

Volume 03, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

As the weather changes and natural visibility is more limited by less sunshine, more clouds and rain, there are additional safety concerns. While driving near schools and crosswalks, be extra alert for children in traffic. This will be especially critical on Halloween, October 31st when excited Trick-or-Treaters may not be attentive as they dart about. Adults must be sure to remain with children and keep them from harm.





Driving safety is also more of a concern on wet slippery street surfaces. Remember to increase your driving and stopping distances to prevent traffic collisions.

Pay more attention to pedestrian traffic, as the community prepares for the much anticipated holiday shopping season.

Protect your valuables in your vehicles by securing your car: Lock It-Hide It-Keep It! Also protect the valuable jewelry you wear on your person by secluding it when walking in crowded public areas. Walk with a group whenever possible and be aware of your surroundings.

Your Southwest Community Police Station personnel want you to be safe, healthy and able to enjoy the upcoming holidays.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

MELISSA A. ZAK, Captain Commanding Officer Southwest Community Police Station

SOUTHWEST

1546 W. MARTIN LUTHER KING BL. LOS ANGELES, CA 90062 (213) 485-2584

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MELISSA A. ZAK, CAPTAIN III

PATROL COMMANDING OFFICER

VITO N. PALAZZOLO, CAPTAIN I

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(213) 928-8223

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH SPANISH

(213) 928-8222

EMERGENCY DISPATCH

911

SOUTHWEST DIVISION CRIME TIP

(213) 485-7492

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

(213) 847-5800

SENIOR LEAD OFFICER DIRECTORY

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Community awareness is the key to crime prevention. If you are interested in establishing a Block Club in your area, please contact your Senior Lead Officer for assistance.

CRIME AND ARREST INFORMATION

Officers in Southwest Division have been working extremely hard to reduce crime, provide a safe environment and a better quality of life for the residents and business owners of the Southwest Area.

3SLO1-ADAMS BLVD NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

During the past 9 months of the year, Senior Lead Officer Sergio Sanchez is happy to report that the AdamsBoulevard Neighborhood has experienced considerably low crime. Furthermore, there were no reported crime clusters (5 or more crimes in one reporting district). Kudos go out to all community stakeholders for their participation in keeping this neighborhood safe. Keep up the great work!

3SLO15-WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD

Crime Trends

Senior Lead Officer Hauter has teamed up with Southwest VICE to strategize regarding prostitution in the area. The operation proved successful, with the Southwest VICE Unit making 138 prostitution related arrests, 4 pimping arrests, 218 alcohol related arrests, and issuing 221citations in the area. Overall, violent crime and gang crime are down for the month. If anyone is interested in starting a Block Club in the West Adams Area, or has questions about that portion of the Southwest community, please contact Senior Lead Officer Tracy Hauter (323) 387-9617.

3SLO19-NORTH UNIVERSITY PARK

Crime Trends

City wide crime in the City of Los Angeles is down 6.6 percent, violent crime is down 8.3 percent, and property crime is down 6.9 percent. Senior Lead Officer Geraldine Thomsen would like to inform the

community about the "Bulky Item Program." This program was designed so community members that have bulky items, such as couches, refrigerators, iron tubs, etc. can call 1-800-773-2489. It is important to keep our communities clean and also to help or inform our fellow neighbors about different city programs that can assist them.

Well, Halloween is right around the corner and Senior Lead Officer Thomsen would like to provide her community members with a few safety tips. Have a great Halloween!!!

Halloween has been celebrated on October 31st in the United States since the early 1800's and is traditionally a family-oriented holiday when children get to dress up and enjoy candy and other treats. In order to assist the Los Angeles community in enjoying this fun-filled holiday as safely as possible, the Los Angeles Police Department has compiled the following Halloween safety tips for children and their parents. The LAPD is also pleased to present a brief History of Halloween and a profile of Jack-O-Lantern for families to enjoy in keeping with this the spookiest of cultural holidays.

The Los Angeles Police Department is also pleased to offer information on the Hispanic cultural holiday *"El dia de los Muertos"* (the day of the dead) celebrated on November 1st. Here is a short History of *El dia de los Muertos* presented for your enjoyment.

Halloween Safety Tips...

- Children should trick-or-treat during daylight hours.
- Children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween.
- Children should never eat any treats until they have been examined.
- All fruit should be cut and closely examined

before eating.

- Advise children that they should never enter strangers' homes.
- Children should never accept rides from strangers.
- Children should never take shortcuts through backyards or alleys.
- Set a specific time limit for your children to be out on Halloween night.
- Give wrapped homemade treats only to children you know.
- Instruct children not to stray from their group.
- A responsible adult should escort children while trick-or-treating.
- Adult escorts should carry flashlights.
- Don't leave your home unattended on Halloween night.
- Keep pets inside your home, or other safe place on Halloween night.
- Children should walk, not run, during their trick-or-treat activities.
- Parents should know what route their children will be taking.
- All costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
- Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes.
- Props such as toy guns or swords should be made of pliable material.
- Realistic replica firearms should never be used.
- Masks should not be worn if they impair vision.

- Wigs should be fireproof and should not restrict vision.
- Children should always use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.
- Children should look in all directions before crossing the street.



3SLO31-JEFFERSON PARK

Crime Tips-Community Preparedness

Suggest that local organizations (of which you are a member) undertake a specific preparedness program or acquire special training to be of assistance in the event of a damaging earthquake.

Participate in neighborhood earthquake preparedness programs.

Attend training for neighborhood residents in preparedness, first aid, fire suppression, damage assessment and search and rescue.

Develop self-help networks between families and neighborhood through a skills and resources bank, which includes a listing of tools, equipment, material and neighborhood members who have special skills and resources to share.

Identify neighbors who have special needs or will require special assistance.

Have neighbors agree to hang a white flag (bed sheet) out after the quake if everyone and everything

Officer Biondo is interested in establishing new block clubs. If you are interested in starting a new block club or have a block club that has been on hiatus and wants to start up again, please contact Officer Biondo at (213) 847-5800

If you have information on crime that is occurring in your neighborhood, you can contact the Southwest Division Crime Tip Line at (213) 485-7492

3SLO41-BALDWIN HILLS VISTA/ VILLAGE GREEN

Crime Trends/Statistics

- Crime within in Southwest Area remains down for the year with violent crime down 5% so far this year and property crime down 10%. This can be attributed to the great work of all the officers and detectives that serve this community. More importantly it can be attributed to the fine work of the members of the community who are always looking out for their community.
- Overall the months of August and September were quiet month in regards to crime that has taken place within our community. There were however a couple of burglaries that took place on the far west of the community, in the general area of La Cienega and Rodeo. At these break-ins the most common item taken was copper wire. With the price of copper and other metals it is important to keeps these items locked if you have large amounts at your property.
- A few traffic concerns were brought up at a
 recent community meeting. Many residents
 are failing to stop for the stop signs located on
 Coliseum Street at Cloverdale and Dunsmuir.
 This is putting the community at risk and is
 being addressed by Senior Lead Officer Beard
 and officers assigned to South Traffic
 Division. Stopping at these stops signs will
 not add much time to your commute and will
 only increase the safety of the community.
- Senior Lead Officer Beard has hosted several community meetings in the Baldwin Hills, Baldwin Vista, and Village Green communities. At these meetings crime

statistics and crime prevention tips are given out. SLO Beard strongly believes that attending these meetings and becoming involved in the community will continue to reduce the number of crimes that occur in our community.

Neighborhood Watch News

Become involved. If your block does not have one, start a Block Club. If it does, join.

- If you have information on crime that is occurring in your neighborhood you can contact the Southwest Division Crime Tip Line at 213-485-7492.
- The LAPD is also accepting anonymous crime tips via cell phone. You can text your information to CRIMES (274637) and begin your message with the letters LAPD

3SLO55-JEFFERSON PARK/WESTERN CORRIDOR

Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car area 3A55 has seen street robberies along Western Ave. Victims coming from bus stops and atm machines are being targeted. Items taken are usually gold jewelry and purses.

Crime Prevention

Burglary Prevention Tips

- Do not allow strangers into your home, even if they are hurt or say they need help. Keep the door locked and call the police for them.
- Do not advertise that you live alone.
- Don't be afraid to call the police to investigate suspicious circumstances, unusual people or strange noises. It is better to be safe then sorry.
- When you move into a new home, change the locks.
- Keep your curtains or shades closed at night.

- Don't leave notes on your door announcing when you will be home.
- Keep outdoor lights on at night.
- Never give information to an unknown caller.
 Report nuisance calls to the police and the telephone company.
- Keep your doors and windows locked. If it is warm and you leave your door open for circulation, keep the screen door locked.
- If you arrive home and your door is open or things appear to be out of place don't go in your home. Leave and call the police.
- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles to give to the police, if necessary.



3SLO57-UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

Crime Trends

We are experiencing a high number of Grand Theft Auto in the Exposition Park Area. This area covers Exposition Blvd on the North to Martin Luther King blvd to the South, and Normandie on the West to Vermont on the East. We will be running high visibility patrol cars in the area. Detectives will be conducting follow up investigations for all individuals on parole and probation for Grand Theft Auto. Be sure to lock and secure your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in plain view inside your vehicles.

Crime Prevention Tips

Follow these helpful shopping tips:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.

- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

The Wisconsin Street Block Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. The University Gardens Block Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. For boundaries of these block clubs, or if you are interested in starting a new block club in your area please call Senior Lead Officer Salazar at 323-387-9617.

South Traffic Division: Please contact Motor Sergeant Jon Aufdemberg at 213-485-7336 for any traffic concerns.



3SLO59-USC

<u>Significant Crime Trends and Enforcement</u> <u>Response</u>

An increase in Burglaries on campus has been noticed. The USC Q-Unit along with USC DPS has increased pedestrian stops in the area. Remember to lock your car doors and do not leave valuables in plain sight. If you see anyone suspicious in your neighborhood call DPS. DPS and L.A.P.D. will respond.

Crime Tips

Don't put off talking to your children about alcohol and other drugs. As early as fourth grade, kids worry about pressures to try drugs. School programs alone aren't enough. Parents must become involved, but most parents aren't sure how to tell their children about drugs. Open communication is one of the most effective tools you can use in helping your child avoid drug use.

Talking freely and really listening show children that they mean a great deal to you.

What do you say?

- Tell them that you love them and you want them to be healthy and happy.
- Say you do not find alcohol and other illegal drugs acceptable.
- Many parents never state this simple principle. Explain how this use hurts people. Physical harm - for example, AIDS,
- slowed growth, impaired coordination, accidents. Emotional harm sense of not belonging, isolation, paranoia.
- Educational harm difficulties remembering and paying attention.
- Discuss the legal issues. A conviction for a drug offense can lead to time in prison or cost someone a job, driver's license, or college loan.
- Talk about positive, drug-free alternatives, and how you can explore them together.
 Some ideas include sports, reading, movies, bike rides, hikes, camping, cooking, games, and concerts. Involve your kids' friends.

How do you say it?

• Calmly and openly - don't exaggerate. The facts speak for themselves

- Face to face exchange information and try to understand each other's point of view. Be an active listener and let your child talk about fears and concerns. Don't interrupt and don't preach.
- Through "teachable moments" in contrast to a formal lecture, use a variety of situations television news, TV dramas, books, newspapers.
- Establish an ongoing conversation rather than giving a one-time speech.
- Remember that you set the example. Avoid contradictions between your words and your actions. Don't use illegal drugs, period!
- Be creative! You and your child might act out various situations in which one person tries to pressure another to take a drug. Figure out two or three ways to handle each situation and talk about which works best. Exchange ideas with other parents.

3SLO63-BALDWIN VILLAGE

Crime Trends/Nuisance Issues

Baldwin Village has seen an increase in street robberies. Suspects have been approaching victims and taking their jewelry from them. One reason why this is happening is that the price of gold has increased to nearly \$1,800.00 an ounce. Citizens are encouraged to hide their jewelry underneath their clothing to prevent future robberies from occurring. Stay alert and report suspicious activity to local authorities.

If you see graffiti or bulky items discarded, especially in alleys, contact 3-1-1 for removal. You'll be given a reference number. Keep this number handy as if the request is not completed in a timely manner, you can forward the location and reference number to SLO Saldana and he will follow-up with the appropriate City department.

Neighborhood Watch News

Senior Lead Officer Saldana is interested in establishing new block clubs. If you are interested in starting a new block club or have a block club that has not been meeting recently and wants to start up again, please contact Officer Saldana at (323) 387-9614

3SLO73-LEIMERT PARK/ CRENSHAW CORRIDOR

Crime Trends/ Nuisances

There have been a few isolated incidents of residential burglaries in the Leimert Park community. There does not appear to be a pattern in these incidents. Residents are asked to continue their efforts in reporting any suspicious vehicles/persons. There have been reports of locations that hold parties/ night clubs. In some instances, these locations become a nuisance to the neighborhood as they become hangouts for gang members and illegal activity. One such location was 2626 W Vernon Ave. On 9/21/2011, SLO Sasajima met with the property owner, along with the City Attorney from City-wide Nuisance Abatement to address the issue. Pursuant to that meeting, the tenant vacated the premises and the parties are no longer taking place. The property owner was advised of possible legal liability in the event that future tenants resume the nuisance activity. Hopefully, the property owner will monitor his future tenants to avoid any similar problems. Residents are encouraged to contact SLO Sasajima with any problem/ nuisance locations.

Crime Tips

Vandalism/Graffiti Prevention Look around your community. Do you see...

- Walls covered with graffiti?
- Knocked-over trashcans or mailboxes?
- Broken street lights?
- Spray paint on stop signs?
- Broken public telephones?
- Missing street and traffic signs?
- Writing or torn pages in library books?
- Public restrooms with broken doors and graffiti?

Vandalism Costs

Schools pay out millions of dollars each year to clean up graffiti, repair buildings, or replace vandalized equipment. That means less money for new books, computers, sports equipment, and student activities. Local governments (and their taxpayers) pay the bills for broken street lights, stolen signs, and vandalized parks. Businesses pass the costs of vandalism on to customers through higher prices.

Vandalism Hurts

People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs -- a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna -- is destroyed for no reason.

Vandalism indirectly claims other victims -- a child is injured because a stop sign was stolen, a person can't reach 9-1-1 because the public phone is broken. Who and Why?

Most vandals are young people -- from grade schoolers to teens to young adults -- who damage property for one or more of the following reasons:

- Boredom
- Anger
- Revenge
- Defiance
- Alliance

Graffiti is often the first sign that gangs are taking over a neighborhood. Gangs use graffiti as their street "telegraph," sending messages about turf and advertising their exploits. Graffiti identifies territorial boundaries, lists members, and communicates with rival gangs. The gang says "This place belongs to us."

A community's first step in taking back its streets from gangs is getting rid of graffiti immediately. This power struggle can't be won overnight, but persistent communities working in partnership with law enforcement almost always emerge as victors. Once the graffiti is gone, use landscape designs (such as prickly shrubs or closely planted hedges), building materials (such as hard-to-mark surfaces), lighting, or fences to discourage vandalism.

You Can Help Prevent Vandalism

- Educate the public, especially young people about the costs of vandalism.
- Clean up vandalism as soon as it happens -replace signs, repair playground equipment, paint over graffiti.
- If you see anyone committing vandalism, report it to the police, school authorities, or someone who can take action.
- Remember, vandalism is a crime.
- Protect your house or apartment from vandalism by using good lighting and locking gates and garages.
- Support recreational programs for young people in your community. Volunteer your time, donate money or supplies, and help in any way you can.

Take a Stand!

- Tap into the energy and idealism of youth. Involve young people in all vandalism prevention efforts.
- Organize a graffiti clean-up project in your neighborhood.
- Work with Neighborhood Watch and ask the City or a local business for cleaning supplies and paint.
- Work with schools or the arts community to paint murals on areas that are vulnerable to graffiti. Make it a contest for teens.
- Adopt a street or park, perhaps in cooperation with a church or business. Plant trees, bushes, and flowers. Repair equipment and install trash containers. Organize a monthly park patrol to clean up litter and keep an eye on things.
- Ask police or a City agency to start a hotline for reporting vandalism.
- Have a community meeting on vandalism to discuss its victims, costs, and solutions.
- Make certain that City or town officials promptly remove abandoned cars.

3SLO99-VERMONT SQUARE

Crime Trends

There have been a large number of street robberies in our area. There have been two different types of robberies occurring. The first is gold chain snatchings, mostly female victims. The second is Ipod or cell phone snatchings where the victims are mostly young high school students.

Please make sure you are not walking around with gold chains exposed. Talk to your children and ensure they are not walking around with their phones in hand texting. Be aware of your surroundings.

Crime Tips

Senior Lead Officer Anderson is looking to establish new block clubs in your community. If you are interested please call him at 323-387-9623.

If you have a crime you would like to report anonymously you can now text the letters LAPD plus your tip to #274637. You can also call 877-LAPD-24-7.

The Voices of 90037 Neighborhood Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 6:30 pm at Normandie Avenue Elementary School.

The Central Area neighborhood council meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2011, 6:30 pm at 6050 S. Western Avenue.



@ LAPD_SOUTHWESt





Crime Tips-Reporting a Crime by Text

If you have a crime you would like to report anonymously you can now text the letters LAPD plus your tip to #274637. You can also call 877-LAPD-24-7.





Anyone who would like to report information about a crime is urged to call 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477). Tipsters may also contact Crimestoppers by texting to phone number 274637 (C-R-I-M-E-S on most keypads) with a cell phone. All text messages should begin with the letters "LAPD." Tipsters may also go to www.LAPDOnline.org, click on "webtips" and follow the prompts.







Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group. If you desire to have one started, call Southwest Community Relations Office at (213)847-5800.

The L.A.P.D. is continuing to bring community policing to the internet. E-Policing program enables Senior Lead Officers, Area Captains, and Detectives to e-mail Newsletters, crime trends, and other important information to you. It is easy, sign up now. Get LAPD crime maps, join/start a

Neighborhood Watch. Log on to our website at www.lapdonline.org and click on E-policing.

SPECIAL REQUEST PHONE NUMBERS

Graffiti Removal:

(311)

Abandoned Vehicles:

(800/222-6366)

Bulky Item Trash Pick Up (Illegally Dumped Trash):

(800/773-2489)

Department of Health:

(213/351-5110)

City-wide information:

(311)

UPCOMING

COMMUNITY

EVENT



FOOD – FUN - FESTIVITIES

Saturday, October 15, 2011

ANNUAL TASTE OF SOUL
10:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M.
Crenshaw Boulevard
(Between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
and Rodeo)