

A message from Joe Ely, CPN Crime and Police Representative

Crime in Congress Park is down 5.3% over this time last year. The bad news is that with the economy the way it is that we can expect crimes such as burglary and larceny to increase in the near future.

There are several trends that have been noted by the police in the last couple of months:

- 1) Burglars are breaking the lock boxes on homes that are empty and for sale. They then steal the appliances.
- 2) Theft of Jeeps are up. There were 16 Jeep thefts in District 3 in October.
- 3) Bicycle thefts have been very high. This may have been due to the price of gas. However, they have yet to slack off.

Several New or revived scams are making the rounds via email:

- 1) Emails allegedly from banks recommending that you transfer your money to off shore banks to avoid bank failures.
- 2) Emails offering work-at-home for high pay. The catch is that you must make an investment up front.
- 3) Emails offering to repair your credit rating. Again this requires a sizable payment up front.

What can you do to protect yourself:

- 1) Keep all your doors and windows closed and locked.
- 2) Install dead bolt locks on all exterior doors.
- 3) get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- 4) If your block is not a part of Neighborhood Watch Organize now. We have 41 blocks in Congress park that have signed. Crime is 26% lower on those blocks.
- 5) Pick up newspapers and do not allow them to accumulate.
- 6) Don't admit strangers to your home.
- 7) Keep garage doors closed
- 8) Don't allow your unattended car to "warm up" in the morning.
- 9) Always lock your car.
- 10) Don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car.
- 11) Always be aware of your surroundings.
- 12) Report all suspicious activity to the police at once.