

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

**April 23, 2012**

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services**

On Friday, April 20, the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) and Huntington Beach Senior Services hosted their Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Meadowlark Golf Club for over 200 senior service volunteers who had volunteered 40 or more hours in 2011. The luncheon capped Volunteer Appreciation Week during which Senior Services recognized the over 400 volunteers who donated 53,626 hours to senior services in 2011. This year's theme, "Volunteer's Shine," resounded when Diane Swarts, Volunteer Coordinator, announced that the 2011 dollar value the California Bureau of Labor Statistics estimate for a volunteer's time is \$24.18 /hour, making the total monetary contribution of these volunteers to the city of Huntington Beach more than one million dollars! The estimate helps acknowledge the volunteers who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference and quantifies the enormous value volunteers provide. For information on volunteering, contact Diane Swarts 714-374-1544 [dswarts@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:dswarts@surfcity-hb.org).

### **Recreation Programs – Parks Make Life Better!**

On Saturday, April 28, an estimated sixty thousand members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) statewide, together with other faith groups and community volunteers, will work together to serve California communities. Partnering with local interfaith service groups and community groups, "Helping Hands-Serving Our Communities" has worked with the City of Huntington Beach to organize thirteen prioritized volunteer projects in Huntington Beach so that many hundreds of community members can help to maintain important parks and community facilities. To recognize and encourage this volunteer effort, Mayor Hansen has proclaimed Saturday, April 28, as "Helping Hands Community Service Day." Community volunteers are invited to participate in a service project from 9 A.M. to noon, preceded by a free buffet breakfast served from 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. at the LDS meetinghouse at 5402 Heil Avenue (by Graham Street,) where information on projects will be available. Email [www.mhhcalifornia.org](http://www.mhhcalifornia.org) (select "Huntington Beach") for information or to RSVP.

Murdy Community Center has added a new PILOXING® class due to popular demand. PILOXING® is a unique combination of boxing and Pilates designed for a high energy, calorie burning, and muscle toning exercise. This six-week session starts April 25, and will be offered on Wednesday nights from 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Come see what all the talk is about. For more information about class registration, please contact Murdy Community Center at (714) 960-8895 or visit [www.HBsands.org](http://www.HBsands.org).

### **Huntington Beach Art Center**

The Art Center was teaming with guests Friday evening to celebrate the opening of the Annual Student Art Exhibition, Creative Visions, and Imagination Celebration. Musical performances by elementary and middle school students brought the parking lot to life while the galleries were filled with guests enjoying the visual art displays. The exhibition continues

through April 28. Call the Art Center at (714) 374.1650 for gallery hours and additional information.

### **Sunset Vista Camping**

Camping reservations are now available online by visiting [sunsetvistacamping.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://sunsetvistacamping.huntingtonbeachca.gov). Not only can customers make reservations online, but also they can check availability. This added convenience will make it easier for customers to enjoy amenities that the city has to offer. The Sunset Vista RV Camping Facility is open from October through May and reservations will be accepted three months in advance of the desired date of arrival. Check on the city website for more information and policies.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **ONE WEEK TO COSTCO OPENING**

Visit the new Huntington Beach Costco at Bella Terra. The new Costco will open on May 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The store location is 7562 Center Avenue.

### **Surf City Welcomes Another New Merchant!**

One of the latest merchants to come to Surf City, Total Wine, opened its doors last week at 16272 Beach Boulevard, in the space formerly occupied by Office Max. Total Wine will continue to celebrate their grand opening every weekend until May 6, with wine tastings, music and more. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit their website at [totalwine.com](http://totalwine.com).

## **FIRE**

### **Structure Fire**

On April 22, 2012 at approximately 6:00 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire on Speer Drive. Upon arrival, firefighters reported a four unit apartment building with smoke showing from a first floor unit. Firefighters extinguished a small fire in the kitchen and reported two burn victims who were transported to the hospital. The fire, which was contained to the original unit of origin, is currently under investigation

### **Huntington Beach Alerting, Warning & Notification Systems**

During an emergency, local officials and emergency managers must provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The City of Huntington Beach uses multiple methods to provide information to the public such as the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), Sirens, AlertOC, etc. Once an emergency notification from public safety officials is delivered, follow the instructions provided.

### **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

The EAS is a national public warning system that requires AM/FM radio stations, TV and cable TV systems to provide federal, state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information. Although most stations will broadcast EAS messages, 107.9 KWVE is Orange County's primary broadcast station and will broadcast all EAS messages.

### Siren System

Huntington Beach has sirens located at all eight city fire stations. The sirens are tested on the first Friday of each month at noon. The sirens may be activated for ANY impending emergency. If you hear the sirens and it is not the first Friday of the month, turn on your television and/or radio (107.9FM KWVE) and await further instructions.

### AlertOC

AlertOC is Orange County's regional public mass notification system designed to keep those who live or work in Orange County informed of important information during emergency events. The system is sponsored and led by the County of Orange in partnership with many Orange County cities.

Public mass notification systems have become a critical component of emergency preparation and response.

- Residents *prepare* to be notified of emergencies by providing their landline phones, cell phones and e-mail addresses.
- Public safety officials *respond* by using the system to rapidly send out messages when there is a perceived, upcoming or imminent situation that may require community action.

Based on the severity of the event, AlertOC may be used to contact residents by one or all of the following methods: home phone, work phone, cell phone, e-mail, text message. Mass notification systems have been attributed with saving lives during the 2007 Southern California wildfires by quickly notifying residents of evacuation instructions at all hours.

The legal authority (County or City) responsible for announcing emergency notifications depends on the nature and scale of the incident. With the AlertOC partnership between the County and Cities, residents and businesses only need to provide their contact information once to receive emergency messages from either the County or City in which they live or work.

How does it work?

1. AlertOC has significant capacity to send large volumes of messages through phone, e-mail and text communication channels.
2. When there is an emergency event requiring community action, authorized officials record a voice, e-mail or text message that is then delivered quickly to individuals affected by the event.

**Example:** a wildfire event triggers an evacuation notice.

3. Officials will use the system to keep affected communities informed of event information as necessary.

**Example:** evacuation call-off notice.

4. The System uses the 911 emergency databases to contact Orange County households.
5. Since there are many instances when the public may not be at home to receive an emergency message, public safety officials feel it is critical that all residents and businesses provide additional contact channels by registering voluntary cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses and text numbers through the AlertOC self-subscription web portal.

For more information and to register for AlertOC, please visit:

<http://bos.ocgov.com/alertoc/alertoc.asp>

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Orange County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Users Group meeting was held on April 19th at Huntington Beach City Hall. The group was welcomed by Huntington Beach Mayor Pro Tem Devin Dwyer, and was attended by representatives from thirty-four cities, county departments, water, sanitation and transportation districts. Attendees also included architectural and environmental firms, and other GIS organizations. Daniel Richards, Huntington Beach Information Technology Operations and GIS Manger, coordinated the meeting, and provided an overview of the region's best GIS practices. The Orange County GIS Users Group is focused on promoting, developing and sharing GIS resources in the region to help provide essential mapping services.

### **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Volunteer Appreciation Event 2012**

On April 16, 2012 the Central Library hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event to acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talents in making the Huntington Beach Library System a valuable community resource. The event was scheduled during the National Volunteer Week with over 150 people attending.

The library is proud to say it had over 500 volunteers donate their time during 2011, contributing over 57,000 hours. More than 200 volunteered 80 hours or more and over 35 individuals volunteered over 300 hours in 2011. That's at least 5 hours per week. It is because of these talented and dedicated people the library can offer exceptional services to our community.

This year the volunteer event committee received seven nominations for the Distinguished Volunteer award, and it was decided to announce and acknowledge all of the nominees. Distinguished Volunteers acknowledged – Mary Ann Aliano, Ana Detken, Lynda Engel, Marcy Long, Barbara Miles, Sheila Plotkin and Tinnia Zitter. They each received an award presented by Stephanie Beverage, Library Director, and Mayor Don Hansen; included with the award was a gift certificate donated from a generous local restaurant - Duke's, Five Crowns, Hilton Waterfront, Hyatt Regency, Maggiano's Little Italy, Naples Rib company and The Yard House.

**Surf the Web @ the Library**

The Huntington Beach Library's Media Computer Lab has been updated and is ready for use. These PC's expand the number of Internet computers available for the public to use free of charge 1-hour per day for Huntington Beach Library card holders. Printing is available for the Media Lab via the Children's or Adult Print Release station at 15 cents per black and white page or 50 cents per color page.

The Media Lab is open the same hours as the Media Center. Visit [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org) or call 714-842-4481 for more information.

**Taste of Huntington Beach is here!**

Rain or Shine, the Taste of Huntington Beach – an annual fundraiser to benefit the Huntington Beach Children's Library - will go on, Sunday, April 29 from noon until 4:00 pm! Buy tickets online at [www.tastehb.com](http://www.tastehb.com) or the Library's Circulation Desk. If tickets are still available, they will also be sold at the door. VIP tickets are \$85 with the VIP reception from 11 to noon. VIPs get first entry into the Taste. General tickets are \$65. Price is all inclusive. Enjoy sampling delicious food, wine, and beer while helping to raise money for the Children's library. Soft drinks and water are also available. There will be a silent auction, raffle and music by the Tijuana Dogs. Designated Driver tickets are also available.

**Libraries Making a Difference**

The Huntington Beach Public Library has four neighborhood branches in addition to its Central Library, each serving the particular needs of its local community. The bustling Oak View branch is a great example of the difference local library services can make. Library Director Stephanie Beverage states, "Our Oak View Branch Library has been an important part of the Oak View Neighborhood ever since it opened. Services at our Oak View Library focus on family literacy, homework support, early childhood literacy and support for families in general. Our staff makes a difference everyday helping kids get the assistance they need for school success, helping parents support their children's education, and generally providing information and resources that help Oak View families be more successful."

Recently, the important role of the branch in the Oak View neighborhood has been recognized by two organizations. First, the Oak view branch library was named as one of five winners of the Estela and Raúl Mora Award. The award will finance two additional children's programs to celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) at the branch. Earlier this month, the National Charity League, Pacific Coast Chapter, through the Children's Bureau of the Oak View Family Resource Center, awarded funds for the homework club that will allow that program to continue to promote success in school to local students.

These awards not only help to fund programs in Oak View, but validate the hard work the Branch library does to make a better Huntington Beach.

**Special Storytimes at Oak View**

The first celebration of el Día del Niño/Día de los Libros takes place at the Oak View library on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28 with two special storytimes. The Friday, April 27

storytime will engage preschool children and their parents with music, stories, special activities like playing with a parachute, a pull-string piñata and decorating a crown so each child can be king or queen for a day. The Saturday, April 28 storytime will focus on school-aged children and their parents, featuring books, music and party games, as well as free books, a craft and a pull-string piñata with prizes. Parents will receive information about early literacy and each child will be able to choose a free book. Children will learn the significance of El Día and the importance of reading and books, promoting each child as unique and wonderful contributors to our world!

### **Play Ball @ Your Library**

Baseball season is underway so hustle on in to the Huntington Beach Library for the new lineup of baseball books! Bestselling author John Grisham has set his latest novel, *Calico Joe*, in the world of professional baseball. Local fans will be highly interested in *Imperfect: an Improbable Life* by Jim Abbott, a memoir by the former California Angel who threw a no-hitter as a Yankee in 1993, and *Dodgers, From Coast to Coast: the Official Visual History of the Dodgers*, with a foreword by Tommy Lasorda. Other notable titles this spring include *Driving Mr. Yogi: Yogi Berra, Ron Guidry, and Baseball's Greatest Gift* by Harvey Araton, and *Trading Manny: How a Father and Son Learned to Love Baseball Again* by Jim Gullo. Check them out today! [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org).

## **PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

### **Planning Commission**

On April 24, 2012, at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the following item:

**ENTITLEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 12-003 (ENDLESS FOOD AND FUN ENTERTAINMENT)** to review a request to amend Conditional Use Permit No. 09-034 to permit modifications to the operational conditions of an existing 46,000 sq. ft. commercial recreation and entertainment facility. The request intends to modify Conditions of Approval Nos. 2(b) and 2(e) which will (a) extend the daily closing hours of the facility an additional hour from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM – Monday through Thursday; 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM – Friday; 7:00 AM to 1:00 AM – Saturday; and 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM – Sunday, and (b) provide additional entertainment based activities. The types of activities proposed include comedy acts, karaoke, disc jockeys (DJ), live bands, dancing, computer gaming, talent contests, and arcade game tournaments, and after hours special engagements. ( 7227 Edinger Avenue, 92647 - north of Edinger Avenue, east of Gothard Street). Contact Andrew Gonzales, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information;

A non-public hearing will also be held on the following item:

**GENERAL PLAN CONFORMANCE NO. 12-01 (EDINGER AVENUE UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT)** to determine if a proposed underground utility district on Edinger Avenue, between Marjan Lane and Gothard Street is in conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan (Edinger Avenue - between Marjan Lane and Gothard Street). Contact Hayden Beckman, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information. A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Main Street Rehabilitation**

The Main Street Rehabilitation between Yorktown Avenue and Utica Avenue is nearing completion. Last Saturday, the final rubberized asphalt cap was constructed and the contractor will be raising utility covers to grade, installing traffic loops and placing the final striping. By constructing the project during the evening and overnight hours impacts to residents, Huntington Beach High School, Civic Center visitors and employees were minimized. Public Works staff would like to thank the high school staff and students and residents for their cooperation during this project.