GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Please come out and help shape the future of your community.

NOTE: The below meetings are being held via Zoom due to Covid19 Mayor’s Executive Order. Please reach out to them for the link to the meeting and additional information.

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council:** General Board Meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA.

**Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association:** General meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of every even numbered month at 7:00 p.m., Location: Valley College, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Location: Milikan Middle School, 5041 Sunnyslope Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners’ Association:** General meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Location: Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting:** General meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., Location: Bernardi Senior Center, 6514 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at the numbers listed below for further details.
Who to Contact

For crimes in progress and medical emergencies dial: 911.

To report any suspicious activity or person(s) call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at: 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273).

Are you interested in knowing about spontaneous police activity in your neighborhood? If so, you may want to try the “Citizen app.” Get real-time safety alerts and live video of incidents happening near you.

Please let your friends and family that live in the City know about the Department’s Community Online Reporting Service (CORS). LAPD offers online reporting service at www.lapdonline.org. We highly encourage using this fast and easy service to avoid coming to the station. The following crimes are eligible for online reporting: Theft, Lost Property, Theft/Burglary from a motor vehicle, Identity theft, Minor-injury Traffic Collisions, hit and run traffic collisions, Annoying or Harassing phone calls/texts/emails, and Vandalism. Upon completion of your online reporting, you will immediately receive a temporary report number and be able to print a copy of the report. The following requirements must be met to complete online reporting services:

- The incident is not an emergency.
- The incident occurred within the City of Los Angeles.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- No one was injured as a result of the incident.
- There are no known suspect(s).
- The incident did not occur on the state highway.
- No firearms were involved in the incident.
- You must have an email address.

The “411” on 211, 311, 511 and 811.

Dial “211” or www.211la.org – “Help Starts Here” – LA County Social Services
211 LA County links ALL Los Angeles County residents to social services. It functions as a gateway to the county’s vast and complex social service delivery system. 211 is a guide to resources and information needed to navigate life in Los Angeles. You can request assistance of any kind for yourself, family, friend or a stranger!

Dial “311” or www.lacity.org/311 - “One Call to City Hall”
Los Angeles Residents can simply dial 3-1-1, toll free, everyday (7am to 10pm), for information and access to more than 1500 Non-Emergency City Services, commonly used for Bulky Item Pick Up, Graffiti Removal, Barking Dog. Or download the MYLA311 app for 24-hour access to these same services and you can pay your LADWP Bill as well!

Dial “511” or www.go511.com – “Freeway Traffic Updates, One Call Away”
Southern California 511 is a free traveler information service that gives you traffic, transit and commuter service information in Southern California via a toll-free phone number and website. Check real time traffic speeds, find traffic alerts, view live traffic cameras, plan a trip on a bus or train, and even find a carpool or vanpool!

Dial “811” or www.digalert.org – “Know What’s Below. Call Before you Dig”
Whether you are planning on doing it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means call 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job require a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs.

Crime Update

Basic Car 9A5
Senior Lead Officer Lynn Whitey
Cell Phone: 818-731-2556
Email address: 37011@lapd.online

Hello everyone, as we enter into the month of April I would like to start out with our crime numbers which are looking good. Our violent crime is still down at -15.15% from this time last year. Our property crimes are also on the decline from last year numbers at -13.16% and our overall part one crimes are down from last year at -13.61%. Thanks to you and working in partnership with us to help keep our communities safe. Keep up the great work!

Neighborhood Watch Programs
There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner. Resident involvement is essential to combat crime. You and your neighbors are the ones who know what is going on in your neighborhood. By cooperating with each other and with local law enforcement, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way—by stopping it before it begins.
Neighbors place signs in their windows and post signs on streets to warn criminals that they are in an active crime prevention neighborhood and that “neighbors are watching out for each other.” If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch or Business Watch in Basic Car 9A5, please send me an email and I can work with you and your group to get one started!

How Can You Reduce Auto Thefts and Break In
Lock ALL your car doors, and completely close ALL windows. Remove ALL valuables from inside, and never leave a spare key inside your car. Park your vehicle in a well-lit location and avoid isolated areas. Install a steering wheel locking device (the club) and be sure to install secure license plate screws. Every little bit helps! Please pass this information on to family and friends.

Remember personal security, avoid becoming a victim of crime:
- Always be aware of the people around you, and of the locations.
- Be alert of your surroundings, stay in well lighted areas, avoid door-ways, bushes and alleys.
- Make eye contact with people when walking, do not respond to conversations with strangers on the street.

The Los Angeles Police Department has implemented its Community Online Reporting Service. The following crimes are eligible for online reporting: Theft, Lost Property, Theft/Burglary from a motor vehicle, Identity Theft, Minor-injury and hit and run Traffic collisions, Annoying or harassing phone calls/texts/emails, and vandalism.
Report to: www.lapdonline.org

We want to remind our community members to utilize the non-emergency number, 1-877-ASK-LAPD for incidents requiring immediate police assistance or for non-emergency calls.

Basic Car 9A19
Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez
Cell Phone: 818-731-2566
Email Address: 35569@lapd.online
As of 3/13/21, Basic Car 9A19 has a -44% decrease on Violent Crime year to date. Part One crimes are the same at 0% change, however property crimes are up +15% year to date. The reason for this increase is fueled by vehicle thefts. Vehicle theft crimes are on the rise all over the city and is not unique to the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Area. Other divisions in the city have seen over 90% increase in their auto theft crimes. So why this increase?

I recently conducted an analysis of the rise of GTA crimes committed in Basic Car A19. In the four-week period, during the dates of 01/31/21 through 02/27/21, there were 24 Grand Theft Auto crimes committed in Basic Car A19. Analysis is as follows:

- 11 of the 24 vehicles were pick-up trucks.
- Of the 11 trucks, 7 were Chevy Silverado models between the model dates of 2000-2006.
- Most of the vehicle taken were parked on the street.
- Most of the vehicles were taken between 3pm and 6pm.
- The area most impacted have been the Sherman Way and Vanowen Corridors between Van Nuys Blvd. and Woodman Ave.
- Van Nuys Division has made 19 arrests for GTA.
- 6 of the 19 arrestees have been females.
- 8 of the 19 arrestees are transients.
- All arrestees have prior narcotics arrests.
- Only 1 the 19 arrestees reside in the Van Nuys Area.

In addition to analyzing the crime data, we are looking into environment as well such as the lack of street lighting and community education. We have asked our Neighborhood Councils to donate car steering locking devices to prevent future auto thefts. We will give those locking devices to owners of the most stolen models.

**Community Clean-Ups: Volunteers Are Needed!**
The Van Nuys Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) Blight Abatement Committee conducts regular Community Clean-Ups throughout the Van Nuys Area, Valley Glen, and Sherman Oaks communities. At a time when city resources are thin, we as a community must come together and keep our neighborhoods clean. If you would like more information about the clean-ups or to participate, please email me at 35569@lapd.online.

**Neighborhood Watch!**
An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested participating in a Traditional Neighborhood Watch meeting (with social distancing) or to restart an existing one, please email me at 35569@lapd.online or call at 818-731-2566.

**Basic Car 9A23:**
Senior Lead Officer George Lara
E-mail: 38454@lapd.online
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

Spring is in the air and hopefully this newsletter finds you well. I hope everyone is enjoying themselves as we continue to re-adjust and go back to normal.

As of 03/16/21, with a year to date comparison we have a slight increase of 6.45% in Violent Crime (33 in 2021 vs 31 for 2020), Property Crime and Part 1 Crimes continue to see a decrease with 22.31% and 16.77% respectively.
With the in person return to most of our schools and as a reminder, I would like to go over a few things related to parking and traffic enforcement along with some of the most common violations we see in the residential neighborhoods. If you are walking in the neighborhood, please be mindful of your surroundings, be sure to cross at designated crosswalks and wait for traffic to clear prior to entering the crosswalk. Most traffic fatalities involve a pedestrian and they are generally due to distracted driving or walking. Hint: put away your cell phones and pay attention to the road!

For all my pedestrians that like to take a walk during the late evening, please make yourself visible while walking, reflective clothing, accessories and flashlights are a good way to keep you safe at night.

Over the last several weeks I have received many comments from our neighbors regarding the increased traffic enforcement at intersections controlled by “STOP” signs. The increased enforcement is mostly to address, educate and enforce traffic safety. Traffic Collisions aka Car Accidents are very stressful, dangerous and the amount of property loss has greatly increased over time.

So, remember, obey all traffic laws and when in residential neighborhoods, slow down and you must come to a full and complete stop at controlled intersections, yield to pedestrians, be courteous and when in doubt offer up the right of way to a fellow motorist or pedestrian.

Be mindful of parking signs and towaway zones, especially in neighboring school areas. Some signs are very specific and will only allow you to park for a period of time, others indicate specific times that there is parking allowed.

With things going back to normal I am looking forward with meeting all of you in person whether it may be for a cup of coffee, a Neighborhood Watch Group meeting or an issue in the neighborhood, I am always available and only a call, text or e-mail away.

**Basic Car 9A37:**
VACANT
Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562

As of 03/16/21, a year to date review reflects that Violent Crime is down 25.00%, Property Crime is down 2.13% and Part 1 Crime is down 5.45% for the area.

The position for Senior Lead Officer for the Basic Car Area 9A37 is currently vacant. As of now, we will not have an exclusive officer assigned to the area. However, please continue to call the cell phone listed above and leave a voicemail with your issue or concern and a Senior Lead Officer will return your phone call at their earliest availability. Current Senior Lead Officers will be attending recurring meetings in the area to provide updates and information related to your specific area.

In the meantime, let us share the responsibility of caring for each other and keeping our neighborhood as safe as possible. Abandoned property, bulky items, graffiti and homeless encampments can reported to 311, it’s the easiest most effective way to address these.

One of the recurring issues that we have in the area is Theft and Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Please ensure that you have locked your vehicle and that you remove all items from plain view.

**Basic Car 9A41**
Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori
Cell Phone: 818-731-2560
Email Address: 32914@lapd.online
As we enter the month of April, I hope everyone is staying healthy! As of 03/13/21, Violent Crime is down - 46.88% and Property Crimes are down - 8.96% our overall Part One Crimes are down - 16.27 % year to date!

**Making Peace - Tips on Managing Conflict**

Making Peace - Tips on Managing Conflict Irritated? Frustrated? Angry? Ready to explode? You're not alone. Whether it's an argument with a friend, aggravation because a driver cuts in front of you, or a disagreement about the best way to do a job - conflict is part of everyday life. Conflict produces stress, hurts friendships, and can cause injury and death. We can't always avoid conflict, but we can learn to manage it without violence. That way, we use conflict to improve our lives and to learn from past mistakes.

**Tips for Making Peace**

Choose a convenient time.
Plan ahead.
Talk directly.
Don't blame or name-call.
Give information.
Listen.
Show that you are listening.
Talk it through.
Work on a solution.
Follow through.

If you can't work it out... get help, try mediation. Courts, schools, and businesses are turning more and more to mediation to help resolve disputes. Mediators do not make decisions for people - they help people make their own decisions.

**Where to find help**

Schools, colleges, universities.
Local or state consumer protection offices.
Community or neighborhood dispute resolution centers.
Local government - district attorney, small claims court, family services.
Better Business Bureau.
Private organizations listed in the telephone directory's Yellow Pages under arbitration or mediation services.
Law school legal clinics.

*For more information and tips go to LAPDONLINE.ORG*

**Basic Car 9A63**

VACANT
Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

As of 03/16/21, a year to date review reflects that Violent Crime is down 5.26%, Property Crime is down 16.48% and Part 1 Crime is down 15.42% for the area.

The position for Senior Lead Officer for the Basic Car Area 9A63 is currently vacant. As of now, we will not have an exclusive officer assigned to the area. However, please continue to call the cell phone listed above and leave a voicemail with your issue or concern and a Senior Lead Officer will return your phone call at their earliest availability. Current Senior Lead Officers will be attending recurring meetings in the area to provide updates and information related to your specific area.
In the meantime, let us share the responsibility of caring for each other and keeping our neighborhood as safe as possible. Abandoned property, bulky items, graffiti and homeless encampments can reported to 311, it’s the easiest most effective way to address these.

One of the recurring issues that we have in the area is Theft and Burglary from Motor Vehicles. Please ensure that you have locked your vehicle and that you remove all items from plain view.

**Basic Car 9A89**
Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana
Cell Phone: 818-731-2565
Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. As of March 2021, Basic Car 9A89 is down -1% in Property Crimes year-to-date.

We have noticed an increase in package thefts these past few months, track you package and attempt to be home when the package arrives, or have it delivered to a safe storage location.

Please e-mail me any suspicious activity in the form of videos or photos. This can be our most significant source of information for developing leads on open cases. Please help us help you by being aware of what is going on in your neighborhood. Remember, the best way to avoid becoming a victim yourself is to remove all valuables from your vehicle every time you leave it. Do not leave anything that is not attached to your vehicle in plain sight. Make sure your cars and homes are locked and secured using as many crime prevention tools as possible.

For information on volunteer opportunities with the LAPD, email Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420. Program Information, the application process, and current volunteer opportunities will be provided. All applicants are required to be fingerprinted as part of LAPD background procedures.

The City of Los Angeles has developed a program called Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) to help your family and your neighborhood prepare for disasters.

RYLAN gives you the steps to take immediately after a disaster to help keep you and your family safe. It provides the tools to prepare and organize your neighborhood to respond together in that first hour after a disaster to reduce injuries, protect your property, the environment, and most importantly, to save lives. For more information go to website [http://emergency.lacity.org](http://emergency.lacity.org).

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO’s City cell phone/email is not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out on a radio call. The front desk officers are here to take telephonic reports and answer questions, not dispatch calls.

**Crime Prevention Tips**

- **IF YOU’RE HOME AND SOMEONE KNOCKS OR RINGS YOUR DOORBELL, DO NOT IGNORE IT.** Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person without opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them.
• **SECURITY AND/OR DOOR BELL SYSTEMS WITH VIDEO** are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider these options to protect your home.

• **DON’T LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR VEHICLES.** Whether you are tandem parked, parked in a garage, or just going inside for a moment (i.e. gas station, your home, etc.), do not leave your keys in your vehicles.

• **STEERING WHEEL LOCKS.** 1990’s Toyota’s and Honda’s are some of the most common vehicles stolen. These vehicles have door locks and ignitions that are easily compromised. Steering wheel locks are good tools to assist in deterring criminals from taking these vehicles.

• **LOCK YOUR CAR AND PARK IT IN A GARAGE OR LIGHTED AREA.** Make it difficult to get into your car. If it is outside, make your car as visible as possible. Do not leave anything valuable or visible in your vehicles.

• **LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS** when you leave the house. Close your blinds/drapes so no one can see into your house. Keep every part of your residence locked and secured, including your garage. Strategic lighting can also assist with crime prevention.

• **DON’T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT,** place them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.

• **TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR,** this includes your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.

• **SHOPPING CART.** Do not leave your purses in the shopping cart while loading your vehicles.

**April Fun Facts:**

We know it is the fourth month of the year, but that’s only by the Gregorian calendar that we adhere to now. It was previously the fifth month in the earlier Julian calendar. 

1. In the Southern Hemisphere, April is the seasonal equivalent to October.

2. The etymology behind the word “April” comes from the verb “aperire,” which means “to open.” It’s commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers beginning to “open” or bloom.

3. Those who were born in April have a diamond as their birthstone, which represents innocence. Their birth flower is either a Daisy or a Sweet Pea.

4. On April 15, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sunk on her first and only voyage.

5. George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.

6. Back in the time of the Ancient Romans, April was sacred to the goddess Venus.

7. On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line “Houston, we’ve had a problem here” was said, and is today usually misquoted.
8. The smaller animals that hibernate for the winter in the Northern Hemisphere usually start coming out of their burrows in April.

9. April is also the month that the birds migrate north and settle down for the summer to mate.

10. For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing $2,368.