

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 14, 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SAT/ACT Practice Test Saturday!!

The Youth Board is hosting a Princeton Review practice test at City Hall, Saturday, November 19.

What: Princeton Review SAT/ACT Practice Test Day

Who: College-bound high school students who want to determine which test is better suited for their natural abilities or evaluate strengths and weaknesses

Where: City of Huntington Beach Civic Center, Room B-8

When: Saturday, November 19, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 (100% of the proceeds benefit Huntington Beach Youth Board)

Please bring a calculator and two sharpened #2 pencils

Any questions, please contact Ashley Wallace at ashley.wallace@surfcity-hb.org or (714) 536-5579.

Huntington Beach Art Center

Enjoy a stroll down Main Street on November 16 for the Downtown Art Walk from 6:00-9:00 P.M. Over 15 artists will be presented in host businesses throughout the downtown and stretching as far as Sixth Street and Pacific Coast Highway. Sancho's Tacos will take a slightly different approach by presenting the film *A Charlie Brown Christmas* projected on their building. Artist, Marina Debris, is showing at the 10x10 gallery at InnOcean. Her unique work is created from waste gathered along the coast and transformed into imaginative pieces of art. Maps are available to guide the viewer through the walk. Call the Downtown BID office for more information at 714-536-8300.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Hand Knitted Gifts for the Holidays will be on sale in the City Hall Lobby, Thursday, November 17 from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.! The Handy Crafters will offer a beautiful selection of handmade sweaters, scarves, hats, and baby clothes for your holiday gifts or for you! All the proceeds from the sale benefit the Huntington Beach Senior Services Holiday Meals program. Senior Services Holiday Meals volunteers deliver a festive meal and a gift to older adults living in Huntington Beach who are alone on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter.

The Handy Crafters meet at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue, every Friday morning at 10:30 A.M. Their beautiful work is also on display in the center's lobby and can be purchased at the front desk. The Handy Crafters also donate baby items to Western Medical Center, baby hats to CHOC, blankets to the V.A. hospital, and to the homeless. Beginners are welcome to join the group! Materials and instruction are also provided. For more information, call the senior center at 714-536-9387.

Children's Needs Task Force

The Children's Needs Task Force is thrilled to be working with Barnes & Noble for their annual Holiday Book Drive. Barnes & Noble stores across the country invite customers to give the gift of reading to children in need during its annual Holiday Book Drive, beginning November 1 through January 1, 2012. The Bella Terra Huntington Beach Barnes & Noble is providing an opportunity for customers to donate books to Huntington Beach non-profit organizations through the Children's Needs Task Force. The Children's Needs Task Force will select the schools, libraries, literacy organizations, family social service agencies, and homeless centers to receive these books. This is a great opportunity for stores and customers to come together to donate new books to children in the community. For more information, please download an application at the City of Huntington Beach official website at: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/community_services/BarnesandNobleBookDrive2011.pdf.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Free Consulting Services to be Provided to Small Local Manufacturers**

The City has partnered with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting® (CMTC), to support the Small Manufacturers Advantage® (SMA) program, a program especially designed to meet the critical needs of manufacturers with annual sales of \$10 million or less. Manufacturers, assemblers, fabricators or job shops with \$150,000 to \$10 million in annual sales, are eligible for access to SMA services, of which a partial list includes: personalized business consultation, customized training, lean enterprise tools to streamline and improve processes, sales and marketing coaching, cost analysis tools, and referrals to other low-cost and no-cost business assistance resources. The program is funded by a federal grant to CMTC, so there is no charge for qualifying businesses to participate. Services are provided to each business for a six-month period, and may be extended by an additional year. The City is sending letters to potentially eligible businesses, and CMTC will be in contact with each business to provide more information. This program is intended to provide support to help our local businesses prosper and thrive, consistent with the City's Ten Point Plan for Local Business. For more information visit : http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/business/resources/agencies_program_resources.cfm.

Miracle on Main Street Kicks of the 2011 Holiday Season

Celebrate the start of the 2011 holiday season at the annual Main Street Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in Downtown Huntington Beach on Saturday, November 26. The fun begins at 5:00 PM with free live entertainment, holiday treats, and a visit from Santa himself, with the tree lighting and the transformation to the "Miracle on Main Street" at 6:00 PM. Since you'll already be there to enjoy the festivities, why not escape the swarming mall crowds by visiting our downtown merchants to do some of your holiday shopping? Shopping locally helps to generate tax dollars for the city which are used to make our community safe and beautiful. There is much to choose from in the area, from national brands like Forever 21, G by Guess, and Sketchers at The Strand, to unique and exciting Main Street merchants who certainly make it possible to find the perfect holiday surprise for everyone on your list. For more information about the Miracle on Main Street and all of what downtown has to offer, visit www.hb-downtown.com.

Surf City Savings

Surf City Savings program encourages shopping locally to generate tax dollars for our community, providing funding for essential services that our citizens rely on each and every day. Visit www.surfcityavings.com often to view and print out various discounts from categories including dining, retail/shopping, health & beauty, services, and leisure/recreational opportunities. Our most recent additions to the program are Sparrow's Nest Consignment with 10% off your purchase; Rod's Electric & Handyman Service is also offering 10% off your service; Witos Consulting is offering a free business network evaluation; and finally, YogiBerry will give you a free frozen yogurt when you bring in their coupon! Visit these and the rest of the merchants with your coupon and let the savings begin!

FIRE**Great Balls of Fire Charity Golf Tournament**

On November 14, the Huntington Beach Firefighters' Association (HBFA) hosted their annual Great Balls of Fire (GBF) Charity Golf Tournament at the SeaCliff Country Club.

Providing donations to various charitable organizations throughout the year is one of the ways HBFA helps the community. The GBF golf tournament was created 12 years ago by HBFA to raise funds to continue their work of reaching out and assisting the local charities to help the people in the community. Since its inception, the GBF golf tournaments have raised over \$1,000,000 and all the profits have been donated to charities.

HBFA would like to thank all of the generous sponsors and volunteers who helped to make this year's golf tournament a successful event. If you would like to donate raffle items or participate as a sponsor, volunteer, or join in on the fun in next year's GBF Charity Golf Tournament, please contact Chad Steward, Event Chairperson at 714-536-5411.

Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children – up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?

- Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

“Spark of Love” Toy Drive Campaign

The Spark of Love Campaign began in 1993 in cooperation with ABC 7 and local firefighters from Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. Last year, the “Spark of Love” Toy Drive collected and distributed over 300,000 toys to children in Orange County communities who may have otherwise gone without during the holiday season. An estimated total of 600,000 toys were collected throughout the five counties participating in the campaign.

Huntington Beach Fire Stations, the Civic Center lobby, and the Police Department lobby will serve as drop-off sites for the public to bring new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment. Through the “Spark of Love” Toy Drive, the holiday spirit will be felt throughout our communities as well as in the hearts of less fortunate children. Boxes will be set up from November 7 through December 24, 2011.

For additional information, please contact Jeff Lopez, Deputy Fire Marshal/Training, at (714) 536-5418.

INFORMATION SERVICES

City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips

The City Gym and Pool is a City facility that offers cultural classes, basketball courts, ping-pong tables and swimming lessons. Check the City Gym and Pool facility web page:

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/parks_facilities/facility_show.cfm?id=1

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Learn Languages Online with Mango!

The Huntington Beach Library has useful online language learning tool: Mango Languages. 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 is available now on the library's home page. Whether brushing up on a language, planning an international trip, or want to learn a new language, Mango is the fast and easy way to get started. Visit <http://www.hbpl.org/>, click on Research Databases, and open the door to an exciting new learning opportunity!

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Zoning Administrator

On November 16, 2011, the Zoning Administrator will conduct a public hearing on the following item:

TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 08-175 (GOTHARD PARCEL CONSOLIDATION) to review a request to consolidate five existing parcels into four, reflecting the vacation of the Crystal Street right of way and the Gothard Street realignment (Multiple Parcels, 92648 - West of Gothard Street at Main Street) For additional information contact Hayden Beckman, project planner at 714-536-5271. A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Department Facebook and Twitter continue to grow in popularity

The Huntington Beach Police Department Facebook page and Twitter have been in use now for one year and continue to grow in popularity. Our Facebook page has averaged 85,000 post views per month and our Twitter account has over 500 followers.

The Huntington Beach Police Department created a Facebook fan page and Twitter account as additional avenues of communicating with the public. These additional forms of social media will complement the existing police department webpage. Social media continues to grow in popularity with all demographics and is not just for younger generations. As traditional forms of media are declining, the police department uses these important tools to stay connected with the community.

The Facebook fan page and Twitter provide the police department with additional resources for:

- Crime investigations
- Soliciting tips on crimes
- Notifying the public of crime problems and trends
- Notifying the public of ways to access emergency information
- Crime prevention activities
- Community outreach and citizen engagement
- Public relations
- Recruitment

The links are available from the police department webpage at www.hbpd.org or by accessing directly at:

- www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice
- www.twitter.com/HBPD_PIO

PUBLIC WORKS

Thanksgiving Holiday Affects Street Sweeping and Trash Collection

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no street sweeping on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25. If your street is usually swept on 2nd and 4th Thursdays or Fridays, your street will not be swept this week. Streets that are not swept due to holidays are not rescheduled. There is no make-up schedule for street sweeping.

Trash will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day. Residents on Thursday's route should place their trash for collection on Friday. Friday's route will be collected on Saturday. The regular maintenance schedule resumes on Monday, November 28. If you have questions about the holiday maintenance schedule, please contact the Public Works Maintenance division at 714-960-8861.