



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

St. Paddy's Day Issue



WHY CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland, is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March, the traditional date of his death (c. AD 385-461).

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century to commemorate Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, is mostly observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.

Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. The Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption - greatly appreciated.

On St Patrick's Day it is customary to wear shamrocks and/or green clothing or accessories because it is believed that St Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish.

Critics argue that Saint Patrick's Day celebrations have become too commercialized and foster negative stereotypes of the Irish.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (C.E.R.T.) STATUS UPDATE

The C.E.R.T. program, introduction and basic course, Phase I, "Crawl", contains materials, references, videos and vignettes available at FEMA and USAonWatch.com, is completed in its "beta" version 1.1 (Jan'16) and has been provided to a control group for validation.

There is some fine-tuning in areas of control and means of distribution before it's available for access to the community.

Response and feedback relative to the format, applicability and adaptability has been mostly positive. The skeptics question whether the Woodlake community is ready, willing and agreeable, or have any interest in participating in CERT.

Those concerns are warranted; no different than any other community, people have lives to live and are not welcome to more "mandatory" things when there's work, school and other interests. What is "value added" getting involved compared to the value of the already limited personal time available? And lastly, if the odds of a disaster are so miniscule, it's nonsensical to waste time and money on a program (CERT) that we would probably never have a need for. They argue that fire or windstorms may be more likely, but "central Texas is the least likely locale than

most areas of the country to experience a major disaster".

In response to these points (the major one missed), we only need to look back a few weeks ago when more than 20 tornadoes ripped through communities across the Midwest. So many that the National Weather Service declared "2017 is the deadliest start for tornadoes in 9 years".

Remarkably, the storms accounted for only 4 deaths but there were hundreds reported injured and as many homes and structures destroyed from Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

After the disasters, governors toured damaged towns and vowed to help citizens in every step of the lengthy recovery. But state and local emergency services are just not able to respond to every disaster scene. Aside from immediate response, fire, rescue, police or EMS, in some areas it might be days before comfort and convenience, and recovery teams are available.

Strong winds spawned by the same storm system moved further to the northeast to interrupt power to more than 40,000 customers across New York, creating flight delays at La Guardia Airport and runway damage by a lightning strike.

Around February 20th, the National Weather Service confirmed that at least four six tornadoes hit San Antonio. Only 5 minor injuries were reported, but the severe storms that ripped through the southern central Texas neighborhoods left behind more than 150 homes damaged or destroyed and 46,000 homes and business without power.

Finally, as early as January 16, the NWS confirmed at least 4 tornadoes touched down late, Sunday the 19th, in North Texas.

The four confirmed tornadoes, including at least two EF-1 and an EF-0 tornadoes were spawned from a single long-track super cell thunderstorm that moved across Coryell, Bosque, Hill and Tarrant counties.

The resultant aftermath accounted for at least 30 homes damaged and 33,000 customers losing power on Sunday night. Damage from that storm and additional tornadoes were reported in Limestone and Dallas County.

The low probability that your home catches fire or that your car may become involved in an

accident doesn't deter you from getting or the finance company requiring you to have insurance. Likewise there is some consolation that "if not when" yours or your or a neighbor's home is destroyed by any number of catastrophic events, someone nearby is prepared to provide immediate assistance, search and rescue and emergency medical aid until help arrives.

Participation in CERT is completely voluntary. Phase I, "Crawl" is designed to introduce the principles of leadership, basic medical aid, preparedness, communications, fire prevention and safety and search and rescue for each family.

Furthermore, no deadlines, suspense or timetables have been established. With the primary objective of education as the ultimate goal, in reality, there is no expectation of equipping a "full-up" CERT anytime within the near future.

BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF: MARCH 15th, 2017



Highlighting this issue's deperados is: Dariel Allen, 28, from Killeen.

Allen is a B/M who stands 6'2", weighs 205 lbs., and has BRO Eyes and BLK Hair, Wanted For: Robbery

FROM AUSTIN - A cash reward of \$7500 is being offered for information leading to the capture of: Agapito Salinas, 45, Wanted Since 4/14 For: Parole Violation; Aggravated Robbery. **Details:** Hgt. 5' 9", Wgt: 185 lbs., **SMT:** Tattoos of teardrops on both of his upper cheeks near his eyes; tattoo of a cross on the center of his forehead; tattoo of a star on his chin;



tattoos neck, chest, hands, arms, and legs. **AKAs:** "Pito," **Gangs:** Texas Syndicate. LKA: Brownsville, TX and the state of Georgia.

All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous. For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: dps.texas.gov/index.htm



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