

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 improve this effort are welcome.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of July 15, 2013 -

[http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscsd\(adult_probation\)/most_wanted.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscsd(adult_probation)/most_wanted.php). Three of this issue's fugitives have last known addresses in Killeen: 23 y/o Jossie Eatman is a 5'8" B/M wanted for evading arrest, Nicole Holmes is a 35 y/o, B/F wanted for fraud, and Jeannie Denny, 41, is a 157 lb. W/F wanted for credit card abuse.

From Temple are: James Raines, 35 y/o, 5'11", 187 lbs, W/M, wanted for injury to a child and elderly disabled with intent, 30 y/o, 6'2", 160 lbs., W/M, Earl Mercer is wanted for possession of a controlled substance, and Justin Pugh, 25, 190 lbs, 6'2", W/M wanted for Burglary of a habitation.

Please review the attached flyer; if you have any information regarding those individuals; 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) There is now an "on-line" crime reporting system for your convenience at:

http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen_online_reporting_system/index.php

Austin: Congratulations crime stoppers! Robert Allen Kotlar was captured on July 12 in El Campo and has been removed from the Texas Most Wanted List. Kotlar is a 55 year old, white male who stands 5'11" and weighs 195 lbs. Kotlar was known by Paul Wayne Conners, Murdock, has numerous tattoos including a cross on back of his left hand and a skull outside the upper arm. Kotlar was wanted assault, burglary of habitation, larceny, theft of property, vehicle theft, forgery possession of marijuana, resisting officer, failure to report as a fugitive and intent to give false information. On the 12th, at approximately 8:50 A.M., as a result of a tip, Kotlar was apprehended by DPS Texas Rangers Service and Highway Patrol at a residence in El Campo. Kotlar was taken into custody without incident and transported to the El Campo Police. (Source: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/texas10mostwanted/>)



2. Crime Update:

Belton - An investigation into the death of two individuals found in a home on the 800 block of East 9th Avenue, is underway.

Police say a family member found the bodies of a man and woman inside the home around 2:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

Investigators say there were no obvious signs of trauma to the bodies and as of yet, the cause of death remains unknown. More information will be added as it becomes available.

Copperas Cove - Officers responded to the 200 block of Erby Avenue on July 5 around 12:30 a.m. to a call about a gunshot victim. When they arrived, they found 3 men with gunshot injuries; none had fatal wounds. Andrew Norris was arrested and charged with 3 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

3. Ahh, Summer! - Go on, get outdoors and enjoy these hot days but do so with some common sense safety practices. As fun as it is, with denser traffic conditions, everyone that owns a boat on the lake pulling more skiers or "tubers" and few, if any, vacancies at your favorite campgrounds it can also be a dangerous time. It doesn't take but one careless act or an accident where someone gets seriously injured to ruin your summer plans.

Begin your summer vacation by safeguarding against crime and other issues before you even leave for your (day) trip.

Stop your mail and newspaper delivery. An overflowing mailbox and/or a pile of newspapers are a dead giveaway that you aren't home and open invitation to burglars. If you don't have someone to collect your mail, contact the post office to temporarily suspend delivery. Do the same with your newspaper. Never broadcast to everyone (especially on sites like Facebook) that you are going to be away. You never know who is going to be reading or listening. Instead, tell a few select people in your neighborhood so that they can keep an eye on your house.

Set up electrical timers to turn lights and TVs on at various time to fool potential intruders into thinking you are at home and to reflect your normal routine.

Consider shutting off gas and water. If you are going to be gone an extended period of time, also consider shutting off your utilities to avoid potential flooding, fire or gas leaks.

Pack appropriately to include an emergency first-aid kit with extra applications for: burn/pain medications, antiseptic creams and extra Band-Aids/bandages for cuts, for example. You may even consider including a tube of sterile "Super Glue" for use as emergency sutures.

If you are traveling by car, your emergency road kit should include: jumper cables, flares and other necessities. Also take along bottled water and nonperishable foods.

Research your destinations using commercial websites, interact on chat forums, advice pages and blogs. The websites Lonelyplanet and Bootsncall are great sources of information. Ask around; learn from other's mistakes and experiences.

You could find yourself in a medical or first aid situation you'll have to confront. Being able to care for yourself, friends and colleagues can significantly increase chances of survival in times of extremis. Learning how to identify, prevent or treat the basics such as heat illness, travelers' diarrhea and mosquito borne diseases are extremely important. Other life saving skills such as CPR and hemorrhage control should also be considered, especially if exploring in remote environments. Consider taking a first aid course or at a minimum learning the basics prior to travel.

Insurance may cost money that you don't think you can afford, but when you need it you will be glad you opted for it. Medical evacuation costs especially in more remote environments that you may find yourself in can easily reach into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Check the small print over and over again and if in doubt check again.

Have plenty of sunscreen and use it liberally and diligently every two hours while outside and after swimming or sweating.

It just wouldn't be a great summer without an icy margarita or a cold beer(s). In the heat, alcohol can hit you harder, so party hearty but always have a designated driver.

As temps heat up, it's critical to stay hydrated. And remember - caffeinated drinks dehydrate you, so have two glasses of water for every iced coffee. Children especially are susceptible to heat exhaustion from dehydration. They'd much prefer the sugary colas and Mountain Dew than water. Any caffeine free alternative is not only cheaper but much better for them.

Not just a fashion accessory - sunglasses keep your eyes from working too hard squinting in the summer sun and help you drive more safely by minimizing the glare and headaches from the strain.

It's tempting to go barefoot, but pavement and blacktop can scorch your feet. Test the temp before you take off your shoes.

Kids want to explore and do things on their own but establish time limits and boundaries they can't cross without your consent.

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Be aware of your surroundings and alert to sudden changes in the weather patterns or pollution levels.

Get familiar with what the local wildlife populations are and their habitats. What snakes are indigenous to the area and which ones to avoid. What about bears or other scavengers? Do your kids know not to feed wild animals, be suspicious of any animal that seems too friendly that may have rabies? Never touch a strange animal. Be sure you kids know how to "greet" others' pets and not to assume all pets like kids.

When you plan includes being on or near the water, get everyone in your group to understand the rules, such as no swimming without an adult and no swimming after beers (adults only please).

Check with the park service or the Department of Natural Resources before you light the charcoal or bonfire for that traditional weenie roast to make sure there aren't any burn-bans or campfire restrictions. Then, double check to make sure the fire is out after your event by dousing and stirring the ashes.

Warm summer weather also brings an increase in foodborne illness. This is partly due to a natural increase in environmental bacteria, which flourish in warm and humid conditions. Additionally, the food we bring on summer outings is often not packed or stored properly to discourage the growth of pathogens.

Symptoms of food poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. While these symptoms may be only a mild inconvenience to a healthy person, foodborne infections can cause severe dehydration in infants, young children, or any persons whose immunity is weakened by chronic disease. Common sources of food poisoning in summer include potato salad, cold cuts, pasta salads, and other egg or dairy-based cold dishes.

Perishable items should be kept in the refrigerator until it is time to eat or stored in an insulated cooler with several inches of ice or ice packs.

Keep hot foods hot, and never mix them with cold kept food when serving or storing. Cold food should be left out no longer than two hours at room temperature (one hour if the temperature is 90° or higher). After that, discard it.

Keep raw meat away from cooked food or food that is ready to serve. Also keep the utensils, plates, cutting board, etc., used to prepare raw meat away from prepared food.

Cook all meat to at least the recommended minimum internal temperature.

Wash hands frequently, and for picnics, bring along disposable towelettes for hand washing when preparing or serving food.

Getting out onto the water and enjoying the spray across your face is a relaxing and, for the younger children, an exciting experience. Unfortunately, boating can also be a highly dangerous activity when there are kids involved and the adults on board aren't properly educated on important safety rules. These are ten of the things you should always keep in mind when you're on the water when children are involved.

Insist on Life Jackets - Kids, especially older ones, aren't always the biggest fans of wearing a life jacket. You should make a strictly-enforced rule about the wearing of life jackets at all times, and be sure that the devices your kids are wearing let them float on their backs, rather than face-down.

Stock Up on Approved Flotation Devices, and Teach Kids to Use Them Properly - In addition to life jackets, you'll want to make sure that there are plenty of United States Coast Guard-approved flotation devices on board, and that kids understand what they're used for. Teach little ones to toss the flotation devices overboard only when someone in the water is struggling, never as a joke or for play.

the open water is not the same as a swimming pool. Currents, waves and choppy water can present hazards that simply aren't present in the average pool, and kids need to be prepared for them.

No Diving - Unlike a swimming pool that's clear and visible to the bottom with posted warning signs, it's impossible to know for sure just how deep the water in a lake or river is in any given area. That's why it's essential that kids know to never dive headfirst off of a boat, no matter how confident they feel about the depth of the water.

Stay Sober - You wouldn't drink and drive a car, neither should you drink while in control of a boat. Alcohol is a major contributor to boating accidents, and should be avoided altogether.

Slather on the Sunscreen - Sunburns is a very real danger, causing painful skin irritation and boosting the chances of deadly skin cancer later in life. That's why sunscreen should be carefully applied every two hours, more often if kids are in the water and the formula isn't water-resistant.

Learn CPR - While toddlers and preschoolers aren't ideal candidates for CPR and first aid classes, everyone else in your boating party should have a working knowledge of how to resuscitate a person that's fallen overboard and is no longer breathing.

Supervise Teens Carefully When They're at the Helm - The rules and regulations that govern teenagers' control of water vessels varies from one state to the next. Regardless of what your state laws say, however, you should never let a teen that's immature or reckless take control of a boat, and you should always be present when even the most level-headed kid is at the helm.

No Roughhousing - Spirits and excitement are often running high when everyone is enjoying a jaunt on the open water, but the consequences of knocking someone overboard or causing an injury while you're on the water, away from emergency services, can be disastrous.

Finally, assess and mitigate to eliminate or minimize risk. List the main dangers you can think of from your research; then ask yourself one further question: How can I minimize these risks? It is not just identification of risks that's important. Learning how to react accordingly is vital. Even though you're calm and cool-headed, at no time must you lose situational awareness. That means never switching off your risk analysis and being aware of your surroundings at all times - to scan for danger and analyze risks constantly. (Sources: www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm, www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cpns/skin/images/skin_sunprotecurriculum.pdf, USDA at www.fightbac.org.)

4. On The Horizon - Community Leadership Conference Planning Ongoing:

The second Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference convened on the evening of July 11th. Attendees were engaged, made many valuable observations and comments contributing to the objective to identify hazards, assess risk and recommend remedies to our vulnerabilities (refer to supplemental document for details of discussions). The news that the C.O.P.s program has been discontinued in favor of better disposition of limited resources was a disappointment but our guest speaker, Cpl. Nichols, Bell County Deputy Sheriff, assured us that that will not affect the quality or the quantity of service. Many attendees were enlightened to the availability of "Vacation Watch".

Expect to receive and invite and the opportunity to attend a Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference in the next few weeks and before our National Night Out Event (usually around October 2nd).

Our local Woodlake Crime Watch Video Network is up-and-running but we're always interested in motivating new participants and welcome to ideas for improvement. Looking forward to seeing you soon. *The WPOA NW Coordinator.*