

## Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Labor Day 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.

Summer may be just about over, nonetheless, there is an average 15% increase in the number of traffic accidents likely to occur over this holiday weekend than any other. Read why.

### 1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of August 29, 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 week's fugitives from justice are known to have recent addresses in Temple: Justin Bryant, 23, is a 5'9", 201 lb., white male that is wanted for Assault on a Public Servant; 20 y/o Braxton Severson is a 6', 160 lb, W/M wanted for Criminal Mischief; 5'11", 120 lbs; Anthony Tame is a 25 y/o W/M wanted for Aggravated Assault; and Amber Guthrie, is a 32 y/o, W/F, that is 5'2" and 170 lbs., wanted for Drug Possession.

These two: Eugene Michael, 22 y/o, 5'10", 150 lbs, is a W/M wanted for Debt and Credit Card Abuse; Mathew Scott is 35, 6'0", 190 lbs is wanted for Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon are from Killeen.

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:

Doug Otis Sims. Race: White, Sex: Male, DOB: 11/12/1980, Height: 5'11", Weight: 190 lbs., SMT: Cut scars on back and chest. Tattoos: "Andrew Samuel"/tribal art on inside lower left leg; tribal art on right hand; and tribal band on upper left arm. Wanted for: Sex Offender Registration Violation, Burglary of a Habitation. CCH: Sexual Assault of Child, Assault Causes Bodily Injury, Injury to Child/Elderly/Disabled, Theft of Property, Possession Of Marijuana, Fail To Comply With Sex Offender Registration, Evade Arrest Using Vehicle, Fail To Identify, DWI, and Traffic Violations.

Details: Sims was apprehended on 08/26/13 in Armstrong County, by the Armstrong County SO.

CAUTION: Subject should be considered armed and dangerous!

(Source: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/texas10mostwanted/>)

### 2. Crime Update:

**Harker Heights** - A man and woman are behind bars after being arrested in connection with a shooting that took place in Harker Heights on July 28. Kevin Daryl Grinton II, 22, was arrested and charged with 2 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and Genesis N. Gadson was arrested on an outstanding warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on August 1.

**Killeen** - Tommy Leroy Atkins, 25, from Chicago, was arrested Saturday on two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (handgun). Killeen police report Atkins and his girlfriend were involved in an argument Friday morning at a home in the 300 block of Currie in Killeen.

Also in Killeen, after a two year investigation Donald Lee Mitchell Jr. was arrested for the involvement in the shooting death of Dominic

Allen Davis, 41, near the intersection of Conder Street and Zephyr Road on August 23, 2011.

Officers responded to a report of shots fired and found Davis with two wounds to the torso inside a vehicle that had crashed through a fence and into the backyard of a home.

Davis was pronounced dead after being transported to the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

### 3. The Wildfire Season Is Far From Over - What You Can Do To

**Minimize The Risk:** Living near forests or any fire-prone area requires preventive steps to limit damage from wildfires. Communitywide programs can also significantly reduce wildfire threats.

If you live within a mile of forests or any fire-prone landscape - here are seven ways you can help your community become "fire adapted":

1) **Be aware and prepared** - Housing densities continue to increase in fire-risk areas. Understand that wildfires are a natural, recurring part of our environment but you need to take adequate precautions. Whatever the cause, when you smell smoke, it's much too late to unroll your garden hose to water down the shingles.

2) **Create a 'personal wildfire defense zone'** - Take simple steps to protect your home and family, starting with these:

- Create at least a three-to five-foot fire-free zone around your home and other structures.
- Remove all potential ignition sources such as pine needles, leaves, woodpiles, propane tanks, and so forth from within that zone.
- Clear gutters, eaves, and decks of leaves and debris.
- Remove all tree limbs overhanging your house and remove lower limbs that could allow a ground fire to climb to upper limbs.
- Remove dead material and keep trees and shrubs pruned and well spaced to slow an approaching wildfire.
- Choose less fire-prone deciduous trees rather than evergreens for planting near your home.
- Plant fire-resistant vegetation, keep lawns green and watered or use rock gardens and xeriscapes to serve as firebreaks.
- Use nonflammable (Class A) roofing materials, and install glass skylights (not plastic ones).
- Use wide driveways and nonflammable walkways to slow or stop wildfire.

3) **Have a written evacuation plan** - Proactive action on the part of homeowners is critical because when a wildfire occurs, it might be impossible for firefighters to reach and protect all individual properties; homeowners could be left to face a wildfire on their own - and could be forced to evacuate:

- Write an evacuation plan shared with all family members and preferably with neighbors, too.
- Decide on family gathering points and alternative evacuation routes that may be decided by wind and fire directions.
- Keep a list of important papers, purses and wallets, cellphones, laptops, personal belongings, animals, food, water, blankets, and other items you would want to take with you.
- Ensure that at least one dependable vehicle is always gassed up and ready to roll.
- List phone numbers including emergency services to inform people when you evacuate and where you're headed.

4) **Support a communitywide wildfire strategy** - Homeowners are the first line of defense to protect their property and loved ones. But, reducing the loss of lives, property, infrastructure, and natural resources from wildfires depends on long-term community action. This action begins with efforts to become a "fire adapted" community:

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- Accept fire as a part of the surrounding landscape.
- Reduce the risk of brush, grass, and forest fires.
- Agree on a community-wide pre-fire strategy as well as actions, to reduce risks and thus costs.
- Work together to remove fuels, reduce ignition sources, modify structures, prepare the larger landscape for fire, and build strong local response capability.
- Use codes and ordinances where possible, develop internal safety zones, build external fuel buffers, use preventive education, and form partnerships to address hurdles that can deter some people from participating in fire-risk reduction activities.

5) **Write a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** - As a homeowner, you can do your part by supporting new local zoning ordinances and codes to enforce the following:

- Mandatory defensible-space standards, as listed in Step 2 to create a wildfire defense zone.
- Wildfire review processes for planned developments.
- Subdivision regulations.
- Development plan standards applied to both existing and planned new developments.
- Realtor disclosure of wildfire hazard zones.
- Water availability requirements.
- Access for firefighting equipment.
- Evacuation plans for residents.
- Insurance incentives for reducing risks in home ignition zones.

6) **Continue to educate your family, neighbors, and community** - Wildfire research has shown that individuals and families can protect their properties against wildfires by addressing three clear sources of vulnerability: the home or business itself, the landscaping near a building, and the general vegetation in the area surrounding the building. Each of these sources can be dealt with through maintenance, structural improvements, and vegetation control. Many of these projects are affordable and can be done in a weekend.

For detailed checklists for protecting your home from wildfire visit: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/wf-protection.html>.

7) **Use wildfire resources on the Web** - National and state wildfire policies continue to evolve. In the past, authorities relied on suppressing fires. Today, they are more inclined to let smaller fires burn. These new pro-fire policies and "prescribed burns" are designed to avoid a buildup of flammable vegetation that results in less frequent but more intense fires.

For the latest information, visit websites including these:

- Fire Adapted Communities Coalition
- National Fire Protection Association

- Firewise Communities
- International Association of Fire Chiefs' "Ready, Set, Go!" program
- Institute for Business & Home Safety
- "Wildfire, Wildland, and People: Understanding and Preparing for Wildfire," the US Forest Service's 2013 40-page report (pdf)

More states and communities now offer direct support to homeowners, such as providing free home fire-risk inspections and free or cost-shared clearing, chipping, and disposal of debris.

The US Forest Service provides a comprehensive database of state and local wildfire hazard mitigation programs (though it hasn't been updated since January 2010 because of budget constraints).

(Source: Christian Science Monitor, courtesy of the US Forest Service report Wildfire, Wildlands, and People: Understanding and Preparing for Wildfire and other sources.)

4. **On The Horizon - Labor Day weekend is one of the busiest and deadliest times on U.S. roadways:** The National Safety Council estimate traffic fatalities for the upcoming Labor Day weekend to exceed those that occur during similar non-holiday periods by 14.5%.

A surprising portion of these fatalities are a result of vehicle occupants not wearing their seat belts. More troubling is that the majority of these fatal collisions are caused by impaired drivers; particularly at risk are young impaired drivers.

Law enforcement officials will be looking for anyone appearing to be driving under the influence. So, if you are drinking, do not drive; designate a non-drinking driver or plan for alternative transportation.

Invitations to this year's National Night Out for October 1st, 2013, from 6 til 8 P.M., have been mailed. If you didn't get an invite, don't worry! If you're a subscriber to this newsletter or if Sparta Volunteer Fire Department is your primary responder, then get on over to the Woodlake tennis courts and enjoy an evening of good music, conversation, and FOOD!

This year's agenda includes demonstrations of wireless Video Surveillance System and lighting, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and emergency First Aid.

In exchange for your generous donations to help minimize their cost for training and equipment, the SVFD has graciously offered to prepare and serve BBQ.

We've never been disappointed with the musical interpretations of your favorite county and pop artists from Mike & Angela Mahler of *Wild Horses*.

A Bell County Deputy Sheriff will be available to answer your questions about crime and home security.

Expect to receive an invite to attend a Neighborhood Watch Leadership Conference in the next few weeks.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. *The WPOA NW Coordinator.*