

Cerritos

Neighborhood

Watch Report

May 2013

Hardening the Target

Be a “Park Guardian”

As the warm weather approaches, attendance at City parks increases for a variety of social get-togethers and recreational activities. Many residents use, walk by or drive through these neighborhood parks on a regular basis. There are an extremely low number of crime incidents such as vandalism and graffiti reported, but when they are, they usually are reported after the crime has already taken place.

As the “eyes and ears” of the Sheriff’s Department, community members are encouraged to observe the activities taking place around them at neighboring parks. If you are in the park, take a moment to look closely at the facilities. If you notice any suspicious people or vehicles, call the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station immediately at (562) 860-0044. (Remember, using a cell

phone for a 911 call will connect you with the California Highway Patrol if you are in the proximity of a freeway and will cause an unnecessary delay in any local response.) If there is graffiti, please contact the Graffiti Hotline at (562) 916-1233.

While parks are an attraction for recreation and relaxation, they are also a lure for others that are looking for a place to congregate with less than legal intentions. Keep in mind that parks within the City are closed from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. If you see someone in any closed park, please call the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station. Alcohol cannot be consumed in any park at any time, nor is smoking permitted.

By maintaining awareness of our surroundings, we can ensure that our parks will be a place for all of us to safely enjoy.

Schedule a free home vacation check

As you begin to make your summer vacation plans, don’t forget to request free vacation checks of your home by the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station’s Volunteers on Patrol (VOPs) while you are away.

Arrange for your free home vacation check by calling the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station/Community Safety Center at (562) 860-0044, coming into the station in person or visiting the City’s safety website at safercerritos.com.

This service is free of charge and the VOPs will leave you a concealed notice of service on the first check and then log subsequent checks. You will be asked to provide information for a contact person in the event that something needs attention at your home.

By taking a few precautions and making some arrangements before you leave on vacation, you will be able to return to your home as you left it.

Maintain house and curbside numbers

Law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel constantly rely on visible house address numbers and those painted on the curbside to arrive at the scene of an emergency in the quickest way possible. Oftentimes, residents will remove the house numbers for one reason or another, allow trees and bushes to cover them or not report when the curbside numbers have been distorted. The law requires that address numbers shall be maintained on all existing buildings and in a position to be plainly visible from the street fronting the property.

Numbers can be no less than 3 inches in height and 1 inch wide. If the structure is more than 150 feet from the roadway, the minimum size increases to 5 inches in height and no less than 2 inches wide.

The City of Cerritos is currently checking and repainting curbside numbers in each neighborhood. If your curbside numbers need repair, contact the Maintenance Division of Public Works at (562) 407-2632. The Cerritos Sheriff’s Station/Community Safety Center urges you to maintain these important identifiers because, in an emergency, every second counts.

Scan this code to view the City of Cerritos’ safety website, safercerritos.com.



Monthly Crime Summary: April 2013

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station logged 121 Part I felony investigations in April, an increase of one case compared to March. April saw slight increases in robberies and vehicle thefts, but a decline in residential burglaries and vehicle burglaries. By the end of April, patrol deputies were responding to a weekly average of 284 calls for service.

Robberies

There were three robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in April, compared to two in March.

At 8:25 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, two male suspects pulled up in a vehicle beside a male victim in the 13200 block of South Street. One suspect exited the vehicle and placed an unknown object against the victim's chest. The victim ran away and the suspect fled to the vehicle without obtaining any property.

On Sunday, April 21 at 4:35 p.m., a woman was walking in the 11200

block of 183rd Street when a male suspect grabbed her purse and ran away with it. He was arrested shortly after by responding deputies and the victim's property was recovered.

A shoplifting case at the Los Cerritos Center on Monday, April 22 at 12:45 p.m. escalated into a robbery when the female suspect was confronted by loss prevention personnel. The suspect struggled and attempted to use pepper spray in an attempt to flee, but was taken into custody. The stolen property was recovered.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries dropped from 20 in March to 19 in April. Ten of the April entries were attributed to open/unlocked doors or windows. Five windows were shattered, three were pried open and two doors were kicked in. Property reported as stolen included a washer/dryer, televisions, bicycles, purses, iPads, social security cards, laptop computers, liquor, a stove and a

dishwasher. At the end of April the new 2013 weekly average in residential burglaries was 5.2.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries were also down from 39 in March to 37 in April. High-volume commercial parking lots were the crime scenes in 22 of the recent cases. Twenty-four of the vehicle burglaries involved SUVs. Stereo items were taken in two cases and GPS units in three. Other stolen items included tools, purses, wallets, jewelry, credit cards, cameras, keys and third-row seats from SUVs. The new 2013 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 8.3.

Vehicle Thefts

Compared to March, vehicle thefts increased by four with 22 investigated in April. High-volume commercial parking lots were involved in 17 of the incidents. Six SUVs and eight Hondas were stolen. Commercial trucks and trailers were also taken. The 2013 weekly average in vehicle thefts is now 3.5.

Beware of phishing for information

In an attempt to gain account information from unsuspecting customers, criminals will solicit that information by using an e-mail message that appears to be from a legitimate institution.

You will be asked to "update" or "confirm" data to "allow technical staff to perform a system upgrade," or something similar. DO NOT open the attachment by clicking on the link provided. You could be launching a virus.

DO NOT provide any information such as an account number, PIN or anything else that the sender may be requesting. This is a ruse to make you supply information that will lead to identity theft and fraud.

Recently, we have received

solicitations from senders requesting information on Wells Fargo, Chase and other bank accounts. These institutions do not request this type of information from their customers. Our advice is to delete the message at once.

Block Captains wanted

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain in the Cerritos Neighborhood Watch, contact the Community Safety office at (562) 916-1266. Block Captains act as contacts for the Sheriff's Department and the Community Safety Division on behalf of their neighbors. They distribute information and help promote public safety in Cerritos.

Neighborhood Watch crime prevention quiz

Question: What three things do residential burglars hate?

Answer: Burglar alarms, dogs and alert neighbors who call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station when they see something suspicious are three things burglars detest and will always try to avoid.

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.