

**Seniors**

*from front page*

assigned to each one and a leader in radio contact with the fire department.

Manhattan Beach Fire Battalion Chief Frank Chiella advises us not to just wait and react when disaster strikes, but to plan ahead and be prepared to take care of ourselves and then our neighbors, and to be self-sufficient for three days.

But who are the most vulnerable in our community? It is deemed to be seniors, who may be fearful, disoriented, and alone. And the largest concentration of seniors in Manhattan Beach is in the Senior Villas, with 104 units.

Susan Jones, Senior Villas resident, spearheaded a team to bring Map Your Neighborhood to the Villas. Chief Chiella, Older Adult Supervisor Jan Buike, Neighborhood Watch gurus Millie Newton and Sally Rendler, and Brandy Harkins of the Beach Cities Health District collaborated to bring a program of emergency preparedness. They have met with the residents four times already, with more meetings in the offering.

Jones, already active in the community as Neighborhood Watch captain, CERT graduate, President of the Manhattan Heights Senior Club, and 1994 MB Rose and Scroll winner for her volunteer activities, developed a military-type chain of command of residents to be in charge. Three residents, one on each of the three floors, will be the leader of that floor. Six people on each floor will be responsible for six or so units. In the event of a disaster, earthquake or terrorist attack, they will access the issues and report to the leader of that floor, who in turn will report to Jones. Or should she be away, one of the three leaders will assume the command. Jones will contact the CERT commander in their quadrant, who will contact the fire department, saving the first responders, fire and police valued time.

Jan Buike, 2009 Rose and Scroll winner

for her contribution to the senior community and serving as their liaison to the fire department, and Brandy Harkins designed a program, based on Map Your Neighborhood, which would be most appropriate at the Villas. Residents were asked to supply the leader of their floor with the names of their emergency contacts and the lists of their medications. They were advised to keep an adequate supply of medicines on hand and also to have a ready copy of insurance policies. Envelopes of Life were issued to be taped inside refrigerators with medications listed, as well as posters to be put in the windows saying "help" is needed, or "okay" if it is not.

Leadership Manhattan, with a grant from Beach Cities Health District, provided each of the residents of Senior Villas with an emergency kit filled with food, water, flashlight, rain poncho, blanket, hand sanitizers, mask, whistle, and radio. At their request, Jones also supplied them with helmets and larger radios. The seniors learned about where to go immediately--on the floor, under a table or near a heavy piece of furniture--and to have at least three days supply of water and food. At the next meeting, they will learn the locations of the gas, electric, and water, and how to turn them off. Leaders will tape off elevators.

The Great American Shakeout last November tested the effectiveness of Map Your Neighborhood and CERT by setting up a simulated disaster with related accidents and victims about town. The Senior Villas reported satisfaction with their readiness. The same program has been taken to Ross Manhattan Terrace where there are 55 units for seniors.

Jan Buike says her goal is for the seniors at Senior Villas and Ross Manhattan Terrace to be reassured that people are there to check on them, and that they are not alone.

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# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Auction Raises Record Funds

By Christopher Barnes



LA Mayor Antonio Vilara (left) and Manhattan Beach Councilman Wayne Powell (right) on stage at the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation Wine Auction last night. Photos by Bruce Siebs

Last Saturday evening, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Manhattan Beach Wine Auction proved to be another banner event for this charity which raised approximately \$500,000 for the Manhattan Beach School District. A sellout crowd of over 1,400 guests attended the gala, which was held at the Manhattan Beach Country Club.

"The Manhattan Beach Wine Auction has an enormous regional draw with people attending from all over the South Bay, from Palos Verdes to El Segundo," said Manhattan Beach City Councilman Richard Montgomery. "The event sells out every year. I make sure to get my tickets early." Montgomery looks

forward to this prestigious event and has attended 13 of the last 15 events.

As I wandered through the sea of well-dressed guests and weaved my way around a cornucopia of food and wine booths, I heard many times over that "this is the best wine tasting ever!" Over 80 wineries and 30 local restaurants provided delicious food and libations during the first part of the evening as guests strolled about the MBCC grounds, mingling and grazing while reviewing all the items available in the silent auction.

In addition to traditional food establishments

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