

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

August 22, 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Skateboarding and Scootering

Whether you are just learning or ready to learn advanced tricks, this class is for you. Make new friends, advance your skills, and most importantly have fun in our private skatepark. All participants will receive a Skatedogs T-Shirt. Requirements: Class registration with signed Skatedogs waiver form and fee, a skateboard or scooter, knee pads, elbow pads and a helmet. Class will be held in the Sports Complex parking lot, 18100 Goldenwest, conducted by Skatedogs. Visit the fall issue of the HB SANDS Community Services Guide at www.hbsands.org on page 19 for more information.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Questions about Medicare, health insurance or upcoming open enrollment? Get your questions answered at a free appointment with HICAP, the Orange Council Office on Aging's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program on Mondays at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach. HICAP provides accurate and objective counseling, advocacy, and assistance with Medicare and health insurance issues. HICAP can help individuals better understand Medicare benefits, how the health care system works and services to which all are entitled. To make an appointment or for more information call 714-536-9387.

Huntington Beach Art Center

Cool off at the Art Center – join a drop in art workshop on Saturday August 27. Artist Joe De Vera will teach a figure drawing class with a live clothed model from 12-4 pm. Verona Tang will teach you how to make candles and soap from 2-4 pm. Materials fees apply. Please call the Art Center at 714-374-1650 for details.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Surf City Savings

Summer savings is just a click away with Surf City Savings Discount Program. With over 150 participating businesses, you are sure to find a discount for just what you are looking for. Merchants include restaurants, health & beauty, local services, products, and more. The best part is while saving money here in Huntington Beach you are also supporting our local city services by keeping our spending dollars local. Recently added to the program is Evolve Gym, offering free training sessions. Allied Hearing Services offers free hearing aid check & cleaning or hearing check. We also have Surf City Dog Spaw offering 10% off your pets first grooming! Check these and others out on www.surfcitysavings.com to start saving locally.

Shuttle and Bike Valet – Now Through Labor Day Only!

The Surf City Downtown Shuttle and Surf City Bike Valet have both enjoyed successful summer runs for the second year in a row, and if you haven't yet tried these fantastic – and FREE – options for visiting the downtown, now is the time! Both programs are continuing

through Labor Day, but then will say their goodbyes for 2011 as the summer comes to a close. The Shuttle operates on Tuesdays from 5:30 -10 PM from the Civic Center to Main and Orange Streets during Surf City Nights, and on weekends and Labor Day from 10 AM-10 PM to Main and Orange and 5th Street/The Strand. The Bike Valet, located at The Strand on 5th Street/Walnut Avenue, is available on Tuesdays from 5-9 PM during Surf City Nights and on weekends and Labor Day from 12-5 PM. For more information, visit:

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/videos/hbtv3/shuttle-bike-promo.cfm>.

FIRE

Structure Fire

On the morning of August 19, the Huntington Beach Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Medford Drive. The initial report indicated that there were two people inside the residence. Heavy smoke poured from the front window of the single story residence; it was determined that both occupants were evacuated. The fire was brought under control in approximately 10 minutes with initial property damage estimates set at \$150,000.

Two victims were treated on scene and transported to a local hospital for further evaluation. The two dogs and cat were rescued and are in the care of animal control. The fire is currently under investigation.

Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car Program

Since March of this year, there have been 17 disturbing incidents of toddlers dying from being trapped in a sweltering car. Last year, 49 children in the U.S., ages two months to six years, died from heat stroke while unattended in vehicles—the worst year on record. The first two deaths occurred when the temperatures outside were just 73 and 72 degrees. It doesn't have to be hot outside for a car to heat up to a dangerous level. Light pouring through the windows of a car stays within the car, and cracking a window does little or nothing to let heat escape.

Sadly, there have been more than 500 of these heartbreaking losses due to hyperthermia since 1998.

- Hyperthermia is a condition that occurs when a body's thermostat is overloaded by heat. It can happen to people of all ages. You may have heard this condition called "heat stroke". Symptoms may include dizziness, disorientation, agitation, confusion, sluggishness, seizure, hot dry skin that is flushed but not sweaty, loss of consciousness, rapid heartbeat or hallucinations. It can be prevented by keeping a person cool and hydrated.

Through the Safe Kids USA network, the "Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car" program has mobilized a wide range of partners—first responders, hospitals, government agencies, child care centers, businesses and others—to share with parents and other caregivers prevention messages to address the dangers of hyperthermia to children in vehicles.

The general public is unaware that sunlight can raise the indoor temperature of a car by 19°F in just 10 minutes. At 104°F the body begins to shut down; at 107°F death occurs. Because a

child's body temperature rises 3-5 times faster than an adult's, children are at much higher risk of heat stroke.

Having reviewed the 500+ deaths to children from heat stroke in vehicles since 1998, Safe Kids and their partners have identified three primary reasons why children are unattended in cars.

- 1) In over half the cases (51%), they were forgotten by a very distracted driver when they arrived at their destination.
- 2) In about 30% of cases, they climbed into an unlocked car or trunk to play, couldn't get out on their own and were overcome by heat.
- 3) In about 20% of cases, they were intentionally left alone by a driver as they ran an errand.

Here's what parents and caregivers need to know and why:

Lock cars and trucks – 30% of the recorded heat-stroke deaths in the U.S. occur because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle. These deaths can be prevented by locking the vehicle doors so kids can't get in and become trapped. Parents should keep key fobs out of reach of children. Once they get inside, children are quickly overcome by heat and don't know how to problem-solve and climb out. People with kids should actively check that everyone is out of the car before they lock it and shouldn't leave a car unlocked just because it's in the driveway. People without kids should also lock their doors and trunks to keep neighborhood kids from climbing into their vehicles.

Create reminders – Many child heat-stroke deaths occur because parents and caregivers become distracted and exit their vehicle without their child. To help prevent these tragedies, parents can:

Place a cell phone, purse, briefcase, gym bag or something that's needed at your next stop on the floor in front of a child in the backseat. This will help you see your child when you open the rear door and reach for your belongings.

Set the alarm on your cell or smart phone as a reminder to you to drop your child off at day care.

Set your computer calendar program to ask, "Did you drop off at daycare today?" Establish a plan with your daycare that if your child fails to arrive within an agreed-upon time that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially mindful of your child if you change your routine for daycare.

Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car – EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble. The speed with which a child's body temperature rises makes fast response critical. Wait by the vehicle so EMS can find you quickly.

Check vehicles and trunks first if a child is missing.

Other dangers of unattended children in cars include: children have been known to put cars in gear, wander away from cars, and even be kidnapped out of unattended cars.

For more information on preventing child heat-stroke deaths visit Golden Gate Weather Services and Safe Kids Worldwide. This information is from the International Association of Fire Chiefs at www.iafc.org/OnScene.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Check out the HB Crime Mapping Service. This system allows citizens to view the location of crimes reported in the city. Citizens can also sign up to receive email notification when a crime is reported within a certain radius from their residents:

<http://www.crimereports.com/map/index/?search=+Huntington%20Beach+CA&agencyzoomlevel=15>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Self-Check @ the Library!

There are self-service gasoline pumps, self-service ATMs, self-service grocery checkout, and even self service check out at Home Depot. Self -service machines and units can empower individuals and make simple transactions fast and easy. Libraries all across the country have been adding self-service check out stations - the Huntington Beach Library now has three new self-checkout units. These three stations allow visitors to check out their own books as they leave the library. All of the new stations are located at the Central Library – two by the main entrance and one in the Children's Department. Each station walks the patron through the check out process with a touch screen interface. Library visitors can scan their library cards, enter a personal "pin" number, and then scan each item by barcode. The self-check units print a receipt listing the items checked out and due dates. The new stations give everyone more options, increase library efficiency, and help customers avoid lines when the library is very busy. Don't worry - the library will continue to have helpful staff available to answer questions about the new machines or to offer assistance with checkout. Come on in and give the new Self Service Check Out a try.

Library Launches New Kid-Themed Library Card Designs

Many people have fond memories of getting their first library card and the Huntington Beach Public Library wants that tradition to continue. Just in time for National Library Card Month in September, four eye-catching new library card designs were unveiled this week. A library art contest challenged full and part-time staff members to create fun, kid-themed library card designs, among them an owl from Central Park photographed by Lyn Scott, a hand-drawn cartoon owl by Rebekah Blaser, and photographic renderings of the Children's Department and local wildlife by James Whitten and Diane Wood. Anyone who doesn't currently have a library card will find this the perfect time to get one – and to celebrate some wonderful home-grown art!

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Downtown Specific Plan Submitted for Coastal Commission Final Certification

On August 15, 2011, the City Council adopted the Coastal Commission's approval of the Downtown Specific Plan Update. The Downtown Specific Plan Update was approved by the Council in January 2010 to encourage and facilitate redevelopment in the downtown area by revising development standards to allow increased residential density, reduced parking

requirements and more flexible design standards. The Coastal Commission approved the Downtown Specific Plan Update on June 15, 2011, with modifications to ensure that future downtown development would be consistent with the policies of the California Coastal Act. The City will forward the adopted City Council Resolutions to the Coastal Commission for final certification. Upon final Coastal Commission certification, anticipated to occur in October, the Downtown Specific Plan Update would become effective.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Night Out 2011 at Target Well Attended

On August 2 the Huntington Beach Police Department, Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Program, RSVP's, VIPS, and many others joined in partnership with Target at 9882 Adams Avenue to celebrate National Night Out. Target is the National sponsor of National Night Out celebration. The purpose is to *encourage you to join with neighbors in giving neighborhood crime and drugs a going away party out of our community*. We want to send the message we will not tolerate crime in our community. HBPD volunteers distributed crime prevention materials, displayed a Police vehicle, an RSVP vehicle, and much more.

Crime prevention is everyone's business. We wish to thank all the people that helped make National Night Out event a success. Over 900 people spoke with various groups, organizations, and businesses at this event.

Thank you to the following for their participation: Target and Blake Thomas; Executive Team Lead; Target Asset Protection; Geri Reno and Tina Speyer of AAA Club; Huntington Beach Fire Department; Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator; CERT & RACES members; Make-a-Wish Foundation of Orange County and the Inland Empire; Ambassador Doc-Barker - Canine Ambassador; Community Services Programs, Inc. (CPS) Human Trafficking Division; Clowning Around Entertainment; Magic Freddy Balloons; Artistic Endeavors; The Delta Society Therapy Dogs; Guide Dogs for the Blind – Inc. of San Rafael; and of course all the HBPD volunteers.

Crime Prevention is everyone's business – Let's show our strength and commitment to eliminate crime in Huntington Beach.

Photographs of the event are posted on the Huntington Beach Police Department Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice

PUBLIC WORKS

Construction Begins on Sewer lift Station Replacement Project

Construction has begun on the replacement of a 48-year-old existing sewer lift station located on Adams Avenue frontage road between Piccadilly Lane and Ranger Lane just west of the Santa Ana River. The scope includes the construction of a new sewer lift station and force main to replace existing facilities. After the new station is completed, the existing station and force main will be demolished and abandoned. The new station, like the old station, will be placed underground at a depth of approximately 20 feet. Construction of the project will mainly occur on the Adams Avenue frontage road with the exception of the installation of the

shoring walls. Installation of the shoring walls will require the closing of the westbound outside lane on Adams Avenue until early September.

A well attended neighborhood meeting was conducted on-site prior to start of construction. Construction completion is expected by early March 2012. Any question should be directed to Public Works Engineering.