

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## SUMMER SAFETY SERIES & FINAL, PART IV - INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN

Q: Is there a 4<sup>th</sup> of July in England?

A: Of course, they just don't call it Independence Day.

Yes it's an old gag but not without significance as millions of Americans across the country will be poolside or gathering with friends and family to celebrate the 240 year-old American holiday.

Independence Day is a federal holiday to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress declaring that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British Empire.

It is one of the greatest American traditions; but no 4th of July celebration of our freedom is complete without barbeque and fireworks!

The earliest documentation of fireworks dates back to 7th century Tang Dynasty in China, where they were invented. The fireworks were used to accompany many festivities. It is thus a part of the culture of China but eventually it spread to other cultures and societies.

The Chinese originally believed that the fireworks could expel evil spirits and bring about luck and happiness.



There are a variety of alternative activities you can engage in if handling and shooting your own fireworks isn't your thing, or you can load-up the van and find a local venue that puts on professional firework shows. However, for you that just must turn your hard-earned money into smoke, sparkly stars and loud banks, there are many precautions you must observe for a safe performance:

- The first thing you need to do is establish a specific area for fireworks. Blocking it off with some rope or a temporary fence provides better control of the little ones who may be drawn to the bright lights and pops. If people are just randomly setting them off around your yard or property, it is hard for observers to make sure that they are far enough away.
  - Sparklers are always a firework favorite for children. A good way to safely ensure that the younger children can take part in this activity is to set a specific area aside for them to play and keep one responsible adult at the entrance of that area. That adult should be in charge of lighting the sparklers and making sure that only a safe number of children are in the area at the same time.
  - If you live in a state where larger fireworks or mortars are legal, then you can set up a small version of your own fireworks show as you might see at a public park or community celebration. These fireworks are larger, so no one need be very close to enjoy them. Build a platform from which you can safely set off the fireworks and place it a good distance from the center of the party. Then make sure your audience is in a safe place before you begin the fireworks show.
  - Despite your best efforts to control them, sometimes fireworks do not land where you expect them to and you need to be ready to snuff out errant flames in a hurry and have a fire extinguisher on hand and readily available. Chances are that you will not have to use a fire extinguisher, but if you do need one and you have to run back to the house to get it, it may be too late.
- Finally, let's not forget why we're celebrating this holiday by taking a moment to reflect on the sacrifices of millions for us to enjoy the freedom of what this day represents.

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

### George Anogus Abellera,

#### Wanted For: Theft Over

**\$1500**, is last known to have lived in Killeen. Abellera is 36 years-old, stands 5'7" tall and weighs 220 lbs. He is an Asian male with Brown Eyes and Black Hair.

If you have any information regarding this or other 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)

**FROM AUSTIN** - The Texas Department of Public Safety is offering Up To \$7,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of: **Justin Lane Slatton, Jr.**



#### Details:

- Disc: W/M, DOB: 01/27/96, HT: 5'7", WGT: 165 lbs.
- AKA: Justin Slatton, Justin Lane Slaton, Justin Slatton
- SMT: Tattoos: 5-pointed star on left hand, #5 (dice style) on left wrist, Texas shape on right hand, and

- other tattoos on neck, left arm, and both legs.
- Wanted For: Murder (2 Counts) and Burglary of Building
- Gang(s): Latin Kings with ties to the San Angelo area.
- CCH: Theft of Firearm, Burglary of Building, Escape While Arrested/Confined, Evading Arrest/Detention, and Theft of Property
- LKA: 1602 South Koenigheim, San Angelo, TX

Slatton had recently served time in TDCJ prison for Theft of Firearm and is a suspect in a double shooting that occurred on April 13, 2016, at a residence in Temple, Texas, which resulted in the deaths of two men.

On May 6, 2016, the Bell County Sheriff's Office issued two warrants for his arrest for Murder. On May 10, 2016, the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for Burglary of a Building.

Bell County Crime Stoppers and San Angelo Crime Stoppers are also offering rewards for information leading to Slatton's arrest.

CAUTION: Subject should be considered ARMED and DANGEROUS! See bulletin at: [www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/fugitiveDetails.aspx?id=328](http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/fugitiveDetails.aspx?id=328).

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, of

## CENTX LAKES AND BUSINESSES SUFFER DUE TO HIGH WATER LEVELS

If you've crossed Belton Lake dam lately, you're probably as incredulous as I and thinking to yourself "When and how did the lake level get so high all of a sudden?"

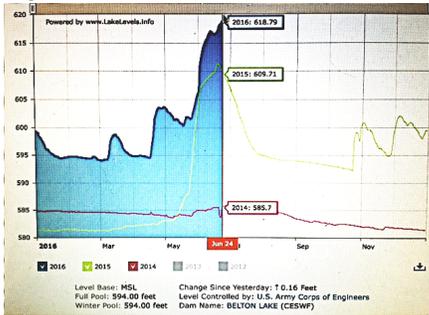
Water so high the COE has had to close practically all the parks and boat ramps due to flooding. Businesses located near those lakes

*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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will be losing a lot of revenue they're used to seeing at this time of the year.

The water levels at Belton Lake are 24 feet over conservation resulting in one boat ramp open - The Lakeview Park (also known as Frank's Marina), according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website.



And, Belton Lake isn't the only lake with this problem. The parks and boat ramps at Stillhouse Hollow Lake and Lake Waco are all closed due to flooding.

The Slippery Minnow restaurant, located on the Lake Waco marina, isn't as lucky as the Dead Fish Grill, which is high above Belton Lake.

Instead, it's temporarily closed its doors due to flooding.

Many parks and ramps may not reopen before the end of July.

Below is a list from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website of the park and boat ramp closures (as of June 21) across some of the Central Texas lakes.

Belton Lake:  
 Arrowhead Point Park: Closed.  
 Sparta Valley Park: Closed indefinitely  
 Belton Lakeview Park (Frank's): Ramp open.  
 Cedar Ridge Park: Both ramps closed, sites 17-40, shelters S01-S08 closed through Aug. 31.  
 Leona Park: Closed.  
 Temple Lake Park: Closed; pavilion closed through Aug. 31.  
 Westcliff Park: Ramp and camping closed through Aug. 31.  
 White Flint Park: Ramp and camping closed through Aug. 31.  
 Winkler Park: Closed through Aug. 31.  
 Roger's Park: Closed.  
 Iron Bridge Park: Closed.  
 McGregor Park: Closed.  
 Owl Creek Park: Closed.

Horseshoe Bend: Closed.

Live Oak Park: Boat ramp closed.

Stillhouse Hollow Lake:

Dana Peak Park: Ramp closed; pavilion and camping sites closed through July 31.

Union Grove Park: Ramp closed; camping sites closed through July 31.

Cedar Gap Park: Closed.

Stillhouse Park: Ramp closed; Island View' Teardrop Pavilions & day use side of park closed through July 31.

River's Bend Park: Closed.

Lake Waco:

Airport Beach Park: Closed.

Airport Park: Closed.

Bosque Park: Closed.

Dam Hike & Bike Access Points: Closed.

Flat Rock: Closed.

Reynolds Creek Park: Closed.

Lacy Point: Closed.

Speegleville Park: Campground is open; ramp is closed.

Twin Bridges Park: Closed.

Midway Park: Closed.

Koehne Park: Closed.

(Source: KXXV.Com)