



VOLUME FIVE, NUMBER FIFTY-THREE

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

November 2019

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND
Saddleback College Observatory

**Skinny Dipping
At The Lake**
Mission Viejo Residents Share All

TAKE TIME FOR TRAILS
Mission Viejo's Longest Trail

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

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Mission Viejo Scarecrow Contest Entry by Donna Lang Stoffel

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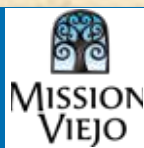
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Dave Leckness
Editor



CITY SPEAK

KEEPING Mission Viejo Beautiful



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

Besides serving as Mayor of Mission Viejo, I also sit as a board member for the Oso Valley Greenbelt HOA. Recently, our association came together with Powerstone Property Management, Harvest Landscape Enterprises, and Monarch Environmental to design, fund, and plant a demonstration garden with drought resistant plants at the end of the Esteban street cul-de-sac in south Mission Viejo. Formally a vacant lot with dead grass and bare dirt, this

lot is now a beautiful garden with wonderful plants, shrubs, trees, grass, gravel paths, and a park bench. This new garden overlooks beautiful south Mission Viejo and beyond.

Improving the landscape of our city can be a community effort as we struggle with the rapidly changing weather patterns in our area. Thank you to all who came together to make this beautiful garden a reality. Pack a picnic basket, lay out a blanket, and enjoy a wonderful evening watching the sun set on our magnificent city at this new garden spot.



THANKFULNESS IT'S GOOD FOR THE WHOLE YEAR ROUND



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

The Mission Viejo character word for November is Thankfulness, the quality of showing our appreciation or gratitude. Two of the most important words in the English language are "thank you!" Teaching these words to children at an early age is a key to building appreciation for others and for our blessings. Research has shown that in addition to brightening the lives of others, expressing thankfulness is also good for us! Gratitude can make us stronger, healthier, and more capable. It can lift spirits, decrease depression, and reduce stress. Thankfulness may increase your body's natural antibodies, build your immune system, and possibly extend lifespan! Gratitude at work or in school increases productivity! As you express thankfulness, you are helping yourself as well as others! As we focus on thankfulness this month, remember our veterans, the members of our military services, our firefighters and police. We are thankful for these heroes! Be thankful every day, not just on Thanksgiving!

Mission Viejo has character! As a Community of Character since 2003, the City focuses on 12 character qualities throughout the year. To read our character documents in full, visit www.cityofmissionviejo.org/character.

HUMANS OF MISSION VIEJO with John Rodriguez

CLASS UFC GYM THE CORPORATE FLAGSHIP FACILITY, HOME-BASED IN MISSION VIEJO!



by John Rodriguez
M.V. Chamber of
Commerce Ambassador

Jamie Haberman, Kim Toennies, and their dog Hunter traveled across the country from NYC to Mission Viejo to build their brand-new boutique gym concept, CLASS UFC GYM Mission Viejo. The facility is a 3,500 sq ft boutique gym that is currently under construction in Olympiad Plaza and is slated to open in late fall / early winter 2019 and is currently offering Founding Member Pre-Sales reduced rates. It is a gym that offers class-based, month-to-month memberships for all fitness & skill levels. The gym blends wearable technology, small-group based fitness boxing & high intensity interval training.

There are subtle nods to the UFC's DNA, but the experience is a completely new and refreshing one: the color scheme consists of electric blues, whites and greys; you won't find any cages here; the A/V system is on par with something you might find in a nightclub (think blacklight boxing). All are welcome!

Class UFC Gym are new MV Chamber members; stay tuned for their Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting details shortly.



Humans of Mission Viejo is a monthly column written by John Rodriguez. John works as a Senior Mortgage Banker for iFinance Mortgage, helping people find the best mortgages for their needs. Give him a call at 949-456-7056

A NEW LIGHT ON APOLLO 11

New Technology Shows Us More Than Ever



BEFORE

AFTER

That's one small step for a man, one giant edit for mankind.

The iconic image of Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin looking at the flag on the surface of the Moon has been given a new lease on life after an amateur photographer restored the image to reveal Aldrin's smiling face.

Andy Saunders, a property developer from England, said that he used photo enhancing technology used by astronomers and hours of hard work to clean up the image. Aldrin is seen smiling at the camera being held by Neil Armstrong on the lunar surface.

"I wonder how many people would realize based on the original image that Buzz is visible," Saunders said. "It must have been viewed billions of times. What's interesting is it's one of the most iconic images of all time and it has been holding this detail which I've managed to reveal."

At the start of MTV's heyday, the photo was used by the network to market itself and in turn it became iconic to a new generation.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

Saddleback College Observatory

The Saddleback Observatory was recently completed in 2016, and is operated by the Astronomy Department under the direction of Dr. Mitch Haeri and Jason Smith. The primary telescope is a professional 16" f10 Schmidt-Cassegrain mounted on a newly finished, state-of-the-art Equatorial Mount. The telescope is housed in an observatory having an 18 foot dome.



The fully-automated telescope is controlled with advanced Bisque observatory software identical to the software used at some of the world's largest observatories. Two 42" 4K monitors provide remote viewing of astronomical objects and other telescope operations. The observatory facility includes an outdoors observation deck with twenty powered piers for the school's numerous 8" Schmidt-Cassigrains.

While the observatory grounds are generally limited to student and faculty use, they are open to the public after regularly scheduled *Saddleback College Astronomy and Physics Club* meetings, as well as for special astronomical events as announced.

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Thanksgiving Celebration

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FROM OUR **ALL NIGHT LONG** DEPT.

LATE NIGHT MUNCHIES

Eating In Mission Viejo When It's Late

Just when you thought there was nothing to do in Mission Viejo after midnight, we have found some cool places to go. While this city isn't quite the city that never sleeps, there are a few nighttime options.



Pub Thirty-Two – Located in Gateway Center, Pub Thirty-Two is open until 2 am. This hipster pub specializes in farm-to-table plates and cocktails.

Saddleback Lanes – Next door to Trader Joe's, and open until 1am on weekends. Challenge your friends to a game of Cosmic Bowling. Make the game more challenging with a few drinks from the bar.

Costello's – Hidden in the strip mall behind the Kaleidoscope, and open until 2 am on weekends. Enjoy live music and dancing in a relaxed atmosphere.

Shooters – A great place to play pool at 1 am. Near Marguerite & Avery Parkways.

Buffalo Wild Wings – Another late night spot in the Kaleidoscope open until 2 am. Watch a game, eat some wings and enjoy some tasty beer and/or beers.

Patsy's Irish Pub – In the strip mall on Los Alisos and Jeronimo, Bust out your inner Adele and sing your lungs off at karaoke until 2 am. A chill, dive bar, with cheap drinks and pub snacks.

Del Taco – Located in the Trader Joe's parking lot, Del Taco is open until 3 am. Make sure your Uber Driver hits the drive thru on your way home.



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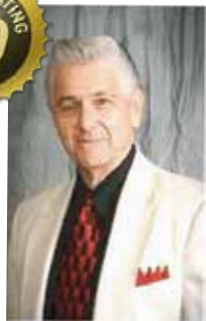
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FROM OUR **GIVING TREE** DEPT.

Mission Viejo's ROPE EATING TREE

Located At Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course

This centuries-old Sycamore tree at the end of Avery Parkway has been a trusty landmark and symbol of strength for more than 60 years for residents of Mission Viejo.

"I never thought much about trees until I visited this giant", said resident **Ken Dever**. "Ever since, I've been looking at trees across Mission Viejo with a deeper appreciation", he said. "I can't imagine not having that tree in my life," said Dever, who lives in Stoneridge. Local arborists once determined this tree to be one of the oldest in South County.



Last year, the tree measured only 50 feet high but, nearly 18 feet in circumference, and a limb spread of 101 feet. Over 40 years ago, a bolt of lightening almost killed the tree. Blackened branches still can be seen. The tree completely split in two.

Dever said, "I'll bet tens of thousands of golfers have zoomed past this tree without knowing they're driving past a piece of living history". In the late fall, it looks dead, but this time of year it has the giant leaves – each the size of a car window. Somewhere along the way, this tree has eaten a length of rope.



Massive leaf from Arroyo Trabuco GC



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READER PHOTOS "Friends"



Donna Lang Stoffel



Lillian Jones



Patrick Kelly



Jeanni Montgomery





Jeff Zaret



Marlene Newkirk



A.J. & Winston

*"We didn't realize we were making memories.
We just knew we were having fun"*
- Anonymous



Michele Haddad Coley



Lindsay Oglesby



Lori Griego



Sheri Ogden



Sylvia Christian

FROM OUR **LUCKY CHARMS** DEPT.

Ask Aunt Sandy



- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON

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

Dear Aunt Sandy,

I am a twenty-three year old liberated Mission Viejo woman who has been on the pill for two years. It's getting expensive, and I think my boyfriend should share half the cost, but I don't know him well enough to discuss money with him.

-Going All the Way

Dear Going All the Way,

Liberated, you say? Back in my day, that meant girls who burned their brassieres. (I needed mine then, and with Father Time elongating my assets, boy, do I ever need mine now.) However, if you are canoodling with a hooligan you don't know very well, then "liberated" must mean girls who have burned their morals. Ah, but I'm not here to preach, only to roll my eyeballs and shriek, "Are you kidding me?" If you two can discuss doing the nasty, then surely you two can discuss splitting the bill for the pill. Good luck to you.

- Aunt Sandy

P.S. Another tip from "back in my day": Just. Say. No.

P.P.S. A tip from today, paraphrased from Beyoncé: If he want it, then he shoulda putta ring on it!

If you have a question or comment for Aunt Sandy please email: missionviejoreporter@gmail.com

FROM OUR **REMEMBER THE 60'S** DEPT.

I AM JOE'S EAR



Classic reprint from Readers Digest 1967



Joe is impressed by the computer his company bought not long ago.

It will perform seeming miracles, but to me it is still as crude as a concrete mixer. Perhaps I am prejudiced, for I am a triumph of miniaturization. Nowhere in his body is so much crammed into so small a space as in me.

I have enough electrical circuits to provide phone service for a good-sized city. I am also a kind of automatic pilot keeping Joe from toppling over.

I am Joe's right ear, and I do all this in a space not much larger than a hazelnut! Joe considers his eyes his most important sensory organs, yet, without my partner and me, he would be doomed - to solitary sonic confinement--far more emotionally disabling than blindness.

Joe thinks of me simply as that flap of tissue on the side of his head. This outer ear, however, is nothing but a soundgathering trumpet. From it, a three-centimeter canal runs obliquely to the ear-drum, twisting to protect my delicate inner components and warming air to keep things cozy. In this canal, a profusion of hairs and 4000 wax glands act as a flypaper trap for insects, dust and other potential irritants.

Further, the wax guards against infection, particularly when Joe swims in dirty water. (He can wash away unsightly wax, but I wish he would not pick at the rest--he could harm my eardrum, and I will shed excess wax naturally.)

For many years, Reader Digest introduced readers to an entertaining and instructive guide to the human body, each chapter is simple titled "I am Joe's__"

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I AM JOE'S EAR

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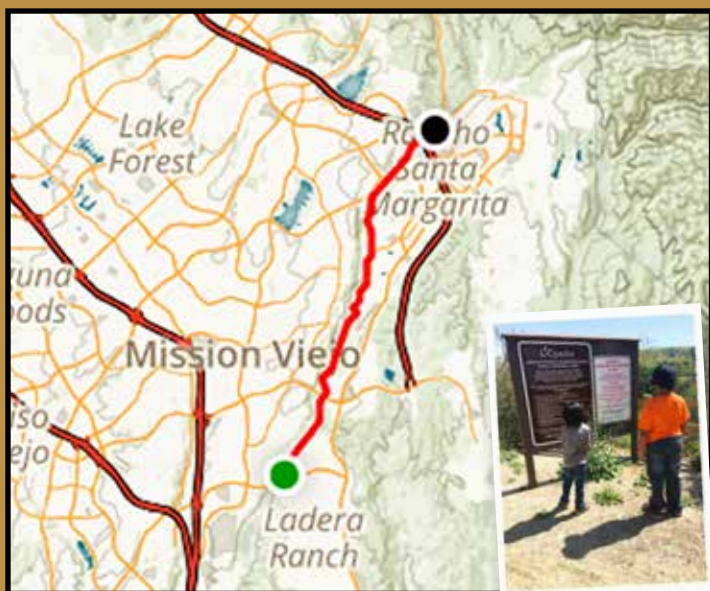


TAKE TIME FOR TRAILS

MISSION VIEJO'S LONGEST TRAIL



FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA



Arroyo Trabuco Trail is a point-to-point trail located along the edge of Mission Viejo. The trail offers a number of activity options and is accessible year-round. Horses are also able to use this trail.

You'll traverse varying types of terrain, including meadows, forests, and wet/dry rocky creek beds. There are several points where the trail intersects the creek, and if there is water in it (normally winter/spring), you may get a little wet.

The trail is one of a number of linking trails that connect O'Neill Regional Park and the Cleveland National Forest to the beach communities of San Clemente and Dana Point.



The trail offers equestrian lovers a chance to exercise their passion. The entire ride from beginning to end is around 3 hours total.



For biking, the trail is listed on many websites and lists as one of the county's best. It is a relaxed, low-difficulty ride with single-track and double-track sections.



SOUTH ARROYO TRABUCO TRAIL **Mission Viejo Section**

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** recommends you park your car at Gilleran Park and another car near the starting point. At the end of Avery Parkway, bear to the right just before the entrance to the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club and follow the road about 200 feet to the designated parking spaces on the left.

Start by heading north following the trail and enjoy the sights. About an hour and half later you should arrive at the Tijeras Creek Golf Course. At this point, stop and look west towards the hills and you'll see the field lights of Gilleran Park near where your car should be parked. Work your way up a very treacherous and steep hill. Be aware that this area is where the mountain lions sleep during the day, so tread lightly. Also, this time of year be prepared for swarming bees, rattlesnakes and the highly infected West Nile Virus mosquito. After about a half hour trek to the top of the hill, drive back and pick up your other car. Also, bring a large sharpened stick just in case.

FROM OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKS DEPT.

SGT. MATT DAVIS PARK

A FITTING MEMORIAL TO ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS



Mission Viejo has 52 parks. That's more than San Juan Capistrano, Lake Forest and Rancho Santa Margarita all together.

Some say the most beautiful of all 52 parks is **Sergeant Matt Davis Park**. It is nestled amongst homes at one of the highest points in Mission Viejo with a stunning 270 degree view of the Saddleback Mountains/foothills and the undeveloped hills beyond Ladera and Antonio Pkwy.



Memorial plaque discussing Matt's life and service



From left to right: Sgt. Matthew Davis, Dep. John MacPherson, Dep. Brad Blakely, Dep. Dave Phillipi, Dep. Bobby Garcia, Dep. Ken Binning, Dep. Joel Buchlmayer (photo from 2001)

Sgt. Matt Davis Park was named after Sergeant Matt Davis who died in the line of duty while serving Mission Viejo. He was patrolling with his motorcycle down Marguerite when a driver pulled out in front of him at La Sierra, and Matt was killed instantly.

Every year on the anniversary of his death, many Mission Viejo Sheriff deputies, along with Matt's mother, gather at the park and honor Matt's service to Mission Viejo.



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THE BUMBLE VIEJO

Mrs. Claus Drives A Classic 1966 Beetle

Mission Viejo's **Pam Smith** never doubted she would own another VW Beetle. She's owned more than a few since her first beetle in high school. It wasn't until last year when her girlfriend asked her if she'd like to buy her precious 1966 yellow VW that Pam knew instantly that her next VW would soon be arriving.

The stunning yellow VW is not easy to miss coming down Marguerite. It's in pristine condition and is showroom quality. The paint job alone is one of a kind. The engine is a souped-up 1600 cc motor with a upgraded exhaust. The interior looks better than when it rolled off the assembly line in Germany in 1966.

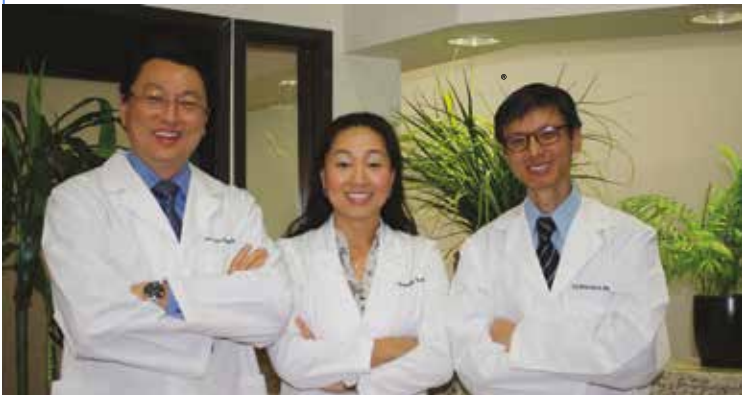
Pam and her husband, retired Newport Beach Fire **Captain Randy Smith**, enjoy driving the Beetle. Although Randy's quick to admit, "It's her car". They plan to enter it in a few car shows just for the fun of it.

Every December, you can plan on seeing Pam sitting next to Santa greeting Mission Viejo kids at Santa's Workshop at City Hall. Pam also is a member of the Mission Viejo Activities Committee, and she is a Mission Viejo Community Services Commissioner.



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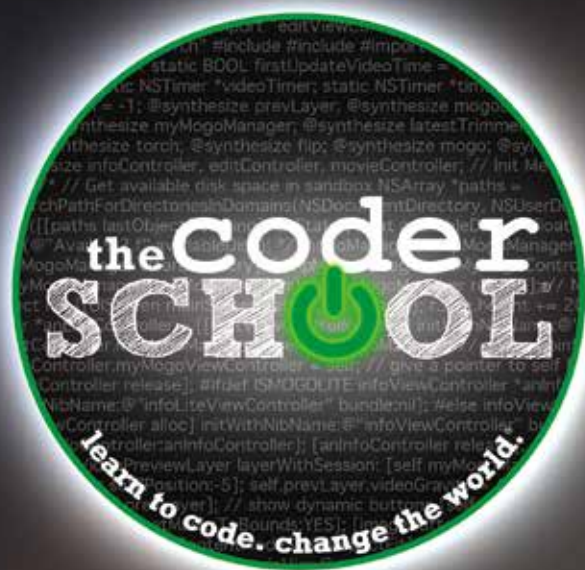
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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Sammy Trumbly- Soccer

Like most teens, 12 year old **Sammy Trumbly** is always on the go. He wants to be just like his older siblings - an Eagle Scout like his brother, which is why he joined the Boy Scouts. His current rank is First Class and holds the leadership position of Patrol Leader. At the same time, he admires his sister's soccer skills and dedication to the sport. In fact, this is what gave him the motivation to join the AYSO Region 84 Soccer about six years ago. As a Forward, he likes to be on the front line of attack and score for his team. According to his biggest fan - his mother, he especially "likes the friendships he has formed from playing on different teams".



Sammy thrives on staying busy. As demanding as his soccer schedule is, he makes school work a priority. Enrolled in the CVUSD Dual Immersion Spanish Program since kindergarten, Sammy continues to excel at it, as a 7th grader attending Newhart Middle School. Not one to shy away from challenges, he also took on the responsibility of ASB Treasurer this year. His academic achievements and school involvement have not gone unnoticed. He's been awarded the 6th Grade Superintendent's Honor Roll, Student of the Quarter for Math 7th Accelerated, and Panther Pride Service Award for community service. One of his favorite charitable projects by far is volunteering with his family at the Mariners Church - South County in their outreach programs.

Sammy's interests are many and varied. Not surprisingly, he was recently bitten by the drama bug and immediately joined the South County Performing Arts. He has already performed in "Grease" and "Hairspray", under Josh & Irene Vecchione's direction. Currently he is rehearsing for the theater version of Matilda.



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