

**Attention City of Plano District 1** - all residents east of Alma. A Neighborhood Roundtable will be held on February 12, 2004 at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 Avenue H, starting at 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity to speak with Council Members and heads of all City Departments.

**A Plano Police Department Publication**

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## Methamphetamine: What's Cooking in Your Neighborhood?

**M**ethamphetamine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the brain and the rest of the central nervous system. Easily made with relatively low-cost materials, meth is an odorless, bitter-tasting, white crystalline powder that dissolves in water or alcohol. The active ingredient is either ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Both are found in over-the-counter cold medicines. Meth "cookers" use



products such as drain cleaner, lithium batteries, and engine-starter fluid to make a powder that can be smoked, snorted, injected, or added to a beverage.

Methamphetamine is usually made in secret, illegal "laboratories." These meth labs can be found in houses, garages, shacks, hotel rooms, and even mobile labs in automobile trunks. Meth labs are extremely dangerous. Many of the chemicals found in these labs are corrosive or flammable. Many signs can indicate that meth is being produced or trafficked:

### In Houses or Apartments

- Windows covered (cardboard, black plastic) for complete privacy
- Lights left on for long periods
- Activity during all hours of the day or night or continuous for several days
- Drug paraphernalia litter scatter in area
- Porch lights coded to indicate when drugs are available
- Dogs used to guard a house that has these signs.

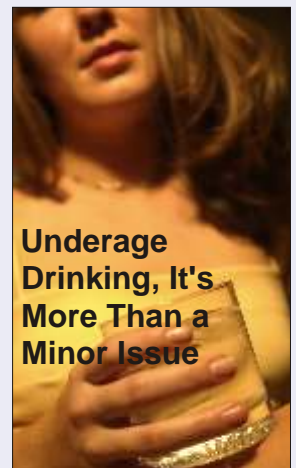
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Assistant Chief Steve Nagy (left) receives congratulations and a City of Plano 25 years of service pin from Chief Rushin. Assistant Chief Nagy recently celebrated his 25th year anniversary with the Plano Police Department.

## NPO UNIT Named A Finalist In Herman Goldstein Award

**O**ur very own Neighborhood Police Officer Unit has been making news around the world lately in the area of Community Policing. Recently, NPO Richard Glenn, NPO Alicia Nors, and NPO Sergeant Stan Roady traveled to San Diego to present the community policing topic that these officers have been addressing in their "Underage Drinking, It's More Than a Minor Issue" campaign. NPO Glenn has been working on this project using underage students to attempt to purchase alcohol from retail stores in Plano and make cases against the store clerks when they sell. In the past two years, NPO Glenn has made over 120 arrests of store clerks for this offense. NPO Glenn was the guest speaker at the Neighborhood Crime Watch Area Coordinators meeting this past October. The Crime Prevention Unit congratulates these officers and the entire NPO Unit on their efforts in stopping underage drinking.



**Underage  
Drinking, It's  
More Than a  
Minor Issue**

# Another Phish Tale

Joseph Wagner had little reason to suspect anything was wrong until he got a call about the \$75 sneakers. Wagner, 52, a Chicago-area teacher, hadn't ordered them. Yet a merchant in New York was calling him to confirm the Internet sale.

"I told him I didn't authorize anything," Wagner told the *AARP Bulletin*. "He alerted me that someone had my credit card number."

The thief, disguised as Wagner's credit card issuer, had sent him a series of e-mails asking him to update his billing information. The messages told Wagner to go to the company's website and resubmit his personal information or credit privileges would be suspended. Wagner complied.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) told Wagner that he was a victim of a fast-spreading scam called

"brand spoofing" (because the perpetrators disguise themselves as a well-known company) or "phishing" (because they fish for information).

Plano Police Department Intelligence Analyst Amy Bryant recommends this website for good information regarding the potential for identity theft over the Internet.

[www.cardcops.com/account\\_takeover.htm](http://www.cardcops.com/account_takeover.htm)

Carried out on the Internet, these swindles are considered "a subset of identity theft," FTC attorney Eric Wenger says, because personal information unwittingly supplied by victims is used to open new credit accounts and make purchases in their names.

Investigators say the phony e-mails and the fake company websites are so cleverly designed that they are

*Methamphetamine: Continued from page 1*

## Unusual Traffic Around Neighborhood/House

- Heavy vehicle or foot traffic at all times of the day or night
- People and cars stay for short periods
- Taxis used to avoid license plate identification.

## Unusual Materials

- A variety of ingredient jars containing clear liquid with white solids on the bottom, shiny purple crystals, dark red or purple powder, or jars with tubing attached
- Several types of containers, such as a large number of cold medication containers, cans of camping fuel, paint thinner, acetone, lye, or drain cleaners; and other containers with sulfuric or muriatic acid
- Large amounts of lithium batteries that have been stripped
- Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue
- Strong chemical smells like ether, ammonia, acetone, or urine.



(Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, The U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team, DEA Academy, Quantico, VA)

virtually impossible to distinguish from the real thing.

"The pages are filled with images from the company that's being spoofed," Wenger says. "If you get a message asking you for personal information, don't click through the website to decide if it looks real or not, because it will look legitimate."

Last year Jacquelyn Rhodes of Napa, California, received what she says looked like an official e-mail from America On-Line (AOL) saying that her credit card had expired and asking for information to "reactivate" the account. "It looked authentic" she says, "so I provided that." Later that day, when Rhodes could not access her account, she reported the fraud to AOL, her credit card company and the major credit bureaus.

Rhodes and Wagner were lucky-the scams were discovered early, before the swindler could use their accounts. **Bottom line:** Don't respond to e-mails asking for personal information on your credit card account-call the company directly. (Source: Carole Fleck, *AARP Bulletin*, January 2004)

## Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Wins ...



"Best Use Of The Theme" Award in the City Of Plano's 31st Annual Christmas Parade held December 6, 2003.



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