Steps to lessen the chances of becoming the target of a theft or burglary:

1. Keep all vehicles locked and in a visible, well-lit area.
2. Keep valuable tools and portable machinery in sturdy outbuildings or garage secured with strong doors, dead-bolt locks, or with casehardened steel padlocks and hasps.
4. Maintain fences in good repair and lock gates with chain and steel padlocks.
5. Avoid a regular schedule - vary your times, and avoid predictable absences; someone could learn your habits.
6. If you have home security system, place signs conspicuously to warn potential thieves.
7. Keep all doors closed and locked when not in use. Close your garage doors when leaving - don't advertise your absence
8. Don't create a market for thieves. Investigate "good deals" thoroughly. Buy from reputable dealers.
9. Make your home look and sound occupied when you're away, leave your draperies and shades in their normal position. At night, leave on an inner light and use automatic timers to turn lights and radios on and off again a few hours later.
10. Install security system/cameras, deadbolt locks on the doors of your residence; secure sliding glass doors with a "Charley Bar" and install good locks on all windows.
11. Don't leave keys to your house or buildings hidden outside, and don't leave messages for visitors tacked on your door.
12. Report repeated wrong number telephone calls or silent calls to your law enforcement agency.

Get Involved - Active Neighborhood Watch programs encourage cooperation in crime prevention and discourage the criminal interested in your possessions. Successful Neighborhood Watch groups advise the following:

1. Watch over your neighbors' property and report suspicious persons, vehicles or activity promptly to your law enforcement agency.
2. Notify neighbors when you will be away - but don't advertise your absence to the entire community. Know when your neighbors are away.
3. Develop a system for recognizing legitimate neighborhood vehicles.
4. Establish a block parent or McGruff (safe) House program.
5. Post large Neighborhood Watch signs in a visible location at the entrances to your community/smaller ones on fences can further announce your knowledge of crime prevention.
6. Support training and Cooperate with your local law enforcement agency in promptly reporting suspicious activity and crime.
7. Consider watch patrols at high risk times or ask for more frequent presence of sheriff's deputy.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXJXrQxIGZ0&feature=related>

4. On The Horizon -

On a personal note: Thank you all who helped keep my family safe while I was absent. Also, I can't express my gratitude for the sympathy and kind words or condolences for the passing of my Father.

Recently one of our community members suffered an assault on his private property. On or about February 22nd, vandals smashed the windshield on a pickup parked in the driveway. The victim did the right thing by alerting the rest of the neighbors about the incident but it's not known whether or not the incident was reported to the Sheriff's department. A familiar, suspicious white vehicle was sighted in the area but the occupants couldn't be identified.

The point of publishing this information is to invoke heightened awareness among all of us. Even though there is the ongoing effort to energize our neighborhood watch, the program is still evolving and maturing. There is a lot of work yet to accomplish - still, we can never be totally immune from crime, just better prepared.

Please help me get the word out that our law enforcement liaison, Deputy Sgt. De La Rosa is scheduled to attend our annual association meeting. In addition to introductions and discussions about Vacation Watch and Community Oriented Police Service (C.O.P.S.) Deputy Sgt. De La Rosa will give us tips on how to make our homes more secure. The first line of defense against crime is a well informed citizen.

This year's gathering will be at the Schoepf's BBQ restaurant in Belton, at 3PM on the 18th of March.

The majority of packets designed to provide our Neighborhood Block Cell P.O.C.s the necessary tools they'll need to meet their objectives have been distributed. I'm awaiting your feedback.