



# Sand Dollar

Where Business and Lifestyle Work Together

## Message from the Chair:

### Know Your City!

By Sherry Kramer  
Continental Development Corporation

A month into 2009 and the Chamber continues to be financially strong and looking at ways to reach out and support struggling businesses. The Legislative Action Committee is reacting to the current downturn and will provide our members with current, up-to-date information received from local, state and federal government representatives.

The Chamber's Legislative Action Committee is hosting two upcoming events to provide you with information about your city. They are the annual State of the City address and the Manhattan Beach City Council Candidates Forum. Mayor Richard P. Montgomery will deliver his State of the City message on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 to 9 a.m. at The Belamar Hotel, 3501 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach. If you have not made your reservations, we encourage you to do so now as this is always well-attended and informative. Register online at [www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net](http://www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net). In addition, the Chamber will be hosting a Candidates Forum for residents to hear from the candidates running for City Council in the March 3 General Municipal Election. There are five candidates for three open positions. The forum is Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at American Martyrs, O'Donnell Hall, in the Blessed Kateri Room, 1400 Deegan Place, Manhattan Beach.



Sherry Kramer

The Chamber Web site is a wonderful tool for committee and event information, and is also a valuable way to network. The online Annual Business Directory is interactive and you will be able to find Chamber members' contact information. We encourage you to visit often at [www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net](http://www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net) to stay tuned in for current Chamber activities and also to ensure that your business information is correct. If you do wish to make changes, please be sure to contact the office. Our Web site links your business to the community. It is an important benefit of your Chamber membership.

more than a decade of prosperity that has allowed us to accomplish such things as: build reserves from less than \$1 million to more than \$10 million; enhance a variety of services including public safety, street, parks and public rights of way maintenance; and build new programs such as Cultural Arts and Senior Services, two programs that were virtually nonexistent 10 years ago. It has also provided us resources to improve and construct new and existing facilities such as Marine Avenue fields, the Creative Arts Center, the Police and Fire facility and the 480-space Metlox parking structure.

## News from City Hall:

### A Look Ahead

By Geoff Dolan  
City Manager

Looking back at 2008, the city of Manhattan Beach experienced another eventful and successful year! As we look ahead to 2009, I thought it would be a good time to address two issues that we will be facing in the coming months.

One of the most important items is our local General Municipal Election on March 3. The city treasurer as well as three of our five City Council seats will be on the ballot and we are certain to see at least one new council member elected. The reason for this is because 13 years ago, our residents voted in favor of term limits for our City Council members. Council Member Jim Aldinger has completed the two term maximum and has provided eight years of service to Manhattan Beach as an elected official. Aldinger has been a very hardworking and dedicated public servant who truly cares about Manhattan Beach. He also has a thorough understanding of the workings of the various local and statewide governmental mechanisms that have benefited our community. Though we will all miss Aldinger, there is no doubt that he will remain active and involved in our community. Thanks Jim. For additional information on the upcoming local election visit the city Web site at [www.citymb.info](http://www.citymb.info). But most importantly remember to VOTE!

Secondly, a factor that will have to be considered with nearly every decision the city makes this year is the economy and its impact on our budget. We have experienced



Geoff Dolan  
City Manager

despite the economic outlook, your City Council and staff are committed to maintaining the excellent day-to-day services we provide while looking for the most efficient and effective way possible to meet our residents' needs.

City Council will be reviewing the 2009-10 budget in May and there will be plenty of opportunities for residents to share their thoughts and priorities through public hearings, town hall meetings and direct contact with City Council and city staff.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, please e-mail me directly at [gdolan@citymb.info](mailto:gdolan@citymb.info) or call me at 310-802-5053. From all of us at City Hall, we wish you and your families a healthy and happy 2009.

## MB Chamber's Women in Business Conference Speakers Challenge You to Take Action in Your Life!

By Kate Adamson  
Kate's Journey, LLC

The Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce with Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance and the MB Women in Business Committee present the 11th annual conference, which will be held at the Torrance Marriott on Friday, April 17. This year's program will feature two inspiring speakers, who will challenge the audience to take action in their lives, both business and personal. Debbie Allen, a nationally renowned author and motivational speaker, will deliver the keynote address and serve as the day's emcee and Maj. Patricia Murray, a pilot in the California Air National Guard, will serve as the featured speaker.

Allen's powerful message is "The Law of Action: Get Un-Stuck, Get Moving and Manifest the Success You Deserve Now!" Her inspiring presentation is designed to help all of us move forward to greater success in 2009. She provides the audience an opportunity to learn powerful action principals and innovative goal setting skills that create unstoppable business and personal growth. With her help, we can all learn how to break down barriers and overcome obstacles that can keep us from reaching our peak potential.

Murray of Redondo Beach took the law of action to make things happen in her life. From Miss California 1992 to flying C-130 J Super Hercules aircraft over Iraq and Afghanistan, Murray's story will truly inspire. A military pilot who holds a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering from California Polytechnic State University, Murray will share her story of "beauty queen to pilot." She has flown 75 combat missions during four deployments in Iraq and has been awarded three Flying Air Medals for her service to her country. When not in combat, she is a commercial pilot for American Airlines. The South Bay is proud to honor Murray for making America a safer place to live.

Come enjoy a fabulous day at the Manhattan Beach Women in Business Conference and hear speakers who will spark your motivation and imagination. You will also make new friends, network to grow your business and you can shop at an array of unique boutiques. The conference is the largest Chamber event attracting business owners and corporate executives from around the South Bay. Mark your calendars for April 17 and we'll see you there!

For more information, please visit [www.mbwb.com](http://www.mbwb.com) or call the Chamber at 310-545-5313.

Sponsors of the 2009 Manhattan Beach Women in Business Conference are:

**Corporate:** Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance.

**Gold:** Bay Cities National Bank; Body Glove; Citizens Business Bank; Daily Breeze; First Regional Bank; Lauzon & Euler, LLP; Manhattan Beach Sun; Manhattan Village Shopping Center; Playa Vista; RealLife WebDesigns; The Beach Reporter.

**Silver:** Continental Development Corporation, Beach Cities Health District, John Elway's Manhattan Beach Toyota/Scion, Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

**Bronze:** Chevron, South Bay Business Lawyers, Southern California Edison Co.

**Copper:** Bank of Manhattan; Barbara Heacox, First Manhattan Realtors and Notary; California Sanctuary; GROW the Produce Shop; Kiwanis Club of Manhattan Beach; Rescue Rooter; White & Day Mortuaries.

**WIB Angel:** Envision Strategic Group, Inconen Staffing Solutions, In-Focus College Planning.

If you would like to become a sponsor of the 11th annual Manhattan Beach Women in Business Conference, please go to [www.mbwb.com](http://www.mbwb.com); call Helen Duncan, 310-545-5313; or call Laurie Byren, 310-720-9916.



Debbie Allen, CSP



Maj. Patricia Murray

**The Official Publication of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce**  
Mission Statement: The Manhattan Beach Chamber is an association of businesses, other entities and individuals organized to encourage a strong local economy and quality of life by promoting commerce, sound government and an informed membership and community.

THE BEACH REPORTER

Content and opinions expressed in the Chamber publication are the sole responsibility of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce.