

# The MEADOWSWATCH

[Crime Watch and Meadows Neighborhood Association News]

[meadowswatch@swbell.net](mailto:meadowswatch@swbell.net)  
[www.themeadowsna.org](http://www.themeadowsna.org)

New Phone: 214-890-6887

February, 2008

*The MeadowsWatch* includes important alerts regarding North Central Dallas crime incidents as well as general updates on Meadows area issues and special activities.

Currently, two-thirds of the households in the Meadows have signed up for free e-mail delivery of this newsletter.

If you are receiving *The MeadowsWatch* at your door but have E-mail access, you can reduce the paper clutter at your front entry by registering to have the news delivered instead to your e-mail inbox.

Your information is protected and never shared with any other organization or any business.

It's free, easy and quick. Send both your home address and your e-mail address to [meadowswatch@swbell.net](mailto:meadowswatch@swbell.net) or visit [www.themeadowsna.org](http://www.themeadowsna.org) . Questions before you sign up? Call 214-890-6887 and leave a message. We'll get back in touch with you. Door to door delivery is dependent on the weather and the schedules of the block volunteers, who have households and careers to manage. Please help us make their jobs easier and ours more efficient by signing up for e-mail!

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**MEADOWS MEDIAN READY FOR SPRING!** The Meadows Landscaping project has come to fruition and Boedeker is ready to bloom! The Meadows Neighborhood Association again thanks Lynn Sloan, Keith Kinney, all the Beautification Committee volunteers and the many residents who have supported this long-term project with time and effort, contributions and purchases during the spring and fall plant sale fundraisers. Next time you enter the area at the Walnut Hill Lane and Boedeker intersection, check out our new look!

Unfortunately, discarded beverage containers and other things seem to pop up like weeds after each weekend. If you are a regular walker in the vicinity, please consider joining the *ad hoc* "Boedeker Brigade" of exercisers and carry a small bag to pick up even just one of these bits of debris. Thanks to those of you who already give the median such "tender loving care" and to all the Meadows neighbors who routinely pick up the "dastardly discards" when walking ... your concern and efforts are much appreciated!

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**NEW MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD TELEPHONE SYSTEM NOW IN OPERATION** with a new phone number and voice mail. To hear current general information or to contact the Meadows Neighborhood

Association or Crime Watch, call 214-890-6887. The system allows callers to go directly to voice mail. "Caller ID" is not activated, so please remember to leave your phone number if you need a return call. **The "Neighborhood Alert" signs have also been updated. When you see these green, purple and white signs posted near the entrances to the Meadows, call the new phone number (also printed on the signs) for important area bulletins.**

We extend a special thanks to Mr. Bill Dsecker for offering to have his FastSigns business create two additional Meadows Neighborhood Alert signs for us at no charge. This generous and neighborly offer was extended to us during the course of a crime prevention meeting in November. We now have seven signs to cover the neighborhood in case of an area alert. We also thank the Oak Lawn Avenue store and manager, Mr. Bobby Boliew, for excellent work and customer service in fabricating the new signs and for updating the five existing signs (we did pay for this part of the project), which were originally purchased from their shop.

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**BRAZEN BREAK-IN** -- On January 25<sup>th</sup>, a Meadows home near Lakehurst and Boedeker was targeted by thieves who breached the front door. This residence is highly visible to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Presumably this should deter criminals. Much to the contrary, however, crime experts say that homes and businesses near the intersection of a primary access route can be attractive burglary targets because of the opportunity afforded for a quick getaway. Front door break-ins are also quite common in burglaries.

- > **Do anything and everything possible to make your home inconvenient and unattractive to intruders.**
- > **If your household is victimized, please do not be hesitant to contact Meadows Crime Watch. One successful criminal incident can lead to others in the same area. If neighbors are alerted to be cautious and to watch for suspicious vehicles and persons, crimes may be prevented and culprits apprehended. Alerted neighbors may also recollect seeing people or vehicles near the targeted home and may be able to provide helpful information to police, First Watch Patrol and Crime Watch. Such details may point to a crime pattern that can be followed and lead to arrests.**
- > **Test your alarm system at least monthly to be sure that it is transmitting the proper signals to your monitoring company. Contact the dispatcher to coordinate a brief testing operation. Check back-up batteries regularly.**

The Dallas Police Department North Central Division has in the past offered a residential security inventory that can identify often overlooked crime vulnerabilities. Last fall, Crime Watch was contacted by another Boedeker neighbor who reported that her family had taken advantage of this service and found it to be very informative. To find out about the details and availability of this service, contact Senior Corporal Pardue at 214-670-6498.

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**GRAFFITI GREMLINS RETURN** -- A home adjacent to Airline was recently tagged with graffiti and, subsequently, other forms of vandalism. The homeowner contacted public school officials and was

informed that there are currently some local issues being addressed that are related to the graffiti problem.

Dallas Police suggest that victims of graffiti vandals contact them so that they can determine whether the markings connote gang activity or just basic, but nonetheless aggravating, vandalism. If you prefer not to call 9-1-1, contact the desk officer at 214-670-7253 to information on making a report.

The **east wall beyond the cul-de-sacs** has also recently been tagged. However, we have been informed that the structure is scheduled for demolition as part of the redevelopment of the old Lakeside Apartments property (formerly Willow Creek).

The **other vandalism has taken form of eggs, both broken and intact, tomato juice and paint markings left around various homes, and "turfing" (defacing/destruction with vehicle tires) of lawns.** Glendora seems to have had more than its share of this trouble. Neighbors, please be extra vigilant about suspicious persons, vehicles, noises, etc. and let's see if we can help prevent these incidents especially along the streets frequented by school traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian.

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**PURSE SNATCHED AT PRESTON/ROYAL** -- A Meadows neighbor forwarded an e-mail account of a brazen purse theft in front of the Tom Thumb store. The victim was a resident of a nearby neighborhood who had just tossed her handbag into her car and turned around to transfer her groceries from the shopping cart. A white male opened the rear passenger door, grabbed the purse and escaped with a white female companion in a gray Yukon. The culprits were reported to be in their late 20's or early 30's. The victim was able to provide the Yukon's license plate number to police, but we did not receive that information.

This poor lady lost her fully loaded wallet, a spare set of house keys and her "new Christmas purse and i-phone." This situation and all the subsequent worries, changing of locks, reports and account cancellations could have been prevented in a number of ways but we won't nag by repeating the usual list. However, please take all possible security precautions when doing errands and be aware of who is around you, your shopping cart and your vehicle.

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**AVIAN ATTACK ON DIMINUTIVE DOG** -- A tiny adult canine belonging to some Mimosa neighbors was recently attacked on their property by a Red-tailed hawk. The little dog was injured but fortunately is recovering. The hawk was seen by the dog's owner.

According to the *Stokes Field Guide to Birds*, these large (wingspan: 43-52") feed on small mammals, reptiles and birds. It's not unusual to see them soaring above the local ponds and creeks in our area. Too bad we can't convince them just to reduce the rat population!

The Meadows is also frequented by Cooper's hawks and Sharp-shinned hawks, both of which are smaller and feed on medium sized birds such as doves and jays. We've seen Mrs. Cooper carry off a pigeon.....a testament to her strength as her body didn't look much larger than her choice of lunch. Those of us with

bird feeders know that the raptorial birds are fascinating to watch but are not neat and tidy in their acquisition of snacks and can leave messy evidence of their food shopping.

MeadowsWatch has not received accounts of other attacks on pets by Red-tailed Hawks but we do know of such reports from other areas. If you have small dogs or cats as well as bird feeders, be vigilant.

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**THIEVES HIT VEHICLE IN PHYSICIAN'S PARKING AREA** -- A Meadows neighbor who is a physician recently reported the theft of a suitcase from the vehicle of a patient who travels from an adjacent state for appointments. The medical office is located east of the Meadows on North Central Expressway. We do not know if the luggage was visible inside the vehicle, already in the trunk or transferred to the trunk in the parking lot. However, the situation indicates that criminals are monitoring the arrival of local parking lot patrons and checking out their vehicles.

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**DANGEROUS SHAMS AND SCAMS** -- These incidents are not local but they do suggest that a bit of skepticism can be healthy.....

From the "No good deed goes unpunished" file: A Meadows neighbor forwarded an email alert about parking lot scams that result in abduction and rape. A not-so-innocent elderly woman or a child crying for help from a car is the bait that lures a concerned female passer-by to see what is wrong. A male kidnapper jumps from the back of the car and abducts the victim at gunpoint. The story points out the need for caution when approaching an unfamiliar vehicle alone. Honk a car horn to draw attention. Use a cell phone to summon help. Locate security personnel. As was said in the alert, none of us wants to leave helpless a senior citizen or a child who is truly in trouble, but the times in which we live unfortunately necessitate great caution.

From the "Who's calling?" file: A neighbor reported receiving a warning about calls that contain a message for the recipient regarding an urgent emergency involving a family member or a notice of a special prize that has been won, etc. The call recipient is told to contact a phone number beginning with an area code that turns out to originate overseas. The report warns that the cost of the return phone call can be over \$2400 per minute, the charges for which are difficult to dispute, since the targeted call recipient was indeed responsible for the return call. The name and phone number of an AT&T field service agent was associated with this report, but we could not verify because the number was missing one digit. However, this is a good reminder to investigate carefully before responding to calls, or the long distance bill could be long on expenses.

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**E-MAIL: FORWARDING CAN BITE BACK** -- Messages, articles, news reports, photos, favorite websites, etc., can be fun and informative to share, but forwarding or just sending emails to groups of friends, family and colleagues can be very risky if not handled with care. Meadows Crime Watch receives a lot of email from neighbors and other Crime Watch groups containing the email addresses of everyone to whom the message was addressed or forwarded. A crime watch volunteer sent some how-to instructions that are very helpful in sending out group or "mass" mailings without compromising the privacy and email security

of all the addressees. If you would like a copy of this information on using the "BCC", blind carbon copy, feature of email applications, please contact us at [meadowswatch@swbell.net](mailto:meadowswatch@swbell.net). In the meanwhile, do read the excerpt from the Meadows volunteer's message:

**"How Forwarding Emails can Increase Spam [and viruses]:** A hidden, but non-trivial side effect of forwarding emails is that your email address is likely to be forwarded along with it and will probably end up in a large number of email in-boxes in diverse regions of the planet. Once the forwarded email begins its journey from your computer, to the Rest Of The World, you have absolutely no control over how many times the email gets forwarded and, of course, how many times your private email address gets forwarded right along with it. Your email address is likely to end up, not only in the private in-boxes of complete strangers, but also on mailing lists, news groups, online forums and the hard copy someone printed off to show Great Uncle Vinny. Sooner or later, it is possible, even probable, that your email address will cross the in-box of your friendly neighborhood spammer. Spammers must love emails that have been forwarded a number of times. For them, the dozens of valid addresses that such emails have collected upon their journey through cyberspace must seem an enticing bonus. This is certainly not the only way that spammers get hold of email addresses" ....

Crime Watch adds that it is, however, one of the easiest. Enterprising individuals can make a fee for every email address that they provide to certain on-line advertisers, spammers, among them the folks who send you those ads to attract you to Rolex Watches, "easy" loans, "entertainment" websites, overseas brides or those concoctions that can reduce your waistline, regrow your hair or enhance your social life. **Protect the email of those whose messages you forward and to whom you forward by using the blind carbon copy feature of your email program or removing all the other addresses on the message before you press "send."** Check the "help" feature of your email program, or email us for some ideas.

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**PROVIDENT PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** -- Taken from [www.themeadowsna.org](http://www.themeadowsna.org) :

- **(1/12/08) Development Update-** As everyone is well aware, demolition of the apartments next to our neighborhood continues. Buildings are being demolished as soon as the asbestos abatement is complete. Already, all of the units immediately adjacent to our alley wall have been demolished, with the exception of the unit along Walnut Hill. The City Plan Commission will likely hear the developer's waiver request for the rezoning amendment to allow them to build single family zero lot line homes in the Tract A immediately adjacent to our neighborhood instead of the originally planned town homes. The procedural waiver is necessary since it has been less than two years since the last rezoning request. Once the waiver is granted, the neighborhood task force will work with the developers to work out the precise zoning language, which will likely take a couple of months according to the plan commissioner for our district. This process does not appear to be impacting the scheduled development process. Further information will be posted as it becomes available.

For pictures and information about the proposed development visit the Provident Realty Advisors website [www.providentrealty.net](http://www.providentrealty.net) . Their November news release describes the mixed-use plan.

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**CRIME STATISTICS NOW AVAILABLE EACH DAY ON-LINE** -- You can obtain daily crime data from the Dallas Police website or have them delivered to your email inbox each morning by a service called the *Daily Crime Report*. Both are free.

To obtain the data from the police site, visit [www.dallaspolice.net](http://www.dallaspolice.net) . On the home page click the public access button. On the disclaimer page, click to check that you have read the disclaimer and usage

policy and click the "Public Access for Reports" button. On the next page fill in the reporting area box with the number 1061 and/or the beat number 652. Give a range of dates (such as 1/01/08 to 1/31/08) and start the search.

The *Daily Crime Report* information and registration can be accessed at:

[http://www.dailycrimereport.com/dcr\\_subscribe\\_dallas/dallas/specialgroups.html](http://www.dailycrimereport.com/dcr_subscribe_dallas/dallas/specialgroups.html)

The subscription is free to consumers as it advertiser-driven. Demographic information is used to seek advertisers to support the site. You do not have to provide all information requested. A sample report is available at:

[http://www.dailycrimereport.com/dallas/northcentral/dallas\\_northcentral\\_652/index.php](http://www.dailycrimereport.com/dallas/northcentral/dallas_northcentral_652/index.php)

Our beat number is 652. You can indicate that you are part of Meadows Crime Watch or Meadows Neighborhood Association. As soon as 15 Meadows households sign up, DCR will begin customizing and emailing reports for our area. Some streets in the reports are outside the Meadows boundaries.

**MeadowsWatch will continue to publish a compilation of crime statistics for the months between editions of the newsletter as shown below. Please note that the chart includes ONLY the Meadows.**

**MEADOWS CRIME DATA FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY :**

Beat	Location	Date	Time	Offense
652	73** Mimosa Lane	11/2/2007	2:57 pm	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
652	71** Mimosa Lane	11/4/2007	7:35 pm	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
652	72** Blairview Drive	11/20/2007	11:00 am	Assault M/C
652	73** Fieldgate Drive	11/29/2007	2:44 am	Found Property – Abandoned Truck & Trailer
652	73** Inglecliff Drive	12/11/2007	12:38 pm	Theft
652	73** Blairview Drive	12/17/2007	3:25 pm	Identity Theft
652	72** Lakehurst Drive	1/25/2008	5:50 pm	Burglary of a Residence

**Thanks to all of you who have called or emailed so many kind and supportive comments! We appreciate knowing that you find MeadowsWatch information useful.**

**We hope that folks will continue to sign up for email delivery as this will increase our efficiency and reduce printing costs.**

Please consider making a modest contribution to The Meadows Neighborhood Association(TMNA). Everyone in the Meadows is a member.....there are no mandatory dues.....it is a voluntary association. Expenses include newsletter and special events printing costs, median landscape maintenance, the telephone alert and voice mail system and other activities and projects that benefit every household. Please check [www.themeadowsna.org](http://www.themeadowsna.org) for more information about TMNA or call 214-890-6887. Leave your name and phone number and we'll get back in touch with you to answer any questions. The website suggests voluntary dues of \$35 a year, but even \$10 will help to defray the costs of the projects that enhance living in the Meadows and help to maintain the neighborhood as a desirable residential area. Contributions can be mailed to the Meadows Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 12865, Dallas TX, 75225-0858.

*Think Spring!*

