

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 8, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review

At the Feb. 18 meeting of the Charter Review, the committee will be reconsidering several Charter sections, including Section 612 (Measure C). The meetings on March 2 and 16 will be utilized for review of legislative drafts of recommended amendments. A final review and vote on the recommendations is planned for the April 6 meeting.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Think Positive

Avoid using phrases like “I can’t” or “I’ll try.” Focus instead on telling your customers what you CAN and WILL do.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Beach Maintenance

Beach maintenance crews and the city’s contractor, Harbor Clean, have removed most of the debris from the recent storms. Crews have removed approximately 100 cubic yards of debris from Huntington Harbour. The debris collected consisted mainly of plant material and light trash; however a 30’ palm tree was removed from the Edinger Street channel area. Beach maintenance crews continue to remove debris from the beach on a nightly basis.

Marine Safety

A review of the 2009 Marine Safety annual statistics indicates that ocean rescues increased by more than 49% over the 2008 rescue total. The following statistics were recorded: Beach Attendance – 9,709,925; Rescues – 6,035; Preventative Actions – 126,332; Medical Aids – 1,447; Lost & Found Persons – 332; Law Enforcement Contacts – 81,620; Preventative Incidents – 149; Wildlife Calls – 90; Public Contacts – 450,311; Beach Events – 338; Public Education Lectures – 40 (to 4,602 students).

HB Reads One Book Events for the Week of February 8

This week, you have four opportunities to participate in an HB Reads One Book event! Each of these events is designed to enrich your reading experience of this year’s book, “They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky.” Join us at one or all! For more information, call 714-374-5307, or visit www.HBReads.org.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 10, 3:00 pm, Golden West College, Forum II** – Join HB Read Committee Member and Professor Chip Royston, Professor of Human Services and Anthropology at Cal State Fullerton, for a thought-provoking discussion of “They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky.” Free parking available in Lots “C” & “D” (enter off Goldenwest Street).

- **Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:00 pm, Central Library, Lower Level, Rooms C & D** – Free film screening of “Lost Boys of Sudan.” This movie (unrated by the MPAA) is an Emmy-nominated, Independent Spirit Award-winning documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on the journey from Africa to America. A brief discussion period will follow the showing of the film.
- **Saturday, Feb. 13, 2:00 pm, Barnes & Noble, Bella Terra Mall** – Join Judy Bernstein, co-author of “They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky” and volunteer with the International Rescue Committee, describe her experiences mentoring the three boys when they first arrived in San Diego as refugees. Her job was to mentor and help them assimilate to life in America. This discussion will illuminate the stories told in the book and provide new insight into the plight of a refugee.
- **Barnes & Noble, Bella Terra Mall - HB Reads Fundraiser Bookfair** - In support of the HB Reads One Book program and just in time for Valentine’s Day, Bella Terra is hosting a Bookfair beginning February 7. Purchase any book, CD, or DVD through February 13, and a percentage of the sale proceeds will be donated to the HB Reads program. Monies received are used to purchase books for the schools, host reader’s events, and bring the authors to Huntington Beach. Just tell the cashier that you would like your purchase to benefit HB Reads!

Birds of Prey Workshop

Come to Murdy Community Center this Saturday, February 13 to get up close and personal with several species of LIVE birds of prey. You will learn the basics of falconry, differences and similarities of various bird species, and other amazing facts. Bring your camera for photo opportunities with the birds! Visit www.surfcity-hb.org/sands or your local City of Huntington Beach Community Center for registration information.

Yoga for a Healthy, Happy Back!

Back conditions are variable, often relating to the curves in your spine and the muscles supporting your spine. Learn to create balance with posture, strength, and flexibility in this Yoga Healthy, Happy Back class. The next session begins on Wednesday, February 17 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Sign up at www.surfcity-hb.org/sands or your local City of Huntington Beach Community Center. For more information, please call the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

Best Chef – Kids Edition: Ordinary to Extraordinary

Go from Ordinary to Extraordinary! In this Best Chef – Kids Edition, children ages 8 to 13 years will learn how to make a dish, plate the food, and present the food using many of the tools restaurant chefs use in their restaurants. Recipes include Quesadilla Cake, Stacked Salad, flavored oils, sauces and 3 to 4 Tapas choices. The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sign up at www.surfcity-hb.org/sands or your local City of Huntington Beach Community Center. For more information, please call the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884.

Jewelry Making Sunday Art Workshop Series

Verona Tang teaches this popular hands-on art workshop which lets you create your own silver jewelry piece. On February 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., a Rope ring workshop will

teach you to size a ring for a perfect fit. Workshops cost \$25.00/\$20.00 for HBAC members plus a material fee of \$25.00. The last workshop will be on Mar 7 where you can learn how to set a stone with syringe work. For more information and registration details, please call the Art Center at 714-374-1650 or consult the *Sands Community Brochure* at <http://www.surfcity-hb.org>.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Valentine's Day – On Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA) will host a Valentine's Day lunch catered by Suzanne's Catering. Step back in time with Flashback Music Memories while you feast on beef stroganoff and delight in a Valentine's strawberry swirl for dessert. There will be several chances to win fabulous prizes. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased in advance at the front desk at Rodgers Seniors' Center, 1706 Orange Avenue.

On Friday, February 12, Community Senior Serv will host a Sweetheart of a lunch and Huntington Beach Hospital will sponsor the always entertaining, Tony Odell. Make your reservations at the lunch desk at Rodgers Seniors' Center. Want to dance with a special someone? The HBCOA sponsors a Valentine's Ballroom Dance featuring the Bob Warren Trio on Friday, February 12 from 7:30 -10:30 p.m. at Rodgers. Admission is \$5 and singles are welcome at the singles table. Or if Valentine's Day is not your thing, On Friday February 19 at 12:30 p.m. the HBCOA Friday Afternoon at the Movie will be I Hate Valentine's Day. Co-Stars John Nia Vardalos & John Corbett (My Big Fat Greek Wedding) reunite for this unromantic sounding romantic comedy. Movies & Popcorn are free. For more information on any of these sweet events, please call 714-536-9387.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Brett Simpson - Local Surf Hero Send-Off Party in Downtown HB

Please join us for a proper send-off of Huntington Beach local hero, Brett Simpson, as he embarks on his rookie year of the elite ASP World Tour. Simpson, a Huntington Beach High School alumnus, captured the spirit of the local community when he won the Hurley US Open of Surfing at the Pier. The send-off party will be held Friday, February 19, from 5 -7 p.m. at Huntington Surf and Sport on PCH and Main. Highlights include a 15-minute "Go Brett" video, prizes, giveaways, and an official commendation from Mayor Cathy Green.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Tickets are Still Available for the Ballet in the Children's Library!

The Huntington Beach Library and the Friends of the Children's Library cordially invite you to an encore ballet performance by the spectacular Ballet Etudes next week on February 10 and 11. We still have plenty of tickets left for both of our 7:00 pm shows to be held in the Library Theater. Please join us for "Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand", a forty-five minute production featuring dancing fairies and creepy spiders – all on an exciting quest for the missing magic wand! Their adventures into the forest will delight boys and girls of all ages. Tickets are \$4 per person. For more information, please call 714 375-5107.

New Literacy Volunteers Tutor Adult Learners at the Library.

The Library's Literacy Services welcome 20 Literacy Volunteer Tutor graduates. Each tutor, having completed their training, will be matched with an adult learner who wishes to improve his or her reading, writing and speaking skills. Tutors help adults with job and family related goals. HBPL Literacy Services at Central and Oak View Libraries currently serve more than 200 adult students and 200 Literacy Volunteers. Last year the Literacy Volunteers-HBPL served more than 14,000 hours to help the community. For more information, please call 714-375-5102.

Free SAT Practice Test to be held at Central Library

As skilled test-takers know, the key to success is practice, practice, practice. The library in partnership with Kaplan is sponsoring a FREE full-length practice SAT test on Saturday, February 20, 2010, from 9:30am - 1:30pm at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Space is limited to 50 students, so reservations are required. You can reserve your space by contacting John Peterson from Kaplan at 949-756-2950, ext. 3017 or email john.peterson@kaplan.com.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**T-Mobile Appeals Planning Commission Denial of Cell Tower**

On Friday, February 5, 2010, T-Mobile filed an appeal to the City Council of the Planning Commission denial of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 09-15) to construct a 55 ft. high wireless communications facility designed as a bell tower. The Planning Commission denied the request with findings at their meeting on January 26, 2010. The CUP for the facility, located at the Community United Methodist Church, 6652 Heil Avenue, had been approved by the Zoning Administrator on November 4, 2009. The appeal hearing has been tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2010.

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Crime Statistics – Violent crime down, larceny up**

Part I crimes are defined as: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson.

In 2009, there was a 5.1% increase in Part I crimes as compared to 2008. That increase equates to an additional 242 crimes equaling 4,992 in 2009 compared to 4,750 in 2008. Homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults are violent crimes. Burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson are property crimes. When Part I crimes are broken down into violent and property crime types, violent crime decreased 2.84% and property crimes increased 6% in 2009 compared to 2008.

The most significant increase by category was the property crime of larceny with an additional 306 crimes reported. Larceny includes pick pocketing, purse-snatching, shoplifting, theft from vehicles / parts, theft of bicycles, theft from building, theft from coin-operated machines and similar crimes.

Many property crimes are easily preventable. ***Almost 70% of the residential and garage burglaries in Huntington Beach involved no forced entry. 46% of all larcenies were vehicle burglaries / theft from unlocked vehicles.*** In partnership with the community, the Huntington Beach Police Department is requesting everyone to be conscientious about locking and securing your houses and vehicles when they are unattended. Also, be sure to keep valuables such as GPS devices, mobile phones and purses out of sight when left in your vehicle.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program Grant

In 2007, the City completed a City-wide Bridge Study to assess the condition of all City owned and maintained bridges. All bridges were found to be structurally sound, but in need of preventative maintenance. In December 2007, applications for federal grant funding were submitted to the Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program (BPMP) which is administered by the State of California.

In December 2009, the City received notification that three bridge maintenance projects had been accepted into the Highway Bridge Program and that Federal BPMP grant funds have been slated for the design and construction phases for the following bridges:

- Brookhurst Street Bridge over Talbert Channel
- Magnolia Street Bridge over Huntington Beach Channel
- Warner Avenue Bridge over Bolsa Chica Channel

The City will be working with OCTA and Caltrans to obtain the approvals necessary to proceed with the design of these bridge maintenance projects. Because of the grant requirements and environmental process, it is anticipated that these projects could take between 1 to 2 years to complete. The grant will reimburse the City approximately \$2.7 million of the estimated \$3 million of the design and construction costs.