

Gardena Circle Neighborhood Watch Newsletter March / Vol 21

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 18
7:00PM- 8:30PM
Freeman Park
154th Street, east of Van Ness

GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

MEETING TOPICS:

* The recent **shooting at Gardena High School** has brought the attention of violence in America's schools to our own community. **SGT. ED MEDRANO** will update us on the results of his participation in a review of the **safety plans for all Gardena public and private schools**. He's also been working closely with the decision makers at Gardena High School to address **ongoing safety, gang and drug issues** there.

* **Share your ideas, concerns and have your questions answered about Gardena's parks**. **KELLY FUJIO** and other **Parks & Recreation representatives** will be present. Grants have been awarded to City of Gardena Parks that will be used to **upgrade park equipment to current safety standards**. A fresh coat of paint will also be applied and we can choose the colors.

CHIEF MIKE SKOGH RETIRES

March 15 **CHIEF MIKE SKOGH** retires from the Gardena Police Department. Accolades abound and are amply justified for the positive impact he has had in the police department and our community over the past three years. The numbers are impressive and include an increase in police officers and resources, and a decrease in crime. However, the story and his legacy are much greater than numbers. His successful leadership echoes in the professionalism of the men and women of the GPD; his commitment to Community Oriented Policing has created new neighborhood watch groups; and to support his vision for a more responsive police department he assembled the Chief of Police Citizen's Advisory Panel creating a direct link between the GPD and the residential and business community. Although his time in Gardena has been brief, Chief Skogh's passion has imprinted the future of the Gardena Police Department and the community. We are grateful for having had the opportunity to call him our Chief. Best wishes on a very happy retirement!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thank you **LT. BALO** for attending the February meeting. Lt. Balo has 20 years with the GPD in narcotics, traffic, training, patrol, special tactics, and the K9 unit. With his depth of experience we were pleased to have him spend his evening with us.



AREA BURGLARY SUSPECTS APPREHENDED



○ **Get the details about suspicious persons and vehicles to be on the lookout for in our neighborhood** by sending your email address to Louise. You'll be on the '**CRIME ALERT**' email list, knowing and being able to share what is happening in the neighborhood. Last month a house on 156th was burgled. Car and suspect information was emailed and neighbors were on the lookout! The GPD set up surveillance. A neighbor spotted the car matching the description, called the police, and four suspects were taken into custody. Neighborhood watch does make a difference and email is a tool we can use to quickly share information.

GARDENA HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Last month FLORENCE CHUNG, Community Organizer for American Asian Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Inc. (AADAP) and Gardena Drug and Alcohol Prevention (GDAAP), was scheduled to present at our meeting. However, the shooting at Gardena High School prompted the first of several community meetings starting that night which Florence attended. Her deep relationship with the Gardena High students through High School Task Force (HSTF) and the fact that one of the HSTF students was shot put her at the heart of efforts to change things at Gardena High School. She continues to be involved with the groups that have evolved from the initial community meeting. We look forward to rescheduling Florence for a future neighborhood watch meeting.

GANG PRESENTATION

Gangs and gang crime and violence are growing. It is not just a problem in other cities but in Gardena as well. The GPD has officers on full-time detail dedicated to addressing gang activity. Efforts of **Gardena's Gang Prevention Unit** and joint activities with other departments will be presented by **SGT. MEDRANO**. Come to Thornburg Park's Neighborhood Watch meeting on **Monday, March 25, 7PM at Thornburg Park** to learn more. Show your support for other neighborhoods that are joining together to fight back against crime. For info contact Sgt. Medrano, 217-6122.

2002 GCNW MEETING CALENDAR

GCNW meetings in 2002 are on the following **Mondays**:

Jan. 14	Feb. 11	March 18	April 15	May 20	June 17
July 15	Aug. 19	Sept. 16	Oct. 21	Nov. 18	

All meetings will be held 7:00 - 8:30PM at Freeman Park. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a family member or friend. **Unable to attend a meeting? Have ideas or concerns to share? send an email to [Louise](#)**

CONTACT INFORMATION

For crime-related matters:



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

For ideas & issues regarding GCNW:



Gardena Circle NW Web Site www.GardenaCircle.com
Louise Stein, Block Captain [email](#)
Ofc. Dave Golf 217-9670 Dgolf@gardenapd.org

Wave your flag. Do NOT waive your RIGHTS!!

YOUR LETTERS

This is YOUR newsletter and you are encouraged to write articles relevant to Neighborhood Watch that I can 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.