



TOPANGA AREA

Serving West Hills,
Woodland Hills,
Canoga Park, and Winnetka
21501 Schoenborn St, Canoga Park



Volume 1, Issue 6

Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070
Sergeant Kim Harper

June, 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Hello Topanga Area!

Canoga Park, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka,

Can you believe June is already here; half the year is practically behind us! As we approach our summer months, there are many safety tips and exciting things on the horizon. Please read on to learn more...



Captain's Corner:

For those of you who may not be aware, Patrol Captain Maureen Ryan has gone off on maternity leave and is anticipating the arrival of her twin girls within the next month. Best wishes to you and your new family Captain Ryan!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Topanga's new Patrol Captain, Steven Sambar. Prior to his promotion, Captain Sambar was a Lieutenant at West Valley Community Police Station where he was the Detective Commanding Officer. Captain Sambar was appointed to the Department in February 1985 and began his career at Harbor Area. Captain Sambar promoted to sergeant in March 1996, detective in April 1997, lieutenant in December 2004, and Captain in 2009. Captain Sambar is married and has two sons.



FIREWORK SAFETY!!!

As we near the Fourth of July holiday, the Los Angeles Police Department would like to let you the community know a few things about fireworks. Not only does this "season" cause a drain on police resources due to an extremely high volume of radio calls that are generated but it's important to remember the following:

- **Fireworks are illegal** – Fireworks of any kind, including the "Safe and Sane" fireworks, are illegal within the City of Los Angeles and the LAPD will enforce appropriate laws.
- **Fireworks are dangerous** – Fireworks are extremely dangerous and every year numerous children and adults are injured as a result of playing with fireworks.
- **Threat of Fire** – This past winter was extremely dry. The potential for brush fire or other fire incidences such as the Sylmar fire is extremely high.

Topanga Police Department is encouraging *you*, the community, to **PLEASE** help promote a safe celebration for the Fourth of July by only engaging in those "professionally" organized fireworks shows put on throughout the City. These locations may be obtained by visiting www.safejuly4th.org.

There will be a Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza at Warner Ranch Park for the community to attend which is hosted by



DID YOU KNOW... you can protect your rental property by filing a "No Trespass" letter with the Police Department and posting "No Trespass" signs on the property?

Councilman Dennis P. Zine and the Valley Cultural Center. This event begins at 4 p.m. and will conclude with a fireworks extravaganza show from 9:00 – 9:30 p.m.



Significant Arrests:

A couple of months ago, a block meeting was conducted in West Hills regarding a quality of life issue. There was concern regarding the underground riverbed drain at March Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard which was being heavily vandalized with graffiti. The empty aerosol paint cans were being left behind and were further contributing to ocean pollution. City of LA Public Works was contacted and community members were advised to call LAPD if they witnessed such activity. LAPD officers were also put on notice of this quality of life problem. On May 14, 2009, a citizen observed a male with a backpack park his vehicle in a strip mall near the vicinity, jump a fence, and gain access to the underground wash. The police were called and Topanga Division officers and supervisors responded along with the LAPD airship. A perimeter was set up and after a short foot pursuit, two males were apprehended without incident. A second suspect vehicle was found at March Avenue just north of Roscoe Boulevard where this problem was originally reported at the block meeting. Both vehicles were impounded, over 40 cans of aerosol paint cans, etching tools, several markers, cameras, and narcotics were all seized and booked as evidence. Both suspects were charged with felony vandalism by the District Attorney.

Less than one week later, Topanga officers received another citizen call of three suspects at the same location (March Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard). Topanga Officers Solter and Cullins responded and requested an additional unit. Moments later, three suspects were arrested for felony vandalism and their aerosol cans and cameras were booked as evidence.

Five suspects were arrested in one week and were booked for felony vandalism. This is an outstanding example of teamwork between

community members and the LAPD, and how *valuable* community meetings can be. Great job West Hills community members and Topanga Division police officers for helping to keep our city clean of graffiti and improving the overall quality of life in West Hills!



Recent news in my area:

This segment contains some activity in Topanga Division, but it is not intended to reflect all of the crimes in your area. **The most current updates for your neighborhood can be found on www.lapdonline.org. Remember to sign up for e-policing if you have not already done so.**

Fallbrook/Ventura patrol officers detained a suspect for suspicion of lewd acts in public. Suspect was arrested for possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

Crime is down from 67 incidents to 48 incidents for Part I crimes in the Winnetka area due to the hard work of the Topanga Area officers. Great work!

On Fallbrook and Burbank Boulevard, patrol officers observed a vehicle make an illegal u-turn in front of them. The traffic stop revealed the driver had numerous warrants, possession of a concealed and loaded handgun, and narcotics paraphernalia.

Detectives stopped a vehicle and detained a suspect with a felony warrant and discovered him to be in possession of illegal weapons on Ventura Boulevard and Sale Avenue. The suspect was booked for “Ex-con with gun” (one handgun one shotgun).

On 05/15/09 the Citywide Narcotic Buy Team (CNBT) was working in the Topanga area near Variel Avenue and Sherman Way. Plain clothes officers observed two juvenile suspects selling narcotics from the front of their apartment building. Officers conducted a controlled narcotics buy from the two juveniles. Both suspects were then arrested for drug sales without incident. A third male suspect was also arrested who was seen loitering with the other two. Great job by the Buy Team in arresting the two drug dealers!

A female transient was arrested twice in two weeks in the same area by Topanga patrol officers (Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills). Suspect was arrested for trespassing and for breaking into a home.

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Senior Lead Officers play an important role with your quality of life issues...get to know them! **The Senior Lead Officer's main office number is (818) 756-3070.** Your Senior Lead Officers (SLO) in Topanga Division are:

SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A1

(Covering the North part of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)

Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558

Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A1 / 21A43 Basic Car meeting will be held every 2nd Monday of the month 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Sabra will also handle the group formerly known as the 17A83 Basic Car (Now called *North West Hills Neighborhood Watch*). This meeting is for the area north of Roscoe Boulevard to Plummer Street, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The meeting is held at the Valley Dispatch Center 23001 Roscoe Boulevard every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A43

(Covering the South part of West Hills)

Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570

Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A43 meeting will be combined with the 21A1 Basic Car meeting and is held every 2nd Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73

(Covering Woodland Hills - West of Topanga Canyon)

Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581

Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A73 meeting will be combined with the 21A97 meeting. Please note the location of 21A73's Basic Car meeting has now changed: these meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Charles "Sean" Dinse, Basic Car 21A97

(Woodland Hills - East of Topanga Canyon)

Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568

Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A97 meeting will be combined with the 21A73 meeting. Please note the location of 21A97's Basic Car meeting has now changed: these meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

Basic Car 21A57

(Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls Office)

Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2578

Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org

(Until this spot is filled, the SLO filling in for the newly promoted Sgt. Velasquez will be SLO Sam Sabra and

Officer Joe Breyer). The 21A57 Basic Car meeting will be held every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7PM at 20830 Sherman Way (Valley Village) at 7 PM.

SLO Alexis "Alex" Padron, Basic Car 21A5 *(Covering North Canoga Park)*

Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583

Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A5 Basic Car meeting is held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29

(Covering Winnetka)

Office (818) 756-3079 Cell (818) 731-2569

Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org

Please note that the location of 21A29's Basic Car meeting has now changed: this meeting is held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station

REMEMBER, you can sign up for e-policing, look up crime activity in your neighborhood, and much more at the LAPD web site www.lapdonline.org or www.lapdcrimemaps.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 6/6 CPAB Summit – Cal State Los Angeles
- 7/4 July 4th Extravaganza – Warner Ctr. Park
- 8/4 National Night Out – Warner Ctr. Park

*****PLEASE NOTE...** *Due to National Night Out on 08/04/09, there will be NO Neighborhood Watch meetings the month of August! We hope that you will come join in the fun and make this the best National Night Out event yet!!!*

Important Numbers to keep:

Topanga Front Desk	(818) 756-4800
TDD/TTY	(818) 756-5899
Comm. Relations Office	(818) 756-3180
Senior Lead Office	(818) 756-3070

Detective Desk	(818) 756-4820
Vice Office	(818) 756-4840
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Dispatch	(877) 275-5273
All other city services, please call 311	

The New Topanga Station

LAPD *21st* Division



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out will be celebrated on August 4th, 2009. This is an opportunity for the new LAPD Topanga Station to bring together the community in order to fight crime. The event is **FREE** to the public and will be held at Warner Center Park in conjunction with Valley Cultural Center.



Tuesday, August 4, 2009
5 PM to 9 PM