



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

UPDATED DATA BELIE SPARTA VALLEY ASSUMED VEHICLE BURGLARY STATS

Blame it on delay in reporting or oversight by the editorial staff but recent RaidsOnLine data on Burglary and Theft of Vehicles in the Sparta Valley area of interest illustrate how rapidly situation can change and assumptions can be wrong.

Despite the excuses, the incident of these two crimes of opportunity have suddenly followed the same pattern seen in the past several weeks in Temple and Copperas Cove.

There were 22 Burglary of Vehicles in Sparta Valley reported since June 12th; only 4 of which were outside the Belton city limits. One of those incidents occurred in Denmons Loop community, another was reported just west of here on Water Works Road.

Quite possibly these crimes are perpetrated by crews "specializing" in casing-out and hitting certain neighborhoods. Thus, the sudden surge in a very localized area and migration.

The trend is a reminder that with crimes hitting closer and closer to our neighborhood, it's certain we're also being targeted so even more vigilance, precaution and preventative measures must be observed to prevent becoming a victim.

SUDDEN INCREASE IN PHONE AND INTERNET SCAMS CONCERN KPD

Phone and internet scams cost the public thousands of dollars. Many scams have an IRS or law enforcement angle to them making fooling the target more likely.

For example: Someone posing as an Internal Revenue Service employee calls and tells victims they will be arrested unless they pay a fine. The caller may even transfer the call to a supervisor, if victims ask.

Victims may receive a second call while talking with the scammer from someone claiming to be a local police officer. In many cases, they have spoofed one of the main police department telephone numbers in order to appear legitimate.

But beware, the scammer requests payment through gift cards in amounts ranging from \$4,000 to \$8,500 or more from such retailers as Walgreens, Home Depot, Best Buy and Target, and asks for the card number and pin number over the phone. This is a dead give-away to the scam. Governmental agencies do not solicit money via phone. Nor will governmental agencies and other legitimate agencies ever ask for payment to be made via any sort of gift card.

A crook will take the information, redeem the code and abscond with the victim's money.

Other scams target the elderly and involve requests for money, usually in the form of gift cards, on behalf of a loved one. Or, they may lead the victim to believe their love one has been arrested and has to have money to get out of jail.

They can spoof local phone numbers to fool caller ID so that victims believe they are speaking with law enforcement or an official agency.

Residents are advised not to give out personal information over the phone.

If you're like most people, you're compassionate and kind. Your heart aches when you see people suffering, especially children, veterans or families who are desperately trying to help save a loved one's life or give them a proper burial. Or, maybe you've handed over a few dollars when you've seen families collecting money on the side of the road. You've probably shed a tear when you saw people suffering after natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. It's understandable that you want to help. Whether you're donating thousands of dollars every year or the spare change you can scrounge up, you help as much as you can.

The internet has become an incredible resource for people like you. You can scan crowdfunding sites like GoFundMe for issues that touch your heart.

GoFundMe has helped millions of people raise money. More than 25 million people like you have donated \$3 billion since the site launched seven years ago.

The site does not charge to donate. However, it collects 7.9 percent of the donations from the person raising the money.

Unfortunately, for every person like you who's genuinely trying to help other people, there's a person trying to steal your money. That includes GoFundMe scams. You may have heard about people, for instance, falsely claiming to have cancer just to raise some money.

The scams are so troublesome that they've raised the ire of the person who created the site, Adrienne Gonzalez.

There is no foolproof means to tell beforehand if charity site is legitimate.

However, if you follow these three steps, you'll end up donating to legitimate campaigns far more often than not.

- Contact the person who's collecting the money - Ask them questions until you're convinced they're raising money for a real cause.
- Check their Facebook profile and other social media pages - You can see if other people have raised questions about their campaign.
- Do a Google search - See if their issue has been covered by the media.

AFTERSMOKING A K2-LIKE SUBSTANCE,

a witness told police two women and a man went outside of the bar to meet another person and immediately passed out. One woman fell face first on the ground knocking out several teeth and another fell over in the bed of the truck. EMT's had to perform CPR on two of the individuals. The man involved had collapsed on the ground. All three were transported to the hospital.

During the investigation police recovered a K2-like substance that was later sent for testing. The man who they went to meet outside was arrested on unrelated warrants.

Over the weekend a man died due to a drug overdose. On Saturday police were called out to the South Wind apartments on Richter Avenue in Waco. A man had collapsed after smoking a K2-like substance and a friend realized he wasn't breathing but by the time police arrived he was dead. The friend told police they had been drinking earlier in the day.

The dangers of smoking any kind of illegal substance is academic. Anyone with information on this new kind of drug is asked to report I to come forward.

BELL COUNTY'S MOST WANTED AS OF JULY 15, 2017

Twenty-Six-year-old, Deonte Davis, this edition's featured Fugitive-of-the-Week, is Wanted For: Aggravated Robbery With a Deadly Weapon.



Deonte is a Black Male with Brown Eyes and Black Hair. He weighs 200 lbs., and stands 6' tall.

His last known address was in the Temple area.

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).

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