

Woodlake 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 March 15, 2014 -

[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://www.golfkillen.com/crimestoppers/wanted.htm>; Anthony Tame, 25, of Belton, is 5'11" tall, 120 lbs, W/M with Hazel eyes and Red hair is wanted for Aggravated Assault.

The other fugitives featured this week all hail from Killeen: Ronald Harris, 36, is a 220 lbs, 6'6" B/M wanted for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm; wanted for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon are: Mathew Scott, 38, 6'0", 190 lbs, B/M and Taniqua Davis, 31, is a 5'3", 170 lbs, B/F. Ashley Wiggins, 27, wanted for Robbery is a 5'4", W/F with blue eyes and blond hair. Lastly, Nathaniel Rice, 28, is a 5'9", 160 lbs, W/M, with green eyes and brown hair wanted for Assault on a Family Member (Strangulation).

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

From Austin: A reward for information leading to the apprehension of Anthony Gonzales has been increased to \$20,000!



RACE: W, SEX: M, DOB: 07/12/73, Ht: 5'6", Wgt: 170 lbs. AKA: Ghost, Anthony Aleman Gonzales
SMT: Tattoos: "Mexicano" and female shape on abdomen; "Lil Laura" on left finger; "Laura" on neck; multiple tattoos along right arm; dragon/skin/ wing/ "Mi amor sita vida Laura" across chest; Rosary on left arm; circle with cross on right leg. Gang(s): Texas Mexican Mafia

Gonzales, is still wanted for: Murder, Aggravated Assault, Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity, and Parole Violation. LKA: 428 Charco Street, Goliad, Texas, 689765. This is considered Armed and Dangerous!

Details: Gonzales is from Corpus Christi and part of the Mexican Mafia.

In 1992, Gonzales served time for Burglary, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Evading Arrest Using a Vehicle. His prior arrests include: Criminal Trespass, Failure to Identify Fugitive from Justice, Possession of Marijuana, and Unlawful Possession of Firearm.

On July 25, 2008, Gonzales was involved in a shooting at a Corpus Christi residence, killing one and injuring 2 children. All suspects were captured except for Gonzales.

2. Crime Update:

McGregor - Justin Holt, 24, was caught red-handed as he burglarized his second home on 8th Street in McGregor on 13 January.

Police say during that act, a surveillance camera on a home next door caught him walking around. By enhancing the video, McGregor PD were able to identify Holt.

Then on Tuesday, January 21 a suspicious car was reported at a home on 6th street. From the description, police recognized the car as being Holt's. They responded to the area where they saw Holt walking out of a house with stolen items.

3. Smile the next time you visit your bank or credit union - You probably assume, correctly, that you are photographed every time you enter your bank or credit union; particularly when you're at your teller's

window. But, did you know that you're also photographed and evaluated before you even enter the front door?

After depositing a check at his credit union, a local resident heard the automatic door locks "click" as he was reaching for the front door to exit. Pushing on the door to exit confirmed that the door was locked securely.

At the same moment, another customer approached the front door to enter. However, even before he could grab the door handle to enter, the door was automatically locked. His pulling on the door was to no avail. Both customers helplessly stared at each other through the glass.

The curious inside customer was told that a new face recognition camera could detect that the "suspect" was wearing a baseball cap and automatically, without any human intervention, locked both doors of the credit union. Had the camera detected the "suspect" was wearing a mask or something else obscuring his face, the same thing would have happened. No one is allowed in this credit union with anything obscuring his face or head, including a baseball cap. Once inside, of course, there are many more cameras to continue recording faces. This "suspect" was only allowed to enter after he removed his cap so a teller could see his face. Then, the teller pushed a button to allow the, now de-capped, customer to enter the institution.

The term *biometrics* refers to technologies that measure and analyze human physiological or behavioral characteristics for authentication or identification purposes. Some of the most widely used characteristics or biometric factors are fingerprints, irises, voice patterns and the spatial geometry of the face.

Although this state-of-the-art security system may not yet be able to identify the faces of the financial institution's account holders, it can certainly determine whether a potential robber's face is obscured. If you're a bank robber, don't bother with this credit union. You won't even get in the front door.

This was an actual local event, not science fiction. Intelligent video security surveillance is not the future - it's here now!

Surveillance cameras have redefined security dynamics, law enforcement and protection of homes and businesses. The range, price bands and options of latest generation surveillance camera systems have encouraged their widespread use and deployment. Surveillance cameras have generally proved to be effective for managing overall security needs of public and private property owners.

Electronic surveillance has the potential for reducing crime because the threat of getting "caught" may discourage prospective criminals that facilitate conviction when presented as evidence.

Insofar as criminals do not restrict their crimes to 1 specific area, these arrests and convictions may reduce crime even in areas not under surveillance. The visible presence of surveillance equipment could also remind those in the area that crime is a possibility, thereby inducing them to take precautions against being victimized by violence or theft.

In contrast, the presence of surveillance equipment may cause residents to drop their guard giving them a false sense of security. If that happens, surveillance equipment could increase crime.

Despite uncertainties regarding its effectiveness since 1997, surveillance equipment has been employed in U.S. cities like New York and Chicago, at a rapid pace.

A recent survey claims that there are more than a million CCTV cameras in use by law enforcement and in public places, in schools, mass transit stations, businesses and apartment complexes.

The United Kingdom embraced CCTV technology as a surveillance system many years before the U. S., and it has been more widely adopted there. As a result, there is a much larger body of knowledge assessing the extent to which the introduction of electronic surveillance in a particular place reduces crime.

Positive results, however, on the effects of electronic surveillance on violent and property crime are inconclusive.

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The British studies dealing with city centers and public housing, public transportation, and automobile parking lots, bore evidence that crime only displaced to neighboring areas with little diffusion of benefits to abutting districts.

Quite a few of the studies failed to use distinct experimental and control areas for comparison purposes.

Comparison of crime rates in experimental and control groups following the introduction of surveillance, with no measure of crime rates at earlier times, did not account the possibility that any observed differences predated the introduction of surveillance. In addition, some of the studies failed to take the seasonal variation in crime rates into account.

Although some crimes have been solved through the evidence provided by the CCTV cameras, only 3% of those were street robberies. Many times CCTV fails to stop crime because often criminals assume that the cameras are not working.

In London, where there are at least 10,000 cameras, the density of cameras fails to improve the apprehension rate for crimes.

To date, there have been only 4 evaluations of CCTV as a crime prevention measure in the U.S.; most with less than encouraging results.

Any observed decrease in major felonies occurring in the control areas (two housing projects in New York City) appeared to be part of a broader citywide crime drop taking place in the late 1990s. Nor could any evidence of displacement and diffusion be found. Similar findings were the result of 2 more studies.

A fourth study examined the town of East Orange, NJ, in which the crime rate at the end of the 20th century was twice as high as the national average. In 2003, police officers were given access to CCTV cameras, up-to-the-second police reports, and electronic listening devices mounted around the city that sent an electronic alert to officers within seconds of a gun shot.

The researchers credit these crime-fighting tools for the reduction of crime by 50% in 3 years.

These results were probably not because of a broader downward trend in crime; in the neighboring city of Newark, murder rates rose, and in nearby Irvington, gang violence was so rampant that the city sought the assistance of New Jersey State Police.

More recent studies suggest that under some conditions, electronic surveillance can be a very effective tool in crime prevention.

The report, published by the Urban Institute, examined crime rates in Baltimore, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. to determine whether installing surveillance cameras to reduce crime is an effective use of scarce resources, especially with states struggling with soaring budget deficits and police departments facing steep cuts.

In Chicago, for example, the city was spending \$190,000 a month on its surveillance system and saved roughly \$815,000 on criminal justice costs as well as victims' financial and emotional costs. The benefits alone were enough to make up for the cost as it saved the city \$4.30 for every dollar it had spent on installing cameras from the number of crimes it had prevented.

That study concluded that the efficacy of cameras varies and is largely dependent upon how the surveillance system is set up and monitored.

When all cameras are connected to the digital video recorders for storage purposes and are enhanced with alarm monitoring and other peripherals that were not available before, (electronic key cards and readers, door alarm monitoring, interior/ exterior emergency call boxes, and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras), can make an exponential difference in stopping crime.

Even at sites where the crime rate showed no change, the benefits of the surveillance system outweighed the costs.

As a whole, surveillance cameras are a useful law enforcement tool, deter crime and are cost-effective, but only when they are properly monitored and installed - not a panacea by any means.

The general purpose of installing surveillance cameras is to prevent theft and act as deterrent for petty thieves and other unscrupulous elements from indulging in crime and illicit activities. These cameras are installed in schools, offices, shopping centers, malls, bungalows, townhouses, condominiums and other public areas. Surveillance cameras are effective in monitoring suspicious activities, real-time thefts or vandalism efforts and alerting residents or property owners about potentially dangerous situations.

It is difficult and expensive to maintain stationed security officers to patrol and man every nook and corner of malls. In recent years, mall developers and promoters have invested in advanced surveillance camera and CCTV (closed-circuit television) systems that can be monitored from central control rooms. Trained staff and security personnel can monitor security aspects on a micro level and especially in outlying and untenanted areas of malls and parking lots. They can also inform county and state law enforcement officers about emergency or life-threatening situations.

New-generation surveillance camera systems have audio, sound and voice recording capabilities. Video footage coupled with audio recordings can be used as permissible evidence to shore up legal cases. Sexual harassment, soliciting for illicit activities, veiled threats and antisocial behavior on school and college campuses and at the workplace can be spotted and records maintained on surveillance camera systems. Employees resorting to theft of office items and inventory or data pilferage can be hauled up in court with video surveillance records; counter-suits by employees over litigious issues can also be foiled.

Standardization of technologies and slashing of prices of components has made surveillance cameras more affordable for varied users. Business and large property owners investing in comprehensive surveillance camera systems need not deploy a large security workforce, resulting in annual cost savings.

It's estimated that around 14% of homeowners own some type of burglar prevention system for their home. This may include monitored security systems, simple motion detection alarms, security lights and video surveillance. However, many people don't fully understand how having a monitored security system directly affects the chance that their home will be successfully burglarized. Though some of these statistics are circumstantial (relating to the crime rate in an area, the type of home, neighbors, etc.), they can still provide a window of insight on the effectiveness of monitored security systems.

In a yearlong period of time, statistically, anyone's home has a one-in-four chance of being burglarized. A home without an alarm system is from 2.7 to 3.5 times more likely to be burglarized than a home that has a burglar alarm.

Another interesting statistic is that 9 out of 10 convicted burglars admitted that they would avoid stealing from a house that had a monitored security system.

When a monitored security system is combined with other security features (such as deadbolt locks, security lights and video surveillance), the chance of being burglarized drops even further. One statistic even stated that homes that use combined security measures have less than a 1% chance of being successfully burglarized.

The costs can vary, but considering that the average house has a 25% chance of being burglarized to the tune of \$2000, \$40 per month for a basic security system package and the reduction in homeowner's insurance of up to 20% sounds like a worthwhile investment.

"The Tornado Is One Of The Most Powerful, Yet Elusive, Forces On Earth. - Despite decades of research, we are still not able to predict the actual path of a tornado," says John Hart, a senior forecaster at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK.