

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 improve this effort are welcome.

Now you can stay better informed on the most current local crime by visiting: <http://raidsonline.com/>

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of: October, 2012:

[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) (Attached)

If you have any information regarding those 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).



AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Reginald O'Keith WILLIAMS RACE: Black SEX: Male DOB: 8/8/1969 12:00:00 AM HEIGHT: 5'06" WEIGHT: 190 lbs. AKA: Reggie Williams, Reginald Williams SMT: None FBI #: 253173HA6 SID #: TX03733584 TDC #: 454928A WANTED FOR: Parole Violation, Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

CCH: Aggravated Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault of a Child, Sexual Assault I.K.A: 10950 Beaumont Highway I.K.C: Houston, Texas

In 1986, Reginald O'Keith WILLIAMS sexually assaulted a woman at the municipal park in Freeport, Texas. After the assault, WILLIAMS fled the scene on foot. A few months later, he sexually assaulted a juvenile male and an adult male. During both offenses, WILLIAMS physically assaulted the victims and threatened to use additional force. He absconded from parole in 2001.

On January 2, 2001, a warrant was issued for WILLIAMS' arrest for Parole Violation (original offenses: Aggravated Sexual Assault and Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child).

On April 24, 2001, the Harris County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

WILLIAMS has worked jobs in the past as a laborer and a cook, for which he holds a cooking certificate from the Gulf Coast Training Center. <http://www.dps.texas.gov>

2. Crime Update:

Harker Heights - Timely information provided by an alert resident of an incident, 2 p.m. Wednesday, at 1600 Indian Trail, led to the arrest of Marcus Robinson, Michael Bright and Milton Peoples for Attempted Burglary of a Habitation. Police Chief Mike Gentry said, "The willingness of members of the public to be observant and help police is invaluable in protecting the community."

Killeen - Police arrested a man suspected of burglary of a home at 2506 Pixton Dr., on October 3. Israel Marcus Owen Webster was identified after he attempted to pawn some items he was suspected of stealing. The stolen items included a laptop computer, video games, a rifle, and various electronics. The owner provided the serial number for the stolen laptop. A pawn search revealed that Webster had pawned the laptop the same day of the theft, where he was identified from a photo by the shop owner.

Fort Hood - Sgt. Wade Allen Perkins and his ex-wife Sgt. Kimberly Epperson face child pornography charges for recording the molestation of a 3-year-old boy. The incident occurred at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, where the couple is accused of using images of the boy being abused and other activities as part of their sexual activity. (Source: KXXV.Com)

3. **Gangs, Their Threat to Society and Good Order** - The Department of Justice estimates there are approximately 27,900 gangs, with 774,000 members, impacting communities across the United States. Incarceration of gang members often does little to disrupt their activities, since high-ranking gang members are often able to exert their power on the street from within prison. Gangs are associating with organized crime entities, such as Mexican drug organizations, Asian criminal groups and Russian organized crime groups. Many different ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups make up gangs, and in some communities, are attributed to as much as 60 percent of criminal activity. A number of well-known, widespread gangs such as the Crips, the Bloods and 18th Street originated in LA Gangs remain the primary distributors of drugs throughout the U.S

Nearly one-third of all the nations' cities, suburban towns and rural areas experience gang problems involved in everything from selling drugs to homicide. Cities like San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin are all well funded and staffed to set up anti-gang departments, out-reach, education and training programs to minimize, contain or control the violence; assets which are often not available in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas. Consequently, many gangs flee to smaller towns because they don't feel like the police are as skilled or staffed to interfere with their criminal activities.

According to the Texas Gang Threat Assessment published in 2011, there are 100,000 gang members operating in all regions of the state. And, no longer confined to the inner-city, gangs are growing in Central Texas. A recent eruption of gang violence in Alice, TX., has forced people to reconsider living there. Other cities and small towns across the Coastal Bend have experienced an increase in drive-bys, gang graffiti and drug activity.

The violence that put Alice residence on edge started when a man, who later died, was shot in the head while he was standing outside his home. A high-speed vehicle chase resulted in a crash leaving 3 fatalities and one casualty in critical condition. That same week, there was a retaliatory shooting in which four were charged with murder and several others were charged with tampering with evidence and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Mounting evidence began when school officials started seeing an increase in graffiti and teens displaying gang signs. To gang members, graffiti is a marking of territorial boundaries and serves as a warning or challenge to a rival gang. The city formed a gang unit to document gang related information and get pictures of tattoos. Since 2007, Alice police have reported 210 known gang members to a statewide database. The number grew from two gang members reported in 2007 and three in 2008 to 50 in 2010, 97 in 2011 and 58 in 2012.

Gang activity in smaller towns is more common than most people believe. Many smaller-town police forces are now training officers and working with bigger agencies to track gang activity. The Texas DPS also keeps a statewide database with known gang members. Corpus Christi's database, for example, is focused on the region and includes information on both known and suspected gang members. This makes access of this type of information to smaller towns easier. Small-town residents also tend to know their neighbors, pay attention when a stranger moves in, and are more likely to alert police to anything suspicious. Sometimes just acting on a suspicion helps the police to start building a case.

Even Temple and Killeen are experiencing a rise in gang activity and violence that, until recently, was rarely reported. Gangs and narcotics seem to go hand in hand and are a focus of a majority of the crimes committed in Killeen where there are approximately 25 different gangs.

Gangs acknowledge the advantage of "strength in numbers" and target everyone from middle-schoolers to young adults and like to target juveniles, because they're easily influenced and want to belong to a group. Some gang members start at an even earlier age because they know that



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whatever the child under thirteen does, he or she cannot go to jail. It's not that the gangs are actively recruiting at that level but many get brought in by family members already in a gang. Prison gangs are a big influence, and a lot of juveniles mimic what they see on television.

Gang members tend to use violence for notoriety among their "peers" and to spark fear or respect among rival gangs. Several recent incidents have brought small-town gang activity to the forefront: A gang member placed on the state's most wanted fugitives list in August is from Ingleside, a town of 9,000 residents. A man with prison gang tattoos arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault in March while out on bail for a murder charge is from Mathis, population 5,000. A shootout between gang members erupted in July, leaving four men dead in Alice, a city with 19,000 residents. James Johnson III, 16, died at the hands of three Killeen gang members in 2009. His body was found wrapped in plastic bags underneath an old mattress on the side of the road just outside of Troy. Investigators believe his body had been there about a week.

Known gang members cannot legally carry a gun, even if they've never been charged with a crime. Law enforcement will take pictures of suspected gang members' tattoos if they give permission or are being detained for a suspected crime. Law enforcement can label someone a gang member if that person meets two of the following criteria: A self-admission of criminal street gang membership; Identification as a criminal street gang member by a reliable informant or other individual, or a corroborated identification as a criminal street gang member by an informant or other individual of unknown reliability; Evidence that the individual frequents a documented area of a criminal street gang, associates with known criminal street gang members, and uses criminal street gang dress, hand signals, tattoos or symbols; Evidence that the individual has been arrested or taken into custody with known criminal street gang members for an offense or conduct consistent with criminal street gang activity.

Everyone must work toward solutions to the gang problem. The first step in prevention is to **Be Informed**; Learn about gangs, gang members and their activities. Citizens armed with basic knowledge of prevention (**awareness-enforcement-education**) are better able to avoid becoming victims of gang violence. These gang information pages are just a start... Do your research, talk and network with other parents as well as educators and police. As you become more educated and informed, share the information and work to develop greater awareness of street gangs within your community.

Contact your local law enforcement agency for up-to-date gang information. A gang's power increases through their use of fear and violence to intimidate rival gangs and citizens alike. This tactic can be countered by citizen action groups such as **Neighborhood Watch**. A neighborhood that is united in their goal to stop gang crime and violence can be an effective force in curbing gangs.

When gang incidents occur in your neighborhood, **Cooperate With Your Local Police Department**. Your help may prevent others from becoming victims of gang violence. Any information about gang crimes, wanted suspects or any violent gang activity should be reported to local police. Remember, fighting crime and dealing directly with violent gang members are best left to experts trained to handle dangerous situations.

Youths loitering after school or "hanging out" provide a breeding ground for gangs. **Help Support Your Community** by advocating to young people alternatives to gang involvement. This includes organized activities for children and teenagers through recreation departments, schools, churches and youth organizations. Communities should seek

support from local businesses and industries to employ and train youths.

Educators are Especially Important in shaping a child's life. Like parents, an educator must show the child that they not only care about them as individuals, but also, about the future that lies ahead of each of them.

Schools Should Not Allow gang clothing, colors, or gang signs and symbols to be worn or displayed on school grounds. "Zero tolerance" is a policy adopted by many school districts. Additionally, administrators and educators need to keep parents "in the loop" and communication with parents regarding potential gang involvement is crucial.

Classroom Discussions about gangs are an excellent means to convey the proper message to the students. These discussions can lead to a real learning experience, not only for students, but for educators as well. Like the parents, the educator, without some knowledge as to how to identify gangs, will not recognize signs of gang activity and therefore lose a valuable tool; a tool or aid that not only will assist in communications and interactions with students, but with other educators, parents and law enforcement.

Parents, However, Are The First Lines of defense in combating the gang problem. Your child needs parental interaction to show him or her that you really do love him and you care about his welfare. Youths join gangs for a variety of reasons. Many join because they do not have, or do not feel like they have, a family life. A gang promises to give this feeling of "family" to the youth. Other youths join gangs due to peer pressure, excitement, money, or intimidation. Whatever the reason, a parent needs to recognize the identifiers and telltale signs of gang membership in order to make every possible attempt to keep the youth in, or return him to, his "real family." Authorities suggest talking to them and monitoring their actions and checking-out who and where they like to "hang-out". Be wary of any sudden behavioral changes, especially with grades. Look out for a change in friends, especially if your child has an entire new spectrum of friends coming in, and be cautious if your child only wants to wear one color or is refusing to wear a certain color. If you suspect your child is being recruited by a gang call, you local police. Finally as parents, we need to help our children feel safe, self confident and respected:

- Spend quality time with your children.
- Become involved with your children's school activities.
- Establish rules, set limits and be consistent. Know where your children are at all times.
- Encourage good study habits.
- Become a model of self-esteem that your children will want to emulate.
- Respect you children's feelings and attitudes, and help them develop a strong sense of self-esteem.
- Watch for negative influences that might lead to abuse, gang membership or delinquent behavior. (Sources: 2008 National Youth Gang Survey).

4. On The Horizon - The Holidays, The Period Reserved for Peace and Goodwill, are Nearly Upon Us but, That Won't Stop Criminals.

Today's topic, gangs and gang violence, establishes the segue to my next column - Flash Mobs and Mob Violence. The holiday shopping season and conditions, crowds, relaxed security and vigilance, and traffic impeding any reasonable response for law enforcement to an emergency, is the perfect setting for chaos and mob-incited riots.

Gang and "flash" mob violence seems spontaneous and is on the rise. In the next issue I will expose the phenomenon for the crime that it is and what to do if you happen to be victim of gang or flash-mob assault.