

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 better improve this effort are welcome. Thank you, the Editor.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted

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

Britney Nicole Fulks, a 21 y/o, 5'1", 104 lb, W/F with blue eyes and brown hair is wanted in Killeen for aggravated assault w/a deadly weapon. Also wanted by the Killeen Police are Samuel Fleming, a 5'9", 21 y/o, 142 lb, B/M with brown eyes and black hair for burglary of a habitation and Stanley Jones, a 31 y/o, 6'1", 150 lbs, B/M with brown eyes and black hair for DWI with a child passenger. Dustin Crume is a 24 y/o, 5'10", 140 lb, W/M with blue eyes and brown hair from Belton and is wanted for sexual assault. Our last fugitive at large is from Temple: 40 y/o, 5'8", 145 lb, John Henry Harris is a B/M with brown eyes and black hair wanted for injury to a child.

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 -

Killeen - Good news! A man suspected of robbing a Star Mart Convenience Store earlier this month has been arrested. His name was withheld pending further action.



TEMPLE - Halloween evening three robbers kicked-in the front door of a family's home and bound a woman and her three grandchildren. See the follow-on column.

HARKER HEIGHTS - Two men are in jail in connection with a shooting that happened earlier this month. The shooting took place after a disagreement that was reportedly centered on a domestic problem involving a child.

3. Is the Incidence of Crime Really Growing, or Are We Being Duped into Paranoia? - "3 Men Sought for Temple Home Invasion". Reading the headlines always gives me pause to wonder "Is the incidence of crime really growing, or are we just seeing more journalistic hype to sell the news"?

Maybe the rate or crime per capita has remained constant but the introduction and the abundance of improved technical means of communication has resulted in increased reporting. There is also the possibility that the "tail is wagging the dog" by industries Who serve to profit from the perception that crime, especially burglary and home invasion, are on a spiraling incline.

It is an absolute that in a depressed economy the rate of crime is inversely proportional but, we've suffered worse economies without a marked increase in crime.

As a matter of record the city of Temple has had a 21% decrease in the crime rate over the past few years. I asked Mayor Bill Jones what he thought attributed to the decline: better police training and enforcement, changing demographics, more active neighborhood watch and/or improved reporting? He couldn't answer but I suspect, with the exception of traffic where the incidence has risen, all the above contribute to the lower crime rates.

The front page article continued; A family of 4 had been "traumatized" and bound by three black men, one armed with a hand gun, who kicked in their front door and "rummaged" through the house.

"The suspects were looking for specific items, which we can't disclose at this time but they did take several things", said the investigating officer, Sgt. Brad Hunt. "Any time criminals enter a home when someone is at home, a weapon is likely to be used to intimidate people into compliance. We don't have very many of these per year, so it will be a priority in the investigation to uncover their motive".

"The suspects were wearing sunglasses and hooded sweatshirts so positive ID will be very difficult".

Sgt. Hunt continued, "The investigation will attempt to determine if the suspects knew the victims and what motives, if any, they had in selecting the victims' residence."

(Story by: Deborah McKeon, Temple Daily Telegram)

In the previous WPOA NW news letter the focus was on home security systems. The preceding paragraph segues for my topic this issue: If you become a witness or a victim of a crime, after all is said and done, could you describe the suspects?

Unit C of the Neighborhood Watch instructional CD provides more detail but in a nut shell these are the fundamentals to improving your observation skills.

You should pay attention to things like:

- Physical setting - Specific location, time of day, day of week. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
- People - What do they look like? (Height, weight, ethnicity, gender, etc.) How many are there? Look for subtle details like jewelry, scars, birthmarks, skin tone, and the presence of facial hair. Do any of the persons have a peculiar speech pattern or dialect, tick, or ailment like a cough or odd scent? The more detail you can provide the easier time the police will have apprehending the individual.
- Specific items - What is important? Focus on the items that are relevant and useful.
- Routines - Did you notice any recurring patterns or routines? How often did they occur? Who was involved?

Practice identification techniques by looking at old photographs of people you know then without looking try to describe the person using as many details as you can remember. Use the same technique on photos of people you've never seen before.

In the next issue I'll discuss how improving your observation skills can be a factor in reducing your chances to becoming a victim of crime.



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4. On the Horizon - Just When You Thought the Wildfires Were History - Double Jeopardy!

While the dry, windy, drought conditions conducive to wildfires and imposed water conservation will persist through the winter, we've entered into the flu season.

Though each of us getting our annual flu shot plays a large role in reducing the likelihood of pandemic transference, there are some precautions you should observe regardless.

Practice "Social Distancing": Avoid face-to-face meetings. Keep a three foot separation from others, and don't embrace or shake anybody's hand. Avoid public places, crowds, and don't use public transportation especially during rush hour.

These are pretty simple practices to remember but, what about your school age children? Standing in lines and in close daily proximity and confinement can expose them to the dreaded flu virus which can infect the rest of the family.

The flu vaccine, in some cases in nasal spray form, has shown to be an effective deterrent. Just keeping their hands washed and cleansed with anti-bacterial lotions may not provide adequate protection. Remind them to keep their hands away from their eyes and mouths as well as practicing "Social Distancing" as best as possible. Their friends will understand.

When a family member gets sick and a runny nose, nasal congestion, a sore throat, coughing, and sneezing is accompanied by body aches, chills and a fever, STAY HOME! Don't risk infecting others and further spreading, the sometimes deadly flu virus.

For information how a flu break-out relates to our Neighborhood Watch program refer to Unit E, Emergency Preparation and Home Land Security, instructional CD.