



# TOPANGA AREA

Serving West Hills,  
Woodland Hills,  
Canoga Park, and Winnetka  
21501 Schoenborn St, Canoga Park



Volume 1, Issue 5

Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070  
Sergeant Kim Harper

May, 2009

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

### Hello Topanga Area!

Canoga Park, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka,

Every month seems to be upon us just a tad bit faster than the next...can you believe Topanga has now been operational for a quarter of a year?! Where has the time gone...read on and see all that has transpired and how the men and women at your new Topanga Station continue to work hard for you!



#### Captain's Corner:

On April 25, 2009 the Explorers held their 93<sup>rd</sup> Cadre Commencement Ceremony at Elysian Park. Topanga Explorer Post #2100 now has four new additions! Congratulations are in order for our new Explorer Officers Maribel Gallegos, Marco Mendoza, David Ontiveros, and Joel Rosa for completing the 93<sup>rd</sup> Explorer Academy Class of LAPD.

Congratulations are extended to Michael Aspiras, who recently promoted to the rank of Explorer Commander. He is one of 12 Commanders for the LAPD Explorers and Topanga has the honor of claiming him as one of our own!



The Explorers are currently seeking new recruits for the next academy class scheduled to begin June 6, 2009. For those interested, please contact the Community Relations Office at (818) 756-3180.

#### *Topanga's 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast/Quarterly Meeting...*

was held on April 8, 2009 and was attended by approximately 45 of



Topanga's volunteers. Topanga's vision has been to develop a strong core

volunteer group who want to work in partnership with the police department. Topanga has been overwhelmed by the outpour of support and thanks to each of *you* our vision is now a reality. Our volunteers have been a great addition to Topanga...since December the volunteers have worked 1845 hours! Our volunteers work the equivalent of time that three full time officers would work on a weekly basis. We average 24 volunteer hours worked in the station every day. Many accolades were presented to the volunteers for their time and dedication. Kudos and many thanks to each and every one of the volunteers; you *are* appreciated!



#### **Significant Arrests:**

On 3-16-09, an unknown male Hispanic got into an argument with another male Hispanic victim outside of

the Lamplighter bar. As a result of the argument, the suspect cut the victim in several places with a machete causing severe injuries. The suspect fled the location in his vehicle. Officer Billy Martin was assigned this case. In a short time Martin had identified the suspect as Luis Alas. Martin gathered significant evidence against Alas. Martin set up several surveillance operations in order to locate Alas. On 4-22-09, Martin located Alas with his girlfriend during a surveillance operation and arrested him for Attempt Murder.



### Recent news my area:

This segment contains some of the activity in Topanga Division, but it is not intended to reflect all of the crimes in your area. **For the most current updates for your neighborhood, please visit [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) and remember to sign up for e-policing if you have not already done so.**

On 04-13-09 at 11PM officers from the bicycle detail arrested an ex-con with a gun bail at \$35,000 at the 20100 block of Roscoe Boulevard.

The Topanga/Promenade mall area has been experiencing numerous thefts from department stores (Macy's Nordstrom, Sears, Target, H&M and Niemen Marcus). BFMV's in this area have also been on the rise so please remember, harden that target and do not leave valuables in plain sight!

Officers responded to a radio call "man with a knife" on 04-06-09 at the 20200 block of Keswick Street. Upon arrival, the suspect threatened the officers with a box cutter; a 21 year old male was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Police Officer.

During the beginning of April, an increase of BFMV's between Roscoe and Saticoy and Fallbrook and Shoup were recognized. Patrol officers and Detectives conducted concentrated efforts to resolve this problem. On 04-16-09 a career BFMV suspect was apprehended and arrested by Topanga patrol officers Lamas and Guzman. We believe this arrest has had a direct impact on the decrease of BFMV's in the area since. A job well done by everyone involved! Officers recovered GPS's purses, cameras, wallets and checkbooks from the suspect who admitted to using a flashlight to check to see if there was anything of worth inside the vehicle before breaking into it. Again, this is a reminder to us all to be more proactive and:

### **Please do not be a victim!**

- ✓ Remember to ALWAYS lock your car.
- ✓ Use your car alarm.
- ✓ Never leave your keys in the car.
- ✓ NEVER leave items of value in plain view.

On the night of 4-24-09 the office building at 20501 Ventura Boulevard was broken into. The crime was very sophisticated; the criminals in this crime targeted the computers in each of the offices. Something to learn from this is to always create a cryptic password and have a backup disk so you do not lose this valuable information. With the economy taking a turn, everyone has to do their part to protect themselves from identity theft.

The crime wave has diminished due to the hard work of the Topanga officers (Patrol, Bicycle Detail, Gang Enforcement, Narcotics Detail, Vice, and Violent Crime Task Force/Motel Detail) between Saticoy and Cohasset Street and Winnetka Avenue and Mason Avenue.

## **9-1-1 and YOU...**

The Los Angeles 9-1-1 emergency telephone system was implemented to provide quick and efficient help to those in need and can be dialed from any telephone, regardless of the area code, even a disconnected phone.

Did you know that the Los Angeles 9-1-1 system receives approximately 3.3 million calls annually? However, only 1/2 of those calls are actual emergencies; learning the following tips will help us use 9-1-1 more proficiently:

- 9-1-1 should be dialed when a crime is in progress and/or if there is a life threatening situation requiring the police, paramedics or Fire Department.
- If you dial 9-1-1 in error, do not hang up! Remain on the line and simply let them know otherwise the dispatcher is required to dispatch officers to the location provided by the computer.
- Know the "where, what, who, and when" of the situation you are reporting and do your best to remain calm.

**For all other situations, call the non-emergency number [1-877-275-5723](tel:1-877-275-5723). You may also call [311](tel:311) for routine city business calls.**

Do you know who your Senior Lead Officer (SLO) is? **If you are not sure which Senior Lead Officer represents your area, then please call (818) 756-3070** and we will be more than happy to direct you to the SLO for your area. Senior Lead Officers play an important role with your quality of life issues...get to know them! The Senior Lead Officers (SLO) in Topanga Division are:

**SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A1**

*(Covering the North part of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)*

**Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558**

**Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org**

The 21A1 / 21A43 Basic Car meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Sabra will also handle the group formerly known as the 17A83 Basic Car (Now called *North West Hills Neighborhood Watch*). This meeting is for the area north of Roscoe Boulevard to Plummer Street, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The meeting is held at the Valley Dispatch Center 22222 Roscoe Boulevard every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 PM.

**SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A43**

*(Covering the South part of West Hills)*

**Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570**

**Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org**

The 21A43 meeting will be combined with the 21A1 Basic Car meeting and is 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 meeting will be combined with the 21A97 meeting. Please note the location of 21A73's Basic Car meeting has now changed: these meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 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 meeting will be combined with the 21A73 meeting. Please note the location of 21A97's Basic Car meeting has now changed: these meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

**SLO Jericho "Jerry" Velazquez, Basic Car 21A57**

*(Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls Office)*

**Office (818) 756-3073 Cell (818) 731-2578**

**Email 31026@lapd.lacity.org**

The 21A57 Basic Car meeting will be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7PM at 20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village) 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 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**

Please note that the location of 21A29's Basic Car meeting has now changed: this meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station

**Don't forget, you can now sign up for e-policing**, look up crime activity in your neighborhood, and much more at the LAPD web site [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) or [www.lapdcrimemaps.org](http://www.lapdcrimemaps.org)

**Upcoming Events:**

- **5/25 Memorial Day Parade – Canoga Park**
- **6/6 CPAB Summit – Cal State Los Angeles**
- **7/4 July 4<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza – Warner Ctr. Park**
- **8/4 National Night Out – Warner Ctr. Park**

*According to the Sarasota Police Blotter...*

An elderly lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and then got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken she could not get her keys into the ignition. She tried and tried and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she wondered why there was a football, a frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later she found her own car parked four or five spaces further down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing.

He pointed to the other end of the counter where four men were reporting a car-jacking by a mad elderly woman described a white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

**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  
*All other city services, please call 311*

