

# Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

October 2011

## Hardening the Target

### 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 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 information, visit the National Crime Prevention Council's website at [www.npc.org](http://www.npc.org).

### Telemarketing fraud targets seniors

According to the Federal Trade Commission, nearly 25 million Americans are victims of consumer fraud each year. Senior citizens continue to be a rapidly increasing segment of the population, and that can make them a prime target for con artists and thieves. Studies have shown that senior citizens are more at risk to be targeted by telemarketing scams than other age groups, with fraudulent telemarketers directing up to 80 percent of their calls to older Americans. These con artists believe that senior citizens are vulnerable and more susceptible to their tricks.

Recently, a Cerritos senior resident received a call from a person claiming to be a volunteer from a senior center. The caller wanted to discuss home repairs with the resident. The savvy resident noticed that the caller was using a 626 area code and hung up. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from a senior center and wanting to discuss home repairs with you, write down the caller's phone number and report the incident immediately to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044. The Cerritos Senior Center will never contact you regarding home repairs.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) believes that seniors can prevent telemarketing fraud by being educated consumers, and offers the following fraud prevention tips: *Continued on the other side*

# Monthly Crime Summary: September 2011

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There were a total of 100 Part I felony crimes reported to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station in September, up from 85 reported in August. Robberies, residential burglaries and vehicle thefts increased, while vehicle thefts decreased.

## Robberies

There were seven robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in September, compared to three in August. The September cases were as follows:

On Friday, September 9 at 1:15 p.m. a female victim had her purse stolen while in the 13300 block of South Street. The male suspect fled to an awaiting vehicle driven by a second suspect but was followed by a witness. The fleeing car crashed and the driver was arrested by deputies. The initial suspect ran away, but the purse and its contents were recovered.

Loss prevention personnel struggled with a shoplifting suspect at a store in the 10900 block of Alondra Boulevard on Sunday, September 11 at 2:45 p.m. He was ultimately taken into custody and the property was recovered.

A male victim was confronted by two male suspects in the 11400 block of South Street and forced to withdraw money from two nearby ATMs on Tuesday, September 13 at 9 p.m. The suspects then fled and left the victim unharmed.

On Wednesday, September 14 at 4:31 p.m. two male suspects pushed

a male victim to the ground in the Los Cerritos Center and stole an iPhone. Both suspects fled with what turned out to be a defective phone that was about to be disposed of.

On Tuesday, September 20 at 12:50 p.m. an ex-boyfriend assaulted a female victim in the 17500 block of Bloomfield Avenue and took her necklace.

The last case of the month occurred on Thursday, September 29 at 2:15 p.m. when a male victim was assaulted by a lone male suspect in a bank parking lot in the 11400 block of South Street. A bag of cash was taken and the suspect fled on foot.

## Residential Burglaries

Residents reported 22 residential burglaries in September, up from 14 in August. Open or unlocked doors and windows were the points of entry in 12 of the September cases. In addition, sliding glass doors or windows were pried open in six cases and windows were shattered in four cases.

Wallets, bicycles, cash, jewelry, TVs, knives, guns, checkbooks, guitars, cameras, GPS units and laptop computers were among the stolen items. The new 2011 weekly average in residential burglaries was 3.9 at the end of September.

## Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries were down from 35 in August to 33 in September. Twenty-four of the September crimes occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Nineteen of the burglarized vehicles were SUVs,

and six victims reported stereo items stolen. GPS units were taken in three incidents. Other property reported stolen included cell phones, briefcases, tools, passports, gym bags, guitars, an amplifier, laptop computers and sunglasses. SUVs were also targeted for the theft of third-row seats and airbags.

The new 2011 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 6.6.

## Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts were up from six in August to 16 in September. Fourteen of the September thefts occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Eight SUVs and five Hondas were among the stolen vehicles. The current 2011 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 2.8.

## Tampering with trash receptacles is illegal

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center regularly receives complaints regarding late night trash pilfering.

Cerritos Municipal Code Section 6.08.070 (d) reads as follows:

"No person, other than the owner thereof, his agents or employees or an officer or employee of this city or any person holding a contract with this city for the collection or disposal of refuse, his agents or employees authorized for such purposes, shall tamper or meddle with any refuse or rubbish container or the contents thereof, or remove the contents of any container or remove any container, from the location where the same shall have been placed by the owner thereof or his agent."

Trash pilfering is a misdemeanor. Contact the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044 to report trash pilfering incidents. Please be able to describe the person(s) involved along with a vehicle description (if applicable) and a direction of travel. Residents may want to consider placing trash barrels out on the morning of their collection day.

## Prevent telemarketing fraud targeting seniors

*Continued from the other side*

- Offers too good to be true usually are. If you are being offered a special prize or deal, ask for the information in writing so you can read it carefully before making a commitment.
- Never give out personal information over the phone or Internet unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate business callers will never ask you for your personal

information over the phone.

- If a caller asks you to pay for an offer in advance or asks for your credit card number or Social Security number, tell the person you don't give out personal information over the telephone.

Remember that legitimate telemarketers won't be turned off if you use these techniques. They will appreciate dealing with an educated consumer.

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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.