



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 3

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 756-9891

March 2005

Officer in Charge, Sergeant David Wright

Mark Your Calendar!

April 13, 2005, 7:00 pm, at 19040 Vanowen St,
will be our Yearly

West Valley Community Outreach Meeting.

Captain Sherman will discuss the new station, crime updates, trends, and a question and answer session.

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

Please plan to join us for this important meeting!

Topics of discussion will be "Consent Decree Issues," and a CECATS Detective will discuss how to prevent Vehicle Theft/Burglary from your car and residential burglary .

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.

Canoga Park

Senior Lead Officer

Royal Barber 33970

10 A 3

Hello Canoga Park. I'm proud to have been selected as your permanent Senior Lead Officer. I have been working on plans to better coordinate and utilize our Police and Community resources in order to continue to improve the safety and quality of life for Canoga Park. However, I need your input, eyes and ears in the neighborhood, suggestions and feedback to better our community.

We, as a Community Policing Team, have to work together to prevent and reduce crime. In my eight years in the Police Department I have been fortunate to have worked in a variety of different assignments including The Bicycle Unit, The Traffic Safety Unit, Juveniles, and as a Detective Trainee. I am also fluent in Spanish. My goal is to use my skills, background, and knowledge to work with all of your unique skills, backgrounds and knowledge as a crime and problem solving team.

I feel at home in Canoga Park and returning to West Valley since I've spent a number of years working here as a Patrol Officer and in the Bicycle Unit. I look forward to working together with you to help you resolve your problems and continue to improve the Canoga Park Community.

Lastly, we will **not** hold our scheduled Neighborhood Watch Meeting in April. In its place, we will have the **West Valley Community Outreach Meeting on Wednesday, April 13th, at 7:00 PM**. It will be held at the new police station, in the Community Room. Please call me with any questions or concerns at (818) 756-9891 or (818) 731-2583 and let's get to work!

Winnetka

Senior Lead Officer

Karen W. Rodriguez 31201

10 A 33 / 10 A 57

Hello Winnetkans!

One of Winnetka's Block Captains sent me an email with this terrific information about protecting your identity. I thought this would be the perfect place to share the info with you.

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Photocopy the contents of your wallet, both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel if you wallet is ever lost or stolen. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

If your wallet is ever lost or stolen the most important thing to do is to notify the creditor(s) immediately and to also file a police report in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. You should also call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. Here are the numbers you will need to contact if your wallet, etc. has been stolen:

- 1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
- 3.) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
- 4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line):
1-800-269-0271

Our Neighborhood Watch Meeting for the month of April has been cancelled in lieu of the Annual Community Outreach / Consent Decree Meeting. This Annual meeting will be held at the new West Valley Police Station Community Room on Wednesday April 13th at 7:00 p.m. Our regular monthly meetings will resume on May 12, 2005.

Woodland Hills

Senior Lead Officers

Tony Valadez & Jodie McGee

10 A 75 10 A 73

Have you seen your cell phone lately?

We continue to see burglary/theft from vehicles as a continuing problem in the Woodland Hills area. All of the officers working in Woodland Hills, as well as the rest of the officers at West Valley, are making a concentrated effort to turn this crime trend around. Unfortunately, the criminal element passing through Woodland Hills have plenty of temptation on our streets. Here are a few things you can do to prevent your vehicle from being broken into:

1. Always remember to lock you car doors, whether you park on the street, in a parking structure or in your driveway.
2. Remember to take you valuable items with you. The bad guys like electronics (i.e.: cell phones, laptop computers, palm pilots, etc.). And never leave a valuable item out where anyone can see it.
3. Park in a well-lit, well traveled area (if at all possible). Bad Guys don't like to be seen.
4. Be sure you turn on your car alarm. The noise will definitely attract attention.
5. Call the police if you see strangers looking into your neighbor's cars.

Don't let the bad guy get an even break. If you make it difficult for the thief to get your property, you can decrease the chances of becoming a victim of crime. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 22, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at The Woodland Hills Public Library, 22200 Ventura Blvd. **Our April meeting is cancelled- please join us at the new police station for the Community Outreach meeting on April 13th.**

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

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

Encino

Senior Lead Officer

Mark Ro 32212

10 A 87

I would like to clarify some of the confusion associated with calling the police. Numerous Encino residents have told me that they have been calling the West Valley Station's front desk (818-756-8543) whenever they need a non-emergency police response. However, it is common to get a busy tone when calling the above number (or its associated extensions) because it is primarily used for telephonic reports and general questions. Please remember the following when you have to call the police and you need them to respond:

- "911" is for emergency responses only.
- "877-ASK-LAPD" (toll free, 877-275-5273) is for non-emergency police response.
- "311" is the City Hall operator, which can be used to contact any City department or service, including non-emergency police response.
- "311" does not work from cellular phones.
- "877-ASK-LAPD" (877-275-5273) can be dialed from both cellular and landline phones.
- All cellular "911" calls are automatically routed to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). If your "emergency" is not taking place on the freeway, then you must first tell the CHP dispatcher where your emergency is so that your call can be transferred to the appropriate local police department.

I want to thank the Encino residents who have been contacting me to discuss the problems in their neighborhoods and/or to start Neighborhood Watch. Of course, I encourage residents to continue to call the appropriate phone numbers when they see the various criminal-suspicious activities that require a police response. This kind of vigilance, awareness, and police-community partnership will certainly help keep our communities safe.

Our Neighborhood Watch Meeting for the month of April has been cancelled in lieu of the Annual Community Outreach / Consent Decree Meeting. This Annual meeting will be held at the new West Valley Police Station Community Room on Wednesday April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

West Hills

Senior Lead Officer

Peter Vanderburgh 20382

10 A 51

(B/TFMV) Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle is still a problem throughout the entire West Valley Division. We ask all our Community Members to please make sure to remove all items of value that can be seen in your car, and secure it in the trunk. As your Senior Lead, I can not over-emphasize this enough, so please tell everyone you know.

(G.T.A) Grand Theft Auto still continues to rise throughout the entire division with Toyota Camrys and Honda Accords to be the most popular targets. Thefts of high end SUV's such as Cadillac Escalade's, are also on the rise . If you have one of these vehicles, please make sure to set the alarm and utilize a theft deterrent steering device to enhance your car protection. Target areas are large malls and residential areas throughout our community, where thieves are on the lookout for these types of vehicles.

Traffic problems are part of our business. We are still in the wet weather mode, so please slow down and **use common sense**. Just because the posted speed sign might say (40mph), the weather and road conditions might be too dangerous for the posted speed, so slow down and drive safely.

Come join us at our next meeting at 7633 March Avenue, Pomelo Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place on March 14th, 2005, see your there and be safe!

Valley Traffic Division

Community Traffic Services Unit

(818) 756-8381

21453 (b) VC- Right turn on red.

Although it is legal for a vehicle to turn right on a red light, the vehicle is required to stop, then proceed without interfering with pedestrian or oncoming traffic. Many pedestrians are injured each year by drivers who don't yield before making right turns on red. Please, for public safety, take that extra second to stop, look and listen.

A tip from Officer Sam Davis
Your West Valley Traffic Safety Officer