

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 7, 2011

CITY MANAGER

Solar Open House

A solar open house will be held next 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 next Tuesday to hear more.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Tennis Classes

The City of Huntington Beach offers Youth Tennis classes for children ages 6-13 years, Monday through Thursday afternoons. Youth Tennis is offered at Edison and Murdy Community Centers as well as at the Marina and LeBard Tennis Courts. These classes are designed for students with little or no tennis experience, introducing basic forehand, backhand, volley, serve and scoring. In addition to teaching sportsmanship and teamwork, active programs like youth tennis promote exercise and good health in a FUN environment. New classes are beginning the week of February 14...register now at www.hbsands.org

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Valentine Luncheon – On Thursday, February 10 at 1:00 pm at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, The Huntington Beach Council on Aging will host a Valentine Luncheon with a catered lunch, entertainment, and great gift baskets! A prepaid \$5.00 reservation is required. You may prepay your reservations at the front counter of the Senior Center, 1706 Orange Avenue. Call 714-536-9387 for more information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDBG Applications are Available

The City of Huntington Beach Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the fiscal year (2011-2012) are now available at: www.surfcityhb.org/Government/Departments/ed/cdbg/. Applications are due by 5:00 PM, Thursday, February 17, 2011. There are two applications: 1) non-construction/public service projects that include eligible public service, fair housing activities or housing rehabilitation and 2) construction/development projects including public facilities or infrastructure projects, property acquisition, or other eligible renovation projects. Applicants needing assistance and/or clarification regarding project eligibility are encouraged to call Sidney Stone, Housing Manager at (714) 536-5901.

FIRE

Electrical Appliance Safety

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.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Teen Book Club launched at the Central library

The Huntington Beach Public Library will begin a new Teen Book Club on February 5, 2011, with the New York Times bestseller, The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak. The club is geared toward teens from ninth through twelfth grade.

The story takes place during World War II about Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and story talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Book discussions will be held in the Central Library's Tabby Theater, 7111 Talbert Avenue, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the following Saturdays: February 5 & 19, April 2 & 16, March 5 & 19.

Activities and snacks will be included. For additional information, please call Mr. Chris Zobel at (714) 642-5534. Come join the group for a lively discussion of the book the Times called "brilliant and hugely ambitious."

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission to Consider Murdy Commons EIR/The Boardwalk Mixed-Use Project

At the February 8 Planning Commission meeting, the Commission will hold a public hearing on Environmental Impact Report No. 10-002 to review the environmental impacts associated with the Murdy Commons Mixed Use Project consisting of 984 rental dwelling units, 60,000 square feet of commercial area and a 0.75-acre public open space area and Site Plan Review No. 10-004 a request by the Sares-Regis Group to develop The Boardwalk Apartments Mixed Use Development that represents a project consisting of 487 apartment units, 10,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial area, 4,500 square feet of leasing office area, 9,000 square feet of recreation buildings and a 0.50-acre public open space area. The proposed project site is approximately 12.5-acres and located on the northeast corner of Gothard Street and Edinger Avenue (former Levitz furniture store, but excludes the existing EZ Lube business).

A copy of the staff reports is available on the Planning and Building Department website, at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/pcl/pcagenda020811.cfm>. For additional information, contact Jennifer Villasenor, Senior Planner, at (714) 374-1661. The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Scam Thieves Targeting the Elderly

Scam thieves often target elderly victims. A recent popular scam, sometimes called the "grandson scam" has been resurfacing in popularity with thieves around the state and country. There have been numerous attempts of this scam, and in the past week, there have been two senior citizen residents of Huntington Beach that have been victims of this scam.

The scam starts with a call from a male who sounds like he has a cold. He claims to be the victim's grandson but sounds different due to the cold. The grandson claims to be in jail for a DUI, or arrested for a traffic accident, or similar type incident in Canada. The grandson says he will need bail money, or money for an attorney, or a similar story. The grandson then says to expect a call from a bails bondsman, or attorney, who can help with this "international incident."

The grandson may even say something like, "Please don't tell mom or dad, I am embarrassed."

The victim then receives a call from a blocked number of someone claiming to be able to help with criminal matter in Canada. They give instructions on how to wire transfer funds to a foreign nation.

Many people who get this call simply hang up on the caller as it is obvious fraud. But the thieves play the numbers game and hopefully find someone who believes their story, because perhaps the facts sound believable. This has been the case with a couple recent victims here in Huntington Beach.

The Huntington Beach Police Department wants everyone to be aware of these scams. This scam is currently very active around the United States. If you have elderly parents or grandparents, make sure they are aware of this scam. Here are a few helpful tips:

- Always be very suspicious of unsolicited calls asking for money to be wired somewhere, even if the caller claims be family.
- If someone was arrested, it can be verified with the arresting agency. Take the time to check.
- Blocked phone numbers or international phone numbers should always be a red flag.
- If you think it's a scam, it probably is, call the Huntington Beach Police department or your local police department if you live outside of Huntington Beach to report the crime.
- These scams take many variations, being aware that they are going on is key, talk about these incidents with family members.

PUBLIC WORKS

Water Conservation News

For information on the City's water conservation program and lots of tips, suggestions, and links, visit the City's main website page at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov> and click on the water conservation button on the left. Also, check out the Huntington Beach Water Facebook page.

