

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

“COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION”

Please join us for the following West Valley Area Events:

CPAB Meetings: March 14 & April 11, 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**

This month I am seeing reports of many vehicles being Burglarized in the Encino and Tarzana communities. The items taken are, for the most part, left in plain view. The suspects are targeting both locked and unlocked vehicles. They use various methods to enter the vehicles. Many of these crimes are easily avoidable. We are asking **YOU not to store items of value inside your vehicles no matter how nice the neighborhood is.** These crimes are crimes of opportunity and as long as the suspects are making money, the crimes will continue. Citywide, this is the most common crime and with your help we can make the City and your neighborhood a safer place.

If you would like to find out other crime prevention methods, or just have a question you have always wanted to ask, please contact me at my office at (818) 374-7637 or my City issued cell phone at (818) 731-2572. I also receive E-mail at HYPERLINK "mailto:32325@lapd.lacity.org"32325@lapd.lacity.org.

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

Crime Trend:

We continue to experience a high number of Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles. These crimes are occurring primarily during late night and early morning hours. There have been no suspects seen during the commission of these crimes. Take time to remove personal items from your vehicle. Even if you don't think an item would be worth stealing, the damage done to your vehicle is often more expensive to fix than the value of the items that were taken.

Hit and Run Accident Safety Tip:

A hit and run accident means that someone has either been the cause of or has been involved in an accident and leaves the scene before identifying and/or exchanging insurance information. It is either a misdemeanor or a felony, depending on the severity of the situation. If you are in an accident, be sure to get as much identifying information about the other driver as you can.

If you are involved in a traffic accident and the other driver leaves the scene, and you have not already gotten identifying information, here are some recommendations:

Immediately try to write down the license plate number and description of the vehicle and the driver.
Try to notice where the damage is located on his or her vehicle.
Ask witnesses to remain at scene or ask them to leave their name, address and telephone number.
Notify the police.

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

If you are thinking of having a block party, here are some basic tips for organizing an event in your neighborhood:

Set the date – With Southern California weather, any season is good for a block party. But you may want to avoid holidays because folks are traveling. Once you choose a date, send a flyer to neighbors, at least two months in advance, alerting them of the party and asking for assistance.

Set a budget – The first year, you will have to guess on the budget. A starter amount might be \$20 per household plus a bring your own dish. Additional friends or family members, \$5 per person. Start collecting money a month ahead of the scheduled date and have a cutoff date, so you know how much money you have to work with.

Set up committees - Flyers should include information about volunteering for party committees. The party committees divide up tasks: budget, notifications, food shopping and preparation, kid activities, party rentals, set-up and clean-up and permits.

Get approval – Contact the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services to let them know you are planning a party. The permit costs \$312 and allows you to block off your street from one end to the other. One hitch in the process is that you must turn in 51 percent of the residents' signatures in order to get the permit. The City provides the barricades. A committee member can pick them up and return them. The city will post "no parking" signs a day before the party.

Include Police Officers, City Officials - Call your local Senior Lead Officer (SLO) and let them know when you have a date scheduled. SLO's can assist you in setting up a Neighborhood Watch program. This is a great way for your neighbors to get to know each other and their SLO.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you.

**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,

Recently I have been receiving a lot of complaints about the "Red Square" business located at 20001 Ventura Blvd. It is located just east of Winnetka Ave. The complaints have included, but are not limited to Disturbing the Peace, Drinking Alcohol in Public, Vandalism, Drunk Driving, Fighting, Etc. From my perspective, this location has been a problem off and on for some time now. Recently, there have been significant problems, with Public Intoxication, Robbery, Car-Jacking and Gang activity. We (LAPD) are working very closely with the

Los Angeles Departments of Building & Safety and the City Attorney, and the local businesses and residents to assist us with putting together a comprehensive plan to change the way this business is operating. Woodland Hills cannot afford to have an establishment that brings these problems into our neighborhood!

**Reseda Senior Lead Officers 10A27 Jodie McGee / 10A47 Brent Rygh
31677 @lapd.lacity.org or (818) 374-7635 /30450 @lapd.lacity.org or 731-2581 (818) 731-
2569 cell / (818) 731-2581 cell**

Hello Reseda,

We are happy to report that the Reseda has continued to see a reduction in crime and we are well on the way to having reduced crime for the 6th straight year in a row. While we are doing everything we can to continue to make your neighborhoods safer, we need your help with fighting crime and with recruitment. The LAPD is actively recruiting with starting salaries beginning at \$52,638.00. More information on recruitment, benefits, and testing is available at HYPERLINK <http://WWW.JOINLAPD.COM> WWW.JOINLAPD.COM or by calling 866-444-LAPD (866-444-5273). We would also like to increase the number Block Captains involved in our Neighborhood Watch. If you are interested, please give us a call and we will be happy to talk with you about it.

We have seen a surge in graffiti in the area with rival gangs and tagging crews crossing out each others names. It is important that we remove this graffiti as quickly as possible to discourage them from continuing to mark up the area. This vandalism can escalate to violent confrontations and turf wars if left unchecked. Please call the West Valley Alliance at (818) 227-9722 for graffiti removal and leave them a message. They will do their best to remove the graffiti within a day or two.

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

We are having a problem with solicitors in the West Hills Area. These solicitors are active in quiet neighborhoods looking to sell magazine subscriptions. However, when this activity occurs, it always seems that the numbers of Residential Burglaries also increase.

This problem is now occurred in reporting district # 1054. I need for all residents to secure your homes (lock all windows, doors/sliding doors, exterior gates) to help prevent a burglary from occurring. Leaving your home vulnerable just makes it easy for any burglar to enter your home.

These solicitors have a legal reason for being in your neighborhood and at your doorstep. A majority of these solicitors are from out of state, we (the LAPD) cannot prevent them from conducting their legal business in your neighborhood. The best that we can do is to ask you to secure your homes and property, and place no-soliciting signs on your gates.

**Canoga Park, 10A3, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron
32977 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 731-2583 Cell**

Greetings everyone, I wanted to take a moment to discuss the topic of driving defensively. Defensive driving means not only taking responsibility for yourself, but also watching for other drivers on the roads. Listed below are some suggestions to help reduce the risk of a traffic collision.

Remember to **Slow down**. Speeding is the primary collision factor in the vast majority of accidents. Should a speeding vehicle come up behind you, safely change lanes when possible and let that driver pass.

Ask yourself this question. Do I wear my seatbelt each and every time I enter a vehicle? If the honest answer is no, then you need to begin now. Seatbelt save lives, it is not debatable, it is a proven fact.

Be alert at all times. If you notice a car is straddling the center line, weaving or making strange movements there is a good chance the other driver is impaired. Let this vehicle pass and contact the police. Obtain a good description of the driver, vehicle and the license plate number.

If an impaired driver is in an oncoming vehicle which is crossing into your lane, immediately pull over and stop your vehicle while sounding the horn and flashing the headlights.

Please be respectful of other motorists, there is no need to contest the 'right of way' or get into a road rage incident over the rules of the road. We all have heard of motorists being seriously injured by gunshot wounds when freeway incidents have escalated into road rage incidents.