

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## BELTON LAKE ABOVE SEASONAL LEVEL BY TWELVE FEET.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has predicted that facilities on Lake Belton may not be reopened until Memorial Day, 2017.

There is a lot of cleaning-up, repairs and reconstruction before any of the facilities will be usable again.

For example, Temple Lake Park is apparently almost a total loss. Concrete block and thin wall structures, not meant to be under water, have collapsed on themselves due to the wave action from the flood.

Some boat ramps on Stillhouse Hollow Lake have reopened mid July at Dana Peak Park, and at Rivers Bend Park.

As of publication of this issue, Lake Belton is at 600 feet. Still up 12 feet from its regular conservation level of 594 feet. During the peak of the summer, normal evaporation occurs at a rate of approximately 4" per day. The water level goes down about 1" every three to four days. Even getting little rain the past month, the Corps says it will be mid-to-late August before they can even attempt to access the infrastructure on Lake Belton. (Source: [ktemnews.com](http://ktemnews.com))

## MOST WANTED BELL/LAMPASAS COUNTY AS OF: JULY 31<sup>st</sup>, '16

The Fugitive featured in this issue from Killeen is: Michael Jarmon, a 26 year-old B/M with Brown Eyes and Brown Hair who is 5'9" Tall and 162 lbs, Wanted For: Burglary of a Habitation.



Three Fugitives: Xavier Wilson, Danica James and Deann Lewis also from Killeen, and Candi Collins, from Belton, are wanted on charges of Possession of Controlled Substance/Drug Trafficking.

If you have information about this or any other fugitive, contact Crime Stoppers at 526-TIPS (8477) or go online anonymously at [www.bellcountycrimestoppers.com](http://www.bellcountycrimestoppers.com).

### FROM AUSTIN -

Christopher Soloya Jr., 30, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender and Tango Blast Houston gang member, was captured July 21 in Houston.



Soloya was wanted for parole violation and failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

Working off tip information, the TexDPS (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division located and arrested Soloya without incident in northwest Houston.

In June 2007, Soloya was arrested by the Houston Police Department for burglarizing the apartment of a woman with the intent to commit a sexual assault. He was convicted and served time in prison. In March 2015, Soloya was released on parole. For more information, see his captured bulletin at: [www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=331](http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=331).

So far in 2016, DPS and other agencies have arrested 10 Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives and Sex Offenders, including six sex offenders and four gang members, and \$18,500 in rewards have been paid for tips that resulted in arrests.

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, TALL WEEDS, GRASSES & THICKER UNDERBRUSH

Once again TAMU Forestry Department has issued moderate to high-risk warnings for the threat of wildfire for the Woodlake Community.

The expanding threat of wildfires to Texas communities is a result of the state's ever-changing land use, climate and population. Many Texas communities are within or are growing into the Wildland Urban Interface. The WUI is an area where flammable homes are mixed with flammable vegetation.

Community leaders such as city managers/planners, fire chiefs, emergency management coordinators and home owner associations, with the assistance of a local Texas A&M Forest Service WUI Specialist, can implement 1 community wildfire preparedness plans and programs to help your community withstand the next wildfire event.

There are some things we can do as individuals and as a community to prepare to help prevent wildfires.

- Comply with burn bans and reduce or eliminate unsafe debris burning
- Keep informed of wildfire danger levels
- Avoid burning trash, leaves and brush on dry, windy and postpone outdoor burning if shifts in wind direction, high winds or wind gusts are in the forecast
- Before doing any burning, establish wide control lines down to bare mineral soil at least five feet wide around any burn barrels and even

wider around brush piles and other piled debris to be burned. The larger the debris pile, the wider the control line needed to ensure burning materials won't be blown or roll off the pile into vegetation outside the line.

- Burn household trash only in a burn barrel or other trash container equipped with a screen or metal grid to keep burning material contained. Never attempt to burn aerosol cans that will explode casting material maybe causing injuries and/or scatter burning material into nearby vegetation and cause a wildfire.
- Stay with outdoor fires until they are completely out.
- Keep water and hand tools ready in case your fire should attempt to spread.



If a wildfire was headed your way, would you know what to do? Often the best action to protect yourself and your family when a wildfire threatens your area is to evacuate.

To ensure you will be able to evacuate quickly, you need to plan ahead.

Know your community's local evacuation plan and identify several escape routes for your location in case roads are blocked; include plans to evacuate people with disabilities and others with access or functional needs, as well as pets, service animals, and livestock.

Make a list of items you need or want to take with you. Be sure to remember the Five P's Of Evacuation: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs, and Priceless Items; and If you will evacuate by car, keep your car fueled and in good condition. Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.

When driving away from a fire:

Roll up windows and close air vents because smoke from a fire can irritate your eyes and respiratory system; Drive slowly with your

*The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not express 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.*

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headlights on because smoke can reduce visibility; watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, and fleeing animals; and avoid driving through heavy smoke, if possible. (Source: *How to Prepare for a Wildfire guide from America's PrepareAthon!*)

## FIVE SUMMER SAFETY TIPS TO STAY SAFE FROM BURGLARS

If you're still planning that long anticipated vacation this summer, amidst the chaos that ensues while preparing and packing, don't forget to insure that your home is protected during your absence.

According to National Crime Statistics, the majority of burglaries occur during the months of July and August. That's because burglars know millions of people are taking vacations and leaving their homes empty. Don't become an easy target and victim by leaving your house easy for them to break in.

Among others, here are a few safety ideas to help keep your house safe from burglars:

### 1. THINK LIKE A BURGLAR

When it comes to protecting your home, you want to think like a burglar. Take a critical look at your home and the ways you would get in as if you were the crook wanting to rob it. Check the obvious: Doors, windows, hidden keys, security lighting and video cameras if applicable. Those are the spots that deserve consideration and reinforcement.

### 2. TAKE AN INVENTORY

Before you leave, go around the house taking pictures so, if a burglar gets in, you'll have documentation to show any damage they caused. Photograph everything, regardless of how valuable you think it might be. Should anything happen, you'll need this documentation for the insurance company.

You can then create an inventory log from the photos that includes the estimated value of the items.

### 3. SECURE THE INSIDE OF YOUR HOME

- a. Update your home security monitoring service, to ensure it has your updated contact information.
- b. Put valuables in a safety deposit box
- c. Lock all your windows and close most of the shades
- d. Put a timer on some of your lights
- e. When you leave, set your security system (if installed)

Turn off and unplug electronics, especially TVs, computers and other devices that can be damaged during power surges. Turn off the gas and water.

### 4. SECURE THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME

- a. Move hidden spare keys inside your house while you're gone
- b. Put your car inside the garage
- c. Mow the lawn and trim the hedges
- d. Move ladders and other supplies a burglar could use to get to the second story

### 5. GET YOUR NEIGHBORS INVOLVED

To keep your home safe, there may be nothing better than having your neighbors keep an eye on it and offer to reciprocate when they're away. A safer, more secure neighborhood benefits everyone with lower insurance rates.

- a. Ask them to pick up ads and flyers that people stick on your door.
- b. Put a vacation stop on newspaper delivery.
- c. Give your most trustworthy neighbor an extra key, in case they need to get in
- d. Ask your neighbor to mow or have your lawn mowed and shrubs trimmed.
- e. Have them set out your trashcans even if they're empty to make the impression that someone is at home.

## SUMMER IS THE SEASON FOR CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

It's a normal phenomenon that crimes of opportunity, especially Burglary of Vehicle, tend to increase during the summer months.

In addition to the normal criminal element, there is always an up-tick in the population of transients. With them come the seedier elements of humanity and the numerous idle teens out looking for trouble and the easy buck.

Despite the odds, crimes of opportunity: Theft, Burglary, and sometimes Robbery of a Person, are all preventable if you employ appropriate protective measures.

Recent Vehicle Burglaries in Woodlake and our sister neighborhood, Denman's Loop, illustrates the importance of remaining vigilant, not becoming complaisant about protecting your property from theft.

Here are some common sense tips on how to avoid car break-ins:

- If able, keep you car in a locked garage. If not:
- Do not leave valuables in plain view: (GPS devices, lap tops, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, wallets, purses)
- Make sure windows and/or sunroof is closed and locked.
- Lock all doors.
- Never leave keys in the vehicle.
- If you have a garage door opener fob, take it with you or hide it.
- Do not leave items with personal information in plain sight
- Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view.

If you think you've been a victim of a crime, reporting it is one of the smartest things you can do to help prevent others in the community becoming easy targets. Any information concerning the crime you can provide helps investigators identifying the suspect which can possibly lead to an arrest.