



TOPANGA AREA



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

Volume 2, Issue 7 Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070 September 2010
Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



It's back to school time! Parents, grandparents, and guardians....please remind your children to always be aware of their surroundings and to walk in pairs if possible to and from school. There is safety in numbers! Always know where your child is and make sure they know where YOU can be reached.

least two suspects and recovered at least 10 stolen vehicles. Year-to-date, Topanga Area has recovered 342 stolen vehicles. I am very proud to say that three of your officers were given this award...outstanding job! Combined, Officers Harris, Nunez and Woods not only met the criteria for this prestigious award but made a combined total of 24 Grand Theft Auto arrests. Some of these arrests were parolees at large. The sentences stemming from these arrests ranged from felony probation to five years in state prison. Awesome job keeping our community safe...Thank you!!

Throughout the San Fernando Valley year-to-date there have been 3,404 vehicles stolen. Citywide there have been 10,450 vehicles stolen. ***Please remember to Lock it, Hide it, Keep it***

A Note From Your Captain:



On August 18, 2010, Topanga Area proudly honored Officers Brian Harris, Hector Nunez and James Woods (pictured below from left to right) for winning the



10851VC Award Program. The 10851VC Award Program is named after the vehicle

code section for Grand Theft Auto (GTA) and is sponsored by the California Highway Patrol. The program recognizes the superior efforts made by law enforcement personnel who have either arrested six suspects driving stolen vehicles; arrested three suspects driving stolen vehicles and recovered nine stolen vehicles; or helped identify a theft ring and arrested at

Gang Injunctions and How YOU Can Help:

On April 24, 2002, a criminal street gang named Canoga Park Alabama (CPA) had a civil gang injunction imposed upon them. This encompasses roughly a 9 square mile area of Canoga Park. This area is designated as the safety zone for purposes of enforcement action by LAPD officers. In order to take enforcement action on a particular individual, the gang member has to be served with the injunction, much in the same fashion as any other restraining/court order. Once served, the gang member has several provisions or rules he/she must obey. These rules include:

1. **Do Not Associate:** Served gang members cannot stand, sit, walk, drive or gather with each other within the safety zone. This is the most common arrest by all officers.
2. **No Intimidation:** This may take place when a citizen becomes a witness in a crime and may be part of the court case. If this happens it should be

immediately reported. Because gang related intimidation holds severe consequences for prison time.

3. **No Guns or Dangerous Weapons:** Covers weapons covered 12020 of the penal code. In addition it includes possessing ammunition or remaining in the presence of the aforementioned.
4. **Stay Away from Alcohol:** This is a very common violation of the gang members. If they are observed in public in the presence of alcohol or actually drinking they are subject to arrest for a violation of the court order.
5. **No Trespassing:** Loitering at apartment complexes has always been a complaint from managers. This is the best way to deal with the problem. Once the gang unit is aware and there are signs posted indicating "No Trespassing" the officers will arrest for this provision.
6. **Obey Curfew:** This provision gives officers authority more than enforcement action. Although an arrest can occur it is rare as the sole violation.
7. **Obey all laws:** Mainly used for more serious crimes as well as nuisance crimes; Examples would be narcotic violations, stealing cars, vandalism, blocking sidewalks, and any violent crimes.

Along with the injunction, the majority of our CPA gang members are on some form of probation, usually with search and seizure conditions. This, in combination with the injunction, puts many of the members away with decent jail time for their violations.

The best way for citizens to help Topanga Division with enforcement action is to simply be the eyes and ears for us. When you see any of the above described activity, you should call the police. In most instances, it will be a non-emergency call and will be dispatched and the alleged activity will be investigated. Citizens can remain anonymous and have only telephonic contact with the police.

Canoga Park Alabama gang members are always trying to adapt to the injunction to avoid detection. Topanga citizens can assist us in identifying any new trend by gang members to counter the injunction and continue with their illegal activities. Citizens are reminded to maintain contact with their Senior Lead

Officers who pass any information on to the appropriate investigative entity.



Tournament of Roses Parade

One of Topanga's Police Service Representatives (PSR), Monica Fairbanks, is a committee member involved in the tribute to the 10 year anniversary of the September 11th float for the 122nd Tournament of Roses Parade. The float honors both the fallen heroes and the survivors of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and renews our promise to "Never Forget." If you want to join us as we celebrate America's enduring strength, you can contact PSR Fairbanks via email at G8475@lapd.lacity.org or please log on to www.911rosefloat.com for more information.



Nighttime

Walks

...During the summer, Topanga Area experienced an increase in street robberies during the late night hours, between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM. In those cases, three to four suspects approach victims who were walking alone and demand their property. Although we would never want to discourage anyone from taking walks in their own neighborhood or frighten anyone, we would like to remind readers to be aware of their surroundings at all times! Crime occurs everywhere, so please be safe!

Helpful Hints:

- Take your dog with you on walks
- Walk with someone
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Take a cell phone with you

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.**

On August 18, 2010, at approximately 11 PM approximately 4-5 male Hispanic skater-type ranging from 15-20 years in age vandalized private and public property on Jumilla Avenue between Enadia Way and Bassett Street. The suspects also vandalized several

residence walls at Hatillo Avenue south of Bassett Street. There were 12 crime reports that were completed in this incident. Please report any suspicious activity to the police immediately; **Remember, you are the eyes and ears for your police department!**

On August 21, 2010, at 1700 hours Senior Lead Officer Jose Maldonado responded to a burglary from motor vehicle (BFMV) radio call at the Cheesecake Factory located on Canoga Avenue just south of Victory Boulevard. Upon arrival, Officer Maldonado, with the help of auto Detectives Perez and Foster who had viewed video surveillance footage, immediately recognized the suspect from prior arrests and contacts. The following day Detective Foster located the wanted suspect and arrested him for the burglary from motor vehicle. Kudos to Officer Maldonado and Detectives Foster and Perez who did an awesome job of getting rid of two BFMV criminals who were plaguing the Topanga area!

Vacant Homes and Squatters – In the current state of the housing market we have experienced a growing number of vacant homes in our communities. Some of these houses have been taken over by squatters who attempt to establish residency. In the worst cases these squatters have conducted criminal activities from within these empty homes. It is not uncommon to find evidence of burglaries, burglary from motor vehicles, identity theft and narcotic abuse. The city currently has no measure in place to track these homes as they come up. The Topanga Area Senior Lead Officers are asking for the community's help in identifying vacant homes in order to better track crime trends that may occur in these areas. If you become aware of a recently vacated home, please call and provide the address to your Senior Lead Officer. The city does have a registry for foreclosed homes. If you want to report a blighted home that you believe is in foreclosure, please call 3-1-1 and ask to report the property to the LA Housing Department-Foreclosure Registry Program. Lenders must register their properties within 30 days or face possible fines of \$250.00 per day!

Beware of Ticket Scams!!! We recently noticed a big increase in counterfeit tickets for sought-after concerts and sports events being sold on Craigslist. Internet sites like Craigslist, Oodle, Yahoo Classifieds, and EBay can provide some great bargains on various types of goods, but think twice before you purchase event tickets if the site does not provide a guarantee. Selling your unneeded tickets on Craigslist can be fast and easy, but buying them can leave you holding a forgery and stuck on the outside of the venue unless you know how to spot a fake. If you do choose to purchase event tickets from a private party, consider the following tips:

1. Know what the tickets are supposed to look like. It's easy to print up fake tickets, but if you know what they are supposed to look like, you are less likely to be scammed.
2. Meet in a public place. If you are carrying \$1,000.00 for those special tickets, you want to meet somewhere safe. Consider meeting in a police lobby so you won't get robbed and a scammer isn't as likely to rip you off.
3. If the seller will accept a check, use a cashier's check instead of a personal one to protect your identity. If the person is a scam artist, you don't want to give them another chance to get even more money by forging your check.
4. If you don't meet in person, consider using a service like PayPal that has some protection to refund your money in case of a scam or if you never receive the tickets.

We are always in search of a great deal and private party ads like Craigslist can be a great place to find a bargain, just don't let yourself fall victim to a scam while trying to get tickets to your favorite event.



LOCK IT – A reminder to always lock your vehicle

HIDE IT – If you have to leave your valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight

KEEP IT – A positive reminder that personal responsibility and prevention can safeguard your valuables from theft

For more Crime Prevention Information or to get involved in Neighborhood Watch, contact the LAPD Topanga Community Police Station at (818) 756-3180 or visit our website at WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG



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.

Canoga and Winnetka residents: This is a reminder from your Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Padron that our Neighborhood Watch meeting is still going strong...please come to the next meeting on October 12th where we will cover "The Recent Faces of Crime" by expert Kim Rich.

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.

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!!!

10/06 – Chief Beck & Topanga Officers vs. Cadets Basketball Game at Pierce College/South Gym (5:30 PM – 8:00 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