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## M.B. police plans

(Continued from page 10)

they will."

Since Manhattan Beach is a "very, very safe community" with a small-town attitude, she said, people get lulled into believing that they're not susceptible to crime.

"When you don't prepare for it or least expect it, that's when it's going to happen," she said.

Although the city of Manhattan Beach had some highly publicized crimes in 2012 — including a throat slashing at a cigar shop, the arrest of 18 men for lewd acts in a beach bathroom and a hostage situation at Pier 1 Imports — those were anomalies, Irvine said.

"Yes, we have had some unique crimes this year, some violent crimes. The good news is we arrested those folks," she said.

Overall, crime in the city went down 1.8 percent in 2012.

Aggravated assaults went down 7 percent compared to 2011, burglaries went down 10 percent and larceny or theft went down 4 percent. Robberies, historically in the 20s in years past, went down to 10 in 2011. In 2012, robberies went back up to 29, Irvine said, which is consistent with past years.

In 2013, Irvine, who was hired as chief in June 2011, will continue publicizing the "Lock It or Lose It" campaign and hopes to increase the city's Neighborhood Watch program, which has block captains on 85 to 90 percent of the city's streets.

In the wake of the Newtown shooting tragedy last month, police officers will also be more visible at all of the city's schools, stopping in for unscheduled meetings and visits.

"We want to ensure teachers are vigilant in who they allow on campus," Irvine said. "We want to make sure that teachers and

parents can ask somebody 'What are you doing here?' if they see suspicious activity. If they don't feel comfortable asking, they should call 911."

Irvine has also developed the department's new strategic plan for 2013-2015, which was set to be presented to the city council after press time.

She and the department will also continue to manage the effects of Assembly Bill 109, the prison realignment bill which reduced the state's prison population by shifting monitoring and housing of criminals to local agencies.

"We don't have any (criminals) registered that live in the city of Manhattan Beach, but just because they don't live here doesn't mean they're not here," she said. "Since October 2011, we've arrested 20 of the early-release individuals in our city."

Irvine said the police department will continue its partnership with the community and encourages everyone to stay vigilant.

"We need to make sure people call 911 to report crimes in process or any suspicious activity," she said, adding that the department "can always improve."

## M.B. lockdown

(Continued from page 10)

name. "The district does a good job with these things."

At approximately 2:20 p.m., the lockdown was lifted, and parents were allowed to pick up their children through one gate at the front of the school, where they were greeted by Principal Connie Harrington.

"Your children were the stars," she said to arriving parents. "We are so proud of them."

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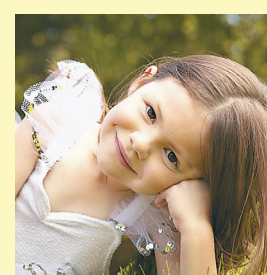


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