



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



THE HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY - "THE 4TH OF JULY"

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4.

In a letter to his wife, Abigail, a day earlier John Adams wrote: *The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.*

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin had signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, or nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected as President, also died on July 4, 1831. He was the third President in a row who died on the anniversary of independence. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872; so far he is the only U.S. President to have been born on Independence Day. (Source: Wikipedia)

JUNE WAS ELDER FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION AWARENESS MONTH... WHO KNEW THAT?

Despite June 2017 marked as Elder Financial Exploitation Awareness Month at many U.S. banks around the country, it's always prudent to protect yourself or someone you know from being exploited.

It is illegal or improper to exploit anyone person's property or financial assets. Here are some warning signs of possible fraud: Internet of phone solicitations asking for personal information (For example, credit card, bank account, or social security numbers); Wire or money transfer scams, such as those altering of lottery winnings or requesting bail money for a loved one; New people engaging or showing interest in an older person's financial life; Caregiver exploitation, including power of attorney abuse.

These are actions you should take if you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a financial exploitation scheme: File a police report and request a copy of it and a case number; Call the U.S. Bank Fraud Liaison Center at 877-595-6256 (for U.S. Bank accounts); Contact Adult Protective Services (county or state).

Local resources and other information can be found at eldercare.gov or by calling 800.677.1116 (U.S. Administration on Aging). (Source: U.S. Bancorp Investments Complaints and Investigations team and U.S. Bank financial services blog Achieve).

THE RELATIVITY OF REALITY (AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO CRIME STATS)

Thirty-three vehicle burglaries were reported in the first 16 days of the month in Copperas Cove. About \$6,000 worth of property was stolen in the burglaries occurring in subdivisions where a suspect(s) walked up to vehicles and pulled on door handles to find out if they were locked.

Vehicles in private driveways, parking lots, and on city streets are prime targets.

Frequently, what's reported in the news doesn't actually represent the reality, or the immediate reality.

For example, as reported by RaidsOnLine.com, during the previous 90-day period, there were 79 Thefts of Vehicle (1.09/1000 residents), 194 incidents of Burglary of a Vehicle (2.7/1000 residents), and 48 reported Burglary or Habitation (.66/1000 residents) in Temple.

By comparison, in the months from March 1, through June 30, 2017 in the Sparta Valley area of interest, there were no Theft of Vehicles, 27 incidents of Burglary of Vehicle (1.22/1000 residents) and only 3 reported Burglary of a Habitation (.14/1000 residents).

During the same period of March 1 through June 30, 2016 there were 7 Theft of Vehicles (.32/1000 residents, none in 2017), 30 Burglary of Vehicle (1.36/1000 residence slightly higher than 2017) and 16 Burglary of Residence (.72/1000 residence, much higher than in 2017).

Given that the headlines are focused on the ever-growing metropolis of Temple, it leaves the impression that a rash of home invasions, vehicle burglaries and thefts is a countywide trend.

An examination and evaluation of the evidence, however, tells a different story. The rapidly changing demographics in Belton and Temple that impact the crime rates show little, if any impact outside city limits; in fact, the actual trend of the three crimes of opportunity studied show a decline.

This difference can be easily explained by the obvious where there are many more opportunities for criminal acts in denser populations, but it could also be that, Sparta Valley area residence at least, are more engaged in a greater sense of vigilance and preventive measures to thwart crime.

BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF 1 JULY, 2017

Wanted For: Possession of a Firearm in Prohibited Place is Keshawn Charles Tennon.

Tennon is a 21 year-old, 5' 6", 126 lbs, B/M with BRO Eyes and BLK Hair. Tennon is last know to have lived in Killeen.



HEAT, TICKS AND SNAKES, OH MY!!

Summer brings many threats that can hurt and hinder your pets one of which is triple digit heat. You also have to watch out for snakes, ticks, and where your pet is walking.

Tick infestation levels are extremely high this year and pet owners should be sure to check their dogs' paws, ears, and rectum, to make sure no unwelcome visitors have latched on.

Walks and playtime outside should be planned and monitored. Take them on their walk in the morning, for example, or evening when the temperatures are more tolerable. If you can't hold your paw on the asphalt comfortably, than neither can they.

It's also recommended to keep a rattlesnake vaccine available for pets who are often on farm land or hikes.

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.