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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



Happy Holidays!

BOARD NOTES

Your Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors wishes you a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As we head into 2024, we'd like to remind you of our mission, and how you may participate.

Neighborhood Watch is all about our local communities in Huntington Beach. The program functions with the assistance of the Huntington Beach Police Department and Community Relations liaison. The increased safety of your neighborhood is as simple as knowing your neighbors and creating a friendly dialogue with those that live in your community. In this issue (on page 5) we've included an information request form to assist you in becoming involved as a volunteer.

You are welcome, always, to attend the Board of Directors Meetings which are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday starting at 4PM. The board meets in the small conference room in the main lobby of police headquarters. The conference room is to the left as you enter on the ground floor.

The Neighborhood Watch Board discusses issues and situations that affect your communities. So, please drop by, say hello, and see how you might become involved in the Neighborhood Watch program.

Have a safe Holiday season!





HALLOWEEN SAFETY

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 PM and 10 PM than on any other day throughout the year at the same time. Drivers between the ages of 15-25 years old account 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:

- **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 is dangerous and illegal.
- **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 be visible.**
- **Do not text and drive.** 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.

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.





when leaving the house or going to bed. Be sure to replace light sets that have broken sockets or frayed wires.

- **Be Mindful of Poisonous Plants.** Eating mistletoe is toxic. Keep it away from pets, along with other potentially poisonous plants like holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. 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.
- **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.
- **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."
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME®

4th. Quarter 2023

- **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.
- **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.

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER by EMAIL

TODAYS DATE: _____

BY COMPLETING THIS FORM, I AGREE TO REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____
Home Cell Business

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I am interested in Neighborhood Watch and would like to help in the following:

☐ **Neighborhood Watch Board Member** (help with planning, etc.)
Call for more information.

☐ **Block Captain** (for your street) – Keep your block current and distribute materials to new neighbors

☐ **Request a Block Meeting** - Call to request a scheduled meeting at your location

☐ **Donation** (If you wish to make a donation, make checks payable to HB Neighborhood Watch and return with application.)

Please return this form to: Huntington Beach Police Department
Community Liaison
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For more information call (714) 536-5245

Help reduce crime in your neighborhood.

Join Neighborhood Watch, Rev. 9/2023

CUT OUT AND MAIL
THIS FORM TO LET US
KNOW HOW WE CAN
HELP! ✂

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We encourage your participation and with this issue we include a mail in form to make it easy for your participation.

Please let us know what we can do to assist you in reaching your Neighborhood Watch goals in your community.

We'd also appreciate any suggestions on how we can make Neighborhood Watch a better program.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH VOLUNTEERS.

President: Nobu Stillwell

Vice President: Carol Grant

Secretary: Barbara Rier

Treasurer: Carl Jablonski

Newsletter Editors: Carl and Alison Jablonski

Volunteers: Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki,
& Christine Fairchild

Emeritus: Jim Dwyer

Member at Large: Jeanne Petrocella

