

West Nile virus activity confirmed in Cerritos

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed West Nile virus activity in a mosquito sample collected from Cerritos on July 28. The mosquitoes were collected near the intersection of Briarwood Street and Kay Avenue (in the southeastern area of Cerritos). GLACVCD staff have surveyed the area and posted signs in nearby public areas.

GLACVCD has identified West Nile virus activity in multiple communities in Los Angeles County in the past month. So far this year, GLACVCD confirmed West Nile virus-positive test results for 31 mosquito samples, one chicken and one dead bird.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-transmitted disease that can cause debilitating illness and death to humans as well as birds, horses and other wildlife. Twenty percent of infected people will exhibit flu-like symptoms, and one in 150 people infected will require hospitalization. There is currently no cure or vaccine for the virus.

GLACVCD recommends that residents follow the “Three D’s” of West Nile virus prevention to protect themselves and their families:

- **Dump/Drain** – Eliminate or report standing water on your property because that is where mosquitoes breed.

- **Dusk/Dawn** – Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Defend** – If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are biting, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus.

To help West Nile Virus surveillance and control efforts, report dead birds by contacting the California Department of Public Health at (877) WNV-BIRD or visit westnile.ca.gov.

For more information, call GLACVCD at (562) 944-9656 or visit glacvcd.org.

Monthly Crime Summary: July 2015

The crime rate in any city is always in a state of flux. As such, sometimes distance is required to gain a meaningful perspective. Although the crime rate in Los Angeles County is trending up as of late, when viewed from a nine-year perspective the crime rate remains historically low. In 2005 there were 90,176 reported Part I crimes in the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) jurisdictional area compared to 67,827 reported Part I crimes in the same area during 2014. Those numbers represent a 24 percent reduction in the Part I crime rate. The same downward trend is noticeable in the number of reported Part II crimes within the LASD jurisdictional area. In 2005 there were 123,464 reported Part II crimes in the LASD’s policing area compared to 99,370 reported Part II crimes in 2014. That number represents a 19.6 percent reduction in crime. The crime rate within Los Angeles County has fallen to historical lows over the course of the last nine years; however, recent crime analysis efforts suggest that crime is now increasing incrementally. Our challenge is to reverse the influx of crime by remaining ever vigilant and watchful. Progress is best realized through a collective and cooperative effort between citizens and their City representative. Remember – being safe is no accident. Stay involved by constantly “Hardening the Target.” Information on current crime trends, crime pre-

vention strategies and the Neighborhood Watch program is available at safercerritos.com.

Robberies

This month there were 2,076 robberies reported in the LASD jurisdictional area and 5,050 robberies reported in the Los Angeles Police Department policing area. Those numbers represent an increase of 3.5 percent and 15 percent respectively. Although robberies in the LASD area are trending up, the number of reported robberies is still 16.8 percent below the 2010 reported level.

This month there were five reported robberies in Cerritos. That brings the year-to-date total to 26 compared to 27 robberies reported last year. The robbery rate in Cerritos remains historically low. As a comparison, in 2006 there were 115 robberies reported in Cerritos and in 2014 there were 49 reported robberies; a reduction of 57.4 percent.

One of the robberies occurred in the evening hours when the victim stopped at a gas station to purchase gas. While the victim was standing at the pump he was approached by three suspects. One suspect grabbed the victim and a struggle ensued. During the struggle, money belonging to the victim’s employer fell to the ground. The suspects retrieved the money and fled the area.

A robbery occurred at 3:30 a.m. at a donut shop. Three suspects entered the business armed with a handgun and a shotgun. One of the sus-

pects struck a shop owner with the stock of the shotgun before stealing the entire cash register. The suspects fled the area, but were arrested several days later in Riverside County.

Another robbery occurred when a man arrived at a dry cleaner shop mid-afternoon to drop off his laundry. As the victim arrived he was confronted by two suspects who were riding bicycles. One suspect was holding a saw in his hand and demanded cash. The victim dove into his vehicle in an attempt to get away. As the victim took evasive action, the suspect slashed the victim with the saw several times before fleeing the area.

The fourth robbery occurred in the morning hours when a brazen robber wearing an obvious disguise strolled into a bank with a handgun and demanded money from the teller. The robber received his loot and fled the area.

The fifth robbery occurred when a young man walked into a men’s department store and placed electronic products in his pants. The suspect then left the store without paying for the items. The incident was upgraded to a robbery when the suspect fought with the store’s loss prevention agents who tried to detain him. The suspect was arrested.

Aggravated Assaults

Assaults are also trending up in both Los

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MONTHLY CRIME SUMMARY: July 2015

Continued from the other side

Angeles County and Cerritos; however, the assault rate in Cerritos remains low by historical standards. As an example, in Cerritos there were 72 reported assaults in 2005 compared to 34 assaults reported in 2014. Those numbers represent a 52.8 percent decrease. This year there have been 18 reported assaults in the City year-to-date compared to 11 reported assaults year-to-date in 2014. Cerritos remains a very safe city compared to other communities. As a year-to-date comparison, there have been 130 assaults in Norwalk, 93 assaults in West Hollywood, 44 assaults in Altadena, 27 assaults in Lomita and 25 assaults in Lakewood.

The assaults reported this month were the result of one person believing that someone yelled racist comments toward him, two juveniles becoming involved in a heated argument, a husband and wife dispute, a merchant and angry customer dispute and a 65-year-old male kicking his 65-year-old female acquaintance at a residence.

Residential Burglaries

There have been 206 burglaries in the City year-to-date compared to 168 reported burglaries during the same time for last year. That number represents a 22.6 percent increase. Although Cerritos burglaries are on the rise, historically, the number of reported burglaries in the City is less than it has been in recent years. As an example, there were 441 reported burglaries in 2012 and 376 reported burglaries in 2013. The year 2014 brought 293 reported burglaries. Although the current numbers have not reached previous heights, burglaries are clearly trending up and due caution is advised.

At the end of seven months, 135 residential burglaries have been recorded year-to-date in the City compared to 103 residential burglaries for the same period last year. Those numbers represent a 31 percent increase. According to LASD crime analysts, 35 burglaries are committed every 24 hours in Los Angeles County. This data should inspire every homeowner to take proactive measures to dissuade would-be house burglars.

Preventing residential burglaries and arresting residential suspects are among the top

priorities of the City's public safety program. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station has a burglary suppression team that is comprised of one sergeant and seven deputies. Their primary mission is to abate property crime by fostering community involvement and by the use of directed patrols.

This month there were 17 residential burglaries in the City. Although residential burglaries occurred on every day of the week, surprisingly, nine of the burglaries occurred on the weekend. The most frequent weekday burglary occurred on Thursdays. As usual, most of the burglars entered the residences via the backyard. In 10 of the burglaries, the suspect(s) entered the home through an unlocked window or door.

The best defense against residential burglars is a watchful neighbor. Case in point – one Saturday afternoon an alert resident telephoned the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and reported that he saw two adult males leaving his neighbor's home in a dark sedan with no license plates. The resident reported that his neighbor was on vacation and no one should be at the house. Deputies immediately responded to the area and found the suspect's car parked on the street directly behind the victim's house. Deputies then set up a containment of the area and requested a helicopter. When the suspects, who were inside ransacking the victim's home, heard the helicopter, they ran outside into the awaiting arms of the deputies. Both suspects were arrested.

Let's work together to rid Cerritos of the criminals who victimize the City's residents. Please consider joining the City's Neighborhood Watch program or the City's Virtual Block Club. You can learn more about these valuable programs at safercerritos.com.

Commercial/Other Structure Burglaries

There were 12 burglaries in this category during the month of July. Seven burglaries involved closed businesses, two burglaries involved storage units, two burglaries involved detached residential garages and one burglary involved a gym locker. Year-to-date there have been 71 burglaries in this category compared to the 65 reported last year during the same time period.

There is no particular pattern to these types of crimes. Burglars targeted everything from a Christian high school to a Korean BBQ restaurant and avoided high-value, well-defended types of businesses.

Vehicle Burglaries

Thefts from vehicles continue to be the most pervasive and preventable crime in the City. This month 31 trusting motorists had personal property stolen from their parked vehicles. Since the beginning of the year, 199 motorists learned that leaving items of value unattended and in plain view makes them susceptible to criminals. Vehicle burglaries year-to-date have increased 71.5 percent compared to the same period of time last year. An analysis of the data reveals that 18 vehicle burglaries occurred at a place of business, 13 vehicle burglaries occurred at residences, one vehicle burglary occurred at a park and one vehicle burglary occurred at a school. Another point worth noting is that 18 of the vehicle burglaries occurred during the evening hours. Only vehicles with property on display were broken into and thieves frequented residential neighborhoods in the evening hours looking for items of value left in cars overnight. Please help curb this easily preventable crime by not leaving anything of value in your car and encouraging your neighbors to do the same.

Fraud

The dictionary definition of fraud is "the deliberate deception to secure unfair or unlawful gain." Fraud crimes primarily involve thefts that are accomplished by means of trickery, deception or false information. These types of crimes are particularly aggravating because they usually involve a violation of trust. Since the beginning of the year there have been more than 120 fraud-based crimes reported in the City. Always be skeptical of a deal that sounds too good to be true or requires an immediate decision in order to take advantage of a special offer. Be aware of a current scam that has surfaced in Long Beach – the Long Beach Water Department issued an advisory warning to customers about a door-to-door scam involving individuals offering to install a free high-efficiency toilet in response to the drought. No such program exists.

(562) 916-1266
Cerritos Community Safety Division

(562) 860-0044
Cerritos Sheriff's Station

CERRITOS SHERIFF'S STATION
COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER

To join Cerritos Neighborhood Watch,
call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/
Community Safety Center
at **(562) 916-1266**.