

# CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

**May 10, 2010**

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

### Charter Review

The City Council will discuss the Charter Review Commission's recommended revisions at the May 17 Council meeting. A final vote on the Charter revisions is expected to be made by the City Council at the June 7 meeting.

## CITY TREASURER

### Customer Service Tip of the Week – the Golden CUSTOMER SERVICE Rule

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Sometimes people who focus on improving customer service forget that this applies to everyone, including when we are customers. As a customer, if you routinely violate this rule, then you're part of the problem. No matter which side of the counter you're on, the same standard applies: Treat everyone well!

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Duck-A-Thon

The Annual Duck-A-Thon™, an exciting Huntington Beach fundraiser, incorporates Sand, Sun, Surf, Food and Rubber Duckies! This three-day event raises much needed funds for AltaMed's Huntington Beach Community Clinic, where thousands of uninsured and medically underserved patients are treated every year!

*The Duck-A-Thon™ begins Friday evening with a Sunset Wine Tasting at the Pier.* This beautiful setting provides as a wonderful kick-off for the weekend. Local restaurants supply an array of tantalizing hors d'oeuvres while wineries from across California donate boutique wines for the event.

*The actual Duck-A-Thon™ takes place all day Saturday & Sunday.* Vendors line Huntington Beach Pier Plaza to sell arts & crafts, yummy treats, home décor, jewelry and much more. A larger – than – life Children's Area includes bounce houses, retired rubber duck decorating, games, a toddler's zone and prizes! Each year the Duck-A-Thon™ has a new theme for the ducks and the overall event. This year our 2010 "Space" Ducks will launch "2010: A Duck Odyssey"! These little yellow quackers are hand-decorated with an astronaut helmet, power pack and booster rockets. You can help support the health of your community! Instead of the usual raffle tickets, attendees are asked to purchase rubber ducks! You get to name your duck and wish it well, before it is tossed off the Huntington Beach Pier with 4,000 friends, into the waves to race to the shore in the surf.

On Saturday, over 4,000 baby duckies (the traditional size rubber duck) turn the tides yellow as they race to dry land! The first 50 baby ducks to shore win their owners a prize. "Space" ducks win their owners double prizes.

On Sunday, Corporate ducks compete for the coveted Golden Duck Traveling Trophy. Corporate ducks are larger rubber ducks and there is only one winner in this race.

For general information, call 714-500-0382 or go to [www.duckathon.org](http://www.duckathon.org). You can even purchase your ducks online!

### **Huntington Beach Senior Services – Travel Tips Program**

**Doheny Mansion** - On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, through their Travel & Trips Program the Huntington Beach Council on Aging is sponsoring a trip to the Doheny Mansion on the grounds of St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. The Doheny Mansion was once home to oil baron Edward and Carrie Estelle Doheny, Angelenos from 100 years ago. Enjoy a guided tour of this Gothic Renaissance-style Victorian mansion designed in 1898. Also visit the spectacular St. Vincent de Paul Church built in 1925 as a gift from Edward Doheny. Prior to the tour, enjoy an optional Afternoon Tea at a downtown tearoom or lunch on your own at Farmer's Market. The bus departs Rodgers Seniors Center at 10:00 a.m. and returns approximately 6:00 p.m. Price is \$60.00 without Afternoon Tea and \$80.00 with Afternoon Tea.

**Palos Verdes Geologist Guide & Death Valley** - Sign-ups have also begun on two future trips; Secrets of Palos Verdes with Geologist Guide Dr. Howard Shifflett, on June 15, 2010, and a Death Valley Overnight trip October 17 – 19, 2010, with Professor David Napier as the Geographer Guide. Full details are available at the front counter of the Michael E. Rodgers Senior Center, 1706 Orange Avenue or in the Bright Outlook Newsletter [www.hbcoa.org](http://www.hbcoa.org). Register in advance for all trips on Tuesdays, 9 to 11 a.m. or Thursdays & Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m. Please call during the time listed for more information 714-536-9387.

### **Ol' Fishin' Hole Derby**

The Ol' Fishin' Hole Derby for children with disabilities was held on Friday, May 7, 2010, at Carr Park with 180 children participating. Over 50 volunteers from various organizations and individual volunteers assisted. Rods and reels were raffled off and a fun time was had by all. The school with the most fish was Dwyer Middle School. Awards were also given to the top three students. This annual event is co-sponsored by the City of Huntington Beach and the Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club. City employee organizations including the MEO, POA, and HBFA donated funds to make the event happen. The Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club and Fred's Mexican Café in Huntington Beach provided lunch. Other organizations that supported the event are the Huntington Beach Fishing Club who sent many volunteers, the Department of Fish & Game provided poles, fish and volunteers, and the United Anglers. This event would not be possible without the generosity of the groups and individual volunteers who give so much of themselves for the benefit of others.

### **Partners in Art – May 10, 2010**

The Huntington Beach Art Center welcomed 133 third-grade students from Hawes Elementary School. This is the fourth school tour that has taken place through The Partners in Art Program, made possible through a generous grant from the Plunkett Foundation. The students and teachers toured the "Student Exhibit" and participated in a ceramics workshop with Alyson Iwamoto. The exhibit features work by Huntington Beach Union School District grades K – 12.

### **Reserve your place at Children's Summer Art Camp – Art at the Beach**

Register for our Summer Art Camp which takes place June 21 through August 13, 2010. Each week of the summer program has an exciting new art theme ranging from Anime to Dragons. The workshops will be taught by professional artists in our studio. The camp provides the opportunity for children ages 6-12 to explore their creative sides in a safe and fun learning environment. Full and half day sessions are available for Art at the Beach. You can register at the Huntington Beach Art Center or reserve your place online at [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org). For more information call 714.374.1650

## **FINANCE**

### **Redevelopment Agency Bond Rating upgraded from "A-" to "A"**

In a week that has seen the Huntington Beach Redevelopment Agency (RDA) sadly send \$5.4 million of its funds to the State as required to balance last year's State budget deficit, the RDA was recognized for its financial strength by earning a well deserved bond rating upgrade.

Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) has recently raised its bond rating of the Huntington Beach RDA tax allocation bonds from "A-" to "A". S&P highlighted the continued growth of Huntington Beach's 619 acre Merged Project Area, which includes Bella Terra and The Strand. S&P stated that the tax revenues provide strong coverage on RDA's outstanding bonds. S&P went on to note that "the city's unemployment rate for calendar 2009 was 7.4%, lower than both the state (11.4%) and the national (9.3%) rates."

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Risk Management is proud to award two Divisions in Public Works for *Excellence in Occupational Safety* in 2009. The Divisions' dedication and efforts in occupational safety, and resulting low number of work-related injuries were primary factors in consideration for the awards. Thanks to all the Departments for your continued efforts in employee and public safety. The efforts over the past year have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

Risk Management would like to formally recognize the following Divisions for their efforts in safety for the 2009 calendar year:

### **Most Improved: Vehicle Maintenance Shop – Public Works**

In 2009, Vehicle Maintenance worked diligently with Risk Management to update existing safety programs and implement new procedures for hazard identification, use of personal protective equipment, hazard communication, employee safety training, documentation and recordkeeping. The Division experienced a reduction in work-related injuries by 93%! Congratulations to the employees of Vehicle Maintenance.

### **Performance Award: Streets – Public Works**

Year after year, the Streets Division of Public Works continues to place a high emphasis on specialized safety training. The priority placed on safety is consistently reflected through a low number of workplace injuries. Streets experienced a 50% reduction in workplace injuries in 2009. The Division works with training vendors to ensure training classes are effective and specific to street operations. Congratulations to the employees of the Streets Division on being recognized for your ongoing commitment to excellence in safety.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Saturday Film Forum continues this week at the Central Library.**

The popular Saturday film series continues May 15 with a screening of **Chinatown**. The series will conclude with **Gone Baby, Gone** on June 26. These programs begin at 2:00 p.m. and are shown in the comfort of the Huntington Beach Central Library Theatre. Best of all, they are **FREE!** Mark your calendars and join us!

**The Library Is Speaking Your Language.**

The Huntington Beach Library invites users to try **Mango** during a two-month trial period through June 30, 2010, and to provide feedback about how this product meets their needs. **Mango** is an online language learning system teaching practical conversation skills for real communication. It's a fast, easy and effective way to learn to speak a foreign language and may replace or supplement the traditional books and recordings. Library members can visit the library website, click on **Mango**, then select a language. Learning begins immediately with simple phrases and vocabulary. Instruction is available in thirty-six different languages, making **Mango** perfect for brushing up on a language, preparing for a business trip or vacation, or just learning the language of coworkers and friends. Although primarily conversational, **Mango** language lessons include grammar tips along with cultural notes and interactive pronunciation help. Visit [hbpl.org](http://hbpl.org), click on **Mango**, and open the door to an exciting new learning opportunity!

**PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT****May 11, 2010 Planning Commission Meeting Preview**

The Planning Commission will review the following applications at the Tuesday, May 10, 2010 meeting.

- Conditional Use Permit No. 10-003 (Christ Presbyterian Church Wireless Communication Facility). This request is to permit the installation of a new wireless communication facility that will be co-located upon an existing 60 foot high wireless communications facility disguised as a palm tree. The project is located at 20112 Magnolia St., 92646, (south of Adams Avenue, east of Magnolia Street)
- Conditional Use Permit No. 10-007 (Tattoo and Body Piercing Studio) This request is to permit the establishment of an approximately 135 sq. ft. tattoo and body piercing studio in an existing 1,145 sq. ft. vacant retail suite. Ancillary to the tattoo and body piercing studio is an art gallery and retail shop of tattoo-inspired clothing and accessories. The project is located at 18822 Beach Blvd., Suite 113, 92648 (southeast corner of Beach Blvd. and Constantine Drive).

**May 5, 2010 Zoning Administrator's Meeting Recap**

The Zoning Administrator approved the following application at the Wednesday, April 28, 2010 meeting.

- Conditional Use Permit No. 10-009 (Downtown Shuttle Service & Remote Parking Lot) to permit the establishment of a remote parking lot with shuttle service to the downtown area during summer weekends, beginning the weekend prior to Memorial Day through the weekend after Labor Day, and 10 additional days for special events and holidays on a yearly basis. Remote parking will be located at an existing parking

lot located at City Hall. The shuttle route will operate along a 3.5 mile continuous loop, circulating from City Hall to the Strand via Lake and Main Streets. The request is intended to increase parking capacity within the downtown area during peak parking conditions. This item had been continued to the May 5, 2010 Zoning Administrator's meeting at the applicant's request, due to public comments from surrounding property owners.

### **Poseidon Desalination Subsequent Environmental Impact Report**

The City of Huntington Beach has prepared draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) No. 10-001 for the proposed Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach. The draft SEIR includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with construction and implementation of the project. An unavoidable significant impact has been identified in regards to short term construction-related air quality and indirect growth inducement.

The SEIR will be available for public review and comment for 45 days, commencing Thursday May 6, 2010, and ending Monday June 21, 2010. Written comments on the draft SEIR must be submitted to Ricky Ramos, City of Huntington Beach Department of Planning and Building, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California 92648 and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday June 21, 2010, in order to be considered prior to the City's final determination on the project. A copy of the draft SEIR is on file at the following locations:

City of Huntington Beach Department of Planning and Building, 2000 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Huntington Beach;

City of Huntington Beach City Clerk's Office, 2000 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Huntington Beach;

Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach;

Banning Branch Library, 9281 Banning Avenue, Huntington Beach; and

on the City's website at

[www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/poseidon.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/poseidon.cfm).

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **National Police Week and California Peace Officer Memorial Ceremonies**

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a joint resolution of the 87th Congress of the United States to authorize the President to proclaim May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day. The calendar week during which May 15 falls is designated as Police Week in honor of the federal, state and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

In 1976, a small group of peace officers felt the need to create a remembrance specifically for California peace officers. With the signing of California Senate Concurrent Resolution 94, the dream of memorializing the fallen peace officer came true. These peace officers then went to work raising funds and formulating ideas for a memorial. Their ideas became the memorial case, the leather-bound book of names, and the two hand crafted swords that symbolized the Spartan warrior and the keeper of the peace.

For the ten years that followed, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) Memorial Committee gathered the "police family" at the State Capitol to rededicate the memorial. This committee became the caretaker of the California memorial, taking great pains to insure that

the names of the dead officers submitted by their respective departments were included in the memorial book, as well as the hearts of every Californian.

In 1985, Governor George Deukmejian called upon Senator Robert Presley to sponsor legislation establishing a monument memorializing the peace officers who died "in the line-of-duty."

The establishment of a nine-member California Peace Officers' Commission from this legislation developed into a new chapter in the memorial story.

The commission consisted of eight peace officers and a police widow: Richard Moore, Chief of Atherton P.D. and Phil Jordan, an officer with Vallejo P.D. were elected chairman and vice-chairman respectfully; Lt. George Aliano, Los Angeles Police Protective League, secretary; Bob Applegate, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, treasurer; other commissioners were Sgt. Jim Vogts, State Marshals Association; San Diego Sheriff John Duffy; Deputy Art Brown, Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's; Mrs. Sammy Hoyt, widow of Lake County Deputy Sheriff and past PORAC president, Dave Hoyt; and Senior Officer Gil Coerper, Huntington Beach Police Officers' Association.

Gil Coerper has continued with his public service, among many other duties, as a Councilmember for the City of Huntington Beach and Art Brown is a Councilmember for the City of Buena Park.

California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremonies have been conducted in the State Capitol since 1977 during the week proceeding May 15. This year's ceremony was on May 7, 2010. It is a ceremony that honors the six officers who have fallen in the line-of-duty in 2009, recognizing the sacrifice of those loved and left behind.

### **Traffic Collision Reports online**

The Huntington Beach Police Department is pleased to announce the implementation of its new on-line traffic collision report retrieval system. Using the internet, citizens and insurance companies can obtain copies of traffic collision reports after five business days of the collision. Collision reports involving special circumstances, drunk drivers, hit and run investigations, or fatalities will not be available on-line.

To obtain a report on-line a citizen can go to the Huntington Beach Police Department website at [www.hbpd.org](http://www.hbpd.org). Once there, click on **Request Traffic Collision Reports**, under the eServices tab. The requestor must provide the police report number, last name of an involved driver, and the date of collision. The report is then immediately displayed and available for printing.

This technology, designed by PoliceReports.US, LC, allows the Huntington Beach Police Department to operate more efficiently while providing enhanced customer service to the citizens of Huntington Beach.

The cost of this service is \$3.50. PoliceReports.US collects \$3.00 for internet access and Huntington Beach Police Department is charging \$0.50 for each report request.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Safe Routes to School for Spring View Middle School**

Award of the most recent Safe Routes to School project will be presented to the City Council on Monday May 17. The Safe Routes to School program goals include facilitating the planning, development, and implementation of projects that improve safety in the vicinity of schools. This will enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school and make walking and bicycling a safer and more appealing lifestyle choice. The project includes the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Heil Avenue and Trudy Lane which is a major crossing point for students from Spring View Middle School. Also included are curb ramp installations along Trudy Lane, signing and striping improvements, and the removal of the flashing beacons on Heil Avenue that are no longer appropriate due to the new traffic signal. The work will be scheduled during the summer. State grant funds in the amount of \$306,000 will be used toward the \$341,000 project. The remaining 10% match will be contributed from the city's allocation of Measure M.