

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

March 29, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission held its final meeting Thursday, March 25. The Commission's recommendations will be presented to the City Council at the City Council Study Session on April 19 at 4 PM.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Don't Pass the Buck

Even though you may not have caused a problem, if the customer has come to you about it, it's now your responsibility. Make sure your customer knows you are committed to finding a solution for them. Then do it. Forget about pointing fingers and finding fault. Focus all your energy on helping your customer. Leave no doubt that the customer service buck stops with you.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Annual Easter Hunt

Weather permitting, the City of Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club and the Huntington Beach Community Services Department will be presenting the Annual Easter Hunt on Saturday, April 3. This free hunt is for children up to eight years of age, but there are plenty of activities and displays to entertain the whole family!

The activities will be held in Huntington Central Park, located off of Edwards Street between Inlet Street and Central Park Drive. The starting times for the children's Easter Hunt are as follows:

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| 9:30 am for children under 2 and children with disabilities | 10:50 am for 5 years old |
| 9:50 am for 2 years old | 11:10 am for 6 years old |
| 10:10 am for 3 years old | 11:30 am for 7 years old |
| 10:30 am for 4 years old | 11:50 am for 8 years old |

Please have each child bring a container for collecting their Easter treats. Bunny photos, snacks and drinks will be available for a small fee. Additional activities scheduled to occur throughout the morning include: game booths, face painting, musical entertainment and displays by the Fire and Police Departments, and the Public Works Department.

Emergency Care and Reception Center at Murdy Community Center

Saturday, March 27 at approximately 7:00 a.m., Community Services Supervisor Chris Slama received a call from the HBPD. The PD requested the use of Murdy Community Center as a Care and Reception Center due to a local apartment complex evacuation. Supervisory staff reported immediately to the Center, and shortly thereafter, a representative from the

American Red Cross arrived at the Community Center. A Care and Reception Center was opened for residents who were displaced from their apartment complex. Nine residents checked in to the center and had a warm place to gather for breakfast and coffee. At 10:05 a.m., the apartments were cleared for re-entry. This was a great opportunity for staff to utilize the "grab and go" shelter kits and to partner with the American Red Cross to activate an emergency area.

Cardio Boot Camp Blast – New

Get fit with this indoor Cardio boot camp! This is a high energy, circuit training class designed for the beginner-to-intermediate level exercisers. Burn calories, increase lean muscle mass, improve overall fitness and lose body fat. Class begins on Thursday, April 1 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 for more information or sign up at www.hbsands.org today!

American Girl Acting Workshop

This interactive workshop is creative and fun! Using scenes from beloved stories, this class lays the foundation for creativity and artistic expression while developing an understanding of theatre. This class, for participants 7 to 12 years of age, will begin Tuesday, March 30 at 3:15 p.m. For more information, please contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 or register at www.hbsands.org today!

Aquatic Exercise: Fat Burning Fridays

Combine aqua aerobics, circuit training, and sprint work for the ultimate deep water exercise program! Experience the variety of qualified instructors as you burn fat and gain flexibility and strength. Class begins Friday, April 2 at 11:15 a.m. For more information, please contact the City Gym and Pool at 714-960-8884 or register at www.hbsands.org today!

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Blood Pressure –Huntington Beach Hospital provides a nurse for free blood pressure tests at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, on the first Tuesday of every month. To have your blood pressure taken, drop by the front desk at the Seniors Center on Tuesday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 714-536-9387.

Good Friday – On Friday, April 2, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at the Michael E. Rodgers Senior Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, Community Senior Serv will dish up a Spring Brunch, a delicious cheese omelet with asparagus, rosemary potatoes, muffin and fruit. The recommended donation for seniors 60+ is \$2.50. The cost for those under 60 is \$3.50. Community Senior Serv asks that you sign-up for the brunch by 11:00 a.m. Community Senior Serv serves a hot lunch each weekday at the center. The menu is available in the Bright Outlook newsletter which is available at the center or online www.hbcoa.org. For more information call, 714-536-8404.

Partners in Art - March 29, 2010

The Huntington Beach Art Center welcomed sixty-six third grade students from Smith and Eader Elementary Schools. This is the third school tour that has taken place at the Art Center bringing the total of students served to over 250. The Partners in Art Program is made possible through a generous grant from the Plunkett Foundation. Students and teachers

toured the "Dual Arboretum" exhibit and participated in a workshop with one of the exhibiting artists, Andre Woodward. The exhibit features large scale ceramic sculptural pieces and interactive sound/light sculptures.

Art for Lunch

Our popular Art for Lunch event is back this week Tuesday, March 30 from 11.30 to 1.30 p.m. in the galleries. Bring your own lunch and experience our latest contemporary art exhibit "Dual Arboretum." Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Reserve your place at Spring Art Camp

Sign up for our Spring Art Camp which takes place April 5 – 9, 2010. This year's art camp will be based on the Dual Arboretum exhibit. Workshops will be taught by professional artists in our purpose-built studio. The camp provides the opportunity for children ages 6-12 to explore their creative sides in a safe and fun learning environment. You can register at the Huntington Beach Art Center or reserve your place online at www.hbsands.org. For more information call 714.374.1650

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On Friday March 19, 2010, National Link ATM installed an ATM machine outside of the entrance to the Police Station at City Hall. This ATM will allow customers making payments at City Hall and at the Police Station, to have easy and safe access to a cash machine. In 2009, City Council approved placing ATM machines at four locations: Pier Plaza, the Central Library, Meadowlark Golf Course, and City Hall. All locations are now in operation to provide customer service to the residents.

FIRE

Hazardous Material Incident

On Saturday, March 27, the Fire Department (HBFD) responded to assist the Police Department (HBPD) with an investigation into a report of a suspicious odor from an apartment.

During the initial response, three HBPD officers encountered an offensive odor and briefly suffered minor respiratory symptoms. The affected officers were decontaminated as a precaution and were evaluated at a local hospital. Over 40 fire personnel from Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Orange County Fire Authority responded to the scene, which included two hazardous material (Haz-Mat) response teams.

The Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT), comprised of HBPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Orange County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad, and HBFD Haz-Mat was requested for assistance with the situation. All resources worked under a unified command between police and fire.

Evacuation of the surrounding apartment buildings displaced approximately 35 residents for six hours. The American Red Cross established a temporary shelter at Murdy Community Center to assist with this displacement. The evacuation was due to the possibility that the

odor was from a drug lab. The JHAT investigation did not find any hazards. The cause of the original odor is unknown, but the JHAT confirmed that there was no drug lab or other hazard present. All residents were immediately allowed to return the apartment buildings.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Children's Department Plays Host to the World's Tallest Cat!

Over 200 people (and not just childrensome enthusiastic adults even came without children!) attended the Crafty Kids Club storytime on March 18, with special feline guest Scarlet's Magic. Scarlet is the Guinness World Record Holder for the Tallest Domestic Cat! This beautiful, friendly cat, wearing a leash and halter, mingled with the storytime guests, let them pet her, and proudly stood by as her owners taught the eager crowd about her breed, the Savannah. Also in attendance were some press members from the Orange County Register, who kindly posted an article and some photos of Scarlet and her storytime followers on their website! This event was such an anticipated success that people were lined up around the aquarium to see Scarlet – her popularity even caused organizers to add a second show at 4:15 pm! A *purr*fectly wonderful time was had by all!

Save Time and Money! Access Consumer Reports from Home

In tough economic times, consumers are especially interested in price and value; magazines like *Consumer Reports* supply the information that makes good decisions easier. Did you know that you can access full-text Consumer Reports articles online through the library's databases? Simply go to www.hbpl.org, click on the green Quick Login to Databases tab, put in your library card number, and pin number. Once logged in, you will see a listing of databases on the left. Click on the link "**Ebsco (Magazines|Journals)**" A new window will open up and you can click on the link "**General, Health, Business and Newspaper Databases**" Click on the "**Continue**" button and a search screen will appear. Type in your search term and type "**Consumer Reports**" in the Publication box. You can also browse entire Consumer Reports issues by clicking on the **Publications** link located on the top left and then search for Consumer Reports. An instructional video on this is also available on the library's Youtube page at www.youtube.com/hbplibrary. Take a minute to explore the library's databases and experience the world of information available through your library.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Division Permit Status Available on-line

The City's web site now allows you to check your permit status on-line regarding building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and fire permits. Customers now can search by permit number, address or Assessor parcel number. The system provides status of your permit, information regarding your issued permit, and the dates your permit was finalized. Other functions of the site include:

- If you select an address, the site will provide a list of all permits issued to that address
- If the project is in plan check, the site will provide the "who" and "when" the plans were reviewed. Also, the system allows you to review the status of the plan checks.

The permits viewable on the web site are from 1996 to the present. This web site has been popular with customers and government agencies as it allows you to view information in the comfort of their home or office and reduces the number of vehicle trips to City Hall.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Employees Awards Breakfast

Huntington Beach Police Department is proud to announce the department's Annual Employee Awards. Thirteen (13) employees nominated by their peers are recognized for their dedicated service to our community. The Selection Committee represents a cross section of police department employees.

Presentation of the awards will be held in the Police Department's Training Room on Wednesday, March, 31, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. during the Annual Employees Awards Breakfast.

The following employees will be receiving recognition:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Officer of the Year | Officer Jennifer Marlatt |
| Civilian Employee of the Year | Police Photographer Maureen Nugent |
| Supervisor of the Year | Communications Supervisor Elizabeth Backstrom |
| Award of Merit | Officer Robert Barr Detective David McCain Forensic Systems Specialist Christopher Curran Budget Manager Mindy James Detective Cathy Meza Training Assistant Shirley Salter Officer Richard Wright |
| Distinguished Service Award | Officer Ed Clair Administrative Assistant Gloria Storovich Lieutenant Brian Tidrick |

Chief Small congratulates these employees, as well as all the employees of the police department, who have worked tremendously hard to ensure that the community of Huntington Beach is a safe place to live, work, and play.

Sobriety Checkpoint

The Traffic Bureau conducted a sobriety checkpoint on Saturday March 20, 2010 on Adams Avenue west of Brookhurst Street. Following is the statistical data for the evening;

- Vehicles through the checkpoint 506
- Vehicles screened for DUI 176
- FST'S administered 18

- DUI Arrests 3
- Criminal Arrests 2
- Unlicensed/Suspended citations 1
- Vehicles impounded 5

The checkpoint began at 9:30 pm and ended at 2:30 am. The police department handed out over 175 educational drinking and driving pamphlets, which were donated by the Community Services Program (CSP) as part of "Project Path". Representatives of CSP attended the checkpoint.

PUBLIC WORKS

Downtown Bollard Installation Complete

Removable bollards have been installed in the downtown area to facilitate street closures for special events. The stainless steel posts are sunk into the street at key intersections surrounding Main Street, at Orange Avenue to the north and Pacific Coast Highway to the south. When not in use, the bollards are stored in the adjacent sidewalk area. When in place, they are rated to provide protection against a moving vehicle. This solution provides a more attractive and effective means of securing the street during events. Additionally, fewer resources are required to affect an event closure. Strategically placed bollards are removable in the event of a public safety emergency. Last weekend was the first use of the bollard system for the Woody HB Cruiser meet. The project was funded by the Redevelopment Agency, and implemented through cooperation with the Downtown business community.