



# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Devonshire Area Neighborhood Watch Newsletter ♦ July 2013

## Message from the Commanding Officer, Devonshire Area

Greetings all,

I certainly hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful summer season. Please continue to make mental note of the advice offered by your Senior Lead Officers in their crime prevention tips section of this newsletter. The reality is, we have had a slight increase in some reported property crimes and street robberies in the last few weeks and my wish is that "there to be no more". Safety for you and your families is always my greatest concern. We focus our efforts on not only apprehending the suspect of these criminal acts, but also on prevention - everyday! With that being said, some community highlights to be mentioned are the Special Olympic Torch Run and the "Ride the COLT" bicycle rally that occurred last month. Your Devonshire SLO's, patrol officers, and students from your local schools participated in these great event. It was quite a sight to see and for a great cause. The "COLT" ride was one of the best outdoor family events of the year. It was great to see so many participants. Thanks to all of you that showed your support at both of these events.

I would like to close by wishing everyone a happy and safe 4th of July holiday and weekend. One of the best fireworks show in the area is being held here, right in your Devonshire area. It will be at Shepherd of the Hills Church, in Porter Ranch. Where ever you choose to celebrate the holiday, please be aware of your surroundings and be prepared for the high temperatures. A little further out on the horizon is our next Town Hall meeting and National Night Out coming up in August. Be sure to check next month's Newsletter for details. Take care and be safe.



Kris E. Pitcher, Captain  
Commanding Officer  
Devonshire Community Police Station

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**BASIC CAR AREA HIGHLIGHTS**  
SLO Supervisor, Sgt. Ruthann Scott  
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**Basic Car Area 17A23**  
Senior Lead Officer Dan Del Valle  
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## CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

Unfortunately, there has been an increase of Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/TFMV) in our area. The majority of these crimes are occurring between Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Winnetka Ave, from Chatsworth St. on the north - to Lassen St. on the south. **Please do not forget to hide your valuables from view and to lock your vehicles.** On the bright side, our Basic Car Area is down in overall crime. We are at -9%!

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

With the summer season in full swing, here are a few tips on burglary prevention. Always keep your doors and windows locked, especially when you are out and about. And, keep your home well-lit at night. Keep your curtains closed or use sheer curtains, so people passing by cannot see the inside of your house. Install a peephole in your front door, so you can see callers without opening the door. **Do not open your doors to strangers** - no matter who they are! If a stranger asks to use your telephone, you can offer to place the call for them yourself. **Never let a stranger into your home! Never give out information over the phone. Never let strangers know you are alone or that you will not be home at a particular time.** When you are gone for more than a day, make sure your home looks and sounds occupied. Use automatic timers to turn on lights and a radio or television.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS

The next **Basic Car 17A23 Neighborhood Watch Meeting is Thursday, July 25, 2013.** Our meetings are held @ 7:00PM every 4th Thursday of the month @ Saint John Eudes Church located at 9901 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth.

**Basic Car Area 17A35**  
Senior Lead Officer Dario Del Core  
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## CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

The Basic Car Area is doing fantastic having reached a very significant 8.5% decrease in Part-1 crimes compared to the same time period, last year. Considering the present economy and the totality of the circumstances affecting the present social environment, the current reduction in crime is nothing short of simply amazing. Good job to all of you for practicing effective prevention measures and for timely reporting of incidents of crime. Also, good job to our Devonshire Patrol Officers for a series of very significant arrests. The residential burglaries in the Basic Car Area, for the month of May, totaled a mere 11! A "day and night difference" compared to our 41 in January.

## CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

Please remember the process for reporting suspicious activity. It is a two-prong approach that we need to determine: (1) Is the activity out of the ordinary? and (2) Is the activity likely related to a crime? If the answer to both these questions are "yes", then please make the call to our non-emergency dispatch at **1-877-275-5373.** Be ready to give as much detail as possible.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Saint Euphrasia Church, 11767 Shoshone Avenue in Granada Hills.**

## Basic Car Area 17A49

Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles

Cell (818) 325-7749 - E-mail: 30392@lapd.lacity.org

**CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS** - The following crime statistics are from April 7 to May 4, 2013. In our Basic Car Area, there were (2) Grand Theft Autos; (0) Robberies; (9) Thefts; (9) Burglaries; (1) Aggravated Assault; and (24) Burglary/Thefts from Motor Vehicles, with no particular crime clusters. This is significantly lower than last month! Year-to-date, we have reduced crime in our Basic Car. We are now at -17.8% crime for this year!

### CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

Every year, numerous children and adults are injured as a result of playing with fireworks. The summer months are the driest time of the year, which increases the chance of fires to be ignited due to fireworks. Many people believe if they purchase fireworks from vendors, they are legal. However, this is not the case in the City of Los Angeles. **Fireworks of any kind, including the "Safe and Sane" variety, are illegal within the City of Los Angeles.** Law enforcement will enforce appropriate laws.

Community members who wish to observe fireworks displays are encouraged to attend one of the many professional shows put on throughout the city. These locations may be obtained by visiting the website at [www.safejuly4th.org](http://www.safejuly4th.org).

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 23, 2013 is the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting for Basic Car 17A49.** Don't forget, our meetings are held every 4th Tuesday of the month at Emeritus, located at 17650 Devonshire Street, at 7:00PM.

## Basic Car Area 17A67

Senior Lead Officer Ignacio Murillo

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### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

We have experienced an increase of gang-related crimes. There have been two shooting incidents in the Northridge area. The first incident occurred near Parthenia St. and Vanalden Ave. where two male victims were struck by gunfire. The second incident occurred approximately one week later in the area of Lindley Ave. and Roscoe Blvd., where two male victims were also struck by gunfire. Please be aware of your surroundings.

**If you encounter any gang crime, don't get involved, get yourself to a safe location and call 911 immediately.**

### CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

This month we are celebrating Independence Day. With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. However, before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety. **Remember that lighting fireworks at home is not legal in the City of Los Angeles,** nor our Devonshire community. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries to kids and adults. The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home — period! It is recommended that you attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting to the professionals. Don't ruin your Independence Day celebration by getting cited, arrested, or causing injury to yourself or a loved one.

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS** - Our next Basic Car Meeting will be **Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at Calahan Elementary School, 18722 Knapp Street, in Northridge.**

## Basic Car Area 17A81

Senior Lead Officer John Parker

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### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

Our Basic Car Area is doing well at the present time, enjoying an 8% decrease in Part-1 crimes over the same time period last year. We had started off the year with a significant increase in Grand Theft Autos. Motorcycles and automobiles were being stolen predominately from the areas around apartment buildings. For some months now, through sound crime prevention practices and enforcement efforts, the activity has been progressively decreasing. Another positive aspect is evident in the number of burglaries; we've had 59 for the year so far, versus 80 for the same time period last year. Keep up the good work!

**CRIME TIPS** - Preventing Auto Theft - The most frequently stolen vehicles have been the late '80's and early '90's model Toyota Camry, Honda Civic and Honda Accord. These vehicles have been targeted because of the ease in which they can be stolen. Owners of these vehicles should take precautions to prevent their vehicles from being stolen. Applying a device, which locks the steering wheel or brakes is a good tool to use in preventing auto theft.

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS** - Our next Basic Car Meeting will be on **July 18, 2013 at 21001 Plummer Street (Sunburst Mobile Home Park) at 7:00 PM.**

## Basic Car Area 17A95

"Acting" Senior Lead Officer Mark Blizzard

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30081@lapd.lacity.org



### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

For the year of 2013 we have experienced 63 Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles, 36 GTAs, 74 Burglaries and 59 Thefts.

**I would like to remind everyone to lock your doors and windows!** Please watch out for any suspicious activity in your area. Most of the Residential Burglaries are occurring during the day. A commonly-used tactic utilized by burglars is to knock on your front door, ensure no one answers, then go around to the back of house and break in via unlocked windows or doors, or to force entry by some other means.

**CRIME TIPS** - The Los Angeles Police Department does **NOT solicit funds by telephone nor has it authorized any outside organization to conduct fund raising on its behalf. These calls are being made by telemarketing firms.** The person on the other end of the phone is not a police officer. They will use high-pressure tactics to get you to write a check and will attempt to convince you that its fund-raising activities are supported by Federal, State or Local Law Enforcement agencies. The only organization making money from this type of solicitation is the telemarketing firm. We urge you to use extreme caution should you decide to contribute. Always ask for the caller's name, address and telephone number so that you may call back after careful consideration. Most of them will not give you this information. If in doubt, please call the Police Department.

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS** - The next Basic Car meeting will be on **Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 7:00 PM, at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer Street.**