

GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK PARTY & POTLUCK

Your fellow 'neighborhood watchers' on 155th Street invite you to the Gardena Circle Neighborhood Block Party & Potluck on Saturday, October 28. This is an opportunity for those of us living in the Gardena Circle Neighborhood Watch area (see attached map) to gather for a relaxing time and become better acquainted with each other. The Gardena Police Department, partner in the success of our Neighborhood Watch, is invited too. Because the event will be on the weekend before Halloween, activities are planned to help get you in the 'spirit' of the season and have a 'howl' of a good time! Here are the details:

WED., OCT 25	
7:00PM - 8:30PM Freeman Park	<p>Final event planning & preparations meeting - this is going to a CREATIVE meeting and we hope KIDS will come to make Halloween decorations for the party, and enjoy cookies and juice too!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a banner showcasing our sponsors • Create decorations for canopy and the 'Pumpkin Patch' table
SAT., OCT. 28	
Before 10:00AM 155th Street, between Marigold & Purche	<p>A) 155th Street residents living between Marigold & Purche are kindly asked to move their cars to the far ends of their section or beyond Marigold & Purche. At all times you WILL be allowed vehicular access to your area, as will emergency vehicles. This request is made to allow for greater freedom of movement in the area during the event.</p> <p>B) 155th Street residents living beyond Marigold & Purche are kindly asked to park cars a little closer to each other to make room for our neighbor's cars.</p>
10:00AM - 11:45AM	<p>BE A HELPFUL NEIGHBOR, come out lend a hand with event set-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up canopy (8 adults needed for this) • Decorate canopy • Bring and set up tables (TABLES NEEDED, do you have one we could borrow?) • Bring and place trash barrels • Set up barricades provided by the City.
12:00PM - 3:00PM	<p>GCNW Event! Be sure to bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potluck item & serving utensil (quantity of food to serve 8 people such as an entree, salad, dessert) • Costumes are optional, but encouraged! • Carved or decorated pumpkin to display on our 'Pumpkin Patch' table • A chair for relaxing in comfort • The following will be provided: cups, plates, napkins, forks, punch
12:30PM - 1:30PM	FACE PAINTING and 'TATTOO' APPLICATION
2:15PM	COSTUME PARADE. Let's get a sneak preview of the goblins, ghosts, princesses & witches who will be haunting our neighborhood on Halloween!
3:00PM - 4:30PM	<p>CLEAN-UP (again, Helpers needed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return all borrowed tables and trash cans • Disassemble and return canopy • Remove barricades

QUESTION S?

If you can help out before or after the event, show up at the time indicated above.
Questions? Call Louise

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Ofc. Dillon Alley will attend our NW meetings, provide an overview of area crime & answer your crime-related questions.
- With cooler weather coming we begin to look forward to the comfort of sitting by a roaring fire in our fireplaces. But we should first think about the condition & safety of our fireplaces. There may be unsafe conditions in and around the fireplace that could cause serious damage to your home or your neighbor's home. Alex Barilari, owner of American Chimney Sweep and a fellow Gardena resident, will be the guest speaker at our October meeting.
- If you know someone living in another part of Gardena who is wondering how to start a NW program in their area, that is great news because the more NW groups we have, the stronger our crime fighting power. There are several things a person interested in starting a NW group can do:
- Attend "Back to Basics, Neighborhood Watch 101" on Saturday, November 18, to learn how to start a NW. (Keep an eye on the Gardena Valley News for details);
- Call Sgt. Medrano, Community Lead Officer Supervisor (217-6122);
- Attend a G-DAAP meeting, meet other NW Captains, learn about issues we face within our community & efforts to solve them (324-2305);
- Talk to neighbors or send around a flier to see if they are interested in starting a NW and going to the above meetings;
- Attend a GCNW meeting and/or a meeting of other area NW

FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

CORRECTION! At the August meeting & in the September newsletter it was incorrectly reported that senior citizens receiving a discount in trash collection would still be able to receive a discount under the new Waste Management billing structure. Tony Vierra, of the City Manager's Office, said Gardena does not give discounts on trash collection and this discount may have previously been given by L.A. county or the hauler. You can, however, apply for an exemption from the Utility Users Tax (on gas, electric, water, telephone and sewer bills) by calling 217-9518 for an application.

A red "Ideas & Comments" pouch will be available at our meetings for you to drop in your written ideas for and comments about guest speakers, discussion topics, recognition, program development and anything else that comes to mind for our NW program. You are also encouraged to call or e-mail Louise (see Contact Information).

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
Starts at 7:00PM - ends at 8:30PM
FREEMAN PARK at the end of 154th Street, across Van Ness

This Newsletter has been printed with the assistance of Mike Locano and courtesy of Marina Graphics.

CONTACT INFO

For crime-related matters, call one of the following numbers:



CRIME IN PROGRESS 911

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 323-7911

GRAFFITI 217-9568

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

groups to get a feel for what goes on and how different groups conduct their meetings;

- Check the internet for NW information; there's loads of helpful information out there!

GARDENA DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION (G-DAAP) and the RED RIBBON CELEBRATION

The Gardena Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Task Force (G-DAAP), is a coalition of parents, youth, schools, businesses, neighborhood watch groups, community service groups and both private and public agencies **dedicated to preventing substance** abuse among Gardena's youth and adults. G-DAAP was established in 1983 and has been widely recognized at the Federal, State, County and local levels for its exemplary work in drug abuse prevention and education. However, the challenges still loom large in our city's ongoing battle against the problems of drug and alcohol abuse that lead to crime, graffiti and gangs. As a Neighborhood Watch group, we are not only dedicated to eradicating crime but also the factors that germinate and promote crime. We are all impacted by the problems of drug and alcohol abuse in our community; let each one of us be part of the solution.

The Red Ribbon Celebration is a national awareness campaign. The Campaign originated when drug traffickers murdered Federal Agent Enrique Camarena in 1985. The red ribbon became the symbol to eliminate demand for drugs. The celebration is designed to create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs; to support community prevention coalitions; and to organize alternative activities in support of healthy and safe communities.

During the month of October, red ribbons will adorn towns & cities



For ideas & issues regarding GCNW contact:

Ofc. Dave Golf, Lead Officer 217-9670
Dgolf@gardenapd.org
Louise Stein, Block Captain [email](#)

HERMAN®

by Jim Unger



"They're out, but I'll tell them you stopped by."

GANGS, GRAFFITI & PREVENTION

In late September there was a community workshop on "Gangs, Graffiti & Prevention". This event was co-sponsored by **Gardena WeTIP** and **G-DAAP**. **Captain Paul Tanaka** spoke on behalf of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department providing a county-wide perspective on gang activity and the extent to which this activity creates problems in our society & prisons. **Gardena Police Ofc. Nick Pepper** discussed Gardena gangs and showed slides of local graffiti, explaining how it is identified and the programs in place to help keep kids from getting into gangs. **Sgt. Ed Medrano** and **Ofc. Brian Juckett**, of the GPD, also addressed the grave problems associated with the movement of gangs into and around Gardena and the critical role residents can play in helping to prevent gang growth.

There are an estimated 2,000 Gardena residents involved in 38 gangs


around our nation to show support for drug free and healthy communities. Awareness campaigns and creative contests will also be taking place in the schools. GCNW will be part of this demonstration of support and will have red ribbons available to wrap around trees, hang from mailboxes or put on front doors. Call Louise if you would like a ribbon for your home. Materials available starting October 11 and at the meeting on October 16.

Decorations should be up by October 23 and remain up until October 31.

If you're a teen looking to participate in a community project, here's your opportunity. The High School Task Force youth will be decorating the City Hall grounds and surrounding streets with large red bows on the morning of October 21. **See attached information sheet for details about G-DAAP, monthly meetings & contact information.**

in Gardena. For policing purposes, Gardena is divided into six zones and our NW resides in Zone 3. From January through August of this year, Zone 3 has the third highest incidence of graffiti among all six zones (per GPD 'Graffiti by Zone-2000' chart). This defecation of property with graffiti attracts other gang activity and violent crimes. Innocent people are victims of gang activity. This creates fear in our neighborhoods and the value of public and private property is reduced. This could be totally disheartening except for the fact that these people are a clear minority of our population. Gang activity is stoppable! But we must work together to stop gangs and the problems that lead people to join gangs. Organizations such as G-DAAP, as mentioned earlier, and **WeTIP**, a national anonymous crime reporting hotline, do make a difference in communities. They will make a difference in our community too when you **call 911 to report a crime in process or 800-78-CRIME (800-782-7463) if you have information about gang activity or a serious crime.**

The **High School Task Force** provided childcare at this weekday evening community workshop. Had this been advertised with notice of the event, perhaps more parents of young children would have attended. This would have helped get the eye opening information and resource material directly into the hands of those whose children may soon be facing pressures of introduction to drugs, alcohol or gangs in the schools or neighborhoods. In the future, when you see notice of these events & you are interested in attending but no mention is made of childcare being provided, call the phone number indicated to inquire about it. If more residents are able to attend these meetings because childcare is provided, it will have been an extremely worthwhile effort and valuable service.

 <p>CALL THE POLICE TO REPORT:</p>
<p>CRIME IN PROGRESS 911 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 323-7911 GRAFFITI 217-9568 Provide address/location of the graffiti WeTIP 800-78CRIME (800-782-7463) Provide info about a major crime</p>

YOUR LETTERS

This is YOUR newsletter and you are encouraged to write articles relevant to Neighborhood Watch that I will include in the newsletter. Please e-mail them to Louise or if you don't have e-mail you can drop them by my house (see Contact Information).

Bill Beana lives in our NW area and wrote the following articles that I'm happy to include in this newsletter. He has helpful suggestions and provides contact information to get things taken care of. Thank you, Bill!

HOUSE AND GARAGE NUMBERING

If you have been reading the bulletins delivered to your homes you would have seen a couple of articles

regarding the numbering of your homes and alley accessible garages to enhance the Police Department's ability to quickly respond to your address if an emergency is occurring. I have a hard time seeing the house numbers in the early morning or early evening darkness when I'm out on the sidewalk walking my dog. I'm closer to the houses than the Police are in their cars in the streets. If I can't see them, chances are they are going to have an equally hard time seeing them. In an emergency, every second may count. Please look at your house numbers on your homes. The numbers should sharply contrast with the background color they are posted on. They shouldn't blend into the color. If you don't have a house number posted, please do it. For us that have garages that enter onto the alleyways, please number your garages, fences or walls in contrasting color so the Police can know which house to go to from the alley during an emergency call. They won't know which house is in need of their service if they can't identify it. This means day or nighttime. You won't be detracting from the garages by numbering them, only enhancing them. Try walking in an alley near your house during daylight hours and identify what the address numbers are. Bet you can't do it. Now put yourself in the Police Officers position of trying to locate your home when there are no numbers on it or he can't see the because they are not clear to him. Now put your family in the equation and you can see how important this issue is. Be a good neighbor. Number your home. Please make it safe for all of us.

DARK AREAS AROUND OUR HOMES

I've noticed more houses and garages are being numbered in the neighborhood. This is good. However, I've also noticed during my nocturnal walks around the neighborhood that there are many dark areas around houses and intersections. The biggest problem that becomes apparent is that either the streetlights are burned out, flickering on and off or are covered up by either the city's trees or trees on private property. This is an easy fix. Just stand out in front of your home when it is dark and look up and down the entire block you live on and see if you can see all of the available street lights that are there. If you can't, then they are either covered up or not working. The city isn't going to send out someone to drive around the neighborhood to look for these issues. This is our responsibility whether we like the idea or not. The street light doesn't need to be the one in front of your house, it can be any where in the neighborhood or in the alleyways. Just write down the address where the street light is and if the light is burned out call the Southern California Edison street light division at 800-655-4555 and give the information to the automated caller service. You will receive a confirmation number for service. They are very good at taking care of this for us. If the light is blocked by a city owned tree, call the Gardena Public Works Department at 217-9568 or Dave Negretti of City Tree Maintenance at 217-9564. (See how important the numbering of the houses and garages are now?) Be patient, the city only has one, sometimes two crews to handle this work. But if you don't get any service within three weeks at the most, either call them back or call the Mayors office for service. If it is a neighbors big tree blocking the available light, well, you can always talk to them about the concerns for their safety what with their tree blocking the street light to highlight their house from potential burglars. You can also encourage them to attend some of our NW meetings. We can talk about it there also. We need as many folks as we can get for these important meetings. Remember a criminal usually prefers a dark area to conduct their crime in. Don't make it easy for them to make you or your neighbors a target for their next crime. Like "Inspector McGruff" says, "Let's take a bit out of crime". Let's all be good neighbors and fight crime together.



Safe neighborhoods don't just happen. Make the call!



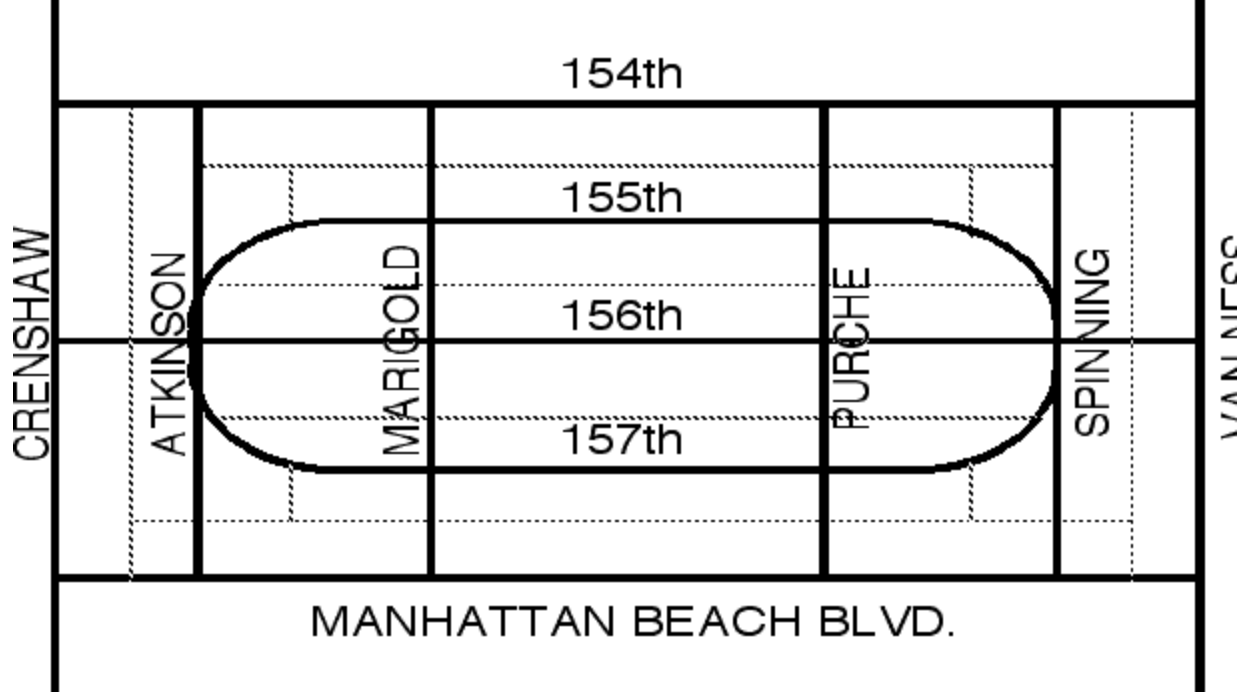
GCNW CONTACT INFORMATION

Attached are two maps. One shows our GCNW area and the other is an overlay with the Area Coordinators' sections. If you are interested in being the Area Coordinator for Area B, please contact Louise.

Louise Stein, Block Captain Louise*GardenaCircle.com
Officer Dave Golf, Community Lead Officer 217-9670; Dgolf@gardenapd.org

Area Coordinators.

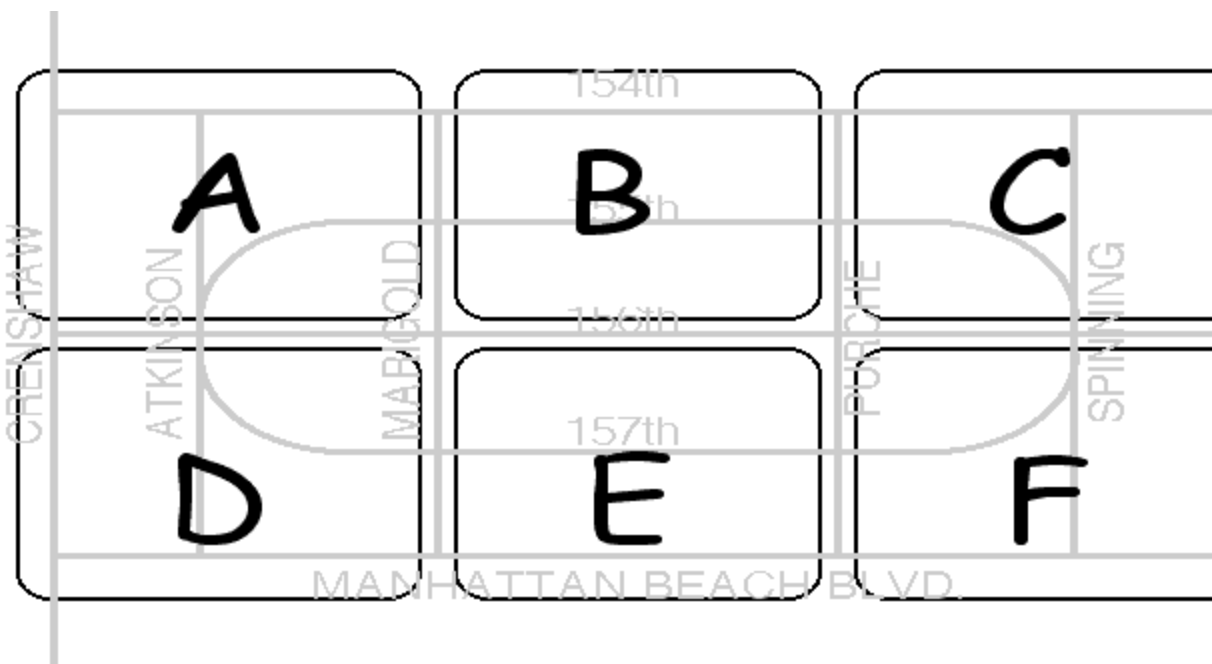
Stan Cabotaje
Jim Lopez
Ingrid Tsukiyama
Josephine Bantigue
Helen Stone



GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH area:

From the East side of Crenshaw through to the West side of Van Ness.

From the North side of MBB through to the North side of 154th.



GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Area Coordinators:

A = Jim Lopez

B = *Call Louise if interested*

C = Josephine Bantigue

D = Stan Cabotaje

E = Ingrid Tsukiyama

F = Helen Stone

Call your Area Coordinator:

- * to contribute your ideas for making a great Neighborhood Watch program;
- * if you would like to receive more than one monthly newsletter;
- * to offer help distributing the monthly newsletter.