



# TOPANGA AREA



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

Volume 2, Issue 6      Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070      August 2010  
Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



Always **LOCK** your vehicle and **HIDE** your valuables! **KEEP** your personal property safe and secure...Do not be a victim!

- Creating flyers with information specific to their individual neighborhood; and
- Promoting e-policing and Nixle which allows Topanga to reach more people with information that can help capture suspects and reduce crime in our communities.

Some of our block captains also play a role in ensuring that our newsletter is completed and distributed in a timely manner. These block captains assist by folding the newsletters, distribute them to local businesses, the public library, other block captains, neighborhood watch members and their neighbors.

### A Note From Your Captain:



I am excited to say that National Night is upon us again. As a new station, Topanga will be holding its second National Night Out on August 3, 2010. At the event, your Topanga Community Police Station will be recognizing an outstanding block captain from each one of our Basic Car Areas. The block captains we have chosen have done an exceptional job in the following areas:

- Overseeing and arranging Neighborhood Watch meetings;
- Being a spokesperson for the group;
- Serving as a liaison between LAPD's Topanga Area and the Neighborhood Watch group;
- Recruiting neighbors to share the responsibility of hosting meetings;
- Maintaining a list and contact information of all members;
- Designating work assignments such as enrolling new members, vacation home watch, block parents, neighborhood patrol, secretarial duties, developing and maintaining block maps and crime prevention material distribution
- Assisting with the dissemination of hot crime trends and wanted suspects/vehicles.

This year we are recognizing the following **OUTSTANDING** Block Captains:

1. Block Captain **Bob Brostoff**,  
*Basic Car Area 21A1*
2. Block Captain **Cindy Sennet**,  
*Basic Car Area 21A5*
3. Block Captain **Mary Ellen Bordonaro**  
*Basic Car Area 21A43*  
Block Captain Team **Bob & Mary Ann Kebler**,  
Block Captain Team **Tom & Lorraine Fafard**
4. *Basic Car Area 21A29*
5. Block Captain **Larry Salit**,  
*Basic Car Area 21A57*
6. Block Captain **Steve Santen**,  
*Basic Car Area 21A73*
7. Block Captain **John Strand**,  
*Basic Car Area 21A97*

If you are interested in becoming a block captain, starting your own neighborhood watch group or want to become more involved in the safety and security of your neighborhood, please call the Topanga Senior Lead Office at (818) 756-3070.



What *IS* National Night Out? (NNO) National Night Out is a night where all across America law enforcement and citizens get together to send a message... we are

united... we are ONE! National Night Out is community policing at its best and about neighborhood unity, law enforcement promoting safety, and most importantly police and community partnerships.

National Night Out is *Neighborhood Watch* at one of its best moments... YOU the community and your police department working *together* to show the criminals out there that there is truly a partnership. We hope to see MANY of you participating this year!

Where: Warner Ranch Park  
5800 Topanga Canyon Park  
Woodland Hills

Time: 5 PM – 8 PM

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**Topanga Cadets Beautify Topanga Station**

For those of you who have been to Topanga Station recently,

you may have seen how unsightly our grounds had become as weeds seemed to have overtaken the outside of our station. On July 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> the Topanga Cadets showed their pride and dedication by not only battling the heat but fighting the weeds! Our Cadets worked very hard and made a huge dent in helping to beautify and maintain the appearance of our Topanga Station on what were very sizzling hot summer days. Thank you!!

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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. **The most current updates for your neighborhood can be found on [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org).**

On June 29, 2010, Topanga Crime Suppression Detail (CSD) received information regarding a possible rape suspect. This information was given to

CSD via a report taken at the Topanga front desk. The Crime Suppression Detail took over the investigation based on the information they received and after a long thorough investigation, two suspects were arrested. Great teamwork, outstanding job Topanga!

Since late 2009, Topanga area has been hit hard with Burglary from Motor Vehicle's (BFMV) occurring at Topanga Plaza, Promenade Mall, Kaiser Woodland Hills, West Hills Medical Plaza, and Fallbrook Mall. Recently, SLOs Cunningham and Sabra received an anonymous tip about three individuals that were breaking into vehicles at these specific locations. After much investigation by Cunningham and Sabra, they not only identified these three suspects, but on July 27<sup>th</sup>, they observed one of the suspects walking his dog in the area of Winnetka and Victory. After a thorough interview and follow-up with the help of Detective O'Sullivan, we are happy to report that two suspects have been taken into custody. With the apprehension of these two suspects, it is expected that well over 100 reports will be cleared! Outstanding investigative work Topanga!

In February 2010, Forest Hills residents in Woodland Hills experienced a rash of theft from motor vehicles (TFMV). A *block captain* contacted SLO Dinse to advise regarding the crime trend and that there was surveillance footage of the suspect. Officer Dinse reviewed the surveillance and passed the information onto detectives. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Officer Dinse, while on his way into work, observed the described truck from the surveillance footage and documented the license plate. The registered owner returned as a parolee-at-large with a felony warrant. A crime bulletin of the suspect and his truck was produced for officers and detectives. The suspect's vehicle was located by Topanga Narcotics Unit and was arrested. Just the day before, it was learned that the suspect was seen in Devonshire Division breaking into a house but fled from the police. Thanks to the diligent investigation and teamwork, a serial burglary suspect was taken off the streets of Topanga!

**Soda Bottle Bomb...Fact or Fiction?** Lately we have been receiving a lot of calls with questions about so-called "soda bottle bombs." These devices are basically just plastic bottles partially filled with a reactive chemical

that builds up pressure until the bottle explodes. These devices are real and indeed very dangerous. The



powerful explosion from these bottles can hurt or kill a person, and the chemicals involved can be very hazardous.

The Los Angeles Police Department considers these improvised explosive devices to be dangerous, deadly, and a felony? While we do not want you to call the police every time you see a bottle on the side of the road, we do want to alert you to the danger of these homemade devices. If you see a suspiciously placed plastic bottle with a lid on it, especially if the bottle appears to be bulging from pressure, move far away and call 911 so we can dispose of it safely.



Need help with quality of life issues? Know your Senior Lead Officer, they are invaluable!! **The Senior Lead Officers' main office number is (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 21A1 / 21A43 Basic Car meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

**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.

**SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73**  
(Covering Woodland Hills - West of Topanga Canyon)  
**Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581**  
**Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A73/21A97 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

**SLO Charles "Sean" Dinse, Basic Car 21A97**  
(Woodland Hills - East of Topanga Canyon)  
**Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568**  
**Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org**  
The 21A97/21A73 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

**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 Basic Car meeting will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

**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 Basic Car 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 Basic Car meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

**SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY Neighborhood Watch Meeting!** SLO Jose Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking only 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.

**\*\*August Neighborhood Watch Meetings Note: All Basic Car Meetings for AUGUST are at National Night Out—There will be NO "regular" Neighborhood Watch Meetings this month!!!!\*\***

**PLEASE...Sign up for E-policing!** E-policing keeps you abreast of the latest crime news in your community. [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) or [www.lapdcrimemaps.org](http://www.lapdcrimemaps.org) allows you to look up crime activity in your neighborhood, and much more at the LAPD web site. Remember to sign up for Nixle at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

**Important Numbers to keep:**

<b>Topanga Front Desk</b>	<b>(818) 756-4800</b>
<b>TDD/TTY</b>	<b>(818) 756-5899</b>
<b>Comm. Relations Office</b>	<b>(818) 756-3180</b>
<b>Senior Lead Office</b>	<b>(818) 756-3070</b>
<b>Detective Desk</b>	<b>(818) 756-4820</b>
<b>Vice Office</b>	<b>(818) 756-4840</b>
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Non-Emergency Dispatch</b>	<b>(877) 275-5273</b>
	<b>(877) ASK-LAPD</b>

# TOPANGA AREA BASIC CARS

★ Police Station

