





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 3 West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 Sergeant Frank Avila

March 2010

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

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WEST VALLEY AREA!

JOIN LAPD'S RIDE TO ARREST CANCER

Saturday, March 13 - Registration 7:00 a.m. – Bike Pursuit 8:00 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Los Angeles Police Cancer Support Group. Bike Ride starts at Valley Traffic Division, 7870 Nollan Place, at The Plant in Panorama City and stops at various Valley Police Stations. \$25.00 Pre-Registration, \$30.00 Day of Ride; Registration for kids under 12 is \$15.00. Register at www.ridetoarrestcancer.com

STUDENT SAFETY COMMUNITY IN ACTION MEETING

Thursday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m.

L.A.P.D.'s West Valley Area is partnering with Councilman Dennis P. Zine, the Los Angeles Unified School District and Revitalize Reseda to focus on ways to get parents and community members involved in crime abatement, school safety and gang prevention. Please join our guest speakers in the Reseda High School Auditorium located at 18230 Kittridge St. in Reseda. All parents and community members are welcome! For more information call (818) 756-8848.

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, March 27 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center, the Office of Councilman Dennis P. Zine, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Reseda and Tarzana Neighborhood Councils are partnering to host a program with presentations and workshops which will prove seniors with information on topics to include: Identity Theft, Brain Health, Emergency Preparedness, Fall Prevention and much, much more! FREE TO ALL!! To register and reserve your space, please call Department of the Aging, (213) 252-3323. Symposium will be held at ONEgeneration located at 18255 Victory Blvd. in Reseda. Additional parking available at Reseda High School on Lindley Ave., north of Victory.

BOWLING FOR BOOSTERS

Sunday, March 28 - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

2nd annual event to benefit West Valley Area L.A.P.D. Enjoy an afternoon of bowling, silent auction, food, trophies and fun! Canoga Park Bowl, 20122 Vanowen St., Winnetka (corner of Winnetka Ave. and Vanowen St.) Come join in!

CREDIT CARD FRAUD PREVENTION:

- When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the memo line of the check. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
- Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a post office box use that address instead of your home address. If you do not have a post office box, use your work address. Never have your social security number or driver's license number printed on your checks. If you have it printed, anyone has access to the information.
- Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Make copies of each side of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.
- We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately when they are lost or stolen. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those in a safe place where you can find them. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation.

But here's what is perhaps most important of all:

- Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, etc., has been stolen:

1.) **Equifax**: (800) 525-6285

2.) **Experian:** (formerly TRW): (888) 397-3742

3.) Trans Union: (800) 680-7289

4.) Social Security Administration: (Fraud line): (800) 269-0271

ENCINO:

Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik-Office (818) 374-7637 32325@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2572

Contact Officer Trulik for information on the next Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

Maintaining a Neighborhood Watch Program

- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior in your neighborhood.
- Call the police immediately, if warranted. Write down descriptions of the person(s) and the license numbers of any vehicles involved.
- Tell a trusted neighbor if your house will be unoccupied for an extended period. Tell him or her how to reach you in an emergency.

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<u>Maintaining a Neighborhood Watch Program</u> (continued from the previous page)

- Look after your neighbors' homes when they are away, and ask them to look after yours. This includes picking up mail or newspapers and putting back the garbage cans or recycling bins, and turning lights on and off, if there is no automatic timer.
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings often. Your Senior Lead Officer will teach you about local crime trends and what you can do about them.
- Get involved, it is the most effective way to reduce or prevent crime and make your neighborhood safe.
- Be specific about roles and responsibilities.
- Plan for and train new leaders. Don't burn out existing ones.
- Remember, your job is to report crime, not apprehend criminals. Staying at a safe distance helps the police do their job of catching the criminals.
- Keep the interest level up by making the group fun and meaningful. Hold potluck dinners, block parties, or clean-up campaigns. Allow time for people to socialize before and after meetings.
- Maintain positive, creative, possibility-thinking attitudes that can enhance hope and empowerment within your neighborhood.

LAKE BALBOA:

Senior Lead Officer David Ham-Office (818) 374-7634 <u>25717@lapd.lacity.org</u> Cell (818) 731-2551

Senior Lead Officer Saul Paredes-Office (818) 374-7635 35275@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2554

Though crime is down in Lake Balboa we have had a few daytime burglaries in residential neighborhoods just east of the intersections of Vanowen St. and Balboa Blvd. In addition, there have been a few night time Burglary from Motor Vehicles just north of Vanowen St. and west of Hayvenhurst Ave.

West Valley LAPD has increased patrols in these areas and has made a few good arrests of truants and daytime burglars near Birmingham High School We ask the community to report any suspicious activities especially when you see individuals loitering in your neighborhoods. Please remember to secure your home and vehicle and place any valuables left in your vehicle in the trunk.

Upcoming Community/Neighborhood Events:

March 2010 Neighborhood Watch Meetings will take place on the following dates in 10A17's area.

Wednesday, March 3 - 7:30 p.m., the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council will meet at 7412 Balboa Blvd.

Saturday, March 6 - 9:00 p.m., the C.E.R.T. Group will meet at Van Nuys Fly-Away 7610 Woodley Ave 2nd floor. Wednesday, June 23 - 7:00 p.m., the West Van Nuys Group will meet at the Lutheran Church at 17400 Vanowen St.

Tuesday, March 23 - 7:00 p.m., Wish Ave. Neighborhood Watch Group will meet at 7525 Wish Ave.

Saturday. March 27 - 10:00 a.m., Bridge Group- will meet at the 6600 block of Whitaker Ave. and Havnes St.

RESEDA:

Senior Lead Officer Isela Parra-Office (818) 374-7631 34488@lapdlacity.org Cell (818) 731-2574

Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber- Office (818) 374-7629 33970@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2580

Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting – <u>Thursday, March 11 – 7:00 p.m.</u> West Valley Community Room

A big thank you to our Reseda Neighborhood Watch Group for your participation in last month's SLO Summit Meeting held in lieu of our regular monthly Neighborhood Watch meeting. It was one our most successful meetings of this type here in West Valley, and we look forward to seeing the improvement in the issues that you all developed strategies in combating. The three issues of focus were Transients, Graffiti and Break-Ins/ Thefts from vehicles.

As we stated in the SLO Summit Meeting, Property Crimes (Burglaries, Vehicle Break-Ins, Thefts) are the major crime problem in West Valley. Do not leave items such as GPS', cell phones, laptops and IPods in your vehicle in plain view. Thieves are walking around looking into vehicles for items to steal. If they do not see it, they will not break in. If you see something suspicious, call us. If it is a suspicious vehicle, try to get a license plate number. Sometimes all we need is the license plate number to crack a case. Keep an eye out on your neighbors and get to know them so you can alert them if something appears suspicious. An organized neighborhood and active neighborhood watch makes it less likely you will become a victim.

Get Active and Stay Safe!

TARZANA:

Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins Office (818) 374-7632 35828@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2573

Contact Officer Scoggins for information on the next Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is neighbors helping other neighbors. They are an extra set of eyes and ears reporting crime and assisting neighbors. Members meet their neighbors; learn how to make their neighborhoods more secure, and report activities that raise suspicion to the Police Department or other agencies of the City. If you would like to form a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, please contact the appropriate Senior Lead Officer for your community. We need your help!

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Homeless/Transient Activity (818) 374-7630 Graffiti Cleanup (818) 885-8885 L.A.P.D. (Emergency) Call 911 L.A.P.D. (Non-emergency) (877) 275-5273