

MAY 2015

Vol. XVI, No. 5

Captain's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice Spring weather! As you go about your daily errands and take short trips on the weekends, please remember our slogan of Lock It, Hide It, Keep It. We do not want you to become a victim of Theft from Motor Vehicles.

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 April 18, 2015, we have seen a year-to-date increase of 32.2% in Violent Crimes compared to this time last year. We have an increase of 12.1% in Property Crimes. Overall, Part I crimes are up 14.7% 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 Larry Hanna. If you would like information about the meetings for the C-PAB or MVCPC, please contact Sergeant Maria Pedroza, Senior Lead Office at (818) 374-5401, or Sergeant Andy Hanna, Administrative Unit at (818) 374-1981.

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 continuing support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station. I look forward to meeting many more of you at upcoming meetings and events.

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, California 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:

Gun Buy Back Operation, May 9, 2015, 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Van Nuys Masonic Lodge, 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Their meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Marvin Braude Constituents 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' Meeting. 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

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/crime_prevention) 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

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 142% YTD (04-11-15) in the area of Grand Theft Auto. This is a sharp increase compared to 2014 (29 crimes in 2015 versus 12 crimes in 2014). 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!” We have had 40 Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles so far this year (that’s an increase of 21% compared to last year)! 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 31% YTD. Although the number is still high, this is a decrease since the April’s newsletter (then it was at 60%). These crimes mostly occur during the day when people are at work or away from their homes. Please make sure you are securing you 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 86% YTD. This year we have had 26 crimes compared to last year’s 12. 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 April 11, 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +65.2% for violent crimes and +18.8% for property crimes. Overall A19 is at 27.4% 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

Once again Basic Car A23 is down in property crime by -8% with 172 compared to last year's number of 182. Our community has done a great job of looking out for each and reporting suspicious activity. I am a firm believer that together, we can make an impact on crime over all. I am hoping our numbers will stay in the negative, but that can only happen if we continue to work together. The trend in bicycle thefts have dropped significantly thanks to the efforts of our Property Crime Unit.

We have had some unusual activity in the Kester Ridge neighborhood where our SWAT team responded due to a barricaded subject. Please know this was an isolated incident and our detectives are actively working on the case.

I recently met with our Gang Unit who advised me there has been an increase in graffiti due to the recent release of a few known gang members. They are documenting the activity in order to file charges against the suspects. Please remember to use the "MYLA311" application on your smartphone in order to request graffiti clean-up.

Crime Prevention Tips

The number one vehicles being targeted are Honda Civics and Toyota Camrys. 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.

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

Our crime has slowed down in the past three weeks. However, know that the numbers are still high, some of the highest in the San Fernando Valley. We are no longer the highest in the San Fernando Valley. Our highest numbers relate to Domestic Violence. Our second top crime is car break-ins also known as Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle, also referred to BTFV.

Crime Prevention Tips

Please let your neighbors and friends know that in the Van Nuys Area we have some of the top LAPD Detectives that deal with Domestic issues. It is important to report the crime so that we can direct families to the path of recovery and repair. With attention to Car Break-Ins, this crime is building momentum. Let your neighbors and friends know that all cars are at risk from thieves. Make room in your personal garage for your car to be housed and secured. If the garage is too full, then always park your car in your driveway. Do not leave any items that can be deemed as valuable in view of those that walk by. Any type of anti-theft device is good. Motion sensor lighting that illuminates movement in and around your cars, loud car alarms to scare away would be criminals are great. Placing a car anti-theft device such as a "Club" has been found to deter criminals. Do not leave items in your car. What is valuable to some may not be to others. Do not give anyone an excuse to look into your car.

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 system to report unusual activity. If you do not 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

Now down to 60% in burglaries (residential & commercial) as of 4/21/15. In spite of some great video capturing suspects prior to committing their crimes, Detectives have not been able to positively identify them.

Please remain on alert for the suspicious activity, secure your home even when leaving for a walk. Do not advertise you are away and secure those windows when leaving. Burglary from motor vehicle has begun to increase. We have been down this road before. Remove all belongings from your vehicle and do not feel so secure because it is parked in the driveway or just in front. It takes all but 30 seconds to window shop, smash and grab.

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

Email address: 27270@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of May, 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 -3.9%. 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 have experienced a slight increase in burglary from motor vehicles and grand theft auto. A total of 29% increase year to date on property crime. With this being said, I am still experiencing day and night time residential burglaries south of Ventura Boulevard between Van Nuys Boulevard and Woodman Avenue. 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.”**