



GARDENA, CA



GARDENA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 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: NEW POLICE STATION



The Gardena Police Station was built in 1963 for a Department size of approximately 39 officers. Today we have upwards of 160 employees, including 99 sworn officers. With our growing work force, the station has outlived its useful life and space to accommodate personnel.

Over the last several years, the Department has made enhancements to the station in an effort to handle the short-term growth; however, we have continued to grow beyond the abilities of our current facility and are looking for the next phase of service in Gardena with a new station to accommodate the needs of the City.

As part of the process to identify an optimal solution for

the police department, the City completed a number of evaluations and preliminary feasibility studies to determine the best option. As a result of the analyses, the City concluded that construction of a new facility would be the most ideal solution. With building a new facility, the design would be customized to Gardena requirements, and effectively improve our efficiency, security, and community needs.

Beginning in 2016, the City of Gardena began making strides forward on the civic center expansion project. In May of 2016, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released to the public, soliciting qualification packages from teams to design, construct, and deliver a turn-key police station and senior community center. The City received a lot of interest from firms, and accepted five exceptional teams to move on to the Request for Proposal (RFP) phase of the project.

Currently, the City has invited these teams to participate in the RFP process, with hopes of eventually selecting one outstanding design-build team to that can give the Gardena community an outstanding police facility and senior center. If you have any questions about the new facilities please feel free to contact me at chief@gardenapd.org.



BEWARE OF SCAMS, CON MEN, AND FRAUDS!

When encountering someone trying to con you they often try to pass themselves off as legitimate city workers, repair persons, IRS agents or handymen. These criminals target their victims in public places, at home, on the telephone, and via internet/e-mail.

Residents should **never let strangers into their homes under any circumstance**, unless they can verify legitimacy. If residents observe any suspicious people or activities they should call law enforcement immediately.

With a surge of identity theft, people are urged to take extra precautions to secure their personal information. Things to keep in mind:

- The IRS will NEVER call you and ask for payment of any kind, simply hang up on those scammers.
- Never give out your Social Security number or credit card info over the phone unless you initiated the call.
- Shred financial documents, including promotional "pre-approved" credit card applications and ATM receipts.
- Do not leave outgoing mail at your mailbox for the postal carrier to pick up.
- When dining out, never leave your signed bill on the table, always take it to the cashier.
- Keep track of all of your bank/credit card statements and credit profile for irregular activity.

Submitted by:

Chris Vlahos

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

SCAMS
TARGET YOU
PROTECT YOURSELF

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS: DOCUMENT PACKAGE

In case of an emergency, it is important to be prepared. By having a personal/family Documents Package readily accessible, you will be prepared in the event disaster strikes. Things to include in your Document's Package include (*certified if possible):

- Drivers license*, Passport, Social Security card*
- Birth Certificate*, Marriage License*
- Insurance (life, home, auto, etc.), Tax returns
- Deed*, mortgage company contact payment information
- Bank information (account number, address, etc.)
- Credit card information (payment address, phone number)
- Family and friends contact information
- Photos of family, home (in and out), auto, and pets
- Copies of any prescriptions for your family

Make sure to store this information in a safe place, such as a bolted safe.

Submitted by:

Mary Koch

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

Information from: FEMA & CERT



OFFICER HIGHLIGHT



Officer Luis Villanueva

For almost 17 years, Officer Villanueva has dedicated himself to the Gardena Police Department. Growing up, he never envisioned a career in law enforcement. He studied and worked as

an architect during the early stages of his career. During his career in architecture, he decided to take a year off and work for a local retailer. Here, he worked for the security department and is when he realized that he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. He became a Cadet at Fullerton PD and worked as a Dispatcher shortly after, eventually becoming a police officer for Fullerton PD. After 6 years, he transferred to Gardena PD where he has worked on a range of assignments including: patrol, Field Training Officer, School Resource Office, and Graffiti Intelligence Officer. For the past 7 years Officer Villanueva has been working as the School Resource Officer and Graffiti Intelligence Officer. Officer Villanueva enjoys working for the Department, especially when he has the opportunity to reach out to kids and families that are in need.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHT



Renee Anderson
District 1 NE Neighborhood
Watch Coordinator

WHAT CAUSED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

My first exposure to a neighborhood watch organization came in 1992 when I was a Tupperware sales person knocking on my neighbor's doors trying to get them to order a container or have a party at their home. One very smart neighbor stated that she wanted to start a neighborhood watch group and suggested that I invite our neighbors to my home to organize the homeowners and sale my Tupperware during the meeting. Because of that initial meeting, I became the President of the Kansas Avenue Neighborhood Watch and a Tupperware Manager. In 1994, we held our first block party. Our group no longer has regular meetings in the home; however, many of my neighbors and still

communicate and they still consider me as their president, coming to me with their concerns.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- 1.) Our current meetings are not as intimate as in the home, but the larger group meetings afford us the opportunity to meet others beyond our block.
- 2.) We find that other residents in our city have some of the same concerns about our community.
- 3.) We often find that some citizens who do not attend neighborhood meetings have a false sense of security, thinking they are safe, but they really do not know if that's true or not. The citizens that attend the meetings get a first hand crime report from the GPD District Lieutenant. We know what is happening in our community.
- 4.) We learn about the tools, equipment, and techniques GPD uses to keep the community safe.
- 5.) The city staff and representatives of the city come to our meetings to explain how we can access city services.
- 6.) We invite county, state, and other representatives that serve our community to our meetings. We are also open to invited guest speakers that provide information of interest to our community.

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 Kanh (D1), Beverly Melville (D2), Diane Morita (D2), Mina Semenza (D3), Chris Vlahos (D3)

A big thank you to all our Neighborhood Watch Coordinators for their hard work and dedication to the Gardena Police Department and helping keep our neighborhood safe and informed!

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 upcoming 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



COMMERCIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

Suspects target cash registers, safes, and offices.

Safe:

- Ensure your business safe is bolted/anchored to the floor.
- Ensure frequent cash deposits are being made to avoid having large quantities of cash in the safe.

Alarm:

- Make sure to have an alarm system and do not cancel or disregard any alarm notification from your business.

Locks:

- Apply a sturdy lock (pin cylinder lock may give the best protection). The lock should be a dead bolt-type, requiring either a key or a knob to set it.

Windows:

- Protect windows by putting grates or bars on them; or cover the glass on the inside with a clear polycarbonate sheet.

Doors:

- A bar can be used on the rear door, a favorite entry point for burglars. Bars over windows, skylights, and other openings can also frustrate any unauthorized entrance.

Lighting:

- Provide a lot of light, both inside and outside, especially when the business is closed. Having each entrance point, including windows and large vents flooded with light. This will discourage burglars from attempting to break in.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

The Gardena Police Department would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyful holiday season. Please read and share the following crime prevention information with your families and neighbors.

Stay Safe While Shopping:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- When shopping at night, park in well-lit areas, & go with a friend or family member.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat or floor board of your vehicle. (i.e. shopping bags, boxes or purses).
- Store gifts in your trunk; vehicle burglars look for items left in plain view as an easy opportunity for theft.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Try to do all of your shopping at one time to avoid multiple trips to your vehicle while at a shopping center.
- 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.

Online Shopping:

- Be cautious when purchasing gift cards. Thieves have been known to write down the card numbers, and once the card is activated they use the funds.
- During the holiday season there tends to be an increase in the theft of packages from front porches. To avoid being a victim of theft, you can do one of the following:
 - * Request packages to be signed for when delivered.
 - * Have packages delivered to a pick up station. (i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc.).

Automated Teller Machine (ATM):

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.



CRIME UPDATE

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

Sept. '16

Robbery	7
Res. Burglary	18
Comm. Burglary	9
Vehicle Crimes	53
Assaults	12

Oct. '16

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





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

UPCOMING EVENTS

McDonald's
1398 W Artesia Blvd
November 30, 2016
8:30 - 10:30 am

**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) 968-2321.

**GARDENA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

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, infor-
mation 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 ad-
dress!

*Welcome
New Residents*



A special thank you to everyone who attended our **16th Annual Pancake Breakfast**
on October 1st! The proceeds benefitted our Police K-9 Program.



Gardena Police Department

1718 West 162nd Street

Gardena, CA 90247

