

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

May 14, 2012

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLATION

Please note that the regular City Council meeting scheduled for May 21, 2012, has been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The next regular meeting will be June 4, 2012.

CITY CLERK

Can Chili Cure Cancer?

City employees continue to make an impact on the HB community through participation in charitable events.

For the fifth year in a row, city employees came together during their lunch hour to participate in a chili cook-off to raise funds for the American Cancer Society (ACS) through the Huntington Beach Relay for Life. On May 3, displaying enthusiasm, generosity, and also a hint of competitiveness – HB employees generated a lunch time profit of \$2,954.00. All funding for this event was borne by the employees and their associations. Over the last five years, the chili cook-off has generated approximately \$13,000 for the ACS to help fund medication trials, provide patient transportation to treatment, create educational literature, provide hospice advice, and to fund research towards finding better treatment options, prolonging lives and finding a cure.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Marine Safety

Marine Safety officials are urging the public to exercise caution while visiting our local beaches. This winter's large surf has altered the sand bottom in many areas and shifted sand bars further offshore thus creating ideal conditions for large rip currents. With an outgoing tide, flash rip currents are particularly hazardous for weak and inexperienced people. Several mass rescues have occurred over the past few weeks.

On April 30, a triple rescue occurred when a rip current pulled three Canadian tourists offshore near Tower 3. Two swimmers were critical and required all three-beach units to affect the rescue. Marine Safety Officers Eric Ching, Matt Karl, and Todd Bartlett were able to rescue the trio and pull them safely to shore where they were evaluated and released without further incident.

On April 17, six people were rescued near Tower 12 when they were pulled offshore by a rip current in a similar mass rescue incident. Marine Safety Officers Matt Karl and Mike Bartlett and Lifeguard III J.R. Plascencia affected the rescue. No injuries were reported.

Huntington Beach Art Center

The community is invited to join us from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 19, for the opening reception of the next exhibition. Titled *Contemporary Traditionalists: A West Coast*

Perspective, the exhibition features 47 works by 17 artists from South Orange County. Presented as a partnership between the Art Center and the Festival of Arts Laguna Beach, the exhibition features works created in the traditional forms of painting and sculpture. The exhibition continues through June 23. Call the Art Center at (714) 374-1650 for gallery hours and additional information.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

HB Symphony Orchestra – On Friday May 18, 2012, at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, and the Huntington Beach Symphony Orchestra will give a free performance at 10:45 A.M. followed at 11:30 A.M. by a delicious beef stroganoff lunch. Arrive by 10:30 A.M. to make reservations for the Community SeniorServ lunch. With lunch, receive a chance to win a free ticket to the next HB Symphony Orchestra performance *Music from Movies we Love*, June 10, at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Community SeniorServ serves a nutritious lunch at Rodgers each weekday. The suggested donation is \$3.00 for adults 60 and older. Donations are voluntary and nobody will be turned away due an inability to donate. A guest fee of \$5.00 is charged to those under 60. For information, call (714) 536-9387.

Brain Power – On Tuesday May 22, 2012, from 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M., Alzheimer's Family Services will present a free workshop on *Brain Power* at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue. Attendees will learn how a healthy lifestyle can promote cognitive fitness and reduce risk for Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Participants will learn the importance of mental and physical exercise as well as diet and effective management of chronic conditions in maintaining brain health. Call (714) 536-9387 to register.

Recreation – Parks Make Life Better!

Adult Arena Soccer Sign-Ups – The City of Huntington Beach Community Services Department offers year round adult arena soccer leagues at the award winning Central Park Sports Complex. Games will be played on artificial sports turf under the lights beginning the week of June 5, 2012. Team registration costs are \$400.00 per 8-week season plus referee fees (\$20.00) per game paid directly to the official by each team. League play will be 6 v 6 including the goalie. Men's leagues are offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Coed on Thursday and Friday. All teams must have uniforms with numbers. Registration packets are available at City Hall, on the City website or by mail. For league information or to be placed on the individual players list, please call (714) 536-5486. The deadline to turn in team registration to City Hall is June 1, 2012.

This Saturday, May 19, 2012, the Community Services Department will be offering FREE swim level testing at the City Gym and Pool. Certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors will evaluate swimmers and recommend the appropriate swim level based on their skill and comfort in the water. Swim level testing gives parents the opportunity to have their children evaluated prior to the start of the HB summer aquatics program. Testing will be held Saturday May 19 and May 26 from 3:00 P.M. – 4 P.M. For more information or to register, please call the City Gym and Pool at (714)960-8884.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Downtown HB Access & Parking Options Better and Easier than Ever in 2012

Huntington Beach is ready to launch three options to make visiting Downtown even more enjoyable this summer. The Surf City Downtown Shuttle is returning along with Valet Parking at Main Promenade Parking Structure, and an exciting new partnership with Pedego Electric Bikes providing free, secured bicycle parking.

The free Surf City Downtown Shuttle begins a third season of service May 26 through September 3 operating from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Beginning May 29, the Shuttle will operate year-round on Tuesday nights from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM offering a free, fun and convenient way to visit Surf City Nights. Shuttles depart every 30 minutes from the Huntington Beach Civic Center at 2000 Main Street, stopping at Main and Orange on Tuesdays and weekends, and stopping at The Strand/5th Street on weekends as well.

Bicyclists searching for a prime free – and secure - parking for their wheels this summer, won't be searching long: Pedego Electric Bicycles, one of downtown's newest merchants, will provide free, secured bicycle parking at their location on weekends from 10 AM to 6 PM and Tuesdays during Surf City Nights from 6 PM to 9 PM. Pedego's location at 5th and Walnut has more area capacity and staff to handle the volume of bicycles in Surf City.

The Valet Program at Main-Promenade Parking Structure is set for Summer 2012 and more information will be available about that program in the coming weeks. For more about these programs and other parking information in Huntington Beach, visit: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/visitors/parking/>.

FIRE

EMS Week

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week will be May 20 – 26. This year's theme is "More than a Job - A Calling." EMS Week is an opportunity to promote the EMS community and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line". On May 23, Orange County EMS will be recognizing those individuals who go above and beyond what is expected as part of their job at an event co-hosted by UCI Medical Center and St. Jude Medical Center.

The Huntington Beach Fire Department would like to remind the community that Automatic External Defibrillator's (AED) are available in most city buildings. Research has shown that early defibrillation and CPR can save lives.

For information on CPR classes, visit the city website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov, select the "I Want To" section, then go to "Register/Sign UP" to look for CPR class dates. CPR classes are offered to FireMed members at no charge.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Did you know that residents can report suspected violations or eyesores on private property to the Code Enforcement Division from the City website online? Click on "I Want to" then "Report Code Enforcement Violations."

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/services/forms-applications/code-enforcement-complaint.cfm>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Do-It-Yourself Hold Requests

Tired of making multiple trips to the Library trying to find a title that always seems to be checked out? Save time (and gas!) by placing hold requests 24/7 with a Huntington Beach Library card. From the Library's website www.hbpl.org, click on the beige "Search Library Holdings" tab and search for the desired book. Once the book is fully displayed on the screen, click on the "Request Item" button and follow the instructions. The Library will call when the book is ready to be picked-up. A \$1.00 service fee is charged for hold requests. Info: 714-842-4481 or www.hbpl.org.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission

On May 15, 2012, at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the following item:

SITE PLAN REVIEW NO. 12-01 (BEACH AND ELLIS MIXED USE PROJECT) to review a request to develop a mixed use project consisting of 274 residential units including 6 live-work units, 8,500 square feet (sf) of commercial space, an internal 430 space parking garage and 54,861 sf of private and public open space on a 2.74 acre site (18502-18552 Beach Blvd, 92648 (2.74-acre site at the southeast corner of Beach and Ellis). Contact Rosemary Medel, project planner, at 714-536-5271 for further information. A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Department Conducts Inspections of Local Massage Parlors

On May 3, the Huntington Beach Police Department (with assistance from code enforcement, building and safety, the fire department and the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force) conducted inspections at 20 massage establishments as part of an ongoing investigation regarding allegations of prostitution and human trafficking occurring at these locations. In 2009, the State of California enacted legislation implementing statewide oversight of massage parlors and the issuance of massage technician licenses. That action essentially meant that Huntington Beach was no longer able to regulate these businesses as in the past. Since that legislation was enacted there has been tremendous growth (over 500%) in the number of massage parlors in Huntington Beach. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of the new businesses are not the legitimate type of massage business.

Many advertise in erotic sections of websites. On some of these websites customers exchange information about the types and cost of illegal services provided, and customers even provide recommendations for specific massage technicians at the businesses. Many people think of "prostitution" as a victimless crime, but in the case of massage parlors the female massage technicians themselves are often the victims. Often massage technicians are Asian females working in the locations to repay debts to those who assisted in bringing them to the United States and are paying costs associated with them living here.

The following information contains a recap of the inspections of the massage establishments:

The inspections stemmed from citizen complaints and the large increase in the number of massage parlors in the city. Forty-nine violations of the Huntington Beach Municipal Code (HBMC) were noted during the inspections. Some of the violations noted were for massage technicians providing massages with customers exposed, unlicensed massage technicians performing massage, and businesses operating without a business license.

Code Enforcement along with Building Safety noted twenty-two violations. Follow-up inspections will be performed including the possible closure of three locations until the locations are brought up to code requirements. The Orange County Human Trafficking Taskforce took part in the inspections in order to assist in identifying possible victims of human trafficking. Many of the employees at the massage parlors are female immigrants which led to concerns of possible human trafficking. While being questioned by detectives, some of the female employees admitted to performing acts of prostitution at the massage businesses where they were working. Prior to these inspections, detectives from the Vice Unit performed a series of undercover investigations that resulted in the arrest of five female employees at three different massage parlors for prostitution and other sexual related crimes.

PUBLIC WORKS

Grant Funding for Heil Pump Station

Public Works continues to aggressively pursue grant funding from both the Local, State and Federal levels for the construction of capital projects. On May 7, 2012, the California Emergency Management Agency informed the City that a grant in the amount of \$2,250,000 was approved for the reconstruction of Heil Pump Station, under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The Pump Station is located near Heil Avenue and Gothard Street and due to its age and capacity limitations, has reached its design life. This grant will cover up to 75% of the construction cost with City's local match estimated at \$750,000. City Council had previously approved funding for partial acquisition of vacant land in order to reconstruct the pump station. Now that construction is funded, staff will move forward with the project and plans on constructing the project in fiscal year 2012/13.