



TOPANGA AREA



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

Volume 2, Issue 1 Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070 February 2010
Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



Hello Topanga Community! Wow... January blew in and flew out like a winter's storm. ☺ We hope everyone is staying safe and driving carefully in this wet

weather. If January is indicative of how fast 2010 will be rolling through, then hold on to your seats. Topanga Police Station has many exciting things on the horizon and ways for everyone to stay involved and supportive of your hard working men and women here at Topanga.



A Note From Your Captain:

During the past several months of 2009, while continuing our efforts to reduce crime and improve quality of life for the residents of Topanga Area, I instructed my patrol watch commanders, specialized unit officers in charge, detective supervisors, senior lead officers and support staff supervisors to complete a plan for ideas to reduce crime in 2010. With that in mind, all of my supervisors and Topanga's detective commanding officer held a strategic crime reduction planning meeting. Just as I thought my leadership team had exhausted all of their creative crime fighting strategies that helped to reduce overall crime in Topanga Area by 6.4% in 2009, I was pleasantly surprised by their strategies for the New Year. Some of the crime fighting strategies include: Using Nixle communications system to alert the community regarding crimes and wanted suspect(s) in real-time; increase patrol resource; utilize volunteer

mounted patrol in high theft areas; expand the Release From Custody (citation pilot program) to expedite arrests and keep officers on the streets and available; conduct more outreach and a greater effort to build relationships with Hispanic communities; build block and neighborhood watch programs; utilize the police station's smart board and "hot sheet" concept to ensure officers are aware of current crime trends and wanted suspects and vehicles in their assigned areas.

I have assigned an additional police officer to our Community Relations Office. The officer will be responsible for our new Topanga Area Tactical Technology Unit (TATTU). Our TATTU room will be equipped with eight monitors to view the eight cameras strategically placed throughout the community to help in our crime fighting strategy. In addition, we will be working with private businesses throughout our community to link our monitors to their cameras. Councilman Dennis Zine promised to donate money to Topanga's camera room project. Thank you Councilman!

To learn more about Nixle and how to subscribe, log on to www.Nixle.com, contact your area Senior Lead Officer, or Topanga Area's Nixle coordinator, Officer Leslie Kincaid at (818) 756-3180.

BE AWARE....Due to the recent disaster in Haiti, there are many "Haiti" scams out there. Be smart and donate only to familiar and well established organizations such as the Red Cross, UNICEF, Goodwill, Salvation Army, or those that you have given to in the past. Be a smart donor!!

CADET HOLIDAY BANQUET... The Los Angeles Cadet program is a youth program that focuses on preparing young men and women for future careers in law enforcement. It also assists them in becoming better citizens in their community while developing a positive relationship between the police and youth.



The Topanga Area Cadet program, Post 2100, has completed its first year and is proud of their accomplishments. The post has established itself as a reliable post that contributes regularly to the Department and its community. There are currently 33 young men and women in the program.

On December 16, 2009, the Topanga Area Cadet Youth Service Officers hosted their inaugural Holiday Banquet to honor all of the Cadets and to recognize some of their outstanding achievements over the course of the last year. The event was a huge success! Among those in attendance were Chief Earl Paysinger,



David Marcus (President of the Topanga Youth Programs Board of Directors), both Captains Sherman and Sambar, and many of the Cadets' family and friends! The Cadets

received awards for outstanding achievement in many areas, among these: "Most Community Service Hours," "Most Crime Prevention Hours," "Outstanding Attendance," and "Best Grade Point Average." Also, thanks to the hard work and generosity of the Topanga Youth Programs Board of Directors, the Cadet Program was able to unveil the newly purchased Cadet Color Guard uniform attire that will be used at many future events!

Help Support Topanga's Youth Programs!!!
Pioneer Circle Fundraising Campaign Currently Underway...

The purpose of the Topanga Police Youth Board is to provide financial and/or other forms of support for the youth programs established by the Topanga Police Station. The three youth programs currently in existence are Cadets, Jeopardy, and the Police Activity League (PAL). The Cadet program provides specialized training for youth ages 14-21 years who are

interested in a future career in law enforcement. The Jeopardy program is a gang prevention/intervention program for youth ages 8-17 years. PAL is a program for children ages 7-17 years that develops a strong, positive bond between police and children, especially "at risk" children.

The goal for all of the youth programs is to combat juvenile delinquency. We want to build strong and positive relationships between local youth and the LAPD.

Only donors making a contribution of \$1,000.00 or more are eligible to be designated as a member of the Topanga Police Youth Board Pioneers' Circle. Pioneers' Circle members will have their name or business name placed on a plaque that will be **permanently mounted at Topanga Station**. Members will receive two tickets to the Pioneers' Circle Reception scheduled for February 25, 2010. They will also receive a Pioneer Circle member certificate and membership in the Topanga Police Youth Board Association for the 2010 year. The Topanga Youth Board is a non-profit 501c(3) organization designed solely to raise funds for these programs. For more information about these programs, the youth board, becoming a Pioneer Circle member, or donations, please contact the Community Relations Office at (818) 756-3180.

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LAPD and NIXLE!!!



The Los Angeles Police Department has a new way to keep you informed of what is happening in your community. "Nixle" is LAPD's newest technology that allows you to stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information in near REAL TIME. *You* choose the information you want, for the addresses *you* want, all delivered at no cost, by text message, email and web. Nixle technology sends the messages simultaneously to your email AND in a text message to your cell phone if you choose. Nixle will never be used for advertising, so try the service out...it's all free! Register at: www.nixle.com. Click on the blue "register button" and enter your email and cell phone number. Signing up has never been more simple so please, register NOW to stay informed!



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Big Brother Watching You?

With ever advancing technology comes an opportunity to provide enhanced police services. Law enforcement agencies around the world are increasing the use of video camera systems to help monitor public areas. These systems provide extra police eyes on the street and can be strong evidence helping to convict a suspect of a crime.

In many cities where camera systems have been installed, crime rates in those particular areas dropped significantly. Despite the increased safety that these systems can provide, some people may be concerned over their personal privacy. These camera systems are for the purpose of monitoring areas in plain public view where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. While it is true that more “eyes” for the police department will be watching the public areas.

Topanga Division will soon see the installation of several camera systems in public areas. The initial phase is scheduled to include eight camera systems that can be viewed and operated from Topanga Station. These cameras will be remotely controlled with the view at 360 degrees and zoom in where needed to capture a license plate or facial image. The camera systems can be relocated to different areas as crime trends change. Similar systems are being set up in other LAPD divisions as well.

The Los Angeles Police Department is committed to public safety and reducing crime in our communities. These cameras are a valuable tool in our ongoing fight against crime. Topanga Division would like to thank Los Angeles City Council Member Dennis P. Zine (Council District 3) for his generous support of this project.

If you have a question or concern over a camera system installed in your area, please contact Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh at (818) 731-2581 or by email at 30450@lapd.lacity.org (email preferred).



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.

Officers protecting your children from predators from within...

On 12/30/2009 at 1245 hours Officers LeValley and Cruz responded to the 21000 block of Lanark Park to further investigate a tip they had received of a possible “child annoying” suspect. The officers conducted a follow-up investigation and interviewed two teenage girls (16 and 17 years) that lived at the apartment with their mother and stepfather. Both girls advised that on Christmas Eve the suspect had committed lewd acts on them during a holiday party. The suspect was later arrested and booked for “Lewd Acts on a Child.”

PLEASE, always watch over your children and **educate your children to speak out** for themselves regarding unwanted touching by strangers and family members!

On 01/11/10 at approximately 1255 hours, Officers Lopez and Dao responded to the 23000 block of Victory Boulevard to a radio call of “Burglary Suspect There Now.” With the help of additional Officers Wronkowski and Robinson, a suspect was apprehended and later placed under arrest for residential burglary.

The next time you see SLO Cunningham, make sure you give him extra kudos for a recent outstanding arrest that perhaps you may have read about in the L.A. Times. For those of you who are not aware, on December 17, 2009, Officer Cunningham arrested a door to door salesman who had robbed and attempted to rape a woman.

In the past, there had been several burglaries which Cunningham being in-tune with his area SLO that he is, knew of. While patrolling his area, Officer Cunningham conducted a pedestrian stop on two males who identified themselves as “Door-to-Door Magazine Solicitors.” The next day (12/17/09) he responded to a “Hot Prowl, Attempt Attack, and Robbery Home Invasion.” Based on his prior contact with the salesmen he conducted a follow-up investigation. Thanks to Cunningham’s great investigative skills, a male suspect was taken into custody. With two witness field show ups and a victim’s field show-up, all were positive the suspect was the one who carried out the attack.

The suspect was arrested for home invasion robbery and attempt rape. His bail was set at \$5.6 million dollar bail for burglary, home invasion robbery, attempt rape and kidnapping, to name a few. Officer Cunningham, thank you for taking this BAD person off our streets!!



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. **There will no longer be two separate meetings held for residents of West Hills.** Residents who historically attended the Wednesday meeting will now meet on the 2nd Monday 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 meeting will be combined with the 21A1 Basic Car meeting and is 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 meeting will be combined with the 21A97 meeting and will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM. **PLEASE NOTE: beginning March, this meeting will be moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month 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 meeting will be combined with the 21A73 meeting and will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM. **PLEASE NOTE: beginning March, this meeting will be moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month 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 3rd Tuesday of the month, at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Alexis "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!!!**

**2/25 – Topanga Police Youth Board
(Pioneer
Circle) Fundraiser (6 PM)**

**3/27 – Topanga Police Station Open House
(9 AM)**

4/1 – Topanga SLO Summit (6:30 PM)

PLEASE...Sign up for E-policing! E-policing keeps you abreast of the latest crime news in your community, allows you to look up crime activity in your neighborhood, and much more at the LAPD web site www.lapdonline.org or www.lapdcrimemaps.org

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

All other city services, please call 311

Neighborhood Watch works! Become a part of your area's Neighborhood Watch program and help reduce the crime in your area. Contact your Senior Lead Officer to help set up a new "Block Club" for your specific neighborhood.