

Captain's Message

After such a hot Summer, I am sure many of you are glad to see the arrival of Fall. With Halloween at the end of the month, I would like to remind all of you to please be careful driving when the trick or treaters will be out in your neighborhoods. We want it to be a safe and fun evening for the children.

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 August 23, 2015 to September 19, 2015 as compared to the previous four week period of July 26, 2015 to August 22, 2015, we have seen a decrease of -25.9% in Violent Crimes. We have a decrease of -3.6% in Property Crimes, and a decrease of -7.9 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.

The "Cops & Cowboys" 2015 event held on September 12, 2015 was a big success. I would like to thank all of you who participated in planning the event and those of you who attended. Everyone had a great time. Also, on September 22, 2015, the station held an Officer Appreciation Day, Grove of Remembrance Re-Dedication, and a new station mural dedication. I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who helped in planning this event, those of you who participated in the ceremony, and to all of you who attended. It was a very special and memorable day for Van Nuys Area.

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/.

Thank you for your continued support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station. We are extremely grateful for all of your support!

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 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 is launching a new 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. **FOLLOW** us on Twitter: twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv. **FOLLOW** us on Nixle: local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys. **FOLLOW** us on Patch: shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station.

Upcoming Community Events

Please come out and support:

Sherman Oaks Street Fair. October 18th, 2015, Ventura Blvd. between Kester Ave. and Van Nuys Blvd.

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 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 4th 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 4th 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

Acting Senior Lead Officer Ralph Brown

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 34619@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends/Statistics

North Van Nuys area is still seeing a slight crime increase at just fewer than 20% over last year. The crimes causing the increase are robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries.

Of the above increases, burglary continues to be the highest crime increase in A5's area, with a 79.6% 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. 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

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 is still having issues with Grand Theft Auto related crimes (+165.6% YTD). The most common types of vehicles being taken are older model Hondas (late 1990's - early 2000's). According to Detectives, a majority of the vehicles are being taken are by unknown means (ex., no evidence of window smashing or ignition tampering). Of almost seventy (70) vehicles that were taken division wide during August 16 - September 12, 2015, fifteen (15) were taken from A19's area.

During the hot summer days, people are leaving the windows cracked open and forgetting to close them. Remember to leave all valuable items hidden or out of view from these criminals.

As of September 12, 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +48.5% for violent crimes and +16.4% for property crimes for an overall increase of 22.7%.

Crime Prevention Tips

To prevent Grand Theft Auto Related Crimes:

- Lock it, Hide it, Keep it!
- Make sure all doors are locked
- All windows closed

I want to remind everyone that if you want to have Neighborhood Watch Meetings to please contact your block captain and to set something up.

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.

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

There has been an increase of commercial burglaries along the Van Nuys Corridor from Victory Boulevard north to Sherman Way. Thankfully an arrest was made which cleared two of the burglaries.

The suspect is a local gang associate who has been known to graffiti and tag the area. The arrests were caught on video surveillance which led detectives to the significant arrest.

In the western portion of 23's area there has been an increase in Burglary Theft From Motor Vehicles. Most of the BFMV's are occurring along major thoroughfares like Vanowen Street and Sepulveda Boulevard. A majority of the victims had personal belongings that were left in plain sight.

Crime Prevention Tips

The ongoing transient encampments in the area are causing concerns by homeowners and local residents. Please know we are working closely with the City Attorney's Office and our new Community Impact Detail to get a handle on these issues.

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 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.

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

The overall crime numbers have come down slightly to 29.3%. Even better news is that if we look at the raw crime numbers in A37's area, it has the lowest total number of reported crime in Van Nuys Division at about 397 total crimes YTD. The biggest crimes in Valley Glen are stolen cars, car break-ins, and thefts.

With the hot weather we have been having, it can be tempting to leave your residence windows open but I highly recommend this not be done. Get in the habit of making sure all doors and windows are securely locked. Also, use alarm and video surveillance signs around your home to deter would be thieves.

Crime Prevention Tips

Try to keep your car in a safe place such as a personal garage. Video Surveillance systems have become an affordable option that are a great crime deterrent, and provide the police with valuable evidence if a crime does occur.

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.

Don't 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

I told you last month that Grand Theft Auto (GTA) is up 44%. Currently we are at 36%. In no way is that satisfactory in our basic car area. Honda and Toyota are the most popular vehicles stolen. Often these vehicles are recovered in the same division they were stolen. Many of these

vehicles are taken solely for the purpose of joy riding with some minor parts stripped. Therefore we have asked and directed officers to take a closer look at these vehicles on patrol and traffic stops and thoroughly check registration, vehicle keys, and any tampering with the ignition system. Van Nuys Area has deployed a two man unit assigned to address issues with the homeless and transients. Not only will they respond to calls for service and quality of life issues involving the homeless, but they will also work with LA County Mental Health to provide outreach and perhaps get many off the street permanently. We are looking forward to their impact and resolving a number of issues that often go unresolved.

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 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

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Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of September, our numbers increased slightly as we are up in property crime about +1%, 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

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 20% increase year-to-date on property crime. I am also still experiencing night time business burglaries along Ventura Boulevard between Van Nuys Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. Please remember to secure your homes and businesses when away, and talk with your neighbors about reporting suspicious activity.

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. Please remember to **“LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT.”**