



## VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Senior Lead Officers Unit  
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

April 2018



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# GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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

**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA.

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

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

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Elementary School located at 14755 Greenleaf Street.

**Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce:** General meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at Sherman Oaks Galleria located at 15301 Ventura Blvd.

**Sherman Oaks Homeowners' Association:** General meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Notre Dame High School located at 13645 Riverside Drive.

**Van Nuys Clergy Council Meeting:** General meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at the Church on the Way, 14424 Sherman Way.

**Neighborhood Watch Meeting:** 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 their number below for further details.



[local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys](http://local.nixle.com/lapd---Van-Nuys).

# WHO TO CONTACT

**For crimes in progress dial: 911.**

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

Keep our community clean! Call: 311 or visit <http://lacity.org/MyLA311/index.htm> to report graffiti, bulky items on the street or sidewalks, and shopping carts in the area. You can also download the MyLA311 Smartphone Mobile Application to submit your report. Keeping the streets clean shows the criminals that we have pride in our community and we will not tolerate their activities.

If you would like information on resources available to support or counsel victims of domestic violence, call the City of Los Angeles “**211**” support number (option 7) or [www.211LA.org](http://www.211LA.org).

For more information about domestic violence see the LAPD webpage, where you will find online information and resources go to: [http://www.lapdonline.org/get\\_informed/content\\_basic\\_view/8893](http://www.lapdonline.org/get_informed/content_basic_view/8893).

Also, you can contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (**800-799-7233**) and Domestic Abuse Center, 14402 Haynes St., Van Nuys, CA 91401; (**818**) **904-1700** (not a 24-hour hotline)

## *Crime Update*

### **Basic Car 9A5:**

Senior Lead Officer Katy Paschal

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: [36128@lapd.online](mailto:36128@lapd.online)

### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of March 17, 2018, we are down -18.8% in Violent Crimes and -30.3% in Property Crimes. This bring our YTD crime reduction to -28.2% in comparison to last year. Even though we are in the negative, these numbers are slowly rising. To put this into perspective, we have had 127 crimes as opposed to 177 this time (as of March 17) last year. The division is down -16.0% in total crime reduction.

I just returned from my loan to our H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement) Unit. I am hoping to use the information and contacts that I gained during this cross-training program to better assist with dealing with homeless/transient issues.

Please let me (or your respective Senior Lead Officer) know of any issues you are having with encampments. The faster we become aware of it, hopefully the faster we can address it. If you need to report an encampment, please be sure to call 311 or use your mobile app to request Sanitation to respond.

Please remember to remove items from your vehicles, and to lock/secure your vehicles as well. It is a good idea to set a reminder (such as an alarm) on your phone to do such things. By making it part of your daily/nightly routine, eventually it will become a habit and you will do so automatically.

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 for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any questions, not dispatch calls.

#### **Basic Car 9A19:**

Senior Lead Officer John Bailey

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#### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A19 encompasses the area of Sherman Way to the North, Victory Boulevard to the South, Van Nuys Boulevard to the West and Tujunga Wash to the East. As of March 14, 2018, my Basic Car area is down -30.1 % in overall Part 1 crimes year-to-date. In addition, violent crime is also down at -18.9 %.

Many tragedies and accidents can be prevented if we plan. As the warmer months approach, please be mindful of the safety of your pool. To those of you that have pools, please ensure it is covered with a tamper resistant layer. Also, there are many companies that can install child resistant/ removable fences around the pool. This will help to ensure the safety of your loved ones.

As mentioned above, we have seen a reduction in residential burglaries, keep up the good work! When away, unfortunately the criminals will play. Remember to try and leave more cars in the driveway. If possible, coordinate with a neighbor and let them park vehicles in your driveway while gone for an extended amount of time. The appearance of people at home helps deter crime. During hours of darkness, leave some lights on or install motion sensor lighting/ timers around the house.

Unfortunately, the surrounding areas of a homeless encampments usually see an uptick of property crimes. Please do not take the law into your own hands when dealing with the homeless, as some suffer from mental illness and PTSD. Should you see evidence of homeless, trash, or tents pop-up in an area, please notify your Senior Lead Officer, so we can address the issue. By assisting the homeless with shelter information and enforcing lodging, Trespass, and sidewalk obstruction laws. This helps reduce crime and over population of homeless encampments in our neighborhoods. Remember, we can't help you with your problems or concern unless we know about them.

#### **Basic Car 9A23:**

Senior Lead Officer Erika Kirk

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#### **Crime Trends/Statistics**

Thankfully, Basic Car 23 which covers Central Van Nuys, has maintained an overall decrease (-7.6%) in Part 1 Crimes Year-to-Date. Violent Crimes are also down Year-to-Date (0.0%) including a decrease in Homicide and Aggravated Assaults. There is also a decrease (9.2%) in property crimes Year-to-Date. Historically, Property Crimes has been one of the main concerns for Basic Car 23 especially along the major corridors like Vanowen Street and Sherman Way. As we continue to navigate through the year please don't become

complacent by leaving valuables in your vehicle or the doors unlocked. Most of the property crimes are related to Burglary Theft from Motor vehicles. Be aware of the potential risks even if your vehicle is parked in the driveway. Remember, “Lock It, Hide It, Keep it!”

I’ve been working with our Homeless Outreach Unit, Sanitation, and Cal Trans to assist with the encampments in and around Basic Car 23. If you need to report an encampment, please be sure to call 311 or use your mobile app to request Sanitation to respond.

The My LA 311 app can be downloaded to your mobile device and used to report things like bulky items, graffiti, and even broken street lights. Help be part of the solution by using the app to clean up the community we share.

If you live in an apartment or condominium complex, please don’t hesitate to reach out to start an “Apartment Watch” group. I’ve found that these types of meetings are a great way to educate and bring together a community.

**Basic Car 9A37:**

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

As of March 10, 2018, my area is seeing a reduction of 6.9% in overall part 1 crimes. We are still struggling with our residential burglary problem across the south end of the division. Please make sure to take precautions to reduce your chance of becoming a victim of this crime.

Also, we are continuing to see bicycle thefts in the area. If you own a bicycle, please make sure you’re locking it up with a quality lock that can’t be easily cut. Also, when storing your bike, try to keep it inside your residence or in a closed, locked storage area, or garage. Many of the stolen bicycles are being taken from underground parking garages and storage areas. Lastly, please **make a note of the bicycles serial number**, usually located under the frame below the pedals. This is very important if the bicycle should be stolen so that the police can positively identify it as stolen property. Many of the stolen bicycles are quickly painted and made to look different and without a serial number it can be very difficult for us to identify.

Build my Neighborhood Watch participation in Valley Glen to combat residential Burglaries is the goal for this year. I will be working with the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association to increase membership, participation, and education. Please contact me if you would like to become involved.

Safeguard your home by making sure your residential doors and windows are securely locked when you’re not home. Use an alarm and video surveillance cameras. Also, place signs around your home warning of alarm system and cameras to deter would be thieves.

**Basic Car 9A41:**

Senior Lead Officer Tony Cabunoc

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

March crime numbers showed an increase in thefts. We were down in all other crimes. Overall crime is down 7% in area 41. As for thefts, the majority have been reported by area retailers. Target and OSH have shown year-to-date crime spikes. Suspects often enter stores with the sole purpose to steal. Suspects will select items, conceal them on their person, and casually walk out. Fortunately, these stores have beefed up their plainclothes security resulting in several arrests. Although the arrest has been made the crime number will still be reflected in the overall monthly total. Please make it a point to gather and bring all items in from your

secured vehicle. Thieves will seek the opportunity to window shop. If they see a small temptation they won't hesitate to smash and grab. Let's not give them that opportunity.

**Basic Car 9A63:**

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

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**Crime Trends/Statistics**

Basic Car 9A63 covers the Northern Sherman Oaks community. As we head into the month of April, I show a decrease of -12% in property crime and a decrease of- 16% on violent crimes. My two areas of concern are vehicle break-ins and thefts. Most incidents involving vehicle break-ins are taking place during the midnight hour, while most homeowners are asleep. Please be mindful of this and properly secure your vehicles and avoid leaving property inside. With regards to thefts, please be mindful to track your packages when ordering on-line. If you cannot be home to receive it, consider a drop off location or ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your package for you. This should help to reduce your chances of being victimized. Please call to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

Finally, please continue to be mindful of not leaving valuables inside your vehicles. This will help to reduce your chances of being victimized by the crime of Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle. Remember to "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."

**Basic Car 9A89:**

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

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**Crime Trends / Statistics**

Basic Car 9A89 covers the Southern Portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. I show a decrease in Total Property Crimes of 23.9 % from last year and 16.0% decrease in violent crimes.

After reviewing the BFMV/TFMV reports, numerous victims continue leaving their valuables in plain sight and not locking their vehicles. I will continue to attend community/business meetings emphasizing "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it."

We are utilizing as many resources as possible to combat all these problems. However, please email any suspicious activity in the form of videos or photos. This can be our greatest source of information for developing leads on open cases. Please help us help you by being aware of what's 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.

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 for a radio call. The front desk officers are there to take telephonic reports and answer any questions, not dispatch calls.

**Crime Prevention Tips**

- **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.

- ***DON'T LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS OUT*** put them in a drawer, safe, or somewhere else out of sight.
- ***TAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS OUT OF YOUR CAR*** such as your cell phones, computer tablets, other portable electronics, and chargers.
- ***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.
- ***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.
- Video cameras are becoming an affordable option to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please consider this option to protect your home.