

Serving the Communities of: West Hills, Woodland Hills, Canoga Park, and Winnetka

21501 Schoenborn St, Canoga Park 91304

Volume 2, Issue 2

Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070

March 2010

Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Hello Topanga Community! This month what comes to mind is "Superb, Shining Stars, and Sustainability." The first two are words that truly describe the job that your Topanga Area Police Station continues to put forth for our

Community. As you read on, you will find that while all the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department deserve our deepest gratitude, there were some that were recognized as Shining Stars. Lastly, as we get comfortable in 2010, the word sustainability crosses the mind...how can each of us sworn and civilian keep the momentum of last year's efforts and support going? Well, read on to see how...

A Note From Your Captain:

We have lost a terrific member of Topanga Station. Our patrol commanding officer, Captain Steven Sambar, has been transferred to our Department's Major Crimes Division.

Major Crimes Division's primary responsibility is to prevent significant disruptions of public order in the City of Los Angles. The Board of Police Commissioners authorizes Major Crimes Division to investigate individuals or groups who plan, threaten, finance, aid, abet, attempt, or perform unlawful acts which threaten public safety. Additionally, investigators of Major Crimes Division are committed to preventing individuals or groups from harassing or harming others on the basis of race, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

We will miss Captain Sambar and wish him luck in his new assignment.

We are pleased to announce Captain Ivan Minsal as Captain Sambar's replacement. Captain Ivan Minsal was born and raised in the Los Angeles area and is currently assigned to Foothill Division as the Patrol Commanding Officer.

Captain Minsal was appointed to the Department in September 1981. He was promoted to Detective in July 1988 and to Sergeant in December 1988. In July 2001, he was promoted to Lieutenant and to Captain in November 2007. As a Police Officer, Minsal worked Pacific, 77th, and North Hollywood Patrol Divisions as well as North Hollywood Area Vice and North Hollywood Detective Division. As a Detective he was assigned to Valley Traffic Division. As Sergeant his assignments included Foothill Patrol. Foothill Area CRASH, and Foothill Area Vice. He was also assigned to Internal Affairs Division, Van Nuys Patrol Division, Transit Bus Division and as the Training Coordinator for Operation-Headquarters Bureau. Upon his promotion to Lieutenant, he was assigned to Devonshire Patrol Division, Devonshire Detective Division as the Assistant Commanding Officer, Planning and Research Division as a section OIC and Foothill Detective Division as the Commanding Officer until his promotion to Captain when he was assigned to Foothill Patrol Division.

Captain Minsal is familiar with the western San Fernando Valley and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with us here at Topanga. *Welcome aboard Captain Minsal!*

As a proud father, I am honored to tell you that my daughter has successfully completed the Los Angeles Police Academy. She graduated on January 29, 2010, and is patrolling the streets of Rampart Area.

Topanga's Shining Stars... As you know, all the men and women at Topanga Area
Police Station are very dedicated. They work very hard to keep our community safe and to provide the very best service possible. In this time of city budget crisis, we need to really be grateful for our police officers and civilian staff. Topanga recently held its first Officer of the Year Luncheon and the following men and women were honored:

Civilian Employee of the Year 2009

Management Analyst II Priscilla Scimonetti

Detective of the Year 2009
Detective III John Alviani

Employee of the Year 2009 Sergeant II Desi Ehrlich

Police Officer of the Year 2009Police Officer III Marc Ferris

Reserve Officer of the Year 2009
Robert Glen McConnell

Supervisor of the Year 2009 Sergeant II Thomas Mason

In addition, the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley & Region held a dinner honoring businesses, individuals and public officials for their exceptional commitment and service to the San Fernando Valley and Region. Our own Senior Lead Officer, Brent Rygh was honored with the following prestigious award presented by Chief Beck:



2009 Outstanding Public Safety Officer of the Year Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh

The next time you see one of our hard working staff or officers, make sure to thank them for their continued dedication. Kudos and **special** "congratulations" to Topanga's Shining Stars!

Atttention! SLO SUMMIT 4/1/2010

Neighborhood Watch members please mark your calendars for Topanga's

Annual SLO Summit. On Thursday April 1, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. we will hold our SLO Summit at the Topanga Police Station in the Community Room. The Summit will last approximately two hours.

We are seeking members of the community who have not been so involved with Neighborhood Watch to attend this year's Summit.

Please contact Siena in the Senior Lead Office at (818) 756-3070 to sign up. We will be taking the first six people to represent each of the seven basic cars (total of 42 people) to work with your respective Senior Lead Officer. We look forward to seeing new faces at our SLO Summit!

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.

Burglary from Motor Vehicles (BFMV's) are up in the commercial shopping centers; at the risk of sounding like a broken record, *PLEASE* stay vigilant and do not leave anything of value in plain sight.

On March 3rd at approximately 1:30 PM Officers Alexander and Quispe who are assigned to Topanga's Graffiti Tagger Detail made a good observational arrest of a 20 year old man who was tagging on a pay phone at De Soto Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard. The suspect admitted to belonging to a graffiti tagging crew that goes around tagging their nicknames wherever they go.

On February 17th the Topanga Vice Unit was investigating a massage parlor for illicit activities.. They arrested a 48 year old female at the 22000 block of Clarendon Street for soliciting prostitution out of a massage therapy office. Prior to this, on January 2nd, the Vice Unit made two arrests at this same location for "No Massage Technicians Permit."

Hello Canoga Park! The Narcotic Unit from West Valley did an awesome job in the Topanga area on a follow-up from a tip. West Valley Narcotics was conducting surveillance in the area of Roscoe Boulevard and De Soto Avenue when they saw a hand-to-hand narcotic transaction go down in front of them. The methamphetamine dealer was arrested and it was later discovered that he was on parole for the same thing and in

a stolen Ford SUV. The dealer was arrested for sales and the stolen vehicle was later returned to its rightful owner.



Need help with quality of life issues? Know your Senior Lead Officer, they are invaluable!! The Senior Lead Officers' main office number is (818) 756-3070.

SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1

(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.lacity.org

The 21A1 / 21A43 Basic Car meeting will be held every 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station. There will no longer be two separate meetings held for residents of West Hills. Residents who historically attended the Wednesday meeting will now meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43

(Covering the South part of West Hills)

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

Email 34819@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 is combined with the 21A97 meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: beginning March, this meeting has been moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the 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 is combined with the 21A73 meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: beginning March, this meeting will be

moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29

(Covering Winnetka)

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

Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A29 Basic Car meeting is held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57

(Covering South Canoga Park and Topanga malls)

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

Email 24571@lapd.lacity.org

PLEASE NOTE: The 21A57 Basic Car meeting has been changed and will be held every 4th Wednesday 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.

NEW~SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY Neighborhood Watch Meeting! SLO Jose Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking only Neighborhood Watch for any residents within Topanga Area every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.



Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember!!!

3/27 – Topanga Police Station Open House (10AM-3PM)

4/1 - Topanga SLO Summit (6:30 PM)

PLEASE...Sign up for E-policing! E-policing keeps you abreast of the latest crime news in your community, 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 Remember to sign up for Nixle at www.nixle.com

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 (877) **ASK-LAPD**

All other city services, please call 311

JOIN THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT'S TOPANGA COMMUNITY POLICE STATION

FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL...







MARCH 27, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In front of Topanga Police Station

21501 Schoenborn Street

Canoga Park





FOOD!



Meet officers from various specialized units of
Topanga Area, and many other LAPD entities!
Plus...have an opportunity to get up close
with many unique police vehicles!

 \sim Sponsored in part by Councilman Greig Smith, Council District 12 and Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Council District 3 \sim