

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 1, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission will meet Tuesday, Feb. 2 to discuss Section 613, 614, and 617 of the City Charter related to contracting and infrastructure. Included in these discussions will be the testimony on prevailing wage received at their last meeting. The meeting will be held in Room B-8 on the lower level of City Hall and begins at 6:00 PM.

Centennial Time Capsule to be Buried

On February 17 at 5:00 pm, the Centennial Time Capsule will be buried at City Hall. The time capsule contains items that represent the events and activities that occurred during the City's Centennial 2009 Year. It will include several DVD's as well as a DVD Player. It will also include memorabilia from the year and the items that were placed by each department during the dedication ceremony last year. The time capsule will be placed in the middle of the three pelican poles by the Veteran's Memorial. There will be pavers placed around the area to showcase those who have supported the Centennial Celebration Year with financial donations. The time capsule will stay buried until it is dug up at the City's Sesquicentennial, February 17, 2059.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Simplify the Process

Don't expect your customers to figure out your company's processes through trial and error. Make processes easy and be cheerfully willing to assist.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Creative Solutions to Budget Challenges Save Money and Create Community

Community Services Department Supervisors headed a project to distribute nearly 35,000 SANDS Community Service Guides to households in the City of Huntington Beach. Last season, staff worked within existing staffing levels and engaged the help of volunteers to get the SANDS to as many households as possible. Volunteers delivered the SANDS like a newspaper to select households, placing SANDS on senior transportation vehicles and within senior communities, and by distributing SANDS to City facilities the Community Services Department saved a significant amount of money in postage. Many thanks to the individuals who volunteered to distribute the SANDS Community Services Guides in their neighborhoods. Teams are now forming for the distribution of the spring publication beginning February 27.

Family Movie Night at the City Gym and Pool

Our Family Movie Night held on Saturday, January 16 was a huge success as 57 people, parents and kids alike, gathered together for a viewing of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*.

Families ate popcorn while lounging on their beach chairs and cuddling in their blankets. It was a good time for all.

Learn the Ancient Art of Fencing!

Come to Murdy Community Center and learn the ancient art of nobility and one of the four original Olympic events! The next session of Fencing begins Wednesday, February 10 at 7:15 p.m. Students will learn footwork, attacks, defense, and strategy. Visit www.surfcity-hb.org/sands or your local City of Huntington Beach Community Center for registration information.

Swimming Lessons at the City Gym and Pool

Before you hit the beach and pool this summer, get prepared! Enroll your child or yourself in swimming lessons at the City Gym and Pool! Don't miss out on the next session starting the week of February 22. Classes are offered twice a week for five weeks for \$45. Sign up at www.surfcity-hb.org/sands or at any Community Center. For more information, please call the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

Marine Safety

On January 19, Marine Safety Officers used a Lifeguard Rescue Boat to help secure vessels cast adrift in Huntington Harbor as a result of the tornado. The Marine Safety Swiftwater Rescue Team, activated from January 19 through January 21, received two calls for assistance. The Swiftwater Rescue Team is currently preparing for the storms forecast for later this week.

Free Film Screening of "God Grew Tired of Us"

Huntington Beach Reads One Book hosts the documentary film "God Grew Tired of Us," (Rated PG) at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 4 at the Central Library. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, "God Grew Tired of Us" is an engrossing account of John Bul Dau, Daniel Abol Pach and Panther Blor who were orphaned by the conflict in Sudan. They were among the 25,000 "Lost Boys" who fled villages, formed surrogate families, and sought refuge from famine, disease, wild animals, and rebel soldiers. Filmmakers Christopher Dillon Quinn and Tommy Walker follow John, Daniel, and Panther starting in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya across the Atlantic Ocean to their new life in America. Please join HB Reads at the Huntington Beach Central Library (7111 Talbert Avenue), Rooms C & D on the lower level for a film that will enrich your reading experience of this year's HB Reads book selection - "They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky." The film screening is open to the general public and no reservations are required. Learn more at www.HBReads.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications are Available

The City of Huntington Beach has the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the first year (2010-2011) available at www.surfcity-hb.org/Government/Departments/ed/cdbg/. The Department of Economic Development must receive the completed signed application by 4:00 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2010.

There are two application types: construction and/or development projects that include eligible public facilities and infrastructure projects, property acquisition, and other eligible renovation projects; and non-construction projects that include eligible public services, fair housing activities, and housing rehabilitation. Applicants needing clarification regarding project eligibility are encouraged to call Sidney Stone, Housing Manager at (714) 536-5901.

FIRE

Oil Spill Incident Continues

The Fire Department continues to be part of the Unified Command of the oil spill incident that occurred on January 22 at the Huntington Beach flood control channel east of Beach Blvd. and south of Adams Ave. Other county, state, and federal agencies are also involved. A plan by the Unified Command has been set to ensure the safety of the public and the response personnel, to monitor the contamination and maximize protection of the environmentally sensitive areas, to contain and recover spilled product, to recover and rehabilitate injured wildlife, and to remove oil from impacted zones and dispose of the product effectively. This incident remains under investigation.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Authors' Festival is still a hit!

On Tuesday, January 26 the Huntington Beach Public Library celebrated its 23rd Annual Authors Festival. Over twenty-five authors and illustrators spent the day at schools in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley, reaching out to more than 15,000 local students! Many of these authors and illustrators then returned to Central Library for a gala reception, to talk to the children one-on-one, and sign autographs for their young fans. Festivities included an award ceremony for the winners of the Amazing Beach Discovery contest and personalized bookmarks drawn by the Orange County Society for Calligraphy. Many thanks to the FOTCL and Boeing Employees Community Fund for sponsoring this fantastic event!

Free SAT Practice Test to be held at Central Library

As skilled test-takers know, the key to success is practice, practice, practice. The library, in partnership with Kaplan, is sponsoring a FREE full-length practice SAT test on Saturday, February 20, 2010, from 9:30am - 1:30pm at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Space is limited to 50 students so reservations are required. You can reserve your space by contacting John Peterson from Kaplan at 949-756-2950, ext. 3017 or email john.peterson@kaplan.com.

Job Satisfaction @ the Library

Last Saturday was a great day at the Central Library. It started out like any Saturday; patrons coming in to check out books and DVD's, browse the book sale or to use library computers to get on the Internet. Many of our patrons use the computers to search for employment. As everyone knows, searching for jobs these days can be a difficult and lengthy process. That's where our great day comes in. One of our patrons, who had been using our computers to search for work, finally got a job (after two years of applying)!! She made our day by letting us know and for thanking the staff for all their assistance in her search. When you succeed, we succeed; and we were very successful that day!

Disaster Preparedness Expo at the Central Library.

The Huntington Beach Fire Department in coordination with the EOC is sponsoring a Disaster Preparedness Expo on Saturday, February 20 at the Central Library from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. The event is free and will include fun and exciting demonstrations, information about local disaster volunteer organizations, disaster preparedness vendors (no sales only literature), fire extinguisher training and some of the City's response equipment will be exhibited. The expo will take place at the main entrance to the Library. Volunteers will have a bin available for book returns. Flyers and book marks are available throughout the Library. Check the website www.hbpl.org for developing details.

PLANNING**Planning Commission denies appeal of T-Mobile Cell Tower**

At the January 26, 2010, meeting, the Planning Commission denied the appeal of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to construct a 55 ft. high wireless communications facility designed as a bell tower. The CUP for the facility, located at the Community United Methodist Church, 6666 Heil Avenue, had been approved by the Zoning Administrator on November 4, 2009.

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Report a Crime Online**

The Huntington Beach Police Department online citizen police report system allows a person to submit a report for certain minor crimes. It also allows that person to print a copy of the police report for free. This provides a great convenience for most since it can be done rather quickly with no time delays. However, not all reports can be filed online. Some reports need an officer to respond to conduct an investigation and document the incident in person. The police department website gives detailed information on the requirements for filing a report online.

In 2009, citizens used the online crime reporting system 881 times to file minor reports for offenses such as lost property, petty theft, harassing telephone calls, and vandalism. For more information on how to use the system visit the police department web page at www.hbpd.org and follow the link to "Report a Crime Online".

PUBLIC WORKS**Civic Center Landscaping**

Repairs began to landscaping around Civic Center last week. The project will improve Civic Center appearance at the plaza level from both the north and east entrances. Specifically, the plan removes 40 Evergreen Pears and replaces them with 64 Foxtail palms. The pear trees were an ongoing maintenance challenge due to their deciduous nature. Several required removal over the past few years as they had overgrown the concrete cutouts. Two large planters will be installed at the east entry. Irrigation and concrete repairs also will be made. Work is expected to take approximately six weeks, and the site should be ready for the upcoming centennial celebration. The project is funded through the Redevelopment Agency.