

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter
Cinco De Mayo Edition

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 Editor & Staff invite you to take a moment to learn the importance of Cinco De Mayo (see attached document); then celebrate it safely.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of May 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 hale 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

Austin: This issue re-features Ricco Leo Torres. Wanted for dangerous drugs and traffic citations the reward has been 04/21/80 **HEIGHT:5'9"** increased to \$15,000. **RACE:** White **SEX:** Male **DOB:**



WEIGHT: 180 lbs. **AKA:** Rico Leo Torres **SMT:** Tattoos: "Sandra" on left side of chest; female figure, money bag, and gun in center of abdomen; "79", dragon, faces, tower, and clown in center of back; "Rico" on back of neck **Gang(s):** Graffitilka:9422 Nottingham Drive **lkc** :El Paso, Texas **Caution:** Subject should be considered ARMED and DANGEROUS!

DETAILS: Ricco Leo **TORRES** is a native of Santa Clara, California, and is a member of the Barrio Azteca prison gang. He has been arrested 13 times and charged with 28 offenses since 1997. In 2003, he was arrested for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and served two years in prison.

On January 27, 2011, **TORRES** and two associates were arrested by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office during a cocaine transaction. **TORRES** absconded prior to being indicted.

On May 6, 2011, the El Paso District Attorney's Office issued a Capias Writ for **TORRES'** arrest for Dangerous Drugs.

TORRES has family living in the El Paso, Texas area. He has never held a legitimate paying job. <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/texas10mostwanted/>

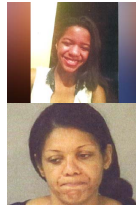
2. Crime Update:

Temple - Four men, 24-year-old Steven James Robinson, 25-year-old Calvin Sharard Davis, 21-year-old Darryl Marcis Morrison and 29-year-old Freddie Lee Westbrook were all taken into custody and charged with burglary of a habitation after they were caught with stolen property at around 10:20 p.m. Monday night.

The witnesses saw and told police that several suspects had removed property from a home in the 1000 block of S. 19th St. and put them into a vehicle, and that they knew the owner of the burglarized home.

Police were able to match the vehicle's description during a traffic stop in the 400 block of South 11th St., where they found several of the stolen items.

Cedar Hill - Police are searching for 12-year-old Summer Brown and 43-year-old Lisa Elizabeth Brown, the abductor. Officials believe the missing child is in grave or immediate danger.



RACE: Black **SEX:** Female **HGT:** 5'6" **WGT:** 90lbs **HAIR:** Black **EYES:** Brown

She was last seen wearing a black tank top and black basketball shorts.

Police are also looking for the suspect, Lisa Elizabeth Brown, **RACE:** Black **SEX:** Female **HGT:** 5'8" **WGT:** 120lbs **HAIR:** Black **EYES:** Brown. The suspect was last seen wearing a black blazer and a light green shirt.

The suspect and the missing child were last seen in a gray 2006 Ford Expedition with a Texas temporary license plate number of 86p-3357.

If you have any information regarding the abduction, call the Cedar Hill Police Department at 972 230-5785.

3. An Interview With A Thief - "Today we are honored to welcome 'John Q. X'. to our pressroom for a candid discussion about what makes and motivates the professional burglar.

Q: "Welcome Mr. X.... uh... may I call you John?"

A: "Just X. I'm still on probation and I wouldn't want any former colleagues to misunderstand my objectives talking to you."

Q: "Good enough. So why don't you start by telling us something about yourself, your history, where were you born or are from, and how old were you when you started stealing?"

A: "I'm told I was born in Austin but from the time I can remember, me and my Mom lived in the Dallas area.

My Mom said my Dad was dead. I was about 12 when I found out that was a lie. Anyway, uh... he was in Huntsville on a drug rap and her lie pissed me off so bad I just had to get out of there. I guess that's about the time I started taking things - first, just to eat or stay warm but later, to buy drugs to sell or use for myself."

Q: "Tell us how you got started in your current career choice."

A: "Oh, I guess.... well, uh.. In my teens I was more vulnerable and identified with, lets just say, a group with questionable scruples. I was just a common sneak thief, and by the time I was 21 I did three years in prison for multiple counts of burglary.

You could say I learned my lesson, uh...finished rehab, but I'm still on parole so for now those days are behind me. I've learned that my time is better spent staying out of jail by helping to prevent home burglaries rather than committing them. My own personal experiences have enabled me to provide valuable insight into how you can protect your home and lower your chances of being victims of burglary."

Q: "So, describe for us the considerations for planning a burglary."

A: "Well, uh...in rehab I learned that to change I had to understand what motivates a burglar and to resist those impulses not to be tempted; in my new job there are lots of temptations and opportunity. But to answer your question, there are only three parts to the criminal mind, the desire to commit the crime, the ability to commit the crime and the opportunity to commit the crime."

Q: "I see, uhm... You mentioned ample opportunity for you, uh.... That being the case, how do you resolve that conflict without a relapse to your old 'habits'?"

A: "You as a homeowner have to challenge the opportunity. Though I'm still capable, the fewer opportunities I see the easier it is for me to resist any strong desire to commit a crime. Be mindful that there are no foolproof safeguards to ensure that a determined burglar won't be able to access your home while you're away."

Q: "How do you 'case a joint' and what do you look for in your 'marks'?"

A: "A good thief can find out a lot about your habits over the social media. Like when your kid posts your vacation on their Facebook.

If possible, I'd look in your windows for signs that you're home and



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There are a lot of techniques and methods besides 'cruising the neighborhood' though. I might have left a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it took for you to remove it, and uh....yes, I really did look for newspapers piled up on the driveway.

I never took a day off because of bad weather. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door.... that's an open invitation and the bad weather just about assures the likelihood there won't be people about as witnesses.

One of the best methods is entering the house on the homeowner's invitation. I might have had a job cleaning carpets, as a painter or a plumber fixing your faucet, be part of a crew delivering your new refrigerator, or maybe working in your yard. I might have asked to use the bathroom then unlatched the window to make my return a little easier. I would always glance at the calendar on the 'fridge to check out your schedule - when you're at work or have that doctor's appointment or be out-of-town for the week. And, uh...all I would need is a few seconds to scope-out your security system, how easy and where to enter the home and where the valuables are hidden.

Or, maybe I'd carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I would do my best to never look like a crook.

I would always knock first. If you answered, I'd ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. If you don't answer when I knocked, I may try the door. Occasionally, I would hit the jackpot and walk right in!

To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To a burglar, that's a piece-of-cake and a 'hide-a-key' is even easier pick'ns.

Or, I could break a window to get in. Uh..., even if it makes a little noise your neighbor might hear one loud sound and stop what he's doing to wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

A careful touch to the lawn and flowers is a 'tell' that there are lots of nice things inside. Those playthings in the yard for your kids always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have."

Q: "What would you recommend... or, from your point of view, what are the various means homeowners can use to minimize the opportunity?"

A: "If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where a burglar could see whether the alarm is set.

A good security company alarms the window over the kitchen sink and the windows on the second floor, which is often access to the master bedroom (and your jewelry). Motion detectors, up there, make it much more difficult.

I would always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinets and look in bathroom vanity drawers where people often hide their good stuff so, uh....don't consider those as secret, secure places.

Unless there's a laptop or video game in plain sight, I would almost never search kids' rooms because the really good stuff is in the master bedroom."

Q: "What about a home safe? Would you risk breaking into a safe?"

A: "No, I wouldn't have had enough time to break into the safe. But, if it were not bolted down, I'd would have taken it with me."

Q: "OK... these are all good passive measures, but what active measures can a homeowner use as a deterrent?"

A: "The sound of a TV or radio can be a better deterrent than an alarm system. Leave it on when you're gone.

The two things I hate most are noisy dogs and nosy neighbors. You know, uh....always looking out the window to see who's there.

Also, I could never understand why someone would pay all that money for a fancy alarm system then leave their house without setting it. (Muffled chuckle)...and they say us crooks are stupid!"

Q: "Can you summarize what measures a homeowner can take before a would-be burglar approaches a home?"

A: "You have to think in terms of a criminal, not in terms of a property owner, but there are many simple ways homeowners can deter would-be criminals before they ever approach a home.

I would avoid places with video surveillance cameras in plain view. Uh... getting "caught on tape" is not only embarrassing... it's definitely a career stopper when the cops see it.

Anything that will slow a burglar's entry into your home or draw attention while they are trying is a deterrent. Burglars want to get in and get out easily without arousing suspicion and do not like confrontation.

Bougainvillea or some other thorny plant under a first-floor window could send the signal that your home is too much trouble for a burglar who just wants to get in and out.

Keep shrubbery well maintained to make your home visible to neighbors and potential witnesses and window latches locked. Reinforced sliding-glass doors and entry points inside attached garages and other safeguards aren't 100% impenetrable, but secure enough to slow-down or call attention to a break-in attempt.

Eliminating dark areas with additional lights will limit hiding spaces and create potential exposure."

Q: "What are some of deterrents to your choosing one 'target' over another?"

A: "Well, these simple measures could not only deter burglars when they see evidence of it from outside your house, but also provide you with adequate warning if they enter your house when you are sleeping.

You could also consider installing a CCTV system to allow you to see who is arriving in your driveway or walking around the side of your house without having to go outside. This footage can also help with police investigations if these burglars do manage to get inside. Installing signage about your alarm system on the outside of your home is an excellent preventative measure.

Get a dog. Dogs are not only great companions but they are very protective of their space when strangers enter. The presence of a barking dog (even just a small but loud one!) can scare a burglar away from your property.

An obvious but sometimes forgotten measure - close all of your doors and windows when you leave your house and install quality security locks. These will slow down any intruders and make it more difficult for them to enter your home."

"Great advice! On behalf of our readers, thank you Mr. X for taking the time out of your day for an candid dialogue about a subject that all of us will pay more attention to."

Please refer to the supplemental page for a more detailed discussion.

(Source: William Ross from a column by Desiree Stennett, Orlando Sentinel)

4. On The Horizon - Community Leadership Conference Planned:

As summer draws nearer increasing the risks of severe weather and wildfires, some of you will get the opportunity to attend a Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference. The focus will be Disaster Relief, Planning and Preparation. The time/place will soon be announced by invitation. Looking forward to see you soon. *The WPOA NW Coordinator.*