

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

September 2010

Hardening the Target

Cerritos' crime rate drops in 2009

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently released the United States Department of Justice's 2009 annual crime report for the nation. The data showed a decline in nearly all reporting categories in the City of Cerritos. Overall, violent crime in the City of Cerritos decreased 42.1 percent in 2009 and property crime in Cerritos decreased 6.9 percent. Nationwide, violent crime decreased by 5.3 percent in 2009 and property crime decreased by 4.6 percent.

Cerritos' violent crime statistics showed that in 2009, rape declined by 33.3 percent (national decline was 2.6 percent); robbery declined by 44.4 percent (national decline was 8 percent); and aggravated assaults declined by 41.9 percent (national decline was 4.2 percent). Murder/voluntary manslaughter increased from 1 case in 2008 to 2 in 2009 (one 2009 incident involved a driver under the influence of alcohol). In the property crime category,

burglaries declined by 17 percent (national decline was 1.3 percent); larceny/theft declined by 2 percent (national decline was 4 percent) and vehicle theft declined by 19.6 percent (national decline was 17.1 percent).

The City has contracted with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for public safety services since 1956. Approximately 80 Sheriff's deputies and support personnel are based at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center. Cerritos' low rate of crime is due in large part to the dedicated efforts of these deputies and the residents who get involved through Neighborhood Watch, the Virtual Block Club and Volunteers on Patrol. For more information on ways to get involved to help keep Cerritos safe, visit www.safercerritos.com or call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center at (562) 860-0044.

Teen cyber-bullying information offered

Parents are encouraged to share the following information with their teens to stay cyber-safe.

On-line bullying, called cyber-bullying, happens when teens use the Internet, cell phones or other devices to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. According to the 2006 Harris Interactive Cyber-bullying Research Report, cyber-bullying is a problem that affects almost half of American

teenagers. Whether you've been a victim of cyber-bullying, know someone who has been cyber-bullied, or have even cyber-bullied yourself, there are steps you and your friends can take to stop cyber-bullying and stay cyber-safe.

Ways teens are cyber-bullied

Ways that people can cyber-bully include the following:

- Pretending they are other people

Continued on the other side

West Nile virus samples confirmed

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed one mosquito and one dead bird with West Nile virus were found in Cerritos.

Residents can follow the 3 "D's" of West Nile virus prevention to protect themselves and their families:

- **Dump/Drain:** eliminate all standing water.
- **Dusk/Dawn:** avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Defend:** use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus and wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for West Nile virus. One in five persons infected with West Nile virus will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms usually occur between 5 and 15 days after exposure to the virus, and can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea or a skin rash. Symptoms can last for several weeks to months. Severe symptoms include high fever, muscle weakness, neck stiffness, coma, paralysis and possibly death.

Individuals exhibiting these symptoms following a mosquito bite should consult a physician as soon as possible. For more information, visit www.westnile.ca.gov.

A publication of the City of Cerritos and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Post Office Box 3130 • Cerritos, CA 90703 • www.safercerritos.com

Monthly Crime Summary: August 2010

Cerritos Sheriff's Station personnel investigated 91 Part I felony crimes in August, down from an adjusted figure of 122 in July. Robberies and residential burglaries increased while vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts decreased. The 2010 weekly average in calls for service was 300 at the end of August.

Robberies

There were five robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in August, compared to three in July.

A male suspect entered a home to commit a residential burglary in the 11300 block of Candor Street on Wednesday, August 4 at 10:47 a.m. The resident returned home to find the suspect inside and verbally challenged him. The suspect pulled out a gun that he had just stolen from the bedroom and the victim backed off and the suspect fled.

A male suspect robbed a bank in the 17300 block of Carmenita Road on Monday, August 9 at 9:12 a.m. Detectives believe this is the same suspect that recently robbed the same bank.

A shoplifting incident escalated into a robbery when the suspect used force against loss prevention personnel on Tuesday, August 10 at 1:30 p.m. The suspect was eventually subdued outside of the store in the 20200 block of Bloomfield Avenue.

On Tuesday, August 17 at 5:38 p.m., two suspects entered a business in the 13300 block of Artesia Boulevard, produced a handgun, and robbed the proprietor of cash.

On Sunday, August 29 at 7:47 p.m., a male juvenile entered a restaurant near Studebaker Road and Alondra Boulevard and robbed three other juveniles at knifepoint of cell phones and a small amount of cash. Deputies located and arrested the suspect moments later.

Residential Burglaries

Seventeen residential burglaries were investigated in August, up from 13 in July. Open/unlocked doors or windows were used as entry points in five of the cases. In addition, seven windows were pried open, four side garage doors were forced open

and one window was shattered. Cameras, guns, jewelry, cell phones, cash and large appliances were stolen. The new 2010 weekly average in residential burglaries is 2.3.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries dropped from 43 in July to 23 in August. High-volume commercial parking lots were the crime scenes for 19 of the crimes, and 17 SUVs were targeted. Four victims reported stereo components missing and three GPS units were removed. Third-row seats were taken from SUVs. Other property missing included laptops, CDs, purses, sunglasses, credit cards and MP3 players. The 2010 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is now 6.9.

Vehicle Thefts

There were 15 vehicle thefts reported in August compared to 22 in July. High-volume commercial parking lots were involved in 13 of the August cases. Ten of the stolen vehicles were SUVs. In addition, a Honda and a tractor-trailer were taken. The new 2010 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 4.7.

Teen cyber-bullying information offered

Continued from the other side

on-line to trick others

- Spreading lies and rumors about victims
- Tricking people into revealing personal information
- Sending or forwarding mean text messages
- Posting pictures of victims without their consent

When teens were asked why they think others cyber-bully, 81 percent said that cyber-bullies think it's funny. Other teens believe that youth who cyber-bully don't think it's a big deal; don't think about the consequences; are encouraged by friends; think everybody cyber-bullies; and/or think they won't get caught. Although cyber-bullies may think they are anonymous, they can be found. If you are cyber-bullied or harassed

and need help, save all communication with the cyber-bully and talk to a parent, teacher, law enforcement officer or other adult you trust.

Ways to prevent cyber-bullying

Prevent cyber-bullying by utilizing the following tactics:

- Refuse to pass along cyber-bullying messages
- Tell friends to stop cyber-bullying
- Block communication with cyber-bullies
- Report cyber-bullying to a trusted adult
- Speak with other students, as well as teachers and school administrators, to develop rules against cyber-bullying.

Additional ways to stay cyber-safe

Remember that the Internet is accessed by millions of people all

over the world, not just your friends and family. Stay cyber-safe with the following tips:

- Never post or share your personal information on-line (this includes your full name, address, telephone number, school name, parents' names, credit card number or Social Security number) or your friends' personal information.
- Never share your Internet passwords with anyone, except your parents.
- Never meet anyone face-to-face if you only know the person on-line.
- Talk to your parents about what you do on-line.

For additional cyber-bullying information, visit the The National Crime Prevention Council's website at www.nccpc.org.

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.