

GOTCHA!

There have been several incidences in which neighbors called the police to report suspicious activity and criminals were apprehended.

In January a resident observed an unfamiliar car park at a neighbor's house. The man who got out of the car was not recognized as belonging to that address and, after some time the stranger entered the home through the side door. The neighbor called the police who found the stranger robbing the house when they arrived.

This is Neighborhood Watch at work! Keep your eyes and ears open to unusual activity in the neighborhood and report it to the police!

CRIME WATCH

WHO commits crime in our neighborhood? The statistics point to crimes being committed mostly by men between the ages of 25-35.

WHAT are they stealing? They are stealing items that can easily be concealed such as cash and jewelry. Don't expect to see a truck pulling up to the curb and masked men stepping out to unload a house full of furniture and electronics equipment. A jacket, baggy pants or a duffel bag are suitable for concealing items.

WHEN are they striking? Residences are generally hit during the day when people are less likely to be home. Cars are targeted at night.

WHERE do they come from? Criminals do not like to travel far from home as it increases their chances of getting caught. By operating closer to home they become familiar with their target territory. Those recently apprehended were from Lawndale.

WHY do they commit crime? Motivated by a need for money for drugs these people often have prior

FEBRUARY REVIEW

- Sgt. Medrano reminded us that parking in the alleys is prohibited even for residents. Three parking tickets were issued in January. Alleys are not as wide as streets and **MUST** be kept clear to ensure access for emergency vehicles.
- Speaking of alleys, have you put your house number on your back gate or garage door yet?

UPCOMING MEETING

- What happens when you call 911 to report an emergency or 323-7911 to report suspicious activity? See the attached information sheets, '**Calling 9-1-1**' and '**Reporting a Crime**' produced by the National Neighborhood Watch Institute. At the meeting we will role-play these calls. Realize that prioritizing of police calls takes place constantly. The police cannot be everywhere at once and response to your call may fall in priority to another call. **Be vigilant in keeping an eye on your situation and get as much information as possible to report when the police arrive.** Refer to February's newsletter for the '**Suspect Description**' chart.
- We'll get the results of the speed cart that was set up on 155th.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 19, 7:00PM - 8:30PM, Freeman Park

SUPPORT GARDENA NEIGHBORS

Thornburg Park is not a park the residents living adjacent to it are comfortable using although they would really like to. They report rampant drug and alcohol use and other activities not at all acceptable in our neighborhoods. Children are often brought to Freeman Park instead of being allowed to play in Thornburg.

On Monday, March 19, 7:30PM at Thornburg Park, area residents will gather to discuss two issues:

arrest records.

CONTACT INFO

For crime-related matters, call:



CRIME IN PROGRESS 911

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 323-7911

GRAFFITI 217-9568

WeTIP 800-78CRIME (800-782-7463)

For ideas & issues regarding GCNW



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1. The proposed Behavioral Health Services facility on Marine, and

2. Residents' concerns about the abuse of their park.

While the Thornburg Park meeting overlaps our neighborhood watch meeting, it is natural that we would be concerned about the welfare of Gardena residents beyond the borders of our neighborhood watch. I encourage you to either go directly to their meeting or head over with me after our meeting. **Show your support for Thornburg Park area residents in their efforts to take back their park and rid it of the negative influences that pollute it.** Working together in our neighborhood, working with neighbors and neighborhoods across Gardena will make our city a safer and even more enjoyable place to live.

  Suspicious activity   is anything a stranger does that causes you to pause, watch and wonder what they are up to! TRUST your instincts! **Call the police!**

Your WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS to the newsletter are encouraged!

Share your IDEAS and/or ENERGY for making GCNW stronger!

Call / email me! Louise*GardenaCircle.com