

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

February 6, 2012

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Huntington Beach Senior Services needs volunteer Easter Bunnies to deliver holiday meals to qualified older residents on Easter Sunday April 8, 2012, from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. These older adults, alone on the holiday, enjoy the short visit and festive meal and it is a wonderful way to introduce volunteering to family and friends. Contact Diane Swarts, Volunteer Coordinator, 714-374-1544, dswarts@surfcity-hb.org.

Project Self Sufficiency

Project Self Sufficiency is teaming up with the Project Self Sufficiency Foundation to reach out to the Huntington Beach Community for scholarship donations. Now more than ever, donations are needed to help parents stay in school. Donations to the PSS Foundation will allow highly motivated, single parents to stay in school and receive basic resources such as book reimbursements, childcare assistance, rental assistance, transportation assistance, and access to the PSS food bank. For more information, contact Project Self Sufficiency at 714-536-5439.

Recreation Programs

Aquatics Programs are available for a second winter session beginning February 14 and 15. The City Gym and Pool offers a complete American Red Cross swim program with American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors and Lifeguards. The program is designed to meet a variety of swimming needs. Whether it is learning new swimming techniques or recreational enjoyment of the water, the City Pool has programs for students aged six-months through adult and teaches skills from water adjustment through lifeguarding techniques. Visit www.hbsands.org for information on this and other recreation programs...the benefits are endless!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mardi Gras on Main Street

Join in the fun at the Surf City Nights Mardi Gras themed event in Downtown Huntington Beach on February 21, 2012. Watch as Downtown transforms into our very own Mardi Gras extravaganza. Come dressed in your favorite Mardi Gras attire and be sure to enter the mask contest. The event kicks off at 5:00 p.m. with live music and entertainment. For more details visit: <http://www.hb-downtown.com>.

Section 8 Housing Assistance for Very Low-Income Individuals in Orange County

The Orange County Housing Authority has announced that it will open its Waiting List to accept pre-applications for housing assistance from February 15 until February 29, 2012. The Section 8 Waiting List is the only opportunity for very low-income families, seniors, disabled persons, and individuals to obtain a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. November 2005 was the last time the waiting list was opened. Therefore, the waiting list may be the

only opportunity for Orange County residents to apply for many years to come. Interested persons are encouraged to log onto: www.ochousing.org or call OCHA's Waiting List Information Line at 714-480-2740 for updated information. Beginning February 15 through February 29, 2012, applications can be submitted online at: www.ochousing.org; faxed to 714-667-6544; or mailed to P.O. 22005, Santa Ana, CA 92702.

FIRE

Residential Structure Fire

On February 4, 2012 at approximately 9:30 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a residential structure fire on Oceanhill Drive where a fire had broken out in the garage of a two-story single family home. The residents detected an odor of smoke and investigated to find their dryer ablaze and fire spreading in the garage. The family evacuated and called 911. The smoke detectors in the home activated and a fire alarm was transmitted by their alarm company just after the fire crews were dispatched. The fire was quickly extinguished and firefighters confirmed that there was no extension of fire into the house. Early detection and quick response minimized what could have been a significant fire in this home.

High-Rise Apartment and Condominium Safety

People living in a high-rise apartment or condominium building need to think ahead and be prepared in the event of a fire. It is important to know the fire safety features in your building and work together with neighbors to help keep the building as fire-safe as possible.

Be Prepared

- For the best protection, select a fully sprinklered building. If your building is not sprinklered, ask the landlord or management to consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features in your building (fire alarms, sprinklers, voice communication procedures, evacuation plans and how to respond to an alarm).
- Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Make sure all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked, not locked or blocked by security bars, and clear of clutter.
- If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out to notify the fire department and your neighbors.
- If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If the door is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest way out.
- If an announcement is made throughout the building, listen carefully and follow directions.
- Use the stairs to get out – never use the elevator unless you are directed to by the fire department.

Escape 101

- Go to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call 9-1-1. If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.

- If you can't get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or a disability, stuff wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out.
- Call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are located.
- Open a window slightly and wave a bright cloth to signal your location. Be prepared to close the window if it makes the smoke condition worse.
- Fire Department evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor evacuation status.

For information, please visit www.nfpa.org/education.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Interested in how the City is managing its investments? You can download the City Treasurers monthly Investment Reports from the City website at:

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/elected_officials/city_treasurer/investments/

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Adult Literacy @ Your Library

The most recent Tutor Training Workshop at the Central library concluded on Wednesday, February 1 with 14 tutors completing the class. A really exciting development is that two of our workshop attendees are tutors who are returning to tutor again, and came to brush-up on their skills before being re-matched.

The Literacy network, SCLLN, sponsors a "Writer to Writer" contest each year and the library has several entries again this year. Entries are judged by peers in literacy programs around the state and the winners go as SCLLN's guests to the annual literacy conference, Saturday, February 25 in Buena Park. The HB Literacy board's student liaison is facilitating a team of five learners to judge entries in one of the categories.

Autism Awareness

HB Reads is proud to host two special events. Register online at www.hbread.org to secure a ticket to hear author and autism advocate Temple Grandin speak at the Huntington Beach High School Gym on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. Her books will be sold at the event. Space is limited - guarantee your space by registering early. A \$10 donation is suggested.

For those wishing to have a more intimate encounter with Ms. Grandin, there will be an author reception and fundraiser at the Zimzala Restaurant at the Shorebreak Hotel in Huntington Beach on Wednesday, March 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cheese and wine will be served. A very limited number of tickets may be purchased for \$75 online at: www.hbread.org.

Fun and Tasty Fundraiser Benefits the Children's Library

The Taste of Huntington Beach will be held on Sunday, April 29 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Huntington Beach Sports Complex. VIP Reception is from 11:00 to noon. Before March 31, tickets are \$60 each and \$80 VIP. After March 31, tickets are \$65 and \$85. All proceeds benefit the Children's Library. Sample a variety of different foods, wines, and beers. Price is

all inclusive. There will be a silent auction, music and a raffle. To purchase tickets and to get more information about this event go to: www.tastehb.com.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

HB Single Use Carryout Bag Ordinance – Draft Environmental Impact Report

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, the 45-day review period will commence for the Huntington Beach Single Use Carryout Bag Ordinance (EIR No. 11-002). The Draft EIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the adoption of a proposed ordinance by the City of Huntington Beach City Council that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carryout bags in commercial point of sale purchases within the City of Huntington Beach and establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carryout bags at all grocery stores and supermarkets, drug stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, foodmarts and Huntington Beach farmer's markets. All stores affected by the proposed ordinance would be required to provide reusable bags to customers for either sale or at no charge, and each store would be strongly encouraged to promote the use of reusable bags through staff education and customer outreach.

The Ordinance would also prohibit the distribution of compostable and biodegradable bags, as they are included in the definition of a plastic carryout bag. The Ordinance requires that the paper bags be one hundred percent (100%) recyclable overall, contain a minimum of forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled material, and be accepted for recycling in curbside programs within the City, among other criteria. The Ordinance further requires that reusable bags be specifically designed and manufactured at a minimum lifetime of 125 uses, be machine washable or made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected, does not contain lead, cadmium, or other heavy elements in toxic amounts. Plastic bags that are a minimum of 2.25 mils thick are considered to be reusable bags per the definition in the Ordinance. The Ordinance would exempt from the ten (10) cent charge those customers who are participating in either the California Special Supplemental Food Program for the Women, Infants, and Children or the Supplemental Food Program. All applicable stores must provide at the point of sale, free of charge, either reusable bags or recyclable paper carryout bags or both, to these customers, at the store's option. Customers will have the option to use their own reusable bags, or no bag at all.

Any person wishing to comment on the request may do so in writing within the 45-day comment period by providing written comments to Hayden Beckman, Planning Aide, City of Huntington Beach Planning and Building Department, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. The 45-day comment period will end on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 5:00 PM.

A copy of Draft EIR No. 11-002 is on file with the Planning and Building Department, City Hall—3rd Floor, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. The Draft EIR is also available for review at the City's Clerk's Office, City Hall—2nd Floor, the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; and on the internet at: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/Environmentalreports.cfm>

POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Police Officers sworn in by Chief Ken Small

On January 31, 2012, Chief Ken Small swore in Officer Andy Alvarado and Officer Angela Bennett as the newest police officers with the City of Huntington Beach.

Officer Alvarado has over 11 years experience between the California Highway Patrol and, most recently, the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Officer Bennett has over 9 years experience between the Torrance Police Department and the Chula Vista Police Department.

The swearing in was joined by their families and the Huntington Beach Police Department. The police department plans to hire several more police officers in the coming months in anticipation of upcoming retirements.

PUBLIC WORKS

Beach Blvd. Water Main Extensions

Work has been completed on the Beach Blvd. Water Main Extension project. The work consisted of installation of 1,150 linear feet of 12-inch diameter water main pipe on Beach Blvd. between Talbert and Slater in order to eliminate dead-end water mains to improve water quality by improving circulation consistent with the City's Water Master Plan. The contractor on this project was Garcia Juarez Construction from Brea, CA. Work started on September 28, 2011, and was recently completed. The cost of the project was \$320,000 and was funded by the City Water Master Plan Fund.