

Cerritos

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Neighborhood

Watch Report

January 2012

Hardening the Target

Be cautious of coyotes in Cerritos

Although coyotes are most active during the summer, there have been recent reported sightings of coyotes in Cerritos. The City of Cerritos encourages its residents to take the appropriate precautions.

To avoid an encounter with a coyote:

- Feed pets indoors.
- Eliminate potential food and water sources, such as fallen fruit or standing water.
- Keep yards free of thick brush and weeds.
- Enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Keep dogs on a leash at all times when outdoors.
- Keep small animals inside unless they are supervised. A fenced yard will not protect small animals, as coyotes can easily scale a residential fence.

Coyotes give birth in the spring, and are more likely to hunt for food for their young from May through September. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to a coyote attack during these months. Adult coyotes are mainly active at night or in the early morning hours, while young coyotes are often active during the day. California coyotes have adapted to residential neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces in urban and suburban areas. They are especially prevalent in areas bordering a flood channel. Coyotes have seemingly lost their fear of humans, which may be a result of behavioral changes that have occurred over

several generations of coyotes, in localities where predator control is no longer practiced. Coyotes thrive in such areas because food, water and shelter are abundant, and coyotes living in these environments may come to associate humans with food and protection. Once attracted to suburban areas, they prey on the abundant rodents, rabbits, birds, house cats and small dogs that live in residential habitats. They also eat household garbage, pet food, and seeds and fruits of many garden and landscape plants. In some localities, this has resulted in the development of local coyote populations that seemingly ignore people, while a few coyotes have become increasingly aggressive toward humans. Some coyotes have stalked and even attacked children or adults, or have attacked pets being walked on a leash by their owners.

Cerritos residents who see a coyote in their neighborhood should attempt to frighten it away by shouting, throwing rocks, squirting it with a water hose, blowing portable air horns, or otherwise acting aggressively in order to reinforce the coyote's fear of people. Motion-sensitive lights on houses or outbuildings may also deter coyotes from approaching.

If you or your pets are approached by an aggressive or fearless coyote, consider the following tips:

- Shout in a deep voice.
- Wave your arms.
- Throw objects at the animal.

- Look the coyote directly in the eyes.
- Stand up if you are seated.
- If you are wearing a coat or vest, spread it open like a cape so that you appear larger.
- Retreat from the situation by walking slowly backward so that you do not turn your back on the coyote.

The City contracts with Long Beach Animal Care Services for all animal control matters. If you see a coyote, you can fill out an on-line "Wildlife Incident Report" on the Long Beach Animal Care Services website, longbeach.gov/acs. From the homepage, click "Wildlife," then "Urban Coyote – Report a Sighting Here." The website also has additional coyote information.

Town Hall meeting set

The next Neighborhood Watch Town Hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street (cross street is Ely Avenue).

Those in attendance will be briefed on crime trends, crime prevention tips and disaster preparedness. Please join members of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center for an informational evening. If there is a personal matter you would like to discuss, staff will be available to answer questions after the meeting.

Monthly Crime Summary: December 2011

There were 130 Part I felony investigations conducted by Cerritos Sheriff's Station personnel in December, up from 102 incidents in November. All categories in this report increased in December with the exception of vehicle thefts. The final 2011 weekly average in calls for service was 272.

Robberies

Eight robberies were investigated by Cerritos deputies in December. There were two in November.

Two male suspects robbed two male victims at gunpoint on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:55 p.m. in the 17600 block of Palo Verde Avenue. The victims had advertised electronic items for sale via a website and had arranged to sell them to the suspects. Cash and iPhones were taken.

On Sunday, December 11 at 9:10 p.m. two gun-wielding suspects entered a retail store in the Towne Center and demanded that multiple cashiers relinquish the contents of their cash registers. When the employees were unable to open the registers, the suspects fled without any money.

On Monday, December 12 at 1 a.m. two males were walking southbound on Shoemaker Avenue at 195th Street when a van pulled up beside them. Two suspects exited the van and robbed the victims at knifepoint.

On Wednesday, December 14 at 9:30 p.m. a woman was walking in a lot at the Towne Center when she was pepper sprayed by a lone male suspect who took her purse.

A male suspect stole money from a parked vehicle in the 13300 block of Artesia Boulevard on Sunday, December 18 at 12:59 p.m. but was seen doing so by the owner. When confronted, the suspect produced a

knife and caused the victim to back off. The suspect then fled on foot but was located and arrested by deputies in the area of Cerritos Park East.

On Monday, December 19 at 3:38 p.m. a female victim was using her laptop computer at a restaurant in the 20200 block of Pioneer Boulevard when a male suspect grabbed it and a struggle ensued. He was able to break free with the laptop and fled across Del Amo Boulevard where he abandoned the stolen property. The laptop and the suspect's jacket were recovered.

A shoplifting suspect fought loss prevention personnel at a store in the Los Cerritos Center on Friday, December 23 at 8 p.m. but was eventually detained and the property recovered.

On Tuesday, December 27 at 3:15 p.m. a male shoplifting suspect threatened loss prevention employees at a retail store in the 10900 block of Alondra Boulevard and fled with merchandise.

Residential Burglaries

There were 24 residential burglaries logged in December, up by two crimes over the previous month. Fourteen of the December cases were made possible by open or unlocked doors or windows. In addition, four homes had doors kicked in, three sliding glass doors were pried open and three windows were shattered. Victims reported the loss of purses, GPS units, foreign currency, TVs, bikes, tools, cameras, jewelry, cell phones, clothing and laptop computers. The final 2011 weekly average in residential burglaries was 4.1.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries increased from 35 in November to 44 in December. Twenty cases in December oc-

curred in high-volume commercial parking lots and 19 of the burglarized vehicles were SUVs. Third-row seats were taken from eight SUVs and GPS units were stolen from five vehicles. Other items reported stolen included gym bags, United States Postal Service uniforms, CDs, cash, wallets, dental tools, ash trays, coins, make-up and wrapped gifts.

The final 2011 weekly average in vehicle burglaries was 7.1.

Vehicle Theft

Sixteen vehicle thefts were investigated in December, down from 25 in November. Thirteen of the December thefts occurred in high-volume parking lots. Four SUVs, five Hondas and two Toyotas were among the stolen vehicles. Motorcycles and commercial trucks were also taken. The final 2011 weekly average in vehicle thefts was 3.4.

Two-second intersection rule can help you avoid an accident

When stopped at a red light, the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center urges you to take a couple of seconds when the light turns green to look both ways before proceeding through the intersection.

Some drivers see a yellow light as a reason to accelerate and the light will often turn red while they are approaching the limit line. This creates a dangerous situation for those preparing to drive through the intersection with a green light.

Those extra couple of seconds could be the difference between life and death or serious injuries.

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.