

CASH FOR TIPS...YOU can receive up to one thousand dollars for any information leading to an arrest and indictment in a felony case while remaining anonymous.
--- Crime Stoppers ---

A Plano Police Department Publication

February 2004

MARCH NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH AREA COORDINATOR MEETINGS

The Bi-Annual Area Coordinator meeting will be held March 15, 2004 for Sectors A and B at the Plano Police Department, 909 14th Street starting at 7:00pm in the Community Conference Room. Area Coordinators from Sectors C and D will meet the following week, March 22, 2004, at the new joint-use facility police substation located at 7501 N. Independence (next to the Davis Library). The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

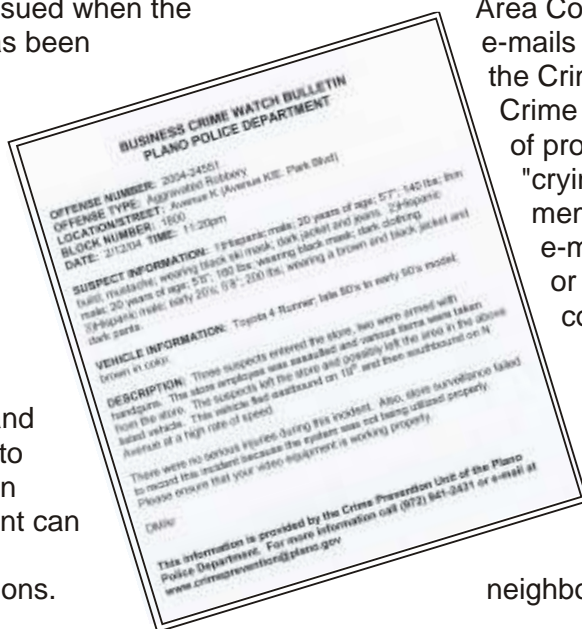
CRIME WATCH BULLETINS

Crime Watch Bulletins are issued when the description of a suspect has been sufficiently detailed that broadcasting it via a Crime Watch Bulletin might aid in his or her apprehension.

The idea behind this is to keep the lines of communication open between the City's Crime Watches and the Police Department with information flowing both ways. Residents and businesses need to know what to lookout for; not only for their own safety, but the Police Department can greatly benefit from information gleaned from citizen's observations.

Not all crimes that occur warrant a Crime Watch Bulletin. In most cases, a bulletin is not sent out unless we have a person(s) or vehicle(s) for the public to identify. They contain basic facts that could be used to help Crime Watch members to be aware of criminal activity or trends in their immediate area. These bulletins are not gossip and it should be understood that just because two police cars were parked out in front of a neighbors house, the Crime Watch members do not have the right to know everything that is happening, i.e. - family violence.

The purpose is not to publish every crime reported to the Police Department. The last thing Crime Watch



Area Coordinators need is an inundation of e-mails (voice-mails, faxes and/or US mail) from the Crime Prevention Unit on a daily basis with Crime Watch Bulletins that list the same types of property crimes. This is tantamount to "crying wolf." Additionally, Crime Watch members may tire of seeing e-mail after e-mail and get in the habit of deleting them or miss the one that they would really consider noteworthy.

Remember that the Crime Watch program is not just about the bulletins, but is an opportunity for resident to personally broaden their focus to include their neighbors as part of their own world, and so build their neighborhood into a community.

WHAT IS CRIME STOPPERS?

As a non-profit organization, Crime Stoppers fosters the trilateral partnership of the community, law enforcement and the media. This crime fighting partnership assists law enforcement in the acceleration of identifying criminal activity and unsolved crimes.

Crime Stoppers Tip Line 1-800-373-8477 or <http://gdcc.utdallas.edu>

Don't Fall for the Big Five

Foreign Lotteries. You did not win the foreign lottery! Anytime you are asked to send money in order to collect your winnings in a lottery or sweepstakes, STOP. You do not have to pay an up-front fee to receive real lottery or sweepstakes winnings. Don't be persuaded or bullied by a smooth operator on the phone.

Home Repair. Beware of unsolicited door-to-door home improvement offers. If it is a one-time offer, available only today, or a special deal on materials leftover from another job, be doubly cautious. If your home needs repairs, your best bet is to call more than one reputable roofing, driveway or other home repair company in your area and check their references.



Pigeon Drop. In this old fashioned scam, the con artist approaches you about a large sum of money he has found. He needs your money to secure the cash, and you'll get a cut in return.

The warning flags are:

you have to put up money to get money, and a second player, pretending not to know the first one, comes in as a "lawyer" or "banker" who confirms the first con's story. They may actually show you a pile of cash. Don't believe it.

Identity Crime. Be alert about people who ask you for your social security number, bank account number or credit card number. The variety of excuses these people offer for wanting to have your personal financial information is amazing, and the explanations may be very plausible. They may say they are from the FBI or your bank, investigating possible fraud on your account. Actually, they want to COMMIT fraud on your account. Never give anyone who calls you information of this kind for any reason.

Investment Scams. Many Texans have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in live savings by participating in investment strategies that were nothing more than "ponzi" or pyramid schemes. High pressure sales pitches to invest in products such as titanium futures or currency markets lure consumers with the promise of guaranteed returns. In reality, there is no real investment and the scam artists do little more than create bogus quarterly statements to make the victim believe that his or her money is growing dramatically.

(Source: Reprinted in part from Senior Alert - Attorney General of Texas Greg Abbot)

EXPLORER POST 911 JANUARY 9/10 2004 "ALL - NIGHTER"

Plano Police Department Explorer Post 911 held their annual all-night event January 9 and 10 at the Tri-City Police Academy. The evening started with activities at The Main Event and continued with training scenarios throughout the night.

The Explorer program is for young adults, ages 14 to 20 interested in exploring the field of law enforcement. For more information, call 972-941-2431.



Plano Police Dept.
909 14th Street
Plano, Texas 75074
Phone: 972.941.2431
Fax: 972-941-2519
Email: Crimeprevention@plano.gov