



WEST VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 5

West Valley Senior Lead Office - Sergeant Tony Valadez
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda 91335
(818) 374-7630

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Log onto www.lapdonline.org today! You can view information on the crime in your neighborhood, in under "Crime Maps," get the monthly newsletter and sign up for e-policing, a real-time way to get information from LAPD to you!

LAPD YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

The Los Angeles Police Department has undertaken an unprecedented youth outreach program this year. As part of Chief William Bratton's efforts to reduce gang crime in Los Angeles, the Department youth outreach programs have been tasked with working with our local communities and schools in keeping kids in school and out of trouble.

Here in West Valley, the Community Relations Unit is the center of our youth outreach programs. All of the programs are run by tenured police officers, who have expertise in working with juveniles.

The Explorer Program

The West Valley Police Explorer Program is the oldest and most known youth program that the West Valley supports. The program serves four main purposes:

- To provide insight to help a young person determine if they want to pursue a career in law enforcement, by getting involved in real police activities.
- To offer an opportunity to develop a positive relationship with the police officers of West Valley Area

- To give members the proper framework to do better in school and become physically fit.
- To give members a better understanding of our local government and a better understanding of our responsibilities as citizens.

If you know a child that is interested, the requirements are:

- 14 to 20 years old
- Maintain a "C" average in all school work
- No criminal record
- Maintain good moral character
- Good physical condition



Members of the West Valley Explorer Program

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Senior Crime Prevention

4.5 percent of the population in California is made up of people sixty years of age or over. Seniors are living longer, healthier lives today. Census projections anticipate that the Senior population will grow to 16 percent by the year 2020. Many Seniors report that they worry that they will be a victim of crime, due to their age. The fact is that crimes against people over sixty years of age are much less than younger age groups.

This statistical fact should give Seniors a reason to worry less, but not worry at all. There are still people out there that look to victimize our communities and make an easy buck at our expense. Burglaries, assaults, scams, and other crimes still occur and everyone must be vigilant.

There are three rules that will minimize a Senior from becoming a victim of crime:

1. **STAY ALERT:** Be tuned into your surroundings. Don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and prepared, even in your own neighborhood.
2. **STAND TALL:** Walk confidently and don't show fear.
3. **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS:** If you don't feel right in a place or situation, leave right away and get help, if needed.

Senior scams are a common problem. Don't let ANYONE talk you into doing something you are uncomfortable with. If you it sounds "too good to be true," it probably is.

ABANDONED HOMES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The bad economy has hit some people harder than others. Unfortunately, many have been forced out of their homes, due to foreclosure. You probably know of a house or two in your neighborhood that has been sitting empty.

These empty homes can attract squatters, transients, truants, drug users, and others that can bring problems into your neighborhood.

If you have an empty house in your neighborhood, please keep an eye on it and report any unusual activity to your Senior Lead Officer, at 818-374-7630. It is easier to address a problem at an empty home at the start, than to let it grow and overcome the neighborhood.

ARE YOU PREPARED??

Are you prepared for the next natural disaster? Whether it is a brush fire, earthquake, or tornado (Yes I said tornado...we have experienced the occasional tornado), you and your family need to be prepared.

The Red Cross website (<http://www.redcross.org/>) breaks down what you need to prepare your family, home, and workplace for the next natural disaster. It is very simple to get ready. Some of the things you will need to do are:

- Identify two ways to escape from every room in the home.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- Select a safe location away from the home where your family can meet after escaping.
- Consider purchasing and storing escape ladders for rooms above ground level and make sure to learn how to use them.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out.
- If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke.
- Before escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second escape route.
- If smoke, heat or flames block both of your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Place a rolled towel underneath the door. Signal for help by waving a brightly colored cloth or shining a flashlight at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and let them know your exact location inside the home.
- Once you've escaped, stay out.

WEST VALLEY SENIOR LEAD OFFICE

West Valley Community Relations Unit
OIC-Sgt II Cedric Ingram
Office #: (818) 374-7630

West Valley SLO Supervisor
Sgt. Tony Valadez
Desk #: (818) 374-7636

10A3-North Reseda
(north of Sherman Way)
SLO Royal Barber
Desk # (818) 374-7629
Cell # (818) 731-2580

**10A17-Lake Balboa and
Balboa/Woodley Park**
SLO David Ham
Desk # (818) 374-7634
Cell # (818) 731-2551

10A21-South Reseda
(south of Sherman Way)
SLO Isela Parra
Desk # (818) 374-7631
Cell # (818) 731-2574

**10A39-West Van Nuys and
The Van Nuys Airport**
SLO Saul Paredes
Desk # (818) 374-7635
Cell # (818) 731-2554

10A83-Tarzana
SLO Daryl Scoggins
Desk # (818) 374-7632
Cell # (818) 731-2573

10A99-Encino
SLO Robert Trulik
Desk # (818) 374-7637
Cell # (818) 731-2572

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Schedule:

West Valley Area C-PAB Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 @ 7:00 pm
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda
(818) 374-7690

Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
West Valley Station-Community Room
19020 Vanowen Street
(818) 374-7631

Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting
Tuesday May 26, 2009 @ 7:30 PM
LAPD West Valley Station
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda
(818) 374-7632

Encino Neighborhood Watch Meetings
Dates and times vary.
Please contact SLO Rob Trulik for more
information.
(818) 374-7637

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch
Meetings**
Dates and times vary.
Please contact SLO David Ham or SLO
Saul Paredes for more information.
(818) 374-7634 or (818) 374-7635

**All times and dates are subject to change. Please
call the Senior Lead Officer to verify prior to
attending.**

***JOIN THE WEST VALLEY AREA
VOLUNTEER SURVEILLANCE TEAM***

Are you interested in helping your community?
Do you want to help the police catch "bad guys?"
Then join the Volunteer Surveillance Team.

For more information, contact Sergeant Tony
Valadez at (818) 374-7630.

"Leave It, Lose It"

Don't Leave Any Valuables
Visible In Your Parked Vehicle



Crime Prevention Tips

- Lock your vehicle and close your windows
- Use steering column locks
- Use a vehicle alarm system
- Park your vehicle in a garage
- Park close to streetlights.
- Do not leave garage remotes in your vehicle
- Report suspicious activity to the police
- Check your vehicle periodically
- *IPODS, LAPTOPS, GPS, AND CELL PHONES are Prime Targets*

For more crime prevention information call
LAPD-West Valley Area Senior Lead Office at (818) 374-7630

www.lapdonline.org