



VOLUME THREE, NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

October 2017

# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

**Los Dos Adobes de Mission Viejo**  
MISSION VIEJO'S ORIGINAL SETTLERS

**HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM**

LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS SAVE LIVES IN HOUSTON



MISSION VIEJO  
REPORTER

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Questions or Comments:  
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A CONVERSATION WITH...

**A Transplant Recipient**

COVER PHOTO:

Jackson G. - Sand Volleyball Court - YMCA



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS



Mission Viejo Reporter.....364-2309  
Kwik Kopy Printing.....364-2309

## City Administration

Mayor and City Council.....470-3050  
City Manager.....470-3051

## Community Development

Building Information.....470-3054  
Planning and Zoning.....470-3053

## Emergency Numbers

Police Services / Fire Services.....911  
Police Service (Non Emergency).....770-6011  
Suicide Hotline.....877-727-4747

## Public Services

MV Animal Services.....470-3045  
Pothole Hotline.....470-8405  
Graffiti Hotline.....470-2924

## Helpful Numbers

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SDG&E.....800-411-7343  
Cox Cable.....240-1212  
Edison Electric.....800-611-1911  
Saddleback College.....582-4500  
CUSD.....234-9200  
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El Toro Water District.....837-7050  
Mission Hospital.....364-1400  
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church.....837-7467  
Santa Claus.....951-262-3062

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# COME ON IN!!

## PROPERTY AND BUSINESS TAX ISSUES



by Col Greg Rath  
USMC (RET)  
Mission Viejo City Councilman

I met with our **Orange County Tax Assessor, Claude Parrish**, a couple years ago, and he asked if Mission Viejo would consider locating a satellite office in South Orange County to lessen the drive to his Santa Ana main office for property and business owners with tax assessment issues. With the cooperation of the City of Mission Viejo and the Orange County Tax Assessor's office, there is now a satellite office open for business on the second floor of Mission Viejo's Civic Center, 200 Civic Center Drive. The hours of operations are 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Telephone number is (949) 470-8428. [www.ocgov.com/assessor](http://www.ocgov.com/assessor)



The tax assessor office determines the property value based on legal ownership of over one million units of property in the county every year. Real property assessments are based on the value of land and improvements. Property that is sold, exchanged or inherited usually requires reassessment. If you feel your property is being overtaxed, there is now an office in our back yard to find help. Thank you to the City of Mission Viejo for accommodating our south county property and business owners.

# CHARACTER CORNER



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

Fourteen years ago Mission Viejo established itself as a City of Character. Each month, the City promotes a different character quality, and we provide materials to all 25 of our schools so each trait is shared with our students and receives a city-wide focus. Our character word for October is **Respect** - a positive feeling of admiration or high regard for another person or entity. Respect has several different facets, including respect for other people, self-respect, respect for authority, respect for the property of others, respect for the environment, and respect for our flag and our country. This trait should be backed up by actions! In respecting others, the "Golden Rule" is a good guideline: treat others the way you would like to be treated!

In discussing respect, it is important to highlight the alarming and growing problem of bullying. According to The Bully Project website, "More than 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence against our young people in the nation." Parents, students, school staff and other adults can help to prevent bullying and seek help when it occurs. The following websites provide more information about this subject: [www.thebullyproject.com](http://www.thebullyproject.com) and [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov).

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

## Ask Me...

## I can help you



Lieutenant Ken Binning  
Chief of Police Services  
City of Mission Viejo

### Q: QUESTION FOR THE CHIEF :

*I can never understand why you advertise the fact that Mission Viejo will have DUI checkpoints on a particular day. Doesn't that defeat the purpose and limit the amount of arrests?*

### A: ANSWER:

Our United States Supreme Court has ruled that sobriety checkpoints must be publicized in advance of the event. Many reasons exist for the requirement. One of which may be that so the law-abiding, motoring public may not be inconvenienced and can elect to take an alternate route to their destination. The purpose of a DUI Checkpoint is not to increase our DUI arrests, but to decrease the amount of impaired drivers on our city's roads. That's the goal. Certainly, one way is to discourage drivers from drinking and driving is to "advertise". And these DUI or Sobriety checkpoints are events where law enforcement takes the opportunity to educate the driving public by distributing literature and reinforcing our commitment in keeping our residents safe. And if we can keep just one person from starting their vehicle after having one too many, then we have done our job.



# SUNFLOWER POWER

## RESIDENTS BELIEVE IN GROWING THEIR OWN



Meet Mission Viejo residents **Elisia** and **Mark Sierakowski** and their two children, **Joshua (20)** and **Valerie (18)**. The Sierakowskis have lived on the corner of Las Tunas and Escalona for more than twenty years. Their front yard is quite unusual. Instead of grass, they have 12 foot tall sunflowers growing - about 20 of them. Their house is completely unseen from the street.



For the last four years, near the end of May, Valerie, - who has achieved Girl Scouts' highest honor - the Gold Award - plants sunflower seeds and watches them grow, and grow. Her brother Joshua, also an overachiever - who has achieved Eagle Scout status in the Boy Scouts - has built solitary bee homes that surround their property and love the giant sunflowers.

Elisia says, "It's fun to watch and learn from nature. When the sunflower's face fills with seeds and becomes heavy, it droops to the ground, a sign that summer is ending and fall is approaching."



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# RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

## MISSION VIEJO'S RESIDENT ENTREPRENEUR

Our Resident of the Month for October is the legendary Allergan entrepreneur and long time Mission Viejo resident **Roger Dietterle**. Roger moved here 47 years ago while working for Allergan executive **Gavin Herbert** (Owner of Roger's Garden and of Nixon's Western White House in San Clemente). He and Gavin were part of a team



Roger Dietterle and one of his intricate mailboxes

that developed what would later be called 'Botox'.

After 25 years, Roger retired from Allergan and began working for the United Nations on human rights violations in China. One of his passions now is making custom mailboxes. He painstakingly recreates each detail of the

mailboxes which are modeled after European building styles. Roger grew up on a farm in South Dakota and in 1964 when he was twenty-years-old, his Aunt and Uncle asked if he'd like to visit California. He did, and never returned to South Dakota. After enjoying California for eight months, the U.S. Army drafted Roger. After completing his time in the military, Roger moved to Mission Viejo and made it his home.

If you'd like to see an amazing pair of creative mailboxes, drive down Puerta Nuevo and also enjoy all the beautiful Madid Homes that line the street.

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**Ask  
Aunt Sandy**

- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON



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

## MISSION VIEJO BERRY PIE

Dear Aunt Sandy,

There is a row of trees and bushes along the fence that separates my neighbor's yard from mine. Our old neighbor used to keep them trimmed and under control. Unfortunately, that neighbor moved away and another family lives next door. The branches now hang over, dropping berries that cause stains on my concrete patio.

I asked my new neighbor several times to please keep the branches trimmed. After several months of waiting, I trimmed the trees and bushes back myself and deposited the trimmings on the neighbors' side of the fence. They called the Mission Viejo Sheriff Department. The deputy said what I did was legal, but it would have been "more neighborly" had I disposed of the trimmings myself. The next day I offered to remove the debris, but my angry neighbor shouted, "Don't talk to me. I'll do it myself!" This happened seven months ago. My neighbors are still not talking to my wife and me. How do I handle this?

- Mister ChainSaw

Dear Mr. ChainSaw,

You were within your rights to cut back any branches that protruded onto your property. However, it was spiteful and childish to dump the trimmings on your neighbors' property.

Apologize again -- and this time make a peace offering. Pick up a gift certificate for a lovely dinner at a nice Mission Viejo restaurant or you could make a pie from some of those berries.

- Aunt Sandy

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# Los Dos Adobes de Mission Viejo

## MISSION VIEJO'S ORIGINAL SETTLERS



Don José Serrano

Don José Serrano called his ranch 'Cañada de Los Alisos', and along the El Camino Real he built his first adobe near a spring where native sycamores grew in abundance.

Not far from Serrano's home, on the other side of El Camino Real, Don Juan Avila, owner of the even more magnificent Rancho Niguel land grant, also built an adobe. The two families were close, all the more so when Serrano married Maria Petra Avila, identified as a sister of Don Avila.

Those traveling El Camino Real often were invited to stay overnight at the adobes. Music and dancing followed the meal, then the guest was shown to a room and bed.

Approximately 140 years after Don Serrano took title of his land, members of the newly formed Saddleback Area Historical Society set about identifying the location of the first Serrano adobe. After researching original maps and land deeds, then working with consultants, city officials and the Orange County Historical Commission, they established that the original Serrano home was located in what is now Mission Viejo's Sycamore Park, just off Alicia Parkway at the end of Charlinda Drive.

On May 18, 1996, descendants of both the Serrano and Avila families, along with members of the historical society and various Orange County dignitaries, gathered to dedicate a plaque installed where the first Serrano home once stood.

Today, the site remains a peaceful place marked by sycamores and palms. Even the hum of the I-5 freeway—once the location of El Camino Real—doesn't take away any of the beauty.



Plaque dedicated at the site



Sycamore Park - home of the Serrano Adobe



## A Conversation With...



# Transplant Recipient

**Bob Gaebel, Former Principal at de Portola Elementary**

**B**ob Gaebel, former principal of de Portola Elementary School in Mission Viejo and the former Chairperson of the Mission Viejo Planning Commission as well as a 44 year resident of M.V. recently received a kidney transplant. We thought it might be interesting to ask Bob a few questions about the procedure.

### What condition led you to need a new kidney?

I was diagnosed with kidney disease in my early 30's, via lab tests. In 2010 my kidney function numbers started getting worse. My doctors alerted me to mentally prepare myself for dialysis. I dodged the bullet until 2014, and started dialysis at that time.

### How long were you on dialysis?

I was on dialysis for 3.5 years.

### How long did you have to wait to get a kidney?

In California, the wait list is very long and slow moving. After a 7 year wait in California, I found out that the wait time (for a deceased donor transplant) in Arizona was half the time. Consequently, I transferred my wait time to the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona. I got my transplant 5 months later.

### Did you get your kidney from a living or deceased donor?

I got my kidney from a deceased donor.

### How did your donor die?

I don't know.

### Did you meet the family of your donor?

No. It is possible to send a request, and the family has the right to decide whether or not to meet. I hope to meet them soon.

### How long were you in the hospital?

I was only in the hospital 3 days. My transplant team wanted me out of the hospital as soon as possible.

### How much does a Kidney Transplant cost?

That's a tough question to answer. It all depends on your insurance.

### Do you have any advice for someone who is about to start dialysis or is on a wait list for a transplant

YES! Donating an organ for transplant is a HUGE gift. I am eternally grateful for their gift. To anyone who has Kidney Disease or is on dialysis or anticipating a transplant, contact the South County Kidney Support Group and attend one of their meetings. They can be reached at (949) 412-3210.

You are also most welcome to contact me as well. My phone number is (949) 586-2955.



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FROM OUR NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE DEPT.

# MISSION VIEJO'S TRADER JOE'S TAKING ACTION

## LOCAL BRANCH OF POPULAR STORE TAKES AN INTEREST IN COMMUNITY

by Lindsey Hamilton

I can say safely that food is a passion of mine, and when I see that my fridge is edging on the empty side, I'll hop in my car and go to my favorite tried-and-true local grocery store: **Trader Joe's**. Pushing the cart by the flower display and hand written-signs, grabbing a snack from the friendly sample guy, and chatting with the cashier as I'm checking out, I go about my business.



While this obviously isn't your average supermarket, the difference goes far beyond the homegrown feel and welcoming staff. What many people don't realize is that Trader Joe's plays a benevolent role in the community. They've generously donated countless food products to senior centers, churches, gift baskets

for school raffles, and other charitable functions.

Hoping to further their involvement in the community in the future, they aim to begin programs such as local trail clean-ups, helping the Mission Viejo Animal Shelter, and senior center food demonstrations, just to name a few. With their city and its people in mind, the Trader Joe's Mission Viejo staff are more than just employees at a store- they are a crew, serving you.

# CITY HALL SIGN

by Wendy Bucknum  
Mayor, Mission Viejo



*"I am so pleased to have this project completed as we approach the 20th anniversary of the library and the city's 30th Anniversary!" - Mayor Wendy Bucknum*

The Public Services Department has recently completed the reinstallation of the City Hall sign directly in front of city hall. The original signage was located on the wall of the building and had become hidden because of the growth of nearby trees. The existing letters were removed and reinstalled on a new monument sign wall. This is just in time for the Library's 20th Anniversary and the city's 30th Anniversary!



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Donald Jackson



Amanda Godines



Brian George



# Interior Treesign | with Kathy Kuiper

## MAKING A TREEHOUSE ON THE INSIDE OF OUR HOME

About six months ago, we had a roof leak at our home which resulted in our needing several rooms recarpeted, and therefore, having to take down our girls' huge Princess castle so that we could put new flooring under it. We hated to take down the castle that our girls had enjoyed so much, but were excited to build the space out into a room that was even more functional and fun. I spent a lot of time on Pinterest after my husband suggested a tree house theme which seemed like a good fit for our 'tween room we were looking to build out. Our four, nine, and ten year old daughters were all in!



Carla of Papillon Bleu Studios

My husband was able to build out an area up high in their large playroom/bedroom, and I was impressed with the work that he did with a friend over a long weekend. After settling on a few ideas for the room, including a bed hanging from four ropes, I asked my friends on Facebook if they knew of an artist who could design and create a tree that looked like it actually supported the tree house. Jenna, my friend, referred me to **Carla of Papillon Bleu Studios**. I think you'll agree that the end result of her efforts are nothing short of spectacular. I especially love that all of our family members carved their names into the tree. Just as we had hoped, our girls love having their friends over to hang out

in their awesome tree house, and they were thrilled that they made a new friend, Brookelle, who is Carla's daughter, and is now a frequent visitor.

Carla also does painted logos and graphics, reproductions and original designs, custom stencils, faux finishes, kid's rooms and nurseries, and venetian plaster, among other things. She has successfully completed a broad spectrum of projects from simple monograms to creating murals that cover an entire room. She can paint directly onto the walls or create a mural or logo onto wood panels or masonite board which can be applied to walls, allowing the option to move the artwork. Carla enjoys collaborating



with her clients and listening to their ideas so that they can not only bring their vision to life but transform a space into a totally unique experience. She's also able to work within a specific budget that suits a client's needs.

You can reach **Carla** at [papillonbleustudios.com](http://papillonbleustudios.com) or (949) 292-8951. You can see details of the tree house there, and you can also see our entire playroom by following me on Facebook.



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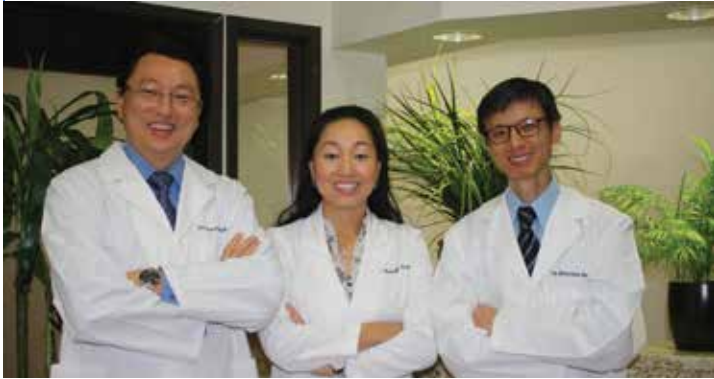
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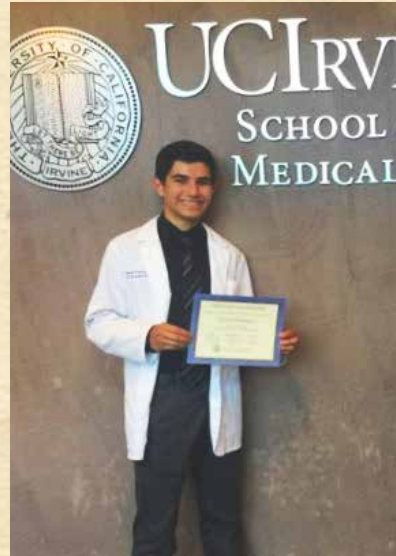
FROM OUR ROCKING THE BOOKS DEPT.

## Student of the Month

### STUDENT IMPRESSES IN A NUMBER OF WAYS

by Lindsey Hamilton

Student of the Month **Nicholas Rodriguez**, 15, wears many different hats when the school year is in full swing. Despite being the highest ranked student in his class at Mission Viejo High School, his passions go far beyond academics.



He plays a cornerstone role in the Mission Viejo Jazz Band as the sole pianist, and was the concertmaster of the Freshman Orchestra. His involvement with music has taken him from Monterrey to New York, and is touring in Austria with the South Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra this winter.

Now a sophomore, he is spending his summer at the UCI Pre-Medical camp, hanging out with friends, and preparing for the coming year.

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## Intersections WE REMEMBER



Avery Parkway and Marguerite Parkway - 1975



Avery Parkway and Marguerite Parkway - 2017



# HAVE CAT WILL TRAVEL

CAT ENJOYS WALKS BY THE LAKE ON SUNDAYS

Meet **AJ Jones**. Don't be surprised if on any given Sunday you see AJ and his Blue Point Persian Cat **Winston** traveling around the lake. He usually takes Winston to Bagels and Brew for breakfast and then walks Winston around with a leash.

Winston is a year-and-a half old, and was purchased from a local breeder. AJ isn't just a cat person, he also has a weasel named **Maverick**. Maverick and Winston are great friends and battle on who get's to go out and ride with AJ on Sundays.



Winston, the Blue Point Persian and AJ



Winston and AJ out for a stroll on the Segway on a Sunday

AJ said his Segway is not one of those \$4000 Segway's, but a \$1500.00 Chinese knock-off. AJ likes to practice going green on the weekends but during the week he drives vehicles that suck up the gasoline.

# ANGRY BLACK ANTS

## Mission Viejo Black Ants are PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Kitchens across Mission Viejo are experiencing the wrath of the common black ant. This small but mighty warrior is gathering food for its army as it prepares for battle with its natural enemy, the red imported fire ant. The turf war began as the fire ant numbers increased and these invaders began taking more and more territory away from the black ant.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FIRE ANTS AND BLACK ANTS?

Black ants are speedy, strong, and organized ants without stingers. In battle, several black ants will attack their prey and with their strong legs pulling from all sides, stretch and rip their victim apart into pieces.



Fire ants are ferocious, aggressive, and explosive ants with stingers. They are unique because they bite with their mouths to clamp on and then inject stinging toxins into their prey (or an unsuspecting human). The venom can kill other insects instantly; in humans, it causes a burning pain at the site of the wound that some say feels like fire

### WHO WILL WIN THE WAR: BLACK ANTS OR FIRE ANTS?

As this epic battle unfolds under our houses and in our gardens, our job is to allow nature to take its course, but having a can of Raid on hand helps keep the murderous rampage outside.

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the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

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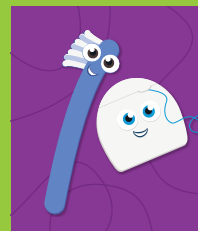
The citizens of Mission Viejo can be proud of their local firefighters for many reasons; four of those should be **Battalion Chief Shane Sherwood, Fire Captain Jack Perisho, Fire Apparatus Engineer Todd Offord, and Firefighter Tim Brooks.** These four men are members of California Task Force 5, and all currently serve the citizens of Mission Viejo out of local Fire Station #9 (Mission Viejo Mall)

Last month, the team was sent to Houston to help rescue it's citizens from Hurricane Harvey. The team in Houston made over a thousand water rescues of victims in



John Abel,  
Mission Viejo Fire Chief  
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# HATE MAIL & LOVE NOTES

Over the last few months, our Ask Aunt Sandy column has received dozens and dozens of emails. Some think she's great, others think her opinion is a little course. Enjoy a few excerpts here, some at our expense.



## On Teenage Twerking:

July 2017

Wow. What she wrote is incredibly sexist! As the mom of a young boy I'm especially saddened by her statement that boys are full of bad ideas. - **Erica L.**

It disturbs me too that she is telling a 12 or 13 year old that she may as well write "I'm a bad, bad, girl" on her forehead. - **Sarah D.**

Oh Aunt Sandy. I think you stepped in it this time. - **Dennis O.**

Aunt Sandy is right! Twerking is what strippers do and is 100% inappropriate for young girls to do. - **Josh T.**

Congratulations on your twerking response. You put it in the proper perspective. You did a great job. - **Christy D. (Teacher)**

Regarding Aunt Sandy's 'advice' to a teenager wanting to twerk at her school dance. This advice is xenophobic, misogynistic. It reinforces the false belief that a girl is asking for it. I support free speech, but the MV Reporter should be ashamed of printing such disgusting 'advice.' - **Jennifer M.**

Bravo Aunt Sandy. Kids: Don't act like a Hoochie Mama and you won't be treated like one. - **Garrison W.**

## On Rabbit Hunting in Casta del Sol:

August 2017

I was disappointed with the section from Aunt Sandy. Her response to a question about trapping rabbits was not only inappropriate, it was not humorous or helpful and was reckless. I am not sure what her credentials are for giving advice or direction to others, but definitely this is not her expertise. - **Barbara T.**

You tell him Aunt Sandy, that's a very disturbing and sick minded person to be making keychains out of rabbit feet. - **Meredith R.**

## On Gay Cats:

March 2017

Get real Aunt Sandy! There is no such thing as a gay cat... gay dogs yes! - **Bob G.**

## On Wearing Speedos at the Lake:

May 2017

You're right! Mission Viejo's not ready for European swimsuits.- **Joey T.**  
So I guess she is ok with guys walking around the lake beach with their dongs hanging out in front of the kids... is she serious... or did I miss the joke? - **Abner R.**

If her opinion meets with your approval... then guess what you can do with the Reporter!! - **Thomas K.**

My wife & I have lived here 21 yrs... We love it here... I fish the lake often, Speedos are not good. We no longer like your Reporter Magazine & will not look at again... - **Ralph B.**

Your 'Free Willy' comment is hilarious! - **Travis C.**

## On a Girl's Boyfriend Paying for the 'Pill':

April 2017

Aunt Sandy nailed it. "Cause if you liked it, then you shudda, pudda ring on it! Oh, oh, oh!" - **Andre Y.**



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# WHERE YOU BELONG

## Mission Viejo Family YMCA

The Mission Viejo Family YMCA has recently undergone numerous facility improvements that will allow it to satisfy the needs of our changing community and continue to provide great health and wellness programming for its members. The upgraded facility will now feature a cleaner and brighter look throughout with new visuals and additional TV screens in weight training and cardio rooms. Three new rooms will now be dedicated to a functional training equipment system, personal training, and stimulating cycle studio. Finally, members will notice an improved and more spacious lobby when they first enter the health and wellness facility.

**“Words can’t express how grateful our family is for the Y.  
The group exercise classes are fun and the KidZone is  
awesome and filled with wonderful employees!”**

– Mission Viejo Y Member



The Mission Viejo Family YMCA is a fully-equipped family-friendly fitness facility that includes a wide range of amenities:

- Convenient group exercise class schedule
- Beautiful resort style pool and swim programs for kids and adults
- Outdoor basketball court
- Outdoor sand volleyball court
- Racquetball courts
- Lighted soccer arena for youth & adult sports
- Exclusive classes for Active Older Adults
- On-site child care so parents can work out without worry
- Financial assistance for those who qualify

If you have not been to the Mission Viejo Family YMCA, now is the best time to take a tour. They are currently offering to waive the registration fee for new members which could **save you up to \$90!**

### MISSION VIEJO FAMILY YMCA

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## SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

### Brody Sumner - Basketball / Surfing



Kansas native, **Brody Sumner**, moved to Mission Viejo a year ago and immediately embraced the "Cali" life. He went from fishing and bow hunting to surfing the Laguna Beach waves. He enjoyed the beach so much that one day he bought a surfboard and "hit the water". A few months later he joined his high school Surf Team.

Away from the ocean, he is a stand-out basketball player on the Legends Club team and the Capistrano Valley High School team. As a pointing/shooting guard, known for his consistency and 3-point accuracy, he lead his teams to winning numerous games and tournaments.

Additionally, Brody is not only a self-disciplined, smart player, but a strong competitor. He understands that a winning team requires a strong defensive play every time. For his contributions, he's has been awarded MVP (Club) and the well deserved Offensive MVP Award (CVHS).

While aspiring to receive a sports scholarship, Brody is also studying hard and keeping his focus on school work. Some of his academic accomplishments as Freshman, include a 4.0 GPA and the Basketball Scholar Athlete Award.



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