

# CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

**March 8, 2010**

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

### **Charter Review Commission**

The Charter Review Commission plans to review and finalize all of their recommendations at the March 16 meeting. Unless new issues arise, they will be taking a final vote on the proposed amendments to the Charter as a whole. A study session is tentatively scheduled for April 19th to present the proposed Charter amendments to the City.

## CITY TREASURER

### **Customer Service Tip of the Week – See Eye to Eye**

When dealing face-to-face with a customer, look him in the eye. Looking away can suggest that you aren't being totally honest, or that you have something to hide.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### **Children's Needs Task Force Annual Youth Character Awards**

The Huntington Beach Children's Needs Task Force together with the City of Huntington Beach Community Services Department is sponsoring the American Youth Character Awards program to honor young people who are the real and proper role models for their generation. Anyone can nominate a praiseworthy youth by completing a Nomination Form and attaching a brief statement describing the facts that support the nominee as an example of good character. Nominees must be in grades 3-12 and reside in Huntington Beach. Nomination forms are available on the city website. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 2, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.

### **Upcoming HB Reads Author Event**

Huntington Beach Reads One Book brings the authors of "They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky" to Huntington Beach on Thursday, March 11, 2010. After fleeing their villages in southern Sudan, the authors Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak—under the age of seven—survived on their own for five years before reaching a northern Kenya refugee camp. They became known to the world as the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Come hear the experiences of Benson and Benjamin, 7 p.m., at the Huntington Beach High School gymnasium, 1905 Main Street (Main Street and Yorktown Avenue). Admission is free and no reservations or tickets are required. For more information, call 714-536-5486, or visit [www.HBReads.org](http://www.HBReads.org)

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services**

Santa Anita Races – On April 22, 2010, join the Huntington Beach Council on Aging's Travel and Trips program for a day of thoroughbred horse racing at one of America's most celebrated sporting landmarks, Southern California's world-famous Santa Anita Park. The price of \$58 includes transportation, lunch, clubhouse loge seating, a race program and a professional handicapper to go over the day's races. The bus departs Rodger's Senior

Center at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010, and will return about 6:00 p.m. after all the races conclude. The Travel and Trips program is popular and sells out quickly. Registration for this event began March 2, 2010. Register in advance at Rodgers Senior Center on: Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or Thursdays & Fridays 1:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 714-536-9387.

### **Driver Rescued from Bolsa Chica Wetlands**

On February 23 at 10:18 p.m., Marine Safety Officers responded to a report of a submerged vehicle in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Upon arrival near Warner and Pacific Coast Highway, Marine Safety Officers located the submerged vehicle with an injured man sitting on the roof of the vehicle. A City Marine Safety Officer and a California State Parks Lifeguard used a rescue paddle board to secure the injured driver for transport back to shore. The patient was transferred to a backboard, carried out of the hazard, and treated by paramedics. Marine Safety Officers then assisted with the removal of the vehicle from the wetlands.

### **Lifeguard Tryouts**

143 candidates applied to test their mettle on Sunday, March 7 in hopes of landing an entry level position as a Recurrent Ocean Lifeguard. The annual lifeguard recruitment examination was a huge success --- drawing one of the largest turnouts in decades. 115 candidates competed to fill approximately 20 positions vacated by lifeguards who will not be returning this year. Special recognition goes to Council Member Devin Dwyer who successfully completed the pier swim leg of the three part physical examination. The water temperature was 59 degrees, air temperature was in the 50s, and the surf was 2 to 4 feet from the west. Only 78 candidates completed all three events (1,000 yard pier swim, 500 yard bait house swim, and 1,500 yard run-swim-run). Twenty candidates advanced to the 120 hour lifeguard training program for further testing and evaluation. Congratulations to all the lifeguard candidates who completed the initial exam.

### **Firefighter Surf Training**

The Marine Safety Management Association in conjunction with the Orange County Fire Authority hosted a group of 20 Firefighters from across the country for a Surf Training Lesson on Friday, March 5 near the pier. The firefighters from Seattle, Boston, Cleveland, and New York Fire Departments were part of an annual St. Patrick's Day Event with the OC Fire Authority. Marine Safety Officers Mike Bartlett, Eric Dieterman and Lifeguard III Greg Eisele volunteered their time to train the group on surf safety and board control techniques. A special thanks goes to Mike Ali and Zack's Pier Plaza for providing wetsuits and surfboards for the group during their two-hour surf training lesson.

### **Partners in Art**

The Huntington Beach Art Center welcomed one hundred third grade students from Star View School on March 8 for the beginning of the *Partners in Art* tours program. The students, together with 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. After the tour, students participated in a workshop led by professional artists in the studios. The tour and workshop is part of the *Partners in Art* program, which is funded by a grant from the Plunkett Foundation. The Art Center works hand-in-hand with the school district to co-ordinate this vital Arts Education program which provides many students

with their very first visit to a contemporary art space. The aim of the program is to ignite creativity and encourage participation in the arts from an early age. The program will continue until the beginning of June.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Downtown Art Walk**

The Huntington Beach Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) presents the Downtown Art Walk on Wednesday, March 17, from 6 – 9 pm. This new event will highlight several talented, local artists. Locations for the Downtown Art Walk will vary each month, as will the artists selected for presentation will vary. Pick up a map at one of the following Art Walk hosts: the Huntington Beach Art Center, Main Street Branch Library, Makin' Waves Salon, Triple Two, Altera Real Estate, No Ka Oi, Petals on Sixth, The Chop Shop, Mangiamo Gelato Café, Gallagher's Pub and Grill, Fred's Mexican Café, The Rock and Roll Emporium, and Shorebreak Hotel. The Art Walk is conducted on the third Wednesday of every month. For additional information please call the BID office at 714.536.8300

## **INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **The Importance of Passwords**

Think about the number of personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords, or passphrases you use every day: getting money from the ATM, using your debit card in a store, logging on to your computer or e-mail, signing in to an online bank account or shopping cart. The list seems to just keep getting longer. Keeping track of all of the number, letter, and word combinations may be frustrating at times, and maybe you've wondered if all of the fuss is worth it. After all, what attacker cares about your personal email account?

Often, an attack is not specifically about your e-mail account but about using the information stored in your e-mail to gain access to your social security number or medical records. Gaining access to your e-mail can also provide an attacker with the means to control your PC to launch a larger attack using hundreds of PCs.

Even though it may be tempting to use the same password for all or many of your accounts, remember that if a criminal gains access to that one, he will try it with all of your accounts. Use several passwords and change them periodically.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Terra Cotta Warrior on display at the Huntington Beach Central Library.**

After several weeks of excitement and anticipation, the Huntington Beach Library received its life-sized Terra Cotta Warrior replica from China. The reproduction is based on the terra cotta figures of soldiers and horses discovered in 1974 in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China. The Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce received the impressive statue as a gift and has donated the warrior to the library. Similar to figures displayed recently at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, this Sworded General of the first Emperor's Army offers residents a very impressive ceramic work as well as a special glimpse into China's history. The Warrior will be installed on the Main Level of the Central Library, easily visible to all who enter.

**Corner Art Gallery at the Central Library**

Installation is complete in the Corner Gallery. The Huntington Harbor Art League's artists have provided the public with an interesting and eclectic collection of photographs, watercolor paintings, oil paintings, Chinese Brush Paintings, and a variety of sculpture. The gallery displays two large panels of impressive blues and whites ... The three toucans integrated into the "foliage" is great contrast to the vibrant blues and whites. The watercolor portraits are also very impressive and beautifully rendered.

**Children's Library will host two fun events in April!**

The Children's department is alive with activity. First, a special Spring Break show on Wednesday, April 7 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with the Wildlife Company, featuring "Cold Blooded Reptiles"-- in particular a real live alligator! Tickets for this Tabby Theater performance are \$4 per person. In addition, the library welcomes the fabulous Ballet Etudes for another spectacular dance presentation, "Yellow Brick Road: the Ballet". The Library Theater will host two performances on April 21 and 22, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 per person. Don't delay - tickets for both April shows will go on sale in the Children's department on March 17, 2010.

**PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT****Draft Recirculated Mitigated Negative Declaration for The Ridge**

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 08-016 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with a request by Hearthside Homes to amend the land use and zoning designations on an existing approximately 5-acre parcel located at the Southeast Corner of Bolsa Chica Street and Los Patos Avenue. Hearthside Homes is seeking subdivision and development of a 22-unit single-family planned unit development (PUD) with a 5,776 square foot common open space area. The 22 residential lots will range in size from 5,114 square feet to 12,250 square feet. The proposed 4 and 5 bedroom dwellings range in size from 2,700 – 4,200 square feet, and are two-stories with a two- or three-car garage. The site is proposed to take access from a single point of ingress/egress along Bolsa Chica Street. The project is proposing construction of infrastructure improvements including street, curbs, sidewalks, and storm drain facilities.

The Recirculated Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available for public review and comment for thirty (30) days commencing Thursday, March 4, 2010, ending Friday, April 2, 2010. Subsequent to the comment period, a public hearing will be scheduled before the city of Huntington Beach Planning Commission. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for April 2010. For additional information, contact Jennifer Villasenor, Acting Senior Planner, at (714) 536-5271.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT****Community Meeting Regarding Coyotes**

The Huntington Beach Police Department in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Orange County Animal Control is having a community educational meeting regarding the coyote problems. There have been numerous reports of coyotes

entering the back yards of residences and school yards in the area of Bolsa Chica Street and McFadden Avenue. This meeting is coordinated for the residents of that neighborhood.

This meeting is set for Tuesday March 16 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Grace Lutheran School, 5172 McFadden Avenue, Huntington Beach. For further information on coyotes please see that attached link to the Department of Fish and Game:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/coyote.html>

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Water Conservation**

Thank you for your water conservation efforts HB. February 2010 marked the lowest month of water consumption since February 1978! This is especially impressive when you consider that the City's population was approximately 170,000 or 30,000 fewer people than today.

