



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 9

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

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association:** General meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., at Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:** General 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 Chamber of Commerce:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Galleria located at 15301 Ventura Blvd.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners' Association:** General 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.

**Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting:** General meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](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](mailto:36128@lapd.online)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car A5 is still seeing a decrease in total Part I Crimes. As of August 12, 2017, we are down -11%. Even though we are seeing a decrease, we are still up in auto related crimes (Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles +22% and Grand Theft Auto 19.7%). 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.

We have all seen the increase in transient encampments within the city. I am working with our H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement) Unit, Bureau of Sanitation, Street Services, Council District 2 and 6, as well as, several different outreach services to address these as best and as fast as we can. Before locations can be scheduled for a full clean-up, several outreach attempts must be attempted. This takes a little time, as

transients are just that, transient. Many times, we will speak to them at one location and then we have to locate them again somewhere else. This makes the outreach process very time consuming. Once a clean-up is done, it does not prohibit them from returning, sometimes right after we leave. Please let me (or your respective Senior Lead Officer) know of any issues you are having with encampments. The faster we become aware of it, hopefully the faster we can address 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](mailto:33445@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

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. As of August 12, 2017, we have seen a reduction of violent crimes by - 22.0%, Aggravated Assaults are down -15.3, Robberies are down significantly by -32.4%, and Residential Burglaries are down by 9.3%. In addition, crime involving Personal Theft is also down by -16.0%. Of the year-to-date increases, however, this area has seen an increase in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle, up by 3.7 %.

Of the Auto Theft crimes, many have been in subterranean parking structures. Remember, though your vehicle is in a secure parking lot, please adhere to, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep It." If able, park in areas with sufficient lighting. Never leave any valuables in plain view, even if you are only away from your vehicle for a short time. If your vehicle glove box is not equipped with a light, leave it open and empty. This deters criminals from braking into your vehicle.

If you plan on being out of town for an extended period. Please arrange to have parcels/ packages placed on hold at your nearest mailing annex/ hub. This helps deter crime and reduces the chances of you becoming a mail theft Victim. Please lock and secure doors when you leave the house. If you go on a trip for an extended period, the more cars in the driveway the better. If possible during hours of darkness, 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](mailto:37525@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 23 is down -0.2 % in overall Part 1 Crimes Year-to-Date. Violent Crimes are also down -14.8% Year-to-Date including a decrease in Rape, Robbery as well as Aggravated Assaults. There is a slight increase in property crimes bringing the total to 5.1% over Year-to-Date. This is due to an uptick in Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles (4.2% YTD), Burglary (13.2% YTD), and Grand Theft Autos (28.3% YTD).

Although we are down in thefts we are experiencing an increase of personal thefts from purses. Remember, if you are at the grocery car or loading your vehicle in the parking lot be sure your purse or bags are not exposed. The minute you leave your items unattended even for just a second these thieves are taking advantage.

Most of the 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 Toyotas and Hondas 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](mailto:32052@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of August 16, 2017, property crime continues to lead the way in my area. We are currently **up** 50% in Grand Theft Autos, and **up** 12.1% in Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Violent crime is **down** over 4.4%. These numbers are year-to-date compared to last year during the same period.

We continue to see 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 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.

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](mailto:25170@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Currently, we have a 3% decrease in crimes in Basic Car 41. Although the number is an improvement we still have lots of work to do preventing Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Opportunity is all a thief seeks, such as early morning hours of darkness and a vehicle with your property left behind. Let's practice good habits and remove the property or store it in the trunk. Don't let your guard down thinking a subterranean garage is secure. Thieves love these locations, often finding vehicles unlocked and plenty of property to take. Cars are lined up and parked neatly for the window shopper. Also, for those who park in their private driveways adjacent to their residence that's not security that's opportunity if your leaving property for the taking.

I mentioned bike thefts. We are asked why can't you arrest these suspects with bikes that clearly aren't theirs. That's the problem, it's trying to find that the bike in question is stolen. Sometimes no report, no serial

number, no identifiers equals no charge. Help us by noting serial numbers, providing a photo of your personal bike, and any identifiers that only you can direct officers where to look.

**Basic Car 9A63:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: [27270@lapd.online](mailto:27270@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. Heading into the month of September, we are still experiencing a slight increase in property crimes with regards to Residential Burglary and Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. I'm currently up +8.0% as compared to this same time from last year. Most incidents involving residential burglaries are taking place during the daytime hour, while most homeowners are away at work. Please be mindful of this, and properly secure your homes and avoid leaving windows open.

Remember, an open window is an open invitation to your home. With regards to thefts, please be mindful to track your packages when ordering on-line. If you cannot be home to receive it, consider a drop off location or ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your package for you. This should help to reduce your chances of being victimized. 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](mailto:30853@lapd.online)

**Crime Trends / Statistics**

Basic car 9A89 covers the Southern Portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City.

I'm currently experiencing an increase in property crimes as I'm up +11% year to date, as compared to August of last year. Remember to lock and secure doors when you leave the house. 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. Residential Burglaries are my main concern.

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. Also, 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.

**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.