

CRIME UPDATE

There had been about twenty business burglaries along Ventura Blvd. from the Encino area to Shoup between March 25th to April 21st. There was a recent arrest made, and the person arrested may have been responsible for all of them, especially since there have been no more since his arrest.

There was an arrest made of a robbery suspect who was responsible for about six robberies in the West Valley, three of which were in Encino.

Our home burglaries are down, but burglaries from vehicles are still a problem, though slightly lower.

The residents of Encino are getting more involved in their neighborhoods, which is evident by the recent drop in crime in our area. Our SLO, Rob Trulik, is attending and helping numerous neighborhoods come together by forming Neighborhood Watches. An informed community keeps crime out of their area. They don't provide crimes of opportunity. All of you are doing your part in keeping Encino safer.



CHIEF WILLIAM BRATTON

Thank you to everyone who came to hear Chief Bratton at the Community Center. The meeting included Valley Bureau Chief, Michael Moore, West Valley's Captain John Sherman, and several Senior Lead Officers, including our own SLO, Rob Trulik. Unfortunately, there was not enough publicity about this meeting which was sponsored by the Encino Property Owners' Association. However, those who did attend were treated to a terrific presentation by Chief Bratton and our area officers. He reiterated the importance of an involved community, and explained the problems created by an understaffed police department. He did state that we are on target for increasing the numbers. A lack of commitment to the LAPD by city officials in the past, as well as the Rampart scandal, have contributed to the shortage of officers. Money remains a major problem. Chief Bratton has created a strong communication system between the local and federal government that is crucial if a terrorist act should occur in Los Angeles. It has been described as the best in the country. The Chief talked about the other federal branches of law enforcement that are assisting the LAPD in their fight against gangs.

As you are probably already aware, Chief William Bratton has requested to be reappointed as Police Chief. The Police Commission will be holding a public meeting this Monday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Department of Water and Power Auditorium, 111 North Hope Street. The Commission is accepting written comments which can be emailed to V8834@lapd.lacity.org.

Chief Bratton has stated in his letter of intent, "I believe it is essential for the Commission to receive information whether positive or negative concerning my performance as Chief of Police. Therefore, I would encourage you to make your comments known either by mail, e-mail or in person at the public hearing."

CITRUS SUNDAY

Citrus Sunday is May 6th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and benefits the Food Pantries in the Valley area. It is very easy. Pick the extra citrus fruit from trees in your yard. Put the washed fruit in plastic bags. Drop it off at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd. If you do not have citrus trees, you also can purchase citrus fruit to donate. You can also sign up to pick fruit throughout the Northwest Valley by visiting www.cd12.org or contact Elizabeth Wiessner at elizabeth.wiessner@lacity.org or 818-756-8501.

CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM) CLASSES

The Encino Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee and the Encino Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Committee are sponsoring six CERT classes being held on Monday evenings: May 7, 14, 21, June 4, 11, 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classes will be held at the Encino Community Center Women's Club, 4924 Paso Robles Ave. (across from Genesta Park) Street parking is available, as well as the parking lot of the Encino Presbyterian Church (entered from Balboa). If you have questions, contact Margie Grossman at 818-995-1645 or e-mail at mgecc@webtv.net. There is no charge for these classes. They will provide invaluable information on how to respond to an emergency situation such as an earthquake. Remember: When a disaster occurs, we will have to rely on ourselves, as we have no guarantee our fire and police departments will be able help us.

BENEFIT FOR OUR BRAVEST

"Benefit for our Bravest" is May 19th from noon to 6 p.m. This year the proceeds will benefit "Operation Gratitude." Visit www.benefitforourbravest.org or www.operationgratitude.com for more information. This is a family event with live entertainment, kids zone, fire truck rides, firefighters cooking, silent auction and live auction, and lots of informational booths.

ZERO TOLERANCE GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM



As you drive through Encino, it is apparent that graffiti has increased in our area. West Valley Alliance, which is contracted with the city, is making every attempt to remove the graffiti as soon as possible. To show how much graffiti has increased, West Valley Alliance was once able to remove the graffiti within 24 to 48 hours. It is now taking 5 days. We must stay vigilant and notify West Valley Alliance at (818) 227-9722 or fax the graffiti location to (818) 227-6839 or e-mail to wvalleyalliance@sbcglobal.net. Please have a specific address and the cross street when reporting the location. For acid etching on windows contact Graffiti Control Systems at (800) 794-7384 or by fax at (818) 764-2516.

Please place the West Valley Alliance phone number in your cell phone. This makes it easy to call them as soon as you see the graffiti. There is a \$1000 reward for information that results in the apprehension and conviction of vandalism suspects. If you have any information you can contact LAPD at (818) 756-9891.