

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 25, 2013

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services

HBCOA Dance –Have you heard the buzz? Last month over 70 dancers listened to the beat of a new band, at a new time, for brand-new fun at the HBCOA monthly dance. Don't miss out this month! Wear your St. Patrick's day green and get your jiggy on from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8 at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach. The Bill Maloof and Friends will feature your favorite tunes from the 1940-1960s! Wine is available for purchase. Singles are welcome. For \$7.50 per person, join the ball. For more information, contact the senior center, 1706 Orange Avenue, 714-536-9387 or visit, www.hbcoa.org.

Be a Buddy not a Bully

On Wednesday, February 20, The Huntington Beach Youth Board held an anti-bullying rally during their lunch hour at Marina High School. More than 600 students participated by signing a pledge vowing not to participate in bullying behavior and to speak out against it. Each student who signed the pledge received a free t-shirt and a free pizza coupon courtesy of Walmart and Nonna Lucci's Pizza Store. The "Be a Buddy not a Bully" campaign was spearheaded by Councilmember Joe Carchio and is intended to bring awareness and education about bullying to our local high school population. The Youth Board intends to hold similar rallies at Huntington Beach High School and Edison High School.

The objective of the Huntington Beach Youth Board is to act as a voluntary advisory board to the Huntington Beach City Council regarding youth achievements, problems and needs. The board represents, involves and promotes youth participation in community affairs. For more information about the Youth Board, contact Chris Cole at: ccole@surfcity-hb.org.

FREE Swim Level Testing at the City Gym and Pool

 Be prepared for spring and summer swim registration beginning March 5, 2013. The City of Huntington Beach Community Services Department will be offering FREE swim level testing at the City Gym and Pool. Certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors will evaluate each child and recommend the appropriate swim level based on their age, skill and comfort in the water. Swim level testing gives parents the opportunity to have their child tested prior to the spring and summer swim session. Swim level testing will be held Saturday, March 2 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

Oak View Neighborhood

The City of Huntington Beach Community Services Department has been an active partner in the Oak View Neighborhood for many years serving on the Oak View Collaborative and leading the Oak View Task Force. On Saturday, February 23, 2013, the Oak View Renewal Partnership (OVRP) worked with Oak View School, Community Services, Code Enforcement,

Public Works, and the Police Departments as well as the Tree Society on a service project in the Oak View Neighborhood. The OVRP has been working with the Corporate Volunteer Council of Orange County to coordinate all aspects of this community improvement project. More than 500 people turned out to help with the Oak View project. This effort was designed to improve the lives of residents in Oak View neighborhood, and City Staff worked closely with the OVRP to provide project ideas, materials and a city presence at Saturday's event. A special thanks to Council Member Jim Katapodis and the Police Department for their participation at the event. For more information, see the attached article and photos here! <http://www.ocregister.com/news/community-497082-oak-view.html>.

Marine Safety

The Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division will be holding tryouts for new ocean lifeguards on Sunday, March 3 at 8:00 a.m. The performance exam will be held at Lifeguard Headquarters, 103 Pacific Coast Highway, one block south of the Huntington Beach Municipal Pier. The starting pay is \$15.92 per hour (plus 5% for EMT certification and 5% for passing bilingual examination). All applicants must be 17 years of age by June 1, 2013.

The performance exam consists of 3 physical events: a 1000-yard ocean swim, a 500-yard ocean swim and a 1,500-yard run-swim-run. All events are conducted in prevailing conditions around and through the Huntington Beach Pier. Applicants must satisfactorily complete all performance exam events to be eligible for further consideration.

Upon successful completion of the performance exam, approximately 20 qualified candidates will be allowed to register for the lifeguard training program. The training program will be held on April 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, and May 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 2013. Candidates will be compensated during training at the pay rate of \$15.92 per hour.

Applications are available at Lifeguard Headquarters or online at www.surfcity-hb.org/jobs. Please call (714) 374-1752 for further information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Conference – March 20

“New Year. New Energy. New Opportunity.” is the theme of the Chamber of Commerce 2013 Economic Conference at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach from 7:00 a.m. – noon on March 20. The conference agenda has been created to provide the audience with meaningful information that you can use today to stimulate business. The program will start with a keynote address by Mark Schniepp, current Director of the California Economic Forecast. The Company prepares forecasts and economic commentary on the regional economies of California. The second keynote speaker will be Tom Patty – author of “Marketing without Money.” The keynote will be followed by a panel of elected officials who will discuss important issues coming out of Sacramento, Orange County, and Huntington Beach. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at www.hbchamber.com or (714) 536-8888.

Shop Locally and Support the Community with Surf City Savings

As spring peeks its head around the corner, many are thinking about getting back outside to enjoy the warmer weather. As you plan your activities for the upcoming season, how about adding "shop locally with Surf City Savings" to your list? The 100-plus merchants enrolled in the Surf City Savings program have joined together to provide coupons and incentives to encourage shopping, dining in Huntington Beach. Remember, shopping locally generates sales tax dollars, a portion of which are given back to the city to provide public services that our citizens rely on each and every day. Huntington Beach is a wonderful place to live, work and play. For more information on the Surf City Savings program and to find participating merchants, please visit www.surfcityavings.com.

Surf City Downtown Shuttle Taking a "Spring Break"

The Surf City Downtown Shuttle is taking a short hiatus after the February 26 Surf City Night, but will return later this spring to provide the fourth consecutive year of FREE service on weekends and Tuesdays during Surf City Nights! Please stay tuned to the City's website and take a moment to "like" the Surf City Downtown Shuttle page on Facebook to receive updates on Summer 2013 service.

FIRE**Fire Places and Chimneys**

Now that the heating season is upon us, check the chimney for any damage. Chimneys 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 Fireplace Safety 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

INFORMATION SERVICES**Building Permit Status Available Online**

Did you know users can find out the status of submitted building permits? You can find out the status of your submitted permit at: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/permitonline/>.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**All Day Genealogy Event at Huntington Beach Central Library**

The Orange County California Genealogical Society (OCCGS), celebrating their 50th Anniversary, will be hosting the inaugural "**Genealogy BASH and Book Faire**" on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Huntington Beach Central Library.

Ten of Southern California's best family history speakers will give talks on subjects ranging from how the Internet is changing genealogical research to DNA testing for genealogy. There will be 20 lectures in four sessions from which to choose. There is a wide range of subjects that will be of interest to anyone who is researching their family roots. Seating is guaranteed if pre-registered on their website, www.occgs.com. There is a fee to attend the lectures. Parking is **free** in the large library lot.

Those just beginning their quest for their family's history will have the opportunity to learn from professionals in **free** classes also held throughout the day. Free sign-ups are on the organization's website, www.occgs.com.

There are two title sponsors for the event, **Findmypast** and **FamilySearch**. Both will have company representatives available to discuss their products. There will also be additional exhibitors in attendance that is open to the public.

OCCGS manages the 20,000 volume Genealogy collection at the Huntington Beach Central Library. The public is invited to visit the collection and have a guided tour.

There will be a Book Faire for people who want to add to their personal genealogical library. Prices for the books and other genealogical materials at the Book Faire are at bargain basement prices. The Book Faire is free and open to the public.

The Huntington Beach Central Library is located at 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Doors open at 8:00 AM and the first session begins at 9:15 AM. Visit the OCCGS website, www.occgs.com, and click on the BASH button for full details and registration information.

Used Books Sale Bargains

The Friends of the Library Used Books Sale is ongoing at the Huntington Beach Library, 7111 Talbert Ave. Thousands of books, magazines, comic books, DVD's, CD's, and vinyl records are for sale, mostly in the \$1.00 to \$2.00 range. An additional 3,000 titles are available via the Friends' Amazon Marketplace store at www.amazon.com/shops/hbfriends. Proceeds are used to purchase new books for the Library. Call the Friends at (714) 375-8429 for more information.

March 2 – Celebrate Theodor Geisel's (Aka Dr. Seuss) Birthday.

What twentieth century writer's works, many now 50 years old, continue to outsell many newly published books? Who has won two Academy Awards, two Emmy awards, a Peabody, and the Pulitzer Prize? And let's not forget the star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Give up?

It's that most memorable man of letters, Theodor Seuss Geisel, known to generations of readers as Dr. Seuss. Geisel's work continues to be exceptionally popular today (as recently as 2009 several titles were still selling in the hundreds of thousands per year), and is still popping up in film and television adaptations. When one searches Dr. Seuss in the library's catalog, almost a hundred items are listed: picture books, films, board books, beginning readers, song books and more. Great humor and original artwork, along with a fresh and honest approach to his young readers, have made Dr. Seuss one of America's most popular and beloved writers for generations.

Saturday, March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday. Schools and libraries throughout the United States will be celebrating this special occasion with special storytimes and events. The Huntington Beach Library will help celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by having Dr. Seuss themed storytimes, visiting schools, and having a Dr. Seuss holiday theme display case. There will be a bookshelf filled with his books in the front of the Children's Department for children to read and check out. All children attending story time during Dr. Seuss's birthday week, March 2 through March 8, will receive a special Dr. Seuss bookmark.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission

On Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the following items:

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 12-029 / VARIANCE NO. 13-001 (SURF CITY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL EXPANSION – CONTINUED FROM THE JANUARY 23, 2013, MEETING) **Applicant:** Marcus Paris, DeRevere & Associates **Property Owner:** Surf City Christian Preschool **Request:** CUP: To permit (a) the expansion of an existing 2,800 sq. ft. preschool by constructing a new 2,800 sq. ft. building, an 18-space parking lot, and site improvements; and (b) approximately 60 linear ft. blockwall and gate measuring 6 ft. high in lieu of a maximum height of 3.5 ft. within five ft. of the front property line adjacent to Graham Place. **VAR:** To permit a 7 ft., 2 in. street side yard setback in lieu of a minimum of 10 ft. street side yard setback for the new preschool building. **Location:** 5432 Heil Avenue, 92649 (southwest corner of Graham Street and Heil Avenue) **Project Planner:** Jill Arabe

APPEAL OF SITE PLAN REVIEW NO. 11-04/VARIANCE NO. 12-04. (CASA RINCON) **Appellant/Applicant:** Sean Pate, CEO of The Pate Foundation, 575 Anton Blvd., Ste 1100, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 **Property Owner:** Morrie Golcheh, Progressive Real Estate, 10537 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite No. 350, Los Angeles, CA 90025 **Request:** SPR: To permit the construction of an approximately 10,900 square foot, four-story affordable housing apartment project with an overall height of 50 feet within the Town Center Neighborhood Segment of Beach & Edinger Corridors Specific Plan (SP 14). The project will consist of 24 affordable housing units containing 4 one-bedroom units (615 sq. ft./unit), 5 two-bedroom units (843 sq. ft./unit), 6 three-bedroom units (1,028 sq. ft./unit) and 9 four-bedroom units (1,224 sq. ft./unit) including a 693 square foot, two-story community recreation building with an overall height of 33 feet. **VAR:** To permit (a) 8 feet high perimeter privacy walls in lieu of a maximum height of 6 feet permitted; (b) a reduction in

required public open space from a minimum 1,200 sq. ft. to 925 square feet; and (c) eliminate the private entry type requirement from the project design. **Location:** 18431 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 **Project Planner:** Rosemary Medel.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal Program

The City of Huntington Beach has installed a Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal box in the Lobby of the Huntington Beach Police Department. The Pharmaceutical Disposal program is being implemented so citizens can properly dispose of their old prescription medications, instead of placing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet. Improperly disposing of unused medications can harm others and the environment.

Medications which are flushed down the toilet are not completely removed by the sewage treatment facilities. These medications can enter the soil, surface water, and ground water. Research studies have shown that exposure to drugs found in waterways are having a serious impact on fish and other aquatic life. The Huntington Beach Police Department front lobby is open from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, seven days a week.

PUBLIC WORKS

Oak View Pre-School

On February 26, Maintenance Operations hosted the Oak View Pre-School children at the Corporation Yard. Dump trucks, backhoes, loaders, and other street equipment was on display for the 300 children to view and have photos taken.