



Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter

Serving the Communities of: Canoga Park,
West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka



Volume 6, Issue 2

Topanga Community Relations Office

SUMMER 2013

E-mail: topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org

lapdtopanga.org

21501 Schoenborn Street, Canoga Park, CA 91304

818.756.3180



Captain's Corner

Topanga Area would like to welcome to as the new Topanga Area Commanding Officer, Captain III Joel Justice. Captain Justice is looking forward to his new command and to meet the community members.

Captain Justice was appointed to the Department in 1985.

He was assigned to Topanga Area after serving at Communications Division. Communications Division is the largest division in the Los Angeles Police Department with approximately 590 sworn and civilian employees. He was assigned to Communications after serving as the Commanding Officer for Real Time Analysis and Critical Response (RACR) Division.

Captain Justice has worked patrol in Southwest, Rampart and Foothill Divisions. He has also worked Office of Operations, Use of Force Review Section and Internal Affairs. He promoted to Lieutenant in May 2000.

As a Lieutenant he was assigned to Devonshire Patrol Division, Metropolitan Division and Professional Standards Bureau. On October 31, 2004, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and was assigned as the Commanding Officer of West Valley Patrol Division.

Captain Justice is a second-generation Los Angeles Police Officer, his father Hal Justice retired as a Captain in 1982. Justice was born in Los Angeles and raised in the San Fernando Valley. He attended Monroe High School and received his Bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Phoenix.

Captain Justice earned his Master's degree in Homeland Security from the Naval Postgraduate School in March 2013. Captain Justice has been married for over 20 years and has a 14-year-old son. He is active in his church and the community as a coach of youth basketball.

Summer Safety

Make Water Safety a Priority- From the American Red Cross

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.
- Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.
- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-feet high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.
- -Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach—designate a responsible adult to supervise.

- -Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.
- -If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- -Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- -If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.

Lock it, Hide it, Keep it

Here are just a few reminders to help prevent you from becoming a victim of Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BFMV):

- Close all windows prior to leaving your vehicle (including the sun roof)
- Lock all doors when you leave
- DO NOT leave anything of value visible in your vehicle
 - This includes purses, laptops or other electronics, gym bags, GPS devices, money, etc.

The Basics for Burglary Prevention

By Senior Lead Officer Dennis Cunningham

#1. Make your home appear occupied, and make it difficult to break in.

#2. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.

#3. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

#4. Keep your garage door closed and locked.

#5. Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.

#6. Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended period of time.

#7. Check the locks on your doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.

#8. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

Topanga Jeopardy Program

By Officer Maria Davalos

The Jeopardy Program would like to take a few minutes of your time to thank current and past community members who have helped out in the success and growth of the program.

The Jeopardy Program received laptops, desktops, furniture, sports equipment, food, and Clipper tickets from LoanMart.

Plummers and Living Spaces furniture stores also donated much needed furniture to the Jeopardy center. A local restaurant equipment and appliance store, Toro Kitchen, also donated cooking equipment, which has helped tremendously in the daily meetings.

Some of the Jeopardy participants volunteered at the 2012 Annual Backpack Volunteer event, sponsored by Friends & Helpers. The participants stated that they enjoyed helping out and felt the event made them feel good about themselves. In turn, Friends & Helpers donated backpacks for all of the Jeopardy participants.

During the annual principal's meeting held at West Valley Community Police Station, I had the opportunity to speak to several community members. Because of that meeting, I was contacted by World Tae Kwon Do, a local Tae Kwon Do studio. World Tae Kwon Do has been providing free Tae Kwon Do classes to the Jeopardy participants since October 2012.

Prior to Christmas, the Jeopardy participants were also given new shoes by WSS (formerly Warehouse Shoe Sale). The participants were all thankful for their shoes.

Recently, the Jeopardy participants have been receiving art classes from Juliana Martinez, a local artist. It is amazing what the participants can create with a little help. Juliana has brought in several artists such as Edgar Pasten, Edwin Martinez, and Manuel Gonzalez to demonstrate the different types of art they can be involved in.

In the near future, the Jeopardy participants will be working with the Tarzana Treatment Center in a drug prevention and education program. This will be an eleven week program called Project ALERT. Project ALERT addresses the pro-drug mindset of today's teens and effectively increases their likelihood to remain drug free.

The Jeopardy Program continues to grow in great part due to the above organizations, companies, and individuals who have helped in so many ways. Thanks to everyone from Officer Davalos and the Jeopardy Participants.

Police/Fire/Medical emergencies call 9-1-1
Non-emergency police dispatch (877) ASK-LAPD

Topanga Area Contact Numbers:
Front Desk (818) 756-4800
Detective Desk (818) 756-4820
Community Relations (818) 756-3180
Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070

For crime information in your area go to:
www.crimemapping.com.

Please visit our website at:
lapdtopangapolice.org

Please contact via email at:
topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org.

Thank you,
The Topanga Area Community Relations Office