

TOPANGA AREA

Serving West Hills, Woodland Hills,

Canoga Park, and Winnetka 21501 Schoenborn St, Canoga Park



Volume 1, Issue 8

Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070 Sergeant Kim Harper August, 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Hello Topanga Area!

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

August already...this means just over four months before the end of the year! Where has all the time gone? Topanga has now been operational for a solid six months and has been working hard for the community. Read on for some great tips and information.

Captain's Corner:



Topanga has its own Neighborhood Prosecutor! We would like to extend a warm welcome to Deputy City Attorney Ayelet Feiman who has recently joined the Senior Lead Office. She can be reached directly at (818) 374-6836. Mrs. Feiman will be working closely with Topanga's Senior Lead Officers regarding your quality of life issues.



Crime Prevention Tips

As this is our month of National Night Out where we intensify our crime and

safety prevention awareness, the following are various helpful tips:

> STAY ALERT! Be aware and be prepared. Know your surroundings so you are not taken by surprise.

- **BE CONFIDENT!** Make eye contact and do not show fear or look like a victim.
- > TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you are not comfortable in a place or situation, leave or get help right away.
- ➤ If someone is at your door requesting help or asking to use your telephone, offer to make the phone call while the stranger waits outside!
- **ALWAYS** carry proper identification.
- ➤ Install new locks when moving into a new home OR apartment.
- ➤ When on vacation, turn down the ringer and answering machine on your phone.
- When on vacation stop delivery of your mail, newspaper, and have timers for your lights.
- Do not carry more cash than necessary. Many stores accept ATM cards or credit cards.

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or criminal activity, please contact your local police station, Topanga: (1-818-756-4800) or our Crime Hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).





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.

On Wednesday, July 1, 2009 Topanga Senior Lead Office (SLO)/Community Relations Office (CRO) conducted a Scavenger Task force of those that are stealing recyclables from Los Angeles City trash cans. As you either know or have heard, recycle thieves steal thousands of dollars from city trash bins every year. In response to a number of complaints, a task force was conducted with the hopes to educate and prevent scavenging in the east portion of Woodland Hills. VST (Voluntary Surveillance Team) who are Topanga area citizens who go out with officers and look for suspects assisted in this detail. The results of the task force resulted in seven cited suspects for recycle theft and other violations. Two suspects were cited for driving without a license and their vehicles were impounded. All the recyclable materials recovered from the operation were returned into city bins or directly into a city trash truck. There will be other Scavenger Task Forces such as this in your area soon!

The Topanga Division Gang Enforcement Detail has been very busy and continues to arrest gang members in various crimes including the Gang Injunction. On 07-22-09 at 7:10 p.m. Officers Clymer and Navarro

arrested a juvenile for "Violation of Court Order Gang Injunction" at Oso and Wyandotte.

Be aware!!! The number one contributing factor why vehicles are being broken is due to a person's negligence; people leaving sunglasses, GPS systems, IPOD's, cell phones, etc., in plain sight in their parked vehicle. The local malls have had a recent problem with 2002 to present Escalade SUV's, Chevy Tahoe SUV's, and GMC SUV's being targeted. The vehicles are being entered by suspects punching out the door locks with a metal object, smashing out the windows or opening unlocked doors. *Please*, don't leave items of value in plain sight and *always* lock your vehicle!

On 7-9-09 Officers responded to calls of an explosive device in residential mailboxes in the area of the 23000 block of Welby Way. Officers discovered debris from a 2 liter soda bottle, indicating a possible "dry ice" bomb. While officers were at scene, they heard another device detonate near the 23000 Balmoral Avenue where similar debris was found. Air Support observed a vehicle fleeing from the area and officers detained them. Evidence of the crimes was recovered. Bomb Squad personnel cleared the suspect's vehicle and nearby mailboxes. Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS) responded, obtained confessions, and the two local suspects (18-20 years old) were arrested.

On 07-17-09 around 6:30 p.m. Officers Avila and Coletto who are assigned to the Bike Detail, were bike patrolling in the area of Eton north of Sherman Way, when they spotted a group of male Hispanics. The officers set up a quick observation post to monitor the group. Moments later Avila and Coletto observed all the males drinking alcohol in public. The suspects were detained and cited for drinking in public, assisting the Senior Lead Officers with this quality of life problem that has been on the rise.

On 07-20-09 at approximately 5:00 p.m. Officers Dao and Casillas received a radio call of a "robbery just occurred" around DeSoto Avenue and Saticoy Street. Two male Hispanics had forced a victim to stop as he rode his bicycle southbound on DeSoto Avenue. The suspects approached the victim and using fear and the threat of bodily force, demanded money from the victim who was subsequently robbed. Officers Dao and Casillas immediately responded to the area and observed one of the suspects walking in the area and detained him without incident. During a field show-up, the victim positively identified the suspect as the man who had just robbed him. Officers did a fantastic job of solid police work in removing a predator off of the streets of Canoga Park.

Senior Lead Officers play an important role with your quality of life issues...get to know yours! The Senior Lead Officer's main office number is (818) 756-3070. Please note: Your Senior Lead Officer may have changed due to a shift within the office. Please take note

of the Senior Lead Officer (SLO) who is now assigned to your area:

SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1 (New SLO) (Covering the North part of West Hills including part of South Chatsworth near the Chatsworth Reservoir)

Office (818) 756-3073 Cell (818) 731-2578 Email 34966@lapd.lacitv.org

The 21A1 / 21A43 Basic Car meeting will be held every 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station. SLO Cunningham 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 Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43 (New SLO for area) (Covering the South part of West Hills)

Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558 Email 34819@land.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 and 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)

Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A97 meeting will be combined with the 21A73 meeting and will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57 (New SLO for area) (Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls Office)

Office (818) 756-3188 Cell (818) 731-2570 Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org The 21A57 Basic Car meeting will be held every 3rd Tuesday of the month, at the Topanga Station 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@land.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, sign up for e**policing!** E-policing allows you to look up crime activity in your neighborhood, and much more at the LAPD web site www.lapdonline.org or

www.lapdcrimemaps.org

UPCOMING EVENTS: 8/4 National Night Out -Warner Center 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 (818) 756-3070 **Senior Lead Office**

Detective Desk (818) 756-4820 Vice Office (818) 756-4840

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Dispatch (877) 275-5273

(877) **ASK-LAPD**

All other city services, please call 311

