





# **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS**

Volume 8, Issue 9

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630

September 2005

Officer in Charge, Sergeant Mike Padilla

Mark your calendar:

Chief of Police Townhall Meeting! September 22, 2005, 7:00 PM

Meet Chief Bratton,
Deputy Chief Michel J Moore,
Commander Valentino Paniccia
Captain III John Sherman,
Captain I Joel Justice

Discuss the state of policing in Los Angeles, local Crime statistics. Come and make your voice heard!

This important event will take place at The Demirjian School Auditorium, 6844 Oakdale Avenue, Canoga Park.

# West Valley Area

Community-Police Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, September 14th, 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 Jeanette Capaldi, 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 October 12, 2005.

TEENS, PARTIES, AND YOUR AREA A new school year is starting and an old problem will be coming back to your neighborhoods. We receive many community complaints about juveniles "partying" in their neighborhoods. If your neighborhood is affected by this problem, please let us know about it. Whole ranges of crimes accompany these loitering problems, including under-aged drinking, curfew violations, vandalism, burglary/theft from vehicles, narcotics use, and lewd conduct. It is very important that you be a GOOD WITNESS. Get the best information you can, without confronting these groups of teens. By being our eyes and ears, we can get these groups out of your neighborhoods.

If you have a teen, it is very important that you know where your child is spending their time. YOU ARE LIABLE FOR YOUR CHILDS ACTIONS. Groups of teens are making life in many neighborhoods unbearable. We will be conducting zero tolerance enforcement of all laws in these neighborhoods.

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

A57 (South Canoga Park / West Winnetka) NeighborhoodWatch Meeting will be September 21, at the Protectyo del Barrio, 20800 Sherman Way. Please join us!

### Winnetka

Senior Lead Officer **Karen Rodriguez # 31201**10 A 33 / (818) 374-7631

Hello Winnetkans!

The days are getting shorter, the street lights are coming on earlier and the kids are back in school. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to PLEASE slow down your speed while driving, especially around the school zones. I am spending a lot of time writing citations around the schools during the starting bell and afternoon dismissal hours, so if you are reading this, consider yourself forewarned.

We are still in a Block Captain Recruitment Drive. If you would like to organize a Block Club meeting for your block or find out how to get more involved in Neighborhood Watch, please contact the Senior Lead Office, and we will send out a Block Captain Starter Package. Community Policing starts with you and we cannot make this the safest big city in America without your help!

Our next meeting will be on **the 8th of September**, at 7:00 p.m., at the West Valley Police Station, Community Room, 19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda

#### **West Hills**

Senior Lead Officer **Peter Vanderburgh # 20382**10 A 51 / (818) 374-7632

**To** all West Hills residents, we are having a Community Fall Fest 2005, set for Sunday, October 2, 2005, at Saticoy and Woodlake Avenue. Volunteers are needed call Carolyn Poppert at (818) 999-5607 if you can help.

The crime numbers in West Valley Area are still below last year's totals. During this period, we had (2) mail boxes knocked down again in the Stonegate Community. The last time this happened was approximate 6-8 months ago, so please keep a watchful eye on your neighborhood in the late evening and on weekends, to help us prevent further vandalism.

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

#### **Tarzana**

Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson # 31733

10A67 / (818) 374-7638

We have recently seen a rise in Residential Burglaries between Victory Blvd to the North, Oxnard Street to the South, Tampa to the West, and Wilbur to the East. There have been at least 5 occurrences in the past couple of weeks. This should be a reminder to us all that we cannot let our guard down, even though crime is down 16.1 % citywide.

Facts about burglary- there are more than six million residential burglaries everyday in this country. That's one every ten seconds. In Tarzana, we have had over 100 Residential Burglaries since January 05. Nearly half of these six million burglaries are committed without force- that is through **unlocked** doors and windows. In Tarzana, the majority of entries are made through the front or rear doors. The second preference for burglars is side windows.

Most burglaries could be prevented by locking your doors and windows (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor also). Never leave a house key available: under a doormat, in a flowerpot, on the ledge of the door (These are the first places a burglar will look). Exterior doors should have "dead bolt" locks with a one inch strong metal bar extending into the frame. Sliding doors and windows should all have "ventilation" locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security. Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio or other doors that lead through storage areas or a spare room. Lastly, mark or engrave your valuables with your California Drivers License number.

Remember, if you come home and see a broken window or a jimmied door don't go in. Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone the police immediately.

You're the ones who really know what's going on in the neighborhood. It's simple, use your eyes and ears- then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police immediately. Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams around. For more information on starting your own Neighborhood Watch group- contact your Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson # 31733.

Our monthly Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Tues- September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 7:00 pm. 19020 Vanowen Street, West Valley Police Station, Community room.

#### Encino

Senior Lead Officer

# Mark Ro # 32212

10 A 87 / (818) 374-7628

Surrounding communities have experienced incidents where victims were robbed on their driveways or parking garages (i.e., residential robbery). Unfortunately, Encino has not been exempt from these types of crimes in the past. I would like to profile the typical victim of the residential robbery:

- Most victims were women above the age of 60 years,
- Most victims were alone, arriving home from running errands or from going out to dinner,
- All the victims did not notice the suspects approaching or following them until it was too late,

As for crime prevention, you must acknowledge and accept the fact that some people may be watching you closely for various reasons. They notice the cars you drive and the clothing & jewelry you wear. If you like to wear jewelry, I suggest you to be selective in when and how the jewelry is worn. Try to be aware of your surroundings and look in your rear view mirror frequently. If you notice someone following you, do not allow yourself to be "boxed in" by pulling into your parking space or garage. Instead, consider driving around the block (until the vicinity is clear) or driving to a well-lit public place (e.g., the police station).

We will resume our quarterly schedule for the Encino Neighborhood Watch meetings at the end of October, the date and location is still to be determined.

#### Reseda

Senior Lead Officers

Chris Crosby # 32835 & Janet Zumstein # 24571

(818) 374-7635 & (818) 374-7634 10 A 27 & 10 A 47

Hello Reseda!

First and foremost we would like to thank everybody that helped out with, sponsored, or attended National Night Out on August 2, 2005. By far we had our best turn out ever. Because of our community participation we are eligible to compete for an award issued by National Association of Town Watch. We would also like to thank the Sweeney's for all of their hard work in organizing this wonderful community event!

Our crime statistics in Reseda are looking very good. West Valley as a whole has seen a decrease in crime. Comparing last year to the current Violent Crimes are down 35% and Property Crimes are down 14%. We should all be proud of those numbers. We could not have accomplished these drops without your assistance. To continue this success we ask that you rally support from your neighbors attend the neighborhood watch meetings as a group.

We hold Reseda's Neighborhood Watch meetings every second Thursday of the month at the West Valley Police Station, 19020 Vanowen Street, at 7:00 P.M. We hope to see many more of the community attending these meetings.

Thanks for all your support and hard work.

# Canoga Park

Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber # 33970

10A3 / (818) 374-7629

With gas prices at all times highs, stealing cars are a way for thieves to get around. The market for car parts is also tremendous and, for the thief, it's all profit! Although crime in Canoga Park and in West Valley are at historic lows, Canoga Park remains an area were the highest amount stolen cars are reported. Currently, Honda Accord's, Honda Civic's, and Toyota Camry's are the cars of choice but we also receive stolen reports of other makes and models. Also, most of the cars taken are stolen from the street.

Alarms and other devices can help prevent the theft of your car. A kill-switch can be attached to your car's ignition system; once turned off; the switch prevents the car from being started. A kill-switch can be purchased at most auto alarm and stereo shops. Remember that the best place to park your car is in a locked garage or locked carport. When these are not available, try to park in a well-lit area. Lock your car and use alarms and other deterrents. Lastly, keep all valuables out of sight. Let's work together to keep our cars out of the hands of thieves

A3 Neighborhood Watch. Our next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Tuesday September 13 at 7P.M. Faith Lutheran Church, 7500 De Soto Av.