

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

March 15, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission will be reviewing and finalizing all recommendations at the March 16 meeting. A presentation on the proposed amendments to the Charter will be conducted at the City Council Study Session on April 19. A draft of the proposed changes can be found on the Charter Review Commission's webpage on the City's website at: http://www.surfcity-hb.org/government/boards_commissions/charter_review_commission.cfm.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Treat Me Well

Because we're all human, we all share preferences about how we like to be treated. Listen to me. Respect me. Pay attention to me. Value my opinion. Help me feel I belong. Acknowledge me. Smile. Be courteous, warm and friendly. Care (and show it.) No matter who your customer is, they will appreciate most of these criteria.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Mother Daughter Tea

Spring is in the air and the weather is just right for an afternoon tea! Mothers, grandmothers, and aunts are invited to bring their favorite young lady to a pleasant, relaxing afternoon tea on April 18 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. at the Newland Barn. Experience an authentic Victorian high tea complete with scones, tea sandwiches, a variety of desserts, and of course, tea (or lemonade for the little ones.) Wear your favorite dress complete with a hat and gloves and bring your favorite tea cup and saucer. The cost for the event is \$35 per pair and \$15 for each additional child. You can sign up now at www.HBsands.org.

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 1134!

On Saturday, March 6, Boy Scouts and family members from Troop 1134 assembled at Murdy Community Center to help distribute the Spring SANDS Community Services Guide. Despite ominous weather conditions, troop members walked door to door covering over three square blocks in north Huntington Beach, circulating approximately 3,000 brochures. Thanks to Troop 1134 for their assistance in delivering Recreation, Culture and Human Services to HB residents' door steps!

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division is proud of one of our former youth sports flag football players who just received a full ride football scholarship to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Anthony Vidal played in the City of Huntington Beach Flag football program from 1995 until 2002. He went on to play four years as tight-end/defensive end at Huntington Beach High School receiving the MVP award his junior year and Most Improved his senior year along with recognition for his grade point average. His first year with Orange Coast College (OCC), he

was the starting tight-end and had 19 receptions for over 200 yards and two touchdowns. His second year at OCC he was voted second team all conference. Anthony will be starting at UNLV in the fall and we wish him the best of luck!

Senior Center

Seniors on the Go Shopping – The Huntington Beach Senior Services Transportation Program, Seniors on the Go, has scheduled bi-monthly grocery shopping routes throughout Huntington Beach. Your location in Huntington Beach determines which day of the week Seniors on the Go will be going to your local grocery store. Volunteer escorts are available to provide shopping assistance if needed. Volunteers also give you a reminder call the day before your scheduled shopping trip. Transportation services are available to those 55 years and older. If you are interested in the Seniors on the Go grocery shopping program, call 714-374-1742.

Art Walk - Wednesday, March 17

The Huntington Beach Art Center will be hosting sculptor Andre Woodward as part of the *Huntington Beach (B.I.D) Downtown Art Walk*. Andre is one of two artists currently exhibiting at the Art Center as part of "Dual Arboretum". He will be talking about his sculptures which use Bonsai Trees, audio elements, and concrete. The walk will take place on Wednesday, March 17 from 6 – 9pm. The Art Center is one of several businesses that participate in this monthly event. We hope you can join us and support local artists and businesses. A list and map of all the Art Walk hosts is available at the Art Center. For further information please call the Art Center at 714.374.1650.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Costco Submits Development Application for Huntington Beach Store

On March 15, Costco submitted an application and development plans to the City's Planning Department; the first step in the process to develop a Costco at Bella Terra. The proposed store would be 154,000 square feet, near the site of the former Mervyn's building, with access from Center Avenue. Costco has long sought a location in Huntington Beach, and, if approved, it will include their popular bakery items, tire store and a gas station. As is the case with other development projects, the application will go through the process of review and public hearings before the Planning Commission to obtain approval.

A Costco at this location is projected to generate new sales tax revenue for the City and create more than 200 full and part-time jobs.

FIRE

Change your Clock, Change your Battery

When you changed your clocks to Daylight Savings Time last weekend, I hope you remembered to change the batteries on your smoke detectors too! Most fire deaths occur during the sleeping hours of the night. The simple act of changing your battery and testing your detector could mean the difference between life and death. If your smoke detectors are over seven years old it might be time to replace them. Like any other device, they do not last

forever. Consider replacing it with a new detector that has a ten year battery so you won't have to think about it for a long, long time.

Firefighters Rescue Fallen Horse

On the morning of Sunday, March 14, firefighters responded to a call of a horse that had fallen down. Amir, a 30 year old Arabian horse, was unintentionally spooked by some neighborhood runners and fell in the street near Quarterhorse and Pimlico Circle.

Firefighters arrived at the scene to find the horse lying on its side in the middle of the street, unable to get up. The firefighters staged away from the horse so as to not frighten him any more than he already was, then calmed and reassured the horse so that he knew he was not being threatened. HBPD was contacted to provide traffic control. After giving the horse some time to rest and regain his strength, the Orange County Animal Control and employees from the HB Equestrian Center assisted in getting the horse back on his feet. He was then transported to the HB Equestrian Center. Both horse and rider are fine.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The World's Tallest Cat to be at Crafty Kids Club Storytime on March 18!

Join Miss Danielle at a special Crafty Kids Club storytime, where she will welcome Scarlet's Magic, the Tallest Cat in the World! Scarlet is the Guinness World Record Holder for Tallest Domestic Cat, and measures a stunning 17.1 inches from shoulder to toe. Her breed, the Savannah, is a cross between an African Serval and a domesticated breed. The sleek auburn-spotted feline has walked the "cat walk" at fashion events, cuddled with the stars, and hob-knobbed with the rich and famous. Her breed can be trained to walk on a leash, play fetch and go in the water. She lives at THE SAVANNAH CAT SHOPPE in Southern California, the very first retail store in the world that is exclusively devoted to the Savannah cat breed. Come to the Huntington Beach Central Library's Tabby Theater on March 18 at 3:30 to hear some cat stories, meet Scarlet's Magic, and do a cat craft!

Saturday Film Forum begins this week at the Central Library

The return of the popular Saturday film series begins March 20 with a screening of *The Maltese Falcon* as we delve into the world of detectives and their different portrayals on film. The program continues with *L.A. Confidential* on April 10, *Chinatown* on May 15' and *Gone Baby, Gone* on June 26. All programs are on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Huntington Beach Central Library Theatre. And better yet, they are **FREE!** Mark your calendars and join us!

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

March 9, 2010 Planning Commission Recap

The Planning Commission reviewed the following applications at the Tuesday, March 9, 2010, meeting:

- Newland Carwash The Planning Commission approved Conditional Use Permit No. 09-12 to permit the construction of an approximately 2,336 sq. ft. express service carwash building and associated site improvements, on a 22,363 sq. ft.

vacant lot. This request was initially approved by the Zoning Administrator on November 18, 2009, and subsequently appealed to the Planning Commission. Location: 8471 Warner Avenue (northwest corner of Warner Avenue and Newland Street).

- Huntington Shorecliffs Mobile Home Conversion. The Planning Commission approved Tentative Tract Map No. 17296 to subdivide the Huntington Shorecliffs Mobile Home Park, approximately 39.2 acres, into 304 numbered lots and 33 lettered lots for purposes of converting an existing 304 space for-rent mobile home park for ownership purposes. The applicant proposes to convert the for-rent park to enable the existing park residents to purchase their own lots. The project also includes an appeal filed by the applicant of the applicable code requirements. The Commission denied the appeal of the Code requirements. Location: 20701 Beach Blvd., 92648 (west side of Beach Blvd., south of Indianapolis Ave.)

The next Planning Commission meeting is Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Megan's Law

For more than 50 years, California has required sex offenders to register with their local law enforcement agencies. However, information on the whereabouts of these sex offenders was not available to the public until the implementation of the Child Molester Identification Line in July 1995. The information available was further expanded by California's Megan's Law in 1996.

California's Megan's Law provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders so that members of our local communities may protect themselves and their children. Megan's Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area. All states now have a form of Megan's Law. The law is not intended to punish the offender and specifically prohibits using the information to harass or commit any crime against an offender.

In addition to finding out information about sex offenders, the website has information about:

- How to Protect Yourself and Family
- Facts about Sex Offenders
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Sex Offender Registration Requirements in California
- Summary of the Law

In Huntington Beach, there are 120 sex offenders listed on the California Megan's Law website. There are 191 registered sex offenders on file with the Huntington Beach police

department. Both of these numbers can change daily as sex offenders move in and out of the city.

Not every registered sex offender will appear on this Internet web site. As explained on the Summary of the Law page, approximately 25% of registered sex offenders are excluded from public disclosure by law. Whether public disclosure is permitted is based on the type of sex crime for which the person is required to register. For more information refer to the website at: <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov>.

PUBLIC WORKS

Free Waterwise Landscape Presentation

The public is invited to attend a free water efficient landscape presentation on Saturday, March 27 at the Huntington Beach Central Library. The two-hour program will feature Tom Ash, horticulturist and author of Landscape Management for Water Savings. Topics will include selecting waterwise plants, harvesting rainwater, and other water frugal ideas. The program is a partnership between the Friends of the Shipley Nature Center and the City of Huntington Beach. No reservations are necessary. The program is 10 am to noon at the Huntington Beach Central Library, on the lower level in Rooms C-D. A tour of the rainwater harvesting system at the Shipley Nature Center is offered afterwards. For more information, please call the Nature Center at (714) 842-4772 or the Huntington Beach Water Conservation Coordinator at (714) 374-1796.

2010 Water Education Poster and Slogan Contest for Elementary Students

Ricki Raindrop and Wiley Water Hero invite Orange County elementary students to participate in the 2010 Water Education Poster and Slogan Contest presented by the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the family of Orange County Water Agencies. The contest theme is "Water: Do More with Less". Students are encouraged to submit posters and slogans that reflect answers to these questions:

What are some new and creative ways that you can save water?

How can you conserve water during a drought?

What types of plants could you include in your garden to help save water?

Fifteen posters and fifteen slogans will be selected as our winners. Winners, and their families and teachers, are invited to attend a special awards ceremony with Ricki Raindrop at the Discovery Science Center. Winners will also receive a trophy, certificate, and custom t-shirt imprinted with their winning poster or slogan. **Contest deadline is March 31, 2010.** For contest rules and entry information visit the MWDOC [website](#), or contact Diana Herrick at (714) 593-5016 or dherrick@mwdoc.com.