

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

December 20, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Reminder that City Hall will be closed beginning Friday, December 24 through Sunday, January 2, 2011. For specific information regarding which buildings will be closed, please visit our website at: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services

This year the community of Huntington Beach generously supported Senior Services and kept the Care Managers busy delivering the festive bounty to their clients in time for the holidays. An anonymous donor dropped off 25 frozen turkey breasts. Hope Chapel donated seven food baskets. Huntington Harbor Mobile Estates gave 25 gift baskets. The Dream Catchers Assistance league donated 50 hefty gift bags. The Early Birds of Southern California and Huntington Harbor Social Club donated a variety of toiletries, snacks and other gifts. The Huntington Beach City School District delivered poinsettias for homebound seniors. Huntington Beach Hospital and Home Instead In-Home Care "adopted" several clients. Volunteers from the Community United Methodist Church made small home repairs for two older adults. Many others in the community donated much needed items to the Senior Santa and Friends program which assists needy seniors countywide, all year round. Thanks to all who participated.

Adult Softball League Registration Underway

Registration for the Winter 2011 Adult Softball leagues is now underway. The registration deadline is January 13, 2011.

- Senior leagues are offered on Sundays
- Men's leagues are offered on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
- Coed leagues are offered on Sunday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday nights, and Friday nights

The leagues will start play January 23 and will conclude in April or May. Registration packets are available on the City Adult Softball page or can be mailed out. For more details or information, please contact the Community Services office at 714-536-5230.

Project Self Sufficiency

On Friday, December 17, the 2010 Project Self Sufficiency Holiday Party was held at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center. Dozens of volunteers, donors, and staff members, together with PSS Foundation members provided a tasty holiday meal, entertained with a variety of holiday music, provided beautiful gifts for every PSS family member. Special guests included Mayor Joe Carchio, Council Members Keith Bohr and Devin Dwyer and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Sincere thanks goes to each and every donor, volunteer and

elected official who took time out of their busy schedule to donate to or participate in this memorable annual event.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Beach Boulevard of Cars Year-End Clearance Sale

From now through January 15, 2011, the Beach Boulevard of Cars Association, consisting of eleven auto dealerships along Beach Boulevard, is holding a year-end clearance sale; offering special pricing on over 5,000 new and previously-owned vehicles. Stop by any participating dealer and ask about their Year-End specials. The sale is sponsored by the Huntington Beach Auto Dealers Business Improvement District.

FIRE

Christmas Tree Safety

- Artificial trees should be labeled as fire retardant.
- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or retardant.
- Place trees at least three feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Before placing a live tree in the stand, cut 2-3 inches from the base of the trunk and add water to the stand daily.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Note if lights are for indoor or outdoor application and use appropriately.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Get rid of the live Christmas tree when it starts to get dry. Check with your local community to find out information about a recycling program.

FACTS:

- Each year, fire departments respond to roughly 200 structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- Two out of five home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one-quarter of the fires.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Holiday hours at the Library

During the holidays, the Central library hours will be as follows:

Thursday, December 23: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday – Sunday, Dec. 24 – 26: Closed

Monday – Thursday, Dec. 27 – 30: 1:00 pm – 6:00pm
Friday – Sunday, Dec. 31, 2010 - Jan 2, 2011: Closed

All branches will close at 5:00 pm on December 23 and reopen with regular hours during the first week of the New Year.

Meeting Rooms Available for Rental at Your Library

The Meeting Room Rental Department at the Central Library will be open during the last week in December. There are banquet rooms available for those planning after-Christmas birthdays or last minute New Year's Eve festivities. The website at hbpl.org/facilities has photographs and pricing information. Please call 714-374-5336 to discuss ideas and possibilities with one of the library's friendly event planners/coordinators.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

December 28 Planning Commission Meeting Cancelled

The regular Planning Commission meeting for Tuesday, December 28, has been cancelled due to the holiday closure of City Hall. The Planning Commission is next scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reminder on California law regarding cell phones and driving

A law passed by the California Legislature made it an infraction to talk on a cell phone while driving effective July 1, 2008. On January 1, 2009, an additional law was enacted making it an infraction to use any type of electronic wireless communication device to write, read or send text based communications.

Adults are allowed to talk on a hands free cell phone device while driving. Anyone under 18 years old is not allowed any use of a cell phone while driving, not even with a hands free device. No one is allowed to write, read or send text based communications while driving.

The law is stricter on teen drivers because of their lack of experience in driving. Also, teen drivers are more likely to be distracted while driving. The best practice is to turn off a cell phone while in a vehicle. If it is on and rings, do not answer it until you have safely reached your destination. The only allowable exception is to contact law enforcement, the fire department or a health care provider in an emergency situation.

A police officer can stop any motorist seen using a cell phone, or similar device, to issue them a traffic citation. Huntington Beach Police Department strictly enforces these laws. So far in 2010, Huntington Beach police officers have issued 2,748 traffic citations for these offenses.

For more information about the use of electronic wireless communication devices while driving, visit the California DMV webpage at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm> or view the DMV video on cell phone laws from the Huntington Beach Police Department Facebook page www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice .

PUBLIC WORKS

Sewer Rehabilitation Project Completed

The 2010 Sewer Rehabilitation project started construction on October 4, 2010, and was recently completed ahead of schedule. The project consisted of lining nearly 6,900 lineal feet of deteriorated sewer main lines within the residential tract bordered by Adams Avenue, Bushard Street, Cape Cod Drive, and Chesapeake Lane. The process included cleaning of the existing sewer lines, relining the pipe with a cured in place pipe (CIPP) liner and rehabilitating 60 manholes. The process allows for pipeline rehabilitations without excavations and minimal impacts to residents.

Storm Update

The storm season is upon us. Over the past weekend the City received an average of 2.85 inches of rain with the heaviest storms predicted for December 21 and 22. All storm drain pump stations are in full operational status. Residents are reminded to keep their storm gutters and drains free of debris. City crews will be on call during the holidays, ready to respond as needed.

This season's rainfall averages for our area are twice the norm - the impending storms could easily set records and have been projected to be some of the strongest storms in the past 10 years.

The city's website features information on how and where to get sandbags. Go to: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov.