

JULY 2015

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Captain's Message

I would like to wish everyone a nice 4th of July! Please remember that fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles, and look for a fireworks display in your area.

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 June 20, 2015, we have seen a year-to-date increase of 31.6% in Violent Crimes compared to this time last year. We have an increase of 14.0% in Property Crimes. Overall, Part I crimes are up 16.3% 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.

The upcoming fundraiser held by the Mid-Valley Community Police Council (MVCPC), namely the "Cops & Cowboys" 2015 event will take place on Saturday, July 18, 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. 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 hope everyone is enjoying the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at the "Cops and Cowboys" 2015 event. As always, thank you for supporting 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. 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 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 Chamber of Commerce. Their meeting is the 2nd 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 4th Wednesday of each month at 12:00 pm, at Bamboo Restaurant located at 14010 Ventura Blvd.

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.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Watch Block Leaders. Their meeting is the 4th 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

The last reporting period we had several residential burglaries, including one hot prowler, which means someone was home during the crime. As the summer approaches and 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) 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 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

Last month I reported that we had a rash of thefts involving gate motors. I am happy to report that we have not had any since then!

We gained tremendous ground in crime reduction in the last month. As of June 13, 2015, Basic Car A19 is at +17% for violent crimes (down from 34.3% last month) and +8.3% for property crimes (down from 14.1%). Overall A19 is at 10.1% increase (down from 18.2%) in overall crime. These numbers are decreasing and headed in the direction we want. Let’s keep this momentum going through the summer!

Crime Prevention Tips

GATE MOTOR THEFTS (still putting it out there just in case!)

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 year's *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.

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

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Crime Trends /Statistics

RD 914 had three burglaries, one commercial which was at a Smoke Shop and two residential. We do not believe any of these three are related to each other. The first residential took place at the 14700 block of Hartland Street where the suspect kicked in a side door and ransacked the location. Due to the time of this occurrence, this is possibly related to the two burglaries in RD 904. The second burglary was of an apartment located at 6900 block of Kester Avenue and was also an isolated incident.

There were three (3) "Lewd Acts with a Minor" which raised our number of sex related incidents. Luckily, the victims were able to provide a very strong description of the suspect. After a fourth incident occurred our Sex Detectives were able to identify the suspect and our gang unit took the suspect into custody. The District Attorney filed several counts and set his bail at \$3.2 M.

Crime Prevention Tips

Be aware of your surroundings:

Try not to get caught up in the day-to-day pressures that you lose awareness of the people around you.

Be prepared to act in an emergency:

If you have never been a victim of a crime, think of what you would do if someone assaulted you, stole your purse/wallet, etc. Being prepared before an incident occurs is key to surviving an attack.

In most instances, it is NOT a good idea to enter a car or drive to another location with a suspect. Victims should do all they can to avoid the above.

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**.

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 remained steady in the recent weeks. We were hoping for a downward trend. However, it has yet to happen as we reach our mid-year point. Our biggest crimes are stolen cars, car break-ins and thefts. There are several factors that are leading to these high numbers in the above mentioned crimes.

Crime Prevention Tips

Try to keep your car in a safe place such as a personal garage. If you live in a complex that has underground parking, we encourage that you have video surveillance installed. Several local businesses have located very affordable surveillance systems that are at a very high quality. Surveillance systems on your single family dwelling are also advisable. If you are installing a system for the first time, make sure to check with your neighbors. If your neighbors also have a system installed, you may be able to work together and make sure that most of your angles are covered. Don't try to double cover specific fields / areas.

Do not, no matter how tempted ... leave valuable inside your personal vehicle. This is only an invitation for the criminals to gather your items for you (and not return them). Car alarms are a great deterrent. Anything that can bring sound or lighting to your property is a plus while trying to fight crime.

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.

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.

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.

Central Van Nuys Basic Car Area 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Anthony Cabunoc

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Crime Trends /Statistics

Property crimes this summer may heat up. Although we have seen a reduction in the current burglary numbers down to 35% we anticipate a spike. We believe this to be true because of vacations and hot summer nights. Often homeowners leave home without securing windows that they may have opened the previous night. In a recent burglary, officers reported that an unknown suspect entered the rear yard and proceeded to a window not properly secured. The suspect chose the easiest point of entry. Perfect point of entry, no noise, no mess and perhaps they may use this point of entry for an exit. We have made no significant arrests in the area or have any solid leads. Detectives ask that Neighborhood Watch be active in watching for suspicious persons, vehicles, and the activity. Timely reporting as well as descriptions and plate numbers can provide us the leads we may need for a future arrest.

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

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Crime Trends / Statistics

As we head into the month of July, we are currently down in property crime about -3%, 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

Crime Trends / Statistics

For the southern Sherman Oaks community, we have experienced an increase in burglary from motor vehicles, grand theft auto, and Burglaries. A total of 35% 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”**