



# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter April "Fools" Day Issue

## WHY HAVE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> IF EVERYTHING IS PERCEIVED AS A PRANK?

The custom of setting aside a day for the playing of harmless pranks upon one's neighbor is recognized everywhere.

It's commonly believed that there is a copying error in the extant manuscripts of Chaucer, originally read; "Syn March was gon." Meaning the 32<sup>nd</sup> day after March, i.e. 2 May, the anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia, which took place in 1381. Readers apparently misunderstood this line to mean, "32 March", i.e. April 1. In Chaucer's tale, a fox tricks the vain cock Chauntecleer.

The custom might also have originated from a passage by the French poet Eloy d'Amerval referring to a poisson d'avril (April fool, literally "Fish of April"), from 1539.

Or, from the Flemish poet, Eduard de Dene, who wrote of a nobleman that sent his servants on foolish errands on April 1, 1508.

Since April 1<sup>st</sup> has been referred to as: "Foolish holy day", John Aubrey, 1698, when several people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to "see the Lions washed"; or that those who celebrated New Years on March 25<sup>th</sup> during the Middle Ages (a week long celebration that ended on April 1<sup>st</sup>), where mocked by those who celebrated New Years on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Regardless of the celebrated reason for the historical origins of the In the Netherlands, the origin of April Fools' Day is often attributed to the Dutch victory at Brielle in 1572, where the Spanish Duke Álvarez de Toledo was defeated. "Op 1 april verloor Alva zijn bril." is a Dutch proverb, which can be translated to: "On the first of April, Alva lost his glasses." In this case, the glasses ("bril" in Dutch) serve as a metaphor for Brielle. This theory, however, provides no explanation for the international celebration of April Fools' Day.

## IS THE SUDDEN UP-TICK OF CRIME IN KILLEEN HAVE ANY RELEVANCE?

Anyone who pays attention to the local news might be alarmed because of the perception of rapidly rising crime rates in the city of Killeen. Every day the headlines announce yet another murder, shooting or robbery. One's first impression of that would be accurate were it not for the dramatic increase in the city's population.

Since 2010, the city limits have grown from 53.6 to a little over 54 square miles, but the population has grown nearly 54% since 2000. There is,

naturally, more crime to report. The past 5 years, Killeen's annual population growth has been a steady 3.5 - 4%, growing from an estimated 140,806 in 2015 to 145,030 in 2016. With regard to crimes of violence (homicide, robbery, aggravated assault) very little change in the marginal rates was evident. Residential burglary, a crime of opportunity, however, grew at a rate of approximately 7.6 incidents/1000 residents.

This is a seriously significant, and if you happen to be a Killeen resident, an alarming increase. This is also a harbinger for the residents of Belton and the Sparta Valley area. As witnessed in the past, trends in criminal enterprises (burglary of vehicle/residence, robbery and theft) seem to migrate easterly.

CRIME STATS IN KILLEEN:		
1/1/15 - 12/31/15		1/1/16 - 12/31/16
Homicides - 13 = .092/1K		14 = .096/1K
Robbery - 248 = 1.76/1K		337 = 2.3/1K
Aggravated Assault - 613 = 4.35/1K		687 = 4.7/1K
Burglary, Residential - 135 = .96/1K 1254 = 145.8/1K		

## BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF: MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017



**Dearies Donta McCallister**, 22, from Harker Heights, is this issue's "Fugitive of the Month." McCallister is a B/M with Brown Eyes and Black Hair who stands 6'4" tall and weighs 180 lbs. He is Wanted For: Burglary of a Habitation.

**FROM AUSTIN** - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Jose Mario Lopez, 59, to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders list, and a cash reward up to \$3,000 is offered for information leading to his capture. Lopez is wanted for parole violation and failure to register as a sex offender.



**Details:** Ht: 5'7", Wgt: 180 lbs. SMT: tattoo of a cross on his left hand; tattoos on his upper arms, left forearm and back. AKA: "Mario" Lopez. LKA: San Patricio and Nueces counties, including the cities of Corpus Christi, Edroy, and Odem.

In January 2017, Lopez knowingly and intentionally cut off his ankle monitor and absconded from a Houston facility, where he had been placed in November 2016. In 1983, Lopez was convicted in San Patricio County of burglary of habitation with the intent to commit a sex offense. He subsequently received a 70-year prison sentence, and was released on parole in 2015 and required to register as a sex offender for life. For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at:

<http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=357>.

**TORNADO SEASON IS UPON US!  
PLEASE REFER TO FEMA'S "4 STEP"  
GUIDE TO TORNADO  
PREPAREDNESS (ATTACHED)**