

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

**Tarzana & Encino, 10A67/10A87, Senior Lead Officer Rob Trulik  
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Hello Encino, Tarzana and Sherman Oaks,

With the holidays soon approaching and the start of the Holiday shopping season upon us, I would like to remind our residents to use caution. We have already started to see an increase in Burglary from Motor Vehicles and Purse Thefts. As I have said in the past, lock and secure your vehicles, and always set your alarm or use an anti theft device. Make it as difficult as possible for these criminals to gain access to your property. Never leave valuables such as cell phones, CD's, purses, wallets, briefcases or backpacks in plain view. If you must leave items in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk or put them out of sight.

If you observe suspicious activity which may be linked to these crimes, obtain a description of the individual(s) physical appearance, actions, and any vehicle description and contact the police immediately by calling 911(Emergency) or 877-ASK-LAPD (Non-Emergency). Do not confront suspicious individuals.

Please be safe and enjoy the Holidays.

Finally, please consider joining an existing or starting a new Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood.

**The December All Encino/Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting** will be a Holiday Dessert Fest, on **December 5th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Encino Elementary School**. Please bring a dessert for 6-8 people. We will provide coffee, cups, plates and plasticware.

**Winnetka, 10A33, Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza  
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Over the past few months, I have received numerous complaints of motor homes being parked on residential streets for an extended period of time. As you can imagine, some of the negative by-products of these motor homes include trash and other debris/liquids being "dumped" in the vicinity, as well as strange people loitering and sleeping in some of our neighborhoods. The Los Angeles Municipal Code prohibits people from using a vehicle, even a motor home, as living quarters while parked on a public street. However, due to the complexity of this law and the fact that this law is not always applicable to every situation, the law is seldom enforced. However, I want to ensure everyone that I am currently working with various members of the community, our transient detail and the California Highway Patrol to find a solution to this problem. The City just passed a new ordinance, which assists us in getting these vehicles off your streets. Call your Council Office, and ask how to get the street signs prohibiting vehicles over 22 feet from parking overnight.

### **Quality of Life Issue**

Illegal dumping is a huge quality of life issue that negatively impacts the community. The old furniture and junk you see left lying in the street and on the curb and sidewalk are examples of this. As a reminder, if you or any of your neighbors have bulky items that need to be picked up, please call 311 to set up an appointment with the Bureau of Sanitation.

**Canoga Park, 10A3, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron  
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Greetings everyone, this Newsletter segment will be divided into several parts, because there is a vast amount of information to cover and only so much room in the newsletter. Hopefully, this information **when applied** will assist you in preventing residential burglaries in the Canoga Park area. According to National Crime Prevention Statistics, one in twelve homes will be burglarized this year; let's make sure that it is not yours.

### **Locks:**

In a vast majority of residential burglaries, thieves simply breeze through unlocked doors or crawl in through unlocked windows. Make sure every external door has a properly installed dead bolt lock. The key in the door knob are not secure by themselves. The locks should be of the dead bolt type, and the metal strike plate should be solid with extra long screws into the wood jambs. Consider buying / upgrading to pick-proof locks which are ones that can't be opened by a locksmith or burglar using standard lock picking tools or drills.

### **Doors:**

A lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car doors but leaving the windows all the way open. Even a novice burglar using simple tools can quickly open them. Every exterior door should be solid wood or solid metal with attached dead bolt locks. Outside hinges can make a good door and lock useless. Make sure the hinges are on the inside of the home, so that an intruder could not remove the exposed pins. If your door has a mail slot make sure that it has some sort of cover or hood on the inside so that they can not see into your home. Make sure the doors fit very snugly into the doorframe. Loose doors can be forced open with a simple crow bar.

**West Winnetka & Canoga Park, 10A57 Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein  
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The holiday season is here and the Westfield Topanga Mall is open with 140 additional new stores. Burglary from Motor Vehicles is a big problem in West Valley. Please do not leave items in your car that can be seen from the outside. Most vehicles are broken into because of property that is left out in plain sight. Suspects are opportunists, and they will steal almost anything. Remember, "out of sight is out of mind". PLEASE remind your family and friends **not** to keep property in their unattended vehicles.

**Woodland Hills, 10A73/75, Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson  
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Please make yourself familiar with the following:

A California Law, Assembly Bill 488, sponsored by the Attorney General now provides the public with Internet access to detailed information on registered sex offenders. The site is [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov)

Previously, the information was only available through your local Police Station. California's Megan Law provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders, so members of our local communities may protect themselves and their children. As you already know, Megan's Law was named after 7 year-old Megan Kanka. Megan was a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kanka family sought to have the local communities warned about sex offenders in their areas. All states now have a form of Megan's Law.

### **Parents:**

Inform your children of the dangers involving adults, know who your child is spending time with, know where your child is at all times, never leave your child unattended in a vehicle, running or not. Be involved in your children's activities. Listen and pay attention to your child. Know when someone is paying extra attention to your child. Be sensitive to you're his or her emotions. Practice basic safety skills with your children about strangers, inappropriate touching. **Most importantly, remember that up to 90% of children are molested by someone they know!**

**Reseda Senior Lead Officers 10A27 Jodie McGee / 10A47 Brent Rygh 31677@lapd.lacity.org/ (818) 374-7635 / 30450 @lapd.lacity.org /(818) 731-2581**

Identity theft is a HUGE problem across the nation. Here are some suggestions that can help prevent being victimized, that we don't often think of:

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED."
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The Credit Card Company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary.