



HUNTINGTON BEACH
**NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH
NEWSLETTER**



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**

Date: January 2020 Vol. 48 No. 1

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY 911
NON-EMERGENCY/DISPATCH 714 960-8825
POLICE Business Line 714 960-8811
Vacation House Checks (RSVP) 714 374-1507
Website www.hbpd.org

Information Desk 714 960-8843
Graffiti Hot Line 714 960-8861
Neighborhood Watch- Virginia Clara 714 536-5245
Layout/Graphic Design Tom Gaccione
E-mail vclara@hbpd.org

YOUR \$5 COULD GO A LONG WAY!

Neighborhood Watch Board members and RSVP's work with the police department to provide crime prevention and safety programs FREE of charge. However, if each of our readers could donate just \$5 per year, we could cover our printing costs and provide even more services to the community! One way you can contribute is through the "Bill Pay" feature at your bank. Your bank can inform you on how to set up an automatic check to be issued regularly to HB Neighborhood Watch!

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, and find out what crimes are occurring in your neighborhood. 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 714-536-5245.

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 and click on "Vacation House Checks" to complete the form.

HB NW Block Meetings



There are several ways that HBPD and HB Neighborhood Watch can assist residents in the city dealing with quality of life issues. In October and November, HB Neighborhood Watch and HBPD conducted block meetings in the Downtown and Northeast Policing Areas.

In the last few meetings, holiday crimes, vehicle theft, and homelessness issues have been addressed. As more shopping is done online, packages left on front door steps become an easy target for criminals. And in your car, keep packages hidden from sight while shopping.

Officers, Dispatchers, and City Council Members have attended block meetings. Do not be afraid to contact the Police Department; while it is good to get to know your neighbors on line or in person, if no one reports a crime, your whole community is impacted. Some contact numbers are listed above; you can also visit the City's website (<https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>) or visit the department in person for more detailed information on your specific situation.

We are updating our database of active Neighborhood Watch groups! Please alert the HBPD Community Liaison Team at 714-536-5245 if you are still active.

If you would like to start a new Neighborhood Watch Program or arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting for your neighborhood, please call 714-536 5245 or ask your Neighborhood Watch Board.

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2019 Year End Updates

Free Vacation House Checks are available for Huntington Beach residents who are planning to be out of town and would like to have peace of mind that your house is safe. For the year 2019, HBPD volunteers checked over 3,706 houses. Volunteers also removed over 2,915 illegally posted signs in the city and volunteered over 10,836 hours!



Shop with a Cop was a complete success! Fifty students from various schools were chosen to Shop with a Cop on Tuesday, December 17. Thank you to the following organizations that made this event possible: Huntington Beach Police Officers Association, Doug Cosgrove, The Huntington Beach Police and Community Foundation, Tony & Rhonda Nobles and the Nobles Foundation, Target, Woody's, Best-VIP chauffeured services, Jersey Mikes, California Resources, and many individual contributions.

Visit the City's website for information about city related events. The City Manager's Report has information on public events, community issues, and future developments in the city. Visit https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/news_publications/weekly_report/ to learn about upcoming events.



Getting Bombarded by Scam Calls? You're Not Alone

by Jim Kreidler

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Getting bombarded by scam calls? You're not alone.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) scam is the number one scam reported to the FTC right now.

As soon as a caller threatens you, or demands you pay them with a gift card or by wiring money, it's a scam. Even if the caller ID tells you otherwise.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, hang up the phone and remember:

Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended.

The real Social Security Administration will never call to threaten your benefits.

The real SSA will never tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on a gift card.

Many scammers use threats and high-pressure tactics to try to con you. Learning about scams makes them much easier to avoid. If you've received a call like this, tell your friends, family and neighbors about it. Tell them to hang up the phone and to report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Medicare Does Not Give Out DNA Kits

by Lisa Lake

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Here's one that goes to show just how creative scammers can be. The FTC is getting reports that callers claiming to be from Medicare are asking people for their Medicare numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal information...in exchange for DNA testing kits. The callers might say the test is a free way to get early diagnoses for diseases like cancer, or just that it's a free test, so why not take it? But the truth is, Medicare does not market DNA testing kits to the general public.

This is yet another government imposter scam. In this example, as in others, scammers may give what seems like a believable explanation for needing your information. But before you give anyone your personal information or a swab from your cheek, consider these tips to help you spot and avoid these kinds of scams:

- Government agencies will rarely, if ever, call you. If they do, it will be after they send you a letter – or to return a call you made to them. But anytime the “government” caller demands information (or payment by wire transfer or gift card), that's a scam.
- Don't trust caller ID. Scammers use technology to hide their real number, but show one that seems legit. So if the caller ID shows a 202 area code, or says “government” or “Washington, DC,” don't take that at face value. It could be anyone calling from anywhere.
- Never give anyone who calls or approaches you out of the blue information like your Medicare, bank account, credit card or Social Security number. Scammers can use your information, steal your identity, get credit in your name and take your money.

Report government imposters and other scams to the FTC.

Crime Data for Sept. Thru Nov. 2019

HB Police patrol areas are the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home. To locate your area and RD, please check the map on page 7. PD contact info for your area is on page 7 also. In some cases, your AREA/ RD is identified on your mailing address label.

We have developed a new crime map to show property crimes and vandalism across the city. Hopefully this will give you a better picture of the crimes in the city and your area and crime trends that the Police Department has identified. As you will see with the patterns on the map and the trends the department has identified, the same sorts of hints Neighborhood Watch has been alerting the public to still apply: Lock your car, hide any valuables, and be aware while shopping during the holidays. At home, close your garage door, secure windows and doors, and be alert for suspicious activity. Rear slide doors and window screens are easy to force open. And be aware of your location: If you are very near Beach Blvd, a busy street, or the freeway, a thief can make a quick getaway.

From September through November, during late summer/ early fall, these incidents were representative of crimes during that time of year:

Daytime:

Suspect stole keys from towel on beach, then car was stolen.

Multiple vehicle breakins, Dog Beach and City Beach parking lots, late morning through 4 PM.

Vehicle stolen; keys in ignition.

Mid 1990s Honda Accords, Civics and Toyota Camrys are very popular and relatively easy to steal.

Catalytic Converter stolen.

Rear sliding door smashed in, house ransacked.

Rear window forced open.

Suspect walked right in the front door.

Theft of construction material in yard during a residential remodel.

Vacant residence ransacked.

Tools taken from the back of vehicles.

Nighttime:

Unlocked vehicles targeted on the street: Beach Blvd and RD 152.

Unreported stolen vehicle; key was stuck in the ignition.

Passenger windows smashed on vehicles.

Vehicle locked; window left open.

Vehicle on top floor of parking structure has wheels stolen.

Vehicle stolen from alley.

Suspect checking door handles.

Keys left in vehicle while running.

Storage units are hit overnight.

Suspect pried open the door.

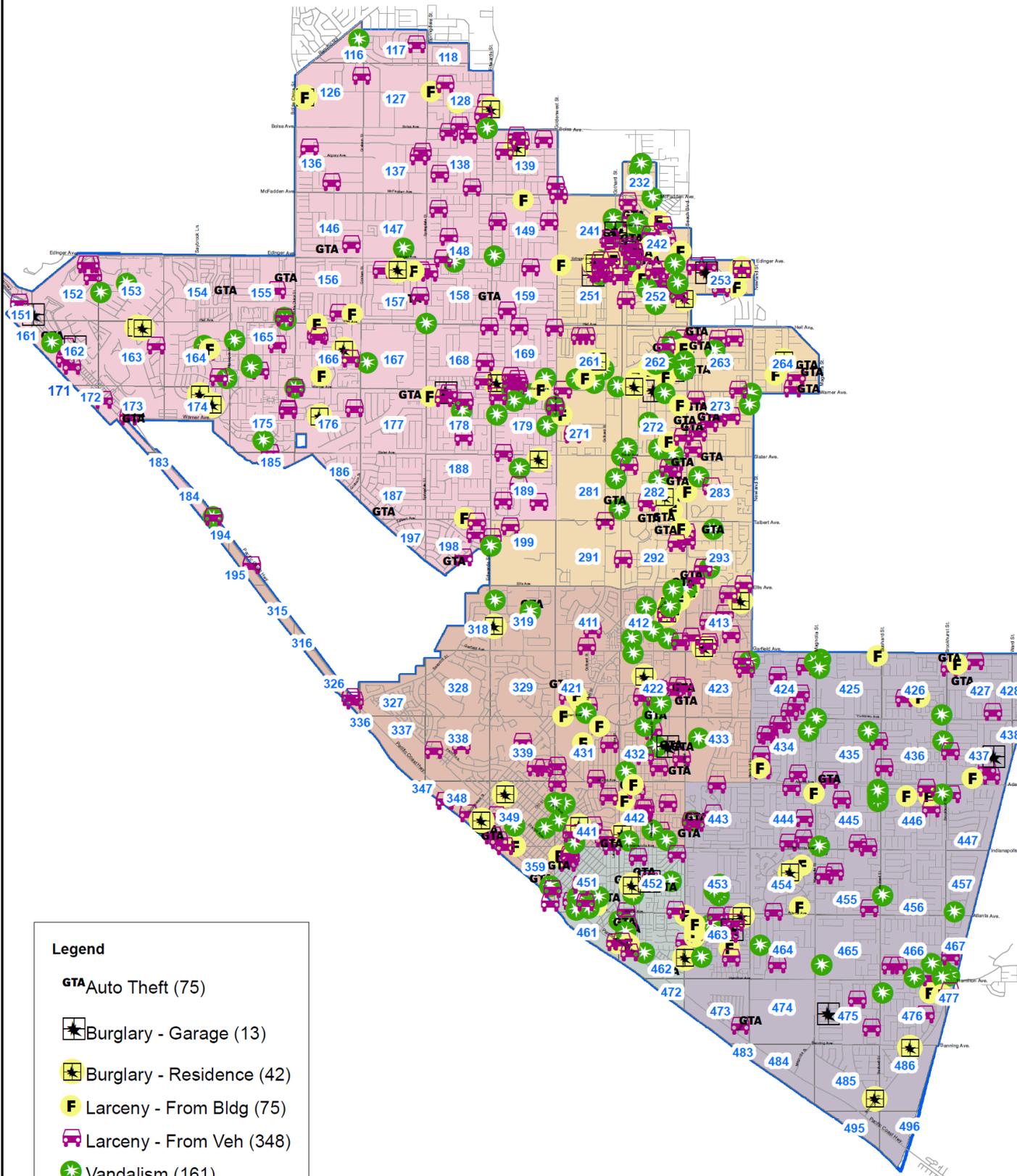
Window screen pried open.

Suspect stole bicycle from open garage.

House being fumigated.



Huntington Beach Police Department September thru November 2019 Neighborhood Watch Map



Legend

- GTA Auto Theft (75)
- Burglary - Garage (13)
- Burglary - Residence (42)
- Larceny - From Bldg (75)
- Larceny - From Veh (348)
- Vandalism (161)

SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS LISTED BELOW FOR THEIR DONATIONS

- *****
Shannon Young *Thank you!*

R. Steven Peters *Mahalo!*

Haydee Tillotson *whakawheta!*

Walter Maksimczyk *¡GRACIAS!*

Karin De Luca *Merci!*

Mr. and Mrs. Carmody *Grazie!*

Robert Nimmons *Dankeschön!*

Mr. and Mrs. K.A. Lester *Xie Xie!*

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Mr. and Mrs. Crevda *DANK U!*

Geraldine Rohrig *kiitos!*

Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds *kamsahamnida!*

Martin and Denise Menichiello *spasiba!*

Charles Falzon and Anna Wang *obrigado!*

and Thank You to all of our Anonymous Donors!

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) 536-5245.

Newsletter Delivery Changes

This newsletter is now printed and published electronically in January, April, July, and October. The next newsletter will be printed in April 2020. In the near future, we hope to resume electronic publication monthly. If you wish to have your newsletter mailed out to you quarterly, you may contact us at (714) 536-5245 and we will add you to the mailing list.

HBPD Facebook Page

The HBPD Facebook page has information on recent community events, law enforcement outreach, safety education, directed enforcement programs, crime fighting initiatives, and more. Check us out on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice

HB Neighborhood Watch Would Like Your Help!

HB Neighborhood Watch is a non-profit organization that supports the Huntington Beach Police Department to help reduce crime. We are looking for members of the community to help run the organization and participate in community events, block meetings, and public outreach. We meet monthly at the Police Department, and if you have some time to participate, please call Virginia Clara, HBPD Community Liaison, at (714) 536-5245.

We are also updating our database of active Neighborhood Watch groups! Please alert the HBPD Community Liaison Team at 714-536-5245 if you are still active. Thank you!

Crime Statistics Update

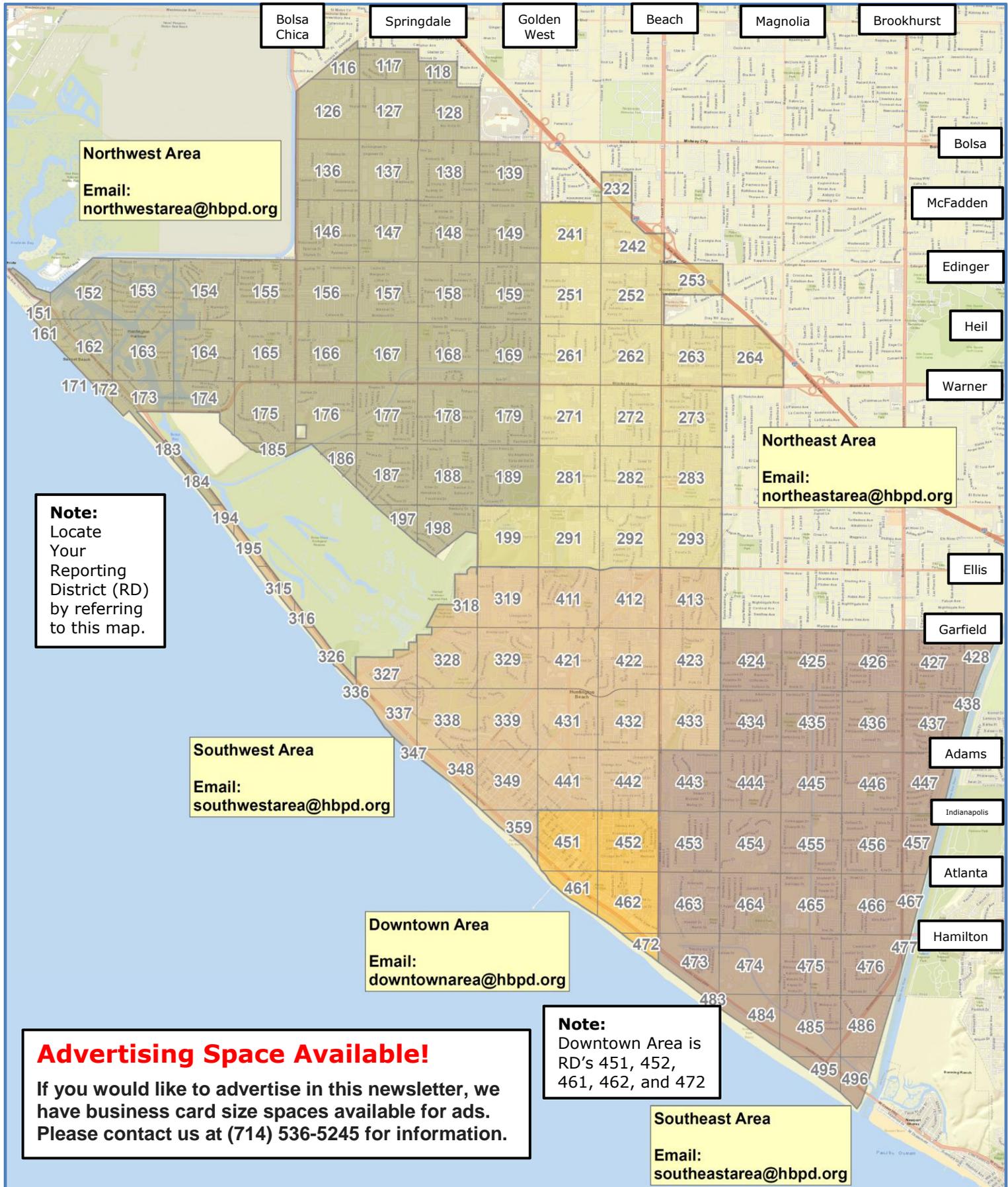
We've updated the crime statistics on pages 4 and 5 with a map showing actual crime locations and a brief narrative on key events. Please check it out!

Thanks to Joe at Ben Franklin Press in HB for the printing of this newsletter!

JANUARY 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 \$8,450 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 \$5,012.00 in donations and newsletter advertisements- we have \$3,438 to go by June 30, 2020. 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



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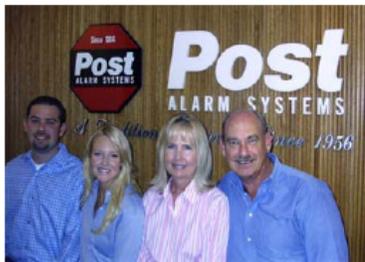
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