



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630

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Sergeant Tony Valadez

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!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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10A3- Canoga Park,
Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron,
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10A27-Reseda, North of Sherman Way
Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber,
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10A51- West Hills,
Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein,
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10A57-West Winnetka, South Canoga Park,
Senior Lead Officer Jerry Velasquez,
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10A67-Tarzana,
Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins,
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10A73/75-Woodland Hills,
Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh,
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10A87-Encino,
Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik,
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National Night Out is August 5, 2008.

5pm-8pm

Warner Center Park, 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

West Valley Area will be celebrating with a community barbecue for all ages! This event is for ALL West Valley Communities. Free hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. We will have informational booths that are staffed by our West Valley Police Officers and volunteer organizations. This is a unique opportunity to have direct contact with law enforcement officers and your neighbors in a fun and positive setting. We will have activities for the kids, music and games as well as unique displays of law enforcement related equipment. You will have the opportunity to sign up for a Neighborhood Watch near you, learn about crime prevention, meet your Senior Lead Officers and to have a informative and enjoyable night out with your neighbors and local police officers!

****Please Beware** Suspects are stealing Catalytic Converters from vehicles.** We URGE you to park your car inside a garage or as close to your well lit home as possible. The crooks are stealing these items for the platinum and other precious metals inside.

We have also received several reports of gas siphoning in the last month. We recommend that you use a locking gas cap and park inside a locked garage whenever possible.

Crime and Arrest Information

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:

- Shoup at Sherman Way- Two men were arrested for Burglary from Motor Vehicle when they were observed breaking a car window and removing the vehicles stereo. Plain-clothes officers responded and arrested the suspects. (10A51)
- 205XX Ventura Blvd.- A male attempted to use a stolen vehicle as a trade in on a new car. The dealership notified LAPD, and the suspect was arrested for Grand Theft Auto. (10A75)
- 175XX Bullock St.- Officers spoke to a male that they knew from previous contacts. They observed that he had a weapon on his person, and they knew that he was on parole. Further investigation revealed that the man had two stolen cars at the house and was operating a chop shop out of his home (dismantling stolen vehicles). The man was arrested for operating a chop shop, and placed on a parole hold. (10A87)
- 57XX Owensmouth Ave.- A woman awoke to see a man reaching his arm into the partially opened sliding glass door to her bedroom. The woman screamed and hit the suspect, which caused him to jump from her second floor apartment balcony and run away to avoid capture. Officers responded and located a male matching the suspect's description a short distance away. The female identified the male whom officers had detained as the suspect. The officers also recovered the suspect's wallet on the ground beneath the victim's apartment balcony. The suspect was booked for Residential Burglary. (10A75)
- 69XX Topanga Canyon Blvd.- A Disney billboard advertisement was tagged up with graffiti with a specific moniker. A high school administrator observed matching markings on the notebook of a student and phoned police. The officers responded and spoke with the juvenile who admitted to vandalizing the billboard. The damage to the billboard totaled over \$1,100.00. The juvenile had also marked graffiti throughout the High School campus. The juvenile was arrested for felony vandalism. (10A57)
- 201XX Ventura Blvd.- West Valley Vice made a prostitution arrest after an ongoing investigation. (10A75)
- 76XX Sunnybrae Ave.- Officers responded to a call of a "battery suspect there now". Officers located a suspect, who had been involved in a physical altercation with his sister. The suspect was detained, and began resisting by attempting to head butt, kick and leg wrestle with the officers. The suspect was booked for 69PC Resisting Officers by Threats or Violence. (10A33)

You can look up crime activity in your neighborhood on-line at www.lapdonline.org or www.lapdcrimemaps.org.

Home and Car Burglary Prevention Tips

When the weather turns warm, home and car burglaries tend to increase. **Burglary is a crime of opportunity.** Most thieves look for an easy target. The majority of all thefts in West Valley happen when people leave doors or windows unlocked. Don't become a victim! Make it difficult for a thief to target you by following these simple theft prevention tips:

Keep an eye on an open garage. Each month patrol units take numerous reports for burglaries and thefts from open, unattended garages. It only takes a moment for criminals to remove valuable items such as golf clubs, bicycles, and tools. Worse yet, a thief could enter your unlocked home or steal your car. Always close your garage door unless it is within immediate sight.

Lock and secure all doors. Make sure you have deadbolts on all doors leading to your home. To secure sliding glass doors, install a bar or special lock.

Secure your vehicle. Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even when it is parked in the garage or driveway. Never leave keys or valuables, such as cell phones, computers, purses or money in plain view. Remember that if a criminal breaks into your vehicle and steals your garage door opener or house keys, he now has easy access to your home.

Leave on the light. It only costs "a nickel a night" to leave on your front and back outside lights. Well-lit areas deter criminals from taking advantage of the cover of darkness.

Know your neighbors. Watch out for each other. Be alert to people walking around your neighborhood that are not "regulars". Go outside to sweep your front stoop while keeping an eye on the stranger. Burglars are not keen on knowing that someone is watching them, they will move on to another neighborhood where no one is paying attention.

Be aware, alert and active. There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner in Los Angeles, so citizen participation is essential to combat crime. Always report suspicious or unusual activity to the police. Get your neighbors together to start an active Neighborhood Watch Program.

“Community Awareness is the Key to Crime Prevention”

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 the meeting dates prior to attending, or get on the mailing list for your area to receive a monthly mailer for your meeting!

New Laws:

Effective July 1, 2008, there will be two new vehicle code laws concerning the use of wireless telephones while driving.

Vehicle Code Section 23123- prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle. However, motorists 18 years and over may use a hands-free device.

Vehicle Code Section 23124- Drivers under age 18 years of age MAY NOT use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.

Officers MAY stop you for this violation ALONE.

The first offense is \$76.00 and a second offense will be \$190.00 (with penalty assessments included). These are reportable offenses, however, the Department of Motor Vehicles will not assign a violation point.