



# MELISSA MINUTE

AUGUST 2009



## Tips to Avoid Being a Victim of Vehicle Burglary

The Melissa Police Department would like to give you a few vehicle burglary prevention tips. There are many things vehicle owners and residents can do to protect themselves, their neighbors and their property. By taking actions to prevent vehicle burglaries and reporting suspicious activity, residents can curb vehicle burglaries in their neighborhoods and public parking lots.

- Always lock your doors even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini mall, and especially when parking your vehicle outside for the night.
- Do not leave any personal property lying on the seats of the vehicle.
- Always put personal property away (out of sight), prior to arrival at your destination; place the property under a seat or inside the trunk.
- If you have a pull out stereo, navigational device or any other items of value, take it with you. If you have a detachable faceplate stereo, take the faceplate with you.
- Do not leave money in your ashtray.
- Keep your garage door remote out of plain view, and if stolen, change the remote control frequency.
- Don't leave a vehicle in unattended parking lots for an extended period.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead a thief directly to your car and your home. If you have to leave your vehicle with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around.
- Consider an alarm system.
- Report to police any person(s) in your neighborhood who appear suspicious or out of place. If possible get a description of the subjects.

Don't hesitate to call the police if you are suspicious of someone or something. Time is of the essence. If you would like to report a suspicious person or vehicle, call Melissa Police at 972-838-2033 or in case of emergency, call 911. For additional information regarding the safety of your vehicle call 972-838-2033.

## Mayor's Message – Mayor Reed Greer wants you!

The City of Melissa is a great place to call home and at the same time a place filled with opportunities. It is not difficult to get involved and shape the future of Melissa. There are Homeowner Associations, City Boards, Sports Association positions, School related positions, etc., etc. The City Council was recently overwhelmed by the show of interest and support to fill open positions on all of the City Boards. The fact that there were more people than open positions was a good problem the City Council had not had in many years.

The latest and greatest opportunity is the recently approved Ad Hoc Committee of a City Beautification group. The membership numbers are unlimited, and the time commitment is at your discretion. We are grouping together a team of 5 to lead the committee and are looking for people interested in giving a few hours a year to a few hours a weekend to help make Melissa a more beautiful place to live. Projects will include, but are not limited to, city property right-of-way mowing, sprinkler repairs, tree and shrubbery planting, and general park cleanup and maintenance. If you have an interest in making Melissa what we all expect it to be, please send me an e-mail: [mayorgreer@cityofmelissa.com](mailto:mayorgreer@cityofmelissa.com).

### CITY COUNCIL

- Reed Greer, Mayor*  
*Dan Trott, Mayor Pro Tem, Place 5*  
*Randy Kaiser, Place 1*  
*Sharon Weideman, Place 2*  
*Stan Mercer, Place 3*  
*Bill Farmer, Place 4*

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Jason Little,*  
*City Administrator 972-838-2338*
- Linda Bannister,*  
*City Secretary 972-838-2338*
- Jan Clark,*  
*City Librarian 972-837-4540*
- Gail Dansby,*  
*Finance Director 972-838-2338*
- Dana Nixon, Development*  
*Services Coordinator 972-838-2036*
- Duane Smith,*  
*Police Chief 972-838-2033*
- Perry Elliott,*  
*Fire Chief 972-837-1268*

*Brian Akins, Public Works*  
*Superintendent 469-853-9800*

City Hall is located at:

901 State Highway 121  
Melissa, TX 75454-9501  
Call (972) 838-2338  
Fax (972) 837-2452  
[www.cityofmelissa.com](http://www.cityofmelissa.com)



**Tips from North Texas Poison Center – How do I Get Rid of Old Medicines?**



In the past, Poison Centers have recommended just flushing those old unwanted or expired drugs down the toilet or putting them down the sink. These recommendations were made specifically to prevent accidental ingestion and poisoning of children and pets. Studies over the past several years though have shown this might not be such a good idea. Measurable amounts of some drugs such as antibiotics, hormones, cardiac medications and others are showing up in our nation’s waterways. Water treatment plants are unable to remove these compounds before they reach the environment. Throwing medications away with the trash may cause less pollution, but there is that risk that other people or animals may get hold of it. Privacy may also be a concern if containers have labels with names and other personal information.

The following recommendations may take more time and effort from caregivers than simple flushing, but they will prevent accidental poisonings as well as lessen the environmental impact of these drugs on the environment.

Where available, take expired or unwanted medications to pharmacy or public health sponsored medication disposal sites.

If a medication disposal program is not available in your area, the unwanted or expired medicine may be thrown away in the trash by following these steps:

- **Liquids** should be poured over paper towels, kitty litter, or coffee grounds and tightly wrapped in sealable or watertight containers or bags.
- **Solids** (pills, capsules, tablets) should be placed into a sealable or water tight container or bag and add a small amount of water to at least partly dissolve them. You might want to add an undesirable substance like coffee grounds or kitty litter so that they are less likely to be eaten.
- Place the container inside a package such as a box that doesn’t show what’s inside.
- Put the medication in the trash as close to pick up time as possible-*do not place in recycling bins.*

**Address and Street Name Changes-Reminders for those Affected**

The Melissa Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone affected by this recent and necessary address and street name change for your understanding in this necessary change. We would like to remind you of some of the contacts you may want to make to inform others of your new address.

- Banks
- Credit card companies
- Insurance companies
- Business associates
- Vendors
- Personal will
- Voter registration



- Passports
- Online profiles (Ex: Facebook, etc.)
- Family
- Friends

These are just a few examples; please take the time to carefully think of all your contact needs.

The Melissa Volunteer Fire Department, Melissa Police Department and AMR Ambulance Service do not want any delay in arriving at the appropriate location to assist you in your time of need. Therefore, **if you have a burglar alarm, fire alarm or life alert system that is monitored by a third party company; please contact the monitoring company to inform them of the change.** Time lost spent locating the appropriate address is time lost in assisting you during your time of need. Please make this change today without delay.

In coordination with contacting your monitoring company it is extremely important you also change the numerical address on your house, mailbox or business that identifies your property. This again will facilitate a quick and appropriate response from your emergency provider. Please note, if your electric meter has an address of its own or the numbers are physically located on it, this needs to be updated as well.

Please take the time to make these changes and allow us to serve you to the best of our ability .

**Library “Food for Fines” Program Coming in October**

Summer Reading Program "Reading is Magic" June 1-August 10, 2009 was very successful. 46 children from the ages 2-12 read, drew pictures or wrote using 430 books.

Congratulations to everyone. Special kudos to Kaycee Fender (age 5) she drew and talked about 82 books, Joseph Dampf (age 8) wrote about 43 books, Rachel Dampf (age 6) wrote about 42 books, and Yesenia Paulin (age 9) read and wrote using 32 books.

Thank you to Cookies by Design of Plano, (Parker/ Independence) for giving all the children a bookmark and free cookie. Always thanks to the Friends of the Melissa Public Library for their generous support of the Summer Reading Programs.

Beginning October 1 - 31st, the City of Melissa Public Library will offer patrons with overdue materials and/or fines the chance to clear their account at the library and contribute canned goods to the local food banks. Bring canned goods to the library to erase their fines. Details are available at the library.

**FOOD FOR FINES:**  
 .25-.50 = 1 can  
 .60-.75 = 2 cans  
 .75-\$1.00 3 cans



**CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**  
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH  
 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY