



VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 6

Van Nuys Area Senior Lead Officers Unit
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

June 2017



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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Please come out and help shape the future of your community.

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

Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council: General meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Valley College, located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

Valley Glen Neighborhood Association: General meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., at Concorde College located at 12412 Victory Blvd., Classroom 003.

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

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

Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting: General meeting is the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at the Church on the Way, 14424 Sherman Way.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting: 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.



local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys.

WHO TO CONTACT

For crimes in progress dial: 911.

To report any suspicious activity or persons call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: **877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273)**.

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 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 St., Van Nuys, CA 91401; (**818**) **904-1700** (not a 24-hour hotline).

Crime Update

Basic Car 9A5:

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 36128@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

I wanted to take a moment and let you know that there has been a change in your Senior Lead Officer. Officer Bailey is now the SLO for A19 and I will be your SLO for A5’s area. The contact phone is still the same, however, email addresses have changed (please see above). I look forward to working with everyone and building great relationships!

Basic Car A5 is seeing a decrease in total Part I Crimes. As of May13, 2017, we are down -10.5%. We are down -40.7% in Violent Crimes and -0.8% in Property Crimes. This is a great way to start out the summer months!

Even though we are seeing a decrease, we are still up in auto related crimes (Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles and Grand Theft Auto). There have been 60 vehicles stolen so far this year compared to 44 this time last year, and 81 vehicles versus 69 have been broken into. We've been preaching "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it" for a while now, however, people are still leaving items behind. Some of these were left unlocked in driveways. Parking in driveways is great, but please remember that you are not immune from crimes when you do that. I have heard from some neighbors that they leave their vehicles unlocked (and still with items inside) because if someone is going to break into their vehicle, they would rather they go through an open door instead of having to break a window. While I can see some of the logic in this, you are inviting that criminal element into your neighborhood and possibly putting other neighbors at risk as the suspect may keep "hitting" your street knowing they can always get into a car.

National Night Out is just a few short months away (August). If your neighborhood/street is interested in hosting an event, please let know so that I can assist you in planning it.

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's city cell phone/email is NOT for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any questions, not dispatch calls.

Basic Car 9A19:

Senior Lead Officer John Bailey

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email address: 33445@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

Due to recent changes, Senior Lead Officer Paschal has been assigned to a different car (9A5). I am now the new Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car 9A19. The contact number is the same, however, my Department email is: 33445@lapd.online. Basic Car 9A19 encompasses the area of Sherman Way to the North, Victory Boulevard to the South, Van Nuys Boulevard to the West, and Tujunga wash to the East. I look forward to working in partnership and addressing any issues you may have. As of May 13, 2017, we have seen reduction of violent crimes by -14.5 %, Aggravated Assaults are down -8.3 %, Robberies are down by -22.7%, and Residential Burglaries are up by 6.1%. In addition, crime involving Personal Theft is also down by -18.0%. Of the year-to-date increases, however, this area has seen an increase in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle, up by 6.1 %.

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. If possible at night time, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting/ timers around the house. This usually indicates people are home and helps deter/reduce residential Burglary activity.

Basic Car 9A23:

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

Cell Phone: 818-731-2557

Email Address: 37525@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

I'm happy to report that Basic Car 23 which covers central Van Nuys is down -7.4% in overall Part One Crimes, along with a decrease of -0.4% in Property Crimes, and a -18.5% decrease in Violent Crimes. These numbers are in comparison to this time last year. We are still up in Grand Theft Autos by 21.2%.

Most of these Auto related crimes are occurring along the Vanowen Corridor and Sherman Way Corridor, and mostly affecting vehicles parked along the curb or in subterranean parking structures. Vehicles that are being

targeted are 2012-2015 Toyota's and Honda's, so please don't leave your key fob in the vehicle. We have also had an increase in Prius vehicles being targeted.

If you live in an apartment or condominium complex, please don't hesitate to reach out to start an "Apartment Watch" group. I've found that these types of meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community. Remember, Lock It, hide It, Keep It!

Basic Car 9A37:

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cell Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: 32052@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

Property crime continues to rise in my area this year. As of 05/16/17, the area is up nearly 50% in Grand Theft Autos, and 18.8% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Violent crime however is **down** over 7%.

We also are seeing an increase in thefts of bicycles in the valley. It is very important that you take several precautions to help reduce this crime trend. First, make sure you're locking your bike up with a quality lock that can't be easily cut. Also, when storing your bike, try to keep it inside your residence or in a closed storage area or garage, out of sight. Many of the stolen bicycles are being taken from underground parking garages and storage areas. Lastly, please **make a note of the bicycle's serial number**, usually located under the frame below the pedals. This is very important if the bicycle should be stolen so that the police can positively identify it as stolen property. Many of the stolen bicycles are quickly painted and made to look different and without a serial number it can be very difficult for us to identify.

Build my Neighborhood Watch participation in Valley Glen to combat residential Burglaries is the goal for this year. 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're 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.

Basic Car 9A41:

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 25170@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

We continue to see improvement in our overall crime numbers compared to this same time last year. We have dipped below and are at minus 1.8 %. That percentage includes the sums of both violent and property crimes. Of our violent crime incidents, we are seeing many aggravated assaults being committed by the homeless/transient population most often against each other. Our Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement unit (HOPE) continue to address the homeless camps providing outreach programs to assist them in perhaps finding temporary or permanent housing. HOPE has also been instrumental in assisting Detectives and patrol officers with identifying those individuals who are the involved with criminal acts or activity. We plan to continue this effort and to reduce the number of aggravated assaults. As for property crimes, I told you last month commercial burglary pushed our numbers up. Since then we are seeing some improvement due to the arrest of a suspect responsible for several such burglaries in our area. Let's be vigilant in securing our homes now that vacation season is here. Warmer weather also plays a part in our lax attitude when properly securing our homes. Windows left ajar, rear doors and sliders left unlocked or open, is the perfect invite for burglars. Do a thorough check of the premises before leaving. Have relatives or good friends do periodic

checks while you are away on vacation, and please don't post when you are leaving on vacation or post your vacation photos while you are still away. Let's have a great summer and one to remember for the good times.

Basic Car 9A63:

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email address: 27270@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. Heading into the month of June, we are currently experiencing an increase in property crimes with regards to Residential Burglary and petty theft. I'm currently up in property crime 10%, as compared to this same time from last year. I've experienced a 6% drop in property crime from last month. Most incidents involving residential burglaries are taking place during the daytime hour, while most homeowners are out working. Please be mindful of this and properly secure your homes and avoid leaving windows open. Please call to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

When visiting local retailers please be mindful of your surroundings and avoid leaving property unattended.

Finally, please continue to be mindful of not leaving valuables inside your vehicles. This will help to reduce your chances of being victimized by the crime of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. Remember to "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."

Basic Car 9A89:

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

Cell Phone: 818-731-2565

Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Crime Trends / Statistics

Basic car 9A89 covers the Southern Portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. We had an overall property crime decrease of 22%.

As for the Residential Burglaries, most these happen during the hours of 7:00 PM and 1:00 AM. 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.

HOW TO BURGLAR-PROOF YOUR DOORS

Burglars break into your home when they believe no one is around so they can take your most valuable possessions. They look for houses that appear to be easy to get inside, either through a window or a door. That makes it imperative for every person to make sure their doors are as secure as possible. There are several ways to do this.

Keep Your Door In Plain Sight

A burglar won't care if they break in through the front or back of the house, but if they feel the front door is well hidden it becomes an easy target. A house with overgrown trees and bushes can block the view of the front door, giving criminals a perfect spot to hide behind while they make their way inside. Keep any type of plant life trimmed back so thieves cannot use them as a hiding place.

Check Your Door

Before adding any security devices to your door, examine it to see if it hangs properly and was installed correctly. Make sure there are screws in every hole for each hinge. The more securely a door is attached to the wall, the harder it will be to break down. If the hinges are loose or partially empty, it is important to fix them right away. Create new holes if the wood is rotted out and the screws are barely hanging on. Once the door is on as tightly as possible, you can include new locks and bolts.

Door Locks and Bolts

Some basic door locks are easy to get through. The lock can be pried back with a small instrument, allowing a burglar to open the door and get inside. You can add a Dead Latch door lock quickly and easily to make the entry way far more secure. These locks cannot be pried open, so they are an inexpensive and very effective security device.

A rim lock can be installed on the inside portion of a door in just a few minutes. It includes a heavy duty dead bolt to make sure criminals cannot pry it open.

The top and bottom of any door can be reinforced with flush bolts. These are bolts that make it impossible for a burglar to open the door for easy entrance. When installing any type of bolt, make sure everyone in the house knows how to lock and unlock them quickly. While they work well for keeping intruders out, they can also lock people inside during an emergency if everyone does not know how to operate them.

Your front and back doors are common and easy targets for burglars who may try to get inside your home. Don't let them - take precautions to reinforce every door in your house and make sure they do not provide easy access for criminals.

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's 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's 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.

Crime Prevention Tips

- ***LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS*** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage.
- ***DON'T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT***. Put them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.
- ***TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR!*** Your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.
- ***LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA***. Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible.
- ***IF YOU'RE 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.
- Video cameras are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider this option to protect your home.