



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 8 West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 August 2005

Officer in Charge, Sergeant Michael Padilla

Join us at National Night Out! "BLOW THE WHISTLE ON CRIME"

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at 6:00-9:00 PM
At West Valley Park (Vanowen at Wilbur)
EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!

Meet your Senior Lead Officers, learn about Neighborhood Watch in Your Community.

Meet Captain John Sherman, West Valley Division LAPD Commanding Officer.

Meet Captain Joel Justice, West Valley Division Patrol Commanding Officer.

Meet Councilman Dennis Zine Your representation at City Hall.

Have a dinner in the park with the Community! Free Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Drinks, and Prizes!

West Valley Area

Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 10th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held in the Police Station Community Room, at 19020 Vanowen Street.

Captain John Sherman, West Valley Area Commanding Officer and Mark Markowitz, West Valley C-PAB Co-Chair, extend a welcome to anyone who would like to come to our monthly meeting.

The West Valley C-PAB Meeting is held on the second Wednesday of every month
The next West Valley Area -Police Advisory Board Meeting will be September 14th, 2005.

Encino

Senior Lead Officer

Mark Ro # 32212 / (818) 374-7628
10 A 87

On a Thursday morning recently, at around 9:20 AM, two burglary suspects shut off the power to a house, climbed a ladder to the second floor balcony, and attempted to enter via a bedroom door. The victim woke up and yelled at them, causing them to flee. This is not uncommon (i.e., suspects shutting off the power to disengage any alarm system). You may want to consider making your house a "harder" target by placing a lock on your switch-circuit breaker box if it is located on the outside of the house. However, you must remember that, during an emergency, you must have reasonable access to the box. If you lock it up, make sure to keep the combination or the key in a safe place. Overall, in the City of LA this year, there are a higher number of burglaries that involve an entry (or attempt) via the second floor.

If your house has an alarm, make sure the whole house is monitored, not just the first floor. As we discussed at our last Neighborhood Watch meeting, if someone knocks on your door, make your presence known without actually opening the door. Tell the person through a window or the door that you cannot talk right now, and use your discretion from there. I am no longer telling people to simply ignore someone knocking at their door.

We will resume our quarterly schedule for the all-Encino Neighborhood Watch meetings at the end of October, but a final date will be determined later. Thanks to all of you for attending the last meeting and a special thanks to those that brought snacks too.

Winnetka

Senior Lead Officer

Karen Rodriguez # 31201

10 A 33 / (818) 374-7631

Hello Winnetkans!

It's summer vacation time again, so here is my annual reminder about things that you can all do to protect your homes and property from being burglarized while you are away. The most important thing to do is to let one of your neighbors know that you are going to be away so that they can keep an eye on your home for you. Have your neighbor remove any flyers or advertisements that have been left on your front door, and make your home look unoccupied. You might also want to ask them if they would be willing to park their car in your driveway once in a while. Contact the Post Office and your newspaper to hold your service while you are away. Lights and/or radios on timers in various parts of your home that come on at various times will also give you home that lived in look. Make sure that your neighbor has a way to contact you in the case of an emergency.

Speaking of vacation, I will be on vacation for a couple of weeks in July and August. The Neighborhood Watch meeting for August has been cancelled in lieu of the **National Night Out** celebration on August 2nd. Our next meeting will be on **the 8th of September**, at 7:00 p.m., at the Demirdjian School Cafeteria, 6844 Oakdale Ave.

Canoga Park

Senior Lead Officer

Royal Barber # 33970

10 A 3 & 10 A 57 / (818) 374-7629

I would like to announce the addition to our office of a **SLO for 10A57's area. We are happy to have the loan of Officer Jerry Velasquez** to take over the program that was so successful under Officer Terry Webb (who is enjoying his retirement). We hope to have a permanent Senior Lead Officer assigned to this area after our current promotional freeze is lifted.

A3 Neighborhood Watch. Our next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Tuesday August 9 at 7P.M. Faith Lutheran Church, 7500 De Soto Av.

A57 Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be August 17th, at the Topanga Mall Community room Please join us!

Tarzana

Senior Lead Officer

Kip Jackson # 31733

(818) 374-7638

Property Crimes are still our biggest problem in Tarzana!

Just in Tarzana alone we have had nearly 300 Burglaries/Theft from Vehicles year to date. Keep in mind that most of our Burglaries and Thefts occur on the street. We had 113 occur on the street and 80 in parking lots, 20 in garage/carports, and the remaining locations would include Driveways, single family dwelling, parking underground, etc.

You can do several simple things to avoid becoming part of the next statistic. Not all suggestions will apply, but one may, consider the following:

Hiring a parking attendant, improve surveillance at entrance and exits (via closed circuit television), hiring dedicated security patrols, Improve the lighting, securing the perimeter (fence/gate), installing entrance barriers and electronic access, installing car alarms and other bolt-on security devices, and removing property that would entice the opportunist as well as the career criminal.

Systematic interviews conducted by researchers find that car thieves claim to be largely immune from the risk of detection, apprehension and conviction. In one study of 100 thieves, 80% suggested they would never be caught. Arrest data seemed to confirm these predictions. Only about 14% of motor vehicle thieves were cleared by arrest several years' back. That number was even smaller for Thefts from Vehicles.

We have to combine our efforts and combat this problem through education, reporting suspicious activity, directed patrol, arrests, convictions, the Neighborhood Watch program, etc.

If your Street or building is suffering from the described problems please let me know and together we can develop a plan of action.

Please help me, to help you, and bring a new face to the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting, which is August 16th, 2005 Tuesday, at 7:00 P.M., at the West Valley Community Police Station , 19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda.

Senior Lead Officers

Tony Valadez # 31197 & Jodie McGee # 31677

(818) 374-7636 & (818) 374-7637

10 A 75 & 10A73

!!!!ATTENTION ALL AREAS!!!! We recently received this information, and think it is a Great idea! Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt : **ICE**. **ICE** stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under **ICE**, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what **ICE** means and they look for it immediately. **ICE** your cell phone NOW! **Please pass this one along!**

Join our next Neighborhood Watch Meeting, which is every second Tuesday at 7:00 PM, Woodland Hills Public Library, 22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills.

Reseda

Senior Lead Officers

Chris Crosby # 32835 & Janet Zumstein # 24571

(818) 374-7635 & (818) 374-7634

10 A 27 & 10 A 47

Hello Reseda!

Crime in Reseda is down! Officers in West Valley have been working very hard to keep you safe. Arrests of suspects are up 11% which means criminals are being taken off the streets. However, we as a community still need to take precautions to continue the success we are currently seeing. Lock your cars, don't leave items of value in your vehicle and try and park your vehicle in a well lit area.

An issue that we have been experiencing is school burglaries. If you happen to drive by a school during the late hours and see suspicious activity such as lights on or people walking on school grounds please call the police department. The property being removed from the schools has been computers, video recorders and money. Officers are currently conducting extra patrol around schools due to this issue.

Enjoy your summer and be safe.

Our next Neighborhood Watch meetings are August 11, 2005, and September 8, 2005, at 7:00 PM. These meetings will be held in the Community Room of West Valley Police Station at 19020 Vanowen Street.

If you have a topic that you would liked addressed at a Neighborhood Watch meeting, please call and let us know.

West Hills

Senior Lead Officer

Peter Vanderburgh # 20382

(818) 374-7632

10 A 51

To all West Hills residents, While school is out for summer break, please help and keep an eye out for intruders on school grounds. There has been a rash of school break-ins throughout West Valley Area that Los Angeles Unified School District Police are investigating. At present, we had (1) burglary in West Hills at Capistrano Elementary School, in which suspect(s) took tools out of a storage area container. Anyone with information regarding school break-ins can call (818) 893-6423 for the Valley Area Detectives (L.A.U.S.D).

Traffic problems (1) we ask you to slow down and not to tailgate other motorists. (2) with summer here, please watch out for traffic signal lights that might not be working due to electric spikes, also please make A complete stop at flashing red lights.

Our Neighborhood Watch meetings are on the second Monday of each month. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at 7633 March Avenue, Pomelo Elementary School, see you there and be safe.