



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the

KELLER POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2010

Hi, Keller neighbors!



Here are the crime statistics for
October 2009 & October 2010

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
<u>Part 1 Index Crimes</u>		
Criminal Homicide	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	0
Robbery	0	0
Aggravated Assault	3	0
Burglary	2	3
Larceny/Theft	25	38
Auto Theft	0	0
Total	30	41
<u>Family Violence</u>		
	9	7
<u>Arrests</u>		
Misdemeanor	102	116
Felony	12	6
Total	114	122
<u>Traffic Related</u>		
Citations	827	1,089
DWI/DUI	12	23
Accidents	28	36
Total	867	1,148
<u>Administrative Activities</u>		
Incoming Calls	10,880	12,603
9-1-1 Calls	1,430	1,806
Alarm Responses	176	193
House Checks	15	16
Total calls for service	6,899	7,403

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Open Records Request	251	183
Officer Initiated CFS	4,293	5,005
Citizen Initiated CFS	2,606	2,398

City Santa Has Begun:



You might already know the "City Santa" program has begun. This is a great program where the city reaches out to the community for assistance with Christmas presents for children, young men and women. Many people are unfortunate this year and will go without receiving any Christmas presents. The City Santa program hopes to brighten the day for families in our area. Drop box locations are within the City of Keller. These sites include the Keller Library, the Keller Police Department, The Keller Courts, the Keller Pointe, Keller Fire Administration and Keller Town Hall. Bring a new unwrapped toy or item for a young teen, and we will see it is distributed to a needy family. Your help is greatly appreciated!

VIN Etch:



This is just a short reminder about the VIN Etch Program. Keller police will have a VIN etch program on December

11th (9:00 AM-noon) in the Keller Police Department parking lot (330 Rufe Snow Drive). There is no charge for this service and we welcome any car or truck. Mark your calendars and don't miss out.

Have You Heard About This?



I read an article about tunnels being dug from the Mexico border into the US about a year or so ago. I actually saw video footage a short time after reading the article. The tunnels were well lit, sophisticated and were set up so that not only people could get into the US, but drugs could also make their way into our country. Guess what? I recently heard about a drug bust in San Diego involving tunneling. I copied this article from the Associated Press so you could see exactly what local and federal law enforcement is dealing with.

November 27, 2010

San Diego drug tunnel had railcar, tons of pot Authorities said an underground passage located Thursday was similarly designed as one found earlier

By Elliot Spगत

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Investigators suspect a major drug cartel was the driving force behind two long, sophisticated tunnels connecting Mexico with the U.S. that were discovered this month along with more than 40 tons of marijuana.

Authorities said an underground passage located Thursday was similar to one found earlier — both running around 2,000 feet from Mexico to San Diego and equipped

with lighting, ventilation, and a rail system for drugs to be carried on a small cart.

The tunnels are believed to be the work of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, headed by that country's most-wanted drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, said Mike Unzueta, head of investigations at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in San Diego.

"We think ultimately they are controlled by the same overall cartel but that the tunnels were being managed and run independently by different cells operating within the same organization," Unzueta said Friday.

The tunnel found Thursday is more than seven football fields in length and extends from the kitchen of a home in Tijuana, Mexico, to two warehouses in San Diego's Otay Mesa industrial district.

Three men were arrested in the United States, and the Mexican military raided a ranch in Mexico and made five arrests in connection with the tunnel, authorities said.

U.S. authorities have discovered more than 125 clandestine tunnels along the Mexican border since the early 1990s, though many were crude and incomplete.

The passage found Thursday is one of the most sophisticated to date, with an entry shaft in Mexico lined with cinderblocks and the rail system, Unzueta said.

U.S. authorities do not know how long the latest tunnel was operating. Unzueta said investigators began to look into it in June on a tip that emerged from a large bust of marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

U.S. authorities followed a trailer from one of the warehouses to a Border Patrol checkpoint in Temecula, where they seized 27,600 pounds of marijuana. The driver, whose name was not released, was arrested, along with two others who went to a residence in suburban El Cajon that had \$13,500 cash inside.

"That (trailer) was literally filled top to bottom, front to back," Unzueta said. "There wasn't any room for anything else in that tractor-trailer but air."

Three tons of marijuana was found in a "subterranean room" and elsewhere in the tunnel on the U.S. side, authorities said. Mexican officials seized four tons of pot at a ranch in northern Mexico, bringing the total haul to more than 20 tons.

The discovery of the cross-border tunnel earlier this month marked one of the largest marijuana seizures in the United States, with agents confiscating 20 tons of marijuana they said was smuggled through the underground passage. That tunnel ran the length of six football fields under the border and warehouses in Mexico and San Diego. One of the warehouses involved in the tunnel discovered Thursday is only a half-block away.

In Thursday's discovery, the tunnel's cinderblock-lined entry in Mexico dropped 80 to 90 feet to a wood-lined floor, Unzueta said. From the U.S. side, there was a stairway leading to a room about 50 feet underground that was full of marijuana.

"It's a lot like how the ancient Egyptians buried the kings and queens," Unzueta said.

Several sophisticated tunnels have ended in San Diego warehouses. ICE began meeting with landowners last month to warn them about leasing space to tunnel builders.

"These owners of warehouses, they need to know their customers, they need to know who's in there leasing these things," Unzueta said.

Be On the Alert:

Keller police are asking residents to be alert and vigilant during this holiday season. We strongly urge you to lock all doors on your residence when



leaving. Activate burglar alarms, put padlocks or combination locks on the back gates and make sure outdoor lighting is working well. Burglars are well aware most people will have presents in their homes and will take a chance on breaking into your home. By hardening the target "your home", the potential for the bad guy to look elsewhere will be in your favor. Also, make your vehicle a hardened target. Make sure it is secure and all valuables are out of it or out of sight. Don't give a criminal a break! Be vigilant in your stand against crime.

Chief's Corner:

Greetings Keller,



The Keller City Council recently passed an ordinance prohibiting the use, purchase, possession, and sale of illegal smoking products and ingestion devices used in connection with illegal smoking products. This bans the sale and use of "K-2" which is sold legally in the State of Texas as a form of incense that is labeled "not for human consumption". "K-2" and its derivatives contain chemical compounds that cause effects similar to marijuana or hallucinogens when ingested into the body. The ingestion of this substance may cause harmful effects to the health of people abusing it. Youths and adults can smoke the product to get high and current drug tests would not detect it. Most likely the Texas State Legislature will take some action for a state-wide ban but our city council believed it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to prohibit the sale, use, and possession immediately within Keller. Any person or business found in possession of illegal smoking products will be issued a citation to appear in Keller Municipal Court and can face a fine for up to \$500.00.

Longtime veteran police officer Kenneth McDonald will be retiring from the department at the end of this month after serving this community for 20 years. Kenneth has served with distinction and pride. He will be missed and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. We will be working over the holidays to keep the roads safe. Please wear your seat belts and drive carefully. We are thankful that we have a great community to provide the very best in law enforcement services. We continue to take a stance against intoxicated drivers on our roadways. Year to date we have removed 200 individuals from the streets for DWI. We want the message loud and clear "Don't drive intoxicated in Keller". By taking this stance our roadways are safer and hopefully we can reduce the amount of alcohol related deaths. Late evening/early morning hours are the prime time for intoxicated drivers. This is one of the reasons why we stop vehicles for minor traffic violations like wide turns, crossing the center of the roadway, failure to use turn signals, and slow speed. Officers will stop you for these violations. If you are not intoxicated they will send you on your way and thank you for being patient during the brief stop. Please understand we are not "harassing" you but doing our job of removing intoxicated drivers off the roads before a collision occurs.

Continue to communicate with us via the e-mail distribution program and as always we stand ready to build a partnership with you to make Keller a better place to live, visit, and conduct business.

Have a safe day!

Scott Bradburn

Community Relations Officer

Keller Police Department

City of Keller, TX.