

# Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter

Serving the Communities of: Canoga Park, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka 21501 Schoenborn Street, Canoga Park 91304



Volume 3, Issue 1

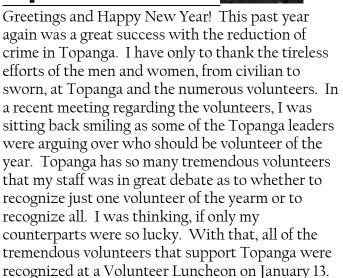
Topanga Community Relations Office (818) 756-3180 Topanga Senior Lead Office (818) 756-3070 January/February 2011



Happy New Year
Topanga! Hopefully
everyone had a
memorable Holiday
Season and is now
getting ready for another
fantastic new year! Last

year we made great strides with our Neighborhood Watch program. Our goal this year will be to continue to build upon that...more block captains, better communication and feedback with one another; So we can continually strengthen our bond and partnership with one another. Remember, *you* help the men and women here at Topanga by being their eyes and ears!

# A Message From Captain Tom Brascia:



# TOPANGA'S HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



This past month, Specialist Reserve, Siena Cawelti, oversaw the

donations and distribution of toys for the Topanga

Holiday Toy Drive. With two new contacts Siena made this past year, The Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth and



Kevin Gold from Deluxe Media Management, both parties were responsible for the donation of



hundreds of toys! Also, thanks to the Topanga Police Youth Board (TPYB) who was responsible for collecting several toys via donation

barrels placed throughout the community. Thanks to donations Kevin Gold, The Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth, TPYB, and donations from the community, Topanga was able to distribute toys to over 225 families and approximately 480 children!

Thank you to the Topanga Cadets who came in during their vacation and assisted in sorting and distributing the toys to the many families.

This month saw my friend and partner Captain Ivan Minsal receive a promotion to become the Commanding Officer of Valley Traffic Division. Captain Minsal will oversee the Department's traffic enforcement and collision investigations throughout the entire San Fernando Valley. I wish him the best in his new command.

With Captain Minsal's promotion, I am very fortunate to have a new partner, Lieutenant II Sean Malinowski from Real Time Analysis and Critical Response Division. Lieutenant Malinowski is eager to take charge of Topanga's patrol functions and to begin the process and theory of predictive policing, which uses computer analysis of information about previous crimes to predict where and when crimes will occur. Lieutenant Malinowski has overseen the Department's effort in this new age crime fighting strategy and has studied it extensively.

Finally, you will be seeing more of Topanga's officers talking with people on the street. I have given them a mission to "meet and greet" people on the street to lawfully obtain information about them. The information gathered will be used as a crime fighting and investigative tool. When you see Topanga officers out of their cars, off their bikes or on foot, you can rest assured they are doing their best to serve the community and make it a safer place for you, your business and your community.

# Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST)

Members Wanted! For those interested in further protecting the neighborhoods of Topanga Division, you may want to consider the Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST). The VST has been in place since Topanga's inception and conducts a variety of surveillance operations to counter or combat criminal activity. VST members are assisted by LAPD officers or detectives to give them an effective edge over the neighborhood watch program and further the community's involvement in protecting our neighborhoods.



#### What is iWATCH?

iWATCH, i REPORT, i KEEP US SAFE is a community *awareness* program created to educate the public about behaviors and activities that may have a connection to terrorism. This program is a community program designed to help your neighborhood stay safe from terrorist activities. It is a partnership between your community and the Los Angeles Police Department. We can, and must, work together to prevent terrorists attacks.

#### HOW DO I REPORT?

There are four ways to make a report:

\*Report online at www.iWATCHLA.org

\*Call 1-877-A-THREAT/1-877-284-7328 (where an expert will answer the call and listen to you)

\*Call your local police station and speak to a desk officer. An officer will take your report.

To learn more about the iWATCH program and about the behaviors and activities that you should report, you can view videos and review the list of examples. You can also read and download a brochure that explains the program at <a href="https://www.lapdonline.org/iwatchla">www.lapdonline.org/iwatchla</a>



Recent news in my area: This segment contains some activity in Topanga, but it is not intended to reflect all of the crimes in your area.

On December 16, 2010, Topanga patrol officers, Jesse Mojica, Greg Kishiyama, and Daniel Ambrosio arrested a robbery suspect that perpetrated his crime at the Chevron Gas Station on the corner of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Roscoe Boulevard. The male Hispanic Suspect walked into the store and held a knife to the clerk's neck and demanded the money in the register. The clerk smartly handed over the money, which was a mere \$70.00, and then called 911 to report the incident as soon as the suspect left. The suspect fled on foot running southbound towards Lanark Park. Officer Ambrosio spotted the suspect, and detained him at gunpoint.

He was later positively ID'd as the suspect who had indeed robbed the gas station. This is another example of your officers working together to keep your community safe.

On January 9, 2011, Topanga Officers, Jeff Jensen and Fred Romero arrested a recently paroled individual driving in a stolen vehicle in the West Hills area. During the arrest the officers recovered property belonging to dozens of Burglary from Motor Vehicle victims (BFMV). This individual was on a three day drug binge that included breaking into vehicles he found containing property worth taking.

"I called the police but they never showed up!"
One of the most troubling things that we hear from the community is that they called the police and believe that no one ever responded. This perception undermines the relationships that we are always working to build with the community.

Once in a while a dispatcher may transpose an address number or the caller may actually say the address incorrectly which might cause officers to never find the problem. Sometimes we receive so many calls that dispatch will call back to see if the police are still needed. Other than those exceptions, officers do respond to each call and many times handle the problem without the caller ever knowing that the police arrived. When someone calls for police response, an incident is created for police response and it is (ideally) assigned to the unit that works the area. That call is handled based on a priority ranking depending on what information the caller gave the dispatcher at the time. Priorities are: "Code-3" Emergency, respond immediately with lights and sirens, "Code-2" Non-Emergency, respond directly without lights or sirens, and "Non-Coded" Routine calls for service. All higher priority calls must be handled prior to lower priority calls.

When a community member calls for police service on a lower priority incident (eg: loud party, neighbor complaint), the call is assigned to a unit and it will remain assigned until it is completed. The incident is tracked with indicators of what time the officers went enroute, arrived at scene, and completed the call with a disposition code of how it was handled.

The perception that "no officers came" tends to come from the amount of time it takes to arrive at routine calls and that whenever possible our officers try to handle the incident without disturbing the person that called. If you want the officers to contact you, please tell the dispatcher when you call. If you called the police and feel that no one responded, please call dispatch back and get an update. We are here for you and while it sometimes may take us a while to get there, we are doing our best to arrive as soon as we can!

## What to do.... When to call the police:

911: for emergency, crime in progress or immediate response for serious crimes

877 ASK LAPD/877-275-5273: for non-emergency police response



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

Sergeant Rachel Raigoza, Senior Lead Officer Supervisor 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 21A /21A43 meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup>
Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

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 21A43/21Al meeting will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

#### 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 21A73/21A97 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

\*\*\*Please note that due to the SLO SUMMIT, there will be NO Woodland Hills N/W Meeting for February.

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 21A97/21A73 meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

\*\*\*Please note that due to the SLO SUMMIT, there will be NO Woodland Hills N/W Meeting for February.

## 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

The 21A57 meeting will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

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

Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583 Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A5 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29 (Covering Winnetka) Office (818) 756-3079 C

(818) 731-2569

Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org

The 21A29 meeting is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.

There is now a <u>SPANISH</u> SPEAKING
Neighborhood Watch Meeting! SLO Jose
Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking
Neighborhood Watch for any residents within the
Topanga Police Area every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the
month at Topanga Station at 7 PM

# Sergeant Thomas Mason, Officer In Charge, Community Relations Office 818.756.3180

Cadet Coordinators 818.756.3180

Police Officer Danielle Godfrey Police Officer Greg Archambault

PALS Coordinator 818.756.3180

Police Officer Leslie Kincaid

Jeopardy Coordinator 818.756.3180

Police Officer Melissa Olsen

Volunteer Coordinator 818.756.3180

Police Officer Todd Jaron Police Officer Joe Breyer

PLEASE..Sign up for Nixle! Nixle keeps you abreast of the latest crime news in your community <a href="https://www.nixle.com">www.nixle.com</a>. Other useful websites are <a href="http://projects.latimes.com/mapping-la/crime">www.lapdonline.org</a> or <a href="http://projects.latimes.com/mapping-la/crime">http://projects.latimes.com/mapping-la/crime</a> to look up the crime activity in your neighborhood.



1/26 - Battle of the Badges Blood DriveTopanga Police Station Community Room:1PM - 7 PM. For more info call 818-756-3180.

2/16 – Topanga SLO Summit, Topanga Police Station Community Room: 7PM – 8:30PM. For more info contact the SLO office at 818-756-3180.

3/19 Topanga Police Station Open House: 10AM – 2PM