

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

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**August 15, 2011**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Plastic Bag Ban in HB**

The City Council took the first step to ban single-use plastic shopping bags from being distributed in the City. The council voted 4-3 (Mayor Carchio, Mayor Pro Tem Hansen and Councilmember Harper voted against the action). The action taken last night directs the City Attorney to develop an ordinance using the City of Long Beach as a model. Council also wants to institute an educational outreach to residents and businesses. Huntington Beach is the first city in Orange County to pursue a ban on single use shopping bags.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Huntington Beach Art Center**

Join us for a free Late 8 special event on Tuesday August 16 from 6-8 pm. as the Art Center presents a gallery talk with the artists of *String Theory*. Julia Haft- Candell and Julia Couzens will host a discussion with the audience about their ideas and practices. The artists will also be available for a catalog signing on Wednesday, August 17 during the monthly Art Walk. Refreshments will be served. Call the Art Center for information at 714-374-1650

### **Project Self Sufficiency Back Pack Event, August 19, 2011**

Once again, through the generosity of the Huntington Beach Community and First Christian Church, PSS will give away Back Packs stuffed with school supplies and gift cards for all of the children in our families. PSS will distribute approximately 100 back packs to all of the children who are in school, including pre-school aged children. Participant families will have dinner and receive their back packs. The event will be held at 5:30 at Rodgers Senior Center. Additionally, PSS families will be connected with Operation School Bell through the Assistance League of Huntington Beach. This program allows the parent to shop for a new school outfit for their children.

### **Senior Services**

#### **HB Council on Aging Line Dance Party**

On Friday, August 5, over 60 people gathered at the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center for a stompin' good time. Led by dance instructor Suzy Hazard, beginning to advanced line dancers joined together to show off their best moves, enjoy refreshments, and hang out. The next line dance party will held November 4, 7 – 9:30 pm, at the senior center, 1706 Orange Avenue. The \$5.00 admission includes refreshments & snacks. New line dances classes will be forming at the senior center in September on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Invite a friend and experience the mental and physical benefits of dance and the joy of moving to the music. Enroll in a class through the Sands Community Services Guide, [www.hbsands.org](http://www.hbsands.org), or at the front desk of the senior center. For more information about the party or dance classes, call Rodgers Seniors Center at 714-536-9387.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Summer Finale – HB Gastro-Truck Fest On Sunday 8/21

Get your taste buds ready for the last HB Gastro-Truck Fest of the summer at Peter's Landing, this Sunday, August 21 from 11 AM to 3 PM. The lineup features the following gourmet trucks: Flavor Rush, Calbi, Crepes Bonaparte, Brats Berlin, Komodo, Kona Ice, Waffles de Liege, Slap Fish, Seabirds, and a few more. For more information, log on to [www.facebook.com/gastrotruck](http://www.facebook.com/gastrotruck).

## FIRE

### Car Seat Installation

Car seat installation is not one of the services performed by the Fire Department, but there are several agencies in Orange County that provide car seat safety classes and inspections. Huntington Beach residents can contact:

- 1) Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) – to register, call 714-532-8887  
They offer free car seat classes and inspections once a month. One on One appointments are available for a \$50 fee.
- 2) California Highway Patrol – Westminster - call 714-892-4426 for an appointment  
13200 Golden West Street  
Westminster, CA 92683

### Child Passenger Safety

Car crashes are a leading cause of death in the US to children 1-14 years of age according to the National Center for Health Statistics. They are also a major cause of permanent brain damage, epilepsy, and spinal cord injuries. Many of the deaths and injuries can be prevented with the proper use of car seats.

California Law says that children must ride in a child restraint until they are 6 years old or 60 pounds. Children over 6 years or 60 pounds must ride in a properly fitted seat belt until they are 16 years old. To achieve a proper fit, most children need to ride in a booster seat after they outgrow car seats. Make sure the lap belt fits low over the hips and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest. Use of booster seats requires BOTH a lap and shoulder belt.

As of January 2005, children must ride in the back seat until they are at least 6 years old or weigh 60 pounds.

CHOC recommendations:

- Always read and follow the directions that come with the car seat.
- Read your car owner's manual. It will describe how your seat belts lock, if you need to use a locking clip to put in your car seat, and if you can use a tether strap to reduce forward head movement in a crash.

- All seats have height and weight limits. Make sure you buy a seat that is appropriate for your child's height, weight, and physical needs.
- If your car seat is over 6 years old or has been in a crash, it may not be safe. Buy a new one.
- Put children under 13 in the back seat. It is the safest place for any child to ride.
- Get a tight fit. Car seats should move no more than one inch from side to side or toward the front of the car.
- Children should face the rear of the vehicle until age 2 or until they reach the maximum height and weight of their seat.
- NEVER put an infant facing the rear of the car in the front seat with an active airbag.
- Harness straps should be as snug as possible and the harness clip should be placed at armpit level.
- Young infants need to ride reclined to keep their airway open. The most a rear facing car seat should be reclined is 45 degrees.

For more Child Passenger Safety information or resources near you, please call CHOC Community Education at 714-532-8887.

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

Free CPR classes are available to HB residents who are members of the FireMed Program. You can view the latest class schedule at:

<http://huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/Fire/FireMed/CPRtraining.cfm>

### **LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Family Literacy Tutor Training**

Being a literacy volunteer is fun and challenging! The Family Literacy Program helps adults in the community learn to understand, speak, read and write English in order to reach personal goals and to help their children succeed in school. Volunteers meet with adult students 1.5 to 2 hours a week at the Oak View Branch Library. The next five-session tutor training workshop will start on Monday, October 3, 2011. For more information about being a literacy volunteer or the training workshop, please contact Amy Crepeau at (714) 375-5104.

#### **OC Parents Select HB Public Library as the Best!**

The Huntington Beach Public Library recently won two Reader's Choice awards from *Parenting OC* magazine.

HBPL was voted "Best Library" in North Orange County by Parenting OC readers, who said that the library offered the "Best Storytelling time" in the area. Library Director Stephanie Beverage congratulated all staff on their hard work and commitment to providing the best library services possible.

Special thanks are due the Children's Department for providing young library users with a positive learning experience, whether during story times, recommending a book to read,

online homework help, conducting a school tour or training new volunteers to help at the library. So popular are the children's programs that many attendees say they will drive from neighboring communities in order to come to the Huntington Beach Library story times. For additional information, please call (714) 375-5107 or contact the Library's web site at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org).

## [PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT](#)

### **Planning Commission Meeting: August 23, 2011**

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Coastal Development Permit No. 09-001/ Conditional Use Permit No. 09-019 (Atlanta Avenue Widening Project). The request is a City-initiated project to widen Atlanta Avenue from Huntington Street to Delaware Street and permit an eight-foot tall block wall atop a variable height (zero to seven feet) retaining wall in lieu of the maximum 42-inch allowable height within the 10-foot front yard setback. Construction of the proposed street improvements will require the acquisition of an additional 25 feet of public street right-of-way from the existing Pacific Mobile Home Park south of Atlanta Avenue. The residents of eight homes would be relocated by the City.

The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on the Lower Level of City Hall. A copy of the agenda will be available on the City's website on Wednesday, August 17.

## [POLICE DEPARTMENT](#)

### **Bicycle Thieves are Present in our Bicycle Friendly Community**

The Huntington Beach Police Department has noticed a sharp increase in the number of bicycle thefts occurring in Huntington Beach. We are a bicycle friendly City, but unfortunately, the thieves are not.

- In June 2011, there were about 60 bicycles stolen throughout the City.
- In July 2011, there were over 100 bicycles stolen throughout the City.

These numbers are two to three times higher than normal for summer months. Some of the bicycles were locked up before they were stolen, but not all of them. Police officers have arrested some of the bicycle thieves and recovered some of the bicycles. Our goal, with the public's help, is to reduce the number of bicycles easily taken by these opportunistic thieves. The following information is taken from the National Crime Prevention Council on how to keep from being a victim of bicycle theft:

**Always lock your bike, especially at home.** More bikes are stolen from home than from any other location. Wherever you store your bike, a garage, a college dorm room, or an apartment building, use your lock.

**Pick a good Location.** Select a location where there are other bikes. The chances are better that there will be a bike with a less secure lock -- or even without a lock -- and thieves will usually take the unlocked bikes first.

Always lock your bike in visible, well-lighted areas.

Lock your bike to a fixed, immovable object like a permanent bike rack that is cemented or anchored into the ground. Beware of locking to items that can be easily cut, broken or otherwise removed.

Try not to let your lock rest against the ground where a thief can use a hammer or rock to smash the lock.

**Use the lock correctly.** Position your bike frame and wheels so that you take up as much of the open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it will be for a thief to insert a pry bar and pry open your lock.

If your U-lock has its keyway on the end of the crossbar, position the lock with its keyway end facing down towards the ground. This makes it harder for the thief to access your lock.

Always secure your components and accessories that can easily be removed, i.e. quick release wheels or seats.

If you have a multi-speed bike, leave it in the highest gear. This makes it that much harder for a thief to shift quickly and get away with your bike.

- **DON'T** leave a new bike unlocked. New bikes have the most value to thieves and they look for them.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to small trees, aluminum or wooden posts, or to chain link fences. These items can be easily broken or cut.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to anything posted as illegal or that is unsafe (such as a stairway railing in a park or to a gate that needs to be opened and closed).
- **DON'T** lock your bike to its self. A thief will just carry the whole bike away!

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **OCTA Award for Catch Basin Retrofit Project**

As part of the Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Allocation Program, OCTA awarded nearly \$3 million to 23 cities and the County of Orange to provide funding for projects that will improve the quality of Orange County's waterways and beaches. The City of Huntington Beach received funding for the McFadden/Edwards and Heil/Algonquin Catch Basin Retrofit Project that will install catch basin screens at 35 locations. The funds awarded will be used to eliminate litter and debris from oceans and waterways.