

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

**February 27, 2012**

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services**

Huntington Beach Senior Services partners with HBReads in presenting the HBO film, "Temple Grandin" on Friday, March 2, as part of the Friday afternoon movie series at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue. The movie will be followed by a book discussion & refreshments on Monday, March 12, at 10 A.M. Mary Lou Hughes and Sheryl Crockey will lead the discussion. The HBReads committee has chosen "Emergence – Labeled Autistic," by Temple Grandin, Ph.D., and Margaret M. Scariano. Four copies of this book will be available for check-out to senior center participants courtesy of the Huntington Beach Council on Aging. The Central Library has nine copies and one copy at each of the four branches. For more information call 714-536-9387 or visit [www.HBReads.org](http://www.HBReads.org).

### **Huntington Beach Art Center**

The Huntington Beach Art Center presents the 2012 Artists in Residence program. Titled "Staff Selects," the program features three artists who were chosen to complete new work, introduce the public to their creative process, and engage the community in dialogue. We invite you to join us during the month of March for several special evenings including March 15 for a Meet the Artists event from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. and a closing reception on March 31 from 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. For additional information, please call the Art Center at 714-374-1650.

### **Project Self Sufficiency**

At the February 14 Board Meeting of the Project Self Sufficiency Foundation, Stuart Thomas of ReMax/Select One was honored for his years of philanthropic service to Project Self Sufficiency (PSS). Mr. Thomas was presented with a plaque and a huge thank you from PSS Participants, Board Members, and Staff for his ongoing support of Project Self Sufficiency. Mr. Thomas announced that PSS would be the beneficiary of this year's charitable event that he and his team created for local nonprofits in Huntington Beach. Stay tuned for more details on the charity event to be held later in the year.

### **Recreation Programs**

New – Spring Volleyball League – The City of Huntington Beach Spring Indoor Coed Volleyball league will begin March 31. The league stresses the importance of teamwork, and allows players to learn the fundamentals of indoor volleyball while having fun. Players in fifth through eighth grade will participate in a practice game, six league games and a citywide tournament. All games are held in the gymnasium at the City Gym & Pool, which will provide an enjoyable atmosphere for both players and fans. All participants receive an HB recreation jersey and league awards. Sign up now to be a part of the inaugural spring volleyball league! Registration is available at any community center or online at [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org).

Swim Level Testing – FREE Swim Level Testing this Saturday, March 3 from 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. at the City Gym and Pool. The community services department offers swim level

testing to help parents prepare for spring and summer aquatic registration. Your child will be evaluated by an American Red Cross certified instructor who will recommend the appropriate swim level. To make an appointment, please call the City Gym & Pool at 714-960-8884. Spring and summer aquatic registration begins March 6 at 9:00 A.M. online at [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org) and your local community center.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Costco is Hiring**

If you are an ambitious, energetic person who enjoys a fast-paced team environment brimming with challenges and opportunities, you've come to the right place. Costco will be hiring 40 full-time and 60 part-time employees! Pay begins at \$11.00 an hour.

Costco looks for service-oriented people with integrity and commitment toward a common goal of excellence in every area of their personal and business lives. Costco offers great jobs, great pay, great benefits and a great place to work. Dedicated to recognizing and rewarding employees for their hard work and loyalty, the majority of Costco's management teams are promoted from within.

Costco is an equal opportunity employer and a drug- and alcohol-free workplace.

#### **Apply online:**

[https://wfa.kronostm.com/index.jsp?LOCATION\\_ID=28816465782&locale=en\\_US&applicationName=CostcoNonReqExt&SEQ=locationDetails&QUALIFIERID=28816465774](https://wfa.kronostm.com/index.jsp?LOCATION_ID=28816465782&locale=en_US&applicationName=CostcoNonReqExt&SEQ=locationDetails&QUALIFIERID=28816465774)

## **FIRE**

### **Residential Structure Fire**

On February 25, 2012, at approximately 12:00 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a multi-unit industrial structure fire on Nichols. Upon arrival, firefighters found heavy smoke conditions from a smoldering fire. Firefighters worked to contain the fire and protect the adjacent units while confirming there were no victims needing rescue. The fire was held in-check by a functioning automatic sprinkler system and with an aggressive interior fire attack coordinated with vertical ventilation, the fire was confined to the unit of origin and was under control within 26 minutes of HBFD arrival.

There were no injuries reported and the fire is currently under investigation.

## **INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **Android and iPhone Apps for Surf City Pipeline and Service Request Program**

Tree needing trimming, illegal dumping to be reported or graffiti that needs removing are just a smart phone tap away in Huntington Beach with the Surf City Pipeline mobile application. Android and iPhone users simply open the application, select an issue, and take a picture – the application uses the phone's GPS to include the photo's location and automatically routes the request to the city employee who can take care of it. You can download the free application from the Android Market or the iPhone App Store by searching for GORquest.

**City Website Links**

The City Council appoints a number of citizen committees, boards, and commissions that serve as advisory bodies to the City Council. These bodies play an essential role in the governance of our city and provide the City Council with important input. You can find information about these boards and commissions and also download the meeting agendas and minutes from the city website at:

[http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/boards\\_commissions/](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/boards_commissions/)

**LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT****St. Patrick's Day – Learn More at the Library!**

Although not a legal holiday in the United States, St. Patrick's Day is a major cause for celebration among many in this country - Irish or not! It's a time for food, drink, celebration, parades, and more; a time to celebrate all things Irish. The local community's interest in Irish culture is reflected in the library's collection. DVDs such as "Nature: Ireland" and "England, Ireland and Scotland," hosted by Samantha Brown, are great for getting a feel for the country, its landscape, and its people. Many people celebrate with Irish music and the library has a number of modern and traditional CDs including works by the Chieftains, The Boys of the Lough, Dolores Keane, The Clancy Brothers and more.

The historically inclined reader will find histories like "The History of the Irish in America," "The Irish American Heritage," and "Out of Ireland: The story of Irish Emigration to America." Those who wish to entertain can find ideas and recipes in "Malachi McCormick's Irish Country Cooking," "The Irish Heritage Cookbook," and "The New Irish Table: 75 Contemporary recipes." The library remains a great source of information for fun, learning and cultural enrichment for both kids and adults,

**POLICE DEPARTMENT****Police Department Testing Voice Recognition Software to Transcribe Reports**

In September 2011, the Word Processing Unit was closed due to budget reduction and staffing cuts. Since that time, the Police Department has been researching alternatives that would provide officers with transcribing services. Outside vendors charge per page for a 60 character line ranging from \$0.17 to \$0.32 per line or between \$10,200 and \$19,200 a month.

A more cost effective alternative to an outside transcription vendor is off-the-shelf voice recognition software. Five (5) officers/detectives are participating in a pilot program using "Dragon Naturally Speaking Professional Edition Software." This version of software is the only version that allows for roaming profiles so each officer has their own unique profile on the server. An education engine in the software enables transcriptions get better over time with increased usage, allowing for smoother transcription. Officers can dictate directly into a computer using a microphone, or dictate their reports using their digital recorders.

If the pilot program is successful, this technology may be offered to the rest of the Department provided adequate funding can be secured for the purchase. Use of this

software will enhance the quality of reports, and expedite officer availability by relieving them of having to handwrite or type reports.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Progress Made on Energy Efficiency Project**

Late last year, the City's contractor began work on the City's Energy Efficiency project. The scope of the project includes the replacement of interior lighting, modifications to the heating and air conditioning systems, change-out of building system controls, and replacement of other miscellaneous equipment at City Hall, Central Library, and Police Buildings. Interior lighting replacements have been completed at City Hall and Police buildings while work continues at the Library. City staff appreciates the patience and cooperation from our employees and patrons at these facilities. The entire project is expected to be substantially completed by July of 2012. When completed, the project is expected to save the City approximately \$240,000 in annual operating cost and reduce the amount of deferred maintenance.