

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

February 2010

Hardening the Target

Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center dedication set

An open house for the newly expanded and renovated Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. The dedication ceremony will be held at 1 p.m.

The event will include comments by the Cerritos City Council, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. Entertainment, refreshments and tours of the facility will be offered. Displays by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Arson/Explosive Unit, Sky Knight, Motorcycle Traffic Enforcement unit, patrol unit, the Special Enforcement Bureau (S.E.B.), Long Beach Animal Care Services, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Area E Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be featured (unless the units are called to respond to an emergency). The Office of Emergency Management trailer will also be on display. Kidprint fingerprinting will be offered for children ages 5 and over and commemorative keepsakes for children will be distributed. Parking will be available at the Civic Center, Cerritos High School and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The expanded 72,000-square-foot Sheriff's Station includes approximately 6,750 square feet of additional office space, an expanded Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 2,250 square feet of additional improvements.

Know the signs and symptoms of drug use

It is important to keep in mind that if a child shows any of the following symptoms, it does not necessarily mean that he or she is using drugs. The presence of some of these behaviors could be the product of adolescent stress. Others may be symptoms of depression or other problems. Whatever the cause, the following symptoms may warrant attention, especially if they persist or occur in a cluster. A mental health professional or a caring and concerned adult may help a youngster successfully overcome a crisis and develop more effective coping skills, often preventing further problems.

It is important to watch for any significant changes in your child's physical appearance, personality, attitude or behavior, as these changes may be the result of drug use. The American Council for Drug Education offers the following signs and symptoms of drug use:

Physical signs

- Loss of appetite, increase in appetite or any changes in eating habits
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Slowed or staggering walk or poor physical coordination
- Inability to sleep, being awake at unusual times or unusual laziness
- Red, watery eyes, pupils larger or smaller than usual or a blank stare
- Cold, sweaty palms or shaking hands
- Puffy face, blushing or paleness
- Smell of a substance on breath, body or clothes
- Extreme hyperactivity or excessive talking

- Runny nose or hacking cough
- Needle marks on lower arm, lower leg or bottom of feet
- Nausea, vomiting or excessive sweating
- Tremors or shakes of hands, feet or head
- Irregular heartbeat

Behavioral signs

- Change in overall attitude/personality with no other identifiable causes
- Changes in friends, new hangouts, sudden avoidance of old friends, avoiding talking about new friends or friends who are known drug users
- Changes in activities or hobbies
- A drop in grades at school or performance at work, skipping school or being late for school
- Change in habits at home or a loss of interest in family and family activities
- Difficulty in paying attention or forgetfulness
- A general lack of motivation, energy or self-esteem, or an "I don't care" attitude
- Sudden oversensitivity, temper tantrums or resentful behavior
- Moodiness, irritability or nervousness
- Silliness or giddiness
- Paranoia
- Excessive need for privacy or becomes unreachable
- Secretive or suspicious behavior
- Car accidents
- Chronic dishonesty
- Unexplained need for money or stealing money or items

Continued on the other side

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Monthly Crime Summary: January 2010

Cerritos Sheriff's Station investigated 124 Part I felony crime investigations in January, compared to 125 in December. Robberies and vehicle thefts increased in January, while residential burglaries and vehicle thefts remained the same.

Robberies

There were four robberies investigated by Cerritos deputies in January, compared to three in December.

At 9:05 p.m. on Saturday, January 2 three males approached a male victim at Artesia Boulevard and Grayland Avenue and demanded his property.

Fifteen minutes later, three males confronted another lone male victim at Vickie Avenue and Andy Street and demanded his purse and shopping bag. The three suspects fled to an awaiting vehicle driven by a fourth suspect. Cerritos detectives believe these two incidents are connected.

On Saturday, January 23 at 2:20 a.m. a female arrived at a residence in the 16200 block of

Springpark Lane where she was confronted by a lone male suspect who demanded her purse. The two struggled for control of the purse, but the suspect prevailed and fled.

A male juvenile stole merchandise from a store in the Towne Center on Sunday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m. The suspect struggled with loss prevention personnel and fought with arriving deputies. He was subsequently taken into custody and the paintball gun he attempted to leave with was recovered.

Residential Burglaries

Thirteen residential burglaries were logged in January, the same number as in December. Only four of the January cases were attributed to open or unlocked doors and windows. Seven cases were the result of pried doors or windows, and two of the victims reported shattered windows. Cash, laptops, purses, jewelry, documents, stereo equipment, cameras and ID were among the items reported stolen. The new

2010 weekly average in residential burglaries is 2.2.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries rose to 43 in January after 32 were reported in December. Eight incidents in January occurred in the same parking lot within the same timeframe, contributing to the increase. Twenty-five of the incidents occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Thirteen SUVs were targeted. Stereo components were taken from six vehicles and GPS units were taken from six vehicles. Additional stolen property included third-row seats from SUVs, clothes, tools, wallets, MP3 players, spare tires, cell phones and CDs. The 2010 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 9.

Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts remained at 22 for the second month. Seventeen vehicles were stolen from high-volume commercial parking lots. Six SUVs and 10 Hondas were stolen. The 2010 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 4.8.

Know the signs and symptoms of drug use

Continued from the other side

- Change in grooming habits
- Possession of drug paraphernalia

Symptoms of marijuana use:

- Glassy, red eyes
- Loud talking and inappropriate laughter followed by sleepiness
- A sweet burnt scent
- Loss of interest and motivation
- Weight gain or loss

Symptoms of alcohol use:

- Clumsiness or difficulty walking
- Slurred speech
- Sleepiness
- Poor judgment
- Dilated pupils
- Possession of a false ID card

Symptoms of depressant use (including barbiturates and tranquilizers):

- Seems drunk as if from alcohol but without the associated alcohol odor
- Difficulty concentrating
- Clumsiness
- Poor judgment
- Slurred speech

- Sleepiness
- Contracted pupils

Symptoms of stimulant use:

- Hyperactivity
- Euphoria
- Irritability or anxiety
- Excessive talking followed by depression or excessive sleeping at odd times
- Going long periods of time without eating or sleeping
- Dilated pupils
- Weight loss
- Dry mouth and nose

Symptoms of inhalant use (glues, aerosols and vapors):

- Watery eyes or impaired vision, memory and thought
- Secretions from the nose or rashes around the nose and mouth
- Headaches and nausea
- Appearance of intoxication
- Drowsiness
- Poor muscle control
- Changes in appetite
- Anxiety or irritability

- An unusual number of spray cans in the trash

Symptoms of hallucinogen use:

- Dilated pupils
- Bizarre and irrational behavior including paranoia, aggression or hallucinations
- Mood swings
- Detachment from people
- Absorption with self or other objects
- Slurred speech
- Confusion

Symptoms of heroin use:

- Needle marks
- Sleeping at unusual times
- Sweating
- Vomiting
- Coughing and sniffing
- Twitching
- Loss of appetite
- Contracted pupils or pupils that don't respond to light

Symptoms of tobacco/nicotine use:

- Smell of tobacco
- Stained fingers or teeth

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.