



VAN NUYS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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

July 2020



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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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

NOTE: The below meetings generally occur as indicated, however due to events surrounding Covid19 they are postponed and will resume after the Mayor's Executive Order is lifted.

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 June 20, 2020 violent crime is up 8.77%, property crime is down 21.29%, and part one crimes are down 16.62% compared to the same time last year. As July 4th is quickly approaching, I want to remind everyone that fireworks of any kind are against the law in the City of Los Angeles. With summer here, we have dry trees and brush which is a huge fire danger. If you mix in some windy conditions, many houses can be at risk with just one fire starting. LAMC 57.5608.1.2 Fireworks. It is unlawful for any person to use, give, possess, sell, or discharge any fireworks in the City of Los Angeles.

If you have information on who and where the fireworks are coming from in your neighborhood please contact our non-emergency number 877-275-5273. Please give as much detailed information as possible! Some good news to share on this topic, one of our undercover units was able to set up a meeting with a person who was illegally selling fireworks. We were able to safely make an arrest for Transportation of Dangerous Fireworks and confiscate a trunk full of fireworks. Every little bit helps!

Vehicle security is everyone’s responsibility. You can increase your protection against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

Lock up your car when you leave and take your keys with you even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station or store.

Close all windows, professional thieves have tools that can unlock cars through the smallest openings.

When you park your car, remove ALL VALUABLES!

I want to thank everyone for being diligent in safeguarding their homes and businesses, keep up the good work. I want to remind everyone that our violent crimes do include assaults that are typically isolated and crimes that involve Domestic Violence incidents. If you know someone or are involved in an abusive relationship please contact 911, non-emergency 877-275-5273. Below is a list of some Domestic Violence Resources:

L.A. County DV Hotline 1-800-978-3600

L.A. County Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-540-4000

Shelters:

Haven Hills 24-hour hotline 818-887-6589

Peace Over Violence 24-hour hotline 310-547-9343

Community Legal Aid SoCal 800-834-5001

Covid-19 Corona Virus update: Please continue to practice “social distancing” and wearing a mask while in public as we all work together towards reducing the incidents of this virus.

Let’s all work together to keep our neighborhood clean of 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 photograph, if you want. The graffiti is gone in just a few days, I submit at least 5-10 requests per day.

Homeless encampments and tent enforcement:

Effective March 19, 2020, there was a suspension of enforcement, during the emergency declaration, of provision *56.11 LAMC* that requires the tents to come down during daytime hours.

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 and the environment, and most importantly to 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

As of June 20, 2020, Violent Crime is up 8.06% YTD, Property Crime is up 33.17%, and Part One Crimes are up 22.08%. Between the dates of May 20, 2020-June 20, 2020 Grand Theft Auto and other auto related crimes seemed to have decreased in this four- week period. Most of the violent crimes including robbery and aggravated assaults have occurred west of Hazeltine Avenue along the Tyrone Avenue and Lennox Avenue Corridors. We have increased patrols along the Vanowen Street Corridor for GTA and BFMV activity by our Basic Cars. The Van Nuys Bicycle Patrol Unit also concentrates their efforts to this area for quality of life issues.

During this time of the year, the city calls for service for firework activity significantly increases. To help identify individuals responsible for such activity please call the non-emergency number 1-877-ASK-LAPD and provide the following information:

- Actual address of where the activity is occurring. Intersections are too vague and will be broadcasted as “information only” to patrol officers.
- Suspect(s) description such as name (if known), clothing, height, weight, etc.
- If you are willing to take still photos or video, that may be used as evidence for future prosecution of these individuals.

311 Application. As you drive or walk around your community, I remind you to use 311 Application for your computer or smart phone to report graffiti, transient encampments, trash, bulk item pick-ups and illegal dumping. Once reported these items will be removed by the Sanitation Department within a week.

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

I hope everyone has had a good summer so far and that you are all healthy and enjoying this beautiful California weather. I am happy to report that as of Tuesday, June 23, 2020, we continue to see a decrease in crime, year to date there is a decrease of 27.72% in Violent Crime, -20.00% in Property Crime and -21.79% in Part 1 Crime.

But even with these low numbers and reduced number of incidents in our area, it is important to point out that we are still getting some vehicle break ins and thefts from vehicles. Additionally, most insurance companies will not cover a loss or theft if your vehicle was left unlocked or if the keys are unaccounted for.

As a reminder and to emphasize my point, here are some tips on how to prevent vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles.

-Remove all your valuables. Sometimes keeping them out of sight may not be enough, whenever possible, take all your valuables with you when not in transit.

-Lock ALL your car doors. Hitting that lock button enough times until you get an audible confirmation that its locked does not make you paranoid, it ensures that your vehicle is locked.

-Completely close all windows.

-Secure your license plates. Criminals sometimes will take your license plates and put them on another vehicle and commit, thus avoiding identification. So please be sure to secure your license plates and often check to make sure they are still attached to your vehicle.

-Install an alarm or GPS. This is a standard on most new cars and the cost to install this aftermarket has significantly been reduced and you might even get a discount on your car insurance.

-Never leave your keys in or around your vehicle. Please avoid “stashing” your keys in or around your car. You never know who may be watching you and monitoring your activities.

-Park your car in a well-lit place and avoid isolated areas. Also, please do not leave your car parked in the same spot for extended periods of time. It may attract thieves, and, in some cases, it may be against the law.

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:

Acting Senior Lead Officer Edgar Cruz

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2562

E-mail: 37074@lapd.online

Hello everyone! I am still acting Senior Lead Officer for Basic Car 9A37.

Our numbers for 2020 are almost the same from this time last year. Violent crime is at 33 incidents in 2019, and for this year we're at 35 incidents this year (+6.06% change), Property crime and Part 1 Crimes have gone down approximately -2.45% year-to-date as compared to 2019.

I have been doing a little bit of research and discovered that although there are many different factors that contribute to the crime in the area, it seems that most of the violent crimes are either domestic or family related. Keep in mind that due to our current situation with COVID 19, Stay at Home Order, some if not all of us are experiencing times of increased anxiety and stress. Hence, we have had an increase in domestic violence incidents. We can prevent these incidents from becoming violent by seeking help or counseling. The Los Angeles Police Department provides assistance through our Domestic Abuse Response Team. After reporting a domestic incident, individuals involved in the incident can request DART services (818) 374-0050.

I have received several calls regarding Homeless Encampments. Reminder, Homelessness is not a crime, but unfortunately sometimes our homeless population does have a contributing factor to certain crimes in our area. I want to encourage all to call and report any suspicious activities within the encampments. I will work diligently to remove the encampment and find placement for those in need.

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 smart phone. It takes a few moments 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 removal of bulky items and abandoned property on sidewalks, as well as properly sanitizing that area.

Remember that 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. "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It" is a very effective way of not being a victim of a car break in. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please feel free to contact me. Although all meetings are cancelled as of now due to the coronavirus, I am always open to a meeting by phone or VIA ZOOM.

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 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 32914@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

We are asking our communities to keep up the good work in taking a proactive approach to keeping your property safe! We want to remind the community to be vigilant when you're out walking around your neighborhood. Try not to be distracted on your smart device or cell phone, be alert and aware.

ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL in the City of Los Angeles:

We are coming into the 2020 Fire Season, we have been lucky thus far regarding not having any major fires. However, I fear it is only a matter of time. During this time, I cannot stress more, especially for those areas where fires are a real concern, how dangerous illegal fireworks can be. Please leave it to the professionals! I implore those of you that continue to light off fireworks to please stop this illegal and dangerous behavior. Every year our Department receives thousands of Radio Calls due to Illegal Fireworks. Unfortunately, most of the calls are extremely vague regarding the location of occurrence or suspect description. This is where the community needs to step in to help pin point the location of the suspect. Unfortunately, the same suspects usually light off firework's multiple days throughout the season. However, this does give more opportunity for those of you who live in that area to speak with your neighbors and together pin point the location of the suspect and then share the information with the LAPD. You can do this anonymously either by calling or emailing your Senior Lead Officer, utilizing the Non-emergency number, 1-877-ASK-LAPD or filling out a complaint form by going online to, [HTTPS://Complaint.LACITY.ORG/Fireworks](https://Complaint.LACITY.ORG/Fireworks). This gives Officers, including myself, the opportunity to go to the possible address of the suspect and speak to whomever is at home about the situation. We can educate the community on not only the dangers of illegal fireworks but also the fines and citations that can be written as well. Thank you for your help and support for this very important issue!

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

Acting Senior Lead Officer Marco “Tony” Guajardo

Cell Phone: 818-731-2563

Email Address: 36380@lapd.online

Crime Trends/Statistics

Basic Car 9A63 covers the northern portion of the Sherman Oaks community. As we head into the month of July, I'm pleased to report that we're currently down 19.75% in Part 1 crimes compared to last year. However, we did have a 40 % increase in violent crimes and a 9.1 % increase in property crimes. The violent crime increase was due to a couple of isolated incidents related to domestic violence and an assault with a deadly

weapon involving fireworks. I am requesting additional patrol for the property crimes and violent crimes in the areas where the incidents occurred.

Moving forward, 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. Please continue to stay alert and report suspicious activity as it relates to residential burglary. If possible, the utilization of a ring-type video surveillance system for your residence is always a good deterrent and an audible alarm versus a silent alarm. The more layers of deterrent towards hardening the target of your residence help to reduce your chances of being victimized. 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.”

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Park and Social Distancing

I have been conducting extra patrol at the park and have observed most people adhering to the social distancing and mask requirement. Yet, there have been some who have not. Keep in mind that the most we can do when it comes to enforcement is to remind those individuals of the requirements (social distancing and wearing of masks) and the need to continue to avoid spreading the virus and “Flatten the Curve.”

Zoom Neighborhood Watch!

An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested participating in a Zoom Neighborhood Watch meeting or to restart an existing one, please email me at 36380@lapd.online or call at 818-731-2563.

ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

We are currently in the 2020 Fire Season and we need to be sure to avoid causing any fires. I ask those who are lighting off fireworks to stop this illegal and dangerous activity. This is where the community needs to step in to help locate the suspect(s). You can do this anonymously by calling or emailing your Senior Lead Officer and utilizing the non-emergency number, 1-877-ASK-LAPD at the time the incident occurs or is occurring. We can educate the community on not only the dangers of illegal fireworks, but also the fines and citations that can be written as well. HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

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.

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>.

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.

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 May 2020, Basic Car 9A89 is down- 13.73% in Part I Property Crimes year-to-date and down on Violent Crimes year-to-date 35.71%.

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>

Did You Know?

July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and the fourth of seven months to have a length of 31 days. It was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. Prior to that, it was called Quintilis, being the fifth month of the 10-month calendar.

Did you know, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, when temperatures outside range from 80 degrees to 100 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle parked in direct sunlight can quickly climb to between 130 to 172 degrees? After just ten minutes, the temperature inside a parked vehicle can climb to 19 degrees above the outside temperature. After just twenty minutes, the inside temperature can climb to 29 degrees above the outside temperature, and to over 43 degrees above the outside temperature after sixty minutes (per a

study by San Francisco State University). Please do not leave your children or pets in your parked vehicle. That decision could turn into a deadly mistake.

Also, considering the hot summer temperatures that are coming our way, please keep your elderly neighbors in mind. Some statistical approaches estimate that more than 1,300 deaths per year in the United States are due to extreme heat (per the EPA). The elderly are part of the group most susceptible to extreme heat. Check on your elderly neighbors, especially those without air conditioning.



**DEFEND
THE LAPD**

**LAPD
APPRECIATION
RALLY!**

COME SHOW OUR OFFICERS
HOW MUCH WE NEED AND
APPRECIATE THEM!

**SATURDAY JULY 11TH
10AM-NOON**

LAPD HEADQUARTERS, DOWNTOWN 100 W 1ST ST,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

THIS RALLY IS BEING ORGANIZED BY
THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY