



Gardena, CA



# Gardena Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2018

---

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

---



**Gardena Direct** is an App which is free to the public and provides the community an easy way to receive updates about what's happening in Gardena, submit requests for service (graffiti, potholes, illegal dumping, etc.), and track their requests.

**To submit a report:**

On the Web: [http://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client\\_id=1000006](http://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000006)

**OR** Download the app on the Google Play Store or Apple Store App—  
Search for "Gardena Direct"

---

## Message from Chief Medrano: Detective Bureau



The Gardena Police Department's Detective Bureau is the primary investigatory unit of the Gardena Police Department. The Bureau is a full-service investigatory unit whose primary role is to conduct follow up investigations of reported crimes that occur in the City of Gardena. Detectives handle a wide variety of cases ranging from petty theft to homicide. Currently, the Detective Bureau consists of nine detectives who are supported by six civilian employees including a crime analysis technician, a police service officer, a community outreach coordinator, and three police assistants. The detectives are assigned to three teams: Crimes Against Persons, Property Crimes, and Sex/Juvenile Crimes. Within the teams, each detective has an area of expertise including Robbery/Homicide, Burglary, Auto Theft, and Financial Crimes. The Bureau handles approximately 4000 cases per year.

Our highly trained detectives work hand-in-hand with the uni-

formed patrol officers who respond to calls for service and conduct preliminary investigations. The reports are the beginning of a chain of events that may ultimately lead to prosecution in the criminal courts or as evidence in civil proceedings. Once a police report is filed, the report is routed through our Records Department. The reports are then routed to the Detective Bureau Sergeant who evaluates the reports and then assigns the case to an individual detective.

If the case involves a suspect who is in custody, the Detective has 72 hours to conduct interviews, contact witnesses and write their follow up reports to file a case with the District Attorney's Office. Once a criminal complaint is secured, the case stays with the Detective until its completion. During this time, the Detective may coordinate with other law enforcement agencies who have experienced similar crimes or have similar suspects. Gardena Police Detectives are also responsible for writing and serving search warrants as well as the ongoing training of patrol personnel.

Although the job of the detective often times keeps them in the background, the quality of their follow-up work is what stays in the front of our citizens minds when they think about our Police Department. It is that reason that our detectives are encouraged to provide the best investigative policing services in the South Bay.

If you have any questions or would like to share your comments, please feel free to email me at: [chief@gardenapd.org](mailto:chief@gardenapd.org), or by calling (310) 217-9601.

*Happy  
New Year  
-2018-*

## Garage and Shed Burglary Prevention Tips

One very common form of home burglary is from open garage doors or garage doors that are accessed using a stolen garage door opener. Always keep your garage door closed, even if you are only away from the garage for a few minutes.

The following are measures that can be taken to protect your garage and shed:

- Use a good lock on ALL shed and garage doors.
- Lock windows and use window blinds/covers - don't do thieves any favors by enabling them to see when your vehicle is gone or the valuables that are stored inside.
- Mark all property, including lawnmowers, generators, bikes, snow blowers, saws, leaf blowers, weed eaters, power tools etc. with your driver's license number and state abbreviation.
- Secure items such as lawnmowers, generators, snow blowers and bicycles to fixed objects using a good chain/cable and pad lock.
- Don't leave the garage remote attached to the visor in your vehicle. Either lock the remote in a secure place such as the glove box or invest in a remote you can attach to your key ring.
- Keep a written copy of ALL serial numbers of property stored in sheds & garages.
- The door leading from the garage to the house should be a solid wood/metal door and have a good quality deadbolt lock. This door should be kept locked when not at home or working in the back yard.
- Install motion sensor lights on sheds and garages.
- Keep bushes/trees around garage and sheds pruned to improve natural surveillance.



See Something, Say Something

(310) 323-7911



## LICENSE YOUR DOGS

### WHY?

It is important to license your dogs in order to prevent the spread of rabies or other disease outbreaks in our City. Having a license can also help to return lost pets to their owners quickly. Most importantly, it is state law to license our furry ones.

### HOW?

Animal licenses may be purchased by completing a license application form and mailing it with payment, proof of rabies vaccination, and proof of sterilization to the address on the application. For more information, please call Pet Licensing Services at (310) 523-9566 or go on our website at [cityofgardena.org](http://cityofgardena.org).

### COST:

Fee	Unaltered	Spayed or Neutered
Regular	\$60.00	\$20.00
Discounted	N/A	\$7.50

\*Discounted license fees are available for senior citizens (age 60 or older) and disabled military veterans. Seniors must submit proof of age (official government-issued identification).



**Canvassing will begin in March 2018!**

**Failure to obtain a license may result in a fine/penalty**





## Gardena PD Santa Float

Thank you to everyone who joined us as the Gardena Police Department Santa Float completed his journey through the City. However, without the support from community members and businesses who donated toys, our annual Gardena PD Santa Float wouldn't have been such a success! THANK YOU!

Nissin Foods  
MPA Toys  
JC Penney (Torrance)  
SCORE  
Dollar Tree (Lawndale)

X Cel Mechanical Systems  
156<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School  
South Bay Maintenance  
Crystal Bailey & Ashely Bailey  
First Bank



Thanks XCel!!



Thanks First Bank!



Thanks Nissin Foods!



Thanks 156th Street Elementary School!!



Thanks MPA Toys!!



Thanks SCORE!



Thanks JC Penney (Torrance)!!



Thanks Crystal & Ashely Bailey!



Thanks South Bay Maintenance!



## Officer Highlight



### Police Service Officer Christian Ovando

Police Service Officer Christian Ovando has dedicated himself to the Gardena Police Department for the past

eleven years. He attended Peary Middle School and Gardena High School. After graduating high school, he became a mechanic. A short time later, he realized that he wanted to take a different career route. That's when he decided to apply for Gardena Police Department and was hired as a Police Assistant for the Detective Bureau. Ten years later, his hard work paid off and became a Police Service Officer. His role as the Police Service Officer is to provide evidence to the District Attorneys pertaining to any case filed by GPD Detectives. He also spends some of his time out on the field with Detectives, obtaining video footage from residences and businesses to use as evidence. He is also in charge of the City-Wide Camera System, making sure that it is operating properly at all times. Detectives come to Christian Ovando for any assistance related to Technical Support. He enjoys working for Gardena PD because of the family atmosphere within the Detective Bureau.

## Neighborhood Watch Meetings

### District One

**Lt. Prendergast (310) 217-9686**

**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 upcoming dates**

### District Two

**Lt. Brock (310) 217-6128**

**Junipero Serra High School**  
14830 S. Van Ness  
**2nd Thursday of every month @ 6:30 PM**

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

**Amestoy Elementary**  
1040 W 149th St  
**3rd Thursday of every month @ 7:00 PM**

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

### District Three

**Lt. Lee (310) 217-9612**

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





## Crime Update

The following map represents the crime that we had in Gardena for the month of December. 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](http://www.gardenapd.org).

### Nov. '17

Robbery	15
Res. Burglary	16
Comm. Burglary	9
Vehicle Crimes	44
Assaults	14

### Dec. '17

Robbery	17
Res. Burglary	16
Comm. Burglary	8
Vehicle Crimes	51
Assaults	21





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](http://www.gardenapd.org)



@GPDCHIEF

@GARDENAPD



Gardena Police

Department



@GARDENAPOLICE

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**JOIN GARDENA'S  
HOMELESS COUNT**  
on Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
from 8-11 pm

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### *Why do we do the Count?*

To get the official statistics of what homelessness looks like in our community. These are then used to bring needed services and housing to the South Bay.

#### *Why is it conducted every year?*

To see the trends and understand the progress we are making in ending homelessness.

#### *How will I know what to do that night?*

You will be fully trained and provided with the materials you'll need.

#### *How old do I have to be?*

All volunteers need to be at least 18 years old to participate in this activity.

#### *How long will it take?*

About 3 hours or less.

at 16206 S. Western Avenue  
Ste. E, Gardena  
(corner of Western Avenue and 162<sup>nd</sup> St,  
right next to the Police Department)

Go on the following link to sign up:  
[www.theycountwillyou.org/gardena18](http://www.theycountwillyou.org/gardena18)

### How It Works

- Come at this location at 8:00 pm for a brief training overview
- While working in teams of 2-3, you'll be assigned a census tract that you'll drive, looking for persons experiencing homelessness
- You will just be tallying how many people you see – keeping a respectful distance from them
- When your team has finished, you'll return to this deployment site to turn in your results

### Questions?

Please contact  
Det. Sean Dixon, [sdixon@gardenapd.org](mailto:sdixon@gardenapd.org)



Contact Detective Sean Dixon at  
[sdixon@gardenapd.org](mailto:sdixon@gardenapd.org) or (310) 217 -9670

## CONTRIBUTE

If you would like to add crime prevention tips or articles to our next newsletter, please email them to [aquiroz@gardenapd.org](mailto:aquiroz@gardenapd.org).

## E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

If you are not on our E-mailing list, please email [aquiroz@gardenapd.org](mailto:aquiroz@gardenapd.org) and request to be added.

## 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](mailto:aquiroz@gardenapd.org) with the new resident's name and address!



Gardena Police Department

1718 West 162nd Street

Gardena, CA 90247

