

# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

By Hollywood Police Captain Clay Farrell

As you are well aware, Hollywood and West Los Angeles experienced a number of burglaries in these two areas. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department recently arrested a suspect that was connected to numerous burglaries in the area. Hollywood Area detectives working in partnership with the sheriff's department are investigating the crimes to connect the suspect to all of his burglaries.

Sheriff's deputies in the Malibu area initially stopped the suspect and they discovered he was in possession of stolen property. Through their preliminary investigation, a significant amount of the property was identified and determined that it was taken from Los Angeles City residents, at which time the LAPD became involved.

The suspect is currently in custody for receiving stolen property, with bail set at \$125,000.00, until detectives can positively connect him with the burglaries. The suspect will then be charged with burglary. This suspect is a career criminal that went on a lucrative crime spree and had eluded police for some time until his arrest. Hollywood and West Los Angeles areas should now see a decrease in burglaries, however residents still need to be vigilant in their efforts to decrease their chances of being a victim.

The following information is provided by the California Attorney General's Office and the Los Angeles Police Department on burglary prevention.

Burglary is a crime of

opportunity. Make their criminal activity risky and difficult and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in. Also, keep a complete inventory of your property and mark it with your California Driver's License number to deter a criminal from taking the property and/or for identification purposes.

The following points are reminders and considerations.

- Lock doors and windows. Burglars search for the easiest way in. If it's difficult, they will probably move on.
- Use deadbolt locks on doors.
- Be aware that doors that swing out have hinges on the outside. The pins can easily be removed and the door lifted out.
- Use sturdy padlocks and remember, ensure the hasp is also as sturdy.
- Replace weaker hollow core doors with solid core doors.
- Skylights, ventilation ducts and fire escapes tempt burglars because they are usually not visible from the street.
- Lighting is an excellent crime deterrent. Light up dark areas.
- Consider an alarm system.

Lastly, the best crime prevention tool is "A Good Neighbor." You and your neighbors are the one's who really know what's going on in the neighborhood. Watch out for each other. If suspicious activity is occurring, call the police and be a good witness. Do not confront a suspect. It could be dangerous. And form a block club with the assistance of our Community Relations Office. They can be contacted at, (213) 485-4316.

## Emergency Response

*A true story (maybe)*

George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" and he said "no." Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available.

George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now cause I've just shot them all."

Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

## HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY Police Station Phone Numbers

### Patrol Front Desk

213-972-2971,  
213-972-2972,  
213-972-2973\*

### Watch Commander's Office

213-972-4325\*

### Patrol Captain Mike Moriarty

213-972-2984

### Detective Front Desk

213-972-2967

### Detective Commanding Officer

213-972-2969

### Gang Impact Team

213-485-4318

### Vice Main Line

213-972-2996

### Captain Clay Farrell

213-972-2900

### Community Relations Office

213-485-4310

Please remember, in an emergency, dial 9-1-1

For any non-emergency question, dial 3-1-1

\* These numbers are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

# Firefighters Preparing for Promotions

On December 9, 2006, over 400 firefighters embarked on a journey that will end with the promotion of a few fortunate members to Fire Captain. The process is one that will challenge the members academically, mentally and emotionally.

The route for a member to qualify for the position of Fire Captain is competitive and based on an overall score from a three-tiered testing process. The candidates will be required to take a written exam, an oral interview and perform during an assessment/simulation test. After the grueling process, the members will be ranked based on their overall scores and promoted as vacancies occur. Due to the high number of expected retirements, there may be 50 to 75 promotions.

The Hollywood Area was well represented by some very hard-studying and prepared members.

### Fire Station 82

**Engineer Ken Martinez** – Ken has been a member of the Department for over 17 years, working most of them in the Hollywood Area. He has been assigned to Fire Station 82 for the past five years and has already been through the testing process to reach the rank of Engineer.

### Fire Station 76

**Engineer Keenan Backstrom** – Keenan has served on the Department for 21 years. He has been assigned to the area for the past several years and has proven to be a leader at a very challenging position.



**Firefighter/Paramedic Bruce Liverpool** – Bruce, currently the sole paramedic assigned to Engine 76, is responsible for providing the medical intervention for individuals in need. He has been on the Department for 23 years

and will bring many talents to the position.

### Fire Station 27

**Staff Assistant Tim Werle** – Tim currently serves as part of the Command Team responsible for all activities throughout the district. Tim is a certified paramedic and has an incredible background that includes working in the movie industry, with credits on many major projects. Tim's current responsibilities include the oversight of the six stations in the Hollywood area and coordination of escalating emergency operations.

**Engineer Brett Sparkman** – Brett currently works at one of the busiest and most challenging assignments in the City of Los Angeles. He has served the city for 17 years and recently completed an intense preparation program and received his State of California Fire Officer Certification.

**Firefighter Travis Warford** – Travis brings a lot of unique talents to the table: he leads the Urban Search and Rescue Company assigned to Fire Station 27, serves on the Department Urban Search and Rescue Team and recently became a member of the Department Swift Water Rescue Team.

Best of luck to these members. They have committed themselves to becoming the best in their profession, and the community is very fortunate to have such dedicated members serving them. Please stop by and introduce yourselves to your local firefighters and get to know their dedication and commitment.

—Fire Chief Craig Fry & Firefighter Tim Werle