

Manhattan Beach Sun

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Sunny

77°



Saturday

Sunny

76°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

71°



Food Drive for Sister City



The Mira Costa High School Baja Club during their Collection Drive for Manhattan Beach's sister city, Santa Rosalia, which was recently devastated in a hurricane. Pictured with the MB Fire Department are Mike Rossi - Sister City Committee; Jan Rhees - MB Rotary; Baja Club Members and volunteers. Photo taken by Ros Stecker.

PPIC Evaluates Parking Measures for Sand Dune Park

By Evan Ortega

Last Thursday's Parking and Public Improvements Commission (PPIC) hearing at times had a healthcare town hall atmosphere, as residents punctuated the Commission's discussion of parking measures for Sand Dune Park with shouts, applause and even a lighthearted, "You lie."

In August, the Manhattan Beach City Council instructed the PPIC to explore using metered and permit parking in the neighborhood around the park after residents complained about parking, noise, traffic and trash problems caused by out-of-town park visitors. Days after that Council meeting, the park was closed for repairs and to give residents a break.

At the PPIC hearing, City traffic engineer Erik Zandvliet described the components of the program, which he said staff could be adjusted depending on comments from the public and commissioners. Staff will present a report to the Commission at its next meeting on October 22, and the PPIC will finalize its recommendation for the City Council on November 19.

Possible meter locations include Bell Avenue from 27th Street to Rosecrans Avenue and could feature an electronic parking station with adjustable rates and times. The metered parking would mirror park hours and be free for residents. Meter revenues would offset their installation and maintenance costs.

Residents will need to circulate petitions to create a permit district. A map created by the Community Development Department shows the district's boundary could be bordered by Alma Avenue, 25th Street, Flournoy Road and Rosecrans Avenue. "It will be congested

at the very beginning, and as residents opt in for permit parking, this whole area will become off limits," Zandvliet said. "This will then consequently reduce the volume of traffic that's in this neighborhood...over time, there will be fewer people using the park because it will be such a hassle."

After hearing input from the public and commissioners, staff said it would explore the program's impact on nearby daycare employees, possible permits for non-permit area residents, time limits on meters, signage and residents' options for opting in and out of the program.

Many residents told the commissioners

they were unconvinced that restrictive parking measures would work. Irene White, who lives in the 500 block of 33d Street, said the traffic situation poses a danger to neighborhood children. "I can't tell you how many times I've been nearly hit...the traffic has just been unbearable," White said. "I think the parking permits and the meters are just a band-aid to a gushing wound."

Cheryl Vargo, who lives in the 500 block of 33rd Street, tentatively supported the plan. "We have to do something, we have to start someplace," she said. "I think the residential permit parking is a pain for us, but we have

See Sand Dunes, page 16

Hometown Fair Dunk Tank Schedule

Provided by Bernadette Gradney

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

10 a.m. Richard Hatten, Detective
11 a.m. Jason Knickerbocker, Detective
12 p.m. Steve Kitsios, Detective
1 p.m. Tim Magdaleno, Police Officer
2 p.m. Joe Aiello, Detective
3 p.m. Wayne Powell
4 p.m. Tim Magdaleno, Police Officer
5 p.m. Robert Schreiber, Police Officer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

10 a.m. Matt Sabosky, Detective
11 a.m. Scott Combs, Detective
12 p.m. Joe Aiello, Detective
1 p.m. Sergeant Brian Brown, Detective Sergeant
2 p.m. Rachael Parker, Police Records Technician
3 p.m. Lieutenant Andy Harrod, Traffic Lieutenant
4 p.m. Sergeant Bryan Klatt, Watch Commander