

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

September 6, 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Marine Safety

On August 31 at 6:15 PM, Marine Safety Dispatch received a mutual aid request from Huntington Beach Police Dispatch for a submerged swimmer at Tower #26 in Seal Beach. A team consisting of nine Lifeguards responded. Marine Safety Officer II Claude Panis served as the Marine Safety observer in the Huntington Beach Police helicopter. Huntington Beach Lifeguards assisted with swimmer line searches, line search management, and agency liaison. At 7:45 PM, the swimmer had not been located and Huntington Beach Marine Safety resources were released from the scene.

FIRE

National Preparedness Month

Recent disasters are a reminder of the devastating impact they can have on people and communities. The city is exposed to a variety of hazards such as earthquakes, flood, tsunami, terrorism, etc., and our greatest individual defense is being prepared. During an incident, emergency response personnel may become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. Are you fully prepared if a disaster strikes Huntington Beach today?

Preparing for a disaster is a top priority of the city's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program. Countless hours have been spent preparing disaster plans, training our employees and volunteers, organizing exercises, and ensuring that the city is prepared for any emergency that may occur in our community. However, we cannot do it on our own.

The following are three important steps you and your family should take to be prepared.

- 1) Get a Kit
- 2) Make a Plan
- 3) Get Educated

Get a Kit

Local officials and relief workers will be on-scene after a disaster, but cannot reach everyone immediately. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut-off for an extended period of time.

There are several different types of kits including a 72 hour Disaster Supply Kit, Grab-n-Go Bags, and Car Supply kits that are essential to being prepared. These kits are a collection of basic items a family would need to stay safe and be comfortable during the early onset of a disaster.

Some of the basic supplies that should be included in the kits are:

- Water (one gallon per person, per day for at least three days) for drinking and sanitation
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit, prescription medications and glasses
- Toiletries, moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Copies of important family documents such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records stored in a waterproof, portable container
- Cell phone with charger

NOTE: For a more complete list and instructions, please visit the online resources provided below.

Make a Plan

Family members may not be together when disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how to contact one another; how to get back together; and what to do in various situations.

The following emergency plan templates are available at www.ReadyOC.org:

- Family Emergency Plan
- Pet Emergency Plan
- Senior Emergency Plan
- Evacuation Plan

Get Educated

Orange County has one of the highest disaster rates in the country so it is important that you become educated. Preparedness must account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do in an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

The city offers disaster education through several modes, but most effectively through Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). CERT is a FEMA endorsed training program that prepares you to assist others in the community in the event of a disaster. By becoming CERT trained you learn the skills to save lives and property. CERT classes are free, but registration is required. Register on-line at: www.HuntingtonBeachca.gov/cert.

For more information:

Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-374-1565

Disaster Preparedness On-line Resources

www.ReadyOC.org
www.HuntingtonBeachca.gov/CERT
www.Ready.gov
www.ShakeOut.org
www.AlertOC.org

INFORMATION SERVICES

Residents and Visitors can view information about the many city parks at:
http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/parks_facilities/parks/

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ahoy, Scallywags, Pirate Has Come Astern! Mango Pirate is back!

Ahoy, mateys! Be ye ready fer some swashbucklin' and carousin'? Learn the art of pirate parley from a true gentleman o' fortune: the Mango Languages Pirate Language course has risen from the depths o' Davy Jones's Locker ter make a reappearance just in time fer International Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19th). Ye'll be learnin' the proper way to hail yer cap'n and get the landlubbin' scallywags on board a-sailin' smartly, among other phrases ye'll be needin' on the high seas.

Mango Languages online, at the Huntington Beach Library, also has USEFUL language learning tools. 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 it's available now on the library's home page. Whether brushing up on a language, planning an international trip, or learning 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

On September 8, 2011, the Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on the following items:

- 1) **DR NO. 11-014 / PSP NO. 04-007R (CVS WINDOW GRAPHICS / THE STRAND SIGN PROGRAM AMENDMENT)** to review the proposed design, colors, and materials of proposed window graphics, and amend PSP 04-007 to increase the maximum letter height for wall signs to 36 inches;
- 2) **DR NO. 11-012 (SEACLIFF VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER FACADE)** to review the design, colors, and materials for the exterior façade;
- 3) **DR NO. 11-013 / PSP. 11-002 / SCE NO. 11-002 (BEACH PROMENADE SHOPPING CENTER SIGNS)** to review a request to establish a planned sign program, the design, colors, and materials of the signs, and permit (a) 5 freestanding signs in lieu of the maximum allowed 3 freestanding signs for the commercial center, (b) 1 freestanding sign at the height of 40 ft. in lieu of the maximum allowed 20 ft., (c) 1 freestanding sign at 132 sq. ft. in lieu of the maximum allowed 100 sq. ft., (d) 2,054 sq. ft. of wall signs in lieu of the maximum allowed of 200 sq. ft. for the entire site, (e) 272 sq. ft. of wall signs in lieu of the maximum allowed of 172 sq. ft. for Building A (70 sq. ft. on Building A south elevation and 30 sq. ft. on Building A west elevation), (f) a 42 sq. ft. wall sign for Suite A-2 to be located at Suite A-1 on Building A south elevation (off-premise sign), (g) a 42 sq. ft. wall sign for Suite A-2 to be located at Suite A-1 on Building A east elevation (off-premise sign), (h) a 30 sq. ft. wall sign for Suite A-1 on Building A west elevation (additional sign), (i) total parking lot facing signs (189 sq. ft.) to exceed the total street facing signs (85 sq. ft.), (j) 291 sq. ft. of wall signs in lieu of the maximum allowed of 244 sq. ft. for Building F to permit wall signs for the second floor office tenants (47 sq. ft.), (k) 3 walls signs (1 primary, 2 secondary) per elevation in lieu of the allowed 1 wall sign (primary) for Buildings C, E, and I to permit identification of separate business entities within the leasehold, (l) 3 directional wall signs attached to the drive-thru canopy on Building I, and (m) exposed neon illumination on pad tenant and shop tenant wall signs.

A copy of the agenda is available on the City's website.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Police Officer sworn in by Chief Ken Small

On September 6, Police Chief Ken Small swore in Thomas Engle as the newest police officer with the City of Huntington Beach. Officer Thomas Engle comes to our department with four years of experience with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department. The swearing in was joined by Mayor Joe Carchio, City Manager Fred Wilson, Deputy City Manager Bob Hall, Deputy City Manager Paul Emery, members of the Huntington Beach Police Department, and many family and friends of Officer Thomas Engle.

Officer Thomas Engle is the first police officer hired in 32 months. The police department plans on hiring several more police officers in the coming months in anticipation of several retirements.

PUBLIC WORKS

Abandoned Well Site Receives Aesthetic Improvements

Construction is complete on a landscape/hardscape improvement project through an abandoned water well site located on the northwest corner of Edinger Avenue and Springdale Street just south of Marina High School. This is no ordinary landscaping project, but is rather a showcase of environmentally friendly features. All plants and shrubs (iceberg roses, day lilies, rosemary, sundowner) provided in the project are drought/pest/disease resistant species. King and Windmill Palms, once established, will have the same water requirements as the surrounding drought resistant plants/shrubs. A rain gauge was incorporated into the solar irrigation controller to minimize water use. A 1,100 square-foot colored, pervious concrete area was installed to allow for infiltration of runoff into the soil. At the lowest point of the landscape area, a gravel strip was installed to capture and contain runoff within the planted area to further reduce irrigation needs. Engineered wood fiber is used to reduce evaporation of irrigated water, moderate soil temperature, provide nutrients into the landscape, and prevent germination of weeds, thereby reducing maintenance needs. Construction cost for the project was \$132,000.