

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Presidents' Day Issue

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.

On Presidents' Day we give homage to Washington's Birthday in honor of the great Presidents, Jefferson and Lincoln, who sacrifices everything

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of February 15th, 2014 - [http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd\(adult_probati_on\)/most_wanted.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd(adult_probati_on)/most_wanted.php): Two Beltonians and 3 Temple denizens headline this issue's Most Wanted: Lucio Salinas, 42, is 5'9" tall and weighs 225 lbs; a W/M with BLK hair and BRN eyes wanted for Possession of a Controlled Substance. John Ramirez is a 5'9", 160 lbs, W/M, 47 y/o with BRO eyes and BLK hair wanted for Indecency w/Child, Sexual Contact.

From Temple are: Sarah Honeycutt is a 27 y/o, 5'4", 120 lbs, W/F with GRN eyes and BRO hair wanted for Credit/Debit Card Abuse; Julian Ramirez, a 27 y/o W/M, 5'4", 180 lbs with BRO eyes and BLK hair, and 25 y/o, 5'5", 145 lbs, Robert Favors, a B/M with BRO eyes and BLK hair are each wanted for Assault of Family/Household Member/Strangulation.

From Killen is Cody Tobias, 22, is 6'5" tall and 155 lbs with BRO eyes and BRO hair wanted for Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle.

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: Another Most Wanted "Scumbag" has been captured! Leo George Click, Jr. RACE: W, SEX: M, DOB: 10/22/70, HT: 5'8", WGT: 200 lbs., AKA: Leo Click; Leo Click, Jr. SMT: Tattoos on back, chest, right wrist, right finger, right leg, and upper right arm; Scars on nose and right ankle; Freckles. Wanted For: Injury to a Child (5 counts), Criminally Negligent Homicide (2 counts), and Parole Violation (Original Offense: Assault) CCH: Assault of a Family/Household Member, Possession of Certain Chemicals with Intent to Manufacture Methamphetamine, Burglary of a Vehicle,



and Driving While Intoxicated LKA: 259 Bass Lane, Victoria, Texas.

Caution: Subject should be considered Armed & Dangerous.

Details: On August 18, 2013, **CLICK** allegedly crossed over the center line while driving on State Highway 35 in Refugio County, resulting in a crash that killed two people and injured six others. In November 2013, the Refugio County Sheriff's Office issued arrest warrants for him for injury to a child and criminally negligent homicide. **CLICK** was also wanted for parole violation.

The Western Arkansas Fugitive Task Force out of the U.S. Marshals Western District of Arkansas, along with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, working with information received from the Texas DPS Criminal Investigations Division and U.S. Marshals Service Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, located **CLICK** in a trailer home near Alma, Arkansas. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Crawford County Jail.

2. Crime Update:

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

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 were able to identify Holt.

Holt's. They responded to the address where they saw Holt walk out with stolen items.

3. Raw Data Suggests Burglary of Homes in the Sparta Valley Area, Is On The Rise - There were 5 home burglaries in the Sparta Valley Area during the month of January 2014. That's a 67% increase of reported burglaries in the area for the month of December 2013.

Starting in the '60s, and through the '70s, as more homes installed dead-bolts, burglaries have steadily declined. In the past few years that trend has leveled off but the threat is still present.

Today, 25 percent of homes in the United States have electronic security systems, not to mention reinforced glass, superior lock technology and a veritable army of private security guards monitoring neighborhoods. Yet, despite the downward trend, almost 1.5 million homes are burglarized every year.

Of all property and violent crime rates reported, burglary ties for the lowest national average at 12.6%.

However, the personal stress and psychological strain that results when your home is "violated" is immeasurable.

Believe it or not, the odds are that thieves will break into your home during the day while most people are at work. Also, around 40% of annual household burglaries in the United States are not forced entries; someone was able to walk, climb or crawl inside of the house almost as easily as if the owners left a key in the door.

There are many inexpensive solutions you can employ to lessen the odds your home will be the subject of a burglary:

First.... Don't: Leave anything in the yard or in plain sight that can lure thieves onto your property, like a bicycle or scooter that someone could easily walk away with.

Don't: Leave the box from that new plasma screen television or other pricey electronics or appliance outside beside the trash or recycle bin. Curious criminals may also wonder what other expensive items you may own.

Don't: Leave your curtains, blinds or shades open if what's inside the house is visible from the street; think about the number of expensive items within plain sight or near windows. And, don't leave with your house looking like it's empty or that nobody's at home.

Don't: Leave a spare key hidden under a flowerpot or doormat. That's an open invitation for a burglar to walk inside without any difficulty.

Don't: Change your phone message to alert callers that you have left town. Also avoid having piled up mail, overgrown lawns and newspapers strewn about your yard that send surefire signals you're miles away.

Do: Have a friend house sit or at least pick up your mail and newspapers. Ask them to move your car periodically to make it look like you're still around. During the winter if you live in a cold weather climate, consider having someone shovel snow from your driveway. In the summers, arrange for someone to cut your lawn.

Do: Give a spare to a neighbor or friend who lives nearby for safekeeping or put the spare into a combination lockbox and hide that somewhere outside.

Do: Lock up the door leading from the garage to inside. Even if your garage door is down, it's still easy to disengage the lock-pin on the drive chain to open the door.

Do: Create the illusion that someone's at home. Remember, more break-ins occur during the day, so if burglars can tell that someone is home, there's a greater chance that they won't attempt to break in.

Do: Leave a light on, along with music or your television when you're gone.

Do: Create a diversion; you can also mentally fake them out by putting a home security system sign in your yard. It's not a guarantee it won't be tested, but it might make them reconsider.

According to the Office of Community Oriented Police Service, C.O.P.s, most residential thieves stay away from houses with such

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Do: Use a dowel, steel bar or 2-by-4 wedged into the back groove to secure any glass sliding doors you may have. Sliding doors can easily be opened popping them off of their frame, even when locked.

Do: Drill a small hole in the sash a few inches above the bottom window and when you leave the house, insert a nail or pin in the hole to prevent anyone from opening the window more than a few inches. This will add an additional layer of security in case someone pops off the screen and you have left the window unlocked.

Also remember to check window air conditioning units. If you can jimmy the window up from the outside, add a stopper to that. Remember to never put any identifying information on your house keys. If you lose them, and someone else finds them, it would be fairly easy to trace them back to your home and break in.

Do: Keep tall shrubs and overgrown trees around the house manicured to eliminate hiding places. Low shrubs in front of windows remove additional covering for thieves if they attempt to break in through one. Cut away any tall tree branches that reach upper story windows and protect against attacks from above. Regularly trimming larger bushes and tree branches also eliminates dark shadows that help hide intruders.

This type of security measure is referred to as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTD strategies aim to prevent crime by creating an outdoor environment that makes it difficult to pull off. Its four tenets are:

- Natural surveillance -- keep entryways to your home visible to prevent people from being able to sneak up.
- Territorial reinforcement -- using landscaping and design to define your territorial space.
- Natural Access Control -- adding hindrances to easily access your property like holly bushes or other thorny shrubs around your house.
- Target Hardening -- structural security, such as deadbolts and double-paned windows.

You can implement these techniques in various combinations and spruce up the appearance of your yard as an added bonus.

Alert neighbors about your trip and ask that they keep an eye on your property during that time.

"Vacation Watch" is a means of stopping crime before it happens. It lets the police know when you're away for them to drive by your property to check on things.

Additionally, you can apply for a free security evaluation to help identify steps you can take to enhance home security. Check with your provider, but a good rating may help reduce your insurance premium.

Residential crime spikes during July and August as people set off on summer vacations.

Getting to know the people you live around is one of the most important safety steps you can take. Closer-knit neighborhoods generally report fewer break-ins because strangers will stick out, and people are more likely to keep a casual eye on other people's security.

If you are a tenant, you have more incentive to get to know your community because renters are 85% more likely to be burglarized.

Neighborhood Watch Programs, started in the 1960s, can be very effective at lowering and preventing crime. According to the National Crime Prevention Council, more than 30 million people in the United States have joined these groups. Studies have consistently found that watch programs effectively reduce crime and violence in neighborhoods. The National Sheriff's Association oversees the nationwide watch group organization and offers a number of resources for starting and joining one.

Although it's nice to know you have people watching out for you in your neighborhood, you also need to watch out for yourself. If you aren't paying attention to what you're doing, you could unknowingly be rolling out a red carpet for a burglar to waltz through your front door.

Modern homes have so many holes - digital and analog - that a

Let's start with the traditional burglar. At the current value of gold, your jewelry boxes are a primary and easy target.

Often burglars don't care if you're at home while they break and enter and is why having a security system makes a lot of sense. In many cases, even a few security cameras or a blaring alarm is enough to scare off casual burglars. However, more dedicated burglars might give your house a go anyway.

Even unsophisticated crooks know that most security systems connect to monitoring services using a landline. So, the obvious solution is to cut the phones before entering. Even if the alarm is tripped, no one will know.

Until recently, alarm companies have been lagging behind with introducing systems that do not depend on hard-wire communications.

Some modern alarm systems don't rely on a landline and, unless a burglar is lugging around a cellphone jammer, you won't be cut off from your monitoring service and help. There are several to choose from; see the attachment for several examples.

Even a good security system won't protect you against a smash and grab. That's where a burglar targets one or two high-ticket items and disappears before the police can respond.

Of course, thieves don't usually pull this when someone is home, or unless they have a good idea what the score will be. That's why tech-savvy burglars have taken to planning their jobs with information from Facebook, Twitter and other social sites.

They might pop on your computer or mobile gadget when your back is turned. Maybe they'll quickly pocket that cash, credit card statement or medical insurance card you left in the open.

Needless to say, it's a good idea to keep bills, money and other personal information out of areas that host visitors. You might even throw them in an inexpensive safe.

You should also lock your computer and mobile gadgets when other people are around. If you do let them use your gadgets, give them guest accounts or keep a close eye on them.

Fortunately, most people these days arrive with their own laptops, smartphones and tablets. So they shouldn't need to use yours and risk your personal information.

However, they will need access to your Wi-Fi, which can be just as bad. They might try to get information streaming across your connection, or they might just let viruses on to your network.

That's why you want a router that lets you create a guest network is a good idea.

Of course, with Wi-Fi someone doesn't even need to be a visitor in your home. If you leave your network unsecured, neighbors and people just driving by can hop on your network.

Then they can attack your computers or just use your Internet connection for free. The worst part is if they use your connection to download or upload illegal content - like movies or child pornography.

While it may seem like a symptom of paranoia, keep your identity and any travel plans on the down low. For instance, only put your street address on your mailbox. Give away your last name, and someone could find your phone number, work place and a host of other stats with a few mouse clicks. Don't talk about your travel plans openly in public because a sinister stranger could be taking note.

A little added effort can go a long way to protect your home and your safety.

It's a subject for another issue but, there are a number of ideas you can read about to educate yourself about your destinations, to include crime data for the area. (Source: *Cristen Conger*)

3. Believe-it-or-Not; Bell County's Rate of Population Growth Has Inverse Relation to Crime Trends -

Our efforts to reduce crime, county wide, appear not to have been in vain. From January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013, with the exception of Fraud, Burglary from Commercial Buildings and Vehicular Theft, acts of major crimes within Bell County have trended downward.