

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

March 22, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

The final meeting of the Charter Review Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 25 at 6 PM in room B-8.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Help Me

Customers come to us for a reason. They want our help to accomplish something or prevent something. Know your job, your business, and how you help customers. Understand why they come to you, and what they are trying to accomplish with your help.

You can only help them accomplish what they want if you know what it is and if you have the ability to do it.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Evening Pilates at the City Gym - New!

Join the new evening Pilates class at the City Gym and Pool! Tone and strengthen your abs, back, thighs, and arms. This is a rejuvenating class that will combat those trouble zones. Pilates will also improve your flexibility, posture, coordination, and body awareness. This class is great for all levels and abilities! Class starts Thursday, April 1, from 6-7pm. Contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 for more information or register today at www.hbsands.org!

Swimming Lessons at the City Gym and Pool

Before you hit the beach and pool this summer, get prepared! Register your child or yourself for swim lessons at the City Gym and Pool! Classes are taught in a warm indoor pool with certified instructors. Each session is \$45 for ten lessons. Don't miss out! Lessons begin the week of March 29. For more information contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 or sign up at www.hbsands.org today!

Acting 101

Get ready to laugh and learn! Youth ages 10 to 16 will learn acting basics that will help onstage. Get set to play and pretend! Be ready to "Go" in the "Know" to the next audition or performance. Class begins on Tuesday, March 30th at 4:30pm. For more information, contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 or sign up at www.hbsands.org today!

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Information and Referral – Seniors Outreach staff and volunteers provide information and referrals to Huntington Beach seniors and their families. Information about a wide range of senior concerns such as housing, in-home care, and caregiver assistance is available. Referrals are given for services ranging from Alzheimer's to Veterans' Services. In 2009,

Seniors Outreach answered over 11, 500 questions on senior issues. If you have a question, concern, or need information for yourself or an aging loved one, call 714-960-2478.

Huntington Beach Art Center Partners in Art

The Huntington Beach Art Center welcomed seventy two third grade students from Eader Elementary School on March 22. The students and their teachers were taken on a guided tour of the new contemporary exhibit "Dual Arboretum" which features large scale ceramic sculptural pieces and interactive sound/light sculptures. Andre Woodward, one of the exhibiting artists, led one of the three free accompanying workshops. The Partners in Art Program is made possible through a generous grant from the Plunkett Foundation.

Huntington Beach Art Center Spring Art Camp

Walk-in registration for the Spring Art Camps begins Tuesday, March 23. This year's art camp will be full of exciting activities to stimulate your creative child. Conducted by professional artists, the camp provides the opportunity for children to explore a host of different media and techniques in a safe and fun environment. For more information call 714.374.1650 or register on-line at www.hbsands.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

When was the last time you visited SurfCitySavings.com?

If you haven't checked in lately, then you're missing out on some fantastic savings! There are now over 130 Huntington Beach businesses participating, offering exciting incentives and discounts designed to save you money. Shopping locally with Surf City Savings merchants (restaurants, retailers, services, leisure/fun opportunities) helps to put a few extra dollars in your wallet, but also helps to generate sales tax that is used by the City to pay for services like Police, Fire, libraries, beach and park maintenance, senior programs, and more. Surf City Savings merchants have made a commitment to supporting the community and to saving you money. The City is offering this program free of charge to all Huntington Beach businesses to make it easy for them to participate. So where will you shop first? The more you shop, the more you will save. For more information about Surf City Savings, visit www.surfcityavings.com, and tell a friend!

FIRE

Public Safety Day

On March 17, the Fire Department hosted Public Safety Day for the Robert Mayer Huntington Beach Leadership Academy at the Central Net Training Center. Students, which included members from business, health, and the government sector, were given an overview of the HBFD by Fire Chief Patrick McIntosh. Various jobs within the fire department were highlighted, including a narration of their specific function and an explanation of the equipment they use. Students then went outside to view the Hazardous Materials Truck, USAR (urban search and rescue) Team and even got to go up in the bucket on the fire truck.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Operating Hours are changing at all Library locations.**

As part of a \$95,000 cut to the Library's budget for the current Fiscal Year, a cut necessary to help address the shortfall in revenues to the City's General fund, the Huntington Beach Public Library is modifying or reducing hours at all locations starting April 1, 2010. The reductions in hours are at Central, the Helen Murphy Branch and the Banning Branch libraries.

Central Library - CLOSED SUNDAY

1 p.m. to 9 p.m. MONDAY

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Banning Branch - CLOSED SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Main Street Branch - CLOSED SUNDAY, MONDAY

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Oak View Branch - CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FRIDAY

Helen Murphy Branch - CLOSED FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

Just in time for summer... Featured Health and Fitness Books at the Library.

Spring is here along with warmer weather, longer days, and anticipation of summer fun. For those getting more active this season, the library features a special display, "*Get Fit and Healthy for Summer.*" The library will highlight some great books on nutrition, exercise and dieting along with a bookmark offering recommended reading on feeling and looking your best. Come catch a little spring fever at the library!

Main Street Library has a new Grandparents and Books Program!

In addition to the wonderful volunteers who read at the Central Library every Monday through Friday, the library also has some grandparent readers at the Main Street Library! For those who live closer to the Main Street branch, stop by the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3 and 5:00 pm. This program is a great way to expose your child to the magic of reading as shown through the eyes (and voice) of a loving grandparent. It's especially useful for those times when the child's own grandparents are not available! The Main Street library is located at 525 Main Street. For more information, please call 714 375-5071.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

City Seeking Applicants for Design Review Board

The City of Huntington Beach is seeking applicants for a position on the Design Review Board (DRB). The DRB consists of five members as follows: three members at large, one current Planning Commissioner, and one current member of the Historic Resources Board.

The DRB is responsible for assisting the Department of Planning and Building, Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission in reviewing and providing recommendations on development plans and architectural drawings within designated areas of the City. The City is seeking individuals with training, education, and work experience in design-related fields including, but not limited to, architecture, landscaping, art, urban/environmental design and aesthetics. Any interested person must be a resident of Huntington Beach and should be available to attend regularly scheduled meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM held at City Hall. Additional meetings may occur on the fourth Thursday of each month, when necessary. For more information about this position, please contact Tess Nguyen (Staff Liaison) by phone (714) 374-1744, or email at tnguyen@surfcity-hb.org. Additional information is available on the City website at www.huntingtonbeachca/government/boards&commissions.

Need Assistance With Permits or Opening a New Business in HB?

The City of Huntington Beach has established a Development Assistance Team (DAT) to help citizens, homeowners, businesses, and developers with development permit processing. DAT works to streamline the internal review process, and assists new project proponents to help them move efficiently through the development process and the various departments. DAT also meets with business and homeowners responding to their concerns and multi-department issues. The team consists of City Staff members from the following City Departments and Divisions:

- Planning and Building Department
- Economic Development Department
- Fire Department
- Water Division, Public Works Department
- Engineering Division, Public Works Department
- Transportation Division, Public Works Department
- Park, Tree and Landscaping Division, Public Works Department
- Community Services Department
- Police Department

If a citizen or business owner is starting a new business, considering a major project, or has a concern or suggestion relative to the development review process (entitlements, zoning review, development plans, plan check, building permits, etc.), then an appointment with the DAT can be scheduled at the Zoning Counter on the third floor, Planning and Building Department, City Hall, 714-536-5271. The DAT meets every Thursday at 10:00 AM.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Every 15 Minutes at Ocean View High School

On Wednesday, March 24, 2010, the City of Huntington Beach, Ocean View High School and the California Highway Patrol will be participating in Every 15 Minutes DUI Awareness Program.

Every 15 Minutes is a two-day program for high school juniors and seniors which challenges them to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, and many others.

The experience is purposely very dramatic and emotional. Teens know the intellectual statistics; however, they tend to believe it will never happen to them. This powerful program is designed to demonstrate to students that they are not invincible, opening emotional doors as they experience firsthand how their actions affect the lives of so many other people.

To accomplish this program, Gothard Street, between Warner Avenue and Slater Avenue will be closed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

The closure will be part of a mock traffic collision. Please make travel arrangements to avoid the road closure.

PUBLIC WORKS

Slater Avenue Rehabilitation Project Begins

Work on Slater Avenue between Graham Street and Goldenwest Street will begin Monday, March 29. This \$1.3 million pavement rehabilitation project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Over the next three months, sidewalk, curb, and pavement will be replaced along the 1 ½ mile section. Moving lane closures will be necessary throughout the construction period. Pavement will be uneven, so alternate routes are suggested. Reconstruction of the segment of Slater Avenue between Beach Boulevard and Newland Street is scheduled for next year, pending state funding.