

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 25, 2013

CITY MANAGER

Recently, the City of Huntington Beach received a complaint about a sign located on the roof of Johnny's Booze and Pool establishment. The sign has neon tubing around it and is perched on metal bars in the corner of the building.

The City's Code Enforcement agent left a notice on the door of the business which indicated that the sign needed to be removed. Unfortunately, the action of the code enforcement officer was perceived as the City being non-supportive of our armed forces because the sign urges readers to thank a Veteran for their freedom.

The violation was regarding the structure, not the content of the message. Huntington Beach is a patriotic city that gratefully honors the sacrifices of our veterans. The City has adopted and supported a Marine battalion from Camp Pendleton and regularly holds ceremonies to recognize and thank our Veterans, among many other examples by the City, our residents, and businesses.

The City met with representatives of Johnny's Booze and Pool Tuesday to discuss the Notice of Violation for the existing roof-top sign. The City assured Johnny's that the sign can remain while we work together to address any code issues.

The purpose of code enforcement efforts is not to penalize an establishment, but to ensure the safety of persons and structures. The Assistant City Manager and Director of Planning will work with the owners on a solution that continues the proud tradition of both the City and Johnny's in supporting our Veterans.

Comprehensive Mobile Home Program – Begins in December

The City of Huntington Beach is pleased to partner with Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) on a no-cost program aimed at helping qualified mobile home residents to manage their energy use and lower their energy costs. The Comprehensive Mobile Home Program -- administered by Synergy Companies (an SCE and SoCalGas as energy services provider) -- provides qualified mobile home residents with energy-saving products such as low-flow shower heads, faucet aerators and ENERGY STAR®-certified light fixtures that can help to make mobile homes more energy-efficient. These products and fixtures are available at no-cost; installation is also free of charge to qualified residents. For information contact: www.synergycompanies.org (California Contractors License #835016) or call 888-988-9829 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Art Center

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members, donors, and patrons who have supported the Art Center this year. Donations and grant support from the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, the Huntington Beach Art Center Foundation, the Music Teachers Association of Orange County, the National Charity League, the Orange County Community Foundation, and the Plunkett Foundation have enabled us to provide educational and artistic programs and events for more than 13,000 children and adults. We thank you all for your kindness, generosity and support.

The Art Center is pleased to announce that the Plunkett Foundation has renewed their support of our **Partners in Art** program with a \$5,000 grant for 2013-2014. **Partners in Art** is a program that brings third grade students from the Huntington Beach City School District to the Art Center for a tour of a contemporary exhibition followed by a related workshop taught by professional artists. The workshop applies core curriculum standards for art to a project that relates to the exhibition. More than 600 children annually participate in the program.

Huntington Beach Senior Services – Senior Services is Our Park

Federal sequestration cuts have affected the Congregate Meals (hot lunch) program at Rodgers Seniors Center. SeniorServ, meals provider for both congregate and Meals on Wheels, is being forced to cut back on the number of hot lunches served monthly. The first sequestration day for Rodgers lunch program is Wednesday, November 27. However, seniors will not have to go without lunch that day.

Due to the great generosity of **Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center** and the **Memorial Care Medical Group**, the seniors at Rodgers will enjoy a terrific Thanksgiving picnic – with gourmet turkey sandwiches and all the fixings. The **Lions Hearts** service group from **Huntington Beach High School** will be serving this lunch. Each weekday, a delicious lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. There is a guest fee of \$5.00 for those under 60 and a \$3.00 donation for adults 60 and older. For further information, contact Site Coordinator Danielle Marshall, 714-536-8404.

Project Self Sufficiency (PSS) Bicycle Drive and Toy Drive

Once again, PSS is having a toy drive November 22 – December 17 to help single-parent families who are working to become economically self sufficient by receiving a college education. The PSS office is asking for new, unwrapped toys (sorry, no stuffed animals) that are appropriate for boys and girls ranging from 1-17 years old.

We gladly accept skateboards, sports equipment, art supplies, games, gift cards for iTunes, movies, healthy fast food, Target, Wal-mart, etc. Every year, we gather funds to purchase bicycles to be raffled at the PSS Holiday Party on December 19. Last year we raffled-off 30 bicycles to some very happy children! You may purchase a bicycle or make a donation to the bike fund and we will purchase the bike on your behalf. Drop off items at the Rodgers Senior Center Outreach Offices, 1718 Orange Avenue, Huntington Beach.

PSS is also looking for community members who would like to participate in our Adopt –a– Family Holiday Program. We will match you with a PSS family that is within your budget and give you a personalized gift list for the family. If you would like more information, please contact the PSS Office at 714-536-5439 or access the AAF forms on our website: www.pssfoundation.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Celebrate Small Businesses in HB November 30 - Shop Small - Shop Local

Plan to be one of millions of consumers throughout the country this Saturday, November 30, who make it a point to shop small – and local - as part of the annual Small Business Saturday celebration. Businesses throughout Huntington Beach will be pleased to see new faces – as well as longtime customers – and many will be offering specials. In honor of small businesses, American Express, the creator and sponsor of Small Business Saturday has made it possible for 73 of the City's downtown parking meters to be provided free of charge to shoppers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to encourage shoppers to visit our outstanding small businesses. For more information, please visit www.shopsmall.com.

Fair Housing Foundation Offering Free Walk-In Housing Counseling Dec. 5

The Fair Housing Foundation, in partnership with the City of Huntington Beach, will provide a free housing counseling walk-in clinic at City Hall on Monday, December 2, on the Fifth Floor of City Hall from 3:00-5:00 p.m. A counselor will be present to discuss tenant/landlord disputes and concerns or to answer questions about Fair Housing laws. Those with questions or in need of immediate assistance need not wait for the clinics or training, as Fair Housing Foundation counselors are available Monday-Friday by calling (800) 446-3247.

FIRE

Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) Annual Fill the Boot Campaign

The Huntington Beach Firefighters' Association will be participating in the MDA's annual Fill the Boot Campaign. They will be located at the intersection of Beach and Edinger on Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. collecting donations for the MDA. This is an amazing cause and a great way to give back during the holiday season.

CFL Light Bulb Safety

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) are becoming more common in homes and at work. In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. Here are some important safety tips you should know about CFLs.

Purchase CFL light bulbs that have the listing label of a recognized testing laboratory. Light bulbs labeled by a recognized testing lab will ensure that the bulb meets the latest product safety standards.

When a CFL Burns Out

- It may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. This is normal and is not a fire safety issue.

- CFLs should never be discarded with household trash. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that consumers use local recycling options for CFLs. Contact your local government or visit: epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling or earth911.com to identify local recycling options.

If a CFL Breaks

CFLs are made of glass and can break. Be careful when removing from packaging and installing or removing from a socket. If a CFL breaks:

- OPEN a window to allow the room to air out for 5-10 minutes
- People and pets should LEAVE the room
- TURN OFF forced air heating and/or air conditioning
- COLLECT broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape or a damp paper towel
- PLACE the debris in a glass container with a metal cover in a safe location outside until you can dispose of it
- CONTACT your local government to find out how to dispose of the jar containing the debris
- CONTINUE airing out the room for several hours

NOTE:

Consider checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission (cpsc.gov) for recalls of CFLs that may present fire danger.

FACT:

CFL bulbs contain a small trace of mercury within the glass. When broken, mercury will immediately dissipate into the air. Concentrations of mercury will likely approach zero in an hour or so.

For more safety information, visit www.nfpa.org/education.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Did you know you that you can view previous City Mayors on the City website? You can find the link to this page from the main City Council page located under the Government navigation tab:

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/elected_officials/mayors_historical/

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Main Street Library Volunteers Annual Holiday Book Sale – Dec. 7

The Main Street Library Volunteers Annual Holiday Book Sale will be held Saturday, December 7 – Saturday, December 21. (Everything will be half-price Saturday, December 14 – Saturday, December 21.) All proceeds benefit the Main Street Library.

Main Street Library
525 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA

(714) 375-5071.

Choose Gifts Wisely with *Consumer Reports* from Home

'Tis the season for choosing holiday gifts and *Consumer Reports* magazine can provide information that makes good decisions easier. In addition to studying print copies of the magazine in person, Huntington Beach Library cardholders can access full-text *Consumer Reports* articles online from home for free! Follow these four simple steps:

1. Visit www.hbpl.org
2. Click on the green "Quick Login to Databases" tab
3. Login
4. Click on "Ebsco Consumer Reports" link

Cardholders can also browse entire issues of the magazine by clicking on the EbscoHost blue menu bar where it says "Publications" and then search for *Consumer Reports*. For more information call 714-842-4481.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Take the stress out of holiday shopping with these thoughtful and unique gift ideas that do double duty as a gift and a benefit to the Library:

Tickets for the 2014 Taste of Huntington Beach, the annual celebration of food and drink sponsored by the Huntington Beach Restaurant Association and the Friends of the Children's Library, will be available for purchase starting December 2. Anyone who loves fine food would be delighted to receive tickets to this gala affair, scheduled for Sunday, April 27, 2014. Purchase tickets at the Central Library Circulation Desk or simply visit www.tasteofhb.com. The enjoyment of this popular event is only enhanced by the knowledge that it supports books and programs for the Huntington Beach Children's Library.

Tile Painting gift certificates make nice presents. The Library supplies the tiles and glazes to paint a tile that will be installed on a wall in the Children's Wing of the Central library. Only \$50 per tile or 2 tiles for \$80. Purchase gift certificates at the Children's Desk. Cash or check only. This is a Books For Kids fundraiser.

Books For Kids also has a book spine fundraiser. Purchase a wooden spine that will be engraved and installed on a special donor bookcase. Cost ranges from \$250 to \$5,000.

Now that the city has gone green, buy a FOTCL (Friends of the Children's Library) canvas bag. These bags are \$5 each and may be purchased at the Children's Desk.

Another unique gift idea is to Adopt-a-Book for the Library's collection. For a donation of \$25 or more, donors can have their loved one's name placed on a bookplate which will be affixed to the inside cover of the book. This fun idea will provide reading pleasure for Library patrons for years to come and adds to the variety of literature available at the Library.

Finally, the Friends Gift Shop located inside the Central Library is a great source for special occasion cards and distinctive gifts for all ages. The Shop's volunteer staff provides

assistance and a friendly atmosphere, and all purchases support the Library. Shoppers can now use a credit card with a minimum \$10 purchase.

Something's always Happening in the Central Library Theater!

The City of Huntington Beach Central Library Theater is available for rental to groups, organizations, and individuals for a wide variety of activities. Creative use of the space inside the Theater and the adjoining spaces has proven successful for live musical concerts, Grammy winning performers, professional pianists, professional orchestras with accompanying singers and dancers, ballet recitals, live theater productions, as well as choirs from local organizations and schools.

The Library Theater has 319 seats which is a large enough venue to have exciting energy from the audience to the performers and, yet, also intimate enough to have a "personal" experience for the audience from the musicians and entertainers. The coming year will bring lots of variety in music, dance, health and wellness seminars, training opportunities for various departmental staff, exciting fundraising opportunities and a six-week live comedy play from an east coast production company. Also included in the Theater presentations next year will be HB Reads screening of several films in conjunction with their 2014 HB Reads One Book selection "Lessons from Little Rock" by Dr. Terrence Roberts.

During the month of June the Central Library & Cultural Center Theater becomes "Graduation Central," offering a memorable setting to mark a milestone for the graduates and their families. Visit the library website at www.hbpl.org for more information on the details of renting the Library Theater.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Goes Green

The Planning and Building Department is continuing a program implemented a couple of years ago which allows consumers to obtain permits for Residential Energy Efficient Units at no cost. With this program, all permit fees associated with the energy efficient unit will be waived. Items which qualify for the fee waiver are listed below:

- High Efficiency Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) with an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency greater than 90
- High Efficiency Air Conditioning with a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating 14 or higher
- Tankless Water Heaters with a minimum energy factor of 0.80
- Photovoltaic systems
- Solar water heating systems (home or pool)

If you have any questions, please call the Planning and Building Department at (714) 536-5241.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DUI Checkpoint Nets Six Arrests

The Huntington Beach Police Department conducted a Sobriety and Drivers License checkpoint on Saturday, November 23, from 7:25 p.m. to 2:15 a.m. Checkpoints are placed

in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence and provide the greatest safety for officers and the public. Over the past year, there have been 23 alcohol-related collisions on Pacific Coast Highway. These resulted in 18 injuries to the vehicles occupants. There have also been 97 citations issued to drivers on Pacific Coast Highway for being unlicensed or driving on a suspended/revoked license.

Sobriety/Drivers License checkpoints help lower DUI related deaths and injuries. A major component of these checkpoints is the deterrent effect it has on those who might drive drunk and/or drug impaired, unlicensed, or with a suspended/revoked license. Checkpoints help to bring more awareness to motorists and encourage everyone to use sober designated drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies. Here are some of our statistics from Saturday's checkpoint: 2,254 Vehicles through the checkpoint, 851 vehicles screened and given a pamphlet with information about DUI, 14 Standardized Field Sobriety Tests administered, four DUI- alcohol impaired suspects arrested, eight drivers cited for operating a vehicle unlicensed or with a suspended/revoked license, six vehicles impounded, four citations issued for other vehicle code violations, and two criminal arrests, and two (drug felony & misdemeanor warrant).

Huntington Beach Police Department will be conducting another Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint on **December 14, 2013**, in our ongoing commitment to lowering deaths and injuries upon our streets and highways. Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Huntington Beach Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to continue to work together to bring an end to these tragedies. If you see a Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1.

PUBLIC WORKS

Goldenwest Street Rehabilitation

Goldenwest Street is the remaining segment of Capital Improvement Project #1433, totaling \$2,950,000, including Garfield Avenue which was completed in early October. The work on the Goldenwest segment consisted of the replacement of worn out pavement between Pacific Coast Highway and Yorktown Avenue. Select areas were dug out to a depth of 15" and the remainder of the street was cold milled to a depth of 5.5" in its entirety. The final overlay of asphalt was paved back with 2" of rubberized asphalt, equating to approximately 8,000 waste tires from being diverted from landfills just for this segment. Also included with this segment of construction was the replacement of worn out curb, gutters, cross gutters, sidewalks, tree replacements and the addition of pervious concrete within the center medians. This design will filter water through the pervious concrete and percolate to the earth below, as opposed to what would traditionally shed off to the surface and into the localized storm drains inlets, which are adjacent to our beach.

As a note of interest: With the use of recycled asphalt concrete (RAC), the Public Works Department design/construction team has saved over a quarter million waste tires that would have ended up in landfills.