



VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

July 2018

# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



Brooklyn, 1st Place 7/8 Girls  
Dennis, 1st Place 5/6 Boys



## MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

The Mission Viejo Reporter promises fast, fair, and accurate reporting. If for any reason we fail to live up to these promises, please don't tell anyone.

Questions or Comments:  
949.364.2309 • missionviejoreporter@gmail.com

## 50 YARD DASH MISSION VIEJO KIDS RACE FOR GOLD

## THE LOST AIRPORT THE STORY OF THE SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO AIRPORT

## STEEPEST STREET IN MISSION VIEJO MISSION VIEJO'S NOTORIOUS SUICIDE RUN

COVER PHOTO: Ben Gallegos, 1st Place 11/12 Boys

PHOTO CREDIT: Kristen Gallegos





# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

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Dave Leckness  
Editor



# THE FASTEST KIDS IN TOWN



by Dave Leckness  
Editor/Publisher  
Mission Viejo Reporter

Last month, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** with help from the **Mission Viejo Rotary** and the **City of Mission Viejo**, held the first **FASTEST KID IN TOWN - 50 YARD DASH**. It was held at the **Relay for Life** event at Oso Viejo Park. Over 75 racers competed by age and gender to determine the overall Fastest Kid in Town. Participants competed in four age categories: 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 9-10 years, and 11-12 years old.

Thanks to the sponsorship of several businesses the race was a huge success. The family event encourages kids and raises awareness on the importance of fitness and outside activity.

**Ben Gallegos**, took home the title of Fastest Kid in Town with the time of 7.35 seconds in 11-12 Boys. Ben is in the sixth grade at Portola Elementary.

Thanks again to all the wonderful sponsors, the parents and especially the kids for a great event!

-Dave Leckness  
Fastest Kid in Town Race Director



Ian Kane, 1st Place - Boys 9-10



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RE-ELECT GREG RATHS  
MISSION VIEJO CITY COUNCIL 2018

Sita Gorsky  
Rotarian

Jack Jones  
Rotarian

# Greatest City to Live in California: MISSION VIEJO



by Greg Raths  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Mission Viejo

A resident of Mission Viejo recently brought to my attention an article on the website [www.247wallst.com](http://www.247wallst.com) highlighting the best cities to live in the United States. The article is very complimentary to our city stating, "Mission Viejo, a major planned community in southern California's Orange County, is the best city to live in the state of California and among the best cities to live nationwide. Area residents are largely untouched by crime. There were 78 violent crimes in the city for every 100,000 residents in 2016, far fewer than the 386 incidents per 100,000 Americans nationwide."

I am so proud of our city and how we conduct business. The city council, city leadership and staff are true professionals who know how to run a successful community. Balanced budgets, rainy day funds, groomed slopes, smooth roads, beautiful parks and recreation centers, a world class shopping center, and top notch businesses make for the perfect combination for a beautiful community.

Our service organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks, Lions are always there to assist our residents, along with the VFW and American Legion to support our many veterans. Thank you to everyone who makes Mission Viejo the greatest city to live in California.



# SHUTTTLING AROUND TOWN

## MISSION VIEJO SHUTTLE SERVICES HAVE EXPANDED, JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER 2018!

We are fortunate in Mission Viejo to have a proactive City Council and staff always looking for ways to offer residents the best amenities and services possible. Take the MV Shuttle for example. Since launching in 2016, this convenient shuttle has been helping folks get where they want to go for FREE.



by Wendy Bucknum  
City Council Member

I am happy to report that starting June 11, our City has expanded the MV Shuttle's service north just in time for summer! That means along with service to the train station; The Shops at Mission Viejo; Kaleidoscope; and Saddleback College (and to the high schools during the school year), the shuttle will take you to Lake Mission Viejo. Other new destinations include the Civic Center/Library, YMCA, Marguerite Aquatics Complex/Tennis Pavilion, Casta Del Sol, Market on the Lake shopping center, Marty Russo Youth Athletic Park, Florence Joyner-Olympiad Park and the Olympiad Plaza shopping center. You can use the shuttle to go to the many events around Mission Viejo this summer!

These colorful shuttles run on compressed natural gas, so they produce far less emissions than conventional engine-powered vehicles. The shuttles are a win-win for residents and our environment alike. So, don't delay in hopping on the MV Shuttle today!

For more information, visit <http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org/mvshuttle> or call 949-470-3091.





# CONVERSATION *With* THE CHIEF

MISSION VIEJO'S CHIEF OF POLICE

**Lt. Quyen Vuong** has been the Mission Viejo Chief of Police for a few months now and we thought you'd like to get to know him a little better. So, this month we asked Lt. Q a few questions and some are real doosies.

## Q&A

### Favorite music

"I love country music, not the pop country music, the twangy stuff!"



### How long have you been in law enforcement?

*This month marks my 20th anniversary with the OCSD.*

### What was your job before being a deputy sheriff?

*Before becoming a deputy, I worked at my parent's ARCO AM/PM gas station in South Central Los Angeles.*

### Have you ever had to pull your gun out of holster?

*I have pulled my gun out of my holster several times and luckily have never had to pull the trigger.*

### Ever taser anybody?

*Yes, several. When tasers were first introduced in the field, I was the first deputy in OCSD to deploy a taser on a violent person that was extremely intoxicated.*

### Have you ever received a ticket?

No.

### In law enforcement, what was your best day?

*I have had many great days, my best was graduating from the OCSD Academy. Despite my parents wanting me to be in a safer, more traditional job such as a doctor, lawyer, accountant, I could see my parents were proud of me for choosing a life of public service.*

### In law enforcement, what was your worst day?

*My worst day happened this year. I was with a father of a 13-year-old missing girl and we discovered that she committed suicide at a nearby park. Having four kids of my own, it struck me really hard. I felt I failed this father by not finding his daughter safe and bringing her back to him.*

### Do you have any tattoos?

No.

### What was your favorite toy growing up?

*My favorite toy was my Optimus Prime Transformer!*

### Have you ever been tasered?

*Yes. I volunteered to be tased for 5 seconds as part of a training exercise. My biggest fear was that I would scream like a little kid. I was told by my peers the secret was to exhale before the "ride" and it worked!*

### Have you ever been arrested?

No.

### What's the best piece of advice you've been given?

*From some senior sergeants: "Take every call for service seriously and remember, you are dealing with people having possibly the worst day of their life. Ask yourself, 'Did you do everything you could have done? Did you go above and beyond?' That advice is now the advice I give to all of our deputies in Mission Viejo.*

# COMFORTKINGS

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO A GREAT EMPIRE

Meet Mel Trudell, the Founder of Custom Comfort Mattress. Mel and his brother sought after a dream from their garage in Fullerton that they wanted to create the perfect mattress for their families and the community; however, they were told by many well-meaning "doubters" that their no-name brand would not succeed. As their dream grew, the two brothers were able to purchase their first sewing machine, and then soon after, a larger office and manufacturing space on Via Fabricante in Mission Viejo.

by John Rodriguez  
M.V. Chamber of  
Commerce Ambassador

Today, Mel's dream of growing the family-owned business and providing the most comfortable and durable mattresses has grown by leaps and bounds with over 81 employees in 9 locations throughout the southland.

Filli Garcia, Mel's son-in-law and chief Brand Ambassador reminds us, "We thank the residents of the great City of Mission Viejo as they choose to buy locally".

Please visit the beautiful Mission Viejo showroom located at 24002 Via Fabricante, Mission Viejo (949) 855-6030.

*Humans of Mission Viejo* is a monthly column written by John Rodriguez. John works as a Senior Mortgage Banker for iFinance Mortgage, helping people find the best mortgages for their needs. Give him a call at 949-456-7056. [ifinancemortgage.com](http://ifinancemortgage.com)



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FROM OUR GYNECOLOGY DEPT.

# BABY DRIVER

## DOCTOR LEAVES A LEGACY BEHIND IN HIS WAKE

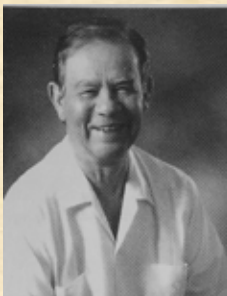
Among the many professional people who opened businesses and practices and bought homes in the early days of Mission Viejo, none had a better reason to locate on historic rancho land than **Dr. Roger Guevara**.

**Dr. Guevara** moved with his family to this newly developing community in 1968, becoming the second physician and first obstetrician-gynecologist to open his office here – across from Mission Viejo High School.

During the 30-year career that followed, **Dr. Guevara** delivered more than 10,000 babies, including the Whistler triplets in 1972 – the first triple birth that occurred in South Orange County.

Among **Dr. Guevara's** ancestors was **Jose Ortega**, the scout who passed through this area with **Gaspar de Portola** during the first Spanish exploration of California.

After his death in 1998, the City of Mission Viejo honored him by changing the name of the one-block extension of Medical Center Road to **Dr. Guevara Way** which leads to the hospital where he had practiced.



FROM OUR LOCAL BUSINESS DEPT.

# PASSING GAS

## SINCE 1970

### LOCAL FAMILY POWERS MISSION VIEJO

Meet **Steve Cary**. Steve and his family have owned the **Mission Viejo Chevron Station** since the early 1970's. Steve has worked at the Chevron station since 1977. Steve and his crew have been providing Mission Viejo residents quality service, gasoline and the most convenient location possible located at Crown Valley Parkway and the five freeway.

Steve has seen the city grow from a viewpoint like no other. He remembers when it was just the Chevron station and Old MacDonalds Farm across the



street.

Steve owns the property and says he'll be here for a long time. So, next time you fill-up, stop and say hi to Steve.

Steve's Chevron station still offers free air and water to all those who need it. Who says the best things in life aren't free?



# Ask Aunt Sandy

- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON



Mission Viejo's very own advice columnist is a straight shooter and slightly humorous.

## LOOKING FOR LOVE

Dear Aunt Sandy,

I live in Casta del Sol, and I'm nearly 80 years old (young), and I was in a relationship with a neighbor who's a year older than me for 6 years. I loved him very much although we were having a few arguments. About two years ago, he met a woman who lives on the street above his. She started tending to his every need as she lived so near him, and I suppose he must have gradually fallen for her. He used to come to visit me every day. He would pick me up a newspaper on the way and took the dog out for a walk for me. Now that he's moved into a house with this other woman, I never see him, and he's told me he's having sex with her, so naturally I ended things. I was always so sure he loved me and I feel utterly heartbroken. I hope you can offer me some words of advice

- Hurt in Mission Viejo

Dear Hurt,

Well, your letter proves that it doesn't matter what age you are when it comes to romantic heartbreak – the pain is just as great whether you're 18 or 80. It's a cliché, but when you get your heart broken, it just takes time to heal. After 6 years with this man, it's not going to heal overnight, but you will get over it, and what you mustn't do now is sit at home by yourself. I love the fact you describe yourself as being "80 years young" – keep that wonderful attitude because you still have a lot of living to do. Find another neighbor to have sex with, I've found after a break up it helps the healing process. I totally get the sense of betrayal you feel. Allow yourself the time to heal, and never blame yourself.

- Aunt Sandy

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**KARL GEBHARD, MD, MS**



FROM OUR DAY DRINKING DEPT.



# Pouring DRINKS

## OFF THE PLANE AND MAKING A LIVING

Lizzy Crombie came to America from Holland in 1983. She started looking for work immediately. On May 5th, 1983, she stopped in Shooters Bar on Marguerite Parkway and asked if they were hiring. It was Cinco de Mayo, and Shooters was busy, so the owner said "Yes, we're hiring." So Lizzy jumped behind the bar and started making Margaritas, and she thought "I'll try this bartender thing out for a month."



Lizzy serving up one of her liquid magic potions

Bar over thirty years ago. The day Mission Viejo Reporter visited Shooters, there were other customers who said, "Lizzy is someone you want to come visit with," and "She makes a great Bloody Mary and pours a mean beer."

Before we snapped a picture of Lizzy for this article, we remembered the advice Joe gave us - "Lizzy is great, just don't piss her off."



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FROM OUR FLYING HIGH DEPT.

# THE LOST AIRPORT

## The REAL HISTORY of the San Juan Capistrano Airport

Most people have not been in the area long enough to remember, but there used to be an airport in South Orange County that was lost forever due to tragedy. Originally built in the 1931 in a nearby location, it was relocated and rebuilt again in the 1960's. The airstrip was located at the end of what is now called Camino Del Avion, near where the **Coach House** is located. It had a 1,400-foot dirt runway and a few small buildings. In the end, 85 planes would call the tiny airport home.

THE COACH HOUSE



Any trace of the airport is gone began to surface.

Eventually, tragedy struck on Memorial Day weekend in May, 1977. A pilot who did not have a commercial flying license lied to the owner of a company which flew large advertising banners behind planes up and down the coastline. The plane he was flying was towing a large banner and crashed shortly after takeoff. A young 5 year-old girl was riding a bicycle along a path bordering San Juan Creek and was struck by the plane's propellor and died.

A month after the accident, the airfield was ordered to be shut down as details of the crash emerged. The airport was closed in 1978. Now, all that remains is the road leading to the airport, Avenida Aeropuerto, and the street where the runway once laid, Calle Aviador.



THE COACH HOUSE  
IN 1977



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- Mission Viejo Y Member

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 **MISSION VIEJO**  
REPORTER

# 50 Yard Dash Success!

Photos by Amy Ashland





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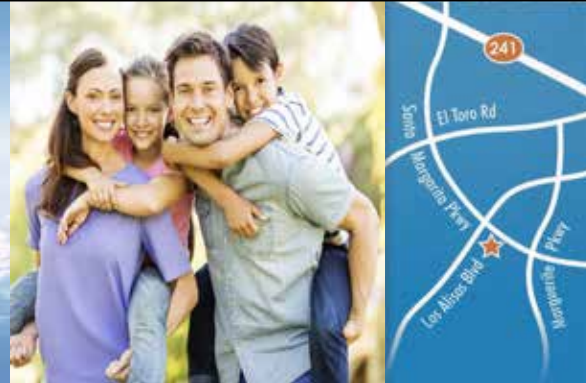
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**3 & ABOUT**  
with Kathy Kuiper

# MICROBLADING

## WAKE UP WITH MAKE UP

Recently, I saw some ads for tattooing and microblading of eyebrows and decided that might be something I would like to do. I have very blonde eyebrows that look nonexistent without eyebrow pencil, and I got tired of looking like I have no brows in the morning! I heard some



friends talking about Microblading, so I decided to check it out for myself. After quite an extensive search (after all, this was to be on my face!), I came upon **Deanna Lien**, owner of the **Artistry of Permanent Makeup** and immediately made an appointment. She was

able to fit me in about a week later. I find that usually people who have a bit of a wait are super good, and worth the wait.

Deanna, who is both a Cosmetologist and Permanent Cosmetic Technician, looked at my brows and said that I was a perfect candidate for microblading. I decided to do it right away since she had time in her day to do it, and it takes less than two hours. She numbed me up and designed the shape of my "new brows" which I approved. It was relatively painless, and she worked her magic pretty quickly. While they were a bit dark for a few days, within a week I had the brows I've always dreamt of! I'm so happy that I enhanced my brows, and have had several compliments on them already.

Deanna also offers other services such as permanent eyeliner, lips, adding beauty marks, tattoo removal, hair follicle stimulation and scar camouflage. When you meet her, you'll know she is the person to enhance your natural beauty.

You may reach **Deanna** at **(858) 361-9168**. She works out of the **Phoenix Salon** in Mission Viejo, 27742 Vista del Lago Suite 119, next to Peppinos restaurant.



**BRAIN  
TWISTER**



**WHAT MISTAKE DO THESE  
PHOTOS HAVE IN COMMON?**





FROM OUR PIGS IN THE BLANKET DEPT.

# PIGGIE SMALLS

## MISSION VIEJO'S FAVORITE SWINE



Meet Mission Viejo High School graduate **Dominic Zendejas**. Dominic takes his pet pig Piggie-Small almost everywhere he goes. Dominic has had Piggie-Small for about a year-and-a-half. When Piggie was born, you could hold him in your hand. Piggie understands quite a few commands such as "sit", as the **Mission Viejo Reporter** witnessed first-hand.

Owning a big pig has some advantages and disadvantages.

**Pros:** Dominic says, "He's smarter than my dogs, clean, total lover & cuddles, loves to run at the park and stay active, cleans up all crumbs on the floor! Super quiet aside from the occasional spunky oinks."

**Cons:** "He eats nonstop, so we just have to limit his food and watch what trash is on the floor in public."

Dominic is a real estate agent with The Keystone Team in Lake Forest. Piggie Small's social media accounts are [@mrpiggiesmalls](#) for everything. Check him out, and



Dominic and Piggie Small's

FROM OUR HANG 'EM HIGH DEPT.

# HANGMAN'S TREE

Every tree in Mission Viejo has been planted by man...except one

Around 1971, the Mission Viejo Company's engineering department discovered while building Los Alisos Blvd that a very old oak tree would be destroyed. This old oak was so magnificent looking and had been rumored to be a legendary hanging tree from back in the days of the explorer **Gaspar de Portola**.

After several meetings with the County's Board of Supervisors, the new design that moved Los Alisos Blvd around the old oak was approved and resulted in saving the Old Oak Tree.

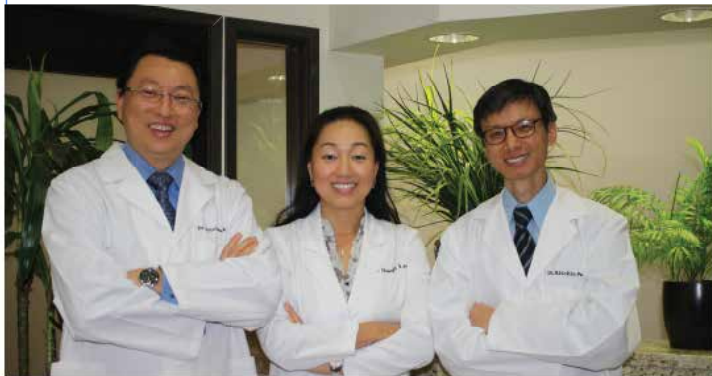
You can visit this tree today as it sits as a sentinel just as it has for hundreds of years in front of **Oaktree Village** at 23166 Los Alisos Blvd.



The tree as it stands today on Los Alisos and as it once looked

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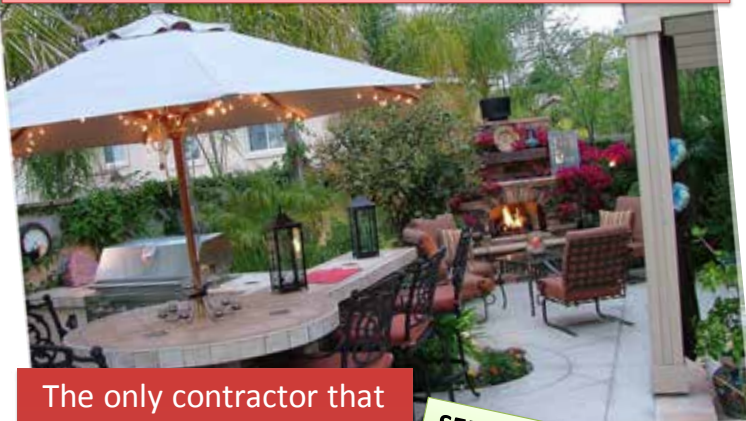
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## NEXT STOP: MISSION VIEJO!

### METROLINK IS STILL THE BEST VALUE IN TOWN

by Lindsey Jauregui

Almost 30 years ago, the City of Mission Viejo initiated an effort to construct a train station in Mission Viejo. The original site considered for the station back in 1990 would have taken out the MV Library (now the Rock Youth Center) and surrounding buildings. Although it had many positive features, due to concerns about the residential nature of the site (noise and lack of potential for surrounding commercial development) as well as traffic congestion, ultimately it was not selected. Several sites within Mission Viejo were given serious consideration, but each hit roadblocks. In the end, only the joint site with Laguna Niguel could be brought to fruition.



Although sharing a station with Laguna Niguel wasn't the City's first choice, it has worked out well and Mission Viejo pays only 50% instead of 100% of the annual maintenance costs.

Today, residents can ride the train all weekend for as little as \$10. Next time you'd like to beat the traffic down to San Diego, just stop by the Mission Viejo/Laguna Niguel Station and ride the train.



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FROM OUR RECREATION IS A DANGEROUS SPORT DEPT.

# BOCCE is Italian for WAR

## Battling With Their Balls

Bocce ball is fun, but the game quickly becomes very competitive. Teams are made up of men, women, and children. Mission Viejo residents play bocce ball on the courts that are made from authentic crushed oyster shells, which is the traditional Italian method of construction.



Paul van Olden, an avid bocce ball player and fierce competitor, recently purchased a pair of authentic Italian stainless-steel bocce balls. He said, "I can't wait to play with my balls at the Murray Center."

The sport is a favorite at family gatherings, parks, and barbecues. The courts are located at the Murray Center. They will be open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 949-470-3062.

FROM OUR ROCKET FUEL DEPT.

# COFFEE

## IS THERE ANYTHING IT CAN'T DO?

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Three years ago, computer whiz Hassan Fahimi left the world of technology to pursue a new dream of owning his own business. After looking around at local establishments, he decided on the one with the most community oriented opportunity. It's A Grind Coffee House on Marguerite Parkway was exactly what he had in mind.

Since then, Hassan's vision has become a reality. Growing into far more than your average coffee house, It's a Grind has transformed into a hub of the community. On any given day, you will find the spacious tables filled with studying teens, the conference room occupied by local businesspeople, the comfortable chairs populated with friendly neighbors, and of course regular commuters stopping for their morning fix before work.

Whenever the City of Mission Viejo has an event, you can expect to see It's a



Grind handing out quality coffee and scrumptious pastries. Mission Viejo resident Victoria and Katie are ready to help.

You'll find Katie at the register and preparing toasted bagels. Just around the counter, you'll find Victoria, steaming milk and making delicious mochas and ice cold frappes.



### Upcoming Events

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FROM OUR GOING DOWNHILL DEPT.

# STEEPEST STREET IN MISSION VIEJO

## MISSION VIEJO'S NOTORIOUS SUICIDE RUN



The steepest street in Mission Viejo is **San Gonzalo**. This beautiful and peaceful street used to be the site for numerous skateboard races and some unfortunate accidents. At the bottom end of San Gonzalo it intersects with Puerta Real and Granada Park.

While skateboard champions were made on San Gonzalo, it also has had its share of disasters, such as the time a young boy on a bicycle could not stop on the steep and

treacherous street and crashed head-on into a car and died.

More than a few times, brakes have failed on vehicles and sent them flying into trees in El Dorado park and left one lady paralyzed for life.



San Gonzalo also has the honor of being the home for Mission Viejo's one verified California Coastal Redwood, reaching up high over the neighborhood homes.

Next time you take a sightseeing tour of Mission Viejo and are near San Gonzalo, make sure you get your brakes tested first.



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## Did you know... **THINGS** THAT ARE NO LONGER THERE

Did you know in the shopping center where **Trader Joe's** stands today on Marguerite Parkway there was a roller skating rink? It was called **Skateway** and was very popular year round in the 70's and 80's.

Did you know Mission Viejo had three locations of horse stables? The first one was at the end of the cul-de-sac on Trabuco Circle where the tennis center parking lot is now located. The second, and largest, was located near Marguerite and La Paz where the Ralph's Center is located. President Ford's son kept his horse there and when he would ride, he was followed around by the Secret Service. The third stable was located near Saddleback College where the animal facility is now located.



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## SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Scarlett Mitrovic - Swimming



**Scarlett Mitrovic** is in 6th grade and is 11 yrs old. She is an Honor Roll student at Las Flores Middle School. Scarlett moved here in mid-November from Seattle.

Living in Rancho Mission Viejo has been the best experience for her; she's made so many friends! Scarlett has always been athletic. Her focus, hard work and determination has helped her achieve her goals.



Despite being so young, she is motivated. She earned a Jr. Black Belt in Jujutsu before her 9th birthday. She is now swimming with the Mission Viejo Nadadores swim team. Her goal is to become an Olympian and to bring home the Gold!



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