

VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 5

Van Nuys Area Senior Lead Officers Unit
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

May 2017



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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Please come out and help shape the future of your community.

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council: General meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA.

Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council: General meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Valley College, located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

Valley Glen Neighborhood Association: General meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., at Concorde College located at 12412 Victory Blvd., Classroom 003.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council: General meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street.

Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce: General meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at the Devry Building located at 15301 Ventura Blvd.

Sherman Oaks Homeowners' Association: General meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive.

Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting: General meeting is the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at the Church on the Way, 14424 Sherman Way.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting: If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at their number below for further details.



local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys

WHO TO CONTACT

For crimes in progress dial: 911.

To report any suspicious activity or persons call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: **877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273)**.

Keep our community clean! Call: 311 or visit <http://lacity.org/MyLA311/index.htm> to report graffiti, bulky items on the street or sidewalks, and shopping carts in the area. You can also download the MyLA311 Smartphone Mobile Application to submit your report. Keeping the streets clean shows the criminals that we have pride in our community and we will not tolerate their activities.

If you would like information on resources available to support or counsel victims of domestic violence, call the City of Los Angeles “**211**” support number (option 7) or www.211LA.org.

For more information about domestic violence see the LAPD webpage, where you will find online information and resources go to: http://www.lapdonline.org/get_informed/content_basic_view/8893.

Also, you can contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (**800-799-7233**) and Domestic Abuse Center, 14402 Haynes St., Van Nuys, CA 91401; (**818**) **904-1700** (not a 24-hour hotline)

Van Nuys Area - Basic Car Area



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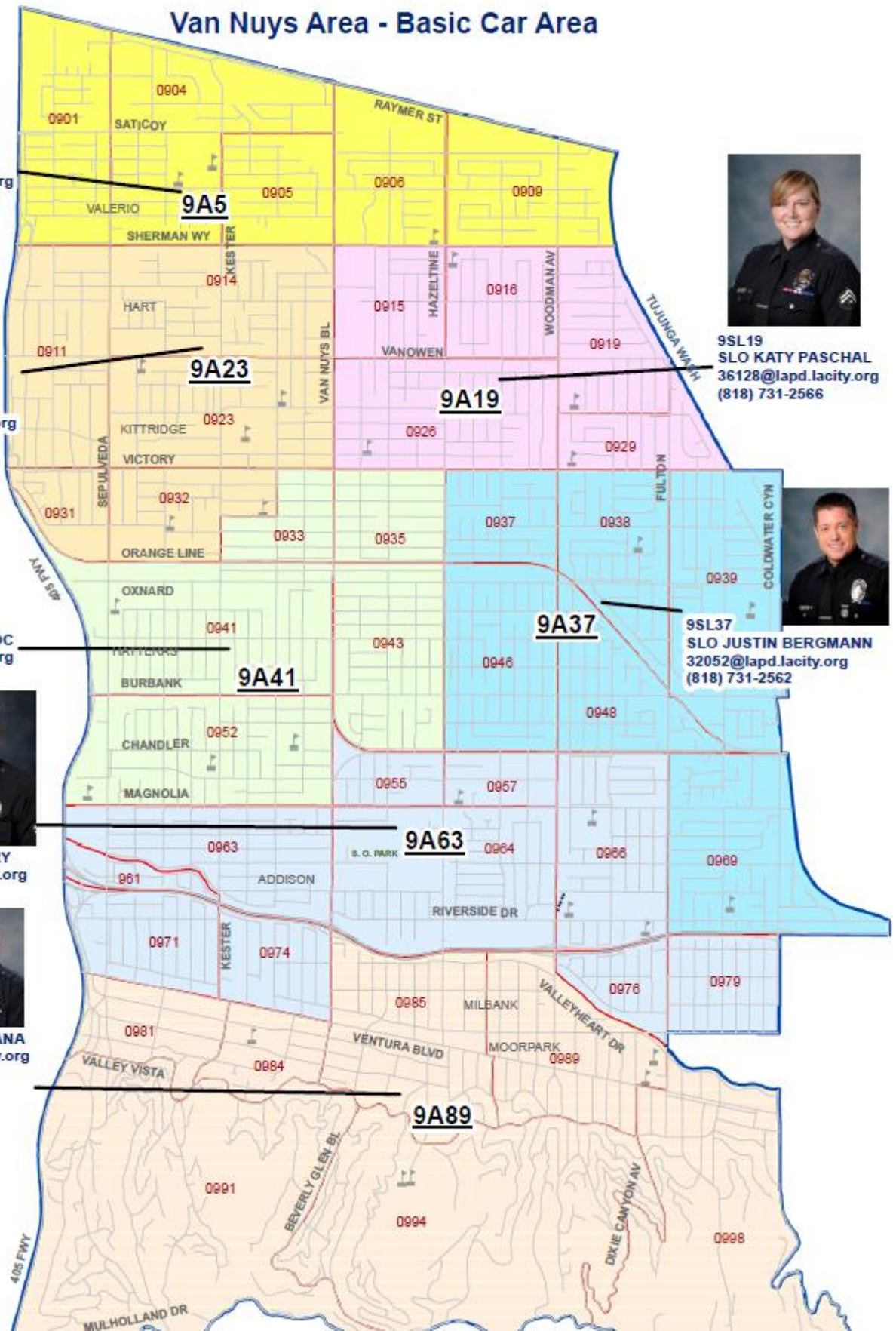
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Crime Update

Basic Car 9A5:

Senior Lead Officer John Bailey

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A5 encompasses Raymer Street to the North and Sherman Way to the South, 405 Freeway to the West and Tujunga wash to the East. As of April 15, 2017, we have seen a significant reduction of violent crimes by -36.7 %, Aggravated Assaults are down -59.0 %, and Residential Burglaries are up by 7.1%. Hopefully, we can continue to see this positive reduction of crime going into the second quarter. In addition, crime involving Personal Theft is also down by -26.9%. Of the year-to-date increases, however, this area has seen an increase of Grand Theft Auto, up by 42.4 %, and a considerable increase in Robberies, up by 5.9%.

As the temperature begins to rise, PLEASE DO NOT, leave young children and animals inside a locked vehicle as this could have horrible consequences. Remember to lock and secure doors when you leave the house. If you go on a trip for an extended period of time, the more cars in the driveway the better. If possible at night time, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting/ timers around the house. This usually indicates people are home and helps deter/reduce residential Burglary activity.

Basic Car 9A19:

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car A19 has been seeing a decrease in total Part I Crimes. As of April 15, 2017, we are down -8.1%. This is a slight increase since the last newsletter (-16.1%) but at least we are still down. This is still a great way to start out the summer months!

Even though we are seeing a decrease, we are still up in auto related crimes (Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles). We've been preaching "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it" for a while now, however, people are still leaving items behind. Of the last 20 Burglary/Thefts from Motor Vehicles reports I have read, **18 were vehicles that were left unlocked!** Some of these were also vehicles left unlocked in driveways. Parking in driveways is great, but please remember that you are not immune from crimes when you do that. I have heard from some neighbors that they leave their vehicles unlocked (and still with items inside) because if someone is going to break into their vehicle, they would rather they go through an open door instead of having to break a window. While I can see some of the logic in this, you are inviting that criminal element into your neighborhood and possibly putting other neighbors at risk as the suspect may keep "hitting" your street knowing they can always get into a car.

National Night Out is just a few short months away (August). If your neighborhood/street is interested in hosting an event, please let know so that I can assist you in planning it.

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's city cell phone/email is NOT for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any questions, not dispatch calls.

Basic Car 9A23:

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 23 which covers central Van Nuys is up 5.1% in overall Part One Crimes along with a decrease of -4.1% in Property Crimes and a -8.5% decrease in Violent Crimes. These numbers are in comparison to this time last year.

Most the increase is due to Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles as well as Grand Theft Autos. These crimes are occurring along the Vanowen Corridor and Sherman Way Corridor and mostly affecting vehicles parked along the curb or in subterranean parking structures. Vehicles that are being targeted are 2012-2015 Toyota's and Honda's so please don't leave your key fob in the vehicle.

If you live in an apartment or condominium complex, please don't hesitate to reach out to start an "Apartment Watch" group. I've found that these types of meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community. Remember, Lock It, hide It, Keep It!

Basic Car 9A37:

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Property crime continues to be the focus in A37. As of 04/15/17, the area is up nearly 55% in Grand Theft Autos, and 12% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Violent crime however is down over -46%.

We continue to see an increase in stolen bicycles. It is very important that you take several precautions in order to help reduce this crime trend. First, make sure you're locking your bike up with a quality lock that can't be easily cut. Also, when storing your bike, try to keep it inside your residence or in a closed storage area or garage, out of sight. Many of the stolen bicycles are being taken from underground parking garages and storage areas. Lastly, please **make a note of the bicycles serial number**, usually located under the frame below the pedals. This is very important if the bicycle should be stolen so that the police can positively identify it as stolen property. Many of the stolen bicycles are quickly painted and made to look different and without a serial number it can be very difficult for us to identify.

Build my Neighborhood Watch participation in Valley Glen to combat residential Burglaries is the goal for this year. I will be working with the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association to increase membership, participation and education. Please contact me if you would like to become involved.

Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when you're not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of alarm system and cameras to deter would be thieves.

Basic Car 9A41:

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Great news to report for Basic Car 41. We saw a dip in crime numbers in property and violent crimes. The area had been experiencing an up-tick in commercial burglaries. The method had been a series of window

smashes of commercial store fronts. Suspects would enter for the sole purpose of breaking into cash registers hoping to find cash. In some cases, suspects did find some cash but not enough to write home about. Never the less, the cost for the window replacement, clean up, and overall frustration would anger any business owner. Some 30 such burglaries occurred in the past three (3) months throughout the division. Officers caught a break when a citizen heard and saw a suspect smash and enter a local dry cleaner. The 911 call was made and officers were able to apprehend the suspect on his bike a block away. In his possession, were the cash drawers. Detective's investigation found the suspect to be responsible for some 12 such burglaries in the area. Great work by a citizen who was awake at that early morning hour and did not hesitate. We are expecting to see a decrease in the weeks to come.

Basic Car 9A63:

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

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Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. Heading into the month of May, we are currently experiencing an increase in property crimes with regards to Residential Burglary, GTA and Burglary from Motor Vehicles. I am currently up in property crime 16%, as compared to this same time from last year. Most incidents involving residential burglaries are taking place during the day time hours, while most homeowners are out working. Please be mindful of this and properly secure your homes and avoid leaving windows open. Please call to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

When visiting local retailers please be mindful of your surroundings and avoid leaving property unattended.

Finally, please continue to be mindful of not leaving valuables inside your vehicles. This will help to reduce your chances of being victimized by the crime of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. Remember to "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."

Basic Car 9A89:

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

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Crime Trends / Statistics

There was a slight decrease in burglaries this month 54.5% and on Burglary from Motor Vehicle 37.3%. The Department continues to push its slogan in the battle against vehicle break-ins of "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it." Please remember this when locking and securing your vehicles. Even for a short period, nothing should be left in your vehicles. Too many people continue to make themselves an easy target for Burglary from Motor Vehicles by leaving items in plain sight inside their vehicles. Please remember, what may not be valuable to you, may be extremely valuable to someone else. Things such as change, CDs, clothing, cell phones, laptop computers, GPS units, and purses are just some of the targeted items. You must keep your vehicle free of any visible items to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. **REMEMBER, "LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT."**

As for the Residential Burglaries, the majority of these happen during the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. The best defense against this is a strong Neighborhood Watch program. If you do not have one in your area, please contact me to learn how to get started.

We are utilizing as many resources as possible to combat all these problems. As you know, we can't catch everyone on our own. Please help us help you by being aware of what is going on in your neighborhood and reporting any suspicious activity. Remember the best way to avoid becoming a victim yourself is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Do not leave anything that is not attached to the vehicle

in plain sight. Make sure your cars and homes are locked and secured using as many crime prevention tools as possible.

To see additional crime prevention information, go to the “crime prevention” section on the left side of the screen on our Department website, www.lapdonline.org.

Crime Prevention Tips

- ***LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS*** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage.
- ***DON'T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT***. Put them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.
- ***TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR!*** Your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.
- ***LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA***. Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible.
- ***IF YOU'RE HOME AND SOMEONE KNOCKS OR RINGS YOUR DOORBELL, DO NOT IGNORE IT***. “Would be” burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person without opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.
- In this day and age, video cameras are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider this option to protect your home.