

# Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

July 2011

## Hardening the Target

### Prevent your garage door opener from being stolen

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station has received reports that vehicles parked on the street and in driveways have been burglarized, with thieves stealing remote control garage door openers. These remotes were eventually used to gain access into the garage, and in turn, the house.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center would like to remind you that a garage door opener is an easy target for the would-be burglar, and makes entry into your residence effortless. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station strongly recommends that if you need to park outside of a locked garage, take the garage door opener with you. The garage door opener can be easily stowed in a purse or hooked onto a keychain. This way you won't be leaving the "key" to your home accessible to someone who wants to steal your property.

***Prevent vehicle burglary by NEVER leaving any valuable items inside the passenger compartment of your vehicle.***

***If you absolutely must leave valuables in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk. However, if you own an SUV or pick-up truck, you do not have this option, and thieves know it!***

### Never leave your garage door open when you are not present

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Division wants you to be aware that Sheriff's Volunteers on Patrol have reported an increase in the amount of residential garage doors that are being left open during the day and at night.

We urge you to consider the potential consequences of leaving garage doors open and unattended. Even when owners have been in the backyard, there have been incidents where perpetrators entered the garage to steal items.

Make it a point to properly close your garage door if you are not planning to maintain visual contact with the front of your home. If you see your neighbor's garage door open, try to contact them and pass on this important message. If you are unable to contact them, be a good neighbor and keep an eye on their property. You never know when one of those opportunistic would-be thieves will be converted into a spontaneous criminal.

If you do see something suspicious, contact the Cerritos Sheriff's Station immediately. To report a crime in progress or anything that you feel could be a crime in progress, dial 911 from a landline or (562) 860-0044 from a cell phone to immediately reach the station.

### Neighborhood Watch Town Hall Meeting is August 17

Cerritos residents and community members are invited to attend the next Neighborhood Watch Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Cerritos Senior Center.

Those in attendance will hear a briefing on recent crime trends in Cerritos. The meeting is sponsored by the City's Community Safety Division and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. For more information, call (562) 916-1266.

For crime prevention tips, emergency preparedness information and community safety links, visit [www.safercerritos.com](http://www.safercerritos.com).

### National Night Out Observance

On Thursday, August 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and the City of Cerritos will observe the "28th National Night Out" at Heritage Park (18600 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos). In conjunction with the Concerts in the Park series, members from the Sheriff's Department will present crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness, and homeland security information. "Operation Kid Print" will be available for parents who want to maintain fingerprint cards for their children.

Come enjoy the concert and say hello to your public safety staff.

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# Monthly Crime Summary: June 2011

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There were 90 Part I felony crimes investigated by members of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station in June, down from 104 in May. All categories for this summary declined in June, as compared to May. At the end of June, patrol deputies were handling a 2011 weekly average of 269 calls for service.

## Robberies

There were three robberies investigated by Cerritos deputies in June, down from five in May.

A male juvenile was walking in the 13600 block of Acoro Street on Monday, June 6 at 6 p.m. when three male juvenile suspects approached him on foot and demanded his laptop. The victim dropped it and ran away while the suspects retrieved it.

On Wednesday, June 29 at 9:30 p.m., two male suspects approached a male victim on foot near Gridley Road at Eckelson Circle and demanded his gold necklace. Fearing for his safety, the victim complied and the suspects fled on foot. One

suspect was arrested by deputies shortly after and was in possession of the stolen property.

On Thursday, June 30 at 6:15 a.m. a male juvenile was riding his bicycle on Artesia Boulevard near the San Gabriel Riverbed when a vehicle containing four suspects pulled up beside him. The victim was pushed off the bike and one of the suspects mounted it and fled, as did the vehicle.

## Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries dropped from 21 in May to 17 in June. Open/unlocked doors or windows were the points of entry in nine of the June break-ins. In addition, five windows were pried open, two windows were shattered and one door was kicked in. Bikes, TVs, laptop computers, cameras, jewelry, cash, a serving tray and a tea set were reported stolen. The 2011 weekly average in residential burglaries remained at 3.7 for June.

## Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries also declined

from 32 in May to 27 in June. High-volume commercial parking lots were the crime scenes in 24 cases. Fifteen of the targeted vehicles were SUVs. GPS units were stolen in five incidents and one stereo was stolen. Other items reported stolen consisted of third-row seats from SUVs, purses, cameras, laptop computers, medical supplies, CDs, cell phones, backpacks, wallets, credit cards and tools. The new 2011 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is now 5.9.

## Vehicle Thefts

Lastly, vehicle thefts dropped from 16 in May to 10 in June. Eight of the June vehicle thefts occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Seven SUVs were among the stolen vehicles. The 2011 weekly average in vehicle thefts remained at 2.7.

## Text messaging while driving is not allowed

Writing, sending or reading a text-based communication while driving is against the law in California.

The law applies to electronic wireless communications devices used to manually communicate with any person using text-based communication, including, but not limited to, communications referred to as a text message, instant message or electronic mail.

Violating this law is punishable by a base fine for a first offense and an increased fine for each subsequent offense. Penalty assessments can more than triple the base fine amount.

As a reminder, the California Vehicle Code prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle (law enforcement officers are exempt). Drivers under the age of 18 may not use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.

## Swimming pool safety saves lives

Every year, hundreds of children drown or become physically incapacitated due to injuries from swimming pool accidents. With the return of warm weather and the swimming season, the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center would like to offer the following safety tips to protect swimmers:

- Install a 6-foot-tall fence surrounding the pool that is equipped with self-latching, spring-activated gates.
- Never leave a child, no matter how proficient a swimmer he or she is, unattended in the water or near a pool.
- Do not rely on inflatable toys or flotation devices to protect children in the water.
- Post rules by the pool that prohibit running, pushing or dunking, and enforce them.
- Do not allow anyone to dive head first into the shallow end of the pool. Doing so can result in paralyzing injuries or drowning.
- Store pool chemicals in a secure, ventilated area, away from the reach of children.
- Install a phone or keep a cordless or cell phone poolside.
- Mount basic lifesaving equipment such as a pole, rope and personal flotation devices by the pool and know how to use them.
- If your pool cleaning and/or maintenance is done by a contracted pool cleaner, make sure that the gate/fence perimeter is secure after they leave.

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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.