

# Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

## Thanksgiving Issue

### UNIQUELY AMERICAN TRADITION, OR IS IT?

Here's a little tidbit for your historical appetites to precede your Thanksgiving celebration: There's no doubt that today's Thanksgiving tradition was founded in New England...., or was it?

According to Randall Mason, a researcher for Plymouth Plantation Inc., today's celebration is a cross between a British harvest festival and a special day of religious thanksgiving, both originally observed by pilgrims in New England.

In 1621, just months after their arrival from England, residents of Plymouth celebrated a harvest festival, which was indistinguishable from those observed throughout Britain at the time. It was a secular event with feasting and games. The only religious observance was the saying of grace before the meal.

Several other states also lay claim the first thanksgiving. Before the arrival of the Puritans, in Florida, a small colony of French Huguenots living near present-day Jacksonville noted a special thanksgiving prayer.

Virginians are convinced their ancestors celebrated the first Thanksgiving when Jamestown settlers held a service to give thanks for their surviving the harsh winter of 1610. Soon, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, all claimed of having annual thanksgiving observances before the 19th century.

The *second* Thanksgiving, however, is believed to have taken place Texas. On January 26, 1598, a Spanish expedition set out from Mexico with the aim of founding a new kingdom. After 3 months on a dangerous journey, they set up camp south of present day El Paso, Texas. On April 30, a Mass of thanksgiving was said as their leader, Don Juan de Oñate, took formal possession of the new land, called New Mexico, in the name of the Heavenly Lord, God Almighty, and the earthly lord King Philip II.

If the New Spain colonies had not set aside their Catholic heritage, perhaps today Florida would be celebrating its Thanksgiving day on September 8, while Texas would have its own special feast on April 30.

### COUNTY SHERIFF TIP LINE: WANTED AS OF OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

[http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd/adult\\_probation/most\\_wanted.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd/adult_probation/most_wanted.php), and/or; <http://www.countycrimestoppers.com>.



Albert Reyna, 33, from Temple, is Wanted For: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Reyna is a W/M, with BRO Eyes and BRO Hair weighing 155 lbs. and stands 5'6".

FROM AUSTIN: The reward for a Texas 10 Donald Jack Robertson II, 43, has been increased to \$10,000 for information leading to his capture if the tip is received in November. Wanted For: Aggravated Sexual Assault Of A Child, Sexual Assault Of A Child And Indecency With A Child/Sexual Contact.



#### Details:

- Ties to Lamar County (including Paris), the Dallas area and Washington state
- Wanted since 2011 for alleged sexual assault of two children in Lamar County
- Ht: 6' 1", Wgt: 160 lbs.
- SMT: Tattoo on his left arm of a fist holding a lightning bolt
- AKA: "DJ"

For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his [wanted bulletin](#).

Do not attempt to apprehend these fugitives; they are considered armed and dangerous.

### Despite The Season, Poaching Is Year-Long Crime

With the assistance of local game wardens, one of the most egregious poaching cases ever investigated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, and local landowners, resulted in six people to face more than 175 state jail felony and Class A misdemeanor wildlife violations occurring between June 4 and August 29.

Texas Game Wardens and the Leon County Sheriff's Office worked together to track the suspected criminals who were charged in the illegal killing of at least 68 white-tailed deer, numerous other wildlife species and livestock, and the indiscriminate and widespread destruction of public and private property.

Officials say the group used various firearms at night to shoot wildlife, livestock and property from a vehicle on a public roadway and on private property without landowner consent.

Game wardens confiscated nine firearms ranging from .17 HMR to .270, including a .22 rim-fire rifle fitted with a homemade suppressor.

The majority of the deer shot illegally were scattered from Jewett, in northwestern Leon County, to Leona, located in southeastern Leon County. Centerville was a midpoint between the two outlying communities and was nearest the majority of the wildlife violations, with more

than a dozen deer shot from the feeder road along I-45.

While some of the deer killed had portions of the carcasses retained by the suspects for consumption - loins and hindquarters - most were left to rot in the field, officials say.

According to a spokesperson with the Leon County Sheriff's Office the violators were allegedly involved in more than a dozen burglaries, mostly hunting cabins, and numerous other related illegal activities: shooting of a plate glass window at a service station, repeated shooting of a pickup parked at a residence, target shooting numerous road signs and residential mailboxes, along with several house cats.

### AUTHORIZED IN 1981 BY ACTS OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE, THE OPERATION GAME THIEF

program was created to assist game wardens in our state's ongoing battle against poaching. OGT quickly became a vital link between the sporting public and our game wardens, and has since evolved into one of the nation's premier wildlife crimestopper programs.

A 24-hour toll-free "hotline" affords the public an opportunity to anonymously provide critical, timely information on illegal hunting and fishing activity to which the game warden could immediately respond. A reward was also authorized for cases in which the provided information resulted in a conviction.

By statute, the program was dependent on private funding, and seed money from the Houston and Dallas Safari Clubs, and the Aransas Rod and Reel Club provided the funds needed to become operational. Operation Game Thief quickly became a vital link in the partnership between the sporting public and our game wardens. Success was immediate, especially in helping to curtail the widespread illegal commercial netting that threatened certain fish populations along the Texas coast. That success spread throughout the state as evidenced by numerous significant apprehensions/convictions involving the blatant over-harvest of large numbers of our wildlife resources. Operation Game Thief (OGT) has since evolved into one of the nation's premier wildlife crimestopper programs, fielding an average of 1,500 calls per year from concerned citizens. In addition to providing a violation reporting mechanism and paying rewards, OGT

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assists game wardens in the wildlife crime public education effort by providing each of the 10 law enforcement regions an enclosed 16' exhibit trailer patterned after the popular 25' Wall of Shame that has been exhibited at Expo and around the state since 1999. Other initiatives include the periodic use of prominent billboards co-sponsored by various conservation-oriented organizations and the placement of permanent "Stop Poaching" road-side signs under a cooperative agreement with Texas Department of Transportation effective 2008.



Since 1991, OGT is also authorized to pay a death benefit to the survivor of record of any TPWD game warden or park peace officer killed in the line of duty.

With the 2005 passage of House Bill 2032, the OGT Committee is no longer limited to reward payments for a "flagrant" violation of the game and fish laws. Rewards can now be paid (upon conviction) for most statutes our game wardens enforce, including boating while intoxicated, intoxication assault, criminal trespass, arson in State Parks, antiquities code violations, and certain pollution violations.

The changes in House Bill 2032 also afford the OGT Committee new latitude to more directly support game warden enforcement activities through pursuit of applicable new and emerging technologies. Accordingly, in 2005 the Committee authorized a \$20,000 grant for partial equipment purchase and training for the Department's Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

achieve the distinction of being the only accredited wildlife forensics lab in the United States, other than the one operated by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. Subsequent awards have focused on the acquisition of sophisticated night vision devices to provide game wardens the critical tactical edge they need to remain safe and win the battle against poachers.

In order to fund these activities and projects, OGT pursues funding through private donations and grants, the sale of merchandise and memberships, and annual fundraising activities. OGT's Committee service and leadership, along with your support, make this a program that works!

### INITIAL C.E.R.T. SURVEYS CONVEY WHERE OUR ATTENTION SHOULD BE FOCUSED

The results of the initial Community Emergency Response Team surveys indicate that: 91% of respondents keep their vehicle fuel tanks at least ½ full and have an established deadline to evacuate or to shelter-in-place. However, a fewer number (83%) are certain they and their families are able to evacuate (if required) in 30 minutes or less. 75% expressed their understanding of the potential hazards, were certain that they had immediately accessible shelter, that it was safe and large enough, or are knowledgeable of where they should go in case of an emergency while away from the house. Only 2/3rds of respondents had access to contact information for their neighbors or made out-of-area next-of-kin contact information available. Only 16% indicated that they or their neighbor required any special assistance.

In the category of "Resources", 83% of respondents are aware of who to contact to get emergency medical attention when EMS cannot respond or is unable to get to their location, are willing and able to provide temporary shelter to a neighbor in need and/or material support in the form of bedding, clothing, financial or temporary quarters are able to provide tools, equipment and materials necessary for wildfire abatement or casualty

rescue (shovel, rake, flashlight/batteries, pry bar, long water hose, and are physically able/capable and willing to assist/organize teams for fire suppression and light search and rescue.

Two-thirds say they keep refuel cans on-hand, extra propane supply, lantern or cooking fuel available, slightly fewer (58%) indicated having a generator for emergency electrical power, but ½ said your emergency food stores weren't adequate to support your family and your neighbor. Contrary to knowing "who to contact to provide emergency medical attention", only 41% indicate being able to perform emergency medical assistance.

A good proportion of respondents (91%) are able to contact/check-on neighbors that may require special assistance in an emergency situation and have all emergency and non-emergency numbers readily available. Three-fourths have immediate family members, out-of-area next of kin, and immediate neighbors listed in "Emergency Contact" group for ready access and the ability to communicate/receive hazardous weather information like "Code Red" or "Weather Radar" or call a first responder (police, fire, EMS) on their smart phones/iPods? Only a few respondents (8%) have the ability to communicate via high frequency or Ham radio.

This survey, though preliminary, does not represent the majority of residence but it does provide a sample that gives us some indication where to begin the "crawl, walk, run" approach to a C.E.R.T. program development.

Over the next several months, lesson plans will be published, possibly in the Woodlake Facebook site, in video format with defined Purpose, Course and Learning Objectives, Review and Evaluation.

Areas of Interest will include:

- Introduction and Course Outlines
- The Hazard and Risk Management
- Preparation, Resources and Communications
- Emergency First Aid
- Team Organization and Leadership
- Debris Removal
- Emergency Communications
- Shelter Management
- Special Needs Concerns

*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.*