

The Tip Sheet



**March
2017**

Newsletter Contents

Chairman's Message.....	Page 2
Announcements.....	Page 3
Director's Message.....	Page 4
Volunteer Awards	Page 5
Texas Most Wanted.....	Page 6

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Message from the Chairman

Crime Stoppers; what is it and why it works

I am fortunate to be able to speak to many citizen groups on a regular basis about Crime Stoppers; about my local program and Crime Stoppers in general. I jump at every opportunity to speak during any community or law enforcement event and I encourage board members and coordinators of other programs to do the same. The more people know about Crime Stoppers, our capabilities, and our successes, the more they use us and support us.

I speak about Crime Stoppers so often that it is second nature to me and I forget that others do not always feel as comfortable in their own knowledge. This point became clear to me while listening to someone else discuss Crime Stoppers. This person has a history with and is an asset to their local program but they struggled to explain what Crime Stoppers is and why it works. When we fail to present a clear what-it-is-why-it-works message to the public, donors, or sponsors, it sends a message that the program is disorganized and is not worth investing their time or money.

Crime Stoppers is a proven and cost effective method for addressing crime.

The public sees far more than can all of the officers of even the largest agencies and the information they can provide will solve crimes. For law enforcement, getting the information from citizens is not always a simple task. Fear and apathy are powerful forces that keep the public from assisting in solving the crime problem in their community. Crime Stoppers, which operates separate from any other method of reporting crime-related information, permits members of the community to anonymously provide to law enforcement information concerning criminal activity without directly involving themselves in an investigation (or prosecution).

I'm not well versed in the laws of other states with regard to Crime Stoppers but my conversations with CS and law enforcement personnel of other states lead me to believe we, as residents of Texas, are fortunate to have statutory protections in place securing the anonymity of tipsters and the confidentiality of tip information. In the late 1980s, our legislators made Crime Stoppers tips "privileged information" and provided criminal penalties for the misuse of such information. Thanks to Texas Government Code section 414.008, unless a criminal defendant or a civil plaintiff can clear what essentially are insurmountable hurdles, Crime Stoppers tips are not admissible in a court or an administrative proceeding. I say the hurdles are insurmountable because the statute requires a judge to find that a tip contains exculpatory evidence or that a tip was a reason a plaintiff was charged or convicted and later acquitted. Tips are not probable cause for arrest and law enforcement must investigate and corroborate the anonymously-provided information before taking enforcement action, so the Government Code hurdles are not likely to be cleared and, if they were, a judge cannot release any information that might identify a tipster. Also in place since the late 80s is Gov't Code section 414.009, which creates an offense for divulging the content of a Crime Stoppers tip or the identity of the tipster. Information reported to a law enforcement agency, whether by a witness or informant, is not anonymous or protected from release. While LEAs will do what they can to delay revealing an informant's identity, the public information act will, eventually, force the release. Only Crime Stoppers can guarantee anonymity.

A key fact, and one that tends to be unknown to the public and goes unrecognized by many in law enforcement and some within Crime Stoppers programs, is that Crime Stoppers programs are independent, nonprofit entities not under the control of a government body. Many believe CS programs are a division within a law enforcement agency (and some are wrongly operated that way) but CS programs operate on tax-deductible donations, fundraising, and fees paid by convicted criminals. Thanks again to our state legislators, certified CS programs may receive probation fees and reward repayments for use in paying rewards for anonymous, crime-solving information. I enjoy saying during presentations that we make criminals pay the rewards that put them in jail. Those listening to the presentations enjoy hearing that Crime Stoppers operates at no cost to the government, taxpayers, or law enforcement agency budgets.

If you're willing, you should be able to use this information, along with some statistical data and general information about your program, to give a short but quality presentation during a civic group meeting, to your city council or county commissioners court, or to fill a few minutes during a law enforcement class. Stick to three key points; CS is an independent liaison for the public and law enforcement, CS offers statutorily-protected anonymity that is not available to law enforcement witnesses and informants, and CS uses non-government-funded rewards to motivate the crime-solving process. Give the presentation a couple of times and other groups will seek you out to speak to them. Our goal is generating information that solves crimes and that requires publicity and operating funds, both of which you can generate by spreading the word about your program.



JB Smith

Chairman, Texas Crime Stoppers Council

Announcements

2017 Council Meetings:

May 4, 2017 at 12:00 PM
Fredericksburg, TX
Inn on Baron's Creek
308 S. Washington St.

June 5, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Brownsville, TX
Ringgold Civic Pavilion
501 E. Ringgold St. Suite 5

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

16-Hour Crime Stoppers Basic Training Course: We are excited to announce that we will offer 16hr. Basic Crime Stoppers Training through July 2017! Register at www.thetexascrimestoppers.org/training

- April 10-11, Grand Prairie (Registration Open)
- May 4-5, Fredericksburg (Registration Open)
Training in conjunction with Texas Crime Stoppers Council Meeting
- June 5-6, Brownsville (Registration Open)
Training in conjunction with Texas Crime Stoppers Council Meeting
- July 10-11, Galveston (Registration Coming Soon)

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

- 7th Anniversary – Kaufman County Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 22nd Anniversary – Henderson County Crime Stoppers
- 25th Anniversary – Brazoria County Crime Stoppers
- 26th Anniversary – Moore County Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 27th Anniversary – Rusk County Crimestoppers, Inc.
- 32nd Anniversary – Atascosa County Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 33rd Anniversary – Tri-County Crime Stoppers
- 33rd Anniversary – Heart of Texas Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 35th Anniversary – Limestone County Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 35th Anniversary – Fort Stockton County Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 35th Anniversary – La Marque Crime Stoppers Program, Inc.
- 36th Anniversary – Tyler Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- 36th Anniversary – Baytown Crime Stoppers, Inc.

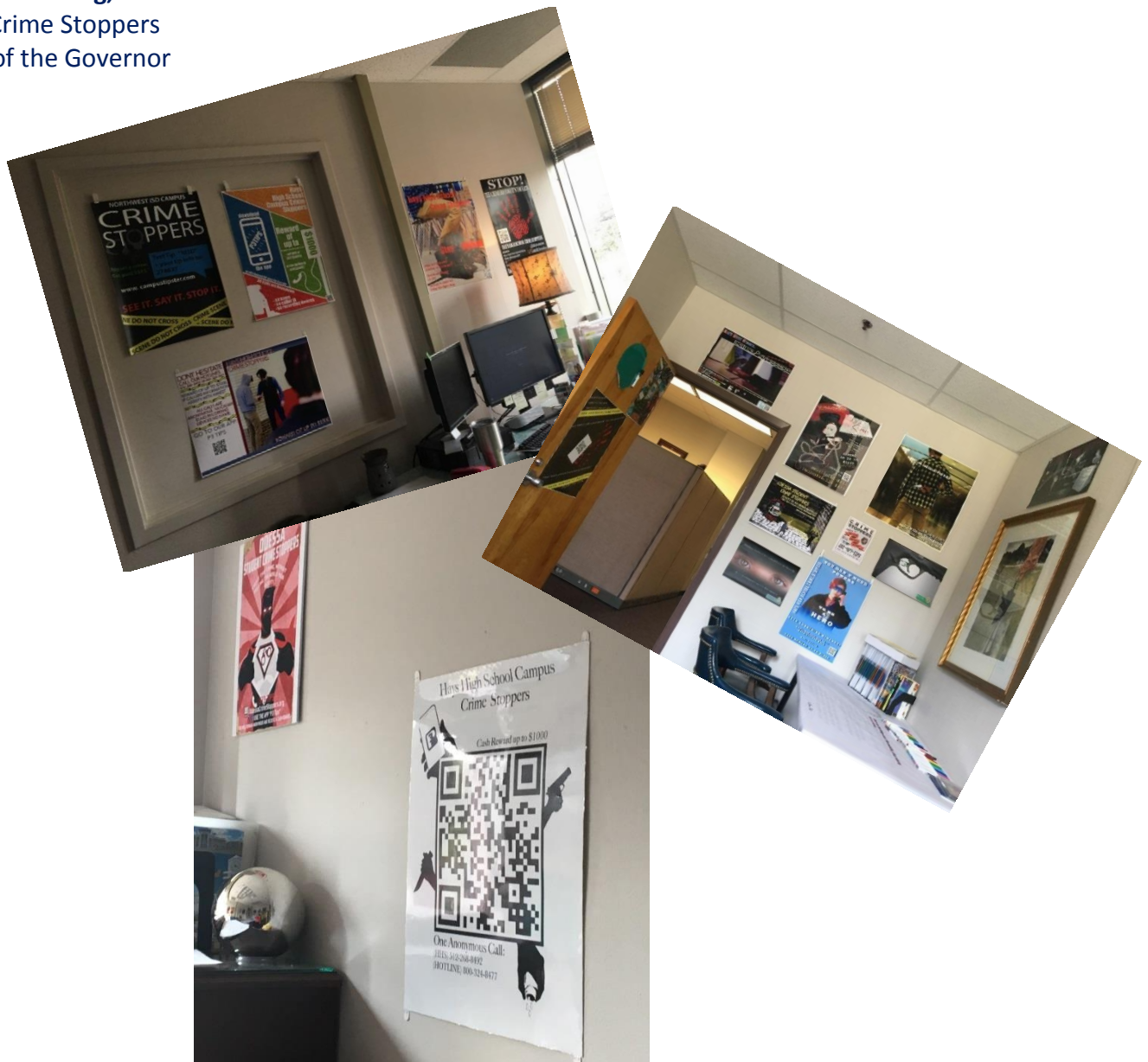


Director's Message

For those who have never had the fun and privilege of attending our annual campus Crime Stoppers conference, the students have the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents in a poster contest. There are two categories of posters, freehand and digital. The winning posters are selected by a panel of judges and are announced during the annual awards banquet.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the posters when the conference ends? They end up decorating the walls of the Texas Crime Stoppers Director and halls of the Criminal Justice Division within the Office of the Governor!

Elaine Windberg, Director
Texas Crime Stoppers
Office of the Governor



Volunteer Awards

FIRST LADY CECILIA ABBOTT TO CHAIR 34TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

AUSTIN – First Lady Cecilia Abbott, Honorary Chair of the 34th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards, today announced that nominations are open. The Governor's Volunteer Awards, administered by the OneStar Foundation, honor the contributions of individuals, groups and organizations in Texas that have made a positive impact in their communities or across Texas through service and volunteering. Through her Texanthropy Initiative, Mrs. Abbott is promoting volunteerism and service to others as her primary focus as First Lady of Texas.

"I am honored to once again chair the Governor's Volunteer Awards and help celebrate my fellow Texans who have answered the call to service," the First Lady said. "Texans are generous by nature, and I am looking forward to this opportunity to applaud those who have committed their time, talent or treasure to help create a brighter future for their fellow Texans."

The eight award categories are:

- Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award
- First Lady's Rising Star Award
- Partners in Education Award
- Service to Veterans Award
- Higher Education Community Impact Award
- Corporate Community Impact Award
- Community Leadership Award
- National Service "Make a Difference" Award



To see descriptions and criteria for each award, visit:

<http://onestarfoundation.org/texas-faith-based-community-initiative/governors-volunteer-awards/>.

To submit a nomination for an award, visit <https://app.reviewr.com/s1/site/onestarfoundation2017> or email gva@onestarfoundation.org for more information. The nominations will close on March 31, 2017.

Awardees will be honored in the Fall at an evening reception hosted by the First Lady at the Governor's Mansion.

Texas Most Wanted

REWARD OFFERED 10 MOST WANTED FUGITIVE FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY AREA



UP TO \$12,500 REWARD

The reward for Jared Luke Langley, 34, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and this month's featured fugitive, has been increased to \$12,500 for information leading to his capture if the tip is received in March. Langley, who has ties to the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas gang, is wanted for parole violation, burglary, theft, evading arrest and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver/manufacture. All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.

Langley has ties to Montgomery County and Madison County, including the city of Midway (his last known address). In June 2016, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles issued a warrant for Langley's arrest for parole violation. In July 2016, Langley eluded capture from Madison County Sheriff's Office deputies after he fled on foot. For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/fugitiveDetails.aspx?id=344.

Langley is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 190 pounds. He has numerous tattoos on his abdomen, back, chest, both arms and both legs. He may be known by the nicknames "Twisted" or "Twist."

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.