

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

January 1, 2013

CITY CLERK

Local Election Campaign Contribution Limit \$540

On January 1, 2013, a new election cycle begins in Huntington Beach. At that time the Huntington Beach Municipal Code Section 2.07.050 Campaign Contribution Limitations requires a review, and adjustment if necessary, to the election campaign contribution limit. This adjustment is made using the October consumer price index (CPI) of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Anaheim areas and the resulting contribution limit is rounded to the nearest \$10. In January 2009 the contribution limit was \$520, in January 2011 the contribution limit remained at \$520, and on January 1, 2013, the contribution limit will increase by \$20 to \$540. This contribution limit affects all candidates in a Huntington Beach City Council, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and City Attorney elections.

Passport Acceptance Facility Services

All seven full and part-time employees in the City Clerk's office have completed their annual Passport Agent recertification course. Together, they possess 43 years of certified experience. You will not find a more relaxed, inviting, and professional environment in which to apply for a passport. Standard fees apply, and optional photo services are available for a \$10 fee. Your \$25 passport processing fee and photo fee are deposited into the City's General Fund and are used to offset services you enjoy as a resident. This is a "win-win" for HB residents. We welcome the opportunity to be of assistance to you as you plan for your international travel. Please visit us on the second floor of City Hall.

CITY MANAGER

January 7 City Council Meeting is Cancelled

The January 7, 2013, City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 22 due to the Martin Luther King holiday on January 21.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Huntington Beach Senior Services – Senior Services is my Park

The New Year is upon us and the resolution that keeps on giving, to yourself as well as to others, is to volunteer. Huntington Beach Senior Services Home Delivered Meals program needs volunteers. In their own vehicles, volunteers deliver meals from the Seniors Outreach Center to older residents one weekday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Dedicated substitutes are also needed to fill-in when regular route drivers are on vacation. For more information on Home Delivered Meals or other volunteer opportunities, contact Diane Swarts, Volunteer Coordinator, 714-374-1544 dswarts@surfcity-hb.org.

Marine Safety

In the Orange County Register's 19th Annual *Best of 2012 Winners*, one of the highlights listed was "Huntington Beach Marine Safety Officers and Lifeguards are renowned as some of the best in the world."

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/beach-371286-huntington-surf.html>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Surf City Nights and Surf City Downtown Shuttle Back for 2013!**

After taking a short holiday break, Surf City Nights returns on January 8 to another year of the best weekly street fair in Orange County: a Certified Farmer's Market, outstanding entertainment, unique vendors, and many of the adjacent restaurants offering great specials on Tuesday evenings. The Surf City Downtown Shuttle will also resume service on January 8, providing free transportation from the Civic Center to Main and Orange Streets from 5:30-10 p.m., with free parking for Shuttle passengers. For more information about Surf City Nights, including how to become a vendor, please visit www.hbdowntown.com.

Make Shopping Locally the Resolution to Keep for 2013!

One resolution you can make – and keep – for 2013 is to save money and support the community by shopping locally. Take a look at www.surfcityavings.com to find more than 100 local merchants – including restaurants, retailers, activities and services - to support Huntington Beach. Shopping locally helps to generate sales tax dollars, a portion of which is given back to the city to fund street and road improvements, public safety, senior services, beach maintenance, and more. The merchants in the Surf City Savings program are committed to saving you money. So, go ahead, dine out or shop in town and pat yourself on the back each time for supporting your local vendors all year long!

INFORMATION SERVICES**City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips**

Did you know the City Website has information on the Plan Review Service for construction projects? The Building & Safety division's Plan Review service involves checking and approving building plans that comply with all applicable federal, state and local building codes. To view this information, click on the Services tab, then the click on "Planning and Construction" and then the "Plan Review Service" link. You can also find this information on the Building and Safety department homepage.

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/building_safety/plan_review/

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Metamorphosis at the Library**

Recently, the Huntington Beach Public Library was successful in releasing three Monarch butterflies. The Children's Department had a chrysalis on a twig in a special jar, a gift from a local group, Western Monarch Guardians. The Monarch butterfly itself hatched on Wednesday morning, December 12, 2012. Children's staff were privileged to photograph its progress and release it from the front of the Central Library. Photos of this natural Huntington Beach wonder are already posted on the Library's web page. Many books, magazine articles

and Internet sites on butterflies and other insects are available for viewing and check-out from all five Huntington Beach library locations.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission

The January 8, 2013, Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reminder on California Law Regarding Cell Phones and Driving

A law passed by the California Legislature made it an infraction to talk on a cell phone while driving effective July 1, 2008. On January 1, 2009, an additional law was enacted making it an infraction to use any type of electronic wireless communication device to write, read or send text based communications.

Adults are allowed to talk on a hands free cell phone device while driving. Anyone under 18 years old is not allowed any use of a cell phone while driving, not even with a hands free device. No one is allowed to write, read or send text based communications while driving.

The law is stricter on teen drivers because of their lack of experience in driving. Also, teen drivers are more likely to be distracted while driving. The best practice is to turn off a cell phone while in a vehicle. If it is on and rings, do not answer it until you have safely reached your destination. The only allowable exception is to contact law enforcement, the fire department or a health care provider in an emergency situation.

A police officer can stop any motorist seen using a cell phone, or similar device, to issue them a traffic citation. Huntington Beach Police Department strictly enforces these laws. Since 2010, Huntington Beach police officers have issued 2,748 traffic citations for these offenses.

For more information about the use of electronic wireless communication devices while driving, visit the California DMV webpage at:

<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm> or view the DMV video on cell phone laws from the Huntington Beach Police Department Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice

DUI Checkpoint Nets 9 Arrests

The Huntington Beach Police Department conducted a DUI/Drivers License checkpoint on Saturday December 22, 2012, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence and provide the greatest safety for officers and the public.

DUI/Drivers License checkpoints help reduce DUI related deaths and injuries. A major component of these checkpoints is the deterrent effect on those who may drive drunk or drug impaired, increased awareness and encouraging the use of sober designated drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Here are some statistics from Saturday's checkpoint:

1870 Vehicles through the checkpoint
663 Vehicles Screened
6 DUI-Alcohol suspects arrested
1 DUI-Drug impaired suspects arrested
9 Drivers cited/arrested for operating a vehicle unlicensed or while suspended/revoked
2 Arrested on other Criminal Charges
1 Citations issued for other Vehicle Code violations

The checkpoint was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1!

PUBLIC WORKS

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping is cancelled from Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays and the City Hall holiday closure. From January 2 through January 4 street sweeping will be on holiday routing due to trash carts at the curb one day later than usual. Neighborhoods that are impacted by trash carts at the curb will not be swept. Neighborhoods that can be efficiently swept will be swept per regular schedule. Example: where trash is collected from a rear alley. No street sweeping tickets are issued during the Christmas/New Year holidays. The regular street sweeping schedule with parking enforcement will resume on January 7. Routes cancelled due to holiday scheduling are not made up.

If you have questions about the holiday maintenance schedule, please contact the Public Works Maintenance division at 714-960-8861.

Post Holiday Christmas Tree and Cardboard Recycling

Rainbow Environmental Services is offering free post-holiday recycling of non-artificial Christmas trees and cardboard cartons. Rainbow will pick up Christmas trees and any flattened cardboard cartons that are placed next to the trees from December 31, 2012, through January 11, 2013.

To recycle your tree, simply remove all ornaments, hooks, light strings, tinsel, and stand, and place it **next to** your carts on your trash day. Flatten cardboard and place next to trees. The automated trucks are not collecting trees, so please do not block access to the carts and **do not** put your Christmas tree in your carts. Larger trees should be cut to six-foot maximum. Multi-family, condo and townhome residents with commercial service (blue dumpster) should

place trees to the side of the dumpsters, not in front or on top of the dumpster. Check with your property manager or HOA for other restrictions.

After January 11, tree pickups will have to be scheduled as a 10/4 Pickup arranged directly through Rainbow Environmental. For further information, please contact Public Works Trash and Recycling at 714-375-5010 or Rainbow Environmental Services at 714-847-3581.