

# CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

**January 31, 2011**

## **CITY ADMINISTRATION**

City staff is working with SunEdison to prepare plans to secure building permits for the solar canopies in the parking lots at Civic Center, Central Library and City Yard. These projects are being installed by SunEdison through a Power Purchase Agreement with no upfront costs to the city. The three sites total 2.3 Megawatts of power and will generate 12% of the city's total electricity use. The systems will provide clean air equivalent benefits of 508 acres of pine/fir forest or removing 455 passenger cars from the road. Additionally, this project will stimulate economic activity from approximately \$8M in construction work financed by SunEdison.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services**

On Monday, February 7 at 7:00 pm at Rogers Senior Center, join Sheryl Crockey and Mary Lou Hughes, of the Huntington Beach Reads One Book Committee, as they lead a discussion of this year's book selection, Barefoot Heart by Elva Trevino Hart. Hart's memoir recounts her life as the daughter of immigrant migrant workers. The author said she considers her novel a testament to perseverance. She was once asked how she made the jump from being a child of migrant workers to a graduate student at Stanford. "You don't make that jump. It's a thousand steps," she responded. Come and share your personal experiences about the steps in your life. Four copies of Barefoot Heart are available for checkout at Rodgers Seniors Center, courtesy of the Huntington Beach Council on Aging. For more information, call 714-536-9387.

### **Huntington Beach Art Center**

Please join us for Art for Lunch on Thursday, February 3 from 11:30am - 1:30pm. The annual community exhibition, Centered on the Center, is currently on display featuring over 232 local and regional artists and over 395 works of art. The Art Center will provide desserts and beverages - just bring lunch and a friend! The Art Center is located at 538 Main St. Please call 714.374.1650 for information.

### **Surf City USA® Marathon**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Surf City USA® Marathon is a running and community event that races through the streets of Huntington Beach including Pacific Coast Highway and Huntington Central Park on Sunday, February 6, 2011.

The event has four running courses: the marathon, the half marathon, a charity One Mile, and Kid's Fun Run. There will be approximately, 2,000 marathoners, 17,000 half marathon, 1,000 Adult charity runners, and 500 kids running the Kid's Fun Run.

Race participants, friends, family and community members are welcome to the Active Lifestyle Expo on Friday, 2/4 - 2/6

Here are a few interesting facts about the 2011 event:

- Runners come from all 50 states representing more than 1,000 U.S. cities.
- 1,700 runners are Huntington Beach residents
- There are runners from 18 foreign countries.
- Free Wheelchair Mission has raised more than \$1,800,000 during the past six years to send 38,000 specially engineered wheelchairs around the world.
- Of the 20,000 registrants, over 12,000 or 60% are running this event for the very first time.
- Seventy-five Septuagenarians (age 70 – 79) and five Octogenarians (age 80 – 89) are registered for the event.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Mobile Home Advisory Board Member Recruitment -**

The Mobile Home Advisory Board (MHAB) is currently seeking applications from Huntington Beach mobile home park owners and community at-large representatives who have no affiliation to mobile home residents or park owners. Board Members currently meet quarterly in January, April, July, and October on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. to review mobile home park issues and provide a forum for communication on matters affecting the City's 18 mobile home parks. Anyone interested in obtaining an application should contact the Economic Development Department at (714) 536-5457. Applications are also available online at [www.surfcity-hb.org](http://www.surfcity-hb.org).

## **FIRE**

### **High-Rise Apartment and Condominium Safety**

People living in high-rise apartments or condominium buildings need to think ahead and be prepared in the event of a fire. It is important to know the fire safety features in your building and work together with neighbors to help keep the building as fire-safe as possible.

#### **Be Prepared**

- For the best protection, select a fully sprinklered building. If your building is not sprinklered, ask the landlord or management to consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features in your building (fire alarms, sprinklers, voice communication procedures, evacuation plans and how to respond to an alarm).
- Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Make sure all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked, not locked or blocked by security bars, and clear of clutter.

- If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out to notify the fire department and your neighbors.
- If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If it is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest way out.
- If an announcement is made throughout the building, listen carefully and follow directions.
- Use the stairs to get out – never use the elevator unless you are directed to by the fire department.

### Escape 101

- Go to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call 9-1-1. If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.
- If you can't get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or a disability, stuff wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out.
- Call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are located.
- Open a window slightly and wave a bright cloth to signal your location. Be prepared to close the window if it makes the smoke condition worse.
- Fire Department evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor evacuation status.

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

## LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### SAT practice at your library!

The Huntington Beach Public Library Children's Department, the Friends of the Children's Library and Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions are sponsoring a series of practice Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) for students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. These preliminary tests will be given on Saturdays throughout 2011 to prepare students for the actual college aptitude tests they need to pass to enter college.

The following tests, including test score review dates, are outlined below:

SAT Practice Test:	1/29/11	Review date:	2/3/11
SAT & ACT Combo Test:	3/5/11	Review date:	3/14/11
PSAT Practice Test:	7/16/11	Review date:	7/21/11
SAT Practice Test	8/20/11	Review date:	8/25/11
College Application Essay Workshop:	9/17/11	Review date:	9/17/11
SAT Essay Workshop:	10/15/11	Review date:	10/15/11

All tests will be held in the Talbert Room, and the price for each is \$10. Bring a #2 pencil and an eraser and arrive on time. Tickets are being sold at the Children's Information Desk of the Central Library. The start time for each test and the corresponding review session will be printed on the ticket. For additional information, please call (714) 375-5107.

## **PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

### **Beach and Warner Environmental Impact Report Comment Meeting**

There will be a public comment meeting on Draft EIR No. 10-003, which 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), on February 2, 2011. The meeting will be held in the Central Library in rooms C&D and begins at 6:00 PM.

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 is available at the Planning and Building Department, City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, California 92648; the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; and on the internet at <http://www.surfcity-hb.org/CityDepartments/planning/major> . The public comment period on the Draft EIR ends Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Please contact Rosemary Medel, Associate Planner at (714) 536-5271 for additional information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Facebook and Twitter popularity grows in Huntington Beach**

The Huntington Beach Police Department Facebook page passed 1,000 "likes" and our Twitter account has over 150 followers since we officially announced them less than three months ago. During just the past month, our Facebook page has had over 212,000 post views and averaging about 5,600 monthly active users.

The Huntington Beach Police Department created a Facebook fan page and Twitter account as additional avenues of communicating with the public. These additional forms of social media will be to complement the existing police department traditional webpage. Social media continues to grow in popularity with all demographics and is not just for younger generations. As traditional forms of media are declining, the police department sees these as important tools in staying connected with the community.

The Facebook fan page and Twitter will provide the police department with additional resources for:

- Crime investigations
- Soliciting tips on crimes
- Notifying the public of crime problems and trends
- Notifying the public of ways to access emergency information

- Crime prevention activities
- Community outreach and citizen engagement
- Public relations
- Recruitment

The links are available from the police department webpage at [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org) or by accessing directly at:

- [www.Facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice](http://www.Facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice)
- [www.Twitter.com/HBPD\\_PIO](http://www.Twitter.com/HBPD_PIO)

On Twitter, HBPD\_PIO does not automatically follow everyone who follows us. We believe it is not good social media policy to have the police "following you" on Twitter. We do see Twitter as a tool to get public safety information out to the public that is timely and accurate.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **PCH Transit Center**

The Transit Center on Pacific Coast Highway is nearing completion and should be ready for the public's use by the end of the week. The City obtained grant funds from OCTA and from AQMD Rule 2766 Subvention Fund to upgrade the existing transit facilities at the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Transit Center located on PCH between First Street and Huntington Street. The project is intended to encourage transit ridership by providing additional rider amenities, protection from the weather, and improve the transit user experience. Keeping with the Surf City theme, the new bus stop benches are in the shape of a wave and made of concrete. The wave structures are equipped with LED lighting and self watering planter boxes. The structures are ADA accessible and allow for wheelchair access.