

Captain's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying Spring! It was a pleasure to meet many of you at our Community Appreciation Day on March 14, 2015, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months.

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%. As of March 23, 2015, we have seen a year-to-date increase of 31.8% in Violent Crimes compared to this time last year. We have an increase of 12.3% in Property Crimes, with Auto-related crimes accounting for the most significant increase. Overall, Part I crimes are up 14.9% over this time last year.

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 Ron Feinstein. If you would like information about the meetings for the C-PAB or MVCPC, please contact Sergeant Tarek Ismail, Officer in Charge, Community Relations Office at (818) 374-1996.

If you have not had an opportunity to log on 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 supporting the Van Nuys Community Police Station. Please continue to be the "eyes and ears" for the Police Department.

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 Street, 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 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:

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 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.

District 3 (Sherman Oaks) Neighborhood Watch Block Leaders. Their meeting is the last 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 Justin Bergmann

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 32052@lapd.lacity.org

Van Nuys Division is seeing an increase in residential burglaries. There are many things that can be done to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please review our crime prevention section (<http://www.lapdonline.org/crimeprevention>) for tips to make your house a harder target.

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 you. 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. Please take a look at their site and join for your neighborhood. I will periodically be posting crime information, crime prevention and community events for issues specific to your area. The site can be found at www.nextdoor.com

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I am in the process of re-building our Neighborhood and Business Watch groups in the North Van Nuys area. If you are a resident or business and are not part of a group in your area, please reach out to me so that we can collaborate to make your area as safe as possible.

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 up 100% YTD (03-14-15) in the area of Grand Theft Auto. Please make sure you are locking/securing your vehicles and removing all items from sight. Even better is to leave those items at home. Remember to "Hide It or Lock it so that you can Keep It!" Suspects taking items from your vehicles is a preventable crime. The less temptation there is means they will keep walking. Remember, parking in driveways is better than the street and garages are even better if you can!

Burglaries are up 60% YTD. These crimes mostly occur during the day when people are at work or away from their homes. Please make sure you are securing your home. We are blessed with good weather most of the year and coming into Spring it only gets better, but please DO NOT leave your windows open when you leave your house.

We are still seeing an increase in Aggravated Assault crimes, as we are up 122.2% YTD. The majority of these are again Domestic Violence or some known relationship between the victims and suspects. Non-physical domestic violence can quickly turn into physical abuse with sometimes fatal consequences. Our involvement in Domestic Crimes is often requested when it's too late. Stop the violence and speak peacefully to one another, practice the patience that leads to patient and peaceful conversation. If you need advice from our Van Nuys Detectives, give them a call at 818-374-0040. Do your part to end Domestic Violence.

As of February 14, 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +62.5% for violent crimes and +7.7% for property crimes. Overall A19 is at 17.0% increase in overall crime.

Crime Prevention Tips

If you have a vacant house or commercial building in your area, please contact me with the addresses. I keep an on-going reference list. A lot of times squatters will try to set up residence

in the vacant houses. They like to steal utilities from neighbors by tapping into the services YOU pay for. Once they are in, it becomes very difficult to get them out. A lot of times it leads to having to go through the eviction process and that can sometimes take months.

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

I am very pleased to report we are down overall in property crimes, specifically burglaries with minus -10.5%. We are, however, up in Grand Theft Autos with 37 YTD compared to 23 for 2014. Aggravated Assaults are up as well mostly due to domestic related incidents.

Crime Prevention Tips

The number one vehicle being targeted are Honda Civics and Toyota Camry's. This is a reminder that we need to keep our car doors locked and if possible parked in a well-lit driveway or better yet a garage. Keep an eye out for your neighbors and if you see something suspicious please call it in. The non-emergency number (1-877-ASK-LAPD) is ideal if you see someone you don't think belongs in your neighborhood. Reach out to one another and stay in touch via Nextdoor.Com. We will continue with our monthly "Bait Bike Operation" which will focus on property crimes along the Sepulveda Corridor.

Valley Glen Basic Car Area 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Steve Underwood

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: 36355@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends/Statistics

Unfortunately our crime has remained at a significantly high level. These increased numbers lead the entire Van Nuys Area and are tops in the San Fernando Valley. While every category of violent and non-violent crime shows an increase our largest violators are Property Crime with car break-ins and stolen cars again leading the way. Domestic Violence has also displayed a staggering increase.

Crime Prevention Tips

Pass on to your neighbors and friends that your personal cars are the top targets. If you are able, secure your cars in a garage. If you're unable to secure your car in the garage, use a driveway. Your last option should be the street. Cars are targeted on the streets first. Used motion sensor lighting that illuminates movement in and around your cars. Invest in a loud car alarm to scare away would be criminals. Placing a car anti-theft device such as a "Club" has been found to deter

criminals. However, the biggest thing that the public can do ... DO NOT leave items in your car. I say items of value. What is valuable to some may not be to others. Don't give any criminal an excuse to gaze into your car.

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, don't hesitate to utilize the 1-877-ASK-LAPD system to report unusual activity. If you don't get satisfaction and you have strangers there now ... call 911 and give a good description of what you see.

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.

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

Crime statistics went from 240% down to 122 % in burglaries (residential & commercial) as of March 7, 2015. Our total number of burglaries year-to-date are 20 compared to nine this same time last year. I provided suspect descriptions from a residential burglary that was witnessed by neighbors at Hatteras and Columbus Avenue. Recently, we had a residential burglary along the 15000 block of Martha Street. Neighbor's video camera captured three possible suspects leaving the area immediately after the crime. Video showed two male Blacks walking eastbound from the target location on Martha Street and both enter a newer black 4 door BMW driven by the third suspect. Vehicle was last seen northbound on Lemona Avenue. Detectives are working on enhancing the video to retrieve the plate on the vehicle. Burglary from Motor Vehicle is also spiking. Let's remove all property from our vehicle when exiting and set your alarm system.

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's 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

Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of April, I am pleased to report we are still down in property crime, as compared to this same time period for 2014. We are currently down -2.8%. Moving forward, my efforts are still 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's 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 have to experience a slight increase in burglary from motor vehicles and grand theft auto. With this being said, I'm still experiencing a few day and night time residential burglaries south of Ventura Boulevard between Kester Ave and Van Nuys Blvd. Please remember to secure your homes when away at work 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. **REMEMBER, "LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT"**