

WINTER 2010

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

Glendale Police Department

<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/police/default.asp>



Glendale Police Department
Chief Ron DePompa
(rdepompa@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Police Chief Ron DePompa

As we head into the holidays and a new year, it's gratifying to look back over the past year and review the progress we've made. The "area command" concept has helped strengthen our relationships with the people who live and work in Glendale or those who visit here. "Town Hall" style meetings between the police department and the community have brought about a higher level of information exchange, educational opportunities, and problem solving efforts concerning public safety issues in our neighborhoods. As a result, the Police Department has been able to direct our resources more effectively to the highest priority concerns. And, with community members actively engaged in the process, these efforts have been even more effective.

Another benefit of having the community more actively engaged in our public safety efforts has been the generation of new Neighborhood Watch groups! These groups keep neighbors connected, make it easier to identify potential problems, and prevent crime from gaining a foothold in our community. We'll continue to work with our many neighborhoods to expand these groups throughout Glendale this next year.

Looking forward, we know we still have challenging times ahead. Certainly, the economic recession will continue to put pressure on our diminishing public safety resources. And, as a result, we will need to depend heavily upon our partnership with the community to fight crime and ensure the safety of our community. Working together, we can and will make a difference...

So we have much to be thankful for as we review this past year. Glendale remains one of the safest large cities in both the state and the nation. And, that does not happen by accident...It is the result of the hard work of many people who care. We thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season! ■

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Air Support

Sgt. Steve Robertson

During the late 1960s, the attention of police management focused on aerial observation and the benefits that police air support could provide. In 1972, the decision was made to purchase one helicopter for the Glendale Police Department. Funds were approved and a search began for personnel to staff this new unit and develop the air program. In late 1972, Roger Stevens signed on as the first chief pilot of the Glendale Police air support unit. Sergeant Stevens was asked to train two other pilots from



GPD helicopter in action

the patrol officer ranks. The City Council appropriated \$55,000 in the fiscal year 1972/73 budget for the purchase of the new police helicopter.

Currently

Our missions have evolved over time. While our core mission is to provide air support to our patrol forces, we also provide surveillances for:

- Detective units,
- Photo mission for all city departments,
- West Nile Virus/green swimming pool eradication flights,
- Hillsides and burn areas,
- Building department and code enforcement units,
- Glendale Water and Power Department,
- And, Homeland Security checks throughout our cities.

Last year, our Air Support Unit handled 10,973 incidents, including 2,556 calls for service and 8,417 observations/Homeland Security checks. Our flight crews were responsible for 230 arrests.

Aircraft

We operate three MD520N helicopters. This aircraft has proved itself as the perfect combination of turbine reliability and cost effectiveness while also being mindful that we operate in noise sensitive areas. All three aircraft offer state of the art equipment that allows our crews to respond to many different types of calls. They have FLIR infrared cameras that allow them to see in the dark. This is critical when responding to not only crimes in progress, but when locating lost children or injured hikers in our hillside areas. They also have downlink equipment that allows our camera to transmit images to a command post for either police or fire calls. We recently received federal grant funds to install three mountaintop downlink receiver sites that will allow our signal to be viewed anywhere. This is vital information when responding to and handling major incidents.



GPD helicopter

A police helicopter is a “force multiplier.” Over the years, studies show that one police helicopter can do the work of 23 police cars on the ground. This ability is imperative in these trying economic times. All city departments have been tasked with doing more with less. Our joint air support unit has proven over time that they are able to deliver excellent policing from the sky. ■

Town Hall Meetings

Dividing Glendale into four area commands allows us to focus resources on the concerns and issues brought up by those living and working in the areas. Town Hall meetings have been held in every command this summer and fall. They have been very effective in allowing an honest dialogue between the public and the police. Residents have a chance to ask questions about crime prevention as well as neighborhood issues and concerns. We share information and crime statistics for the area. This gives residents a better idea of what types of crimes—and how many—are happening in a block-by-block area. Providing tools such as Neighborhood Watch training and computerized crime mapping gives residents a feeling of ownership. As our neighborhoods pull together, they become very effective forces in crime prevention. Result: A safer Glendale for all. ■



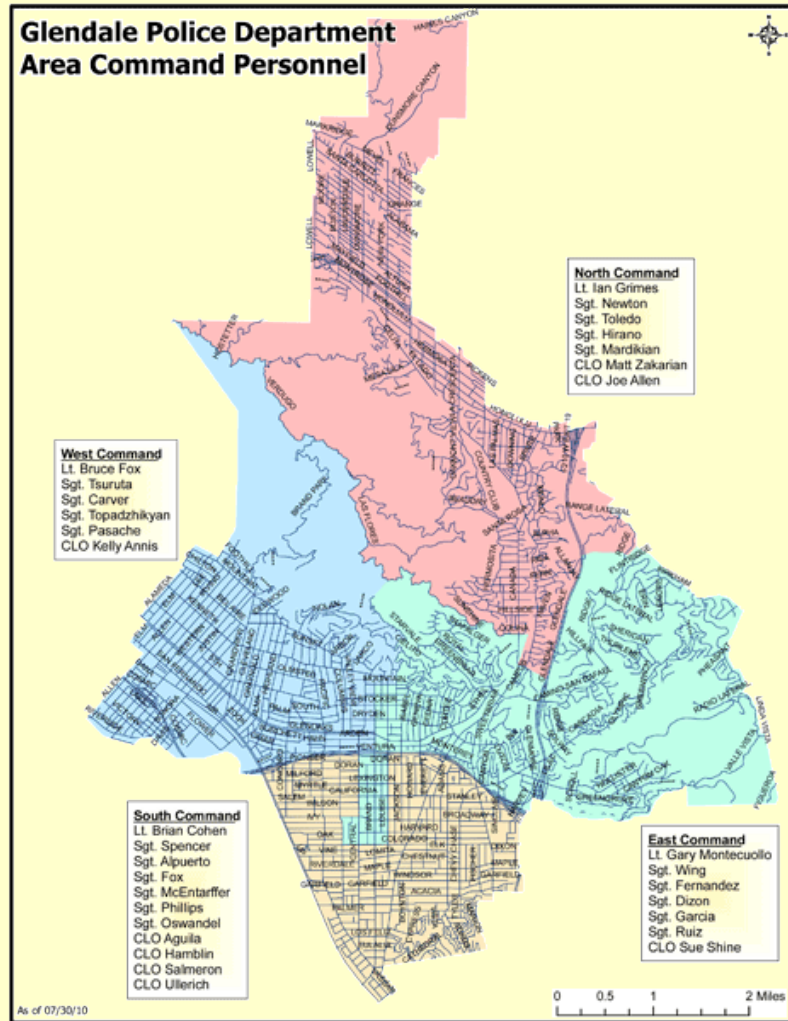
Officer Annis with Town Hall attendees.

Area Commands

As you may know, Glendale has four separate Area Commands, each with a Patrol Lieutenant in charge. Their teams include Sgt. John Gilkerson and several lead officers. They're outstanding people working together to make Glendale a safer city for us all. Here are their quarterly reports. ■

Find your area on the handy map at the right.

Area Commanders
 Avg. years experience 25.2
 Avg. area: 7.7 sq. miles
 Avg. number of people per quadrant: 51,000.
 Glendale Pop.: 207,303



Lt. Bruce Fox
 (bfox@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Lt. Bruce Fox, West Area

I have truly enjoyed my first five months getting to know the people and concerns of Western Glendale. The West Command is an area filled with a deeply concerned and active community. Currently, we have a 17-percentage point decrease in overall crime in our area, based on much of the following:

- Daily tracking of emerging crime trends and directing enforcement to those areas and types of crimes.
- Parole and probation verification checks. We confirm compliance with terms and arrest those who violate.
- Traffic stops: Higher levels of enforcement reduce accidents (including hit and run crimes) and deter unsafe driving. Traffic stops yield criminal activity and outstanding warrant arrests of previous or chronic offenders.

- Residents reporting crime or suspicious behaviors, especially domestic violence.

We are hosting Town Hall Meetings for all nine neighborhoods in this command to:

- Introduce police personnel to the community,
- Show crime statistics tailored to the specific neighborhood area,
- Answer residents' questions,
- Encourage participation in Neighborhood Watch to help reduce crime where they live.

The police department works closely with the Neighborhood Watch groups, and various other city divisions such as Parks, Neighborhood Services, Traffic and Transportation and Public Works to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Please come out, discuss the latest trends and share any of your concerns:

- Wednesday Jan. 19 6:30 pm Balboa Elementary
- Wednesday Feb. 16 6:30 pm Fremont Park.

West Command Hot Spots

- Casa de Adobe Park. We've worked with the Neighborhood Watch group to address young males loitering in front of Casa de Adobe Park, sometimes until 2am, smoking, littering and disturbing residents. The City is considering installing "no parking" signs for the east curb during the overnight hours.
- Brand Park: A police substation trailer has helped to curb gang activity in the area. The substation makes the officers accessible and able to interact with the public. In addition, the Community lead officer is working with the Park's manager, to come up with ideas that will improve the visibility, safety and security in the park.

Recent public bulletins covered residential burglaries, including reporting suspicious activity to police. Residents need to pay closer attention to suspicious vehicles and people in their neighborhood, as residential burglaries continue, often with neighbors at home.

Working with Lt. Fox is Officer Kelly Annis, Community Lead Officer and Officer Josh Luna. ■

Lt. Brian Cohen: South Area

The good news is that all types of crime across the board are down in the South command. And, much of the crime that's happening is preventable. Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Don't give burglars a chance by leaving your house doors or windows unlocked. The same thing goes with your car—keep valuables out of sight and the car locked. Just these simple steps will help bring crime statistics down another notch.

Town Hall

Our recent town hall meeting brought out fifty citizens to discuss activities the South Command. Detective Robert William made a presentation on how to keep from being a victim of burglary.



Lt. Brian Cohen
(bcohen@ci.glendale.ca.us)

One of the larger problems in our area is traffic. With the holiday season upon us, there are more people out these days. If you're a pedestrian, keep a sharp eye out as you cross streets. Always use a crosswalk and be sure to look both left and right. If you're driving, look out for pedestrians. Remember, many of our residents are elderly and perhaps not familiar with many of our traffic laws. Distracted driving is a real problem. Remember texting and talking on a hand-held cell phone can be a deadly combination.

Homeless Shelter

The Homeless Shelter opened for business on December 1, 2010 and will remain open until March 15, 2010. The shelter provides food and lodging to those less fortunate in our community. We have regular patrols around the area of the shelter, in addition to the security provided by the shelter.

For more information on the South Area command, contact:

- Ofc. Blanca Aguila, (baguila@ci.glendale.ca.us);
- Ofc. Pat Hamblin, (phamblin@ci.glendale.ca.us);
- Ofc. Mike Ullerich (mullerich@ci.glendale.ca.us);
- Ofc. Fernando Salmeron (fsalmeron@ci.glendale.ca.us). ■



Lt. Gary Montecucollo
(gmontecucollo@ci.glendale.ca.us.)

Lt. Gary Montecucollo: East Area

For East Command residents, burglaries and thefts remain a concern for residential neighborhoods. A recent APB Glendale message warned citizens to be alert for magazine sales persons who do not have the appropriate permits to conduct door-to-door sales. In order to solicit sales, the vendors must have city permits and conduct business during certain hours of the day.

To sign up for the APB Glendale email alert system, go to the police department web site (<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/police/default.asp>) and click on the APB Glendale icon.

Counterfeit Bills

For the downtown businesses in East Command, the holiday season also brings out individuals who take advantage of the increased sales activity. Several businesses have told us they have been the victims of a counterfeit \$100 bill scam. The suspect makes small purchases and pays with a \$100 bill, which is counterfeit, only to receive the balance of the purchase (\$80-\$90) in cash back. For businesses, please discuss with staff members appropriate security measures and be aware of customers who distract your sales staff while transacting business.

Neighborhood Watch Training

We talked with East command residents at our Town Hall meeting in November. The participants were very interested in learning more about and organizing a Neighborhood Watch program for their area. As a result, Community Lead Officer Sue Shine set up a meeting the next week.

I applaud the 47 residents who attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting lead by Officer Sue Shine and Area Command Sergeant Harley Wing. The participants identified not only additional block captains, but also raised money for Neighborhood Watch signage. This is exactly the type of "ownership" that makes crime prevention for burglaries and thefts



Chief DePompa and Lt. Montecullo at the East Command Town Hall meeting.



Lt. Ian Grimes
(igrimes@ci.glendale.ca.us)



Lt. Lola Abrahamian
(labrahamian@c.glendale.ca.us)

so effective. I hope we can continue this effort for all of the neighborhoods in East Command."

Finally, as the holiday season approaches, traffic and pedestrian safety are important things to remember. Drive safely and carefully. If you're walking, look to the left and right before stepping off the curb into the street.

For more information about the East Area Command, please contact Community Lead Officer Sue Shine (sshine@ci.glendale.ca.us). ■

Lt. Ian Grimes: North Area

Community awareness is the key to community safety. I believe that homeowners and business owners know their immediate surroundings better than anyone else does. If you notice something out of place or strange, you should not dismiss those feelings. If you observe someone doing something suspicious, call the police department. Yes, call 911! I often get comments from the community that they don't want to call 911 and bother us. Your calls are not a bother; your calls are usually a great lead for our officers. When you observe suspicious behavior take the time to get a license plate number and a description of the vehicle and or the person(s) involved. Leave the rest to us.

The North Command continues to experience vehicle burglaries. Please remember that most of the time these thieves are taking items from inside the vehicle and not parts of the vehicle. iPods, GPS navigation devices and other expensive electronics continue to be targeted. However, even coins left in view of the thieves will cause them to target your vehicle. Remember, *hide it, lock it, keep it!*

Thieves are targeting specific vehicle types. White work vans that typically hold plumbing or repair tools have had their door locks removed and the tools stolen. Recently, we have had several of these types of vehicles broken into overnight. In addition, we have seen some catalytic converters stolen. Thieves target Toyota Forerunners and pick-up trucks for this type of theft. They crawl under the vehicle and use a portable saw to cut out the catalytic converter, which they sell to a recycling center for its metal content.

Stay safe and have a Happy Holiday. For more information, contact Officer Zakarian (mzakarian@ci.glendale.ca.us) or me at (818) 249-8173. ■

Promotions Officer Mario Yagoda Lieutenant Lola Abrahamian

In 1997, Lola joined the Glendale Police Department as a reserve police officer and in 2000, she was appointed as a full-time police officer. Lola was assigned to Patrol and later transferred to the Financial Crimes and Assaults Detail where she handled complex investigations and received organization recognition for her dedication and hard work.

In 2007, Lola was promoted to sergeant and served in our Patrol Division. She recently transferred to our Special Operations Bureau where she is coordinating the development of the new DNA Lab and its accreditation.



Sgt. Craig Tweedy
(ctweedy@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Lola holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Chemistry from California State University, Los Angeles. Lola graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute. She is working on her Masters degree in Public Administration at Cal State Northridge.

She's also an active participant in the "Police Unity National Bike Tour" which starts in New York and ends in Washington DC every year. Lola also volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Sergeant Craig Tweedy

In 1990, Craig was hired as a police officer recruit and graduated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy, Class #266. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Patrol and later transferred to the Galleria Detail where he specialized in retail crimes.

In 1999, he was assigned as a detective to the Burglary-Auto-Theft Detail. Craig later joined the Vice-Narcotics Unit and worked many cases of notoriety. Because of his investigative skills, Craig transferred to the Robbery-Homicide Detail where he handled many complex investigations.

Craig is currently assigned to our Patrol Bureau as a field supervisor where he is involved in the training of new officers. He's also pursuing a degree in psychology at UCLA.

Sergeant Jim Flores

In 1980, Jim was hired as a police officer and graduated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy, Class #200. Upon graduation, Jim was assigned to Patrol and later transferred to our Special Enforcement Detail where they actively assisted in the Night Stalker investigation. Because of his surveillance and investigative experience, Jim was assigned to our Vice-Narcotics Detail. The narcotics team gained International recognition in the apprehension of Colombian cocaine cartels, trafficking narcotics not only in Glendale but also throughout the country. Our detectives were also instrumental in seizing millions of dollars. Some of the money returned to Glendale for educational programs and new equipment.

During his tenure, Jim has worked as a Field Training Officer and has assisted in the training and mentoring of many new officers. He has been assigned to our Galleria Detail and Bicycle Patrol. Jim was one of the founding members of the GPD SWAT Team.

Communications Shift Supervisor Sheryl Davis-Moore

Sheryl was born and raised in Glendale. She attended Balboa Elementary, Toll Middle School and graduated from Hoover High School in 1991. Sheryl attended Glendale Community College and later moved to Emporia, Kansas to complete her education.

In 2000, she was hired by the Emporia, Kansas Police Department as a Dispatcher. Emporia has about 100,000 resident population and 150 sworn police officers. During her tenure, she was instrumental in training new dispatchers before she decided to move back to Southern California in 2005. In 2007, she was hired by the Glendale Police Department as a police communications operator.



Sgt. Jim Flores (jflores@ci.glendale.ca.us)



Communications Shift Supervisor Sheryl Davis-Moore
(sdavis-moore@ci.glendale.ca.us)



Custody Shift Supervisor Angie Shoemake
(ashoemake@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Custody Shift Supervisor Angie Shoemake

Angie started her career with the Glendale Police Department as a police cadet and later became a custody officer. Angie obtained her Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Pasadena City College and her Bachelor's degree in Professional Studies from California State University at Long Beach. Angie holds a part-time teaching credential. Angie plans to pursue a Masters degree in Public Administration. Angie has mentioned she's most grateful to the department's Wellness Program, where she recently learned that she could leg press 885 lbs.

Police Records Supervisor Gil Sandoval

Gil became interested in law enforcement while attending Eagle Rock High School. In 1993, Gil joined the Glendale Police Department's Explorer Program and graduated from the San Gabriel Valley Law Enforcement Academy, Class #45. He quickly rose to the rank of explorer captain. In 1996, Gil was hired as an office services assistant for our Records Bureau and in 2008, his title was changed to community service officer.

For over 14 years, Gil has been a dedicated member of our agency. To assist with staffing shortages, Gil has been cross-trained in our Communications Center and Custody Bureau. ■



Records Supervisor Gil Sandoval
(gsandoval@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Lock It, Hide It, Keep It

The holidays are high season for car burglars. Many of us are busy with shopping and social events this time of year, and we may forget basic rules that can minimize our chances of being victimized. The police department is using the "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It" slogan as a reminder.

Lock it

Make sure your car is locked after you remove (or at least hide from view) any items that could entice a thief. This includes anything that is valuable to you. Commonly stolen items are:

- Portable GPS units,
- Cell phones,
- Wallets/purses
- Expensive clothing,
- Laptops, and
- Gifts that you lock in your car between trips to the mall.

Hide it

If you hide items in your car, make sure you do it before you park so no one sees you do it.

Keep It

At home, the best place to park is in your garage. If you live in a building with a common parking area, be sure access gates are maintained and working properly. Pedestrian gates should latch and lock, and drive-through gates should not be propped open. When you drive in or out, wait until the gate closes so that no one tries to enter behind you. Report any suspicious persons to the police.

This type of parking garage can be "one-stop shopping" for burglars, so share this information with your neighbors. ■

*Don't leave valuables in
sight in your car!*

Keep your car locked.

*Lock your doors and
windows at home.*



The Dog Costume Contest was a hit at Glendale K-9s in the Park.

Glendale K-9s in the Park

Over 5,000 people and assorted dogs showed up for the second annual Glendale K-9s in the Park at Verdugo Park on October 9, 2010. The event opened with a mock pursuit involving a suspect, helicopter, and of course, the K-9 unit. In addition, attendees watched police dog demonstrations, dog agility demos, and were able to have their picture taken with one of our K-9s--Yudy, Sam, Quai, or Marlin. Some lucky attendees were able to have their dogs clocked to see how fast they were able to run. No shortage of things to do at this family-oriented event—face painting, a raffle, silent auction, low-cost dog and cat vaccinations, and more rounded out this fun afternoon.

October 8, 2011 marks the date for the third annual Glendale K-9s in the Park event. Don't miss it! If you're interested in being a vendor or sponsor, email glendaleK9unit@ci.glendale.ca.us or go to www.GlendaleK9.com and submit a "Contact Us" form. Proceeds from the event go to support the Glendale Police Department's K-9 program. ■

The STAR Youth Program and PAL

Officer Sue Shine

STAR (Students Training as Role Models)

Since 1995, The STAR Youth Program has provided long-term mentoring to our city's most at-risk youth. STAR offers character-based lessons and activities in an after-school program directed by uniformed officers. Often referred by school and Parks staff, the students are between nine and eleven years old. There are currently 17 students enrolled.

Each week meetings are held at Pacific Park. Kids do homework, play outside games, share a meal, and then have a lesson. The curriculum is developed and taught by officers and staff (a volunteer, park staff, and a paid assistant). Monthly outings expose the kids to new experiences and often involve community service. Students earn points for good behavior, punctuality, and academic achievement. Rewards include special outings.

Once the participants reach high school, the Glendale City Council awards a Mayoral Commendation and officially "graduates" them from STAR. There is very little turnover in the program and strong bonds are forged between the families and the police department. Lead officer Blanca Aguila, Officers Alex Sze, Rebecca Lopez, and Detective Ernie Gaxiola supervise this program.

PAL (Police Activities League)

The PAL Boxing Program was one of the first youth programs offered by the GPD. It provides small group mentoring with discipline. Officers and coaches work with middle- and high-school students who apply to be one of the 20-25 program participants. After school each afternoon, kids train and work toward the opportunity to compete in local tournaments.



STAR Halloween party.



Ofc. Aguila and STAR kids .





Blue Shadows Drill Team

The equestrian component of PAL is a dedicated group of students who are transported up to Agua Dulce weekly to ride horses as part of a disciplined troop of participants in the Blue Shadows Drill Team. Learning the tack and behavior of horses, riders gain skills to work in synchronized movements and are inspected for their required uniforms and knowledge of the skills. Twice a year, area horse shows are held and our team always places high in the ribbons. Officer Renae Kerner oversees the direction of each of these activities. ■

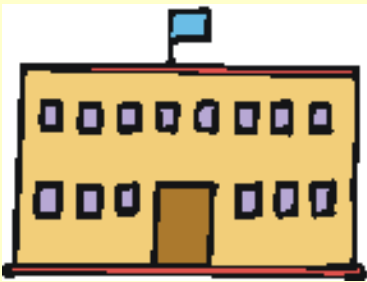
Citizens Academy

The Glendale Police Department Citizens Academy is a behind the scenes look at law enforcement in general and the Glendale Police Department in particular. Each class hosts approximately 25 attendees one night per week, over the course of twelve weeks, with subject matter ranging from homicide investigation to traffic enforcement, from forensics to SWAT operations. One Saturday session allows participants to interact with SWAT officers at our range facility.

We have hosted three academies in recent years, and they have had a positive influence in the community because of the interaction between police and the public. The learning experience from subject matter experts, along with a chance for dialogue, enhances the bond between the police and the public.

The success of the program, however, hasn't ensured its continued existence. Due to budget cuts, the department has been unable to offer this enriching program for a couple of years. We are currently considering efforts to seek funding from private sources.

We believe that the more the public understands the police role, and vice versa, the better we are all served. Programs like the Citizens Academy provide a forum for this to happen, as well as removing some of the mystery of police operations. Please watch for developments in the funding process and consider participating in an upcoming academy. ■



The GPD Newsletter is a regular publication developed by the Glendale Police Department. It is a summary of facts and is not intended to be an exhaustive research journal

*If you would like to submit suggestions or ideas for articles, please send them to Sgt. John Gilkerson
(jgilkerson@ci.glendale.ca.us.)*