

Cerritos

Neighborhood

Watch Report

April 2006

Hardening the Target

Protect yourself with Neighborhood Watch

The concept of a Neighborhood Watch program has existed for hundreds of years. Originally, townspeople would grab a lantern and walk various business districts to prevent crime. Their presence was obvious and served as a deterrent to those looking to commit crimes. Over the years, the program evolved into neighbors meeting to discuss issues, learn crime prevention techniques and share information. Neighbors worked together to maintain an awareness of the activities that surrounded them and to report crime as it occurred.

Today in Cerritos, there are several different elements to the Neighborhood Watch program. Crime Prevention Town Hall meetings are held regularly where representatives from the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center present crime statistics, crime prevention tips and disaster preparedness information. These meetings are open to anyone that wants to attend.

The City also has Neighborhood Watch Block Captains who serve as liaisons between the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and their respective neighborhoods. They distribute a hard copy of the monthly Neighborhood Watch Report and hold periodic meetings in their neighborhoods.

The most recently established element of the City's Neighborhood Watch program is the Safer Cerritos web site located at www.safercerritos.com. There citizens can

obtain a variety of crime prevention and disaster preparedness information, and find links to various agencies and services. The Neighborhood Watch Report is posted on the web site monthly and there are more than four years of archived articles available.

Membership in the Virtual Block Club (VBC) is also available. Members receive weekly crime summaries and a map that shows the locations of crimes. Crime alerts are sent to VBC members when deputies are trying to locate a suspect or a vehicle, when a unique crime takes place that the community should be made aware of or when other information needs to be made public in a timely manner.

One of the most important

components of a Neighborhood Watch program is you. As the "eyes and ears" of law enforcement, your ability to recognize unfamiliar people or vehicles in your neighborhood and suspicious situations is crucial to fighting crime. When you observe such situations, contact the Cerritos Sheriff's Station immediately, even if you are unsure as to whether it is important or not. Allow deputies the opportunity to make that determination. They are trained to do so, and are dedicated to making the community a safe place to live, work and play.

Remember to call 911 for emergencies and (562) 860-0044 to report suspicious activity. Program the seven-digit number into your cell phone(s) as well.

Understanding the Do Not Call Registry

Despite recent claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would like consumers to know that their cell phone numbers will not be released to telemarketers in the near future. It is not necessary to register cell phone numbers on the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls.

The truth about cell phones and the DNC Registry is:

- Contrary to e-mails, cell phone numbers are NOT being released to telemarketers, and you will NOT be receiving telemarketing calls on your cell phone.

- There is NO deadline by which you must register your cell phone number on the DNC Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phones without their consent.
- The national associations representing telemarketers have stated that their clients do not intend to start calling consumers' cell phones.

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Monthly Crime Summary: March 2006

Cerritos deputies investigated 93 Part I felony crimes in March. This is down from an adjusted figure of 96 in February. Vehicle burglaries increased from the previous month and vehicle thefts declined slightly. At the end of March, deputies were handling an average of 319 calls for service per week.

Robberies

There were seven robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in March, compared to eight in February.

At 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, a male suspect robbed a video store in the 11400 block of South Street after simulating a handgun.

On Sunday, March 12 at 4:50 p.m., two male teens were assaulted by another in the 17700 block of Eric Avenue. A video camera was taken, but was subsequently recovered.

On Tuesday, March 14 at 8:44 p.m., a female was walking to her vehicle in a lot located in the 11200 block of 183rd Street when a male suspect came up from behind her, grabbed the purse from her shoulder and pushed her to the ground. The suspect was arrested by deputies shortly after the crime.

A female victim was sitting in her car in the 11500 block of South Street on Saturday, March 25 when a male suspect approached her, simulated a handgun and robbed her.

The next robbery occurred on Wednesday, March 29 at 3 p.m., when a woman was robbed of her purse by a gun-wielding male suspect in the 11100 Block of 183rd Street.

On Friday, March 31, a man had just cashed a check near Norwalk Boulevard and 166th Street at 10:52 a.m. when three acquaintances physically took the money from his possession.

The last case occurred at 3:15 p.m. that same day in the 13200 block of South Street. A male riding

a bicycle claimed that he had been struck by a female motorist. When she exited her vehicle to discuss the matter, the male pushed her away and fled in the vehicle.

Residential Burglaries

Twelve residential burglaries were reported in March, the same number investigated in both January and February. The weekly average in this category is currently 2.7, which is down more than 52 percent compared to the same period one year ago.

Open/unlocked doors or windows made possible six of the cases in March. One incident involved a suspect distracting a resident while another suspect entered the home and removed property. Items reported stolen in the March crimes included cash, jewelry, stereo and computer components, plasma televisions, handguns and clothing.

Vehicle Burglaries

There were 48 vehicle burglaries investigated in March. There were 38 in February. The 2006 weekly average for vehicle burglaries was eight at the end of March. This is

down more than 23 percent from last year. Property reported stolen in these crimes consisted of purses, wallets, briefcases, cash, laptop computers, cell phones, MP3 players, CDs and tools. Parking lots were the location of 33 incidents. Cargo trailers were involved in two of the burglaries. SUVs and pick-up trucks were targeted in 23 of the cases, and car stereos were taken in 15. Rear SUV seats are becoming a more frequently reported loss.

Vehicle Thefts

Twenty-five vehicle theft cases were reported in March, compared to 28 in February. So far in 2006, approximately six vehicle thefts have been investigated on a weekly basis. Parking lots continue to be the most common location for this crime, with 18 vehicle thefts occurring in this venue in March.

Five Hondas and three Toyotas were among those stolen. As with vehicle burglaries, rear SUV seats have been frequently targeted in vehicle thefts, and have been found missing when the SUVs have been recovered.

Understanding the Do Not Call Registry

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- There is only one DNC Registry. There is no separate registry for cell phones.
- The DNC Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. You must call from the phone number that you want to register. If you register on-line, you must respond to a confirmation e-mail.

While the telecommunications industry has been discussing the possibility of creating a wireless 411 directory, according to the FCC, even if a wireless 411 directory is established, most telemarketing calls to cell phones would still be illegal, regardless of whether the number is listed on the federal government's

National DNC Registry.

In addition, according to the industry, your number would not be included in a wireless 411 directory unless you choose to be included. The wireless 411 directory would not be made available to telemarketers.

To learn more about the National DNC Registry and the rules that enforce it, visit www.ftc.gov or www.fcc.gov.

The FTC works to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace. To file a complaint or for more information, call (877) FTC-HELP (382-4357), or visit www.ftc.gov. The FTC enters all fraud-related complaints into a database available to numerous civil and criminal law enforcement agencies.

Safety Contacts:
Community Safety Division -
(562) 916-1266
Sheriff's Station - (562) 860-0044



To join Cerritos Neighborhood
Watch, call Community
Mobilization Officer Mike Yach
at (562) 916-1258.