



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

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Captain's Corner

A message from Captain Tom Brascia

T.R.U.E.

Topanga Restoring its Urban Ecosystem

In January 2009 the Topanga Area Community Police Station opened and has approximately six acres of landscape with a mixture of native and non-native plants. In the past three years, the City of Los Angeles has been unable to maintain the landscape at Topanga and consequently a number of the non-native plants and trees have withered away while others have been identified as unsuitable for a sustainable landscape. Topanga Area has teamed with two non-profit organizations to create a California native sustainable community garden at Topanga. The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc. will be the lead organization in Topanga's effort to design and create a garden that will be the pride of the western end of the San Fernando Valley. The Miller Career and Transition Center, a program of the Los Angeles Unified School District, trains, mentors and prepares high school students for a vocation in landscaping.

Topanga Area asks you to join or help us in this community effort to create a sustainable garden of native plants to demonstrate how a beautiful native garden can survive in our climate. Topanga Area has divided the property into 21 zones of various sizes. We invite an organization or individual volunteer to take responsibility for the maintenance of one or more zones. You may also sponsor an organization to be responsible for a zone.

Community participants in this project will enjoy the privilege of working under the direction of our expert consultant from The Theodore Payne Foundation—an opportunity to learn about sustainable landscaping with drought-tolerant native species. You will acquire knowledge, which you may then apply to the transformation of your own outdoor space, whether it is a large yard, a patio or a small balcony with a collection of native container plants. Moreover you will have the satisfaction of having contributed to a beautiful, environmentally sustainable public garden. To join in this rewarding project, please contact Sergeant Thomas A. Mason, Topanga Area Community Relations Office, at 818-756-3180.

Social Media

Topanga has a new website: lapdtopanga.org. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors. You are now able to click on the map in your area and you will be taken to the senior lead officer for that area. You will also be able to click on the various email addresses and their email will automatically pop up for you. Also “Follow” us on Twitter and “Like” us on Facebook for up to date information.

Topanga Jeopardy Program:

Written By: Officer Maria Davalos

Many of you anxiously waited for the iPhone 5 to be released, although you already had the iPhone 4S. Some of you even waited in line for hours, to be the first one to get one. These phones are fairly expensive and can be considered a luxury. Unfortunately for others, such as the Jeopardy

students, that is not an option and their choice is whether they will eat that day.

Within the last few months I have met many students who are in need of the basics. I am constantly being told, "Ms. Davalos, we don't have any food to eat," or being told that they joined the Jeopardy Program because they knew they could eat there. On other occasions, I've witnessed a student dig out a pair of used shoes out of a trash can and since then, he has never stopped wearing them. It is sad to know that some of us are out buying new phones when we don't need them while others face daily decisions as to how they will make it through their day.

On one occasion, a student borrowed a towel from another student during a trip to a water park. The student failed to return the towel quickly while the other asked for it every day. I finally had to ask, why do you need the towel so bad? The student replied, we only have two towels, one for my dad and one for me, I've been borrowing my dad's towel."

The holidays are quickly approaching and many of us will be participating in toy drives. Maybe instead of toys, we can dig into our pockets and donate to the Jeopardy Program to provide shoes, clothes, and food for these much needed students.

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

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

Senior Lead Officer Dennis Cunningham

West Hills has fallen victim to a number of Mail thefts over the past few years. The United States Postal Service recommends these five tips to help prevent mail theft.

1. Use the letter slots at your post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier.
2. Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. **Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight.**
3. Don't send cash in the mail.
4. Ask your bank for "secure" checks that can't be altered.
5. Tell your post office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

Report all mail theft to a Postal Inspector.

Call 877-876-2455.

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

Senior Lead Officer Sam Sabra

National Night Out 2012 West Hills/Woodland Hills was a huge success. We had approximately 2500 visitors and many happy residents. I want to thank all of those that assisted and donated their valuable time to help strengthen the bond between the police and community.

As a reminder, please see below prevention tips as Halloween is fast approaching and safety being a priority:

In order to assist the Topanga 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.

Halloween Safety Tips...

- 1.Children should trick-or-treat during daylight hours.
- 2.Children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween.
- 3.Children should never eat any treats until they have been examined.
- 4.Advise children that they should never enter strangers' homes.
- 5.Never invite children into your home.
- 6.Children should never take shortcuts through backyards or alleys.
- 7.Set a specific time limit for your children to be out on Halloween night.
- 8.Instruct children not to stray from their group.
- 9.A responsible adult should escort children while trick-or-treating.
- 10.Adult escorts should carry flashlights.

Canoga Park Basic Car Area (21A5):

Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron

Auto thefts are often crimes of "opportunity" and leaving the keys in your car (even a "hidden" spare key) greatly increases your chances of having your car stolen. Leaving your vehicle unoccupied with the

engine running, even for a minute, greatly increases the chance that your car will be stolen. It is truly a helpless feeling to watch your car being driven away by a total stranger as you stand 10 feet away at an ATM or mailbox. Take your keys with you even for quick trips. Needless to say, this is especially true if you have children or pets in the vehicle. More than two thirds of all auto thefts occur at night. Approximately 86% of the stolen vehicles are recovered. While some vehicles are definitely stolen to be sold, or dismantled for parts, the large majority are simply used as temporary transportation by common criminals. Thus, most vehicles are recovered within a few weeks to a month and with relatively little damage.

REMEMBER-LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT.

Winnetka Basic Car Area (21A29):

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.

Canoga Park and Winnetka Basic Car Area (21A57):

Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein

The Orange line is now open along Canoga Avenue. It runs parallel east of Canoga Avenue. The traffic signal patterns have changed on Canoga Avenue and all the streets that run East and West, which cross over Canoga Avenue. The streets that cross over the Orange Line are now photo red-light camera intersections. If you are driving **Northbound** on Canoga Ave between Vanowen Street and Nordoff Street and you want to make a right hand, you must make the turn with a green arrow, or you receive a ticket in the mail. The same goes if you are driving **Southbound** on Canoga Avenue between Vanowen Street and Nordoff Street, and you want to make a left hand turn off of Canoga Avenue, you must wait for the green arrow. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office patrols and covers all the intersections that the Orange crosses over. The tickets are issued by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and not the LAPD.

We are still having problems with GM 3rd row seats being stolen from large parking structures. Please secure your seats to the floor board by using a locking type of device such as a bicycle lock. We are also having a spike in motor cycle thefts. Please use a locking device to secure your motorcycle so it can't be pushed away, and it acts as a great deterrent.

Woodland Hills (West of Topanga Canyon) Basic Car Area (21A73):

Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh is on vacation.

Woodland Hills (East of Topanga Canyon) Basic Car Area (21A97):

Senior Lead Officer Sean Dinse.

Warner Center Complexes

- Multiple apartment/condo units broken into on the same date and on the same floor. The front door is pried or kicked open.
- Car's getting broken into in the parking structures. A majority of these cars were left unlocked with items clearly visible from the outside.
- Mail stolen from the community post box and being used for identity theft.



Commander John Sherman and Jim Cullins, with Detective Alviani and Officer Jaron



Officer Harris, SLO Sabra, Tim Conway Jr and SLO Cunningham.



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Councilman Dennis P. Zine and Celebrity host Tim Conway Jr enjoying a good laugh.



Thank you ladies for competing and contributing today.