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City Seeks to Save Money, Water

By Evan Ortega

Manhattan Beach faces a \$3 million deficit in its general fund for the fiscal year 2009-2010, city staff told Council members Tuesday evening. The deficit includes the \$1.3 million the Council gave the School District in April, staff said.

"It's a very tight budget," City Manager Geoff Dolan said. "The fund that we're facing the most difficulty with is what most people think of as traditional city services, and that's our general fund."

Dolan said the general fund is financed primarily through property and sales taxes, and pays for services such as public safety, and parks and recreation.

Finance Director Bruce Moe said that although expenditures are flat, revenues have declined 5 percent, which he attributed to declines in the real estate market, retail sales, tourism and interest rates. "We have a situation where we have some weak revenue and substantially fixed costs," Moe said.

Moe said 70 percent of the general fund budget pays for labor, which cannot be reduced without changes in staffing levels. He said the other 30 percent of the budget pays for materials and services. "I think we've done a thorough job of tightening our belts in those areas and cutting back where appropriate and possible," Moe said.

By predicting future revenues and expenses, Moe said he projects a general fund budget deficit every year for the next five fiscal years, which could grow to \$5 million in 2013-2014. "These are certainly extraordinary times we are in at the state and national levels, and certainly even in Manhattan Beach," Moe said. "I think to a certain degree in the past we've often felt that we were immune to these types of things and clearly we're not."

Moe said the staff recommends the Council use \$3 million that has accumulated in the general fund from past budgets to balance the 2009-2010 budget. He said there would be only \$400,000 in surplus funds left to spend on the next fiscal year general fund deficit. "[It] ultimately means you can only do this probably this year," Moe said. "In future years you will have to come up with another strategy."

Moe said the city eliminated five jobs through a selective hiring freeze, saving \$805,900. Despite those eliminations, Moe said he felt his staff succeeded in maintaining service levels, reducing expenses, meeting employee obligations and maintaining acceptable reserve levels.

Predicting that all ballot propositions except for 1F would be defeated, Moe said the state would be able to borrow \$1.8 million from the city under state law. "I think it's probably a fairly safe bet that they'll be coming to us for this loan," Moe said.

Councilmember Mitch Ward asked City Attorney Robert Wadden if the city could legally refuse to hand over the money to the state. Wadden said under proposition 1A, which voters passed in 2004, the state had the authority to borrow the money. "There really were legal questions prior to the passage of Prop 1A, as to whether or not they could borrow from the cities," Wadden said. "But Prop 1A made it clear that they can."

Moe said the state wouldn't have a problem getting the money, even if the city refused to

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"Unsung Heroes" Portrayed In Congressional Art Competition



Left to right: MBUSD Superintendent Beverly Rohrer, Congresswoman Jane Harman, and City Council member Wayne Powell at the Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony at the Manhattan Beach Creative Arts Center.

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Bowling Fundraiser to Support Police Officer Jeff Goodrich



On May 31, a charity bowling event will be held at Gable House Bowling in Torrance to raise funds for Police Officer Jeff Goodrich to support his fight against stage four glioblastoma brain cancer.

By Tina Steck

Manhattan Beach Police Officer Jeff Goodrich is in his comfort zone when he is helping others – through organizing charity soccer tournaments, volunteering at community service projects, or just lending a hand to a friend in need. However, being on the receiving end of community outreach is not something Goodrich had ever considered--until now, that is.

"Jeff is a giver," says his friend Erik Sumen emphatically. "Jeff always puts himself last and goes out of his way to make sure other people are taken care of first. He has given so much of his personal time to our community."

Chad Mayer, Managing Director of ShareFest Community Development, Inc., the Torrance nonprofit organization for which Goodrich has been a project leader and given

countless of hours of hard work, without hesitation calls him "an amazing person" who "would do anything for anybody at the drop of a hat."

In 2006, Goodrich, an experienced general contractor, volunteered a week of his time at an *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* building site in Redondo Beach through ShareFest. And for the past three years, Goodrich has taken the lead role at the annual ShareFest beautification projects at Redondo's Adams Middle School.

Goodrich is also the founder and driving

force behind the Manhattan Beach Athletic Foundation's Parent Classic Soccer Tournament, which has raised over \$80,000 for the public schools for the past four years. MBAF President Gary Wayland describes Goodrich as a person whose commitment to education is "unrivaled." Goodrich is "one of the true treasures of our community," according to Wayland.

Fellow MBPD Police Officer Mark Vasquez says with a deep and knowing sincerity that

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Memorial for Fallen MB Police Officers

By Karen Russo

It would be hard not to have a lump in your throat, and a feeling of reverence and pride in our city's heart and dignity, for the way it held the second annual memorial service in recognition of our three police officers who have died in the line of duty: Officer Charles Grau, Officer Timothy Giles and Officer Martin Lane Ganz.

City officials, the entire Manhattan Beach Police Department in uniform, and the families of each of the honored policemen were all present to honor these fallen officers on the bright spring morning of May 14 at the plaza in front of the police and fire departments.

Following a Welcome by Sergeant Tim Hageman, the Posting of the Honor Guard, Pledge of Allegiance led by Officer Joe Guzman, and the National Anthem sung by Kieran Lorenzen, Mayor Portia Cohen spoke. All across America this month, fallen policemen and policewomen are being honored in memorial services. Cohen noted that despite our proximity to crime-ridden cities, Manhattan Beach has stayed safe, thanks to our able police department. And in addition to keeping the city safe, the department contributes greatly to the community in

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