

# 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!  
Follow us on  
Facebook and Twitter

## Social Media in Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agencies are increasing their use of social media to communicate with the public. The use of social media creates another avenue of two-way communication intended to improve the partnership between the agencies and the communities we serve.

An additional benefit for both the agencies and the public, is the increased likelihood criminals can be positively identified through the release of photos or videos. One recent example occurred in Huntington Beach, when surveillance photos released through social media helped identify suspect(s) accused of participating in the recent riots.



In recent weeks, the Covina Police Department has begun to increase the amount of information posted through our Facebook and Twitter accounts. There have been recent announcements about community events, hiring updates, and real-time

roadway closures. If you use social media, we invite you to like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @Covinapd. If you don't use social media but know others in your neighborhood that do, we ask that you let them know we are accessible.

## School Year Brings Renewed Safety Concerns

Summer is almost over and kids are going back to school. Getting kids to and from school safely is a priority, accomplished through a combination of education and enforcement. California Vehicle Code Section

21212(a) states – A person under age 18 shall not operate a bicycle, scooter, in-line/roller skates or skateboard unless wearing a properly fitted and fastened approved helmet. Helmets greatly

reduce the risk of serious injury resulting from accidents.

Motorists also face increased risks when driving near schools and school zones.

[Continued Page 2]

## Power Outages: Tips from Edison

Planning and preparation can payoff big in a power outage. Learning how to use your fuse or breaker boxes, installing surge protectors, and other small steps will help you manage an outage with minimal effort and protect your family and electronics.

### Home Preparation Checklist

- Keep important telephone numbers (fire department, paramedics, police, hospital, doctor, relatives, etc.) by the phone
- Place flashlights in handy locations, such as near telephones
- Install surge protectors to help safeguard valuable electronic equipment
- Know where to find each utility box (electricity, water and gas) and how to turn them off. Keep the proper tools to do so handy
- Always back up important work and files on your computer
- If you have an automatic garage door or gate, learn how to open them manually (without power)
- Keep at least one car at least half full with fuel. Gas stations need electricity to pump gas and will be shut down during an outage. Stockpiling gasoline is NOT recommended. Gasoline is a hazardous, combustible substance. NEVER use gasoline generators indoors
- Make a safety preparedness plan for your family that includes a list and location of the above items. Be prepared to meet the special needs of infants, elderly or disabled family members and pets

## Back to School – Traffic Safety (Continued)

Sometimes students are difficult to spot, and may be crossing the roadway from different directions, or entering/exiting vehicles parked curbside (often illegally). Crosswalks rarely used in summer months will now be bustling again, and some pedestrians are lulled into a false sense of security by the crosswalk's painted lines. Many drivers are unaware or confused about their obligation to yield to pedestrians.

Covina police officers make it a point to conduct enforcement at and near school zones, and the Traffic Unit reported the following violations as those most often cited.

22350(a) – Unsafe Speed: The speed limit in a school zone is MAX 25 MPH whether one student or 100 students are present.

22101(d) – Disobey a Traffic Control Device/Sign: Most schools have signage directing drivers to turn “Right Only” or “No left Turn”, to control traffic flow and maximize vehicular and pedestrian safety.

21950(a) – A driver must yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

**NOTE: Yield until the pedestrian has made it completely out of the roadway**

The Covina Police Department Traffic Unit reports another common scenario and offers this reminder: If a driver traveling the same direction as you stops ahead of you, assume that driver stopped for good reason and ensure the roadway is clear before you pass. Too many pedestrians are struck by the second car after being waived on by the first driver who stopped for them. Children particularly are difficult to see, often obscured by the height of vehicles on the roadway.

**TIP: Never drive distracted / Always drive defensively**

## Citizens Academy

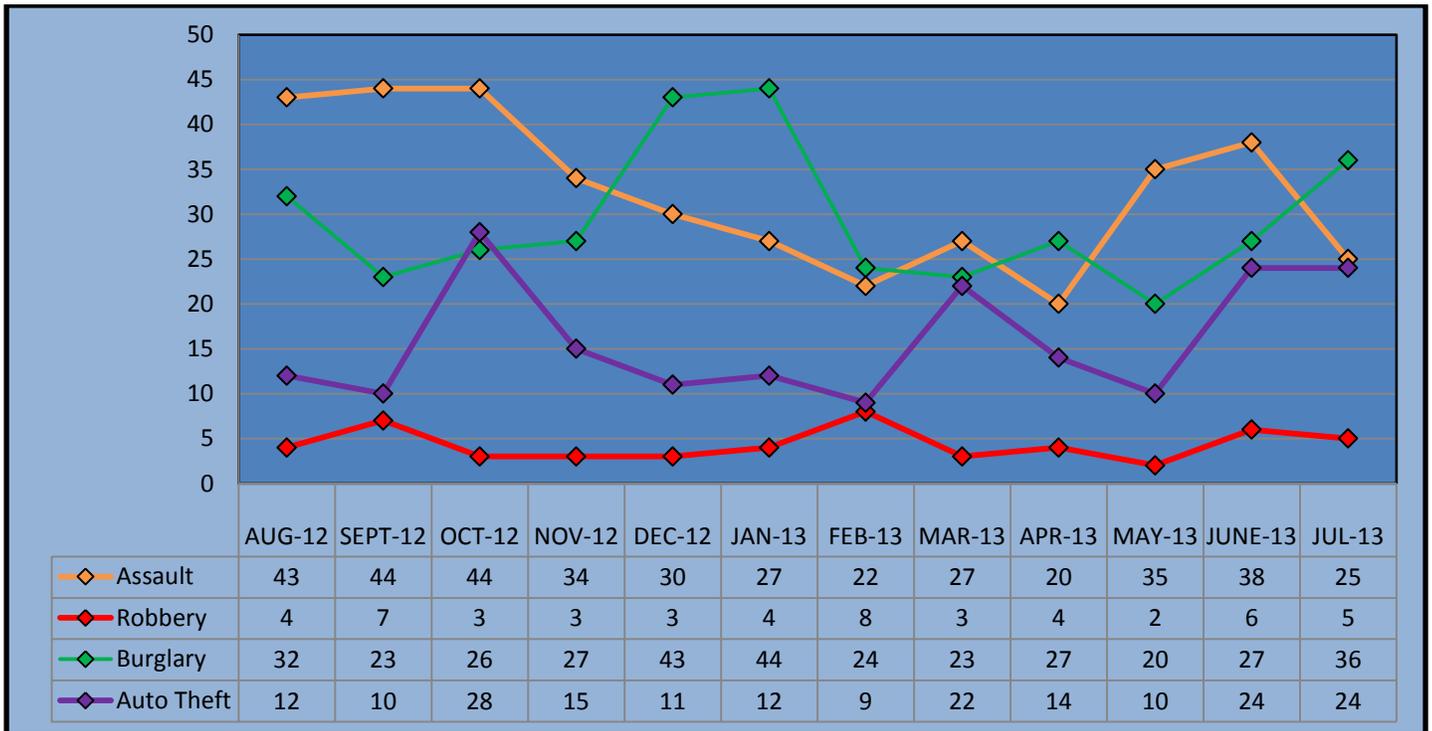
The dates are set for the Covina Police Department Citizen's Academy. The first session will be Wednesday September 11, 2013, and the program will run seven consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 9pm. Covina residents and business persons are encouraged to apply and participate in the program.

The Citizen's Academy offers a unique opportunity to bridge the gap and build relationships beneficial to the police department and the community we serve. Highlights of the program include instruction on a number of topics including Criminal Law, Powers of Arrest, Identity Theft/Fraud, Use of Force, Patrol Tactics, SWAT and Gangs/Narcotics.

Subject matter experts present information in a comfortable setting that encourages interaction and questions from students. A Los Angeles County judge will present information about the court system. Students will be able to ride-along with a Patrol Officer and Range Staff will instruct students on firearms safety and allow them to shoot a department issued handgun in our department range.

For more information or to apply to participate, we invite you to contact CSS Candace Bobkiewicz at 626-384-5630 or [cbobkiewicz@covina.gov](mailto:cbobkiewicz@covina.gov)

## Covina Police Crime Statistics – July 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

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

**Violent Crimes -25%**

- Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

**Property Crime -22%**

- Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

**Calls for Service -4%**



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