



VOLUME THREE, NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

September 2017

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



PORTOLA'S ORIGINAL RIDERS

LIFESAVER RON



MISSION VIEJO
REPORTER

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MISSION VIEJO'S REAL-LIFE GHOSTBUSTERS

COVER PHOTO:

Leila S., MV Bubblegum Champion

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

SMWD.....459-6400

SDG&E.....800-411-7343

Cox Cable.....240-1212

Edison Electric.....800-611-1911

Saddleback College.....582-4500

CUSD.....234-9200

Waste Management.....359-6155

Moulton/Niguel Water District.....831-2500

El Toro Water District.....837-7050

Mission Hospital.....364-1400

Mount of Olives Lutheran Church.....837-7467

Santa Claus.....951-262-3062

Recreation Services

The Murray Center.....470-3062

Lake Mission Viejo.....770-1313

Library.....830-7100

Felipe Tennis Center.....859-4348

Tennis Pavillion.....859-4348

Montanoso Rec. Center.....859-4348

Sierra Rec.Center.....859-4348



TRAFFIC



by **Wendy Bucknum**
Mayor, Mission Viejo

As Mission Viejo's city leaders, my fellow Councilmembers and I are focused on putting our community's needs first. Our commitment to protecting and enhancing our city's quality of life starts first with you and the issues that most impact your lives. This drive has led my continued investment in working collaboratively with neighboring cities and local agencies to address the traffic congestion that slows our daily drives and is a continued source of frustration.

Whether we're driving our kids to school, heading out on the 5 or meeting friends at the lake, spill over traffic from our freeways clogs our streets and slows our progress as a city. Especially important is emergency services and access to Mission Hospital. And, as we look towards our future, these issues will only continue to grow.

It's this concern for our present needs and our future growth that has led our active participation in the open and transparent process established by the Transportation Corridor Agencies, or TCA, to engage South Orange County elected leaders and residents in a balanced solution that will better our daily commutes for generations to come.

While the process has been long and is still unfolding, we remain dedicated to working with our community, the TCA and neighboring cities to address concerns and elevate collaborative solutions. And, after years of work, we are confident that a North/South alignment of the toll road offers the win-win solution our region needs. It reflects balance and compromise. Something we will all have to do to make a meaningful dent in reducing commutes and gridlock.

As we continue this work, I ask that you stand with us and your community in the push to relieve traffic in our neighborhoods. Visit the TCA's dedicated webpage at getmovingoc.com for more information and to lend your voice to the effort.

As the consideration of new alignments evolves, I want to reiterate my commitment to keeping our residents informed and engaged and look forward to continuing an open dialogue with you. I also invite you to read more on our work by visiting cityofmissionviejo.org and check back for updates as we further our push for progress.



THE COST OF GOVERNMENT



by **Ed Sachs**
Mayor Pro-Tem, Mission Viejo

Companies have been leaving California for a number of years, and for a wide variety of reasons. But what happens to the cities they leave behind?

Mission Viejo is not home to large companies fleeing the State. Mission Viejo must deal with the effect of state laws and regulations, as well as county costs, all contribute to business's exodus. Cities deal with unfunded pension liability, sober living homes, crime, minimum wage, prevailing wage, punitive environment regulations, and a rising costs of public safety. These costs are imposed on municipalities.

Mission Viejo is in great financial shape now and for the foreseeable future. These imposed costs are crushing many cities, and contribute pressure on all others. Pension costs are expected to double in the next 5 years. Imposed minimum wage increases manifest in the cost of infrastructure contracts for cities. Public safety is our City Council's number one responsibility. County Supervisors continue to negotiate pay increases for Sheriff Deputies. The more dollars taken to cover all of these imposed conditions, the fewer dollars are available for other programs.

Residents should be aware of the cost to local government imposed by the County, State, and the Federal government.

CHALLENGES AHEAD



by **Brian Goodell**
Mission Viejo
City Council Member

Our City's recently approved two-year Budget and seven-year Master Financial Plan (MFP) projects the City will be in good shape for the next two year budget cycle and it projects healthy reserves (projected at 48%-49% of annual revenues). However, the five year MFP has also alerted those of us on the City Council of economic issues that we need to pay attention to as we navigate the challenging times that lie ahead.

One of the greatest challenges we face is growing employee pension liabilities. Unfunded pension liabilities are having a staggering effect on city budgets throughout the state. All told, California's public pension systems are estimated to be \$281.5 billion short of the funding necessary to pay the pensions that have been promised to past and present public employees, primarily due to lower investment returns earned on the money already invested with CalPERS, the state's public employee retirement fund.

Many cities are considering drastic measures to increase revenues to pay for these increased costs, including invoking excise taxes on the recently legalized cannabis industry, and increasing fees for city services and facilities to help balance their budgets. Luckily we haven't needed to do that in Mission Viejo.



Upcoming Events

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CONSIDER THE CROW

NEW RESEARCH LEADS TO NEW INSIGHTS

Mission Viejo has the highest concentration of crows in Orange County. Looking at them, they seem rather simplistic/dumb or just rather irritating, with their loud caws and black feathers. Recent scientific

studies indicate that the common crow is a lot more sophisticated than you might imagine.

Research shows that crows can remember human faces for more than 9 years. Studies show that crows are keen observers and form



very strong opinions about whether someone is a 'threat' to them or not a threat to them, and will respond quite differently based on their viewpoint.

At **Saddleback College**, crows have been seen replicating a feat from a 2000 year old fable. The story is about thirsty crow that finds a pitcher with water at the bottom, beyond the reach of its beak. After failing to push the pitcher over, the crow drops in pebbles one by one until the water rises to the top of the pitcher, allowing it to drink. Students there have now observed birds on campus demonstrating this skill.

So while they may squawk and seem annoying at times, be friendly. Old Mr. Crow might remember you and he doesn't easily forget.



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"Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord Rejoice!" Psalm 105:3

EL DORADO PARK

ONE MOTHER'S REVIEW

by Kristen Z.

"Have you checked out the playground near....?" This is my world now. I remember those days of getting advice on the best places to go for happy hour. Now I am getting suggestions on the best playgrounds near my house.

Honestly though, have you had a chance to check out the newly renovated El Dorado Park playground? The sand is so soft my kids beg to take their shoes off as soon as we get there. This three level



El Dorado Park

this new trend of mommy & me baby swings, and this playground has them. If you are in the area check it out.

playground has an awesome twisty tunnel slide that descends from the top level. Insider tip: do not "test it out" first. My husband and I both got a little beat up going down. I may be a little obsessed with

El Dorado Park

24335 Carrillo Drive, Mission Viejo

MAKE YOUR BED LESSON FROM TOP NAVY SEAL

by William Harry McRaven Ret. Admiral -US Navy

If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed. If you'll make your bed every morning you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. By the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed.

Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right, you'll never be able to do the big things right. And, if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made. That you made. And a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better.



William Harry McRaven is a retired United States Navy admiral who last served as the ninth commander of the United States Special Operations Command from August 8, 2011, to August 28, 2014.

GABE THE COBBLER KEEPING AN ARTFORM ALIVE

Shoemaking goes back to ancient times and was largely done by individual shoemakers. Over time, it has become a more commercial affair to where shoes are manufactured in factories and ordered online, but to be honest about it, our modern ways make great shoes, but if we're talking leather footwear, they have never matched or truly replaced the individual cobbler.



Hard at work at 83, still practicing his craft

Gabriel Ari is such a person, opening his store in 1983. He himself is 83 now and still working! He doesn't have a speciality. His speciality according to him is doing it all, from shining shoes to re-soling to fixing bags and repairing boots. Reading the Yelp reviews for him and his wife's business- it is just one glowing 5-star review after another. When the Reporter asked what he thought of Mission Viejo, he answered that it was, "Great! Beautiful City!" We couldn't agree more.



Gabriel loves his work

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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,

What is proper procedure when a hair is found in your food at a restaurant. Should I complain? Would you make a scene? Maybe demand free food or something along those lines?

- Following Rules in Mission Viejo

Dear Following Rules,

I, too, have faced this "hairy" situation.... It's a common mishap, no matter how clean the restaurant is. Honestly, what really drives me nuts about many restaurants is that they make the kitchen staff wear hats and gloves to be all sanitary (which is fine!), but then they turn around and let the servers and the management walk around with their hair all poofed out! These people, who deliver the food to your table, are the real "hair-in-your-linguini" culprits.

Still, there's not much sense in making a big scene over it (unless it's a really vile hair that makes you throw up a little bit in your mouth). Just explain to the server that you found a hair in your mashed potatoes, and 99% of the time the server will be willing to replace the dish for you. Although servers can't take items off your check, they will often send management to your table to "smooth things over," so to speak. The manager will likely comp an item on your check or offer you something like free appetizer cards. If both customers and restaurants approach this problem calmly and respectfully, then we can all avoid some "hair-raising" dining experiences!

- Aunt Sandy



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FROM OUR HAVING A HEART DEPT.

LIFESAVER RON

Craig Chandler was playing volleyball and started to feel woozy, so he called it a day and started to drive home, but first he thought he'd stop by the pool supply store and have his pool's water tested.

As Ron Eroh entered Leslie's Pool Supply Store on Marguerite Parkway, he noticed several people, standing behind the water testing station. They all were looking down at the floor. No one was talking. He heard the store manager say, "Stand back. Give him room." Ron's eyes searched in the direction of his voice and found his target. The manager was kneeling on the floor, cradling a man's head in his lap. Then, the store manager said, "He's not breathing."

Ron yelled as loud as he could, "Get out of my way." People scattered in all directions, except for the manager. He immediately dropped to his knees and started chest compressions... CPR. Pump. Pump. Pump. Ron performed CPR while singing to himself the tune and lyrics from "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gees. He had seen it on TV.

Pump. Pump. Pump. Ron kept up the cadence while singing the song to himself. Finally, the paramedics arrived. Ron asked if he should stop. "No," came the terse reply. They needed time to set up and they wanted him to continue what he was doing.

They eventually yelled, "Ready!" By that point, Ron was completely exhausted and simply crawled out of the way. They shocked Craig 3 times before transporting him to Mission Hospital. When he walked out of the store, Ron asked a fireman what were his chances? He replied, "Not good. Maybe 50%, but you gave him that 50% chance."

On Tuesday morning, Ron was already at work. The office phone

rang; it was his wife. She told him he was about to receive a phone call from someone he didn't know and that he needed to take that call.

Immediately, his iPhone rang. A woman's voice asked, "Are you Ron? Are you Ron Eroh?" He replied that he was. She then asked, "Were you in Leslie's Pool Supply on Saturday?" "Yes, I was," Ron answered. There was total silence for a few brief moments. Then this woman began to cry. Through her tears she said to Ron, "You saved my husband's life! You saved my husband's life! You are our Guardian Angel. You are our hero. How does my family and I ever repay you?"

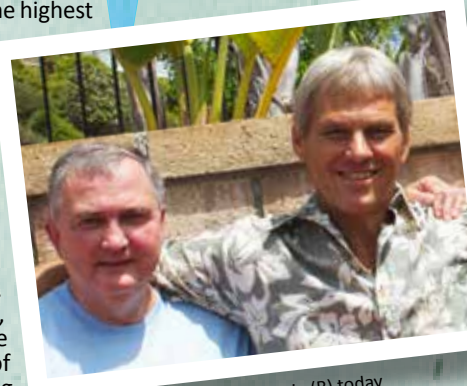
Ron simply replied, "Ma'am, I'm not sure if I am any of those things. But, what I do know, I was at the right place, at the right time, and I knew what to do." By then, Ron said that they were both crying.

The doctors had told Craig's wife, "You do not survive a widow-maker heart attack." According to Craig's doctors, the main artery, which supplies blood and oxygen to the heart, was 100% blocked. In actuality, Craig was dead before he hit the floor. Through the quick response of Ron, the hardwork and skill of the paramedics (EMTs), and the doctors at Mission Hospital, there was a positive outcome to Craig's story.

Ron's employer, AT&T honored him with the **Vale Award**. It is the highest

honor given to employees for acts that help others. The City of Mission Viejo, gave him the **Difference Makers Award**.

Every year now, Craig and Ron meet for lunch. This past May, they celebrated the third anniversary of their first meeting and Craig's second chance at life. Please, learn CPR. You may save someone.



Ron (L) and Craig (R) today

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

LOCAL SISTERS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Young philanthropists, **Skyler** (16) and **Aspen Kimonoto** (12) from Mission Viejo are not only sisters, but best friends.

Although Aspen has an affinity for science, and Skyler prefers the outdoors, they mostly enjoy doing things together. Their common interests are fun and eclectic - from playing tennis and cooking new recipes, to visiting museums like the Ice Cream Museum and going to musicals and volunteering.

They are both members of the **Mission Viejo Activity Committee** and **Lion's Heart** (Skyler has already received the President's Service Volunteer Award and Torchbearer Award for going above and beyond her responsibilities). Some of their favorite organizations where they often lend a helping hand, include Second Harvest Food Bank, Down Syndrom Association of OC/Young Athletes Program for Special Olympics and NEGU.

Their involvement with NEGU began in 2013, stuffing Joy Jars for children battling cancer. Wanting to contribute something more personal to the jars and bring even more joy to the kids receiving them, they decided to take crochet lessons at Joann's Craft Store and Living Peace (a non-profit organization). Their generous idea has turned into a hobby with a cause.

They crochet 10-20 beanies at a time before they bring them to the Jessie Rees Factory where they are added to the Joy Jars. Each one of their creations has a different design, vibrant colors and the promise to brighten up a kid's day while in the hospital or at home.

These two kind-hearted sisters are also stellar students, who no doubt will bring their intellectual, creative and leadership skills to any job they choose to pursue in the future.



Skyler and Aspen and some of their wares

Places We'd Like TO REMEMBER



Mission Community Hospital circa 1975

THE GHOST GUYS

GHOST HUNTERS IN MISSION VIEJO

OC Soul Searchers is a paranormal investigative group based in Mission Viejo. After sitting down with them, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** is certain of one thing: that they have some very interesting stories.

There are two members. **Eric** is the skeptic and **Mike** is the believer in terms of the paranormal. After long talks about the paranormal the two of them had while fishing, Eric became determined to prove Mike wrong about the existence of the supernatural, and OC Soul Searchers was born.



Who you gonna call? Eric and Mike

Since then, they have been on countless adventures around Orange County and Western North America. Using cameras, recorders, pressure sensors, and electromagnetic sensors, they are armed to confirm the existence of the paranormal wherever they decide to go. They told the Reporter about a memorable encounter in Blackstar Canyon. They were approached by an orb of shadow that moved bushes and shrubs as it got near them. After racing toward them at an alarming speed, the orb left as quickly as it came and disappeared through the brush, never to be seen again.

OCSoulsearchers.com



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PORTOLA'S ORIGINAL RIDERS



Portrait of Gaspar de Portola

No parcel in Orange County enjoys a lengthier heritage than does the 40,000-acre Rancho Mission Viejo, whose destinies have been guided by Richard O'Neill and his descendants for over a century.



Artist's sketch of a "Trabuco"

remains a mystery, the name has prevailed for over two centuries.



The first baptism in California

The ranch's legacy began with the first Spanish expedition into Alta California.

cattle camp on the Ortega, the explorers spent a day and a night on the mesa above O'Neill Park. The loss there of a soldier's gun inspired the name Trabuco (Spanish for blunderbuss) which survives today as the oldest ranch name in the State.



On July 22, 1769, Captain Gaspar de Portola, with 63 men and two priests, stepped across the ranch's southern border into local history. Here, in Christianitas Canyon, the baptism of two Indian babes brought Christianity to California and the earliest name to a place in Orange County. Following a night's bivouac near the ranch's

Six years later, the ranch witnessed the first attempt to found Mission San Juan Capistrano. Due to a lack of water the mission was relocated in 1778. Its departure from San Juan Canyon endowed that area with the name 'Mission Viejo' and historians with a dilemma ever since. While the exact whereabouts of the 'Old Mission'

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DO YOU NEED TEETH BY TONIGHT?

I have needed a dental implant for over three months and I was not very enthusiastic about getting one. Eventually, I decided to get on with it. I interviewed four Dentists who specialize in dental implants and of course, price was a consideration. The last doctor I visited was **Dr. Manesh of Mission Dental Implant Center**, who specializes in regenerative periodontal care, dental implants, oral plastic surgery and other cosmetic procedures. He shared with me that he is the one of only a few implant



specialists in California using all ceramic zirconia implants, rather than titanium, and he's done over 3000 of these types of implants. Dr. Manesh is a skilled surgeon with 22 years of experience and an active member of the American

Dental Association as well as a published author and lecturer. He teaches other dentists to use the zirconia implants over titanium implants, too.

The first time I went into the office, **Sandra**, the treatment coordinator, greeted me and as usual, gave me the forms to fill out and soon afterward, Dr. Manesh greeted me. I especially liked that he asked me to go into the x-ray room where he reviewed the digital images and then explained what he needed to do. None of the other Doctors had done that. After he went over the procedure, his staff offered financing options which is always nice. I can't say I looked forward to the procedure, but I felt at ease with everyone in the office and knew I had made the right choice. I was relieved that I didn't have to look any further and that I felt comfortable enough to make an appointment.



Kathy and Dr. Manesh

I did my research and found that they use non invasive treatments methods, and also do Biolase lasers, teeth whitening, scaling, root planing, tissue grafting, replace missing teeth and full mouth restorations, among other procedures.

As I am writing this, I had the procedure this morning and it only took an hour and twenty minutes. I left feeling like the entire staff genuinely cared about my well being. I didn't feel any pain, I simply took two Advil and then I went out to dinner with my family a few hours later. I am definitely smiling a lot more now that my work is done and this is behind me!

Mission Dental Implant Center is located at 26800 Crown Valley Parkway #425 in Mission Viejo and you can reach their office at 949-364-2935.

FROM OUR SAVING LIVES DEPT.

EYES ON THE WATER

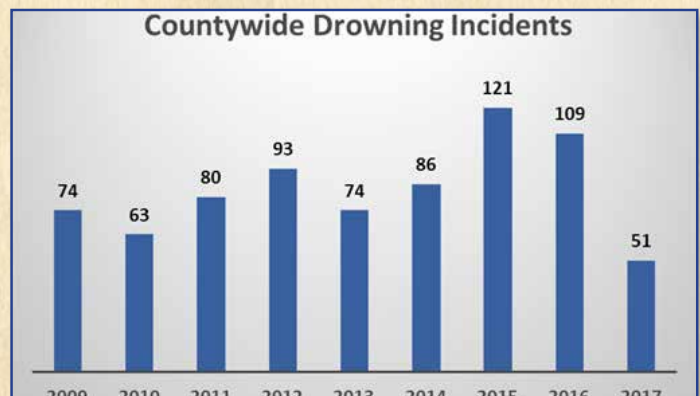


In Mission Viejo, we lost two residents this summer. Countywide, in 2017 alone, there have been 51 drowning incidents. 25 of these incidents have been fatal, with the majority of these victims in the 35 – 64 age group. 26 of these

drownings have been non-fatal with the majority of these victims in the 0 – 4 year age grouping. These statistics bear out year over year; the bulk of fatal drownings occur in the 35-64 year old age group, with the majority of non-fatal drownings occurring in the 0-4 age group.

CHILDREN DROWN WITHOUT A SOUND

1. Watch kids when they are in or around water, without being distracted. Keep young children within arm's reach of an adult.
2. Install fences around home pools. A pool fence should surround all sides of the pool and be at least four feet tall with self-closing and self-latching gates.
3. Know what to do in an emergency. Learning CPR and basic water rescue skills may help you save a life.



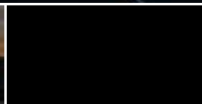
- Since 2009 Mission Viejo has averaged 1.8 fatal drownings a year and 1.25 non-fatal drownings a year.

ENVELOPES
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ENVELOPES



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PHOTOS

by Troy Liposec

Mission Viejo Resident

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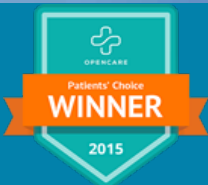
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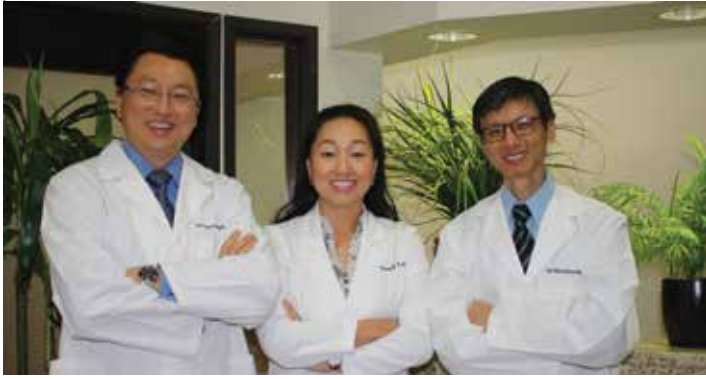
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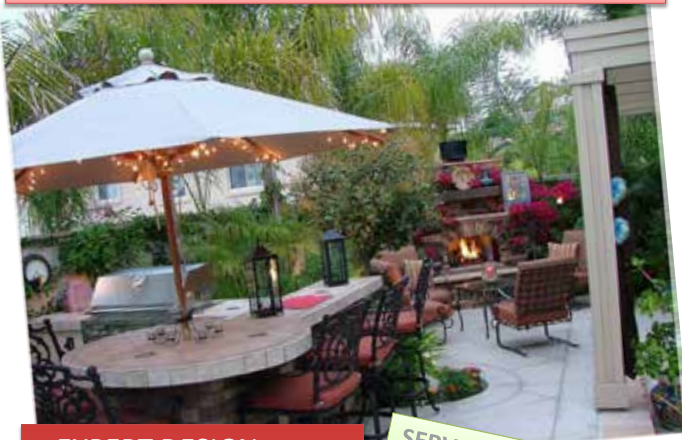
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Did you know there is a fire museum hidden in the hills of our city? Well there is! The **California Fire Museum (CFM)** is here in Mission Viejo! At the museum you will find 15 different fire engines. They also have several storage rooms, a board room and shop tool room at their location.



Technically the facility in Mission Viejo is a storage site for the museum and isn't open to the public yet. However, the museum has been working for over 10 years to secure 5 acres of land in partnership with other museums, to build a more permanent home, similar in look to Balboa Park in San Diego. For now, they are happy to call our city their home.



Two of the Museum's vintage fire engines

The fire engines are in different phases of restoration. Some are fully restored and are used at many outreach events around the county, while others are in need of restoration. You can see some of their fire apparatus on display at the annual **Mission Viejo South County Disaster Preparedness Expo** at the Norman Murray Community Center every October.

You can learn more about the museum at: www.cafiremuseum.org

POLL NAMES MONTY McGRIFF AS MISSION VIEJO'S BIGGEST HANDS LOCAL BUSINESSMAN HAS BIG MITTS



Most of us have regular sized paws, some a little smaller and some a little bigger, but **McGriff** has very unique hands because they are quite large.

There are plenty of pros and cons to having bigger hands, but when asked about whether it helps him in his work as a tilesman or not, he says it's definitely an asset. He's a friendly guy, and if you spot him around town, don't hesitate to say hello, and make sure you shake his monstrous hand.



Monty McGriff Tile (949) 573-6530



THE MISSION VIEJO REPORTER ASKS MISSION VIEJO KIDS: DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL?



"I want to go back to school because I want to know more about people and get smart"

-Alex, 7



"I want to go back to school because I will be in second grade!"

-Kate, 7

"I don't wanna go back to school because I'll melt!"

-Landen, 5

"I am not excited to go back to school because school is hard and so is the homework" – Caitlin, 8

"I don't want summer to end ever" – Amy, 10

"Group projects help me understand why Batman works alone" - Jason, 15

"School is fun, I'll be in the 3rd grade this year!" - Adel, 9

"I want to go back to school because I miss my friends" - Alejandro, 12

"I want to go back to school because my mom will be my teacher next year" - Lucy, 8

"I don't want to go back to school because it is boring" – Leah, 7

"When I say I miss school, I mean I miss my friends and the fun, not the school" - Jeremy, 13

"I don't like going to school because I always wake up late and get in trouble" - Phillip, 12

"My Mom is the most happy about me going back to school!" - Tanya, 10

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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Mark Arenal - Triathlete

Mark Arenal is the kind of guy you want to be around whenever you're in need of inspiration. He's a triathlon athlete and at the age of 59 he has no plans of slowing down.

Intrigued by the Hawaii Ironman many years ago, he entered his first triathlon in Carlsbad, 1989. Soon thereafter, he "discovered that triathlons came in different sizes." Since then, Mark has completed about 75 races (different distances), including 3 full Ironman and 10 Half-Ironman races, across the country and Mexico.

In addition to swimming, biking and running, this busy, business man makes the time (5-7 days a week with rest days in between) to do strength training and stretching. His fierce drive is in sharp contrast to his calm demeanor. He explains that "having a supportive spouse is also a major factor" in his ability to be so dedicated to his daily training.

In his down time, he remains active; you will find him hiking/skiing with his adult children, helping his neighbors or volunteering at church. We can't all be triathlon athletes like Mark, but we can all turn what we love into a life-long passion!



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Jose **the Traveling** **Tool Man** **MISSION VIEJO'S HANDYMAN**

Jose's World is not just his business name - it's his van, his craft AND his business. He got the name from some friends who suggested it. He has no email and he doesn't know computers, but he does know a lot of other things.

He's a professional all-around Handyman who does plumbing, electrical, paint, everything, but carpet. His van is a veritable hardware store's worth of tools.



Jose's World - Van, Trade, Business

He is ready to go at a moment's notice to travel at the drop of a hat to any jobsite and stay until the job's done. If you see him and need some work done, don't hesitate to ask, he's ready to work.

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MISSION VIEJO

HACIENDA OF THE MONTH



Bob and Eileen Neal have lived in Mission Viejo since 1998, and lived in the house they are in now since 2011. They wanted to find a unique, family friendly environment to start a family. They discovered that the surrounding area was beautiful with mountains, hills and even a lake.

Before moving to Mission Viejo, Bob had lived in a place where the California drought had hit very hard and as a result of that experience was very water conscious. After they moved here, they watered the lawn in front of their place according to the California water guidelines. They



experienced several years of continuous lawn death and revival and decided something had to change. The Neals added a ton of hardscape to the front yard and incorporated extremely water efficient plants as well as succulents into the design, and installed a drip irrigation system as well.

Now after restructuring their front yard, low maintenance looks great and is water efficient. The beauty of their design and responsibility in addressing the water issues that we all face, lead us to name the Neal family's home as our **Hacienda of the Month** for September!



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