

**Captain's Message**

I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. I look forward to the new year and working to reduce crime in Van Nuys Area. Please have a safe New Year's Eve by remembering not to drink and drive, but to have a designated driver.

I would like to share our crime statistics with you. For 2014, the Department set a goal of reducing Part I crimes by 3%. As of December 22, 2014, we have an increase of +28.1% in Violent Crime compared to this time last year. Aggravated assaults have been the greatest increase. We have a decrease of -9.8% in Property Crimes. Overall, Part I crimes are down -6.3% over this time last year.

I would like to encourage all of you to participate or start a Neighborhood Watch program, and to think about joining our Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) or the Mid-Valley Community Police Council. These two groups are an integral part of Van Nuys Community Police Station's relationship and outreach with the community. The C-PAB Co-Chair is Penny Meyer. The President of our MVCPC Executive Board is Ron Feinstein. If you would like information about the meetings for the C-PAB or MVCPC, please contact Sergeant Tarek Ismail, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Office at (818) 374-1996.

If you have not had an opportunity to logon to our websites, please do so. You can "LIKE" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision](https://www.facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision), "FOLLOW" us on Twitter at [twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv](https://twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv), and "FOLLOW" us on Nixle at [local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys](https://local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys), "FOLLOW" us on Patch at [shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station](https://shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station), and "VISIT" us online at [www.lapdvannuys.com/](http://www.lapdvannuys.com/).

Thank you for your continuing support of our station. Again, best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

**JOHN McMAHON, Captain  
Acting Commanding Officer  
Van Nuys Area**

## **Who to Contact?**

Please report any suspicious activity or persons by calling the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: 877.ASK.LAPD. For crimes in progress dial: 911.

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](http://www.211LA.org). For more information about domestic violence see the LAPD webpage, where you will find online information and resources to go to:

[http://www.lapdonline.org/get\\_informed/content\\_basic\\_view/8893](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 Street, Van Nuys, CA 91401; (818) 904-1700 (not a 24-hour hotline).

## **Neighborhood Watch News**

**Nextdoor.com:** LAPD is recommending [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com). This is a free service that builds community and promotes community awareness. To logon got to [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) and click on create account or enter your zip code and press "Get Started."

**Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP):** The LA City Attorney is launching a new program called "The Los Angeles City Attorney Neighborhood Justice Program." The NJP is an opportunity for three community members to take an active role in how the community responds to the commission of minor crimes, such as vandalism and petty theft. People who commit certain misdemeanors appear before a panel of community members, instead of going to court and having a criminal record they discuss the crime, the reasons for its commission, and the negative impacts it has caused. For more information contact: Peter Borenstein 213-978-8735 or [peter.borenstein@lacity.org](mailto:peter.borenstein@lacity.org).

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.

The L.A.P.D. is continuing to bring community policing to the Internet. The 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, and become part of our team of crime-fighters.

Remember to: **LIKE** us on Facebook: [facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision](https://facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision). **FOLLOW** us on Twitter: [twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv](https://twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv). **FOLLOW** us on Nixle: [local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys](https://local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys). **FOLLOW** us on Patch: [shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station](https://shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station).

### **Upcoming Community Events**

Please come out and support:

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council.** Their meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center located at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd.

**Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council.** Their meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the staff lounge at Valley College located at 5800 Fulton Avenue.

**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association.** Their meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., at Kittridge Elementary School located at 13619 Kittridge Street.

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council.** Their meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association.** Their meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive.

**District 3 (Sherman Oaks) Neighborhood Watch Block Leaders.** Their meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Sunkist Building located at 14130 Riverside Drive.

### **North Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A5**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 32052@lapd.lacity.org

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

In spite of some improvement in basic car A5, much work is needed to get our overall crime numbers to perhaps minus 5%. Unfortunately, we ended the year plus 5%. The crimes that stood out are aggravated assaults and personal theft. I foresee improved numbers in 2015 due to the interest in Neighborhood Watch and membership. Neighbors are getting involved and seeking solutions to the quality of life issues that affect their communities. The broken window theory will be applied here in Basic Car 5. Address, care, and fix those issues so that the bigger problem won't follow.

Get involved and join Nextdoor.com to further enhance our ability to work hand and hand with our local communities. Nextdoor.com is an internet site that you can only join as a verified resident in your neighborhood. It is a great way to keep up with what's going on with your neighbors and keep abreast of what's happening in your specific area. Please take a look at their site and join for your neighborhood. I will periodically be posting crime information, crime

prevention and community events for issues specific to your area. The site can be found at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

I am in the process of re-building our neighborhood and business watch groups in the north Van Nuys area. If you are a resident or business and are not part of a group in your area, please reach out to me so that we can collaborate to make your area as safe as possible.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

If you're receiving a package by delivery, please be vigilant about removing it from your front door as soon as it's delivered, or if you're not going to be home have a neighbor pick it up, or arrange with your mail person to place delivered packages in an out of sight area.

### **East-Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A19**

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2566

E-Mail address: [36128@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:36128@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

There have been very few reports in vehicle related crimes (i.e. Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles and Grand Theft Auto). Please make sure you are locking/securing your vehicles and removing all items from sight. Remember to "Hide It, Lock it so that you can Keep It!" I feel that this decrease is due to the hard work and vigilance of the Van Nuys community securing their belongings and reporting suspicious activity.

Aggravated Assaults are still the number one issue for this Basic Car (+119% YTD 12-13-14). The majority of these are again Domestic Violence related. Non-physical domestic violence can quickly turn into physical abuse with sometimes fatal consequences. If you sense something is wrong, don't wait until it's too late. These crimes are unique in that we can only educate and trust that the good people of the Van Nuys Area will not involve themselves in such crimes. Our involvement in Domestic Crimes is requested often when it's too late. Stop the violence and speak peacefully to one another, practice the patience that leads to patient and peaceful conversation.

If you need advice from our Van Nuys Detectives, give them a call at (818) 374-0040. Do your part to end Domestic Violence.

Basic Car A19 is showing a decrease of -2.9% in overall crime. Let's work together to get this number even lower as we enter 2015.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

The month of January finds us in the full swing of the New Year. Please remember that when you frequent the malls, do not leave items visible in your vehicles. At the very least, place them in your trunk. If you are expecting items to be delivered to your door and you will not be home, try to make arrangements with a trusted neighbor to pick them up or make sure someone needs to

sign for the package. If you park in a secure or gated parking lot, take the extra minute to watch the gate close behind you to make sure no one slips in after you.

Let's start the year off with safety and working together in the New Year. Remember the words of Napoleon Hill, "If you cannot do great things do small things in a very great way."

### **Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A23**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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#### **Crime Trends /Statistics**

Overall 2014 has been a significant year for the Van Nuys Area. Crime has decreased drastically as a whole, however, Basic Car 23 has suffered. Although property crime decreased the number of violent crimes has increased. These crimes include Domestic Violence as well as Crimes Against Persons which seems to have been committed mostly by transient type subjects.

I am a firm believer that if we can "clean up" the amount of transients in the area we will see a decrease in crime and an increase in cleanliness. We are ensuring to stop all transients who are drinking in public or causing a nuisance in order to identify them accordingly.

#### **Crime Prevention Tips**

The Holidays are historically the times when property crime increases. If you order items via the internet please ensure you are home to receive it or have it sent to an alternative location where someone can physically sign for the parcel. Suspects are on the lookout for packages left on doorsteps so please don't become a victim! Remember, if you witness a crime and it's a non-emergency call 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

Have a great Holiday and a Happy New Year!

### **Valley Glen Basic Car Area 9A37**

Senior Lead Officer Steve Underwood

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: [36355@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:36355@lapd.lacity.org)

#### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Property and Violent Crime continues to close out the year at an all-time low. The highest numbers traditionally are personal theft and car break-ins. The biggest increase of thefts is UPS / FED EX type packages being left at front doors. Car break-ins while very low compared to 2013 are always consistent in the San Fernando Valley. Approximately 50% of the time these break-ins can be prevented by the vehicle owners.

#### **Crime Prevention Tips**

I recently spoke to a UPS representative regarding stolen packages left at the door steps. The UPS representative suggested requesting that your package require a signature for drop-off. If you don't feel comfortable with this step, you can simply request to have your delivered package placed in a hidden or secluded spot in the front of your house. For example, "Please place my

UPS package behind my hedge against my house.” Another tactic can be to have your packages delivered to your work and not your home. That way a person is guaranteed to receive your package. Many of you know that Amazon.com has a program with some local 7-11 stores. If you order from Amazon.com, you can request to have your Amazon package delivered to a local 7-11 store (open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week). Your package will be placed in an assigned Amazon.com locker and they’ll provide you with a code. You then simply walk into the store, enter your code and obtain your package at your convenience. Very safe and no one else can take your package.

In regard to vehicle break-ins, leave important and valuable items out of view, no matter where you park, keep your windows up, and make sure your doors are locked. It sounds simple, but many people violate these suggestions often.

Call about anything suspicious in your neighborhood and know your neighbors. Join **Nextdoor.com** and get plugged into your community.

### **Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A41**

Senior Lead Officer Anthony Cabunoc

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2560

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### **Crime Trends /Statistics**

The 2014 year-end numbers are disappointing for Basic Car 41. Overall crime for the area ended plus 8.0%. The crime number includes both violent and property crimes. Early in 2014, I saw the writing on the wall. The crime numbers were not showing any improvement through the year. At our Neighborhood Watch meetings, the numbers were shared and emphasis was placed on how to recognize and report suspicious activities. In spite of this and communication via NextDoor and email, crime numbers did not improve. In 2015, I plan to address this twofold. First and foremost, the area police unit 9A41 will be asked to direct all available time in the neighborhood. They will be asked to be visible and enforce traffic laws in the area such as speeding and stop signs. High visibility by patrol along with the enforcement often sends a message that the neighborhood is heavily patrolled and deters suspects of returning to the area. Secondly, Neighborhood Watch will continue to play a key role in watching over each other. We will re-emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity, noting and forwarding descriptions including any license plates, videos, and above all real time communication. In other words don’t hesitate to get the word out now and to the right person. For a crime or suspected crimes in progress, please call the police now.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

Please remember to report suspicious activity and remind neighbors of the importance of not leaving valuables inside vehicles remove all valuables from your vehicle. “Lock It, Hide it, Keep it.”

Stop the circle of violence. Please report any incidents of Domestic Violence or family violence.

## **North Sherman Oaks Basic Car 9A63**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2563

Email address: [27270@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:27270@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends / Statistics**

Happy New Year!! I'm pleased to report that we closed out 2014, with an overall crime reduction of -12% for the northern Sherman Oaks community. I would like to thank all my Neighborhood Watch groups for your efforts in helping me with this crime reduction. Please continue to take extra precautions in securing your vehicles and not leaving property behind, to help reduce the incidents of Theft from Motor Vehicle. Residential burglaries are still occurring in the northwestern part of Sherman Oaks. Please be mindful of this, and properly secure your homes, when away at work. Our Neighborhood Watches have been asked to forward the word and to put crime prevention measures into practice. I cannot stress enough the importance of "Lock It, Hide it, Keep It" and removing valuables from inside your vehicles. This simple step will help to maintain our reductions in property crime.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

Let's watch out for one another as a community and be the "eyes and ears" for your Police Department. Please report all suspicious activity in your neighborhood. To combat auto theft, try to utilize a theft deterrent device such as steering wheel locks, alarms, etc. Be mindful of keeping doors and windows locked when leaving your residence. Often these points of entry are forgotten and left unsecured.

## **South Sherman Oaks Basic Car 9A89**

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

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### **Crime Trends / Statistics**

For the southern Sherman Oaks community, we are still down about -15.1% in overall crime as compared to this same time period from last year. With this being said, I'm still experiencing a few day and night time residential burglaries south of Ventura Boulevard between Kester Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard. Please remember to secure your homes when away at work, and talk with your neighbors about reporting suspicious activity.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

The Department continues to push its slogan in the battle against vehicle break-ins. **"Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."** 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 is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Too many people continue to make themselves an easy target for Burglary from Motor Vehicles by leaving valuables 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 coins, 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."**