

Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

Herald Publications - El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, Lawndale, & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 Vol. 2, No. 45 - November 5, 2009

Inside This Issue

Business &

Professional.....17

Business & Finance...8

Calendar.....3

Classifieds.....16

Crossword.....16

Dear Carol.....4

Frankly Plank.....6

One Man's Opinion.....8

Pets.....2

Real Estate.....9

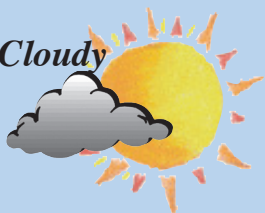
Sports.....7

Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy

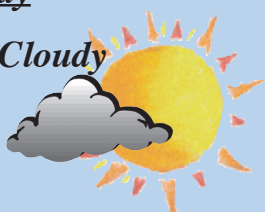
66°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

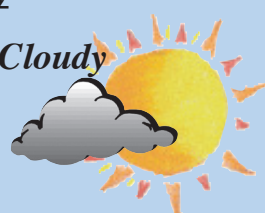
65°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy

65°



Spinning toward the Holidays



Photo by Rob Fiore

For MB Rotary, It's Service Above Self and Then Some...

By Brian Simon

While "Service Above Self" is the motto for Rotary clubs around the world, one could argue that there's a second maxim as well: "So much to do, so little time." Such was the case with Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach President Jan Rhees, who didn't want to waste one minute of her year at the helm to get things done. From the moment she struck the bell with her gavel on July 1 to kick off her 12 months of leadership, her club and its directors were off to the races with a brand new "Rotary Cares" community service project already in mind and ready to roll. "Community service is a passion for our members," said Rhees.

Bright and early on July 26, 55 Rotarians, their spouses, children and friends, armed with gardening gloves, shovels, paint brushes and masking tape, descended upon the Joslyn Center to paint the auditorium and landscape the building exterior. Wearing their "Rotarians at Work" shirts, the group toiled away, adding shiny new coats of environmentally-friendly (no-VOC) paint to provide a much-welcome makeover for the long-time local older adult gathering place. The hard-working Rotarians also lined the front and side exterior areas of the complex with drought-tolerant foliage and plants. And so, phase one of the Joslyn Center refreshing was complete. The Rotary Cares service project earned Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Portia Cohen and the Manhattan Beach City Council that was handed out on October 6. As Rotarian Wade Austin accepted the certificate, President Jan (as she is referred to by club members) told the Council and residents that if she could wave her magic wand, she (with the support of those 55-plus volunteers) would refresh the entire Joslyn Center before the end of her term next July.

"Working in concert with our older adults,

Older Adults Program Supervisor Jan Buike and City officials, we left Joslyn Center wanting to do more," said President Jan. And do more they shall. In addition to their ongoing, twice-a-week Meals on Wheels deliveries, the Manhattan Beach Rotarians are about to launch phase two of their service project with the ultimate goal of putting more food on the table for local citizens. After learning that a three-divider sink could double the meals older adults could receive at Joslyn, President Jan went back to her board officers. In a few hours, they voted to purchase and install that sink. But while they're at it, they will also paint and spruce up the kitchen and hallways.

Helping older adults is only one component of Rotary's community involvement. Fostering youth programs and education remain key cornerstones of the group's volunteer activities. "Every year our Club presents scholarships to graduating seniors at Mira Costa High School, acknowledge our educators during our "Teachers Awards," encourage Manhattan Beach Middle School musicians excelling in their chosen instrument by lending a little financial support, read to children in every elementary school as part of our "Rotary Reads" program, volunteer for Career Days for underserved students in compromised

See Rotary, page 19

Council Curtails Chamber Funding

By Evan Ortega

On Tuesday, Manhattan Beach City Council members voted unanimously to give the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce \$75,000 over the next two years as the business association attempts to retool itself to operate without ongoing financial support from the City. The Chamber will receive \$50,000 for the current fiscal year from Council contingency funds and \$25,000 for the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. The Finance Subcommittee met with Chamber members to help the organization scale back its operations in order to be financially self-sufficient. "The Subcommittee discussed providing bridge funding in a phase-out approach," Finance Director Bruce Moe said. "This was something

the Chamber felt would work for them; give them time to have an organized transition away from City funding."

The cash cuts come after the City temporarily suspended some of its own programs and funding to the Chamber earlier this year in order to balance its 2009-2010 budget. Chamber members and supporters came to the Council in September requesting \$133,000, but were turned away after Council members said they wanted more information and transparency.

Councilmember and Finance Subcommittee member Nick Tell said he and others worked with the Chamber to cut as much as of its budget possible while still preserving the organization's core

See Council, page 19