

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

"COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION"

Please join us for the following West Valley Area Events:
CPAB Meetings January 10th & February 14th, 2007, West Valley Station, 7pm

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

Happy New Year Encino, Tarzana and Sherman Oaks,
I hope you had a safe and happy Holiday. Now it's time to get back to work and get active in our community. I do need to point out that crime is on the rise and I am seeing more and more vehicle Burglaries. The vast majority of the incidents are a result of our residents leaving valuables in plain sight on the front seat of their vehicles. The crimes will not cease as long as we entice the criminals with our valuables. I can not stress enough the importance of removing your valuables from your vehicles.

If you observe suspicious activity which may be linked to these crimes, obtain a description of the individuals physical appearance, actions and any vehicle descriptions including license plate numbers and contact the police immediately by calling 911 or 877-ask-lapd (877-275-5273) for 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 or 731/2581**

At the beginning of each year, we receive numerous complaints about unlicensed contractors. These individuals take large sums of money from elderly victims but do not complete or even begin the repairs they were hired to do.

If you or your neighbors are considering having any work done:
Be sure that you use a licensed contractor (and check the status of the license!)
DO NOT make any down payment that is more than 10% of the project or \$1000.00, whichever is **LESS**.
Get a written contract that details the work to be performed, a payment schedule, and a completion date.

Before you hire anyone or sign anything, check with the State Contractors License Board (S.C.L.B.) by calling (800) 321-2752 or on the Internet at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/>
The S.C.L.B. can verify the status of a contractor's license and tell you if they have prior complaints and the nature of the complaints. They will also send out literature to help

educate you on how to get your repairs done properly. Deal only with licensed contractors. Consumers have very little, if any, recourse against unlicensed contractors. Although an unlicensed contractor may give you a low bid, the risk of financial and legal consequences outweighs any benefits that a lower bid may seem to offer. Even if the contractor gives you his license number, check it to make sure it is valid. This is your best protection against fraud or unnecessary risk.

DON'T BE TAKEN IN BY LOW PRICES. Don't be fooled by a smooth-talking salesperson. Remember the old adage: **"If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is."**

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

Greetings everyone. I had to interrupt the burglary prevention information for a late breaking development. In November we were up to 31 stolen vehicles for the month, and December was not any better for Canoga Park. Therefore, in light of those significant numbers, I thought it would be prudent to go over some helpful tips that might prevent you from becoming a statistic.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the top vehicles stolen for 2004. In descending order, were: 89 Toyota Camry (#1 stolen vehicle), 91 Honda Accord, 95 Honda Civic, 88 Toyota Pick-up, 91 Nissan Sentra, 90 Acura Integra, 93 Saturn SL, 87 Toyota Corolla, 92 Chevy, Full size pick-up, 00 Ford Mustang.

Park your car in a garage or behind a locked gate at all times while at home. If that is not possible, pull up all the way onto your driveway and install motion sensor lights that will activate when anyone is around the vehicle. Install an alarm system with a kill switch that is not plainly visible to anyone in the vehicle. Install some type of wheel or shift locking device, and use it. Get an automobile security-tracking device for your vehicle. Never, and I mean never, leave your vehicle on and running, not even for a second. Have your VIN number etched to multiple windows on the automobile to prevent theft. Lastly, consider getting vehicle theft insurance just in case all of the above did not work.

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

So many residents, property and business owners have asked me what they can do to prevent crime in our community. The best way to prevent crime is to secure your property (i.e. lock vehicle doors, lock doors and windows on your home and use anti-theft devices such as alarms). You can also spread this information through your community. Many of you belong to Neighborhood and Business Watch Groups and

that is a plus, however, we need to get the word out to others that it is their responsibility as a citizen to report crime and suspicious activity to the police. It is a new year, and with your continued support, West Valley Area can continue to be a safer place in 2007.

Safety Tip:

Even though traffic enforcement by our West Valley and Valley Traffic Division officers has increased, the number of accidents involving injury and even death seem to be unaffected. Most accidents occur as a result of speed, failure to stop at stoplights and unsafe turns. The Los Angeles Police Department is reminding everyone to use caution while driving and to abide by the rules of the road. If necessary, allow yourself extra time to get to your destination safely. By doing this, you will decrease your chances of being involved in an accident.

**Woodland Hills, 10A73/75, Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson
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I would like to take a minute to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year!

Have you ever lost or had your wallet/purse stolen?

Have you ever used an unsecured mailbox or drop off box?

Has your mailbox ever overflowed: e.g. vacation?

Have you ever visited an Internet site that required your personal data?

Have you ever been contacted via phone or email asking you to verify or provide information that the company should already have?

If the answer to even one of these questions is YES then whether you know it or not, you could be a victim of IDENTITY THEFT. Generally, most victims are unaware that their identity has been stolen. Typically, victims discover that their identity has been stolen about 14 months after the fact.

Take the following steps if this happens to you: Report it to the Federal Trade Commission- 1-877-ID-THEFT, Contact the three principal reporting agencies Equifax 800- 525-6285, Experian 888-397-3742 and Trans Union 800- 680-7289, file a report with the local police in the area where the theft occurred. Additionally fill out an identity theft affidavit, send documentation to creditors/banks and credit reporting agencies, close accounts and reopen new ones.