

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

March 1, 2010

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission will review and finalize all of their recommendations at the March 16 meeting. Unless substantive changes are necessary, a final vote on recommended amendments to the Charter as a whole will take place at the April 6 meeting. The final recommendations of the commission will be forwarded to the City Council for their review.

CITY TREASURER

Customer Service Tip of the Week – Feeling Sleepy?

Get up and take a brisk walk around the block, or even just down the hall. Being upright and active will speed oxygen to your brain and give your energy levels a much-needed boost.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Beach Maintenance

The beach, pier, and parking lots were closed for several hours on Saturday due to a Tsunami warning. Beach Operations reported that high surf and tide pounded Huntington City Beach. On Sunday, waves reaching 16 feet and high tide of 6.3 flooded the beach service road in the morning causing temporary closure for several hours. Beach Maintenance Crews were able to get sand berms up in front of the beach condos and Lifeguard Headquarters before flooding occurred. Clean up from the recent storms continued with the beach crew removing over 3,400 cubic yards of debris from the beach over the last two weeks.

Junior Lifeguard Preparation Class

The 2010 Junior Lifeguard Program is just around the corner. Experienced instructors will help your child improve their swimming skills and teach them tricks to improve their time during the scheduled tryouts in May. This preparation class begins on March 8 and will be held twice a week on either Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday for \$205. Additionally, your child may attend all four days for \$355. Classes are conducted at the Marina High School Pool on Springdale and Edinger from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please log onto hbsands.org for registration information.

Upcoming HB Reads Author Event

Huntington Beach Reads One Book brings the authors of “They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky” to Huntington Beach on Thursday, March 11, 2010. Sudanese refugees now living in Southern California, the authors’ compelling story and their gentle, positive spirit is a moving experience. After fleeing their villages in southern Sudan, Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng and Benjamin Ajak—all under the age of seven—survived on their own for five years before reaching a northern Kenya refugee camp. They became known to the world as the “Lost Boys of Sudan.” Come hear the experiences of Benson and Benjamin, 7 p.m., at the

Huntington Beach High School gymnasium, 1905 Main Street (Main Street and Yorktown Avenue). Admission is free and no reservations or tickets are required. For more information, call 714-536-5486, or visit www.HBReads.org

Dual Arboretum on Display through April 11

The Huntington Beach Art Center is presenting the work of artists Andre Woodward and Charles Timm-Ballard. The exhibit features large scale ceramic sculptural pieces that evoke images of landscapes and interactive sound/light sculptures that include the use of concrete and living trees. Don't miss this exciting contemporary art exhibit. Art Center galleries are open Wednesday – Saturday from 12-6 pm and Sunday from 12-4 pm.

Jewelry Making Sunday Art Workshop Series

Verona Tang teaches this hands-on art workshop which lets you create your own silver jewelry piece. This Sunday, March 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., you will be able to learn how to set a stone with syringe work. Workshops cost \$25.00/\$20.00 for HBAC members plus a materials fee of \$25.00. Pre-registration is required. For more information and registration details please call the Art Center at 714.374.1650 or consult the *Sands Community Brochure* at <http://www.surfcity-hb.org>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Huntington Beach Businesses – How can we help you?

The City values its local businesses. If you are a local business owner, we want the opportunity to speak with you, learn more about your business, and see what we can do to make it easier for you to continue doing business in the City. For more information, log on to www.hbbiz.com or contact Nova Punongbayan at nova@surfcity-hb.org or 714.375.5183.

Summer 2010 Downtown Shuttle Pilot Program

At the March 15, 2010, City Council meeting staff will present an item proposing a free remote parking/lot and shuttle system to service the downtown on weekends, Memorial Day, and Labor Day beginning May 22, 2010, and continuing through Labor Day. This would be a pilot effort to study the effectiveness of the overall program with the potential for a implementing it as an on-going summer program. The remote lot will be located at City Hall; the shuttle would make stops at Main Street and Orange Avenue, and at The Strand. The program would be funded through the Redevelopment Agency.

FINANCE

At Monday's City Council meeting, the City Council voted to approve departmental budget reductions, as well as accept concessions from labor groups to help address the City's \$4 million budget gap. Departmental budget reductions totaled \$3.4 million while the labor unions contributed over \$1 million in additional reductions. The willingness of the labor groups to voluntarily come to the table and work with City Administration to identify cost savings, and move forward with concessions is a tribute to the character of the employees working for the City of Huntington Beach.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Take Charge! National Consumer Protection Week at Central Library

The Huntington Beach Public Library is proud to announce that it has joined a group of federal, state, and local government agencies to launch the 12th annual **National Consumer Protection Week**, March 7-13, 2010, highlighting the importance of using good consumer sense at every stage of life – from grade school to retirement. On Thursday, March 11 at 6pm, the Department of Consumer Affairs will be offering a free presentation “Take Charge: Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Heard”, which will offer important information on how to protect your privacy online, manage money and debt, avoid identity theft, understand credit and mortgages, resolve disputes, and steer clear of frauds and scams. There will be information for teens and children included in the presentation. Kids under 12 spend billions of dollars on goods and services each year so it makes sense to provide them with these valuable tools. It's essential that kids understand key consumer and business concepts, like credit and identity theft, banking and fraud, and marketing and advertising. Throughout the week, there will be a “Take Charge” book display at Central Library, with resources on consumer protection available for checkout. *The “Take Charge!” presentation will be held at Central Library on March 11, 2010, from 6-7 pm in the Maddy Room.*

Saturday Film Forum returns to the Huntington Beach Central Library.

The popular Saturday film series returns to the Huntington Beach Central Library in **March**. This time we will be delving into the world of detectives and their different portrayals on film. The program will start on March 20 with a screening of ***The Maltese Falcon*** and continues with ***L.A. Confidential*** on April 10, ***Chinatown*** on May 15 and ***Gone Baby, Gone*** on June 26. All programs are on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Central Library Theatre. And better yet, they are **FREE!** Mark your calendars and join us!

Family Literacy at the Oak View Branch Library Thrives!

The Oak View Family Literacy Program completed the first four sessions of a five-part tutor training workshop on February 9, and the library's newest tutors are starting to meet with their literacy students. These new tutors are taking more than 20 people off a long waiting list of students and the library literacy group is very grateful to have amazing volunteers from Huntington Beach and surrounding communities. These volunteers will formally complete their training on March 23.

The Family Literacy Program is in the middle of a month long special story time series on Friday evenings for Family Literacy students who have preschool aged children. The private Storytimes are part of the California State Library Literacy Services grant focusing on helping adult literacy students learn about early literacy and the important role they play in their children's early learning. The main goal of the program is for families to have fun learning together and to experience the joy of books and stories, as well as motivating families to read together on a regular basis.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

February 23 Planning Commission Meeting Recap

The Planning Commission reviewed the following applications at the Tuesday, February 23 meeting.

- Endless Food and Fun. The Commission approved the approximately 45,867 sq. ft. commercial recreation and entertainment use within an existing multi-tenant commercial shopping center located at 7227 Edinger Avenue, 92647 (north of Edinger Avenue, west of Gothard Street). The project will contain a restaurant, banquet and dining facilities, laser tag areas, game center and retail sales area.
- HB Dental Alley Vacation. The application was continued to a future date to be determined. The proposal was to determine if the vacation of an approximately 2,864 square foot portion of an unimproved alley right-of-way is in conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan.
- The appeal of the Design Review Board's denial of the application for the Wells Fargo ATM at 101 Main Street has been postponed to the April 13th meeting at the applicant's request prior to this meeting.

The next Planning Commission meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Scam Advisory

The following story was shared with the police department recently. The story is indicative of the predatory nature of scam artists that play on the good intentions of others. We are retelling the story to remind everyone to be cautious of thieves and this type of swindle .

A friend recently received a rather frantic phone call from an individual who quickly said, "Grandma, I am in trouble." My friend did not immediately recognize the voice, but asked the question, "Billy, is that you?" The caller indicated that he was her Grandson Billy and explained that he was in trouble with the law and too embarrassed to tell his parents. The caller went on to say that he was taking care of it, but needed an attorney and quickly suggested he would put the attorney on the phone. With a very professional demeanor, the individual restated the urgency and agreed to represent "Billy" if she would immediately wire \$2,500 and provided specific instructions.

In an effort to respect the wishes of her Grandson, the victim did not contact the parents, but merely wired the \$2,500 as agreed. You would think this would be the end of the scam, but, oh, no. The next day, the attorney called back acknowledging the first wire and stated the situation was worse than originally understood. He then asked for \$4,000 restating that Billy did not wish to embarrass his parents. At this point, the victim became suspicious, but reluctantly agreed.

When the victim arrived at Western Union, she was informed by the Agent that the listed recipient of the cash had been recognized as the beneficiary of several suspicious

transactions. It was not the intention of the Agent to stop the process, if, in fact, the victim fully understood the concern. The victim elected not to make the wire. You would think this was the end of the story.

On the third day, Billy and the attorney called to express concern that the wire had not been received. When the victim explained that she thought it was a scam, little Billy hung up on his grandmother.

PUBLIC WORKS

Rainfall Update

Storms over the last weekend in February brought a citywide average rainfall of 1.2 inches, increasing the average for the month to 4 ¼ inches. Localized amounts ranged from about ¾ inch at the Bolsa Chica station to over 1 ¾ inches at the Meredith station. Measurements are taken at each of the 15 storm water pump stations located throughout the city. These stations, equipped with three or more large engines and pumps, remove water collected in a deep forebay and lift the water into an adjacent channel or the Santa Ana River.

More rain is predicted next weekend; March often is a wet month for Southern California. Check automated irrigation systems each week, as they may be reset in the event of even a brief power failure. Give your outdoor landscape water use the week off.