



GARDENA, CA

## GARDENA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2017

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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

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**Gardena Direct** is an App which is free to the public and provides the community an easy way to receive updates about whats 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”

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### MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MEDRANO: CITIZENS ACADEMY



I am pleased to announce our new Citizens Academy Program! This Program was created in an effort to continue our community/police partnership by providing outreach, education, and positive police interactions with community members. The Citizens Academy Program will allow community members to “walk in the shoes of an officer” and experience hands-on exercises related to the duties, services, and responsibilities of policing. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with officers from various details within the department.

Through the Citizens Academy Program, the community will gain a better understanding of a police departments operations and procedures. In return, our Department will receive valuable input from participants regarding the community and their policing needs.

Classes will be conducted (4) four times a year with up to 20 participants in each class. This Program will be open to all Gardena residents, people that work in Gardena, and anyone else affiliated with the City. Each class will be an 8-hour course and held on Saturdays. Upon graduation of the course, participants will have participated in police trainings including basic patrol operations and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.

For more information regarding our upcoming Citizens Academy, please contact Lt. Osorio at: (310) 217-6188, or, by email at: [vosorio@gardenapd.org](mailto:vosorio@gardenapd.org).

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interested in becoming a Gardena Police Officer to apply today! Applications are due to the City no later than March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have an upcoming Entry Level test, and all interested persons can find the requirements and applications at the City of Gardena Human Resource Department, or online at [www.gardenapd.org](http://www.gardenapd.org).



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME®**



Each year, the Red Cross responds to nearly 66,000 disasters, the vast majority of which are home fires.

**On average:**

**7 people** die every day from a home fire

**36 people** suffer injuries as a result of home fires every day

Over **\$7 billion** in property damage occurs every year

**Prepare SoCal Information**

We're in this together, Southern California, so:

Get A Kit

Make A Plan

Be Informed

**Get a Kit:** At minimum, the American Red Cross recommends that you have the following items in your emergency preparedness kit:

**Water:** One gallon per person, per day. A three-day supply is recommended for evacuation. A two-week supply is recommended if you stay in your home. Also, don't forget to provide for your pets.

**Non-perishable food:** Easy to open and **prepared** food items are preferable. A three-day supply is recommended for evacuation. A two-week supply is recommended if you stay in your home. And, don't forget to provide for your pets.

For a complete list of emergency supplies, visit [www.PrepareSoCal.org](http://www.PrepareSoCal.org). To purchase an official Red Cross emergency preparedness kit, visit the [RedCrossStore.org](http://RedCrossStore.org).

**Make a Plan:** Families can and do cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Create a family disaster plan including an evacuation plan and a communication plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility. Meet with your family and discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather, and earthquakes to children and explain what to do in each case. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

Pick two places to meet:

Right outside your home, in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.

Outside your neighborhood, in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.

Families should develop different methods for communicating during emergency situations, and share their plans, beforehand, with all those who would be worried about their welfare.

**Be Informed:** Visit [PrepareSoCal.org](http://PrepareSoCal.org), a website created by the American Red Cross that has step-by-step guides on how to get ready for disasters, including earthquakes, fires, tsunamis, and mudslides, as well as links to disaster preparedness classes in your area to learn more. Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels. Know the difference between different weather alerts, such as watches and warnings and what actions to take in each. When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR, and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations. Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed.

Submitted by:

**Chris Vlahos**

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

Information gathered from:

[www.PrepareSoCal.org](http://www.PrepareSoCal.org)

## OFFICER HIGHLIGHT



**Officer Colon**

Officer Colon has dedicated herself to the Gardena Police Department for the past 12 years. Growing up, she always knew she wanted to pursue a career in Law Enforcement. She began her career in Law Enforcement by enlisting in the Marine Core, where she served for 10 years. She then became a police officer with the Gardena Police Department and joined the Army Reserves. Officer Colon has provided military service for the past 21 years. During her time as a military police officer with the Army Reserves and Gardena Police Department, she has been deployed a total of three times to countries including Cuba and Iraq. She recently returned from her last deployment in Kuwait, from January 2016 to February 2017. She was a past recipient of the YWCA Outstanding Woman Award. She enjoys working for GPD because of the family environment.

## YOU MAY BE HIDDEN FROM YOUR CUSTOMERS

One of our Gardena residents recently recalled a frustrating experience she had with trying to locate a business that sold the exact item she was hoping to purchase as a birthday present for a close friend. She mentioned how she had driven a city block for fifteen minutes to find the business, and finally gave up. She kept asking herself, "Why isn't there an address on the front of any of the buildings in this block?" This short scenario is a classic example of what can happen when a potential customer or visitor cannot locate your business because there is no address on the front or the rear of your building.

Without approved address identification, the owner of the building or business is at a definite disadvantage in an Emergency Response (ER) situation. Every second counts in an emergency. If an ER vehicle has to search for an address that is not on your building, it could mean the difference in saving your building from destruction by fire or other catastrophic event, or worse, that saving a human life may be at stake.

In Gardena, all buildings are required to have an approved address identification that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. City code requires that each address number shall be Arabic numerals or alphabetical letters and a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of ½ inch.

For houses, buildings, and structures which have access to an alley, the address numbers must be placed upon or immediately above the center of the garage door, gate, fence, door or wall to the rear of the property so it is readily visible from the alleyway.

If your building or business does not have an approved address identification that is visible from the street or road fronting the property, you may not only be losing business, but you may also be hindering Emergency Response operations, placing your building in a very unsafe situation. If you see any homes or businesses who are not displaying an address identification or it is not visible, please report it on our Gardena Direct app.

One of Code Enforcement's goals is to ensure that all properties display their address. Please assist us by placing your address on your building. If you have questions, please contact **Code Enforcement (310) 217-6171**.

For more details about **address identification**, please refer to the *2013 Building and Fire Code, Sections 501.2 and 505* respectively. For **alley address identification**, refer to *Section 18.42.180 of the Gardena Municipal Code*.





## GPD VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteers assist in events such as the Community Forum, Pancake Breakfast, Gardena Police Foundation Golf Tournament, DUI Checkpoints, & City Parades. They also go out on community patrol, perform internal filing, data entry, scanning, temporary childcare, pass out flyers for NW meetings, report graffiti, and remove illegal signage.

For more information about our Volunteer Program, please contact Abigail Quiroz at [aquiroz@gardenapd.org](mailto:aquiroz@gardenapd.org), or Lt. Fox at [tfox@gardenapd.org](mailto:tfox@gardenapd.org).

## 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. Fox (310) 217-9651**

#### **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 147<sup>th</sup> Street  
**3rd Thursday of every other odd  
month @ 7:00 PM**

#### **Melville NW**

2718 W. 143<sup>rd</sup> 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. 170<sup>th</sup> 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**



## Preventing a Home Invasion Robbery or a Home Burglary

- Install solid core doors, heavy-duty locks, and window security devices.
- Keep your doors, windows, and garages locked at all times.
- Use extended length screws to secure strike plates and hinges.
- Use the door peephole before opening the door.
- Keep lights on around the exterior of your home to help you see clearly.
- Do not trust a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door.
- Never open the door to strangers or solicitors.
- Call the police if the stranger acts suspicious.
- Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors.
- Have an escape plan in mind for your family. If someone can escape, the invaders will have lost their advantage of privacy and time.
- Train family members on where to go and what to say. This plan should include your children.
- Never stop thinking if you are held captive. Stay calm and take advantage of any opportunities that present themselves.
- Do not fight over property with an intruder. Let them have the property.
- Never follow the intruder from scene, call 911 and get the best description you can get.
- Use your alarm systems & consider a cell call-out system.
- Consider installing an audio/video surveillance.





## CRIME UPDATE

The following map represents the crime that we had in Gardena for the month of February. 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).

### Jan. '17

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

### Feb. '17

Robbery	18
Res. Burglary	14
Comm. Burglary	13
Vehicle Crimes	46
Assaults	12





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



### American Red Cross

March is Red Cross Month  
Be part of an elite group of volunteers! Give blood.



### City of Gardena Blood Drive

Nakaoka Community Center  
1670 W 162nd Street  
Gardena, CA 90247

**Tuesday, March 21, 2017**  
**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

To schedule your appointment please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code Gardena or contact the city at 310-217-9537

Streamline your donation experience and save up to  
15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass)  
to complete your pre-donation reading and health  
history questions on the day of your appointment.



## 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 FOLDER 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