





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 2

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 756-9891

February 2005

Officer in Charge, Sergeant David Wright

Mark Your Calendar!

April 13, 2005, 7:00 pm, at 1902 Vanowen St, (New Police Station in the Community Room) will be our Yearly

West Valley Community Outreach Meeting.

This will take the place of your neighborhood watch meetings for the month.

Please plan to join us for this important meeting!

Topic of discussion will be "Consent Decree Issues."

West Valley Area

Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday March 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Municipal Building located at 19040 Vanowen Street.

Captain John Sherman, West Valley Area

Commanding Officer and Mark Markowitz,

West Valley C-PAB Co-Chair, have extended a welcome to anyone who would like to come to our monthly meeting.

Followed by SLO Summit at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to get involved, contact the West Valley Senior Lead Office at (818) 756-9891.

The West Valley C-PAB Meeting is held on the second Wednesday of every month
The next West Valley Area Community –Police
Advisory Board Meeting will be April 13, 2005.

Encino

Senior Lead Officer Mark Ro #32212 10 A 87

There are a series of commercial robberies that I would like the Encino community to know about. There are a couple of ski mask bandits, wearing dark clothing, robbing "nice" restaurants and bars throughout the valley. They enter the locations, order victims to the ground at gunpoint, and demand money from the patrons as well as the cash registers. They have been seen leaving in different vehicles. Although the Encino area has not been hit, Encino restaurants, especially along Ventura Blvd, are vulnerable to these types of robberies. Restaurant owners and employees need to consider the following:

- Install a robbery alarm, surveillance cameras, and bright lights;
- Open all blinds and drapes to allow responding officers to see inside the premises;
- Instruct employees to be aware when entering or exiting the premises during normal maintenance activities (e.g., taking out the trash);
- Do not resist an armed robber; comply with their demands;
- After a robbery, lock the premises, note the suspects' and vehicle descriptions if possible, call 911.
- Do not touch any items that may have been handled by the suspects.

Finally, if you live in the "apartment-condo corridor" of Encino (Killion St to Ventura Bl, between Lindley Ave and White Oak Ave), please call me at my direct line (818-731-2572). I would like to start more Neighborhood Apartment Watches in that area due to some of the persistent property crimes, mostly burglaries of vehicles.

Canoga Park

Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik #32325 10 A 3

Hello Canoga Park. This month I am pleased to announce the recent promotion of Officer Royal Barber as the new permanent Senior Lead Officer for North Canoga Park. Officer Barber is coming back to West Valley after spending some time in the West Los Angeles Division. His cell phone number will still be the number you are use to calling (818-731-2583).

Our Monthly Neighborhood Watch meeting is the first Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., at 20800 Sherman Way.

We are currently recruiting
Block Captains and
Neighborhood Watch Members.
If you are interested in getting involved
to make West Valley a
better place to live,
work and do business.
Please call your Senior Lead Officer at
(818) 756-9891

West Valley Senior Lead Officer Summits will be March 9 and September 7, 2005. Please mark your calendars and help us strategize for the upcoming year!

They will be held at "the horseshoe" at 19040 Vanowen- Councilman Zine's Building, 7:00 pm

Winnetka

Senior Lead Officer Karen W. Rodriguez 31201 10 A 33

HELLO. WINNETKANS! I know we've discussed this topic before, but unfortunately the problem is getting worse. I am talking about one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. **Identity theft!** This is when another person steals vour personal information and uses it to fraudulently obtain credit. You get charged for the purchases and your credit can be damaged for a long time! Winnetka residents are experiencing a problem with mail theft. I wanted to take this opportunity to make a couple of suggestions about protecting the use of your personal information. It is imperative that you shred your personal documents before you throw them away. mailbox with a locking mechanism is a good idea. Make sure to drop off outgoing mail at the U.S. Post Office mail shoot (inside the building), rather than your residential mailbox or corner Post Office receptacle. If you see someone going into someone else's mail box, report it immediately to the Police Department or the postal inspector.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

is held the second Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm, at Demirdjian School Auditorium, 6844 Oakdale Ave. All are welcome to attend!

West Hills

Senior Lead Officer Peter Vanderburgh 20382 10 A 51

Our goal for this year is to reduce property crimes by 10%. We can do this by working together to make our community safe from predators. Home burglaries have decreased this past month in part due to bad weather. However, this still remains a high concern for us. We ask all community members to help us by making sure you lock all doors, windows, side-gates, garage doors. In your vehicle, keep all valuables (cell phones too) out of sight.

We at L.A.P.D. also ask everyone to please slow down and be courteous to the other drivers sharing the road.

We will continue to have our meetings at Pomelo Elementary School at 7633 March Avenue on the second Monday of each new Month, (February 14, 2005, and March 14, 2005) we start at 7:00 p.m. see you there and be safe

Tarzana

Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson #31733 10 A 67

I am happy to report that Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Grand Theft Auto, and Thefts, as a group are down 16.9 % compared to last year in West Valley. I would like to personally thank **YOU** and **OUR** fine Police Officers of WVAL Division. We need to continue in our efforts to work as a team.

We are still having some problems in our area, and I would like to relay information to **you and local businesses**. West Valley has been the target of restaurant Robberies. The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating a series of restaurant robberies in our area. The (2) armed Suspects are described as Male whites, wearing dark clothing. Susp-1 has brown hair, 6ft-6ft2in, 170-200 lbs, 20-35 yrs.

Susp-2 is 5ft8in to 6ft, 160-175lbs, and 20-30yrs.

The suspects described above work in concert to commit robberies in restaurants and bars. They enter the locations, order the Victims to the ground at gunpoint, and demand cash from the registers and patrons. The suspects take the cash and leave the location in a getaway vehicle.

If suspects are seen, **do not approach.** Obtain descriptions and license plate numbers of all persons and vehicles and notify 911.

Burglaries continue to be our biggest problem. In December we had 25 Burglaries, and 36 Burglaries or Thefts from vehicle. **These numbers are way too high!** Please encourage your family and friends to make sure they do not leave any items of value inside the vehicle. Try to park in well-lit areas and remember to lock your doors. We continue to take report after report, where people have left either a cell phone, purse, wallet, video camera on the seat or in the center console. Be smarter than the crook!

Remember our meetings are the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. They are held at 19040 Vanowen Street, City Councilman Zine's Building, in the Horseshoe area. Feel free to contact me at 818-756-9891or818-731-2580, with any questions or concerns.

Reseda

Senior Lead Officers Chris Crosby 32835 & Janet Zumstein 24571 10 A 27 10 A 47

Some Reseda residents have recently voiced concerns about street robberies. For the record, in our area there were ZERO Robberies in the month of December. The chances of you becoming a victim are quite slim. However, because of the fear, we are providing a few tips on how to keep from becoming a victim. When out walking, stay within a populated and familiar area. Try not to walk alone. Walk with a friend or family member. Do not walk at night. Robbers try to commit their crimes at night because it's easier to escape and avoid being identified. If you walk at night, stay in a well-lit area. Do not carry a lot of cash on you, this will make it seem like the robber is getting a large reward for committing his/her crime and will likely do it again and again. If a robber approaches you, and he demands property, give it to him. There is no material possession worth your life. Your family wants you to come home. Any property that you carry can be replaced, you can't!

Our March 10 meeting will be held as usual, on the second Thursday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 19040 Vanowen Street.

Woodland Hills

Senior Lead Officers Tony Valadez & Jodie McGee 10 A 75 10 A 73

We have seen a rise in garage burglaries in the end of December through the beginning of January. Take a good look around your garage and you will see you have a lot of money invested in lawn equipment, tools, bikes, sports equipment, etc.

Unfortunately, many people leave their garage doors open. This provides an easy way for a thief to see what you own without ever stepping foot on your property. The most important thing to remember is to keep your garage door closed, even when you are home. Check your side and rear door as well, and install heavy-duty locks including a hasp and padlock, if necessary.

And finally, our next **meeting is on March 15, at 6:30pm**.. The meeting will be held at The Woodland Hills Library, 22200 Ventura Blvd. We are trying to increase our neighborhood watch program so tell your friends and neighbor and lets all get involved in making the community safer.