Huntington Beach is voted the Best!

Citizens throughout the county agree: Huntington Beach is the Best Beach, Best Surf Spot, Best Dog Beach, and one of the three best Downtowns in all of Orange County, as reported and tabulated by the OC Register in their annual Best of Orange County for 2014. Of course, we certainly agree, too!

Not only did the City itself receive accolades for its beautiful outdoor assets, but many of our local businesses received well-deserved recognition for being among the best of the best as well.

A number of national and regional retailers, restaurants and services, which call Huntington Beach home, also received recognition in the survey, including BJ’s Pizza, Z Pizza, Ruby’s, Total Wine & More, Avila’s El Ranchito, First Team Real Estate, Home Depot, Buffalo Wild Wings, and the soon-to-open Living Spaces Furniture.

The OC Register made a few special picks of their own, with HB’s own Olloclip, with its unique smartphone camera-enhancing lens, landing a second place spot on the OC Register’s picks of the best gadgets made in the County.

We send a hearty congratulations to the community businesses that made the list and demonstrating that our City has something great for everyone.

To see picks in every category, visit http://www.ocregister.com/sections/bestoforangecounty/
The Fourth Annual Huntington Beach Senior Surf Invitational will take place Saturday, October 25, 2014, on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier beginning at 7:30 a.m. The City of Huntington Beach, Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA), Memorial Care Medical Group and Body Glove invite all surfers ages 50+ to register through the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors’ Center or online at www.hbsands.org.

The HBCOA promotes and encourages the “active aging” lifestyle supporting seniors and their families with various services and events offered through the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center and Seniors Center Outreach.

Athletes will compete within a five year age group (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+), and will be judged on wave selection, maneuvers, fluidity, and style.

Registration Deadlines: October 10, 2014 / www.hbsands.org
Registration Fees: $40 includes an athlete T-Shirt, Goodie Bag and awards to First, Second and Third Place Winners of Each Division

Advance Registration is required.
For more information please contact Rodgers Seniors’ Center at 714-536-9387
Shipley Nature Center
2014 Annual Fall Native Plant Sale
Saturday, October 18th
9 am to 2 pm
Over 100 Native Plant Species Available

UCCE Master Gardener Presentations
10:00 am - Drought Tolerant Gardens by Jeremy Samson
1:00 pm - Gardening With California Natives by Randy Musser

HB residents who attend will receive a voucher to Buy a Plant - Get One of equal or lesser value.
(Limit of 5 free plants, limit one voucher per residence)
Co-sponsored by Huntington Beach Water Conservation Dept.

- Helpful advice on planting with Natives
- Living Soil Exhibit
- Rainwater Harvesting Stream
- Native Garden books and literature
- Native wildflower seeds

Huntington Central Park
Parking at 17851 Goldenwest Street, Central Park Drive or the Library
714-842-4772 www.shipleynature.org
Star Reader Program Resumes @ the Banning Library!

On Thursday, October 2, the ever-popular “Story Telling and Reading” (STAR) program will be starting again at the Banning Library, located in south Huntington Beach on 9281 Banning Avenue. Volunteer story tellers will be on hand between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. to welcome children of all ages and/or their parents to share stories, puppets and other surprises. Because the groups are smaller in size compared to a regular storytime session, our readers can offer a more personalized experience to those in attendance. It’s a wonderful way for children to develop their love of reading with the help of such dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers!

Kids Get Burgers for Reading Books!

Our Fall reading program, In-N-Out’s Cover to Cover Club, will be starting Saturday, October 4. Children ages 4 to 12 can register online at www.hpbl.org or at any Huntington Beach Library Branch.

Once children read five library books and record the number and titles of books on their online and/or paper reading logs, they can go to any Huntington Beach Library branch and receive a coupon for a hamburger or cheeseburger at In-N-Out. Children can earn up to three hamburger coupons during the program. It’s educational and delicious! The program ends Saturday, November 15.
Water Conservation Rebates Available

Ways of conserving water can be very simple. Did you know that turning the water off when you brush your teeth saves 2.5 gallons per minute? Another water wise choice is to adjust your irrigation controller to reduce the number of days and minutes that you water your landscape. Doing so can save hundreds of gallons of water. By making some small changes to the way we use water, we can reduce wasting water, and help save our resources.

Go to the HB Water Conservation website, www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hbwater for water saving tips, water wise gardening, and upcoming events. Currently, rebates are offered for:
- Turf removal - $2 per sq. ft.
- Smart irrigation timers – up to $380 including installation costs
- Drip irrigation kits – up to $175 per kit, limit of three kits
- Rotating sprinkler nozzles - $4 each
- Clothes washers - $85
- Toilets - $100
- Soil moisture sensor controllers - $80
- Rain barrels - $75

These rebates are currently available through the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) at www.mwdoc.com/rebates.
Free Rainwater Harvesting Class on Saturday, October 11!

Huntington Beach Water Conservation is offering a free Rainwater Harvesting Class. Rain barrels are available for $85, with a $75 rebate from Municipal Water District bringing your final cost to just $10 each! You can purchase up to four (4) barrels per household for the rebate. Purchases must be made in advance by October 9 at www.RainBarrelsIntl.com. A rain barrel holds 58 gallons of water that can be captured and put to use in your garden instead of creating urban runoff. Did you know that you can capture 600 gallons of water from a 1,000 sq. ft roof during a one-inch rainfall?

Join us at the free Rainwater Harvesting class on October 11 from 9 to 10 a.m. followed by the distribution of the rain barrels from 10 to 11 a.m. We’ll be discussing the installation and maintenance of the barrels. We are located at 19021 Huntington Street at the southwest corner of Huntington Street and Garfield Avenue. Sign up for the class by registering at www.RainBarrelsIntl.com or by calling (919) 602-6316. Also, please check the City’s website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hbwater/workshop-events/ for upcoming classes and Water Conservation Rebate offers.

Business Development

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

The Downtown Business Improvement District is already preparing for their annual holiday celebration and is seeking craft vendors with unique, one-of-a-kind items for their November 23 tree lighting ceremony. The event brings approximately 2,500 people to the Downtown for entertainment and the arrival of Santa Claus.

For information about becoming a vendor, please contact the Downtown Business Improvement District at (714) 536-8300.
National Preparedness Month – Get Educated

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is observed in September and is meant to encourage Americans to take the important steps to prepare for emergencies.

Preparing for a disaster is a priority of the city’s Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program. Countless hours have been ensuring that the city is prepared for emergencies that may occur in our community. However, we cannot do it on our own.

Take the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts by joining Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

CERT is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) endorsed training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency response personnel could become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. By becoming CERT trained, you will acquire the skills to assist emergency responders save lives and property.

First Aid

Every adult should take First Aid Training and have a First Aid Kit in their home and vehicle. Skills learned in a First Aid training course will enable members of your family to assist themselves and others in the event of an emergency. First Aid knowledge greatly enhances your family’s ability to be self-reliant. It is useful in everyday emergencies as well as for disaster situations.

For more information about First Aid Kits, go to:

http://www.surfcity-hb.org/government/departments/Fire/Emergency_preparedness
or www.fema.gov

For CERT or preparedness questions specifically for the City of Huntington Beach, contact:

Brevyn Mettler, Emergency Services Coordinator
Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office
714-374-1565
bmettler@surfcity-hb.org

Disaster Preparedness Online Resources

www.ReadyOC.org
www.HuntingtonBeachca.gov/CERT
www.Ready.gov
The HBFD has been awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Act Grant, which they applied for last year. The program is extremely competitive and undergoes a rigorous peer review process. Congratulations to our amazing Fire Department for this awesome opportunity!

The HBFD will receive $69,952 which will be combined with our required grant match of $7,772 for a total of $77,724. The grant was requested in order to purchase "self-rescue equipment" for all of our firefighters. This equipment involves specialized belts, webbing, hooks, and rope that will be issued to every HBFD firefighter as part of their safety equipment.

The equipment can be used to escape out a window from the upper floors of a building should the firefighter become trapped with no other means to get out. This equipment will help provide an additional level of safety for our personnel.
HUNTINGTON BEACH
FIRE DEPARTMENT

CALL
714-536-5411
FOR MORE INFO

2014 OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 11 - 10am to 2pm

In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week (firepreventionweek.org)

Fire Station 1 - Gothard
18301 Gothard Street

Firefighting demonstrations at
11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Meet your local firefighters!
Tour the fire station!
Meet Sparky the Fire Dog!
See the fire engines!

Refreshments courtesy of the Huntington Beach
Firefighters' Assoc. & Fire Management Assoc.
The Huntington Beach Police Department conducted a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint on Saturday, September 20, on Main Street at Yorktown Avenue from 7:25 p.m. to 2:20 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 12 months, there have been 11 alcohol-related collisions on Main Street. These resulted in one person being injured and two fatalities. There have also been 67 citations issued to drivers on Main Street for driving without a license 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 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 DUI enforcement strategies.

Here are some of our statistics from Saturday's checkpoint:
- 1,082 Vehicles through the checkpoint
- 1,003 Vehicles screened and given pamphlet with information on DUI
- 6 Standardized Field Sobriety Tests administered
- 2 DUI-Alcohol impaired drivers arrested
- 1 Warrant Arrest
- 5 Drivers cited for operating a vehicle while unlicensed
- 0 Vehicle impounds
- 8 Citations issued for various code violations

The Huntington Beach Police Department will conduct another Sobriety/Drivers License checkpoint in October as part of 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. Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911!
Arrest of "Mission Impossible" Burglar

On September 18, Steven Jay Krueger of Pomona, also known as the “Mission Impossible burglar,” was arrested for committing a commercial burglary of a computer store in Huntington Beach in May, 2013. In this case, the loss was over $100,000 in laptop computers. None of which have been recovered. Krueger can be seen in several YouTube videos explaining how he conducts his large scale commercial burglaries and steals high-end electronics. He also has a Facebook page where he lists himself as the “Mission Impossible Burglar”. He is a sophisticated burglar who is known as a meticulous planner and uses specialized tools, often to gain entry through the roof, lowering himself into the location and bypassing alarm systems and other security devices.

The arrest in this case was the culmination of a great deal of investigatory cooperation between a number of law enforcement agencies. Investigatory work by the Anaheim Police Department and assistance by the Los Angeles County Probation Department’s Special Enforcement Operations Unit were key as was assistance in the apprehension of Krueger by the Pomona Police Department. After being briefed regarding the circumstances of the case, a Pomona PD patrol officer stopped Krueger while he was riding his bicycle.

Several key pieces of information that ultimately led to the arrest of Krueger were a result of the work of the Orange County District Attorney’s Office DNA Unit. Orange County Crime Lab DNA test results of evidence found at the crime scene and the follow-up investigative work by the OCDA Bureau of Investigation were instrumental in putting all the facts of the case together. Krueger is currently being held in the Huntington Beach City Jail pending transfer to Orange County Jail on charges of Commercial Burglary and a “no bail” probation violation.
Planning Commission

On Tuesday, September 23, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers the Planning Commission will review the following items:

1. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 13-036 – APPEAL (MACARTHUR GROUP COMMERCIAL BUILDING)**: To permit the development of a vacant parcel with the construction of a new 3,700 sq. ft. commercial building consisting of a 24-hour, 2,300 sq. ft. convenience store with alcohol sales for off-site consumption and 1,400 sq. ft. eating and drinking establishment with outdoor dining in conjunction with the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The project is located at 16001 Bolsa Chica Street, 92649 (southwest corner of Edinger Avenue and Bolsa Chica Street). Please contact Jill Arabe, Associate Planner, for more information.

2. **ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT NO. 12-001 (ZSO MAINTENANCE)**: To amend four chapters of the Huntington Beach Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance (ZSO) that will reorganize entitlement permits of certain applications to the lower hearing body, codify existing policies, and clarify certain sections of the ZSO. The four chapters to be amended are Chapter 203, Definitions; Chapter 211, Commercial Districts; Chapter 212, Industrial Districts; and Chapter 230, Site Standards. Please contact Joanna Cortez, Assistant Planner, for more information.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City’s website http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/PJB/pcl/PCAgendas.cfm

Please contact the Planning Division, at (714) 536-5271, with any questions.
Election Time!

It is election time and calls are beginning to come in regarding Political signs. The following information is being provided to help staff direct calls to the appropriate party:

The Huntington Beach Municipal Code defines Political Sign as: *A sign identifying either a candidate for public office or an issue relating to a forthcoming election.*

Election signs or political signs:

1. Political signs are not allowed on public property (city parks, civic center, beaches, etc.); they are permitted in public rights-of-way, except medians and dividers. Political signs cannot create traffic or safety hazards (HBZC 233.08); and

2. Political signs may be posted no sooner than 50 days before an Election Day (September 15), and must be taken down no later than 10 days following the Election Day (November 14). Signs on public property may be removed by anyone beginning the Friday after Election Day (HBZC 233.08); and

3. Political signs on public trees in the public right-of-way can only be attached with rope … *“No person shall attach any wire, nail, advertising material or any other foreign object to any tree, plant or shrub, or allow any gaseous liquid or solid substance to come into contact therewith, which gaseous liquid or other substance is harmful to such tree, plant or shrub.”* (HBMC 13.50.180); and

4. Permission from the property owner should always be secured prior to placement of Political signs on private property (HBZC 233.08)

Calls regarding Political signs causing damage to trees or shrubs should be directed to the Public Works Department at (714) 536-5431.

Calls regarding Political signs creating traffic or safety hazards, signs located in street medians/dividers, or defaced Political signs should be directed to the Police Department at (714) 960-8825.

Calls regarding Political signs placed on private property or signs posted outside of the code-identified timeframe, should be directed to Code Enforcement at (714) 375-5155.
LIVE ELECTION NIGHT TELEVISION COVERAGE ON TAP FOR HUNTINGTON BEACH!

PCTA-produced coverage set for Tuesday, November 4 from 9 p.m. to Midnight

Residents of Huntington Beach can watch live, local television coverage of the 2014 election on Tuesday, November 4 from 9 p.m. to Midnight on Channel 3.

Produced by the Public Cable Television Authority (PCTA), the exclusive coverage will include in-depth looks at the races that matter to local residents: City Council, Assembly and Senate, as well as local measures, school board contests and more.

In addition to in-studio interviews, analysis, and up-to-the-minute results, PCTA will be broadcasting live from various election night gatherings, bringing you interviews with many of the candidates.

PCTA’s live election night coverage and other exclusive local programming can be seen on Time Warner Cable and Verizon FiOS Channel 3.

Huntington Beach Surfed in as Host Town

Thursday, September 18, Surf City USA announced that Huntington Beach will be an official Host Town for the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles (LA2015).

With the sounds of ukuleles in the air, professional volleyball players competing in the sand, artistic surfboards from Surfboards on Parade, and old fashioned “woody” cars on display, speakers gathered one-by-one to express their excitement, love and compassion for the Special World Games!

It was a great event and Huntington Beach could not be more thrilled to participate in the Host Town program!

With assistance from local businesses, residents, and community service groups, Huntington Beach will provide an authentic Southern California, beach community experience to their selected delegation of World Games athletes, including the surf and sand of Huntington’s famous beaches. Huntington Beach has coupled their efforts alongside the City of Fountain Valley and planned multiple cultural activities to provide the experience of a lifetime for the LA2015 World Games athletes. More details coming soon!
Tip-A-Cop Recap!

Thursday, September 18, our very own HBPD worked as guest hosts and waiters at the California Pizza Kitchen while collecting “tips” that were donated to benefit Orange County Special Olympics. There was a great turn-out and tons of fun, including police cars and motorcycles, antique police cars, HB Search and Rescue and much more!

A goal of $5,000 was set and was not only met, but exceeded through generous “tips” and raffle ticket sales. HBPD raised $6,660! Way to go!

A big thank you goes out to everyone who participated and a big thank you to the California Pizza Kitchen!

Information Services

City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips

Did you know the City website has a very large selection of streaming videos? You can watch a variety of videos such as HBTV3 Live, archived videos of Surf City Highlights, City Works, City Attractions, City Events and videos about the City departments. You can find a link to this page from the City site homepage or under the Residents navigation tab.

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/videos
City Hall Directory

City Attorney   (714) 536-5555
City Clerk    (714) 536-5227
Passports    (714) 536-1600
City Council   (714) 536-5553
City Manager  (714) 536-5202
Community Services  (714) 536-5486
Beach Operations   (714) 536-5281
Business Development   (714) 536-5542
Finance Department  (714) 536-5630
Business Licenses  (714) 536-5267
Fire Department   (714) 536-5411
Human Resources   (714) 536-5492
Information Services   (714) 536-5515
Library Services   (714) 842-4481
Planning & Building  (714) 536-5271
Code Enforcement   (714) 375-5155
Police Department  (714) 960-8811
Public Works   (714) 536-5431
Graffiti Removal  (714) 960-8861