



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Devonshire Area Neighborhood Watch Newsletter ♦ December 2012

## Message from the Commanding Officer, Devonshire Area

Greetings all, On Friday, October 19, 2012, Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (S.O.L.I.D.) coordinated the Annual Fundraising "All-You-Can-Eat" Pasta Dinner at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. I would like to take this opportunity to thank S.O.L.I.D. for their constant support and to St. Nicholas Church for once again opening their doors to us. On Saturday, November 3, 2012, an exceptional Middle School student, Sam Dobry, in partnership with Council District 12, coordinated the Limekiln Canyon clean-up event. Devonshire Senior Lead Officers and Community Relations Officers were on hand to help, along with a large group of motivated community members. Thank you to all who attended. The holidays are coming up. If you have the opportunity, please donate to our PAL'S Toy Drive. The last day for drop off donations is Friday, December 14, 2012. The toy giveaway will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 9:00AM at the PAL'S Center, located 8721 Wilbur Avenue, Northridge.

I have the deepest gratitude for all who have supported our efforts in keeping Devonshire Area one of the safest divisions in the city.



We have the strongest community backing and involvement in the city of Los Angeles. I wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays!

**Kris E. Pitcher, Captain**  
Commanding Officer  
Devonshire Community Police Station

## Basic Car Area 17A23

Senior Lead Officer Dan Del Valle

Cell Phone: (818) 634-0362 - 27677@lapd.lacity.org

### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

Basic Car 17A23 had a -3% drop in crime this past month for the crime of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/TFMV). **Everyone's hard work paid off, THANK YOU!!! The holidays are upon us and it is extremely important to keep up the efforts to fight the B/TFMV, so don't forget to lock your vehicles and keep your valuables out of sight.** The crime of concern for our area is Grand Theft Auto (GTA). GTA's have been occurring from Chatsworth to Rinaldi St. and Canoga to Corbin Avenue. Please let others know of the crime activity that is occurring in the area and report suspicious activity.

**CRIME TIPS - PLEASE REMEMBER - be aware of your surroundings when accessing ATM machines.** Suspects watch ATM users making withdrawals and regular deposits, searching for the easy complacent victim. Try to access ATM's during daytime hours and, if approached, think about what actions to take. ***Do not be the easy target...***

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND EVENTS

**Due to the holidays, our Basic Car Neighborhood Watch Mtg. for December is cancelled. The next Basic Car 17A23 Neighborhood Watch Meeting is Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 7PM. Our meetings are held @ 7PM**

**every 4th Thursday of the month at Saint John Eudes Church, 9901 Mason Avenue, Chatsworth.** I hope everyone enjoys the holidays!!! Hope to see you all at the Chatsworth Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 9, 2012. The parade is from 11AM to 3PM on Devonshire St. from Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Mason Ave.

## Basic Car Area 17A35

Senior Lead Officer Dario Del Core

Cell (818) 634-0577 - E-mail: 27286@lapd.lacity.org

### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

After having had many months of low crimes, Residential Burglary activity has picked up again in the Basic Car Area. There were 24 crimes during the month of October, with patterns in the Granada Hills and Porter Ranch sectors, north of Rinaldi St. The most prevalent method of operation continues to be during the daytime "door-knock" approach. **Be on the lookout for suspicious activity and report prowlers to our LAPD non-emergency dispatch at 1-877-275-5273.**

### CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

Don't open your door to strangers. Residential Burglaries generally occur during daytime hours while residents are away at work. Most burglary suspects will "door-knock" a residence first to ensure no one is home. The best way to protect yourself is to speak through the door without opening it. **Monitor the individual's actions and, if you suspect criminal activity, phone the police at once.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS - There will be no Basic Car meeting for the month of December. Our next meeting will be a Semi-Annual District meeting scheduled for 6:00PM, Thursday January 17, 2013. This meeting will be held @ World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi Street (South/East corner of Rinaldi & Corbin), Porter Ranch, CA.**

## Basic Car Area 17A49

Senior Lead Officer Janine Angeles

Cell (818) 325-7749 - E-mail: 30392@lapd.lacity.org

**CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS -** The following crime statistics are from October 07, 2012 to November 3, 2012. There were (8) Grand Theft Autos (GTA's), (0) Robbery, (16) Thefts, (11) Burglaries, (3) Aggravated Assaults, and (19) Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (B/TFMV's). The crime in our Basic Car Area is down! The Aggravated Assaults were all "domestic violence" related. The items most commonly taken in the Residential Burglaries were jewelry, money and computers. With regard to B/TFMV's, the most common items taken were purses, computers and documents.

**CRIME TIPS -** During the holidays there is an increase in Thefts. This is due to packages being stolen after they are delivered. If possible, request that the packages be "signed for" upon delivery. If this is not possible, have a neighbor or family member bring the package inside if you are not home! Have a safe and wonderful holiday!

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - \*There will be no December 17A49 Basic Car Mtg. The first meeting of 2013 will be a Semi-Annual District Meeting which will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2013, 6PM @ World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi St., (South/East corner of Rinaldi & Corbin), Porter Ranch, CA. - Happy Holidays!**

### Basic Car Area 17A67

Senior Lead Officer Ignacio Murillo

Cell (818) 634-0495 - E-mail: 34879@lapd.lacity.org

**CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS -** Our crimes along the "Reseda Corridor" (between Lassen Street and Roscoe Blvd.) are ongoing. Most of these crimes are taking place during late night or early morning hours. **We need your help! Please be vigilant in this area. If you see anything "suspicious", call the police.**

### INFORMATION/TIP

Once again, "the holidays" are upon us, which means it's time for festive partying with friends and family, sharing gifts and laughter. However, it's also important to remember that for many people, the holidays bring on feelings of sadness and anxiety that can be hard to shake. According to the National Mental Health Association, reasons for "feeling blue around the holidays" are numerous. They range from fatigue, a result of all of the increased holiday activities, to financial limitations and family tensions. Experts say one of the fastest routes to holiday depression is "unrealistic expectations". Below is a list of depressive symptoms compiled by the National Institute of Mental Health. Experts suggest you seek professional help if you experience five or more of these symptoms every day for two weeks.

- \* Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" mood;
- \* Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism;
- \* Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness;
- \* Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies & activities that were once enjoyed (including sex)
- \* Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down";
- \* Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions;
- \* Insomnia, early-morning awakening, or oversleeping;
- \* Appetite and/or weight loss, or overeating and weight gain;
- \* Restlessness, irritability;
- \* Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment, such as headaches, digestive disorders & chronic pain.

As your Senior Lead Officer, I want to remind you that your life and well being are important! Don't let all of the pressures of shopping, coordinating social functions, negotiating family issues and missing lost loved ones overwhelm you this holiday season. If you have recurring thoughts of death or suicide, you should get help immediately. **You can call 1-877-7CRISIS.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - There will be no Basic Car meeting for the month of December, The Basic Car Meeting for January is postponed and replaced by the Devonshire "Semi-Annual District Meeting" scheduled for 6:00PM on Thursday, January 17, 2013. It is important you all attend the District Meeting. The location is World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi Street (South/East corner of Rinaldi & Corbin).**

### Basic Car Area 17A81

Interim Senior Lead Officer Jeff Hazer

Cell Phone: (818) 634-0579 - 33727@lapd.lacity.org

**CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS -** The following crime statistics are from the month of October, 2012. There were (7) Grand Theft Autos (GTA's), (2) Robberies, (16) Thefts, (7) Burglaries, (0) Aggravated Assaults, and (19), Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles (B/TFMV's). Burglaries and B/TFMV's are beginning to pick up in the Northridge Mall area.

**CRIME TIPS -** The "holiday season" is here, and criminals will be out in increasing numbers. They are opportunists who are looking for "a quick score". Don't be an easy target for them! Here are some things you can do to deter them -

- Lock and secure your vehicles, and always set your alarm or use an anti-theft device;
- Park near well-lit areas, and remember where you parked;
- SUV owners - back into parking stalls to prevent "third-row seat theft" and engrave your Driver's License info on the seats to help identify them;
- **NEVER leave any valuables (cell phones, GPS devices, laptops, backpacks, purses, shopping bags, etc.) in plain sight. If you must leave items in the car, lock them in the trunk;**
- Don't carry large amounts of cash to do your shopping;
- **If you observe suspicious activity, contact the police immediately by calling 911 (Emergency).**

By taking a few precautionary steps, you can enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday!

**UPCOMING EVENTS - We will not have a Basic Car Meeting in December. Our Basic Car Meeting for January is postponed due to the Devonshire Semi-Annual District Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2013. This meeting will be held at World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi St. (South/East corner of Rinaldi & Corbin), Porter Ranch, CA. - Happy Holidays!**

### Basic Car Area 17A95

Senior Lead Officer Kate Luna

Cell (818) 634-0579 - E-mail: 35589@lapd.lacity.org

### CRIME TRENDS AND LOCATIONS

We have not experienced any crime trends or clusters in 17A95. We have, however, had vehicles stolen throughout the Basic Car Area. These thefts include older model Hondas and Toyotas. If you own a vehicle such as these, please use a steering wheel locking mechanism.

### CRIME TIPS - BURGLARIES

Every criminal looks for an "easy target", so a burglar watches for a home that is dark and seems to be "temporarily empty". You can do a few things to give the illusion that someone is still at home. First, just having a friend drop by now and then will be a clear sign to a potential intruder that someone has access to the house. When no one is inside, you can purchase timers for your lights and television. These will turn on at a pre-determined time each night so someone who might be "stalking" your house will believe somebody is home. You can also turn on a radio to a "talk station" to emulate the sounds of a conversation going on, in case a criminal comes close enough to listen. Just in case a burglar does get close, make sure the ringer on your phone and answering machine are turned off. A phone that is never answered will arouse suspicion and may cause the law-breaker to perform a more thorough inspection. While you're at it, you may want to trim back any hedges that are directly in front of your house. Eliminate any possible hiding spaces that a criminal could use to remain concealed if they decide to take a closer look.

**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS - We will not have Basic Car Meeting in December. Our Basic Car Meeting for January is postponed due to the Devonshire Semi-Annual District Meeting scheduled for @ 6:00PM, Thursday, January 17, 2013. The location of the District Meeting is World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi St. (South/East corner of Rinaldi and Corbin, in Porter Ranch. - Happy Holidays!**