

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

December 2, 2013

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services – Senior Services is Our Park

The Huntington Beach Council on Aging will host their annual New Year's Eve Dance and Dinner on Tuesday, December 31, 2013, from 8:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center, 1706 Orange Avenue in Huntington Beach.

Your \$40.00 ticket includes the swinging sounds of "PM Howard and the Night Owls," raffle prizes, a festive buffet dinner, and a "Grand-Countdown Champagne Toast" at midnight sponsored by Memorial Care Medical Group, Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center, Nurse Next Door, SeaCliff Home Care, Edinger Medical Group, and AR Mobility.

Purchase tickets in advance at the senior center. The purchase of eight tickets reserves a table. Singles are welcome at the friendly single's table. Tickets must be purchased by Monday, December 23. For more information, please call the senior center at 714-536-9387.

Senior Santa and Friends Program

Each year, Huntington Beach Senior Services collects gifts for the *Senior Santa and Friends* program. These gifts help older and disabled adults through Orange County Social Services and Health Care Agencies. Collection boxes with pink tags of gift ideas are located at Seniors Outreach, 1718 Orange Avenue, through Friday, December 20.

Donations of ***new, unwrapped items*** are welcome. Some gift ideas are: blender, crockpot, toaster, coffee maker, rice cooker, toaster oven, pitcher and filter, cordless or large button telephone, heater or fan, vacuum cleaner, microwave, radio/alarm clock, boom box, CD, CD player, TV, white cotton socks, slippers, new clothing (men/women, all sizes), jacket, pajamas, underwear, sweat suit, T-shirt, blouse, sweater, pants, bath robe, nightgown, housedress, pillow and pillow case, hand-held showerhead, bath mat, towels set (wash cloth, hand and bath towel), blanket, sheet set, bed-in-a-bag,(all sizes) hygiene kit, emergency kit, hand-cranked radio/flashlight, pill organizer (day/week/month),pill crusher, Boost, Ensure, or other nutritional supplements, gift card, OCTA bus pass for 60+, Disabled (one, seven or 30-day). Checks made out to "Senior Santa and Friends" and gift cards can be mailed to: mailed to HB Seniors Outreach, 1718 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. For more information, call Michelle Yerke: 714-374-1521.

Free Swim Level Testing



The Community Services Department is offering FREE swim level testing at the City Gym and Pool. Certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors will evaluate swimmers and recommend the appropriate swim level based on their skill and comfort in the water. Swim level testing gives parents the opportunity to have their children evaluated prior to the start of the HB winter aquatics schedule. Swim level testing will be held Saturday, December 7 from 1:00

p.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information or to register, please call the City Gym and Pool at (714)960-8884.

Children's Needs Task Force

The Children's Needs Task Force is thrilled to be working with Barnes Noble at Bella Terra Huntington Beach on the Annual Holiday Book Drive. Barnes & Noble stores across the country invite customers to give the gift of reading to children during its annual Holiday Book Drive, taking place from November 1 through December 31, 2013. The Bella Terra Barnes & Noble is providing an opportunity for customers to donate books to local non-profit organizations through the Children's Needs Task Force. The Children's Needs Task Force will select the schools, libraries, literacy organizations, family social service agencies, and homeless centers to receive these books. Shop local and support local youth!

FIRE

2013 Spark of Love

The Spark of Love campaign began in 1993 as a partnership between ABC7 and firefighters throughout the five-county areas of Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura. Although there are other worthwhile toy drives, Spark of Love is the only one created and operated by firefighters.

In Orange County, Spark of Love combines efforts with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, Social Services Agency's Operation Santa Claus and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Holiday Charities program. Working together as the Orange County Toy Collaborative, these agencies collect and distribute approximately 300,000 toys annually to Orange County children who may otherwise go without during the holiday season.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Firefighters' Spark of Love campaign, which will run through December 24. All Orange County fire stations will serve as drop-off sites for new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment. Gift cards will also be accepted.

Monetary donations can be made to the Orange County Toy Collaborative in care of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 1505 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 109, Santa Ana, CA 92705 Attn: Demetria Lee. Checks should be made payable to the Orange County Toy Collaborative.

Toy Request/Family Referral sheets are available at all Orange County fire stations and at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul office at 1505 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 109, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

For questions regarding the Spark of Love Campaign, please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Tim Andre at 714-536-5418.

Christmas Tree Safety

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

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 a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- 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. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- 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

- One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of the fires.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Did you know the City website has a very large selection of streaming videos? You can watch a variety of videos such as HBTv3 Live, archived videos of Surf City Highlights, Cityworks, City Attractions, City Events and videos about the City departments. You can find a link to this page from the City site homepage or under the Residents navigation tab: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/videos>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Tickets Still Available for the Annual Tree Trimming at the Children's Library

There are still plenty of tickets left for the Friends of the Children's Library Tree Trimming Crafts and Holiday Marionette Show this Saturday, December 7. Tickets are \$4 per person

and the program starts at 10:00 a.m. There are two options: make ornaments at 10:00 and see the show at 11:00; or see the show at 10:00 and make ornaments at 11:00. Franklin Haynes Marionettes will be performing Frosty's Magic Hat. Santa will be here from 10:00 to noon. All children attending will receive a reusable book bag filled with goodies. Buy your tickets at the Central Library Children's Desk - cash or check only, please. For more information visit our website: www.hbpl.org or call 714-375-5107.

Holiday Happenings at the Oak View Branch Library

- Oak View Branch Library participated in the First Fall Festival held on Saturday, November 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Oak View Family & Community Resource Center. This Festival was sponsored by the HB Church Collaborative (Saddleback, First Christian, and Rock Harbor). Members of the participating churches volunteered to offer games, face painting, BBQ food, holiday food boxes, and more to community residents. Oak View Branch Library participated with an informational booth and a fun game for children! Many children received carnival prizes while parents were informed about library services and programs!
- Oak View Branch Library offered special Thanksgiving Storytimes & Craft sessions on Saturday, November 23, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tammie Bavel, our children's storyteller, read fun holiday stories and children enjoyed doing crafts! More than 76 children attended this fun children's event!

Computer Coach Program at Central Library Celebrates its Three-year Anniversary!

Public computing is one of the library's most in-demand services. 91,177 individuals have used the internet in the library over the past year and the system averages almost 8,000 users per month. To help library users get the most out of their computing experience, a skilled group of volunteers known as the Computer Coaches work one-on-one with patrons.

In three years the program has grown to include 15 different coaches and a volunteer Coach Coordinator. Coaches have helped hundreds of Huntington Beach locals apply for jobs online, manage photos, format and print documents, establish email accounts, and discover the new library Chromebooks. Computer coaches have background and experience in a variety of computer applications and are available to assist computer users on a walk-in basis during most library hours. For more information or to confirm availability of a coach that can help today, contact the Central Library at 714-842-4481.

A Special Thanks to the Banning and Murphy Branch Volunteers

These volunteers have contributed more than 80 hours during 2013:

Sandy Fazio, Mary Hoenig, Shelly Ray, Linda Rosenthal, and Joan Singleton at the Banning Branch and Judy Burrows at the Murphy Branch.

All of the branch volunteers are dedicated, reliable, and efficient in their various positions at the branches: covering the desk during the librarian's lunch, shelving books, or decorating the library for the various seasons. Shirley Coburn, a newer volunteer from Banning, brought in three beautiful Thanksgiving bouquets of handcrafted pens with artificial flowers in a glass vase, one each for Banning, Murphy and the Main Street branches. Robyn Richardson and

Mary Moschel keep the Murphy library looking ship-shape. And every year, a former volunteer brings in home-made bookmarks created from old Christmas cards to hand out to the patrons at Banning. These special touches, in addition to the regular contributions the volunteers provide, give the library branches a homey and welcoming feel. The library is so blessed to have these generous, kind-hearted volunteers who help keep the libraries both looking beautiful and running efficiently.

OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Task Force Meeting

The next meeting of the Downtown Task Force will take place on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Street Library, located at 525 Main Street. For more information, please visit: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/boards_commissions/downtown_task_force.cfm.

Shop Locally and Support the Community

The holiday season is here and there is plenty of shopping and decorating to be done. As you plan your activities for the season, how about adding "shop locally" to your list? By shopping locally you help to generate much-needed sales tax dollars. A portion of sales tax is given back to the city to provide public services that our citizens rely on each and every day. Help make Huntington Beach a wonderful place to live, work and play!

Free Certificate Management Training for Residential Property Managers on Dec. 5

The Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) will hold a Fair Housing Certificate Management Training at the Huntington Beach Central Library in the Talbert Room (7111 Talbert Avenue), on Thursday, December 5. This free course is open to the public and is targeted towards property management professionals. The Fair Housing Foundation will explain state and federal fair housing laws, discuss state and federally protected classes, advertising guidelines, and how to prevent allegations. Participants receive a Fair Housing Certificate upon successfully passing the course exam. An RSVP to 1-800-446-FAIR (3247) is required for the December 5 program.

The Fair Housing Foundation is funded through the City's Community Development Block Grant program to provide fair housing counseling services to Huntington Beach residents. The Foundation also educates the public about fair housing rights and responsibilities through workshops, trainings, and community events. FHF also provides mediation and counseling services by telephone and at and walk-in clinics, and investigates issues of discrimination related to housing. For more information, please visit their website at www.fairhousingfoundation.com or call the telephone number listed above.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Zoning Administrator

On Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in Room B-8 the following items are scheduled for review by the Zoning Administrator:

1. **DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 13-007 (MAGNOLIA STREET BRIDGE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE DECLARATION)**: To analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with maintenance activities to restore the integrity of the existing Magnolia Street bridge. The project is located over the Huntington Beach Channel along Magnolia Street, east of Pacific Coast Highway and south of Banning Avenue. Please contact Hayden Beckman, Planning Aide, for more information.
2. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 13-008/ ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT 13-004/ TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP 12-146 (SHEA INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS)**: To permit the construction of two industrial condominium buildings that will total 142,300 square feet (93,100 square feet and 49,200 square feet) on an approximately 6.5 parcel (former Randall Lumber Site) at 17332 Gothard Street, 92647 (east side of Gothard Street, between Warner Avenue and Slater Avenue). Please contact Kristi Rojas, Contract Planner, for more information.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website. Please contact the Planning Division, at (714) 536-5271, with any questions.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

HYPD Warrant Service Operations

On Sunday, December first, officers from the Huntington Beach Police Department conducted a warrant service operation as part of our ongoing OTS STEP Grant. The officers were looking for DUI offenders who failed to show up to court or who violated the terms of their probation. Prior to the warrants being attempted, an investigator spent numerous hours researching the current address and vehicle information for the offenders. This helped to increase the likelihood of finding the offenders and made better use of the officers' time. Officers checked 23 different locations and ultimately arrested seven people for outstanding warrants. One arrestee received an additional charge after officers found narcotics on them. Officers will be conducting three more warrant operations in the future.

Coyote and Other Wildlife Information

Many residents in Huntington Beach and all of Orange County experience occasional visits from local wildlife, especially those that reside in newly developed neighborhoods or areas next to protected parks and wilderness trails. During spring time, these visits may become more frequent as this is the breeding season for many wild animals. While some residents understand that wildlife is being pushed from their natural habitat and take pleasure in these visits, many consider them a nuisance because of late night forages in trash cans, messes left behind and the occasional "setting up camp" in or around one's property.

The City of Huntington Beach contracts with OC Animal Care for animal services. OC Animal Care receives many calls about wildlife from residents throughout the year. In an effort to alleviate concerns, here are some helpful tips to discourage wildlife activity in your neighborhoods.

- Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside at night. Food left out at night will be taken as a welcome invitation by wildlife and may prompt a future visit.

- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.
- Remove any fruit which has fallen to the ground.
- Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds, and enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.
- Check fencing and try to eliminate access points to roof tops.
- Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly.

Taking these preventive measures should help in deterring wildlife from visiting your property. Please remember that if the three (3) life sustaining elements are available (food, water and shelter), you are likely to encounter some wildlife in your area.

OC Animal Care will respond to situations regarding any wildlife that is sick, injured, dead, or has had physical contact with a human or domestic animal. For more information on the laws pertaining to urban wildlife and their protection visit the Department of Fish and Game's website at: www.dfg.ca.gov.

More specific information on coyotes is available at:

<http://egov.ocgov.com/vgnfiles/ocgov/OC%20Animal%20Care/Docs/regulatory/coyotes.pdf>

The contact information for OC Animal Care is:

- **Hours of operation:**
8:00am-5:00 p.m. daily
(714) 935-6848 or (949) 249-5160
5:00pm-8:00 a.m. nightly
(714) 935-7158

In an emergency, call 911!

PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Safety Grant Award

The Department of Public Works was recently notified that the City of Huntington Beach was awarded a Federal grant to fund \$2,866,600 in traffic safety improvements. In May 2013, the Transportation Division prepared grant applications under the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program to address accident patterns at six intersections in the City. The grant applications are evaluated on a competitive basis with the highest scoring improvements being funded. All six locations submitted by the City were funded. The grant will fund 90% of the costs of the improvements at the six locations, totaling \$2,560,000 in grant funds with City participation of just under \$290,000.

The operational improvements at the intersections are mainly adding left turn arrows at locations identified as priorities. However, many other upgrades to the traffic signals and overall intersection infrastructure are included in the program. The six intersections receiving

funding include: Main St./Utica Ave./17th St; Bolsa Chica St./Pearce; Newland St./Slater Ave.; Newland St./Ellis Ave.; Gothard St./Slater Ave.; Goldenwest St./Heil Ave.

Over the past 3 years, the Public Works Transportation Division has been successful in securing funds for more than \$7.3 million in projects with grant funds comprising 87% of the total costs for the projects. By pursuing these grant funding programs, the Public Works Department is able to provide substantial improvements to the City's transportation system while maximizing the use of financial resources we have available in our annual budget.