WEST VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 11 | West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630 | November 2009
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!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14th

WEST VALLEY STATION OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday Nov. 14th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, come out to the West Valley Police Station for our annual Open House:

- Take a tour of one of the newest police stations in the city
- Meet the officers that patrol your neighborhood
- Check out the latest in crime fighting equipment and technology
- Test your skill on the Force Option Simulator
- And so much more…

For more information, contact the West Valley Community Relations Office at:

(818) 374-7690

THE COMMUNITYOF ENCINO
Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik – Office: (818) 374-7637
Cell: (818) 731-2572
Contact Officer Trulik for information on the next Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

It is that time of year again. Thanksgiving is around the corner, and the Holiday shopping season is right behind it. Here are a few pointers to protect yourself and your family during the shopping season:

- Be aware of who is around you and what is going on around you.
- Shop with friends or family, because there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit, or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you carry a purse, wear the strap across your body, or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry your wallet in your back pocket. Put it in your front pocket of your pants for safety.
- Be aware that predators look for the "high dollar" shopping bags with your purchases. When possible slip bags/purchases in a plain, nondescript bag.
- What purchases while eating in the mall food courts; bags can be easily switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost and talk to them about "Stranger Danger."
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. Use a store's package pick-up.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store or mall.
- If you do return to your vehicle to unload purchases, place them in the trunk of the vehicle.
- Try not to shop too late in the evening. Remember, fewer people are around at that time.

I hope all of you have a joyous Thanksgiving. If you have any questions, or would like to start a neighborhood watch program in your neighborhood, please call me at (818) 374-7637.

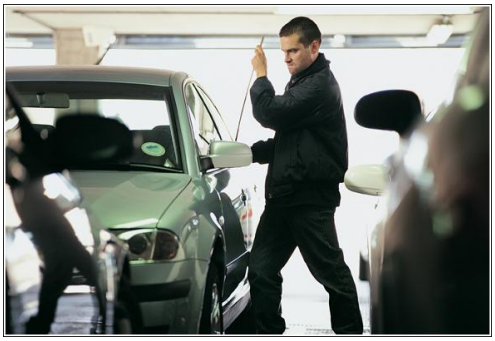
JOIN THE WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY-POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

The West Valley Area Community-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) is a civilian advisory board that works in conjunction with the LAPD-West Valley Area. Their mission is to solve problems that are of concern to the community and to support the officers of the West Valley Area in reducing crime and the fear of crime in the West Valley area.

If you are interested in finding out what C-PAB is all about, you are invited to attend their monthly meetings at West Valley Station. The West Valley C-PAB meets at 7:00 pm, on the second Wednesday of every month. If you live in the communities of Encino, Tarzana, Lake Balboa, or Reseda, you are welcome to come to the police station and meet the board.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday November 11, 2009 @ 7:00 pm
West Valley Station Community Room
19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda, 91335

THE COMMUNITY OF TARZANA
Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins – Office: (818) 374-7632
Cell: (818) 731-2573
Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting: Tuesday November 17, 2009
West Valley Station – Community Room



HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS WHEN YOU PARK YOUR CAR

The Holiday shopping season is a VERY popular time for thieves. They love the "target rich" environment that the local malls and shopping centers offer. This Holiday shopping season, remember these safety tips and you will protect yourself and all of the things you will buy your family and friends:

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness
- Park in a high visibility areas, and check for lighting in case you leave during hours of darkness.
- Do not park next to a vehicle with dark, tinted windows.
- Prior to arriving at the shopping center, lock all of your valuable in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Ask security to escort you to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out flyers or asking questions in the parking lot.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside. If you suspect someone is following you, report it to security immediately.

These tips can be applied at any time during the year. Remember…TAKE YOUR VALUABLE OUT OF YOUR CAR, lock your doors and set your car alarm (if you have one). A minute or two of vigilance will save you hundred, if not thousands of dollars in lost property and damages.

IMPORTANT NEWS UPDATE…

2009 Justice Bros. Mini Stocks Champion
Daryl Scoggins

October 24, 2009
Toyota Speedway, Irwindale, CA

Justice Brothers Mini Stocks
Daryl Scoggins clinched his first ever Justice Brothers Mini Stocks division championship by winning the Justice Brothers Mini Stocks 35-lap feature race Saturday night at TOYOTA Speedway at Irwindale.

The victory was his seventh of the season. Rod Schmitt of Alta Loma finished second and Kevin Bernhardt of Fontana finished third Tyler Rogers of Riverside finished fourth and clinched division runner-up honors.

THE COMMUNITY OF RESEDA

Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber – Office: (818) 374-7629
Cell: (818) 731-2580
Senior Lead Officer Isela Parra – Office: (818) 374-7631
Cell: (818) 731-2574
Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting: November 12, 2009
West Valley Station – Community Room

HOLIDAY SCAMS

The Holiday season is a favorite time for scam artists. Be aware and question any door-to-door or phone solicitation for donations. A vast majority of these "charities" are a front for the bad guys. They use the "season of giving" as a way of taking your hard-earned money from you. A favorite target of these scams is the elderly or immigrant families. If you know someone in these categories, please warn them of the dangers. If you want to donate, pick a well-know and reputable charity to donate money, food, clothing or other items that you know will get to people who need it the most.

If you have any questions, please call Officer Parra or Officer Barber, at (818) 374-7630.

LAKE BALBOA COMMUNITY

Senior Lead Officer David Ham – Office: (818) 374-7634
Cell: (818) 731-2551
Officer Saul Paredes – Office: (818) 374-7635
Cell: (818) 731-2554

Contact Officer Ham or Lopez for information on the next Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

SHORT TEMPERS IN PARKING LOTS

Everyone is aware of the phenomenon known as road rage. Road rage can easily turn into "Parking Lot Rage." Please be aware of what is going on around you in those crowded parking lots. Take your time and schedule your shopping trips during off-peak shopping times. Evenings and weekends are when everyone is at the mall. Be sure to give yourself enough room to maneuver your car. Courtesy to other drivers is also very important. If you lose a parking spot, don't get upset, another will open up. Don't engage other drivers over parking spots, driving skills, or other driving related peeves. The courtesy you show may not be reciprocated, but don't worry…it all starts with you.

If you want more information, or would like to start a neighborhood watch program in your community, please call Officer Ham or Officer Paredes, at (818) 374-7630