

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

October 3, 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Senior Center

Holiday Tips for Caregivers – Healthy care giving is a balancing act. In a partnership with UCI Mind, the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Family Services Center, Huntington Beach Senior Services is offering a workshop for caregivers, *Surviving and Thriving during the Holidays*, on Tuesday, October 11 from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue. In this workshop, family members will learn to recognize stress, reduce stress, build a support system and community resources to assist caregivers. RSVP to this free workshop by calling 949-757-3703 by Friday 10/7/2011. Light refreshments will be served.

AFS Brain Fitness – Join this 3-class series to improve mental acuity. The Alzheimer's Family Services Center offers this class on Wednesdays, October 12 – October 26 from 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center, 1706 Orange Avenue for the low cost of \$6.00. Learn practical strategies to improve memory, maintain brain health, reduce stress, and boost brainpower. Register at hbsands.org or in person at Rodgers Seniors Center. For more information, call 714-536-9387.

City Gym & Pool

The City Gym and Pool now offers "I Speak Chinese" classes. Students in this class will first acquire understanding of the language and culture relevant to their daily lives and then learn Chinese from story-based lessons and sentence patterns, while building vocabulary. This class is appropriate for ages 3-18 and is taught on Wednesdays at The City Gym and Pool. For more class information, please look for Chinese in the preschool, youth, or adult section of the SANDS Community Service Guide or contact the City Gym and Pool at (714) 960-8884.

Art Center

Zombies are learning to dance! There's still time for all you sleeping zombies to rise up and learn the moves for the **Night of the Dancing Dead**. Dance students from the Academy for the Performing Arts will teach a streamlined version of Michael Jackson's **Thriller** for performance at the October 19 Art Walk. Rehearsals will be on Monday evenings from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Art Center continuing on October 10 and October 17. For Information, please call 714-374-1658.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Citizen Participation Advisory Board Members Sought

The City of Huntington Beach is seeking residents to serve on the Citizens Participation Advisory Board (CPAB) to fill three (3) vacancies. CPAB assesses the needs of low and moderate income households and evaluates and prioritizes projects for the Community Development Block Grant program, a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban

Development. CPAB recommends funding for projects and activities that are CDBG eligible to City Council. The CPAB holds regular monthly meetings, generally on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in Room B-8 of City Hall. All meetings are open to the public and special meetings may be called in conformance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. The CPAB annually holds public hearings to obtain citizen input on community needs, plans or proposals. Citizens interested in applying to serve on the CPAB may apply online at: www.surfcity-hb.org/Government/boards_commissions or call Denise Bazant, Administrative Aide at (714) 536-5470.

Shop HB and Park Downtown for Free?

On July 1, the City launched a one-year pilot incentive program with the Huntington Beach Auto Dealers Association to provide an Annual Beach Parking Pass for each new car purchased at a Beach Boulevard of Cars dealership. Each new car buyer will be given a voucher to redeem their parking pass at City Hall or Moorehouse Lifeguard Headquarters. The program will run from July 1, 2011, until June 30, 2012.

If you are in the market for a new car, be sure to buy from one of the Huntington Beach Auto Dealers to be eligible for this great offer. Visit <http://www.beachblvdofcars.com/> for the auto dealer directory.

FIRE

Volunteers needed for Project SHIP (Senior Home Inspection Program)

The Huntington Beach Fire Department needs volunteer safety inspectors to assist senior citizens in making their home a safer place to live.

The Fire Department will train volunteers to educate senior residents on how to:

- Eliminate fire hazards
- Plan an emergency escape
- Prevent falls
- Maintain a working smoke detector
- Prepare for other various emergencies

Upcoming training classes are scheduled for early November. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer safety inspector please contact Diane Swarts, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 714-374-1544 or DSwarts@surfcity-hb.org.

Structure Fire

Just after noon on September 30, the Huntington Beach Fire Department responded to a fire at a smog testing center located on Slater. Upon arrival, firefighters found heavy black smoke billowing from the repair bay, but the automatic sprinkler system was successfully keeping the fire from spreading to the structure.

The owner of the vehicle being tested reported that there was ammunition in the vehicle and this created an extra safety hazard for the firefighters working to isolate the fire and prevent further damage to the building. Firefighters brought the fire under control within minutes and

fire damage was limited primarily to the vehicle. There were no reported injuries during the incident and the reported ammunition did not cause any problems during firefighting operations. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

INFORMATION SERVICES

City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips

Download the City Strategic Plan at:

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/administrators/strategic-plan-final-2011.pdf>

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Library Event Draws Young Readers

Last Thursday, September 28, **Banning Branch Library** was packed with 45 enthusiastic children and adults attending Banning's first children's author visit by MaryAnn Easley. The author spoke about writing from personal experiences and how she developed the ideas for the books she's written. Composition books and pens were given to the children in attendance and MaryAnn Easley encouraged the children "to draw from their own experiences and turn unhappy incidents, adventures, and day to day living into fictional stories because the best stories come from the deepest part of us and writing can turn the most awful event into story and can heal and help us overcome." Several children were winners of the prize drawing and the author autographed the awarded books along with books purchased by the attendees. Many thanks to the Authors Festival Committee of the Friends of the Children's Library who made the program possible with a grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California.

Volunteer Tutors Needed

Imagine the satisfaction of helping a student with reading, writing or arithmetic. Adult and older teen volunteers are needed to help with the Central Library's Homework Club. The next workshop will be held in the Tabby Theater, Central Library, October 12, 2011, at 4:00 pm. Once volunteers have been trained and fingerprinted by the Police Department, they can help children succeed in school.

Tutors can provide help with homework questions, essay construction, math practice and flash cards. Students bring their books and assignments; tutors provide the knowledge and experience to help young learners. The Library also provides flash cards, dictionaries and other reference materials.

The Homework Club at the Central Library is held every Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm during the school year. For additional information on becoming a tutor please call Barbara Richardson (714) 374-5338 or Monica Miltko (714) 375-5114.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Beach and Ellis Draft Environmental Impact Report

On Thursday, October 6, 2011, a Public Comment meeting is scheduled at 6:00 PM at Central Library, Lower Level Rooms C & D to receive comments on the Beach and Ellis Draft EIR. Attendees will have an opportunity to receive an overview of the project, understand the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and submit comments in writing or verbally. Responses will be addressed in the Final EIR. The 45 day review period for the EIR began on Friday, September 9, 2011. Draft EIR No. 10-004 analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Beach and Ellis Mixed Use Project located at the southeast corner of the Beach Boulevard and Ellis Avenue intersection in the City of Huntington Beach (currently addressed as 18502 and 18508-18552 Beach Boulevard). The Draft EIR analyzes development of a project consisting of up to 105 residential units, 37,000 square feet of commercial space and common area on the 2.7 acre site, and evaluates alternatives to the project that include an increased residential project with up to 274 residential units, private and public open space and 8,500 square of commercial space as well as a commercial alternative with 77,300 square feet of retail and office space. The existing buildings (Shell Gas Station, retail/office building and restaurant) will be demolished to accommodate the project. Any person wishing to comment on the request may provide written comment to Rosemary Medel, Associate Planner, City of Huntington Beach, CA 92648. The review period will close on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 5:00 PM. The DEIR can be reviewed online at:

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/major/index.cfm>

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Online Police Crime Reporting

The online police reporting service continues to provide a convenient means for the public to file minor police reports. So far this year, there have been 1,031 reports filed online. This represents about 6% of the reports filed with the police department.

This system is designed to allow for some minor criminal and non-criminal incidents, such as harassing phone calls; non-injury hit and run accidents; lost property; theft; vandalism; and vehicle burglary to be reported simply and conveniently. The additional benefit is it keeps the police officers available for other calls for service or police activity.

Online crime reporting is not designed to be used if there is any suspect information or description, if there is any evidence to be collected, if it is an ongoing problem, or if the incident occurred outside of Huntington Beach. Additional information on this service is available at:

http://www.surfcity-hb.org/government/departments/pd/online_services/online_crime_reporting.cfm.

PUBLIC WORKS

Musty Taste and Odor in Drinking Water

Over the last few weeks, some residents and businesses in the City have noticed a musty taste and odor in their drinking water. The source of the problem was found to be caused by a large and persistent algae bloom in the west branch of the State Water Project which supplies water to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). This algae bloom is expected to last for up to four weeks.

This event has affected the drinking water supplies of Orange County, east Los Angeles County, western San Bernardino County and southwest Riverside County. The impact varies

from region to region depending on how local agencies, such as Huntington Beach, blend their imported MWD supplies with their own local/groundwater supplies. Officials with MWD and the California Department of Public Health have confirmed that this event does not pose a risk to public health.

Although the State Water Project water received normal treatment at MWD facilities, the nuisance compound, 2-methylisoborneol, or MIB, which is produced from the growth of certain algae in freshwater, could not be entirely removed. At times the water leaving the treatment facilities had concentrations as high as 20 parts per trillion (ppt), but people with highly sensitive taste and smell can detect the compound in water levels as low as 5 parts per trillion. One ppt is equivalent to 10 drops of MIB in enough water to fill the Rose Bowl.

Last week, the City reduced the amount of imported MWD water that is used and increased the use of our groundwater supplies. The change in the imported water to groundwater ratio should help to eliminate the problem for the City's customers.