

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### MAKE "HOME SAFETY" YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

An estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year across the U.S. By following a few simple safety tips on electric lights, candles and Christmas trees, you can avoid creating a tragedy.

In the winter months, our heating, lighting, cooking, and holiday activities increase dramatically so, being mindful of safety, here are some recommended additions to your New Year's resolutions:

**Holiday Fire Safety** – Despite helping to brighten up a winter day, holiday decorations become a significant hazard if not used carefully.

Learn how to prevent a fire or what to do in case of a fire in your home.

**Cooking** - Families and guests tend to gather in the kitchen, but it can be the most hazardous room in the house. Careless use of cooking equipment, usually a range or stovetop, is the leading cause of home fires and home-fire injuries in the United States. ALWAYS have someone watching the stove!

**Heating** - The higher cost of heating fuels and utilities leads toward alternative choices of heating to include wood burning stoves, space heaters and fire places that burn wood or man-made logs.

Though acceptable, all these methods of heating contribute to residential fires and must be used with great caution.



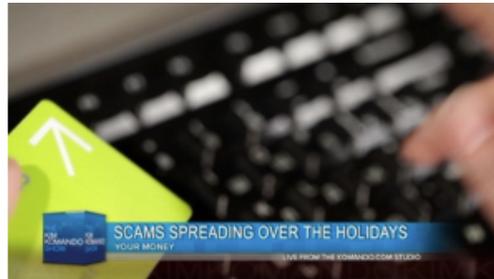
**Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!**

- Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December and January.
- Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 7 reported home fires and 3 in every 6 home fire deaths.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible from your house.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.nifa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.nifa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.afpu.org/winter/](http://www.afpu.org/winter/)

### SCAMS TREND UP DURING HOLIDAYS

Today's term "Junk Mail" has metastasized to include "Phishing", virus infections disguised as legitimate emails, gimmick credit card or "no-interest loan" offerings and phony invoices in the mail or your inbox.



No one really enjoys paying bills but when that "invoice" is actually a phishing scam, you could wind up paying for it for years.

As an example, hackers, recently targeted "MailChimp", 1 of the most popular email newsletter services used by many small businesses to send email newsletters out to subscribers. Hackers found a way to use some of MailChimp's email lists to send out phishing emails that are actually spreading malware.

Reports of fake invoices began surfacing last month linked a news site called Business News Australia. The emails appear to have been sent from one of the news websites administrator accounts and read "Here's your invoice! We appreciate your prompt payment." When recipients of the email click the "View Invoice" button contained inside, they're directed to a .zip file that contains malware.

Scams like this are easy to fall for but there are some clues to help you identify this fake email invoice in your inbox (and delete it) before you accidentally click on the malicious link.

In this particular post, the invoice number used was fake (Invoice 00317) which prompted MailChimp to alert their clients saying that the subscriber database had been hacked and was sent to their list. A more obvious tell was how it appeared in the message and the word "Invoice" 00317 was misspelled. The company advised the client to disregard and delete the email, no fee will be charged to their account and their investigation was ongoing to stop the phishing scam. Other companies have experienced similar issues.

If you receive any email from an unknown source, especially asking for personal

information, money or to open an attached file, you should delete it immediately. It's important to note that scammers adapt quickly could easily change the invoice number, or the appearance of the email now that reports of the problem are going out. Be extremely cautious with any email that seems to be luring you into clicking something without providing much information. And, if you see an email claiming you owe payment for something you don't recognize, it's best to contact that company separately to see if it's legitimate.

### KILLEEN FACES AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM: HYBRID GANGS

Bell County a hotbed of gang activity Bell County is listed as one of the Texas counties with the highest concentration of gang activity, according to a 2014, Texas Gang Threat Assessment report issued by the Department of Public Safety.

The main gangs reported in Central Texas are Texas Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate and Tango Blast Austin and Tango clique San Antonio, to include: Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, Crips, Bloods, Bandidos, Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos, Sureno 13, Aryan Circle, Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples. Among their illicit acts, distribution of drugs is pervasive. Gangs are also responsible for a disproportionate percentage of crime in Bell County. Criminal activities such as the sale, possession or use of narcotics, possession or sale of stolen property are common but, over half of the top-level gang members in prison are serving sentences for violent crimes, including robbery, homicide and assault/terroristic threat.

A contributing factor that hinders policing efforts is Chapter 61.03 and 61.05 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure only allows information sharing of criminal combinations and criminal street gangs to another criminal justice agency, a court or a defendant in a criminal proceeding who is entitled to the discovery. The media is not allowed access to the information.

The rationale for muting the press is that second-hand idle talk about alleged gang activity for example, teenage boys overheard talking about SAC, standing for Savage Ass Click, BDK - the Black Disciple Kings, a group based in Chicago, or heard discussing hearing about members of the Bloods and Crips in town, is all treated with skepticism considering the relatively unreliability of the sources and the hearsay rule. Real gang members living in Central Texas tend to "stay under the radar".

The large presence of gangs in the CenTex region begs the question – Why?

*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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The answer may be revealed from the case of a man in Moody on the Bell County's "person-of-interest" roster since 1998. Unless there is violence involved, public awareness is limited and one reason for the "appeal" to the criminal gang element to habitat in the area.

Blas Segura Jr. was finally arrested in April 2014, with 55 grams of methamphetamine in his vehicle and charged with manufacturing/delivering a controlled substance. The report said that Segura didn't have any cash leading detectives to believe that he'd just picked-up the drugs, quite likely from Dallas. Segura is known to have connections with a Houston gang and ties with several other groups including a Mexican cartel. Otherwise, the few members of known gangs in the Moody area rarely, if ever create any problems.

One example is antidotal at best, however, given the intersection of a major north-south (I-35) and east-west (US 190) lines of communication is here, making this a logical staging area for distribution and trafficking.

In Killeen, police have tied the city's various gangs to several serious crimes and have documented 46 gangs in the city with an estimated total 443 gang members.

Some of the most common gangs in the Killeen area, according to KPD, include well-known American gangs such as the Crips, Bloods and Gangster Disciples. Other area gangs, such as the Sureños and Norteños, are offshoots of larger gangs that formed in the nation's prison system, or have loose ties to Mexican drug trafficking cartels. Some of the gangs claim specific streets in Killeen neighborhoods such as Long Branch, Heather Glenn or Marlboro Heights.

Killeen known in CenTex as the "melting pot", has a large diverse populace that is highly transient with known gangs from Los Angeles, Mexico and Haiti making KPD's job combating them much more difficult.

Gangs elevate the crime rate in Killeen through common crimes or robbery, drug sales, thefts and assaults, trafficking in drugs, prostitution and murder.

Through experience investigating gang-related crime, KPD's organized crime unit is able to track and identify gang members and their associates. Members are identified through a combination of criteria, including tattoos. Some readily admit their gang affiliation or are caught bragging about their membership on social media and will often post anything online without thinking.

Once identified, gang members are placed in the department's gang database, and will remain there for at least five years. The department also keeps tabs on nonmember gang "associates" and gang members recently released from prison.

Killeen's fight against gangs isn't uncommon in many Texas cities. The Texas Department of Public Safety's annual gang threat assessment report stated there might be more than 100,000 gang members in Texas. These members are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime in communities. (Source: Deborah McKeon, Temple Daily Telegram, Posted Apr 27, 2014)

### BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF: DECEMBER 15, 2016

Our featured Most Wanted fugitive this issue



is: Amber Nicole Jamroz, a 22 year-old W/F, with Blue Eyes and Blond Hair. She stands 5'3" tall and weighs 110 lbs. Her LKA was Belton.

Christopher Lee Nash, 30, and Deborah Ann Prochaska, 55, both from Killeen are also Wanted For:

Possession of a Controlled Substance.

If you have any information regarding these 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). All Calls Will Be Kept Confidential.

**FROM AUSTIN** - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has increased the reward for information leading to the arrest of: Monroe Hernandez, 49, of up to \$8,000.

Hernandez, featured in our October 15<sup>th</sup> issue is Wanted For: Aggravated Sexual Assault and Indecency with a Child.

Hernandez's last known address was in Waco, and he has ties to the area. He is 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighs approximately 180 pounds and has tattoos on his chest, left hand and both legs.

Hernandez may be using an alias.

In 1993, Hernandez was convicted of sexually assaulting a woman in McLennan County. His criminal history also includes possession of

cocaine, failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements and multiple DWIs. He subsequently was sentenced to 6 years in TDCJ prison.



In 2001, Hernandez was convicted of Driving While Intoxicated and received a 17-year sentence in TDCJ prison. He was paroled in March 2014.

On September 10, 2014, a Parole Violation warrant for Hernandez's arrest was issued.

On April 11, 2016, the Waco Police Department issued an additional warrant for Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registration Requirements.

For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at:

[www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=338](http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=338). All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.

Members of the U.S. Marshals Service North Texas Fugitive Task Force, including the Texas DPS Criminal Investigations Division (CID), took Albert Isaiah Christopher, a convicted sex offender, into custody on October 31, 2016, at a location in Dallas.

Christopher was convicted of two counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child after incidents in Dallas County involving two girls, ages 10 and 12. He subsequently was sentenced to seven years' probation and required to register as a sex offender every three months.

He has been wanted since January 2014.

The arrest was the result of tip information received through Texas Crime Stoppers and a reward will be paid.

