



# Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter



Serving the Communities of: Canoga Park, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka  
21501 Schoenborn Street, Canoga Park 91304

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Topanga Community Relations Office (818) 756-3180

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Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070

E-mail: [topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org)



**National Night Out** is August 2, 2011. This year the National Night Out will be directed to the community base of neighborhoods hosting their

own National Night Out meetings. We want the community to have their porch lights on, have block parties, get to know your neighbors and show the neighborhood spirit. If you are a block captain, Neighborhood Council member or a community leader, encourage everyone to participate!

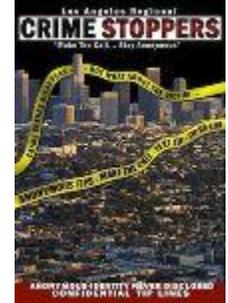
We have a new e-mail address you may send any of your neighborhood concerns, etc., to, it is [topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:topangapolice@lapd.lacity.org). This email box will be monitored daily, versus sending an email to a specific person, who may be away from the workplace and your email goes unanswered.

## A Message From Captain Tom Brascla:



In an effort to combat crime, the Department at times has to rely upon tips from the community. In some cases, people are often afraid to come forward with information that may result in the arrest of a suspect. There is program that allows anonymous-identity managed by the Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers and is called "lacrimestoppers." A person, who provides a tip with information leading to an arrest or of which the information leads to an arrest, is eligible to receive a reward up to \$1000.00. You provide a tip via telephone (800.222.8477), via online (<http://www.lacrimestoppers.org>) or via text

(text to 274637 and in the message body the word TIPLA then the information). I encourage anyone with information that can lead to the arrest of suspect to use this program.



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Hi! I'm Officer Melissa Olsen and I am in charge of the Topanga Area Jeopardy Program. Jeopardy is a program of the Los Angeles Police Department which focuses on at-risk juveniles between the ages of 9-17. The program runs after school Monday - Thursday from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information about Jeopardy, please call me at (818) 756-3185 or email me at or [30734@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30734@lapd.lacity.org).



The Cadet Program is a youth volunteer service program for young men and women ages 14 to 20½ years. This program provides participants with discipline, critical thinking and teamwork exercises, opportunities for leadership, and physical fitness training.

The Topanga Cadets continues to accept applications for the program. Topanga Cadets hold weekly meetings every Tuesday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Topanga Police Station. If you are interested in applying, visit us at our Tuesday meeting at 5:30 pm. There you can obtain an application and observe a meeting. Contact Youth Services Officer Godfrey at (818) 756-3183 or Officer Archambault at (818) 756-3182 for more information. You can also visit [www.LAPDCadets.com](http://www.LAPDCadets.com).

We want to congratulate the Topanga Cadets for their hard work at the SWAT Fitness Challenge; they earned the Spirit Award for their good sportsmanship. The Topanga Cadets have been busy with community service events such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Topanga Mall crime suppression, and Winnetka Children's Day. They have also had the opportunity to engage in field trips such as the Summer Tip Off at USC, a beach trip, hiking, and a trip to the movies. The Topanga Cadets began the Cadet Recruit Academy on July 23rd; it will last for 18 consecutive Saturdays. We have a record number of 27 Cadets in the Academy! We wish all the Topanga Recruits good luck!

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The Deputy Auxiliary Police (DAP) Program is similar to the Cadet program, but it is geared toward even younger children. It is designed for children ages 9 through 13 years. At the age of 14 they are then encouraged to join the Cadet Program. The DAP Program allows children to participate in activities that instill a sense of community pride, self-discipline and leadership ability in an overall positive environment. This program is supervised by Police Officers. The young people accepted into the DAP program must be doing well in school, have no record of serious arrests or convictions, maintain good moral character and demonstrate a willingness to serve the community and participate in activities. DAP Officers and members meet every Wednesday from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Topanga Community Police Station.

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**Recent news in my area:** This segment contains some activity in Topanga, but it is not intended to reflect all of the crimes in your area.

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***News from SLO Jose Maldonado (A29):***

These are hard times we are facing with the cost of living and unemployment. Unfortunately, the criminals find clever ways to prey upon unsuspecting victims. This is how the criminals operate the "Grand Theft Internet Job Scams." A typical scenario would be: The victim receives an email from a false company (suspect) stating that the victim has been hired as a personal assistant, executive secretary, or a payroll manager (the titles vary to lure the victim). The victim will then receive a check for five thousand dollars (for example) in the

victim's name. The suspect then instructs the victim to deposit the check into the victim's bank account and is then instructed to keep some of the money from the check as the victim's "payment." The suspect then instructs the victim to send payments to various different companies associated with the company. Since the victim did not receive company checks the victim uses their personal checks from their account to cover the payments. Three to four days later, the victim discovers the check that was sent from the company (suspect) has insufficient funds. The victim's money is now gone and so are the suspects. *Please be aware of this type of trick or device scam and be safe!*

Remember we have Neighborhood Watch meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Topanga Police Station.

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***News from SLO Sam Sabra (A43):***

On 6-18-11 and 6-19-11 a Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BFMV) occurred on the 6100 block of Fleury Lane. Credit cards and personal items were some of the items stolen. On 6-19-11, the suspects attempted to use the credit cards to purchase items at Target but were denied. Topanga Detectives recovered videotape evidence of the attempted transaction. On 6-21-11, a male suspect attempted to cash one of the stolen checks made out to him; the suspect had included his personal info on the check. This transaction was denied due to a suspicious employee. Topanga detectives recovered the check with the suspect's information. All evidence was given to the Topanga Crime Suppression Detail (CSD) unit who apprehended the suspect and recovered narcotics in his car. CSD conducted a search of his residence where other stolen items were recovered from other incidents. The suspect admitted to some of the crimes. This is a great example of Topanga teamwork at its best. Great job!

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***News from SLO Brent Rygh (A73):***

"Neighbor Disputes"

Your neighbor can be a blessing or a curse depending on your relationship with them. Of the many different aspects of police work that your Senior Lead Officer handles, the most difficult and time consuming can be disputes between neighbors. Neighbor disputes involve a wide variety of subjects including blocked views, construction, unmaintained property, home businesses, parking, barking dogs,

noise complaints, and many others. Often times these complaints could (and should) be handled by better communication between the neighbors. Unfortunately people will often wait too long to discuss their concern with the neighbor and as the frustration builds, so does the tone of the message when they finally confront the issue with raised voices or an angry letter.

Your neighbor may not realize that you are disturbed or offended by their action (or inaction) until confronted. If the first communication about the problem is angry, confrontational, or nasty, your future interaction with the neighbor may become difficult. Not all neighbors will listen or cooperate, but most will respect your effort to try and resolve the problem so it doesn't escalate. Not comfortable with discussing it in person? Consider writing a polite letter (even an anonymous one) describing the problem and what you would like done about it. If a neighbor is doing something that annoys you and your first reaction is to call the authorities (Police, Building and Safety, Animal Services, Health Dept, etc) it may be very difficult to repair the relationship with the neighbor. Their response will then likely be to call authorities on you instead of trying to resolve a problem.

When your neighbor just won't listen, you may have to call the authorities including your Senior Lead Officer (SLO). Your SLO will do their very best to resolve the problem, but eventually your SLO drives away and you still live with the offending neighbor next door. For ongoing issues please consider the City Attorney Dispute Resolution Program instead of becoming involved in lawsuits or a potential neighbor war.

Some "Good Neighbor Laws" to consider:

*Home Auto Repair* – Other than for minor emergencies, which must be completed within 24 hours, all auto repairs should be done within a building or in an area which is entirely enclosed from view by a wall or a fence.

*Inoperative Vehicles* – Non-functioning vehicles must be stored in a garage or in an area not viewable from the public street, not in a driveway or on the street (Enforced by Department of Building and Safety or Parking Enforcement).

*Parking in the Front Yard* – Vehicles should not be parked in the front yard area except in a designated driveway. (Enforced by Department of Building and Safety).

*Refuse Collection* – Trash containers can be set out on the curbside no earlier than 6 PM the evening before collection and are to be removed no later than 8 PM following collection. Enforced by Bureau of Sanitation.

*Dogs* – Sanitation laws require all dog owners to pick up after their dogs immediately. Enforced by Animal Services.

*Yard Sales* – A maximum of five 2-day sales are allowed per year. Sale items must be used only, no new merchandise. Sales are not allowed on the sidewalks or streets. Hours are limited to 9 AM – 5 PM. (LAMC 12.03) Enforced by Department of Building and Safety.

*Outside Storage* – Items, such as indoor furniture, plumbing fixtures, construction or automotive parts, are not to be stored in the yard; Enforced by Department of Building and Safety.

*Trash/Debris or Excessive Vegetation* – Properties must be free of trash, debris and overgrown vegetation; Enforced by Department of Building and Safety.

*Loud Noises* from any musical instrument, stereo or other amplified device is prohibited if it interferes with the peace and quiet of another (no time limit).

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### *News from SLO Sean Dinse (A97):*

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In the course of my assignment as a SLO, I have been involved in a number of investigations dealing with squatters living in foreclosed houses. A number of the incidents involved the suspects breaking into the foreclosed property and then changing out the locks. The suspects on most occasions would create a fictitious lease agreement giving them permission to live at the location. Upon the bank sending a realtor out to the property to inspect it for sale, they are confronted by the residents. The bank and realtor anxious to sell the property pay out the squatter a large sum of money for moving expenses. The squatter will then move to the next residence continuing this process.

I have also participated in investigations involving an outside party breaking into the house, changing the locks and then advertising the property to be leased.

The third party would lease the property taking a deposit and having the rent sent to the documented address. The renter will continue living at the house until the realtor, attempting to sell the property, shows up at their door. The residents will then be forced out of the property with only a crime report to document the theft.

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**Sergeant Rachel Raigoza, SLO Supervisor**  
**818.756.3070**

**SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1**  
*(Covering the North part of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)*  
**Office (818) 756-3073 Cell (818) 731-2578**  
**Email 34966@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A /21A43 meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

**SLO Alex Padron, Basic Car 21A5**  
*(Covering North Canoga Park)*  
**Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583**  
**Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A5 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

**SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29**  
*(Covering Winnetka)*  
**Office (818) 756-3079 Cell (818) 731-2569**  
**Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A29 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

**There is now a SPANISH SPEAKING Neighborhood Watch Meeting!** SLO Jose Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking Neighborhood Watch for any residents within the Topanga Police Area every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM

**SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43**  
*(Covering the South part of West Hills)*  
**Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558**  
**Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A43/21A1 meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

**SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57**  
*(Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls)*  
**Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570**  
**Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A57 meeting will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

**SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73**  
*(Covering Woodland Hills, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)*  
**Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581**  
**Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A73 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

**SLO Sean Dinse, Basic Car 21A97**  
*(Covering Woodland Hills, East of Topanga Canyon)*  
**Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568**  
**Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A97 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

**Sergeant Thomas Mason, Officer In Charge, Community Relations Office**  
**818.756.3180**

**Cadet Coordinators** 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Danielle Godfrey  
Police Officer Greg Archambault

**PALS Coordinator** 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Leslie Kincaid

**Jeopardy Coordinator** 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Melissa Olsen

**Volunteer Coordinator** 818.756.3180  
Police Officer Joe Breyer

**Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB)**  
Police Officer Todd Jaron 818.756.3180