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February 15, 2012

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Valentine's Day Edition

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>

Five foot - two, 117 lb, Kimberly Anderson is a 51 y/o, W/F with hazel eyes and brown hair and 23 y/o, 5'5", 160 lbs, Miguel Cardenas with brown eyes, black hair are both from Temple are wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Also from Temple is 29 y/o Clinton Eubanks, 6', 160 lb, W/M, has brown eyes and brown hair and is wanted for driving while intoxicated (DWI) with a child passenger.

24 y/o, 5'8", 130 lb Shawnrey Jimenez, is a B/M with brown eyes and black hair from Belton is wanted for aggravated assault by strangulation on a family member.

From Copperas Cove is 6', 20 y/o, 150 lb, B/M with brown eyes and black hair, Kenneth Taylor, wanted for burglary of a habitation with intent to commit theft.

Richard Allen is a 29 y/o, 5'-9", 130 lbs, W/M, with green eyes and brown hair from Troy is wanted for injury for 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 -

Belton - A 46 year old Belton woman is being held in the Bell County Jail accused of burglarizing a church.

Temple - A Temple resident is doing okay after he challenged two burglars who forced their way into a home Sunday night.

Killeen - Police need your help identifying a burglar who removed items from a residence on Flagstaff Drive in December. (Source: KXXV.Com)

3. Part Three of the Ongoing Series to Review the Fundamentals of the Neighborhood Watch Program, Observation and Reporting -

Being a good witness - observer - is an acquired, not a genetically inherited skill. Police spend hours in training and years on-the-beat perfecting these learned skill before their becoming instinctive in nature.

Citizens with good observation skills help prevent crime and terrorist activities and assist neighbors to prepare for natural and man-made disasters.

What categorizes "Observation" skills? The basic precepts of observation focus on seeing the "big picture" and being about discriminating that which is out of place, conspicuous, or suspicious and being able to describe the person or incident to the authorities.

Learn to pay closer attention to things like - Physical Setting: determine your exact location, note the time of day and the day of the week. What do your suspects look like - Physical Description: height, weight, ethnicity, gender, and how many are there. Note anything about them particular to their behavior, speech or idiosyncrasies, patterns and routines, frequency of occurrence, and who is involved.

Police become accustomed to looking for activities or events that seem out of place or are not part of the regular or ordinary routine. So too can you learn how to recognize what is and what isn't "ordinary" or "normal". Practice taking note of subtleties, minute changes or differences and eventually that "sixth-sense" or "street smarts" phenomenon will become as instinctive to you as it is to a cop.

What are the techniques you can use to improve your observation skills? Good observation skills come with training and practice. Look at a picture of a person that you know and try to describe that person paying particular attention to skin tone, eye color, tattoos, scars, moles, height and weight. Clothing is a good discriminator for the immediate term but clothes can be changed.

Now look at a picture of someone you don't know. Then, without looking, try to describe that person from memory. Write your descriptions on a piece of paper then check your accuracy against the picture. Repeat this process until you've conditioned your senses to automatically pick-out subtle details that would help apprehend a suspect.

When describing vehicles, make (manufacturer), type (body style - sedan, coupe, van, SUV, etc), and model (Eldorado, F150, XKE, etc.) are all useful clues but a license plate number is the surest means of identification. Write it down if possible but even a partial plate number with a good vehicle description is valuable.

Likewise, when providing a personal description of a suspect to the police, despite how confident or sure you may be, if there is ever any doubt, never hesitate to say "I'm just not sure".

What should you report?:

- Suspicious acting people or vehicles.
- Any illegal activity.
- Unusual events or incidents & dangerous situations.

Suspicious Activity: *Anything that feels uncomfortable or looks out of place.* What situations should be considered "Suspicious Activity"? Odd odors coming from a building where rendering orange peelings to make marmalade is the trade probably would not be considered "suspicious". But, odd odors emanating from a private home, a detached garage or a vehicle would. To make a call like that, consider your surroundings and use your best judgment.

You'd be more likely to notice a stranger loitering, a vehicle cruising your block, a high volume of traffic going to and from a



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house on a daily basis, or a multitude of persons seemingly working in unison or exhibiting suspicious behaviors.

Always consider suspect someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas, open or broken doors at closed business or residences, or persons tampering with the electrical, gas or septic system without an identifiable uniform or company vehicle nearby.

Be cognizant of persons arriving or leaving from homes or business at unusual hours, signs of forced entry or tampering with the security systems.

One of the failures of citizens reporting suspicious activities or persons is hesitance. Either the witness is not aware of what is suspect, thinking that someone else has made the call (or will) or, more likely, that person remains mum for fear of being labeled the "nosy neighbor".

We must learn to report all suspicious activity and all crimes – the police don't know there is a problem unless they are told.

How should a crime or suspicious activity be reported?

- Dial **9-1-1** and call the police department or sheriff's office (Emergency).

- Tell the call taker what happened and the exact location.
- Provide a detailed description of individuals or vehicles.
- Remain on the phone and stay calm.
- Be prepared to answer follow-up questions.

- To Report a Crime (Non-Emergency): **254-933-5412**

When should you make the call?:

- Medical emergency (examples: chest pain, extreme shortness of breath, uncontrolled bleeding).
- Motor vehicle accident.
- Fire.

- When a life is in danger.

When should you not call?:

- When the power goes off.
- To ask for directions to the hospital.
- To ask for telephone numbers of others.
- To request to speak with a particular officer.
- To inquire as to the time and day.
- To inquire about community activities and locations.

4. On The Horizon –

I hadn't thought much about chocolates and little pink hearts since the 6th grade, yet I still managed to overdo it with the dessert cart. I hope you all enjoyed your Valentine's Day celebration as much as I did. Now back to business.....

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 packets designed to provide our Neighborhood Block Cell P.O.C.s the necessary tools they'll need to meet their objectives are nearly completed. Included within, I've placed copies of the *Bell County Local Emergency Planning Commission (LPEC)* pamphlet I believe you'll find interesting.

Primary POCs responsibilities will be limited, for now, to helping establish a solid communications network.

As the program progresses, I will be calling on each POC for input and suggestions as to how we can best address any know problems and attempt to identify future issues so we can re-set our priorities.

For the time-being, study-up on your fundamentals provided in the instructional CD or on-line at:

<http://woodlakeneighborhoodwatch.com/>

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.