

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

**December 3, 2012**

## CITY MANAGER

### City Receives 2012 Award for Sustainable and Green Development

The Orange County Business Council (OCBC) celebrated its second-annual Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet honorees at the Center Club in Costa Mesa. These awards recognize municipal programs and projects that have best cut the bureaucratic red tape often associated with government work. The City of Huntington Beach received the 2012 award for Sustainability and Green Development.

The city's Sustainable Surf City program eliminates energy waste and uses cost-effective, on-site renewable energy in city facilities and through a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce helps HB businesses be more competitive by eliminating waste in their operations. The program protects HB's quality of life through sustainable development, while improving the bottom-line performance of the business community and the city's operations.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Indoor Basketball Camp

Don't forget to sign up for NEW Skyhawks Winter Basketball Camp at the City Gym and Pool. This week long camp starting December 17 is designed for beginning to intermediate basketball players. Children ages 7-12 will engage in fun drills that focus on passing, shooting, dribbling, and rebounding. Registration for this camp is now available online or in-person. For more information, please see page 21 of the SANDS Community Service Guide at [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org) or contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

### Marine Safety

Despite rainy weather, Marine Safety Officers were busy over this past weekend. Many surfers came down to the beach to test their skill in 4-to-7 foot swells. Marine Safety Officers made several rescues (including a person attempting suicide) and issued several citations to surfers who surfed into the NSSA contest area. Marine Safety Officers also removed 15 lobster traps which washed into the surf line creating hazards.

### Huntington Beach Art Center

Please join us for the Allied Arts Board's annual Holiday Potluck and Sing-a-Long on Wednesday, December 5, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The evening will be a casual celebration of the season featuring Evelin Eng, DMA, on the piano, wonderful food, and tons of good will. You are invited to bring your family, friends and your favorite holiday dish to share. Call the Art Center at 714-536-5258 for details.

### Huntington Beach Senior Services – Senior Services is my Park

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. Now through Friday, December 21, collection boxes with pink

tags of gift ideas are located at the HB Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, on the fifth floor of City Hall, 2000 Main Street, and at Seniors Outreach, 1718 Orange Avenue.

Donations of **new, unwrapped items** are welcome. Some gift ideas are: blankets, microwaves, clothing, heaters, fans, towels, cordless telephones, socks, slippers, sheet sets, pillows, liquid nutritional supplements, and gift certificates for discount or grocery stores. Checks, made out to Senior Santa and Friends, and gift certificates can be mailed to HB Seniors Outreach, 1718 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. For more information, call Michelle Yerke, 714-374-1521.



### **Swim Classes Available at the City Gym & Pool**

Winter is just around the corner, but do not let the cold weather fool you - swimming lessons are available year-round! Come to the City Gym and enjoy lessons in our heated, indoor pool beginning the week of January 7. Our certified water safety instructors teach the skills necessary to become knowledgeable about both proper swimming techniques and water safety.

Classes are offered for ages 6 months to adult, with numerous programs to meet a variety of swimming needs. If you are unsure which level a participant should enroll into, we encourage you to attend a swim level testing on December 8.

Please call the City Gym & Pool at 714-960-8884 to make a reservation. Private swimming lessons will also be available for participants of all abilities starting January 11. Registration for private lessons will only be available in-person at City Gym beginning Tuesday, December 11 at 9 a.m. All other class registrations will be available both in-person at any community center or online at [www.HBsands.org](http://www.HBsands.org). Please refer to the SANDS magazine or call the City Gym & Pool for more information.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **HB Business Owners on the List of Orange County's Kindest Businesses – Vote for your favorite by December 8!**

Three Huntington Beach business owners have received the honor of being nominated as semi-finalists for the award of Orange County's Kindest Businesses. Nominations for the award were provided by members of the community as part of the Orange County Register's annual recognition of those in the business community who go the extra mile at the holidays and throughout the year for their employees and those in need. Cast your vote online by 11:59 PM on Saturday, December 8. Finalists and the winner will be announced online and in print on December 24. The Huntington Beach nominees are:

- **John and Stacy LaBrake, Love at First Bite:** The LaBrakes donate holiday feasts to poor families through the Great Hunting Valley Indian Princess Nation. They adopt two or three families in need every Christmas and buy them gifts and serve them a Christmas dinner, says nominator Barry Colburn. For three years, John LaBrake has given his time and money to run the snack bar for South Huntington Beach Girls Fastpitch Softball League. The LaBrakes work with a bride to provide the best within her budget even if they cut their own profits, Colburn says. Many employees stay for years because of the LaBrakes' kindness and generosity.

- **Susan Scott, Premiere Health Care Services:** Scott contributed to more than 10 nonprofits, including Someone Cares Soup Kitchen, Alzheimer's Association, Harvest for Hospice and Friends of Dorothy. She frequently buys lunch for her staff throughout the week, brings in a fitness trainer to work with employees, and offers them money and furnishings if they're struggling and help if they have long-term illnesses.
- **John Etheridge, Seashore Pest Control:** Etheridge is President of the 92-member Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club and volunteers at many events to help local youth, military and the elderly. In December, he and the club work on Clothe the Children which buys clothes for 140 children for Christmas.

Congratulations and good luck to our generous business owners!

### **Want a Unique Gift? – Look at the Crafts for the Weekly Farmer's Markets!**

Browse through the craft booths at the local Farmer's Markets to find unique and homemade gifts for the family along with healthy fruits and vegetables, music, and children's activities. Make a morning, afternoon or evening visit to our local farmers markets. Find one near you!

#### **Tuesday**

- Main Street during Surf City Nights from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM – plus, make it even more fun by catching the free Surf City Downtown Shuttle from the Huntington Beach Civic Center and take advantage of free parking for shuttle passengers!

#### **Friday**

- Pier Plaza (Main and Pacific Coast Highway) from noon to dusk

#### **Saturday**

- Farmers Market and Family Festival:  
16400 Pacific Coast Highway @ Peter's Landing –9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

## **FINANCE**

### **Disability Access - State Mandated Fee effective in 2013.**

At the end of the 2012 legislative session the Legislature approved and the Governor signed SB1186. The primary intent of the bill was to limit the liability of businesses to lawsuits under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a component of this bill the state sought to bolster the Certified Access Specialist Program (CASP) administered by the State Architect and local governments.

To provide funding for CASP the bill imposes an additional state fee of \$1 on "any applicant for a local business license or equivalent instrument or permit, or renewal thereof". All businesses are subject to this fee including: rental properties, out-of-town businesses, home-base-businesses, contractors, exempt businesses, and non-profits. The bill divides this money between the State Architect and the City, at specified percentages, 30% is transmitted to the State, and 70% is retained by the City and is restricted for use in its CASP program and for associated administrative costs.

In order to comply with the legal mandates of SB1186 the City of Huntington Beach will charge the additional \$1 fee on business license renewals, new business applications, and similar licensing and certification instruments effective January 1, 2013, and thereafter.

The bill also requires local entities to transmit to local businesses information regarding compliance with and legal obligations under federal and state disability laws. The City has added information to its business license application form and similar instruments and will include additional information with each renewal notice.

## **FIRE**

### **Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fill the Boot Event**

The Huntington Beach Firefighters' Association will be participating in the MDA's annual Fill the Boot Campaign. They will be located at the intersection of Beach and Edinger on Saturday, December 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. collecting donations for the MDA. This is an amazing cause and a great way to give back during the holiday season.

### **Spark of Love**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Firefighters' Spark of Love campaign which will run from November 30 through December 24. This campaign began as a partnership between ABC7 and Southern California firefighters from Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties that work together as the Orange County Toy Collaborative to distribute approximately 300,000 toys annually to underprivileged children who may otherwise go without during the holiday season.

Although there are other worthwhile toy drives, Spark of Love is the only one created and operated by firefighters. 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.

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 (checks made payable to the Orange County Toy Collaborative) can be made to the Orange County Toy Collaborative in care of:

Demetria Lee  
Society of St. Vincent De Paul  
Council of Orange  
1505 E 17th Street, Suite 109  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

If you have any questions regarding the Spark of Love Campaign, please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Jeff Lopez at 714-536-5418.

### **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.

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

#### **City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips**

Did you know that the City of Huntington Beach provides sand bags for flooding protection to city residents? You can find information about this program on the City website at:

[http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Public\\_Works/storm/](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Public_Works/storm/)

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Friends of the Children's Library Holiday Fundraiser**

Sports, Music, Movie and TV Memorabilia will be on sale at the Central Library this Saturday, December 8.

Just in times for the holidays! Items for purchase will be displayed in the library lobby. Buy photographs, autographs and more from favorite celebrities. All proceeds benefit the Children's Library.

### **We'll Always have Paris – in Books**

Overseas travel can be expensive—but not when it's done in the pages of a good book! The City of Light has been a particularly popular destination this year. Check out some of these Parisian titles from the New Books section of the Library:

- *Dreaming in French : The Paris Years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis* by Alice Kaplan
- *Forever Paris: 25 Walks in the Footsteps of Chanel, Hemingway, Picasso, and more.* by Christina Henry de Tesson.
- *Paris : A Love Story, a Memoir*, by Kati Marton
- *Paris in Love : A Memoir* by Eloisa James
- *Paris, My Sweet : A Year in the City of Light (and Dark Chocolate)*, by Amy Thomas
- *Zelda, the queen of Paris : The True Story of the Luckiest Dog in the World*, by Paul Chutkow

### **Holiday Gift Ideas that also support the Library**

Help maintain the library's fish aquarium and take care of holiday gift shopping at the same time. A beautiful handmade signed quilt is now on display and is being auctioned off at the library's used book sale table. All funds raised go towards maintaining the aquarium. Bidding starts at \$100 with a buy-it-now option at \$500. Bidding will be open to all bidders until January 4, 2013, - unless someone "buys-it-now"!

Here are more gift ideas at the library:

Buy that special someone tickets to the 2013 Taste of Huntington Beach. Regular tickets are \$55 each and VIP tickets are \$75 each, and are available at the Central Library Circulation Desk or online at [www.tastehb.com](http://www.tastehb.com). Take advantage of the low cost now; the price goes up in March!

HB Reads is having a bookfair at Barnes and Noble December 9 through December 14. Pick up a voucher at the Central Library and present it to the cashier while making book purchases during these dates. HB Reads will receive a percentage of the net sale! The HB Reads bookfair ID is 10908879.

Tile painting gift certificates make great presents. Buy a certificate at the Central Library children's desk. Paint a tile that will be installed in the children's department at \$50 each or

two for \$80. Tiles, glazes and firing are all supplied by the library. The money raised goes towards "Books for Kids."

Help support the aquarium and have a ceramic fish painted with a loved one's name to be installed on the library's ocean mural wall. Prices range from \$25 to \$100. Pick up a brochure at the Central Library.

For corporate donors, there are wooden book spines which are engraved and installed on the children's library donor shelf. Book spines are \$1,000 each. Money raised goes towards "Books for Kids."

For those who love the Children's Library, help support the FOTCL by buying the Friends of the Children's Library book bag. Bags are \$5 each and may be purchased at the Central Library Children's Desk.

### **December is Read a New Book Month**

Books have the ability to change thoughts, perspective, and dreams. Reading is a vital part of everyone's life, and there's nothing else like discovering a new story or taking a journey with a new author to expand one's imagination or knowledge. This December, find a new favorite book in celebration of Read a New Book Month. The Huntington Beach Library makes it easy to pick up a new title by featuring new books on the New Books shelves. Whether it's fiction, mystery, biography, self-help, history or science, check out a new book today!

### **There's a New App for Kindle & NOOK Users**

Enjoy Huntington Beach Library e-books anytime, anywhere, with the free OverDrive Media Console app, now available for Kindle and NOOK! The app allows smart phone and tablet users with a Huntington Beach Library card to download e-books wirelessly from the Library's digital media website [e.hbpl.org](http://e.hbpl.org). Find the app for Kindle devices in the [Amazon Appstore for Android](#), and for NOOK devices in the Barnes & Noble [NOOK Apps Store](#). Check it out today!

## **PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

### **Thinking about Buying or Leasing Commercial Property in HB?**

The Building Division offers a service to perspective buyers and leasers of existing commercial and industrial buildings called a "Code Compliance Report." Staff will research record documents and plans and conduct a field inspection to determine in advance if there are any violations that will adversely impact the sale or lease of a building or tenant space. This service alleviates problems that could occur when illegal construction (i.e. tenant improvements, additions, offices, mezzanines, electrical work, etc.) is not detected until a lease has been signed or a sale has been completed. Prospective buyers or tenants can proceed with their significant investment assured that the building is in compliance with city building regulations. For more information and cost for a "Code Compliance Report," please contact the Building Division counter at 714-536-5241.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### **Police – Holiday Cheer is Here**

Are you prepared to take a pro-active stand against crime and help the police protect you? Although nothing can guarantee you will not be the victim of a crime, it is your responsibility to take steps to help harden the target and minimize your chances of becoming a victim. Criminals usually look for an easy target: open/unlocked doors and windows, items that are visible (either by a front window, or in a vehicle) that might entice them to burglarize your home or vehicle. They also look for areas that will help them stay hidden, such as tall bushes and back yard gates that allow them easy access and keep them out of sight. Criminals will usually avoid well lit areas or places where there are a lot of people, barking dogs, or good neighbors that know one another.

Neighborhoods with an **active** Neighborhood Watch Program are good deterrents. Here are a few things you can do to prevent crime in your neighborhood that are little or no cost to you:

- Use motion sensors or dusk to dawn lighting.
- Use timers in your home on a regular basis, not just when you go on vacation or are away.
- Use thorny bushes around windows and wherever they might be useful.
- Lock your gates to limit access to your back yard. If you are concerned about utility companies, call and make arrangements to schedule an appointment for them to check your meters.
- Limit the information you or your family put on the internet. Never announce if you will be away.
- Use the free Vacation House Check service provided by the HBPD's RSVP Program.
- Call to arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting on your street and for your surrounding neighborhood. It is very important that neighbors get to know one another.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. When shopping and carrying packages don't carry so many that it will obstruct your view. You can always ask a sales clerk to assist you.
- Keep all doors and windows locked when you are away and keep doors locked even when you're home. Keep your garage door locked and closed too.
- Lock and secure your vehicle and do not leave items (backpacks, etc.) in plain view. Either leave them home or lock them in your trunk.
- For more information, call the Community Liaison Unit at (714) 536-5933 or our website at [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org).

## PUBLIC WORKS

### **Main Street and Garfield Avenue Paving**

Construction continues on Main Street and Garfield Avenue. Construction on Main Street extends from Adams Avenue to Utica Avenue and on Garfield from Beach Boulevard to Delaware Street. All American Asphalt crews took advantage of the Thanksgiving holiday and shut down Main Street to through traffic. While closed, they base paved the five point intersection of Main Street with Seventeenth Street and Utica Avenue. Huntington High School closure for Thanksgiving week afforded crews a safe work area. Police, Fire, and the

(OCTA) Orange County Transit Authority all agreed this was the most prudent way to base pave this intersection.

Construction continues on Main Street and final paving of the surface course of asphalt will start this week on Garfield. Both Main Street and Garfield will be paved with rubberized asphalt resulting in a quieter and longer lasting roadway. The rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) contains crumb rubber derived from 100% California waste tire rubber. A two-inch layer of RAC uses over 2,000 waste tires per lane mile. The project will divert more than 3,400 waste tires that would otherwise end up in a landfill. Including this project, the use of RAC in the rehabilitation of the City's arterial streets has resulted in the diversion of over 239,000 waste tires. Main Street and Garfield Avenue are scheduled to be completed before Christmas.

### **New Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector**

Congratulations go to Ronald Brunell for successfully passing the APWA Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII) exam. Public Works now has two certified CPII inspectors. The purpose of the Public Infrastructure Inspector Certification is to promote quality infrastructure throughout the community by advancing the knowledge and practice of construction inspection to benefit the community and public agencies. The Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector certification program is intended for individuals who inspect the construction of public infrastructure (e.g., roadways, highways, utilities, bridges, dams) and facilities (e.g., pump stations, treatment plants, water storage facilities) and other types of construction work and materials to ensure compliance with plans and specifications. Duties include observation, measurement, testing, and documentation.