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Waco Crime Stoppers sets record

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Just halfway through the year, Waco Crime Stoppers have eclipsed the number of arrests and anonymous tips from previous full years' data.

Officer Steve Dieterich said the increase has come from adding email and text messaging to the program, in addition to increased publicity and receiving higher-quality tips.

The volume of phone calls in the past six months has nearly doubled the numbers officials see at the end of the year, he said.

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Normally, Crime Stoppers pay \$10,000 in rewards annually, but they've already shelled out more than that.

"I don't see us slowing down anytime soon," Dieterich said. "We're trying to reach out to different segments of the community. We started Crime Stoppers in the schools (because) young people are an untapped resource."

The information received has led police to solve four aggravated robberies, an auto

theft, two forgeries and four drug cases, among other cases, Dieterich said.

Crime Stoppers by the numbers

	Jan. 1- March 23	March 24- June 22	2011 total
Suspects arrested:	30	41	71
Offenses cleared:	47	64	111
Number of calls received:	570	781	1,351
Number of web tips received:	20	42	62
Number of text tips received:	14	9	23
Code numbers assigned:	94	120	214
Number of reward paid/declined:	25	30	55
Amount of rewards paid:	\$4,450	\$5,850	\$10,300
Stolen property recovered:	\$329	\$15,300	\$15,629
Narcotics seized:	\$4,600	\$1,000	\$5,600

Source: Waco Crime Stoppers

The officer said Waco Crime Stoppers serves McLennan County, not just Waco, which

is a common misconception.

When tipsters call, text or email a tip, their identities remain unknown to Dieterich.

The informants are in total control of the information, he said.

Dieterich also has a bilingual officer who translates Spanish tips, which has been extremely helpful, he said.

"We can be trusted, we've been operating for 31 years and no one has been burned," Dieterich said. "We aren't going to burn anybody. We'd drop a case before we outed an informant."

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