

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

December 12, 2011

CITY MANAGER

City Hall Holiday Closure

In order to save taxpayer's dollars, City Offices and off-site facilities will be closed during the holidays. The closure will not impact essential public safety services. The closures will be as follows:

City Hall will be closed December 26 – January 2, re-opening on January 3. Limited staff will be available in some offices to process payments and schedule building inspections.

The first City Council meeting in 2012 will be Tuesday, January 17, 2011, due to the observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Community Services facilities – Edison Center, Murdy Center, City Gym, Senior Center and Art Center will be closed. The Sports Complex will be available through reservations and the batting cages will be open. The Pier, beach area, beach parking area, and Main Promenade Structure will be open. Senior Outreach will continue providing Meals to the Home for those homebound seniors.

Marine Safety Officers will be patrolling the beach daily 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Lifeguard Headquarters will be open December 26 through January 16 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Parking passes will be available for sale at this location.

The Central Library will be open December 27 – 30 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. All branch Libraries will be closed.

Police and Fire will continue to be available and will answer any emergency 9-1-1 calls. The Police building will be open during the holiday closure. Fire Stations will be open and staffed for emergencies.

Questions regarding the City's holiday closure can be directed to Public Information at 714-536-5577 or email lfrymire@surfcity-hb.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Recreation Programs

Recreation programs provide opportunities for life-long learning along with a whole lot of FUN. Studies show that what you practice in the first decade of life prepares you for the next seven or eight decades of life. The SANDS Community Services Guide provides opportunities for participation in diverse recreational activities ranging from art to exercise and allows residents to develop a lifetime of healthy habits for themselves, their families, and friends! Visit www.hbsands.org for more information on WINTER 2012 programs and activities. Registration begins Tuesday, December 13.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Hand-knit gifts for the holidays will be on sale Thursday, December 15 from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. in the City Hall Lobby! The Handy Crafters will offer a beautiful selection of handmade sweaters, scarves, hats, and baby clothes for your holiday gifts or for you! All proceeds from the sale benefit the Huntington Beach Senior Services Holiday Meals program. This Christmas, a meal of braised beef ribs prepared by Ellen Creative Catering, will be delivered by volunteers to older adults in Huntington Beach who are alone on the holiday. The Handy

Crafters meet at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Friday mornings at 10:30 A.M. Beginners are welcome to join the group. Materials and instruction are provided. For more information, call the senior center at 714-536-9387.

Project Self Sufficiency

On December 3, Project Self Sufficiency children participated in the Clothe the Children Event at the Huntington Beach Wal-Mart. Each year Kiwanis of Huntington Beach partners with Wal-Mart to clothe low-income children in the Huntington Beach area. Project Self Sufficiency was invited to attend this wonderful event for the second year in a row. For more on the story:

http://www.hbindependent.com/news/opinion/tn-hbi-1208-pipeline-20111205_0,3674563.story

On December 16, Project Self Sufficiency (PSS) will hold its annual Holiday Party at Rodgers Senior Center. PSS children will receive toys donated by the HB Fire Department "Spark of Love" program, "Toys for Joy," and other community and faith based groups, as well as opportunities to win a bicycle. The wonderful and generous Huntington Beach community has made the Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program and Toy Drive a big hit and a huge blessing for PSS families.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Get on the Ice...at The Strand!**

The Holiday Ice Rink enjoyed last year is on its way back to downtown Huntington Beach! Enjoy festive outdoor ice skating beginning December 16 and continuing through January 1, 2012. Skaters of all ages and abilities are welcome. A grand opening celebration will be held Saturday, December 17th starting at 5pm, featuring the Cirque du Soleil truck, pet photos with Santa, free hot chocolate by Sertinos and more. Skate rental is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and under. The Holiday Ice Rink is also available for group rental and private events. Plus, as part of The Strand's Coats for Kids Program, those who choose to donate a coat the weekend of December 16-18 will skate free! For more information about The Strand and its holiday happenings, visit atthestrands.com

Free Coupon Book Offers Big Discounts for the Holiday Season

Throughout downtown Huntington Beach, more than 300 unique and exciting businesses line the streets offering one-of-a-kind experiences for residents and visitors alike. This holiday season, many downtown businesses, in partnership with the Huntington Beach Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), have given us another reason to celebrate the spirit of

the holiday season with the exciting – and free! - Miracle on Main Street coupon book, offering outstanding holiday savings at over 60 Downtown retailers and restaurants! There are lots of easy ways to get it, too. Simply go to <http://www.hb-downtown.com/> to download your free coupon book, pick one up on Tuesdays during Surf City Nights, drop by the Lower Level of Huntington Beach City Hall, or at the Downtown BID office located at 315 3rd Street, Suite E.

FIRE

Christmas Tree Safety

Picking the tree

- Artificial trees should be labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing a live tree in the stand, cut 2-3 inches from the base of the trunk.
- Add water to the stand daily.
- 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.

Lighting/Decorating the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. 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.
- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or retardant.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the live Christmas tree when it starts to get dry and begins dropping needles. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Check with your local community to find out information about a recycling program.

FACTS

- Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 21 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in death.
- Each year, fire departments respond to roughly 210 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.

Residential Structure Fire

On December 11 at approximately 10:30 a.m., firefighters were dispatched to a residential structure fire at 11th and Main Street. Upon arrival, firefighters reported a two-story single family dwelling with smoke coming from the roof tiles at the rear of the residence and from the vents on both sides of the second story attic area.

Firefighters confirmed a working fire in the attic and provided ventilation by cutting holes in the roof. The fire was extinguished by personnel on the interior. The truck company then covered the vertical ventilation openings on the second story to minimize additional damage with the predicted upcoming rain storm. Fire damage was confined to the second floor attic area with a property loss estimate of \$75,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Did you know that the City Website receives over 300,000 visits and nearly 1.5 million pages are downloaded every month?

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Holiday Closure @ Your Library

The Central Library will be **closed** on Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 and Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2, 2012.

The Central Library will be **open** with reduced hours, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30 ONLY.

ALL BRANCHES will be **closed** beginning December 24 and will open following January 2, on their regular schedule. (i.e., Murphy, Oakview and Main open on Tuesday, January 3; Banning opens on Wednesday, January 4, 2012)

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Division Entitlement Submittal Appointments

The Planning Division offers applicants submitting entitlement applications the opportunity to schedule an appointment with a Planner to streamline their submittal. Applicants wishing to utilize this service are encouraged to contact the Planning Division to schedule an appointment with a Planner when they are ready to submit their entitlement application(s). Appointments are not mandatory, but are offered as a service for applicants submitting common entitlements including conditional use permits, variances, tentative parcel maps, etc. The appointments are offered to improve customer service, streamline the submittal process and reduce counter wait times for the applicant and other customers. To schedule an appointment, please call (714) 536-5271.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Did You Know?

- Teen drivers are found at fault in 66% of ALL FATAL collisions that they are involved in, although they only represent 4% of the state's licensed drivers.
- The leading cause of DEATH for Americans 15 - 20 years old is motor vehicle collisions.
- 65 % of teen passenger deaths occur when another teenager is driving.

WHAT IS THE START SMART PROGRAM?

The California Highway Patrol's Start Smart program is a **FREE** driver safety education class which targets new and future licensed teenage drivers between the ages of 15 - 20 and their parents/guardians. CHP officers will discuss traffic collision avoidance techniques, collision causing factors, driver/parent responsibilities, and seatbelt usage.

Our goal is to help young drivers and their parents/guardians understand the responsibilities associated with driving a motor vehicle, show how a poor choice behind the wheel can change the lives of everyone involved, and to reduce the number of teen-related injuries and deaths due to collisions.

[Please call and RSVP to reserve your seat.](#)

WHO: Students and Parents

WHAT: Start Smart Class

WHEN: Monthly (next class on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 PM)

WHERE: California Highway Patrol
13200 Goldenwest Street
Westminster, CA 92683

*For More Information or to RSVP
Contact Officer Ray Payton @ (714) 892-4426 or rpayton@chp.ca.gov*

PUBLIC WORKS

Rainy Season Sandbags for Residents

The Public Works Department provides residents of Huntington Beach and Sunset Beach with free sandbags during the rainy season. On average, the City provides 30,000 – 50,000 sandbags during a normal to heavy rain season and has provided as many as 140,000 during an El Nino season.

Sandbags can help prevent flooded property, erosion and mud slides. The City provides the sand and sandbags at the City of Huntington Beach Corporate Yard on Gothard from 7:30am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday. Hours are extended on heavy rain days and weekends. Residents can receive up to 20 sandbags, but need to bring a shovel to fill the bags and proof of residency. Residents needing assistance may call the HB Fire Department CERT Message line at (714) 536-5974 to arrange free sandbag delivery.