



Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter



Serving the Communities of: Canoga Park,
West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka

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Topanga Community Relations Office (818) 756-3180

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www.LAPDTOPANGAPOLICE.com

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21501 Schoenborn Street, Canoga Park, CA 91304

Captain's Corner

A message from Captain Tom Brascia

If you aren't already a member of a neighborhood watch group for your area, and you want to find out how you can help prevent crime in your neighborhood, you have an ongoing problem you would like addressed or just want to know more about what is going on in your neighborhood, I suggest you join. At Topanga, we have seven Basic Car Areas, led by a Senior Lead Officer (SLO) who hosts a neighborhood watch meeting on a monthly basis. A SLO is an officer specially assigned to take leadership over a set area of the division and work with the officers who patrol that area as well as the community members who reside or work there. They address the ongoing problems in the area, quality of life issues and many other problems that may arise.

For a list of the Senior Lead Officers, the areas they cover and when their monthly neighborhood watch meetings are, please visit our website:
www.LAPDTopangaPolice.com.



Topanga Jeopardy Program:

Written By: Officer Maria Davalos

Many of you have heard of our Jeopardy Program, but many have asked what is it?

It is a program that targets "at risk" youth, offering a variety of educational programs by combining the strength of the community, neighborhood schools,

and the Police Department. The Topanga Jeopardy Program meets at the rear of Canoga Park High School campus (the corner of Jordan Ave and Hart St.). During the summer hours, we meet Tuesday-Friday from 12:00 pm-4:30 pm, and during the school year, Tuesday-Friday from 3-6 p.m.

We have great plans for the program. With the help of the local colleges, we are planning on having mentors and tutors to assist the youth with their personal lives and school work load. Throughout summer we will be working on developing a curriculum to build trust between peers and adults. That is why it is important for the parents to be an active participant in their children's lives, not just at home, but outside their home.

If you are having issues with your child (ages 8-17), and are looking for a program for them to channel their energy and build long lasting relationships with their peers and the community, this is the program for them. Throughout summer, we will be visiting several facilities and recreational places for the youth to explore while at the same time gain knowledge of the possibilities that exist outside their community.

It is simple; youth programs help kids stay off the streets and out of trouble. If you would like to contribute to the Jeopardy Program or another Topanga Youth Program, simply contact the Topanga Area Community Relations Office at (818) 756-3180.

Remember, that "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." -Frederick Douglass

West Hills (North) Basic Car Area (21A1):

Written By: Senior Lead Officer Dennis Cunningham

The Basics for Burglary Prevention:

- #1. Make your home appear occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- #2. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- #3. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- #4. Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- #5. Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- #6. Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended period of time.
- #7. Check the locks on your doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- #8. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.



West Hills (South) Basic Car Area (21A43):

Written By: Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra

Distraction Burglary Prevention Tips:

Distraction Burglaries target the Valley and our great neighborhoods. Here are a few crime tips to avoid being burglarized by one of these suspects:

If you get one of these guys at your door and you have already opened the door: (*You should always keep your door locked*)...Remember the acronym

C.A.R.D.I.A.C.:

1. Check their ID and write their name. Keep a notepad with a pen near the front door, so that you don't give them an opening.
 2. Ask questions. For example, which neighbor needs work? Ask for a copy of the order; What is your neighbors name and number? Get a hold of your neighbor.
 3. Refuse and Reschedule, in the interim call your neighbor to verify the information.
 4. Don't let them in your house! Whatever you do.
 5. Information, gather as much of it as you can.
 6. Always get a good suspect and vehicle description (license plate, make, and model).
 7. Call police.
- C.A.R.D.I.A.C.



Canoga Park Basic Car Area (21A5):

Written By: Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron

Backing Up with Your Brain in Gear

How often have you just missed hitting another car or pedestrian when backing up in the mall parking lot, or worse, out of your own driveway? Even if you are not distracted by a cellphone, combing your hair, or adjusting whatever, you need to follow faithfully a few life-saving strategies:

Before getting into your car, look for approaching pedestrians, check for a clear pathway, and see how close those behemoth SUV's are to your car.

Mirrors are good, but visibility is increased by looking out your rear window—check for fast-moving children and pets, or bikes and skateboards left on the driveway.

Most of all, be alert—back up slowly, always expecting the unexpected.



Winnetka Basic Car Area (21A29):

Written By: Senior Lead Officer Jose Maldonado

Recently, there has been an increase in Auto Thefts and Burglary from Motor Vehicles in the Winnetka area.

We would like the public to protect their property by following a few simple tips:

-Please never leave any items inside your vehicle (cell phones, IPODs, GPS systems, Laptops, backpacks, packages, bags, boxes, This includes jackets and blankets the thieves may think some is hidden under the clothing).

-Most thieves break into cars when something inside the vehicle attracts their attention. Very seldom thieves break into someone's vehicle and hope there is something inside. The majority of thefts occurred when something of value was left in the vehicle and it is visible from the outside.

-Install anti-theft devices such as steering wheel lock and or a kill switch to disable the motor.

-Install an auto alarm system in your car.

-Park your car in a well light secured location or a busy area.

-Report any suspicious activity to the Police by dialing 911 for emergencies or 877 ASK-LAPD (877 275-5273) for all other non-emergencies.



Woodland Hills (West) Basic Car Area (21A73):

Written By: Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh

Cyber Crime

The Internet has shown us many great technological advances and made many of our daily activities easier.

Maps, traffic, news, finding a great deal, finding long lost friends, and keeping up with loved ones have become instantaneous and simple. As the designated "computer geek" of our office, I am constantly relying on technology to get things done faster and better. Unfortunately, with the good

comes the bad. The Internet has made it easier for crooks to target you. This article is not about general e-commerce. While some of us are leery of making purchases on the web, generally your Internet purchases tend to be *much* more secure than most of the other places where you use your card (restaurant, gas station, ATM, etc.).

The advances of the globally connected world have brought about a host of new types of criminal activity. Nonsense sounding terms like Phishing, Phreaking, Spoofing, Bluejacking, Snarfing and many more, describe various ways to try and scam you out of your hard earned money. With the summer vacation season underway, I would like to give a few simple tips to help keep you safer, especially in your travels to friends, family, and places I've probably never heard of.

#1. Do not click on any email links for anything financial. Emails from your bank, broker, lender, etc. that ask you to click a link may look real, but clicking that link may lead you to a site that looks exactly like your bank's site with the hopes of capturing your account and password.

If you bank electronically like I do (without any problems for 10 years now), you should type the bank's internet address into the address bar at the top of your browser. The address is usually listed on the back of your bank card.

#2. Don't log into any financial accounts with a public computer. Internet cafes, Hotel guest computers, libraries, etc., have computers available for use, but they may have "keyloggers" installed that will capture your information as you type it.

#3. One of the newest trends in Cyber Crime involves hotel/motel wireless internet. If you are going to use a wireless internet connection while travelling, be sure of the name of the connection. A crook may have set up a free connection with a similar name to try and capture your information. Insecure wireless connections can easily lead to data loss.

There are many more ways to protect yourself from the thieves that try to hijack your money. For more information please visit the FBI internet crimes website at www.IC3.gov

Senior Lead Officer Contact Information:

SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1
(Northern portion of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)
Office (818) 756-3073 Cell (818) 731-2578
Email 34966@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A1 meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Alex Padron, Basic Car 21A5
(North Canoga Park)
Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583
Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A5 meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29
(Winnetka)
Office (818) 756-3079 Cell (818) 731-2569
Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A29 meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.
▪SLO Jose Maldonado holds a Spanish speaking Neighborhood Watch for any residents within the Topanga Police Area on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43
(Southern portion of West Hills)
Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558
Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A43/21A1 meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57
(South Canoga Park and Topanga malls)
Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570
Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A57 meeting is held every 4th Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73
(Woodland Hills, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)
Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581
Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A73 meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Sean Dinse, Basic Car 21A97
(Woodland Hills, East of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)
Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568
Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org
▪The 21A97 meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.
For crime information in your area go to:
www.crimemapping.com

For arrests go to: www.dailynews.com

Please visit our website at:
www.lapdtopangapolice.com

Contact us via our station email address (topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org) with any concerns you have.

Thank you,
The Topanga Area Community Relations Office