

Spring
2013

City News

Huntington Beach

21st Annual "On Course" Golf Tournament

Show Us Your HB!

We love Huntington Beach and we know that you love Huntington Beach too! Our Public Information Office is looking for photo's that showcase beautiful Huntington Beach. We invite you to turn your Huntington Beach memory into a picture, and enter the "Show me your HB" photo contest to win an annual beach parking pass! You can use our famous pier or beautiful Central Park, but we also want to see your memories from other HB "hot spots" – the possibilities are endless!

- Maybe it's the wetlands that you love...
- Or are you drawn to the public art?
- Maybe you enjoy people watching at Pier Plaza...
- Or attending a recreation program or special event?

We will select a photo winner quarterly, and it will be featured on the Official City of Huntington Beach website. Each Quarter, the winner will receive a FREE Municipal Beach Parking Pass, so grab your camera and share your favorite HB memories with us! Whatever it is that draws you into the spirit of HB, be it the parks or beach, people or the arts, just show us by submitting your favorite photo sometime between March 1, 2013 and June 1, 2013. Just visit www.surfcity-hb.org and go to "Show Us Your HB" for more information!

The *Huntington Beach Council on Aging* and Title Sponsors, *First Bank and Capital Source Bank*, invite you to take part in the 21st Annual "On Course" Golf Tournament, Friday, June 21, 2013, at Meadowlark Golf Club in Huntington Beach. The day will begin with a putting contest and barbeque lunch, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. A buffet awards dinner with raffles, auctions and other fun activities as well as a no host bar, will immediately follow the tournament around 6 pm. The proceeds from this tournament help to support seniors, low-income seniors and their families through many beneficial programs offered by the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center and Huntington Beach Seniors Outreach Center. Senior Services provides a wide variety of services, classes, activities and clubs designed to support seniors in staying healthy, active and independent. For further golf and sponsorship information, visit www.hbcoa.org, or call Rodgers Seniors' Center at 714-536-9387.



Save Money and Water Protecting Water Quality

Cooler and rainy weather = reduced water bill. Extend savings BEYOND the rainy season, AND help protect our waterways with a water-wise landscape. Visit www.mwdoc.com/services/turf-removal for information on how you may receive a rebate for replacing your lawn with water-wise plants – virtually maintenance-free!

As rainwater washes across roofs, sidewalks, and driveways, it picks up pollutants and deposits them directly into local waterways. Permeable pavers or porous concrete help minimize impervious surfaces. Redirect rainwater to vegetated areas or capture for irrigation. Visit www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hbwater/ for information on rain barrels. Soak up stormwater runoff from your roof or other impervious areas in a “rain garden”, an attractive, low water/maintenance alternative to thirsty lawn. Retaining stormwater on-site reduces runoff, local flooding, and recharges our valuable groundwater supply. Adding compost or other organic material to clay soils restores ability to infiltrate rainwater, reduces watering, and conserves water.



Shipley Nature Center

**Spring Festival at Shipley –
Saturday, April 27th, 9 am to 2 pm.**

Come and join in the family fun. Nature exhibits, crafts for children, the California Native Plant Sale. Learn about Monarch Butterflies. Guided tours through the California Native Plant Gardens and habitats.

Composting Seminars

Mark your calendars for **May 18**, at 9:30 am to learn all about Composting and Vermicomposting. Learn how to turn kitchen scraps and backyard cuttings into “black gold.” Those valuable resources available to you every day that you might be throwing away can be made into rich, organic home compost.

See www.shipleynature.org for all event details.

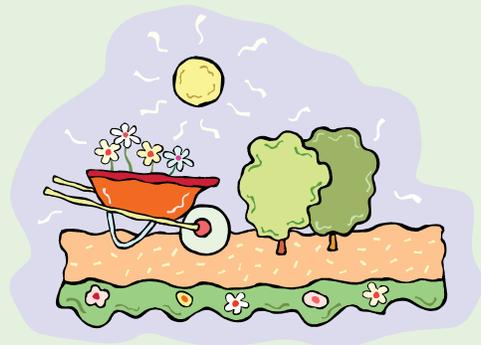
Visit Shipley Nature Center and enjoy the essence of nature in an urban setting. 17851 Goldenwest St. 714-842-4772. Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm.

Do You Love Gardening?

Did you know that Huntington Beach has its own Community Garden? Plots are available for a small annual fee. Enjoy growing organic fruits, vegetables and flowers that you can share with family and friends. Visit the HBCG website for more information:

www.HuntingtonBeachCommunityGarden.com

Huntington Beach Community Garden
P.O. Box 5891, Huntington Beach CA 92615





Flood Protection Information

As we enter the rainy season, please remember that your property may be located in or near a floodplain. Although improvements to the Santa Ana River have reduced potential flood impacts, flooding in our city may occur. Flooding may be caused by the Santa Ana River, East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel, Talbert Channel, Huntington Beach Channel, or the Pacific Ocean. Most floods occur when the floodwaters leave the river or channels; however, abnormally large sea waves (tsunamis) from the ocean may create flooding near the coastline.

Historical flooding of Huntington Beach dates back to 1825. Although flood control improvements have been and continue to be made, flooding can still occur today. Flooding can come with little warning. Residents in flood prone areas will be warned of an actual emergency by either a phone call using the AlertOC emergency notification system or the sounding of sirens at each of the eight fire stations. Warning and emergency procedures will be announced on local cable HBTB-3 (Channel 3), and radio station KWVE (107.9 FM). If flood is likely, and time permits, move your valuable furnishings and essential items to the upper floor of your home or higher off the floor. Place sandbags around your property to divert floodwater.

You may contact the Planning Division at (714) 536-5271 to determine if a property is in a flood zone, obtain flood protection advice, insurance requirements, and elevation certificates. The Building Division and Public Works Department can also provide assistance regarding construction in the floodplain. If requested, City staff is available to undertake site visits to review flood, drainage or retro-fitting issues. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers provide technical assistance to the City.

During the life of a 30-year mortgage there is a 26% chance of experiencing a flood. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Because Huntington Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System (CRS), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at a reduced rate. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded. There is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent.

More information about NFIP flood insurance requirements is available on the Internet. Visit <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>. The site contains hazard information, a general flood map, and a frequently asked question page. Or you may call 1-888-CALL-FLOOD.

There are several ways that you can protect your property from flood damage. One way is to keep water away by installing a drainage system in your yard that will allow excess water to flow into the storm drain. Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. These measures are called floodproofing or retrofitting. Please remember that any alteration to your building requires a permit from the Planning and Building Department. Important documents and irreplaceable personal objects such as photographs and insurance papers should be placed where they will not get damaged. There are flood protection references available at the Central Library, Main Street Branch, Graham Street Branch, Banning Avenue Branch, and the Planning and Building Department at City Hall.

When a property is located in the floodplain, all new construction or substantial improvement that equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value is required to comply with the City's floodplain overlay regulations which require elevation of residential structures. Nonresidential structures may be elevated and/or floodproofed. A completed flood elevation certificate must be submitted to the City following completion of the structure's lowest floor. Substantially damaged buildings where the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be brought up to the same standards as a new or substantially improved structure.

What you can do:

Flood damage protection depends also on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

- Always check with the City before you build on, alter, regrade, or add fill to your property. A permit is required to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties.
- Do not dump or throw anything in the storm drain catch basins or flood control channels. Dumping is a violation of the City's Municipal Code Sections 14.24.030 and 14.24.035. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug the drainage system. The City has a flood control channel maintenance program which helps to remove major blockages such as weeds and other debris. A plugged drain or channel cannot carry water, and when it rains, the water has to go somewhere. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.

HERE ARE A FEW FLOOD SAFETY TIPS:

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution.

HB Junior Lifeguard Program Turns 50

This will be a landmark for the H.B. City Junior Lifeguard program, serving the youth of Huntington Beach and surrounding areas for 50 years. Junior Lifeguards is designed to acquaint students ages 9 – 17 with the aquatic environment, ocean swimming and related hazards. Students are taught about ocean safety, surf awareness, First Aid, CPR, rescue techniques, surfing, body surfing competition, and much more.

Stressing discipline and physical fitness, students are grouped by age and ability in an effort to encourage courtesy, respect, sound morals and good sportsmanship. Students attending this 8-week program will also participate in field trips, beach games, and volleyball, while learning about Marine life and its related ecology.

Program Schedule:

Monday through Friday, June 24 through August 15, 2013

Morning Session 8:30 am to 12 Noon

Afternoon Session 1 to 4:30 pm

Tryouts:

May 4, May 11, May 18, and May 19

(Time and Place to be announced)

Swim: 100 yards in 1:50 or better

Tread water: 5 minutes

Swim under water: 10 yards

Plan ahead! If your son or daughter is not a member of a competitive swim team, now is the time to get into a swim program. Many swim clubs in the area offer prep-programs to get students ready for the Junior Lifeguard tryouts.

Current pricing has not been set at the time of this publication. If you would like to see last year's program, please feel free to look us up at www.juniorguard.com. The web sight will be updated in February for the 2013 season. Complete information will be published in the Spring addition of the Sands or will be available on the website February of 2013.

Be a part of the program that has already served over 40,000 students!



Fix up your home with a little help from the City of Huntington Beach

Need some work done around the house? The City of Huntington Beach offers loans with low interest rates and deferred payments to homeowners of low and moderate income to make needed repairs. Homeowners can get affordable home improvement financing up to \$75,000. Funds can be used to correct code problems and for general property improvements. Eligibility factors include: income must meet the eligibility guidelines; homes must be owner occupied and in Huntington Beach; property must be in need of repair to meet City codes; and must have acceptable credit worthiness.



For more information, call (626) 331-6373.



Save the Date!
October 27, 2013
10 Miler & 10K Road Race
5K Beach Obstacle Challenge

BeachDerby.com

Beach Information



City Beach: Encompassing 3.5 miles from Beach Boulevard to the west city limits, the city boasts one of the world's finest beaches. The beachfront includes the municipal pier, food and rental concessions, restrooms, showers, volleyball nets, fire rings, and a 2,200 space beach parking lot plus additional parking on Pacific Coast Highway and adjacent streets. New buildings on the municipal pier, a new Visitors Kiosk at Pier Plaza, and new restrooms along Blufftop Park north of the Pier will enhance beach visits for both residents and visitors. Lifeguard service is provided during daylight hours 365 days a year. The number and location of lifeguards on duty varies depending on season, weather and surf conditions. Please note posted signage for information. Curfew is 10:00 pm to 5:00 am and is strictly enforced. Beach Headquarters: 103 Pacific Coast Highway. Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Phone: 714 536-5281 Emergencies: call 911.

For information on Municipal Beach Parking Pass, Main Promenade Parking Structure, Day Use Parking, Pier Plaza Parking, and Sunset Vista RV Park, please visit www.surfcity-hb.org/visitors/parking/ or call 714 536-5281.



Stress-Free Travel Starts at City Hall!

City of Huntington Beach Passport Facility

Ready for a vacation? Tired of long lines? Your time is precious, and that is why our agents strive to make your passport application process as quick and easy as possible.

City Hall offices are open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (except holidays). Photo services are available - standard fees apply.

Location: 2000 Main Street @ Main/Yorktown, 2nd Floor

Phone: 714-374-1600

Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/passports

