

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

January 3, 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Softball Registration

Registration for the Winter 2011 Adult Softball league is now underway; the deadline is January 13, 2011. Senior leagues are offered on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights; Senior Coed leagues are offered on Tuesday nights; Men's leagues are offered on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; Coed leagues are offered on Sunday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday nights and Friday nights. The leagues will start play January 23 and will conclude in April or May. Registration packets are available on the City Adult Softball page or can be mailed out. For more details or information, please contact the Community Services office at 714-536-5230.

122ND Rose Parade Excursion

On January 1, 2011, the Community Services Department escorted 100 people to view the 2011 Rose Parade. The Community Services Department chartered two busses for the Rose Parade which left at 6:45 a.m. for grandstand seating at 2000 E. Colorado Blvd. and returned to City Hall after 3 p.m. The weather cooperated and a fantastic time was had by all!

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Holiday Meals - On Christmas Day, volunteers and their families delivered holiday meals to 75 qualified older adults in Huntington Beach who otherwise would have been alone and without support for the holidays. The seniors look forward to the festive meal as well as the brief visit from the volunteers. Erica's catering cooked-up a delicious holiday feast. Girl Scouts made hand-crafted Christmas cards. The Handy Crafters and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging fund the holiday meals program.

New Year's Eve Ballroom Dance - The Huntington Beach Council on Aging hosted their annual New Year's Eve Ballroom Dance on Friday, December 31, 2010, at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center. The sold-out event included live big band music from the Bob Warren Trio, a hearty buffet dinner with roast beef, ham, a portabella mushroom dish, scalloped potatoes, winter roasted vegetables, and a salad. For dessert participants were treated to Brandi's homemade apple crisp and vanilla ice cream. The dancers celebrated with champagne at the "Grand Countdown Toast" and many took home fabulous raffle prizes. The Council on Aging is a non-profit organization that supports programs and services for Huntington Beach Seniors through the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center and the Huntington Beach Senior Outreach.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Redevelopment Agency Honored with Award for The Strand Mixed Use Development

The Redevelopment Agency has been awarded the 2011 Award of Excellence in the Mixed Use Development Category from the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) in recognition for the success of The Strand project. The CRA Award is highly competitive, and is only bestowed upon outstanding programs and projects which are superior examples of the redevelopment process and have resulted in building better communities. The Agency submitted the application in September, highlighting the completion of The Strand, with its 68,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space, 28,000 square feet of office space, and the 157-room boutique hotel. It provides a new and vibrant environment for residents and visitors to experience in what used to be an area comprised of vacant lots, weeds and ramshackle buildings. Representatives from the Redevelopment Agency will attend the awards ceremony at the annual CRA conference on March 30, 2011, to accept the award.

FIRE

Structure Fire

On the evening of December 26, 2010, the Huntington Beach Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire on Applecross Lane. Upon arrival, firefighters found smoke coming from the second story of a multi-unit condominium building and initiated fire attack and search operation. Fortunately, all occupants had evacuated the involved condominium. Firefighters were able to confine the fire to the original unit and prevent extension into the attic and adjacent units. The master bedroom of the unit of origin was completely destroyed and there was heavy smoke damage to the remainder of the second floor. It took firefighters approximately 20 minutes to bring the fire under control with initial damage estimates set at \$60,000. No injuries were reported and the fire is currently under investigation.

Urban Search and Rescue Training Exercise

The Huntington Beach Fire Department recently hosted a County-Wide Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) training exercise. The exercise was held at the old Montgomery Ward auto repair building located at the Bella Terra shopping center. The drill was designed to simulate an earthquake with a building collapse and victims trapped in a basement. Six drills were conducted between December 9th and 16th. Participating Fire Departments included Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, Orange, Fullerton and Anaheim. A total of 170 firefighters participated in exercises that included breaching concrete walls and floors, building emergency shoring systems to support the damaged building, and rescuing victims from confined spaces. All of the participating US&R teams are part of the California State mutual aid system.

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, either type of alarms or a combination alarms (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.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. 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.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Learn Languages Online with Mango!

The Huntington Beach Library has useful online language learning tool: Mango Languages. Mango is an online language learning system teaching practical conversation skills for real communication. Mango is a fast, easy, and effective way to learn to speak a foreign language and is now available on the library's home page. Whether brushing up on a language you already know, planning an international trip, or would like to learn a new language, Mango is

the fast and easy way to get started. Visit <http://www.hbpl.org/>, click on Research Databases, and open the door to an exciting new learning opportunity!

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Beach and Warner Environmental Impact Report

Draft EIR No. 10-003 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Beach and Warner Mixed Use Project located at the southwest corner of the intersection (Comerica Tower Center, aka Guardian Center). The Draft EIR analyzes development of up to 279 residential units developed throughout the project site. Development also includes 31,200 square feet of additional retail space and 6,000 square feet of restaurant space on 9.4 acres. Some of the existing buildings will be demolished to accommodate the project. The project includes the construction of two new retail buildings at the corner of Warner Avenue and Beach Boulevard, new mixed-use buildings along both Warner and Beach and two new parking structures.

A copy of Draft EIR No. 10-003 will be on file beginning Thursday, January 6, 2011, with the Planning and Building Department, City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, California 92648. The Draft EIR will also be available for review at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; and on the internet at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/>

The Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment for forty-five (45) days commencing Thursday, January 6, 2011, and ending Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIR may do so in writing within the forty-five (45) day comment period by providing written comments to Rosemary Medel, Associate Planner, City of Huntington Beach Planning and Building Department, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Please contact Rosemary Medel, Associate Planner at (714) 536-5271 for additional information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Update on Craigslist.org Sting Arrests

From December 2009 through May 2010, detectives with the Huntington Beach Police Department made a series of five arrests. These arrests involved adult suspects soliciting minors to perform sexual acts with them after contacting them on Craigslist.org. Fortunately, in these cases, the victim was actually a detective posing as the minor.

In each of the incidents, the suspects responded to an online post on Craigslist.org of a 13 year old female in Huntington Beach. The suspects solicited the 13 year old victim using email and text messaging to have sexual contact with them. The suspects drove to Huntington Beach to meet with the victim. Some brought condoms, some brought cash, and others brought drugs with them as part of the arranged meeting to have sexual contact.

On April 29, 2010, Gabriel Francis Preto, 28, Newport Beach, pled guilty to various criminal counts related to his arrest and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

On December 28, 2010, Howard Houchen Wang, 38, Mission Viejo, pled guilty to various criminal counts related to his arrest and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

The other three defendants: Venson Magbojos Villapando, 26, Brea; Gregory Ruiz Aguirre, 53, El Monte; Alvin Huynh, 23, Foothill Ranch, have scheduled court dates pending over the next two months.

The Huntington Beach Police Department encourages parents to routinely monitor their children's internet activity. Children and adolescents may be deceived and unknowingly establish a relationship with subjects whose intentions are to engage in a sexual act. In these cases, the victims were detectives posing as minors on the internet. This is not always the case, and sometimes the victims are as real as the suspects.

Go to www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice for more details and updates on this investigation.

PUBLIC WORKS

Huntington Beach December Rainfall Totals

The December 2010 rainfall for Huntington Beach averaged 9.37 inches which was one of the wettest Decembers in recent history. To put this in perspective, the average December rainfall for Huntington Beach is 1.59 inches, and an annual rainfall average for the City is 11.6 inches. The rain season is from October –April of each year. Huntington Beach has already recorded an average total of 12.7 inches of rain this season within the first three months.