

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

**February 14, 2011**

## CITY MANAGER

### Solar Open House

A solar open house will be held TONIGHT, Tuesday (2/15/11) at 6:30 pm in the Talbert Room at the Central Library. City staff will be available to review the project with the community. There will be materials (renderings, plans, Council Study Session Power points, EIRs, entitlements) available to explain the innovative project and the benefits to the city and the environment.

The project is noteworthy on several fronts:

- Huntington Beach is one of the first Orange County cities to transition solar into a large scale energy tool to manage our utility costs and create a cleaner environment.
- The project does not require any upfront costs from the city, is budget neutral, and provides long-term price certainty.
- Provides shaded parking spots for nearly all parking at Civic Center and Central Library.

Come to the Central Library – Talbert Room TONIGHT to hear more.

## CITY TREASURER

### City Treasurer Interviews Scheduled

City Treasurer interviews are scheduled for Friday, February 18. City Council will be interviewing the seven finalists and evaluating their qualifications. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 714-536-5227.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Benefits Check-up

Are you getting all the benefits you deserve? Huntington Beach Senior Services is offering assistance in completing a *Benefits Check-Up* on Wednesday, February 16 from 9:00 am – 11:30 at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue. Drop in. No appointment is needed. *Benefitcheckup.org* is an online tool to evaluate individuals for federal, state and local programs that help pay for medications, utilities, food, healthcare, and other needs. Care Managers will assist individuals to complete the *Benefits Check-Up*. To receive a more complete assessment bring the following information for both yourself and your spouse: Address, Date of Birth(s), Length of Time in Current Residence, Veteran Status including Dates Served, Employment History, Names of Prescription Medications, Current Income & Assets, Estimate of Current Expenses. For more information, call 714-960-2478 and ask to speak with the Social Worker of the Day.

**ART CENTER CLASSES: CARTOONING WORKSHOP** – This fun and exciting workshop held at the Huntington Beach Art Center on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:00pm for youth, age 7 – 12 years, will teach character drawing and basic cartooning. In addition to teaching a skill, active art experiences benefit all age groups by providing individuals with the means to creatively express themselves. Self-expression, in turn, promotes individuality, bolsters self-confidence and improves motivation and attitudes towards academic performance. Art experiences can also provide the benefits of discovery, stimulation and relaxation! Register now at [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org) ... the benefits are endless!

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Downtown Artwalk - RAIN or SHINE**

Come visit downtown for a night of art and culture this Wednesday, February 16. The Downtown Artwalk is held every third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 9 PM. The Artwalk begins at the Art Center, where you can obtain a map of all artist locations, and ends at Shorebreak Hotel. All artwork will be located inside host businesses so the weather will not affect the exhibitions. Dinner specials are offered at participating restaurants. For more information, log on to [www.hbdowntown.com](http://www.hbdowntown.com) or call 714.536.8300

## **FINANCE**

The Huntington Beach Finance Department has launched an automated notification system for Vendor Bids and Requests for Proposals. Firms that want to do business with the City will receive an e-mail or text message alert whenever a new proposal solicitation request or an update is issued by the city. The new system will provide registered firms with immediate updates on new proposal solicitations that match their area of expertise.

To register with the city and sign-up for Vendor Notification click or type in this link:

[http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/business/bids\\_rfps/vendor\\_application\\_signin.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/business/bids_rfps/vendor_application_signin.cfm)

The new system will empower businesses with immediate notification of all Purchasing related opportunities to work with the city. The increase in firms participating in the competitive bidding process will benefit Huntington Beach taxpayers with lower costs for goods and services being expensed by the city. For more information, contact Jim Slobojan at [jslobojan@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:jslobojan@surfcity-hb.org)

## **FIRE**

### **Fire Place and Chimney Safety**

Now that the heating season is upon us, check the chimney for any damage. Chimney's should frequently be checked for creosote deposits, soot build-up, or physical damage. This involves a simple visual examination, but it should be done as often as twice a month during heavy use. If you see heavy creosote buildup, suspect a problem, or have had a chimney fire,

a qualified chimney repairman or chimney "sweep" should perform a complete safety inspection.

Other safety fireplace tips:

- Use only dried woods and never use flammable liquids to start a fire
- Dispose of cool ashes in a covered metal container
- Never leave a fire unattended
- When burning, keep the damper open and the door/screen closed
- Keep flammable materials away from fire
- Have chimneys cleaned professionally by a chimney sweep once a year

Never burn papers, boxes, or Christmas trees in the fireplace.

**LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT****"Arts, Crafts & Music" at Oak View Branch Library**

The first "Arts, Crafts & Music" children's event, sponsored by HB Reads One Book, was held at Oak View Branch Library on Wednesday, February 2. More than 53 children enjoyed listening to multicultural folktales and mariachi music. Additionally, kids had a lot of fun creating their very own "maracas", using emptied water bottles and dried beans, then decorated with tissue paper. Once the maracas were completed, children experimented by creating their own music! It was a very fun and educational afternoon.

Oak View Branch Library is very thankful to the members of the HB Reads One Book for sponsoring such a great multicultural program. HB Reads One Book will be conducting similar children events at Main Street Branch Library on Thursday, February 17 at 3:00 pm; and at Banning Branch Library on February 24 at 3:00 pm. For more information, please contact H.B. Reads directly at 714-497-3237.

**PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT****Zoning Administrator Meeting: February 16, 2011**

On February 16, 2011, the Zoning Administrator will hold a public meeting to review the following projects: 1) Conditional Use Permit No. 10-031 to permit the onsite sale and service of alcoholic beverages at Mama's on 39 Restaurant (21022 Beach Blvd., Suite 101) and Malibu Fish Grill Restaurant (21022 Beach Blvd., Suite 105), 2) Coastal Development Permit No. 10-018 to permit an addition to an existing two-story single family residence at 16872 Marina Bay Drive, and 3) Coastal Development Permit No. 10-019/Conditional Use Permit No. 10-030 to permit the establishment of a restaurant and onsite sale and service of alcoholic beverages for Red Table Restaurant (16821 Algonquin Street, Suite 105).

A copy of the agenda is available on the Planning and Building Department website, at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/zal/zaagenda020811.cfm>. For additional information, contact the project planners at (714) 536-5271. The Zoning Administrator meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m. in Room B-7 on the Lower Level of City Hall.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT****Residential Burglaries in Beat 4 and Beat 7**

In January 2011, there was an increase in residential burglaries in Beat 4 and Beat 7. Beat 4 reported five burglaries in January 2010 and 10 burglaries in January 2011. In Beat 7, five burglaries were reported in January 2010, and seven burglaries in January 2011. Some of the burglaries involved unsecure residences and others involved forced entry through a rear sliding door. Another trend was that in several of the burglaries, residents were not home for more than one day when the crimes occurred.

The Neighborhood Watch emphasizes the importance of knowing your neighbors and having friends know when you are home and when you are not home. If you see someone suspicious around a neighbor's house, and they are not home, call 911.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) offers free vacation house checks to residents of Huntington Beach. Vacation house checks can be set up on the police department's webpage [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org); look under "eServices" or by calling 714-374-1507.

The police department beat map is located on your Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, on the police department website, and now posted in the picture folder at: [www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice](http://www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice)

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Traffic Signal Improvements at Three Locations**

On Monday February 14, 2011, the City began work on three projects to add left turn arrows to existing traffic signals. The construction should be completed by late April 2011. The work consists of installing east-west protected left turn arrows at Yorktown Avenue and Brookhurst Street, installing north-south protected left turn arrows at Newland Street and Atlanta Avenue and installing protected left turn arrows in all directions at the intersection of Atlanta Avenue and Magnolia Street. The work will include the installation of new traffic signal poles, signal heads and conduit installation to accomplish the proposed operation. There will also be some minor curb and gutter work and other minor improvements to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The projects are partially funded through a grant that focuses on improving intersection safety.