

Captain's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring! As you are out and about more with the nice weather, please remember our slogan of "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it" so you don't become a victim of Theft from Motor Vehicle.

I would like to share our crime statistics with you. For 2016, the Van Nuys Area has set a goal of reducing Part I crimes by 1%. In the last four week period of February 28, 2016 to March 26, 2016 as compared to the previous four week period of January 24, 2016 to February 20, 2016, we have seen an increase of 2.6% in Violent Crimes. We have a decrease of -17.2% in Property Crimes, and a decrease of -13.6% in Part I crimes. Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles and Grand Theft Auto continues to be a challenge.

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 Cheryl Cashman. The President of our MVCPC Executive Board is Larry Hanna. If you would like information about the meetings for the C-PAB or MVCPC, please contact Sergeant II Rudolph Valadez, Community Relations Office at (818) 374-9409, or Sergeant I Maria Pedroza, Senior Lead Office, at (818) 374-5401.

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, "FOLLOW" us on Twitter at twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv, and "FOLLOW" us on Nixle at local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys, "FOLLOW" us on Patch at shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station, and "VISIT" us online at www.lapdvannuys.com/.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station, and for assisting us in the fight against crime!

LILLIAN L. CARRANZA, Captain
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.

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

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. This is a free service that builds community and promotes community awareness. To logon got to 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 has a 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, to 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.

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://www.facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision). **FOLLOW** us on Twitter: twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv. **FOLLOW** us on Nixle: local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys.

Upcoming Community Events

Please come out and support:

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Their meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Marvin Braude Constituents Center located at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd.

Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council. Their meeting is the 1st 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 3rd 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 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street.

Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce. Their meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at the Devry Building located at 15301 Ventura Blvd.

Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce/Government Community Affairs Committee. Their meeting is the last Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m., at Bamboo Restaurant located at 14010 Ventura Blvd.

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

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 Sherman Oaks Library at 14245 Moorpark Street.

Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting. Their meeting is the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at the Denny's located at 5525 Sepulveda Blvd.

North Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A5

Senior Lead Officer John Bailey

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 33445@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A5's Area encompasses the North Van Nuys area of Raymer to the North and Sherman Way to the South, 405 Freeway to the West and Tujunga wash to the East. As of March 12, 2016, here are the year-to-date totals. There has been a decrease of the following:

Burglary (down 63.5 %), Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle (down 18.9 %). In this area, there has been an increase in Aggravated Assaults by 45% (29 year-to-date, up from 20 in 2015). There has been an increase of total Violent Crimes by 24.2% (up 41 compared to 33 incidents year-to-date).

Of the year-to-date increases, Grand Theft Auto has seen an increase of 16%. Whether it is your home or apartment, always remember to lock and secure doors when you leave the house. If you go on a trip for an extended period of time, the more cars in the driveway the better. In addition, put some interior lights on a timer, which can be purchased at many hardware stores. If possible at night time, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting around the house. This usually indicates people are home and helps deter residential burglary activity.

For new community members or those that have been here for generations, if you have an issue or problem, please feel free to contact me.

Take some time to make sure you are doing everything you can to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. There are many things that can be done to help reduce those chances. Please review our crime prevention section at (http://www.lapdonline.org/crime_prevention) to see what you can do to make your home and neighborhood safe.

Another excellent resource for keeping your neighborhood safe is to get involved with Nextdoor.com to further enhance our ability to work hand and hand with your neighbor. 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 is going on with your neighbors and stay aware of what is happening in your specific area.

Crime Prevention Tips

You can download the MY LA 311 to your mobile device/smart phone. Simply take a photo, geo match your location, and send the graffiti removal request. You will then receive a confirmation the request was received, and e-mail once the graffiti was removed. You can also utilize this application for other things like, TV's, couches and other bulky items. 311 is also an excellent resource for street services.

Remember, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it" when it comes to your vehicles. Please remove, or at the very least hide, all items from your vehicle when parking it. This is YOUR responsibility. If you leave things visible in your vehicle, they will be stolen. Don't be a victim.

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

Crime Trends/Statistics

Grand Theft Autos are continuing to rise within the Basic Car. As of March 12, 2016, we have had 29 vehicles stolen (up 32% from 22 vehicles YTD 2015). Although this is a high number, it

is lower than reported on the last newsletter (up 69% compared to YTD 2015). Older model Honda Civics seem to be the vehicle of choice.

Robberies are also up (11 compared to 4 YTD 2015). A lot of these robberies are what we call “Estes Robberies” (more commonly known as “beer runs”) from businesses. In short, this means that suspects are stealing items and then when confronted by loss prevention, security, or store personnel they are “putting up a fight” thus turning it into a robbery. Division wide we have had 17 in the last three weeks (as of 03-15-16).

Crime Prevention Tips

I receive a lot of phone calls and emails from people notifying me of suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. As I look into it further, I find out that the police are not being called to investigate. While I encourage you to call me so that I am aware of things, if I am on a day off there is not much I can do. Remember, if you see something that is out of the ordinary and you feel it is suspicious, PLEASE call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5873). As we like to say, “SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!”

REMEMBER...if you want to have Neighborhood Watch Meetings to please contact your block captain and set something up.

I get a lot of questions from people asking how they can report violations to Building and Safety. You may do this online at www.ladbs.org, or by downloading their new free phone application “LADBS Go.” By utilizing either of these options, you may report building code violations, request for inspections, or check the status of pending or prior permits.

Have you downloaded the MyLA311 application on your smartphone? This is great tool to report issues to several different city agencies. I personally use it while on patrol to request graffiti removal, bulky item pick-up, illegal dumping and other non-criminal service requests. As soon as you send in your request you will get a confirmation email that it was received, as well as an email once your request has been handled. The application was recently upgraded and I find it more user friendly...give it a try!

Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A23

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2557

Email Address: 37525@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends /Statistics

I am pleased to report that our crime is down -1.1% overall YTD for Basic car 23. The burglaries have subsided, however, there was still one more YTD compared to 2015. Our Burglary/Theft From Motor Vehicles are on the rise with an increase of 13.9%. The increase is affecting the Vanowen Corridor which runs between Kester and Sepulveda Boulevard.

Crime Prevention Tips

Please ensure you park your vehicle in a well lit area, and do not leave any visible items inside.

Suspects will break into a vehicle to steal a phone charger. Selling it for \$2.00 is better than having no money at all. Think about the items you have in your vehicle, and what they potentially add up to. When a suspect is desperate they will take anything possible.

The new and improved 311 app is up and running. It is very user friendly and easy to navigate. You can download the MY LA 311 mobile app to your smart phone. Simply take a photo, geo match your location, and send the request. You will then receive a confirmation the request was received, and e-mail once the request was handled. You can utilize this app for things like bulky item pick up, graffiti removal, as well as street services.

The non-emergency number (**1-877-ASK-LAPD**) is ideal and the most common number used but if it is an emergency, like one of the instances mentioned above, please call **911**. Don't forget to reach out to one another and stay in touch via Nextdoor.Com.

Valley Glen Basic Car Area 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: 32052@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends/Statistics

As of March 10th, 2016, we are down in overall Part 1 crime by 36.8%, and have the lowest overall crime numbers in Van Nuys Area.

The most prevalent crime in Valley Glen has shifted from vehicle related crimes to residential Burglary. This year, I will be focusing on increasing Neighborhood Watch participation in Valley Glen to combat residential Burglaries. I will be working with the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association to increase membership, participation, and education. Please contact me if you would like to become involved.

Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when you are not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of alarm system and cameras to deter would be thieves.

Crime Prevention Tips

If you are home and someone knocks or rings your doorbell, do NOT ignore it. Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person WITHOUT opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.

PLEASE don't leave valuables inside your vehicle. This is an invitation to a criminal to gather your items for you (and not return them). Car alarms are a good deterrent. Anything that can bring sound or lighting to your property is a plus. Please remember this easy slogan, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."

Thefts can be prevented by keeping a strong hold on your wallet and purse. When at the local stores, make a habit of placing your wallet/purse directly in front of you. Never place it down or

leave it to your side. The more the items are out of your direct view, the more likely a theft can occur.

Always look around and be aware of your surroundings. Criminals are looking for people that look like a victim and don't usually want to be seen, so look up and take notice of your surroundings.

Use the "myla311" smart phone application to report graffiti removal, fallen tree branches, and bulky items that need to be picked up, not only at your home but report it in your surrounding neighborhood.

Do not put up with suspicious characters on your street. Don't wait for your neighbors to tell you that they were broken into when you saw that strange looking person the night before near their car. Please, use the 1-877-ASK-LAPD (Non-emergency line) to report any suspicious activity.

Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Anthony Cabunoc

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 25170@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends /Statistics

Grand Theft Auto (GTA) and Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BFMV) continue to climb in Basic Car 41. GTA is up 4.8% and BFMV is up 27.8%. Theft has also shown up with a 15.1% increase. As for violent crimes, aggravated assault is at plus 16.7%. Please note that many of the reported assaults involve persons who are often related or who are acquaintances. What more can I tell you when it comes to BFMVs, don't be a victim. Drug addicts need to support their habit and an easy smash and grab for a few bucks is the answer. My daughter told me about a friend who recently had her car broken into in broad daylight at a busy store front parking lot. Seems all that was left in the rear seat was a visible Macy's bag. The thief got away with some eye liner. And the victim was left with an expensive rear passenger window to replace. Empty your vehicle of all temptations. Place items in the trunks prior to arriving at your destination or remove them entirely. Better safe than sorry!

Crime Prevention Tips

Harden the target! Make it difficult for suspects to approach your home without being detected. An early warning system via a smart phone along with exterior cameras, allows you to alert police and neighbors to someone trespassing on your property. Once they are inside it's too late. Help your community against such crimes. Report suspicious activity and remind neighbors of the importance of not leaving valuables inside vehicles. "Lock It, Hide it, Keep it."

North Sherman Oaks Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2563

Email address: 27270@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of April, I'm pleased to report that I'm currently still down about -8% in overall crime as compared to this same time period from 2015. I look forward to our continued partnership with the Neighborhood Watch program to reduce crime in the Sherman Oaks community. My efforts are still focused on the reduction of property crimes. With that being said, I encourage everyone to participate in a Neighborhood Watch program. Get to know your neighbors, and interact with your local police department, it works! Please continue to take extra precautions in securing your vehicles and not leaving property behind, this will help reduce the incidents of Theft from Motor Vehicle. My Neighborhood Watch groups have been asked to forward the word and to put crime prevention measures into practice. I cannot stress enough the importance of removing valuables from inside your vehicles. This simple step will help to maintain our reductions in property crime.

Crime Prevention Tips

Let us 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

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2565

Email Address: 30853@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends / Statistics

I am pleased to report a decrease in property crime by 9.5% YTD. The Department continues to push its slogan in the battle against vehicle break-ins. **"Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."** Please remember this when locking and securing your vehicles. Even for a short period, nothing should be left in your vehicles. Too many people continue to make themselves an easy target for Burglary from Motor Vehicles by leaving items 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 change, 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"**

As for the Residential Burglaries, the majority of these happen during the day. The best defense against this is a strong Neighborhood Watch program. If you do not have one in your area, please contact me to learn how to get started.

Crime Prevention Tips

We are utilizing as many resources as possible to combat all these problems. As you know, we can't catch everyone on our own. 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 yourself is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Do not leave anything that is not attached to the vehicle in plain sight. Make sure your cars and homes are locked and secured using as many crime prevention tools as possible.

To see additional crime prevention information, go to the “crime prevention” section on the left side of the screen on our Department website, www.lapdonline.org.

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group or becoming a Block Captain for your area or you were a Block Captain previously please call me so that we can discuss your area. I can be reached during my workdays on my City cell phone at (818) 731-2565. If I am not working or unavailable to answer your call, leave a message and I will get back to you. The non-emergency number (**1-877-ASK-LAPD**) is ideal and the most common number used, but if it is an emergency please call **911**.