

# CITY MANAGER'S

## WEEKLY REPORT

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 2, 2012

### COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### Huntington Beach Senior Services

Senior Services volunteers delivered holiday meals to 75 older Huntington Beach residents on Christmas. These older adults, who would otherwise be alone on Christmas, enjoyed a short visit and a festive meal of braised boneless beef short ribs, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, and dessert from Ellen Creative Catering. Funded by the HBCOA and the Handy Crafters, Holiday Meals are delivered to qualified older adults in Huntington Beach on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Volunteers interested in delivering holiday meals on Easter Sunday April 8, 2012, from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. contact Diane Swarts, Volunteer Coordinator, 714-374-1544, [dswarts@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:dswarts@surfcity-hb.org). This is a wonderful way to introduce volunteering to family and friends.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Still Time For Holiday Season Discounts Downtown!

Throughout downtown Huntington Beach, more than 300 unique and exciting businesses line the streets offering one-of-a-kind experiences for residents and visitors alike. While the holiday season has passed, many downtown businesses, in partnership with the Huntington Beach Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), continue to give us a reason to cheer – the Miracle on Main Street coupon book remains valid through January 31 offering outstanding holiday savings at over 60 Downtown retailers and restaurants! There are lots of easy ways to get it too: simply go to <http://www.hb-downtown.com/> to download your free coupon book, pick one up on Tuesdays during Surf City Nights, drop by the Lower Level of Huntington Beach City Hall, or at the Downtown BID office located at 315 3rd Street, Suite E.

### FIRE

#### Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. Sixty five percent of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms at all or ones that do not work. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and smoke alarms provide notification to allow you time to exit your home.

#### Safety Tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home. If possible, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home and when one sounds, they all sound.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling.
- Batteries in smoke detectors should be changed every six months when you change your clocks to and from Daylight Savings Time. If an alarm "chirps", warning the battery is low, replace battery immediately.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use ten year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are ten years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement, in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights. Vibration equipment can be added to these alarms.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

For more information, please visit [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education).

### **Residential Structure Fire**

On January 2, 2012 at approximately 12:15 a.m., firefighters were dispatched to a residential structure fire on Marie Lane. Upon arrival, firefighters reported a single story residence with fire showing from the back side of the house. During firefighting operations, downed arcing electrical wires were observed.

Fire damage destroyed the sun room at the rear of the residence, entered into the main part of the house, and was beginning to extend into the attic. One of the occupants reported a minor burn injury but did not receive treatment. The property loss estimate is \$200,000 and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

### **Increasing Resiliency in the City of Huntington Beach**

Is your home or office building susceptible to damage from earthquakes, flooding, tsunami, or dam failure? Do you want to help increase resiliency and prevent future damage from these and other natural hazards? Your participation can make your community more resilient.

The City of Huntington Beach has developed an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan identifies risks associated with natural hazards throughout the City, presents an assessment of critical facilities vulnerable to these hazards, and lists potential mitigation actions to reduce risk and future damage.

The hazard mitigation plan is developed per the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and enables the City to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding, which requires an update every 5 years to maintain this eligibility. More information on the requirements of this process and eligible grant programs is available on the California Emergency Management Agency's website at <http://hazardmitigation.calema.ca.gov/>.

The City of Huntington Beach welcomes your review of the draft plan to ensure development of a strong mitigation strategy. The draft plan is available for download at [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hazard](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hazard) or look for it on the City Website front page.

Please submit your comments and questions to Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator via email at [bmettler@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:bmettler@surfcity-hb.org) or mail to 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach CA, 92648, by January 20, 2012.

## **INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **View Volunteer Opportunities Online**

Volunteers are an integral part of the city programs offered to local citizens. Without the donation of dedicated volunteer service, many activities now provided would not be available. Find out volunteer information on the city website at:

[http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/volunteer\\_opportunities/](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/volunteer_opportunities/)

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **The Gift that Lasts a Lifetime**

Looking for a holiday or Valentine Day gift that will last forever? Perhaps, the family wants to celebrate a birthday, special occasion or loved one's life. The Children's Department is offering tiles for painting and decorating the walls of the Library. Paints, tiles and certificates are available for \$50 each or 2 for \$80. Money raised by this effort is used to buy children's books and is a tax-deductible donation. Tiles can be painted any day the Library is open. They will be permanently attached to the walls in the Children's Department and can be viewed in the future. For additional information, please call (714) 375-5107.

## **PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

### **Planning Commission**

On January 10, 2012, at 5:15PM in Room B-8, the Planning Commission will conduct a study session on the following items:

#### **SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) NO. 07-002/ GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11-001/ CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-039(R) (HUNTINGTON BEACH SENIOR CENTER)**

to review the environmental impacts associated with the Huntington Beach Senior Center Project to permit the development of a 45,000 square foot senior center facility, a 227-space parking lot with spaces for City vehicles and shuttle buses, and an outdoor open space area. (18041 Goldenwest Street,

Huntington Beach, CA 92648) Contact Jennifer Villasenor, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information.

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 11-024/VARIANCE NO. 11-006 (HB WOMAN'S CLUB)** to review a request to permit the reconstruction of the woman's clubhouse to replace the former fire damaged clubhouse, originally built in 1916. (420 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 92648 - east side of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, between Orange Avenue and Pecan Avenue) Contact Jill Arabe, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information. A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website:

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/pcl/>

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Honoring our Volunteers at the HBPD Annual Appreciation Holiday Luncheon**

The Huntington Beach Police Department recently had the privilege of honoring its volunteers at the Annual Appreciation Holiday Luncheon. The luncheon was held at Don the Beachcombers, in Huntington Beach, and the cake was provided by Great Dane Baking Company also in Huntington Beach.

All the hours that are dedicated to providing the above services to the Police Department and this community are volunteer hours. According to OC One Volunteer center, these volunteers save the city over \$400,000 annually.

If you see a volunteer out in the community, at one of the Police Stations, or distributing the HB Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, please take the time to thank them for their service and all they do to help keep Huntington Beach a safe place to live, work, and play.

Presently, we have three volunteer groups of approximately 150 volunteers providing assistance and services to the HBPD and our community. Volunteers enable us to provide many of the services listed below:

**HB Neighborhood Watch Board (HB N/W) and Newsletter Assembly Group:** This group oversees the Neighborhood Watch program, planning activities, events and meetings that focus on crime prevention, education, and awareness. They conduct Neighborhood Watch Block meetings, assist at special events throughout the community, and much more. The Newsletter Assembly Group meets monthly to compile 14,000 Neighborhood Watch Newsletters for mailing and distribution. To date they have prepared over one million issues.

**RSVP:** Provide vacation house checks, assist at the main station front desk, work in the Detective Bureau, Crime Lab, Budget & Payroll Department, remove illegally posted signs, work at our sub-stations, assist at special events, assist the Neighborhood Watch Board and Newsletter Assembly Group, give Police Department tours, visit elementary schools, distribute vehicle burglary and theft prevention information through the Curb Crime Program.

**VIPS:** Provide assistance at our sub-stations, work in the Detective Bureau, the Gang Unit, Records Bureau, Budget & Payroll Department, assist the Neighborhood Watch Board and Newsletter Assembly Group, work special events at schools and throughout the community, and assist with the Curb Crime Program.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Civic Center Solar Project Completion**

The final landscaping at the Civic Center was completed this week, which officially brings the construction of the overall Solar Project to conclusion. Due to the smaller and relatively straight-forward scope of work, the Central Library and City Yard Solar projects were completed a few weeks ago well ahead of the Civic Center. Staff would like to thank everyone for their patience during construction of the project. Visitors and employees can now enjoy the completed solar carport canopies, improved parking lots, and drought and shade tolerant landscaping. These City facilities now generate and use clean and efficient solar energy, which benefit the environment.