

Captain's Message

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall weather. This month we have Halloween, so please be sure to drive safely that evening and watch out for any trick or treaters in your neighborhoods.

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 August 28, 2016 to September 24, 2016 as compared to the previous four week period of July 24, 2016 to August 20, 2016, we have seen a decrease of -18.0% in Violent Crimes. We have a decrease of -15.3% in Property Crimes, and a decrease of -15.7% in Part I crimes. Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles, Grand Theft Auto, and Robberies continue 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 Tony Valadez, Community Relations Office at (818) 374-9409.

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, 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/.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at recent events like the "Cops and Cowboys" and the station Open House. Thank you for your continuing support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station!

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 St., 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 go 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 Constituent Service 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 Concorde College located at 12412 Victory Blvd., classroom 003.

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., 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 September 17, 2016, here are the year-to-date totals. There has been a decrease of the following:

Burglary (down 21.8%). In this area, there has been a decrease in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle (-16.4%). Grand Theft Auto has seen an increase of 8.2% (79 year-to-date, up from 73 in 2015). Aggravated Assaults by -7.2% (77 year-to-date, down from 83 in 2015). There has been an increase of total Violent Crimes by 25.7% (up 125 compared to 122 incidents year-to-date).

There has been a recent string of Thefts and Burglaries involving open garage doors and side gates to the back yard. Please, close and lock you garage door if left unattended for long periods of time. In addition, use a lock or latch mechanism to secure side gate to back yard. This will help reduce the incidence of crime in our area.

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.

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.

If you SEE something SAY something (trademark). Help to prevent acts of Terrorism (www.IWATCHLA.org) or phone 1-877-A-THREAT (1-877-284-7328).

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.

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

Basic Car A19 has finally seen a decrease of in total Part I Crimes. For the first time in months, we have a decrease of 0.4% (ending 09-17-16).

Our biggest challenge is still Burglaries/Thefts from Motor Vehicles and Burglaries. A lot of these crimes are happening along the major streets and within a block or two of those streets. Please remember to remove all items from inside your vehicle and take them with you. If you must leave items behind, try to place them in the trunk or conceal them inside. When at home, try to conceal your valuables in safes, if possible. Please make sure to lock your doors and close your windows when you leave.

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.

Crime Prevention Tips

I get 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

Basic Car A23 is currently down 1.5% in total Part I crime. Property crimes have decreased 2.2% and on violent crimes we are down 0.7% year-to-date.

Personal thefts and Burglaries from Motor Vehicles continue to be the biggest issue in the area. The majority of locations being targeted are subterranean lots. Please be cognizant when you are exiting your driveways or structures and be sure the gates close behind you. Also, remember to remove all items from inside your vehicle and take them with you. If you must leave items behind, try to place them in the trunk or conceal them inside. Be mindful of where you are placing your items (wallets etc.) when you are shopping. Try not to place them on counters where you might forget them. Take the money/credit cards out when you need them and place your wallet right back into your pocket/purse. Car thieves will steal anything from car chargers to loose change so keep that in mind before you lock up.

Crime Prevention Tips

Please look into a surveillance system for your residence. Time and time again I've seen homes with a surveillance system that is "passed up" due to the visible cameras and a well-lit area. There are several very affordable systems that can be easily installed and may keep from you from becoming a victim.

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

Basic Car 9A37 continues to lead Van Nuys division in crime reduction. As of Sept. 17, 2016, we are down in overall crime by -12.3%. Also, I'm happy to say that every crime category in my area is down from last year.

We are, however, seeing an increase in stolen bicycles in the area. It is very important that you take several precautions in order to help reduce this crime trend. First, make sure you are 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 bicycles 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.

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, 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. Do not 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

Basic Car 41 is starting to see some small improvement in our crime numbers. In the month of September, we were at a 10% overall increase in crime compared to our crime numbers last year at this same time. For the latter part of September into October, we have seen a decrease and are now at 5% overall. Residential Burglaries and Grand Theft Auto have seen the sharpest decline. Maybe we have all made the effort to harden the target and communicate with our neighbors to observe and report. I think Nextdoor has really helped in this effort bringing neighbors together to discuss quality of life issues as well as reporting crimes.

Last month, I wrote the importance of documenting and keeping the serial number of your bikes just in case of a theft. For one victim of a bike theft, that advice served him well. He reported his bike stolen from the rear yard of his residence. The bike was rather expensive and unique. Not only was a serial number provided to the officer's completing the report, but a photo was shared. It was because of this that an officer observed a similar bike leaned against a fence just feet away from a group of homeless. Of course no one claimed to have had possession of the bike nor having seen anyone with it. The bike was checked and the serial number matched. The bike was recovered and released to the owner that same evening. I believe the message was sent to those folks who watched the officer recover the stolen bike. People do report their property stolen, and serial numbers are recorded and kept for the police. Let's make sure the thieves understand that.

Crime Prevention Tips

Harden the target! Make it difficult for suspects to approach your home. Install a perimeter motion detector that will alert you via your smart phone. Should someone enter this zone or approach your door you will be alerted. Burglars often knock before making entry. They too wish to be alerted first. An early warning system via a smart phone along with two way communication, allows you to tell that visitor that you are home and unable to come to the door. Early alerts and video playback allows you to provide a complete description to police.

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 October, I'm currently up in property crime about +5% as compared to this same time period from 2015. The two areas that are affecting this are vehicle break-ins and Petty/Grand thefts. Please continue do your part and secure your belongings and talk with your neighbors about this. 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

There is a decrease in property crimes of 3.0% and an increase of violent crime 86%. 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.

Please join us at the Sherman Oaks Street Fair on October 16, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., for a great family event.

Crime Prevention Tips

We are utilizing as many resources as possible to combat all these problems. As you know, we cannot 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**.