



VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER FORTY ONE

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

November 2018

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



La Paz Road - July 7th, 1964



See Inside for all the juicy details!

TEN-HUT!

Recruiting At Marguerite Parkway

BRONZE STAR STORY

Our Mission Viejo Veteran of the Year BOB SLANE

A Real HAPPY Gilmore

MISSION VIEJO RESIDENT HITS A LONG DRIVE

MISSION VIEJO
REPORTER

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Public Services

MV Animal Services.....470-3045
Pothole Hotline.....470-8405
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Dave Leckness
Editor



Going Away??

MV Police Services Will Watch Your Home



by Colonel Greg Rath
USMC (RET)
Mayor Pro-Tem, Mission Viejo

The City of Mission Viejo enjoys the reputation of being not only one of the safest cities in Orange County, but also one of the safest communities in the entire nation for populations under 100,000. We keep our residents safe by implementing several community service programs, one in particular that is notably effective is the "Vacation Check Program."

Mission Viejo Police Services has a program in place to keep watch on your home when you are out-of-town. Use the "Access Mission Viejo" APP on your smart phone by selecting the New Issue icon, then Police, then Vacation Check; fill out the required field, and hit Submit. Patrol cars will watch your home while you are away and look for any suspicious activity. This should give you peace of mind when you are traveling. You must submit your request 7 days or more in advance. So enjoy your time away knowing your property is under surveillance by law enforcement.

One final message, be careful not to post photographs on social media from vacation spots, weddings, or other events while you are out-of-town. This could tip off criminals just waiting to steal your property.

Character On The Road

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER GOES TO WASHINGTON



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

Mission Viejo's Community of Character program received national recognition again as **Vickie Sullivan** (Library and Cultural Services) and I traveled to Washington DC to present a session at the National Forum on Character. Many schools around the nation have character programs, but a city-wide program is unique! Our attendees were very interested to learn how we built it from the ground up with no funding!

In February 2003, I proposed the establishment of Mission Viejo as a City of Character. The City Council approved the resolution but denied funding! Character advocate **Bill Klimek** and I recruited a committee, and we went to work! We asked our residents to vote on the character traits most important to them, and the following 12 qualities were chosen: Perseverance, Unity, Integrity, Service, Moral Courage, Citizenship, Fairness, Self-Control, Responsibility, Respect, Thankfulness, and Caring.

We wrote our own curriculum and sought businesses to donate copies of the monthly materials. **Kwik Kopy Printing** was the first donor to step up and help! Since then, **PIP/Sir Speedy** and **Techniform** have also donated thousands of copies! Volunteers deliver copies to every classroom in all 25 of our Mission Viejo schools each month. I hope other communities learned from our presentation and will be able to create similar programs! One of our principals said, "The City of Mission Viejo's Community of Character posters provide help keeping character visible on our campus, and we use excerpts from the monthly information guide as a source for our daily bulletin announcements to inspire kids to internalize each specific trait."

FLEX-ING AROUND TOWN

OCTA BRINGING CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE TO MISSION VIEJO



by Wendy Bucknum
City Council Member

OCTA launched its new on-demand pilot program: **OC Flex**. The shuttles are an on-demand service that will take passengers curb-to-curb within the designated zones in Mission Viejo, Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel.

OC Flex operates seven days a week, as part of a pilot program. Inside each OC Flex zone you can take unlimited rides to work, play or fun for just \$4.50 per day with the OC Flex mobile app, or \$5 per day if paying with cash onboard. Give OC Flex a try on your next neighborhood errand or get from the train station to The Shops at MV or to Saddleback College!

For more info, visit www.ocflex.com.



Areas of new FLEX Service Around Town

OCSD IS H.O.T.!

RIDING ALONG WITH THE HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

report by Sarah Bardowell

I recently did a ride-along with the **Orange County Sheriff Department's Deputy Barba**, a member of the **Homeless Outreach Team** who is assigned to Mission Viejo to learn what our neighborhood is doing to address the local homelessness. The Homeless Outreach Team, or **H.O.T.**, is made up of Sergeant Dietrich, Deputy Lemieux, Deputy Johnston and Deputy Barba.

The team mainly focus on providing help and services for the homeless. Contrary to some theories, no one is dumped in other cities or arrested just for being homeless. Only if something is criminal, is someone arrested.

The start of the ride along began with an unmanned tent encampment on the outskirts of **Pincrest Park**. Under the shade of a bevy of beautiful pepper trees, was a surprisingly tidy encampment. All the trash was neatly bagged a yard or so away from a well-camouflaged tent. Seemingly not abandoned, deputies left everything intact with hopes to make contact on another day.



Next we found property hidden behind the shrubbery of Trabuco Road. Much unlike the tidy encampment earlier, this was littered with filth. Hidden behind the shrubbery were blankets, clothing, bike parts, propane tanks, lighters, suitcases, a guitar, and heaping mounds of trash. Everything was caked in layers of dirt and brush. The City had to be called in for cleanup.

The last stop was a local hangout in Lake Forest. A homeless man, who recently moved from Texas, commandeered the corner of a major intersection as his own. He had many shopping carts full of belongings, a plugged in TV/DVD player, a fine selection of pornographic films, a few chairs (hey, one needs comfort while watching porn), a safe and a sign that stated "HUNGRY LIKE A WOLF". Plugging into city electricity is a municipal code violation. He was told to move all of his stuff along. Deputies offered help, but he adamantly refused.



Being the ever-inquiring person I am, I asked a plethora of questions. I found out the department is considering using drones for spotting encampments in hard to reach areas. In the past three months, only 12 of the 196 homeless in the area accepted help. Mission Viejo has around 60 homeless, although not all at once. Out of the 60 homeless people in Mission Viejo, 2 are registered sex offenders. As you'd expect, most are addicts or suffer from mental health issues.

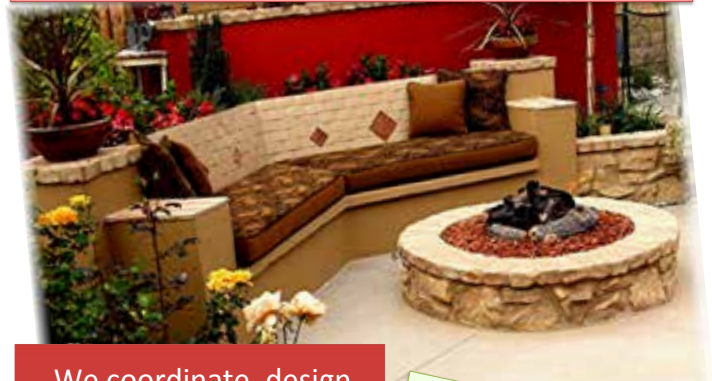
All in all, it was a very eye-opening day. The Deputies are very kind, and everyone approached was receptive to them, albeit, not for services for help. Citizens are encouraged to call in any suspected homeless activity, so the team can increase their ability to contact and assist.

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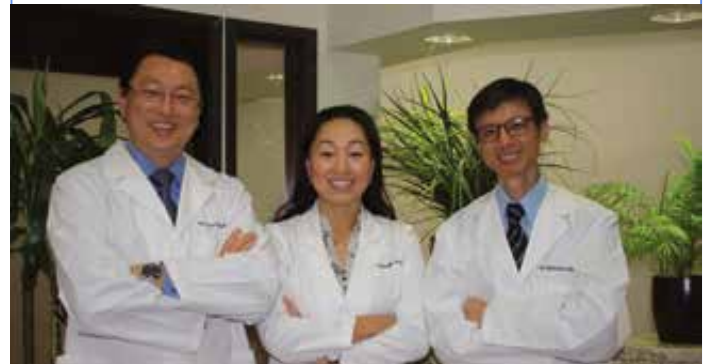
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FROM OUR **BALL BUSTING** DEPT.

A Real **HAPPY** Gilmore

MISSION VIEJO RESIDENT HITS A LONG BALL

Sean Willard may look like a normal Epoxy floor business owner from Mission Viejo, but he has something special going for him. He is one of few men in the world that can hit a golf ball over 450 yards (that's over four football fields).

The story goes that Sean was sitting on his couch when his friend Al called and said to turn on ESPN. There was a commercial looking for people to participate in the **Remax Longest Drive Championship Competition**. Sean had been good with a driver before, but he hadn't hit a golf ball in years, so he borrowed one and headed to the local driving range. He quickly found out he could drive the ball farther than all the other golfers at the range. After only a few weeks, he was restricted from driving at almost all the local driving ranges, because he would hit the ball over all the safety nets and hit the houses. Sean hits the ball so hard that occasionally the ball explodes. Once, he drove the ball so hard, it went through a stucco wall and landed in the living room of a home.



Sean entered that first competition and did not win, but came very close. He decided to take more lessons, strengthen up and become more flexible. At a recent long drive tournament, Sean came in second place. His drive was clocked at 150 miles per hour. Now that's some heat! Besides smashing crazy drives, Sean runs a nice flooring business. Give him a call!



Sean Willard Epoxy Floors
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FROM OUR **ALICE'S WONDERLAND** DEPT.

I PLEDGE ALICIA

Mission Viejo's Proud First Daughter



Alice Marguerite O'Neill Avery was born Jan. 28, 1917, to Richard O'Neill Jr. and Marguerite "Daisy" Moore. Her paternal grandfather, Irish immigrant **Richard O'Neill Sr.**, purchased 'Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores' in 1882, when the property extended from Mission Viejo to Oceanside.

"She was very proud of her California heritage," said her son **Anthony R. Moiso** who runs Rancho Mission Viejo, the family's remaining 23,000-acre property. "She loved the ranch; she loved the blessing it was."

Alice, for whom Alicia Parkway is named (Alice in Spanish is "Alicia") died in 2014 at 97 years old.



Alicia Parkway as it is today and as it was in 1968.

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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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&ABOUT
with Kathy Kuiper

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

Local Couple Helps Pool Owners Have The Healthiest Of Pools



by Kathy Kuiper
Mother of Triplets plus One

Steve and Elise have been the owners of Poolwerx Mission Viejo since April of 2018. Poolwerx is a franchise that offers the benefits of a large company and still provides that neighborly friendly special service. Steve's team has taken care of my pool for years now and keeps it looking spotless and always running well.

Poolwerx has a storefront next to Albertsons on Alicia and Olympiad in Mission Viejo that conveniently offers supplies for the DIYer who wants to take care of their own pool or a pick up a variety of pool furniture, lounge chairs, and floaties.

Steve also has a team that consists of four service trucks and a full-time technician that are licensed, bonded, insured, and trained with the National Swimming Pool Association. They are ready to serve you and provide you with the healthiest pool possible that is always clean and "show ready" for your company and enjoyment. Poolwerx offers online payment options and same day service for their customers.

Poolwerx has awesome Yelp reviews that are well deserved. The owners love when residents stop by their store for a free popsicle, along with a rubber duck or beachball. Pool Werx is located at 23052 Alicia Parkway, Suite G.

They are open Monday through Saturday 9am-5pm. If you are considering Poolwerx for your next pool treatment or repair, mention the code MVREP or this article and receive 10% off. Poolwerx is currently offering a special for new weekly service customers. If you sign up for a six month period and pay for the first five months, the sixth month is FREE!

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

LIGHTNING ROUND

Dear Aunt Sandy: My fiance is going to be 20 years old next month. I'd like to give him a great gift for his birthday. What do you think he'd like? —Carol

Dear Carol: Don't worry about what he'd like. Give him a tie.

Dear Aunt Sandy: Our son married a nice girl when he was in the Navy. They were married in February and she had an 8 1/2-pound baby girl in August. She said the baby was premature. Can an 8 1/2-pound baby be this premature? —Wanting to Know

Dear Wanting: The baby was on time. The wedding was late. Forget it.

Dear Aunt Sandy: Is it possible for a man to be in love with two women at the same time? —Jake

Dear Jake: Yes, and also very dangerous.

Dear Aunt Sandy: I've been going with this girl for a year. How can I get her to say yes? —Don

Dear Don: What's the question?

Dear Aunt Sandy: I've been dating a guy for six years. We see each other every night. He says he loves me, and I know I love him, but he never mentions marriage. Do you think he's going out with me just for what he can get? —Gertie

Dear Gertie: I don't know. What's he getting?

Dear Aunt Sandy: My wife sleeps completely naked. Then she showers, fixes her hair and then makes our breakfast — still naked. We're newlyweds, and there are just the two of us, so I suppose there's really nothing wrong with it. What do you think? —Ed

Dear Ed: It's O.K. with me, but tell her to put on an apron when she's frying bacon.

FROM OUR CITY WORKS DEPT.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING

Cities need to plan for the worst. The **City of Mission Viejo** is no different. Throughout Mission Viejo, on the major arterial roads, battery back-up systems are at work at the traffic signals to prevent delays in the event of a power outage.

In the event of a power failure, the systems jump into action. Without the battery back-ups, these signals would go into **Red Flash** mode which can cause major traffic headaches throughout the city

Last year for example, there was a major lightning storm which hit Mission Viejo right in the middle of the early morning commute. Ordinarily, that would have delayed commuters throughout the city and affected thousands of people, companies and services, but with the new battery system in place, the commute went on smoothly as normal, and everyone got to where they were going without interruption.





Gretchen Nelson Mars



Dee Wells



Bryan MacKenzie



Anne Hjelle



Bryan Sims



Patrick Camacho



Enrica Bulloch



Dott Custis Schroeder



Steve Berezin

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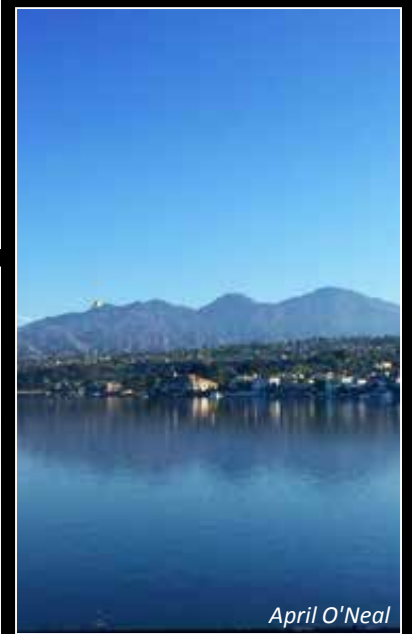
Christine Herman



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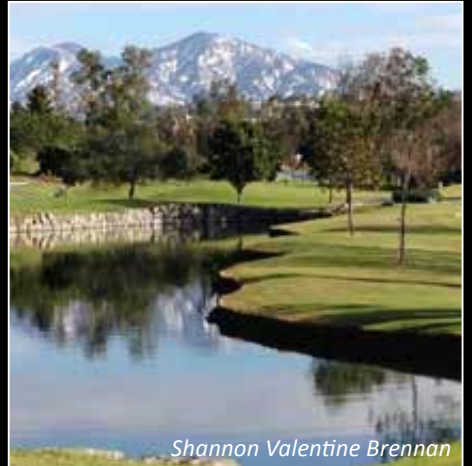
Caroline Lowe Altamirano



Kim Skjerven



Dee Wells



Shannon Valentine Brennan



Kim Don Cholodenko



Charlie Zevon



Kathleen Fowler



Jan Moe



Cathe Atkinson Hernandez



Pam Quevedo



Kevin O'Donnell

FROM OUR FORTUNATE SON DEPT.

BRONZE STAR STORY

Our Mission Viejo Veteran of the Year BOB SLANE

This month, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** spoke to veteran **Bob Slane** about his time in Vietnam 50 years ago. Here's his story.

I was a 23 year old Ensign in the United States Navy, and I was stationed at Cau Viet, Vietnam in 1967-1968 with the 3rd Marine Division. (Cau Viet was the Marine Base that is depicted in Apocalypse Now).

During the Tet offensive, I ran a cargo ramp on the Cau Viet River where I offloaded LST ships, reloaded river boats, and sent food and ammo to Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh, and Con Tien. The Marine Bases we supplied were on two days of food and three days of ammunition. The Cau Viet supply line was the only supply line open as Highway One was shut down.

On March 10, 1968, our base was under artillery attack by the North Vietnamese Army. The ramp we used had pallets of artillery and tear gas hand grenades ready to ship. The NVA delivered a direct hit to the ammo on the ramp. The explosions were so severe that they blew a 14 wheel truck a 1/4 mile up the river.



Bob Slane

I was fortunate enough to find safety in a bunker next to the ramp. I was trying to ride out the attack when I heard a group of sailors yelling for help. They were experiencing the effects of the tear gas and could not see. I knew I had to leave the shelter of the bunker and direct the men to safety. There are two factors that influence heroism: one, you screwed up, and you want to make amends, or two, you are a true hero. I screwed up!

I should not have allowed the artillery and tear gas hand grenades to be stored on the ramp in the first place. I bolted from the bunker and ran through an ammo dump and a Petroleum Farm (POL) and guided the six men to safety.



An LST Ship on the Cau Viet River

Now on the hillside overlooking the ramp, I realized the remaining rough terrain forklifts were still vulnerable on the ramp. These forklifts were in rare supply, and if they were destroyed, the supply line would shut down indefinitely. The Marine Bases were extremely dependent on the supply base providing food and ammo. I asked my combat buddies, "Who wants to follow me to get the four rough terrain forklifts off the ramp and in a safe place?" Three brave enlisted men followed. All four rough terrain forklifts were put in safe places and survived the attack.

Later, the Admiral and General Davis, a Congressional Medal Winner from Korea, flew up from Da Nang. The General asked me what happened. I explained, and he said, "I want my staff officer to interview you for Valor."

- In 1989, Bob Slane finally received his Bronze Star from the US Government.



Bob's Military Identification Card

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FROM OUR **GREAT MOMENTS IN BLOCK HISTORY** DEPT.

BLOCK HISTORY

MISSION VIEJO'S FAMOUS SLUMP STONE BLOCK

Last month, the Mission Viejo Reporter wanted to get the whole story on our famous Slump Stone block. We called **Rick Muth** of **Orco Block** in Stanton. Three generations of Muths have built the company, block by block. In doing so, they also helped build Mission Viejo – one 35 pound block at a time.



Homes were needed. And homes needed block walls, so the family invested in expensive block-making equipment. This caught the attention of **Tony Moiso** and the **Mission Viejo Company**. They wanted a company

that could produce a block that was different, from all the rest – The Slump Block, but, as Rick Muth told us, "This type of block was difficult and messy to produce," but the Muth's said, "It's something new; let's go for it!" The color was

difficult, the style was difficult, but it became the signature stone of Mission Viejo. All the Barcelona Walls (entrances to Mission Viejo), all of our recreation centers, and numerous schools all used the Slump block. Rick told us that it became so popular that the block is now called – Mission Slump Block.



FROM OUR **BRAIN TEASER** DEPT.

How many **girls** are in this **photograph**?

The picture features what appears to be a group of girls sitting by some mirrors. This creates an optical illusion, making it difficult to tell exactly how many girls are in the photo.



Photograph by Tiziana Vergari

Answer on back cover

FROM OUR KING'S HIGHWAY DEPT.

EL CAMINO REAL BELL

Mission Viejo's Proud Marker

El Camino Real (or the King's Highway in Spanish) is perhaps the most historic road in California. It follows the route that Spanish explorer **Juan Gaspar de Portola** followed in 1769. The old trail linked 21 missions and pueblos, and four presidios from



San Diego to Sonoma. It remained the primary road from south to north in California during that time. The original trail changed constantly. It was a dirt path, and as the seasons changed and with weather/rains, the path would alter from time to time.



The roadside bells have been in place since the early part of the 20th Century to mark the original 700-mile-long route. Originally, there were about 450 cast iron bells along the way, but because of theft and vandalism, the number dwindled

down to about 75. There has been an effort to restore all the bells. Replacements are made of concrete, rather than cast iron, to discourage theft. A mission bell exhibit is a permanent part of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art, complete with original cast-iron bells donated by Caltrans. But, shhh, the Mission Viejo El Camino Real bell is made of the original cast iron.



The Mission Viejo El Camino Real Bell at the La Paz Road Entry

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FROM OUR **SHOCKED** DEPT.

ELECTRIC AVENUE

TESLA IS COMING TO MISSION VIEJO



Plans were submitted for a new Tesla vehicle sales and service center at 28471 Marguerite Parkway. The site is currently home to Matt Gunderson's Infinity dealership and consists of two buildings - a 9,402-square-foot sale showroom center and 19,302-square-foot-repair service center.

Tesla is proposing to occupy both buildings and perform interior improvements to the repair service center to better serve the needs of all-electric vehicles. Interior improvements will include new service stations, associated equipment, and charging stations.

Tesla will occupy the front showroom building while the rear service building undergoes a tenant improvement. Tesla sells exclusively electric vehicles with no gas engine or fuel tank for power, rather their vehicles are entirely powered by an electric motor.



FROM OUR **SIZE MATTERS** DEPT.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Mission Viejo's Clocktower



This masterpiece of a monument was built and designed by **Connell Design Group** in 2003 as a cell phone tower, but now has become so much more. Standing at over 60 feet and made of stone, wood and sweat-equity, it might be the most beautiful structure in Mission Viejo.

Folks come from all around to be photographed with this piece of history. It's rumored to be fashioned after the famous clock tower in the *Back to the Future* movies. Some say it's identical, and others say it looks nothing like it. Other rumors say the arches were designed from building plans unearthed in San Juan Capistrano over a century ago. We may never know, but we all agree that it is a special piece of Mission Viejo architecture.



Upcoming Events

BREW FEST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Enjoy 15 Beers to taste from 12 different Breweries!
\$35 per person through Event Brite
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FROM OUR LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN DEPT.

TEN-HUT!

MISSION VIEJO ARMY RECRUITING STATION

The **Huntington Beach Army Recruiting Company** has three stations in Southern Orange County, they are located in Mission Viejo, Fountain Valley, and Santa Ana, the largest of which is located on Marguerite Parkway, directly across from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. Mission Viejo recruiters support colleges and 21 high schools. Their goal is to recruit the best



qualified Soldiers who will ultimately return to Orange County as leaders within the community.

It is an extremely important for them to educate the community about career and educational opportunities in The United States Army and the Army Reserves, including ROTC scholarships. They are a team of professionals that have been issued one mission, to strengthen and sustain our Nation's best all-volunteer Army of tomorrow and they take their role seriously. So do your community, yourself and Captain Sherrod a big favor and go down and sign up today!

Mission Viejo Recruitment Center
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FROM OUR MIDDLE OF THE ROAD DEPT.

MEDIAN DONE

BRINGING MEDIANS BACK FROM THE DEAD



Progress continues on two median island rehabilitation/water conservation projects - Trabuco medians (Marguerite Parkway to Alicia Parkway) and Marguerite medians (Center Drive to Shops Blvd.). The projects entail removing water-thirsty turf grass, renovating existing irrigation systems, and installing water-thrifty plants.

Work continues on both projects through October and November. The projects are largely funded by water conservation grants.



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MISSION VIEJO '64

PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES MISSION VIEJO AT THE BEGINNING



photo by
Tom Gildersleeve

In 1964, living in Santa Ana and home from the Air Force, **Tom Gildersleeve** would routinely go out after work to photograph trains on Santa Fe's L.A.-San Diego "Surf Line."

This photograph is of Eastbound Santa Fe No. 78, about a mile north of where Interstate 5 travels over the tracks. This broad vista of wheatfields is today our City of Mission Viejo.

The Mission Viejo Reporter spoke to Tom, and he said, "It's impossible to figure out just where I was standing, as houses, parks, and commercial firms back right up to the tracks on both sides. Even if you drive up Muirlands Boulevard to the top of this hill, which I climbed from La Paz Road in '64, you can't see the tracks."

-Photograph taken July 7th, 1964

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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Kate Sweeney - Sailing



Ten year old **Kate Sweeney** is passionate about sailing and especially loves sailing the RS Tera boat class. She has won many sailing events, is ranked second in California and placed 6th in the Tera North America Championship. Kate has sailed Teras on both the West and East coasts.

Kate got her start at Newport Sea Base. She was scared at first of the heavy winds, water getting into the boat and capsizing, but pushed herself to keep going. After about a year and a half of leisure sailing, she joined the Newport Sea Base racing team. She moved to the Lake Mission Viejo junior sailing team in January.

Kate loves homeschooling and the flexibility it gives her to pursue her interests. She also plays the flute and runs the audio/visual in the Edge at Saddleback Church each weekend. While her favorite activity is sailing, she also enjoys adventuring, playing Robox, reading and playing with friends and siblings.



ANSWER: Ms. Vergara confirmed there are actually only two girls in the photo, who are believed to be her daughters.



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