

# Gilcrease Division

## Newsletter, Vol. 4



### FIRE SAFETY FOCUSES ON SUMMER SIZZLE

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Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor grills. Annually more than 8,000 Americans are injured by fireworks and grill fires. More than half these injuries occur during the first week of July.

In addition to outdoor cooking, improper use of fireworks causes more than 6,000 fires and more than \$8 million in damage. Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

#### **Fireworks Safety**

The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays put on by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks. If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area. Fireworks are illegal within the city limits of Tulsa. While some nearby cities now allow the use of fireworks with the appropriate permits, the City of Tulsa's ordinances prohibit the use of fireworks within its corporate boundaries. The City's fire code states that "It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor offense for any person to possess, manufacture, store, sell, handle or use any fireworks within the corporate limits of the City of Tulsa without first having procured an operational permit from the fire code official as required."

The pre-set fine for fireworks violations is \$220, but fines of up to \$500 can be imposed.

An inexpensive alternative is attending Tulsa's largest fireworks display on Monday, July 4 near the 23rd Street bridge on the Arkansas River. The Tulsa River Parks Authority and the display's sponsor, ONEOK, will present ONEOK "FreedomFest 2011", which includes a fireworks display after sunset. Additional information can be found online <http://www.riverparks.org/freedomfest>.

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# FIRE SAFETY FOCUSES ON SUMMER SIZZLE *(cont.)*

For those residents that are attending Fourth of July festivities with family and friends where fireworks are allowed, here are some safety tips:

- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly. Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks and stand several feet away from lit fireworks.
- If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, direction and a warning label, do not light it.
- Supervise children around fireworks at all times.

## **Barbecue Safety**

USFA's (United States Fire Association) National Fire Data Center estimates that yearly outside cooking grills cause more than 6,000 fires, over 5 fatalities, more than 170 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss. Gas grills alone cause over 2,700 fires, 80 injuries, and \$11 million dollars damage. Most of the gas grill fires and explosions were caused by gas leaks, blocked tubes, and overfilled propane tanks.

Barbecue grills are considered so hazardous that in Tulsa, it is illegal to use any type of grill on an apartment balcony. The City fire code states, "It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor offense for any person to operate any charcoal, electric or gas grill, or any other electric or open flame device, on combustible balconies, or within ten (10) feet of combustible construction."

When using a grill in the proper area (away from combustible construction), following the listed safety guidelines will ensure a safe Fourth of July feast:

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line.
- Make sure the Venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Supervise children around outdoor grills. Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire.
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.

## **Campfire Safety**

A lot of families also enjoy camping in the summer. It is important to know and follow the camping facility's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires. Here's some simple guidelines to remember no matter which facility you choose:

- Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.
- Never leave campfires unattended.
- Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.
- Have plenty of water and a shovel close by to douse the fire when you're done.
- When it appears extinguished, stir it and douse it again with water.

# FROM THE LOCAL NEWS DESK...

Lori Fullbright, News On 6

<http://www.newson6.com/global/story.asp?S=14951974>

TULSA, Oklahoma -- Tulsa police and the Better Business Bureau have a warning about an alarm company whose salespeople were going door-to-door in Tulsa this weekend and have been in Muskogee this week. Vivint has a D rating with the Better Business Bureau.

One man who talked to a Vivint salesperson says they claimed Tulsa police invited them here because of a recent shooting. But, Tulsa police can't endorse any business, so beware.

The BBB says Vivint used to be called APX Alarm Security Solutions, Inc. A quick search of the Better Business Bureau's website shows there is government action against the company in Arkansas, Oregon and Louisiana. The BBB says more than 1,400 people have filed complaints against the company.

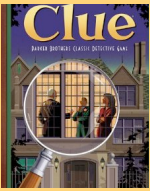
"That many complaints tells you it's not an isolated incident; 1,400 people can't be wrong," Rick Brinkley, with the Better Business Bureau, said.

Viewers told News On 6, Vivint had sales people in a Tulsa neighborhood around 55th and South Lewis over the weekend. One person said the sales people were aggressive and claiming you had to buy right then or you miss out on the great deal. A Tulsa man who spoke to a Vivint salesperson says that person claimed the BBB was the one actually under investigation.

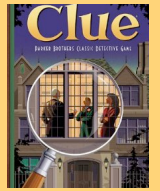
They also said they had a D rating because they didn't pay their fee to get a good rating. The BBB says paying to be a member with them has nothing to do with your rating.

"Anytime someone is strong arming you, that's a red flag," Rick said. "A legitimate company would give you time to study and do your homework." Rick says don't sign anything until you read all the fine print. He says the best way to find a reputable company is ask family and friends who they recommend, then check the BBB website. He says if you want to buy a product or service, do your homework, then call the company you choose, and beware of those who come peddling their wares to your doorstep. "The only thing between you and a bad deal is your door," he said. "If they start strong arming you and you feel uncomfortable, don't be rude, but, go inside and shut that door."

Vivint states, "Our BBB rating is based on previous state actions that resulted during a time of significant growth for the company. With two J.D. Power & Associate awards and two Consumers Digest Best Buy ratings, Vivint is committed to providing excellent products and service. Vivint works hard and fast to resolve all complaints. With more than 500,000 customers throughout North America, 1400 complaints over a three year period is a very small percentage in comparison to our customer base. Vivint does not condone any aggressive or misleading sales tactics. We encourage any concerned residents to report any wrongdoings to the company immediately."



# CRIMESTOPPERS CLUE CLUB



On June 4, 2011, at about 3:15 AM, an unknown white male burglarized the Codrey Apartments laundry room located at 1108 S. Detroit Ave. The suspect entered and burglarized the laundry machines. The suspect is described as a white male with long brown hair. Any person with information is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers at 918.596.COPS or send a text to "CRIMES" or "274637" and begin your message with "TIP918".



## NEIGHBORHOODS, BEAUTY AND BLIGHT

Recently, a business in the Gilcrease Division area bought some adjacent properties, in order to provide a buffer around their business. They hired a non-profit group to assist them with cleaning up these properties. The non-profit workers discovered, among other things, what they believed were leftovers from a methamphetamine lab and associated syringes and items associated with drugs.

When a neighborhood is uncluttered and a place to enjoy, it is more difficult for the criminal element to feel that they can get away with their plans. Tidy lots, and maintained structures are not a guarantee for an area to be free of crime, but it is a good

start to let criminals know that someone cares about their neighborhood and that they are concerned about what goes on in their area.

Everyone is encouraged to call anytime they see illegal or suspicious behavior. Everyone is also encouraged to do what they can to maintain their properties, in order to send the message to the criminal element that "We are here, we care, and we will not sit idly by."

There are many non-profit organizations, churches, and community groups that are willing to assist people who are either physically or financially unable to maintain their properties.

## METAL THEFTS ONGOING CONCERN

Metal-related thefts are an ongoing concern for the Tulsa Police Department. The investigators, and their supervisor, at Gilcrease Division spend a great deal of time identifying trends, gathering and sharing useful information throughout the department, and targeting those suspected of metal thefts.

The difficulty with metal thefts is determining a piece of metal is stolen, who and

where it's been stolen from, and if the metal item can be identified once it's been recovered.

Owners should secure metal items, just as they would other valuable possessions. Air conditioners, ladders, dilapidated metal sheds, etc. are all items that are attractive to metal thieves.

Owners are encouraged to mark items that could be stolen. Sometimes, simply

marking an item with paint in an inconspicuous place is a great way to say, "That's mine and here's why."

If an item is marked with paint, keep a sample of what was used. Often, an item can be submitted for chemical analysis to match the paint samples used to mark items, which provides evidence that an item belongs to a victim. As much help as possible is needed to match up items that are recovered with their rightful owner.

## Upcoming Downtown Events

### BOK Arena

Tulsa Shock vs. Minnesota - June 30  
 Tulsa Talons vs. Orlando - July 1  
 Tulsa Shock. Phoenix - July 8  
 Tulsa Talons vs. Tampa Bay - July 9  
 Tulsa Shock vs. Los Angeles - July 15  
 New Kids on the Block/Backstreet Boys -  
 July 17  
 Def Leppard - July 19  
 Tulsa Shock vs. Atlanta - July 26

### Brady Theater

Steely Dan - July 12  
 Hot as Hell Music Festival - July 17  
 Ke\$ha - July 24

### Cain's Ballroom

Justin Moore - June 30

### Tulsa Convention Center

Antiques Roadshow - July 23

### Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Trouble in Tahiti - July 3-5  
 Evita - July 1, 6-7 and 9

### Special Events

Joe Momma's Freedom Fest - July 4th  
 (On south Elgin between 1st & 2nd Street)

ONEOK FreedomFest - July 4th  
 (near the 23rd Street bridge on the  
 Arkansas River)

## Q&A **Ask the Major**

***In the news recently, there was an article about a shooting in Gilcrease Division. Was this a gang shooting?***

Statistics show us that more often than not the victim of violent crimes know their attacker. This was the case in the recent homicide in the Gilcrease Division. According to the information we have, the victim and the suspect knew each other, however, the extent of their relationship is unknown. This was not a random act of violence or a gang-related shooting.

***When do most burglaries occur?***

Residential burglaries usually occur in the daytime when most people are not home. In the last two weeks, there were a total of 56 burglaries: 23 in Adam squad, 13 in Baker squad, and 15 in Charlie squad. The day most of the burglaries were reported was on Sunday (17) and Monday (12). The areas the hardest hit seems to be between Lewis and Harvard / from Tecumseh to Dawson Road. Possible suspects were two black males. Unfortunately we don't have any more information on the suspects. The prime target times continue to be between 8 am and 6 pm. The most common tactic remains to knock and see if someone answers the door. The suspect asks for directions or a nonexistent person if someone does answer. If no one answers, the burglar breaks into the home.

***Are there a lot of cars stolen in this area?***

There were 15 vehicles reported stolen in the last two weeks. Three additional stolen vehicles were recovered in Gilcrease Division that were taken from other areas, for a total of 18. The days most of the auto theft reports are taken seem to be on Saturday (3) and Sunday (4). The most popular time is the opposite of residential burglaries, it is from 5 pm to midnight, after most people get home from work. One of the recoveries, in Baker squad, the suspect was seen casing homes in a stolen truck. The truck was recovered, however, the suspect could not be found.

Hondas and Pontiac Grand Ams seem to be the most popular vehicles stolen.

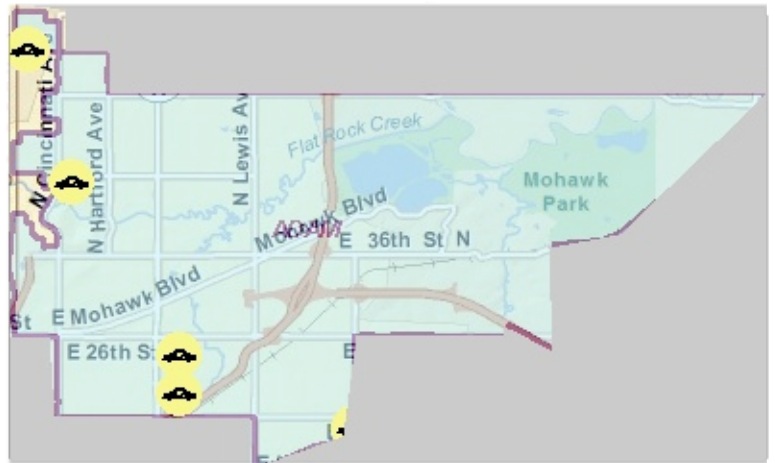


# Adam Squad – Crimes Trending Now

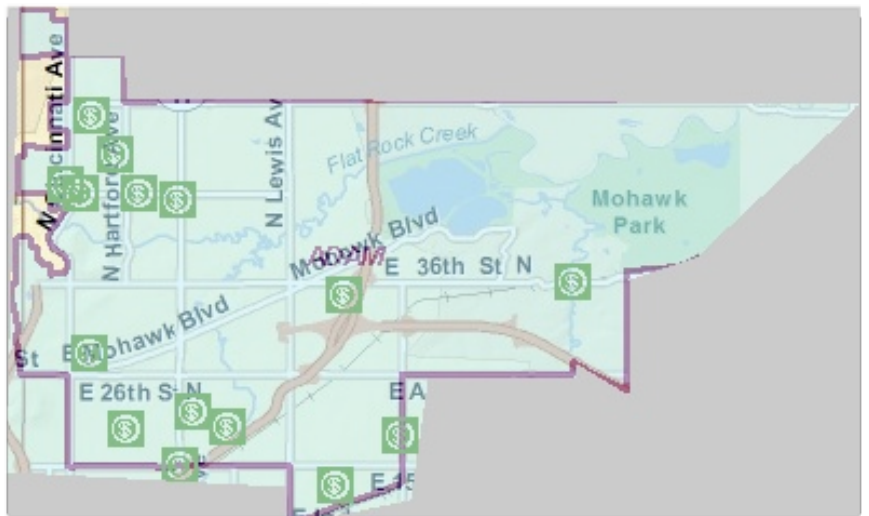


**Armed Robberies**

**Auto Thefts**

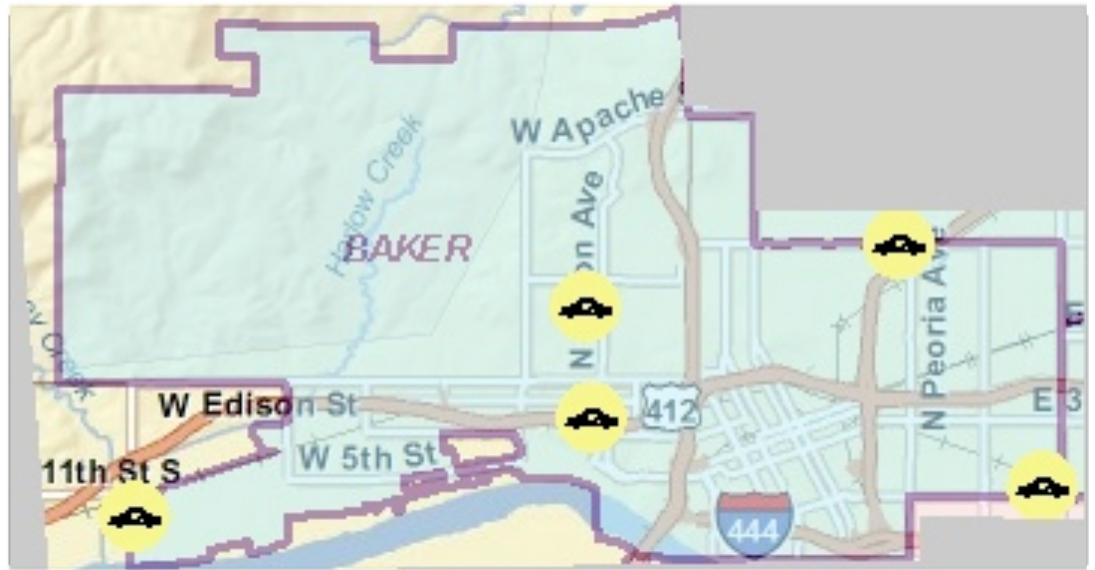


**Larcenies**

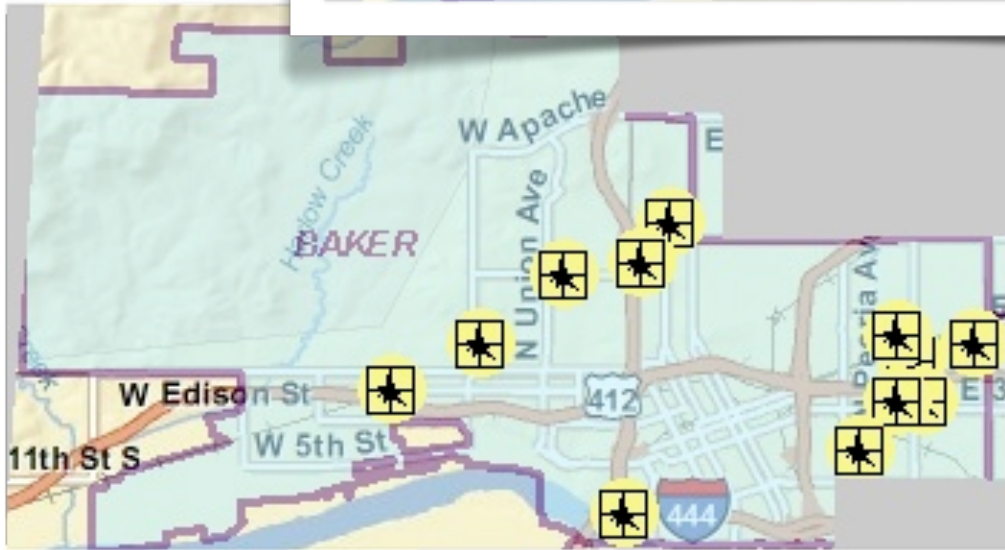


# Baker Squad – Crimes Trending Now

**Auto Thefts**



**Burglaries**



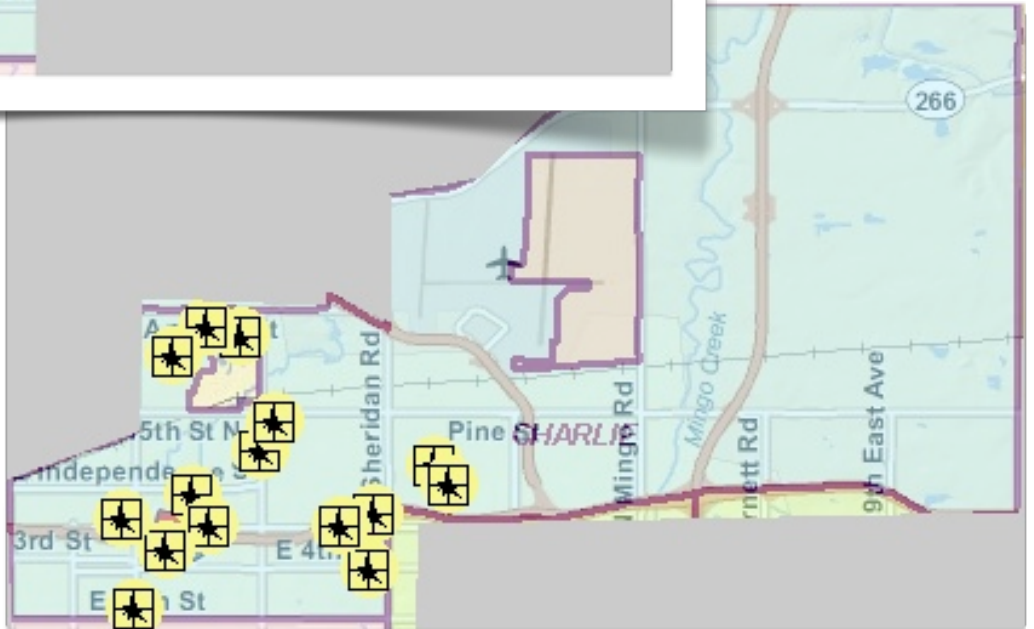
**Larcenies**



# Charlie Squad – Crimes Trending Now



**Auto Thefts**



**Burglaries**



**Larcenies**