



HUNTINGTON BEACH  
**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH  
NEWSLETTER**



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME®**

Date: October 2018 Vol. 46 No. 6

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Vacation House Checks (RSVP) 714 374-1507  
Website [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org)

Information Desk 714 960-8843  
Graffiti Hot Line 714 960-8861  
Neighborhood Watch 714 536-5983  
Layout/Graphic Design Tom Gaccione

### **BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY**

Neighborhood Watch Board members and RSVP's work with the police department to provide crime prevention and safety programs FREE of charge. We hope you will use these services to help keep you and your family safe.

**H.B. Neighborhood Watch Board members:** Provide speakers and materials for Neighborhood Watch Block Meetings. This is a great way to get together with your neighbors, learn crime prevention and safety tips, find out what crimes are occurring in your neighborhood, what to look out for, and the best way to report crimes to the police department. The program is a separate entity from the police department and is made up of volunteers who serve as board members, block meeting speakers, and the newsletter assembly team. This newsletter is prepared through the generous donations of time from the HBNW board and the newsletter team, as well as generous financial donors. To arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting please call 714-536-5983 or ask one of your Neighborhood Watch Board Members.

**RSVP's:** Provide **Vacation House Checks** by checking your home when you're away. To use this service please go to our web site at [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org) and click on "Vacation House Checks" to complete and submit the form. Please allow 5 to 7 working days to process your request.



The Huntington Beach Police Department is proud to partner with the Neighborhood Watch Program to bring you this quarterly newsletter. The mission of the Neighborhood Watch program is to provide quality crime prevention assistance and resources needed to establish a Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is available to any community in Huntington Beach, with a goal of establishing a network of alert and informed residents who are trained to identify suspicious activity within their communities. If you are interested in establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program, you can email [tmartin@hbpd.org](mailto:tmartin@hbpd.org) or call (714) 536-5983.

This newsletter serves as a resource for crime prevention tips, crime statistics in Huntington Beach, and links to additional resources available through the police department. Please visit [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org) for additional information. One of the resources available can be found at [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com), which provides up-to-date crime statistics available in an interactive on-line mapping system. You can locate the CrimeReports.com link at the [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org) website, under "Crime Information".

This newsletter would not be possible without the generous support of those who continually donate to help keep the Neighborhood Watch Program operational. The Huntington Beach Police Department is always appreciative of these volunteers and their mission to keep our community safe. In the future, we will be creating more online content to supplement the information provided in this newsletter.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/SPEAKERS BUREAU**

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# Things You Can Do to Prevent Crime

Sal W. Hanna, Licensed Private Investigator and Professor of Criminal Justice

Recently there has been a great deal of talk in the community about the perception of crime being on the rise in Huntington Beach. In some cases, in some areas, it may be warranted. However, our city is still safer than many of our neighboring cities. The police department, neighborhood watch programs, community involvement and our newly formed Homeless Task Force established in 2015 have taken steps to find solutions to preventing crime.

According to a 2017 analysis performed by Robert Lehner (Retired Chief of Police, Eugene, OR and Elk Grove, CA) on Huntington Beach's crime data violent crimes in Huntington Beach increased 28% over the previous year, but Property crimes were down 5%. Combined violent crime and property crime dropped to 2.6%. It is important to note that when related to neighboring cities and cities throughout the Southern California metropolitan areas, Huntington Beach is significantly lower overall in crime. The increase in crime is being seen in many smaller cities since the recent law changes that have caused a shift in population from the prison system to the streets.

Community involvement is the key in Crime prevention. Things you can do to help prevent crime:

- **Be alert.** When walking in your neighborhood, in a parking lot, or at a place of business, stay alert. Be aware of your surroundings as crimes can present themselves when you least expect it. (Example: looking down at your phone while walking to your car can lead to making you a target for a purse snatch or mugging).
- **Turn on your porch light.** In a 2008 street lighting and visibility was found to decrease overall crime by 21%. This included delinquent and property crimes. Be sure to keep landscaping clear of overgrowth so that there are limited hiding spaces and clear visibility (Clark 2008; Welsh and Farrington 2008).
- **Secure your valuables.** Always be sure to lock your vehicle, garage and doors at all times. Crimes of opportunity occur when parties seek out easy targets. Don't leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart or in an unlocked car while pumping gas. Vehicles left unlocked can be ransacked or stolen. Doors left unlocked can lead to unwelcome intruders.
- **See something, say something.** See something, say something refers to suspicious activity that is likely to lead to criminal or terroristic acts. Suspicious activities would include: a vehicle parked in an unusual area (Keep in mind there are many legitimate reasons that a vehicle may be parked in a neighborhood), unattended packages left in high traffic areas, and loitering by unknown individuals around businesses or residential areas. Document a description of the party, vehicle or group and report this to the police.
- **Private Security.** Consider adding an alarm system to your home or business. Private security patrols that are active are great for preventing crime. There are many local security companies that offer uniformed standing guards and patrol. Have a local company perform a security consultation to evaluate your security needs. Many companies offer security consultation at a reasonable rate to help you create a plan to prevent future problems.



## Spooky Truths Regarding Halloween Safety - On and Off the Road

Kids love the magic of Halloween: Trick-or-treating, classroom parties and trips to a neighborhood haunted house. But for moms and dads, often there is a fine line between Halloween fun and safety concerns, especially when it comes to road and pedestrian safety. In 2015, about 6,700 pedestrian deaths and 160,000 medically consulted injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents, according to *Injury Facts 2017*, the statistical report on unintentional injuries created by the National Safety Council (NSC). NSC research reveals about 17% of these deaths occurred when pedestrians improperly crossed roads or intersections. Lack of visibility because of low lighting or dark clothing accounted for about 15% of the deaths. Other circumstances varied by age: Darting or running into the road accounted for about 15% of deaths in kids ages 5 to 9 and 7% for those 10 to 15.

**Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year**, and October ranks No. 2 in motor vehicle deaths by month, with 3,550. August is first, with 3,642 deaths.

### Follow These Ghoulishly Good Practices

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, the American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled a list of Halloween Safety Tips, including do's and don'ts:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on **a specific time children should return home.**
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lighted areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- Avoid masks, which can obstruct vision.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks, but keep them away from your pet. If your cat/dog does chew on a glow stick, offer it some fresh water or a small meal to help clear the material out of its mouth.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- Chocolate in all forms—especially dark or baking chocolate—can be very dangerous for cats and dogs, and sugar-free candies containing the sugar substitute xylitol can cause serious problems in pets. **If you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please call your veterinarian or the [ASPCA Poison Control Center](https://www.aspca.org/poison-control) at (888) 426-4435 immediately.**

# Don't Let Christmas heat up too much- with a Fire, that is....



## FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

No one wants to spoil the holiday season, but Christmas trees in the home can present a fire safety issue. A primary concern with a Christmas tree is fire danger, often brought on by the combination of electrical malfunctions and, in the case of a real tree, a drying tree.

***IN THE UNITED STATES, CHRISTMAS TREES START APPROXIMATELY 210 HOUSE FIRES PER YEAR.***

According to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report issued in 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to more than 200 home structure fires annually between 2009 and 2013 in which [Christmas trees were the first item to catch on fire](#). Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season **injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage**, according to the United States Fire Administration (USFA). Sadly, Christmas tree-related fires have a higher incident of fatalities than typical house fires, according to the NFPA report.

***ELECTRICAL MALFUNCTIONS ARE OFTEN TO BLAME FOR CHRISTMAS TREE FIRES.***

When showcasing a live tree in your home, the combination of tree dryness, electrical malfunction with lights and poorly located heating sources can make for a deadly combination.

Electrical failures or malfunctions were involved in nearly half of the fires, igniting the tree with sparks or small electrical fires. Decorative lights with live voltage were involved in more than 20 percent of the instances. However, putting trees too close to open fires or heaters caused a significant number of fires as well: nearly a quarter occurred because a heat source was located too close to the tree.

**It isn't just real trees that are a problem. Electrical malfunctions can also ignite plastic artificial trees**, and homeowners should take the same precautions in terms of tree placement and decorations as they would with a real tree.

***BUT IF YOUR HOLIDAY IS JUST NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT A LIVE TREE, FOLLOW THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP THREATS AT BAY:***

- Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire, so look for a tree with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles readily.
- Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.
- Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.
- Any outdoor lights must be labeled for exterior placement using a GFCI receptacle.

## JUNE TO AUGUST CRIMES REPORTED BY AREA

	Beat 2	Beat 3	Beat 4	Beat 5	Beat 6	Beat 7	Beat 8	Beat 9	Total
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Assaults</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>400</b>
<i>Aggravated Assaults</i>	11	5	15	6	14	8	13	6	<b>78</b>
<i>Simple Assaults</i>	42	31	62	21	47	43	49	27	<b>322</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>140</b>
<i>Commercial</i>	2	3	2	7	37	9	5	15	<b>80</b>
<i>Garage</i>	3	3	1	2	1	3	2	1	<b>16</b>
<i>Residential</i>	4	7	7	6	2	7	6	5	<b>44</b>
<b>Larcenies</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>849</b>
<i>Brg / Theft from Vehicle</i>	45	47	60	39	27	45	64	47	<b>374</b>
<i>From Building</i>	21	15	21	10	10	16	15	12	<b>120</b>
<i>Shoplifting</i>	3	20	17	25	10	26	9	21	<b>131</b>
<i>Vending</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<i>All Other / Bike/ Pckpct</i>	33	25	65	24	14	17	28	17	<b>223</b>
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1522</b>

## RETURN HOME REGISTRY

Did you know police officers frequently respond to calls from citizens with requests for assistance in locating loved ones? In an effort to help officers in finding lost or wandering persons when they go missing from their home or caregiver, the Huntington Beach Police Department has started a new program called "Return Home Registry."

This voluntary program is offered at no expense to participants. Caregivers can register persons suffering from debilitating illnesses including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, or children with special needs.

We will have a searchable database to help officers with the vital information they need to try to locate and return your family members. To add information to our database, please call HBPD Records at 714-536-5656.





## **SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS** **LISTED BELOW FOR THEIR** **DONATIONS**

### **Anonymous Donors**

**Betty Combs**

**Vicki Fliege**

**Robert Nimmons**

**Mary Mason**

## **OCTOBER DONATIONS UPDATE**

The Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Program (HBNW) fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30 each year. We have estimated we will need approximately \$8,570 this year to cover the various HBNW program expenses which include, but are not limited to, newsletter assembly, distribution costs, returned postage, mailing labels, etc. We have received \$825.00 in donations and newsletter advertisements- we have \$7,745 to go by June 30, 2019. The HBNW Board thanks you and our advertisers for your support and generous donations.

Remember, HBNW is a non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible. We strongly suggest you sign up to receive your Newsletter either electronically or through the mail. The Newsletter has valuable crime prevention information and crime statistics. Donations are not necessary to receive the Newsletter, but if you wish to make a donation, please make your check payable to:

### **HB NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

**Send to: HB NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**PO BOX 5667**  
**HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92615**

**For more information please call (714) 536-5983.**

## **MY HB App for Smart Phones**

The City of Huntington Beach has launched the MyHB App, which is a free mobile app designed to provide residents, businesses, and visitors the opportunity to access information about our city 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

By downloading this free "MyHB App" you can have mobile access to important City of Huntington Beach information at your fingertips, any time you need it. To get the app, visit the App Store (iPhone and iPad) or Google Play (Android) and search for "MyHB App" or "City of Huntington Beach."



## **Newsletter Delivery Changes**

Effective April 2018, this newsletter will be printed and published electronically in January, April, July, and October. The next newsletter will be published in January 2019. If you wish to have your newsletter mailed out to you, you may contact (714) 536-5983 and we will add you to the mailing list.

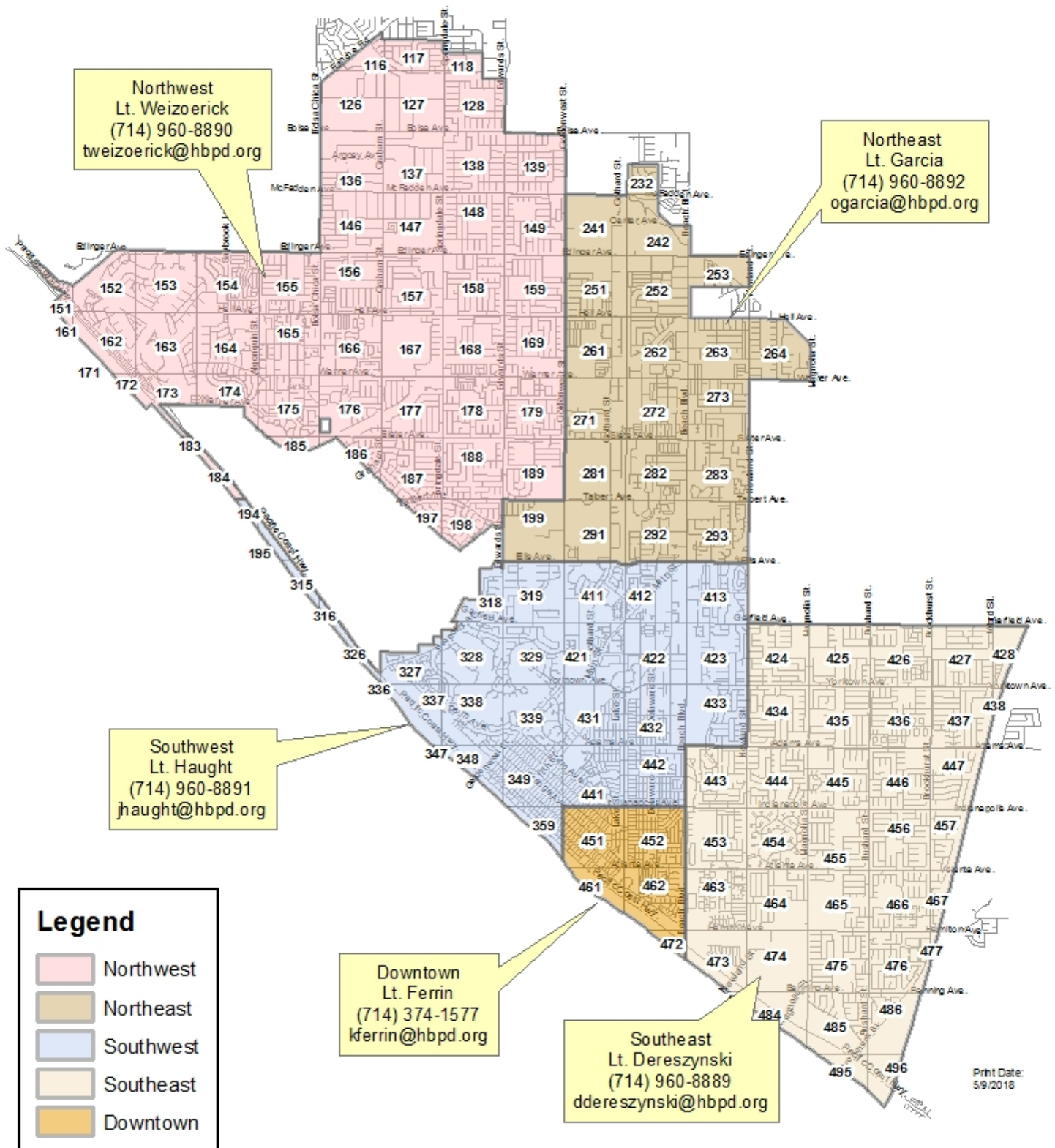
## **Coyote Incident Reporter**

The City of Huntington Beach has adopted a Coyote Management Plan. The goal of the plan is to support coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behavior modification, and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. The City requests everyone complete the on-line form to report the sighting of and/or actions of coyotes. The City will use this information to take the appropriate public safety response according to the Management Plan.

The on-line Coyote Incident Reporter reporting form can be accessed via the City's website (<https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>) by going to the "I Want To" link followed by the "Report" link and then the "Coyote Issue" link.



## Huntington Beach Police Department Geographic Policing Areas



HUNTINGTON BEACH  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
PO BOX 5667  
HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92615  
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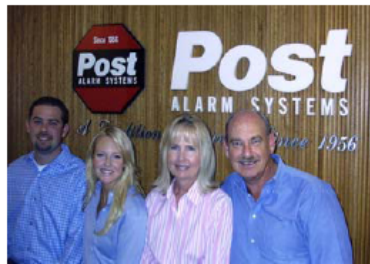
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Directed By Marya Mazor

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