

**Captain's Message**

I hope everyone is doing well. Summer is already over for many school age children whose schools are back in session. Please remember to drive carefully around the schools to ensure the safety of 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 July 26, 2015 to August 22, 2015 as compared to the previous four week period of June 28, 2015 to July 25, 2015, we have seen an increase of 47.3% in Violent Crimes. We have a decrease of -4.2% in Property Crimes, and in Part I crimes we have a increase of 3.1%. 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 Maria Pedroza, Senior Lead Office at (818) 374-5401, or Sergeant Andy Hanna, Administrative Unit at (818) 374-1981.

The upcoming fundraiser held by the Mid-Valley Community Police Council (MVCPC), namely the "Cops & Cowboys" 2015 event will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2015. There will be cocktails, a silent auction, BBQ, country music, line dancing and more. It will be held at the Leonis Adobe Museum in Calabasas. For further information, please contact Sergeant Andy Hanna at (818) 374-1981 or Sergeant Maria Pedroza at (818) 374-5401, or go to [www.midvalleypolicecouncil.org](http://www.midvalleypolicecouncil.org). This fundraiser is in support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station.

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, "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 seeing many of you at the "Cops and Cowboys" 2015 event. As always, thank you for your continued support of the Van Nuys Community Police Station.

**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](http://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](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](http://www.Nextdoor.com). This is a free service that builds community and promotes community awareness. To logon got to [www.Nextdoor.com](http://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](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/LAPDVanNuysDivision). **FOLLOW** us on Twitter: [twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv](https://twitter.com/lapdVanNuysDiv). **FOLLOW** us on Nixle: [local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys](https://local.nixle.com/lapd---van-nuys). **FOLLOW** us on Patch: [shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station](https://shermanoaks.patch.com/listings/lapd-van-nuys-station).

### **Upcoming Community Events**

Please come out and support:

**Coffee with Cops**, September 5, 2015, McDonald's Parking Lot, 7045 Van Nuys Blvd., 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council**. Their meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:00 pm, at Bamboo Restaurant located at 14010 Ventura Blvd.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association**. Their meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 76.5% increase from last year. As the heat rises, many are tempted to leave doors and windows

open for airflow. Please consider using a combination of air conditioning and or fans to cool your home instead of leaving windows and doors ajar. 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](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](http://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**

Acting Senior Lead Officer Julio De Leon

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2566

E-Mail address: [39040@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:39040@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car A19 is still having issues with Grand Theft Auto related crimes (+183.3%). 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 August 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +36.2% for violent crimes and +10.8% for property crimes. Overall A19 is at 15.5% increase in overall crime.

### **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 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.

Have you downloaded the MyLA311 application on your smartphone? This is a 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](mailto:37525@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends /Statistics**

Unfortunately, we have seen an influx in gang graffiti throughout 23's area. In the past weeks, we have made approximately 10 requests for graffiti clean-up. After speaking with gang officers, they informed me there is a "Gang retaliation" going on between Barrio Van Nuys and an outside gang. They are "marking their territory" by tagging the walls and any blank canvas they can find.

### **Crime Prevention Tips**

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 an 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](http://Nextdoor.Com).

## **Valley Glen Basic Car Area 9A37**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cellular Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: [32052@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:32052@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

The bad news is that 9A37's crime compared to last year is the highest in Van Nuys Division at an approximately 28% increase. The good news is that if we look at the raw crime numbers, A37's crime is the lowest in total crime in Van Nuys Division at about 346 crimes YTD. If we look at part of Sherman Oaks with almost 600 crimes, we can see that Valley Glen is actually doing quite well. The biggest crimes in Valley Glen are stolen cars, car break-ins, and thefts.

### **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.

Do not, no matter how tempted ... 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, and 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](mailto:25170@lapd.lacity.org)

### **Crime Trends /Statistics**

Overall property crime statistics are at plus 15 %, while violent crimes are down 11%. Grand Theft Auto is up 44% ,followed by Burglary up 17%, and personal theft up 15%. Honda and Toyota tend to be the vehicle of choice to be stolen. As for burglary from motor vehicle, victims are still leaving property in the vehicle or in plain sight. Laptops, phones, and purses are just some of the articles listed in many of the crime reports. Let us make an effort to remove all belongings from your vehicle upon exiting. If you are an owner of a Honda or Toyota, you may want to invest in an additional anti-theft device.

Recently, 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 are also working 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

Email address: [27270@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:27270@lapd.lacity.org)

### **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](mailto: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 24% 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.  
REMEMBER, “**LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT.**”