

## SEPTEMBER NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

The following are excerpts from the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter distributed by the L.A.P.D. The articles are written by the different Senior Lead Officers representing West Valley communities. I have selected articles that apply to all of us, and not just one particular area.

### Please join us for the following

West Valley Area Events:

CPAB Meetings: September 13 & October 11, 2006 7:00 PM, West Valley Station, Community Room

**Tarzana & Encino, 10A67/10A87, Senior Lead Officer Rob Trulik**  
32325 @lapd.lacity.org (818) 374-7637 office or (818) 731-2572 cell

Hello Sherman Oaks and Encino,

I would like to thank the residents first of all. I am happy to report that we only had 2 Residential Burglaries in the Encino / Sherman Oaks area for the entire month of July. That is down 88 percent from the month before. Please stay focused on Burglary prevention and do not let your guards down.

On other news, we are once again enforcing the abandon vehicle / 72 hour parking rule. If you are aware of a vehicle that you think might be abandoned or has not moved in some time please call 1-800-ABANDON (800-222-6366).

In closing, as you have probably seen in the news, the Valley is seeing an increase in Street Robberies. The suspects are targeting the Victims for wallets and purses. They not only care about money but also want credit cards for identity theft reasons. I would like to remind my Citizens to always walk the streets of the City in pairs or groups if possible. Always walk in well-lit and heavily traveled areas. Please travel as light as possible and do not bring un-necessary items on your walks. Please stay safe and aware!

PS. Please feel free to contact me if your are interested in starting or attending a Neighborhood Watch meeting in your neighborhood.

### **SLO Janet Zumstein ( West Winnetka & Canoga Park)**

The Grand Opening of the Westfield Topanga Mall is on October 6, 2006 at 10:00 AM and is open to the public. The mall added 140 new stores, is remodeled and is said to be state of the art!

Stolen vehicles are still a big problem throughout our division. Be careful where you park your car. If you can, park your car in a well-lit area with no personal belongings exposed and always lock your car.

## **SLO Jodie McGee (Reseda)**

**Burglaries and Motor vehicle thefts still are a major concern for the LAPD and the citizens of West Valley.**

What to do?

- 1) While out of your home or apartment, lock and secure all your doors and windows.
- 2) When you leave your vehicle, lock and secure your doors and windows.
- 3) If you are leaving your vehicle at L.A.X. or Burbank Airport for a prolonged period of time, empty your glove box at home take your vehicle's registration with you and leave the glove box open. This way when suspects walk by your vehicle they already know there is nothing inside to take and they will pass it by.

Please, report all crimes no matter how small you think they are, that is the only way the Los Angeles Police Department can track crime and possibly link suspects back to your crime.

## **SLO Alex Padron (Canoga Park)**

These are just the some basic Burglary prevention tips.

- Trim all shrubbery around your home so that it is at least six inches below the bottom of your window.
- Trim tree limbs so that they are at least eight feet off the ground, leaving a clear field of vision towards the home.
- Use outside lighting in an efficient and appropriate manner by investing in timers and motion sensors. Night-time burglars hate it when a sensor light goes off.
- All exterior doors should be equipped with deadbolt locks that are at least 1 inch in length.
- Sliding glass doors and large windows should be equipped with secondary locks such as a 'Charlie Bar' that goes across the entire window.
- Get an alarm system that works and if you already have an alarm system make sure you perform regular maintenance on it. Make sure you can see the alarms signs from the street because a burglar will see them as well.
- Get a dog that barks, if getting a dog is not an option for your home, then fake it. Use large dog bowls and large dog toys to make criminals think you own a large animal.
- Install signs that note that you have a guard dog on duty.
- Photograph all your valuables, collectibles and especially your jewelry. Just in case you are a victim of a burglary. Also, engrave your valuables and tools with your California Driver's License so that we can find you and return your items just in case your are victimized.
- Get to know your neighbors, they are you best defense and can only report suspicious activity when they know who or what doesn't belong in the area or your home. Knowing your neighbors also builds a sense of community that I believe everyone can benefit from.

- Lastly, join our neighborhood watch groups. You'll get to meet your neighbors and learn what is happening in your community