



## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS**

Volume 10, Issue 4

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 April 2007

Sergeant Bob Burton

Log Onto [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) today! You can see 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”**

#### **Please join us for the following West Valley Area Events:**

##### **West Valley Senior Lead Summit**

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda

##### **10A73, A75 Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 6:30 PM  
22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills

##### **10A3 Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
7248 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park

##### **West Valley Area C-PAB Meeting**

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda

##### **10A27, A47 Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda

##### **10A33 Winnetka Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
6844 Oakdale Avenue, Winnetka

##### **10A67 Tarzana Property Owners Association #8**

Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:30 PM  
19130 Ventura Boulevard, Tarzana

##### **10A51 Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
7633 March Avenue, West Hills

##### **10A67 Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda

##### **10A57 South Canoga Park/ West Winnetka Neighborhood Watch**

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM  
20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village), Canoga  
Park

West Valley Area's two most pervasive property crimes are Burglary, and Burglary/Theft from Automobile. This month we are including a large article of preventative tips for each crime.

## **How to Protect Your Home When You Are Away From It.**

**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 as well to a timer.
- Keep lawns mowed, sidewalks swept, hedges clipped, 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 local police department. Team work, cooperation, 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 jack the price up to \$1500 or more.

## **Follow these tips to reduce your chances of being the victim of auto theft.**

1. Always take your keys. Never leave them in the car. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen had the keys in them.
2. Always lock your car. Approximately 50% of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
3. Never hide a second set of key in your car. Extra keys can easily be found if a car thief takes time to look.
4. Park in well-lighted areas. Over half of all vehicle thefts occur at night.
5. Park in attended lots. Auto thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
6. If you park in an attended lot, leave only the ignition/door key. If your trunk and glove box use the same key as the door, have one of them changed. don't give the attendant easy access to your glove box and trunk. Upon returning, check the tires, spare and battery to insure they are the same as those you had when you parked.
7. Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a minute. Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATM's, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm up.
8. Completely close your car windows when parking. Don't make it any easier for the thief to enter your vehicle.
9. Don't leave valuables in plain view. Don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.
10. Park with your wheels turned towards the curb. Make your car tough to tow away. Wheels should also be turned to the side in driveways and parking lots.
11. If your vehicle is rear-wheel drive, Back into your driveway. Front-wheel drive vehicles should be parked front end first. On four-wheel drive vehicles the rear wheels sometimes lock, making them difficult to tow.
12. Always use your emergency brake when parking. In addition to ensuring safety, using the emergency brake makes your car harder to tow.
13. If you have a garage, use it. If you have a garage, take the time to use it rather than parking outside where your vehicle is more vulnerable.
14. When parking in a garage, lock the garage door and your vehicle. By locking both, the chances of deterring a thief greatly improve.
15. Don't leave the registration or title in your car. A car thief will use these to sell your stolen car. File the title at your home or office, and carry registration in your purse or wallet.
16. Disable your vehicle when leaving it unattended for an extended period. Remove the electronic ignition fuse, coil wire, rotor distributor, or otherwise disable your vehicle anytime thieves may have extended access to it.
17. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Stolen cars/parts are more easily traced when vehicle VIN numbers have been etched on car windows and major parts.

18. Drop Business Cards, Address Labels, or Other I.D. Inside Vehicle Doors. Car thieves alter vehicle identification numbers. By marking your vehicle as much as possible, you assist police in identifying your car.
19. Ignition Kill Switch. Splice an inexpensive toggle switch into your ignition wire or to your starter. The trick is in hiding the switch well. Keypads, pressure pads and more expensive "Immobilizes" and "Passkeys" can also be used.
20. Fuel kill switch, the valve that controls the fuel supply is closed.
21. Visible steering wheel lock. Prevents the steering wheel from being turned.
22. Floorboard locks. Devices that disable the gas or brake pedal.
23. Gearshift Locks disable the shifting of the transmission.
24. Tire and Wheel Locks will prevent the vehicle from moving.
25. Hood Locks. Prevents the thief from gaining access to your security system and battery.
26. Armored collar fits around the steering column. Protects the column and ignition.
27. Alarms. Loud warnings sound when doors/hood/trunk are opened. Optional sensors include glass breakage, motion, tampering and towing. Panic buttons, back-up batteries, flashing parking lights or headlights, and automatic engine disable features are also recommended

**Editors Note:**

You have most likely noticed that we have changed formats for the newsletter! We have found that each Senior Lead Officer writing his/her own article is not giving you the crime prevention information that we think you deserve.

We still provide your areas specific crime map, for you to check and see what is going on in your neighborhood. These are available at your Neighborhood Watch meetings, and at West Valley Police Station. You can also look up crime activity in your neighborhood on-line at [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) or [www.lapdcrimemaps.org](http://www.lapdcrimemaps.org) . . .