



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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Sergeant Cedric Ingram

Log onto www.lapdonline.org today! You can view information on the crime in your neighborhood, get the monthly newsletter and sign up for e-policing, a real-time way to get information from LAPD to you!

“COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION”

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Don't Let Crime Steal Your Holiday!

Every year, from the middle of November through the middle of January, we see a rise in Property-Type Crimes in the West Valley Area. This includes suspects breaking into houses and cars. Many of these crimes could have been prevented if the victims just followed a few Crime Prevention Tips. Remember that most of these types of crimes are merely crimes of opportunity. If you can take the opportunity away, you have a much better chance of avoiding becoming the victim of a crime.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips While Shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend, there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry a wallet in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket of your pants for safety.
- Be aware that predators look for the "high dollar" shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost and talk to them about "Stranger Danger".
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. Use store's package pick-up.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.
- If you do return to your vehicle to unload purchases, place them in the trunk of the vehicle.
- Try not to shop too late in the evening. Remember that fewer people are present at this time.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips In Parking Lots:

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area, and check for lighting in case you leave during hours of darkness.
- Do not park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows.
- Prior to arriving at the shopping center, lock all your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Leave the store with others, not alone.
- Ask security to escort you to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside. If you suspect someone following you, report it to security immediately.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips At Home:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don't display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for the garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear garbage bag.

Finally, if you observe any suspicious activity or are the victim of a crime, contact shopping center security officers if available or the LAPD at 911 (emergencies only) or (213) ASK-LAPD (non-emergencies). Be sure to have relevant suspect description and vehicle information as well as information regarding the location of the crime or suspicious activity readily available.

Crime and Arrest Information.

Below is a snapshot of just a few of the arrests that officers made in West Valley in the past couple weeks:

- An 18 year old man was arrested at Target in Woodland Hills for Burglary on 10-17-07. He had secreted numerous items of merchandise on his person and into items he was carrying and attempted to exit the store.
- In the 20200 Block of Ventura Blvd, a woman was arrested for Robbery after she pushed a man against a wall and stated "give me your money or I will hurt you". The pair had "met" on Craig's list, and were possibly involved in a prostitution transaction.
- 20100 Block Ventura Blvd, West Valley Vice Detail met with a female prostitute they had found on Craig's List. The female solicited the officer for prostitution, and was arrested.
- A citizen observed a male transient starting a fire during the strong Santa Ana winds that were recently blowing. The Transient was arrested for Arson. The fire was extinguished without incident.
- 5600 Yolanda Ave, a young man was observed spray painting a box truck. Officers responded and placed the suspect under arrest. The suspect had spray pain speckles on his hands as well as text messages on his phone alluding to his crime.
- Officers were conducting an investigation at Ventura Blvd and Beckford St, when they discovered narcotics and a weapon belonging to one of the detained individuals they were investigating. The man was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm.
- Officers arrested a female claiming to be a house sitter in the 18600 Blk of Medley Drive. The female was arrested for residential burglary.

- Nestle Ave and Gault St, residents heard a loud crash and called police. Officers responded and arrested a male hispanic for DUI, and Hit and Run. The individual had hit a parked vehicle, and was showing the objective symptoms of driving while intoxicated.
- Officers observed a vehicle without a front license plate driving erratically. Officers initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle slowed , turned a corner, and immediately stopped and the driver exited the car running with his hands covering his waistband. Officers continued to cover the other occupants of the car, while additional officers responded for the possibly armed suspect who ran. The suspect who ran was located. The suspect had thrown a 44 calibre handgun while he fled from officers. The handgun was recovered, and the suspect admitted that it was his, carried "for protection" The handgun was a stolen gun. Suspect was booked for possession of a stolen handgun. The other two suspects were released.

You can look up crime activity in your neighborhood on-line at

www.lapdonline.org or
www.lapdcrimemaps.org .

Crime Prevention tip of the month,

Please DO NOT give homeless looking people money. Many of these folks are NOT homeless, but instead, scamming you for your hard earned dollars. Homeless panhandlers are also law-breakers, who can be a threat to your safety. There are alternatives to their living on the streets. We offer them shelter on every encounter, and our transient team has yet to have one take them up on any assistance. Their homelessness is a choice.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Schedule:

Canoga Park Neighborhood Watch
The second Tuesday of the month
7248 Owensmouth Ave
7pm.

Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting
Every other month
Call for details.
374-7637

Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting
The second Thursday of the month
West Valley Police Station
7pm.

Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting
The third Tuesday of the month
West Valley Police Station
7pm.

**South Canoga Park/ West Winnetka
Neighborhood Watch**
The third Tuesday of the month
20830 Sherman Way, Canoga Park
7pm.

Winnetka Neighborhood Watch
The second Thursday of the month
6844 Oakdale Ave.
7pm.

West Hills Neighborhood Watch
The second Monday of the month
7633 March Ave, West Hills
7pm.

Woodland Hills Neighborhood Watch
The second Tuesday of the month
22200 Ventura Blvd (Woodland Hills Library)
6:30pm.

**All times and dates are subject to change,
Please call the Senior Lead Officer to verify
prior to attending, or get on the mailing list, for
a monthly updated mailing on the meeting!**

Who Do I Call For This?

There has been a car parked on the street for 3 days (or more) and it is collecting dust and blocking the parking for other residents.

Who do I call?

You can call the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation at (818) 756-8631, or 311. The Department of Transportation is responsible for parking enforcement in the City of Los Angeles. They also have an abandoned vehicle hotline, for obviously abandoned vehicles. You can reach the abandoned vehicle hotline at 1-800-222-6366. On private property, the storage of excessive numbers of vehicles falls under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department. Building and Safety can be reached at (888)524-2845, or through 311 (the City Hall operator).