

Winter
2012-13

City News

Huntington Beach

Parks Make Life Better! SM



The Age Wave

*Civic engagement
is the key to the
future of volunteerism*

The class is free, come join us and learn about the following:

- Myths and Realities of Aging
- Basic Communication & Active Listening
- Understanding the Grieving Process
- Signs & Symptoms of Abuse
- Special Needs of the Homebound Elderly
- The Aging Network & Community Resources

**Dates: Wednesday February 6 –
March 6, 2013
For five weeks**

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Fee: Free

**Contact: Diane Swarts,
Volunteer Services Coordinator,
(714) 374-1544 for additional
information or to enroll**

(From the perspective of a 27-year old)

By: Derek Kosko,

Community Services Department Staff Member

How did it take 27 years to learn that this city has so many parks? Now, I am not saying that I did not know that we had parks. In fact, some of my most cherished memories are of playing flag football at Murdy Park, jumping off the swings at Marina Park, and dreading the illumination of the streetlights signifying it was time to come home from Robinwood Park. I am simply trying to convey my awe at the multitude of parks checkering our gridiron map. Green refuges tucked away in the hearts of neighborhoods, protected by rings of single-storied ranch style homes. All of this does not answer my original question, though: how did this realization on my part take so long? My mom made sure to take my brother and me to the park every summer. (Thanks Mom!) We would come home filthy and exhausted after an adventure trying to capture sand bees.

Over the years, the park became less the place of adventure and more the place of romance. The aroma of freshly cut grass and blooming flowers highlighted an area where young love could blossom. On a side note to the fellas, take your girl on a surprise picnic to one of our less populated parks. It is free, you two would have your own "spot," and you will score some major boyfriend points. Major. I have worked on many of my friends' Eagle Scout community service projects at several city parks. Actually, it turns out that parks have always been a big part of my life. This makes my original question even more nebulous. At least it did until I plotted my favorite and most significant parks on a map.

My life has been allocated to three or four parks. The reason I did not know Huntington Beach has over seven hundred acres of parks is because I was so involved in my little slice of town. Discovering new places to play and recreate is one of my favorite things to do, so I have decided to blow the dust off my bike (Ok, wipe the dust off my bike, there is a lot of it) and explore! It is time to go fishing. Time to shoot some hoops. Time to throw horseshoes. Time to twirl around aimlessly in a big grassy field, with my arms open wide, like a crazy person.

I challenge you to do the same.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY!

The Sister City Association of Huntington Beach is looking for four students to become Youth Ambassadors to Japan. High school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who live or attend school in Huntington Beach are eligible. The program is a two-week reciprocal exchange; ambassadors host a student from Anjo, Japan the first 2 weeks in July, and travel to Japan in early August, 2013.

2012 marks the 30th year of this successful exchange with Anjo, Japan. In addition to the travel opportunity, the experience provides students with the understanding of foreign culture and a wonderful opportunity to broaden their horizons. Home stays provide much more than if the country were visited as a tourist.

Strong friendships have been formed between former ambassadors and their Japanese counterpart; the experience has even resulted in some career decisions for several students. Families of selected students benefit also, as host family members are encouraged to participate in the activities.

Applications are available at City Hall, Huntington Beach Central Library, and at the individual high schools. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 18, 2013.**

For more information on our Sister Cities or an application for the student exchange, please call Carmen Erber, 714-846-7685, or Laurie Frymire, Community Relations Officer, 714-536-5577.

HB Mobile Application now Available for the iPhone and Android

You can now use your smart phone to view the City's website, check news and announcements, review the calendar of events, call phone numbers, register for online services, make online payments and service requests, search library catalogs, and interact with City officials using a the new free "HBMobile" application available for download from the Apple Store or Android Google Play/Market Place.



Fix up your home with a little help from the City of Huntington Beach

Need some work done around the house? The City of Huntington Beach offers loans with low interest rates and deferred payments to homeowners of low and moderate income to make needed repairs. Homeowners can get affordable home improvement financing up to \$75,000. Funds can be used to correct code problems and for general property improvements. Eligibility factors include: income must meet the eligibility guidelines; homes must be owner occupied and in Huntington Beach; property must be in need of repair to meet City codes; and must have acceptable credit worthiness.



For more information, call (626) 331-6373.

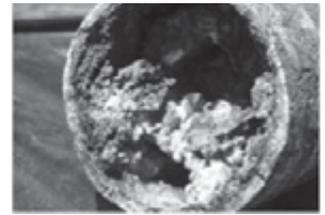
Avoid Costly FOG Related Sewer Overflows in Your Home

What is FOG and how does it cause sewer overflows

FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease and it is a by-product of cooking found in most foods including meat fats, sauces, oils, butter, dairy, baking goods, and food scraps. FOG is not water soluble. Once it cools, it floats to the surface and starts accumulating in sewer lines. Additional grease and other debris worsen the problem, and eventually your sewer pipes will become completely clogged and a sanitary sewer overflow may occur. FOG is a problem at the sanitation treatment plant also because grease interferes with the biological processes and reduces the treatment capacity.

Who is affected?

Everyone. Sanitary sewer overflows are harmful to humans and the environment and you may be liable for thousands of dollars in cleanup costs if spills discharge to the street and gutter. Spills caused by grease can be easily prevented!



Sewer pipe clogged with FOG

What can I do to prevent FOG related sewer overflows?

Here are just a few simple tips to prevent grease related blockages and overflows:

- Do not put dairy products, fats, oil, grease, or greasy foods down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place it in a lidded container and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- For greasy pans that need to be soaked, first pour excess grease into a container as mentioned above. Then wipe the greasy pan with a paper towel (not a cloth towel) to remove the grease. Dispose of the paper towel in a trash receptacle.
- For large quantities of cooking oil and other fats, call your local household hazardous waste collection at (714) 834-4000 for guidance on disposal.



Stress-Free Travel Starts at City Hall!

City of Huntington Beach Passport Facility

Ready for a vacation? Tired of long lines? Your time is precious, and that is why our agents strive to make your passport application process as quick and easy as possible.

City Hall offices are open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (except holidays). Photo services are available - standard fees apply.

Location: 2000 Main Street @ Main/Yorktown, 2nd Floor

Phone: 714-374-1600

Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/passports



Huntington Beach Council on Aging to Host New Year's Eve Ballroom Dance

The Huntington Beach Council on Aging will host their annual New Year's Eve Ballroom Dance on Monday, December 31, 2012, at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. The evening will include live music from the Bob Warren Trio, appetizers, hearty dinner, beverages, dessert, the "Grand Countdown Toast," and balloon drop at midnight. Tickets are available for \$40 at the senior center front counter.

Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center is located at 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach.

The Council on Aging is a non-profit organization that supports programs and services for Huntington Beach Seniors through the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center and the Huntington Beach Senior Outreach.

For more information, please call the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center at (714) 536-9387.

Shipleigh Nature Center

Ten Year Anniversary www.shipleynature.org

This year the Friends of Shipleigh Nature Center celebrates 10 years as a nonprofit organization. We are proud of all the accomplishments made through the good will of volunteers and the generous contributions of individuals and corporations.

To celebrate our first decade, we are offering our book, *The Mystery of Blackbird Pond*, at the discounted price of \$5. The original drawings in the book are all of birds and plants found at Shipleigh. The book focuses on the use and preservation of water resources and makes a delightful holiday gift.

We also encourage you to offer a donation in the name of a friend or relative which includes a card with photograph from the Nature Center appropriate for giving in honor of, or celebration of an event or person.

Please come for a visit at 17851 Goldenwest St. (near Talbert).
(714) 842-4772. Open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT DEC 15-23, 2012

For tickets and information,
Call (714) 840-7542 or visit our website
www.CruiseOfLights.org

2012 Huntington Harbour 50th Cruise of Lights®

*The most spectacular
light show on water!*

Your boat times:

5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 p.m.

Prices:

\$17 adult; \$10 children (2-12)

Special Value Night:

December 20, 2012

\$15 adults and \$10 children

*Proceeds benefit the Philharmonic Society's Youth Programs.
Presented by the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee.
Thanks for the support of Cristi Ulrich, Tim Smith, Coldwell Banker Previews.*



WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children to not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Before Heading Out or to Bed

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- One quarter of home decoration fires happen in December.
- More than half of the December home decorations fires are started by candles.
- Half of the holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Beach Information



City Beach: Encompassing 3.5 miles from Beach Boulevard to the west city limits, the city boasts one of the world's finest beaches. The beachfront includes the municipal pier, food and rental concessions, restrooms, showers, volleyball nets, fire rings, and a 2,200 space beach parking lot plus additional parking on Pacific Coast Highway and adjacent streets. New buildings on the municipal pier, a new Visitors Kiosk at Pier Plaza, and new restrooms along Blufftop Park north of the Pier will enhance beach visits for both residents and visitors. Lifeguard service is provided during daylight hours 365 days a year. The number and location of lifeguards on duty varies depending on season, weather and surf conditions. Please note posted signage for information. Curfew is 10:00 pm to 5:00 am and is strictly enforced. Beach Headquarters: 103 Pacific Coast Highway. Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Phone: 714 536-5281 Emergencies: call 911.

For information on Municipal Beach Parking Pass, Main Promenade Parking Structure, Day Use Parking, Pier Plaza Parking, and Sunset Vista RV Park, please visit www.surfcity-hb.org/visitors/parking/ or call 714 536-5281.