

# Neighborhood Watch Monthly Newsletter



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**



*Ector County Sheriff's Office  
Crime Prevention Unit*

## Auto Theft Prevention

Where can you find a place where people leave their wallets, purses, cell phones, navigation systems, or cars unattended and ripe for theft? The answer won't surprise you; it happens every time they pull off the road to get gas or grab their favorite drink from a convenience store and leave their keys in the ignition or their doors unlocked. More and more over the last year, gas station safety has moved to the forefront of crime prevention. The Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) reported a dramatic rise in gas station theft over the past year. In 2006, the MPD reported 89 thefts from vehicles, but it has reported 427 thefts, a 380 percent increase, for 2007. Auto thefts have also risen dramatically—by 93 percent.

Most of the time, gas station customers leave their car doors unlocked. This enables a thief to drive up next to the victim's car, open an unlocked door, and grab any valuables within reach. Then, the thief quickly drives off. It's a crime of opportunity that takes only a few seconds to commit. For an example, please [see this ABC News video](#).

Gas station thefts can be easily prevented. You can keep from becoming a victim of gas station theft by keeping the following tips in mind.

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- Pick gas stations that are well-lighted and have video surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Always remove your keys, close the windows, and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for just a moment.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you.

Please learn how you can keep these crimes of opportunity from happening to you.

**“IT IS NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS; NOT THE MAN WHO POINTS OUT HOW THE STRONG MAN STUMBLES, OR HOW THE DOER OF DEEDS COULD HAVE DONE THEM BETTER. THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THE MAN WHO IS ACTUALLY IN THE ARENA; WHOSE FACE IS MARRED BY DUST AND SWEAT AND BLOOD; WHO STRIVES VALIANTLY; WHO ERRS, AND COMES SHORT AGAIN AND AGAIN; WHO KNOWS THE GREAT ENTHUSIASMS, THE GREAT DEVOTIONS; WHO SPENDS HIMSELF IN A WORTHY CAUSE; WHO, AT THE BEST—KNOWS IN THE END THE TRIUMPH OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT, AND WHO—AT THE WORST, IF HE FAILS, AT LEAST FAILS WHILE DARING GREATLY, SO THAT HIS PLACE SHALL NEVER BE WITH THOSE COLD AND TIMID SOULS WHO KNOW NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT.”**



## **H.E.A.T PROGRAM**

H.E.A.T. is a statewide vehicle registration program administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety that helps law enforcement officials identify stolen vehicles.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Any Vehicle owner in Texas can obtain decals for his/her car or truck that authorizes law enforcement officers to stop the vehicle and verify ownership between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. , anywhere in Texas.

## **BORDER DECALS**

Available to alert officials to check ownership of any vehicle being driven across the border into Mexico.

## **WHY ENROLL?**

A car in Texas is stolen every five and one half minutes. More vehicle are stolen between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. than any other time. In 2003, more than 98,000 vehicle were stolen in Texas. In 2005, more than 93,471 vehicle were stolen in Texas. Simply by enrolling, you can make it a lot harder for a thief to drive away in your car.

## **ENROLLING IS EASY**

Just complete the H.E.A.T. registration application to have your vehicle entered in a statewide database, accessible by law enforcement agencies. 24 hours a day. Personal and company vehicles are eligible for H.E.A.T. registration. You don't have to be a permanent resident of Texas to participate in the program, as long as you can provide a Texas address and phone number.

Lt. Gladden will be offering this vehicle registration program on-site during the February Neighbor-

## Preventing Teen Dating Violence

Most teens have either experienced relationship violence or know someone who has. Relationship violence occurs when one partner tries to maintain power and control over the other through some kind of abuse or threat of abuse. The abuse can take many forms, including psychological, emotional, sexual, and physical. Young women 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of relationship violence, but this type of violence crosses all economic, racial, gender and social lines. Teens who experience relationship violence may fail to see it as abuse because they perceive their partners' controlling or aggressive behavior as romantic. They may fail to report the abuse because their partners have isolated them from family and friends, damaged their self confidence, or threatened them with retaliation. The best way to prevent teen relationship violence is to educate teens on how to identify the early warning signs of abuse and empower them to choose healthy relationships. Teens need to know how to report abuse if it occurs and how to create a safety plan if they feel they are in danger.

The **Safe Dates Program** is one curriculum available for purchase, and has been identified as a model program by the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services. It contains of a nine-session dating and abuse curriculum that includes interactive exercises such as games, group discussions, role-playing and writing exercises.



**loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline** is a national resource that can be accessed by phone (866-331-9474 or TTY 866-331-8453) or the internet ([www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)). The Helpline and [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) offer real-time one-on-one support from trained Peer Advocates. The National Domestic Violence Hotline operates **loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline** from their call center in Austin, TX.

Peer Advocates are trained to offer **support, information and advocacy** to those involved in dating abuse relationships as well as concerned parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement, and service providers.

In 2005, Liz Claiborne Inc. focused on a subset of domestic violence, teen dating abuse. In February, the company commissioned a national survey aimed to gauge the attitudes and understanding of teens on the issue of teen dating violence. The staggering results were unveiled during a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington DC.



Liz Claiborne Inc. also announced that the Company would partner with the Education Development Center, Break the Cycle - a national domestic violence organization for young people - and a group of academics, authors, domestic violence experts, community leaders and teen survivors of dating violence to develop and test the *Love Is Not Abuse Curriculum*.

The pilot test of the curriculum was launched on October 11, 2005 in conjunction with Liz Claiborne Inc.'s annual "It's Time To Talk Day", a day dedicated to creating awareness of the issue of domestic violence.



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## This Month's Watch Meetings:

Tuesday, February 24th @ 7:00 PM Goldsmith

Thursday, February 26th @ 7:00 PM Kellus Turner

Refreshments will be served!

# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Goldsmith Meeting	25	26 West Odessa Meeting	27	28