

State of City

from front page

“We did not need to spend our resources and our time protecting the environment, but we know that that’s important to you,” Cohen said. “And we know that once you degrade the environment, it never comes back.”

Business revenue declined in 2009, resulting in less revenue for the City, which depends on sales taxes to pay for a large number of programs and services. The City has also seen a decline in business license and hotel bed taxes, Cohen said. She noted that property taxes used to comprise only 31 percent of general fund income, but that the number jumped to 41 percent because the City suffered a decline in sales tax revenues. “[Finance Director Bruce Moe] told me the other day that sales tax usually comprises the majority of our general fund, so it’s interesting how these things fluctuate,” Cohen said. “Business license tax, hotel bed tax dropped precipitously...the sales tax--it’s not looking good.”

Although local merchants are important to what Cohen called the community’s vibrancy, she noted that just 15 large retailers provide 50 percent of the City’s business tax sales and receipts. “It’s not from our quaint little businesses, which we value just as much because they’re the quality-of-life stuff,” Cohen said. “We need to take advantage of our corridors, Artesia and Aviation and Sepulveda...we are hoping to work with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Business Assessment District, probably several of them on the Sepulveda corridor.”

This year the Council approved new

crosswalks, trees and other improvements for North Manhattan (formerly El Porto) and reduced downtown meter rates in half to 75 cents an hour. Cohen said that the City was not bagging parking meters because Council members were uncertain that bagging the meters helped downtown businesses. “If there was direct correlation between meter bagging and revenues, that would be a much more difficult decision,” Cohen said. “This year we will be able to gauge that or at least get experiential information from our downtown business folks after the season.”

Despite all of the challenges Manhattan Beach has faced over the last year, Cohen cited a variety of statistics to highlight the positive aspects of the State of the City. The Mayor talked about the City’s numerous local non-profit organizations, its vibrant senior and cultural arts programs, comparatively low six percent unemployment rate (California reports its October unemployment rate to be 12.5 percent), the large number of community events hosted locally, high property values (\$11.9 billion), excellent school rankings and the Police and Fire Departments’ emergency response times, which are faster than the national average.

Cohen said that like the rest of the world, residents are experiencing the impact of a terrible economy, but said there is more to life than money and finances. “There is health, there is beauty and there are the blessings that we need to count every day...you’ve got to keep everything in perspective because there’s no place like home,” Cohen said. •

Special Olympics

from front page

volunteer team in the history of the Special Olympics movement, with more than 4,000 active employee volunteers worldwide.

Metro to Offer Special Holiday Free Fares Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve

To promote a safe holiday season, Metro will offer a special holiday free fare program for all Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines operating on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

The free fare program will be in effect between the hours of 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. on the nights and early morning hours of December 24-25 and December 31- January 1.

Patrons boarding a Metro Bus, including the Metro Orange Line, or the Metro Red, Purple, Blue, Green or Gold rail lines during the hours designated will receive a free ride to their destination. Metro is reminding the public that it is an option for people attending holiday parties so they don’t have

to drive. Metro’s fleet of more than 2,200 buses, the Metro Orange Line, a dedicated bus transitway in the San Fernando Valley, and Metro Rail lines offer patrons alternatives to driving solo in their vehicles with convenient travel opportunities throughout the region. The Metro Purple Line operates from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Wilshire/Western and the Metro Red Line from Union Station to North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley via Hollywood.

The Metro Blue Line operates from Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles; the Metro Green Line runs between Norwalk and El Segundo, and the Metro Gold Line operates between Pasadena and East Los Angeles.

For complete route and schedule information, patrons can call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit Metro’s website and access the Metro Trip Planner at www.metro.net.•



Purrrfect

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– either feline or human. Play time is a lot of fun with Emily and what a delight it is to watch her have fun.

Elle is our sweet and super-loving little girl who is oh so darling! She has silky-soft fur, warm, grayish/blue eyes and a sweet white streak down her body which makes her a formally dressed and pretty little tuxedo. One of her most darling features is the little white patch she has on the left side of her face right under her whiskers. Elle seeks out attention from every human she meets. She will walk right up to you and give a soft little mew and raise her head toward you asking for pets and love. She enjoys long petting sessions and will stay right by your side, often curling up to sleep next to you after a petting and love session has ended. She also loves to snuggle with other kitties and can usually be found snuggled with one of her siblings, or with the big residents in her foster home. In fact, it is very cute to watch her snuggle up and cuddle with one of the adult cats in her foster home. Don’t let Elle’s soft and sweet side fool you, though. She is also a big-time player and is the leader in play among her siblings. She is always off on a new adventure, finding a toy she has hidden somewhere and then carrying it off to the next place for a play session, or pouncing on one of the other kittens in her foster home and engaging them in play.

Albert is a fun-loving and easygoing lover of a boy! He is a beautiful, silver Tabby with a cute little kink at the end of his half-long tail. We are not sure how Albert ended up with half a tail, but its lack of length means nothing to Albert. Albert *loves* every human

and cat he meets. He adjusts very easily to new situations and will make himself at home anywhere he is plopped down. Albert loves to play and he loves to snuggle, meaning that he has the best of both worlds as far as a kitten is concerned. He loves affection but is not overly needy, and he loves to play both with his foster parents and with other kittens/cats, but again is not a rambunctious player. He is just a beautiful sweetheart who aims to please and just be loved. Albert would love to find a home with one of his foster siblings, or he can be adopted into a home that already has a young kitten/cat.

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org. You can also email us at mail@kittenrescue.org to find out more about this week’s featured pets and to contact us about adoption. •

We have several weekly adoption events in the Westside. On Saturday/Sunday, we are at a venue located in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. On Saturday only, we are in West Los Angeles at 11055 West Pico Boulevard at Sepulveda. On Sunday, we are in Santa Monica at 2910 Wilshire Boulevard at Yale Street. Adoption hours at these venues are from noon to 3:30 p.m. We also have our fourth Saturday of the month venue in Manhattan Beach located at 1816 North Sepulveda Boulevard, with adoption hours from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. •



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Manhattan Beach Sun

Rack Locations

	ADDRESS	NEAREST BUSINESS
*New location!	500 S. Sepulveda Blvd. MB	Shorewood Realty
*New location!	330 Highland Ave. MB	Shorewood Realty
*New location!	950 Artesia Blvd. Hermosa Bch.	Shorewood Realty
*New location!	2501 Sepulveda Blvd.	South Bay Brokers
*New location!	500 15th St.	MB Police and Fire
*New location!	1200 Rosecrans Ave. #104	Medical Plaza/Women’s Ctr
*New location!	2620 N. Sepulveda Blvd.	Coco’s/ Coffee Bean/See’s
*New location!	921 N. Sepulveda Blvd.	El Gringo
*New location!	1002 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Arco Station
*New location!	1105 Manhattan Ave.	Manhattan Grocery
*New location!	124 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	MBCH Brewing Co.
*New location!	116 Manhattan Ave.	Shellback Tavern
*New location!	3804 Highland Ave.	Players
*New location!	1601 Valley Dr.	The Joselyn Center
*New location!	425 15th St.	Manhattan Beach PD/Fire
*New location!	1400 Highland Ave.	Manhattan Beach City Hall
*New location!	1350 Highland Ave.	Manhattan Beach Library
*New location!	1150 Morningside Dr.	Fusion Sushi
*New location!	855 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Torrance Memorial Hospital
*New location!	917 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Shorewood Realty
	133 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Diane’s Beachwear
	233 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Starbucks
	1100 Highland	Koffee Kart
	1138 Highland	The Kettle
	1200 Highland	Bank of America
	225 S. Sepulveda	MB Office Plaza
	1100 Tennyson	Bally’s
	3619 Highland	Upper Manhattan
	316 Rosecrans	El Tarasco
	235 Sepulveda	Sea Horse Inn/Sion’s Mexican
	1101 Manhattan Ave. @ 11th St.	Ercole’s
	1139 Artesia Blvd.	Kinko’s/Fat Burger
	125 Sepulveda @ Duncan Pl.	Panda Express
	1003 Sepulveda	Post Office
	2010 Sepulveda	Rubio’s
	2401 Sepulveda	The Castle
	Rosecrans East of Sepulveda	Fry’s
	1240 Rosecrans	Manhattan Towers
	1852 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	McDonalds
	975 Aviation	Suds N Duds Laundry

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