GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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.

Help Us PREVENT TERRORISM - “See Something, Report to iWATCH”

iWatch is a community program and partnership between the public and Los Angeles Police Department. The program educates the community regarding possible acts of terrorism by teaching them about behaviors and activities that appear unusual and/or seem to be out of the ordinary, makes them aware of important places to watch, and informs them on key details that should be included as part of the reporting process.

There are three platforms for public reporting:

1. iWATCH mobile application
2. Online through LAPDonline.org or iWATCHLA.org
3. 1-877-A-THREAT (1-877-284-7328)

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 videos of incidents happening near you.
Greetings to the community members in Basic Car 9A5. Year-to-date crime statistics as of January 13, 2024, show violent crime to be down 42.86% and the statistics show property crime to also be down 8.00%.

Despite property crime being down as a whole, reported Burglary from Motor Vehicle crimes have doubled in comparison to YTD 2023. As a reminder, there is only a thin piece of glass separating criminals from property left in your vehicles, so please remember to remove your personal property from your locked / secured vehicles. Also, make sure all your doors, windows, and other access points into your homes are secured when you are away. This includes your rear doors and windows. If you have a security system, then please utilize it. If you do not have a security system, I highly recommend you research available services as there are many affordable options that are easy to install. Rule of thumb: LOCK IT, HIDE IT, KEEP IT!

This community has been fantastic with keeping me updated with activity in the neighborhoods. One that stands out is the package thieves roaming the area. It appears you all have taken to heart the advice I have been giving in my newsletters regarding helping each other secure your packages as they are delivered. Unfortunately, the thieves appear to possibly be following the delivery vehicles closely which shortens the window of time for you to retrieve your packages. Some of you have been contacting the shipping companies with delivery instructions regarding where to store the packages upon delivery as well as to knock / ring doorbell upon delivery. Our detectives are aware of the thieves’ tactics as well as our officers on patrol who are on the lookout in between radio calls.

I'll repeat my advice from previous newsletters for those interested. Whether it’s the holiday season or a standard weekday, we all have packages being delivered to our homes and businesses frequently. To prevent your packages from being taken, attempt to have packages routed to a pick-up site or communicate with neighbors to have your packages secured when you are away during deliveries. It is best to be diligent retrieving your packages as they arrive if possible. Surveillance cameras visibly operating on your doorsteps and/or delivery sites is a deterrent of these crimes and they can also provide officers and detectives detailed leads on the criminals depending on the video captured. Please report these crimes to police as they occur and provide any video you may have of the criminals. You can also forward any pictures or video to me to help me keep an eye out for the criminals as I patrol your community. These crimes can be reported at LAPDONLINE.ORG or you can report the crime in person at the police station from 8am until 6pm Sunday through Saturday (6240 Sylmar Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91401).

The other activity standing out is the prostitution on Sepulveda Boulevard north of Sherman Way. Many arrests have been made in connection to this issue by Vice as well as patrol. Sgt Han of the Van Nuys Division Vice Unit, the other members of the Vice Unit, and myself will be attending the Community Meeting on February 6th regarding this specific issue. We hope we will be able to answer all questions you may have at this meeting.

Regarding the violent crime decrease, please continue to say something if you see something. I see the reports coming in, and I hear directly from the officers on patrol regarding your diligence to protect your neighborhoods and businesses. When incidents are reported to the police, then the police are aware of the new or ongoing crimes in your area. I forward information from these reports to our patrol officers and specialized units to assist them in their efforts of apprehending these criminals. Also, continue to protect yourself by
ensuring that you are always aware of your surroundings. Try to utilize the “buddy system” whenever possible and especially for those early morning, or late-night walks.

I want to touch on parking within your neighborhoods. Stored and abandoned vehicles on the streets is an issue, and parking is hard to come by in many areas. If you have a vehicle you do not intend on driving for long periods of time, please store your vehicle on your property whether it is in your garage, driveway, parking stall, etc. If you have a trailer, it MUST be hitched to your vehicle if it is parked on the street (see 80.69.1 L.A.M.C.), but please store it on your property if you do not intend to use it for a long period of time. As a result, parking enforcement has increased, and many vehicles have been impounded as a result.

Regarding the persons experiencing homelessness, I have been responding to locations in the Basic Car area suffering from homeless encampments and bulk item trash. I have been in contact with City Council Districts 2 and 6 regarding strategies to provide housing for the homeless and keep the communities clean from the trash that results from these encampments. The Field Deputies from both districts are diligent and passionate workers for your community that I am enjoying learning from and working with. I am also actively working with the Senior Lead Officers from the LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit regarding Persons Experiencing Homelessness that may qualify for additional assistance. With the continued help of these individuals, we can discover and execute long term solutions. You all have been very patient with the process, and I encourage you to continue to contact me with your concerns.

Lastly, it is a group effort to help keep our streets clean. I highly recommend utilizing the MyLA311 application like I do to create service requests for clean-ups in your area. Care Plus creates a service schedule based on these service requests. It is easy to use and can be utilized on both Apple and Android devices.

Should you have any issues, concerns or questions with any of these needs or topics, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I may assist you.

**Basic Car 9A19**  
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Greetings residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A19. The passage of California Assembly Bill 436, that removes authorization of local authorities from adopting rules and regulations to control vehicles that are cruising on streets became effective January 1, 2024. Additionally, enforcement on “lowered vehicles” or “lowrider” modified vehicles is also prohibited effective January 1, 2024. As the public COVID-19 restriction began to lift in late 2022 the Van Nuys Boulevard saw a resurgence in cruiser night activity. These events attract thousands of spectators and participants from all over Southern California. Officers monitoring these events have observed numerous moving violations and Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) violations and have received community and business complaints for traffic gridlock, illegal parking, drinking alcohol in public, vandalism, and littering. Van Nuys Division Area Senior Lead Officers have kept these events under control and although enforcement cannot be applied to merely “cruising” all other Vehicle Code and LAMC still apply.

The first cruise night of 2024 was held on Saturday January 6, 2024, on Van Nuys Boulevard between Oxnard Street and Burbank Boulevard. Van Nuys Senior Lead Officers monitored the event and took enforcement action. Eleven vehicles were cited for parking violations, four drivers were cited for vehicle code violations and one individual was issued an Administrative Citation. Van Nuys Division will continue to monitor these events and take enforcement action when necessary.
For all traffic related complaints, (speeding, stop sign violations, racing, and general traffic issues,) please contact Valley Traffic Officer Karen Torres at 41274@lapd.online. Please specify they type of violations, the area it’s occurring and the time of day.

For abandoned vehicle complaints call DOT dispatch at 818-374-4823.

For graffiti, illegal dumping, bulk item removal, street services, animal related services, parks, trees and vegetation, or private property use the www.myla311.lacity.org to report such requests.

Neighborhood Watch! An involved community is an informed community. If you are interested in participating in a traditional Neighborhood Watch meeting or to restart an existing one, please email me.

Basic Car 9A23:
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Hello everyone and welcome to the month of February. It has indeed been a very good start to the year and I hope that everyone is doing everything they can to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe and healthy.

One of my goals for this new year was to do everything I can to reduce and prevent crimes from occurring in our neighborhoods, so far, we have been effective in our strategies and I couldn’t have done it without the help of my community members and their dedication and diligence. I feel that we are truly working together and making an impact, as slow as it may seem sometimes we continue to see a steady reduction of property crime. Most of the property crime in our area has to do with Thefts from Motor Vehicles (TFMV) and Burglary from Motor Vehicles (BFMV). The difference is huge yet quite simple, for a TFMV to occur, the vehicle must be unlocked or accessible to a thief, for a BFMV to occur, the vehicle needs to be locked and inaccessible to any potential thieves.

As a reminder to everyone that parks their vehicles on the street, parking structure or even a driveway, here are some tips that will keep your vehicle and your personal property safe:

- Lock It! Hide It! Keep It! I will continue to remind you of this, it’s a very simple and effective way to keep your property safe.
- Account for all your car keys and take appropriate measures if you lose a key to your vehicle. This is how most of the newer model vehicles are being taken without the owner’s consent.
- Completely close all windows.
- Park your car in a well-lit area.
- Install license plate screws and secure your license plates, there has been an increase in cold plated vehicles throughout the entire area.
- If possible, install an alarm with GPS capability.
- Contact me for a FREE steering wheel lock device (Club).
- If you happen to be a victim of one of these property crimes, you can complete an online report at https://www.lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/.

Moving forward, I would like to revamp our Neighborhood Watch groups and possibly start some new ones.

If you have an emergency or in need of immediate police assistance, please call 911 or the LAPD Non-emergency number at (877) 275-5273.
Greetings to residents and business owners of Basic Car 9A37. Some of you have probably seen increased police and park ranger activity at Valley Glenn Community Park. This is due to us receiving reports and complaints from the residents of dog owners walking their dogs off-leash. I would like to remind everyone that although dogs are welcome at this park, they must be leashed. It is the law and the police along with the park rangers will be enforcing it. There were many verbal warnings given to those who were walking their dogs off-leash and soon we will be forced to start issuing citations. It is an expensive ticket and it is not worth it, let alone civil liability that may arise as a result of a dog bite if it attacks someone while it is not being controlled by the owner.

For those who wish to let your dog run off-leash, these are some of the dog parks nearby:
- Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park at 17550 Victory Boulevard.
- Dog Park at NOHO West at 6131 Gentry Ave.
- Whitnall Off-Leash Dog Park at 5801 ½ Whitnall Hwy.

Another topic I would like to touch on is vehicles which are parked on the city streets. I, along with LADOT, receive reports of abandoned vehicles and other violations of parking laws. There are several reasons why your vehicle can receive a parking citation, and/or it can be impounded.

These are some of the reasons for impounding:
- Blocking driveway
- Blocking fire hydrant
- No evidence of registration
- Abandoned (parked over 72 hours without being moved)
- Expired registration over 6 months
- Illegally parked, blocking legally parked vehicle
- Alarm ringing over 45 minutes

To save yourself from unexpected expense and inconvenience of having your car impounded, follow the parking rules. Park your vehicle only on streets with no restrictions, move it no less than every 3 days, do not let your registration expire. Remember: if you decide to file for Planned Nonoperation (PNO), that means that the vehicle will not be driven, towed, stored, or parked on public roads or highways for the entire registration year.

Hello basic car 9A41, in October 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 436 which amends the California Vehicle Code to prohibit local authorities from stopping drivers from cruising and driving cars that have been modified. Cruising is defined as repetitive driving of a motor vehicle past a traffic control point determined by an on-duty police officer, with in a certain area.
This new law, to begin in January 2024, prohibits the police to enforce cruising and the enforcement of vehicle code violations on lowrider type vehicles or modified vehicles. **This law may sound like it makes cruising events permitted and legal, however officers can still enforce a variety of vehicle and municipal code violations during these cruiser night events. Our goal is to monitor these events and keep all involved safe.**

Also, the crimes of burglary and theft are crimes of opportunity. The victim provides the opportunity by leaving their vehicle unlocked or the window open. Most property stolen is 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.

Lastly, as we continue into a new year, homeless encampments have been a concern for many residents and businesses. I have been working closely and very diligently with the Urban Alchemy CIRCLE team, Sanitation, and the Council Districts Field Deputies. I want to remind everyone that it is a group effort to help keep our streets clean.

**Basic Car 9A63**
Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo
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Greetings Sherman Oaks!

Happy month of February! Crime wise, we are off to a great start. I am seeing a small spike in grand theft autos (GTA). What is grand theft auto?

*Any person who drives or takes a vehicle not his or her own, without the consent of the owner thereof, and with intent either to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner thereof of his or her title to or possession of the vehicle, whether with or without intent to steal the vehicle, or any person who is a party or an accessory to or an accomplice in the driving or unauthorized taking or stealing, is guilty of this public offense.*

Kia models from 2011 to 2021 and Hyundai models from 2015 to 2021 were missing electronic immobilizers — an anti-theft device that uses a unique chip in the key fob to unlock the car. Without an immobilizer, thieves could easily unscrew the steering column in the cars, insert a USB into the ignition, and drive away.

My advice- speak to a certified Kia or Hyundai car dealer to update the software that fixes these issues.

- Use Anti-theft steering wheel lock
- Take your vehicle keys with you. Do not leave them inside your vehicle
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park
- Park in well-lit areas
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle

Lock it, Hide it, Keep it!
Please remember these important phone numbers for Non-Emergency police response: 1-877-275-5273 (1-877-ASK-LAPD) or 9-1-1 for police, fire or medical emergency.

**Basic Car 9A89**
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Basic Car 9A89 covers the southern portion of Sherman Oaks and a small portion of Studio City.

Please ensure that you lock your car doors and windows, and do not leave any valuables in plain sight. This includes items such as purses, wallets, electronics, and other valuable items. It is best to take these items with you or lock them in the trunk of your car.

**How Thieves are Using Technology to Break into Cars and How to Protect Your Vehicle**

The way the keyless mechanism works is quite simple. A digital key, whether it’s an RFID card, a fob, or a smartphone, emits a short-range signal. When near the car, this signal allows the user to open the doors by simply touching the handle. Thieves exploit this by using relay devices. One thief positions a device near a home or the key owner to capture its signal. A second thief, near the car, then uses this signal to unlock it. The vehicle thinks the genuine key is nearby, which can also allow starting the engine. Once inside, thieves can potentially program a new key.

**FOB Protectors: A Shield Against Relay Attacks**

FOB protectors, acting like Faraday cages, block relay attacks by sealing the key fob’s signal. Although effective, they are not invincible, especially if thieves employ advanced tools.

**Consider Advanced Vehicle Trackers**

Vehicle trackers have become indispensable tools in enhancing security. Most of these devices are equipped to promptly alert owners if their vehicle undergoes unexpected movements or disturbances. The integration of GPS technology allows for the real-time tracking of a vehicle’s location in the event of theft. Whether you opt for a premium tracker with a suite of features or a more budget-friendly option, the added layer of protection it provides can be substantial.

If you see suspicious activities, report it to the LAPD non-emergency number at 877-275-5273 (877-ASK-LAPD).

Please utilize MYLA311 for debris and/or bulky items that are left on the street/sidewalk.

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.
**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.