



GARDENA, CA



GARDENA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2016

Emergency	911	Detectives	(310) 217-9607
Non-Emergency	(310) 323-7911	Graffiti/Potholes	(310) 217-9650
Police Records	(310) 217-9600	Community Affairs	(310) 965-2321

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MEDRANO: RECAP OF 2016



As the year comes to a close, I am proud to reflect on all of the accomplishments and new program initiatives the Gardena Police Department has successfully implemented this year. 2016 was a busy year for law enforcement, but with our community's support Gardena continues to flourish.

Among our many accomplishments this year, the Department successfully outfitted our entire police force with Body Worn Cameras. Now with the help of body cameras police are able to increase transparency with the community, reduce the number of complaints, and improve criminal prosecutions. This year alone the Department has already seen a reduction in sustained complaints and resolution of community questions through reviewing camera footage.

In addition, we are extremely proud of our growing Juvenile Justice and Intervention Center (GJJIP). Over the last year and a half the Program has skyrocketed and become a staple in the Gardena community. As the Program continues to grow, case workers have now quadrupled their caseloads working with Gardena's youth. GJJIP has also partnered with Gardena High School teaching Life Skills classes designed to empower students to make better decisions and plan for a productive future. Gardena High School has recognized the benefits provided by GJJIP, and looks forward to new life classes in the future including an after school life fitness class that would provide another outlet for youth to develop positive life skills. We are excited to see the continued success of this program and growing partnerships with the Gardena community.

As the holiday season fast approaches, the Gardena Police Department would like to wish you and your family a safe and pleasant holiday season. If you have any questions or would like to share your comments, please feel free to email me at: chief@gardenapd.org, or by calling (310) 217-9601. We look forward to continuing to serve our community in the 2017 New Year!





Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Facts

Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.
Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Facts

One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.

A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.

Submitted by:

Char Lynch

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Chief of Police Citizen Advisory Panel (COPCAP)

Information gathered from:

NFPA Public Education Division

OFFICER HIGHLIGHT



Detective Sean Dixon

Detective Dixon has dedicated himself to the Gardena Police

Department for the past 5 ½ years. Growing up with a family who always instilled civil service, he knew that if he had the ability to obtain a career in civil service, he would pursue it. After graduating from High School, he became an Officer for Monterey Park PD and following 7 ½ years, he transferred to Gardena PD, where he has worked a range of assignments including: patrol, district officer (D2), Crime Scene Investigation, and Honor Guard. During the past 1 ½ years, he has been a part of the Special Enforcement Unit, as the Detective for the Gardena Hawthorne Mental Evaluation Team. Detective Dixon enjoys working for the Gardena Police Department because of the way it is managed and its great leadership. He also enjoys serving the community of Gardena because of its cultural diversity.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHT



Mary Koch
District 2 Serra HS Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

that they may not be aware of. I encourage everyone in all districts to get to know their city by coming to, or starting their own NW meetings. Help our awesome police force in making Gardena a safer place to live and work. You are all welcome to visit my NW meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Serra HS 7:00 pm.

WHAT CAUSED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

A friend of mine had been to several NM meetings and she convinced me that we should start our own. So with the help of Lt. Rickerl and mentoring by Char Lynch, NW coordinator at the time, we started our own NW meetings in 2013. I was able to get Chapman Elementary School to commit their auditorium for our meetings. We wanted a small area of our local neighborhood to get involved. Our NW group has expanded over the years and our meetings are now held at Serra HS to accommodate a larger area of District 2. NW has enabled me to get more involved with the community, has helped me gain knowledge of the city and how it is run. We try to get our NW members interested in all the activities and events that are available to them

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM?

One of the things I enjoy most about the NW program is the participation in events throughout Gardena. Most of these events are annual. It is a great way to meet new people. We are able to give out information about the city and it is a way for us to get more attendance at our meetings. Another reason I am part of this organization is that at meetings, neighbors of all ages can come and ask Lieutenants questions and voice their concerns. It is also a way to meet the officers who are out everyday protecting our wonderful city. Crime affects all of us and I for one like to know the who, what, and where these things are going on. This is addressed at the meetings each month. Lastly, each month I am able to get speakers to come. These range from City of Gardena employees, to emergency preparedness, to Zika outbreaks! There is so much to learn, in and about Gardena!

MEET OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS!



Left to Right: Captain Kang, Lt. Fox (D2), Lt. Prendergast (D1), Mark Clayson (D1), Virginia Burgos (D3), Renee' Anderson (D1), Jessie Carrara (D3), Annie Roddy (D3), Mary Koch (D2), Char Lynch (D2), Brenda Jackson (D1), Abigail Quiroz (Comm. Affairs), Lt. Lee (D3)

Not Pictured: Wilhelmina Bradley (D1), Shiela Doerschel (D2), Shawn Groveunder (D2), Kathy Haynes (D1), Jules Kanhhan (D1), Beverly Melville (D2), Diane Morita (D2), Mina Semenza (D3), Chris Vlahos (D3)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS

District One

Holly Park HOA
Rowley Park Community Room
- 13220 S. Van Ness Ave)
**1st Thursday of every
month @ 7 PM.**

Wilkie NW Group
Ms. Kathy Haynes' home -
13816 Wilkie Ave
**2nd Tuesday of every
month @ 7 PM**

NE Quadrant NW
Community Room of GTran
Municipal Trans. Facility –
13999 S Western Ave
**Last Tuesday of every
month @ 6:30 PM**

**Casimir Gate Keepers Block
Watch**
Meets Quarterly, Contact
District Lt for upcoming dates

Hass Ave Block Watch
13123 Haas Ave
**Contact District Lt for up-
coming dates**

District Two

Junipero Serra High School
14830 S. Van Ness
**2nd Thursday of every month
@ 7:00 PM**

CrossRoad NW
Crossroad Church – 15916 Crenshaw
Blvd
**Last Monday, monthly @
7:00 PM**

Doerschel Residence
1319 W 147th Street
**3rd Thursday of every other odd
month @ 7:00 PM**

Melville NW
2718 W. 143rd Place
**Contact District Lt for upcoming
dates**

District Three

Area One
Gardena Juvenile Justice Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
**3rd Thursday of every even
Month @ 7:00 PM**

Area Two
Arthur Johnson Park
1200 W. 170th Street
**4th Tuesday of every even
month @ 7:00 PM**

Area Three
Gardena Juvenile Justice Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
**3rd Thursday of every odd
month @ 7:00 PM**

Area Four
Gardena Juvenile Justice Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
**4th Thursday of every odd
month @ 7:00 PM**

Garden West Mobile Estates
17700 S. Western Ave
**2nd Wednesday of every even
month @ 7:00PM**



Porch Pirating Prevention Tips

As many of us took advantage of Black Friday and Cyber Monday to shop for our family and friends for the holiday season, we are expecting lots of package deliveries.

Sadly, we experience a rise in “porch pirating” during the holiday season. Thieves tend to follow delivery trucks, watching for prime targets. Thieves can take your packages as soon as they have been delivered.

To help minimize the chances of becoming a victim of porch pirating, follow these simple tips:

1. If you will not be home during delivery time, have them delivered to a trusted person, such as a family member or neighbor.
2. Ask neighbors who are home during the day to watch for deliveries and pick up the package from your porch or doorstep and keep it until you get home.
3. At checkout, if provided with an option to choose delivery time, schedule a delivery time in which someone will be home to accept the package.
4. When ordering from a large retailer that is close to home, pick store pick-up, rather than delivery.
5. Sign up for delivery alerts so that you can be notified as soon as the package has been delivered.
6. Request for the delivery company to hold your package at their closest pick-up facility until you're able to pick it up.
7. Ask the shipper to require a signature confirmation upon delivery. If you are not home upon delivery, a note will be placed on your door with the next delivery date or pick-up location.
8. Provide delivery instructions so packages are left out of sight from the street.
9. Show off your home security system; make sure you have a sign in the front yard. If you have security cameras, make sure potential thieves know they're there.

Happy Holidays!



CRIME UPDATE

The following map represents the crime that we had in Gardena for the month of November. The tables list the amount of crimes we have had in the past two months. To find more up-to-date crime stats, please go to www.gardenapd.org.

Oct. '16

Robbery	8
Res. Burglary	18
Comm. Burglary	31
Vehicle Crimes	59
Assaults	18

Nov. '16

Robbery	14
Res. Burglary	10
Comm. Burglary	11
Vehicle Crimes	51
Assaults	16





Text 'Gardena' to 888777
for updates from GPD about road
closures, events, crimes, and
more.

Follow us on Social Media!

Visit us on the web at:
www.gardenapd.org



@GPDCHIEF



@GARRDENAPD

Gardena Police

Department



@GARDENAPOLICE

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

If you are not on our E-mailing list, please email
aquiroz@gardenapd.org and request to be added.

CONTRIBUTE

If you would like to add crime prevention tips or articles to our
next newsletter, please email them to aquiroz@gardenapd.org



The SHOP WITH A COP Program matches local Police Officers
with underprivileged children to shop for Christmas gifts. Not
only does it build a positive relationship between the child and
the officer, it shows a true giving spirit to those who are in need.

Sunday, December 18th, 2016

7:00 AM



2169 W Redondo Beach Blvd

Gardena, CA 90247

UPCOMING EVENTS



2016 Santa Float Schedule

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

6:00pm-6:45pm
Rowley Park

7:00pm-7:45pm
129th St & Purche Ave

Saturday, December 10, 2016

6:00pm-6:45pm
133rd St & Berendo Ave

7:00pm-7:45pm
14000 Block of Budlong Ave

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

6:00pm-6:45pm
Thornburg Park

7:00pm-7:45pm
Freeman Park

Saturday, December 17, 2016

6:00pm-6:30pm
Sam's Club

6:45pm-7:15pm
180th St and Evelyn
(Northside Gardena Valley Church)

7:30pm-8:00pm
182nd St and Budlong Ave

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

6:00pm-6:45pm
Mas Fukai Park

7:00pm-7:45pm
South Park

Thursday, December 22, 2016

6:00pm-6:45pm
Bell Park

7:00pm-7:45pm
Amestoy Elementary

Gardena Police Department

The men and women of the Gardena Police
Department wish you and your family a safe
and happy holiday season!



*Happy
Holidays*

WELCOME FOLDERS FOR NEW RESIDENTS!

A new outreach method the Gardena Police Department has creat-
ed is the Welcome Folders for our new residents. These folders
include a welcome letter from Chief Medrano, information regard-
ing Neighborhood Watch, and a variety of City and Police re-
sources.

If you are a new resident or know someone who recently moved
into your neighborhood, please email aquiroz@gardenapd.org with
the new resident's name and address!



Gardena Police Department

1718 West 162nd Street

Gardena, CA 90247

