





# **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS**

Volume 11, Issue 8 West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 August 2008 Sergeant Tony Valadez

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

## Please join us for NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

National Night Out will be on August 5, 2008. This event will take the place of each area's regularly scheduled Neighborhood Watch meeting. National Night Out is a nationwide Neighborhood Watch effort that began in 1984 to increase safety and awareness in our neighborhoods. Please plan on joining us for a celebration of Community, crime fighting and fun. We will be barbecuing hot dogs at Warner Center Park (21820 Califa St) from 5pm-9pm. We will have activities for the kids and crime prevention info for the adults.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Senior Lead Office** (818) 374-7630.

10A3- Canoga Park, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron, cell (818) 731-2583.

10A27-Reseda north of Sherman Way, Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber, cell (818) 731-2569.

10A33-Winnetka, Senior Lead Officer Jose Maldonado, cell (818) 731-2569.

10A47-Reseda south of Sherman Way, Senior Lead Officer Jodie McGee, cell (818) 731-2574. 10A51-West Hills, Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein, cell (818) 731-2570.

10A57-West Winnetka, South Canoga Park, Senior Lead Officer Jerry Velasquez, cell (818 731-2578.

10A67-Tarzana, Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins, cell (818) 731-2573.

10A73/75-Woodland Hills, Senior Lead Officer Sean Dinse, cell (818) 731-2568.

10A87-Encino, Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik, cell (818) 731-2572. You can look up crime activity in your neighborhood on-line at <a href="www.lapdonline.org">www.lapdonline.org</a> or <a href="www.lapdorimemaps.org">www.lapdorimemaps.org</a>.

### **Crime and Arrest Information**

Below is a snapshot of a few of the investigations and arrests that officers have made in West Valley in the past couple of weeks:

- 22600 Ventura Blvd. Officers on routine patrol saw a man standing in front of a closed restaurant acting suspiciously. As the police car approached, the man (suspect) alerted a second suspect, who was behind the closed restaurant loading material into a truck. The officers watched the second suspect flee over a fence. The pair were stealing building material from a construction site next to the closed restaurant. The building materials were recovered from the truck. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of the second suspect several days later. (10A75)
- Fallbrook Ave. and Del Valle St. West Valley Vice officers made several arrests for Drinking in Public after observing three individuals drinking beer near the 7-11 store. (10A73)
- 21500 Yucatan St. an arrest was made for Filming Without a Permit, after officers investigated complaints of ongoing commercial filming without permits. (10A75)
- Fallbrook Ave. and Roscoe Blvd. Officers observed a man on a motorcycle fail to stop for a posted stop sign. A check of the license plate identified the motorcycle as a stolen vehicle. Officers initiated a stop of the suspect. The suspect exited the motorcycle and ran towards a house, where he picked up a small child. The suspect used the small child as a shield from the officers arresting him. The child was having difficulty breathing from the way she was being held. Officers used a leg sweep and firm grips to extricate the child from the suspects grip and take the suspect into custody. The child was not harmed. Officers also recovered a key which had been "shaved" which is how the suspect had been starting the stolen motorcycle. The suspect was arrested for Grand Theft Auto. (10A51)
- Officers made several arrests for vandalism (graffiti) throughout the West Valley Area. We know that this is an ongoing problem for all of our communities, and we are doing our best to address it.
- 7900 Jamieson Ave. Officers responded to a radio call of gunshots fired at a party when they observed known gang members in a vehicle outside the location of the call. Officers stopped the vehicle to investigate the possibility of the gang members in the vehicle being linked to the shots fired incident. Upon approaching the vehicle, the officers saw a metal gas cylinder on the floor of the vehicle. The gas cylinder had condensation on its exterior. These cylinders are commonly used to hold and transport Nitrous Oxide to parties, and the condensation indicated that the canister had been used to dispense the gaseous substance quite recently. Further investigation revealed an additional cylinder in the trunk of the vehicle, and rubber balloons in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. The rubber balloons are also used to dispense the Nitrous Oxide to purchasers for consumption. The individual in possession of the cylinders was arrested for possession of Nitrous Oxide.

There was no evidence of shots fired at the party, and the rest of the suspects and partygoers were released. (10A27)

## **Burglary Prevention**

Having your home burglarized is a traumatic and frustrating experience, not to mention the loss of valuables and damage to property.

Although burglary is a property crime, it is unique in that the victim has something sacred taken away that is difficult to replace (the feeling of safety and security in one's own home).

There are several things you can do to lessen the chances that you will be a victim, Most of the following recommendations are relatively easy and inexpensive. The more you do to prevent your home from being burglarized, the less likely you will be one of this year's statistics.

Please take the time to read this page and protect your home. Together we can make a difference and reduce crime in your neighborhood.

#### **Alarms**

Alarm systems are good deterrents and are recommended. Obtain several estimates from reliable alarm companies. Find a system that fits your needs and finances.

#### Doors

Exterior doors should be solid core wood or metal. Door hinges for all exterior doors should be on the interior or have non-removable pins.

#### **Door locks**

Double deadbolt locks (key on both sides) are the most secure type of locks for doors. Three-inch screws should be used to secure the strike plate to the door frame. The deadbolt should extend at least one inch into the door frame. Caution: If you use a double deadbolt, always have a key readily available in the event of an emergency.

#### **Peepholes**

If you do not have a window near your front door, have a peephole installed. *Never open the door for strangers.* If you do not recognize the person, ask from the closed door what he/she wants. If you are suspicious, call the police at 911.

#### Sliding glass doors and windows

Sliding glass doors and windows can be lifted or pried off the tracks. To prevent this, a wood bar or anti-lift plate can be easily installed to the upper track. Various types of locking devices are available at hardware stores or from lock smiths. Charlie bars are also recommended. Charlie bars are bars that can be lowered into place at the end of a sliding glass door or window to prevent opening (similar to a broomstick in the track).

Metal bars and grills can make windows secure, but they can be expensive and may not appeal to everyone. If bars are used, make sure a quick release mechanism is installed to ensure the bars can be opened from the inside in the event of an emergency.

#### Plants, shrubbery, walls, and fences

If your doors and windows cannot be seen by your neighbors or from the street, the intruder cannot be seen either. Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed low or away from doors and windows. Walls and fences add to security by creating an obstacle to intruders; however, they may also provide concealment for an intruder. By obtaining privacy, you may compromise security. Design your wall or fence to allow the exterior areas of your home to be visible

(continued)

#### Dogs

Dogs are good deterrents. Most intruders will avoid a house with a dog, especially one that barks. "Beware of Dog" signs and other indications of a dog can also dissuade a burglar from entering your home.

#### **Inventory your property**

Record the makes, models, and serial numbers of tools, electronics, and appliances, etc. Obtain full descriptions of jewelry and, if possible, photograph expensive jewelry. Mark items with your name, birth date, or other identifying numbers or symbols with an engraver's tool. Engraver's tools are inexpensive and can be found at most hardware stores

#### **Neighborhood Watch Meeting Schedule:**

Canoga Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting The second Tuesday of the month 7248 Owensmouth Ave 7pm.

Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting Call for details. 374-7637

Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting The second Thursday of the month West Valley Police Station 7pm.

Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting The third Tuesday of the month West Valley Police Station 7:30pm. South Canoga Park/ West Winnetka Neighborhood Watch Meeting The third Tuesday of the month 20830 Sherman Way, Canoga Park 7pm.

Winnetka Neighborhood Watch Meeting The second Thursday of the month 6844 Oakdale Ave. 7pm.

West Hills Neighborhood Watch Meeting The second Monday of the month 7633 March Ave, West Hills 7pm.

Woodland Hills Neighborhood Watch Meeting The second Tuesday of the month 22200 Ventura Blvd (Woodland Hills Library) 6:30pm.

All times and dates are subject to change. Please call the Senior Lead Officer to verify the meeting dates prior to attending, or get on the mailing list for your area to receive a monthly mailer for your meeting!