

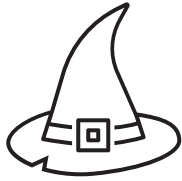


# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER VOL 49 NO 02



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
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## About NW Block Meetings



There are several ways that HBPD and HBNeighborhood Watch can assist residents in the city dealing with quality-of-life issues.

In our pre-covid meetings, holiday crimes, vehicle theft, and homelessness issues had been addressed. As we begin to open up to our own “normal,” do not be afraid to contact the Police Department for any of these issues! It is good to get to know your neighbors online or in person. If no one reports a crime, your whole community can be impacted. Some contact numbers are listed below, and 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.

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** Welcome to the Neighborhood!

*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!*



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## *Your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers*

### HUNTINGTON BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Executive Board of Directors & Executive Committee/Speakers Bureau

**President - Nobu Stillwell**

**Vice President - Carole Grant**

**Secretary - Barbara Rier**

**Treasurer - Laura McDonald**

**Editors - Carl and Alison Jablonski**

**Member at Large - Jeanie Petrocella**

**Members - Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer, Claudette Ruzicka, Christine Fairchild**

## BUMPER STICKERS AND CRIMINALS

By Tim Schmidt

I was driving around the other day and found myself looking at the decals on people's cars...*You know the cutout ones of the families, their pets, what sports they play, etc.?*

It got me thinking about what they SAY about you, but also what they TELL criminals about you.

You see, I was sitting at a stoplight for a mere minute gazing at the van in front of me. And in that short time, I learned:

1. This woman had lost her husband
2. She was likely a single mom
3. That she (or her kids) went to a certain college
4. How many people were in their home?
5. And that she didn't appear to have any animals either



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In that same timeframe, another nearby vehicle's decals told me they had Great Danes, played rugby and were a military family. *Do you see what I'm talking about here?*

Vehicle #1 - Easy prey for a bad guy

Vehicle #2 - Someone I'd think twice about messing with

Although it's a fun idea, even though it's a simple act, any information we put out there can alert others of how safe (or unsafe) we truly are. And MANY of these situations could lead someone to think you'd be an easy target for a robbery, home invasion or carjacking.

*I can't stress enough how important this is!*

Don't give criminals free information. Bumper stickers, parking passes, decals ... all of these have the potential to work for you or against you....

The safest option is to consider leaving little to the imagination...and not share any information!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RSVP PROGRAM!

By Carl Jablonski

You may have seen us driving around in our white Senior Volunteers patrol vehicles during the week? We are the Retired Senior Volunteer program (RSVP) and serve our community with pride!

While this past year and a half has limited our work to removing signage on public property, we're ready and willing to get back to our main function of vacation house checks. This community service has started once again and the information for you to request this service is noted below. As a new member of the RSVP's, I wanted to let you know what it is like to be a part of



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this team and to perhaps, entice you into service. This story is not unique to the other volunteers I've had the pleasure of meeting in this program. Current volunteers have either been with the program for years, always maintaining a "spirit of giving back to the community!" Others, like myself have had careers that involved extensive travel and 24/7 responsibilities. Which unfortunately left no time for volunteer work. There are only two of us "rookies" this year and we are both enjoying the opportunity to finally "give back!" This brings me to the point of this story. The RSVP program needs new volunteers!

I can tell you from my experience so far that this was and is the best use of some of my free time in retirement! Patrolling the streets of Huntington Beach searching for illegal signage on public property has just been a side task this past year. Providing vacation house check as we go into this post-covid routine, is important work and leaves one with a feeling of satisfaction in helping our community!

Our volunteer shifts provide side benefits such as seeing the smiles on the face of children as you hand them HBPD badge stickers, stopping and talking to folks while patrolling through the various city parks, being at the station house and having a first-hand opportunity to wish our fine men and women in blue to "have a safe day out there.!" And simply returning a wave hello at the many people you see during your shift! I'm certainly very glad I joined the RSVPs of the Huntington beach Police Department!

One last thought! Sometimes you just may see us driving with our lights flashing. A simple wave and you pointing at our roof are all we need to remind ourselves that we kept them on. It's happened to me a couple of times and all I can do is point to the side of the door on our patrol vehicle with the sign that says, "Senior Volunteers." Enough said!



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## 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.

Please try to provide us with at least a 1-week notice (due to scheduling). 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. **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 (RSVP)*

## **TALES FROM THE TROOPS!**

*By Mary Beth Czarniecki, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)*

The resident wanted both front and back checked. The side gate was unlocked, and we proceeded to push the gate all the way open. The gate was on a cement path. What we should have done was propped the gate open, but we didn't. The yard



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was big and as we went around the house, we heard a scrapping noise then a loud slam and then a clunk. The gate had slammed shut and the gate latch (at the base) had gone into the hole in the cement! Basically, we were locked in the back yard. LOL! We called to neighbors with no response, but with the wisdom of age, jumping the gate was not in the stars! Luckily, we had our cell phones and were rescued by another team on patrol! The moral of the story is “we are Senior” volunteers!



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY!

**Halloween Safety Tips for Kids & Parents!** By Jim Dwyer, RSVP Volunteer

1. Plan a route. Before trick-or-treating, talk with your children about where you are going and how many houses you plan to visit. ...
2. Supervise your children....
3. Make your children visible....
4. Stay on the sidewalks....
5. Cross at the corner....
6. Drive carefully....





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## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The holidays are around the corner, which means many of us will be shopping more and using our credit cards. Here are few tips to keep in mind while you are shopping either online or in-person.

1. If an offer is too good to be true, it most likely is and could be a scam. Ensure that you are always purchasing items from a legitimate source and/or vendor. If purchasing online, double check that the website is secure when you are making a payment.
2. Do not leave any items in plain view in your car such as shopping bags, electronic devices, boxes, money, etc.
3. If possible, shop with someone instead of shopping alone. This is a way for each person to look after each other.
4. If possible, have your packages delivered to your work or during hours that you or someone is at home and require a signature before dropping the packages off. If you are unavailable, ask a neighbor if they can pick up your packages or use an Amazon drop off location near you.
5. Don't carry large amounts of cash and if possible, pay with a credit card.



6. When using a  credit card, use the RFID chip on the card to "tap" (if available) rather than insert your credit card into an ATM or card reader. Also, make sure to cover pin pad when entering your pin number.
7. Always be aware of your surroundings and notice anything that looks suspicious.
8. Don't leave your purse or wallet on your shopping cart unattended. It takes just seconds for someone to reach in and steal your money or credit card.



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CUT AND PASTE



CUT AND PASTE

## 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

## ONLINE CRIME MAPPING DATA

The Huntington Beach Police Department has seen an increase in residential burglaries. As the temperatures continue to be warm, remember to check that all doors and windows are closed and locked prior to leaving the house or going to sleep. If at any time you see anything suspicious such as an individual prowling around a house or an unrecognized person going into a home of one of your neighbors that is on vacation, please call the Huntington Beach Police Department.

To learn more about the crimes that are happening in your area go to Online Crime Mapping Data on our website.

(See next page for map sample)





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