



# The Del Aire DEFENDER

Vol II

May 1996

## FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Hello Del Aire,

Well I've got that warm fuzzy that comes when things just seem to come together. And, I would like to express my thanks to all that made it happen. I wish to thank all of our Block Captains who took the time to hand

deliver our newsletters each month, thus we are one of the best informed groups around! I want to thank all the folks that helped plant trees in the park, and the good neighbor who let us water them from their garden hose. I would like to thank the good people of the Shalimar Neighborhood and Hartsdel Neighborhood who helped to patrol and deliver notices to the residents of the Epperly Heights Neighborhood. Their efforts resulted in more than 175 people showing up for the first major neighborhood watch meeting in that area. And, to top it all off, I must thank Police Chief Mark Edwards who has worked so hard WITH these groups to help bring our city closer together. Having given thanks, now I would like to welcome officer Austin Slaten to Del Aire! That's right, as promised by the Chief, we now have an officer assigned to the Del Aire area! Austin is a very active police officer. Working with the newly restored Explorer Post, he spends much of his time with the young people of our city. You'll probably be seeing a lot of Austin in our area. It's my understanding that he will try to meet our residents and get to know them and their feelings. You may even see Austin out with our patrollers this summer on bicycles! Well, I'm feeling great right now, and I could ramble on, But there is so much in this newsletter that you should know about that I'd better go. Good bye for now, see you at our next meeting.

Lee

## PD ASSIGNS OFFICER TO DEL AIRE

At our meeting on April 5, Police Chief Mark Edwards honored a promise he made to us a year ago. The promise was that as soon as the police department hired some additional officers, he would assign an officer to our neighborhood watch. At our meeting, Chief Edwards introduced us to Officer Austin Slaten. Officer Slaten will be patrolling, mainly, our neighborhood. After Officer Slaten was introduced, members voted on and approved a motion to equip his vehicle with a CB radio so he could be in direct communication with our patrollers. By the 11th of April, we had Officer Slaten's vehicle "wired for sound." We are very excited and honored to have Officer Slaten become a part of our neighborhood and crime fighting efforts.

## NEW BASE RADIO FOR POLICE STATION

As you may recall, in July of last year we worked with the other two neighborhood watch groups to re-establish a base radio in dispatch. It took some doing, but with a little cable we managed to get their equipment going.

It worked all right in the beginning, but has since become troublesome. There were two occasions last month where the dispatchers at the police station were trying to reach us and couldn't. At our April meeting, members voted and approved a budget for our patrol efforts. Included in that budget was the purchase of a new base radio, cable, and antenna for the police department's use. Within a week, we had the new equipment in place and it sounds great. The dispatchers can now reach all areas of Del City on the new base radio.

## DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING!!!!

Saturday - May 4, 1996 - 7:00 p.m.  
in the Court Room of the Del City Police Department!!



## TREES PLANTED IN CHEYENNE PARK

As we mentioned in our March newsletter, the Park and Recreation Commission met in February and decided to allocate 10 trees to our Cheyenne Park. At that meeting, some of our members volunteered to help the city plant them. In the March newsletter, we asked anyone interested in helping plant them to give us a call. Well, on Sunday, March 24, 13 DANWA members (some brought their families along) converged on Cheyenne Park to plant. We had 3 Locus, 2 Redbuds, 3 Red Oak, 2 Cotton-less Cotton Wood trees. A sincere THANK YOU to each of the following people for their "hard" work and dedication to our neighborhood: Mike Richardson, Armondo Padilla, Ron McCall, John Martin, Steve Gold, Matthew Gold, John Morris, John Hirsch, Ed Eakins, Buddy Sayre, Kim Lee, Jeremy Henley, and Michelle Lee. A very special THANK YOU goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Dennis for allowing us to hook up to their water hose and water the trees after we planted them. Also, we would like to thank Mr. Bud Dolen, Supervisor, Parks & Recreation and Tom Tollison, Acting Public Works Director for their cooperation and support! If you haven't been down to the park lately, you really should go see the trees while they are budding.

## HEALTH PROBLEMS AND DISABILITIES

First, we would like to reassure our members that all information they provide us is treated as delicate and privileged information. We guard it very carefully. Only association officers, base operators, and the police department have access to this information. As always, the information is shredded when no longer in use. This year, same as last, we have been constructing a new database of members. We have been including all comments and notes made by members. Some people told us they had elderly or disabled family members living in the home with them. This information is vital in the event of an emergency. Should something happen, we and/or the police department will have this knowledge and be a step ahead. For example, if someone in your household is on oxygen and we have a power failure, this information is critical to getting help quickly. Or, if there's a fire in your home and someone inside is wheelchair bound, it's crucial that this information be passed along. Last year, we had a member who passed away from a severe asthma attack. Although we didn't know this member had asthma, we knew the member lived alone. The police department contacted us to see if we had any next-of-kin information for the member. Fortunately, we did and they were

able to contact the family quickly. This year, we are including all of the emergency, health problems, and disabilities information to the police department so they will have it on hand. If you have any health problems or disabilities, please let us know. Either write us with this info. or call our Hotline 672-Xtra and leave a message. This vital information could be used to save your life.

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A FREE TREATMENT program FOR those who suffer from HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, ASTHMA, and other medical disorders is beginning at the OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION. Call the Clinical Pharmacology Program at 271-7805.

If you suffer from HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE or ASTHMA call 271-7805 for more info.

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## WHO IS A STRANGER?

If you are like most parents, you have cautioned your children about not talking to strangers, not going off with strangers, etc. I thought that I had covered that topic quite well with my children, until recently. My daughter and two of her friends were playing out in front of my house. I was inside, doing some domestic thing, when I looked outside and noticed all the kids were gone. Being concerned, I went out front and there were no children to be seen. I got on the phone and called my neighbors to see if the girls had gone to one of their houses to play without telling me. I just wanted to know where they were. To my surprise, no one had seen them. At that point, my pulse rate increased. I thought to myself, don't panic, just walk down to the end of the street and you'll probably see them playing around the corner. Well, I did and they weren't there. I ran home, jumped in the car, and started driving around the block. I drove around a couple of streets before spotting one of the three girls. I picked up that little girl and asked her where the other two were. Her reply to me was, "I don't know." She went on to tell me that they were looking for a lost dog. By then, my heart was beating so loudly, I could hardly hear. We continued to drive around looking for the other girls. Realizing that I was visibly upset, the little girl proceeded to tell me the story of the lost dog. She said a lady pulled up to the corner (by the way, I live on a corner lot with a stop sign in my yard) at the stop sign and hollered to the three girls. The girls answered her from a distance. The lady asked the girls if they had seen her little dog, "Peanut." The girls told the lady

they hadn't seen it. The lady went on to describe the dog and explained that the little dog jumped out the window at a stop sign and was probably around here close. The lady told the girls that "Peanut" loves kids and would come to them if they called him. The lady drove off very slowly around the block. What ever possessed these little girls to help in the dog hunt, I'll never know. But they did so without telling anyone where they were going. Cold chills went down my spine and fear had struck deep. The girls had obviously separated and each one was even more vulnerable now. After combing a few more blocks around my house, I spotted the other two. I picked them up and proceeded home. I asked the girls why they would run off like that without telling anyone where they were going. Their response was the typical, "I don't know," because they knew better. They went on to say that this lady lost her dog and we wanted to "help" her find it. Like a broken record, I began lecturing the girls on what bad things could happen to them going away from home without anyone knowing. I tried to explain to them that this could have been an attempt to lure them off of their street so someone could snatch them up without being seen. I told them that they knew better than to talk to strangers. The girls said, "This lady isn't a stranger, she's just a lady who lost her dog." Stunned by their response, I dropped the other girls off at their houses and went on home. Needless to say, my daughter has been re-educated on strangers and leaving her play area without permission. I also contacted the other parents and informed them of what had happened. They were just as shocked as I was. I think one thing that we should instill or re-instill in our children is that a "stranger" is not some "scary-

looking" person. In fact, they can be male or female, young or old, and appear very friendly, very sad, very happy, ....very normal! Perhaps I over-reacted, maybe this was very innocent, maybe I shouldn't be so suspicious, perhaps I shouldn't be so strict, ...perhaps NOT! In this day and age, I don't think a parent can be too careful. With the weather warming, children will be walking home from school and playing outside a lot. They won't always have us standing beside them. They will be acting in accordance with what they have been taught. Parents, please talk to your children, again, about strangers and staying close to home.

## SENIOR SECTOR

Chuckle For The Day.....

You Know You're Getting Old When...

- ...Your broad mind changes places with your narrow waist.
- ...Your arms are getting shorter, your legs are getting longer, your feet are out of sight, and the middle of your back might as well be in Chicago.
- ...You see your old cereal bowl in an antique shop.

## Growing In Grace

My eyes are growing dimmer,  
yet I see more  
than I used to see.  
My ears are hearing less, and  
yet I listen more  
perceptively.  
Now some folks will say  
I'm aging, growing older,  
come what may,  
But to me,  
I'm just plain growing--  
growing more in grace  
each day!

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## **NOTES.....**

### **FROM YOUR NOSY NEIGHBOR! GANGS, THE MORE YOU KNOW....**

For the next several months I will be writing more articles on gangs for our parents to **READ and HEED**. Some of the information may seem repetitious, but these things are definitely worth repeating. As the Public Service announcement states, "The More You Know...." This means the better informed you are, the better equipped you are to deal with problems/situations facing our society/neighborhood today. While the "gang" activity at Taco Bell has calmed down, it is on the rise in the apartments bordering our one-square mile area. As a matter of fact, while I was writing this article, we had some gang-related activity in the Creekwood Apartments (29th & Sooner). It seems a few males were packing guns through the apartment's playground area. We heard a report that a pregnant female had been shot. The police arrived just as the male suspects were leaving the area and one of them ran. Which direction do you suppose he ran? To the south, back towards our area. The officer reported that the suspect had ran south in to the Kristie Manor Apartment parking lot and was probably hiding in between cars. As you may or may not know, we have many houses that back-up to the apartment

areas so we were extremely concerned. We had a description of the suspect and our patrollers on the streets in that area within minutes. We then notified the members whose houses back-up to the apartments to make them aware. Within 20 to 30 minutes, the police had all of the suspects in custody. Again, we notified those members to let them know everything was okay. A couple of weeks prior to that incident, within our area, we had a car load of teens pull a gun on a 15 year old boy because he refused to join their "gang."

The first issue we will cover is Street Gangs. Street gangs can be identified as a loose affiliation of adolescents/teens with the propensity for violence and unlawful acts. Gangs are associated with social conditions and are very common where there exists low income, joblessness and low self-esteem. It is known that gangs thrive on the indifference of parents, friends and neighbors who tolerate law breaking and illicit wealth such as drug dealing, stealing, etc. Gangs are formed by young people who are poorly educated, have low self-esteem and are unsupervised. They generally come from communities where often times adults are unemployed, and where you frequently see under-aged children roaming around late at night. These children may be from one-parent families usually headed by a female. Often times their parent or guardian has a drug abuse problem and tends to be emotionally and physically removed from their children's lives. The parents pay little or no attention to the kids, their friends, or with what the kids are wearing. Today, what kids wear can put their lives in great danger! Generally, there are no positive role models in the children's lives; they may have learning problems in school and,

thus, very low self-esteem. These children usually display severe emotional and behavioral problems early on.

What can we, as parents do? For starters: a. Talk with and listen to your child, b. Put a high value on education and help your child do his/her best in school, c. Help your kids identify with positive role models and heroes - especially people in your community, d. Do everything possible to involve your children in supervised, positive group activities, e. Praise them for doing well and encourage them, f. Know what your children are doing and with whom. It is very important to discuss gangs and the problems they create with your child. The best time to talk about gangs is before there is a major problem. Tell your child that you disapprove of gangs, that you don't want to see your child hurt or arrested. Let your children know that they are special and worth protecting. Tell them that you want to help with any problems they may face and that family members don't keep secrets from one another. Also tell your child that you and other parents are working together against gangs. It is important that you really listen to what your child has to say.

Many gang members say they joined because the gang offered support, caring, and a sense of order, purpose and protection ...all of the things most parents try to give their kids. The odds are: the better you meet these needs, the less interested they will be in gangs.

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That military land weapon called the tank has a hull, turret, deck, bow and hatch. Why all naval terms? It was developed by the British Admiralty, not the War Office!

## PATROL PAGES "THE STATS"

The Del City Police department has provided us with March's crime statistics for our area. Here is our breakdown:

Date	Description	Street
3/19	Assault & Battery	48?? Bismarc
3/26	Assault & Battery	31?? Del View
3/13	Burglary/Residential/Time	Unkn.43?? S.E. 39th
3/05	Larceny From Building	47?? S.E. 41st
3/16	Larceny From Building	47?? Newport
3/18	Larceny From Building	30?? Epperly
3/02	Motor Vehicle Theft/Other	41?? Angela
3/02	Vandalism/Auto/Other	31?? Del View
3/02	Vandalism/Auto/Other	47?? Tempo
3/15	Vandalism/Auto/Windows	47?? Del Porte
3/22	Vandalism/Residtl/Windows	40?? Kim
<b>Commercial Businesses</b>		
3/02	Larceny/Other	47?? S.E. 29th
3/04	Larceny/Other	S.E. 31st & Sunnyslane
3/08	Larceny/Other	48?? S.E. 44th
3/13	Larceny/Other	48?? S.E. 44th
3/11	Larceny From Building	47?? S.E. 29th
3/12	Larceny From Automobile	S.E. 29th & Vickie
3/11	Burg/Non-Res/Time	Unkn. 48?? S.E. 44th

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There are three ways to get something done:

1. Do it yourself.
2. Hire someone to do it.
3. Forbid your kids to do it.

## PATROLLER OF THE MONTH

Our Patroller of the Month for May is Unit 3. He has averaged 197 miles a month patrolling our neighborhood. This takes about 31 hours of his time a month. He is a very pleasant, easy spoken person. He is dedicated to a safe neighborhood to bring up his children in. Unit 3 has always displayed a positive attitude toward the patrol and our association. His philosophy is that we have one of the best neighborhoods around and he would like to see it get even better. In addition to his patrolling duties, he is a Block Captain. Every month, he and his family are out delivering newsletters to every house on his block and several others that don't have Block Captains. Unit 3 knows that he is not only protecting his property, but keeping his neighbors safe as well. He started out using association equipment but soon purchased his own. He attends patrol meetings on a regular basis. Unit 3, with his deep voice, is always very professional on the radio. His fellow patrollers always tease him by trying to imitate that deep, pleasant, soft spoken voice, but all fall short of the mark. Unit 3, our hats are off to you for a job well done. A sincere thank you from all of us!

## FROM THE PATROL CAPTAIN...

There has been a lot happening since our last newsletter. During our monthly general meeting, our Police Chief Mark Edwards gave us some great news. A police officer has been assigned to our area. His name is Officer Austin Slaten. His vehicle is equipped with a CB and our patrollers can be in direct contact with him. Officer Slaten has expressed his interest and support in this assignment. He is also interested in setting up a bike patrol this

summer. So, don't be surprised to see him riding around our streets on a bicycle (the bicycle is the one our association bought and donated for the police department to use!). When you see Officer Slaten on patrol, don't hesitate to wave or stop and talk to him about any concerns you may have. Officer Slaten, from the DANWA patrollers.....Welcome Aboard!

My wife and I have been attending the Del City Citizen's Police Academy for the past 5 weeks. It is exciting, informative, enlightening, and it gives you an overwhelming sense of gratitude to the Police Department and the officers for the service they give us daily. I am completely in awe of the time and dedication these wonderful people give just to inform and educate us..the citizens of Del City. We are attending the 3rd Academy and I know there will be others. When you read in the newspaper about the 4th one, don't hesitate to sign up! To all of Del City's "FINEST" who have given so much to this academy, my wife and I say a BIG THANK YOU.

The patrolling statistics for the month of March was 3,158.2 miles driven and 437 hours of voluntary service donated. This was given to make our neighborhood safer. If you are interested in our patrol, whether as an observer or as a patroller, please contact me at 670-3971.

Prior to writing this article, I was looking over several old issues of newsletters. I came across a statement I made indicating that no new patrollers had been assigned and that our patrol equipment is still in good working condition. Now, I am glad I have to reverse that statement and say that our patrol is growing with leaps and bounds. Our original equipment is well used to the point that we need to add some new equipment and retire some old. During our recent member meeting you allotted me



monies to buy new equipment and that is just what I did. WE now have two new base radios. One was put into the dispatch area of the police department. Now they have direct communication with all neighborhood watch patrollers. I also purchased three new CB radios with antennas, three new spot lights along with assorted plug adapters and switches. Our patrol equipment cabinet is now in good shape and we can equip our new patrollers. While I was out shopping for new equipment, I found several crime prevention brochures that I will be adding to my articles.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BULLETIN BOARD

DANWA members may place a special notice, advertisement or announcement in the newsletter, Free. Limit to three lines. Deliver to Cindy Lee no later than the 1st Friday of the month. Commercial items included on a space available basis.

### DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING!!!!

**Saturday - May 4, 1996 - 7:00  
p.m. in the Court Room of the  
Del City Police Department!!**

**DEL CITY HIGH SCHOOL** Class of 1986 will be holding their 10 year class reunion July 13, 1996. For more information, contact Lonnie Johnson at 737-0244.

**FOR SALE: 1988 Dynasty LE, Loaded, Top Condition, Blue - \$3900 - Call 672-1919 ask for Tim - 4805 Montrose**

**FOR SALE: 17 ft. O'Day Day Sailor - \$1500 - Call 670-2878**

**FOR SALE: 2 LANE Wall-Hugger Recliners (Beige), 1 set of Queen Mattress & Box Springs, Home-Body Vibrator w/door rack, Wheel Chair, Bathtub Rail, Pedal Exerciser - Contact Nolan at 672-**

**0786**

**FOR SALE: 1989 Toyota Tercel, AC AM/FM cassette, 2 door coupe, Regatta Blue w/tinted windows for \$3,200 OBO. After 5:00 p.m. call 670-1236**

**FOR SALE: 14' Arkansas Traveler Boat on Dilly Trailer with "like new" 7 1/2 H.P. Mercury Motor - \$1,200 - Contact Ray Newsom at 3120 Del View.**

**Sunnylane United Methodist Church Pre-School, for 3 & 4 year olds, is now taking applications for the 1996-97 school year. For more information call 677-3347 or 672-1978 ask for Carroll Jackson.**

**SEAMSTRESS - Donna Miller - 4741 Tempo Drive - 677-0791**

**MARY KAY CONSULTANT - Sue Eaves, 4861 Del Aire, 677-0706. Specials Every Day!!**

**Need to lose those extra pounds and take off pounds sensibly? T O P S Club - Monday 9:30 a.m. at Sunnylane United Methodist Church - 677-0026 ask for Mrs. Kidd.**

## TEEN'S TIME...

### HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS

We found out that several of our neighborhood teens made it into the Kerr Junior High School Chapter of National Junior Honor Society and the Del City High School 1996 National Honor Society. That is quite an accomplishment. The Del Aire Neighborhood Watch Association would like to take a minute to acknowledge these individuals. From Kerr Jr. High, they are: Adam Harper, Amanda Harris, David Johnston, Amber Kirkland, Amber McGraw, Jennifer McRae, Jessica Olesen, Carl Tibbett, Sarah Washburn, Jennifer Bellah, Jeremy Bolton, Kristen Crawford, Alan Finch, Lacey Downs, Kyle Foust, Amber Harper, Melissa Martin, Lindsay

Lewis, Lindsey McGowen, Whitney Roberts, Rachel Sprecker, Cody Warlick, Cory Warlick, Timothy Sieger, Matthew Washburn, Jesse McMahan, and Melissa Wilson. The students from Del City High are: Melanie Sieger, Jamie White, Peter Wilsack, Michelle Anderson, Angela Hodgkinson, Scott Inman, Andrea Johnson, and Wendy Siemens. Congratulations to all of you. We know you have worked very hard and we're proud of you. Good luck with all future endeavors.

## DEL AIRE ASSISTS IN SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN...

On two separate occasions, the Del Aire Neighborhood Watch has assisted in looking for two missing children. The first incident was a 5 year old little boy in the Hartsdel area. This little boy had been at his daycare center and was dropped off in front of his apartment complex on Bryant. The little boy never made it to his apartment. The police department made contact with Hartsdel and Del Aire Neighborhood Watch groups to keep an eye out for the boy. Hartsdel patrollers suited up and diligently combed their area in vehicles and on foot. Some of our patrollers suited up and headed in that direction. The police department requested that all the patroller's meet over at the apartments to assist in a door-to-door search for the little boy. Fortunately the little boy was found playing in a friend's apartment. The second incident was a 7 year old little boy in our area. The little boy got upset at school, left his classroom and then left Townsend school. The teacher immediately notified the office, who in-turn called the mother. The mother waited for the boy to come home but he never showed. The mother went up to the school, looking for him along the way.

When she arrived, some of the teachers were getting in their cars to go look for the boy. At that point the office at Townsend called us. Our base operator spoke with the mother, got a description and direction of travel of the little boy and called our patrollers. Within 3 or 4 minutes, we had several patrollers out looking for him and more patrollers suiting up. About 25 minutes later, the school advised us that the boy had been found hiding in his back yard. The child's mother called us to thank everyone who had helped look for her son. Fortunately both of these incidents had happy endings. From all of us, to all of the patrollers who assisted in these searches, a heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

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### **Do You Want Your Neighborhood Back???**

**YES!!!**

That was the question and the resounding answer in the Cafetorium at Epperly Elementary School on April 20. Reminiscent of that first DANWA meeting at Townsend, nearly 200 residents came together to hear from Chief Edwards, Capt Taylor, Hartsdel's Steve Moore, Shalimar's Neva Hogue, Parkview's Carl Sullivan and our own Kim Lee. After listening for over an hour, about 50 volunteered to stay over and work on organization. They named a Steering Committee; a by-laws committee; found a leader, secretary and patrol leader, and set another meeting for April 29.

With a little help and their determination, they'll do just that: **Take Their Neighborhood Back!**

**Good Luck, Epperly!**

**We'll be there to help!**

## **TORNADO TIPS**

If and when our weather gets back on track, we will be entering the "Tornado" season. Unfortunately, tornados are a frightening part of spring in Oklahoma. They are unpreventable, unpredictable and totally destructive. If you have lived in Oklahoma for any length of time, you are probably very familiar with the safety precautions to take. For those of you who are new here, we offer the following suggestions:

\* **Tornado Watch** means conditions are favorable for tornados to develop. During this time you should gather things like a transistor radio, flashlight, batteries, first aid items in a waterproof container. Keep your radio or TV tuned in to weather reports. If time permits, move your outside furniture and yard equipment inside. Remember: **A Watch means to watch, it could happen.**

\* **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has actually been sighted. **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.** At home (if you don't have a cellar): get into a small room in the middle of the house (closet or bathroom) and cover yourself. Stay away from outside windows and walls. At work or school: designated shelter areas are best. Stay away from large open rooms and rooms with windows. Lie on the floor with hands covering the back of your head and neck. In mobile homes or cars: **NEVER STAY IN A MOBILE HOME OR VEHICLE.** Find a safe structure or lie down in a

low area. Again, cover the back of your head and neck with your hands. Be alert to flash floods occurring!

If a tornado should hit in your area, watch for downed power lines if you go outside! Del City has 8 fixed warning sirens throughout the city. You've probably heard them being tested at noon on Saturdays. In the event of severe weather, the "Severe Weather" signal will be a 3 to 5 minute steady signal from sirens, horns and/or other devices.

In the event our area is hit by a tornado, we will have patrollers out in cars and on foot if possible. The neighborhood watch groups have been included in the City of Del City's Disaster Plan and Police Chief Edwards has provided us with a copy of that Plan manual.

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### **Working Together**

Recently, an off-duty policeman living in The Embers (off Sooner, S. of 15th) was surprised to hear his front door being kicked open. His dog frightened the bad guys off, but he got a good description. After calling in the activity, he called his Block Captain next door. His call into the Parkview chain resulted in a phone contact into DANWA. That connected to information about a similar car involved in a "drive away." Tag info from that act was relayed to the OKC police and in less than an hour the perpetrators were in custody. They were later linked to several burglaries in the area.

See, not only do neighborhood watches work - they work well together and **GET THINGS DONE!**