



# Topanga Community Police Station Newsletter

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



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In today's world of electronic communication, Topanga is emerging in this venture with our new Facebook page, website, and Twitter account. The world of social media is a great way to communicate with community groups, neighborhood watch groups, individuals and businesses. These internet based applications will allow us to post and present information to you quickly and timely. We will also be able to hear what you have to say about the crime and issues that affect you and your community. There will always be resistance to this form of communication by some and there will be those who still prefer a newsletter or some other hardcopy of information. We will always provide a hardcopy for information, but the internet is a tool to be used and cannot be ignored. If Facebook were a country it would be the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest. Facebook exceeds even Google for weekly traffic in the United States. YouTube is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest search engine in the world. The number of social media users age 65 and older grew by 100 percent during 2010, so now one in four people are part of a social networking site. With Twitter, today there are over 200 million users with 140 million tweets per day. The numbers go on and on. As you can see in the header we have listed our website address, our Facebook address and our email address. It is our intent to use social media to improve law enforcement, engage citizens, and provide the community with an abundance of information. For the time being, the Topanga social media will be supervised by a sergeant and coordinated through the Community Relations Office (CRO). We encourage you to friend us on Facebook, send us emails with your concerns and let us know through these social media tools about your community.

On October 17, 2011, Topanga Area held its Inaugural Golf Tournament at the Woodland Hills Country Club. This community event was a tremendous success and brought together a great group of Topanga personnel, business owners, and community members. The tournament raised money that will be donated to a scholarship in the name of our fallen officer, Police Officer II Joshua Cullins, a United States Marine Reserve Staff Sergeant who was killed in action in Afghanistan. At the tournament, Josh's father played a round of golf with Josh's friends and coworkers. Josh's mother and younger brother attended the dinner ceremony where a member of the Department's Bomb Squad spoke about the training Josh provided him before Josh became a police officer. This same officer pointed out to a sergeant at Topanga's grand opening that Josh was a real American hero, a very true statement. Josh meant so much to so many at Topanga. His demeanor, maturity and love of the job were just a few of the many things we enjoyed about Josh.

So when the CRO decided to have a golf tournament in Josh's memory and to provide a student at his alma mater, Royal High School, in Simi Valley with a scholarship in his name, it was done so with honor, pride and love. A portion of the funds raised will also go to the Wounded Warrior Project in Josh's name. We have to thank our sponsors (who can be found our website) and KFI-640AM radio personality, Tim Conway Jr. His efforts and eagerness to help with this made this event a great experience and tournament for everyone. We will have another tournament next year with a portion of the proceeds going to the Wounded Warrior Project in Josh's name.

## HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The holiday season is approaching fast. Many of us are looking forward to spending time with friends and family. The holiday season provides crooks with greatly increased opportunities to walk away with precious gifts.

Please keep these tips in mind as the holidays draw near:

When you are out shopping, please keep in mind our phrase “Lock it, Hide it, Keep it” and tuck away your purchases into the trunk.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings as you leave stores and coming/going from your residence. If you see someone that looks out of place on your street as you leave, call a neighbor to alert them.

Holiday shopping can be hectic with large crowds. If you are going shopping with a child, teach them to go to a store clerk or security officer in case you get separated.

Holiday lights are pretty, but don't run electrical cords through doors or windows if it prevents you from locking up.

A holiday tree displayed in the front window and surrounded by gifts may be irresistible to the passing thief (keep the gifts hidden away until you will be home and ready to celebrate).

Think twice before posting on social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) that you are out of town and discuss this with your children.

If travelling, try to load up your car inside the garage or out of view from crooks passing by. Dragging suitcases out to the curb is a giveaway that no one will be home for a while.

Keeping a clean car in the driveway makes it look like someone is home. If you are going to travel, try to leave a car in the driveway or ask a trusted neighbor to park there.

Boxes and packaging of your expensive gifts should be cut up and disposed of so that trash day doesn't advertise the newly acquired contents of your home.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

### Topanga Toy Drive

Donate an unwrapped toy at Topanga Station through December 16. This kind gesture will make a child's Holiday very special.

SLO Dennis Cunningham, Basic Car 21A1  
(Northern portion 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 meeting will be held the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Alex Padron, Basic Car 21A5 (North Canoga Park)  
Office (818) 756-3191 Cell (818) 731-2583  
Email 32977@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A5 meeting is held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Jose Maldonado, Basic Car 21A29 (Winnetka)  
Office (818) 756-3079 Cell (818) 731-2569  
Email 23639@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A29 meeting is held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Topanga Station.  
SLO Jose Maldonado will now hold a Spanish speaking Neighborhood Watch for any residents within the Topanga Police Area every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM

SLO Sam Sabra, Basic Car 21A43  
(Southern portion of West Hills)  
Office (818) 756-3074 Cell (818) 731-2558  
Email 34819@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A43/21A1 meeting will be held every 2nd Monday of the month at Topanga Station at 7 PM at Topanga Station.

SLO Janet Zumstein, Basic Car 21A57  
(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 4th Wednesday of the month at the Topanga Station at 7 PM.

SLO Brent Rygh, Basic Car 21A73  
(Woodland Hills, West of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)  
Office (818) 756-3075 Cell (818) 731-2581  
Email 30450@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A73 meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.

SLO Sean Dinse, Basic Car 21A97  
(Woodland Hills, East of Topanga Canyon Boulevard)  
Office (818) 756-3076 Cell (818) 731-2568  
Email 34920@lapd.lacity.org  
The 21A97 meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Topanga Station at 6:30 PM.  
For crime mapping go to [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com)  
For arrests go to [www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com)