

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 22, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

At the Feb. 18 meeting, the Charter Review Commission approved certain amendments to Section 612 (Measure C). Recommended amendments included adjusting the dollar amount that triggers a Measure C vote, and revised parameters with regard to city infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The Commission will review and finalize all recommendations at the March 2 and 16 meetings. The commission's recommendations will then be forwarded to the City Council for review.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Be Proactive

Remind customers when they need to renew licenses or permits *before* they think of it themselves. They'll be impressed by your initiative and drive.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Art Center

The Huntington Beach Art Center is opening the next exhibition on Friday, February 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The exhibition *Dual Arboretum* features ceramic sculptural work by Charles Timm-Ballard and sound/light sculptures by Andre Woodward. The Project Room features *Epitaph*, new analog works by Andre Woodward. The reception is free and the public is invited to attend. For additional information, please call 714.374.1650.

Shop with HB Reads at the African Marketplace

Huntington Beach Reads One Book presents an International Craft Fair, featuring an African Marketplace, 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 25, at the Central Library, Lower Level, Rooms C & D (7111 Talbert Avenue). The merchants selling their handicrafts are women who were forced to flee their homes in Africa. Shop the world with a percentage of the sales proceeds benefitting women's shelters and orphanages in Africa. Along with great shopping, beginning at 7:00 p.m., representatives from the International Rescue Committee, Drop in the Bucket, and Jewish World Watch will present an overview of their outreach efforts to refugees in the Sudan region. For more information, call 714-536-5486, or visit www.HBReads.org.

Yoga to Escape Stress

Stress is a major health concern in the U.S. and can manifest serious health consequences. Learn how to deal with stress, discover how to clear your mind of everyday clutter, and find a new path that will bring harmony and calm to your life. Register for the Yoga Escape Stress workshop online at www.hbsands.org, at the City Gym and Pool, or at any other community center. The next workshop will be held on Saturday, February 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For more information, please call the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

Youth Basketball

The City of Huntington Beach basketball leagues for youth between 3rd and 8th grade are at the halfway point of the season. Due to the use of the local gymnasiums, this league has not been affected by any of the recent storms. Making the season particularly fun for the boys "A" division, is that it has been combined with the City of Costa Mesa to form an inter-city league for the first time with games being played at the City Gym and Pool and Costa Mesa's Downtown Recreation Center. The City of Huntington Beach pee wee and junior basketball programs are currently taking place on Saturday mornings at the City Gym and Pool, Edison, and Murdy Community Centers. Program times are 9:30 a.m. at the City Gym and Pool and 9:00 a.m. at the community centers. These programs are extremely popular and the participants are learning teamwork, sportsmanship, and most of all, having fun.

FIRE

2010 Disaster Preparedness Expo

The city hosted its first annual Disaster Preparedness Expo at the Central Library on Saturday, February 20 with over 1,200 in attendance. Highlights included a fire extinguisher demonstration from the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD), disaster first aid from HB Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), disaster animal preparedness from Southern California Animal Response Team (SCART), and HAM radio auxiliary communications from HB Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). On display were the city's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) apparatus and crew, an HBFD ambulance presented by FireMed, an HBPD police cruiser manned by the Retired Seniors Volunteers in Policing (RSVP's), the HB Search and Rescue Explorers and their equipment, and an American Red Cross response vehicle. Static displays included disaster preparedness literature from the ReadyOC outreach program, AlertOC registration, and presentations of disaster preparedness supplies from local vendors.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commuter Summary Report 2010 – AQMD Annual Survey

Congratulations City of Huntington Beach employees! With some gentle nudging from the City's Rideshare Coordinator, Noreen Swiontek, employees took an impressive leap in reducing their carbon footprint during 2009. More employees chose to "green" their transportation by walking, bicycling, or carpooling. These are stepping stones toward living an environmentally friendly lifestyle and reducing the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California, (*passenger vehicles*).

Every year the City conducts an annual Air Quality Management District (AQMD) survey to comply with regulation efforts to reduce single vehicle employee work commutes and attain standards for improved air quality. The City surveyed 644 Civic Center employees the week of September 28 through October 2, 2009, obtaining the highest response rate in history of 96%.

Civic Center employee participation in alternative transportation options has increased by an overall 35% since the last survey taken in December 2008. The 2009 survey showed

significant improvements in employee clean air commute choices. There was a 9% increase in carpoolers, 167% increase in walkers, and 86% increase in bicyclists.

Employees also set a record for the largest improvement in Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) from 1.17 last year to a 1.25 AVR this year. While we still need to reduce 55 vehicles from daily employee commutes to meet our target goal of a 1.5 AVR, this performance increase confirms the strength of the City's Employee Rideshare Program. With nearly 50% of employees living within a five mile radius of their city worksite, the bicycle has proven to be the preferred mode of transportation for our beach loving employees. Cycling to work shows even greater promise with current plans underway for creating a more bicycle friendly facility at the Civic Center.

Kudos to those HB employees who live, work, play, and choose "green" for our community! Their clean air commute choices made considerable improvements toward our air quality, reduced traffic congestion in our community, and supported local HB businesses through their commute reward purchases as well as raising money for a contribution to the Shipley Nature Center. If you have an interest in choosing "green" for your commute, contact the Rideshare Coordinator at 714-374-5351 or Noreen.Swiontek@surfcity-hb.org.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Second Show Added for Dave Skale's Magic Show at the Library

Due to popular demand, a 6:00 pm show for "Patty O'Furniture, the St. Patty's Day Leprechaun" has been added on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Things often seem to go "wrong" in Dave's wacky magic shows... join us in the Tabby Theater for another adventure where the unexpected can and does happen! Patty O'Furniture the Leprechaun has lost his most prized possession, his gold! Will the kids be able to help Patty find his treasure? Come and find out in this comedy magic show with audience participation and tons of fun! Tickets are available at the Children's Library for \$4 each. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended! For more information call (714) 375-5107.

Library Literacy Specialist Elected President of SCLLN!

Huntington Beach Library Literacy Specialist Diane Moseley has been elected president of the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN). The group, which represents 44 libraries in Southern California, is holding a tutor/adult learner conference in Buena Park on February 27. More than 200 adult literacy participants will attend.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

February 23 Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission will review the following applications at the Tuesday, February 23 meeting.

- Endless Food and Fun. An approximately 45,867 sq. ft. commercial recreation and entertainment use within an existing multi-tenant commercial shopping center located at 7227 Edinger Avenue, 92647 (north of Edinger Avenue, east of Gothard Street). The project will contain a restaurant, banquet and dining facilities, laser tag areas, game center and retail sales area.

- HB Dental Alley Vacation. To determine if the vacation of an approximately 2,864 square foot portion of an unimproved alley right-of-way is in conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan.

The appeal of the Design Review Board's denial of the application for the Wells Fargo ATM at 101 Main Street has been postponed to the April 13 meeting at the applicant's request.

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the City Council chambers. The agenda and staff reports are available on the Planning and Building Department's website at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DUI Check Point Enforcement

The Huntington Beach Police Department is continuing its efforts to keep our streets safe and maintain strong campaign against DUI drivers. Funding to assist in this campaign is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Huntington Beach Police Department is working in partnership with OTS to educate the community on traffic safety issues as well as helping to prevent DUI related traffic incidents.

In fiscal year 2007/2008 the Huntington Beach Police Department conducted four DUI checkpoints resulting in 32 arrests. In fiscal year 2008/2009 we conducted seven DUI checkpoints resulting in 49 arrests.

The Huntington Beach Police Department anticipates conducting eight DUI checkpoints during the current fiscal year. DUI checkpoints combine enforcement, education and public awareness to help keep the streets of Huntington Beach safe for all drivers.

PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Signal Installation at Newland and Hamilton

Construction will begin next week on a new traffic signal at Newland Street and Hamilton Avenue. The intersection of Newland Street and Hamilton Avenue has been identified as a high priority intersection on the Traffic Signal Priority List.

The new signal will replace the existing traffic control, which is a stop sign for westbound Hamilton Avenue. The traffic signal will control all legs of the intersection and will include a protected-permissive southbound left turn arrow. Crosswalks will be provided across the north and east legs of the intersection. A radio unit and antenna will be installed to provide communication between this location and the City's traffic signal master controller at City Hall. To install the traffic signal poles, minor roadway construction will be necessary. At the southeast corner, the curb return will be reconstructed, shortening the radius from 25 to 22 feet, allowing for conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Along the westerly side of the intersection, there is currently no curb. An asphalt curb will be installed to properly place the signal poles. The project schedule is approximately 60 days.