

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## New Year's Issue

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN ACTUALLY KEEP

#### Resolution #1: I Will Wash My Hands Often.

I do not want the flu or cold this winter. I resolve to use soap and water or hand sanitizer to keep from spreading germs. Additionally, I do not plan to touch my face and will cover my mouth if I have a cough. All of these easy changes make a huge impact during flu season.

#### Resolution #2: I Will Create And Update My Home Emergency Preparedness Kit.

Everyone has a different kit. At the very least you should ensure your kit contains enough food and water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. Your kit should reflect your needs for example, pet food as required, and any prescription medications.



#### Resolution #3: I Will Not Use My Cell Phone Or Text While Driving.

##### Stay Alive



don't text & drive

According to the National Safety Council, 1.6 million auto accidents occurred in the U.S. last year related to using a cell phone or texting while driving. Try keeping your cell phone out of reach while driving, like in a purse on the passenger side floor. If it is out of sight and out of reach, you'll be less compelled to reach for it and more focused as a driver.

#### Resolution #4: I Will Learn CPR.



If you witnessed someone having a heart attack and could not help revive them, could you forgive yourself? This is not an unlikely situation. Sudden cardiac arrest is the

leading cause of death in adults. It accounts for 325,000 annual adult deaths in the United States. By learning how to effectively administer CPR this New Year's resolution could mean the

difference between life and death for someone.

#### Resolution #5: I Will Keep my 911 Safety Profile Up to date.

Speaking of the difference between life and death, it is imperative that your Smart911 Safety Profile contains accurate information for you and your household. You may have moved and need to make sure they if you are unable to communicate your location, your profile will accurately display your correct address and contact information.



Stick to these goals and make 2016 our safest and most prepared year yet.

#### COUNTY SHERIFF TIP LINE:

#### WANTED AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 2015

[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>.



**Nicholas Parks** is a 24 y/o B/M with Black Eyes and Black Hair, is 5'10" tall and weighs 190 lbs. - Wanted For: Burglary of a Habitation. Parks last known address is Killeen.

**FROM AUSTIN:** Up To \$10,000 Reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of **Benjamin Dominguez**; Wanted For: Failure to Register as a Sex Offender, Probation Violation; Possession C/S; Resisting, Evading an Officer.

#### Details:

- W/M, DOB: 10/30/66, Ht: 5'7", Wt: 225 lbs.
- AKA: Francisco Rodriguez, Ben Dominguez, Francisco Dominguez, Rogelio Morales, Rogelio Morales, Rogelio Mendoza Morales, Rogelio Ramirez, Johnny Rodriguez, Roger Rodriguez, Francisco Sanchez, Javier Zuniga, Chino
- SMT: Skulls, scorpion tattoos L/ A; panther, female holding shotgun, eagle on R/A; barbed wire on L/W; and "Yvette" on neck. Scars on chin, L/elbow, and finger(s) on right hand. Needle marks on left arm.
- Ties to El Paso, Socorro, TX; Las Cruces, NM. Modesto, California.



### 2015 YEAR OF 3-CARJACK EVENTS

On or about Monday, February 10, 2015, the suspect in a Ft. Hood carjacking used a knife to attack and injure the driver.

Authorities reported that a soldier stopped to pick up an unknown man at the III Corps

Express at about 1 p.m. and drove to the vicinity of Wainwright Village.

The suspect, described as a black male, attacked the driver with a knife and injured his left pinky finger for which he was treated and released. There is no record of any prior carjacking at Fort Hood.

Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the area of Farm-to-Market 3219 and FM 439 near Whiskey Creek at 5:56 a.m. on or about July 30, 2015 in Harker Heights.

The victim stated that he thought he recognized the person flagged him down, so he stopped.

The victim felt what he thought was a firearm placed against his temple, and he and his passenger were ordered out of the vehicle. Then three carjackers entered the vehicle and drove off toward Belton on FM 439.

More recently, an 18-year-old Temple man was taken into custody at 1:43 p.m. Thursday, December 17, 2015 in a field near Trail Bend.

The man led authorities on a high-speed chase about 10:28 a.m. northbound on IH-35, where the chase ended in a crash at about 10:37 a.m. near the South Cow Bayou Bridge. A trooper chased the vehicle from Loop 363 near State Highway 53 to I-35 at speeds reaching more than 130 mph.

A DPS helicopter joined department of criminal justice officers on horseback and K-9 units in the search for the man.

Both lanes of the northbound frontage road were closed because of damage to the guardrail and attenuator. Traffic backed up for more than four miles to Troy.

A perimeter was set up from Woodlawn Road to Davis Road to Old Bruceville Road because the man ran east into a wooded area.

By a coordinated effort with DPS, State Hiway Patrol, and Temple PD, The Woodway PD K-9 unit in the area caused the man to jump up and take off running which lead to his arrest.

The incident began as a carjacking at gunpoint at Jeff Hamilton Park in Temple.

**Carjacking** is violent use of force and fear to rob a car and could be a serious threat to personal safety. Sometimes the car owner or other occupants are kidnapped during a carjacking; the victims might be dropped somewhere unharmed, or worse, transported elsewhere to be raped, assaulted, and even murdered.

Carjackers have unknowingly driven off with infants still in the backseat of the car, other times drivers have been violently pulled out of their seats and left lying on the road, terrified by what just occurred.

*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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## New Year's Issue

Victims of carjacking have reported being unable to drive a car again while others required months of therapy. Some become so hypersensitive, that embarrassing and dangerous situations have arisen in response to their fear when someone unwittingly approached their car on foot.

## How Carjacking Got Started.

Carjacking has always been around, especially in large metropolitan cities.

A surge of publicity in the '80's inspired "copy cat" that must have thought of it as a bonus to steal a vehicle without damaging it and robbing the owner too.

Another reason carjacking got started is because of the prevalence of new anti-theft devices and alarm systems making it tougher on car thieves. Though chip-integrated ignition switches, engine cutoff devices and stolen vehicle locators are common in cars, unskilled car thieves have adapted by becoming more violent to get the cars they need and don't think twice about using force.

Sometimes criminals will carjack a vehicle for use in crimes like armed robbery. These thieves are more dangerous because they're armed, are not concerned with your welfare, prefer to have a set of car keys and not a visibly smashed window or damaged ignition switch that can be easily spotted by the police.

## How Often Does Carjacking Occur?

Many police agencies record multiple charges like aggravated robbery, auto theft, assault, battery to one event but usually only the first charge (robbery) gets indexed and statistically tracked. Some jurisdictions charge the crime of carjacking as only an auto theft since a vehicle was stolen.

Since the crime of carjacking is not indexed in FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, it is unlikely that we will soon see a national statistic on frequency that is generated from police reports.

However, results of an independent study show that 49,000 carjackings/attempts occur

annually. About 50% are failures in which 75% were armed. But 92% of the successful carjackings were armed and in that case, taken seriously.

Males were responsible for 97% of the carjackings, usually with an accomplice.

## Where Does Carjacking Occur?

Carjacking though, a big city problem in busy commercial areas where cars are parked and the owner is entering or exiting the vehicle, can happen anywhere. Most carjackings occur within five miles of the victim's home. The carjacker wants the keys readily available and the car door unlocked for a quick getaway when the victim is alone.

Popular carjacking locations are parking lots, shopping centers, gas stations, car washes, convenience stores, ATMs, hotels, valet parking, fast-food drive-thru, outside of retail stores and in close proximity to a freeway onramp with escape routes. One high risk, popular location for the carjacker is a roadway intersection with a stoplight. A carjacker will jump out of another vehicle, pull open your unlocked drivers' door, and force them out of the car. The type of carjacking allows for a quick escape but increases their risk of being followed by other drivers armed with cell phones.

Younger single males are at a higher risk of carjacking because they tend to take more chances and go to higher risk locations than do married persons.

Also, 64% of the daytime carjackings are actually completed, while less than half of those at night were completed. This may be reflective of who is being victimized and who is out at night. Victims were injured about 20% of the time in completed carjackings and about 16% during attempts, and about 27 homicides annually are related to auto theft.

Because of the desire to retrieve property and for insurance purposes, practically all of the victims of a successful carjack call the police, whereas only 57% called to report an attempt carjacking.

## The "Bump" and Carjack

We have all been trained to always stop following an auto accident to exchange license and insurance information. Carjackers take advantage of this tendency to bump your car from behind to get you to pull over and stop.

The carjacker, and his accomplice, will follow the intended victim to a suitable location with good escape routes and few witnesses.

## What Should You Do?

This is a crime of opportunity thus, carjackers, like street robbers, prefer the element of surprise.

Here are some common sense tips to reduce your risk of being carjacked:

- Always park in well-lighted areas, away from visual obstructions like walls or heavy foliage
- Use valet parking or an attended garage
- Be alert to suspicious persons sitting in cars
- Get an escort if you are shopping alone
- Be aware of young males loitering
- If someone tries to approach, change direction or run to a busy store
- Follow your instincts to walk or run away
- Look under, around, and inside your car
- If safe, open the door, enter quickly, and lock the doors
- Never turn your back while loading packages
- Start your car and drive away immediately
- Keep car doors locked and windows rolled up
- Leave room ahead to maneuver and escape
- Be suspicious if you are bumped in traffic
- Beware of the Good Samaritan who offers to repair your car or a flat tire. It's okay to get help, just be alert but drive to a gas station or busy place before getting out
- Don't resist an armed carjacker to give up your keys or money if demanded
- Don't argue, fight or chase the robber. You can be seriously injured
- Never agree to be kidnapped. Drop the cars keys and run and scream for help
- If you are forced to drive, consider crashing your car near a busy intersection to attract attention so bystanders can come to your aid and call the police
- Call the police immediately to report the Crime.

(Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS))

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