Recent Rain Storm

The series of storms that came through the Southland Thursday, February 27, to Sunday, March 2, dropped a total of two-inches of rain in the City of Huntington Beach. The rain event was much needed and very welcomed. However, we are still dramatically dry, having only received four inches of our average annual rainfall of 11 inches. This is extra troublesome since this is the second drought year in a row for the City of Huntington Beach.

General Plan Update

Help the city set goals and improve the quality of life for generations to come! We need your help in updating our General Plan!

Beach Bonfire Kickoff Event at City Beach at Huntington Street*
Wednesday, March 19
5 to 8 pm.,
*(300 feet south of Jack’s Beach Concession)

Community Visioning Workshops
March 27 from 6:30 to 8:30pm
March 29 from 10am to noon
Huntington Beach Public Library
The Talbert Room
7111 Talbert Avenue

Visit: www hbthenextwave org for more info!
Community Services

Shopping on the Internet

On Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors’ Center will offer a new class, “Buying on the internet,” that will discuss the advantages of purchasing on the internet, including comparison shopping, product details and reviews from other buyers. Learn how to efficiently search the internet using various search engines, search bars and address bars. Acquire the skills and comfort to help you get the best bang-for-your-buck online. There is a fee for the class and registration is required. For more information or to register contact the Rodgers Seniors’ Center at 1706 Orange Avenue or call 714-536-9387.

Art for Lunch

Many of our city employees joined more than 100 HB residents at the Art Center for Art for Lunch and dined in the galleries surrounded by the exciting and diverse exhibition, Centered on the Center. Desserts and beverages were provided by the HB Art Center Foundation. The exhibit is open through March 22 and features over 259 artists and 443 works of art. Call 714-374-1650 for details.

Heart Healthy

On Thursday, February 20, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Huntington Beach Senior Services hosted the Surf City Providers Network Luncheon at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, which was sponsored by Merrill Gardens. Nancy Love, M.D., of Hoag Medical Group, Huntington Beach, gave a presentation on “Heart Health: Managing your Cholesterol & Blood Pressure” with a special update on Hoag Hospital by Dominic Shields, Executive Director of Strategy & Business Development. The Surf City Senior Providers Network is a forum founded by Huntington Beach Senior Services held every other month to address senior issues and concerns and improve communication between professional and community organizations. For information or for Senior Service providers interested in attending, please contact Heather Dodd at 714-374-1517 or heather.dodd@surfcity-hb.org.
Fire Department Update

Marine Safety
The recent storms generated 12-foot surf that kept Marine Safety personnel busy over the past weekend. On Saturday, March 1, two, fully-clothed, young children were playing on the sand when a large wave breached over the berm and struck them. The force of the wave knocked them off their feet and swept them approximately 200 feet into a storm drain ditch. The water carried the boys toward the beach service road where the water pooled, surrounded by a five-foot wall of sand. Lifeguard Doug Leach descended into the pool to remove the boys from the rising water.

Hazardous Materials Fire Incident
Also on March 1, firefighters were dispatched for a fire that reportedly involved hazardous materials at an industrial facility on Chemical Lane. Firefighters ensured occupants were evacuated and determined the material was removed by an employee prior to their arrival and was burning in the parking lot. Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team members determined that there was no significant hazard to the public and there were no medical or exposure related complaints by employees or firefighters. The product was contained on site with no release into the gutter or onto public property with the exception of the smoke.

Heavy Rescue Incident
On March 2, Huntington Beach Fire Department units were dispatched to Seapoint and PCH for a heavy rescue auto extrication involving a vehicle that went off PCH landing on the beach. Firefighters reported that the vehicle was on its roof approximately 200 feet off the road on the beach. The vehicle did not hit oncoming traffic and missed pedestrians on the bike path. Crew members stabilized the vehicle and rescued the victim. The victim was transported by a medical helicopter to a trauma center.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery!

As the time change approaches on Sunday, March 9, the Fire Department wants to remind you to make another change that could save your life - when you change your clocks to Daylight Savings Time, remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms too! Keep in mind, 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.
Historic Stone at HB Library

On September 19, 2011, the family and friends of Dick White donated an ancient milled stone to the City. Mr. White found the stone on the Lower Bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa in 1995, following the demolition of a World War II-era bunker. Similar to the cogged stones which have also been recovered at Bolsa Chica, the donut-shaped milled stone is approximately 6,000 – 8,000 years old, dating back to the Neolithic Era or New Stone Age. The stone was precisely crafted without the use of any metal, and it is a beautiful example of the skill and craftsmanship of our ancient ancestors. Al Campbell, who presented the stone to the City alongside Barbara, Dick’s widow, remarked, “One can’t help but be impressed by those who manufactured this stone.”

The stone was donated to the City in memory of Dick White and his service to Huntington Beach. He was a founding member and president of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT), and he also participated in the Council on Aging, the HB Fishing Club, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Club.

It is rare for Bolsa Chica artifacts to be on display. Come in and get a closer look at the City’s local history at the Central Library.

Library News

HB READS Movie Screening
To compliment their 2014 book selection, Lessons from Little Rock, HB Reads is hosting a free showing of the movie 42, the True Story of an American Legend. This event takes place on Saturday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the Library Theater. The general public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

March Art Show @ the Library
View works of art from the Huntington Harbour Art Association in the Central Library’s Corner Gallery during the month of March. Both the Windows Art gallery and the Corner Gallery at the Library are free and open to the public during regular Library hours. For more information, contact Corner Gallery Manager Paul Scott at (714) 625-9295.

Large Print Books @ the Library
March is “Save Your Vision Month.” Focusing the eye can become more difficult as people age, making the printed word harder to discern. While reading glasses are one option, large print books can bring back the joy of reading by offering popular titles in an easy-on-the-eyes format.

Saint Patrick’s Day Magic Show at the Library

The Friends of the Children’s Library are presenting a St. Patrick’s Day Comedy Magic Show on Saturday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Dave Skale will be performing as Patty O’Furniture, the St. Paddy’s Day Leprechaun, in search of his pot of gold. Who knew magic could be so funny? Tickets are $4 per person and are available now at the Children’s Desk. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, please call (714) 375-5107.
Free Disposal of Bulky Items for Residential Trash Customers

Residential trash customers are eligible for the 10/4 Pick-up Program. This free program allows residents to schedule special collections of up to 10 bulky items per appointment, four times per year. Qualifying items include bags of trash or yard clippings (that will not fit in the trash or yard waste cart), appliances, furniture, and mattresses. Contact Rainbow Disposal at 714-847-3581 to schedule your 10/4 Pickup appointment. Most 10/4 pickups are scheduled for your next regular trash day. A special truck is dispatched to collect the items from the curb so please allow a minimum of two business days notice for scheduling.

Fix a Leak Week

California is experiencing a severe drought and the upcoming “Fix a Leak Week”, March 17-23, 2014, is a timely opportunity to improve your home’s water efficiency. What better time than now to check for leaks around your house and garden and make sure you are not wasting water. Innocent leaks, like a dripping faucet or a running toilet, typically waste more water (and money!) than most homeowners are aware of. Why not use the “Fix a Leak week” as an annual reminder to check for and fix leaks as it can be as easy as tightening a nut or replacing a faucet seal. Leaks outside your home can be more difficult to detect. A leaking irrigation system buried underground can cost quite a bit of money and waste a lot of water.

A few key locations to pay attention to include: hose bibs, sprinkler heads, irrigation piping, and valves. Consider installing pressure-regulating sprinklers with high-efficiency nozzles to control the amount of water being applied to your landscape and reduce maintenance at the head. Reducing high pressure also eliminates problems such as misting sprinklers, water lost to evaporation, and potential irrigation system damage.

Another great resource you can utilize during "Fix a Leak Week" - or anytime throughout the year - is the Water Smart Home Program. The City of Huntington Beach is partnering with the Municipal Water District of Orange County, and the Water Smart Home Program provides free home water surveys for H.B. residents. If you decide to sign up, a trained technician will visit your home and evaluate all of your water use practices and devices. A customized report will be sent to you summarizing the results of your home survey and providing you with valuable water-savings tips, rebate programs, and water use efficiency information. Your custom report will also provide you with valuable information, such as:

- The location of any indoor and/or outdoor leaks
- Flow rates of indoor plumbing fixtures, such as faucets, toilets, clothes washers, and dishwashers
- Where and how water is being used in your landscape
- The role your water meter plays in home water management

For more information, please call the City’s Water Conservation Coordinator at 714.536.5921 or visit: www.mwdoc.com/wue.
Informational Services News

Did you know that residents can report suspected violations or eyesores on private property to the Code Enforcement Division from the City website online at:
http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/services/forms-applications/code-enforcement-complaint.cfm

Police News

Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal Program

The City of Huntington Beach has installed a Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal box in the Lobby of the Huntington Beach Police Department. The Pharmaceutical Disposal program is being implemented so citizens can properly dispose of their old prescription medications, instead of placing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet. Improperly disposing of unused medications can harm others and the environment. Medications which are flushed down the toilet are not completely removed by the sewage treatment facilities. These medications can enter the soil, surface water, and ground water. Research studies have shown that exposure to drugs found in waterways are having a serious impact on fish and other aquatic life.

Office of Business Development

Fair Housing Walk In Counseling on March 6

The Fair Housing Foundation, in partnership with the City of Huntington Beach, will provide a housing counseling walk-in clinic – free of charge - at City Hall on Thursday, March 6, on the Fifth Floor of City Hall from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. A counselor will be present on a first-come, first-served basis to provide individualized counseling, discuss tenant/landlord disputes and concerns or to answer questions about Fair Housing laws. Those with questions or in need of immediate assistance need not wait for the clinics or training, as Fair Housing Foundation counselors are available Monday-Friday by calling (800) 446-3247.
Planning & Building News

Zoning Administrator

On Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at 1:30 PM in Room B-8 the following items are scheduled for review by the Zoning Administrator:

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 13-035 (FOUR SONS BREWING COMPANY): To permit an approximately 415 sq. ft. beer tasting area (Type 23 ABC License) within a proposed micro-brewery/manufacturing use. The project is located at 18421 Gothard Street, Suite 100 (west of Gothard Street, between Ellis Avenue and Talbert Avenue). Please contact Kristi Rojas, Contract Planner, for more information.

SITE PLAN REVIEW NO. 13-005/ VARIANCE NO. 14-002 (BEACH PROMENADE BUILDINGS I AND F): SPR: To modify Building I by adding a 9,870 sq. ft. second story; to modify Building F uses by changing some office use to medical office use; to permit three retail kiosks in plaza areas; and to permit the shifting of handicapped parking locations. VAR: To allow Building I to be setback 12 ft. in lieu of the maximum of 0 ft. to 5 ft. required. The project is located at 21000-21198 Beach Boulevard, 92648 (southeast corner of Beach Boulevard and Atlanta Avenue). Please contact Tess Nguyen, Associate Planner, for more information.

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT NO. 13-007 (HOME DEPOT OUTDOOR SPRING SALES EVENT): To allow a maximum 50-day temporary outdoor retail sales event located within an existing parking lot adjacent to the Home Depot retail center for a five year period (2014-2018). The project is located at 19101 Magnolia Street (southwest corner at Garfield Avenue). Please contact Hayden Beckman, Assistant Planner, for more information.

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. 14-001/ ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT NO. 14-001 (HANNA LIVE/WORK): To permit an approximately 3,000 sq. ft. 1-unit live/work building consisting of 300 sq. ft. office/commercial and 2,700 sq. ft. residential within the appealable area of the Coastal Zone. The project is located at 716 Pacific Coast Highway, 92648 (north side of PCH, east of 8th Street). Please contact Ethan Edwards, Associate Planner, for more information.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City’s website: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/zal/ZAgendas.cfm). Please contact the Planning Division, at (714) 536-5271, with any questions.
City Hall Directory

City Attorney (714) 536-5249
City Clerk (714) 536-5227
Passports (714) 536-1612
City Council (714) 536-5553
City Manager (714) 536-5575
Community Services (714) 536-5486
Beach Operations (714) 536-5281
Economic Development (714) 536-5542
Finance (714) 536-5630
Business Licenses (714) 536-5267
Fire Department (714) 536-5411
Human Resources (714) 536-5492
Information Services (714) 536-5515
Library (714) 842-4481
Planning & Building (714) 536-5271
Code Enforcement (714) 375-5155
Police Department (714) 960-8811
Public Works (714) 536-5431