

Cerritos

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ighborhood

Watch Report

July 2013

Hardening the Target

Keep doors and windows closed when you are gone

With the arrival of warm weather, the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center would like to remind you that leaving doors and windows open to cool your residence when you are not home makes you vulnerable to residential burglary.

Thieves will look for the easiest way to enter your home, so take the time to check all windows and doors prior to leaving. Keep in mind that it is easier to cool off your home by opening windows and doors upon your return than to leave them open and be forced into replacing property lost in a burglary.

Open garage doors are also a problem. During the summer months, patrol deputies and

Volunteers on Patrol report that many garage doors are left open without any supervision. Bicycles, lawn care products, tools and other items such as garage door openers from vehicles can be quickly obtained by passersby in a matter of seconds.

Even more alarming, burglars can enter your garage, close the door and have more than enough time to pry open the door leading into your home while concealed from the street. Please maintain a constant presence outside when your garage door is open. Remain inside the garage or in the front yard where activities can be effectively monitored. Don't walk next door, into the backyard or even into the house

for more than few seconds.

Remember that burglars like to be around when you are not. We strongly recommend an alarm system for the security it provides your home during your absence.

If someone knocks on your door and asks for directions or claims to be looking for someone who doesn't reside in your home, it is very possible they are casing your neighborhood looking for a residence where no one is home. Should you encounter such an individual, note their description and immediately call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044. If you believe a burglary is in progress, call 9-1-1.

Be aware of wild animals in Cerritos

Occasionally wild animals such as raccoons, opossums, coyotes and skunks wander into residential areas of Cerritos. These animals could be dangerous. Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) warns citizens not to approach, capture or trap wild animals without first contacting ACS.

Coyotes are potentially the most dangerous of these animals mentioned. Within areas of California, coyotes have adapted to residential neighborhoods, parks and open spaces, and seemingly have lost their fear of humans. This 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.

Coyotes prey on rodents, rabbits, birds, house cats and small dogs that live in residential habitats. They also will feed on 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. A few coyotes have become

increasingly aggressive toward humans and will stalk and even attack children, adults and 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. Motion-sensitive lights on houses or buildings may deter coyotes from approaching.

If you or your pets are approached by a coyote, try to frighten

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Monthly Crime Summary: June 2013

Part I felony investigations conducted by members of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station dropped from 124 in May to 95 in June. Robberies increased slightly and decreases were noted in residential burglaries, vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts. At the end of June, patrol deputies were responding to a weekly average of 300 calls for service in 2013.

Robberies

There were four robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in June, compared to two robberies and one attempted robbery in May.

On Monday, June 3 at 9:40 a.m., a male suspect confronted a male maintenance worker with a knife near Cuesta Drive and Sierra Vista Way and robbed him of more than 200 laundry coin box keys.

On Thursday, June 13 at 5:35 p.m., a male victim met with a male suspect in the 18600 block of Gridley Road to conduct the sale of an expensive

watch that the victim had advertised on the internet. The suspect grabbed the watch and fled.

At 6:41 p.m. the following day, a female victim returned to the 16400 block of Stowers Avenue after visiting a bank. A male suspect grabbed her purse from behind and ran away with it.

A male victim was walking in the 13100 block of Bigelow Street on Thursday, June 20 at 8:10 p.m. when he was pushed to the ground by two male suspects and robbed of his cash and cell phone. Both suspects fled on skateboards.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries were logged at 17 in June compared to 27 cases investigated in May. Eight of the June crimes were attributed to open/unlocked doors or windows. Four windows or sliding glass doors were pried open, three windows were shattered and two doors were kicked in. Missing items included

cash, jewelry, PlayStations, Xboxes, laptop computers and televisions. At the end of June the new 2013 weekly average in residential burglaries was 5.0.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries decreased from 26 in May to 19 in June. Nine of the June incidents occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Sixteen SUVs were targeted. Wallets, purses, credit cards, checks, an emergency road kit, notary equipment, vehicle registration, surfboards and third-row seats from SUVs were taken. The new 2013 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 7.4.

Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts also decreased from 23 in May to 14 in June. Eight of the June thefts occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Nine were Hondas, four were SUVs and one was a Toyota. The 2013 weekly average in vehicle thefts is now 3.8.

Be aware of wild animals in Cerritos

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it away by shouting in a deep voice, waving your arms, throwing objects at the animal and looking it 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 backwards slowly so that you do not turn your back on the coyote.

Raccoons, skunks and opossums are constantly in search of food as well. They have been known to find places on residential property to live. Homeowners are encouraged to eliminate areas that could become a den for wild animals. Fill in tree cavities, cap chimneys and seal off attics. Always make sure first that an animal is not inside.

To protect yourself from wild animal problems, including rabies, remove whatever it is that attracts animals to your property. Feed your pets indoors if possible or bring in outdoor dishes and leftovers as soon as possible. Do not leave pet food outside at night. Keep trash cans in the garage or utility room until trash pick-up day. Fence your garden and vaccinate your pets.

Report any physical contact with wild animals to ACS. You can also contact ACS to borrow a trap for free for up to 30 days with a \$100 deposit, which is refunded when the trap is returned. The \$100 deposit is forfeited after 30 days.

For more information, contact ACS at (562) 570-7387 or visit longbeach.gov/acs/.

31st National Night Out to be held

On Thursday, August 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and the City of Cerritos will observe the "31st National Night Out." This year, in conjunction with the Concert in the Park series, members from the Sheriff's Department will present crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness and homeland security information at Heritage Park, located at 18600 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos.

"Operation Kid Print" will be available for parents who would like to maintain a fingerprint card on their children.

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

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.