



# Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter



Serving the Communities of: Canoga Park, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka  
21501 Schoenborn Street, Canoga Park 91304

Volume 3, Issue 3

Topanga Community Relations Office (818) 756-3180  
Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070  
E-mail: [topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org)

MAY/JUNE 2011

National Night Out-August 2, 2011. This year the National Night Out will be directed to the community base of neighborhoods hosting their own National Night Out meetings. We want the community to have their porch lights on, have block parties, get to know your neighbors and show the neighborhood spirit. We encourage you to register [www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno](http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno) before June 15. If you are a block captain, Neighborhood Council member, a community leader, encourage everyone to participate.

We have a new e-mail address you may send any of your neighborhood concerns, etc., to, it is [topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org). This email box will be monitored daily, versus sending an email to a specific person, who may be away from the workplace and your email goes unanswered.



## **A Message From Captain Tom Brascia:**

The efforts we have put forward this year have been tremendously successful with crime reduction. I am asking for information from you regarding any group homes, sober-living homes, or any residence where you may suspect these type of places exist. We want to know about them, track them and investigate them, if necessary. Please email any information to your Senior Lead Officer or to the above email at the Community Relations Office, or call us.

Nixle is a free service the LAPD and government agencies use to connect with local residents over cell phone, email and web. The information is delivered in real time to geographically targeted community members.

Nixle-a-day message-Topanga Area is sending a daily message via *Nixle* that contains crime that has occurred in your community in the past 24 hours- Tuesday through Friday and in the past 72 hours on Monday.

Imagine you will now know about the burglary that occurred around the corner from you that you would not have known about otherwise without *Nixle*. You will now know about the car that was broken into a few blocks from your house, the robbery that occurred at the local gas station. You can use this information to better secure your residence, tell your neighbors to be aware, and to take those preventive measures to help secure your family.

To sign up for *Nixle*

- Go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)
- Click "Sign Up Now!"
- Create an account by choosing a User Name and Password.
- Enter an e-mail address and cell phone number where you would like to receive messages
- Enter your address (or a nearby intersection)
- Click "Sign me up"



Application forms are now available for our Summer PALs program! We have many educational and fun trips planned! Space is limited, if you know a child

between the ages of 6-12 who would be interested in joining our PAL program, pick up an application at Topanga Police Station or the West Valley Boy's and Girl's Club today! Please direct any questions to Officer Kincaid at (818) 756-3180.

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Hi! I'm Officer Melissa Olsen and I am in charge of the Topanga Area Jeopardy Program. Jeopardy is a program of the Los Angeles Police Department which focuses on at-risk juveniles between the ages of 9-17. The program runs after school Monday-Thursday from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information about Jeopardy, please call me at (818) 756-3185 or email me at or [30734@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30734@lapd.lacity.org).

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The Cadet Program is a youth Volunteer service program for young men and women ages 14 to 20 years. This program provides participants with discipline, critical thinking, teamwork exercises, opportunities for leadership, and physical fitness training.

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In April, the Topanga Cadet Post Cadets sponsored a city wide hike at the Devil's Punchbowl. The Topanga Cadets invited all of the other Cadet Posts, within the City of Los Angeles, for a fun day outdoors. During that event hundreds of Cadets, including 23 from the Topanga Cadet Post, safely participated in a long, uphill, seven mile hike. The Cadets also continue to mentor children at the Guadalupe Center every third Wednesday of the month.

**GUN BUY BACK**  
 May 7, 2011 9:00-2:00  
 Valley-Facey Medical Center Parking Lot  
 11165 Sepulveda Boulevard  
 Mission Hills  
 1-877-LAPD-247

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Chief of Police  
 Hispanic Community Forum  
 May 12, 6:00 PM  
 Alemany High School  
 11111 Mission Boulevard  
 Mission Hills, CA

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**Recent news in my area:** This segment contains some activity in Topanga, but it is not intended to reflect all of the crimes in your area.

***News from SLO Dennis Cunningham (A1):***

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For all, for our residents in the west end of the San Fernando Valley summer is coming as well as some uninvited guests. With the hot temperatures we will start seeing an increase in coyotes coming into the neighborhoods in search of water and food. In some cases that food is in the form of your small pets. Cut down the risk of these intruders by bringing your small cats and dogs indoors at night. Feed your animals inside and never leave the food or water outdoors. The killing of coyotes is prohibited but there are means of trapping these animals once they are on your property. You can contact the City of Los Angeles Control (via 311) for more information on methods of legally trapping coyotes.

***News from SLO Alex Padron (A5):***

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I wish to take a moment to remind everyone that, "if it looks too good to be true it probably is," because once again I'm seeing several crime reports titled **Theft Via Trick or Device** where the victims fall prey to their own greed and/or their own ignorance.

The most recent scam is targeting the Hispanic community. Whereby a female Hispanic (Suspect Number 1 about 30 years of age) approaches the victim and tells the victim she has found a Cashier Checks belonging to a non-local charity organization. The victim is asked to help in getting the checks back to the charity. The sum of the checks have been in the thousands of dollars, minutes later, a second suspect (a male Hispanic in his 30's) walks up to the women and 'overhears' the conversation, he then attempts to help them both by making several phone calls to not only validate the cashier checks, but advise the pair that there is a substantial reward for returning them to the Charity.

The suspects then ask the victim for a collateral sum of money to spilt the reward which in this case was stated as ten-thousand dollars.

The victim and the female, go to the victim's bank to retrieve her money (over three thousand dollars) which she later hands over to the suspects. They tell her they will return to her home with her larger reward payment once they drop off the Cashier checks, only they are never seen from again.

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***News from SLO Jose Maldonado (A29):***

The crime rate has remained low for our basic car area (parts of Winnetka and Woodland Hills). If you want to know more about what goes on in your neighborhood, please come and join us at a Neighborhood Watch meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Topanga Police Station.

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***News from SLO Sam Sabra (A43):***

Approximately two weeks ago, the Crime Suppression Detail (CSD) arrested a narcotics dealer who lived near the Fallbrook Shopping Center. The male white suspect advised that he would walk to the Wal-Mart parking lot and use it as a meeting location to sell narcotics. A parolee was also located near the parking lot and found in violation of his parole and was subsequently arrested.

Utilizing information obtained from above arrest, CSD was able to arrest a heroin dealer for possession living near Platt Avenue and Vanowen street.

Please lock your car while shopping and do not leave items visible for any would be criminals..Lock It, Hide It, Keep It.

***News from SLO Janet Zumstein (A57):***

Don't be a victim of burglary from motor vehicle. Remember to always hide your valuables (out of sight, out of mind) and ALWAYS lock your doors and close your windows. At night time, try and park your vehicle in a well lit area.

At local shopping centers we are having a problem with Cadillac Escalades, GMC or Chevy SUVs that have third row seats. On these types of SUVs the third seat can be removed easily from the vehicle by releasing the seat lever. We would like to encourage you to remove your third row seat from your SUV if you don't plan on using them or lock your seat in by using a cable style lock.

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***News from SLO Brent Rygh (A73):***

“Kids park and party in front of our house!”

Each year as the summer months approach, our office starts to receive lots of calls about people parking and partying in their cars in residential areas.

The culprits tend to generally between 17-22 years old and are looking for a dark quiet place to park and hangout, drink, smoke marijuana, and sometimes have sex inside their cars. In the morning you wake up to a littered neighborhood with fast food bags, beer bottles, empty marijuana canisters, and even condoms. The longer this problem exists, the more kids come to that spot and it grows out of control. What can you do?

There is something about the spot that makes it look desirable or attractive to them and the only way to make the problem go away long term is to make it less desirable. Most often these places are somehow shielded from public view, have very little night lighting, no barking dogs, no Neighborhood Watch signs, and no cameras in the area. Streets with tall fences and/or no front yards facing that part of the street are prime candidates for a party spot. If you have such a spot, take a look at the area at night and see why it looks desirable for them, then change it.

Trimming back large overhanging tree branches, posting Neighborhood Watch signs, adding bright lighting, or installing a video surveillance sign can make the area feel much less desirable/attractive. The culprits will move on and find another spot where they don't feel that they are being watched.

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***News from SLO Sean Dinse (A97):***

The 2011 Topanga Baker to Vegas running team completed the 120 mile relay race from Baker, CA to Las Vegas, NV in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual running of the famous law enforcement relay race. I ran along with 19 other runners and 5 alternates in a race that saw temperatures reach the high 90's and drop to the low 40's in the early morning hours of the race. The race went through Death Valley took over eighteen hours to complete. Topanga battled against 270 other law enforcement teams from as far away as Germany, and New York. The Topanga team, made up of sworn and civilian employees, had a very respectable result, finishing fifth in our category.

Sergeant Rachel Raigoza, SLO Supervisor  
818.756.3070

SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1  
(Covering the North part of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)  
Office (818) 756-3073 Cell (818) 731-2578  
Email 34966@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A /21A43 meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Alex Padron, Basic Car 21A5  
(Covering North Canoga Park)  
Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583  
Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A5 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29  
(Covering Winnetka)  
Office (818) 756-3079 Cell (818) 731-2569  
Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A29 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

There is now a **SPANISH SPEAKING** Neighborhood Watch Meeting! SLO Jose Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking Neighborhood Watch for any residents within the Topanga Police Area every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM

SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43  
(Covering the South part of West Hills)  
Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558  
Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A43/21A1 meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57  
(Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls)  
Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570  
Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A57 meeting will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73  
(Covering Woodland Hills, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)  
Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581  
Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A73 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Sean Dinse, Basic Car 21A97  
(Covering Woodland Hills, East of Topanga Canyon)  
Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568  
Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A97 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

Sergeant Thomas Mason, Officer In Charge,  
Community Relations Office  
818.756.3180

Cadet Coordinators 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Danielle Godfrey  
Police Officer Greg Archambault

PALS Coordinator 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Leslie Kincaid

Jeopardy Coordinator 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Melissa Olsen

Volunteer Coordinator 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Joe Breyer

Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB)  
Police Officer Todd Jaron 818.756.3180

**GUN BUY BACK**  
May 7, 2011 9:00-2:00  
Valley-Facey Medical Center Parking Lot  
11165 Sepulveda Boulevard  
Mission Hills  
1-877-LAPD-247



*Topanga Police Youth Board  
Guiding Youth with Community Support*

# *An Evening in Paradise*

*Warner Center Marriott  
Silent Auction, Program and Dinner*

**Thursday, June 16, 2011  
6:00 pm**

## *Participation Opportunities*

<i>Diamond Sponsor</i>	<i>\$750 donation</i>	<i>(includes 6 tickets, recognition at the event &amp; full page in program book, B&amp;W 7"l x 7"w)</i>
<i>Emerald Sponsor</i>	<i>\$500 donation</i>	<i>(includes 4 tickets, recognition at the event &amp; half page in program book, B&amp;W 3½"l x 7"w)</i>
<i>Sapphire Sponsor</i>	<i>\$250 donation</i>	<i>(includes 2 tickets, recognition at the event &amp; honorable mention in program book)</i>

*Add'l Individual Tickets: \$65 donation per person  
(all tickets include dinner & evening program)*

*Join us for an evening getaway to a tropical paradise at the Valley's elegant Urban Oasis. We will be transforming the Warner Center's Marriott Urban Oasis into paradise for an evening. This tropical paradise experience will be complete with a silent auction, music, prizes and dinner.*

*Call Stephanie Rivas at (818) 377-2277 for  
more information and participation  
reservations.  
[www.topangapoliceyouthboard.org](http://www.topangapoliceyouthboard.org)*

