



Volume 1, Issue 12.
November 20, 2011

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Holiday Issue: Happy Thanksgiving!

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 better improve this effort are welcome. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours; The Staff and Editor.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line -

Wanted: <http://www.bellcountytexas.com/cscd/cscdwanted.htm>

Three of this issues desperados' last known address is Temple: Or first suspect is 23 y/o Stacie Hockett who is 5'2", 139 lbs with blue eyes and blond hair and is wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Jesus Rodriguez-Moreno is 55 ys/o with brown eyes and gray hair. He is a 5'9", 220 pound, W/M who is wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. James Vallee is a 27 y/o, W/M that is 180 lbs, with blue eyes and brown hair. Vallee is wanted for burglary of a building.

Killeen fugitives 32 y/o David Reif is a 5' 11", 260 lb W/M with blue eyes and blond hair, is wanted for assault of a family member by strangulation and 31 y/o Benjamin Taylor a 150 lb, B/M with brown eyes and black hair, is wanted for criminal retaliation.

Pedro Escobar last known address is from Copperas Cove and is wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Twenty-seven y/o Escobar is 220 lbs, W/M with brown eyes and black hair.

If you have any information regarding these individuals, 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.**

2. Crime Update - A recent crime incident in our community has tested the effectiveness of our Neighborhood Watch Program.

It only took a few minutes of absence for the trust and security to be breached of one of our oldest residence by becoming a victim of petty theft. Intent on being gone only a few minutes, the victim (name withheld for privacy) left her home one morning only to return to find some items missing from her garage. She didn't give leaving her garage door open a second thought because of the sense of security she and her husband have always enjoyed since living here.

Killeen - Police have confirmed that two men have been arrested in connection with a murder that took place on Sunday.

Temple - A woman has been arrested after stealing items from a CVS Pharmacy then trying to ensure her escape by almost running over a Temple Police Special Investigations Agent. Another woman is thankfully going to be O.K. after being struck in the head by two men who robbed her late Monday night. A man has received his sentence after hitting and killing an elderly woman with his car outside of a bar.

3. Don't let "Fear" Ruin Your Holiday "Cheer" -

A recent petty theft incident right here in our own neighborhood re-enforces the point of how complacency, even if you're only leaving for a few minutes, and leaving your garage door open is invitation to misdeeds. The police were not notified because, luckily, the purloined property wasn't of any true value, the owner knew who the perpetrator was and have dealt with them appropriately.

This is not an indictment because, despite a moment of misplaced trust, these homeowners are exercising everything else to protect their property and won't again take anything for granted.

The majority of my multiple years in the military were served either on an overseas assignment or temporary duty in a foreign country or strange city where the threat from the proximal enemy agents, insurgents and combatants, or hostile indigenous personnel in a contentious environment was a constant reality.

The requisite training in tactics and techniques aimed at protecting U.S. personnel overseas and their family members from extortion, acts of terrorism, kidnapping, gangs, mobs or riots are just as applicable in reducing the chances you or your family becoming a victim of crime.

Don't take it for granted that if you carry a gun you're any less vulnerable to becoming a victim. On the contrary; criminals are opportunists and likely don't know or care that you are armed. Besides, unless you're trained not to hesitate and are ready and willing to use deadly force to defend yourself, a gun only becomes added bonus to the robber's booty if you are surprised and/or rendered incapacitated.

Human beings are creatures of habit, become comfortable and complacent in their daily lives and routines. Criminals understand this and use their learned skills of observation of our habits and life patterns to case-out their prospective victims.

I'll make no implied warranties or guarantees regarding your safety; there are just too many variables and complications in each and everyone's lives. But, what I can tell you is that by taking some simple precautions your chances of exposing yourself as a target of a crime can be minimized:

(1). Before you depart your home for anything and for any length of time, go through a mental checklist of security measures: Appliances? - Turned off and unplugged - Check. Windows and doors? Dead bolts, Charlie Bars, Shades/Shutters locked? - Check. Security lights and alarms/systems? - ON - Check. (No spare keys left under the mats or hidden above door frames, etc).
(2) Vary your routes; stagger your times: This is probably the most important step because if someone is casing the neighborhood (note: And, probably knows where you've hidden the spare key), they'll know your schedule, when the house is vacant, and when to expect your return.

Using alternate routes to work or to drop the kids at school is a little more difficult and for most working Moms and Dads - impossible. However, if there comes a time you suspect someone is casing you, your family or home call the Bell County Hot Line,



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254-933-5412 for assistance. A Deputy Sheriff will not hesitate to intervene.

(3) Be inconspicuous, blend in with the crowd: Avoid congregations of large crowds if possible. If you just have to be at that football game, air show, circus, concert or monster truck event do so with your "Spidey" sensors in the "full alert" mode.

OK.... You're right. If we just lock ourselves in our "panic rooms" we'll die from a vitamin D deficiency and boredom. I'm certainly not an advocate for agoraphobia and if, as a population, we're afraid to get in our cars and drive 2 hours to an event or see a relative let alone board a plane to visit Granny on Thanksgiving then Al-Qaida wins; we lose.

What I mean is that you remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings at all times. Notice what is "off" or "out-of-place" for the circumstances. If you see what appears to be a loner in a large group who doesn't fit-in with those around him/her while everyone else is connecting with each other, don't take matters in your own hands - let someone with authority determine if the individual poses a threat.

Note where the nearest emergency exits, fire alarms, and security personnel are posted. If there aren't any cops visible, then your vulnerability to purse-snatchers, pick-pockets, shysters, dealers, scalpers, scammers and charlatans is much higher.

The incidence of electronic identity theft by hand-held scanners is on the rise as well as unscrupulous service persons taking advantage of their situation to scam the customers which leads me to my next point;

(4). Never take your eyes off of your credit card. Temple/Belton has the appeal of "Mayberry"; small-town-ethos but with big city problems. We are blessed with Texas-Sized hospitality, cordiality, and "hominess" that promote complacency and misplaced trust.

I'm from Kansas City..... 'nuf said. You can't swing a dead cat without hitting someone with some kind of scam going on so I'm sensitive to what is out-of-place or suspicious. (Sorry, I digress).

(5). Don't flash your cash. Just be discrete.

(6). Don't ever- EVER enter a darkened parking garage or isolated parking lot alone. Always arrange for an escort. If that's not possible then park close to the street or near lights. Quickly walk the most direct route away for the shadows. If you have a defensive weapon, keep it handy - not in the bottom of your purse.

(7). Never leave your car with packages left out in the open that invites theft. Always lock your car. And, when you return, check that nothing has been disturbed and no one is lurking inside your car. Don't dally. You're at your most vulnerable the moment you've unlocked the car door. Quickly stow your packages get in the driver's seat and LOCK THE DOORS IMMEDIATELY. It takes less than a second for an unwatchful person to be succumbed by a determined carjacker or thief.

Taking just a moment to dislodge for example, a hand-bill purposely placed there by a crook lying in wait, is all the time it takes for someone to come from behind, grab your keys, harming you or worse, abducting you with your own vehicle.

(8). When in traffic, keep your windows closed and enough space between you and the cars ahead to allow for maneuvering if someone tries to assault you. Be aware of the "Swoop-and-Squat" scam where one car swerves in front of you while another car blocks the adjacent lane leaving you boxed-in and liable for rear-ending the first car when it suddenly applies the brakes.

My objective is not to put a wet blanket on the pleasure of holiday gift shopping. My point is, while you are going about your daily activities keep in mind that, no matter where you may be, the faltering economy fuels incentives and motives for increase crime. In particular, during the holiday season, for the petty thief it is a target rich environment.

4. On The Horizon -

Having been so absorbed by the threat of wildfire, and now the possibility of the pandemic spread of the seasonal flu, I've completely neglected mentioning the perceived increased incidence of earthquakes within the tri-state. The next issue we'll explore the phenomena of earthquakes, the probabilities we could experience one in our area, and what you can do to protect yourself.

As I was researching the column for the next Neighborhood Watch Newsletter it occurred to me.... "When the day comes you have to abandon your home as a consequence of a natural disaster, do you know where to find refuge; food, shelter, and security for your family"?

It's impossible to predict if any of these facilities will continue to be viable themselves but for Bell County residence the check in facility is the Expo Center, Loop 121. Refer to: <http://www.crisiswiki.org/Shelters:Texas#BellCounty> and the Bell County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) brochure for clarification (Enclosed). You'll have to make other arrangements for your pets. Pets are not allowed in most community shelters.

If they have to be left behind, make arrangements with someone for their care.

Watch for notices announcing when and where Neighborhood Watch leadership training for Block Captains is scheduled - training the trainers:

- Purpose, objectives, and functions of NWP.
- Sources materials and references.
- Interaction - surveys, interviews, and feedback.
- Problem identification and resolution.
- Threat and natural disaster response and reaction.
- Techniques of observation and reporting.

Prerequisite for participation in the Advance Neighborhood Watch Leadership Training is to have completed all 5 instructional units of the Woodlake NWP CD. Please let me know if hadn't received your copy.

I'll be in touch.