

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

The U.S. Centers for Area law enforcement agencies are warning about yet another telephone scam, this time concerning arrest warrants.

The Woodway Public Safety Department reports responding to multiple attempted thefts related to a warrant round-up service scam.

The caller was claiming to be a deputy with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office.

They also claimed to be calling on behalf of Sheriff Parnell McNamara.

Woodway officers have verified that this person is NOT with the Sheriff's Office.

This is someone impersonating an officer trying to scam citizens for money.

Officers advise that if you get a call about paying up front or going to jail, independently contact the agency the person is claiming to be with.

Police say those making these calls are generally asking for pre-paid cards for payment.

It is yet uncertain how wide spread this latest phone scam has become but Bell County residents should be on the alert for similar suspicious "warrant round-up service" calls. (Source: MyCenTex.com news)

## COUNTY SHERIFF TIP LINE:

**WANTED AS OF FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

[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 suspect of the February 18 Family Dollar break-in was arrested at Killeen High School and was charged on Wednesday, February 24.

Jonathan David Teegardin, 19, whose residency is listed as "homeless," was arraigned Thursday on a felony charge of burglary of a building and misdemeanor charges of criminal trespassing and theft of property less than \$2,500.

Three officers observed two men walking westbound through the Texas Thrift Store parking lot at about 3 a.m. and then walk eastbound a few moments later. They reported hearing the sound of metal crashing and witnessing two males running through a brush line north of Veterans Memorial Boulevard.

As one officer noticed shattered glass near the Family Dollar and reviewed video showing two suspects "running through the store with two handheld baskets," another officer pursued the burglars but was not able to catch up with them.

The officer checked an open dumpster in the 2400 block of East Veterans Memorial Boulevard and located one of the men inside.

The man admitted that Teegardin threw a rock through the building where they both entered with the intent to steal cigarettes.

Teegardin also later admitted to throwing a rock through the business, and entering the store with the other suspect, that they stayed in the store until the alarm went off before running from the store.

According to KPD, Teegardin was arrested after 1 p.m. Wednesday at KHS, after receiving a notice that he was not allowed to enter the property.

According to police reports, Teegardin was arraigned for the Family Dollar burglary charge Thursday and an unrelated theft of property charge relating to a Feb. 15-issued criminal trespass warning Dec. 15.

KISD officials said the Teegardin was immediately taken into custody; the students remained safe throughout the incident.

(Source: [riley.kalmeews.com](http://riley.kalmeews.com) )



FROM AUSTIN - **Robert Houston Hayes**, WANTED FOR: Parole Violation (Orig. Offense: Sex Offender Duty to Reg. Life/Annually), Probation Violation (Orig. Offense - Fail to Reg. as a Sex Offender), Armed Robbery, and Agg. Battery w/Deadly Weapon, was captured February 26, in Harrisonville, MO.

In 1998, Hayes was convicted of Sexual Assault of a Child after an incident in Nebraska involving an 11-year-old female. He subsequently was sentenced to 3 years in Nebraska state prison.

Prior to being incarcerated in TDCJ prison in 2013 for failing to register as a sex offender in Texas, Hayes had resided in Amarillo, TX, and the Albuquerque, NM area.

Hayes was wanted out of NM for Probation Violation and for FTA-Armed Robbery and Agg. Battery (Deadly Weapon). He was also wanted out of Texas for Parole Violation.

Hayes was added to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives list on January 19, 2016. He was released from the South Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility in Houston, TX, on October 23, 2015, and was scheduled to arrive the following day at a halfway house in El Paso, TX. He never arrived. According to his ankle monitor, his last GPS location was Junction, TX, where he removed the monitor and absconded.

## MCLENNAN COUNTY TAKES A STANCE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

On Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, "The Not in My City" Human Trafficking Awareness Night was

hosted by UnBound, a group that activates local communities to fight human trafficking.

Hundreds attended a human trafficking awareness night held at the Antioch Community Church in Waco.

Senator John Cornyn attended and told attendees about the legislation he introduced last year called Justice For Victims of Trafficking Act.

The bill, which became law last year, helps law enforcement catch perpetrators. In addition, it uses funds from penalties of those committing this crime to help victims.

The panel at the event included McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara, McLennan County Detective Joseph Scaramucci, the mother of a survivor, McLennan County 74<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Gary Coley and UnBound Executive Director Susan Peters. They shared their work to combat this crime in the community.

Peters said told the community they can recognize the signs exhibited by a potential victim, such as gang involvement, truancy, new and expensive clothing and older boyfriend or friends.

A high poverty rate, a large number of children in foster care and easy access to the internet are factors in Waco that makes children vulnerable to human trafficking, according to Peters.

Scaramucci and McNamara talked about the numerous arrests they have conducted while running prostitution stings in the past year.

Unfortunately, it has been revealed that clients of prostitution are law enforcement, firemen, a professional umpire, professionals and people with outstanding careers. (Source: KXXV. Com) Of the vilest of crimes, organizations such as the Mexican cartels and gangs, is the exploitation and trafficking of children and other vulnerable victims. These crimes are also carried out and enabled by human smugglers, prostitution rings, manufacturers and viewers of child pornography and sexual predators through the use of violence, extortion, forced labor, sexual assault and/or prostitution.

## TEXAS/BELL CO; HUMAN TRAFFICKING GROWING TREND, WORRY SOME.

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transporting, or procurement of a person for labor or services for the purpose of involuntary servitude, slavery, or forced commercial sex acts. Trafficking is exploitation-based, and does not require movement across borders. It is a hidden crime, as victims often do not seek help due to their immigration status,

*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.*

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language and cultural barriers, fear of their traffickers, inability to make an outcry, and other factors. Human trafficking involves both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

An estimated 100,000 children are forced into the sex trade every year in the U.S. In 2013, Texas ranked second in the nation with 2,236 reports of alleged human trafficking.

There were 709 human trafficking-related incidents, 609 reported victims, and 176 suspects arrested in Texas between January 1, 2007, and January 9, 2014. According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) as of January 2014, 24 inmates are currently serving sentences for a human trafficking-related offense, and 75 inmates are serving sentences for compelling prostitution.

After consenting to commercial sex, being forced to work additional hours or being held captive, the victims' involvement often becomes involuntary, and the situation becomes trafficking for adult victims. Likewise, some labor trafficking victims may initially agree to perform work to pay off travel-related expenses, only later to find that the price has increased, and they are forced to work for a longer period of time with little or no pay. Consent and voluntary participation are not relevant in determining the offense for sex trafficking victims who are minors.

Many victims, juvenile runaways, foster care children, other at-risk minors, and vulnerable adults are targeted on social media websites, within schools, at public transportation stations, at shopping malls, and near homeless shelters.

Children who are missing are also vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. In Texas, 44,741 children (age 17 or younger) were reported missing in 2013.

Traffickers are skilled manipulators who groom victims through false promises of affection and wealth, by taking control of basic needs such as providing food and shelter, and by using threats and violence.

The operation of a large sex trafficking ring in Houston was revealed during the culmination of a law enforcement investigation in October 2013 that included charges against 14 defendants and the rescue of 12 victims. According to the court records, from August 1999 until October 2013, the female matriarch running the sex trafficking enterprise paid human smugglers to illegally bring her victims into the US. The trafficking victims were undocumented Mexican and Honduran nationals as young as 14 years of age. The victims were recruited by means of fraud and coercion to engage in prostitution in the US. The conspirators relied on pimps to provide the women and young girls. Pimps would beat the

victims if they spoke to a customer, took too long with a customer, or if a customer was dissatisfied.

In order to conceal illegal proceeds, conspirators of the enterprise laundered money on various occasions and solely used cashier's checks totaling less than \$10,000 to avoid the bank's financial reporting requirements.

The Bell County Sheriff's office has created a human trafficking department to be apart of a special crime unit.

The State of Texas has been pushing for human trafficking and sex trade coverage around the state since there have been several recent human trafficking busts.

Bell County Sheriff Eddy Lange explained, "It's coming through here. I don't know how much of a sex slave problem we have here, but we certainly do our job to investigate it. And if we do, we want to address the issue."

Since I-35 is a major interstate for drug transportation and illegal immigrants, Bell County has cooperated with the Austin Police Department to track down human traffickers.

Deputies will be trained and moved into a new unit as a response to a growing trend between sex offenders and sex trade, and the large number of registered sex offenders in Bell County.