



VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

April 2018

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



CONVERSATION *With*
MISSION VIEJO CITY MANAGER

CHRISTOPHER'S PARK
A SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR A VERY LOVED SON



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REPORTER

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COVER PHOTO:
Jim Dante at La Paws Dog Park

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Dave Leckness
Editor



CITY SPEAK

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER HITS HOME RUN

Back in the 1960's and 1970's, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** was part of our community. The Reporter ceased operations in the 80's but, thanks to Kwik Kopy Printing owner and former Mission Viejo mayor **Dave Leckness**, it's back, and better than ever. For the past three years Dave has brought us great stories about people, local businesses and memories of our past. Throughout each issue you'll find local Mission Viejo businesses who advertise, I suggest you visit and buy from those companies.



by **Greg Rath**
Mayor Pro-Tem, Mission Viejo

One of the great benefits of the MVR is that it allows us Mission Viejo councilmembers to express our feelings and share information with you the residents in a publication that gets delivered directly to your homes.

Living and raising our families in Mission Viejo is something we are all proud of and as your Mayor Pro Tem, I encourage you to contact me with your concerns or suggestions to make our city a better place. I've included my cell for your convenience. Greg Rath 949 292-2468



MISSION VIEJO STANDS FIRM!



by **Brian Goodell**
City Council Member

Mission Viejo's City Council directed staff to identify and analyze remedies to address the identified Racially Polarized Voting circumstances in the City, rather than converting our city to district elections. We concluded, after careful analysis and public input, that the demographic structure of the City prevents forming districts as an effective remedy to actually resolve the City's challenging Racially Polarized Voting issue. The City Council and the community desire to correct the circumstances that result in Racially Polarized Voting in an efficient, beneficial and practical manner which uses feasible solutions to achieve compliance with the California Voters Right Act of 2001.

Thanks to the State Legislature and Superior Court rulings, if no alternate remedy can reasonably bring about compliance with the law, then converting to district elections may be used as the default remedy, even if it is actually ineffective as a remedy! Alternate remedies may include forms of weighted voting, enhanced voter education, extended voting periods, additional locations of voting facilities and other solutions. Once the feasible options are identified, recommended options will be presented to the City Council for adoption. To assist and facilitate this effort, the Mayor has appointed Councilmembers **Trish Kelley** and **Greg Rath** to an ad Hoc Committee.

Malibu attorneys Shenkman & Hughes, who brought forward the allegation of the existence Racially Polarized Voting to the City on behalf of their client, "The Southwest Voter Education Project," called Mission Viejo's city attorney Bill Curley to say that their experts concurred with our Council's conclusion and course of seeking alternate remedies, and that we are one of the very few communities where districting actually isn't feasible or suitable. They were respectful in noting we were competent, honest and accurate, and they agreed to work collaboratively rather than as adverse parties with the City, and were appreciative and impressed that our Council took this matter seriously and honestly, and was actually correct!

FOUNDING FATHER Unsung Hero of Mission Viejo - John Ben



by **Wendy Bucknum**
City Council Member

John Ben has been a resident of Mission Viejo since the very beginning, but unlike many others who ran for office, Mr. Ben was a behind the scenes kind of man. He took the lead and was instrumental in the formation of the City of Mission Viejo and in-fact, went to the county to ensure adequate funding was put into place to ensure that our city would be a success and thrive long term and 30 years later, we are!

He organized initial signature gathering and encouraged early city leaders to run to sure good leadership. Arranged and moderated 22 debates on cityhood, raised all the money necessary. He went to LAFCO, pulled all the papers and filled all the paper work necessary to move forward with cityhood.



He also was very involved in the incorporation of the city of Laguna Niguel and has had a positive impact on our neighboring city as well. Former Mayor Robert Breton, shared the following with me, "I remember that John Ben was an excellent announcer (and cheerleader) at the reviewing stand for the St. Patrick's Day Parade for several years, which was televised on our public access channel (produced by Dimension Cable at that time). He provided substantial financial support for many worthy candidates, foundations, and other valuable causes. John and his wife Carolyn continue to stay involved in civic leadership organizations and encourage and support good candidates who are interested in serving the City of Mission Viejo as well as the those who represent and serve our South Orange County Region. Thank you John Ben for being one of our founding fathers!

FROM OUR HALLS OF CITY HALL DEPT.

CONVERSATION *With* DENNIS WILBERG

MISSION VIEJO CITY MANAGER

Meet Mission Viejo City Manager Dennis Wilberg. Dennis began his employment with Mission Viejo in 1989 as Director of Public Works. He landed the top job as City Manager in 2003.

“ My favorite travel item I always pack? My Darth Vader Coffee Mug! ”



The City Manager position must have a strong grasp on finance and budget issues, as well as a leadership style that keeps the city on an even keel during the best days and the worst days. For the last decade under Dennis' leadership, our city has finished each year under budget.

Q&A

Where did you graduate college?

Cal Poly Pomona.

What's your favorite intersection in the city?

La Paz and Chrisanta during the holidays.

What TV show or movie do you refuse to watch?

Not a fan of horror movies, seems like a waste of time.

Favorite place to take your wife in the city?

Oso Viejo park for the Pacific Symphony Concert.

Favorite snack?

Almonds and Cashews.

What song have you completely memorized?

Star Spangled Banner.

Best day?

When I get to help someone.

Worst day?

When I have to deal with a dishonest person.

Most Memorable Moment?

1. *Driving down the freeway when my wife went into labor with my daughter and my son was in the back seat singing all the patriotic songs he had learned in school.*

2. *Having lunch at the Tap House when my son told me he had been accepted to Notre Dame University.*

Where do you usually go when you have a day off?

Somewhere along the coast.

What do you consider beautiful?

Kindness.

Festival, fair or event you never miss?

Tournament of Roses Parade.

How many keys are on your personal key ring?

Three keys.

When was the last time you climbed a tree?

Last year.



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MEET YOUR POLICE CHIEF MISSION VIEJO'S TOP COP

by Sarah Bardowell

Lieutenant Quyen Vuong, who simply goes by "Q", is a 20-year law enforcement veteran. Well-known throughout the community as the "Cyber Cop" for creating the Text to Tip program our schools use today, Q has formally served Mission Viejo as a School Resource officer for MVHS, Silverado, La Paz and Newhart and is excited to be back in Mission Viejo again.

Q has some exciting and fun changes to look forward to. If you aren't following OCSD

– Mission Viejo Police Services on social media - you need to (yes, need) now! The new social media pages are fun and informative. In addition to social media, Q is evolving Bike Patrol. Morning runs on Oso Creek Trail are a lot safer now.

The Coffee with a Cop days are going to be revived to engage with more of the community. Once the weather warms up, Q plans on hosting an ice cream social. Sweet (literally)!

There will soon be a new Quality of Life Deputy added to the staff at no additional cost to taxpayers. This position will aid with providing the homeless with help and resources they need to get back on their feet. They will also address problems with sober living homes in residential neighborhoods, and help resolve ongoing problems with nuisance neighbors.

The residents of Mission Viejo are who make this such an amazing community. Our new police chief wants residents to know that nothing is too small for Police Services. If you see suspicious activity – report it.



Intersections We Remember



View of Mission Viejo From Santa Margarita Parkway 1993

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

STEAMER ALERT

MISSION VIEJO MINEFIELDS LEAVE A PERSON STEAMING MAD

Dear Aunt Sandy,

I love your column in the Mission Viejo Reporter. It always makes my day. Here's my dilemma: In my neighborhood park near Alicia, there's a guy who always lets his dog run around off-leash. He thinks it's his own private dog park. I always throw him dirty looks when he sees me, but he just waves and smirks. How would you handle a guy like this?

- Steaming Mad on Valyermo

Dear Steaming Mad,

I know these types. They are self-centered, rude, non-conforming doofuses who refuse to visit the dog park like everyone else. Instead they choose to use our parks and schools as their pet's personal exercise yard. In fact, some schools now have "Poop Monitors". These are school kids who each day scan the playground looking for these disgusting brown land-mines before recess. If Aunt Sandy wasn't such a lady, she'd like to leave this guy a steaming surprise in his front yard.

However, next time call Mission Viejo Animal Service at 949 470-3048, and they will promptly send over an Animal Services officer with his ticket book, ready to serve some poop justice.

- Aunt Sandy

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CAMP PENDLETON

THE STORY BEHIND THE MARINE'S WEST COAST HOME



General Joseph H. Pendleton

The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II. By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation", and by 1946, it became the home of the 1st Marine Division. It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast.

HISTORY:

In about 1882, the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores land was purchased by wealthy cattleman James Flood and managed by Irishman Richard O'Neill who named it Rancho Mission Viejo. O'Neill was eventually rewarded for his faithful service with half ownership. Under the guidance of O'Neill's son, Jerome, the ranch began to net a profit.



19th Century Map of the original Rancho Mission Viejo



Camp Pendleton in 1944

When expansion of all U.S. armed forces was authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proclamation of an unlimited national emergency on May 27, 1941, an immediate need for additional amphibious force training facilities led to the construction of Camp Pendleton.

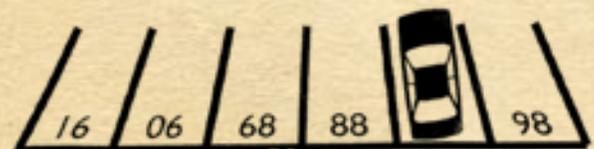
In the early 1940s, both the Army and the Marine Corps were looking for land for a large training base. The Army lost interest in the project, but after December 7th 1941, things changed. In April of 1942 it was announced that the rancho was about to be transformed into the largest Marine Corps base in the country. The Marine Corps paid \$4,239,062 for the rancho.

After five months of construction, the Rancho Santa Margarita by Las Flores, became the West Coast's largest military camp. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Base on Sept. 25, 1942, in honor of World War I Major General Joseph H. Pendleton who had called for a West Coast training base for so long and who's idea was now a reality.



BRAIN TWISTER

What is the number of the parking space containing the car?



Answer: Turn to the back cover



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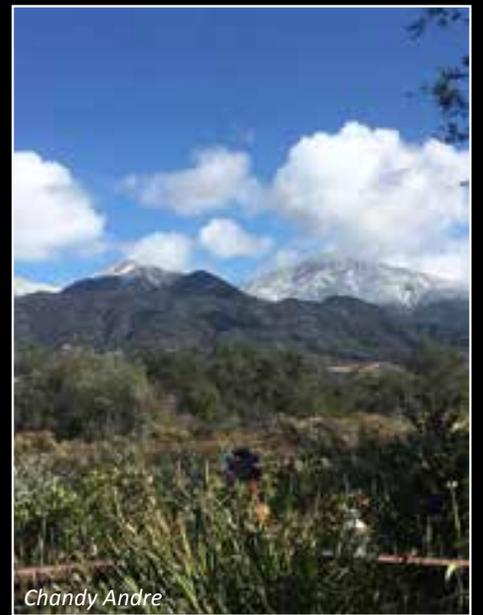
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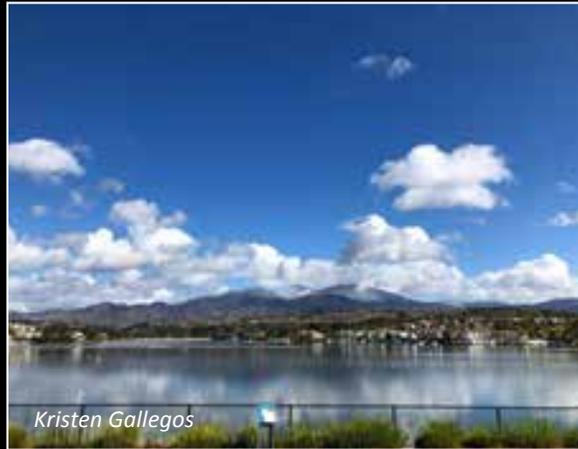
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FROM OUR CRIME & PUNISHMENT DEPT.

MOMMA'S Kidnapped!

PHONE SCAM HITS MISSION VIEJO

Long time Mission Viejo resident Shelby Garrison shares with us a scam that had her on pins and needles.

By Shelby Garrison

I just got a VERY SCARY call from a Mexico number +53 311 301 1269, and a woman was screaming for me to help her and said they were going to kill her. It sounded just like my mom. A man came on the phone and asked if I was Shelby Garrison. He said, "had my mom and if I didn't give him money, he was going to start cutting off my mom's fingers and that we would never find her body to bury for a funeral."



I ran into my office while on the phone with the man and used the office phone to call mom's work to confirm that she was ok, and thank God she was. Two other people at my mom's work received nearly the same call.

Anyway, my mom and I have a secret "safe" word from when I was a kid, and I just wanted to remind everyone to make sure your kids and relatives choose and remember a safe-word so you can quickly figure out if this is a scam or something to be taken seriously.

Shelby said she telephoned Mission Viejo Police Services and they said they receive calls similar to this scam everyday and there isn't anything they can do about it...they won't even take a report on it.

FROM OUR STRATEGY DEPT.

NOT FAKE NEWS

GREAT PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS IN MISSION VIEJO HISTORY



On October 15, 1968, **President Ronald Reagan**, then Governor of California, assisted in the dedication of **Saddleback College** at a ceremony drawing more than 1,000 community members.



In 1976, **President Ford** visited Mission Viejo on its 10th anniversary and dedicated the Mission Viejo community flag. The photo shows President Gerald Ford shaking hands with a Mission Viejo High School Marching Band member.

HACKING 101

CODE REV IS GREAT AT GETTING KIDS EXCITED ABOUT LEARNING

My girls had been bugging me to check out a Coding Camp for months, and to be honest, I wasn't exactly sure what coding was! But towards the end of last summer when they weren't signed up for any camps, I decided to look online and see which ones had great reviews, and thankfully, I stumbled upon **CODE REV**, which was started by Evan Boorman.



When I had the pleasure of meeting Evan on the girls' third day of camp, he shared with me that he had thought of starting a Coding Camp after he taught himself to code by creating a few websites for a company he founded which taught advanced Math. That's when he realized that this was the missing link, and that kids should be taught these skills at a younger age.

CODE REV has a staff that is superb at getting kids excited about learning technology, and the kids don't even realize they're learning Math and Physics in the process. The curriculum is honed and tested year round and written by technology institutes such as MIT Media Lab, Harvard and Stanford.

While at camp, my girls sent me texts saying that CODE REV is the "best camp ever" and that they were learning so much. The kids loved being in control of their Minecraft World and making the characters do things that they cannot do in the online game. They were the Rulers of their creative universe and that felt incredibly empowering to them. Both

courses they took, Minecraft Modding and VR 3D Game Design, were exciting because the kids got to "hack" into Minecraft and write their own code in the Java course code it is written in. CODE REV provides the curriculum and technology, and the wonderful teachers know how to relate the often complex topics to kids in a way they understand and latch onto.

A full week of camp changes the way kids think about learning forever, which was actually the #1 goal when our family began to home school two years ago. I can honestly say that classes like these are just what they needed to pique their interest in a subject that they're passionate about and continue to be interested in.

Code Rev is offering **Mission Viejo Reporter** readers a special promo code. Go to CODEREVKIDS.com and Enter **MVREP18** at checkout to get \$55 off any camp sign up.

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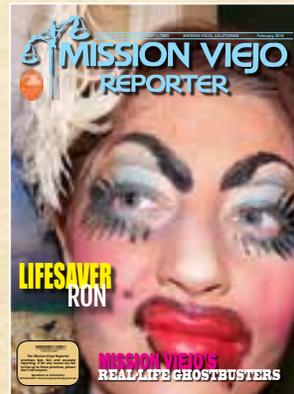
COVER FAILS!



Choosing a cover is always a difficult endeavor. Is the photo too dull or too controversial? Does it look right? What about the colors? With that in mind, we present covers that didn't make the our stringent publishing guidelines...



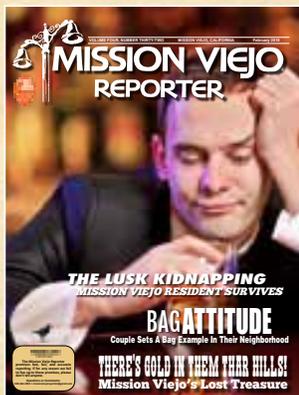
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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Wyatt Tener - Water Polo

Wyatt Tener, a Sophomore at MVHS is a fiercely independent and goal-oriented young man. After several years of hardwork and dedication, Wyatt has demonstrated proficiency and achievement in martial arts by earning his 2nd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

At the same time, his intense commitment to the Boy Scouts has brought him to the current rank of Star Scout and one step away from reaching Eagle Scout - the highest Boy Scouts rank.

While he enjoyed working with younger kids as a TKO Assistant Instructor, he decided to challenge himself with a new sport. Although he never swam before, he joined the MVHS water polo team and proved that "where there is a will, there is a way". Self-driven and tenacious, Wyatt has excelled not only at an individual sport, but at a team sport as well. With very little time to spare, this busy teen also enjoys the outdoors - hiking and mountain biking.



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HUMANS OF MISSION VIEJO

with John Rodriguez

STRIVE TO SURVIVE

MISSION VIEJO WOMAN DOESN'T GO DOWN EASY



Meet **Lupe Romero**. Lupe has been the lead medical transcriber in the Imaging Department at Mission Hospital for the last sixteen years. Now, Lupe is a patient of the hospital and fighting for her life.

by John Rodriguez
M.V. Chamber of
Commerce Ambassador

Lupe shares with us, "Life can be extremely difficult at times and during these difficult times we have a choice. We either strive to survive the day, or allow fear and anxiety to paralyze us. I'm choosing to strive and survive."

Lupe is a 6 year two time pancreatic cancer survivor, fighting for the third time. Diagnosed in 2012, Lupe was given the facts of this horrible disease and told she had 3-6 months to live. She's had 3 major surgeries, aggressive multiagent chemotherapy and radiation-chemo treatments. During all of this cancer treatment, Lupe's husband of 38 years died.

Life has dealt Lupe a tough hand, but she keeps going with a great mental attitude. She gets out and enjoys walking, spending time with family and friends, reading, and working on her miniature gardens. Lupe used to be a runner, having completed 11 Los Angeles



life, clothing gear for survivors.

Marathons. Since she no longer runs, Lupe is staying busy with skydiving, Karate, and she has joined Toastmasters. Lupe also recently started her own online business **Lupe@Strivetosurvive**.

FROM OUR FAMILY TRADITION DEPT.

CHRISTOPHER'S PARK

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR A LOVED SON

One of our 52 parks is also one of our first. **Christopher Park** has three entrances each accessing a different neighborhood. Christopher Park was named after **Christopher Blum** who was the son of Tom and Mary Blum. Tom was Director of Planning for the Mission Viejo Company. Christopher died at three years old of Leukemia on December 12, 1971. Jim Toepfer who was Tom's boss spear-headed the park name. [Jim Toepfer would later go on and build Lake Mission Viejo.]



Tom Blum & Christopher (2016)

In 2016, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** met Tom Blum at Christopher Park for a photo-op, and he brought a picture of young Christopher. Sadly, last year Tom passed away. Each year on December 12th, Mr. and Mrs. Blum, would visit the site in remembrance of little Christopher. Today Tom's other son, **Joe Blum** is the current Vice Chairman of the Mission Viejo Planning Commission.



FROM OUR FRESH PRODUCE DEPT.

Organic Farming Mission Viejo's First Ranchers

The Indians who lived here left few artifacts. They camped in the mountains and along the Arroyo to the ocean. They ate berries, fruits, and ground acorns from the oak trees for gruel and bread. They ate clams, mussels and other shell fish from the ocean.

But with the coming of the padres, the Indians' life changed. They were taught to farm and raise livestock. Not wanting



Indians near Marguerite Parkway
(has not been confirmed)

a life of labor, many fled the area. With the coming of the white man also came disease. In 1801 smallpox almost wiped out the entire tribe of Juaneno in Capistrano.



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FROM OUR NOT EATING WITH OUR HANDS DEPT.

TABLE MANNERS *That Matter*

Recently, *the Mission Viejo Reporter* spoke with the lady that trains the princesses in Pasadena, as they vie to become the Queen of the Rose Parade. So you won't look like a slob at dinner, we share with you now. Here are a few of her pointers.

Lessons Fit For a Queen or King

ETIQUETTE FROM THE PASADENA ROSE QUEEN TRAINER

1. Napkin - don't shake - don't put on collar
2. If you leave the table, put your napkin on your chair
3. Soup - Scoop soup away from you - don't drink out of bowl
4. Swirl pasta - don't cut
5. When finished with dinner place utensils together if finished (cross if resting)
6. Don't talk with utensils
7. Drop a fork? Leave it there. Don't pick it up
8. Pass counter-clockwise
9. Bread and butter on left - break off one piece at a time
10. Don't lick knife
11. Spoon and fork at top is for dessert
12. Tie over shoulder is a no-no
13. Jacket is good - always better to look a little better
14. Buffet - Wait till others arrive before starting
15. Don't eat in buffet line
16. Leave something on your plate - don't lick it clean
17. If necessary, just say, "I'll be right back"
18. Don't push back food after dinner



Next month:

We'll share the art of conversation by a Rose Queen

FROM OUR MEET YOUR MERCHANT DEPT.

A Choice Blend of Community and Coffee

You clearly have an overabundance of choices to grab a cup of coffee and a bite to eat as you start your morning commute, or join friends or colleagues for lunch, or cram for that midterm exam, or just decompress after a hard day's work. But many coffee houses just don't have the comfort and sense of community that Mission Viejo's *It's A Grind* has.

Perhaps that's because the baristas and the owner genuinely care about their customers and greet many regulars by their first names when they walk in the door. *It's A Grind* also constantly gives back to the community — whether donating coffee and food to Mission

Viejo schools, PTAs, veterans organizations, and other groups, or hosting events like singing recitals, or treating customers to live music giving local talent a chance to shine.

If you enjoy hot, iced or blended fresh-roasted gourmet coffee or tea drinks, *It's A Grind* has all that, too, of course — as well as, bistro items

other bigger coffee chains don't have, like their very popular, signature avocado toast. *It's A Grind* demonstrates that when community and coffee blend, good things happen.



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Willie & John
Residents



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