

The Tip Sheet



June
2017

Newsletter Contents

Chairman's Message.....	Page 2
Announcements.....	Page 3
Texas Crime Stoppers Director's Message.....	Page 4
Crime Stoppers Anniversaries.....	Page 4
Texas Most Wanted.....	Page 5

Contact Information:

Texas Crime Stoppers Director

Elaine Windberg
Phone: 512-463-1914

Texas Crime Stoppers Associate Director

Liana Curtis
Phone: 512-463-1979

Texas Crime Stoppers Program Coordinator

Douglas Brodie
Phone: 512-463-1964

Texas Crime Stoppers Program Coordinator

Le'Darrion Allen
Phone: 512-465-4832

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Phone:

512-463-1919

Fax:

512-475-2440

Email:

Txcrimestoppers@gov.texas.gov

Website:

www.thetexascrimestoppers.org

Message from the Chairman

Explain Yourself

I preach, and have written here before, that we need to do a better job of explaining what is Crime Stoppers. I've also said that I'm regularly asked to speak to citizen groups about Crime Stoppers. Given that, you might think my community has a good grasp of what it is that we do. If so, you would be partially correct.

You see, when we speak during a Chamber of Commerce luncheon or neighborhood association meeting, we're reaching potential sponsors and supporters, mostly. I've yet to be invited to give a presentation for the monthly street corner gathering of drug dealers and users but just one person from that group has far more knowledge about local criminal activity than do all the Kiwanis Club members combined. Don't stop reaching out to sponsors and supporters, just make sure you're also explaining yourself to potential tipsters.

I cannot remember the last time I met someone from the Dealer and Users Guild who had not heard of Crime Stoppers but I regularly deal with those who don't understand it. They usually get the basic idea—you don't have to give your name and there is money involved—but I find myself continually debunking the same three misconceptions about Crime Stoppers.



The first, and most common, misconception is that Crime Stoppers is, or is part of, a law enforcement agency. Our financial supporters usually understand that Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization run by a volunteer board of directors but the people to whom we're trying to give money think we investigate crimes, make arrests, and accept crime reports from victims.

Anonymity is another mystery for tipsters and for potential tipsters who don't call because they don't understand it. Many of them believe they need to give their name to collect a reward. They cannot comprehend it until they experience it, and those who have experienced it cannot pass their knowledge without outing themselves.

The third misconception is that Crime Stoppers will only accept information concerning crimes we profiled. As an officer and as a coordinator, I hear from people who say they could have helped recover stolen property, identify a drug dealer, or locate a fugitive but they "didn't know Crime Stoppers was looking for the [property/drugs/person]".

We have to accept some of the blame for the misconceptions. Crime Stoppers and law enforcement are separate entities but we put badge-wearing peace officers on TV to ask for tips and offer rewards, we use law enforcement symbols in our logos, and we say things like "Crime Stoppers wants your help to solve...". We use the words anonymous and anonymity, and write our press releases at the college level, while the average adult reads at about the seventh grade level. And, we often fail to properly establish our relationships with all area law enforcement officer sand agencies, so many tips concerning crimes not profiled by Crime Stoppers don't get investigated.

I wish I could offer you a clear way of permanently addressing these false impressions but I don't think such a way exists. Reach out to the community at large, put information on your website, record radio spots, write newspaper articles, and train your patrol officers and investigators, and then do it again, and again. When doing these things, remember who it is that you are trying to reach and form your message for them

JB Smith

Chairman, **Texas Crime Stoppers Council**

Announcements

2017 Texas Crime Stoppers Council Meetings:

July 10, 2017 at 5:30PM
Galveston County Sheriff's Office
601 54th St.
Galveston, TX 77551

October 17, 2017
29th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference
Seguin, TX
Time and Location: TBD

Social Media: Follow us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/TheTexasCrimeStoppers/>

16-Hour Crime Stoppers Basic Training Course:

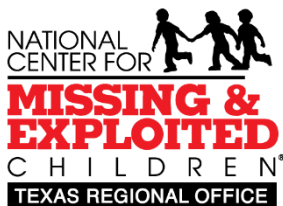
- July 10-11, Galveston

29th Annual Texas Crime Stoppers Conference:

October 18-20, 2017
Seguin, Texas
More details to follow!!

Texas Best Awards October 2017:

Have you reflected on your organizations publicity-related activities and want to review the award categories? If so, click [here!](#)



We want to take this opportunity to share an exciting training with you hosted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Technology Related Crimes Against Children is a **FREE** two-day conference designed to support the efforts of professionals engaged in the investigation, response, and prosecution of the crimes against children that utilize internet technologies.

<https://www.ncmectx.org/trainings/>

TCOLE & CLE credits provided!

We have two scheduled currently, with more possible dates to be scheduled:

- Dallas (July 18-19) [register here](#)
- Brownsville (September 19-20) [register here](#)

Director's Message

Did you forget something?

If your organization's 2016 IRS tax period ended on December 31st, your annual IRS annual return was due no later than May 15, 2017!

For more information, visit the IRS website:

- [Annual Reporting & Filing Requirements](#)
- [IRS Stay Exempt: Tax Basics for Exempt Organizations](#)

Elaine Windberg, Director

Texas Crime Stoppers

Office of the Governor



Congratulations to our Texas Crime Stoppers Organizations celebrating anniversaries in June!



10th Anniversary – Clear Fork Crime Stoppers, Inc.

25th Anniversary – Crime Stoppers of Wise County, Inc.

27th Anniversary – Somervell County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

33rd Anniversary – Williamson County Crime Stoppers Program, Inc.

34th Anniversary – Johnson County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

35th Anniversary – East Wharton County Crime Stoppers

35th Anniversary – Crime Stoppers of South Texas, Inc.

35th Anniversary – Crime Stoppers of San Antonio, Inc.

35th Anniversary – Harlingen Area Crime Stoppers, Inc.

36th Anniversary – The Grand Prairie Crime Commission

36th Anniversary – Hays County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

38th Anniversary – Amarillo Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Texas Most Wanted

REWARD OFFERED 10 MOST WANTED SEX OFFENDER



**UP TO
\$3,000 REWARD**



The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Kevin Travis Waddell, 54, to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders list, and a cash reward of up to \$3,000 is now being offered for information leading to his capture. Waddell is wanted for parole violation, failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements, and possession of a controlled substance. **All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.**

Waddell has been wanted since September 2015 and may have fled the state. He has ties to the Austin area, including the city of Lakeway (his last known address). In 1992, Waddell was convicted in Potter County of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old female. He was subsequently sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Waddell is 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighs approximately 240 pounds. He has tattoos on his left shoulder, both upper arms, right leg, back and chest. He has worked in the welding and metal fabrication industry, and may also be known as "Kevin Brewster."

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of the Texas 10 Most Wanted fugitives or sex offenders. So far in 2017, Texas Crime Stoppers has paid \$32,500 in total rewards for anonymous tips that resulted in arrests.

To be eligible for the cash rewards, tipsters must provide information to authorities using one of the five following methods:

- Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).
- Text the letters "DPS" – followed by your tip – to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone.
- Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.
- Submit a Facebook tip at <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).
- Submit a tip through the DPS Mobile App. The app is currently available for iPhone users on the Apple App Store: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/texas-dps/id902092368?mt=8>) and for Android users on Google Play: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microassist.texasdps&hl=en>).

All tips are anonymous – regardless of how they are submitted, and tipsters will be provided a tip number instead of using a name. DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives for the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender lists. You can find the current lists – with photos – on the DPS website at

<http://www.dps.texas.gov/texas10mostwanted/>.

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