



VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

January 2018

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



LEATHERNECK MISSION VIEJO'S RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

THE LONG FLIGHT HOME The Story of the Mission Swallows



MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

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LA PAZ ROAD FIRST Photograph EVER!

COVER PHOTO:
Jim Dante, Mission Viejo Resident

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Dave Leckness
Editor



CITY SPEAK

PRIORITIES 2018

SAFETY • AMPHITHEATER • PARKS



by Ed Sachs
Mayor, Mission Viejo

This is a good opportunity for me, as your Mayor in 2018, to outline a few of my goals for the city during our 30th Anniversary.

High on my list is to get back to city police patrol cars showing more presence in the city, including routine presence in our neighborhoods and around our schools.

We will continue moving forward on the city Vision Plan for the Civic Core area. Prioritized will be cleaning and enhanced work on Oso Creek behind the Village Center. My hopes are to have a meadow amphitheater on the creek where singers, poets, writers, musicians and actors entertain shoppers and residents.

I look to implement a program of Strategic Business Ambassadors working with our Chamber and Saddleback College bringing a tech incubator to the city. We will feature tech savvy business leaders, medical device leadership, and education Ambassadors to manage incubation coaching and seminars, while taking full advantage of the college and city assets.

I have also asked the city to take inventory of the many small city owned parks with an eye towards repurposing them to benefit the local neighborhood. Ideas such as public gardens and special needs play equipment are but a few considerations.

Happy 30th year Anniversary Mission Viejo

Ed Sachs
Mayor

CITY STAFF SHINES



by Greg Rath
Mayor Pro-Tem, Mission Viejo

Congratulations to the City of Mission Viejo for a very successful 2017. My councilmember colleagues and I passed a responsible two year balanced budget with a \$27 million reserve fund, the aquatic center renovation will be complete in March 2018, and we are making progress with the revitalizing plan of our city core.

Thank you to our law enforcement and fire department for keeping our city safe and secure.

I would like to thank our great residents for your trust and confidence in me as your councilman. I discharged my duty with respect and reverence at over 120 city events last year and I now look forward to serve our city in a leadership role for 2018 as Mayor Pro Tem.

I would like to acknowledge the fine work and dedication of our City Manager, Dennis Wilberg, Assistant City Manager Keith Rattay, and City Attorney, Bill Curley. We also have outstanding commissioners and city staffers who work professionally and effectively, plus our numerous city committee members and volunteers have been incredible.

We now move forward into 2018 with a new leadership team committed to our fine citizens.

PERSEVERE IN THE NEW YEAR



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

Mission Viejo has character! In January, the City focuses on perseverance--the quality of refusing to give up and continuing on in spite of difficulty or opposition. Hard work and perseverance lead to success in reaching our goals, whether it is studying to get a good grade in school, practicing a musical instrument or athletic skill, or pursuing a promotion at work.

Perseverance also involves learning from failure. Often we "fail into success!" Failure offers a motivation to get better, an opportunity to learn and grow, and it may open a new door. Abraham Lincoln, Walt Disney, Thomas Edison, and Helen Keller all used perseverance and overcame great obstacles in order to reach their goals. As you begin 2016, make perseverance one of your New Year's Resolutions! In the words of Winston Churchill, "Never, never, never give up!"

To read our character documents in full, visit www.cityofmissionviejo.org/character

- trishkelley@cox.net

FROM OUR CROW HISTORY DEPT.

HOW THE CROW CAME TO BE BLACK

A Brule Sioux Legend

Told by Good White Buffalo, at Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota, 1964

The crow was pure white in the beginning. He was the brother to the buffalo. The Sioux needed the buffalo for food and skins, but everytime the Sioux would hunt the buffalo, the crow would warn him.

A hunting party gathered around the campfire to prepare for the hunt. A wise old chief said, "We must do something about crow. I will dress as a buffalo and when brother crow comes to warn the buffalo of our hunt, I will grab him."

The next day, the old chief - disguised as a buffalo - crept among the herd. Sure enough, crow came warning the buffalo. Crow was crying, "Caw, caw, caw, the hunters are coming to kill you!" The old wise chief jumped up and caught crow by his legs and tied them with a rawhide string and a stone so crow could not escape.

Later, as they sat in council the hunters asked, "What shall we do with this big, bad crow that has caused us to go hungry again and again?" Just then, an angry hunter grabbed crow and threw him in the fire. "This will teach you," he said. Of course, the string that held the stone burned through almost at once, and the big crow flew out of the fire, but, he was badly singed and some of his feathers were charred. Though he was still big, he was no longer white.

"Caw, caw, caw," he cried, flying away as fast as he could. "I'll never do it again; I'll stop warning the buffalo, and so will the crow nation. I promise. Caw caw caw"

Thus the crow escaped, but ever since, all crows have been black.



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FROM OUR CITY ARCHIVES DEPT.

LEAVING A MARK

Mission Viejo Resident Designs City Seal

In April of 1989, the Mission Viejo City Council authorized **Carl Glassford** to design the City's logo. Carl was a Mission Viejo resident and an art director for Walt Disney Productions. The fee he charged was just \$750 dollars. This included three comprehensive design layouts with minor modifications, if required.

The dominant symbol chosen to represent the modern community was the **Mission Bell Streetlight**, and its ties to local history, set before the backdrop of landmark **Santiago Peak**.

In the middle, **The Lake** is displayed signifying outdoor activity.

At the left, is the **"Rafter M"** brand used for decades by Rancho Mission Viejo.

Balancing it to the right is a symbol of modern history—the **Olympic torch**. It was chosen because the cycling venue of the 1984 Olympic Games were in Mission Viejo.



The date of incorporation, **1988**, is depicted as if it were branded on the land.

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PURSE-A-PALOOZA

HANDBAGS TO HELP THE LIBRARY



The Friends of the Mission Viejo Library announce the introduction of an innovative way to help you clean out your closet and help them raise money for the beautiful Library.

On May 5th, 2018, the Friends will be hosting a "Gently Used" Purse Sale, in the Saddleback Room at City Hall.

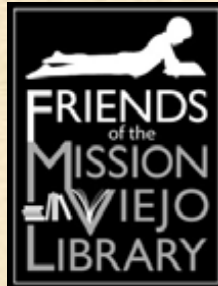


Friends Secretary **Kathleen Cunningham** asks everyone to please look through your closets and consider donating your new or gently used purses now in support of this event. The goal is to have 250 purses available at the sale.

Thank you for your support and see you at the sale!

Drop off locations include:

- ✓ **Friends of the Library Bookstore**
- in the MV Library 100 Civic Center
- ✓ **clubElevate**
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Ask Aunt Sandy

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

SPANKING?

Dear Aunt Sandy,

Years ago my kid attended La Paz Jr High. I believe a teacher spanking a student for starting a fight or talking back in class might just do the trick and teach these kids some needed respect and discipline. Some states are bringing corporal punishment back into schools. If you agree with me, could you help get the word out.

- A Good Spanking

Dear Lost In Translation,

Fifty years ago, teachers and principals could get away with that crap. I'm sure my gym teacher Miss van Dyke enjoyed delivering punishment. In fact, she drilled holes into her paddle to lessen the wind drag. Although the pain and welts have gone away, my stuttering disorder continues. All but 19 states completely ban corporal punishment in schools for good reason...it's wrong. Most experts agree that it's child abuse and note that students continue to misbehave even after repeated spankings.

Questions like: Who decides? Are parents notified? How hard, and how many times? These questions are the reason it should be left in the stone age. You get no help from me Mr. Spanker

- Aunt Sandy

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FROM OUR MILITARY HISTORY DEPT.

LEATHERNECK

Mission Viejo's Resident of the Month

Meet **Mike Flynn**. Mike and his wife **Denise** have lived in Mission Viejo since 1972. Mike served in the United States Marines for over twenty years. As Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines at Camp Pendleton and he also served at the Tustin Air Station.

Originally from Boston, Mike set out to be a lawyer, and then fate stepped into his life in the form of his future wife, Denise. Mike graduated from Boston College and joined the Marines in 1958. Mike and Denise married in 1963, and after serving two tours in Vietnam, settled in the new community of Mission Viejo.

They have had all three of their kids grow up here and attend our public school system, which Mike loves.

We asked Mike what his Best Day was and what his Worst Day was. Mike said the day he married his wife of 54 years was the Best Day and best decision he ever made. Mike said his Worst Day was July 1st, 1966. We asked why. He said it was something that happened in Vietnam that he is not ready to talk about yet. He said, even his wife knows little about what went on that July day during the war.

Today, Mike spends most of his time playing golf at either Arroyo, Tijeras Creek and Casta Del Sol.



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NADADORES

EXCELLENCE CONTINUING



The Mission Viejo Nadadores program has dominated the aquatic Sports scene since it's earliest days and brought Mission Viejo national attention in the public spotlight. Olympic Champions such as diving legend Greg Louganis, swimmers like Brian Goodell, Shirley Babashoff, Mary T. Meagher, Dara Torres and coaches like Mark Schubert and Ron O'Brien all come from the Nadadores.

In 1968 when the Nadadores team was formed, it was comprised of 25 swimmers who competed in local events. Six years later, in 1974, the Nadadores women won their first National Championship title.

Since that time, the Nadadores have won a total of 47 National Team Championships, 12 Olympic Gold Medals, 7 Olympic Silver Medals, 1 Olympic Bronze Medal, 5 Individual World Championship titles and 148 individual National Championships. The Nadadores have broken 91 American Records, 22 World Records and have produced more than 135 All-Americans.

The program's motto is a "Tradition of Excellence". As of January, work continues on the new Diving and Swimming Facility due to be completed later this year.

A Mission Viejo Nadadores trained swimmer or diver has represented the United States in every Olympic Games since 1976.



(Top) The new state of the art diving tower, as it nears its finished state.

(Left) Brian Goodell's Gold Medals from the 1976 Olympics.

(Right) Construction on the pools and spectator area.

- All construction photos by Jim Dante




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FROM OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH DEPT.

THE LONG FLIGHT HOME

THE STORY OF THE MISSION SWALLOWS

The miracle of the "Swallows" of Capistrano takes place each year at the Mission San Juan Capistrano, on March 19th - St. Joseph's Day.

Each year the "Scout Swallows" precede the main flock by a few days, and it is their chief duty to clear the way for the main flock to arrive at the "Old Mission" of Capistrano.



With the arrival of early dawn on St. Joseph's Day, the little birds begin to arrive and begin rebuilding their mud nests, which

The Mission Swallow's nests line the walls are clinging to the ruins of the old stone church of San Juan Capistrano. The arches of the two story, high vaulted Chapel were left bare and exposed, as the roof collapsed during the earthquake of 1812.



This Chapel, said to be the largest and the most ornate of all the missions, is the swallows' summertime home.

At the end of the Season, the swallows take flight again, and on the Day of San Juan, October 23,

they do a fly over of Mission Viejo before flying the 15,000 miles back to their wintertime home in Goya, Argentina.

PLAYING IN THE MUD

Local Artist Makes Art Out of Dirt

Sapna Sareen, a Mission Viejo resident, makes beautiful sculptural pieces, usable clay bowls, cups, plates, vases, and bottles. The catalyst that sparked her interest in pottery making was a visit to a clay studio in India. Years later, she enrolled in a Saddleback pottery class, so she could experience the art of making her own creations. Most recently, she interned at the Irvine Fine Arts Center.

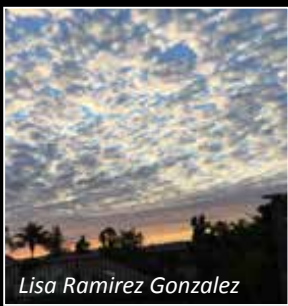
Her unique pieces are a labor of love. It takes a couple of weeks to finish a piece as it has "to be trimmed, dried, bisque fired, glazed and glaze fired". To her, the best part about pottery is "the unpredictability of what will come out of the glaze kiln".



The appeal of working with clay is that it's a "tactile medium that has immense possibilities of creating anything." As an added bonus, Sapna explains that "throwing pots on the potter's wheel is a very meditative process", which she highly recommends to anyone in search of a new, soothing hobby.

Her one-of-a-kind, hand-made pieces would make great gifts for any home. Pick-up something extra for that special friend or neighbor too. You can find Sapna at the local boutiques, especially around the holidays or can contact her via email at assareen@hotmail.com.





Lisa Ramirez Gonzalez



Lisa Olney-Estrada



Brooke Morrow



Angela Royval



Elsie Griffith Holdridge



Marla Ovitsky Jacobs



Jim Dante



Bobbi Wilmer



The Night the Mission Viejo Sky Put On A Show



Amy Faulds



Linda Elkins



Mark Cardinale



Greg Faulds



Travis Smiley



Jazmin Major



Lisa Clinton

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway

LA PAZ ROAD BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN MISSION VIEJO



Story and photo by
Tom Gildersleeve

In 1964, my friends **Hank Mills** and **Gordon Glattenberg** and I began to put an extensive amount of time into photographing the San Diego Surf Line of the Santa Fe Railroad. It turned out to be a very good decision, because things were on the cusp of change. During the early summer, Hank noticed that trees were being cut down in that area, and construction activity was getting under way.

I later learned that I was witnessing the commencement of construction for the new city of Mission Viejo. It was

the beginning of the end for the old Orange County I had known as a boy. The photo was taken of a southbound San Diegan on July 2, 1964. The location was approximately where present day La Paz Road crosses over the the former Santa Fe tracks, now owned by Metrolink.

Today the city of Mission Viejo, with a population of around 95,000, occupies this entire area. It's name is interesting, because Viejo means "old" in Spanish, and the town is neither old nor does it contain a mission. For me, this area seemed like paradise, with its pastoral landscape. I am sure, however, that those who live in Mission Viejo today see what has been constructed there as their version of paradise in its own right, with beautiful homes in a nice setting with a great climate. Most of them probably have little or no knowledge of what the place used to be.

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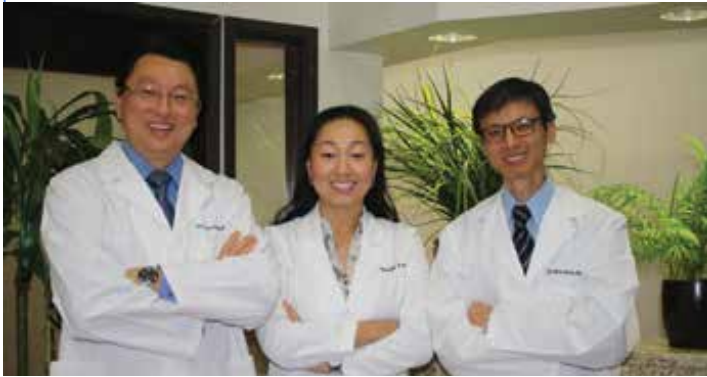
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CHABAD

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Rabbi Marcus and the Chabad's ark of the synagogue



Torah Scroll



Torah Crown

The stones of Jerusalem are filled with history, as it is one of the oldest cities in the world. In every synagogue there is generally an ornamental closet called an ark, which contains that synagogue's Torah scrolls. At the **Chabad Jewish Center Of Mission Viejo**, the ark of their synagogue is made completely from Jerusalem stone.

Chabad Jewish Center of Mission Viejo is currently offering Jewish Heritage tours. If your group would like to take the tour, contact **Sandi** at (949) 770-1270.

FROM OUR ENTREPRENEURS DEPT.

SHARKTANK

LADERA WOMAN LAUNCHES MAGNET DESIGN KIT BUSINESS

Longtime Ladera Ranch resident **Gayle Bashe** has launched **deCARate**, LLC, a new company offering celebration themed design kits. They can adhere to any metallic surface, including vehicles, office cubicles and filing cabinets, whiteboards, lockers, metal doors, refrigerators and more.



The versatile kits are fun for all ages to create their own unique design to celebrate holidays and other special occasions. The designs can be updated daily or left in place for an entire holiday season. The magnetic kits are reusable, so the designs can be placed in the provided storage bag and then reused year after year.

The idea of car décor came to her in 2014. Bashe has five sons

and ran from one sporting event to another and got tired of the window markers and decals.

"I thought how easy it would be to place some magnets on for soccer then change to baseball before the next event," Bashe said. The temporary nature of a magnet was the perfect solution. The practical side of me liked the fact that the kits are reusable. The deCARate your own kits are a crossover from my toy background and allow for hours of family fun. They also let you reinvent the overall design as often as you like."



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Access the trail at Casaveras and Vista del Lago. Look for a dirt path next to a streetlight. Follow the trail loop, and enjoy incredible views on both sides.

As recently as 18 months ago, a mountain lion was seen on the trail so be careful. If you do see one, stay calm - do not approach or run away. You can back away very slowly from them, but keep facing forward, don't turn your back towards them, and do not crouch or bend down. Give them room, and they are likely to leave you alone.



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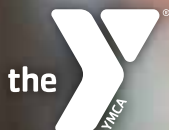
A white heart rate line graphic on an orange background.

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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Sawyer Smith - Paintball



Sawyer Smith, a 17-year senior at Mission Viejo High School, competed in the National X-Ball League (NXL) Paintball World Cup Championships held in Orlando, Florida in November. Competing at the Semi-Professional level, he and his team, the Camp Pendleton Raiders, took 17th place. The event featured over 4,000 players on more than 500 teams from nearly 40 countries from around the globe.

Smith, who started playing paintball at the age of seven, played his first year professionally in 2013 in the National Paintball Player's League, making him the youngest pro-ranked player ever. Traveling to compete while being a high school student at MVHS has been "Fun, but challenging," said Smith. When asked what he loves about playing paintball he replied, "It gets my adrenaline going. I love it because the moment the game starts, nothing in the outside world matters."



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