



## WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY POLICE STATION NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Issue 11 West Valley Area Senior Lead Office November-December 2014  
Sergeant Frank Avila – Sergeant Larry Martinez

*The Los Angeles Police Department, West Valley Area wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful upcoming holiday season. To help ensure your safety and happiness, we have the following tips to prevent you from becoming a victim of holiday crime . . .*



### HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique problems. Taking a few preventative measures can help keep your holiday season joyous and safe. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. The following tips from the Los Angeles Police Department Crime Prevention Section can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season. Always shop like someone is watching you and:

- ✚ Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- ✚ Dress casually and comfortably.
- ✚ Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- ✚ Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- ✚ Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- ✚ Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- ✚ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- ✚ Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- ✚ Keep cash in your front pocket.
- ✚ Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- ✚ Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- ✚ Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- ✚ Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.



Join NIXLE, Text your Zipcode to 888777

[www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police](http://www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police)

Twitter@LAPDWestvalley

website: [westvalleypolice.org](http://westvalleypolice.org)



## CHARITY SCAMS

Fortunately, during the holiday seasons, many people like to give with an open heart to help others in need. Unfortunately, that has also created a climate that's ripe for fake charity scams and scam artists. They know they can tug at our heartstrings -- and rake in the cash. Fake charity scams often set up quasi-legitimate agencies so that, at first glance, they look real; they may also name themselves something similar to other legitimate charities. They may even carry an "Identification Card" in the name of the charity, complete with a logo. These scam artists use all of the standard methods to collect "donations" for their charity scams -- tables at the local mall, going door-to-door, email, and telemarketing. Extraordinary time and efforts by professional scam artists makes finding and discovering charity scams hard to spot. However, here are 10 tips to help spot charity scams:

- ✚ BE WARY of every opportunity that presents itself -- especially when it presents itself in the wake of some big disaster that gets lots of media attention.
- ✚ Ask for the name, address, and phone number of the charity -- and whether or not it is registered. If the presenters claim that it is registered, get a registration number.

The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance offers information about national charities; you can call (703) 276-0100 or go to their website: <http://www.give.org>. If you're trying to figure out whether or not some particular charity is worthy of support, check out this section of the site: <http://www.give.org/reports/index.asp>. They publish their standards for rating charities, and then rate over 600 different charities using these standards.

- ✚ Verify with the office of the charity that there is indeed a campaign going on or that they've authorized the charity drive that you're being invited to contribute to.
- ✚ Don't ever donate cash if you can help it. Write a check to the charity -- not to the person standing in front of you. This also helps you document the donation for your records and for your tax return. And don't give out bank information!
- ✚ Ask what percentage of your donation goes directly to the cause. Legitimate charities will have ready answers because they are used to the question.
- ✚ Get a receipt with the name of the charity on it.
- ✚ Be especially cautious about getting a charity donation request by email. Most legitimate charities don't use email for their solicitations. (Some legitimate charities will email people who have donated before -- but never respond to requests where you've never donated.)
- ✚ Be especially wary about charities that claim to be raising funds for the local police or firefighters. Check with them first!
- ✚ Don't give in to pressure or "guilt trips" about "suggested donations" or 'requested minimum contributions.' Once you've determined that the charity is legitimate and you've decided you want to contribute, simply give what you can and want to give -- it will be appreciated.
- ✚ The best way to avoid charity scams is to decide IN ADVANCE (while you're doing your annual or monthly budget) which charities you'll support and CONTACT THEM. Then you can gracefully turn anyone else down who comes your way with hat in hand.



Join NIXLE, Text your Zipcode to 888777

[www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police](http://www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police)

Twitter@LAPDWestvalley

website: [westvalleypolice.org](http://westvalleypolice.org)

## PREVENTING THEFTS FROM YOUR VEHICLE



## DRUNK DRIVING AND DESIGNATED DRIVERS

Don't become a statistic or a tragic casualty of the holiday party season. Each year too many lives are lost or ruined by driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. If you are going to a holiday event, designate a driver, use public transportation, call a taxi cab, spend the night at a friend or family member's house or hotel, but **please**  
***DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!!!!***

## YOUR SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS

### LAKE BALBOA:

Senior Lead Officer David Ham  
25717@lapd.lacity.org

Office (818) 374-7634  
Cell (818) 731-2551

Senior Lead Officer Steve Olivares  
34728@lapd.lacity.org

Office (818) 374-7635  
Cell (818) 731-2554

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

### RESEDA:

Senior Lead Officer Isela Parra  
34488@lapd.lacity.org

Office (818) 374-7631  
Cell (818) 731-2574



Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Ann Kinzle Community Room located in the West Valley Community Police Station

Join NIXLE, Text your Zipcode to 888777

[www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police](http://www.facebook.com/LAPD.WV.Police)

Twitter@LAPDWestvalley

website: westvalleypolice.org

**TARZANA:**

Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins  
35828@lapd.lacity.org

Office (818) 374-7632  
Cell (818) 731-2573

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

**ENCINO:**

Senior Lead Officer Bruce Oakley  
27238@lapd.lacity.org

Office (818) 374-7636  
Cell (818) 731-2572

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

*Happy holidays and wishes for a very happy and healthy 2015 from all of the West Valley Area family to all of your families.*

*See you in 2015!*



Information in this newsletter was provided by:  
[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)  
[www.scambusters.org](http://www.scambusters.org)  
[www.about.com](http://www.about.com)