



VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

February 2020



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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 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.

Please sign up on Nextdoor.com to receive current updates about crime trends and events in your community

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)**.

Keep our community clean! Call: 311 or visit <https://www.lacity.org/myla311-service-request> 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.

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.

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

Crime Update

Basic Car 9A5

Senior Lead Officer Lynn Whitey

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email address: 37011@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

As of December 14, 2019, basic Car 9A5 has had a decrease of Part 1 crimes (- 6.00%) which includes a decrease in Violent Crimes (- 4.00%). We also have a decrease in Property Crimes (- 8.11%) which is difficult to accomplish this time of the year but your efforts are still paying off.

I want to remind everyone to please 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 an alarm system and cameras to deter would-be thieves. Utilize Nextdoor.com to share information and maintain awareness about what's going on in your neighborhood. If you see something or someone that doesn't seem right, be a good neighbor and report it!

If you are receiving home deliveries let's deter thefts and have your packages delivered to a designated delivery location or your place of work rather than your front door or mailbox. Remember DO NOT leave your property unattended when out in public, this includes leaving your purse or bag in the shopping cart unattended, or your cell phone or computer on the table while dining. And remember please don't leave your wallet on the counter when paying for items.

Let's all work together to keep our neighborhood clean of any graffiti. Please utilize the MYLA311 app for this, it is a free download and very easy to use. Just plug in the address, state what the graffiti is on (i.e.; wall), and snap a photo if you want. The graffiti is gone in just a few days.

HEALTHY STREETS: Tents down 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., keep sidewalks clean, enough space for a wheelchair to pass, keep a 10-foot distance from doors and driveways, do not tie anything to private or government property. You can report any violations that you might see to 311, or your local council district office.

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, save lives. The program has a variety of things you can do. For more information, go to website <https://emergency.lacity.org>.

Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's City cell phone/email is **not for reporting crimes in progress or for generating radio calls**. For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies and crimes in progress, 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 to dispatch calls.

Basic Car 9A19

Senior Lead Officer Mike Perez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2566

Email Address: 35569@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

I'm very pleased that we ended 2019 with a -12% reduction in violent crime, however, the property crime numbers are relatively close to last year mainly due to Grand Theft Auto Crimes (GTA) Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BFMV) and thefts.

The crimes of burglary and theft are a crime of opportunity. The victim provides the opportunity by leaving their vehicle unlocked or the window open. Most property is stolen if left in plain view where anyone walking by the car can see it. Thieves will take anything of value. The property most preferred is cash, wallets, purses, cell phones, radios, and other electronic devices. Most thefts from vehicles occur at night usually in front of victim's residence, underground garages or parking lots.

Vehicle Security Tips

- **Lock your vehicle and roll up all windows.**
- **Do not leave valuables visible in the vehicle. Take them with you.**
- **Lock and secure the trunk or tail gate to block access to the vehicle.**
- **Park in well-lit areas away from places of concealment such as alleys or bushes.**
- **Install an alarm system.**
- **Remember: "Lock it. Hide it. Keep it."**

Get involved in Neighborhood Watch! An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch or to restart an existing one, please email me at 35569@lapd.online or call me at 818-731-2566.

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> or contact Crisanta Gonzalez at crisanta.gonzalez@lacity.org.

Basic Car 9A23:

Senior Lead Officer George Lara

E-mail: 38454@lapd.online

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

Hello Everyone! I hope this year has been treating you well and that you are enjoying yourselves in the company of loved ones.

As of this week, 2020 has been a good year for our numbers we have no change in violent crime and only five (5) incidents year to date (0% change). Property Crime and Part 1 Crimes are down 39.13% and 32.14% respectively year to date as compared to 2019. We did close out 2019 with a slight increase in property crime. I've done some research and discovered that although there are many different factors that contribute to property crime, it can be reduced and prevented.

Allow me to clarify that homelessness is not a crime, unfortunately, our homeless population does have a contributing factor to certain crimes in our area whether as victims or suspects. Our mission at the Los Angeles Police Department is to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life.

Having said that, please help me identify some of these issues that would allow us to provide resources, help those in need, and improve everyone's quality of life while continuing to reduce crime. One way you can do that is by reporting homeless encampments using the 311 App on your smartphone. It takes a few minutes and it is very easy to use. This will prompt the City of Los Angeles to locate the encampment and send proper resources to address the issue. This is also helpful for the removal of bulky items and abandoned property on sidewalks as well as properly sanitizing that area.

If you see that there is an empty property that is being overtaken with trespassers, please contact me. It would help if you can provide a responsible point of contact for the property. Remember, most of the property crimes in our area are crimes of opportunity, please continue to secure your bicycles inside your residence or in a well-lit area. Lock your cars and PLEASE hide your valuables from plain sight. The "Lock It! Hide It! Keep It!" method is a very effective way of not becoming a victim of a car break-in.

If you would like to schedule a meeting, please feel free to contact me. I am always open and available to meet. To all my business owners and managers in the area, feel free to call or e-mail so we can discuss the possibility of starting a Business Watch Group in your area.

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Justin Bergmann

Cell Phone: 818-731-2562

Email Address: 32052@lapd.online

Officer Bergmann will be out of the office indefinitely due to shoulder surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Crime Trends/Statistics (Written by Senior Lead Officer Perez, Basic Car 9A19)

Road Incident Leads to Sever Injury

Van Nuys Area Detectives are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects responsible for severely injuring a man.

On January 1, 2020, around 9:30 p.m., the victim was in his vehicle, stopped at a red light, facing south on Woodman Avenue at Victory Boulevard. The suspect vehicle had been driving erratically, south on Woodman Avenue. The suspect vehicle got behind the victim's vehicle and followed the victim. The victim and suspects pulled to the curb and exited their vehicles. A dispute quickly erupted. During the confrontation, one of the suspects punched the victim once in the head causing him to become unconscious and fall to the ground. The suspects returned to their vehicle and fled the location south on Woodman Avenue from Victory Boulevard. Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported the victim to a local hospital. He has not regained consciousness since the incident.

The first suspect is described as a male, Armenian, short black hair, 510, 150 lbs., 20-30 years old wearing a black sweatshirt, white shirt, black pants, and black hair. He was the suspect who hit the victim and was the driver of the Jeep. The second suspect is described as a male, Armenian, black hair, 601, 170 lbs., 20-30 years old wearing light blue pants and a dark jacket. The third suspect is a male, Armenian, black hair 509, 140 lbs. 20-30 years old wearing a dark jacket, white shirt, and dark pants. The suspects were last seen driving south on Woodman Avenue from Victory Boulevard in a black Jeep with tinted windows and California paper plates.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Van Nuys Area Detective R. Secor at (818) 374-0062. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call the LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or go directly to www.lacrimestoppers.org. Tipsters may also visit www.lapdonline.org and click on "Anonymous Web Tips" under the "Get Involved-Crime Stoppers" menu to submit an online tip. Lastly, tipsters may also download the "P3 Tips" mobile application and select the LA Regional Crime Stoppers as their local program.

Volunteer Information:

For information on volunteer opportunities with the LAPD, email Sergeant John Han in the Community Relations Office at 37834@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.

Emergency Preparedness

In 2019, I focused on increasing your readiness for a natural disaster. I also worked with the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association, Council District 2, Paul Krekorian's Office, The Valley Glen Neighborhood Council, and with existing Neighborhood Watch, and business groups to increase awareness about emergency

preparedness. Please contact me to get a free presentation from our Office of Emergency Management in your neighborhood or business to make sure you and your loved ones are as prepared as possible.

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Other Info: The phone application “MyLA311” makes it easy to request graffiti removal, fallen tree branches, bulky items, illegal dumping, and other City services. Check your app store and start helping keep your neighborhood clean.

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 32914@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

As of January 11, 2020, Basic Car 9A41 is down 66.67 % in Violent Crimes Year-To-Date, down 75.00 % in Property Crimes, and down 65.63% in overall Part I Crimes, Year-To-Date. These statistics are for the first two weeks of 2020, we are asking our communities to keep up the good work in taking a proactive approach to keeping our area safe!

We have an upcoming Community Police Academy for Spanish Speakers starting at the end of January. If you know anyone that is bilingual or more comfortable speaking Spanish, please pass this information on to them! If interested, please email me. It is an amazing training with lots of special guests. It is a great way to learn about the inside workings of our Department!

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with local law enforcement to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. It involves Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other, and working together in a program of mutual assistance. Residents are trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods. They will also learn crime prevention strategies, such as home security and suspicious activity identification.

Why Participate in A Neighborhood Watch Program?

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 A41 please send me an email and I can work with you and your group to get one started!

Please remember to utilize The City of Los Angeles MyLA311 non-emergency services. Their mission is to connect people to City Services and Information, quickly and easily, via a communication channel of their choice. Connect with the MyLA311 mobile app, MyLA311 website, by calling or emailing the MyLA311 Contact Center team, or via social media where you can find @MyLA311 on Twitter and Instagram.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: 27270@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A63 covers the northern portion of the Sherman Oaks Community. As we head into the month of February, our focus will remain on the reduction of property crimes. Specifically, with regards to vehicle break-ins and residential burglaries. Please stay vigilant and properly secure your homes as it relates to closing and locking windows at night. With this said, please continue to stay alert and report suspicious activity as it relates to a residential burglary. If possible, the utilization of a ring-type video surveillance system for your residence is always a good deterrent. The more layers of deterrent towards hardening the target of your residence helps to reduce your chances of being victimized. Please continue to stay involved with a Neighborhood Watch Program and get to know your neighbors. Remember, the best crime-fighting tool ever invented was a “good neighbor!”

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 or Theft from a Motor Vehicle. Remember to “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It.”

Volunteers welcome: 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.

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Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Jose Saldana

Cell Phone: 818-731-2565

Email Address: 30853@lapd.online

Crime Trends / Statistics

Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City. As of January 2020, Basic Car 9A89 is up 50% in violent crimes year-to-date, and down 41.38% in overall Part I Property Crimes year-to-date.

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.

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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.

SAFETY TIPS

It is important to know, if a major disaster occurs, the LAFD, paramedics, police may not necessarily come to your location immediately. They will be deployed **first** to major incidents such as collapsed buildings. That is why you constantly hear... “You **must** be prepared to take care of yourself.”

The City of Los Angeles offers a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course to help you prepare to aid your community. In the CERT course they say, “The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number of People.” When you are trained, you are far more equipped to deal with your circumstances without needing aid from outside sources.

CERT members are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. You will learn how to prepare for emergencies, what supplies you should have **now** in your house: how much food, how much water; but most importantly how to protect your family in an emergency!

Additional information and to sign up, visit the following website: <http://www.cert-la.com>

INTERESTING HISTORICAL STORY

February is considered Black History Month in the United States, let us share a story in observance of Black History Month.

Georgia Ann Robinson (May 12, 1879 – September 21, 1961) was the first African American woman to be appointed a Police Officer at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). She joined the force as a volunteer in 1916, having previously been active in community affairs; she was appointed an officer in 1919. She worked on juvenile and homicide cases, including referring women and girls to social agencies. Robinson founded the Sojourner Truth Home, a shelter for women and girls. Her police career ended when she permanently lost her sight after being injured by a prisoner. Robinson continued community activism, including the campaign to desegregate schools and beaches. She died in Los Angeles at the age of 82.