

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

**April 2, 2012**

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services**

The Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) Spring Fling – HBCOA will host its annual Spring Fling luncheon honoring 200 members who have supported the HBCOA for ten or more years on Thursday, April 12 at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center. Inez Smith has been a member for 37 years. Fran Ritchie, Don Griswold, and Marie Slovacek have also been members for more than 30 years. The mission of the HBCOA is to work with city staff and volunteers to enhance the dignity and quality of life for the senior citizens of Huntington Beach. The lunch, sponsored by Attentive Home Home Care, includes entertainment, door prizes and HBCOA news and updates. Purchase the \$5.00 ticket by April 10 at Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach. For more information call 714-536-9387 or visit the HBCOA website [www.hbcoa.org](http://www.hbcoa.org).

### **Recreation Programs**

Have you always wanted to become a swim instructor? Huntington Beach Community Services Department is offering Water Safety Instructor classes to be certified as an American Red Cross swim instructor. This class teaches swim instruction techniques, safety precautions, and proper swimming form. Students will be required to demonstrate these skills in order to complete the course and receive a water safety instructor certificate. There will be an additional fee for required American Red Cross materials. Classes start April 13, 2012. To enroll, please visit [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org) or call (714)960-8884 for more information. Parks Make Life Better!

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Special Monthly Promotions at Surf City Nights!**

Surf City Nights, Orange County's largest weekly street fair, is offering a special deal each week in the months of April and May for the first 50 certified farmers market customers. Stop by the Surf City Nights information booth next to the fountain on Main Street to pick up a flyer for April's promotion: Gama Farms is offering one pound of potatoes free with the purchase of two pounds.

In May, Apson Farm will be offering all melons at buy-one-get-one-half-price. The flyer is required to redeem these great offers. Additional information about Surf City Nights can be found by liking HB DOWNTOWN on Facebook or visiting their website at: [www.hbdowntown.com](http://www.hbdowntown.com) for the latest information on all downtown happenings, including Surf City Nights, the monthly Artwalk, and a variety of other events throughout the year.

### **Face2Face: A Business Expo at the Pier**

The Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce in association with the City of Huntington Beach and the HB Downtown Business Improvement District cordially invite all city employees and officials to participate in [Face2Face: A Business Expo at the Pier](#). Come join

us on Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Pier Plaza. Get to know over 50+ small businesses in Huntington Beach. There will be a job seekers tent with opportunities to make connections with local employers searching for talent; learn about the latest job search tips; and get advice on resume writing. So come one and come all to this extraordinary event!

## 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**

- In 2005-2009, children playing with fire started an estimated 56,300 fires that were reported to U.S. fire departments, causing an estimated 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries and \$268 million in direct property damage.
- 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 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**

Did you know that the City of Huntington Beach requires a permit for a burglar alarm system? You can find out more information and download a permit on the city website at:

<http://huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/PD/divisions/administration/alarmOffice.cfm>

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Poetry Month @ Your Library**

National poetry month is a great time to read a poem or two, something many of us haven't done since school. Visit the Huntington Beach Public Library and peruse an extensive collection of poetry books. From Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson through our current Poet Laureate, Philip Levine, there's a poet for everyone this month. In recognition of National Poetry Month students may need to write a paper on a certain poet or poem. The Huntington Beach Library is ready to help. The Central Library houses two reference sets, *Poetry Criticism* and *Poetry for Students*, expressly for this kind of assignment. Using the Gale Literary Index— available free on the Library's website [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org) under the Research Databases tab— students can look up an author or specific poem title to find out which set and volume carries the necessary information and analysis for their report. Check it out today!

### **Create a Lasting Memory and Help out the Children's Library**

In honor of National Library Week, the Friends of the Children's Library is holding a tile sale the entire month of April. Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special event for family or friends and help the Central Library completely tile the post by the children's boat. A personalized, painted ceramic tile creates a unique, long-lasting memento. All tiles going on the post, near the top of the column, will be \$30 each or 2 for \$50. The library supplies the glazes and tiles and all funds go towards Books for Kids. Painting is done in the Children's Department during operating hours. Call 714-374-5330 or 714-374-5338 to arrange a time and date for painting a tile. Cash or checks only. Sorry, no credit cards.

## **PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

### **Zoning Administrator**

On April 4, 2012, at 1:30PM in Room B-8, the Zoning Administrator will conduct a public hearing on the following items:

#### **VARIANCE NO. 12-001 (ADAMS & MAGNOLIA SHOPPING CENTER FAÇADE REMODEL)**

to review a request to permit a (a) 3 ft. wide landscape planter in lieu of the minimum 10 ft. required along Adams Avenue; and (b) 3 ft. 4 in. wide landscape planter in lieu of the minimum 6 ft. required along Magnolia Street in association with proposed façade improvements to an existing commercial shopping center (9036-9102 Adams Avenue, 92646 (southeast corner of Magnolia Street and Adams Avenue). Contact Hayden Beckman, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information;

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 12-002 (RELIABLE LUMBER RV STORAGE)** to review a request to permit the establishment and operation of a 207-space recreational vehicle storage facility on a 4.24-acre portion of a total 8.65-acre industrial property utilized by an existing lumber storage yard. The facility will operate on a 24-hour basis with access provided from Redondo Circle through a controlled entry gate (7600 Redondo Circle, 92648 (south of Talbert Avenue, terminus of Redondo Circle and Kovacs Lane). Contact Andrew Gonzales, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information. A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Don't Text While Driving**

The text messaging law went into effect on January 1, 2009, in Section 23123.5 of the California Vehicle Code. The law states "a person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication". The law includes, but is not limited to, communications referred to as a text message, instant message or electronic mail.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Emergency Street Work On Warner Avenue**

Last Thursday, March 29, two off-duty Public Works employees discovered a sewer line break on Warner Avenue just west of Rotterdam Lane (near Lowe's Home Improvement). The sewer line break damaged an existing sewer manhole and also undermined the adjacent pavement and sub grade affecting an area of approximately 17-feet long by 21-feet wide. Fortunately, no one was hurt and sewage did not discharge onto the street surface.

Upon discovery, the impacted area was blocked off to traffic and shored to prevent further soil destabilization. At this time, the two outside eastbound lanes and the inside westbound lane are closed. City's contractor is diligently working to dewater the affected area, reconstruct the manhole, repair the pipeline, and backfill the excavation. Unfortunately, this work will take approximately one week to complete. All adjacent businesses and residents have been notified. In addition, an electronic reader-board sign has been placed on Warner Avenue to alert oncoming traffic regarding the lane closures. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding and are working to complete the repairs as soon as possible. Questions should be directed to Mr. Eric Charlonne at (714) 536-5430.

### **Main Street Rehabilitation**

Main Street Rehabilitation from Utica Avenue to Yorktown Avenue will commence this week and continue through late-April of this year. To minimize impacts to Huntington Beach High School students, most of the roadway work has been planned to occur during times when high school is not in session. This week, limited saw-cutting will take place between the hours of 4 pm and 10 pm and will require traffic to be restricted to one lane in each direction. Most of the concrete work will take place during the week of April 9 through April 13 during the hours of 7am and 5 pm while students are on Spring Break.

Finally, major roadway asphalt work will take place at night during the week of April 16 and April 25. For night work, the contractor will work between the hours of 4 pm to early morning of the following day. Staff is cognizant of the residential properties in the vicinity and is working with the contractor to minimize noise and complete the work near Utica Avenue between the hours of 3:30 pm and 8 pm and work on the rest of the segment during the early morning hours. Staff is in the process of notifying affected residents and businesses including the High School. For questions, please contact Eric Charlonne at (714) 536-5430.