

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

May 2009

Hardening the Target

Be wary of official-looking mail

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center has received numerous inquiries from residents regarding the validity of various pieces of mail received at their homes. The format used in these mailings often resembles correspondence from actual government agencies.

Some mortgage lenders use documents that look like federal government forms and include references to the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. One company even uses ".us" in its website. Some companies

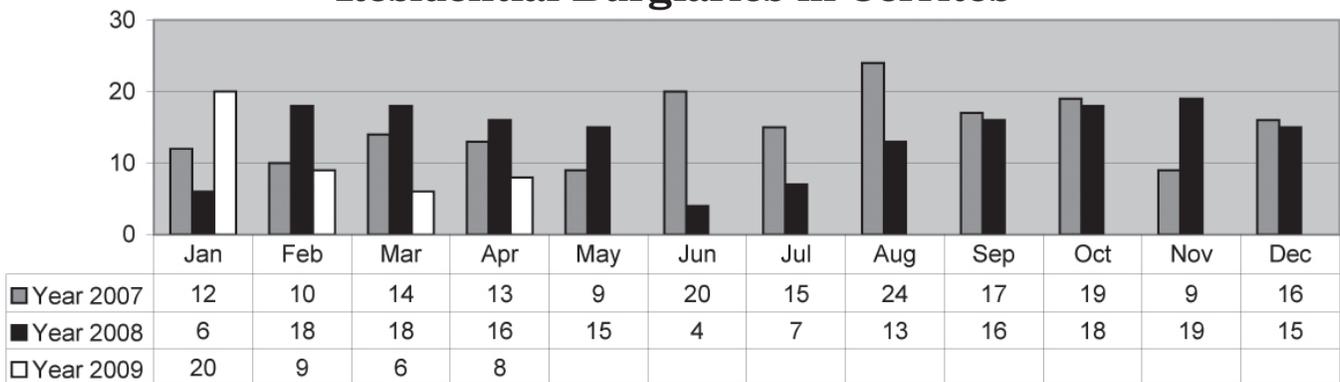
use stationery that looks like it came from the Office of the Tax Assessor. Many of these letters offer a reduction (for a fee) of property taxes even though this service is provided by the Assessor's Office free of charge.

Another mailing for a phone service comes in an envelope that would lead one to believe that it is from the United States Postal Service.

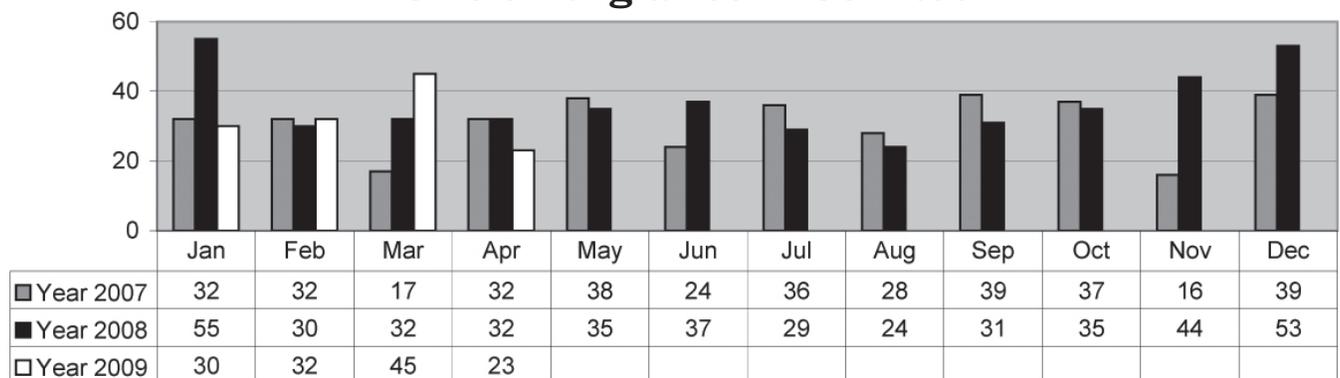
While each of the described pieces of correspondence will indicate somewhere that the offer is not being made by an agency of the government, it is

obvious that the intention is to make you think that they are official notices. Beware! These ads are not illegal because they reveal just enough information in the disclaimer to avoid legal trouble. Read the mail pieces very carefully before acting. If you have any questions about mail you have received, feel free to bring it to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center and allow staff to take a look at it. As always, it is recommended that you do business with firms and people that you are familiar with.

Residential Burglaries in Cerritos



Vehicle Burglaries in Cerritos



Monthly Crime Summary: April 2009

Cerritos Sheriff's Station personnel investigated 95 Part I felonies in April, down from 130 in March. With the exception of residential burglaries, all reported categories decreased. At the end of April, field deputies were responding to a weekly average of 322 calls for service.

Robberies

There were six robberies reported in April, down from seven in March.

On Monday, April 6 at 8:02 p.m. a shoplifter became involved in a physical altercation with a store employee in the 11300 block of 183rd Street and fled with merchandise.

At 3:38 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7 a male suspect was burglarizing a vehicle in the 13500 block of Beach Street when the owner confronted him. The suspect threatened the victim with a simulated weapon and was subsequently arrested.

The third incident occurred on Thursday, April 9 at 7:50 p.m. at an ATM in the 11300 block of South Street where a victim was robbed at knifepoint.

A male suspect robbed a bank in the 11400 block of South Street on Friday, April 24 at 3:33 p.m.

Although no weapon was seen, the suspect alluded to one. He was later arrested after committing a series of similar crimes in surrounding cities.

On Tuesday, April 28 at 9:07 p.m. a shoplifting incident at a department store in the Los Cerritos Center escalated to a robbery when the suspect fought with employees. He was subsequently controlled and arrested.

The last case involved two teens on Thursday, April 30 at 3:20 p.m. when a 16-year-old took a wallet from a 14-year-old in the 11800 block of Del Amo Boulevard.

Residential Burglaries

Eight residential burglaries were logged in April, up by two cases from the previous month. Open/unlocked doors or windows were the entry points in three of the crimes. Windows were pried open in three cases, and two victims reported smashed windows. Laptop computers, cash, jewelry, cameras and cell phones were among the items reported stolen. The 2009 weekly average in residential burglaries was 2.2 at the end of the month.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries dropped by 18 cases from March as 23 were

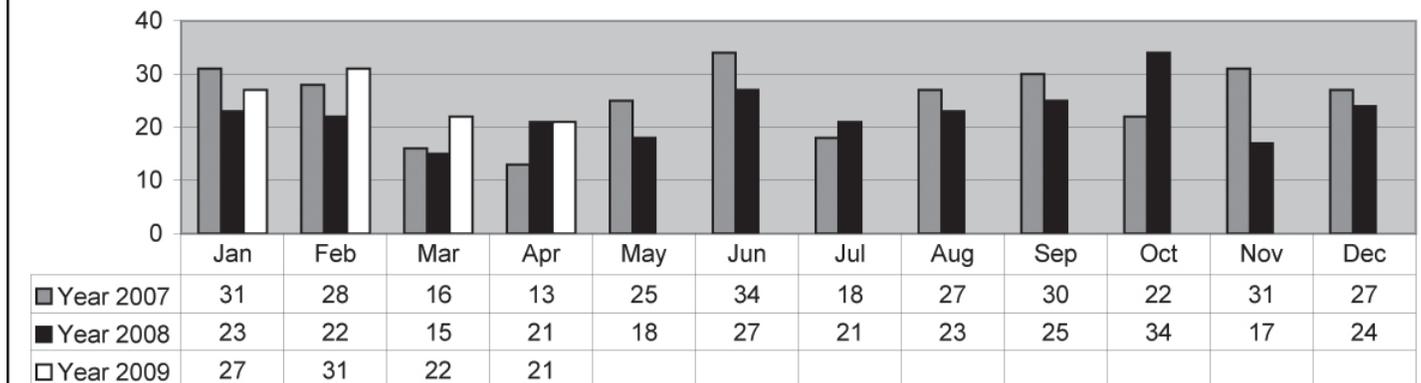
recorded in April. Thirteen of the incidents occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Fourteen of the crimes involved SUVs, and GPS units were targeted in six. Additional property taken included MP3 players, DVDs, purses, cell phones, briefcases, a coffee maker and a tape measure. The 2009 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is now 7.9.

Vehicle Thefts

Twenty-two vehicle thefts were investigated in April, down by one crime over the previous month. Seventeen vehicles were taken from high-volume commercial parking lots. Seven SUVs, eight Hondas and two Toyotas were among the stolen vehicles. The new 2009 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 6.3.

Remember: to prevent vehicle burglary, never leave any valuable items inside the passenger compartment. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, lock them up in the trunk. If you own an SUV or pick-up truck, you do not have this option, and thieves know it!

Grand Theft Auto in Cerritos



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



To join Cerritos Neighborhood Watch, call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center at (562) 916-1266.