

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

October 25, 2010

ADMINISTRATION

November Election Results will be Available on Local Government Access Channels

Local race results for the Cities of Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster will be aired starting at 8:00 pm on November 2 on Channel 3. The Public Cable Television Authority, which covers all four cities, will be airing a live television show featuring hosts, political commentary and up-to-the-minute race results.

The hosts for the night will be Matt Liffreing and Shae Stuard. There will also be commentary from Dr. Matthew Jarvis, Assistant Professor of Political Science from Cal State Fullerton. The program will start at 8:00 pm with a short introduction and quick look at the first results. The show will then continue with graphic updates and kick back in to live coverage at 9:00 pm, when results will be updated more frequently. The live program will conclude at 11:00 pm but the graphics will continue until midnight with results being shown from the Orange County Registrar of Voters.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

56th Year of the Distance Derby

On October 23, the city of Huntington Beach held its 56th Annual Distance Derby, the oldest race in Orange County. Revenue from this event supports Project Self-Sufficiency. Over 700 participants ran in the 10-mile run, 5-mile run/walk, and Surf Kids Fun Run - all beginning and ending at beautiful Pier Plaza. The event took place on a flat course with a spectacular view of the ocean! Ric Herr from Corona took first place in the 10-mile with a time of 57:26; Dustin Whitson was the winner of the 5-mile with a time of 28:38.

The event could not have been possible without the support of the various community groups and individuals who volunteered their outstanding services to the community. A special thank you to event sponsors including: the Surf City Marathon, Wal*Mart, Trader Joes, Sam's Club, Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort, Fresh and Easy, Whole Foods, Rainbow Disposal, Snail's Pace Running Shop, and A-Throne for their contributions to this fantastic event!

Handy Crafters

The Handy Crafters will hold a craft bazaar in the lobby of City Hall on Thursday, October 28. Browse their handmade baby clothes, scarves, sweaters, and holiday items for your holiday gifts. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Huntington Beach Senior Services Holiday Meals program.

The Handy Crafters are a group of volunteers who meet at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center each Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Their beautiful work is on display in the lobby at

Rodgers Seniors Center and can be purchased at the front desk. A wider selection of merchandise is available at their Friday meetings.

The Handy Crafters also donate baby items to Western Medical Center, baby hats to CHOC, blankets to the V.A. hospital and the homeless. All are welcome to join this group. There are crafters from ten different countries with as many languages represented. Beginners are welcome as well. Materials and instruction are provided. For more information, call the senior center 714-536-9387.

Surfing Competition Welcomes Surfers Age 50+ for a Wave of Fun

The 2010 Southland Senior Olympic Surf Competition will take place Saturday, October 30, on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier beginning at 7:30 a.m. This fourth annual event is sponsored by the City of Huntington Beach, City of Anaheim, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA). Proceeds will go towards scholarships for seniors who need financial help to compete in the Southland Senior Olympics.

Surfing, an activity well grounded in Huntington Beach, helps bridge the gap between the "baby boomers" surfing community and the younger generation. Last year's competitor from Huntington Beach, 83-year-old Robert Spellmire, said he hopes to see more seniors 75+ surfing this year. "It's a good activity to do," said Spellmire.

There are six different divisions according to age and one final heat among all winners. This year will also feature a women's final heat. The Huntington Beach area is home to more than 50,000 seniors age 50 and older. The HBCOA promotes and encourages the "active aging" lifestyle. For press inquiries contact Chris Cole at ccole@surfcity-hb.org. For more information visit: http://hbcoa.org/senior_olympics.htm.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HALLOWEEN FEST- October 31, 2010- 4:00-8:00 PM

Bring friends and family to "Trick or Treat" this Sunday at participating businesses in Downtown Huntington Beach. This year the event will feature a window decorating contest, children's activities including pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon animals, and photo ops. A Canine Howl-o-ween Contest will take place at 5:00 and Kid's Costume Contest at 6:00 at the Haunted Strand on 5th Street. Additionally, the City's Fire and Police Departments will have vehicles on display. For more information, log on to www.hbdowntown.com or call the Downtown Business Improvement District at 714.536.8300.

Surf City Nights -October 26, 2010

Gene Granata, the Master Pumpkin Carver will appear tonight, Tuesday, October 26th at the Huntington Beach Downtown Surf City Nights Street Fair and Farmers Market. Gene Granata will demonstrate how to carve a great pumpkin, safety and pumpkin preservation tips. He

designs scary, humorous, and just plain strange pumpkin art. Additionally, one of our Certified Farmers will have a great assortment of pumpkins for very reasonable prices.

For additional information about Surf City Nights, please contact (714) 536-8300, surfcitynights@verizon.net, or visit <http://www.hbdowntown.com>

FIRE

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

As the Daylight Savings time change approaches on Sunday, November 7, the Fire Department wants to remind you to make another change that could save your life – change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce fire related deaths and injuries. The risk of dying in a home fire is nearly cut in half if smoke alarms are working properly. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely.

Halloween Safety Tips for Young Children

- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult. Make sure older children travel in groups. Instruct children not to enter someone's house when trick-or-treating.
- Check all treats prior to giving them to children. Do not allow children to eat unwrapped or homemade treats.
- Wear light colored costumes or use reflective tape so children can be easily seen by motorists. Use nontoxic makeup instead of a mask which can limit or block vision.
- Always use crosswalks and be cautious when crossing the street.
- Use flashlights instead of candles, lanterns or any open flame.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Reads One Book

Huntington Beach Reads One Book, or HBReads, is gearing up for its fourth year. The Committee has chosen 'Barefoot Heart' by Elva Trevino Heart for this year's book selection. It is the story of a young girl whose family worked the migrant farm circuit in the summer, but whose father insisted that his children also get an education.

HBReads has enjoyed a growing relationship with the Library since its inception and this year it has become official. HBReads is a stand-alone committee whose home is now at The Central Library. HBReads members are extremely grateful for the support that The Library has shown over the past several years and look forward to an increasingly symbiotic relationship.

HBReads is hosting a free Author Event at HB High School on March 24, 2011 @ 7:00 PM. In the months of February and March, HBReads is planning a number of related events leading

up to this event. There are copies of this book available for checkout at the Library in both English and in Spanish. HBReads hopes that library patrons and City residents will participate in reading the book and attending the various events.

Interested readers can follow HBReads progress by visiting their website @ www.hbread.org. Participants can also sign up with the Yahoo Group to receive email updates. There is also a Blog section where several of HBReads committee members relate how current and past Reads events have impacted their lives and helped to expand the horizons of their world.

Last year's event series included a Documentary Film Series, Children's Story Times, a High School Student Poster Project, a Cultural Display at the Central Library, the Authors Events, and other Cultural Events related to the theme of the book. HBReads hopes to continue and to expand upon these events and with the participation and support of the community these goals will be accomplished.

Great Book Adventure

The Friends of the Children's Library, the Sand Scribes Children's Writing Group and the Huntington Beach Public Library are again sponsoring a writing/drawing contest for children. This year the contest theme will be "The Great Book Adventure." Children can draw a picture or write one page of what would happen if they opened a book and the book drew them into an adventure. Children are invited to draw a picture, write a story, essay, poem, or letter answering these questions: *Where would you go, what would happen to you, who would you meet, and how would you resolve the adventure?* They can submit one written piece or one illustration or one of each.

Bring the completed essay or artwork to the Children's Department and attach an entry form. Children are asked NOT to write their name on their work - so judges can be fair and impartial. Children between pre-school and eighth grade can enter the contest before December 11, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. Winners will receive a gift card to Barnes & Noble. Certificates and/or ribbons will also be awarded to entries that demonstrate notable merit and creativity in the judges' opinion.

Winners will be notified by January 17, 2011. Prizes will be awarded at the Authors Festival afternoon reception at the Library on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. This contest and the 22nd Annual Authors Festival are made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Employee Community Fund (ECF) of Boeing California.

October Magic Show

Johnny "Ace" Palmer, world-renowned magician will be performing at the Huntington Beach Public Library on Tuesday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. He is known for close-up magic tricks and fun entertainment for children and parents. Johnny has performed at the Magic Castle in Hollywood and on late night television. Tickets for this show are \$4 each and are expected to sell out quickly. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Children's Library. For further information, please call (714) 375-5107.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

October 26 Planning Commission Meeting

At the October 26 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Atlanta Avenue Widening Project. The appellant is the law firm of Hart, King and Coldren representing the Pacific Mobile Home Park owners. Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 09-001 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Atlanta Avenue Widening Project, a City proposed project to widen Atlanta Avenue (i.e., the public street right-of-way is proposed at 55 feet south of centerline) from Huntington Street to Delaware Street to comply with the primary arterial street classification of the City's General Plan Circulation Element and the Orange County Master Plan of Arterials and Highways (MPAH). The Zoning Administrator had approved MND 09-001 on September 15, 2010. A copy of the staff report is available on the Planning and Building Department website at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/pcl/pcagenda102610.cfm>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hit and Run driver in custody after striking two bicyclists

On October 23, 2010, at about 4:40 pm, witnesses called to report a hit and run collision at Pacific Coast Highway and Goldenwest Street. A female driving a black Mercedes had struck two adult bicyclists and fled the scene in her vehicle. At about 4:45 pm, witnesses called to report a second hit and run collision at Goldenwest Street and Ellis Avenue. This collision involved a black Mercedes hitting a gray Chevrolet SUV. The vehicle fled the scene again.

A Huntington Beach police officer observed a black 2005 Mercedes C-Class sedan traveling at a high rate of speed on Beach Boulevard near Ellis Avenue. The vehicle attempted to evade the officer but became stuck in traffic. A car stop was made and the driver detained on Talbert Avenue east of Beach Boulevard. The front windshield of the Mercedes was shattered from the collision with the bicyclists. The police officers located an open bottle of peach flavored vodka inside the vehicle.

After conducting their investigation, the police officers arrested Tama Rae Tracy, a 24 year old resident of Buena Park, for felony DUI and hit & run charges. Tracy was also charged with driving while on probation for a prior DUI conviction in Los Angeles County in 2009 and a prior DUI conviction in San Bernardino County in 2008. Tracy was booked in the Huntington Beach Police Department Jail.

The two adult males from the collision at Pacific Coast Highway and Goldenwest Street were taken to a local hospital. They are both in critical condition and still hospitalized. There injuries are not expected to be life threatening. There were no injuries at the Goldenwest Street and Ellis Avenue collision.

PUBLIC WORKS**Level 1 Water Management Plan still in effect**

Residents are reminded that Level 1 of the City's Water Management Plan is still in effect. This means that effective November 1 through March 31, irrigation will be limited to one day per week. Irrigation is also prohibited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and is limited to no more than 15 minutes per station. Anyone with questions on water conservation or the Water Management Plan should call the Public Works Utilities Division at 714-536-5921 or visit the City's website (<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/>) and click the "Water Conservation" button on the left side of the page.

Arterial Rehabilitation on Magnolia nears Completion

Major roadway rehabilitation has taken place this month on Magnolia Avenue between Warner Avenue and north to the 405 freeway. Due to the high volume of traffic in this area, most of the work was performed over a four day period with all work taking place during the evening and early morning hours. Once the weather permits, the contractor will finish the striping and install the traffic signal loops. This project is the last of three street segments (total of 1¼ miles) completed as part of this construction contract. The other two street segments are Gothard Street from Edinger Avenue to Heil Avenue, and Slater Avenue from Beach Boulevard to Newland Street. The project was funded by Proposition 1B, Recycled Asphalt Concrete Grant, and the City of Fountain Valley for their portion.