



Volume 1, Issue 8.

October 1, 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>

This week there are three fugitives from Killeen: 5'11" Wendal Thornton, 24 y/o, 178 lb, Black Male w/brown eyes and black hair is wanted for aggravated robbery; 20 y/o Joshua Feldkeller, is a 6'1", 163 lb, black male with brown eyes and brown hair is wanted for burglary of a habitation; 23 y/o, 6'1" 175 lb, white male Jody Phillips has blue eyes and red hair and is wanted for engaging in criminal activities; Chantel Wood is a 29 y/o, 5'5", 140 lb black female with brown hair and eyes last living in Harker Heights is wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; Joel Morales, 5'9", 150 lb, white male is 20 y/o, has brown eyes and black hair from Belton, is wanted for burglary of a habitation; The last suspect at large is a 23 y/o, 5'7", 150 lb brown eyed, black haired male, Jody Phillips, LKA- Temple, is wanted for burglary of a habitation. (See Wanted Poster, pg. 3).

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** - The items of interest today in the crime update are all from the Killeen area - Police are now searching for the man who robbed a convenience store, and fired a shot in the air during the robbery.

A Fort Hood soldier was arrested Thursday after he led police officers on a high-speed car chase through three cities. A woman is charged with burglary after several items stolen were traced through area pawn shops.

### 3. Where Were You When the Lights Went Out? -

We won't soon forget the fire at 7272 Woodlake Circle last Sunday afternoon.... I hope. The fire started around 4:30 PM but only took, literally seconds to overwhelm the citizens armed with garden hoses.

Quick thinking and response by Bill King, one of the first on the site, probably saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in property losses and possibly lives with his prompt call to 911 and sounding the alarm running from door-to-door for all the home owners up-and-down and on both sides of the block.

Kudos to our recently reorganized Central Bell County Fire Department; despite their having to roll-out to respond to a grass fire on FM 439 earlier, the first truck was on site within about 15 minutes of the first call. Also we and the CBCFD owe Debbie Kirwan and others a note of gratitude for their aide and assistance providing them food and much needed water.

The crew with the brush fire truck were able to contain the flames but it took the rest of the afternoon and 3 pumpers (one from Stillhouse - Thank you guys) before the threat to the adjacent homes was, at last, abated.

You can read all the details and watch the video that Tom Kirwan posted to Woodlake.net at your convenience; my objective, based on my observations of the reactions of our neighbors during the emergency, is to open our eyes and minds for a critical examination of our Neighborhood Watch Disaster Response Plan.

When I heard the explosion and got the initial call, my first reaction was to run up to the corner and see from where the smoke was coming, make an assessment and, depending on the information that was being relayed, if evacuation was warranted.

From assessments by those with "eyes on" I had piece-of-mind that, were it necessary, since we had everything "ready to go" we could actually be loaded and out the door headed for safety in 5 minutes, 10 at most..... or so I thought!

If you haven't yet done so, take the time to pack and PRACTICE your family's emergency evacuation plan. You'll be dismayed at how much time it actually will take. Especially with children and pets, the last minute, second-thoughts about "do I have enough water, where are our prescription meds, or DANG IT, now where's that stupid cat!" are more than discerning with mounting panic!

The next few calls distracted my attention from my own concerns to assist with the firefighting efforts by get needed power tools and bottled water up to the crews.



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While the efforts to extinguish any latent hot-spots and as several firemen had fallen-out due to heat exhaustion, my focus was on the reactions and activities of our neighbors.

None were panicky, anxious, or irrational. Everyone who needed to evacuated their homes immediately following the first alarms. Those who could grabbed whatever apparatus available, risked their own safety and desperately work together to get water on the flames.

Others reached-out to help the fallen firefighters that were overcome by the heat, controlled traffic, and made trips back-and-forth bringing water and other necessities.

On a clearer, reasoned head what I've taken with me from our first (and, hopefully, our last) potential disaster, is what neighborhood watch fundamentals we need work on to improve.

Many prefer to keep their lives as private as possible and not to have all their contact information published. Understood; however, Bill could not have done a better job sounding the alarm banging on doors if he'd had a phone tree (God knows he probably has the White and Yellow Pages on his i-Phone) but, after catching his breath, he could have alerted the Block Captains who in turn, could have notified their charge of the situation and impending danger lending a buffer to ready their "5 minute bags".

As I've discussed before, however, evacuation would have been near impossible while fire trucks had both Woodlake Circle and Piping Rock blocked. The only other alternative (pass in front of the tennis courts through Ken Drake's vacant lot behind Bunett's) has an extra large brush pile we could negotiate...., that is, as long as it's not aflame. We really should clean that up some.

Something else we all need to work on is our own emergency three-day survival kits and to practice our own evacuation plans. I'm creating a display for Tuesday evenings Neighborhood Night Out celebration that will demonstrate what recommended items should be packed and ready. It can be a LOT of stuff for a family of four, even worse if you have pets to consider.

How many of you ran down to the HEB for some dry ice afraid to risk losing all your frozen stores in case the power wasn't returned right away? I'm not suggesting that that isn't a good idea (it's a great idea if you don't have a generator) nor that keeping the refrigerator and freezer door closed will keep the temps constant for many hours (for some families, that's just impossible).

You can't cook with dry ice though. Unless you have a gas top stove and a fuel source, or some alternative, you're only going to create more a hazard trying to cook from a charcoal BBQ grill in the back yard. If you have a gas grill -

fine. Just make sure you've got at least one spare propane tank in case we're days without electricity.

I don't recommend white gas fueled camp stoves - especially inside the house but, there are some very convenient, efficient gas bottle cooking stoves available.

One last item: We found out the hard way that the hydrant on the corner of Piping Rock and Blueridge Dr. had been disconnected from the main water supply line and nobody thought to mention this to the Chief or any FD authority. Fortunately, its impudence wasn't a factor getting the fire under control - just a slight inconvenience to move the truck to a hydrant where they could refill the pumper.

The next day some neighbors mentioned getting their water turned off, presumably, so repairs could be made. I have about 100 gallons of water stored in 3 & 4 gallon containers that can be easily rotated, moved, and replenished easily. In these drought conditions it would not surprise me that soon we'll be compelled to ration our water use. Due to lack of moisture in the soil and shifting conditions, Temple has had several water mains sheer causing many residences to go without water for several days and afterwards cautioned to boil their water. Unless our chances for substantial rain improve our water tables and sources will continue to be depleted prompting state-wide conservation and rationing.

I'm sorry if I can't paint a prettier picture but, it's just irresponsible not to be prepared.

#### 4. On The Horizon -

It's official! The National Night Out event is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Glenda (Northam) Presley has really gone to great lengths planning and coordinating to make the event special. The band "Wild Horses" will be performing and there will be BBQ for our WPOA members and residents.

Things will get-going between 6 and 6:30 PM and finish-up around 8PM so please come on out, meet some Bell County Deputy Sheriffs and our Central Bell County VFD and Chief.

Take some time to pick-up your very own copy of the Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Training CD (until I run out) and take home some ideas for setting-up your own Emergency Home Disaster Survival Kit from the display and CD presentation.

If you have an interest in promoting anti-crime education for our community discuss your ideas with Glenda. She'll appreciate the assistance.