

Message from the Commanding Officer, Devonshire Area

The officers of Devonshire Area do the best job they can to “protect and to serve” you, the public. In spite of their best efforts, recent numbers of property crimes in the division have risen by 11% (as of 1-23-10). While that percentage seems like an ominous spike, let me break it down for you. At this time last year, we had 65 burglaries. This year we have 79. Those numbers include business and residential burglaries. Last year we had 46 Grand Theft Auto (GTA) crimes. This year we have 53. At this time last year, Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/TFMV) crimes stood at 129, while currently they total 135. At this time last year, theft crimes (including shoplifting) totaled 92 crimes, while this year, they stand at 103. As you can see, 14 more burglaries, seven more GTAs, six additional B/TFMV’s, and an increase of nine thefts bumped our statistics upward.

There are a number of factors you and I can’t control that may be influencing these numbers. But what we can control is the partnership between the Police Department and the community it serves. I’ve told you before; our officers can’t fight crime themselves. We need ‘your eyes’, ‘your ears’, and ‘your knowledge of your neighborhoods’ to help us reduce the fear and incidence of crime.

Please attend your Basic Car meetings, start a Neighborhood Watch program on your street and learn how to help us “drive that “spike of crime” right back down”.

BASIC CAR AREA 17A23

Senior Lead Officer Daniel Del Valle, Cell Phone: (818) 634-0362
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Crime Trends and Locations - Our area has experienced a rise with regard to Grand Theft Auto (GTA) this past month. The types of vehicles currently on the ‘Hot List’ that suspects are stealing are pick-up trucks. Please report suspicious activity - don’t wait for your neighbor to call!

Crime Tips - Unattended open garage doors are an attraction to potential thieves. Please remember to close your garage doors if you are not in the immediate area. It only takes seconds for a thief to walk in and walk off with your property. Mark your valuables with your driver’s license number. Law enforcement can attempt to locate a victim, if we have a number that can be referenced.

Commendable Officer Incident - Officers Daryl Lee and Maricela Verdin responded to a Residential Burglary call in the 19100 block of Index. Officers gathered information of a possible suspect, but were unable to locate. The following day, an anonymous citizen alerted Officer Lee that the suspect was in the area. Officers located suspect, conducted a thorough investigation resulting in the arrest and recovery of stolen property. Great job by the community and officers!

Neighborhood Events – Our meetings are held every 4th Thursday of the month. **The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting for Basic Car 17A23 is Thursday, March 5, 2010, at 9901 Mason Ave. St. John Eudes Church, at 7:00PM.**

BASIC CAR AREA 17A35

Senior Lead Officer Dario Del Core, Cell Phone: (818) 634-0577

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Crime Trends and Locations - We are seeing an increase in Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/FMV) activity in Granada Hills and Northridge, affecting particularly the areas in the vicinity of O'Melveny Park (Sesnon Boulevard and Orozco Avenue) and Reseda Boulevard and Devonshire Street, in the North/West parking lot. These incidents are occurring during the day, between 7:00AM and 7:00PM. Purses have been the most common item taken. **Please make every effort to remove all valuables from plain site. No loose items should be left visible within the passenger compartment of your vehicle.** In my tenure as a police officer I have seen vehicles being broken into for as little as a handful of loose coins.

Crime Tips - Neighborhood Watch works well, and we are always interested in expanding the program. If you would like to organize your block and have every neighbor look out for each other, contact the Devonshire Senior Lead Office at 818 363-1726 and ask how you can go about setting up a "**start up meeting**".

Neighborhood Events - Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:00PM at St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone Ave. in Granada Hills.

BASIC CAR AREA 17A49

Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles, Cell Phone: (818) 325-7749

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Crime Trends and Locations – Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/FMV) has decreased from 41 to 39. Burglaries have increased from 16 to 18. Grand Theft Auto (GTA) has decreased from 11 to eight. Robberies have remained the same with two incidents. The area between the 118 Fwy. and Devonshire Street is being hit the hardest I cannot reiterate often enough - **DO NOT leave ANYTHING in your vehicles, REGARDLESS OF THE VALUE!!!**

Commendable Officer Incidents - I would like to thank the Devonshire Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) for all their hard work and dedication put forth on behalf of this community. Members of VST worked nights into the early morning hours, attempting to catch graffiti, B/TFMV and GTA suspects. **If you are interested in learning more about the VST program, or becoming a member, please contact Officer Mark Blizzard at (818) 363-1726.**

Crime Tips - Remember to use extra precautions when driving or walking in the rain. If you're using your windshield wipers, then your headlights should be on. Don't overdrive, and leave distance between you and the vehicles around you. Check your windshield wipers twice a year. Don't drive in deep or moving water! Try to avoid quick or heavy braking. Allow extra time to get to your destination! Stay safe!

Neighborhood Events – Our next Basic Car meeting will be March 23, 2010 at 7:00PM, 10124 Balboa Boulevard (Fire Station 87). Guest Speaker to be announced.

BASIC CAR AREA 17A67

Senior Lead Officer Kathy Bennett, Cell Phone: (818) 634-0495
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Crime Trends and Locations – Our Basic Car has seen an increase in Grand Theft Auto (GTA) crimes. While most of these crimes are occurring along the Reseda corridor, I'm also seeing scattered GTA crimes throughout the Basic Car Area. If possible, park and lock your car in your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in your driveway or in a well-lighted area. If you have an alarm system, use it. If you have other anti-theft devices use those as well. **And remember, always lock your car!**

Commendable Citizen Incident – Citizens in the Devonshire Basic Car database receive a phone call each month to remind you to attend your respective meetings. Volunteer, Don Hoffman, records those professional-sounding messages. Because there are six Basic Car meetings, Don is kind enough to accommodate us and comes to the office six times a month to record each message. The amazing thing is he gets it right on the first take. Thanks, Don!

Crime Tips – You don't have to answer your front door when someone knocks or rings the bell, but it's a good idea to let them know someone is at home. You can call out through the door, "Can I help you?" or "We're not interested." If the person at your front door is a burglar and wants to see if you're at home, you've let them know the house is occupied.

Neighborhood Events – Our next Basic Car meeting will be on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 7:00PM at Calahan Elementary School, 18722 Knapp St. Hope to see you there!

BASIC CAR AREA 17A81

Senior Lead Officer Sue Herold, Cell Phone: (818) 634-0579
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Crime Trends and Locations - The first part of the New Year has been fortunate for 17A81. While hoping not to speak too soon, I will say we have not seen the normal increase in property crimes as of the writing of this newsletter. Let's keep up the good work and spread the word to keep lights on (in and outside), leave on some talk radio or TV while away from home, and keep solicitations and newspapers cleaned up from our yards.

Crime Tip - It is proven pride of ownership (physically maintaining your residence) and a Neighborhood Watch Program that are two outstanding ways to keep your neighborhood safe, develop friendships, and reduce the incidence of crime. Let's get involved! Please tell all your friends and neighbors to join their Neighborhood Watch Program wherever they live and show them this newsletter so they can be informed! Please e-mail me with your concerns or requests for Block Club meetings at 24732@lapd.lacity.org

Neighborhood Events - The Basic Car meetings for 17A81 are held at Devonshire Station at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month. March 18, 2010, is our next meeting here at Devonshire Station at 7:00PM.

BASIC CAR AREA 17A95

Acting Senior Lead Officer Carl Oschmann, Cell Phone: (818) 363-1726
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Crime Trends and Locations – Residential burglaries are still prevalent in this Basic Car. The crimes are occurring during the day while people are at work. If you are home during the day, be alert to strangers and suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Don't hesitate to call the non-emergency dispatch number at (877) 275-5273.

Crime Tips – **Be sure to lock your car and remove valuables prior to leaving your vehicle unattended.** Don't give the crooks a reason to break into your car.

Neighborhood Events - **Our next Basic Car meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 7: 00PM at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer Street in Northridge.**
Our guest speakers will be Captain Sean Kane and Sergeant Larry Bavaro.