

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

April 1, 2013

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) Dance – Fresch New Time! Fresch New Band! Fresch New Fun! “The Fresch Experience,” a high-energy big band, will perform dance-able favorites reminiscent of the glory days of the great Las Vegas Shows. The HBCOA monthly dance will be on Friday, April 12 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors’ Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach. Admission is \$7.50. Wine is available for purchase. For more information, contact the senior center at: 714-536-9387 or visit: www.hbcoa.org.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR for the Easter Hunt and Family Fun Day

On Saturday, March 30, the Community Services Department together with the Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club hosted the 23rd Annual Easter Hunt and the Third Annual Family Fun Day. The event was held at the Huntington Central Park Sports Complex and drew large crowds with thousands of people in attendance. Children up to 10 years of age collected thousands of pounds of candy and took pictures with the Easter bunny. There were also displays by several departments within the city. Children were invited to climb on the various equipment and vehicles provided by Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments as well as receive information from the City Clerk Department. The Community Services Department featured crafts, games, and various displays of all the fun activities offered including cheery performances by contract instructors. The Shorelife Church Band performed, setting the mood for this wonderful day in the sun! It was a great day filled with smiles and laughter, a fantastic reminder of how Parks Make Life Better!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

First Annual Sunset Beach Restaurant Week – April 1-7

Sunset Beach is kicking off the spring season with their first annual Restaurant Week, sponsored by the Sunset Beach Business Association, which promotes local business and opportunities in the Sunset Beach community. This year’s theme is “See you in Sunset Beach.” Restaurant week is intended to encourage the public to visit Sunset Beach and enjoy specials on dining, hospitality and merchandise throughout the entire week. Participating restaurants include: Restaurant Week headquarters at J. King Neptunes, Schooner on Sunset, Don the Beachcomber, and participating businesses such as Anderson Art Gallery, title sponsor JBGmg Real Estate and Property Management, Momentum Construction, and Stay Fit Cards. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate the culinary and retail offerings of Sunset Beach! For more information on Restaurant Week and on the Sunset Beach Business Association, please visit their website at: www.sunsetbeachBIZ.info.

Taste of Huntington Beach

It's just a few short weeks until the 2013 Taste of Huntington Beach! This annual event will take place on Saturday, April 28 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. The Taste of Huntington Beach, sponsored by the Huntington Beach Restaurant Association and the Friends of the Children's Library, has raised over \$300,000 to support the Children's Library from event proceeds. For one all-inclusive price, attendees can feast on unlimited tastes of food from favorite local eateries, sip on samples of wine and beer from premium California wineries and craft breweries, bid on silent auction baskets filled with goods and services from local businesses, enjoy top-notch live entertainment. For more information on the Taste of Huntington Beach, please visit: www.tastehb.com.

FIRE

Children Playing with Fire

Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries each year. Preschoolers are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters.

Facts & Figures

- Most of the people killed in child-playing fires are under 5, and such fires are the leading cause of fire deaths among preschoolers.
- Almost half (46%) of the people who start reported home fires by playing were five years old or younger.
- Roughly three out of every four child-playing fires – and at least four-fifths of associated deaths and injuries – involve matches or lighters.
- Children also start fires by playing with candles, stoves, fireworks and cigarettes.
- Among fatal home fires started by children playing, three out of five involve children igniting bedding, mattresses, upholstered furniture or clothing.
- Approximately 40% of child-playing fires in the home start in a bedroom.
- Children who start fires may be children in crisis, with the fires acting as cries for help from stressful life experiences or abuse, according to studies of fire-setting behavior.

Safety Tips

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferable in a locked cabinet.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children. They may imitate your actions.
- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Teach young children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters, and teach school-age children to bring any matches or lighters to an adult.
- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.
- If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unduly fascinated with fire, get help immediately. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts. The phone number for the Huntington Beach Fire Department is (714) 536-5411.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Free CPR classes are available to Huntington Beach residents who are members of the FireMed Program. You can find information about this service and view the latest class schedule at:

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/Fire/FireMed/CPRtraining.cfm>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Magazines Matter @ the Library**

According to the Association of Magazine Media, 87% of those interested in reading magazines on a digital device still want a printed copy. To help meet this demand, the Huntington Beach Library subscribes to nearly 300 print magazines as part of providing a variety of learning and leisure opportunities for the public. In addition to well-known titles like *Consumer Reports*, *National Geographic*, *Woman's Day*, and *Sports Illustrated*, the Library also offers specialty titles such as *Arthritis Today*, *Fine Woodworking*, *Natural Health*, *Transworld Skateboarding* for teens and *Ranger Rick* for children. Back issues of many magazines may be checked out for three weeks just like a book. All print magazines are listed in the library's online catalog. For more information, call (714) 842-4481 or visit www.hbpl.org.

Haiku Workshop @ the library

To kick off National Poetry Month, the Huntington Beach Central Library is offering a haiku workshop. The workshop will be in the Balboa Room on Saturday, April 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn the history of haiku, how to structure a haiku poem using seasonal words, and even write your own haiku! The workshop will be led by Deborah P. Kolodji. Deborah moderates the Southern California Haiku Study Group and is active in the international English language haiku community. Everyone 16 years old and over are welcome. Please join us!

Library History – Banning Branch 45th Anniversary

2013 marks the 45th anniversary of the Banning Branch Library serve to the public. The 2,400 square foot building now known as the Banning Branch Library was originally built in 1962 as a real estate sales office located at 22171 Bushard Street. On March 26, 1968 the building was moved to its present location at [9281 Banning Avenue](#) and subsequently opened as an annex of the Huntington Beach Library system, serving the City's southeastern region. Today the branch provides over 23,000 books, weekly storytimes, and Internet computers for library card holders, free Wi-Fi, and an ongoing paperback exchange and used book sale. For more information call the Banning Branch Library at (714) 375-5005.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**Planning Commission**

On April 9, 2013, the Planning Commission will review the following item:

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 12-035 / VARIANCE NO. 13-004 (BEACH CITIES INTERFAITH SERVICES DISTRIBUTION CENTER) Applicant: Chris Christie,

Beach Cities Interfaith Services, Inc. **Property Owner:** Eli Esber, County of Orange
Request: CUP: To permit the establishment of a modular building as a temporary distribution center for food, clothing, and other necessities to homeless and at risk families on a portion of the vacant and closed Orange County Transfer Station site for a period not to exceed five (5) years.. **VAR:** To permit a 13 ft. front setback for the modular building in lieu of the required 25 feet. **Location:** 18131 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 (west side of Gothard Street, south of Talbert Avenue)
City Contact: Tess Nguyen.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

As part of April's "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" campaign, the Huntington Beach Police Department will be actively ticketing those texting or operating hand-held cell phones. Drivers who break the law, placing themselves and others in danger, will be cited. In 2012, the Huntington Beach Police Department issued 2,511 tickets to drivers who were texting or operating hand-held cell phones while driving.

Distracted driving is a serious traffic safety concern that puts everyone on the road at risk. In recent years, hundreds have been killed and thousands seriously injured in California as a result of collisions that involved at least one driver who was distracted. Nationally, an estimated 3,331 died in 2011. As a result, law enforcement across the state, including HBPD, is increasingly cracking down on cell phone use and texting. This April will see over 225 local police agencies, plus the CHP, increasing awareness and conducting enforcement campaigns.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Younger, inexperienced drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes. In addition, studies show that texting while driving can delay a driver's reaction time just as severely as having a blood alcohol content of a legally drunk driver.

To avoid a distracted driving ticket or crash, the Huntington Beach Police Department offers drivers the following tips:

- Turn off your phone and/or put it out of reach while driving
- Include in your outgoing message that you can't answer while you are driving
- Don't call or text anyone at a time when you think they may be driving

PUBLIC WORKS

Algonquin Sewer Lift Station

The reconstruction of the Algonquin Sewer Lift Station was awarded to Metro Builders and Engineering Group Inc., in August of 2012. The total project cost is \$2.4 million. The project includes the construction of a completely new sewer lift station as well as two new sewer

force mains on Heil Avenue and on Algonquin Street. The Contractor has nearly completed both of the new force main pipelines. The Contractor is expected to complete a complex milestone this week - the 35 foot deep foundation. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2013.