

In The Works- Huntington Beach Public Works

National Public Works Week

The week of May 18-22 was National Public Works Week. Public Works celebrated with an information booth at the front counter, along with coffee, donuts and educational materials. In addition there was some great equipment on display at City Hall for our fellow employees and visiting customers.

To encourage staff awareness and involvement, a department wide slogan contest which yielded quite the number of great slogan entries. The committee voted on using a simplistic approach of how we all feel working for this great community and wonderful department. "Serving with Pride, Since 1909."

Our Mayor Jill Hardy, kicked off the Surf City Tuesday Night Open House event downtown, which included fun, fun, fun for the citizens that we serve, as well as our friends and family. There were informational booths staffed by knowledgeable individuals educating the public of the everyday importance of what Public Works role is in keeping Huntington Beach running smoothly from our streets, water systems, sewer systems, traffic control devices, landscape maintenance, refuse programs, storm water runoff, water conservation awareness and the design aspects and implementations of our Capital Improvement Programs. The event hosted a variety of equipment and machinery, hands on displays, and prize give-aways. It was a wonderful, well-attended event that created a fun carnival atmosphere, which encouraged everyone to have fun and learn.

Our National Public Works Week committee will be assembling again at the start of 2016 to collaborate next year's event...Please mark your calendars for May 16-20, 2016 and especially Tuesday May 17th for our Surf City Nights event and help celebrate and honor these fabulous men and women that truly "serve with pride."



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Landscaping and Conservation

.In the average household, water use doubles in the summer, primarily due to landscape irrigation. But conserving water does not have to mean a dry, dreary landscape. As we know, irrigation accounts for 50-60% of the average household water use in Huntington Beach. Installing sustainable landscape is a way to conserve water resources, and create beautiful and interesting landscapes.

Some Myths about Drought-Resistant Landscaping

Drought-tolerant landscaping isn't colorful. In truth, many drought-tolerant plants are prolific bloomers. In addition, by carefully choosing foliage colors and textures for contrast, you can bring color interest to the garden year-round.

Drought-tolerant landscaping doesn't require any water at all. Even drought-resistant plants require some initial watering to become established. However, once they are established, drought-resistant plants will get by on considerably less water than we have been accustomed to lavishing on our landscape.

How to Conserve

In the garden, try these water-conserving techniques:

- Use a variety of attractive low-water-using plants.
- Use a drip irrigation system to apply water slowly, reducing run-off and promoting deep rooting.
- Lay mulch, which can be made from readily available wood chips or leaf mold, acts as a blanket to keep in moisture, and helps to prevent erosion, soil compression, and weeds.
- Preserve existing trees. Established plants are often adapted to low water conditions. Porous paving materials such as brick, decomposed granite, or gravel used in patios and walk-ways help keep water in the garden rather than in the gutter.
- Set automatic timing devices, which allow efficient watering on a schedule suited to each area of the landscape.



Landscaping and Conservation (continued)

More Ways to Save Water in Your Garden

- Water in the cool parts of the day to cut down on evaporation.
- Water before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
- Add compost to your soil to improve its water-holding capacity.
- Check for and repair leaky hose connections and sprinkler valves. Small leaks can be very wasteful.
- Ask your nursery about low-water-using turf, and raise your lawnmower cutting height. Longer grass blades help shade each other and cut down on evaporation.
- Don't over-water. Water only when the soil is dry.
- Water trees, turf grass and shrubs – which have deep root systems – longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants, which require smaller amounts of water more often.
- When planting, remember that smaller-size container plants require less water to become established.



Please visit www.surfcitygardening.com for water wise landscape ideas and plant information.

Report Ocean Pollution

City streets and gutters can become a highway for pollution to get to our beaches and environment. Common household activities can leave pollutants in the street that get into the storm drain system, which moves these pollutants to our local beaches.

Activities that leave debris in the street and gutter are not only unsightly and an inconvenience for neighbors but can result in ocean pollution. Some common household activities that can cause pollution include:

- Back washing pool filters to the street
- Pressure washing clay roof tiles
- Washing wet concrete, grout or stucco
- Washing paint brushes in the gutter

There are several ways to report pollution in your neighborhood. If you suspect it is a hazardous material please dial 911. Non-hazardous materials spills can be reported to Public Works at (714) 536-5431 or on Surf City Pipeline <http://user.govoutreach.com/surfcity/faq.php>.



Do your part and help keep our beaches and environment clean! To learn ways you can help prevent pollution please visit www.ocwatersheds.com and remember

The Ocean Begins at your Front Door !

Who to Call

For issues with my water/trash bill or to set up service Water Billing at (714) 536-5919

To request a tree to be trimmed Parks, Trees, Landscape Division at (714) 536-5480

To request a Public Works Inspection for curb/gutter, line/grade, final Engineering Desk at (714) 536-5431
(All inspections require 48-hour notice)

To report graffiti City Yard (714) 960-8861

To get a permit to park my RV on the street Police Department at (714) 536-5665

For a building inspection, Flood Zone info or a Building Permit Building Department at (714) 536-5271

If my streetlight is out SCE at (800) 655-4555

For Beach Parking Passes, to reserve a park, or register for a City activity or class Community Services at (714) 536-5486

To file a claim against the City, for records information, or passport information City Clerk at (714) 536-5227

For a Business License (714) 536-5267

Other Information & Agencies

When is street sweeping? Go to <http://hbmaps.surfcity-hb.org/viewer.htm>

The Social Security Office is in Fountain Valley at 17075 Newhope Street, Suite B (714) 966-2466 www.ssa.gov

County offices for Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses, and other County services are located in Santa Ana on Civic Center Drive (714) 834-5400 www.oc.ca.gov

Animal Control (714) 935-6848 www.ocpetinfo.com

Rainbow Disposal (714) 847-3581

Orange County Sanitation District (714) 962-4211

Vector Control (714) 971-2421

Public Works, Engineering
2000 Main Street, 1st Floor
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 536-5431

Congratulations to the 1st Place
Winners of the Halloween
Group Costume Contest!
Go Public Works!



Promotions, Certifications, Announcements

Retirements – We'll Miss You!

- Jerry Martinez – 40 years!!!!
- Stephen Kowny – 39 years
- Marlon Blodgett – 31 years
- Robert Civitano – 31 years
- Anthony Sunich – 28 years
- Deborah Gray - 17 years

Promotions – Congratulations!

- John Turner – Maintenance Service Worker to Street Maintenance Leadworker
- Braden Slater – Street Maintenance Leadworker to Beach Maintenance Crewleader
- Valentin Espinoza – Water Service Worker to Water Equipment Operator
- Antonio Velez – Water Equipment Operator to Water Dist. Maintenance Leadworker
- William Wallace – Maintenance Service Worker to Tree Equipment Operator
- Daniel Ramos - Maintenance Service Worker to Street Equipment Operator

New Hires – Welcome!

- Sarah Whitecotton – Administrative Secretary
- Kevin Dupras – Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
- Moises Velazquez – Maintenance Worker
- Jesus Martinez Ruiz – Maintenance Worker
- Ronda Allen – Administrative Secretary

Congratulations to Vince Madrid for obtaining the Water Distribution Operator Grade 5 from the State Water Resource Control Board. The Grade 5 is the highest level that State Water Resource Control Board offers. Well done, Vince!