Past President Chip Bird hands over the reigns to New President Chris Russell
Professional monitoring services for alarm professionals.

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In This Issue

- Presidents Report
- Calendar of Events
- Federal Appeals Court Affirms Dismissal of ADT Security Negligence Case
- Local Associations & Chapters
- Training Schedule
- Report: Alarm Market to Approach $20B by 2011
- 2007 Convention = Networking, Knowledge & Fun
- New Officers Elected & Bylaw Changes Made
- Malcolm Reed Honored as First TBFAA Person of the Year
- Open Letter to TBFAA Members
- TBFAA Associate Members
- 2007 TBFAA Trade Show Exhibitors
- Cashing Out - Your Hidden Business Assets
- Unusual Stories
- Texas Alarm Ordinance News
- Texas News
- Court: Burglar Not Liable for Cost of Alarm System
- Pasadena Man Kills Burglary Suspects
- Businesses Warn Others About Questionable Billing Invoices
- Central Texas Chapter Golf Tournament
- Member News

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vicepresident@tbfaa.org

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secretary@tbfaa.org

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treasurer@tbfaa.org

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associatedirector@tbfaa.org

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jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com

Northeast Texas Chapter
Patrick Craven - 903.792.7262
pcraven@cableone.net

Texas Alarm Ordinance News

The Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Inc. (TBFAA) is a nonprofit organization of security professionals who have joined together to enrich the industry by providing membership training and representing the membership as a whole in the Texas Legislature, the Texas Private Security Board, and the Commission on Fire Protection, among many other programs.

The TRANSMITTER is published by The Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, a Texas not for profit association.

For Advertising Information: TEL: 877-908-2322

Brad Shipp, Editor. Submitted articles contained in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers, Directors, and Members of the TBFAA. The publisher of this magazine is not responsible for any errors or omissions in advertising or other advertising matters.
In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since the inception of the TBFAA our industry has evolved many times as a direct result of advancements in technology. To avoid the conundrums involved with technical writing, the spirit of the points are: Key to Key fob, McCullough to IP, mechanical relay to solid-state, void to microprocessor, analog to digital... enough said. Looking back and forward on these changes we can easily welcome these advancements and appreciate their benefits.

There are also times our industry must endure advancements and burden the challenges from other industries that could recklessly and significantly harm consumers. Leaping to mind are issues that involve 10-digit dialing, VoIP, and AMPS Sunset. We are very fortunate to have a strong association like the TBFAA to voice our input on transition solutions that help protect the consumer from potentially hazardous conditions of these emerging technologies from conjunct industries.

In addition to technology changes, the alarm industry often faces even larger challenges as we are unfortunately forced to defend consumer rights from other groups. Inevitability our products, services, and our character are placed under attack by those attempting to financially capitalize. Their bias conjecture and misleading information can only be defended with factual truths and education. Remember, the job of a pyromaniac is far easier than the job of the fire-fighter and the damage is always substantial.

Despite all the regular changes in our industry, I recognize that the TBFAA is well anchored with one reliable constant - the strength and integrity of its members. For that reason, it is indeed my honor and privilege to serve as president of the TBFAA. As I began my new term and we move into the new year of 2008, I can assure you of one thing to come - change.

President’s Message

Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>February</th>
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<td>06-07</td>
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<td>Private Security Board</td>
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<td>NTAA Christmas Party</td>
<td>Fire Prep Class</td>
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<td>STAA Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>TXBFAA Board Meeting</td>
<td>HGCAA Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Fire Prep Class</td>
<td>President's Day</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>NTAA CEU Training</td>
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<td>Christmas</td>
<td>TXBFAA Board Meeting</td>
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<td>New Years Eve</td>
<td>NTAA Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>Central Texas Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>28 - 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Years Eve</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>07 - 10</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
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<td>CES- Consumer Electronics Show</td>
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<td>Fire Prep Class</td>
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<td>Austin</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Day</td>
<td>McAllen</td>
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<td>Central Texas Chapter Meeting</td>
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The NTAA invites you and your Guest(s) to our Annual Christmas Party!

Date: Friday, December 7th, 2007
Time: 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Location: The Westin Hotel- Dallas Fort Worth Airport
4545 West John Carpenter Freeway (Hwy 114), Irving, TX 75063
Ph# 972-510-2471
Cost: $40.00 per person
R.S.V. P. Fax reservation form to 972-871-3338
Questions? Call Kathleen Schraufnagel – 972-871-3807
Nov 7, 2007, DETROIT -- A federal appeals court affirmed a district court’s dismissal of a lawsuit against ADT Security that alleged the company provided an erroneous address to an emergency response dispatcher, resulting in the death of a Michigan homeowner.

The plaintiff, Dwight Spengler, signed a residential services contract with ADT in 2004 to install and monitor a security alarm at the home of his mother, Veronica Barker. The agreement included a portable call button alarm that Barker could activate when in distress, according to court documents.

Due to previous medical treatment of her ailments, Barker had lost the ability to speak. ADT had instructions to call Spengler in the event of an alarm from his mother.

In Oct. 2005, Barker sounded the emergency call button prompting a response. Spengler’s lawsuit stated that by providing an incorrect address to the dispatcher, ADT committed misfeasance, subjecting the company to tort liability. However, the court found that ADT “breached no duty independent of the parties’ agreement.”

The court granted a summary judgment to Spengler, limiting damages to the $500 amount stated in the parties’ agreement. Spengler appealed the ruling.

The federal court of appeals determined a security company does not owe a duty of care to its customers to protect them beyond the duties outlined in the contract for services.

Reprinted from Security Sales & Integration
### Local Associations & Chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Meeting Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Houston Gulf Coast Association</strong></td>
<td>281.859.4569, <a href="http://www.HGCAA.org">www.HGCAA.org</a>, Brian McKinney - 713.983.0182 <a href="mailto:isgbrian@aol.com">isgbrian@aol.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Thursdays of each month -11:30 am to 1pm at Cadillac Bar and Grill, Shepard &amp; I-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Texas Chapter</strong></td>
<td>877.908.2322, <a href="http://www.ctc.tbfaa.org">www.ctc.tbfaa.org</a>, Jeff Bright- 512.845.1460 <a href="mailto:jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com">jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com</a></td>
<td>Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, except Oct &amp; Dec at 11:30 am Bagpipes Pub &amp; Eatery 9070 Research Blvd., Suite 101 Austin TX S.W. corner of Hwy 183 &amp; Burnet Rd. Cross Roads Shopping Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northeast Texas Chapter</strong></td>
<td>877.908.2322, <a href="http://www.nrtc.tbfaa.org">www.nrtc.tbfaa.org</a>, Patrick Craven- 903.792.7252 <a href="mailto:pacraven@cableone.net">pacraven@cableone.net</a></td>
<td>Quarterly in Longview Area Plus local meetings will be held in various cities Check <a href="http://www.nrtc.tbfaa.org">www.nrtc.tbfaa.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### TBFAA Training Schedule

#### Level 1
- **January 24-25**: McAllen - InAlert Security Distribution, Inc
- **February 28-29**: ADI-Dallas
- **March 27-28**: San Antonio - Tri-Ed
- **April 17-18**: El Paso - SGI
- **May 15-16**: Houston - ADI
- **June 26-27**: Austin - ADI
- **July 10-11**: Amarillo - Nunn Electric
- **August 28-29**: McAllen - InAlert Security Distribution, Inc
- **September 25-26**: Dallas – ADI - Farmers Branch
- **October 02-03**: El Paso - SGI
- **November 06-07**: Houston - ADI
- **December 11-12**: San Antonio - Tri-Ed

#### Fire Prep
- **January 17-18**: Dallas - ADI- Farmers Branch
- **February 7-8**: San Antonio-Tri-Ed
- **March 6-7**: Houston-ADI
- **April 10-11**: Dallas - ADI- Farmers Branch
- **May 08-09**: San Antonio - Tri-Ed
- **June 19-20**: Houston- ADI
- **July 24-25**: Dallas - ADI- Farmers Branch
- **August 14-15**: San Antonio-Tri-Ed
- **September 18-9**: Houston - ADI
- **October 09-10**: Dallas - ADI- Farmers Branch
- **November 13-14**: San Antonio - Tri-Ed
- **December 04-05**: Houston - ADI

### Schedule & Registration Forms Available 'On Line'
Visit [http://www.tbfaa.org](http://www.tbfaa.org) for course descriptions, registration forms and class schedules.
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As an associate member of the TBFAA and supporter of more than a dozen local and national alarm associations, NOVA knows of the many unique challenges that face the alarm industry. NOVA can assist you with an affordable professional website developer or work with your current developer to create and maintain your internet presence. In addition to a plethora of services for your website, Nova offers the following benefits:

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- Competitive Pricing
- Website Design
- Search Engine Optimization
- Facilities Based Web Hosting
- Email Hosting
- Decade+ of Proven Reliability
- Reinvestment for your industry
- Industry Expertise

For over a decade NOVA has donated internet services to many non-profit groups, associations, and foundations. Over two-hundred donated websites that include groups such as children's foundations and organizations, women shelters, hospices, and land preservation groups. NOVA's charitable donations are made possible through providing scalable internet services to professional businesses and individuals.

Next time you’re looking for Internet Services, please consider giving NOVA Internet Services an opportunity to compete for and earn your business.
Over 230 security professionals gathered in Galveston in late October for TBFAA’s 21st Annual Convention and Trade Show. They took part in their choice of 15 training sessions, visited 49 exhibitors, attended the first Person of the Year Awards Dinner and enjoyed the Annual Membership Lunch and relaxed at the Casino night.

Several dignitaries attended including Sen. Ken Armbrister, Legislative Director with Governor Rick Perry’s office; George Craig, Chairman of the Private Security Board; Michael Samulin, Vice Chairman of the Private Security Board; Mark Redlitz, Assistant State Fire Marshal and Captain Hinojosa, Private Security Bureau.

Sen. Ken Armbrister gave insights into the legislative process in his keynote address at the Annual meeting lunch and was recognized as a TBFAA Honorary Member for his service to the state.

Dan Parsons, President, Better Business Bureau, Houston Regional Corporate Office outlined how to deal with customer complaints; Bob Reagan, Reagan & McLain offered tips on explaining contracts and debt collections; Chris Russell showed how to Make the Web Work for You; Frank X. Chavez, Chavez Communications reviewed what to do when the reporter calls; Mitch Reitman, S.I.C. Consulting, Inc covered Market Positioning for Alarm Companies and Computerized Accounting for an Alarm Company; Randy Reyna, Honeywell explored new technologies; Bill Parsley, Dispatch Center, Ltd conducted an Ethics class; Rodney Hooker, Dispatch Center, Ltd reviewed code updates and Gary Dawkins, Response Center USA reviewed the National Electrical Code. Visit www.tbfaa.org for more convention photos.
New Officers Elected & Bylaw Changes Made

At the annual meeting on October 27, members elected the following officers:

- President: Chris Russell
- Vice President: Rodney Hooker
- Secretary: Debi Ulmer
- Treasurer: Charlie Crenshaw
- Membership Director: Tracey Ritchie
- Training Director: Brian McKinney
- Associate Director: Kelly Ryan
- Region 1 Director: Ed Landry
- Region 2 Director: Brant Pierce
- Region 3 Director: Mary Edmonson
- Region 4 Director: Thomas Gleitz

The remainder of the board of directors were named by affiliated groups to represent them.

- HGCAA Board Member: Howard Manson
- NTAA Board Member: David Simon
- STAA Board Member: Bob Vallance
- Central Texas Chapter: Jeff Bright
- Northeast Texas Chapter: Patrick Craven

Rex Adams, Roger Byrd and Malcolm Reed were named as Directors Emeritus by President Russell and confirmed by the board at its meeting on October 27th.

Bylaw amendments to create a Public Safety Partners to allow public safety officials to affiliate with TBFAA, create an Applicant Membership to allow companies to affiliate with TBFAA while they meet licensing requirements, clarify member rights and cleanup outdated language were all approved by the members.
Malcolm Reed Honored as First TBFAA Person of the Year

Over 100 attendees enjoyed a spirited roast of TBFAA’s first Person of the Year, Malcolm Reed.

Chip Bird and others chided Malcolm for his extraordinary affection for Dairy Queen Blizzards. Many gave him grief for his party affiliation and Rex Adams lambasted him for his need for frequent bathroom stops on trips to and from meetings around the state.

But the roasting was all in good fun and each of the “roasters” acknowledged Malcolm’s dedication and effectiveness for the industry and citizens of Texas from 1985 to the present.

Chip acknowledged “Malcolm has the unique ability to not only to read and understand bills, but to craft legislation as well”.

Rubin Fechner summed up Malcolm by saying “He was never self serving. He was always looking out for others, he was always one to help”.

Rodney Hooker recalled sitting in the gallery of the legislative chamber when he and Malcolm heard words in legislation that Malcolm had written and he learned where Malcolm's father had sat when he served in the legislature.

Roger Byrd summed up the feelings of most when he said “It’s a person of the year award, but it’s really a lifetime achievement award, because he has done so much for the industry. I really think that every person in this room should strive for this award because of what that will do for our industry if everyone works together in that manner.”

Open Letter to TBFAA Members

Dear TBFAA Members,

After one of the most complimentary and memorable accolades I have ever received, like it or not, I am compelled to respond.

As members of the TBFAA, we all share something in common. Something more than simply the membership itself. I believe we share the desire to elevate our industry to a level that exemplifies character and esteem that is sometimes difficult to find these days. We all know of industries that have less than desirable reputations or even specific companies that have deplorable reputations. In fact, I suspect that every person reading this letter can instantly name one of these industries and companies.

I recognize there are many things that stimulate TBFAA membership; however I also recognize many of the common traits we share. As a trade organization we share this esteem that pushes our industry to new heights. Individually this could never be achieved. In fact, individually I’m not so sure we would even list this esteem concept as a reason we joined the TBFAA. It potentially is just a mere by-product of what we’ve built with the TBFAA.

We sometimes joke about some of the successes we’ve enjoyed during the bi-annual Texas legislative season. During the recent TBFAA convention in Galveston we even heard a few names mentioned, mine among them, which were involved with some of these success stories. But let me state here in no uncertain terms; these successes are due to our catholic community (that’s little “c”) and the esteem that flows from it. We have always been taught there is strength in numbers, and we all know this to be true. What we also know is that if we all pull in the same direction (that’s the strength thing), we will always develop esteem (that’s the character thing).

During Nancy’s and my eight-hour drive home that following Sunday, by way of Austin, we talked about what a fabulous weekend we had just enjoyed and how wonderful the convention was, again. That weekend would have never been possible without the strength of the TBFAA Members, and the esteem that filled Galveston that weekend. What a fantastic accomplishment for TBFAA Members. I’m proud to be a part of this esteemed group.

For Nancy and myself, Thank You.

Malcolm Reed
TBFAA Associate Members

ADI
Alarm Capital Alliance
Alarm Debt Liquidation Group
Alarm Express, Inc.
Bass Computers, Inc.
Bold Technologies
Communication Supply Corporation
Contractors Wire & Cable
Cooper Wheelock, Inc.
El Dorado Insurance
Elite CEU, Inc.
Faraday Distribution
Gentex
Guaranty Insurance

HyperGraphic Impressions
Matrix Systems, Inc.
Micro Key Software, Inc.
Napco Sec. Systems, Inc.
Nova Internet Services
Omni-Watch Systems, Inc.
Optex, Inc.
Optima, Inc.
Performance Reps LLP
Pro-Line Distributing
Richardson Electronics
Security Data & Cable
Security General Intl. Ltd.
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2007 TBFAA Trade Show Exhibitors

ADI
Aiphone Corp
Alarm Monitoring Services
Altronix Corp
America On Watch
Bass Computers, Inc.
Bosch Security Systems
Contractors Wire & Cable
Circle Surveillance
COPS Monitoring
Cyberview Systems
Dewalt
Digital Security Controls
Dispatch Center, Ltd
DMP
El Dorado Insurance Agency
Elite CEU
G.E. Security
Honeywell
Honeywell Genesis Cable
IDN Acme
JC Gury Company
Linear
Matrix Systems, Inc.
Micro Key Software, Inc.
Monitronics

Napco
National Monitoring Center
Deltacom
Performance Reps, LLP
Speco Technologies
Performance Reps, LLP
Rapid Response Monitoring
Response Center USA
ScanSource Security Distribution
Security Associates Int’l., Inc.
Security Data & Cable HQ
Security General Int’l, Ltd
S.I.C. Consulting
Sigmax Security
Southern Agency
Southwest Dispatch Center
Takex
TX Private Security Bureau
TOA Electronics
Tri-ed Distribution, Inc
United Central Control, Inc.
Uplink
Windy City Wire
By Rhona Sacks, JD, MBA, CLU

Now that you’ve decided to sell your company and retire, your primary goal is to extract maximum value from the business you’ve worked hard to build. Unfortunately, too many exiting entrepreneurs (as well as their legal, financial and business advisors) leave too much cash behind because they fail to recognize the enormous value hidden within one of their most overlooked and underutilized business assets.

**Your Hidden Business Assets**

Companies purchase life insurance policies for risk management, employee benefit and investment purposes. When a company is up for sale, some of these life contracts may become obsolete because the reasons for their purchase are no longer relevant. And after a company is sold, additional business life policies may outlive their usefulness.

Historically, exiting entrepreneurs faced limited disposition options when their changing needs rendered their life policies unnecessary: allowing the policy to lapse, thereby forfeiting the value of all premiums paid or surrendering the policy to the original insurer for its cash surrender value, an amount which doesn’t reflect its true value.

Today, an innovative asset optimization technique, a life settlement (the sale of a life insurance policy to an institutional investor for a cash payment that is greater than the policy’s cash surrender value), can convert the hidden value in no longer needed qualified business life insurance contracts into significant immediate cash. This windfall can be used for any purpose, including facilitating the sale of your company for the desired price and on favorable terms.

Although life settlement viability is assessed on a case-by-case basis, the basic requirements are: the insured is age 65+, the death benefit is $250,000+, and the policy has been in force for at least 2 years. The simplified underwriting process involves only paperwork, and there are no application or appraisal fees.

**An Entrepreneurial Tale**

A 69-year old principal of a successful security alarm company owned a $1,000,000 key-person term policy (no cash surrender value). Seeking to sell his firm, this entrepreneur received no offers that he felt was adequate for achieving his retirement and legacy goals. Unfortunately, his legal, financial and business advisors were unaware of the enormous value hidden within this term life policy.

By coordinating the sale of his obsolete key-person policy to institutional investors for $200,000 with the sale of his company, this happy entrepreneur was able to sell his company quickly at a reduced all-cash price because the life settlement proceeds provided the money he needed to fill the gap between his original selling price and the offers from buyers.

**Improve Your ROI**

When you consider that the average cash surrender value of a life insurance policy is only 4% of the face value while the average life settlement payout is 20-25%, a life settlement can be an effective tool for liberating substantial liquidity hidden within a dormant business asset.

**Caveats**

Although selling obsolete business life policies in the secondary life insurance market can be profitable, navigating the labyrinthine life settlement marketplace can be challenging. The nascent life settlement industry, in general, lacks ample due diligence and transparency as well as knowledge of and services responsive to the unique needs of retiring entrepreneurs who are selling their companies.

Safeguarding your privacy, securing the highest quality institutional offer and coordinating the sale of your unnecessary business life policies with the sale of your company demands specialized advisory skills in business life insurance, exit planning and life settlements. Working with an independent advisor who has expertise in these disciplines is the key to a successful, efficient transaction.

**Get Your Deal Done**

Every day, retiring business owners frustrated by inadequate purchasing offers for their firms unknowingly discard valuable capital assets by cash surrendering and lapsing their expendable business life policies. Selling these hidden business assets can be the answer to easily getting your deal done.

Rhona Sacks, an attorney and business coach, is the founder and president of Legal Life Settlements, a mergers and acquisitions advisory company specializing in helping retiring business owners extract maximum value from their hidden business assets. For more information please call (650) 581-1596 or visit [www.legallifesettlements.com](http://www.legallifesettlements.com).
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Unusual Stories

Burglar Drops Wallet, Gun While Fleeing Scene - By Donna Fielder / Staff Writer Denton Record-Chronicle. Denton police arrested a burglary suspect Sunday night after his wallet was found inside a woman’s home. The incident started about 11 p.m. when a woman came home and heard someone running out the back door as she walked in the front door, according to a police report. She noticed that some of her belongings, including a computer, a camera and a book of checks, had been piled up near the door. She also noticed some of her belongings, including a Sig Sauer pistol, were missing. Police questioned neighbors in the 5300 block of East McKinney Street and found a witness who said he saw a man he knows trying to open doors on several mobile homes in the area earlier. The suspect was walking in the area with his girlfriend. He said he had been with her all evening, and the officers did not have any evidence to connect him to the alleged burglary, so they let him go. But later, the woman discovered a .22-caliber pistol on the floor that did not belong in her mobile home, according to the report. Alongside it, she found a wallet. It contained the suspect’s identification documents. Detectives went to the trailer where the man and his girlfriend were staying and arrested the suspect. They found some of the missing property, but they did not find the pistol, according to the police report.

Dude looks like a lady: Man in make-up robs bank - KHOU.com staff report, Houston. The FBI says a man in women’s make-up robbed a Wachovia Bank in North Houston. This image was captured on surveillance tape. The takeover-style robbery happened Tuesday at 9 a.m. The suspect walked right and announced it was a robbery. He had a silver pistol with him. All of the customers were forced out of the bank with their hands up. The tellers were given grocery bags and instructed to fill them with cash. He was seen fleeing in a Harley Davidson edition F-150. It was black over maroon. The man the FBI has dubbed the "Mary Kay Bandit" was 30 to 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall to 6 feet 2 inches tall. He was clean shaven and was wearing women's make-up. He was wearing a red pullover and dark pants. Crime Stoppers is offering up to $5,000 for information leading to the charging and arrest of the bandit. Call (713) 222-8477 if you have information.

Police Say Burglar Took Nap - AP–Elkton, MD. Maybe this intruder should have had a good night's sleep. Police say an Elkton man returned to his apartment last week to find an intruder napping in his bed. The accused burglar, Mark William of North East, didn't wake up until police placed handcuffs on him while he was snoozing. Police say the victim came home at 8 a.m. on October 2nd to find William asleep in his bed. He called police. Authorities say William, who goes by the nickname "Weasel," jammed a chair to the back entrance of the apartment before bedding down. He was charged with burglary, theft and malicious destruction of property. William also faces drug charges after police found a small package of suspected crack cocaine in his pocket. He's being held in the Cecil County jail on $15,000 bond.

Burglar with taste for cheese and beer nabbed - Courtesy of www.stuff.co.nz. A burglar with a taste for cheese and beer avoided capture at the scene of one break-in but was nabbed loitering in bushes outside another house, police say. A Masterton couple returning to their home in Opaki Kaiparoro Rd about 5.30pm on Thursday startled a man who had broken into their house. He bolted before police arrived, though not before he had drunk a bottle of beer and munched his way through some camembert cheese. An hour later, a resident in nearby Loop Line Rd alerted police to a man hiding in bushes outside his house. A Masterton man, 44, is to appear in Masterton District Court next week charged with burglary.

Bank robber writes note on own check - Courtesy of AP. ENGLEWOOD, Colo. - A man robbing a bank demanded the money by writing a note on one of his own checks, authorities say. Not surprisingly, he was caught soon afterward. Forest Kelly Bissonnette, 27, apparently tried to cover his name on the check, then handed the note to a teller Sept. 5 at the Bank of the West in Englewood, according to authorities. "We could still make it out even though he blacked it out," FBI agent Rene VonderHaar said. Nearly $5,000 was taken. Surveillance video showed a suspect similar to Bissonnette's description, and a tipster said a man named Forest Kelly claimed he got $5,000 in a bank robbery, according to a federal complaint. Bissonnette remained in federal custody Tuesday after turning himself in Friday. A public defender was to be appointed for Bissonnette, who doesn't have a listed phone number.
McKinney, Texas, Implements 'No Permit No Response' Policy- All residential and commercial alarms required to register with the city or risk no response. SIW Editorial Staff- SecurityInfoWatch.com. In McKinney, Texas, if your clients' alarm systems aren't registered with the city, don't bother calling for response from the McKinney Police Department -- they won't be interested. The city, located approximately 30 miles north of Dallas, recently issued a press release directed to alarm company owners and residents and business owners in the city who use security alarm systems. Starting on Oct. 1, the town's police department will not be responding to commercial or residential alarm systems unless they are registered with the city. According to McKinney's Police Chief Doug Kowalski, the decision to require registration was partly driven by a high number of false alarm calls for the 115,000-resident city. Additionally, for the town's police department, the largest number of response calls were received for alarm systems. Thus by accruing revenue for alarm registration, says Kowalski, they can use those revenues to cover the costs of response. The city is requiring annual registration, a process which costs $50 for residential systems and $100 for commercial systems. Although the city will not respond to monitoring center calls from non-permitted locations, the city has said it will continue to respond to any alert given by an eye-witness or person on the scene, whether or not the location has a permit on file.

Corsicana, Texas, Updates Alarm Policy- Ordinance implements stronger fine system to curb false alarms- SIW Editorial Staff, SecurityInfoWatch.com. The Corsicana Daily Sun newspaper in Corsicana, Texas, reported today that the town has addressed false alarms with a new ordinance. The city council has approved an ordinance that will increase the fines for false burglar alarms, though the policy is still quite lenient by many city's standards. The new ordinance, which was supported by the town's police chief, gives alarm system owners three "free" false alarms, and then charges them a $50 fine on the fourth and fifth false alarms. The fine increases to $75 for the sixth and seventh false alarms, and then to $100 per each additional false alarm. The previous alarm ordinance only charged $25 per false alarm, and then only after the fifth false alarm.
**Texas News**

**Pflugerville sees crime spike** - By MELISSA MCGUIRE, KVUE News, Austin. Residents in Pflugerville know their city is growing. And with the burgeoning city comes a similar growth in the crime rate. Resident Weldon Risner is retired and keeps an eye on his neighborhood. "I think that's very important - that everybody gets involved," said Risner. That's advice police agree with, especially with a dramatic spike in crime this year. "The opportunity is there because the garage door is left open or car door is left unlocked," said Pflugerville Police Corporal Mike Clowdus. That equals easy access for criminals. Driving through neighborhoods revealed garage after garage open, leaving homes and vehicles vulnerable. Vehicle burglaries are up more than 300 percent this year compared to last. There were 78 vehicle burglaries in 2006 compared to 243 this year with two months left in 2007. Home burglaries are also up. "Back in March our home was burglarized," said resident Lauren Mireles. Mireles is Co-President of the Creekside Neighborhood Association "All of our streets are certified through neighborhood watch," said Mireles. After someone burglarized her home, she encouraged neighbors to get training in protecting their homes. "We took it as an opportunity to get to know our neighbors, and used it as a tragic event turned into something positive for the neighborhood." Police say the crime is spread out across the city. They acknowledge growth is partly to blame, but police and victims of crime want neighbors to know simple steps can help keep you and your property safe.

**Surveillance video helps nab Chavez burglary suspects** - By Alex Sanz and Wendell Edwards / Houston 11 News. The Chavez High School football team’s excitement Thursday night was quickly deflated after learning their locker room was burglarized. Now they’re without their cell phones, some clothes, wallets and watches. The thief targeted them while they were playing Westside High School, a game they won 29-21. HISD said late Friday morning that some suspects had been detained, and they expect more arrests. They have good surveillance video that shows four teens suspected of burglarizing the field house at Chavez High School. “That video was not just important. It’s the essence of the what the case is all about. We would not have been able to resolved that case if were not for that video,” said Charles Wiley with HISD Police. A parent’s car was also stolen from the parking lot. "It really shocked me, because I thought all of the gates would be closed like the coach used to keep it closed; I wasn’t aware that they keep the gates open," victim Shirley Milbran-Johnson said. "If I knew this, I would never have let my son use my car to come to the game." Her son Jamaal is also telling a victim’s tale. "They even stole our backpacks, our socks, jewelry, everything." The Johnson car was recovered Friday morning. As for the suspects? Some parents believe the thief got in by convincing the school’s maintenance man to let them into the building. "For them to get back to the school and everything is taken from them, knowing that they did so well in playing the game, and then they get back here and they don’t have anything," parent Rachelle Brown said. For now, it was the video evidence that gave police a clear picture of who done it.

**Thieves escape with $1 million in jewelry Irving business is targeted in rash of area burglaries** - From Staff Reports, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS. Having owned a jewelry business for more than two decades, Kurt Van Peterson knew the risks of working with such valuable merchandise. But he never expected to have about $1 million worth swipe in one heist. "It's a gut-wrenching feeling after 23 years to find out that everything you have is gone," Mr. Van Peterson said. Burglars apparently climbed up an air conditioning duct last month and then down from a roof into VanPeterson Fine Jewelers in the 2200 block of North Story Road in Irving. The burglary is part of a rash of jewelry store heists in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, industry experts say. Kent McClanahan, who has been working in jewelry-business insurance for 25 years, said he's not sure what's behind the spate of burglaries. "In the first 23 [years], there haven't been 10 successful burglaries," said Mr. McClanahan, an independent agent with Sleeper Sewell Insurance Services Inc. He said he is aware of 17 attempts and six successful burglaries recently in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Waco areas. "I think there are at least two separate groups, based on physical descriptions, police reports and what one group does and another group doesn’t." Some suggest the burglars are experienced criminals who are getting more sophisticated with their techniques and equipment. Often they work in groups and are well-orchestrated. "They're very polished," Mr. McClanahan said of the recent Dallas-Fort Worth cases. In the VanPeterson heist, burglars cut the phone lines, the alarm, the backup alarm and security cameras, then drilled a large hole in the safe. Mr. Van Peterson said business owners are now rethinking their security strategy. He is offering a $100,000 reward to whoever can lead him to his merchandise. In the meantime, he said, he must move on from the loss. "It’s a matter of getting up, rebuilding and starting over," he said.
Court: Burglar Not Liable for Cost of Alarm System

Case involved sentence for burglar to pay for security system victims installed after break-in.

A Roanoke judge went too far when he ordered a burglar to pay for a security system his victims installed following the break-in, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled on November 9th.

As part of Lloyd D. Howell's sentence for burglarizing the offices of Thomas Tax Service, Circuit Judge Charlie Dorsey required him to pay $1,040 for an alarm system at the Melrose Avenue business.

But court-ordered restitution can only cover actual losses or damages caused by the defendant, the Supreme Court noted. "Costs that result only indirectly from the offense, that are a step removed from the defendant's conduct, are too remote and are inappropriate for a restitution payment," the court's opinion stated.

Prosecutors argued that Lourice and Patrick Thomas felt forced to install a security system following the 2004 burglary of their business. While that decision was related to the crime, the court found, it was not directly caused by it. "The attenuation is too great; therefore, we hold that the trial court abused his discretion," Justice Donald Lemons wrote in the unanimous opinion.

Friday's decision reversed an earlier ruling from the Virginia Court of Appeals, which upheld Dorsey's restitution order as "reasonably related" to the crime.

In reaching its decision, the Supreme Court cited a decision from a federal appeals court, which found that reimbursement by a defendant could not include payment to the government for the costs of investigating and prosecuting his crime.

Criminal defendants in Virginia routinely are ordered to pay court costs, but that is not considered a form of restitution. Along with his restitution, Howell, 46, was sentenced to five years in prison for burglary and grand larceny. He is also serving 11 years for an unrelated robbery. Lourice Thomas, co-owner of Thomas Tax Service, said she has received no payments from Howell since he was sent to prison in 2005.

"The Supreme Court bases its decisions on the constitution, and I'm not too well-versed in that," Thomas said. "But I do feel like his behavior caused us to put the security system in."
Pasadena Man Kills Burglary Suspects

In a case legal experts say may "stretch the limits" of the state's self-defense laws, a Pasadena man shot and killed two suspected burglars during a confrontation as they attempted to flee his neighbor's property Wednesday afternoon. In the minutes before the fatal shootings, Pasadena police said the man called 911 and reported that he had heard glass breaking next door and saw two men entering the home through a window. Still on the phone with police, the man, believed to be in his 70s, saw the suspects leaving from the back of the home. "I'm getting my gun and going to stop them," the neighbor told the dispatcher during the 2 p.m. call, according to Vance Mitchell, a spokesman for Pasadena police. "The dispatcher said, `No, stay inside the house; officers are on the way.' "Then you hear him rack the shotgun. The next sound the dispatcher heard was a boom. Then there was silence for a couple of seconds and then another boom." After the shotgun blasts, the telephone line went dead. But the neighbor called police again and told a dispatcher what he had done. When police arrived moments later, they found two dead men in the 7400 block of Timberline Drive. One was across the street, and the other had collapsed two houses down behind a bank of mailboxes in the Village Grove East subdivision.

Police said the neighbor, whose name was withheld Wednesday, appeared calm as he retraced his steps for police. "He was well composed and knew what he was doing," Mitchell said. "He was protecting the neighbor's property." It will be up to a Harris County grand jury to decide if the man committed a crime by opening fire, police said. Wednesday's shooting "clearly is going to stretch the limits of the self-defense law," said defense attorney Tommy LaFon, who is also a former Harris County prosecutor. If the absent homeowner tells police that he asked his neighbor to watch over his property, that could play in his favor, LaFon said. "If the homeowner comes out and says, `My neighbor had a greater right of possession than the people trying to break in,' that could put him (the gunman) in an ownership role," LaFon said.

The Texas Penal Code says a person can use force or deadly force to defend someone else's property if he reasonably believes he has a legal duty to do so or the property owner had requested his protection. The neighbor, however, would have been on much safer legal ground if he had been trying to protect his own property, LaFon said. Capt. A.H. "Bud" Corbett said the neighbor told investigators that he knew the next-door residents were not home. The man told investigators that he encountered the pair when they exited his neighbor's through a gate leading to the front yard. Corbett said the neighbor asked the men, one of which was carrying a white bag, to stop, but they did not. The neighbor fired twice. One shot struck one of the suspected burglars in the chest, and the other was struck on the side. The names of the two burglary suspects were not released Wednesday evening. The two men had documentation on them from Puerto Rico, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, police said. Texas law allows people to use deadly force to protect their own property to stop an arson, burglary, robbery, theft or criminal mischief at night, or to prevent someone committing such a crime at night from escaping with the property. But the person using deadly force must believe there is no other way to protect their belongings and must suspect that taking less drastic measures could expose themselves or others to serious danger. A state senator who authored a law passed this year giving Texans stronger rights to defend themselves with deadly force said he did not believe the legislation he spearheaded would apply to the Pasadena case, based on the sketchy facts that have emerged so far. Sen. Jeff Wentworth, a San Antonio Republican, said the so-called castle doctrine law he wrote doesn't apply to people protecting their neighbors' property.

The measure "is not designed to have kind of a `Law West of the Pecos' mentality or action," Wentworth said. "You're supposed to be able to defend your own home, your own family, in your house, your place of business or your motor vehicle." On Wednesday afternoon, other residents were stunned to exit their homes to find police cars and yellow crime scene tape. Lacey Hernandez, who lives one block from the shooting, was home when she heard two loud pops, but couldn't identify the noise. A short time later, she was leaving to pick up her children from school when she noticed the police cars. "I was in shock because I never heard a gunshot before," Hernandez said. She described her neighborhood as very quiet. The subdivision is lined with two-story brick homes with trees in the front yards. "We leave our garage door open," she said. "We let the kids run the streets just like nothing. Now they will not be playing in the streets."
By RUDY KOSKI, KVUE News–Austin. There is a new warning about billing invoices being mailed to several businesses. You may be paying for something you didn't agree to. It happened to Michael George after he got a strange call. The man on the phone claimed George's Jonesboro, Arkansas company owed them money for an ad. "He kept on saying, 'You don't want to honor the commitment you made for this advertising?' I was like, 'We didn't authorize any advertising,'" said George.

An invoice was faxed from a business called the “Sheriff's Journal” -- a $275 bill, similar to a bill sent to a company in Raleigh, North Carolina. Payments were to be sent to an Austin address. Steve Westbrook is Executive Director for the Texas Sheriff's Association says his organization does not publish anything called the “Sheriff's Journal” and has not sent out any of the bills in question. "None whatsoever," said Westbrook. For those who may get a bill, he has a warning. "Don't give money to anyone that just calls. Check them out," Westbrook said. "There are some legitimate organizations that do telemarketing, but be sure to check them out." The Austin mailing address for the “Sheriff's Journal” is located in a UPS store on 13th Street. There is no office, only box number 217. The mail drop box is in the same building with a law enforcement group, the Texas District and County Attorney's Association.

On the bill, there is an 800 phone number to call. I spoke to an operator who told me the company is located in Houston. A supervisor, who identified himself as J.D. Thompson, said they are doing nothing wrong. He could not tell me how many magazines have been published, although he said they made issues between January and March. He did say all invoices are based on agreements made over the phone. Michael George has asked for more specifics and says he was told the person who authorized the billing to his business no longer worked for the “Sheriff's Journal.” When I asked J.D. Thompson how he could provide an advertisement order was made by George or any other company they bill, he said those who dispute their claim don’t have to pay.

"They are creating something in the past and just counting on you not remembering," said George. "It makes me kind of mad that anyone has got the gall to even try to do that." According to an alert from the Texas Attorney General, don't pay for something you didn't order. If you have received one of these bills you are asked to file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office.
Everyone had a great time at the first annual Central Texas Chapter Golf Tournament held at the Star Ranch in Hutto on November 8th.

Forty eight golfers competed for masters flags signed by Charlie’s brother Ben and trophies for the 1st place team, signed books for 2 and 3 place teams plus trophies and a bunch of gift certificates for the raffle. The long drive and closest to pins got free rounds of golf at the Star Ranch. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Children’s Shelter in Austin.

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TBFAA Transmitter - December 2007 Edition - Page 21
**Member News**

- **System Sensor Brochure Details Benefits of Monitored Smoke Detectors** - System Sensor, a provider of fire detection and notification devices, has published a new brochure to help residential security system dealers illustrate to customers the benefits of monitored, system-connected smoke detectors. The brochure describes how detectors work and outlines the financial benefits for installing monitored smoke detectors. “Every homeowner wants to provide the best protection possible for his or her family. Many of us are away from home up to 12 hours a day, not to mention vacations and business trips,” says Richard Roberts, senior product manager, System Sensor, Security Business Unit. “Concern for safety and security spans every minute of every day, not just the time you are actually home, awake and alert to what's going on around you. Adding monitored smoke detectors to a home security system offers the priceless benefit of peace of mind.” To obtain copies of the brochure for customers, call (800) 736-7672 or E-mail info@systemsensor.com.

- **ADI Bolsters Offering of Residential Structured Wiring Products** - ADI, a wholesale distributor of security and low voltage products, has announced its agreement with Harrisburg, Pa.-based On-Q/Legrand, a manufacturer of home technology products, to carry its UStec ceLAN and iLAN residential wiring products. The ceLAN and iLAN series provides dealers with the wiring infrastructure needed to distribute and connect video, data and voice signals for home entertainment, networking, security and automation. “We are extremely excited to provide the On-Q ceLAN and iLAN series through ADI,” says On-Q/Legrand’s Bob Fallert, vice president of low voltage sales. “This agreement allows us to offer residential dealers more choices, availability and convenience while expanding our presence in the home systems market.” The UStec ceLAN and iLAN series will be available at all ADI North American branches beginning January 1, 2008.

- **Bosch to Provide Device for IP-based Monitoring Network** - Bosch Security Systems has signed an agreement with United Kingdom-based Emizon, an IP-based messaging service for 21st Century Networks (21CN), to provide a stand-alone telemetry communications device (TCD) that will enable alarm panels to directly connect to the Emizon service platform. The TCD will be distributed throughout the U.K. utilizing Bosch’s extensive distribution contacts. The device features 16 pin alarm inputs and dual path IP and GPRS signaling. Bosch Product Manager Darren Cox says the TCD will enable installers to easily connect to the Emizon service platform while maintaining high security standards associated with traditional dial path signaling services. “There will now be no need for a designated PSTN line with the associated rental costs, and monitoring costs will also be subject to cost savings,” Cox said.

- **Napco’s Gemini’s Access Affordable Access & Security In One** - The newly released Gemini Access offers end-users seamless integration with Gemini Control Panels, supporting up to 8 doors. Gemini Access is simple to manage with the new PCD Manager client software. This Windows-based software enables security departments limited control of their alarm and access system’s authorized users, while safeguarding system configurations, dealer codes, account ID’s, central station number, etc. Plus, dealers can personalize the look of the software to represent their client’s company. Custom function built-in options include uploading alarm company logos, website and tech support control info. For extra support, we recommend our GEM-PX Gemini Prox reader with alarm status indicators. This economical, attractive, weatherproof reader comes with unique alarm system status leds on face. LED indicators enable users to know alarm system status before arming/disarming system with prox card.

- **One Stop shop for your XG(10g) Fiber...Look no further than AMP NETCONNECT and CSC!** When you start looking for XG (10gigabit) fiber cable, connectors, and associated hardware, not many manufacturers can get you going quicker and easier than AMP NETCONNECT. Long known as one of the world’s largest manufacturers of fiber connectivity, did you know that AMP NETCONNECT also manufactures a complete line of XG fiber cables as well? They are available in all of the most popular fiber counts in interconnect, distribution, indoor/outdoor, and outside plant constructions. Add in a huge array of tools, supplies, and connecting hardware and you have it all in one place,...in stock at your local Communications Supply Corporation branch location.

- **VisualGate Systems and Tri-Ed Team Up to Distribute Surveillance Video over Powerline Solutions** - VisualGate Systems is pleased to announce its partnership with Tri-Ed, for the delivery of their Surveillance Video over Powerline (SVoP) products and solutions. VisualGate Systems’ technology can set up instant networking within any building by enabling video, audio and control data to be transmitted over the building’s existing AC wiring. VisualGate Systems offers two unique solutions for video surveillance requirements that incorporate Powerline technology and are based on HomePlug compliant standards. PL-VUE is a sophisticated system created for commercial and government use, while VueKIT has been created for small business and residential customers. Both VisualGate offerings have been developed to provide security dealers and installers with a secure, cost-effective video surveillance solution without the need to run new cabling.

- **Contractors Wire & Cable has opened a 30,000 square feet Texas Distribution Center** at 2045 Westgate Drive, Suite 120 in Carrollton, Texas 75006. Contractors Wire & Cable was established in 1989 and is now servicing customers worldwide with over $25 million in sales as one of the largest independent wholesale distributors of low voltage cabling, structured wiring, data conductivity and security products in the western United States. For more info visit www.contractorswire.com.
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