



MISSION VIEJO REPORTER™



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VOLUME TWO, NUMBER EIGHT

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

February 2016

Highlights

Meet the Beatles

Hiep Hip Hooray

Electric Avenue

Message From
Fire Chief

Tattoo of the Year

No Ganja Here



CITY'S MOST TREACHEROUS TRAIL



The treacherous Mission Viejo Naciente Trail

This almost-secret Mission Viejo trail takes you to the highest point in Mission Viejo and also connects to the prettiest part of the Arroyo-Trabuco Trail (maintained by OC Parks system). This one-hour round trip hike is moderate to difficult. You begin at the **Naciente Trail** trailhead at the intersection of Olympiad and Jeronimo. The hike is steep up to the fork where you can either go left and continue to the highest point in Mission Viejo or go right and hike to Trabuco Creek (as pictured above).

After veering right and passing **Beebe Sports Park**, you'll begin your steep descent down into the Arroyo. It's beautiful, quiet and difficult. It takes about 30 minutes to arrive at the bottom. Once there, you'll not only enjoy the delightful flowing stream of the Arroyo Creek, but you'll gaze upon centuries-old oak trees. You'll also pass what looks like a 15 foot high bamboo forest. Also, hidden amongst the trees

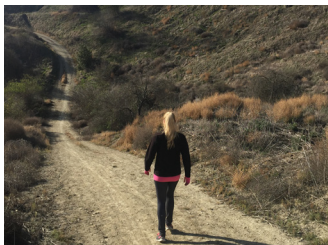
is a large mysterious duck pond.

During the hike, be prepared for the worst...it could happen. This area is the known home of coyotes, mountain lions, skunks, poison ivy and killer bees. Walk with eyes that rove everywhere for hidden danger, and be prepared to run like the wind at its first appearance. If you go, take protection for all of the above. We here at the **Mission Viejo Reporter** recommend a Ciupaga (Shepherds axe), which has a small metal headpiece that is sharp on one side while the other side is flat and can be used as a hammer. The headpiece is formed to fit comfortably into the hand so the shepherd's axe could be used as a walking stick... but it won't be of any assistance in the event of a killer bee attack.

Enjoy the outdoors.



Ciupaga



Mission Viejo Sweethearts



Grandmother & Lynette McCall



Rima & Nader



Brad & Lynette Feldman



John & Marla



The Moores

From The Editor

By Dave Leckness

The Mission Viejo Reporter is designed to bring attention to all the good things this city has to offer. Our goal is to introduce you to people and places you may not have heard about.

Each issue we showcase a few residents and businesses that make up our wonderful city. We get our ideas and articles from you, the readers. In the next few months we will acquaint you with what we call the Difference Makers, ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

The greatest gift to a community is when someone goes the extra mile and it makes a difference. Going the extra mile is doing more than is expected. Going the extra mile is extending ourselves to our full reach. Going the extra mile is getting back up after we've been knocked down, despite whatever has happened.

We want to acknowledge these people. If you know of someone who has gone the extra mile, or been knocked down and got back up or has done something extraordinary, share it with us...we'd like to know.

This issue is jam-packed with cool stuff. We introduce you to a guy who has a tattoo the size of a house on his side. We'll introduce you to a guy who streams Beatles music out of his Mission Viejo home to the world. Also, we'll share with you a disturbing story of a rabid bat encounter. Our cover story reveals the Naciente Trail with its obstacles and beauty.



Thanks for reading.

-Dave

El Niño in Mission Viejo

By Orange County
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

As your Orange County Supervisor, public safety is among my top priorities, which includes preparing for El Niño in Orange County.



The County of Orange is responsible for all large flood control channels around the County, as well as street gutters and catch basins in the unincorporated areas, including Coto de Caza, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo, Stonecliffe and Wagon Wheel, in addition to the cities of Mission Viejo, Lake Forest and Dana Point. Other cities maintain their own street gutters and catch basins.

If storm gutters by your house are blocked, please call Mission Viejo Public Works Department.
(949) 470-3064

Also, by registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the county or the city in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, email accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.

To register for AlertOC, visit www.AlertOC.com. For tips to prepare for El Niño, visit www.ReadyOC.org.

Tattoo You

ARE YOU THIS COMMITTED TO MISSION VIEJO?



Meet **Chris Felten**, a long time Mission Viejo Resident. Chris has lived here his entire life, 35 years. He was born at Mission Hospital, and is now raising his twin girls in the Cordova Canyon track.

He loves Mission Viejo so much that he carries proudly on his side a constant reminder. A lover of traditional tattoos, Chris asked **Brother Greg** at **San Clemente Tattoo** to make the masterpiece along his left ribcage. The tattoo took three separate two-hour sessions to complete.

COMMUNITY COUNTS

By Wendy Bucknum, Mayor Pro Tem

"It Takes a Community to Protect a Community"



Mission Viejo was named by the CQ press as the safest city in California, once again. This is because of our excellent police services and our diligent citizens – YOU! But we must be vigilant as there is an increase in stolen items from unlocked as well as locked cars late at night and the early morning hours. Lock your cars at all times and do NOT leave any valuables where a thief can view them!

According to information we received recently from Homeland Security, Informed alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. We can all keep our community safe by paying attention to our surroundings and reporting suspicious activity.

If You See Something Say Something.

Describe the following:

- Who or what you saw
- When you saw it
- Where it occurred
- Why it's suspicious



Orange County Sheriff's Department's 24 hour non-emergency dispatch is 949-770-6011.

Neighborhood Watch is a great tool for all of us– if you don't have a Neighborhood Watch, start one and get to know your neighbors. Visit the City's website for information.

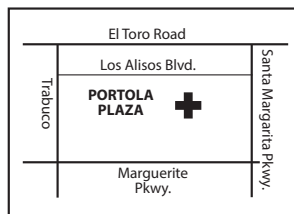
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Shannon Brennan: Membership
communications@missionviejocc.com



Lynnette Arreola: Banquets & Weddings
lynnette@missionviejocc.com

Question?

Ask the City

Question:

What are these poles along our major streets that have solar panels attached to the top?

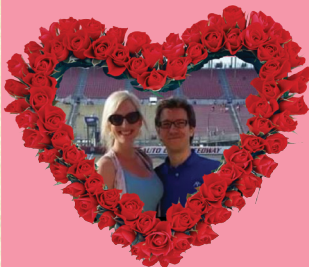
Answer:

The image is that of a Data Collection Unit (DCU), installed and owned by SoCalGas. The devices, of which there are about 400 in Mission Viejo, are used to receive gas-use data from the Mission Viejo meters in the area and to send that information back to SoCalGas, where bills are generated. DCUs communicate via cellular service and receive information by way of a radio frequency signal generated from devices installed on gas meters.



Questions? Call Public Services
Department 949-470-3064
publicservices@cityofmissionviejo.org

SWEETHEARTS OF THE MONTH



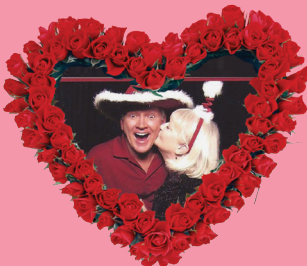
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Ehram
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Ali & Robert



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Brian & Kim Jones



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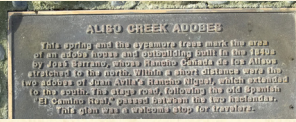
ON THIS SPOT

A memorial plaque has been installed in **Mission Viejo's Sycamore Park** to honor Juan Avila and Jose Serrano, who built an adobe house there almost 170 years ago.

On January 5, 1847, during the war with Mexico a meeting was arranged with the famous U.S. Army General Stephen Watts Kearny, Navy Commodore Robert Field Stockton and celebrated scout Kit Carson, who assisted the Americans through this unfamiliar area.

The important meeting was hosted by **Juan Avila**, owner of neighboring Rancho Niguel, in his adobe on the west side of present day Interstate 5 freeway, near Aliso Creek, and at the edge of today's Mission Viejo.

The renowned Mormon Battalion also camped on a portion of this land the same year, on its way from San Diego to recapture Los Angeles during the war with Mexico.



Yellow Submarine

"HIEP HIP HOORAY"

Meet Hiep Nguyen. His students call him Mr. Hiep Hip Hooray. Hiep is an artist, art teacher, and the founder/executive director of Circle Painting, a community-based art project and a non-profit organization with a vision of making "Art for All, and All for Art."

Circle Painting's mission is to help artists, teachers, social workers to transform their programs and organizations through an exciting collaborative art experience.

This winter, Hiep will lead a workshop, "Breaking The Mold: Teaching Art Has Never Been So Much Fun," for Mission Viejo's Friends of the Arts at Potocki Art Center.

If you are K-12 art teachers, art specialists, art therapists, or teaching artists, you don't want to miss this spectacular workshop. For more info. about this workshop, please visit <https://econnect.cityofmissionviejo.org/Activities/ActivitiesAdvSearch.asp>

visit www.circlepainting.org or
<https://www.facebook.com/circlepainting.org>



Legacy of the "California Promise"

By **Art Villalobos**
Mission Viejo Heritage Committee

The planned community of Mission Viejo began in the late 1960's with a concept developed by the Mission Viejo Company. When the 70's rolled around, Mission Viejo was developing into a well-balanced community, based on sound economic principles.

Considerable thought was put into planning and insuring a cohesive development. The Mission Viejo Company constructed homes with streets designed to include beautifully landscaped medians and hillsides. The master plan included shopping centers, public schools, a community college, a hospital and medical centers. Four recreation centers were developed, including one with Olympic size swimming pool, and three other pools that included jacuzzis. The playgrounds offered basketball, handball or racketball courts, tennis courts and fitness centers. The city added a bowling center, roller skating rink, youth athletic and community parks, a private lake for boating, fishing and swimming, two golf courses, one a private country club and the other for public use.

The Mission Viejo Company set the standard for an incredible community. Since incorporation in 1988, our City and Community have worked diligently to continue the Legacy of the "California Promise."



Intersections

We Remember



Can you guess this 1975 Mission Viejo intersection?
For answer text (949) 533-1515

GLASS ONION

All your life you were only waiting for this moment to arise. Mission Viejo is the home and birthplace of **Beatlesarama.com**. It's a 24-7 stream of Beatles tunes, John, Paul, George and Ringo solo songs, and much more.

Founded late in 2001 by longtime Mission Viejo resident **Pat Matthews**, the stream has now entered its second decade with an enthusiastic air staff and listeners all over the world.

Here at **Mission Viejo Reporter** headquarters we play this local station all the time and absolutely love it. Pat Matthews is a genius. Keep listening and it's likely you'll hear something new every day. In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.

*"Whisper words of wisdom, let it be."
The Beatles*

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MEET YOUR MERCHANT

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE OVEN

BIG "O" TO GO has been pumping out pizzas since 1976. Owner **Gene Orr** was 28 years old when he decided to leave his uncle's pizza store and open his own business. Gene was living in Huntington Beach and wanted to open his new pizza joint in either Irvine or the city that was really creating a buzz in south Orange County...Mission Viejo.



When Gene drove up to the corner of Jeronimo and Marguerite there were no buildings, just a sign that said "Will build to suit." Gene signed a lease and has never looked back. In the 40 years Gene has been selling pizzas he has employed hundreds of high school and college kids, mostly the children of his customers.



Some say, the secret to **BIG "O" TO GO's** terrific pizza is the oven they are cooked in. Gene's first oven lasted about 5 years. The second oven he purchased was the top-of-the-line in 1981. Since then, Gene has produced about 750,000 pizzas in this oven.

It's All About the Pizzzza

By Kathy Kuiper

Our family has pizza every Friday night. It's our little reward for getting through the week that is often filled with work deadlines, plus homework, piano lessons and soccer practices. This month we ventured out to try a new pizza place to seek out some of the best our great city has to offer.

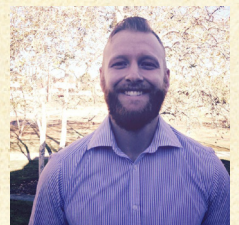
All Star Pizza is a popular place for watching sports because of the large flat-screen TVs and delicious food. Many teams also head there after a game because it's very spacious and has lots of fun games for the kids to play. We always make up our own pizza combinations, like jalapeño, mushroom, chicken and bell peppers. This is seriously some of the best pizza I've ever had. An order of Irish fries with melted cheese, green onions and bacon is a must have. I don't know if it's the crust or interesting combination of toppings, but I could literally eat it every day. Our kids enjoy a cheese pizza or the delicious mostaccioli, but mostly they're off playing games as long as we keep supplying the quarters. Don't forget to try the bacon-wrapped jalapeño poppers, which are ridiculously good.

If you "like" the **Mission Viejo Reporter** on Facebook this month, you're automatically entered to win a gift certificate to All Star Pizza. Enjoy!



Mission Viejo Resident of the Month

Our Mission Viejo resident of the month is **Chris Nelson**. Chris is lucky enough to be a resident and a business owner in our city. He has owned **Good Circle Insurance** for the last 3 years, where he offers quality insurance solutions to the residents of Mission Viejo. Chris is an active member in the Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce and is involved with many other different city activities.



Chris is young and single. He rents an apartment at **Sycamore Lane Apartments** in Mission Viejo, just steps away from historic **Sycamore Park** (see Mexican Standoff in this issue). Chris takes full advantage of all the great benefits the city has to offer all of our residents.

Chris loves living and working in Mission Viejo. He is dedicated to the community and will continue to provide amazing customer service at **Good Circle Insurance** (949) 528-6604 for many years to come.

Chris Nelson represents the future of Mission Viejo.



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CONTACT US

EDITOR

Dave Leckness, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

STORY EDITOR

Ronda Millward, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

LAYOUT DESIGN

Travis Brenier, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

REPORTER

Daria Majlessi, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

SALES MANAGER

Clayton McEuen, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Jason Givin, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

DESIGNER

Kim Jones, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

NATIONAL AFFAIRS DESK

Dr. D.L. Avery, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

REPORTER

Justin Bass, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com

REPORTER

Kathy Kuiper, 949.364.2309
MissionViejoReporter@gmail.com



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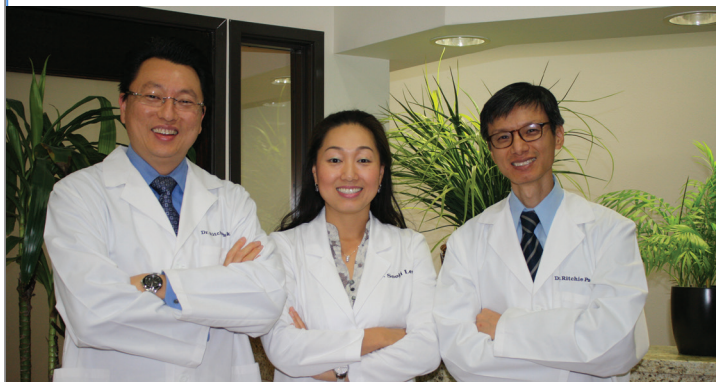
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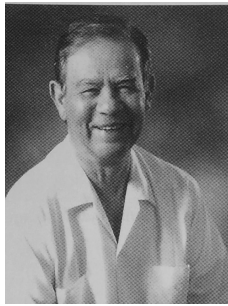
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Golden Slumbers

GUEVARA, ORTEGA & PORTOLA

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 **Dr. Guevara's** 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.



Day Tripper NO GANJA HERE

The Mission Viejo City Council voted in December to preserve the City's existing prohibition on cultivation, distribution, dispensing and related transportation of marijuana, for both recreational use and medicinal use, as well as ensure enforcements consistent with California State law.

The ordinance restates and confirms that the City's zoning ordinance is permissive, meaning only permitted uses are allowed, and has at all times been of permissive nature.

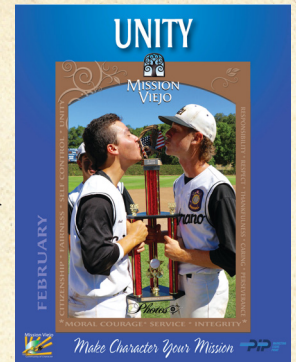


COME TOGETHER

In February, the City highlights the quality of unity. Unity is a trait that includes teamwork, agreement, harmony, support, sharing, and selflessness. Through unity we can recognize our limitations and appreciate the resources available through others.

We are all stronger when we work together! Unity is imperative in areas such as families, sports teams, bands, and choirs. **Babe Ruth's** words help us to see the value of unity: *"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."*

Trish Kelley, Co-Founder, Mission Viejo Community of Character



Paperback Writer

BOOK WORMS NEEDED

The Mission Viejo Library and Friends Bookstore are always seeking enthusiastic volunteers who enjoy working with people and books. Bookstore volunteer positions include sales associates, who help evaluate and price donated books, and assistants, who are responsible for listing and shipping books purchased through the Friends' online Amazon account.

Right now, the bookstore is seeking a sorter to work Thursday mornings and the library needs a volunteer passport photographer for Saturday mornings.

For more information about volunteering, contact **Vickie Sullivan** at 949-830-7100 ext. 5128 or at vsullivan@cityofmissionviejo.org.



Ticket To Ride REALLY BIG SHOOO! WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Don't miss this tribute to the great Ed Sullivan. Join us for a walk down memory lane. The show will take place at the **Annenberg Theater in Palm Springs**. There will be time to dine in downtown Palm Springs for lunch on your own.

- The fee is \$115 for deluxe transportation and the show. The course number is #4088.

- Departure time from the Murray Center at 9:00 am and returns at 7:30 pm.



- For more information, please go to econnect.cityofmissionviejo.org or call 470-3062.

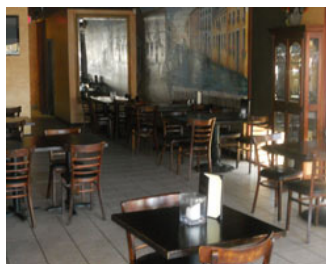
Dinner with Dalia

Dalia van den Boogaard
Restaurant Review

Sabatino: a Longtime Favorite Family-Style Ristorante

Since 1997, one of the most dependable and affordable choices for a fine Italian meal has been **Sabatino**. Both family-run and family-friendly, this eatery welcomes diners with a casual atmosphere spruced up with curio cabinetry and paintings of charming Venetian cityscapes. Once seated, diners will find it challenging to select among the many traditional and specialty pastas, pizzas, and calzones. Choosing is worth the challenge! All dishes feature fresh ingredients and the creative flair of owner Wali Azamy, also the head chef. Even the complimentary appetizer, Garlic Knots served with a perky marinara sauce, gives diners a taste of scrumptious things to come.

On a recent Saturday evening, my husband and I ordered dishes recommended by our server, one of Azamy's two sons, who both work at Sabatino. We started with Tomato Bruschetta, whose bread amply absorbed the dynamic topping. Next came pizza: half Spicy Buffalo Chicken and half Spinach and Pesto Garlic. The flavorful crust rendered this gourmet pizza outstanding. The pastas that followed knocked us out. I devoured the luscious Chicken Cabernet, composed of farfalle graced with delicate slices of chicken breast, mushrooms, and onions in a creamy cabernet sauce. My husband delighted in the tender Eggplant Parmigiana, served with a piquant side of spaghetti. Clearly, we had no room for dessert, leaving us no other choice but to plan a return visit to Sabatino—soon!

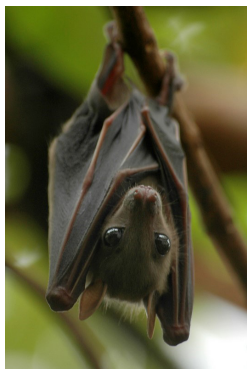


Attack Of The Bats

RABIES ALERT IN MISSION VIEJO



The most important fact for people to remember about bats is that they are the number one carrier in Orange County of the rabies virus. This is very important because exposure to a bat means exposure to the virus. Because of this, **Mission Viejo Animal Services** responds immediately to every call involving a bat in contact with humans or pets.



Recently, a resident brought a bat into the Animal Services Center after observing children striking it with sticks. The bat was tested for rabies, and it was confirmed to be a positive carrier of the virus. For this reason, it was a high priority for **Mission Viejo Animal Services** to locate all humans exposed in order for them to get post-exposure rabies vaccines. Children should be educated to respect all wildlife, and especially bats. Children should stay as far away from bats as possible.

If a bat is in contact with humans or pets, or if a bat is in or around your home, please contact the **Mission Viejo Animal Shelter** at 1-949-470-3045.



Long And Winding Road

SPECIAL MISSION VIEJO WEB PAGE

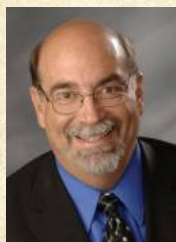
You may have heard that interest rates are rising but the fact remains that they are still in the historically low range. The Federal Reserve Bank has predicted several more rate increases in the next 12-15 months but you can still get a loan in the low 4% area if your credit is good.

You can now search for all of the listings in Mission Viejo by visiting this webpage: <http://bit.ly/MVNewYear>

Here you will find all the most accurate listings of homes for sale in the Mission Viejo area. You can even set up your own search customized to your specific needs.

This list contains a wide variety of homes that are available in Mission Viejo, starting with an efficient 2 bedroom condo in the Aliso Villas area up to a fabulous estate in the gated Canyon Crest community.

You can now search for all of the listings in Mission Viejo by visiting this webpage: <http://bit.ly/MVNewYear>



So, Happy New Year and Happy House Hunting!

John Alesi

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949-510-2154

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Puppies In Training

By Rita Tayenaka

Mission Viejo has several volunteers who are doing great things with local puppies. Have you seen pups out and about with yellow vests (Guide Dogs of America) or green vests (Guide Dogs for the Blind) and yellow and blue vests (Canine Companions)? These puppies are in your neighborhood learning how to become great helpers for those who are physically handicapped. These dogs in training will be found at your local grocery store, the mall, and local restaurants. They are experiencing all the things that they may run into when they become actual working dogs. The volunteer puppy-raisers are committed to exposing the puppies to as many experiences as possible.

Here are a couple of rules to follow when you see these cute little pups training:

1. Always ASK before you pet- if you reach down and pet the puppy it will be interrupting its important training. Usually the puppy-raiser will allow you to pet the puppy once they have put the pup in a sit.
2. NEVER feed the puppy or give it treats. These dogs are on a strict no treat and no table food plan. So don't undo their hard earned training. Did you know that you can become a volunteer puppy raiser for any of these groups? Google the organization and fill out an application. You have the puppy from 8 weeks to about 1.5 years before they go in for formal training. It is a fun and rewarding project.

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OFCA Mission Viejo Employee of the Year



By Mission Viejo Fire Chief John Abel

I am pleased to announce **Fire Captain Eric Leverenz** as Mission Viejo Employee of the year from the Orange County Fire Authority! Fire Captain Leverenz is a 30 year veteran of the fire service located at Fire Station 9, next to The Shops at Mission Viejo. Eric was selected because of his commitment to the Fire Service and his dedication to providing the highest level of service to our communities. Eric's role as a front line supervisor on Engine 9 includes instructing and training subordinate personnel, leading and mentoring probationary firefighters and paramedics, coordination and command of emergency incidents including medical emergencies, vehicle extrication, heavy rescues and structural and wildland firefighting.



Captain Leverenz is dedicated to the beatification of Fire Station 9 and has been actively involved in the planning and pursuit of drought tolerant landscaping as well as plans for the future fire station 9 scheduled for 2018. Captain Leverenz's leadership is also shared on the state and national level. He is actively involved on the California Task Force 5 Urban Search and Rescue team as the Medical Specialist Coordinator. This FEMA team of specialized rescuers is dispatched around the nation to disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, September 11 terrorist attacks, Oklahoma City Bombing and more. Captain Leverenz also works on state and local incident management teams as a plans team member. In his leisure, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.



MISSION VIEJO HACIENDA OF THE MONTH

The winner of the Hacienda of the Month is Joe and Ardith de la Peña.

The de la Peña family has lived here in Mission Viejo for 33 years. Joe is a man-of-the-cloth at the Church on the Solid Rock in Lake Forest.

Roses grace the front yard of the de la Peña home. Some years the long-stem roses reach the roofline. Joe grows the Olympiad Rose, in tribute to the 1984 Olympic bike race that he watched when he arrived here in Mission Viejo.

To save water Joe installed a drip system for the potted plants around the house. His beautiful front lawn is artificial turf but you'd never know it. Inside the house are various other energy saving devices. The de la Peña's water bill reflects that they only used about 50% of what is allowed from the water company.

Way to go, Joe!

26671 Las Tunas
Mission Viejo, CA, 92692



Electric Avenue

CHARGE-IT-UP THE EV REVOLUTION

By Justin Bass

NASA scientists announced last month that "2015 was the warmest year since modern record-keeping began in 1880" and that "15 of the 16 warmest years on record have now occurred since 2001." Mission Viejo is doing its part to combat global warming by reducing the use of fossil fuels, but there aren't enough public charging stations to meet the growing electric vehicle (EV) demand.



Photo: Fiat

South County Fiat at Mission Viejo sells an electric Fiat that starts at around \$33,000 and is super fun to drive because of its quick acceleration. I took it out for a test drive to see firsthand what it was like going EV in MV. The app, Plugshare, was helpful finding several charging stations, but unfortunately I found out that there are only two charging stations open to the public in all of Mission Viejo.

ChargePoint owns and operates the lone charging station outside the Mission Viejo Walgreens, where I witnessed Gina McClure waiting for another car (absent a driver) to finish charging before she could charge her car.

"I thought there were going to be a lot of charge stations and there truly is not," said McClure, a workers' compensation lawyer who drives an electric car to transport her kids to and from school in Mission Viejo. "It must be nice for the charging stations. They charge for it. I wish they would put them in."

According to Erin Mellon, Communications Director for ChargePoint, a company called Franchise Services is looking to install a new public EV charging station at its Mission Viejo headquarters off Crown Valley Pkwy. Franchise Services did not return emails for comment.

NRG EVgo owns and operates the only other public charging station in the City, at The Shops at Mission Viejo parking lot, outside Forever 21. EVgo monitors EV sales in each geographical location and has the "ability to add chargers to the existing location as demand requires," said Jeremy Desel, Director of Communications at NRG EVgo.

I met Mario Sadri, a resident of Mission Viejo, who is on the verge of changing his gas-powered taxi fleet to all EVs, he said. While waiting for his car to recharge at The Shops at Mission Viejo, he explained, "I always tell my friends, it's a win-win-lose situation. It's a win for your pocketbook. It's a win for the environment. It's a lose for the oil companies."

Sadri added, "The ideal situation for people who are considering it, now that we have the technology, we can install solar panels on your home and make your car run on solar energy."

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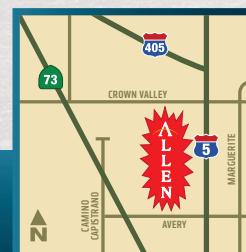
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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Mary Brascia

Capo Valley High School - Varsity Golf Team

Mary, a sophomore at Capo Valley High School, started playing golf about two and a half years ago. She enjoyed going out to the range to hit buckets of balls with her dad and sisters. Now Mary is a captain for Capo's varsity golf team. She even shot a 36 at Marbella Country Club, which was the course record at Capo.

Mary is looking forward to the opportunities she will have next season, and she would love to continue golf in college.