



LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Devonshire Area Neighborhood Watch Newsletter ♦ September 2013

Message from the Commanding Officer, Devonshire Area Greetings all,

As we approach our fall season in Devonshire Division, our children have returned back to our local schools and our streets have become congested with vehicles honking their horns and in a hurry to drive somewhere. Now is the time to remind ourselves to slow down, stay off our cell phones, and be patient so we may arrive at our destination safely. Your safety is a responsibility we all must take seriously.

I would like to thank the community for your vigilance by community policing your neighborhoods, which has assisted the Devonshire Area with crime reduction. Your efforts have assisted our officers and detectives with outstanding property crime arrests. Our mission to reduce and prevent crime in Devonshire Division has produced a 15.2% reduction in Part-1 crimes.

On a festive note, it was a pleasure to see many of you at Northridge Park for National Night Out on August 6th. I want to thank our Devonshire Senior Lead Officers for organizing this event, as well as Target, Councilmember Mitchell Englander, his staff, and everyone in the community who participated. It was a great family event and fun for all.



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

Basic Car Area 17A23
Senior Lead Officer Dan Del Valle
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CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

Basic Car 17A23 this past month is doing well overall. The crime of Grand Theft Auto (GTA) is a concern in the area of Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Mason Ave. and Marilla to San Jose Sts. Most of the GTA's occurred during the evening-to-early morning hours. The suspects try to commit crimes when they feel the area is clear of witnesses. Please let others know of the crime activity and report suspicious activity.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS - School is back in session and it is extremely important to discuss potential dangerous situations. We have seen events, across the country, such as school shootings, kidnapping, bullying and natural disasters. Please take the time to take a subtle approach to prepare your family for unfortunate circumstances. Being prepared and having some type of game plan is most of the battle. We live in a great area and the community is awesome, but these situations can happen anywhere.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS

The next **Basic Car 17A23 Neighborhood Watch Meeting is Thurs., September 26, 2013 at 7:00PM.** Please attend the meeting to hear the area crime statistics/activities and future events. Our meetings are held every 4th Thursday of the month at the St. John Eudes Church, located at 9901 Mason

Avenue. **Mark your calendars for Thurs. & Fri., October 25th & 26th - the "LAPD Devonshire PALS Halloween Haunt".** We will be having a Halloween event for all ages and are looking for volunteers to assist with set design, carpentry and general assistance. We have done this event in the past and it has been **AWESOME!!** For more information please call SLO Officers Del Valle or Angeles at Devonshire Community Relations Office at **(818) 363-1726, or cell (818) 634-0362.**

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

The Basic Car Area continues on a successful downward trend reporting a very significant 11% decrease in overall Part-1 crimes year-to-date, compared to 2012. Of great importance to the residents of Granada Hills, Northridge and Porter Ranch, specifically, has been the reduction in residential burglary incidents; a hard fought battle brought to acceptable levels by the accurate deployment of specific strategies and by the relentless vigilance of dedicated residents. It is only through our joint efforts that we can harden the targets, as enforcement always has to be counterbalanced by sound crime prevention measures. I extend my gratitude to all those involved.

CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

Identity Theft: Sometimes, an identity thief can strike even if you've been very careful about keeping your personal information to yourself. If you suspect that your personal information has been hijacked and misappropriated to commit fraud or theft, take action immediately! Keep a record of your conversations and correspondence.

Three Steps:

First-Contact the Fraud Department of each of the three major credit bureaus. Tell them that you are an identity theft victim. Request that a "fraud alert" be placed in your file, as well as, a victim's statement asking creditors to call you before opening any new accounts or changing your existing accounts. This can help prevent an identity thief from opening additional accounts in your name. At the same time, request in writing copies of your credit reports from the credit bureaus. Credit bureaus must give you a free copy of your report if your report is inaccurate because of fraud.

Second-Contact the creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Creditors can be credit card companies, phone and other utilities companies, banks and other lenders. Ask to speak with someone in the Security or Fraud Dept. of each creditor and follow up with a letter.

Third-File a report with your local police.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS - Our next meeting will be on **Tues., September 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM** at Saint Euphrasia Church, 11767 Shoshone Ave in Granada Hills.

Basic Car Area 17A49

Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles

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CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS - The following crime statistics are from June 30, 2013 to July 27, 2013. There were (9) Grand Theft Autos, (1) Robbery, (7) Thefts, (10) Burglaries, (2) Aggravated Assault, and (17) Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles. There is no particular cluster of crimes. These crimes are throughout our Basic Car Area. Overall, 17A49 has seen a 15% decrease in crime from last year!

CRIME TIPS - We are still experiencing some theft by trickery. Victims are receiving calls from a suspect posing as a family member. The suspect claims to be in another country and that they were in an accident. The suspect claims to need money sent immediately to a location. The victim wires the money (sometime thousands of dollars), only to learn later it was a hoax. The victim will not get their money returned to them. If someone calls you claiming to be a family member in need of money, make a few phone calls to confirm the information given to you!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS - Our next meeting will be on **Tues., September 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM** at Emeritus of Northridge, 17650 Devonshire Street in Granada Hills.

Basic Car Area 17A67

Senior Lead Officer Ignacio Murillo

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CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

We are still seeing an increase of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles near the 'Reseda corridor' between Lassen and Nordhoff Sts. These crimes are sporadic, but suspects are looking for visible items in the vehicles. Don't be a victim. Hide your valuables! Don't make it easy for suspects to know what you have in your car.

CRIME TIP - The mission of the LAPD is to safeguard lives and property of the people we serve. Crime is frequently solved as a result of the partnership between the community and its police department. As a citizen, you and I are equally concerned! A good witness is someone who provides information to the police and has nothing to win or lose by doing so. I want to encourage each citizen to call the police at the first sign of suspicious activity. Being a good witness will help us combat crime and keep your neighborhoods safe.

COMMENDABLE OFFICER INCIDENTS

Patrol officers were conducting extra patrol near the 'Reseda corridor' due to an increase of crimes. While driving in an alley near Reseda and Roscoe, they observed a male and female suspiciously pacing back and forth in the alley and approaching a gray Scion with paper plates. Due to the suspicious behavior, officers conducted a consensual encounter. While speaking with them, the male admitted to the officers the Scion was a stolen car. Further investigation revealed they were both in possession of **multiple victims'** mail, credit cards, drivers licenses and checks. Both suspects were immediately taken into custody and taken to jail, where they won't victimize anyone in your community.

GREAT JOB DEVONSHIRE PATROL!!

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - Our next Basic Car meeting will be **Wed., September 25, 2013, at 7:00 PM** 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

The following crime statistics are for the month of July 2013. There were (6) Grand Theft Autos; (5) Robberies; (26) Thefts; (5) Burglaries; (1) Aggravated Assault; and (27)

Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles. Most of the crimes occurred on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:00 PM to 12:00 AM. The top vehicles (1990's Honda Civic's and Accord's) were stolen from parking lots. We currently have a 7.6% reduction from 2012 vs. 2013.

CRIME TIPS - Since Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/TFMV's) have been increasing during our summer months, please keep in mind the following:

Lock It! Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and always lock your valuables in the trunk.

Hide It! If you don't have a trunk, hide valuables under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle.

Never leave valuables in plain view.

Keep It! Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent you from becoming a victim.

COMMENDABLE OFFICER INCIDENTS

There have been several commercial burglaries reported at Storage Etc. at 20550 Lassen Street between March 10 through June 24, 2013. An employee of the storage facility noticed a pattern of multiple burglaries occurring after hours and reviewed the surveillance videos for further information, which revealed a possible Suspect at the storage facility after hours. In early June 2013, Devonshire Property Crimes Officer interviewed a suspect (unknown at the time) and a female friend at a Motel 6 in the Division. The Officer's investigation revealed the Suspect was selling items at a swap meet and drove a silver Suburban. In the meantime, Devonshire Burglary Detectives were investigating several reports and had credible evidence of a named Suspect. On July 5, 2013, the Suspect was arrested for narcotic charges and booked at Van Nuys Jail. On July 9, 2013, our Devonshire Burglary Detectives realized they had an opportunity to interview the Suspect since he was in custody, where he confessed to several commercial burglaries at Storage Etc. The Detectives arrested the Suspect for Commercial Burglary and were able to recover the vehicle and numerous items from the burglaries committed.

Great job and team work by all!

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - Our next Basic Car meeting will be on **Thurs., September 19, 2013 at 7PM** at 21001 Plummer Street (Sunburst Mobile Home Park).

Basic Car Area 17A95

Senior Lead Officer Kate Luna

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CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

There were (3) Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles, (2) GTAs, (5) Burglaries, (1) Aggravated Assault and (9) Thefts in the month of July. There were no particular areas targeted. All crimes were spread throughout the Basic Car Area.

CRIME TIP: BROKEN WINDOW THEORY - We have all heard "the broken window theory" which basically states that 'maintaining and monitoring urban environments in a well-ordered condition may stop further vandalism and escalation into more serious crime'. I believe we can all do our part in maintaining our area. Please use the City's 311 toll free number for garbage collection, non-emergency police and fire, to report suspicious activities, business permits for business related issues, street maintenance for road hazards, etc., to take appropriate actions for bettering our community. Calls can be made 24 hours a day. Please report any graffiti to me.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - The next basic car meeting will be on **Thurs., September 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM**, at The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer Street.