



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

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West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630  
Sergeant Frank Avila – Sergeant Larry Martinez

June 2014

### SUMMER SAFETY TIPS BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR VACATION

Vacation time should be a relaxing time. The last thing you want is to come home from that relaxing getaway to find that you have been burglarized. There are a few easy things you can do to help protect your home. But with a little extra effort, you can take steps before you leave home that will help ensure you won't return home to a disaster. These tips might cost you a little extra work, but they might save you a lot of time and heartache in the long run.

- **Don't project your moves.** Show some caution when you talk about your trip. Don't post anything to your Facebook, Twitter or any other social media outlet about your vacation plans. Being aware of who's around when you discuss your trip in restaurants or even at work. Make sure that your children are discreet, too. No one is saying that you should be suspicious of everyone you meet, but even a chance remark has the potential to lead to unintended and unfortunate consequences. The less information you put out there, the less likely it is to reach the wrong ears and eyes.
- **Install security features.** Installing a home security system or even just exterior lights that run on timers is a good way to ramp up security around the house and make it safer; whether you're around or not. One of the nice things about these features is that they are working when you are awake, asleep, on vacation or hosting an outdoor barbecue. They fade into the background as far as you're concerned, but still make your property less attractive to opportunistic thieves.
- **Make your home looked lived in.** An occupied home looks lived in. Lights go on and off and cars come and go. When you're away, everything stops. To help create the illusion that the residence is still occupied, invest in timers that turn on the interior lights for a few hours every evening. If you can get a neighbor to take out your garbage and put the cans back after the garbage pickup, it's another way to send the message that everything is proceeding normally at your house.
- **Hold mail.** When you're leaving for more than a couple of days, call your local post office to stop mail delivery until you get back. In many locations, you can even submit a stop mail request online at [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov). Just enter your address and stop and start dates. This is a free feature courtesy of the United States Postal Service.

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- **Stop newspaper delivery.** A pile of yellowing newspapers on the doorstep is a movie cliché for a home that is unoccupied. Stopping the newspaper when you leave town for a while is an easy detail to forget and one that will make you a sure target.
- Visit [www.westvalleypolice.org](http://www.westvalleypolice.org) for the most current and up to date crime prevention tips.



## **RESEDA:**

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North Reseda (North of Sherman Way) crime numbers through the month of May show a 4.7% reduction overall in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes, compared to last year's numbers through May. South Reseda (South of Sherman Way) had a 1.3% reduction in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes compared to last year's numbers through May. There was, however, an increase in GTA's this year-to-date (34 additional GTAs in North Reseda and 6 in South Reseda). ***Remember to be aware of your surroundings and if you see something, say something to prevent being a victim of crime.*** Also keep your neighborhood safer by getting to know your neighbors and agreeing to look out for each other. Your Senior Lead Officers can also give you advice on how to keep your vehicles safe from crime.

**Contact Officers Parra and Estrada for information on the next Reseda Neighborhood Watch Meeting.**

## **TARZANA:**

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Tarzana's crime numbers through the month of May 2014 show a 4.0% reduction overall in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes, compared to May 2013's numbers. The only crime that experienced an increase was GTA (8 additional GTA's). ***Remember, to continue to reduce Tarzana's crime, Lock It, Hide It, Keep It to keep your property from being taken from your vehicle.*** Also keep your neighborhood safer by getting to know your neighbors and agreeing to look out for each other. Your Senior Lead Officer can also give you advice on how to keep your vehicle safe from thieves.

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Website: [www.westvalleypolice.org](http://www.westvalleypolice.org)

Contact Officer Scoggins for information on the next Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

### **ENCINO:**

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Encino's crime numbers through the month of May 2014 show a 19.2% decrease overall in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes compared to May 2013's numbers. The crimes which experienced an increased were in Aggravated Assaults (4 additional compared to May 2013) and Robbery (3 additional compared to May 2013). ***Remember to continue to Lock It, Hide It, Keep It to keep your property from being taken from your vehicle.*** Also keep your neighborhood safer by getting to know your neighbors and agreeing to look out for each other. Your Senior Lead Officer can also give you advice on how to make your home a harder target for burglars.

Contact Officer Oakley for information on the next Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

### **LAKE BALBOA:**

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West Lake Balboa (from Balboa / Woodley Parks and the area West of the Van Nuys Airport crime numbers through the month of May 2014 show an increase of 2.8% overall in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes, compared to May 2013's numbers. The crime which experienced an increase was Robbery (9 additional compared to May 2013).

East Lake Balboa (West of the 405 Freeway through the Van Nuys Airport) through the month of May 2014 had a 14.7% decrease in all Violent and Property Part-1 crimes compared to May 2013's numbers.

***Remember to be aware of your surroundings and if you see something, say something to prevent being a victim of crime.*** Also keep your vehicle in your garage overnight or parked and secured in a well-lit area. Your Senior Lead Officer can also give you advice on how to make your home a harder target for burglars.

Contact Officer Ham or Officer Olivares for information on the next Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch Meeting.