

Captain's Message

I hope everyone is doing well this winter. I would like to share with all of you how happy I am to be the Commanding Officer of Van Nuys Area. Assistant Commanding Officer Captain Andrew Neiman and I are looking forward to meeting many of you at upcoming meetings and our Community Appreciation Day at the station on March 14, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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 February 21, 2015, we have seen a year-to-date increase of 10.1% in Violent Crimes compared to this time last year. Aggravated and personal assaults have been the greatest increase. We have an increase of 10.5% in Property Crimes, with Auto-related crimes accounting for the most significant increase. Overall, Part I crimes are up 10.4% 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/.

I look forward to making many new friends here and serving the Van Nuys Area community. Your continuing support of LAPD and the Van Nuys Police Station is most appreciated.

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 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:

Please join at Van Nuys Community Police Station on Saturday, March 14, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., for a Community Appreciation Day. Free hot dogs will be provided by the Hungry Hog and Starving Steer (while supplies last). There will be free activities and fun games for the children. Fleet Street will also be providing free bicycle repairs.

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

Crime Trends/Statistics

Crime continues to rise slightly. Most of the increase can be attributed to Domestic Violence. If you or anyone you know is affected by family violence, please do the right thing and get help. Help is just a phone call away. If it is an emergency, call 911. For non-emergencies call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-978-3600, or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) / TDD 800-787-3224.

Please get involved and join 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's going on with your neighbors and keep abreast of what's 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.

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 116.7% YTD (02-14-15) 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 you 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!

We are still seeing an increase in Aggravated Assault crimes, as we are up 14.3% 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 -16.7% for violent crimes and -2.0% for property crimes. Overall A19 is at -4.9% reduction 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

Basic Car A23 has been hit with “Bicycle Thefts” in the last month. This is mostly affecting the Sepulveda Corridor and most specifically LA Fitness located at 6161 Sepulveda Boulevard. I have met with the manager who advised me their corporate office has plans to install a surveillance system that covers the bike racks just west of the entrance. They have also hired a security guard who patrols during peak hours which has helped significantly decrease the amount of locker thefts.

Crime Prevention Tips

5 tips on preventing bike thefts:

1. Choose a lock based on your needs; either a key lock or combination lock.
2. Lock your bike frame AND wheels.
3. Choose a location carefully, balancing protection and visibility.
4. Keep a record of your bike and serial number.
5. Take photographs of your bike including any significant markings.

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

Crime has increased significantly in the basic car area. Again, this is east of Hazeltine Avenue, south of Victory Boulevard down to Chandler Boulevard, we then shoot down to the 101 Freeway east of Fulton Avenue. Domestic Violence has increased and as always car break-ins and stolen cars.

Crime Prevention Tips

We are making every effort to make arrest and follow-up on would be criminals. However, the other side is education and the communities understanding of crime prevention. I mention this every month, however, leaving valuables in plain view in automobiles continues. Now, there is an ever increasing amount of vehicles remaining unlocked. Our community is very safe from violent crime from unknown persons. However, your cars are not safe and you must make every effort to secure them and keep your belonging with you and inside of your home.

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, don't hesitate to utilize the 1-877-ASK-LAPD system to report unusual

activity. This will generate a response from our patrol officers. Another part of the equation is making sure your neighborhood looks clean and sharp. 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

For the past month burglary detectives and patrol officers have given extra attention to Basic Car Area 41. The total number of burglaries since the beginning of the year has reached 12 compared to four this same time last year. As for suspect descriptions, witnesses reporting seeing four Black males fleeing Hatteras and Columbus Avenue after entering the home at that corner. Suspects were last seen in a compact gray SUV type vehicle. Witnesses attempted to write the vehicle plate but noted that it was a florescent green paper dealer plate. Theft detectives are also at work trying to identify a theft suspect who hit along the 5500 block of Columbus Avenue.

The suspect who was captured on video was seen reversing his vehicle onto the victim’s driveway exiting and picking up the just delivered box from the front door. This occurred on February 1st, Super Bowl Sunday. We understand that it was delivered by the US Postal Service. Upon review of the video we saw that the vehicle was paper plated. The suspect is described as a male, mid 40’s, possible Hispanic or Middle Eastern, balding with a mustache and goatee. He appeared to be in a navy-blue, mechanics uniform and at one point was wearing a black baseball hat. Suspect’s vehicle is described as a black Ram truck, slightly raised with black rims. Windows of the truck appeared to be heavily tinted.

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’re 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 March, I am pleased to report we are down -11% in property crime, as compared to this same time period for 2014. 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 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 down about -15.1% in overall crime as compared to this same time period from last year. With this being said, I am still experiencing a few day and night time residential burglaries south of Ventura Boulevard between Kester Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard. 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.”