

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

Graffiti Hotline

(626) 384-5599

We're on the Web!
<http://covinaca.gov/cpd>
Online reporting
available today!
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Crime Alert: Phone Scam Targets the Elderly

Millions of Americans subscribe to "Life Alert," the service that calls emergency services if you fall in your home and can't get to a phone for help.

A new scam is targeting older adults everywhere, preying on the familiarity of those popular TV commercials. These scammers reference the Life Alert program and attempt to convince whoever answers the phone that their program is the same. So, how can you tell if the person that calls you or your loved ones are scammers?

With this scam the calls may come day or night, and the callers are leaving messages on answering machines in a robotic voice, telling people they have qualified for a medical alert system.



On a recording sent to the Covina Police Department, which was retrieved by a citizen from their voicemail, the robotic voice says, "It's *the, I've fallen and can't get up system you've seen on TV...*"

The voice continues, "It's *already been paid for, so there's no cost to you whatsoever...*"

Red Flag: Did Someone Really Buy it For You?

These scammers claim that a concerned family member already purchased the system, and "All you have to do is say yes". Scammers may add that "Shipping has been paid for, and that someone is worried about you, because someone close to you has fallen."

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Covina Cops for Kids Christmas Toy Drive

The Covina Police Department will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys as part of our holiday program. Donations can be dropped off at the Police Department.

Our annual program brings our community

closer by joining generous community members and families in need. Everyday our police officers are out in the community encountering families that are struggling. With your donation, these same officers can deliver your Christmas cheer to

those struggling families.

Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, December 2nd until Christmas Day. For more information, you may contact the **Toy Drive Hotline at 626-331-3391 ext. 5199.**

Elderly Phone Scam (Continued)

Tips to Prevent Being Scammed

- Be wary of anyone offering you something for “free” in exchange for your personal information. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do not provide your bank account information, Medicare number, social security number or any other personal information to unknown individuals over the phone.

Holiday Shopping Brings an Increase in Crime

Historically, there is an increase in residential and vehicle burglaries in December of every year. For many people the Thanksgiving holiday marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season, and holiday shoppers unwittingly lure opportunistic criminals to our local retailers, restaurants and movie theaters.

Catching a movie or a meal after a long day of shopping can be fun and relaxing. Unfortunately, leaving your car unattended for an hour or two while it's loaded with your holiday purchases is enticing for thieves, who are adept at smashing windows and/or picking locks to get at your newly purchased goods.

This article isn't intended to spoil your holiday fun, it's intended to offer you some practical advice that can help reduce your odds of being victimized. Whenever possible:

- Store your shopping bags in a manner that they are completely concealed, preferably the trunk of your car.
- If you make significant purchases, off-load your purchases at home before heading off to that restaurant or movie theater.
- Park in well-lit areas, where crooks can't conceal their actions from passers-by.
- Be alert, and report suspicious activity to the appropriate police department.
- Shop during daylight hours if possible.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying large amounts of cash.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, “con-artists” may try various methods of distracting you with the intentions of taking your money or belongings.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

Police Careers Available

The Covina Police Department is actively seeking qualified hard working men and woman interested in law enforcement careers.

In the near future, the Department will be accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Dispatching is a difficult and challenging career, but also a rewarding one.

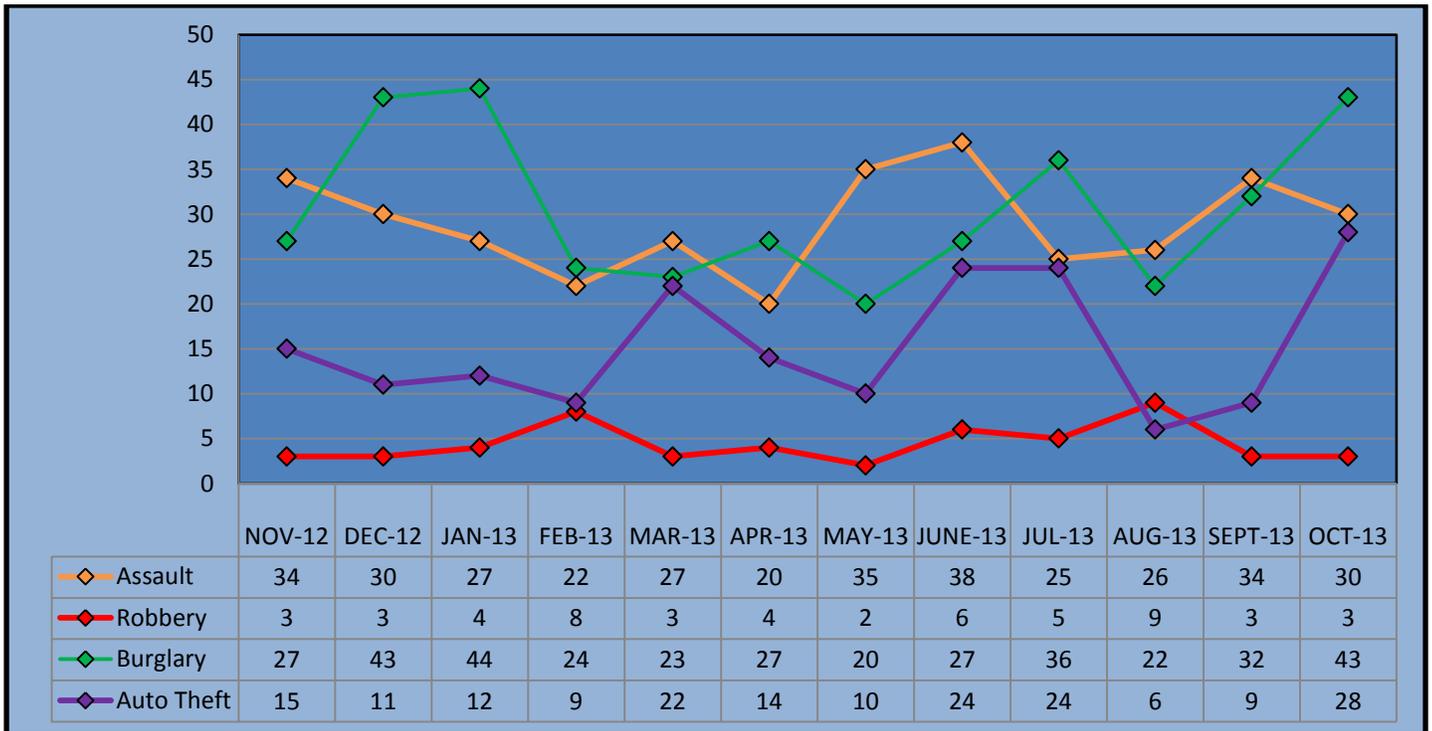
Applications for Police Recruit and Lateral-Entry Police Officer are accepted on an ongoing basis with testing for vacant positions conducted as needed.

Additionally, the Department is interested in talking with persons interested in the many other police department positions, such as Jailer, Community Service Officer, Records Clerk and Cadet.

Information about these positions can be found on the Covina Police Department website under “Join Our Team”. This is also where links will be posted for all positions when applications are being accepted online.

Anyone with questions about the testing, hiring, and/or background investigation processes are invited to contact Professional Standards Sergeant Trevor Gaumer at 626-384-5601 or tgaumer@covinaca.gov.

Covina Police Crime Statistics – September 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

<http://covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereports.com>

Violent Crimes -23%

•Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

Property Crime -25%

•Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

Calls for Service -5%



Percentages shown are increase or decrease from the previous year to date.