

# Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

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## Weekend Weather Forecast

**Friday**

**Sunny**

78°



**Saturday**

**Mostly Sunny**

76°



**Sunday**

**Sunny**

76°



## Volleyball Team Undefeated



The American Martyrs Boys Varsity Volleyball Team capped off an undefeated season by winning their third consecutive CYO Championship. The CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) includes over 120 schools in Southern California. Coached by Jodi Schwan this year's team consists of the following players: (Top L) Mitchell Dwyer, Jordan Lucier, Keith Anello, Matthew Spear, Riley Mallon, Jagger Kroener, Austin Henning, Bobby Nolan (Bottom L) Ian Schwan, Kieran Coughlin, Kevan Doyle, Cameron Bardeau, Will Padden, Matthew Anselmo. Photo provided by Julie DeCoste.

## Rotary Club Elects New President

**By Evan Ortega**

It was in 2007 when members of the Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach began suggesting to Jan Rhees that she would be a good president. Rhees had led the club's annual fundraiser at the Comedy and Magic Club, raising a record amount of money. "I would get some fun comments like, 'It's been a while since we've had a woman president,'" Rhees said. "I have to say I felt special that Rotarians would recognize my devotion to this work and even invite me to lead this amazing group of people."

Now that she's been unanimously elected president, Rhees said she wants to celebrate the 60-year history of the Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach by acknowledging the Rotarians who've helped grow the organization. Rhees's neighbor and fellow Rotarian Ian Jackson expects that Rhees will come with new ideas, but ensure the club continues its long-term charitable efforts. "She's passionate about what she undertakes," Jackson said. "Jan puts herself into something a thousand percent I think that's evident. She's very passionate about helping other people and she's passionate about making sure our club continues to do that."

As the city's first female Rotary president in years, Rhees feels her fellow members voted for her not because of her gender, but because they believed in her. "My experience of coming in was warm and welcoming, and I took it very seriously--I didn't feel that gender had anything to do with it," Rhees said.

Women were not allowed to join Rotary until 1987, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that women had to be allowed to join. Jackson said the club hasn't had a female president for at least 15 years. "It was a men's club," said Jackson. "Not to bag on Rotary, (but) most service organizations were men's clubs. You're getting to a point where women are in the club who are actively involved in both family and community. It won't be 16 years again between Jan and another female

president, which is a good thing."

Susanne Sundberg is governor for District 5280, which includes the Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach and 47 other clubs throughout the Los Angeles area. Sundberg noted that women are becoming more involved and rising to higher positions throughout the philanthropic organization. "I was the first woman president of my club and obviously the first woman member of my club," she said. "And more and more, we're seeing recruitment for women members and younger members in the club, because in order to sustain our organization we have to bring in younger members."

Before becoming an award-winning Shorewood realtor and starting Jan Rhees Properties, Rhees worked for a variety of record labels in Nashville. When she moved

to Southern California in the 1980s, Rhees was still working in the entertainment industry when the President of the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (Grammy Awards) asked her to help start the MusiCares Foundation.

Rhees helped raise millions of dollars and developed programs to assist music people who fall on hard times. Rhees fell in love with 501-C3s as executive director of the foundation. "Working with celebrities for a higher purpose is different than working with celebrities for profit," she said. "No matter who you are, you're working for the common good. There's a unification that comes from that sort of collaboration."

Rhees believes being Executive Director

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## Council Approves Improvements

**By Evan Ortega**  
**North Manhattan**

On Tuesday, Manhattan Beach City Council members approved a proposal to plant 40 trees, install four crosswalks and extend curbs at six locations in North Manhattan after a nearly three-hour discussion with members of the North Manhattan Business Improvement District (NM-BID). Except for one board member and a few other attending business owners, the advisory board members appeared unified in supporting the proposal, which would use \$270,000 of NM-BID funds. City staff report the fund is worth about \$550,000 and is subsidized through an 80 percent surcharge on business license fees.

According to Mayor Pro Tem Mitch Ward, the improvements will attract customers and be an investment in the neighborhood as well as the businesses. "Just to be able to see a little bit more greenscape, as opposed to all the concrete, it means a lot in the day to day quality of life," Ward said.

A few dozen out of the approximately 85 business owners attended, including the advisory board members who urged the Council to move forward with the plan. Advisory board chairperson Melissa Enriquez Roy of Sur La Mer told the Council that the board was working since January on the plan to help the city, residents and businesses. "We didn't

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