

**Captain's Message**

I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays! As you shop for the holidays, please remember our slogan of "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it," and do not leave your valuables or packages visible in your vehicles. We do not want you to become a victim during the holiday season.

I would like to share our crime statistics with you. For 2015, the Van Nuys Area has set a goal of reducing Part I crimes by 2%. In the last four week period of October 25, 2015 to November 21, 2015 as compared to the previous four week period of September 20, 2015 to October 17, 2015, we have seen a decrease of -27.4% in Violent Crimes. We have a decrease of -8.7% in Property Crimes, and a decrease of -12.0% 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 Penny Meyer. 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](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/).

2015 has been a very productive year here at Van Nuys Area, and much of the thanks goes to those of you who have supported us throughout the year. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Holiday Season, and I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year!

**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](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 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](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).

### **Upcoming Community Events**

Please come out and support:

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners' Association (SOHA) Toy Drive**, 4520 Van Nuys Blvd., Gelson's Market Parking Lot, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**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 Chamber of Commerce**. Their meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 John Bailey

Cellular Phone: (818) 731-2556

Email address: [33445@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:33445@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

North Van Nuys area is still seeing a slight crime increase over last year at 19.0% over last year. The crimes causing the increase continue to be robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries. Of the year-to-date increases, burglary continues to be the highest crime increase in A5's area, but have slightly decreased from last period with a high of 62.3% increase from 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 around the house. In addition, if you go on a trip for an extended period of time, the more cars in the driveway the better. 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](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](http://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**

If your vehicle is not light equipped when the glove box door is open, leave it open and remove the contents within. In addition, remove the contents from the center console and leave that door open as well. This is usually the first place burglary from motor vehicle suspects will look. This is one of many ways to deter crime when it comes to your vehicle.

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](mailto:36128@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Back in March, I spoke about a rash of gate motor thefts that were occurring in the area. I am happy to announce that the suspect has been caught! He was actually caught in the act in Mission Division by a homeowner who notified police. Detectives believe he is solely responsible for our gate motors (approximately 13) and almost 20 in Mission Division!

Thankfully, we have seen a decrease in both Violent Crimes (+45.8%) and Property Crimes (+13.0%) as of November 14, 2015 (as compared to +48.7% and +16.2% from October 10, 2015). This gives us an overall increase of 19.0%. Even though our percentages are high compared to last years, we still have the second lowest number of ACTUAL crimes at 538 (YTD 11-14-15).

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

Now that the holiday season is in full swing please be mindful of your shopping habits. If you order items online and are unavailable to be there when they are delivered, try to arrange an

alternate person/location that can sign for your goods to ensure you receive them safely. During this time of year, we generally see a rise in package thefts from people's front doorsteps.

I want to remind everyone that 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](http://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.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season and all the best as we enter the New Year!

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

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

Cellular Phone: (818) 731-2557

Email Address: [37525@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:37525@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends /Statistics**

Basic Car 23 is seeing an increase in "abandoned/vacant" homes or commercial properties. If you are a homeowner or business owner with a vacant property, please ensure you take the proper steps to secure the structure. Notify myself or the front desk in the event you would like to file a "no trespass" warning with the Department. This means, in the event there is someone who trespasses on your property officers can make an arrest whether you are there or not. With that being said, if there is a vacant property that may be an issue please do not hesitate to notify your Senior Lead Officer.

The new Operations-Valley Bureau Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) has made a significant impact in the short time they have been operating. You may see an increase in Motor Officers patrolling the Corridor, and this is due to the HTTF's plan to saturate the area with more covert officers in order to make effective traffic and pedestrian stops. During the month of November the HTTF has made 15 prostitution related arrests, and they have given 30 citations and impounded three vehicles.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

If you see graffiti please report it to 311. You can also download the MY LA 311 mobile app to your 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 an e-mail once the graffiti was removed. You can also utilize this app for other things like, bulky item pick up 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](https://www.nextdoor.com).

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

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cellular Phone: (818) 731-2562

Email Address: [32052@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:32052@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

The overall crime numbers have continued to come down to 18.4% above where we were last year. Even better news is that if we look at the raw crime numbers in A37's area, we continue to have the lowest number of reported crime in Van Nuys Division at about 464 total crimes YTD. The most prevalent crime in Valley Glen continues to be stolen cars, car break-ins, and thefts.

Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when your 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**

With the holiday season coming, take special care when having packages delivered to your residence. Try to arrange to have things delivered when you will be home, or have them shipped to your work place. Don't become a victim of this type of theft.

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 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

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

Well it looks like we will not be seeing a decrease in crime numbers in Basic Car 41. Compared to last year's numbers we will end the year with a 14% increase. Let us make December a good month for all of you who read this letter. Let us start with personal thefts that have risen some 13.7%. Keep safe this holiday season and be sure to not to use your car as a storage bin for gifts. Identity theft is on the rise so do what you can to prevent theft of your personal information. Tis the season for such crimes. Respond to your door upon hearing the chimes. A package delivered and no reply is only left for a thief on the fly. Guard your cell phones, guard your homes, many come knocking and often it's not a gnome. Happy Holidays!

#### **Crime Prevention Tips**

Suspects are targeting plug-in car cables to charge Hybrid and Electric vehicles and selling them for their copper content. A recent theft occurred on the 5400 block of Norwich, at a loss of \$680.00. 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 is 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](mailto:27270@lapd.lacity.org)

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

As we head into the month of December, our numbers are up slightly from last month. We are up in property crime about +3% year to date. Overall I'm up +5% in property and violent crime combined as compared to this same time period from 2014. Moving forward, my efforts are still focused on the reduction of property crimes. Working together in partnership, I know we can make a difference for the Sherman Oaks community. 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](mailto:30853@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends / Statistics**

For the southern Sherman Oaks community, we are still experiencing an increase in burglary from motor vehicles, grand theft auto, and Burglaries. A total of 26% increase year-to-date on property crime. I am also still experiencing night time business burglaries along Ventura Boulevard between Woodman Avenue and Fulton Avenue. Please remember to secure your homes and businesses when away, and talk with your neighbors about reporting suspicious activity. Owners are given suggestions on how to improve the property exterior, posting no trespassing signs, and make it less inviting. Further suggestions include improved lighting, security gates, fences, cameras with real time feed to a smart phone, and on-site managers go a long way toward abating the criminal element.

### **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.”**

If you see graffiti please report it to 311. You can also download the MY LA 311 mobile application to your 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 app for other things like bulky item pick up as well as street services.

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