

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

February 2005

Hardening the  **T**arget

Avoid unwanted telemarketing calls

The California Public Utilities Commission reminds consumers to register their cell phone numbers as well as their home phone numbers with the National Do Not Call Registry if they do not wish to receive telemarketing calls.

The Registry blocks most calls within three months of registering. The blocking does not apply to calls from political organizations, charities, telephone surveyors, calls from companies with which you have an existing business relationship, or those to whom you have given express consent in writing to receive their calls.

To opt out from telemarketing calls, call (888) 382-1222 from the telephone with the number you wish to block, or register on-line at <https://www.donotcall.gov/register/reg.aspx>. By registering on the Do Not Call list, your number will be blocked from telemarketing calls for five years.

Save the date

The next Crime Prevention Town Hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Cerritos Senior Center (12340 South Street).

For more information, please call (562) 916-1266.

Protect your vehicle at fitness center parking lots

Fitness center parking lots are prime targets of vehicle burglars. Thieves know that members are often reluctant to store their personal items inside of fitness center lockers, and instead prefer to leave their personal items inside of their vehicles.

Statistics show that far more vehicles are burglarized at fitness center parking lots than are the lockers inside. Cerritos has two major fitness centers that are frequently the site of vehicle burglaries.

The best way to protect your credit cards, cash and other valuable items is to leave them at

home before going to work out. Carry your driver's license, keys and a small amount of cash with you to the gym. These items can be easily carried and will remain secure in your immediate possession.

If you absolutely must leave items in your vehicle, make sure that you lock them in the trunk. This does not necessarily mean that the property will be safe, but at the very least, you will be protecting these items from being seen by passersby. Unfortunately, if you own a van, pick-up truck or an SUV, you do not have this option available to you.

Top 10 list of most stolen vehicles published

A list of the top 10 most stolen vehicles in California in 2003 has been published by CCC Information Services. The list is consistent with those vehicles reported stolen in Cerritos.

Vehicles made by Toyota and Honda comprise the top 10 list. These vehicles tend to have interchangeable parts and create a market that is profitable to auto thieves.

The top 10 most stolen vehicles in 2003 were:

1. 1989 Toyota Camry
2. 1988 Toyota Camry
3. 1990 Toyota Camry
4. 1987 Toyota Camry

5. 1991 Toyota Camry
6. 1991 Honda Accord
7. 1992 Honda Accord
8. 1991 Honda Accord LX
9. 2000 Honda Civic
10. 1995 Honda Civic

There are several devices available to protect your vehicle from being stolen. These devices range from a simple factory alarm to a state-of-the-art global positioning satellite technology (GPS) system. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center recommends that at the very least, all vehicle owners invest in a steering wheel locking device that can be seen from the outside.

Monthly Crime Summary: January 2005

Cerritos deputies investigated 117 Part I felony crimes in January, compared to 113 in December. There was a substantial increase in residential burglaries during one week in January. Deputies are handling an average of 348 calls for service per month so far in 2005.

Robberies

There were 12 robbery-related incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in January, up from nine incidents investigated in December.

Three cases occurred on Sunday, January 9. The first incident involved a woman who was thrown to the ground at 1:21 p.m. as she approached her vehicle parked in a lot at the Los Cerritos Center. A male suspect took her purse and fled in a vehicle parked nearby.

At 3:20 p.m. that same day, two male suspects on Studebaker Road near Artesia Boulevard forced a male victim from his vehicle at knifepoint. The suspects left in a car that was later involved in a traffic collision on the 605 Freeway near the 91 Freeway.

The third incident that day occurred at 9:15 p.m. when a female victim and her former boyfriend were driving westbound on the 91 Freeway at Bloomfield Avenue. The man assaulted the woman, pushed her from the vehicle and drove away.

One attempted robbery was reported on Tuesday, January 11 at 9:50 p.m. A woman was approaching her vehicle in the 12500 block of Eckleson Street when a male suspect rode up on a bicycle and demanded her purse. The woman quickly threw her purse into the car and locked herself inside. She contacted the Cerritos Sheriff's Station, and arriving deputies arrested the suspect nearby.

On Monday, January 17 at 10:05 a.m., a woman was walking in a lot at the Los Cerritos Center when a male suspect grabbed her purse

and fled to a waiting vehicle.

At 10:45 p.m. that same day, six juvenile suspects robbed a cab driver at knifepoint after he gave the group a ride to the 12900 block of Andy Drive. All of the suspects were arrested in or around the residence where the cab driver had stopped.

On Friday, January 21 at 10 a.m., another purse snatching occurred in the Los Cerritos Center as a woman was placing items in a baby stroller.

Another case occurred in the Los Cerritos Center parking lot at 10:30 p.m. that same day. The suspect approached a victim, demanded money and then grabbed a purse from her possession.

On Monday, January 24 at 10:10 a.m., a woman was walking to her vehicle in a lot located in the 18600 block of Gridley Road when a male approached her from behind, grabbed her purse and dragged her a short distance before she let go of her purse.

Three suspects were arrested in this case and three of the other purse snatchings described above. Several other robberies in nearby communities were cleared as a result of these arrests, and related property was recovered.

On Monday, January 24 at 4:20 p.m., a male suspect struggled with loss prevention personnel after a shoplifting incident in a store in the 11500 block of Gridley Road. The suspect was taken into custody without any further incident.

Another fleeing shoplifting suspect pushed employees out of his way on Tuesday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. while leaving a department store in the Los Cerritos Center. Cerritos detectives have identified him.

The final robbery incident in January involved a purse snatching on Thursday, January 27 at 4:35 p.m. A woman was walking in a lot in the Los Cerritos Center when a

male suspect reached out from a passing vehicle and grabbed a purse from her possession.

Residential Burglaries

There were 41 residential burglary incidents reported to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station in January. This is an increase from 19 cases in December. The 2005 weekly average in this category was 8.8 at the end of January.

Nineteen of these crimes involved the unusual method of breaking windows to gain entry into a residence. Twelve of these crimes were attributed to open or unlocked doors or windows. Property reported stolen included jewelry, cash, credit cards, cell phones, a shotgun, handguns, identification, a safe, clothing, tools and video games.

Vehicle Burglaries

Deputies investigated 38 vehicle burglaries in January. There were 43 reported in December. The weekly average so far in 2005 is 9.0. Twenty four of the cases last month occurred in commercial parking lots, and 18 involved vehicles without trunk space such as SUVs, vans and pick-up trucks.

An overwhelming majority of the vehicle burglaries were attributed to broken windows. Losses reported included laptop computers, cell phones, cash, photographs, checkbooks, tools, gym bags, credit cards, stereo components, identification, briefcases, CDs and sunglasses.

Vehicle Thefts

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station handled 21 vehicle thefts in January. There were 43 reported in December. The 2005 weekly average in this category was 5.4 at month's end.

Hondas, Toyotas and Nissans accounted for 12 of the cases, and the rest involved vehicles of various makes and models. Twenty of the stolen vehicles were removed from parking lots.