

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 1, 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Southland Senior Olympics Surfing Competition

The fourth Annual Southland Senior Olympics Surf contest was held on Saturday, October 30. The day started out with showers, but by the time the first heat began the skies were beautiful and sunny! Surfers ranged in age from 50 on - including one surfer in his eighties! Both men and women participated in the event; several southland cities were represented! Many thanks to this year's sponsors: the Huntington Beach Council on Aging, and Longboard Restaurant and Pub.

Street Bicycling Skills

Huntington Beach continues to promote bicycle use and programs that enhance bike safety! Huntington Beach received a Bronze level award as a Bicycle Friendly Community and is working to improve this ranking by offering several Street Bicycling Skills classes to the community. The first class was held at City Hall on Thursday, September 28. The next classes are scheduled for November 18 and December 9. Learn more about these and other classes by visiting www.hbsands.org. Bicycle class information can be found on page 9 and on-line registration is easy and convenient!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday Art-a-Faire and Farmer's Market at Pier Plaza

The beautiful, summer-like weather HB is currently enjoying is a great opportunity to visit downtown on Fridays for the weekly Certified Farmer's Market and Pier Plaza Art-a-Faire. The Certified Farmer's Market, operated by the OC Farm Bureau, is open Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and features a wide variety of freshly-picked fruits and vegetables, flowers and more. The Pier Plaza Art-a-Faire features over 60 booths of handmade items, ranging from candles, jewelry and clothing, from 12:00 PM each Friday to sunset or 7:00 PM. Both events operate nearly all Fridays, except when pre-empted by special events. The Art-a-Faire also operates on selected weekends year-round, with final 2010 weekends scheduled for November 26-28, December 11-12, and December 18-19, making it a convenient, fun and picturesque place to look for unique holiday gift items! For more information visit www.hbartafaire.com.

FIRE

Firefighter Appreciation at the Masonic Lodge

On Wednesday October 27, HBFD Engineer Sam Moses was recognized for his contributions as a volunteer in the community by Masonic Lodge No. 380. This annual award

is given to a member of the Huntington Beach Fire Department who has displayed exemplary community spirit and volunteerism.

Sam was recognized for his many years of involvement with youth sports, numerous charitable organizations, and the City's adopted 3/1 Marines. In appreciation for his work in the community, the Masonic Lodge donated a check for \$250 to a charity of Sam's choice which was the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure.

Structure Fire – Newland Barn

On October 30 at 7:20 p.m., Huntington Beach Fire Department units and one truck from Fountain Valley Fire Department responded to a fire in the laundry room at the Newland Barn. Firefighters encountered smoke on the second floor of the building and contained the fire to the laundry room. Residents were evacuated and a wedding reception in progress was unable to continue due to the fire. The damage is estimated at less than \$10,000. There were no injuries reported on scene.

Vehicle into a Condominium Building

On October 31 at 1:54 a.m., Huntington Beach Fire Department units were dispatched for a reported traffic collision. Upon arrival, the crew reported a single vehicle had crashed into the garage area of a three-story condo complex. The driver of the car had left the scene, but was later located by HBPD, evaluated by paramedics and transported to jail by police officers. The impact caused major damage and a Building Department inspector went to evaluate the structure. Firefighters removed the car from the garage and stabilized the structure. Two units in the building were red tagged – Entrance Prohibited - by the Building Department and none of the units in the complex had water or gas service. Residents were allowed to retrieve some personal belongings; the Red Cross provided temporary housing. All personnel did an excellent job and the residents were very appreciative of the service they received.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

“Sense-Fest” Writing Workshop

The Sand Scribes, a children's authors' support group, is sponsoring its annual writing workshop for young authors. If your child is in fourth through eighth grade, they can improve their writing skills at this unique two-hour session. Young authors will learn to write rough drafts, edit, and finish essays. They will learn to direct their efforts for different audiences. The class will be held Saturday, November 6 in Rooms C/D, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per child. Please call the Children's Department at (714) 375-5107 for additional information.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**Draft Environmental Impact Report for Murdy Commons**

Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) No. 10-002 for the Murdy Commons Mixed-Use Project has been prepared. Draft EIR No. 10-002 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Murdy Commons Mixed-Use Project. The draft EIR analyzes development of up to 984 dwelling units and 60,000 square feet of commercial area on a 12.5-acre site consisting of four contiguous parcels located at the northeast corner of Edinger Avenue and Gothard Street (former Levitz site). All existing improvements on the project site would be demolished.

The Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment for forty-five (45) days commencing Thursday, November 4, 2010, and ending Monday, December 20, 2010. A copy of Draft EIR No. 10-002 is on file with the Planning and Building Department, City of Huntington Beach City Hall, 3rd Floor, 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach, California 92648. The Draft EIR is also available for review at the City Clerk's office, City Hall – 2nd Floor, the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; and on the internet at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/index.cfm>.

Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIR may do so in writing within forty-five (45) days of this notice by providing written comments to Jennifer Villasenor, Associate Planner, City of Huntington Beach Planning and Building Department, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

City Receives FEMA Flood Rating Recertification

The City of Huntington Beach participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS). As a requirement of our participation, the City must certify annually that regular public outreach projects and flood prevention activities have been or will be completed during each calendar year. The City currently maintains a Class 7 rating which allows a 15% discount on all flood insurance policies issued or renewed on or after the effective date of October 1, 2000, for properties within flood zones A, AE, and VE. On November 1, 2010, the City received notification from FEMA on recertification for the 2010 CRS program. For additional information, contact Andrew Gonzales, Associate Planner.

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Search and Rescue Open House a Big Success**

Founded in 1962, the Huntington Beach Search & Rescue (Specialty Explorer Post 563) is a unique unit designed to provide career and personal development for young men and women interested in public safety careers. Huntington Beach Search & Rescue also provides well-trained emergency services personnel to assist our community in the event of a disaster. On average, Huntington Beach Search and Rescue members provide over 4,500 volunteer hours

of service to the city and citizens of Huntington Beach each year. The Search & Rescue hosted an open house last week that was well attended and a big success.

The program is open to all eighth grade graduates, both male and female, who are at least 15 years old, but not yet 18 (members may stay in the post until the age of 21). Members must meet high moral and citizenship standards, and be in good standing in school.

Search and Rescue is heavily involved with our police department, fire department, and our community. Search and Rescue is on-call 365 days a year for whatever needs arise within our community. For example, Search in Rescue is called upon during evidence searches, DUI checkpoints, 4th of July Parade, event security, community events, and fire watch.

The program allows the police and fire departments to mentor and evaluate future candidates. More than 1,000 explorers have entered the program since it was first chartered in 1965 - 68 have become police officers (13 in Huntington Beach), 14 have become firefighters (three in Huntington Beach), and 52 have entered the military with four having attended US Military Academies.

DUI Driver Steals a Car and Crashes Multiple Times

On October 30 at about 7:30 am, numerous residents began calling the Huntington Beach Police Department to report a reckless driver in the neighborhood off Brookhurst Street between Adams Avenue and Indianapolis Avenue. The residents calling 911 were reporting the vehicle was crashing into items.

Police officers found the driver had crashed into parked cars, two block walls, a light pole, a fire hydrant and had driven across several front yards. The vehicle was disabled and the driver had fled on foot. Witnesses provided a description of the driver and the police officers located her a few streets away. The driver was not the owner of the vehicle.

The police officers contacted the owner of the vehicle and discovered the vehicle had been stolen during the evening. The police officers arrested Huntington Beach resident Faafetai J. Fuga for auto theft, DUI and hit & run charges. She was booked at the Huntington Beach Police Department jail.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tips from the Water Conservation Staff

If you are interested in a landscape that is water efficient, attractive, colorful, and low maintenance, look into the world of California Native Plants. Fall and early winter is the best time to plant California natives; this gives the plants time to establish healthy root systems to benefit from the winter rains and also helps ensure stunning and vibrant flowers come spring and summer. For some more tips and photos on how to create a beautiful, drought tolerant, California Friendly garden visit the City's web site at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/> and click on the "Water Conservation" button on the left side of the home page.