



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

May Day Edition



ORIGINS OF MAY DAY AND ITS IMPORTANCE

"May Day", or International Workers' Day, celebrated on May 1st, many believe is a holiday celebrated in state communist countries like Cuba or the former Soviet Union. In reality, May Day is as American as baseball and apple pie.

Origins dated back to the pre-Christian holiday of Beltane, a celebration of rebirth and fertility. In the late 19th century, working conditions were severe and it was quite common to work 10 to 16 hour days in unsafe conditions. Death and injury were commonplace.

After organized labor (unions) gained strength, the struggle for the 8-hour work day wasn't realized until the late 1880's.

Eventually the struggle was experienced worldwide by socialist hamstrung by the political process, which was so evidently controlled by big business and the bi-partisan political machine.

Finally, tens of thousands of socialists broke ranks from their parties, rebuffed the entire political process, to created anarchist groups. Literally thousands of working people embraced the ideals of anarchism, which sought to put an end to all hierarchical structures.

As more and more of the workforce mobilized against the employers realized that the tide of opinion and determination of most wage-workers was set in that direction.

There then grew a sense of a greater social revolution beyond the more immediate gains of shortened hours, but a drastic change in the economic structure of capitalism.

Today, May Day is an official holiday in 66 countries and unofficially celebrated in many more, but rarely is it recognized in this country where it began. Truly, history has a lot to teach us about the roots of our radicalism. When we remember that people were shot so we could have the 8-hour day; if we acknowledge that homes with families in them were burned to the ground so we could have Saturday as part of the weekend; when we recall 8-year old victims of industrial accidents who marched in the streets protesting working conditions and child labor only to be beat down by the police and company thugs, we understand that our current condition cannot be taken for granted. And, this is why we celebrate May Day.

UNWANTED PHONE CALLS CAN BE MORE THAN AN ANNOYANCE.

Unsolicited phone calls from people you don't know can be irritating, annoying and, sometimes, malicious.

Scams where the callers try to con victims into revealing sensitive information causing massive financial loss have increased at an alarming rate.

These are things, however, you can do to protect yourself:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) just issued a fraud alert to warn citizens that the DHS OIG Hotline phone number is being used as part of a telephone spoofing scam.

The scammer pretends to be an employee with U.S. Immigration and alters the caller ID system to make it appear as if the call is coming from the DHS OIG Hotline number (1-800-323-8603). The fraudster demands that the victim verifies personal information through numerous tactics, including claiming they are victims of identity theft.

(2) In another telephone spoofing scam fraudsters claiming to be FBI agents are calling people at random and telling them they are being investigated for certain federal violations. The victim is told that if they don't pay a fee immediately they will be arrested.

The call seems legitimate because the scammer spoofs the local FBI field office phone number and it displays that way on caller ID.

One important thing to remember is that DHS OIG NEVER uses its Hotline number to make outgoing calls. It's only used to receive information from the public, so you should not answer calls purporting to be from 1-800-323-8603

(3) According to the FCC, the recently 'can you hear me' scams, warned about by a Consumer Alert warning, has become much worse.

When the consumer answers a call from someone impersonating a representative from organizations that provide a service that the victim is most likely familiar with, the scammer will ask "Can you hear me?" The caller records the victim saying yes, which they later use as a voice signature. This voice signature can be used to authorize fraudulent charges via telephone.

(4) "Smishing", short for SMS phishing This new texting scam looks so legitimate, anyone could fall victim to it. Scammers are spoofing banks' phone numbers and sending text messages to customers. A spoofed phone number hides the actual number the text is coming from and displays a number from a trusted source, like your bank.

The text claims that your debit card has been used to make a purchase and if you do not recognize the transaction, you need to call their fraud prevention helpline. A phone number is provided for you to call but this IS NOT A LEGITIMATE BANK PHONE NUMBER!

What can you do to protect yourself?

- If you believe that you may have already fallen victim to this phone spoofing scam you should call the Hotline or file a complaint online via the DHS OIG website.
- The FBI does not call or email private citizens to demand money or threat arrests. If someone claiming to be with the FBI contacts you, verify the information with the Bureau.
- The FCC is telling consumers who receive a call asking "can you hear me now" or anything similar, to immediately hang up the phone. If you think that you have already received a call like this, you need to check your bank and credit card statements as well as your telephone.
- Because an incoming text may look like it's from your bank, people are falling for this. If you do call the number provided in the text, the fraudster will answer the phone. They will then ask you to confirm your sensitive banking details. This would allow the scammer to steal money from your account. If you believe you are a victim of a phone or online scam, you should also report the incident to the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker and and to the FCC Consumer Help Center.

The FCC is also asking consumers to be careful answering calls from unknown phone numbers, and check your bank/ credit card statement to see if there are any unauthorized charges.

BELL CO LEADS STATE IN DUBIOUS "HONOR"

A recent report from state health department shows Bell County is among the leaders in the state with people with the HIV infection.

As of the latest report, Bell County has 506 people infected with the virus. For a county its size, it ranks poorly in the state. Its case rate is 15.8, which means for every 100,000 people, more than 15 are infected. Its case rate is higher than Tarrant County, but lower than Bexar County. Both of those communities have significant population sizes larger than Bell.

Bell County is growing, and more people are moving to the area every day. Experts say that might be one causes for the high numbers. virus.

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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Much of the sudden rise in the epidemic is that younger people have forgotten the decade of AIDS that used to be in the media before when everyone was dying. Its likely people aren't as safe when they do have sex.

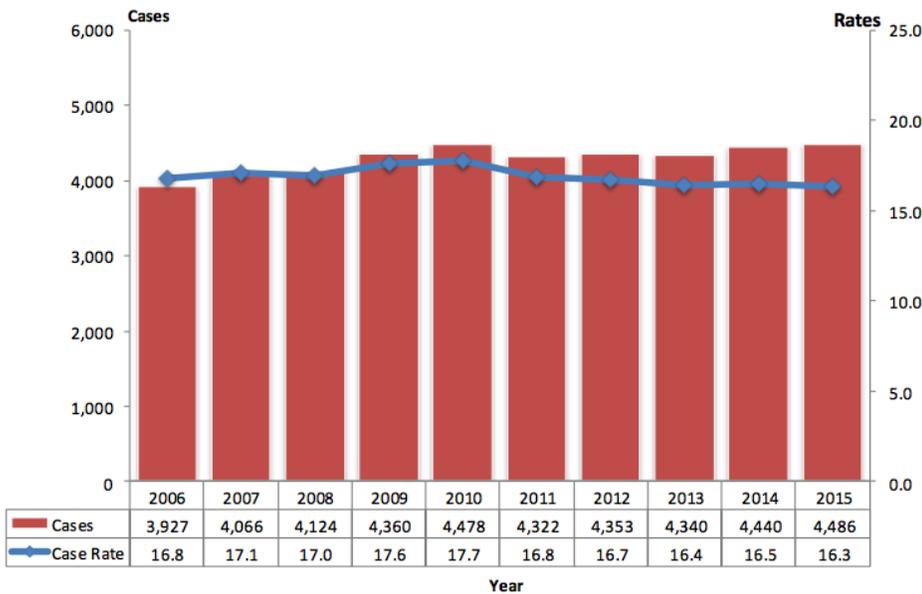
Doctors say treatment will always be there, but it is better to be tested and know if you can infect someone else.

BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF APRIL 30TH, 2017

Mathew Joseph Lopez-Martinez, 24, is a 120 lb, 5'6" tall, W/Male with Brown Eyes and Black Hair from Killeen who is Wanted For: Burglary of a Habitation with Intent to Commit Theft. If you have any

information regarding this or any individual on a Wanted List, 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

Texas HIV Diagnosis and Case Rates by Year of Diagnosis, 2006-2015



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