

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Covina Police Department

444. N. Citrus Ave.
Covina, CA 91723

Crime Prevention

626-384-5630
cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Non-Emergency Dispatch

626-384-5808

Records Division

(626) 384-5656

Covina Jail

(626) 384-5638

Property / Evidence

(626) 384-5645

Traffic Division

(626) 384-5674

Detective Bureau

(626) 384-5628

Telephone Scams Target the Elderly

Covina police officers have spoken to many elderly residents after they received telephone call(s) at home, during which a convincing person dupes them into wiring money.

Typically the scammer claims to be a relative (often a grandson). Scammers may be very persuasive, and might use the actual name of a relative and refer to a victim by name as well as “Grandma, Grandpa or Uncle”, and sound legitimate to an elderly victim even if they don’t recognize their voice.

The caller typically claims to be in trouble outside the US borders, claiming to be arrested, detained or involved in an accident. The caller then



requests money to be sent to them, or asks the victim to speak to someone who claims to be a lawyer or police official. The second person may make the request for money, and explain the money is needed to avoid court fines, pay bail, pay for hospital or other expenses. They will request the money be

sent via a wire transfer, usually via Western Union or MoneyGram. They may claim to be embarrassed and request the victim not tell anyone else, and request the wire immediately.

Often, only after sending money and speaking with relatives days later does the victim realize they were victimized.

Reserve Officers and Police Personnel

The down economy has taken a toll on City Government just as it has private industry. The Covina Police Department has fewer sworn officers today than it had in 1993, and with the passage of AB 109, there are more criminal

offenders on our streets than ever before. The department is working to recruit and hire five Reserve Officers to supplement our full-time officers. The first of these Reserve Officers came on board on February 15, 2013. The Covina Police

Department will accept applications for the position of Reserve Officer until all five are hired. To learn more about the position or the application process, visit the police department’s website home page.

We’re on the Web!

<http://covinaca.gov/city-departments/police>

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Gun Safety

There are many facets to gun safety and this article is not intended to be all encompassing, but it offers a good start by encouraging following these three rules:

LOCK IT UP: If you own a gun, keep it locked up, unloaded, and out of reach of children. Store your ammunition separately and keep your ammunition locked up too.

TEACH THE CONSEQUENCES OF PULLING THE TRIGGER: Kids, especially younger ones, may not realize that guns can be deadly. In television shows, movies, and video games, violence often does not have consequences. Parents can use these media as a way to teach their children about the real-life impacts of gun violence by talking about the world outside of Hollywood productions, victims, victims’ families and the community.

EXPLAIN HOW TO ACT AROUND GUNS: Even if you don’t own a gun, it’s likely one of your neighbors does. Thirty-five percent of adults live in a home with at least one gun. If children know how you want them to act around guns, they’ll be more likely to act in a safe manner. Teach children that if they encounter a gun not to touch it, to get away from it, and to report it to a trusted adult.

Dealing with Solicitors and Burglary Prevention

While some solicitors are legitimate, others may be scouting homes for burglaries. Distraction burglaries involve persons going door to door disguising themselves as repair people, workers, or persons in need of help. Before you open your door to a solicitor, consider the following:

If you don’t know the person, **don’t** open the door.

If you didn’t call, don’t let strangers into your home—this includes workers

Ask for Identification company representatives.

Solicitors must have a business license and be permitted to do business in the City of Covina.

Call the police if a solicitor is aggressively attempting to get into your home or refusing to show their license/permit.

If you are not interested, simply close the door and lock it. You don’t owe the person an explanation.

Make your presence known. Most Residential Burglars avoid locations when they know someone is home. While we generally recommend you don’t open the door to strangers, the Covina Police Department strongly recommends you ensure they know you’re home. “Knock-Knock” burglaries occur when burglars don’t get a response at the door, and then sometimes make their way to the side or back of the house to find an open door or window to get in, while others may just kick in the front door to gain entry.

You and your neighbors are the best defense against residential burglaries. If you see suspicious people or it doesn’t look right, call the police to investigate, you may be right!

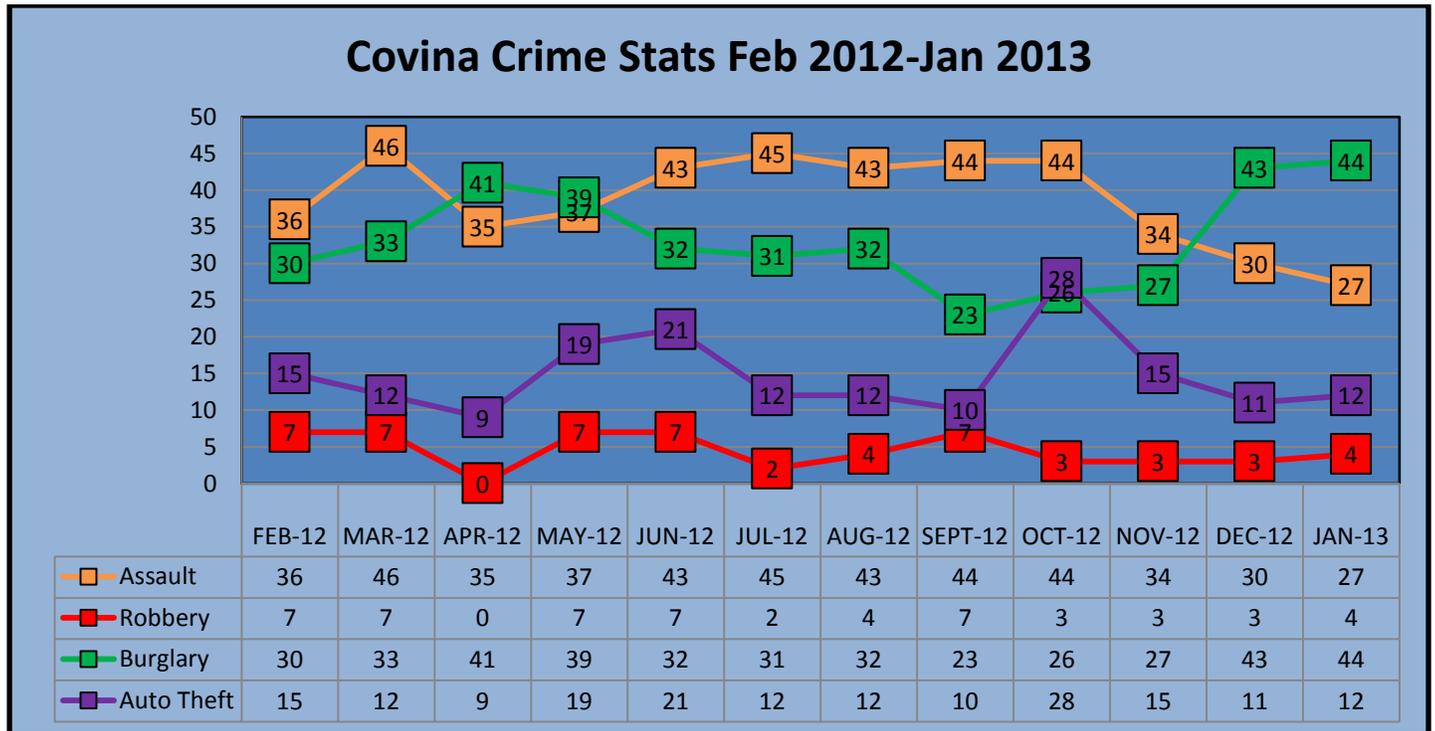
Citizens Academy

The Covina Police Department Crime Prevention Unit is in the process of planning the next Citizen’s Academy, likely to take place in May or June 2013.

Interested persons who live or work in the jurisdiction of the Covina Police Department are encouraged to apply. Guest Speakers include a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge, in addition to a number of subject matter experts within the police department. Topics covered include criminal law, narcotics, gangs / graffiti, and identity theft among others. Students receive firearm training and shoot in the department shooting range under the supervision of our range staff. Students also participate in practical application exercises designed to mimic common patrol scenarios Covina Police Officers face regularly in the course of their daily duties.

If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more, or wish to apply and participate, please contact Community Services Specialist Candace Bobkiewicz at 626-384-5630 or by email, cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Covina Police Crime Statistics – January 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

<http://covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereportscom>

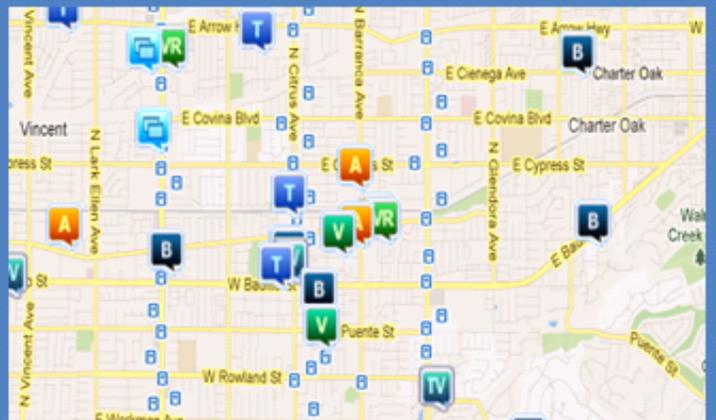
Violent Crimes -14%

- Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

Property Crime -6%

- Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

Calls for Service +1



Percentages shown are increase or decrease from year-to-date.