

A HOLIDAY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



A NOTE

This issue, since it's a quarterly, will cover Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas - Phew!

Please note the handy holiday safety tips.

Of course, your feedback is very important to us. Please let us know how we are doing and the kinds of articles you'd like to see in future issues!

Your editors, Carl & Alison and your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers wish you a very Happy Holiday Season!



THE SEASON OF HALLOWEEN



Here are some great safety tips for Halloween!

Did you know that Halloween is the deadliest day of the year for children who are pedestrians? On this day, more than twice as many children are killed in pedestrian car crashes between the hours of 4 and 10 PM than on any other day throughout the year at the same time? Drivers between the ages of 15-25 accounted for nearly one-third of all fatal crashes involving child pedestrians on Halloween. (Highway Traffic Safety Administration). This is a wonderful time of year and we want you and your family to enjoy it, safely. Below are a few tips for those who will be pedestrians and drivers: (Cont. Pg.2)

**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.

First, do not be afraid to contact the Police Department. It is also good to get to know your rights online or in person. If no one reports a crime, your whole community can be impacted. You can visit the (<https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>)

or visit the department in person for more detailed information on your specific situation.

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. 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 (Cont.Pg.3)

(CONT. FROM PG. 1)

- **Wear bright clothes. If your costume is dark, carry lighted lanterns, and load up every visible part of your anatomy with reflectors. Put them on your shoes, too.**
- **Hold onto your child's hand. They get excited and want to run across the street if they see their friends or a decorated house. Hang onto them for dear life.**
- **Always try to cross in crosswalks. However, that does not mean you shouldn't be on alert. Drivers will be looking at the costumes, and not necessarily at your children crossing the street. Or, they may be using their cell phone while driving.**
- **Make sure you and your children look every which way before you do cross the street.**
- **Wait for signals. They are there for a reason.**
- **Do not jaywalk. It could be dangerous.**
- **Do not try to beat a car (run across the street when you see a car coming). Wait for the car to first pass where you want to cross.**
- **Use a flashlight to show you are there.**
- **All drivers should stay off their cell phones, watch the intersections, and the rest of the street. Children may dart out in front of you, so go very slowly. Watch for children who may be jaywalking (despite our advice).**
- **Always warn your children that they are not to get into the car of anyone they do not already know well. Give them a cell phone to use in case of an emergency. Make sure the attending adult has one too.**



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

A festive Christmas dinner table set with a roasted turkey, various side dishes like salad, peas, and potatoes, and a centerpiece of lit candles.

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. So keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous, yet hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at home. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, remember: by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safer from fire. Here's some good advice from the *National Fire Protection Association* (NFPA):

1. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
2. Stay in the home when cooking the family turkey, and check on it frequently.
3. Keep children away from the stove.
4. Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids.
5. Keep knives out of the reach of children.
6. Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
7. Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
8. Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
9. Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
10. Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



<https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>

Are you aware of the our cities web page?
If you are not, here are just a few resources
within the site to explore.

Check out these resources!

www.surfcitybreak.com - Brought to you
by the City of Huntington Beach, Surf City
Break is your source for the latest
happenings in HB. These events range
from local gatherings to City programs.
Bookmark Surf City Break is your virtual
community hub. For example: Go to the
residents tab for

- **News & Publications** (here you can find
the link to the neighborhood watch news
letter.)

You may also want to check out the **MYHB
App**. (Available on the App Store) Discover
Beach with just a few taps on your mobile
device. Upcoming events are just one of its
many features.

VACATION HOUSE CHECKS

THE RSVP PROGRAM

As a Huntington Beach resident, you have the advantage of a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in your city. One of the many services RSVPs offer HB residents is vacation checks. If you are going on vacation, notify the HBPD RSVP office to sign up for a vacation check. RSVPs will conduct an exterior security check of your home. Exterior areas of your home that are not accessible will not be checked. If something appears suspicious, the RSVPs shall call for the assistance of a police officer.

We do understand that in an emergency that may not always be possible. If you have any questions or need more information about the HBPD RSVP program, please call the RSVP office at 714-374-1507 or go to:

[https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/
government](https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government)

Here you will find the link for the Vacation House check form.

House checks are not performed on Saturdays or Sundays. Vacation House Checks are performed based on availability of volunteers. *Courtesy of the HBPD Retired Senior Volunteer Program.* Our RSVP volunteers will be happy to perform a vacation house check on your home.

Please try to provide us with at least a 1-week notice so we can get you on our RSVP schedule.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR HBPD VOLUNTEERS!

CUT AND**PASTE****Contacts for OC Care:****Hours of operation:****8:00am-5:00pm daily****(714) 935-6848 or (949)****249-5160****5:00pm - 8:00am nightly****(714) 935-7158****Police Emergency
911****Information Desk****714 960-8843****Non-Emergency/Dispatch****714 960-8825****Graffiti Hotline****714 960-8861****POLICE Business Line****714 960-8811****Community Relations****714 536-5245****Vacation house Checks****714 374-1507****Neighborhood Watch****714 536-5245****A SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**

Have a disaster-free holiday by practicing these simple (but essential) Christmas safety tips.

The stockings are hung by the chimney with care...and the Christmas tree is safely placed three feet away from the fireplace. OK, that might not be how the old Christmas poem goes, but it's a good tip to keep in mind! Read on for more Christmas safety tips to keep your loved ones safe this holiday season.

- 1. Replace Old Lights and Use Them Correctly.** The lights bring holiday cheer for sure, but they can be a safety hazard. Use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and always turn them off when leaving the house or going to bed. Be sure to replace light sets that have broken sockets or frayed wires.
- 2. Be Mindful of Poisonous Plants.** Eating mistletoe is actually toxic. Keep it away from pets, along with other potentially poisonous plants like holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. [Don't miss our checklist to help "pet proof" your house for the holidays.](#)
- 3. Practice Car Safety When Traveling.** It's always important to drive safely, but the Christmas travel season can be especially dangerous. Have your car serviced before leaving on a road trip, carry an emergency kit and give yourself extra time to avoid rushing. Remember to decrease your speed if you're driving in snow or ice, and wait for snowplows and sanding trucks to clear the roadways before starting your journey. (Cont. on Pg. 6)

(Cont. From Pg. 5)

4. Watch Out for Online Shopping Fraud. Unfortunately, the holiday shopping season is fraught with fraud. While you shop, carefully check that the website address is spelled correctly—fraudulent websites with similar spelling can trick you into giving away your credit card information. When checking out, be sure the payment page address begins with “https” (the “s” stands for “secure”). And as always, never click a link from an unsolicited email.

5. Don’t Make the Tree a Fire Hazard. To avoid the same fate as Clark Griswold’s tree in *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*, be aware of fire safety. Have the tree vendor cut off about 2” of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, and make sure there’s always water in the tree stand. Keep your tree at least three feet away from radiators or fireplaces. And if you buy an artificial tree, check that it’s labeled “fire resistant.”

6. Properly Secure the Tree. No one wants Santa to get squished by a fallen Christmas tree. Make sure your tree is properly secured with a strong stand that doesn’t lean. If you have a fresh tree, don’t whittle or taper the trunk to fit your stand; this makes the tree less stable.

7. Don’t Burn Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace. Sure, a crackling fire in the fireplace is a must-have for cozy holiday events. Just avoid any fire accidents by practicing proper fireplace safety. Don’t burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper; and always use a fireplace screen.

8. Keep the Raw Turkey Away From the Salad. One thing is for sure, nothing will ruin your Christmas dinner faster than guests coming down with food poisoning. Handle food safely with these simple reminders: keep raw meat away from fresh produce, wash your hands frequently, use a meat thermometer and use separate cutting boards for cooked and uncooked meats.

9. Be Careful with Candles. The top three days for home fires started by candles are Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. To avoid a disaster, keep candles at least a foot away from anything flammable. Make sure candles are in stable holders that can’t be easily knocked down, and never leave burning candles unattended.

10. Hang Breakable Ornaments up High. Those colorful and shiny vintage ornaments are just too tempting for little ones! Instead, hang breakable ornaments at the top of the tree. That way, kids can get in on the decorating fun without the worry of broken glass.

Your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers!

Executive Board of Directors & Executive Committee & Speakers Bureau

President: Nobu Stillwell

Vice President: Carole Grant

Secretary: Barbara Rier

Treasurer: Laura McDonald

Newsletter Editors: Carl & Alison

Jablonski

Members: Dellamarie Bonomo,

Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer,

Christine Fairchild

Member at Large: Jeanne

Petrocella



A Reminder from our Summer Edition!

IS YOUR YARD UNINVITING TO COYOTES?

ITEMS IN YOUR YARD MAY BE ATTRACTING COYOTES OR OTHER WILDLIFE. TO MINIMIZE CONFLICTS WITH WILDLIFE, REMOVE ATTRACTANTS AND ENCOURAGE NEIGHBORS TO DO THE SAME.

MARK OFF EACH ITEM BELOW WITH A **YES** TO ACHIEVE A WILDLIFE PROOF YARD.

FOOD

ALL FOOD SOURCES SHOULD BE REMOVED AND/OR SECURELY STORED INDOORS. NEVER HAND-FEED OR INTENTIONALLY FEED WILDLIFE.

YES NO

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| PET FOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETS ARE FED INDOORS AND FOOD IS SECURELY STORED INDOORS. |
| WATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WATER SOURCES ARE REMOVED IN DRY CLIMATES. |
| TRASH | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BINS ARE SECURED WITH LOCKING LIDS AND WASHED TO REDUCE ODORS. |
| FALLEN FRUIT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FALLEN FRUIT IS PICKED UP OR PICKED FROM TREES BEFORE IT FALLS. |
| COMPOST | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LIDS ON COMPOST BINS ARE KEPT CLOSED AND LOCKED. |
| BBQ GRILLS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FOOD RESIDUE ON OR AROUND BBQ GRILL IS CLEANED AFTER EACH USE AND BBQ IS KEPT COVERED WHILE NOT IN USE. |
| BIRD FEEDERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FEEDERS ARE REMOVED OR FALLEN SEED IS CLEANED TO REDUCE THE PRESENCE OF SMALL ANIMALS. |

LANDSCAPING

LUSH LANDSCAPING CAN PROVIDE AMPLE FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER FOR COYOTES.

YES NO

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| VEGETATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | VEGETATION IS TRIMMED TO REDUCE HIDING PLACES FOR WILDLIFE. |
| OUTBUILDINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ACCESS UNDER DECKS, IN SHEDS, NEAR WOOD PILES OR OTHER AREAS IS RESTRICTED TO PREVENT COYOTES FROM DENNING. |
| FENCING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | REAR YARDS AND SIDE YARDS ARE ENCLOSED WITH 8 FOOT FENCING (OR WITH 6 FOOT FENCING WITH AN ADDED EXTENSION OR ROLLER TOP). |
| MOTION SENSORS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MOTION SENSOR SPRINKLERS, LIGHTS OR OTHER FIXTURES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO DETER WILDLIFE. |

PETS

WATCH OVER PETS TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND ENSURE THEY ARE NOT INDIRECTLY ATTRACTING WILDLIFE.

YES NO

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| OUTDOORS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETS ARE NEVER LEFT UNATTENDED OUTSIDE. |
| PLAYTIME | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETS ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO "PLAY" WITH COYOTES OR OTHER WILDLIFE. |
| ENCLOSURES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | IF LEFT OUTDOORS, PETS ARE FULLY ENCLOSED IN CATIO OR DOGIO. |
| PET WASTE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FECAL MATTER IS REGULARLY DISCARDED TO ELIMINATE ODORS FROM ATTRACTING COYOTES. |
| WALKS* | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETS ARE ALWAYS WALKED ON A LEASH NO LONGER THAN 6 FEET LONG. |

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/coyote





Tried and True Reminders for Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch continues to alert the public to apply the following safety tips for your vehicle and your home! 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. Be Alert and Stay Safe!

For current crime information go to www.huntingtonbeachca.gov and click on government/departments/police/crime info!

HBPD Patrol Areas Map

Crime Data HB Police patrol areas are the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home. locate your area and road coordinates to familiarize where your home is located in Huntington Beach. In some cases, your AREA/ ROAD is identified on your mailing address label.

(Please check the map on the following page 9 of this newsletter)

