



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

October 2026

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.

Senior Lead Officer Update

Basic Car 9A5

Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco

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Halloween is an exciting time for children and families, but it is important to take extra precautions after dark. Parents and guardians should accompany younger children while trick-or-treating and remind children to use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible. Costumes should allow children to see clearly and walk safely, and reflective materials or flashlights can help make pedestrians more visible to drivers. Drivers should slow down and remain especially alert in residential neighborhoods where children may be crossing streets.

Residents hosting or attending Halloween gatherings should also plan ahead. Keep walkways and entrances well-lit and free of obstacles, supervise children around decorations and candles, and make sure pets are kept in a safe location if they become frightened by costumes or increased activity. If you are attending an event, establish a meeting place with family members or friends in case someone becomes separated.

Parents and guardians should take a moment to inspect children's candy before they begin eating it. Make sure wrappers are sealed and intact, and throw away anything that appears opened, damaged, or unusual. Children should avoid homemade treats from people they do not know, unless a trusted adult can confirm where the treats came from. Remind children to wait until they are home and an adult has checked their treats before eating them. Families should also be mindful of food allergies and check labels carefully before allowing children to enjoy their Halloween treats.

Stay Safe and Happy Halloween Van Nuys!

Basic Car 9A19

Officer Evlin Akserelian

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It has been a pleasure meeting and working alongside many of our community members and business partners. As a reminder, we have recently had incidents involving vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles in the area. I encourage residents to take a few simple precautions to protect their vehicle and property.

Please make sure that you are always locking your vehicle, even for short periods. Remove valuables and make sure nothing valuable is visible. Whenever possible, park in a well-lit area and make sure your vehicle alarm or security system are turned on. If you see someone checking vehicle door handles, looking into parked vehicles or engaging in other suspicious behavior, do not approach or confront them. Get to a safe location and contact Law Enforcement. Help protect your property and keep our community safe.

Basic Car 9A23

Officer Chase Lambert

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With Halloween right around the corner Trick or Treating is one of the most fun parts of the night. It is important after your children collect their candy to inspect it for dangerous items. Unfortunately, we are not

able to fully trust the good nature of the candy / treats given out during the holiday. Items could be placed inside of the candy or it could be laced with a dangerous/ harmful material.

Halloween Candy Safety Tips

Before children dig into their Halloween treats, take a few simple precautions:

- Inspect all candy before eating it. Look for unusual appearance, damaged packaging, or opened wrappers.
- Throw away anything that appears tampered with or is not in its original packaging.
- Remind children not to eat candy while trick-or-treating. Wait until an adult has checked it.
- Be mindful of food allergies and check ingredient labels carefully.
- Young children should not receive hard candy, gum, or other choking hazards.
- If your child receives a homemade treat from someone you don't know, consider setting it aside.
- Never allow children to accept or consume cannabis edibles, alcohol-infused treats, or other products not intended for children.
- If you are unsure about a particular item, when in doubt, throw it out.

Have a sweet and safe Halloween!

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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LAPD is Hiring

LAPD Officers Enjoy Tremendous Benefits, go to JOINLAPD.COM, Get information about recruitment events. Receive help preparing for the Police Academy. Gain insight into daily life with the LAPD. Understand the LAPD's wide range of career paths. Learn about transitioning from Military Service to LAPD. Get answers to questions about Cadets, POPP, and ACOP programs (for those under 20).

For any additional questions regarding the hiring process (applications, testing, timelines, disqualifications, etc.) call: Personnel's Public Safety Division, 213-437-3055.

The LAPD hires for a number of other positions than Police Officers. The City of Los Angeles needs people to manage 911 calls and to help process arrestees. Apply online today to become a 911 Dispatcher (Police Service Representative - PSR). Multilingual Candidates are highly encouraged to apply. Schedule a sit-along for PSR by emailing 911CRU@lapd.online

Please check out our Community Sentiment Survey, we would like to hear from you!



If you are interested in starting or joining a neighborhood watch group, please email me with your contact information. Thank you for your continued support of the Officers here at Van Nuys Division.

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 36816@lapd.online

Hello Basic Car, 9A41, as we approach Halloween and continue into the holiday season, please stay vigilant and properly secure your homes as it relates to closing and locking windows at night. With this said, here are some tips to make sure your child has a safe time Trick or Treating:

Safety Tip #1: Plan a route in advance

- Trick-or-treating could take you several streets away from your house, which can cause sore legs and a bit of frustration. Avoid long paths by mapping out a route before leaving the house. Stick to paths that you and your child are familiar with to avoid getting lost.

Safety Tip #2: Wear reflective clothing

- Keep your kids visible by having them wear glow-in-the-dark necklaces and bracelets. Consider putting reflective strips on their costumes or having them carry small flashlights. This will add a factor of safety when crossing the roads at night, as well as a way to identify them easily in the dark among other kids.

Safety Tip #3: Make an ID card for your kids

- Just in case you may be separated from your child during Trick-or-Treating, having them carry a discreet identification card under their costume is advised.

Safety Tip #4: Establish a curfew

- This is helpful if your child is going trick-or-treating without you or if you want to make sure you're not out with the kids all night.

Safety Tip #5: Remember your cell phone

- You should have your phone with you, but if your child is older and going trick-or-treating without a parent, make sure they have a cell phone as well.

Safety Tip #6: Inspect candy before eating

- Check all treats to make sure they're sealed. Throw out candy with torn packages or holes in the packages, spoiled items, and any homemade treats that haven't been made by someone you know.

Safety Tip #7: Keep your own home safe

- Remove anything that could cause kids to trip or fall on your walkway or lawn. Keep family pets away from trick-or-treaters - even if they seem harmless to you, your pet could scare small children. Make sure the lights are on outside your house, and if possible, the walkway to your door is illuminated. Have fun and keep safe! Happy Halloween!

Lastly, I like to take a moment to speak about our unhoused neighbors in our basic car area. I make a daily effort to reach out to People Experiencing Homelessness by conducting foot beats and discussing their needs. I provide specific resources to fit each one's individual needs through LAHSA, CIRCLE, and our Council district field deputies. I am actively involved in the CARE plus clean-ups and also conduct enforcement when needed. As your Senior Lead Officer, I use the following resources and you as community members can too! Be part of the solution!

- Homeless Outreach Portal LA-Hop fill out an outreach request form at: www.lacounty.gov/lahop
- Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, website www.lahsa.org

The City will no longer relies complaint-driven model for homeless encampments but instead creating a neighborhood-based comprehensive C.A.R.E (Cleaning and Rapid Engagement) teams that will provide health services to the homeless and ensure the heaviest impacted areas receive regularly scheduled clean-ups. To report a large transient encampment or for a CARE team response please call 311 or use the 311 application for your smart phone or device.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings Sherman Oaks!

I would like to take this opportunity to share a couple of general crime prevention tips. These tips can help you avoid becoming a victim of a crime when you are out and about. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself and discourage those who commit crimes.

Be prepared

- Always be alert and aware of the people around you.
- Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.

Street precautions

- **Keep an eye on your surroundings** and the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, avoid them by crossing the street, entering an open store, or changing your route.
- **Don't walk alone**, especially at night or in areas that are not well lit. Whenever possible, travel with a friend. Stay in well-lit, populated areas as much as possible. Make sure a friend or family member knows where you are going when you go out.
- **Don't get caught up in your routine.** Even on trips you make often, stay alert and keep an eye out for people or vehicles that seem strange.
- **Remove distractions.** Talking on the phone, listening to music, or looking up directions may prevent you from being able to stay aware of your surroundings. If you need to access your phone, wait until you're somewhere safe and well lit.
- **Walk confidently** with your head up, looking from side to side, and at a steady pace. Make eye contact with people when walking.
- **Do not respond to conversation from strangers** on the street; continue walking. Do not accept any hugs or gifts from a person you don't know.
- **Protect your belongings.** If you carry a purse, hold it securely between your arm and your body, and not around your neck. Limit the number of personal valuables you carry.

Car Safety

- **Lock your doors** immediately after entering or leaving your car.
- **Park in safe areas**, making sure there is adequate lighting and that your car is in public view. When you park, look around for suspicious persons or vehicles near your car.
- **Have your car keys in your hand** so you don't have to linger before entering your car.
- **Don't leave any valuables inside the vehicle**, including cell phones and other electronic devices.
- **If you think you are being followed**, drive to a public place or a police/fire station.

Upcoming Community Events:

Wednesday, October 7th is National Coffee with a Cop! Join us at Blu Jam Café located at 15045 Ventura Blvd from 9AM-10AM. Let's have a cup and conversation!

Friday, October 9th is Faith and Blue Blood Drive located at Church on the Way at 14300 Sherman Way from 11AM- 5PM.

Friday, October 30th is our 8th annual LAPD Van Nuys Trunk or Treat Event from 5PM-7:30PM. This event will take place in front of the police station at 6240 Sylmar Ave.

Interested in volunteering for the police station? For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Officer Jimenez from our 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 the LAPD background procedures.

Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners of Sherman Oaks!

Preventing Package Theft. Online shopping, especially during the holidays, makes life convenient, but unattended packages can become an easy target for porch piracy. Residents can take these few simple precautions to reduce the risk of you becoming a victim of package theft.

- Track your delivery. Use delivery notifications so you know when your package is scheduled to arrive.
- Choose a secure delivery location. When available, have packages delivered in a secured locker, workplace or other trusted location.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to help. If you will be away, ask a neighbor to collect packages for you.
- Don't advertise your purchases on social media. Avoid posting images of expensive new purchases. Burglars have followed residents in affluent areas on social media to break into homes at a later date.
- When your package is delivered retrieve it promptly. Don't allow packages to sit unattended for long periods of time.
- If your package is stolen, check the delivery conformation and make sure it was delivered to the correct address.
- Contact the retailer or delivery company.
- Save photographs, video footage and other documentation.
- Report the theft www.lapdonline.org

For all **traffic related complaints** please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at 36479@lapd.online. Please indicate the type of violations, location and time of day the violations are occurring.

Neighborhood Watch: A strong neighborhood watch group is vital for the safety and security of your neighborhood. If you would like to start or revise an existing neighborhood watch group, please feel free to contact me.