



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 3 West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 March, 2008
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”

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630

10A3- Canoga Park, Senior Lead Officer
Alex Padron, cell (818) 731-2583.

10A27-Reseda north of Sherman Way,
Senior Lead Officer Jose Maldonado,
cell (818) 731-2569.

10A33-Winnetka,
Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza,
(818) 374-7631.

10A47-Reseda south of Sherman Way,
Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh,
cell (818) 731-2581.

10A51-West Hills, Senior Lead Officer
Janet Zumstein, cell (818) 731-2570.

10A57-West Winnetka, South Canoga Park,
Senior Lead Officer Jerry Velasquez,
cell phone (818) 731-2578.

10A67-Tarzana, Senior Lead Officer
Daryl Scoggins, cell (818) 731-2573

10A73/75-Woodland Hills,
Senior Lead Officer Jodie McGee,
cell (818) 731-2574.

10A87-Encino, Senior Lead Officer
Robert Trulik, cell (818) 731-2572.

In Memoriam: West Valley Area, the City of Los Angeles and its citizens lost a great man in SWAT Officer Randy Simmons. Officer Simmons was an element leader (or team leader) for his team. He was well respected in the law enforcement community nationwide. Additionally, Officer Simmons was the father of two beautiful children, Matthew and Gabrielle, and the husband of his beloved wife Lisa. Randy was also a Pastor at Glory Christian Fellowship, and a spiritual father to hundreds of children in his Ministry “Glory Kids” which ministered and mentored children from the inner city.

Seriously injured was Officer James Veenstra. Officer Veenstra is also a SWAT element member, with approximately 28 years as an LAPD officer. Officer Veenstra is happily married to his wife Michelle, who is an LAPD Captain. Officer Veenstra acted incredibly heroically, and we are all praying for his full recovery. We have set up trust funds for both officers:

Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union
Blue Ribbon Trust Fund/ **Officer James Veenstra** Acct. 2030077-product code S4.13
Blue Ribbon Trust Fund/ **Officer Randal Simmons** Acct. 2030077-product code S4.12
16150 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91410
(877) 695-2732

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

- 186XX Ingomar St. - A female was walking her dog in front of suspects house. The suspect began yelling at the victim regarding her dog urinating on his lawn, telling her to leave or he would shoot her with his gun. Suspect then came out of the house with a shotgun. Officers responded, suspect was uncooperative and belligerent. Suspect initially denied that he had any guns in his house. Officers located 7 various types of guns in suspect's residence after suspect finally admitted he owned guns. Suspect was taken into custody, and arrested for Criminal Threats. (10A27)
- 213XX Roscoe Blvd. - Three males were arrested for Gambling after Vice officers observed them playing a card game for money. (10A3)
- 54XX Winnetka Ave. - Two ninth graders wrote an anonymous email to a teacher that stated "You are going to die in three days and I hate you, you fat (expletive)". These students did this on a school computer; both were arrested for Criminal Threats. (10A75)
- 189XX Ventura Blvd. - A male and female were in a vehicle driving down Ventura Blvd. The female asked to use the male's cell phone. A dispute arose. The female began throwing the male's property out the vehicle windows. The female crawled into the male's lap, and began to hold his arms as he was driving the car. They struggled. As the male attempted to get the female off of his lap, the female bit off part of the mans lower lip. He managed to drive to a safe location, and phone police. The female was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon. (10A67)
- 215XX Sherman Way - After a Vice investigation, two females were arrested, one for Prostitution, and one for Keeping a House of Prostitution. (10A3)
- 64XX Valley Circle Blvd. - Narcotics officers served a search warrant, which resulted in the arrest of two adults for Conspiracy to Sell Marijuana, as well as six juveniles for Possession of Marijuana or other Controlled Substances. (10A51)
- West Hills, Injury Investigation - A male was retrieving his handgun from under a pillow on the bed, where it is kept for family safety. He grabs the gun, removes it from its holster, and accidentally pulls the trigger, discharging a round into his left hand, causing great bodily injury. (10A51)
- 198XX Welby Way, A male with a mental illness, who had already shot (killed) three family members, phoned police and stated that he had killed his family. Police responded and called for SWAT back up. SWAT arrived and entered the location, believing that the victims may possibly be still alive. Two SWAT officers were shot; one was fatally wounded. West Valley officers assisted in rescuing those officers, and maintained the perimeter. In the early morning, more teargas was pumped into the house, causing a female who had been hiding in a bedroom closet, to flee after wrestling with the suspect. The female was unharmed. A fire in the home caused the suspect to exit the residence. Suspect was shot and killed by a SWAT sniper. The house burned, and sustained major structural damage. A major crime scene was in place for several days of investigation. We apologize to nearby residents for any inconvenience caused by our investigation an its related noise and street closures.
- **You can look up crime activity in your neighborhood on-line at www.lapdonline.org or www.lapdcrimemaps.org.**

How to Protect Your Home.

Don't be a home burglary victim. Take the time and effort to make it tough for anyone to get in. Better to be safe than sorry.

Steps

- Make sure it appears you are home while you're away.
- Leave shades and blinds as you usually do.
- Light up the porch and yard with a time controller.
- Connect a television or radio to a timer.
- Keep lawns mowed, sidewalks swept, hedges clipped, and circulars picked up.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use thick cylinder locks on outside entrances. Place safety latches on the windows. Ensure that all screens are fastened from within.
- Form a neighborhood crime watch with the assistance of your Senior Lead Office. Team work, cooperation and common sense can help make or break a neighborhood. Report anything suspicious.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your property when you are away. Do the same for them.
- Arrange to have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers when you are on vacation. If that isn't possible, cancel all deliveries, including newspapers. Arrange with your post office to hold your mail or leave it with a neighbor.
- Never advertise your departure.
- Replace any exterior hollow doors with solid ones.
- Install locks that wedge and bolt in sliding doors and double hung windows.
- Invest in a good alarm system. At the very least, buy one of those alarm company signs. eBay is good for that.

Tips

- Always keep very few valuables in your home.
- Get homeowners insurance, or if you are a renter, renter's insurance.
- You can purchase an exterior door quite cheaply. Steel doors can cost as little as \$175-\$200, but special door designs or additions, such as impact-resistant glass or sidelights can increase the price up to \$1500 or more.

What types of calls are we getting right now?

Third row seats are being taken out of SUV's- we recommend engraving your California drivers license number into your third row seat in several locations- just in case.

Graffiti, Graffiti, and more Graffiti- we just cannot keep up- please- if it is NOT hate related- call 374-7611 to make a crime report. You can call 311 or 227-9722 to have the graffiti removed. You can call your SLO and leave a message to alert us to its presence, or let us know at the next neighborhood watch meeting.

We are having an unusual amount of hate related graffiti. Please be alert near or at any synagogue or house of worship of any type, and do not hesitate to dial 911 if you see anyone defacing the property with representations of hate.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Schedule:

Canoga Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting
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 Meeting
The third Tuesday of the month
20830 Sherman Way, Canoga Park
7pm.

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

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

Woodland Hills Neighborhood Watch Meeting
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!

We have several other upcoming activities; we welcome your attendance!

March 15, 2008 is Community Clean-up Day. West Valley Community Police Station and the San Fernando Valley Faith Coalition are joining forces with the City of Los Angeles to do a clean up in West Valley. We could use your help! We will be meeting at Taft High School at 7:30 AM and then going out into teams in the community to clean up! All communities will be effected! We will be finishing by 2 PM

West Valley is having a fundraiser for Officer Rachel Raigoza and Cory Ryan (Sgt. Kathy Ryan's son) who are both fighting cancer. We will have a car wash and barbecue behind Councilman Zines office on Saturday April 5, 2008, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by and enjoy a hamburger and have your car washed to help us raise funds for our sister officer and sister officer's son. We will begin pre-selling tickets shortly!