

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 20, 2012

CITY MANAGER

Small Businesses in HB May be Eligible for Direct Install Energy Savings

The SCE Energy Leader Partnership in conjunction with the City's Energy Project Manager coordinated an Energy Walk, consisting of 30 volunteers, to educate our small business community about an opportunity to get up to \$10,000 of free energy efficient products installed through SCE's Direct Install program. Businesses that have been identified as eligible by SCE are encouraged to explore this opportunity to lower their costs and environmental impacts by participation in this program. Over the next several weeks, the Direct Install contractor will visit these businesses to assess their energy savings opportunities. Small businesses that participate will receive installation and equipment at no cost. For additional information please call SCE at 800-736-4777.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Rental Assistance Waiting List is open for the first time in ten years. The Orange County Housing Authority is taking applications for rental assistance for low-income families, seniors, and disabled persons. The applications will only be available and accepted from 2/15 through 2/29/2012. Applications are available at www.ochousing.org. If needed, the Huntington Beach Senior Services Care Management team will assist older Huntington Beach residents 60+ with the application process. There are two drop-in computer clinics on Wednesday 2/22 or 2/29 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach or call 714-960-2478 and ask to speak with the Care Manager of the Day.

Huntington Beach Art Center

The Huntington Beach Art Center Foundation presents The Private Collection Tour, a unique opportunity to view one of the most comprehensive art collections in a private setting. The collection features modern and contemporary art created by world-renowned artist including Lita Albuquerque, Larry Bell, Tony Berlant, Hans Burkhardt, Alexander Calder, David Hockney, and many more. The curator lead tour is on March 30 from 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. and tickets are \$100. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages are included. The evening promises to offer an exclusive experience of fine art, a stunning residence, and lively arts conversations. Call 714-536-5258 for reservations and information.

Recreation Programs

The Spring SANDS Community Services Guide is now available, and provides opportunities to improve quality of life for Huntington Beach residents. Parks and recreation make lives and communities better by providing access to the serenity and inspiration of nature; outdoor space to play and exercise; facilities for self-directed and organized recreation; positive alternatives for youth which help lower crime and mischief; and activities that facilitate social connections, human development, the arts and lifelong learning. Visit www.hbsands.org for

more information on outstanding programs and services! Remember, "Parks Make Life Better" in Huntington Beach!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Section 8 Housing Assistance for Very Low-Income Individuals in Orange County

The Orange County Housing Authority has opened its Waiting List to accept pre-applications for housing assistance through February 29, 2012. The Section 8 Waiting List is the only opportunity for very low-income families, seniors, disabled persons, and individuals to obtain a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. Interested persons are encouraged to log onto www.ochousing.org or call OCHA's Waiting List Information Line at 714-480-2740 for updated information. Through February 29, 2012, applications can be submitted online at www.ochousing.org, faxed to 714-667-6544, or mailed to P.O. 22005, Santa Ana, CA 92702.

FIRE

Structure Fire

On February 17 at approximately 1:00 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire at a self storage unit on Gothard Street. Upon arrival, firefighters reported moderate smoke coming from one of the storage units and lighter smoke from several others. The fire, which was contained to the original unit of origin, is currently under investigation.

Electrical Appliances

Clothes Dryers - Never leave synthetic fabrics, plastics, rubber or foam in the dryer for longer than the manufacturer's recommended time. Clean the lint screen before and after use. Keep the immediate area free of combustibles. Dryers must be vented to outside and plugged into their own outlet.

Electric Blankets, Heating Pads - Never fold or roll electric blankets while turned on. Heat will build up on wires, potentially igniting the blanket. Unplug and store flat when not in use. Don't leave a heating pad on for more than 30 minutes. Never fall asleep with it on. Set your alarm clock to awaken you in 30 minutes if necessary.

Portable Space Heaters - Use one with a thermostat (not just a switch) that shuts off by itself when tipped over. Plug directly into its own outlet. Use in an area free of combustibles and well ventilated for heat to escape. Never leave it on overnight.

Vaporizers - Never leave vaporizers unattended or near combustibles. Keep the water level high. Check the cord at the plug to make sure it is not too hot. If it is, disconnect it immediately. It must be plugged into its own outlet, or with a heavy-duty extension cord.

Wires, Plugs and Extension Cords - Keep down the number of cords in one outlet. Never run cords under the rugs where they may become worn. Replace worn cords. Be sure to use proper gauge of extension cord, especially with power tools and high wattage appliances.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Need to pay a parking ticket? You can pay by credit card on the City Website at:
<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/finance/payments/index.cfm#Parking>

LIBRARY

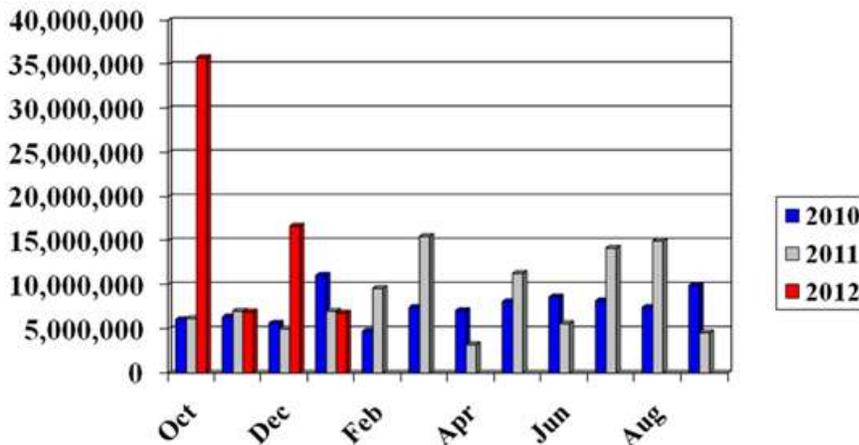
Personal Mastery Workshop @ the library

Join professional speaker, trainer & educator Jeff Korn for a fun-filled workshop on Wednesday, February 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room E at the Huntington Beach Central Library & Cultural Center. The class is limited to 25 students who will have the opportunity to “break free” and master the art of fearless speaking. What does “break free” mean? It is “a memorable experience that will change the way one thinks about things forever”. No boring lecture or slides. Participants will learn by actively “doing”. Food and soft drinks will be offered. For more information go to www.FreetoSpeakNow.com or call (424)268-0886

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Permit Valuation for January

Construction Valuation (\$)
 Residential, Commercial & Industrial



During the month of January permits were issued for a portion of the new commercial/residential at Bella Terra II. Residential construction of new single family homes remain small but steady, a trend we have not seen in years. Finally, minor residential improvements including block walls, reroofs, window replacements, etc. remains strong indicating Huntington Beach homeowners continue to upgrade their homes. Fiscal Year 2011/2012 building construction valuation is the strongest we have seen in 3 years. The largest sector of growth is new commercial construction followed by commercial alterations and additions.

Removal of Unpermitted Newsrack Citywide

In 2009, the City Council adopted citywide standards regarding the type of news racks that are permitted on public property.

During the months of November and December of 2011, Code Enforcement staff conducted a City wide inventory of all known locations where news racks had been installed on public property. Code Enforcement observed 84 unpermitted news racks City wide and issued notices to all the unpermitted racks.

A cooperative effort with the Public Works Department at the end of December and through January of 2012 resulted in the removal of 76 of the unpermitted news racks and eight news racks voluntarily removed by their respective publishing companies. The Code Enforcement staff will continue to monitor public property for any unpermitted news racks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Surf City Pipeline FAQ's**

The Huntington Beach Police Department has added new FAQ's on crime prevention to the Surf City Pipeline. The latest update is on identity theft. We will be continuing to add new information on a regular basis to assist the community in keeping their family and property safe. The newest FAQ section gives information on; How Identity Theft Happens, What Are Some Ways To Prevent Identity Theft and What To Do If You Become The Victim Of Identity Theft.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crime trends in the United States, but there are many simple steps to help prevent yourself from becoming a victim of this financial crime and ways to help the police department solve the crime if you become a victim.

PUBLIC WORKS**Pardon our Dust!**

In anticipation of the Grand Opening of Costco at Bella Terra, the City Council awarded a construction contract to Hardy & Harper, Inc. to remove and replace the existing pavement on Center Avenue from the I-405 freeway to the railroad tracks east of Gothard Street. Since Costco is set to open in May 2012, the paving project is on the fast track and is expected to be completed by the end of March. Unfortunately, since the poor condition of the pavement required full-reconstruction, the public can expect some temporary inconveniences during construction. City staff and contractor are doing their best to manage the construction impacts and keep business owners and other stakeholders informed as to the progress. All businesses are open during construction and access to at least one of their driveways is maintained at all times. If there are any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Eric Charlonne, Construction Manager, at (714) 536-5430.