

Captain's Message

I hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day! As summer approaches it is time to think about the safety of your home as you plan for summer vacations. Also, please remember our slogan of "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It" as you go about your daily errands and shopping trips.

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 May 16, 2015, we have seen a year-to-date increase of 23.7% in Violent Crimes compared to this time last year. We have an increase of 13.1% in Property Crimes. Overall, Part I crimes are up 14.5% 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, and please continue to be the "eyes and ears" for the Police Station. Your help is invaluable!

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, and 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:

Cup O'Joe with Your Local SLO – June 6th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 15232 Sherman Way, CVS Parking Lot.

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 Homeowner's 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 is up this year in my area. Burglaries have seen the biggest increase compared to last year. Please 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 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 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

Since the beginning of March 2015, I have had nine (9) motors taken from residential electronic gates. All of these thefts have occurred during the very late evening/early morning hours (midnight-5am). These thefts are unique as my basic car has been the only one where these have occurred. We are working on several different strategies to combat this trend.

As of May 9, 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +34.3% for violent crimes and +14.1% for property crimes. Overall A19 is at 18.2% increase in overall crime. Although these numbers are still high, they are decreasing and headed in the direction we want!

Crime Prevention Tips

GATE MOTOR THEFTS

Although it is extremely difficult to completely safeguard one’s gate motor against theft and vandalism, there are quite a few different theft-resistant cages on the market, all offering varying degrees of security.

To ensure the safety of your gate and motor take the following into consideration.

GATE VULNERABILITIES

- * Mounting bolts need to be welded to prevent the casing from being undone and the motor stolen.
- * One should not be able to lift the gate off the rails. An anti-lift bracket should be fitted to prevent this as it provides access into your property.
- * A locking bracket/anti-theft cage needs to be added over the gate motor to prevent it from being stolen.
- * The clutch needs to be locked via means of a padlock.

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

Also, this years *National Night Out* is set for *Tuesday, August 4*. This is an event for YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS! This is a great opportunity to get everyone together and get to know everyone. Check out this link (<https://natw.org/about>) below for the history of this event. If you want any ideas of what neighborhoods have done in the past, email or call me!

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

It's that time of year where we typically see a spike in property crimes and although slight it has risen by about 6.9%. There were two (2) burglaries that occurred where the suspects kicked the door off the hinges. Unfortunately, neither of these residence were equipped with video surveillance or a security system.

Crime Prevention Tips

Please remember to lock all your doors and keep windows closed while you are away from your home. Investing in a security system can be key in preventing you from becoming a victim. A video surveillance system can be purchased online for as little as \$150 and installation is fairly easy. You can also monitor activity via your smartphone while you are away from your home. 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

Major Crimes have decreased in the recent weeks. We hope to continue this downward trend. Know that the numbers are still high. Our highest crime numbers relate to Domestic Violence. Our second top crimes are stolen cars and car break-ins.

Crime Prevention Tips

Cars are being stolen, stripped and broken into at a very high rate. Please know that while all cars are at risk from thieves, newer models are a hot ticket for being stripped down. Try to make room in your personal garage for your car. If the garage is full, then park in your driveway. Don't leave any items of value in view of those that walk by. Any anti-theft device is good.

Motion sensor lighting that illuminates movement in and around your cars, loud car alarms to deter criminals are great. Placing an anti-theft device such as a “Club” has been found to deter criminals. Do not leave items in your car. Don’t give anyone an excuse to look 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, use 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

Burglary tops our current crime numbers for Basic Car 41. Burglaries (residential & commercial) at 43% down from last month’s 60%. Grand Theft Auto (GTA’s) is still hovering at 28%. Auto detectives informed us that Van Nuys Division had 12 GTA’s in one week. Of those twelve, eight vehicles have been recovered and no arrests were made. This is the average that we are experiencing. Many of these vehicles are taken for “joy riding” with Honda and Toyota topping the list. Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (BTFV) 23 crimes reported no arrests. Type of property taken, money, purses, wallets, electronic equipment, 3rd roll seats and catalytic converters. I think the message is clear, zero arrests mean more crime. Harden the target.

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

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Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of June, we’re still down in property crime about -6%, 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'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

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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 17% increase year to date on property crime. With this being said, I'm 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"