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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**

## OPPORTUNITIES

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter issue is dedicated to the volunteer opportunities within the City of Huntington Beach. Please have a look at the many ways that you can support our city!

Featured on our front page is just one way that you can become involved. The Citizens Academy (Class of 41' below) is packed with information, site tours and meet and greets within our Huntington Beach Police Department. Your editors were privileged to attend the first class (Post Covid) held in Training Room A of our police headquarters.

Other highlights in this issue include the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), the Neighborhood Watch Board and the Neighborhood Watch Speakers Bureau, among other opportunities.

### **HBPD Citizens Academy – Class of 41'**



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Your Neighborhood Watch Newsletter editors Carl and Alison Jablonski receiving their certificates from Huntington Beach Police Department Chief Parra and Mayor Pro tem Gracey Van Der Mark

## Citizens Academy



The Huntington Beach Police Department is proud to offer the Citizens Academy. This program is designed to increase the understanding of the Police Department. The academy is offered in the Spring of each year and runs nine (9) consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Students will learn "hands-on" from department personnel who are experts in the areas of Patrol and Traffic Operations, Community Oriented Policing, Narcotics, Vice, Gangs, SWAT, K-9, Aero Operations, and other fields.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applicants must either be a Huntington Beach resident or work in the City of Huntington Beach and be 18 years or older. If interested, please fill out the [Citizens Academy application](#). For more information, contact Hayley Yantorn at [HYantorn@hbpd.org](mailto:HYantorn@hbpd.org)

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## Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS)

Volunteers in Police Services Program are made by citizens who attend and graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. The Academy is a nine (9)-week course where citizens learn about the Police Department and its many functions. After graduating, the citizen can apply to become a member in the VIPS Program to help at various special events, such as National Night Out, Curb Crime Program (a program designed to distribute information about vehicle burglary prevention), Neighborhood Watch and many other events. VIPS help staff the police substation located downtown and they assist with administrative tasks throughout our department. Presently there are a total of 25 active VIPS members. VIPS are required to donate a total of 60 hours annually.

## Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

### Mission

The RSVP is comprised of men and women over the age of 55 who come from all walks of life. The reason most often given for volunteering was their desire to "give something back to their community." Now that they are retired, they can share their time, energy, wisdom, knowledge, and talent with the Huntington Beach Police Department.

### Selection

RSVPs are selected after passing an oral interview, a background check, and a positive assessment of their suitability for the various duties they will be asked to perform, including a driving skills test.



*RSVP float during a 4th of July parade.*



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## ☐ > Background

The Department's RSVP program began in 1994 when the first group of 25 volunteers graduated from an eight-week training program. Additional volunteers have graduated in following years to bring the present number to 51.

### **The Program**

After graduation, they are prepared to go forth and assist the Police Department as special ambassadors, performing a variety of tasks which otherwise could not be undertaken due to budget, personnel and time constraints. RSVPs volunteer a minimum of six hours a week to the program, although many find their duties so interesting, rewarding, and enjoyable, that some volunteer as many as 30 to 35 hours a week. **There is a great deal of camaraderie, fun and friendship among the RSVPs.** RSVPs are supplied with specially marked white police cars, acting as additional "eyes and ears" for the Department.

### **Duties**

The RSVPs check the security of homes who are away on vacation, remove illegally posted signs from public property, and assure the accuracy of the city maps used by the police department.



#### **POSTING SIGN TIPS**

- Add a date to your Yard Sale sign. Signs will be left up starting the Thursday before the actual date of the event!
- Add a posting date on signs for Missing Pets or Persons!
- Post all signs on private property.
- Never use heavy duty staples or screws to post your sign.
- Please remember to take down your dated signs!

### **“We clean up the City!”**

RSVPs are the first to volunteer their time and energy during periods when the Police Department is busiest, assisting with a variety of events such as the 4th of July holiday. They also work in-house for the Department, including filing, preparing evidence, entering data into computers, duplicating training material & more.

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RSVPs are also active within their community, alerting and educating the residents to the risk associated with leaving garage doors open, leaving windows and doors unlocked, or having missed or unreadable house numbers. RSVPs staff Police Substations to provide information to visitors, help with clerical and other duties, and act as roving ambassadors of good will towards the community's citizens.

### Activities

RSVPs have an active social calendar as well. Monthly meetings bring them together to munch on coffee and donuts, learn the latest changes in Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures and swap experiences while on patrol.

**A Shift Done Well**

### Track Record

RSVPs in this past year removed over 30,000 illegally posted signs, performed more than 4,500 vacation house checks, and volunteered over 30,000 hours. The RSVPs contribute over \$750,000 in skills and time to the city annually.

### Recruitment

The Huntington Beach Police Department is very proud of its RSVP program, its RSVP volunteers, and the fine work they perform. If you would be interested in joining this elite group and meet the requirements for membership, please contact **RSVP Coordinator Hayley Yantorn** at 714-536-5245. Your name and telephone number will be placed on the interest list, and when there is a need for a new class of about 20 RSVPs, you will be notified.

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## **Police Explorers (For the Nieces, Nephews, and Grandkids!)**

### **Program Overview**

The mission of the Huntington Beach Police Explorers Program is; to stimulate interest of today's youth in law enforcement practices and the Explorer Code of Ethics; to promote self-confidence and responsibility; and to provide specific services to the community. The program is designed for character building, leadership development, teamwork, community service, and good citizenship.

The program provides education and firsthand experience in the field of law enforcement. The co-ed youth program is designed to expose young men and women, ages 14 through 20 (maximum age to apply is 19), to different careers in public safety. Through involvement, this program will establish and make aware of the complexities of law enforcement services.

The Huntington Beach Police Explorer Program serves as a potential recruitment tool for youths interested in law enforcement, while simultaneously building stronger community relations between the Huntington Beach Police Department, the youth, and the community.

### **Program History**

In 1962, Explorer Post #563 was founded as a Law Enforcement Explorer Post. In 1982, the post became the Huntington Beach Search and Rescue Explorer (HBSAR). The program included personnel from the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) and Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD). The training focused on law enforcement practices and fire services.

In 2021, the HBSAR was revamped to meet the ever-changing world and community challenges related to law enforcement and fire services. The program was reorganized and shifted its focus to provide the proper training in the different disciplines. As a result, the HB Police Explorer and the HB Fire Explorer programs were created to provide the youth with more experience and extensive training. The HB Explorer program will prepare the youth who are interested in a career in law enforcement with proper exposure and opportunity to move into the public service career.

### **Qualifications**

The Huntington Beach Police Department Explorer Program is open to young men and women who meet the following requirements:

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- Ages 14 through 20 (maximum age to apply is 19)
  - Currently enrolled or a graduate from High School
  - Currently maintain 2.0 grade point average (“C” average or better) in schoolwork
  - Obtain a medical examination
  - Be capable of safely performing physical activity
  - Good moral character
  - No felony convictions
  - Pass a background check

### **Qualification Process**

The process for those interested in the Explorer Program starts with the following:

- Complete the online Interest Form. A Police Explorer Advisor will be emailing those interested in May 2022 to provide additional information on the program scheduled to begin in August 2022.
- Attend the Police Explorer Information Meeting
- Submit the Police Explorer Application
- Submit the Hold Harmless Agreement
- Provide passing medical exam

Qualified candidates will be invited to participate in the following:

- Physical Agility Test
  - 1-mile run
  - Sit-ups
  - Push-ups
  - Flex arm hang
- Oral Panel Interview
- Background Check

Candidates that successfully pass all the above criteria will be assigned to one of the following:

- Junior Explorer (Non-Academy Graduate)
- Explorer Academy Class
- Police Explorer (Academy Graduate or Minimum of 8 Training Classes)

### **Requirements**

- Successful completion of Explorer Academy

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- Attend bi-monthly training
  - Must volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per month
  - Ride-A-Longs
  - Sit-A-Longs
  - Dispatch
  - Traffic
  - Report Writing
  - Front Desk
  - Clerical Work
  - Special Events
  - Police Related Training
  - Detective Assistance
  - Patrol Assistance
  - Callouts
  - Attend Patrol Roll Call
  - Firearms Safety
  - CPR

### Training

- Monthly Training: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month
- 5<sup>th</sup> week in a month - Joint Training with Fire Explorers
- Patrol Ride-Along Program
- Special Events
- Evacuations
- Item Searches
- DUI Checkpoints
- Law Enforcement Related Training
- Basic Law
- SWAT
- Crisis Negotiation Team
- Radio Communication



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## **Volunteering Within the Community**

**by Community Relations Specialist Haley Yantorn**

Interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program for your area? This program is designed for the citizen to take an active role in building a safer community. Here's how it works:

- Get together with your neighbors and decide when to hold your first meeting. Pick a date and time that is convenient for as many neighbors as possible.
- Call and schedule your first meeting with the Community Relations Specialist.
- Decide where you will hold your meeting. It can be at your house, your front yard, the community park or at the end of your cul-de-sac.
- Try to keep your watch group confined to your immediate neighborhood. You can talk to surrounding neighbors and, if they are interested, they can form their own group, you can hold your meetings together.
- Representatives from HBPD and/or Neighborhood Watch Board will attend your first meeting. We will provide crime statistics in your area, as well as answer any questions you have.
- Join the Huntington Beach Police Department social media pages: Nextdoor, Instagram, Facebook, MyHB. These will provide additional information to your group on what is happening throughout the city.

Your group will be successful if every household takes an active part. Everyone in the house should have an active role, even children. Your Neighborhood Watch group should meet on a regular basis at alternate homes, so as not to burden any one household. Discuss what is going on in the community, plan events and discuss what is best for your neighborhood. Invite a speaker to your meetings. city, fire, code enforcement, alarm companies, lighting contractors and security specialists will be happy to come out and talk to you about their role in the community and their products. You can join Nextdoor.com and let everyone in your neighborhood post comments and suggestions. There is not any one way to run your group. Each one is different, with different problems and different solutions. Do what works best for your neighborhood.

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☐ <sup>></sup> You can also visit the Neighborhood Watch website for more information and products, <https://www.nnw.org>. Remember, we are here to help you every step of the way. With your eyes and ears, we can make a difference and prevent criminals from preying upon your community. Feel free to call me with your questions or concerns.

Hyantorn@hhbpd.org (714) 335-0085

### ***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**

**Volunteers: Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer, Christine Fairchild**

**Member at Large: Jeanne Petrocella**

### **Thoughts from your Volunteers**

**Jim Dwyer** 25 years of service - VIPS, Neighborhood Watch and RSVP - "I enjoy working at the downtown substation, speaking at various Neighborhood Watch Block meetings, and helping out at the many citywide special events."

**Olin Scott** 7 years of service - RSVP - "I'm proud of the work we do "cleaning up the city" and providing vacation house checks."

**Leslie Gilson** 10 years of service - VIPS and RSVP - "It's been my pleasure to provide volunteer services to our community! I continue today keeping busy removing old patches from uniforms and helping wherever I can!"

**Carl & Alison Jablonski** 3 years of service-RSVP, VIPS and Neighborhood Watch - "Helping our men and women in blue is the best reward."

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☐ **Claudette Ruzicka** 7 years of service - VIPS – I especially love to help with the Toy Drive, School and local events and the administrative duties at HBPD HQ.”

**John Palmeri** 8 years of service – RSVP – “My favorite part of my job is helping out our four-legged friends that have been taken into custody.”

**Nobu Stillwell** 15 years of service – Neighborhood Watch - “It’s an honor to work with our finest men and women in law enforcement who fight for us daily in keeping our community safe. It is also very humbling how much our volunteers are appreciated by our chief, our officers, and administrative personnel.”

**Maria Laurienzo** 7 years of service – RSVP – “Meeting and greeting the people of our city is very rewarding. I especially like passing along a positive attitude towards law enforcement.”

**Ruth Brisky** 20 years of service – RSVP - I particularly enjoy events with children. Passing out gifts at our “Shop with a Cop” event is especially rewarding.”

**Isn’t it time to consider bringing your talent to our volunteer program?**



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