



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 February 2007
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 & February 14th & March 14th , 2007, West Valley Station, 7pm

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

I hope that everybody has a very special Valentines Day. I also want to thank you for all your hard work in making our community a safer place to live, work, and visit.

We are still having a problem in the vicinity of the Topanga Mall with all types of crime, especially Burglary-Theft from Motor Vehicle. Please don't be a victim. Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean you can let your guard down. I walked through the mall parking lots the other day and observed several vehicles with wallets, purses, large packages and other items of value in plain site. Please don't rely on your car alarm to protect your property. Before you leave your vehicle, place all your items of value in the trunk of your car. Suspects are opportunists and they look for the easiest way to take your property. If they don't see it, they don't know you have it. Remember the old saying "Out of site out of mind".

An important topic that has surfaced at several different meetings, is preventing young pregnant girls from abandoning their babies at locations which are harmful for the newborns safety. The City of Los Angeles in conjunction with the Police and Fire Departments and various hospitals have development a program where mothers can drop off their newborn infant without any questions or reprisals. If you know of anybody in this situation please educate them. Our goal is to provide a safe haven for these newborn babies, and to give their mothers another alternative in their situation.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you.

Our next meeting is March 20, 2007, at 7:00 PM, at 20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village Center), Canoga Park, 710-9322. I hope to see you there.

Winnetka, 10A33 Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza
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Crime Trend:

Grand Theft Auto and Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle are the most reported crimes in Winnetka, specifically in and around apartments and condominiums. The Winnetka area is densely populated with multi-unit apartments and condominiums with subterranean and carport-style parking lots. These parking facilities are easy targets for criminals who often look for the right opportunity. Although most of the Grand Theft Auto and Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle are occurring during late night and early morning hours, crime prevention remains the biggest part of the solution. The Los Angeles Police Department is dedicated to enhancing public safety and reducing the fear and incident of crime. But there are many things each and every community member can do too reduce his or her chances of becoming a victim.

By simply taking these small steps to protect yourself and your property you can reduce your chances of being a victim:

- Always lock doors to common areas and garages.
- When leaving or entering a garage, be sure the door closes and locks behind you before moving on.
- Do not leave the garage door opener in your car. If stolen, it provides easy access to your building
- Organize regular meetings to discuss security issues.
- Contact neighbors in your complex whenever a crime occurs so they may take appropriate precautions.

With this in mind, West Valley Division is having an apartment owner and manager training on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce located at 7248 Owensmouth Ave.

The March Neighborhood Watch meeting will be Thursday March 8th, at 7:00 PM, at the West Valley Police Station (19020 Vanowen Street). Please try to bring a friend or neighbor!

Canoga Park, 10A3, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron

32977 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 731-2593 Cell

Greetings everyone. I had to interrupt the burglary prevention information for a late breaking development. In November we were up to 31 stolen vehicles for the month, and December was not any better for Canoga Park. Therefore, in light of those significant numbers, I thought it would be prudent to go over some helpful tips that might prevent you from becoming a statistic.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the top vehicles stolen for 2004. In descending order, were: 89 Toyota Camry (#1 stolen vehicle), 91 Honda Accord, 95 Honda Civic, 88 Toyota Pick-up, 91 Nissan Sentra, 90 Acura Integra, 93 Saturn SL, 87 Toyota Corolla, 92 Chevy, Full size pick-up, 00 Ford Mustang.

- Park your car in a garage or behind a locked gate at all times while at home.
- If that is not possible, pull up all the way onto your driveway and install motion sensor lights that will activate when anyone is around the vehicle.
- Install an alarm system with a kill switch that is not plainly visible to anyone in the vehicle.
- Install some type of wheel or shift locking device, and use it.
- Get an automobile security-tracking device for your vehicle.
- Never, and I mean never, leave your vehicle on and running, not even for a second.
- Have your VIN number etched to multiple windows on the automobile to prevent theft.

Lastly, consider getting vehicle theft insurance just in case all of the above did not work.

Our monthly all Canoga Park Neighborhood Watch meeting will be February 13th, 7:00 PM, at 7248 Owensmouth Avenue, (the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce Building).

So many residents, property and business owners have asked me what they can do to prevent crime in our community. The best way to prevent crime is to secure your property (i.e. lock vehicle doors, lock doors and

windows on your home and use anti-theft devices such as alarms). You can also spread this information through your community. Many of you belong to Neighborhood and Business Watch Groups and that is a plus, however, we need to get the word out to others that it is their responsibility as a citizen to report crime and suspicious activity to the police. It is a new year, and with your continued support, West Valley Area can continue to be a safer place in 2007.

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

Safety Tip:

Even though traffic enforcement by our West Valley and Valley Traffic Division officers has increased, the number of accidents involving injury and even death seem to be unaffected. Most accidents occur as a result of speed, failure to stop at stoplights and unsafe turns. The Los Angeles Police Department is reminding everyone to use caution while driving and to abide by the rules of the road. If necessary, allow yourself extra time to get to your destination safely. By doing this, you will decrease your chances of being involved in an accident.

Winnetka's next Neighborhood Watch meeting is February 8th, 2007, at the Demirjian School, located at Vanowen Street and Oakdale Ave. We start our meetings at 7:00 pm. All are welcomed!

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

Happy New Year Encino, Tarzana and Sherman Oaks,

I hope you had a safe and happy Holiday. Now it's time to get back to work and get active in our community. I do need to point out that crime is on the rise and I am seeing more and more vehicle Burglaries. The vast majority of the incidents are a result of our residents leaving valuables in plain sight on the front seat of their vehicles. The crimes will not cease as long as we entice the criminals with our valuables. I can not stress enough the importance of removing your valuables from your vehicles.

If you observe suspicious activity which may be linked to these crimes, obtain a description of the individuals physical appearance, actions and any vehicle descriptions including license plate numbers and contact the police immediately by calling 911 or 877-ask-lapd (877-275-5273) for non-emergency. Do not confront suspicious individuals.

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

I would like to take a minute to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year!

Have you ever lost or had your wallet/purse stolen?

Have you ever used an unsecured mailbox or drop off box?

Has your mailbox ever overflowed: e.g. vacation?

Have you ever visited an Internet site that required your personal data?

Have you ever been contacted via phone or email asking you to verify or provide information that the company should already have?

If the answer to even one of these questions is YES then whether you know it or not, you could be a victim of IDENTITY THEFT. Generally, most victims are unaware that their identity has been stolen. Typically, victims discover that their identity has been stolen about 14 months after the fact.

Take the following steps if this happens to you: Report it to the Federal Trade Commission- 1-877-ID-THEFT, Contact the three principal reporting agencies Equifax 800- 525-6285, Experian 888-397-3742 and Trans Union 800- 680-7289, file a report with the local police in the area where the theft occurred. Additionally fill out an identity theft affidavit, send documentation to creditors/banks and credit reporting agencies, close accounts and reopen new ones.

Our Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be February 13th, 2007 6:30 PM, at the Woodland Hills Library, located at 22200 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills.

Happy New Year to all. I hope you had a great Holiday Season. My goal for 2007 is to increase our Neighborhood Watch program, however, I need your help in making this happen. Please spread the word to your neighbors. The more people we can get involved in the Neighborhood Watch program, the safer our community will be. If you don't know your neighbors, go introduce yourself to them. Neighbors that know each other and have a good relationship with each other, are more likely to watch out for each other. I also want to encourage neighborhood phone roosters for each street. That way you can call your neighbor if you see a possible problem. If you are interested in starting up a Neighborhood Watch program on your street, please call me. Best wishes to you and your families in 2007.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Our next meeting is February 20, 2007, at 7:00 PM, at 20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village Center), Canoga Park, 710-9322. I hope to see you there.

**West Hills, 10A51 Senior Lead Officer Pete Vanderburgh
20382 @lapd.lacity.org / (818) 374-7632 office or (818) 731-2573 cell**

With the help from our community members, volunteer service workers and a total community commitment of all to reduce crime, we have had a significant crime reduction in each of the past five years. Considering the increase in population in our communities over that time period. That is quite a feat. However, our goal is still more crime reduction! It is my hope and commitment for this New Year to continue this downward trend throughout 2007.

As a reminder, please remove all items of value, such as ipods, cell phones, cameras, cash and GPS units, from your vehicle while unattended. Unfortunately, we have criminals looking for easy targets in our communities. When your car is parked with items of value in clear sight, it becomes quite an easy target for even the most simple of thieves.

Our next West Hills Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on February 12th at 7633 Pomelo Avenue (Pomelo Elementary School) at 7 pm. I hope to see you there!

“Community Awareness is the Key to Crime Prevention”