

Cerritos

Neighborhood

Watch Report

July 2006

Hardening the Target

Help safeguard and protect the City's parks

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center would like to solicit residents' assistance in monitoring the City's parks. As the summer progresses, attendance at local parks increases for a variety of social get-togethers and recreational activities.

Many residents use, walk through and drive by the neighborhood parks on a regular basis. There is usually an extremely low number of criminal incidents reported in these areas. Those incidents that are reported typically deal with vandalism and graffiti.

Residents have the ability to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station as part of a Neighborhood Watch program. The

Cerritos Sheriff's Station asks that residents make an effort to observe the activities occurring around their house and neighborhood, or in any areas of the city where they may be present.

Those who are in a park should take a moment to look closely at the facilities. Suspicious persons or vehicles should be reported immediately to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station by calling (562) 860-0044. Keep in mind that using a cell phone to call 911 will connect you with the California Highway Patrol and cause an unnecessary delay in any local response.

Any graffiti observed should be reported to the Graffiti Hotline by

calling (562) 916-1233.

While parks are a popular spot for recreation and relaxation, they are also a lure for those who are looking for a place to congregate with less than legal intentions.

Please note that parks in the city are closed from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. If you see someone in a closed park, please call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station. Alcohol cannot be consumed in any park at any time, and smoking is not permitted.

By remaining alert in the neighborhoods and surrounding areas in Cerritos, together we can help ensure that the parks will be a safe place for family, friends and neighbors to enjoy.

Attend 23rd Annual National Night Out

On Thursday, August 3, the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and the City of Cerritos will observe the 23rd Annual National Night Out.

This year, in conjunction with the City's Concert in the Park series, members from the Sheriff's Department will present crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness and homeland security information at Heritage Park in Cerritos (18600 Bloomfield Avenue) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"Operation Kid Print" will be available for parents who want to maintain a fingerprint card on their children.

Don't leave open garage doors unattended

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station's Volunteers on Patrol have reported an increase in the number of residential garage doors that are being left open during the day and at night. Residents are urged to consider the potential consequences of leaving these doors open and unattended.

Incidents have been reported where perpetrators have entered an open garage to steal items even when the homeowners have been in the backyard. Burglaries can happen that fast.

If you are not planning to maintain visual contact with the front of your house, always properly close your garage door. If you see your neighbor's garage door open, try to contact them and pass on this im-

portant message. If you are unable to contact them, be a good neighbor and keep an eye on their property. Many thieves act on impulse when they see an opportunity available. An open and unmonitored garage door is exactly the type of opportunity they are looking for.

If you do see something suspicious, do not hesitate to contact the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044. To report a crime in progress or anything that you feel could be a crime in progress, dial 911 at once unless you are calling from a cell phone. If you are using a cell phone, then call (562) 860-0044 to be directly connected to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station's dispatch center.

Monthly Crime Summary: June 2006

Cerritos deputies investigated 75 Part I felony crimes in June. This is a very low figure compared to an adjusted number of 118 Part I felonies investigated in May, and is even more noteworthy considering that crimes generally increase during the busier summer months. At the end of June, deputies were handling an average of 326 calls for service each week.

Robberies

There were six robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in June, compared to 15 cases investigated in May.

On Tuesday, June 6 at 12:12 p.m., a female was seated in a car located in the 17300 block of Maria Avenue when a male suspect pulled her out and fled in the vehicle.

At 5:20 a.m. on Sunday, June 11, a male suspect entered a fast food establishment in the 12500 block of South Street, simulated a weapon, and took cash and cigarettes.

On Thursday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m., a female juvenile was observed shoplifting in a retail store located in the 11500 block of South Street. When an attempt was made to detain her, she struggled, but was subsequently taken into custody.

Another shoplifting case turned into a robbery the following day at 11:05 a.m. when a male suspect threatened loss prevention personnel with a knife in a store in the 10900 block of Alondra Boulevard. The employees backed off and the suspect ran out of the store where he was arrested by awaiting deputies.

At 2 p.m. that same day, an elderly female was walking on Artesia Boulevard near Pires Avenue when a male suspect ran up behind her, grabbed her wallet and fled to a vehicle driven by another suspect. One suspect was arrested later in the day in an adjacent jurisdiction while using the victim's credit cards.

The last robbery occurred on Tuesday, June 27 at 10:10 a.m. Two male suspects forced a female victim into her home in the 13700 block of Darvalle Avenue and robbed her of currency, guns and a vehicle. They were arrested by deputies a short time later.

Residential Burglaries

Ten residential burglaries were reported in June. This is down from 14 cases in May, and is a 45 percent decrease compared to the first six months of 2005.

The 2006 weekly average in this category is currently 2.6. Five of the incidents in June were attributed to open/unlocked doors or windows. Three cases involved sliding glass windows or doors that were pried open. Tools, keys, vehicles, and computer and video components were among the items reported stolen.

Vehicle Burglaries

Twenty-eight vehicle burglaries were recorded in June. There was an adjusted figure of 45 vehicle burglaries in May. The 2006 weekly

average for vehicle burglaries was 7.6 at the end of June.

So far in 2006, there has been a 10 percent decrease in vehicle burglaries compared to the first five months of 2005.

Twenty-three vehicle burglaries occurred in commercial parking lots, and 13 of the total involved an SUV or pick-up truck. Nine cases had stereo items taken. Rear bench seats were stolen from SUVs. Wallets, purses, cash, laptop computers and clothing were also reported stolen.

Vehicle Thefts

Twenty-one vehicle theft cases were investigated in June, compared to 23 the month before. Parking lots were the crime scenes in 18 cases.

Only three Hondas and two Toyotas were among the vehicles reported stolen last month. An increase in thefts has been noted in the more expensive SUVs, which are often taken for parts. The 2006 weekly average for vehicle thefts was 6.7 at the end of the June.

Crime tip reward program approved

The Cerritos City Council recently approved a reward program for residents who call in tips to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station for crimes in progress that result in arrests. Such tips will result in a \$100 voucher being rewarded, redeemable toward a Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts show. Guidelines for the program, including the types of criminal activities that qualify, are under development.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station receives approximately two calls a week from residents reporting a crime they are witnessing. Cerritos averages about one call annually to the We-TIP program, which offers rewards for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of a criminal.

Experience has shown that one of the most effective ways of apprehending a criminal in the act of committing a crime is when an alert resident immediately calls the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and reports the crime in progress. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station receives such calls a few times each year where responding deputies arrive at the location in time to make an arrest.

Many of the City's crime prevention materials strongly encourage residents to call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station if they observe anything suspicious in their neighborhood.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center can be reached at (562) 860-0044.

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.