



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

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

August 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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Hello, Van Nuys community. Our community has recently experienced an increase in gang-related graffiti throughout our neighborhoods. Graffiti is more than an act of vandalism it is often used by gangs to claim territory, intimidate rivals, and spread messages that negatively impact our community. When graffiti is left in place, it can encourage additional vandalism and contribute to a decline in neighborhood pride. Prompt reporting and removal are important steps in preventing these messages from becoming a permanent part of our community.

I encourage our residents, business owners, and visitors to partner with us by reporting graffiti as soon as it is discovered using the City of Los Angeles' MyLA311 app. The app provides a fast and convenient way to notify the appropriate City department so graffiti can be scheduled for removal. Recent updates to MyLA311 also allow users to drop a pin for the exact location, upload photos, follow existing requests, and receive status updates, making it easier than ever to report problems in your neighborhood.

Reporting graffiti is simple. Download the free MyLA311 app on your smartphone or visit the online portal from your computer. Select "Graffiti Removal" from the list of available services, enter the location of the graffiti, and, if it is safe to do so, upload a clear photograph. Providing accurate information helps City crews identify the location and respond as quickly as possible. After submitting your report, you will receive a service request number that can be used to track the progress of your request. MyLA311 also allows residents to report other non-emergency issues such as illegal dumping, potholes, broken streetlights, and bulky item pickups.

Please remember that MyLA311 is intended for non-emergency City service requests. If you witness graffiti being committed, observe suspicious activity, or see a crime in progress, do not use the app. Instead, call 911 for emergencies or contact the nonemergency line at 877-275-5273, so officers can respond appropriately.

Keeping Van Nuys clean and safe is a shared responsibility. Every graffiti report submitted through MyLA311 helps City crews remove gang markings more quickly, discourages repeat vandalism, and demonstrates that our community takes pride in its neighborhoods. The Van Nuys Division appreciates your continued partnership and commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and visits Van Nuys.

Basic Car 9A19

VACANT

Basic Car 9A23

Officer Chase Lambert

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As temperatures rise, it's important to recognize the dangers of heat-related illnesses. Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can happen quickly, especially during prolonged exposure to hot weather or strenuous activity.

Know the Signs of Heat Stroke

Call 911 immediately if someone experiences: A body temperature of 103°F (39.4°C) or higher, hot/ red/ dry/ or damp skin, confusion, slurred speech, or unusual behavior. Additionally, Loss of consciousness, seizures, rapid, strong pulse.

Protect yourself and others by following these simple steps: Drink water frequently, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid excessive caffeine and alcohol, which can contribute to dehydration. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Take frequent breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas. Schedule strenuous activities during the cooler parts of the day whenever possible. Apply sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat or sunglasses when outdoors. Never leave children, older adults, or pets in a parked vehicle.

Look Out for Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion can develop before heat stroke. Watch for: Heavy sweating, weakness or fatigue, dizziness or fainting. Additional symptoms include nausea or vomiting, headache, cool, pale, clammy skin

If someone is showing signs of heat exhaustion:

1. Move them to a cool, shaded area.
2. Give them cool water to sip if they are alert.
3. Loosen or remove unnecessary clothing.
4. Apply cool, wet clothes or ice packs to the neck, armpits, and groin.
5. If symptoms worsen or do not improve within 30 minutes, seek medical attention immediately.

Remember: Heat Stroke Is an Emergency, Stay Cool. Stay Hydrated. Stay Alert!

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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I hope you are having a wonderful Summer. I would like to share some common nuisance-related questions and neighbor disputes issues.

What can I do about my noisy neighbors?

A noisy neighbor may create a disturbance by having a loud television, stereo, or radio. The resident's local police station best handles these complaints because the disruption is intermittent, occasional, or spontaneous. A loud party is also best resolved by the officers assigned to the area by calling the non-emergency (877) ASK-LAPD (275-5273). If the issue becomes a chronic disruption, please let me know and I will do my best to mediate the situation.

What is the law regarding loud vehicle alarms?

The law regarding loud vehicle theft alarm systems is addressed in the California Vehicle Code, Section 22651.5, and in the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 114.06. Section 22651.5 in part states that a police officer may, upon complaint, remove a vehicle if the vehicle theft alarm system has been activated for 20 minutes upon the officer's arrival, and the alarm has not been silenced within that time. Section 114.06 states in part that it shall be unlawful for any person to install, operate, or use any vehicle theft alarm system that emits or causes the emission of an audible sound, which is not, or does not become automatically and completely silenced within five minutes.

What can I do about barking dogs?

Although pets can provide much companionship and love, they can also become a nuisance to a neighborhood if not cared for properly. All barking dogs or other nuisance complaints are handled by the City's Animal Care and Control Department. However, complaints regarding barking dogs must be submitted in writing to your local Animal Care and Control Center with the name, address, and telephone number of the complaining party, a description of the nuisance, as well as name and address of the dog owner. You can find more information at www.laanimalservices.com.

The Dispute Resolution Program (DRP)

The Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) is a mediation program offered through the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney. It mediates all types of Civil Disputes. Some examples are:

- Business/ Business Consumer/ Merchant Family/ Domestic
- Labor/ Employment Government/ Public Agency Landlord/ Tenant
- Neighbor/ Neighbor Personal Injury/ Property Damage
- School Related Workplace Related HIV/ AIDS Discrimination
- Ethnicity / Race Discrimination.

What is a mediation? Mediation is a confidential, voluntary process in which a neutral third party facilitates communication between parties to resolve their disputes. Who can go to mediation? Any Los Angeles County resident or person who has conducted business in the County of Los Angeles. Why is mediation beneficial? No costly attorney fees and or court expenses. A neutral mediator helps with the negotiation process. Mediation takes place outside of the slow and overcrowded court system. The goal is a mutually acceptable resolution for all parties. DRP Mediation is fair, fast, and free.

How do you access DRP Services?

- E-mail at: mediate@lacity.org
- Connect at: <http://www.lacityattorney.org>
- Main Office: 200 N. Spring Street, 14th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: 213.978.1880
Fax: 213.978.1312

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
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Hello Basic Car, 9A41, its almost time for a new school year! Going back to school can be a hectic time for both students, school staff and parents. Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. The National Safety Council (NSC) has provided the following tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Walking to school

- Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.

- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

Riding a bicycle to school

- Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street.
- Walk bikes across the street.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

Riding the bus to school

- Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them
- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand six feet (or 3 giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

Driving your child to school

- Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.
- Do not text while driving in the school zone.
- Do not double park and obey all street signage.
- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street

Lastly, volunteers are needed! The Van Nuys Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) Blight Abatement Committee conducts regular Community Clean-Ups through-out the Van Nuys Area, Valley Glen, and Sherman Oaks communities. At a time when city resources are thin, we as a community must come together and keep our neighborhoods clean. If you would like more information about the clean-ups or to participate, please email me.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo

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Greetings Sherman Oaks,

Summer is here, and we cannot be more excited to hang out with family and friends around the pool. With that comes safety precautions we should all be reminded of.

Safety Tips:

- Invest in a pool gate. Always verify that it is locked.
- Never leave a child alone in or near the pool. Not even for a HOT second.
- Teach your children good safety pool habits- such as no running, pushing, jumping on others, etc.

- Do not solely rely on lifejackets, inflatable arm bands, etc.
- Learn CPR.
- During social gatherings, post your address on a sign. In case of an emergency, your guest will know your address. Call 911.

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!

Help Keep Our Community Safe by Being a Good Neighbor. This month I would like to dedicate this newsletter on the importance of being a good neighbor. A safe and secure neighborhood begins with neighbors who care and respect for one another. A safe neighborhood also begins with looking out for one another, showing courtesy, and taking pride in your community. These are a few ways that you can be a good neighbor:

- **Get to know your neighbors.**
- **Keep an eye out for one another.** If you notice a garage door open, packages and mail piling up, or a neighbor who needs assistance, a quick check-in can make all the difference.
- **Keep your property well maintained.** A clean well-kept neighborhood deters crime and creates an environment of order. Per the LAMC 91.8104 Properties must be free of trash, debris and overgrown vegetation. Report violations to Los Angeles Building and Safety. (888) 524-2845.
- **Be considerate of noise.** Respect your neighbors by keeping music, parties and outdoor activities to a minimum and at reasonable audible levels.
- **Be a responsible pet owner.** Keep your pets under control, clean up after them and minimize excessive barking. Report pet violations to the East Valley Animal Shelter at (888) 452-7381.
- **Drive Carefully.** Obey all speed laws, and watch out for children, pedestrians, bicyclists, and pets. For traffic enforcement complaints please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at 36479@lapd.online.
- **Report suspicious activity.** If you see something that is not right or doesn't fit your neighborhood, report the activity to the non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK LAPD or report it your Senior Lead Officer.

Let's help us make our Sherman Oaks Community a place where families feel secure, neighbors care for one another, and everyone takes pride where they live.

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.

Lastly, I would like to thank Steve and the staff at Steve's Coffee Roster for hosting Coffee with a Cop community event on July 22, 2026. Great coffee, great company and great conversations! Thank you.