



GARDENA, CA

GARDENA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 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: GPD COMMUNITY FORUM



The Gardena Police Department introduced the Gardena Neighborhood Watch Newsletter six months ago with the purpose of providing crime updates, City events, and safety tips in an effort to increase information sharing between the police, residents, and Watch Groups. I would like to thank all of those who have contribut-

ed articles and topics, as well as those who have provided feedback from past publications. I would like to continue to encourage our community members to contribute to the newsletter by providing feedback or suggestions on articles or topics you'd like to see added. If you are interested in submitting an article to be published in the next addition of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, please contact our Community Affairs Coordinator, Abigail Quiroz at: abigail.who@gardenapd.org.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite residents to our Annual Gardena Police Department Community Forum being held on Thursday, February 16th, beginning at 7PM at the Nakaoka Community Center. During the Forum, we will discuss various topics including our Gardena/Hawthorne Mental

Evaluation Team (GHMET) and Gardena Juvenile Justice and Intervention Program (GJJIP), as well as the pros and cons of body worn cameras, factors contributing to increasing crime rates, accomplishments, and goals for 2017.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet your District Lieutenants, Captains, and Chief, as well as ask any questions you may have.

We hope to see you at our 2017 Gardena Police Department Community Forum. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to email me at: chief@gardenapd.org, or by calling (310) 217-9601.

GARDENA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY FORUM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

7:00 – 8:30 PM

NAKAOKA COMMUNITY CENTER
1670 W 162ND STREET, GARDENA

TOPICS TO INCLUDE:

- STATE OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN GARDENA
- NEW PROGRAMS AND TRENDS
- WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2017



The Office of the City Clerk



The City Clerk's Office is the hub of City Hall – providing access to public records and processing public inquiries.

The Gardena City Clerk is an elected official who ensures transparency to the public by administering democratic processes such as elections and access to city records and all legislative actions. The City Clerk acts as a compliance officer for the federal, state, and local statutes including the Political Reform Act, the Brown Act, and the Public Records Act.

The City Clerk's Office prepares all City Council meetings, as well as records and transcribes the minutes. The office certifies the true and correct nature of all documents, which may be used in court or State proceedings, and also administers oaths to newly-elected and appointed officials and employees.

As keeper of the City's official records, the office maintains archives of the City's legislative history, meeting minutes, ordinances, and active records in original form and on electronic media through a centralized record management program. The City Clerk is the elections official and conducts municipal elections, retains the City's seal, accepts summons and subpoenas, conducts bid openings, and also maintains and updates the municipal code.

Council Meeting Agendas, packets, and minutes are posted on the City's website. To reach the City Clerk's office, please call (310) 217-9565.

Mina Semenza, City Clerk

<http://www.cityofgardena.org/city-clerk/>

AWESOME JOB GPD EXPLORERS!



The Gardena Explorers placed :

- 1st Place Bungee Challenge
- 1st place Down Officer Rescue
- 1st place 5 man Hostage Rescue
- 1st Place Marijuana Field Raid
- 2nd place Tactical EMS
- 2nd place SWAT Fitness Challenge
- 2nd place Obstacle Challenge -Male
- 2nd place team 3 mile run
- 3rd place 5 man TK4 pull
- 3rd place Hogan's Alley
- 3rd place Obstacle Challenge - female
- 4th place 10man TK4 pull

In mid-January, 28 Gardena Police Department Explorers participated in the 19th annual Chandler Tactical Police Explorer Competition in Chandler, Arizona. The competition hosted 59 police departments from all over the nation, offering over 25 competitive events.

Awesome Job!

For more information on the GPD Explorer Program, please call us at (310) 217-9670 and ask for an Explorer Advisor.

OFFICER HIGHLIGHT



Officer Evans

Officer Evans has dedicated herself to the Gardena Police Department for the past 27 years. Growing up with her father in the military, her life from an early age was surrounded by

military police, which she found exciting. As she grew up, she became hesitant to pursue a career in law enforcement and therefore never involved herself in police youth groups like the Explorers. After time, Officer Evans realized that she did not want to lose the opportunity to serve others and decided to become an officer for the Gardena Police Department. During her tenure with GPD, she has worked a range of assignments including patrol, bike patrol, recruitment team, and South Bay Platoon. Officer Evans enjoys being a female officer because she finds people to be more accepting and less threatened during service calls, making it easier to have open dialogue with the people she encounters. She also appreciates working for GPD because of the integrity of services provided by the Department and the support shown by the command staff and her peers. After 27 years, Officer Evans is still enthusiastic about the job and wakes up every day wanting to be here.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHT



Char Lynch

Former District 2 Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

WHAT CAUSED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

After advising numerous residents on who to contact in the city regarding various issues, I continued to find that nothing would get done. At times, the residents would even ask me to report things for them. I thought that maybe what we needed was our own neighborhood watch program and so I conducted a survey of the neighbors that I knew. The result of the survey was overwhelming – “Yes, they would love to have and attend NW meetings”.

It was then that I started working with Lt. Rickerl, now retired. We set-up monthly meetings at my home, and after a slow start, we soon had a consistent average of 25- 30 people in attendance. Where did they all sit? We found a place! It was from this initial starting point that the “Purche” NW evolved into something way beyond my expectations.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM?

I thoroughly enjoyed my residents who attended the meetings, many of whom have remained great friends of mine. The residents became proactive, they got to know each other and became friends. It was always fun to see them walking to the meeting. Besides our monthly meetings we often had backyard pot-lucks that were so much fun.

I think through our meetings we definitely dispelled the idea or thought that just “little old ladies” watched the neighborhood!

Being a NW Coordinator really became my passion for 9+ years. And it led me to so many other avenues to get to know the City, its employees and participate in many different volunteer groups.

My previous career was one of helping people, being a teacher to many and that is exactly what I set out to do with the Purche NW - “Help and spoon-feed” whoever was in need.

I would like to thank the Gardena Police Department and the residents for making the Purche NW a success!!

HAPPY RETIREMENT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR VIRGINIA BURGOS!



Virginia Burgos came to the Gardena Police Department in December of 1998, after graduating from Volunteer Academy #3. Within three years, Virginia was nominated as Volunteer of the Year at the 2001 Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Due to her hard work and dedication to the Volunteer Program, Virginia was hired September 1 2001, as the Volunteer Coordinator. In August 2009, Virginia

was awarded the part-time Employee of the Year. Over the past 15 years, Virginia has contributed thousands of hours to the Police Department and City. She has worked every Martin Luther King Parade, Cinco de Mayo parade, 5k run, and 4th of July fireworks at Rowley Park. As an example of her countless hours contributing to the Department, she has scanned over 1 million documents to date and counting! She began working DUI checkpoints in 2006, and has ever since her recent retirement. Virginia has coordinated 15 Volunteer Academy's, graduating 106 volunteers throughout the years. When asked what the highlight of her time at GPD was, she said it was when she had the opportunity to work with her family, who were also graduates of the Volunteer Program. Virginia has been an invaluable resource to our Department and the City of Gardena. She was a real presence within the Police Department and will be greatly missed. We are so happy for her retirement and wish her nothing but the best!

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 Mu-
nicipal 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

Haas Ave Block Watch 13123
Haas Ave
Contact District Lt for upcom-
ing 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 and Four
Gardena Juvenile Justice
Center
16206 Western Ave Suite F
4th Thursday of every odd
month @ 7:00 PM

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

Deterring Feral Cats and Coyotes from Our City

As some of our neighboring cities experience coyote sightings and a rise in feral cats, we would like to remind our residents that it is a violation of our municipal code to feed wildlife. Below are a few preventative measures that can also help deter wildlife from our City.

- Avoid feeding pets outside. If you must, clean and remove food bowls as soon as your pet has finished its meal.
- Do not leave pet water bowls outside.
- If you compost, use enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps.
- Clean up spilled bird seeds around feeders and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Do not use trash bags as garbage containers.
- Keep trash bins covered with lids.
- Place your trash bins curbside the morning of collection.



CRIME UPDATE

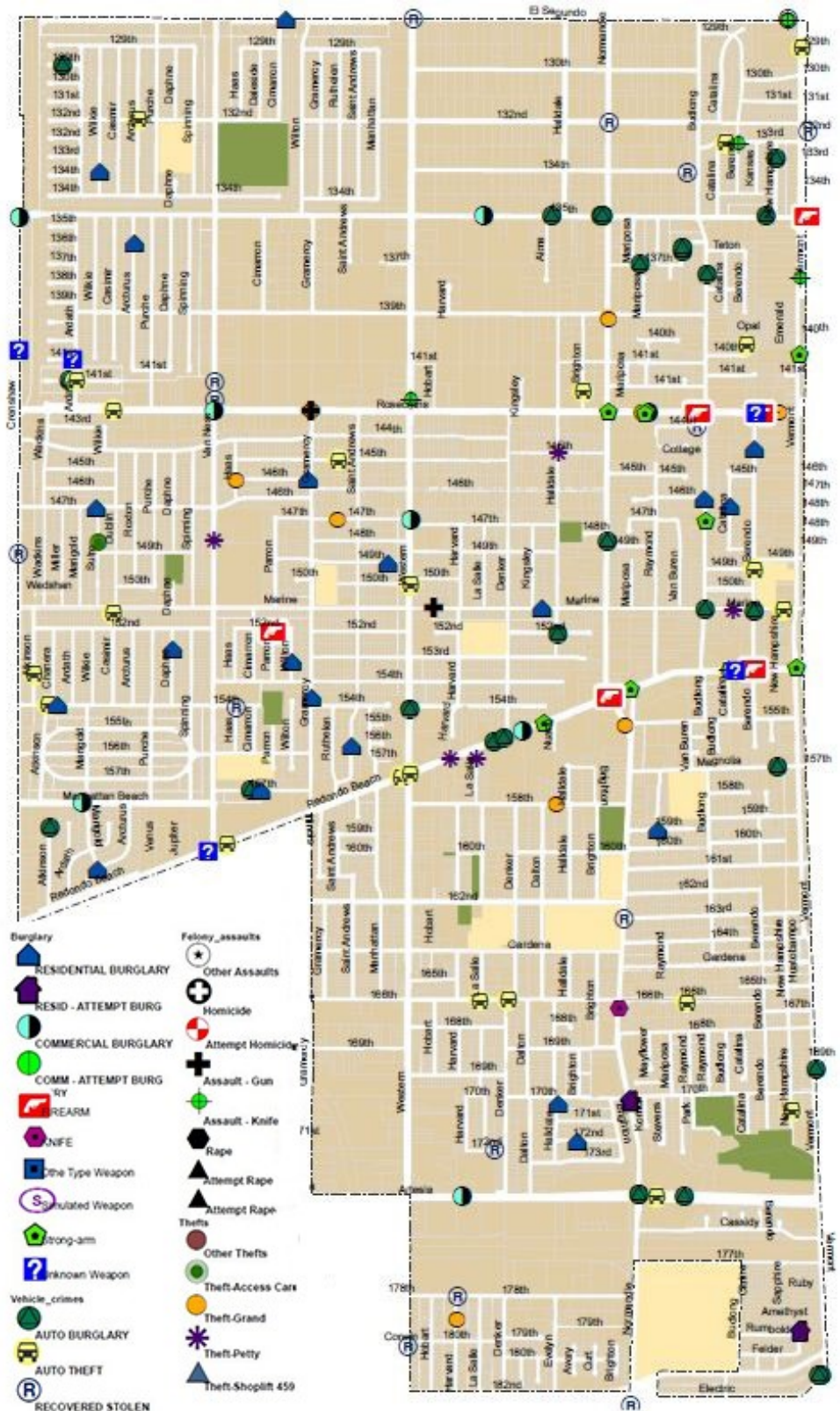
The following map represents the crime that we had in Gardena for the month of January. The tables list the amount of crimes we have had in the past two months. To find more up-to-date crime stats, please go to www.gardenapd.org.

Dec. '16

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Robbery | 21 |
| Res. Burglary | 33 |
| Comm. Burglary | 11 |
| Vehicle Crimes | 76 |
| Assaults | 10 |

Jan. '17

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Robbery | 21 |
| Res. Burglary | 22 |
| Comm. Burglary | 9 |
| Vehicle Crimes | 58 |
| Assaults | 13 |





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

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

Household Hazardous Waste
and E-Waste Roundup

Saturday, February 18, 2017
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Arthur Johnson Park
1200 W. 170th Street
Gardena

Open to all Los Angeles County residents

Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste the right way on Saturday: **FEBRUARY 18, 2017**

BUSINESS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

What you CAN bring to an event (examples):

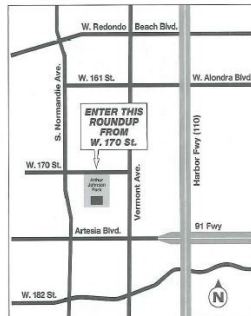
- Brake fluid, paint*, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- * You can also recycle paint at participating retailers through the PaintCare Program. Details at www.PaintCare.org or (855) 724-6809.
- Household electronic waste including: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cell phones, etc.

What you CAN'T bring to an event:

- Waste from businesses.
- Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
- Trash and tires.
- White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.
- Controlled substances.

How to prepare items for transportation:

- Bring the items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Do not mix the items together.
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.
- Be prepared to leave your containers and boxes. Remove all other items from your trunk.



Brought to you by the County of Los Angeles and presented by the Department of Public Works and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County in cooperation with the cities of Carson, Compton, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lynwood, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.

Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles SHOULD NOT be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundups or visit www.CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

You can also take your used motor oil to more than 600 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(888) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.

Printed on recycled paper.

Scan this code for a schedule of upcoming events and a complete listing of what you can and cannot bring, or contact: 1(888) CLEAN-LA • www.CleanLA.com, or 1(800) 238-0172 • www.lacsd.org.



Matthew's Southern Dining
HOME STYLE COOKING

**2222 W Rosecrans Ave
February 22, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 pm**

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND POLICE OFFICERS FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION!

No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood!

For questions please contact Abigail Quiroz at (310) 965-2321



**GARDENA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



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

WELCOME FOLDERS FOR NEW RESIDENTS!

A new outreach method the Gardena Police Department has created is the Welcome Folders for our new residents. These folders include a welcome letter from Chief Medrano, information regarding Neighborhood Watch, and a variety of City and Police resources.

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