

## *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS*

### "COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION"

#### Please join us for the following West Valley Area Events:

CPAB Meetings- December 13 & January 10 West Valley Station, 7:00 p.m.

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

Hello Encino, Tarzana, and Sherman Oaks,

I would like to wish all a safe Holiday Season. Remember to lock and secure you vehicles and do not store any valuables in plain view. As always we are seeing an increase in criminal activity during this shopping season and need your help make a difference. Please also remember that the children are out of school for the holidays, and may be playing in our neighborhoods, so slow down while you are driving. Every year we have a fatality that could have been prevented, if someone were paying more attention, or would have slowed down to the speed limit. If you would like to start a new Neighborhood Watch Group in 2007, contact me, and I can help you get started! Please contact me with your concerns, and I will do my best to address them.

**Tarzana's next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be January 16th, at 6:30pm, at 19040 Vanowen Street (Councilman Zine's office).  
Encino will continue on our quarterly schedule, and will meet again in March 2007 (date to be announced in January).**

**Woodland Hills, 10A73/75, Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson  
31733 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7636 office or (818) 731-2574 cell**

Hello Woodland Hills,

At a recent Press Conference on November 16, 2006, at Westfield Topanga Mall, the topic of discussion was crime suppression and new technology to help fight crime. Our Captain, along with Councilman Dennis Zine, and the Manager for the Westfield Mall discussed new technology that will allow us capture every license plate that enters or exits the mall parking lot. This technology, coupled with the two License Plate Reader vehicles we have at West Valley should reduce the number of crimes at the mall and in the surrounding areas. The cameras mounted on these vehicles automatically run every license plate in view. The system will immediately alert officers if the vehicle is wanted or stolen.

Channel 7 News along with other news stations covered this press conference, and they followed me around the parking lot as an experiment. We randomly picked a row of vehicles to look inside of for property targeted by thieves. Out of 10 vehicles we looked into, 7 had property left out in plain view. One vehicle left the moon roof completely open. Property included a laptop, checkbook, purse, briefcase, backpack, and a rolled up bunch of U.S. Currency sitting in the center console in clear view!

Please, Please, Please, help me to help you. Whenever you are parking your vehicles, please take

everything out and place it in your trunk. If your vehicle does not have a trunk, at least cover the property with a blanket, a towel, or place it under the seats, but don't leave it out in plain sight.

**Canoga Park, 10A3, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron  
32977 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 731-2593 Cell**

Greetings everyone! This article is number two in a follow-up because there is a vast amount of information to cover. Hopefully, this information, **when applied**, will assist 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 yours is not one of these.

### **Windows:**

Sliding glass windows and doors can offer easy access if they are not properly secured. Sliding glass doors can be secured by installing commercially available locks or by placing a 'Charlie bar', which is an upgrade to the broomstick or dowel, in the inside track of the window. To prevent the windows from being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding window frame and the fixed frame, then insert a pin in the hole. Double-hung sash windows are usually found in older homes and apartments. To secure these windows install commercially available key latch locks.

Louvered windows are the least secure and the easiest for burglars to enter because the glass panes can be removed so easily. If you have louvered windows consider replacing them with double glass windows. Another effective way to secure louvered windows is to install security bars. **However**, make sure the bars are designed to open from the inside of the home for escape in case of fire.

### **Alarm Systems:**

If you do not have an alarm system please consider installing one. Most burglars will avoid a location that obviously has an alarm. Make sure your alarm company checks the system to avoid false alarms. False alarms are costly, both in fines for response, and in the fact that your neighbors won't pay attention to an alarm that is always going off.

Now if you do not have an alarm because it is cost prohibitive, consider making your home look like it has one anyway. You can post conspicuous alarm signs, and stickers on the windows that also indicate your home has armed security personnel response to your alarm activation.

**Winnetka, 10A33, Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza  
33626 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7631 office or (818) 731-2568 cell**

For the past month, there has been a slight increase in property crimes (i.e. Residential Burglary, Grand Theft Auto, and Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle). In West Valley Division, we are always working on ways to reduce crime. Numerous resources have been deployed in various areas, including Winnetka, in an effort to combat crime. However, the police department cannot combat crime alone. We are asking everyone to be more involved in communicating with your neighbors and the police department by reporting any suspicious or unusual activity in and around the community.

### **Safety Tip:**

Traffic Collisions are the leading cause of death of children in the country. Sadly, more than half the children who die in collisions are not properly restrained in child safety seats or are unrestrained altogether. Studies have shown that child safety seats are 71% effective in saving the lives of children involved in collisions. Please make sure your children are buckled up before driving to any location

**West Hills, 10A51, Senior Lead Officer Peter Vanderburgh  
20382 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7632 office or (818) 731-2573 Cell**

Happy Holidays. Since most of us will be shopping during the holiday season, here are some important tips to prevent thieves from getting your information.

Do not sign the back of your credit cards, instead put "photo ID required." This will help put the burden of proof on the person accepting the credit card.

When writing your checks to pay your credit cards, do not write the complete number of your account on the check. Just use the last four numbers of the account, the company knows the rest. Photocopy the contents of your wallet, both sides and retain a copy in a safe place in case you lose or get your wallet or purse stolen.

Most importantly, contact the police and credit organizations immediately if your identity, purse or wallet get stolen. See the numbers below.

- 1.) Equifax: 800-525- 6286.
- 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742.
- 3.) Trans Union: 800-680-7289

Please pass this information along, it could really help someone in your community. **Wishing you all the best for the holidays.**

**West Winnetka & Canoga Park, 10A57 Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein  
24571 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7634 office or (818) 731-2570 cell**

Statistics show that during the holiday season, there is a rise in crime. The following tips are provided to help you avoid becoming a victim when doing your holiday shopping:

Be sure you locate your keys and have them in hand prior to going to your car.

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Look confident and purposeful when you walk.

Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open your car door.

If threatened by someone in a car or on foot, scream, cross the street or run in the opposite direction toward people.

Always be aware of your surroundings. If suspicious activity is observed, or if you are the victim of a crime, obtain a description of the individual(s)' physical appearance, actions, and any vehicle descriptions including license plate numbers, contact a security guard or the police immediately by calling 911 (emergency) or 877 ask-lapd (non-emergency). Do not confront suspicious individuals.

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

The holidays are quickly approaching. If you are like us, you're a last minute shopper. As you wade into the hordes of shoppers at the malls and stores, keep your wits about you and a tight hold on your wallet.

Everyone is aware of the phenomenon known as road rage. Road rage can easily turn into parking lot rage. Please be aware of what is going on around you in those crowded mall parking lots. Be sure to give yourself enough room to maneuver your car. Courtesy to other drivers is also important. If you lose a parking spot, don't get upset, another will open up. Don't get engaged with other drivers over parking spots, driving skills, etc.

This time of year always brings out the con-artists and pickpockets. When shopping, it is better to bring as little with you as possible. If you must use cash, don't let anyone see how much money you have in your wallet or purse. Many shopping malls have ATM's for your convenience. If you can, avoid using the ATM. Criminals are watching to see how much money you're collecting from the machine.

If you can shop with a friend or family member, you may be a less inviting target. Keep your purse or wallet in an area that will be hard for a thief to get to. Your car is a target also. Place all your packages in the trunk of your car where they can not be seen.

Have a Joyous and Safe holiday season.