



Volume 1, Issue 10.  
October 23, 2011

## 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. Thank you, the Editor.

### 1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted

<http://www.bellcountytexas.com/cscd/cscdwanted.htm>

Britney Nicole Fulks, a 21 y/o, 5'1", 104 lb, W/F with blue eyes and brown hair is wanted in Killeen for aggravated assault w/a deadly weapon. Also wanted by the Killeen Police are Samuel Fleming, a 5'9", 21 y/o, 142 lb, B/M with brown eyes and black hair for burglary of a habitation and Stanley Jones, a 31 y/o, 6'1", 150 lbs, B/M with brown eyes and black hair for DWI with a child passenger. Dustin Crume is a 24 y/o, 5'10", 140 lb, W/M with blue eyes and brown hair from Belton and is wanted for sexual assault. Our last fugitive at large is from Temple: 40 y/o, 5'8", 145 lb, John Henry Harris is a B/M with brown eyes and black hair wanted for injury to a child.

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** - Police have released the names of two men arrested in connection with Thursday's deadly shooting at an apartment building and have confirmed one man is dead after a shooting broke out at an apartment complex Thursday afternoon.

A man is set to go to trial after shooting a Killeen teenager multiple times in the face.

The search is on for a man that broke into a convenience store early Saturday morning.

Three teenagers were arrested on Friday morning after they allegedly tried to steal items from a woman's house.

While her soldier husband was still at Fort Hood, a woman and her infant son were forced to hide in a bathroom as burglars raided their home.

**Temple** - A robber is on the loose in Temple, after he held up a convenience store early Saturday morning.

**Copperas Cove** - Police are looking for this man who allegedly stole two laptop computers from a local residence. Any information leading to his arrest will earn you \$1000.



### 3. Home Security; To Have Or To Have Not.... -

When I started shopping for my own home security system my frustration level grew so that throwing my hands up in the air or, despite the lack of practicality, giving in to posting "Guarded by Smith & Wesson" signs, seemed the most efficient and effective means, not to mention the least costly.

Notwithstanding the cost and complexity of the systems, the daunting task and likely complexity of installing an effective system in a finished home seemed insurmountable. My woefully vapid understanding and knowledge of just what is a "home security system" only heightened my frustration and confusion.

But, now I'm on a roll.... And, I just spent the past 3 hours researching the fundamental components of what makes-up a "system". Certainly, before you make what can be a very expensive home improvement investment, do your own research, evaluate your needs, and decide what types of equipment will best suit your requirements.

Don't buy, install, or sign a contract for anything without first consulting with the Bell County Sheriff's Department, C.O.P.S. Home alarm inspections and security evaluations are just a few services C.O.P.S. offers and they should be able to advise you on locally typical home security set-ups.

Nor should you invest on any system without first doing your own home security evaluation. The complete checklist is available in Unit D, *It Could Happen To You, Target Hardening*, instructional CD but, evaluating the security of doors, locks, windows, lighting, and the garage door, and the need or practical use of an existing alarm system is a good place to start.

I hadn't realized there are more components to a complete home security system than there are to a Swiss watch so, I'll summarize the components of just the basic alarm system. A more detailed reference is attached:

**Control panel:** All the operations of the alarm system are centered in this panel, including the connections to the central monitoring station, either through a phone line or via cellular/radio means.

**Central monitoring station (company):** If the system is monitored, and the alarm is set off, the control panel sends a message here.

**Touchpads:** This is where the system is armed and disarmed. They should be placed near doors so they can be armed on your way out and disarmed after you return. Most work on a passcode system.

**Key fobs:** Similar to your car lock/unlock fob, this will allow you to arm and disarm your alarm system from outside the premises without using a passcode.

**Sirens:** A siren will sound an alert when an alarm is set off.

**Door and window sensors:** These set off the alarm when a door or window is opened. Glass break sensors are also available and recommended.

**Motion detectors:** Motion detectors are activated by movement within the protected room. There are various styles to meet the individual needs of the homeowner.

**Video monitoring (streaming or CCTV):** Surveillance video is an option with most systems at an additional cost. The images can either be sent to the monitoring station (streamed) or captured on site on a Digital Video Recorder (DVR).



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**Panic buttons:** Alert the central station of an emergency situation that requires immediate response by the police. These buttons are also known as a Duress Alarms.

**Unmonitored systems** have on-site sirens and flashing lights that alert your neighbors of a break-in, meaning that you'll be relying on them to contact police if you aren't home.

**Monitored systems** are those where a private company watches your system 24 hours a day, every day, alerting the police if something goes wrong and you cannot be contacted. These provide the best security because their vigilance is constant.

Sensors are triggered in some way such as a door opening. After 30 to 45 seconds the homeowner has a chance to deactivate the system to prevent false alarms.

If the alarm is not deactivated, the security system sends a message to the monitoring company over telephone lines or by a wireless device. The monitoring company receives the message and verifies the alarm, generally by placing a call to the home or homeowner's mobile phone. If they do not receive the proper passcode or do not receive an answer, the company calls the police.

After you done your research and spoken to the local law enforcement, if you're looking to get a security alarm system, find out how long it takes them to respond to a home security alarm after being contacted by an alarm company. Valuable time can be lost (as well as valuables themselves), which may influence your purchase decision.

Next, ask them about fines for false alarms. To ensure your safety, it is recommended that the company that monitors your property be certified by Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual or some other Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

Get quotes from three different alarm companies in your area and compare detection coverage and features.  
<http://yourlocalsecurity.com/ad-t-home-security/texas/b/belton>

When speaking to company representatives, make sure to ask them about the criminal screening process for their employees. Ask about extra costs to the monitoring fees billed by the companies, such as for copies of alarm reports. Beware of long-term contracts from these companies, because they may be difficult to break if you decide to cancel service or move from your home. Inquire about warranties and safety guarantees. Verify whether the equipment is to be purchased or leased.

Even with the advent of wireless technology, many systems still need a hard telephone line to dial out. Make sure to ask your alarm company exactly how the system will contact them in the event of a security breach. If you are using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for your phones and internet, be sure to tell the alarm monitoring company, as transmission of alarm signals over these lines is often unreliable and other steps should be taken to ensure proper reception. If the hard line is still utilized, realize that many burglars know how to cut a telephone line before infiltrating a home. However, if the phone line is inaccessible and run underground, the thieves can't tamper with the telephone line until after they have broken in - which is too late for them. An alternative is to purchase a cellular alarm system, which will not allow thieves to tamper with the transmission of the alarm signal.

For more suggestions about practicing good theft deterrence and home security, read *The Guide to Protecting Yourself Against Home Burglary*.

The Bell County Sheriff's C.O.P.S. program provides services such as home alarm inspections. If the homeowner qualifies for this service, a certificate from the State Board of Insurance is issued. This certificate is good for a 15% reduction on a homeowners' insurance. In addition, for adding deadbolt locks and auxiliary locking devices to windows, a homeowner can get another certificate good for a 5% home reduction. For more information on this service call 254-933-5532.

#### 4. On The Horizon -

Attention prospective Block Captains! Now that I've had the opportunity to catch my second wind (post National Night Out), I've drafted the proposed agenda for advanced Neighborhood Watch Leadership training - training the trainers:

- Purpose, objectives, and functions of NWP.
- Sources materials and references.
- Interaction - surveys, interviews, and feedback.
- Problem identification and resolution.
- Threat response and reaction.
- Techniques of observation and reporting.

Prerequisite for participation in the Advance Neighborhood Watch Leadership Training is to have completed all 5 instructional units of the Woodlake NWP CD. Please let me know if hadn't received your copy.

I'll be in touch.