

## Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Easter 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.

The Staff wish you all a safe and happy Easter weekend.

### 1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of April 1, 2013:

[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). (No Change) Four of this issue's six fugitives hail from Temple with warrants for: Theft, Burglary, Possession, and Assault. 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](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen_online_reporting_system/index.php)

**Austin:** Another Texas 10 Most Wanted Captured Sex Offender Michael Wayne Hopson . **RACE:** White **SEX:** Male **DOB:** 01/01/1956



**HEIGHT:** 5'10" **WEIGHT:** 170 lbs **SMT:** Scar on left arm **WANTED FOR:** Failure to Register as a Sex Offender and Indecent Exposure **CCH:** Indecent Exposure, Failure to Comply with Sex Offense Registration **DATE CAPTURED:** 03/12/13 **CAPTURE LOCATION:** Longview, Texas **CAPTURING AGENCY:** TX DPS CID

**DETAILS:** On March 12, 2013, after searching two homeless shelters, DPS Criminal Investigations Division agents located Michael Wayne HOPSON having lunch at a soup kitchen in Longview, Texas. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Gregg County Sheriff's Office.

HOPSON had been wanted by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office in Texas for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender and by the Payne County Sheriff's Office in Oklahoma for Indecent Exposure.

No tip was involved in this apprehension and no reward will be paid. <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/texas10mostwanted/>

### 2. Crime Update:

**Killeen** - 20-year-old Devontae Montgomery, wanted in connection with the shooting death of 17-year-old Ke'Marvin Stamps in Mississippi, was arrested on Tuesday at his mother's home in the 1200 block of Attas Ave. in Killeen.

Stamps and another teen were walking on Gibson Road when he exchanged words with several men in a truck. As the truck drove away, a shot fired from the vehicle hit Stamps in the head. He died later at University Medical Center in Jackson on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Montgomery's accomplices: 15-year-old Marquis Black, 19-year-old De'Mario Mixon, 19-year-old Christopher Jones and 18-year-old Melvin Wiggins Jr. were also charged with the murder of Stamps.

**Fort Hood** - A Court Martial Board sentenced a former Army sergeant to 10 years in a military prison and a dishonorable discharge after finding him guilty of sexually assaulting a child. He was brought up on five counts of sexual assault after information was released in his unit about his alleged activities. He remains in the Bell County Jail pending his transfer to a confinement facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

**McLennan County** - Tomas Ramirez, 36, was convicted Thursday of two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of indecency with a child by contact. Ramirez, accused of assaulting a little girl and molesting seven others more than 20 years ago, was sentenced to life plus 139 years in prison. The prosecution pressed for the maximum punishment, which is life plus 40 years in prison. In closing arguments the state told jurors to remember the women who testified in court were only little girls at the time of their alleged abuse. Even if sentenced to the minimum, he would still have to serve 30 years before being eligible for parole.

### 3. Child Abduction; Trending Down & Misunderstood, Persists as a Crime With Far-Reaching Psychological and Emotional Distress.

Just three weeks ago I was alerted through a Facebook thread that an 11-year-old boy had gone missing from his home in Temple. The young lad turned himself in to the Austin Police Department as a run-away but, one can only imagine the anguish, horror, and sleepless nights his parents must have endured for the 3 or 4 days their son was inexplicably missing.

Despite this one happy ending, each year, 800,000 missing children, approximately 2,000 children every day, are reported to local law enforcement agencies and the FBI. Most of these cases are solved within hours or turned into cases that were not serious (such as an overstay with a particular parent).

Every 40 seconds, a child becomes missing or abducted. In comparison, every three seconds, a child is admitted to an emergency room.

The public impression of child abduction is exaggerated, however, due to the nature of around-the-clock media cycles that require breaking stories at a constant pace.

The amount of coverage and recognition that these high profile cases carry have led to a general consensus that child abductions by strangers are common and present a risk to all unsupervised or hapless children.

However, trends in child abductions show that this is not the case. Most cases of child abduction are not by strangers, rather by family members of the child.

Abduction by people close to the child, a parent or a family member, is more than three times more common than stranger abductions. The increasing number of divorces and the relative ease of international travel has led to an increase in parental child abduction rates, especially international child abduction.

More than 25% of child abductions are by an acquaintance of the child, generally involving a high percentage of juveniles, and carries the highest percentage of injuries.

Though only one in every 10,000 missing child reports result in the death of the child, less than one quarter of child abductions are by a stranger, with more girls being abducted than boys; these are the most dangerous.

Approximately 80 percent of child abductions by strangers occur within 1/4 of a mile of the child's home. Less than 5 percent of stranger abductions have led to a complete disappearance of the child, and roughly 75 percent of abduction murders occur within 3 hours after the child goes missing.

The chance that a child is kidnapped and murdered stands at about 1 in every 347,000. Ninety-percent of stranger kidnappings are committed by males aged 20-40 years old.

The overwhelming majority of all abductions last less than 24 hours. For non-family abductions, one third of the abductions last



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less than 3 hours. In non-stranger abductions, the child is returned 99 percent of the time unharmed.

The overwhelming majority of non-family child abductions (80 percent) are motivated by sexual intentions.

Evident from these statistics, the fear of American parents over the danger of child abduction and the exaggerated risk of the crime affecting their family is over-emphasized. For example, while the number of serious child abduction cases is remaining relatively low, the numbers of such cases are in fact declining.

In the past, parents preached safety against "stranger danger." Parents should understand that teaching their children to be safe and maintaining parental supervision, especially of younger children, is the best they can do to prevent child abduction affecting their family.

In 1998, Suzanne Lyall, a student of the State University of New York at Albany disappeared and was never to be seen again. In response, President George W. Bush signed "Suzanne's Law" in 2003. The law required police to notify the National Crime Information Center every time a person between the ages 18 and 21 went missing.

Before the passage of Suzanne's Law, law enforcement were only required to immediately report cases of missing children under the age of 18. The new family law changed the provision from 18 to 21, protecting individuals who have recently graduated high school or are attending college.

Suzanne's Law amends the Crime Control Act of 1990. In the past, it was common practice for police to wait a day before investigating college-aged missing persons. The family law encouraged law enforcement to begin investigations as soon as possible, hoping to save lives that may otherwise be lost waiting through an arbitrary waiting period.

The widely held belief that individual must wait between 24 and 48 hours before he/she reports a missing or runaway child is a myth. If a child is missing, it should be reported to the local law enforcement agency immediately. The faster the missing child is reported, the more likely it is that the child will be safely recovered.

Police officers are generally required to initiate a missing child investigation immediately following a report of a missing child. The extent of the initial investigation may depend upon a number of factors, including the child's age and the surrounding circumstances.

For instance, a teenager who fought with his/her parents most likely went to a friend's house to escape the situation. As a result, the initial investigation may be relatively minor and involve the exploration of local friends and family members who may be housing the teenager.

The younger a child is, the more intense the initial search will be. Regardless of the surrounding circumstances, Federal law requires a missing child report to be investigated immediately.

The institution of Children's Rights is the system of benefits, freedoms, and privileges that are afforded to children within the scope of a society. Children's Rights are considered to reside at the very foundation of the institution of human rights, which ensure the provision of rights to which every human being is entitled. In contrast to traditional human rights, a wide range of supplemental protection is latent within the tenets of Children's Rights; this is considered to result from the exclusion of children from the classification of a legal and self-sufficient individual.

Although the stipulations correlating to minors vary by locational

statutes, a minor are allowed the same legal and human rights as adults.

Within the institution of Children's Rights, the following rights and freedoms are considered to be entitlements to children whose protection and advocacy is the responsibility of the governing body of the country or nation of residence:

Children's Rights state that children are entitled to the protection and defense from any and all activities that are considered to place their respective livelihood, wellbeing, and safety in jeopardy; circumstances and activities believed to compromise a child's mental and physical health are considered to be in direct violation of Children's Rights – this includes all forms of child abuse

Children's Rights ensure that children will be provided with environments in which they are free from subjection to neglect and exploitation; these provisions include the instatement of sufficient qualities of life, medical and mental health care, support, counseling, and education – furthermore, these provisions include the availability of sufficient shelter, food, and water

Children's Rights mandate that children will be given access to organized programs and activities provided within their respective communities and environments, which allow them to undertake services and resources including libraries, group activities, and organized programs

Within the scope of Children's Rights, there exists the institution of 'Juvenile Rights', which are defined as activities and engagements within which children are prohibited; this prohibition is not considered to be an expression of prejudice or violation, but an act of protection from activities considered to be reserved for individuals classified as legal and self-sufficient adults – such activities include the prohibition of children from:

- Engaging in – or being in anyway participatory – the construction or endorsement of a legal contract.
- The participation in sexual activity, regardless of consent.
- The purchase or usage of controlled substances, such as tobacco, alcohol, or firearms. (Source: <http://children-laws.laws.com/child-abduction/abduction-statistics>)

#### **4. On The Horizon – Two Items: P.O.C. Educational Packets & Planning for This Years National Neighborhood Night Out Event.**

I've registered for a USAonWatch Webinar scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>. Under the banner *Mapping Your Neighborhood*, Rosanne J. Garrand, Public Education Coordinator, Washington State Emergency Management will be presenting topics such as:

- The "9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster" to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.
- Identifying the Skills and Equipment each neighbor has that would be useful in an effective disaster response.
- Creating a Neighborhood Map identifying the locations of natural gas and propane tanks for quick response if needed.
- Creating a Contact List that helps identify those with specific needs such as elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.
- Teamwork to evaluate your neighborhood during the first hour following a disaster and take the necessary actions.

My objective for the next National Night Out celebration is to enlist the SVFD to prepare and serve the pay-as-you-go BBQ and invite (selected) homeowners from the Denmans Loop community.