





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 10 West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 October 2006 Sergeant Bob Burton

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"COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION"

Please join us for the following West Valley Area Events:

CPAB Meetings October 11 and November 8, 2006, West Valley Station, 7pm

West Hills, 10A51, Senior Lead Officer Peter Vanderburgh 20382 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7632 office

If you have not heard yet, Los Angeles City is the second Safest Big City in the Nation.

Thanks to all the hard work of Police Management and the men and women working the streets of Los Angeles to reduce crime and the fear of crime. I might add that without the help from our community members like you folks, volunteer service workers, and a total community commitment of all to reduce crime, we probably would have never made it to the top 10, so give yourself a big pat on the back.

A reminder, in my last West Hills Newsletter I mentioned a "graffiti artist" who has been tagging a strip mall at Valley Circle at Victory. The area was cleaned up recently and then the "artist" hit again on the 18th of September with graffiti "JEWR". This "artist" apparently lives in the area and needs to redeem himself, so if you have any information regarding this person, I will gladly arrest him for Felony Vandalism.

I still need to remind our community members to remove all items of value out of your vehicles, such as: ipods, cell phones, cameras, and G.P.S units. We unfortunately have criminals floating around looking for an easy take by breaking your window and removing your valuables.

We had a slight increase in residential burglaries near Shoup Avenue and Victory Boulevard. Most entries were made through un-secured doors and windows. Please make sure to lock up your home before you leave.

Our next Community Meetings will be on "Columbus Day" the 9th of October and November 13th at 7633 Pomelo Ave (at the elementary school) see you there.

Canoga Park, 10A, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron 32977 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 731-2593 Cell

Greeting everyone, I want to take a moment to cover a very serious topic that could possible effect all of us at any given moment in time. The topic being Emergency Preparedness, and I am not just referring just to earthquakes because we live in Southern California. Disaster, either natural such as; earthquakes, floods, wild fires, winter storms, mudslides and most recently man-made ones like acts of terrorism. In the event of major disaster either natural or man-made, the odds are extremely high that if you needed assistance in the San Fernando Valley, so would a very large segment of the population.

We all observed the terrible effects that Hurricane Katrina had on New Orleans and its citizens. We observed how emergency medical and police personnel were pushed well beyond their capacity to render aid to the citizens in need. With this in mind, I strongly encourage everyone to please take some time and develop an emergency kit. It will give you some peace of mind to know that you will be able to take care of yourself for at **least three days** after any disaster. The following is a general guideline I have researched, but by all means take some time to investigate the topic for yourself and you will see just how far the list can go. Listed are web sites that offer additional valuable information on the topic. www.redcross.org or www.72hours.org or

<u>Disaster Kit</u> (it should be in one bin to 'grab and go' in case you had to leave your home in a hurry like the recent wild fire victims did)

<u>Water:</u> Water for at least 3 days, at the rate of one gallon/person per day for drinking.

<u>Food:</u> Food for at least 3 days that requires minimal to no cooking because gas lines and electricity will be out of commission.

First Aid Kit: A fairly comprehensive kit with a first aid manual.

Medications: Medications you or anyone in your family require for any period of time.

Hygiene / Sanitation: Soap, toothbrush & paste, towels, germicidal hand wipes, etc.

<u>US Currency:</u> Some amount of US currency, in small denominations because the ATM's will be out of service.

<u>Flashlights:</u> With lots of extra batteries, use caution if you choose to use candles because you do not want to burn down your home by mistake during times of added stress.

<u>Small Radio:</u> Battery operated, with extra batteries, or hand crank, to keep you abreast of shelter information.

<u>Clothing/ Bedding:</u> Warm clothing just in case you have to evacuate your home, and some type of tent or shelter.

The next Canoga Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be held on November 14th, 2006. The location is the Chamber of Commerce, located at 7248 Owensmouth Avenue.

"Community Awareness is the Key to Crime Prevention"

Winnetka, 10A33 Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza 33626 @lapd.lacity.org (818) 374-7631 office or (818) 731-2568 cell

I have received an increase in the number of telephone calls related to door-to door sales. As a reminder everyone should remain attentive to personal safety and home security at all times. We often see individuals or groups of door-to door sales persons walking through various neighborhoods. However, not everyone who visits our neighborhoods have good intentions in mind. Please remember to be cautious whenever anyone knocks at your door.

Safety Tips:

Halloween is just around the corner, which means we can expect a lot of children to be out trick-or-treating. Here are a few Halloween safety tips that can make Halloween safer and more enjoyable.

- Make sure children are always supervised by a parent or responsible adult.
- Make sure that children are wearing bright colored costumes or using reflective tape to make them as visible as possible at night.
- Always stay in a group, walk slowly (never run) and communicate.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- Never allow children to consume treats until they are thoroughly checked by an adult.

Our next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be November 16th, 2006.

West Winnetka & Canoga Park, 10A57 Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein 24571 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7634 office or (818) 731-2570 cell

The Westfield Topanga Mall opened October 6, 2006. The normal business hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Saturday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The mall added 130 new stores with new innovative sit-down dining. Three new parking structures with access direct to the center via unique Sky lobbies were also added. This mall is a great access to the neighborhood and I recommend checking it out when you can.

Halloween is October 31, 2006, so be careful when you are driving around that night. Keep in mind that there will be a lot of kids running around in the neighborhood, so allow yourself extra time to get around. The Topanga Mall is also having trick-or-treating from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Crime is still down in the area so keep up the good work. By keeping your property secured, locking your doors, and being aware of your surroundings, you may prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

Our next meetings are October 17 and November 21, 2006, at 7:00 PM, at 20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village) I hope to see you there.

Tarzana & Encino, 10A67/10A87, Senior Lead Officer Rob Trulik 32325 @lapd.lacity.org (818) 374-7637 office or (818) 731-2572 cell

Hello Encino, Tarzana and Sherman Oaks,

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While reviewing recent crime reports I am continuing to see Purse Thefts and Robberies where the item taken was a purse. I would like to remind residents to pay special attention while visiting and conducting business at our local shopping centers. The Suspects are usually targeting loan females in the parking lot of the business. The Suspects drive by the targeted Victim and lean out a moving vehicle's window. While reaching out the window the Suspects remove the Victim's purse from the unsupervised shopping cart. This generally occurs while the Victim is loading groceries or other items into their vehicle. The Suspects have also reached out the window of the moving vehicle and struggled with the Victims to remove the purse from the Victim's shoulder. Please notify store security or the Los Angeles Police Department if you see Suspects that you believe are involved in suspicious activity as soon as possible.

I have also noticed that we are seeing an increase in Burglary From Motor Vehicles in the area of Burbank Blvd to Ventura Blvd and Lindley Ave to White Oak Ave. Please remember to lock and secure your vehicles and remove valuables from view within the vehicle. Pease also inform guests and visitors to do the same. Do not be fooled into thinking your vehicle is secure because it is in an underground parking structure. There has also been an increase in residential Burglaries in much of the same areas. Please monitor suspicious activity and report it to the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877- ASK-LAPD. Now is a great time to get involved in your neighborhood and stay informed. By joining your local Neighborhood Watch you might learn ways to prevent becoming a victim.

Woodland Hills, 10A73/75, Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson 31733 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7636 office or (818) 731-2574 cell

I will keep it brief, and ask you to contact me regarding individuals going through your trash cans either the night before, or the day of trash pick up. We are seeing quite a few Identity Theft crime reports coming through the Senior Lead Office. I also have several Recycle Theft Task Forces planned for the next few months, and I need some locations to focus on. Please assist the LAPD and Dept of Sanitation in capturing these Recycle Theft Suspects/Identity Theft Suspects.

It is illegal to tamper with refuse / rubbish and salvage, 66.28 LAMC. We recently just won our first test case with this section. Our Neighborhood Prosecutor (City Attorney Mike Pizzuti) has been instrumental in this enforcement and supports our efforts.

I hope to meet everyone at the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting, October 10th and November 14, 2006, 6:30 p.m., 22200 Ventura Blvd.

Reseda Senior Lead Officers 10A27 Jodie McGee / 10A47 Brent Rygh 31677@lapd.lacity.org/ (818) 374-7635 /30450 @lapd.lacity.org or 731/2581

Hello Reseda, this is Officer Jodie McGee. I would like to congratulate Officer Brent Rygh on making Senior Lead Officer. Officer Rygh will take over 10A47's area.

Robberies are still a major crime concern for the Los Angeles Police Department and the citizens of Reseda.

- 1) Wherever you are, on a street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway **Stay Alert!** Don't doze or daydream and stay tuned in to your surroundings.
- 2) Send a message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- 3) Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave. Our next Neighborhood Watch Meetings are on October 19th and November 16th-at the police station, at 7 pm. We will see you there!

