

Volume 20, Issue 9

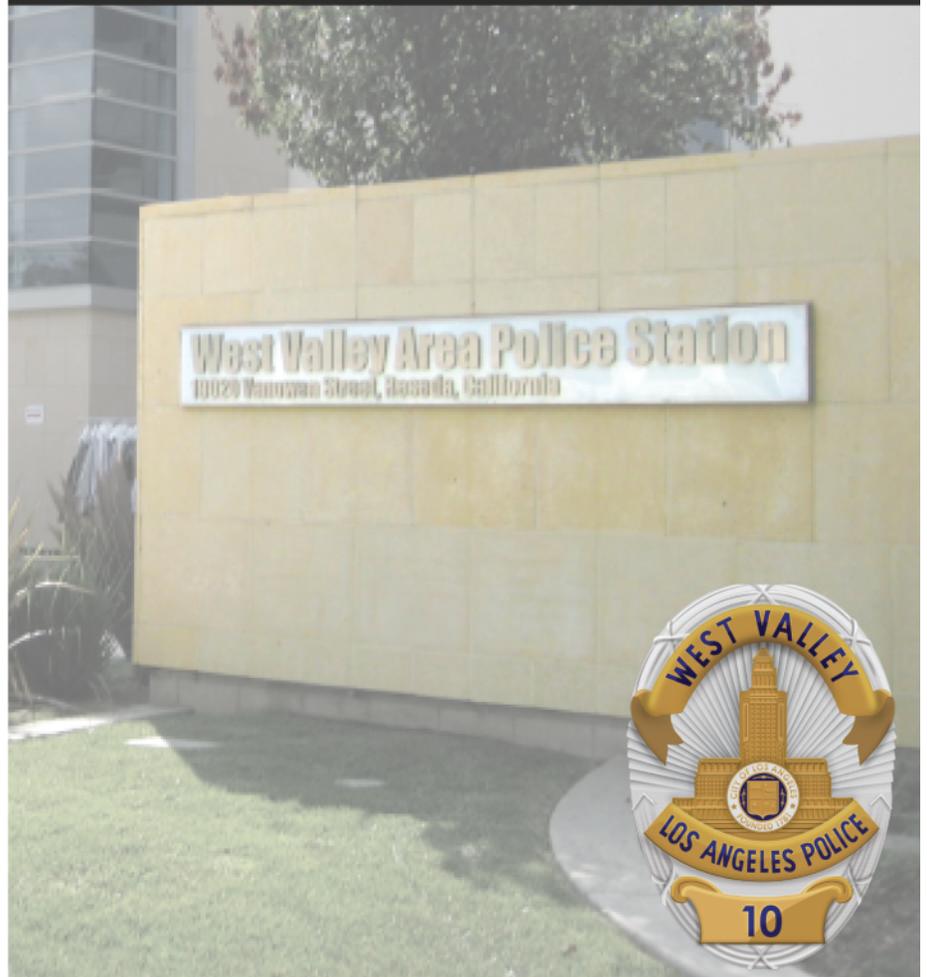
West Valley Area Senior Lead Office

September 2016

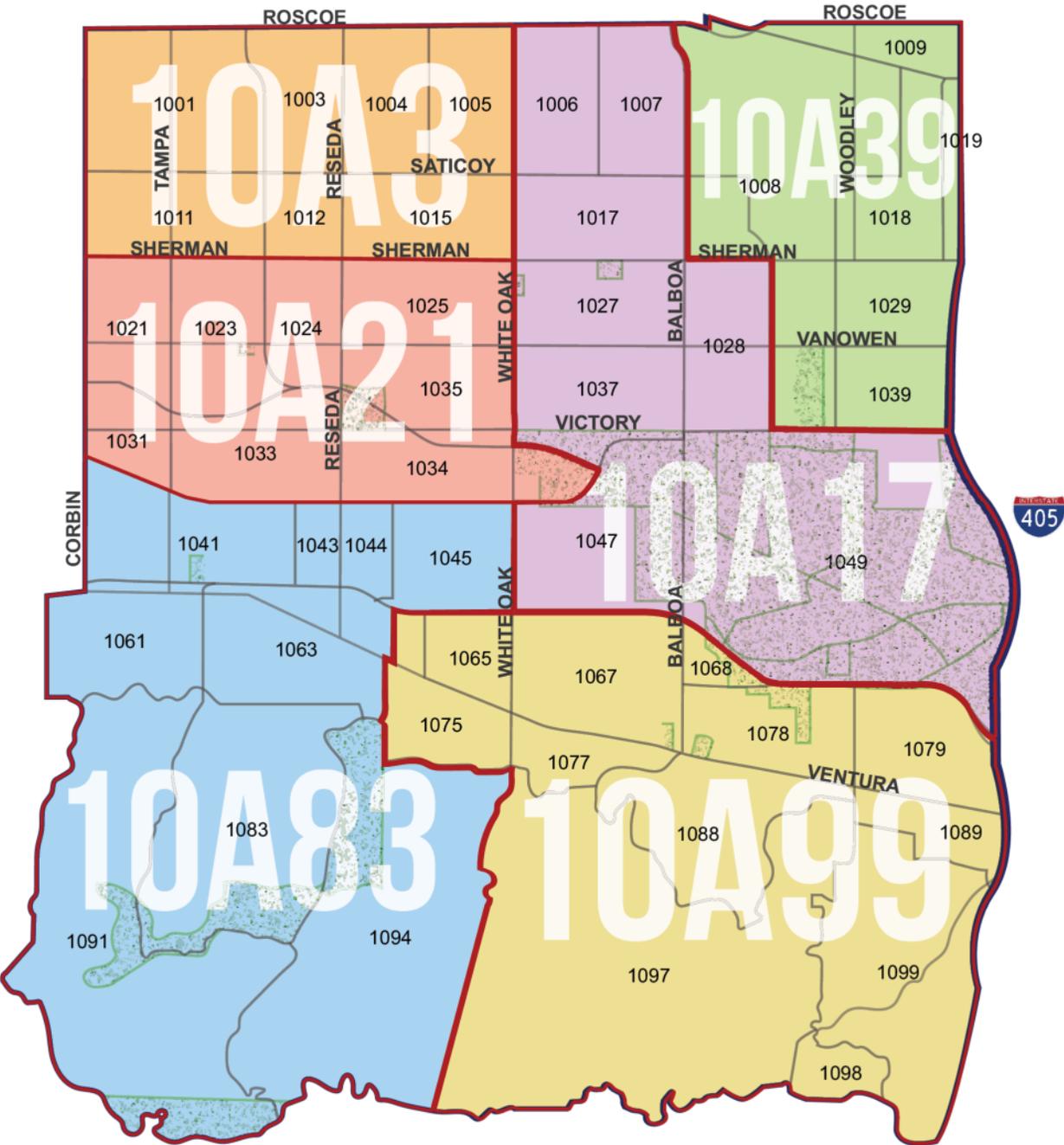
Sergeant Frank Avila

Sergeant Larry Martinez

WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY POLICE STATION NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



WEST VALLEY BASIC CAR AREA MAP



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NORTH RESEDA COMMUNITY UPDATE



Senior Lead Officer
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Reseda Neighborhood Council Meeting

7 P.M.
1st Mon of the month
18118 Sherman Way,
Reseda

Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting

7 P.M.
2nd Thurs of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

West Valley Community Police Advisory Board

6:30 P.M.
2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

North Reseda as you already know the fall season is just around the corner. This is the perfect time to start preparing for time changes. The hours of darkness can have an impact on our crime levels so personal security is very important. The major streets in Reseda are known to have the most crime therefore citizens should take extra precautions while traveling through them. The following are some simple precautions that may help you better protect yourself.

- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark.
- Educate yourself concerning prevention tactics.
- Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend.
- Stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid door-ways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- Walk confidently, and at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street, continue walking.
- If you carry a purse, hold it securely between your arm and your body.
- Always lock car doors after entering or leaving your car.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Have your car keys in your hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car.
- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place or a police, sheriff or fire station.

SOUTH RESEDA COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Reseda Neighborhood Council Meeting

7 P.M.
1st Mon of the month
18118 Sherman Way,
Reseda

Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting

7 P.M.
2nd Thurs of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

West Valley Community Police Advisory Board

6:30 P.M.
2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

Hello South Reseda! For the month of August, we experienced (7) Robberies, (16) Burglaries, (17) Grand Theft Autos, and (21) Burglary Theft From Motor Vehicles. From the month of July, it was an increase of two robberies, two less burglaries, an increase of two more GTA's, and three more victims of BTFMV.

The High Target vehicles again for GTA's are late model Honda Civics and Accords. If you happen to own a late model Honda Civic or Honda Accord, here are some tips to prevent your vehicle from being stolen:

- If possible, invest in a steering wheel lock (CLUB) or some type of kill switch
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit area
- If you can afford it, an alarm system or some type of tracking system
- Please remember to take the key out of the ignition and/or glove box (it happens to the best of us, but people sometimes stack park, leaving the keys available for the other person to move their vehicle. This is very common for those who live in apartment buildings)
- Do not leave your valet key in the glove compartment of the vehicle.

Also, with the addition of BFMV victims, here are additional tips in keeping your property safe and not having your vehicle damaged:

- Lock your vehicle! (I've personally seen people just randomly door check vehicles as if they were playing the lottery)
- Don't leave your belonging in your vehicle especially in plain view, even loose change!(It will cost more to replace your window than the \$3 dollars in change that was taken from your vehicle.)
- If you choose to hide your belongings in the trunk, do it at home, not in public view
- Alert your property management, security or the police for any suspicious activity, such as strangers loitering around the parking lots looking into cars

If you unfortunately discover your vehicle had been stolen please be ready to provide the police the following information:

- The license plate number of the vehicle
- The Vehicle Identification Number of the vehicle if there are no plates
- Year, Make, Model, and color of the vehicle
- Any special marking, stickers, tint, damage to the vehicle

Please be safe out there and be good to each other South Reseda!

LAKE BALBOA COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Meeting

7 P.M.
1st Wed of the month
Gault Street School
17000 Gault St.

**West Valley Community
Police Advisory Board**
6:30 P.M.
2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

On September 11, 2001, one massive act of terrorism shook our nation. While terrorist incidents were not unheard of prior to 9/11, it was a rude wake-up call, reminding us that America is not invulnerable to such tragic destruction. 9/11 revealed the need for cooperation between law enforcement and community members at a whole different level. The LAPD's Counterterrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau developed a program called **iWatchLA** that allows for such cooperation.

iWatch allows community members to report suspicious behavior or activities that may be linked to terrorism to the police. "Suspicious behavior" cannot be confined to any one list; it could range from someone leaving a briefcase or package behind to gas or chemical smells coming from a particular place. Ultimately, if it doesn't look right, smell right, or sound right, then report it! The safety of our communities is a team effort - we need community members to be our eyes and ears on the streets.

To report suspicious behavior that may be related to terrorist activity, go to **www.iwatchla.org**, or call **1-877-A-THREAT** (1-877-284-7328). In the event of an emergency, call **9-1-1**. When you call to make a report, be ready to provide as many details as possible about the event, such as time, location, and descriptions of what and who you observed.

Remember, though, do not make reports based solely on a person's race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation! Your suspicions should always be based on their behavior (the things they say or do).

For more information: **www.iwatchla.org** (see PDF brochure on right hand side).

VAN NUYS/LAKE BALBOA COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Meeting

7 P.M.
1st Wed of the month
Gault Street School
17000 Gault St.

West Valley Community Police Advisory Board

6:30 P.M.
2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

There is much to be said on surveillance cameras. They are incredibly useful as both a deterrent of crime and a great way to see what is going on at your business when you are away. These instruments of security and even safety are a daily part of life for most of us now and although they have sparked a privacy debate, there is a lot of good coming from captured video.

When camera technology was first being introduced into the public market it was too costly for most people. However, today's prices are very affordable. I have seen camera systems on the internet for less than \$100. Most of the below \$100 camera systems are not the best quality but they certainly can do the trick if you are on a budget. For around \$300, you can upgrade to the average camera system which can do just about everything you need them to do. And for you lucky people who can afford to spend \$500 or more, you can get top of the line camera systems. Most people only need the base to average grade cameras for their home or business.

What you want to look for in a camera system are the following features:

1. Night vision (Infrared sensing) – This allows your cameras to be able to use small infrared LEDs to see in low light situations.
2. Recording – If you don't record what is being seen by the camera, don't bother getting a camera. Recording allows you to review what has happened and see who, what, when, where and how.
3. Online monitoring – This allows you to see what is happening through a computer, tablet, or smartphone. This is a must to check on your place when you are away.

Beyond these basic features is icing on the cake! Some cameras are capable of motion sensing and will only begin recording when they sense motion in their field of view. Some you can modify as to where the motion sensing will be active. Others come with a speaker and microphone where you can listen in on what is going on and say a thing or two about it through the camera. One of the newest features that I HIGHLY recommend if you can afford it is cloud based storage of the video. This allows direct storage into a cloud drive where no criminal can tamper unless they hack into it. For most burglaries, this is highly unlikely.

Before you buy any camera system, read reviews on it on the internet. There are several sites that review camera systems for your home or business. Always make sure to be sure that your system does what you need it to do. You don't want to have to keep returning systems because they are missing a feature you require. I hope that these tips have given you a good basic understanding of what to look for in a surveillance camera system.

TARZANA COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting

7 P.M.
2nd Tues of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

West Valley Community Police Advisory Board

6:30 P.M.
2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

As most of you probably know, Tarzana is no stranger to property crime. Some of you may have felt the sting of property crime, perhaps more so in recent months. Many theories have been developed to explain property crime. Some believe property criminals are “criminals of opportunity”, and strike simply whenever the opportunity rises. Others believe criminals plan ahead and scout out certain affluent areas for potential victims, then strike at a better time later. Yet others believe that a given location and its surrounding area, once hit by crime, may become more vulnerable to subsequent victimization.

Regardless of the reason crime happens, the bottom line is that property criminals like what they see and will most likely strike where there is least resistance. Now, there are many ways we can individually make ourselves and our property less attractive to criminals, some you may know well: keep your house and vehicles locked, hide your valuables, and invest in extra security measures like guard dogs, alarm systems, and security cameras. Beyond that, there is the familiar saying: there is strength in numbers. Collective action may help reinforce or enhance resistance, and I don't just mean an aggregate of individual action; I'm talking about cooperative action between neighbors, and between residents and authorities.

Get to know your neighbors. Interacting with them has several advantages: for one, you can familiarize yourself with the residents in your neighborhood, and so will easily recognize strangers; for another, you will get to know others who have a stake in the neighborhood just like you, and from there build a bond of trust. When neighbors know each other, sharing information (be it about crime activity, preventive measures, or significant observations) would be a quicker process, shared information will allow more individuals to be aware and vigilant, and it may become easier to go to each other for help.

Report all incidents of crime. The more the police know from you, the more we can develop strategies to effectively tackle the problem. If a crime is in progress, call **9-1-1**. If you see suspicious behavior or persons in your neighborhood, call **1-800-ASK-LAPD**. Try and note as many details as possible about suspects, including descriptions of their persons and vehicle. Your descriptors may help officers locate these suspicious characters or offenders as they patrol your neighborhoods.

Ideally, increased action and cooperation among concerned residents and authorities will make criminals wary about targeting your neighborhoods, or even lead to an arrest. Realistically, we may not be able to control other people's actions, but we can certainly work together to protect ourselves and our belongings. It is important to remain active in the community, brainstorming with each other to develop strategies that counter criminal activities. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes one to keep the community safe.

ENCINO COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting

7 P.M.

2nd Tues of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

Encino Neighborhood Council Meeting

7 P.M.

4th Wed of the month
Council District 5 Office
15760 Ventura Blvd,
Suite 600
818 971-3088

West Valley Community Police Advisory Board

6:30 P.M.

2nd Wed of the month
West Valley Community
Police Station
19020 Vanowen Street

Barriers to Burglary

Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make their work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in.

To a burglar visibility means vulnerability. They hide behind fences and shrubbery. The key is to keep trespassers out while keeping your property visible. Use picket or chain link fences. Keep hedges clipped down around waist level.

Burglars try the doors and windows first. If burglars have difficulty here, chances are they will move on to another property.

Doors

- **Locks.** The strongest are deadbolt locks with a minimum 1" throw bolt containing a hardened, saw-resistant steel insert. Attach the strike plate to the door frame with 4" screws. The double cylinder deadbolt lock requires a key from both sides, preventing a burglar from breaking glass in the door and turning the knob from the inside. Make sure the cylinder of the lock has a steel guard — a ring around the key section. The cylinder guard should be tapered, or it should rotate around the key section to prevent wrenching. Remember, though, a double cylinder dead-bolt can also block your exit in an emergency. Check with your local law enforcement agency or building inspector to see if these locks are permitted in your area.

- **Hinges.** Doors that swing out have hinges on the outside. A burglar can easily remove the hinge pins and lift the door out. To foil this, remove the center screw from each side of the hinge and insert a metal pin or headless screw on one side. When the door is closed, the end of the pin will fit into the opposite hole. Thus, even if the pins are removed, the door will remain bolted to the frame.

- **Padlocks.** Overhead doors, receiving doors, garage doors — all are typically secured with padlocks and hasps. Look for sturdy padlocks that don't release the key until the padlock is closed. The padlock should be case-hardened with a 3/8" shackle to resist repeated smashing. Remember, a padlock is only as good as the hasps on which it is mounted; so bolt hasps securely to a metal plate, and make sure the bolts are concealed when the padlock is closed.

- **Door construction.** Burglars can kick in a weak door. Replace hollow core doors with solid core doors, or strengthen the existing ones with metal sheets. Replace weak door frames, or reinforce them with steel or concrete. Protect glass in the door with steel bars or mesh; or place a polycarbonate sheet over the glass on the inside.

Windows

Protect windows by putting grates, grill work, or bars over them; or cover the glass on the

inside with a clear polycarbonate sheet. The sheet should extend 1-1/2" beyond the

Other entrances

Skylights, ventilation ducts, and fire escapes tempt burglars because these openings usually are not visible from the street. Protect skylights and ducts with metal grates and iron bars. The first stair of a fire escape should be too high for the average adult to reach from the ground. The door or window leading to the escape should be equipped with emergency exit features: window guards should be removable or hinged to allow for an emergency exit. Keys to locked windows or door should be kept nearby.

Operation Identification

Mark your property with your California driver's license number (preceded by the letters "CA"). Then put Operation I.D. decals (obtained from your local law enforcement agency) on all windows and doors to warn burglars that your property can be traced.

Keep a complete, up-to-date inventory of your merchandise and property: office machinery, personal belongings, etc. Put a copy in your safe deposit box or at a location away from the business site.

Remember

Locks and alarms can't prevent a burglary unless they're in use. Establish a routine for "closing up shop," locking doors and windows, setting up alarms.



LAPD West Valley



STAY ALERT! STAY INFORMED!

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Nixle: text your Zip Code to 888777



Website: www.westvalleypolice.org