

Inside
This
Issue

Business &
Professional.....21

Business.....8

Calendar.....2

Classifieds.....19

Crossword.....19

Dear Carol.....3

Food and Dining.....5

Frankly Plank.....6

Obituaries.....2

Pets.....23

Real Estate.....10

Sports.....6

Weekend
Weather
Forecast

Friday

Sunny

82°



Saturday

Sunny

78°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

72°



Skating Through the Finals



The Fusion Youth Synchronized Skating team won the gold medal at the 2009 ISI Recreational World Championships.

See Skaters, page 18

Council Delays Funding for Chamber

By Evan Ortega

Local Chamber of Commerce members came to Tuesday night’s Manhattan Beach City Council meeting asking for \$133,000 in funding, but left empty-handed after the Council asked for more information about the Chamber’s priorities and financial needs. The City of Manhattan Beach has an agreement to help fund the Chamber in order to promote business activity in the city. Last year, the Council gave the Chamber \$196,000. Facing a budget deficit and declining revenues, Council members voted earlier this year to cut all Chamber funding, asking it to identify specific funding needs.

Chamber President Helen Duncan thanked the Council for being a good partner and highlighted the resources her organization has provided to the community and its residents over the years. “The reason we’re back is that we feel the Chamber does offer some real services to businesses and residents,” Duncan said.

Duncan noted that the Chamber reduced \$118,000 in expenses including mailing costs, charitable contributions, staff compensation, holiday lights and the Ocean Express. “We are reducing our financial footprint by reducing a variety of our business practices, as everyone has to do in this economy,” she said.

Chamber Treasurer Gary Wayland said the Chamber spends most of its money on labor and is looking to cut costs across the board as its reserves dwindle. “Clearly, this board will have to cut expenses and we believe we will do so,” Wayland said. “We’ve used the term ‘cut the financial footprint,’ and we’re going to do that all the way across the board...everything is going to have to be on the table.”

Wayland said the Chamber began the year with \$135,000 in reserves that have now dropped to \$90,000. He characterized City funding as investment dollars that will come back through bed, sales and business

license taxes. “This money, we believe... will allow us to grow and to help the city grow, and help bring back money for the City,” Wayland said.

In a letter to the Council, the Chamber listed its expense reductions and requested money to develop businesses, draw visitors and support legislative and community issues. Councilmember Mitch Ward said he had problems with the Chamber’s timing, stating that the Council had to have as much transparency and information as possible before spending taxpayer dollars. Ward added that he wished the Chamber would have refocused its goals to help businesses in the city expand and grow, thus increasing City revenues and justifying financial support from the Council. “That’s where I thought this discussion would be: more of a refocusing on what you want to do and how much it’s going to cost to do that, as opposed to the value that the Chamber adds to the City of Manhattan Beach,” Ward said. “That’s what I was looking for and I don’t know if we’re there this evening.”

See City Council, page 22

Cups to be Performed at
Neptunian Club House

By Karen King Russo

The Manhattan Beach Neptunian Women’s Club kicked off the new season with motivational speaker Al Wise and the presentation of a roster of activities and fundraising events to support the group’s chosen philanthropies and community projects.

After manning the soft drink and sliders booths and selling raffle tickets for a Toyota Prius (to be drawn in December) at the Hometown Fair, the next fundraiser will be October 6 at the Neptunian clubhouse. Actress and playwright Joni Sheram will star in her one-woman show, *Cups*. Funny and heartfelt, *Cups* is a look at the life of women and their shared experiences from girlhood to old age as mirrored by the changing society and told through the contours and curves of bras.

Joni Sherman, a resident of Colorado, has written for stage, screen and TV. She has trained for the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation, traveled with the Commu-

nity of Caring, and performed in *Cups* all across the country, including for the Rocky Mountain Cancer Foundation, the Susan G. Kolmen Foundation, and Red Hats. Sherman draws upon her own experience and those of friends, from the embarrassments of adolescence to marriage, through divorce and breast cancer. Both a tear and a laugh getter, *Cups* should be a hoot, and a wild, fun evening for ladies of all ages.

A social hour with h’ors d’oeuvres and wine will begin at 7 p.m. The show will go on at 8 p.m. Tickets priced at \$30 are available at Cotton Cargo, Hillside Pharmacy or by calling Mary Sue Brubaker at 310-376-3256.

Neptunian’s luncheon meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month. Speaking this year will be Pat Whitehead with her guide dogs in October and librarian Cindy Roth in November. December will feature a performance by the Mira

See Cups, page 19