



VOLUME THREE, NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

August 2017

# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



## AUNT SANDY STRIKES AGAIN!

## The History of de Portola's RED CABOOSE



### 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](mailto:missionviejoreporter@gmail.com)

## A CONVERSATION WITH A HUNDRED YEAR OLD MAN

## KEEPING COOL MONTANOSO RECREATION & FITNESS CENTER WATER PARK

COVER PHOTO:

Cecilia, Montanoso Recreation Center



# DINE MV

## RESTAURANT WEEK



By Mayor, Wendy Bucknum

Mission Viejo's very first **Restaurant Week** is set for August 21 - 27. What is this mean for foodies? No tickets will be required, however there will be special menu items at participating restaurants throughout Mission Viejo. This is a week to discover Mission Viejo's rich culinary landscape while keeping your dining dollars local. Supporting local business contributes to a strong local economy and encourages a robust sense of community.

The City and the Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce are partnering on this event and encouraging you to share photos of your dining experiences on Social Media and specifically Facebook and Instagram with #dineMV. So, mark your calendar and get ready to dig in to all the delicious things we have in Mission Viejo!



Visit the Mission Viejo Restaurant Week website to explore the participating restaurants, make reservations, and be sure to make it your Mission to Dine MV during Restaurant Week!



[www.mvrestaurantweek.org](http://www.mvrestaurantweek.org)

I look forward to seeing you out there enjoying one of Mission Viejo's fine dining establishments!

#DineMV

## Ask Me...

### I can help you

Lieutenant Ken Binning  
Chief of Police Services



**Q: QUESTION FOR THE CHIEF :**

*Recently I've had my driver's license taken away (for reasons I'd rather not disclose) and was wondering if I could drive a golf cart in the bike lane on Mission Viejo streets to go, to and from work. - Tony B*

**A: ANSWER:**

Hello Tony,

As defined in our California Vehicle code, a golf cart is a motor vehicle designed to carry no more than two persons, including the driver and golf equipment, weigh no more than 1300 lbs when empty and operate at a maximum speed of 15 mph. The California Vehicle Code that governs golf carts travelling on city streets in our state is VC 21716. It states that golf cart use is limited to speed zones of 25 mph or less. However, if you operate a golf cart on a road it must be equipped with the following:

A) At least one headlamp, tail lamp and stop lamp. B) A rear reflector. C) Front/rear turn signals. D) Front/side reflectors. E) Mirror. F) Horn. G) Fenders. H) Safety-glazed windshield. I) Windshield wipers.

You must also register your golf cart with our Department of Motor Vehicles (This requires a Vehicle Identification Number). You must also wear a seat belt. Lastly, if the road that the golf cart is being driven on (with a speed limit of 25 mph or less) has a bicycle lane, a golf cart may not be driven in the bicycle lane with the exception of making a right turn.

So it can be done and is permissible, but with the above restrictions and efforts required to register a golf cart for travel on city streets, I have never seen it done.

K.L. Binning  
LIEUTENANT / OCSO  
CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES  
CITY OF MISSION VIEJO



# THINK BIG, BUY SMALL



By Colonel Greg Rath USMC (RET)  
(Mission Viejo City Councilman)

The Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce is hooking up with the City of Mission Viejo with a campaign to "Buy Local" from August 1-October 31. This three month campaign will include light pole banners throughout the city urging our residents and visitors to support our small businesses by shopping, eating, and buying locally. As part of this campaign, businesses seeking to hang temporary banners advertising their services and events can now do so without paying a \$60 city permit fee. The Mission Viejo City Council recently passed this fee waiver to help promote local sales.

Let's join in to support our local businesses throughout our great city.

I am proud to be the primary sponsor of this campaign, and I want to see all of our businesses succeed in their sales or services. Time to **BUY LOCAL**, remember **THINK BIG, BUY SMALL**.



# CHARACTER CORNER

by Trish Kelley, City Council Member  
Co-Founder, Mission Viejo Community of Character



Our **Character** focus for August is the quality of **Self-Control**. This is a very important quality to develop for children (and adults!) It involves having control over your feelings and actions, and restraining your own impulses, emotions, or desires. Self-control can keep us on course and help us to avoid making bad decisions. It includes self-discipline--the ability to control and motivate yourself, stay on track and do what is right. Self-discipline is required in practicing an instrument or a skill, obeying rules, and setting and achieving goals. A concept called "S.T.A.R." is helpful in learning and maintaining self-control. S.T.A.R. stands for: Stop, Think, Act, Review, and is useful as a decision-making tool which can be used when one is faced with a situation or decision. The four steps are:

- **Stop!** Do not react immediately. Wait for a few moments or force yourself to revisit the situation later.
- **Think** about your choices and the consequences of each choice.
- **Act** responsibly and carefully.
- **Review** your action to determine if it was a good choice or not.

Parents and grandparents can teach the S.T.A.R. process to their children to provide them with a tool which may help them to resist peer pressure and to make better choices. But the tool is also helpful for adults too!

The philosopher, Seneca, once stated, "Most powerful is he who has himself in his own power."

To read our Character documents in full:  
visit [www.cityofmissionviejo.org/character](http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org/character).

[trishkelley@cox.net](mailto:trishkelley@cox.net)



FROM OUR FUN IN THE SUN DEPT.

# KEEPING COOL

## MONTANOSO RECREATION & FITNESS CENTER WATER PARK

The Water Park at the Montanoso Recreation and Fitness Center is the place to be for some splashtacular fun this summer. A colorful space filled with sprays, misters, hoses, and splash buckets makes for an excellent water play experience for all ages!

The water park is open from 10:00a.m. to dusk daily during the summer. Lounge chairs are available as well as picnic tables and benches. \$4 daily passes for youth, \$8 for adults. FREE for members!

The Water Park has birthday party packages, and rentals are available.

For more information, please visit-

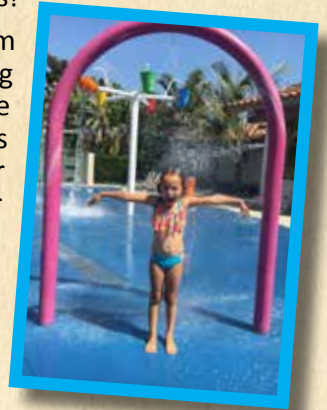
[www.cityofmissionviejo.org/recreation](http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org/recreation)

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**Upcoming Events**

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
Concessions at 6:30pm  
Movie begins at 7:30pm



**Free Admission**  
Come early to set up blankets & chairs!

### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
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FROM OUR STREET SIGN DEPT.

# Who Was PETER A. HARTMAN?

Peter A. Hartman was the District Superintendent of the Saddleback School District. He was also a proud member of the Mission Viejo Rotary Club. The work he did had a giant impact on our community.

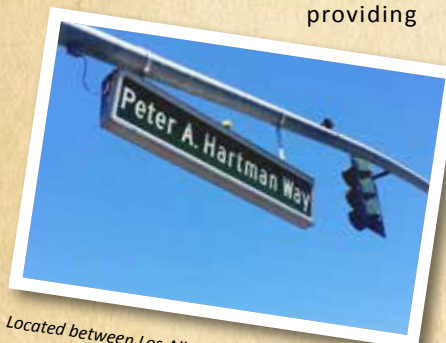
Back in 1988, Rotarians Bill Craycraft and Peter both had been exposed to the idea of having students participate in a function that would support the community's effort to fight drugs.

Bill used his ties with the City of Mission Viejo as Mayor and with Peter providing the



facilities needed and the necessary tools, they put together the first WALK AGAINST DRUGS.

Peter died in 2003 of a massive heart attack, but his legacy lives on. This year is the 30th Annual Walk Against Drugs. Peter Hartman Way was dedicated in 2005.



Located between Los Alisos Road and Alicia Parkway



# BLOW IT UP!

Leila Smail Bubblegum Champion

Story and photos by Connor McLennan

Annual Bubblegum  
Blowing Contest

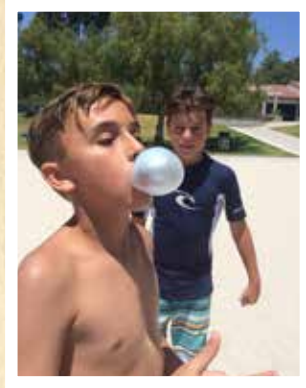


Leila Smail's Winning Bubble

Last month at Lake Mission Viejo, **The Mission Viejo Reporter** had our annual Bazooka Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, and **Leila Smail** was this year's champion.

Honorable Mention were **Michael Jamil** and **Gavin Puccini**. Leila's bubble measured out at an impressive 12 inches before explosion.

Leila will be going into the 4th Grade in September.



Michael Jamil and Gavin Puccini



# FRANCES MACKAY

## Bathgate Elementary

**F**rances Mackay began her career as an educator because she had such a positive experience as a student in Mission Viejo schools.



Frances Mackay

In 22 years, she has taught grades 1-5, served as an educational consultant and worked in several positions at the district office. After the birth of her second child, Frances returned to the classroom in Mission Viejo at Viejo Elementary. She enjoyed working with the educated staff and all of the programs Viejo Elementary had to offer, most specifically the bilingual program.

Frances is currently teaching at Bathgate Elementary, and fell in love with the school immediately. Frances said, "Living, learning and teaching in Mission Viejo have been the best for me and my family."

## Ask Aunt Sandy

- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON



*In the tradition of great personal advice, Mission Viejo Reporter's own Aunt Sandy is a straight shooter who relates to all ages. She researches topics of interest to her readers and then answers their most personal questions with empathy and gentle humor.*

Dear Aunt Sandy,

I have lived in Casta del Sol for over twenty years. For a year now, I've seen my neighbor setting traps for innocent rabbits around his property. I've even seen him taking the captured rabbits into his garage many times. Now, I've discovered he is selling rabbit feet key-chains at the Orange County fair. My husband says to mind my own business, but I can't help but think what he might be doing in his garage. Is this something the city should look into?

- PETA Lover

Dear PETA Lover,

*Sounds like you live next door to a true entrepreneur. I used to have a pink lucky rabbits foot key chain that held the key to my Hope Chest (that I never used, thank you very much). Those of us who love our gardens don't exactly consider rabbits "innocent" when they mow down everything from my cilantro to my zinnias. My first thought is to pick up more traps and place them around your property, that way you could help double production and inventory. However, realistically that's not a good idea. Your husband is wrong this time, you should get involved. It does sound like you've got a little-shop-of-horrors going on next to you. I know you want to be a good neighbor but this calls for getting the authorities involved. Who knows, your neighbors next project might be selling shrunken heads.*

- Aunt Sandy



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## A Conversation With..



## 100 Year Old Man

**Mission Viejo Resident Ralph Freeman** Interview by Connor McClennan

**W**hen **Ralph Freeman** was born in 1917, there was an entirely different group of people on the planet. This month, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** sat down with resident Ralph Freeman who reached a hundred years of age on July 15th and asked him a variety of questions.

**What is your drink of choice?** Vodka tonic, every day after dinner.

**Have you ever smoked?** Yes, for 40 years. I started smoking at 16.

**Have you ever broken any bones in your body?** Never.

**How many wives and kids have you had?** Only one wife. I was married for 71 years. I have three kids.

**Are your teeth still your own?** Yes.

**Do you floss?** Yes.

**Are your feet in good shape and how about your toenails?** My feet are in pretty good shape, and I am a good walker. My toenails however cause me some problems.

**What is your line of work?** During WWII, I was an Ordinance Officer. After WWII, I worked for Western Electric. I left Western Electric for a staff position at Iowa State in the Mechanical Engineering Department. I eventually became a professor there and taught for 10 years. I was called into active service

during the Korean War and worked at the Pentagon. After the war I worked for Space Tech Labs and retired after 20 years of that.

**What is your religion?** Not religious, I am agnostic.

**What kind of car did you drive?** Convertibles when I was young, all kinds after the wars.

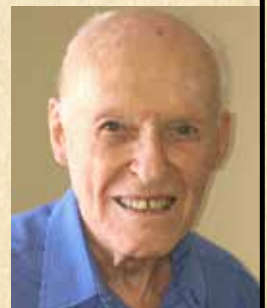
**What makes you afraid?** Nothing, not even death.

**How often do you eat out?** Only when my kids take me out.

**What stock was always in your portfolio?**

I invested in a mutual fund.

**What bit of advice do you have for people?** I don't give advice, but I steer my family towards Engineering.





# A GREAT STAYCATION

As longtime residents of Mission Viejo, my family was ready for a vacation when school let out, but we couldn't wander too far from home because we had some camps the kids lined up for the following week. So instead, we decided to plan a "staycation" in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Laguna Beach. We searched high and low for options and decided we wanted to try "The Ranch" and I am so glad we did.

**&ABOUT**  
with Kathy Kuiper

The property is located at 31106 S. Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach. It is nestled in a canyon off PCH, so the canyon and mountain views are phenomenal.

Check-in was very quick and easy, and the staff was super friendly. We were able to park right in front of our room, which was convenient.

When we were let into our two story townhouse style room, we were pleasantly surprised to find a charcuterie plate and waters left for us. What a nice touch! It was by far the nicest hotel we've ever stayed in. The rooms looked like they were professionally decorated and had lots of the comforts of home including big screen tv's and views for miles. The turn down service was also a nice experience. They left chocolates on the pillows for all of us!

I can't say enough about the outstanding service we experienced throughout the property. They must have some really good employee training here, or they're hiring the best of the best people because I've only experienced this kind of service at the Ritz Carlton when we stayed there awhile back.



The restaurant, called **Harvest**, is out of this world, and if you're planning to go, I'd recommend that you have your dinner when they have the outdoor music from 4-8 on Saturdays. The kids enjoyed dancing to the musician's tunes, and he even took a few requests from them. All of the food my family ordered was ridiculously good but I was most excited about my Crab benedict and Chocolate pot de creme. My husband enjoyed playing a few holes on the 9 hole golf course, and said he'd definitely want to play a few rounds there next time we have friends in town because they'd surely love this hotel.

Although we had planned to go off property during our stay, we never did because we were so comfortable.

Coincidentally, my friend **Carley** teaches paint classes at The Ranch every Saturday from 5-7, through the end of Summer. Classes are \$55 per person including 2 glasses of wine and cheese. There is live acoustic music playing in the background which is nice and relaxing and you can also smell the salty ocean air which I found refreshing. You may call (800) 223- 3309 to make reservations. They usually offer canyon or beach themed painting. Kissing turtles are also a fan favorite. Of course, no experience is necessary. This is fun art, not fine art, and our instructor Carley says the more wine you drink, the better you paint.



Carley is a phenomenal art teacher and also does home parties if you have a small group that you want to entertain. You may reach her at (949) 702-0759. She's opening a new local studio called **ARTventure** in September for both kids and adults. You may visit her website at [www.CarleyCorbinFineArt.com](http://www.CarleyCorbinFineArt.com) for more information.

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Photos by Connor McLennan







# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

**ALL PHOTOS BY  
JIM DANTE**







# KEEPING EYES ON THE ROAD

A stretch of freeway in Irvine near Culver Drive, is named after Mission Viejo resident **Mitch Waller**.

In 2013, Mitch Waller, who served as Westminster Police Chief and as Westminster City Manager was riding in the bike lane when struck and killed by a 25 year old distracted driver.

Mission Viejo neighbors remember Mitch as the man who knew how to fix anything and would volunteer to share his handyman expertise with those on his street. An avid cyclist, Waller was traveling along one of his favorite routes — the 133 freeway — with friend and Westminster employee Kevin Beach when his life ended.

**Sally Waller** committed to a personal mission: spread the word about the dangers of distracted driving. "That's where my heart and desire is now," she said. "If I can save just one life, or keep someone from going through what we went through, it is worth it."



The Waller Family: Kiana, Mitch, Chase & Sally



Sally Waller said she believes her husband's memorial sign is a great way to remind the thousands of motorists who will pass it every day to put down their phones and concentrate on the road. Family and friends want the sign to be a reminder of the dangers of distracted driving.

The woman who hit Waller was sentenced to a one-year license suspension and 500 hours of community service. Due to this light sentencing, Sally is working with legislative representatives to make penalties much stronger.

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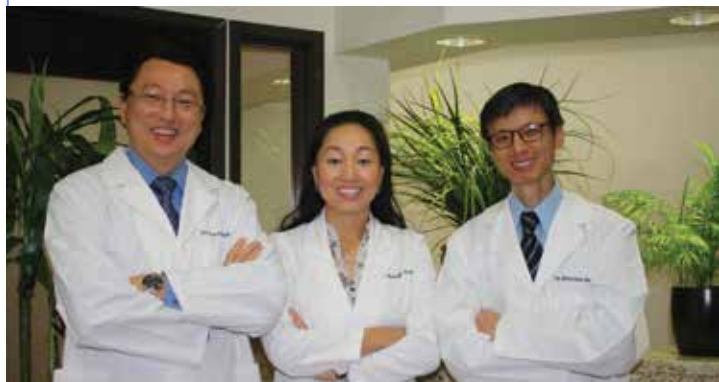
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FROM OUR TEACHING KIDS TO DREAM BIG DEPT.

# The History of de Portola's RED CABOOSE



The Red Caboose as it is today

Back in 1974, de Portola Elementary School Principal **Jim Mitchell** was inspired to acquire a historic 1940 Southern Pacific Railroad caboose for the children of his school. It has been there ever since and remains there to this day.



The Red Caboose as it was in 1974 with Principal Jim Mitchell and kids

Over time, it has seen the worst of the sun, and so consequently it has been painted many times over by students, Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Badges, and others.

It remains a reminder of a simpler time and the regional history of our area. Plus, we are told it is fun

to climb on.

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# DEVIL MADE HIM DO IT!

## MISSION VIEJO RESIDENT SINGS GOD'S PRAISES SIX MILES A DAY

Meet **Vijay Stan Christie**. Vijay walks around Mission Viejo almost everyday. You can't help but notice him as he walks with his hands in the air singing.



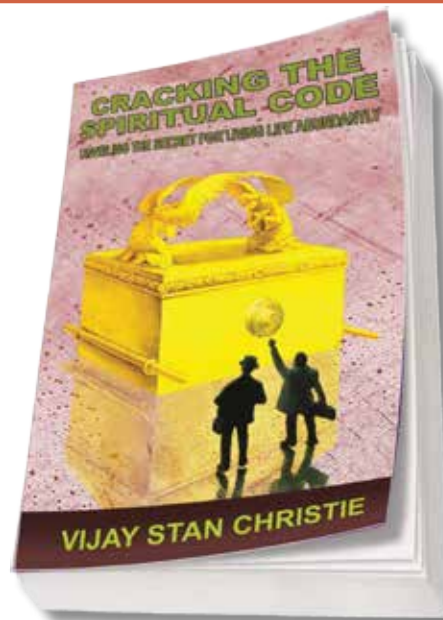
*Vijay Stan Christie walking Mission Viejo*

He walks as a symbol that he surrenders to God. He says, it's also a reminder to the Devil that Vijay is a warrior with swords drawn.

Next time you see Vijay walking, singing with arms flailing, honk and say "Hi".

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** caught up with Vijay on Marguerite Parkway, and wanted to know what makes him tic. Sixty-eight year old Vijay was born in India and was agnostic. It wasn't until he relocated to the United States in 1974 as a chemical engineer, that he became a true believer in God.

Vijay and his wife of 39 years, moved to Mission Viejo in 1988, and love it. Six miles a day he walks our streets singing his favorite praise song, "God's Great". He raises his hands while he



*The Mission Viejo Reporter learned that in addition to being a chemical engineer and doing work in real estate, Vijay is also a published author - "Cracking The Spiritual Code."*

*It is about living what he calls the "Abundant Life" - regardless of your financial status, past experiences or adversities. In it, he has collected his thoughts on living and finding answers to spiritual challenges, and his thoughts on having a happy marriage. He also talks about his life and becoming a Christian.*

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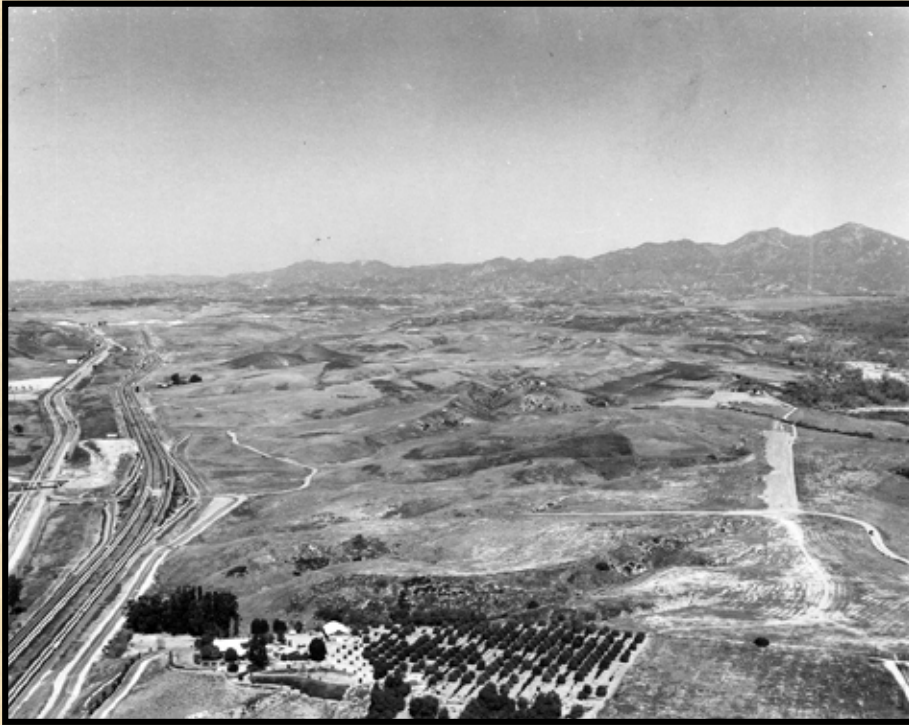
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This Month's  
**"Quotable  
 Quotes"**

## Mission Viejo Reporter

List of the great quotes of all time

**THE WAY YOUR STAFF DRESSES DETERMINES THE TYPE OF CUSTOMERS YOU WANT TO ATTRACT.**  
 - ANONYMOUS

**He who travels fastest goes alone.**  
 - Merle Haggard

The world is gone from sailin' ships to rakin' mom's backyard.. - Jimmy Buffett

The difference between a good hiker and a bad hiker is a good hiker knows when to turn back.  
 - Eva Szilagyi

We don't go on because we're ready. We go on because it's Saturday Night.  
 - Lorne Michaels,  
 - Producer, Saturday Night Live

*The best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and advise them to do it.*  
 - Harry Truman

Show me someone who never gossips, and I'll show you someone who isn't interested in people.  
 - Barbara Walters

It's nothing personal, It's just business.  
 - Donald Trump

When I read about some squirrely guy who claims that he just don't believe in fightin', I wonder just how long the rest of us can count on being free.  
 - Merle Haggard,  
 - "The Fightin Side of Me"

**It's a shallow life that doesn't give a person a few scars. - Garrison Keillor**

**Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say.** - Anonymous

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.  
 - Ann Landers

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.  
 - George Bernard Shaw

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FROM OUR SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT DEPT.

# A CUT ABOVE MISSION VIEJO'S CRAFTSMAN BARBER



Seventy-six year old **Al Misso** loves what he does. He has been a barber since 1963, and is still eager to come to work each day. He proudly owns **A Cut Above Barber Shop** in Mission Viejo, across from the Clock Tower on Marguerite & Trabuco. Al is a humble, reserved guy, who prefers to let his craft speak for itself. He even cuts his own hair, a habit he has had since 1960.

With precise haircuts and prices that you will appreciate (\$12 regular cuts), his barber shop is frequented by loyal customers of all ages, but men only. He says he cuts between 20-30 heads of hair a day, with lines sometimes out the door. Al shows no signs of slowing down and that's good news for our Mission Viejo residents.



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FROM OUR OPINION DEPT.

# The Murray Center DON'T CALL IT A SENIOR CENTER!

by Anonymous

The beautiful **Mission Viejo Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center** is so much more than a senior center, and the name should reflect that. They have everything from book signings to weddings. Have you ever heard of anyone excited about having their wedding at a senior center?



Proposed Logo

**The Murray Center** (new name suggestion) has state-of-the-art lighting and sound capabilities for any occasion. The Murray Center offers several different size rooms to fit any event. It's usually busy from morning till night almost seven days a week. The focus remains the same for all events: Increasing the quality of life and improving social engagement all while being convenient and affordable. Renting rooms start, at about \$15.00 an hour. So, boomers, don't pooh-pooh this facility and don't let the name fool you.

Some residents are asking to explore doing away with "senior" in the name. This name change will certainly ruffle a few feathers because they are proud of being seniors. We need to change the perception from "That's where old people go," to "Did you see the show at The Murray Center?" The name change is the first step.



What are your thoughts? Send them to [missionviejoreporter@gmail.com](mailto:missionviejoreporter@gmail.com)



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# ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

**Ally Herbers**

**Volleyball - Capistrano Valley High School**



Multi-talented **Ally Herbers**, finished her Freshman year at CVHS on a high note. This scholar-athlete earned a 4.2 GPA and completed a successful season on the Capo JV Volleyball team - winning the Whittier Tournament Championship. In addition to her recent achievements, she secured a spot on the Capo Summer Varsity team and was chosen Team Captain for the OC Heat Volleyball Club.

Her confidence, strength and adaptability as a volleyball player come from years of practice and competitions on club teams. As part of the #1 Top team in Gold Division, Laguna Beach Volleyball Club, Ally qualified in the Junior Olympics and last year won the Bronze Junior Olympics in Indianapolis, while playing on the TStreet Volleyball Club.

Ally's undeniable athleticism, sharp focus and agility make her a dynamic player to watch. In her spare time, Ally further develops her skills by playing on the American Beach (sand) Volleyball Club.

Community service: Lion's Heart member and recipient of the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver awards. Currently working on the Gold Award.



Photo by Si si.is@cox.net



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