

NEEDED DEDICATED SPACE FOR OLDER ADULTS ACTIVITIES by Madonna Newburg

For the last three years M.B. Older Adult Program has increased with activities and programs. Every city expects to see an increase in seniors and Manhattan Beach is no exception. The 2010 census will tell us how many seniors from age 55 to 70+ are in our community and we need to plan for that increase.

Since the building of a stand-alone Senior Center is far in the future, the City needs to work on some alternatives to accommodate needed senior services. Parks and Recreation must search for alternatives and we suggest the following:

1. Look for space in existing city buildings and facilities.
2. Request the City Council to consider purchasing a modular unit to be placed on city property.

One immediate need is a computer room for daily classes for various levels of skills. We have plenty of volunteers to give hands-on and one-on-one instruction. Volunteers are ready to start other new classes but we are running out of space to accommodate them. The senior Oasis is certainly not adequate. With a M.B. population of 7,000 seniors the Oasis affords each of us 4 inches of space!

We envy the Senior Centers in Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. Our city can and should do better.