

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** 

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



Date: March 2018 Vol. 46 No. 3

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY NON-EMERGENCY/DISPATCH POLICE Business Line Vacation House Checks (RSVP) Website 911 714 960-8811 714 960-8811 714 374-1507 www.hbpd.org Information Desk Graffiti Hot Line Neighborhood Watch Layout/Graphic Design

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#### **FEBRUARY 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 \$24,300 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. From the start of our fiscal year to now, we have received \$10,790.12 in donations and newsletter advertisements- we have \$13,509.88 to go by June 30, 2018. The HBNW Board thanks you and our advertisers for your support and generous donations. An \$8 donation pays for each subscriber's distribution costs; a \$10 donation helps with these costs and other needed expenses and puts your name in the Newsletter as a contributor; and a \$25 or more donation accomplishes the above, plus you will receive a HBNW sticker and a token of Remember, HBNW is a non-profit appreciation. organization; donations are tax deductible.

As a resident of the city, we encourage you to review the HBNW program budget and expenses.

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** 

Or: HB POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attn: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

**2000 MAIN ST.** 

**HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648** 

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

### The Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Newsletter will become a Quarterly Publication



The Huntington Beach Police Department and the HB Neighborhood Watch Program are always looking for ways to improve on the information provided to those who work and live in this great city. For the past 45 years, your HB Neighborhood Watch newsletter has served the community as the main source of information by either US Mail or local pick up The total cost of this newsletter is locations. approximately \$31,000 annually between printing and postage. Your HB Neighborhood Watch Program has always paid the postage and other expenses with the money collected from your most generous donations. In addition, your donations pay for events such as National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch street signs posted in neighborhoods.

Due to budget constraints, the City and Police Department will be unable to fund the printing of a monthly newsletter. For several years now, HB Neighborhood Watch has been unable to raise sufficient funds to afford this cost. This expense is approximately \$16,000.00 per year to print 7,500 newsletters monthly, of those approximately 7,000 are mailed directly to homes.

In the future, the Police Department has a desire to move the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter to a more interactive, electronic online format.

Effective April 2018, the newsletter will be published electronically and printed in January, April, July and October. The next newsletter will be published in July.



## Buying or Selling a "Smart" home? Read this.



Sheryl Roth Investigator, Office of Technology Research and Investigation, FTC

Whether you are buying or selling a home, think about the technology you may be buying or selling along with it. Many homes are now "smart" — featuring internet of things (IoT) devices such as connected thermostats, light bulbs, security systems, and energy saving appliances.

Here are tips for making sure you are prepared to sell a home equipped with smart connected devices:

- List all the smart devices in the home. Some devices may be obvious to new owners such as thermostats or refrigerators— but light bulbs or security systems may be difficult to detect as "smart" devices. Leave owner's manuals behind for new owners, highlighting the smart features especially for devices for which it may be more difficult to locate manufacturer's information.
- Remove administrative access and personal information for all connected devices in the home and then reset the devices. Cancel or change the account settings and logins. Reset the device to factory settings. This will protect your personal information and ensure the new owners can set up their own account, create new access codes, and set their own preferences.

And be prepared if you're planning to buy a home equipped with smart connected devices:

- Reset the devices and check to see what the current privacy settings of the connected devices are. Reset the device to factory settings. Review the privacy settings, and review the permissions and the settings for mobile devices that may interact with these devices.
- Review the warranties and support policies on IoT devices. Do they transfer to the new owners? Since critical security updates may be necessary, new owners should create an account and update the devices as soon as possible even if the warranties don't transfer.



## Shopping for airfare deals



Emma Fletcher
Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

You want the best deal for your next flight, but the choices can be overwhelming. Will you book directly on an airline's website, or buy through a site that lets you compare costs across multiple airlines? These tips will help you weigh your options and avoid surprises you *didn't* bargain for.

On cost comparison sites, what seem like apples-to-apples comparisons may not be – if baggage or other fees aren't included. Cost comparison sites can also charge you more than the airline's fees for services like changing or canceling a flight. When you make a reservation for a flight that is at least a week away, the airline must allow you to cancel for free within the first 24 hours after booking, but you could still be charged if you didn't book directly with the airline.

Having a reservation is *not* the same as having a ticket. Normally, you make your reservation and then the airline issues a ticket, but things can go wrong. We've heard from people who used unfamiliar booking sites and learned at the airport that they did not have a ticket to fly. People also have told us that small errors like misspelled passenger names caused big headaches. Some people had to pay fees to fix mistakes, and some even missed their flights.

If you're thinking of using an unfamiliar booking site to reserve tickets, first look for reviews and ratings of the site to make sure it's reputable. You can search the site's name with words like "complaint," "review," or "scam."

(continued on page 3)



# Phony Telephone Number Scam Targets Veterans



Carol Kando-Pineda Attorney, FTC's Consumer & Business Education

There's a new scam out there, preying on veterans who are making decisions about their medical care. The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The program allows certain eligible vets to use approved health care providers who are outside of the VA system. Veterans or families can call the VCP's toll-free number to verify their eligibility for the program.

Here's the problem: Scammers have set up a phony telephone line that very closely resembles the VCP's real telephone number. Con artists often use names, seals, and logos that look or sound like those of respected, legitimate organizations. This time they're using a phone number that's almost identical to the real thing, counting on creating confusion. You call and think you've reached the VCP. The fake line's message says you're entitled to a rebate if you provide a credit card number. But if you give up your account information, they'll debit your account and you'll get nothing in return. There is no rebate and you'll need to cancel your credit card.

If you're a veteran – or you're helping one with health care – remember these tips to avoid a scammer's tricks.

- Be sure you're calling the real number for the Veterans Choice Program: 866-606-8198. If you're not sure you've reached the VCP, hang up. Check the VCP's site for the real number and try again.
- The VA or any government agency will not ask for your financial account information.

Visit VCP's site to learn more about the <u>Veterans Choice Program</u> – or call 866-606-8198. Check out the VA's identity theft prevention program, <u>More Than a Number.</u> <u>Report identity theft</u> to the FTC – and get a personalized recovery plan – at <u>IdentityTheft.gov</u>.

## Shopping for airfare deals

(continued from page 2)

#### Also:

- consider fees as you comparison shop, and take change and cancelation policies into account
- check cost comparison and airline sites to find the best overall deal, and keep in mind that some airlines only book directly
- confirm directly with the airline well before the day of your flight that you have a ticket and everything is
  in order

If you have a complaint about booking a flight, report it to the Department of Transportation and to the FTC.



## Online Crime Reporting System



Did you know you can report a crime online on the City website? By using this online reporting system, you can report harassing phone calls, thefts, hit and runs, vandalism, lost property and vehicle burglaries. You can find a quick link to this system on the Police Department homepage:

https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/PD/online\_services/online\_crime\_reporting.cfm

## ATTENTION: NEW CRIME STATISTICS FORMAT

## Crime period: January 1, 2018 to January 31, 2018

In order to have HB Neighborhood Watch Newsletter crime statistics match what is reported by the HBPD crime analysis team to the Department of Justice, our crime statistic page formats have changed. Although it may look a little different, Residential burglaries will still be reported as well as a small narrative of how the crimes may have occurred. Vehicle burglaries are in another chart broken down by Beat and RD, and Grand Theft Auto can be found in the large chart broken down by Beat. You will also find other crime statistics on the chart, such as rape, robbery, thefts from vehicles, etc. To locate your Beat and RD, please check the map on page 7.

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

Beat	RD	Date	Location	Crime	Entry
2	452	1/22	400 DELAWARE ST	Residence	No force
2	454	1/15	8000 LAUDERDALE CT	Garage	Unlocked
2	456	1/18	9000 ERSKINE DR	Residence	Force
3	437	1/20	19000 BROOKHURST ST	Residence	Unknown
3	442	1/25	1000 HUNTINGTON ST	Residence	Unknown
3	445	1/3	9000 MEDITERRANEAN DR	Residence	Code used
3	445	1/3	20000 MOONCRESIDENCET CI	Residence	Smashed window
4	349	1/21	200 20TH ST	Garage	Unknown
4	349	1/22	300 18TH ST	Garage	Unknown
4	451	1/15	300 3RD ST	Residence	Cut lock
5	413	1/31	18000 APPLEWOOD CI	Residence	Attempt
5	432	1/3	1000 HUNTINGTON ST	Garage	Unlocked
6	272	1/2	17000 OAK LN	Residence	No force
7	158	1/10	6000 BELLINGER DR	Residence	Attempt
7	252	1/15	7000 GLENCOE DR	Garage	Cut lock
7	262	1/16	16000 NICHOLS LN	Residence	Attempt
8	153	1/15	16000 TORTOLA CIR	Garage	Unknown
8	153	1/31	3000 MISTRAL DR	Residence	Smashed window
8	154	1/30	16000 HARBOUR LN	Residence	Force - attic
8	156	1/27	5000 EDINGER AV	Residence	Unknown
8	165	1/17	4000 LAGO DR	Residence	Attempt
9	241	1/14	7000 EDINGER AV	Residence	Unknown

### **VEHICLE BURGLARIES**

BEAT 2		BEAT 3	
RD 452-1	RD 457-1	RD 423-2	RD 425-1
RD 463-1	RD 466-1	RD 434-1	RD 436-2
RD 467-1	RD 485-1	RD 442-1	RD 445-1
BEAT 4		BEAT 5	
RD 348-5	RD 461-1	RD 319-1	RD 412-1
		RD 413-1	RD 422-1
BEAT 6		BEAT 7	
RD 264-1		RD 158-1	RD 159-2
		RD 252-4	RD 253-3
		RD 261-1	RD 262-2
BEAT 8		BEAT 9	
RD 155-1	RD 163-2	RD 117-1	RD 126-1
RD 164-2	RD 176-3	RD 146-1	RD 149-1
RD 177-1		RD 241-1	

## **JANUARY CRIMES REPORTED BY BEAT**

	Beat 2	Beat 3	Beat 4	Beat 5	Beat 6	Beat 7	Beat 8	Beat 9
Robbery	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0
Aggravated Assaults	1	0	2	7	2	3	2	4
Burglary	3	7	3	3	4	6	6	4
Commercial	0	3	0	1	3	3	0	3
Garage	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0
Residenceidential	2	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
Larcenies	26	30	27	28	22	36	31	21
Theft from Vehicle	13	14	12	7	4	16	17	11
From Building	3	3	1	-1	5	6	3	2
Shoplifting	6	8	2	11	4	8	2	5
Vending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other / Bike	4	5	12	11	9	6	9	3
Auto Theft	1	4	4	4	8	5	1	2

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

K. & M. Bergin

low \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Brian & Julia Clark** 

THANK YOU!

**Diane Ranney** 



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#### **New Police Department Front Desk Hours**

Beginning January 13, 2018, the Police Department lobby will be closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays (except the 4th of July). Business hours during the week are now from 8:00AM to 7:30PM.



#### MAKE THIS YOUR YEAR OF ACTION – THANKS FOR HELPING US FIGHT CRIME!

For more information about or to schedule a Vacation House Check please call 714-374-1507 (remember we would like at least 2 weeks' notice).

#### **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 the accessed via Citv'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.

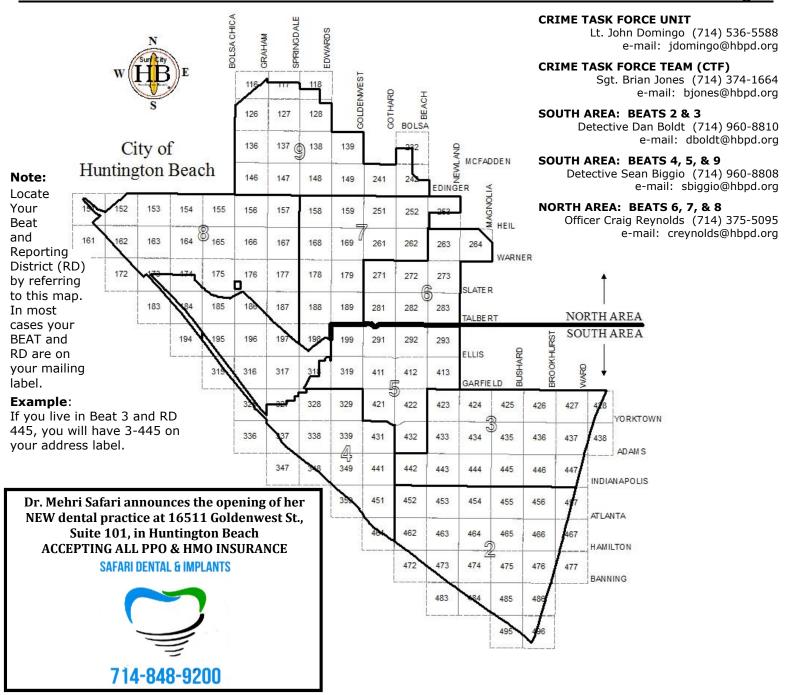
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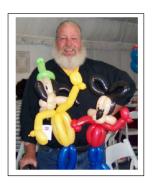


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www.magicfredyevents.com



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Santa Claus, Jugglers and Fire-Eaters
Birthday parties (little ones thru grownups)
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Company Picnics, Holiday Parties
School events, Carnivals, and Fundraisers
Family Reunions and Summer Camps
Bar/ Bat Mitzvahs, Hawaiian Dancers
Henna & Airbrush Artists, Kids Crafts
Ringling Bros. Performers

Magic Fredy Events- 714-378-0033

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#### NEXT ON STAGE

#### **West Coast Premiere!**



Cardboard Piano by Hansol Jung May 2 - 20

Confronting the religious and cultural roots of intolerance. Cardboard Piano explores violence and its aftermath, as well as the human capactiy for hatred, forgiveness, and love.



The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow June 20 - July 8

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have The 39 Steps!

A Great Evening for Two!

Enjoy dinner at the SkyRoom or L'Opera AND the show for only \$79/person!

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