



TOPANGA AREA



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

Volume 2, Issue 4 Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070 June 2010
Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



Already we are entering our sixth month and summer is upon us! With summer the days are longer, warmer and our children will soon be out of school. Parents, please stay vigilant and always know where your children are. Drivers, please be aware that there will be many more youth roaming the streets and drive even more safely! Summertime also means vacation for many people. There are many wonderful tips in this newsletter about how to protect yourself and your home during these summer months; read on to see how...



A Note From Your Captain:

During the past few weeks there have been several tragic deaths in our community. In a recent letter I wrote to our community leaders that was posted on www.epolicing.com I described some of these events. Unfortunately, we have experienced an up-tic in suicide and murder suicides. Investigations have revealed that some of these incidents culminated in tragedy due in part to personal troubles where the involved parties felt he/she could not see the way out. In these troubled times when our economy is not at its full strength and employment is more difficult to obtain or maintain; it is important to recognize when people you associate with are acting differently and may be suffering from depression or other clinical illnesses.

I encourage you to come together as communities and families to support your friends, neighbors and loved ones who are going through difficult times.

The following resources are available to assist those who need help:

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

1-800-273-8255 24/7
1-800-799-4889 TTY

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

1-877-727-4747 24/7

Teen Line (*Teens Helping Teens*)

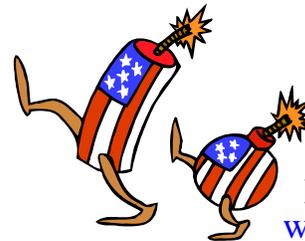
1-800-852-8336 6-10 PM

Alcohol/Drug Treatment Hotline

1-800-Alcohol (1-800-252-6465) 24/7

Boystown (*Family counseling and abuse line*)

1-800-448-3000



FIREWORKS!!!

Play it safe!! Go to a public show near YOU.

www.SAFEJULY4TH.org

888-654-FIRE

- Remember, what goes up will come down!
- Shooting a gun into the air is a felony. You WILL spend up to one year in prison if you are caught.
- If a stray bullet from your gun should kill someone, you will be arrested and charged with murder.

Cool Cacti!

In January 2010, a neighbor of the Topanga Community Police Station, Mr. Sonny Torocsik noticed that the station's landscaping was "desert like." Our friend and neighbor, Sonny, donated 2 dozen cacti plants, some of which he has collected from all over the world and grown in his backyard for over 30 years. The cacti are a perfect fit to our draught tolerant and indigenous landscaping.



Pictured is a photo of 72-year old Sonny Torocsik and Police Officer

I Frank De Jesus planting in the front of Topanga Station. Topanga is very fortunate to have such a gracious and supportive neighbor and community member in the area we serve. We are pleased to have a P-I with a green thumb and an eagerness to beautify the station grounds.

can be great to let everyone know what you are up to, but also advertises that you are away.

Remember, your vacation should be an enjoyable relaxing experience. If you are prepared properly, you will lower your chances of having the wrong kind of memories from that vacation. Have a safe trip!

Recent news in my area:



This segment contains some activity in Topanga Division, 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.**

On 5/25/10, near the 6400 block of Bobby Boyar Avenue, officers responded to a radio call. Burglary suspects tried to gain entry into a residence while the owners were away. Officers caught one suspect in the rear alley attempting to escape apprehension with burglary tools and stolen money. A second suspect was caught within the perimeter. An additional third suspect was located by Topanga officers outside the perimeter. The suspects were using two-way radios in conjunction with their crime. Great job Topanga!

Gang Officers Hoffmaster and Navarro assigned to Unit 21G31 are on a roll. They are two officers that are pro-actively keeping Canoga Park safe by removing multiple gang members from the area every chance they get. On 05/13/10 at 5:40PM, these officers were in the area of the 7300 block of Variel Avenue. They both recognized a known gang member in an apartment building where he did not live nor belong. That simple action of being someplace he should not have been placed him in direct violation of his probation status and therefore he was arrested for violation of the gang injunction order.

Only days earlier on 5/11/10 in the area of Variel Avenue and Cohasset Street, both Officers noticed three gang members walking and talking together. The three gang members were in violation of the court order injunction and were quickly arrested by the two officers. Awesome work keeping our streets safe!

On 5/20/10 at the 7200 block of Cirrus Way patrol officers responded to a radio call of "unknown trouble." Upon arriving at the scene officers entered the residence and located two victims, both suffering from a single gunshot wound. Based on preliminary investigative information, it appeared the decedents were married and it was an apparent case of murder/suicide.

Summer Prevention Tips

Summer vacation time is almost upon us again. As the school year comes to a close, many of us have travel plans to take advantage of. This travel also leaves us more vulnerable to burglary if no one is

protecting our home. We would like to give you a few things to consider as you head off for that well deserved vacation.



LOCK IT- HIDE IT- KEEP IT.

- Be sure to lock all the doors, windows, gates, and the garage door.
- Make sure your home looks lived in and not empty.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or family member to keep an eye on your residence while you are away.
- Turn the ringer on the telephone down low or off. A potential intruder will not be alerted to your absence by a ringing telephone.
- Have a friend or neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway or parking slot.
- Relocate valuables. Most burglars take property from the master bedroom.
- Do not advertise your absence. Social networks (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc)

Summer is here and the Topanga detectives working the Crimes Against Persons (CAPs) unit would like to remind everyone to relax when driving. A common problem in the Topanga area involves "road rage" incidents. We all know how congested this area can be with the numerous businesses, malls and housing. When driving, please remind yourself to be PATIENT. Every day on every street are lost, inexperienced and distracted drivers in addition to speeders and over-sized vehicles. We receive numerous crime reports every month which began with road rage and escalated to battery or worse... please don't ruin your summer... **Remember be careful and tolerant of others!**



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 2nd 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 4th 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 2nd 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 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

NEW~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 2nd Wednesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.



Upcoming Events/
Dates to Remember!!!

8/3 - August 3rd National Night Out
(Warner Ranch Park) 5PM – 8 PM

PLEASE...Sign up for E-policing! E-policing keeps you abreast of the latest crime news in your community. www.lapdonline.org or 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**

Important Numbers to keep:

Topanga Front Desk	(818) 756-4800
TDD/TTY	(818) 756-5899
Comm. Relations Office	(818) 756-3180
Senior Lead Office	(818) 756-3070

Detective Desk	(818) 756-4820
Vice Office	(818) 756-4840
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Dispatch	(877) 275-5273
	(877) ASK-LAPD

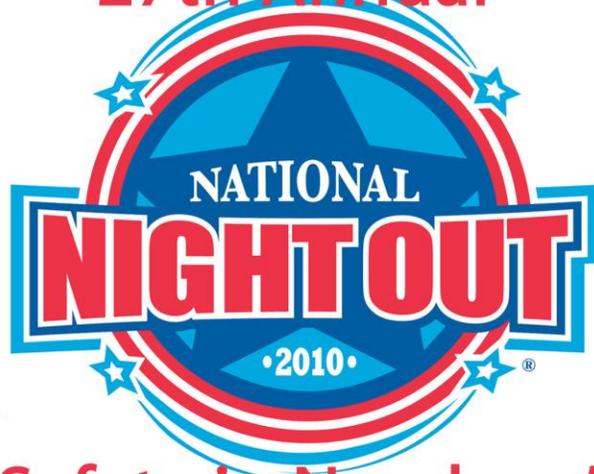


LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT TOPANGA DIVISION'S



27th Annual

Free Food
Music



Displays
Games

"Safety in Numbers"

Tuesday August 3, 2010
Warner Center Park
5800 Topanga Canyon Boulevard
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

National Night Out is the national Neighborhood Watch event.

Get together with Topanga police officers and your community to help fight crime and increase safety in our neighborhoods.

This event is FREE to the public

Fun for the entire family,
fun for all ages!

