

BLOCK PARTY SUCCESS!

The GCNW block party was a success! Kids came in costume, the food was abundant, we met new neighbors, and enjoyed talking, laughing and getting to know each other better.

There are several people and businesses that deserve recognition. Absolutely at the top of this list are Wendy Pottratz and Jim Lopez. Their readiness for action, follow through and dedication to the many tasks that had to be done combined with their humor made the behind the scenes work a pleasure. Wendy was the highly colorful clown applying tattoos at the event. Thank you both very much!

Thank you also ...

- Kassy Coleman for creatively painting so many happy faces.
- Neighbors who brought delicious food (not a single fattening item ... believe me, I'm totally kidding!) and those who brought tables and helped set-up & clean-up.
- Residents of 155th Street for sharing your street so we could have our event in the neighborhood.
- Ofcs. Golf & Williams for stopping by to share in celebrating the GCNW success the GPD helped create!
- Ralph's for the tasty apples.
- Normandie Casino for the individual water bottles.
- Dept. of Public Works for the barricades.

FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

- Sgt. Medrano and Ofc. Alley discussed response tactics under different attack situations. In the event someone tries to force you into a car FIGHT, SCREAM, YELL, RUN, DO ANYTHING, BUT DO NOT GET INTO THE VEHICLE! Release that powerful person in you to save your life and get away from the situation as quickly as possible. Even if they are armed, you have a far better chance of saving yourself if you do not get into the car with them.
- YOU are NOT replaceable. Money, jewelry and other items are. Value your life above all else.
- In our NW area one resident's home and another's garage were burgled.
- Before you leave home, always close and lock all your windows and doors. Don't make it easy for a thief to gain access to your home. The more time it takes to attempt to break in, the greater the risk of getting caught.
- The easiest garage doors to break into are the single-piece doors. A thief only has to pry open one corner to gain access. The sectional doors that roll up on tracks are extremely hard to penetrate.
- Each community in Gardena has unique problems. Community Oriented Policing is about neighbors, the GPD, the city and agencies working together to solve problems in each neighborhood. If, for example, more cars are being stolen because the streets are darker at night due to the trees being overgrown or street lights are out, the city will trim the trees or replace the lights.
- Alex Barilari, owner of American Chimney Sweep and a Gardena

MEETING DATES

Mark your calendars with the upcoming GCNW meetings. All meetings are on a Monday and will be held at Freeman Park, 2100 West

154th Place (east of Van Ness),
7:00&endash;8:30PM.

*Jan. 8 May 21 Sept. 17

*Feb. 12 June 18 Oct. 15

March 19 July 16 Nov. 19

April 16 Aug. 20 Dec. - **

*Jan. & Feb. meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month. All other meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month.

** NO meeting in December.

NOVEMBER 20 MEETING

Ingrid Tsukiyama will provide an update of Gardena's current fiscal condition. Ingrid is a resident of GCNW, an Area Coordinator, and running for City Treasurer.

HOLIDAYS - FUN TIMES, BE AWARE TIMES!

The holidays are exciting and busy, especially as we are out purchasing gifts, going to parties, and travelling. Will you be carrying extra cash for travel, entertainment, or gift shopping? Thieves certainly hope so!

REMEMBER:

- Lock all windows and doors when you leave the house.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home, front and back, when you are going out of town.
- What does your house look like from the outside in the evening when you are home? Purchase enough light timers to recreate that look while you are away.
- Suspend delivery of the newspaper & mail, or ask your neighbor to pick it up for you. A collection of newspapers or mail sticking out of your mailbox is a tip-off to criminals that you are not home.
- When out shopping lock your car, storing purchases in the trunk out of view.

resident, spoke with us about the importance of checking the condition of our fireplaces and some of the problems that can develop over time. He had a cross-section drawing of a fireplace to aid us in understanding the elements he was discussing.

If you are buying a home with a fireplace it is absolutely in your best interest to have it fully inspected by someone who specifically knows fireplaces, such as a chimney sweep. The problems you need to know about will be identified, especially if those problems could either damage your home or be expensive for you to get stuck fixing after the sale is complete.

The inside frame of the chimney is made of wood and is joined to the wooden frame of the house. The chimney frame is covered with bricks and cement. A spark arrestor at the top of the chimney will keep sparks from flying out, the potential cause of damage to a neighbor's house, and it will also keep rain from falling in. Water falling on the soot on the wall of the chimney can deteriorate the cement. This deterioration exposes the wooden slats to the tremendous heat generated by the fire. The slats can catch on fire and this is how fire travels through the frame of the house.

Are you convinced you need to check out the condition of your chimney? I hope so! Call Alex at 1-800-946-5438. Tell him you heard about him through the GCNW.

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Starts at 7:00PM - ends at 8:30PM

FREEMAN PARK 2100 West 154th Street, across Van Ness

CONTACT INFO

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

- Do not leave out money and purchases. True story: one of our neighbors was going away for Thanksgiving last year. She planned to stop at the house briefly after work to collect her things. She had left her cash for the trip on the table where she would not forget it. Unfortunately, that is exactly where the burglars found it!
- Secure your purse/wallet. Be organized! A flustered, fumbling, disorganized person is an easy target.



CRIME IN PROGRESS 911
 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 323-7911
 GRAFFITI 217-9568
 WeTIP 800-78CRIME (800-782-7463)



For ideas & issues regarding GCNW contact:

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



DURING THE HOLIDAYS THIEVES WILL BE ON HIGH ALERT, SO MUST YOU!



IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

CALL THE POLICE at 911 or 323-7911.

Do NOT call Louise Stein.

Ofc. Dave Golf 217-9670
 Louise Stein, Block Captain
Area Coordinators:
 Jim Lopez
 Debra Sugai (Welcome New AC!)
 Josephine Bantigue
 Stan Cabotaje
 Ingrid Tsukiyama
 Helen Stone