MISSION VIEJO'S TALLEST TREE  

Nicknamed (by us) "Old Glory" tops out at 125'

Mission Viejo named "Tree City USA"

Mission Viejo is loaded with trees, 45,000 of them. We have palms, sycamores, elms, oaks, pines, and even bonsai. Trees are an important part of our community. Our streets, parks, playgrounds, and backyards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings, and our Mission Viejo crows love them. Some areas are also home to very old trees that serve as historic landmarks and a great source of town pride (see our January issue – Hangman’s Tree).

Mission Viejo’s tallest tree is nicknamed “Old Glory.” It stands 125 feet tall. That’s the estimated height recorded at last tree trim. All trimmed Mission Viejo trees are entered into a vast database, and this tree is the tallest in our database.

For your enjoyment we’ve tied a blue ribbon around the base of this massive Mission Viejo tree. Can you find it? Text 949 533-1515 for exact location.

This month, we’ve asked our Mission Viejo Reporter Facebook fans to send us some of their best pictures of Mission Viejo trees. Here you will find some very good examples of why Mission Viejo has been named “Tree City USA”...enjoy.

Mission Viejo Film Festival

Mission Viejo is ready for your close up!

On May 21, 2016, The Voss Brothers, Tyler and Grant, will be hosting the Mission Viejo Film Festival at the Kaleidescope from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Mission Viejo Film Festival is a showcase for aspiring filmmakers and supports a worthy and charitable cause. All proceeds from this festival will be donated to City of Hope’s research and treatment of cancer.

All films must be family friendly and fifteen minutes maximum.

There are three categories: Elementary, High School, College, and Independent.

Awards will be given in four categories: Mark Jennings Award, Mayor’s Award, City of Hope Award, and People’s Choice Award.

For more information contact www.missionviejofilmfestival.com
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Frank Ury

Mission Viejo has always prided itself on our outstanding Animal Services. From volunteers, to the shelter, to our no-kill policy, to our amazing facility, our commitment to animal lovers in Orange County is second to none. In fact, just a few years ago, we began providing those services to two other south county cities.

On March 8, the City Council authorized staff to move forward with expanding our Animal Services to the Cities of Laguna Hills and Rancho Santa Margarita. The Council has been working on this for month, and there are many benefits to the City.

First, our costs to our taxpayers will go down 10%. Second, adding both cities will allow for us to staff after hours animal services. Currently, after hours issues are handles with an on-call basis only. Third, both of the joining cities will provide capital dollars, which will allow us to expand the facilities to accommodate the additional animals, and some other upgrades.

We await the vote from Laguna Hills and Rancho Santa Margarita. I will update you next month on how things are progressing.

Frank Ury, Mayor City of Mission Viejo

DIFFERENCE Makers
CELEBRATING EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

by Stacy Mealin

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.

In Mission Viejo we are surrounded by marvelous people, people who are competent, people who make bold decisions, people who are creative, people who share a common sense of decency, fairness, and public concern.

Let us introduce you to Gary Brenner... Gary has been a resident of Mission Viejo for 22 years, with his lovely wife Cristy and their two dogs.

He worked for Northrop Grumman, in EL Segundo, as an aerospace engineer. While he was there and nearly close to retiring, he met Bill Bracken. Bill had a plane at the Torrance private airport where Gary maintained service on his plane consistently. One day, Gary noticed the plane was missing. He had discovered that Bill had been flying a medical team to and from Baja Mexico and had a terrible accident. Gary decided in 1998 to be a good Samaritan. He decided to take over the volunteer transportation to Mexico, using his own six passenger plane to carry medical supplies and medical teams to a facility the Mexican locals provided. The name of the nonprofit organization is called “Flying Samaritans.” Gary flew for the “Flying Samaritans” for 12 years and ended his last journey in 2010.

In 2010, Gary found another nonprofit organization called Liga International. This nonprofit was located in the State of Sinaloa Mexico. Gary continues bringing medical staff and ophthalmolists to a town called El Fuerte. He enjoys working with the Liga International group because in El Furerte the Mexicans were able to give the medical staff an operating room and to provide more services and supplies.

Gary makes about 18 trips a year to Mexico, and has fulfilled his life by giving back.
By Irene Palatics

Mission Viejo resident, Kristin O’Sullivan joined 86 teammates from around the country to run the Boston Marathon on Patriots’ Day as part of Team MR8.

MR8 is the Martin Richard Foundation. It was created by the parents of eight-year-old Martin Richard who was the youngest victim in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. For days after the bombings, a picture trended on social media showing Martin holding a handmade poster that read “No more hurting people. Peace.” This profound message was the starting point of the Foundation’s mission to invest in “education, athletics and community.”

A Mission Viejo resident since 2008, O’Sullivan is a retired elementary school teacher from the New York and Boston metropolitan areas. While she has been a runner all of her life, this was her first marathon. She enjoys all of the wonderful trails throughout Mission Viejo.

When asked what kept her going each mile of the marathon, O’Sullivan said, “It all comes down to Martin Richard.” She was inspired by the message Martin’s father shared at the team’s introduction at famed Fenway Park in Boston. “He hopes Martin will live a full life through the works of the Foundation.”

For more information about MR8, please visit www.teammr8.org.

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Whether you are an established business or new to the area, the Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce is here to help you succeed. Our goals are:

1. To provide opportunities and benefits for Chamber Members to help strengthen their businesses.
2. To promote and assist businesses in Mission Viejo by creating a climate where they can operate in a productive and profitable manner.
3. To cooperate with and support the business community of Mission Viejo both locally and within the region.
4. To educate, inform, and encourage residents to shop and dine in Mission Viejo and patronize local businesses.
5. To increase the economic base of Mission Viejo while preserving our historic resources, quality of life, ambiance, and the interest of you members.

**What We Do**

The Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce is here to support the business community. We provide opportunities for local businesses to meet like-minded business owners, learn from experts, and promote themselves within the community. Join us at our mixers and special events. Or come out and support your fellow business owners at their ribbon cuttings and community events.

**Why We Do It**

Being a business owner today can be challenging. But it is important to know that you are not alone. The Mission Viejo Chamber is here to help you get involved in the community, provide a voice for your business through various events, activities and advertising opportunities, and give you access to local experts that can help you be successful.

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**Message From The President**

**Chamber of Commerce**

Chuck McCollough, President

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We moved in July of 1968. When my parents actually purchased our house, this sign had just over 4,000, it was on La Paz. -Donna Cate Ruggles

We are pleased to have Duke and Cindy Deal’s home as our Hacienda of the Month.

The Deal’s home is located on the corner as you enter their beautiful neighborhood. Standing like a piece of art in the Deal’s front yard is the most magnificently manicured tree you’ll ever see. It’s as if the tree was carved from Italian green marble by Michelangelo himself.

While driving past this house, we stopped and inquired about the Deal’s beautiful front yard tree. We asked Duke if he would be our “Hacienda of the Month” recipient in honor of the City’s Tree City USA award, and he said “Sure, I guess.”

Lauren Boudreau brings you the best things to buy.

We’ve all been there for the best deals: the dollar store. Sometimes things are a dollar, sometimes they’re not, but we always know one thing: they are dirt cheap. But is anything worth buying at the dollar store? We know that with cheap prices comes cheap manufacturing. Won’t it just break in a week? Believe it or not, there are some items that you should definitely get from the dollar store. These items won’t break or expire, and they are items you actually need. Well, OK, mostly need.

Here’s the definitive list of items you should get from your local dollar store.

1. Greeting Cards Everyone who’s been to Hallmark knows a greeting card can set you back as much as six bucks. But it doesn’t have to! The dollar store has you covered. It has greeting cards for every occasion at less than a dollar.

2. Plastic Utensils Why spend more money on something that is just going to be thrown away right after use?

3. Storage Bins used for storage don’t need to be anything fancy. You throw the old Christmas lights in and toss it in the basement. At the dollar store, you’ll find bins for a variety of uses.

4. Tampons/Sanitary Napkins As long as women still have to pay for these, they should purchase them at the dollar store. Feminine products can set you back six to ten bucks elsewhere.

5. Aluminum Foil You should always get your aluminum foil at the dollar store. The price per square foot will always beat any other retailer.

6. Balloons At other stores, balloons can be $5, but at the dollar store, a balloon is a buck.

7. Cleaning Supplies Buying cleaning supplies at the dollar store is a good way to keep to a budget. The supplies have all the same ingredients (though maybe a bit diluted) and get the job done.

8. Craft Supplies Even if you’re not into crafting, it’s a good way to keep kids busy. The dollar store sells plenty of beads, crayons, paintbrushes, coloring books, glitter, and more!

9. Bathroom Supplies This includes shaving cream, mouthwash, toothbrushes, and loofas.

10. Books Barnes and Noble sells new books for over $20. The dollar store also has popular books for a fraction of the price – in hardcover.
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High End Golf Without the High End Price - Right in Your Backyard
Orange Coast Media is the home of nationally syndicated television shows “The Sunday Drive” and “Race Central TV.” President and CEO Mark Perleberg is a 35 year Mission Viejo resident who currently resides on beautiful Lake Mission Viejo.

But the real excitement for Mark is what he calls his “Misfit Collection” of cars (over 20 give-or-take) which is proudly displayed in the downstairs of the production studio. Mark, an avid car collector and automotive historian, says that the collection is reminiscent of high school parking lots in the 1970s, with everything from a VW Van, Pinto Squire Wagon, Fiat Spider, Karmann Ghia, Triumph TR7, and Plymouth Duster and one his personal favorites, a one-owner 1979 Mercury Cougar XR7 finished in tangerine orange with a white leather interior. None of the cars are offered for sale; the real purpose is just for fun. Future plans are to set up a slot car track, pinewood car track and other automotive-related interests for the purpose of helping charities that benefit troubled or under-privileged teens. Mark is involved with the “Steve McQueen” Classic Car Show that benefits the Boys Republic, a juvenile detention center that was founded in 1907 to help troubled teens find peace outside of jail, with actor, Steve McQueen being it’s most famous inmate.

As Mark puts it, “I have been fortunate to spend my entire life playing with cars in one form or another, and the TV shows are a great forum to take our viewers to an event they may never travel to on their own.”

To view “The Sunday Drive,” tune into Cox Channel 3 on Sunday mornings at 8:00am and “Race Central” on Direct TV channel 214. Or you can watch these programs 24 hours per day at www.thesundaydrive.tv or www.racecentralmedia.com.

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We had so much fun with our pub crawl that we decided to continue exploring the pubs around Mission Viejo. We’re fortunate to have a good selection to choose from and all within a few miles, or as we like to say, “A $10 Uber ride.”

One Wednesday afternoon, my husband and I popped into Mulleady’s, which is at 27695 Santa Margarita Parkway, just off Los Alisos. The atmosphere is like the show “Cheers,” with lots of regulars. Some good friends had told us to be sure to order the clam chowder that is chock full of clams. My husband was licking his chops when he ordered the Shepherd’s Pie with a tall Guinness Beer. It certainly did not disappoint! Bill said that the meat and the crust were perfect. The owners, Kris and Gary, work in the bar, and the smell wafted our way so I couldn’t resist. Somehow they went perfectly with my cabernet. The kitchen sent over an extra chili dog with cheese that the cook had made for a patron who had to stop at just one, in spite of having ordered two. Close to bedtime, I smelled that awesome chili again and laughed when I saw my husband heating up that dog in the microwave. A few patrons said that the Bloody Marys are the bomb. We definitely plan to try the Sunday brunch soon!

As your kids may remind you, summer is coming. It’s a time to refresh and find new adventures. April is National Library Month, and Mission Viejo’s jewel is prepared to whet your appetite for literary exploration.

To honor the season, the library and Tutor Doctor will host a Chamber of Commerce mixer from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21. The event will mark the launch of Tutor Doctor’s program to encourage students to explore with the library’s help this summer.

While getting a taste of relaxation, the public can enjoy refreshments and learn what is around the corner for local businesses.

It’s an exciting partnership for the city. Tutor Doctor provides customized learning plans featuring 1-on-1 in-home tutoring. The library is the city’s premier resource for educational support and literacy development and a welcoming gathering place.

For more information, call the chamber at 949-470-8409 or Tutor Doctor at 949-614-0220.
Resident Submitted Photos

Charlie Zevon
Karen Schmidt Dean
Ed Rodriguez
Dan Massie
Mandy Kinnee
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the Lodge, the community.
The highlight of the evening
was the presentation of the
Lodge’s three biggest awards
of the year. “The Citizen of
the Year” award was given to
Lodge Chaplain Dave Tucker
for his outstanding work in
the community chairing the
Elks Third Grade Dictionary
Project. “Officer of the
Year” was awarded to Lodge
Esquire Mike Klinger for
his work in Lodge publicity
and his management of the
national Elks Lodge award,
“Elk of the Year” went to Vicky Long
for her tireless efforts volunteering on
numerous Lodge committees, and service
as Vice President of the Ladies Club. Also,
receiving awards were National President
award recipient Exalted Ruler Camacho
Alvarez and National President award
recipient Andy Costello

Vicky Long

John Abel, Mission Viejo Fire Chief
Orange County Fire Authority

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)
recently launched a free mobile app
designed to save lives.

The app, available for iPhone or Droid at www.pulsepoint.org/
pulsepoint-respond/, is aimed at citizens and off-duty professionals
trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It alerts users
when a sudden cardiac arrest occurs in a public place near their
location.

Informed at the same time as emergency responders, app users
are given detailed instructions, including the nearby location of
automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). The PulsePoint app is
integrated with OCFA’s Emergency 911 Dispatch Center, allowing
a user to quickly find a victim and begin CPR immediately while
waiting for paramedics to arrive.

The need for such an app is there. Cardiac arrest is one of the
leading causes of death, affecting hundreds of thousands of people
in the United States each year.

Download the app at www.
pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-
respond/ and follow the instructions.

For more information,
visit http://www.ocfa.org.

Fastest Car In Town

Pinewood Derby Champ

Cub Scout Pack 766 is home
to 48 Cub Scouts and is chartered by the American Legion at Castille Elementary School. Cub Scouts are boys in the 1st through 5th grade.

The Pinewood Derby is a longstanding annual tradition in Cub Scout Packs across the country in which the scouts build cars out of wood and race them against one another.

Dominic Puccio came in 1st Place in his Webelos Den (4th and 5th graders) and 1st Place in the Pack. He is this year’s Pinewood Derby Champion.

David Greenfield came in 1st Place in his Tiger Den (1st graders) and 2nd Place in the Pack. He is the Runner Up in the Pack.
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Bocce is Italian for War

Bocce ball is fun, but the game quickly becomes very competitive. Teams are made up of men, women, and children. Mission Viejo residents will have the chance to 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 just for the opening of Mission Viejo’s newest amenity. 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.

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Kiwanis Recognizes Camp Pendleton Sergeant Major

Sergeant Major Marcus P. Chamberlin made a special trip to the Kiwanis Club of Mission Viejo to recognize the Kiwanians’ gift of 537 boxes of See’s candy to the Marines of Camp Pendleton.

Sergeant Major Chamberlin related that a majority of the Marines are from back east and the See’s candy is a special treat. Gayle Wood, chair of the Mission Viejo Marine Corps Adoption Committee, was on hand at the meeting as she is responsible for transporting the candy to Camp Pendleton. A majority of the candy is shipped overseas, and as Sgt. Major Chamberlin noted, “Melted chocolate overseas is still chocolate. Marines love chocolate.

Sergeant Major Chamberlin praised the community and City of Mission Viejo as the most involved sponsoring city supporting the Camp Pendleton Marines.

Pictured in the attached photo from left to right, Gayle Wood, Sergeant Major Chamberlin, and Pete Zimmerman, Kiwanis of Mission Viejo President.
Jake Newman has been playing golf for seven years. He is a senior at MVHS and has played Varsity for all four years. In addition to high school golf, Jake also plays in nationally ranked golf tournaments. Jake is a 4 time scholar athlete, and has volunteered his time at the golf Special Olympics for the last 3 years. Jake will be attending the University of Maryville in St. Louis, Missouri, on a full scholarship for golf and academics in the fall. Congratulations Jake!