



VOLUME FIVE, NUMBER FIFTY-SEVEN

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

March 2020

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

THE **TRAVEL** ISSUE

MISSION VIEJO RESIDENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

**LOS DOS ADOBES
DE MISSION VIEJO**
MISSION VIEJO'S ORIGINAL SETTLERS

**PORTOLA'S
ORIGINAL RIDERS**
A Trip Up The Coast In 1769

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Dave Leckness
Editor



The Shops At Mission Viejo



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

The Shops at Mission Viejo is flourishing with nearly 100% occupancy. Located in south Mission Viejo, managed by Simon Malls, the Shops has a variety of upscale and mid-tier retailers with Macy's and Nordstrom as the main anchor stores. With the collapse of the Laguna Hills Mall several years ago, the Shops picked up the slack with notable companies such as Microsoft, Verizon, AT&T and Apple. The Shops also has a Tesla Dealership. The addition of a Food Court in 2015 gave the Shops that special touch to bring the family to for an afternoon of enjoyment.

I personally enjoy strolling through the Shops, either window shopping or just relaxing on the comfortable sofas to people watch. One of my favorites shops is the **Mona Niko Art Gallery**.

Mona is an Iranian immigrant who recently opened her gallery across from the Cheese Cake Factory. Mona's works explores the relationship between her past Persian culture and today's modern woman's lifestyle. Encouraged by her mother, Mona began painting when she was in pre-school. She later attended the Art University in Tehran where her work became renowned throughout the region. Stop by Mona's gallery during your next visit to the Shops to see her beautiful and unique paintings. Mona also holds art class throughout the week for children and adults. Her website is: www.monanikogallery.com.



Greg and Mona Niko

She later attended the Art University in Tehran where her work became renowned throughout the region. Stop by Mona's gallery during your next visit to the Shops to see her beautiful and unique paintings.



Lt. Quyen Vuong
Chief of Police Services

Q: QUESTION FOR THE CHIEF :

I can never understand why you advertise the fact that Mission Viejo will have DUI checkpoints on a particular day. Doesn't that defeat the purpose and limit the amount of arrests?

A: ANSWER:

Our United States Supreme Court has ruled that sobriety checkpoints must be publicized in advance of the event. Many reasons exist for the requirement. One of which may be that so the law-abiding, motoring public may not be inconvenienced and can elect to take an alternate route to their destination. The purpose of a DUI Checkpoint is not to increase our DUI arrests, but to decrease the amount of impaired drivers on our city's roads. That's the goal. Certainly, one way is to discourage drivers from drinking and driving is to "advertise". And these DUI or Sobriety checkpoints are events where law enforcement takes the opportunity to educate the driving public and reinforcing our commitment in keeping our residents safe. And if we can keep just one person from starting their vehicle after having one too many, then we have done our job.

HUMANS OF MISSION VIEJO with John Rodriguez

It's Not Fine Dining, IT'S FUN DINING!



by John Rodriguez
M.V. Chamber of
Commerce Ambassador

It's a family affair with the Greens. **John and Valorie Green** began their foray into the restaurant business, opening their doors in Mission Viejo exactly 20 years ago on January 20, 2000. Over time, they have been through 3 name changes, and it is still the same family running it now as High Park Tap House.

Fast forward ahead 20 years. One of their sons, **Michael**, has now become the General Manager overseeing day-to-day operations. Their other son, **Sean**, owns and manages restaurants in San Diego and remains a vital consultant to the family business. John and Valorie are still involved, but have stepped back a bit to allow the next generations put their own vibe into this. The Greens are most proud of their continuous support and connection with the local community.

Over the years, High Park Tap House has evolved into a destination restaurant for the whole family. There is a full bar for the specialty cocktails and wines, and there are 42 flat screen TVs to catch all your favorite teams and events. The patio is dog friendly with a 'Bone Appetit' menu and a 'Yappy Hour' for your furry friends.

Come and see them, and as they like to say, "It's not fine dining; it's fun dining."

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



Mission Viejo's New Lakeside Park

At Alicia and Marguerite Parkway

Photos by Richard Yates



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Located in the Shops At Mission Viejo, the **Mona Niko Gallery** offers fine art paintings from many different Artists, custom-made Jewelry, and Home Decorations. More than an art gallery though, they offer Art Painting Classes for those who would like to learn different methods of Painting.

Their main focus is to bring more creative Artists together and produce original artworks from high quality materials. The gallery representation of an international group of contemporary artists whose diverse practices include painting, drawing, sculpture.

Each artist of the gallery has exhibited widely in museum and gallery contexts and has been regularly included in international exhibitions such as the New York Art EXPO. Go by and pay them a visit or give them a call for more information.

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FROM OUR TEACHING KIDS TO DREAM BIG DEPT.

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MISSION VIEJO'S NEWEST MUSEUM YOU CAN'T GO TO

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



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



Two of the Museum's vintage fire engines

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

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

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



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

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



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Mission Community Hospital circa 1975



Mission Community Hospital - Today

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A Conversation With...



Transplant Recipient

Bob Gaebel, Former Principal at de Portola Elementary

Bob Gaebel, former principal of de Portola Elementary School in Mission Viejo and the former Chairperson of the Mission Viejo Planning Commission as well as a 44 year resident of M.V. recently received a kidney transplant. We thought it might be interesting to ask Bob a few questions about the procedure.

What condition led you to need a new kidney?

I was diagnosed with kidney disease in my early 30's, via lab tests. In 2010 my kidney function numbers started getting worse. My doctors alerted me to mentally prepare myself for dialysis. I dodged the bullet until 2014, and started dialysis at that time.

How long were you on dialysis?

I was on dialysis for 3.5 years.

How long did you have to wait to get a kidney?

In California, the wait list is very long and slow moving. After a 7 year wait in California, I found out that the wait time (for a deceased donor transplant) in Arizona was half the time. Consequently, I transferred my wait time to the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona. I got my transplant 5 months later.

Did you get your kidney from a living or deceased donor?

I got my kidney from a deceased donor.

How did your donor die?

I don't know.

Did you meet the family of your donor?

No. It is possible to send a request, and the family has the right to decide whether or not to meet. I hope to meet them soon.

How long were you in the hospital?

I was only in the hospital 3 days. My transplant team wanted me out of the hospital as soon as possible.

How much does a Kidney Transplant cost?

That's a tough question to answer. It all depends on your insurance.

Do you have any advice for someone who is about to start dialysis or is on a wait list for a transplant

YES! Donating an organ for transplant is a HUGE gift. I am eternally grateful for their gift. To anyone who has Kidney Disease or is on dialysis or anticipating a transplant, contact the South County Kidney Support Group and attend one of their meetings. They can be reached at (949) 412-3210. You are also most welcome to contact me as well. My phone number is (949) 586-2955.

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**MISSION VIEJO
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THE TRAVEL ISSUE
MISSION VIEJO RESIDENTS AROUND THE GLOBE



Robin Thrasher - Bahamas



Pam Kerrin Smith - Glacier National Park



Trish Delgado - Maui, HI



Dianne Bingley Sedona, Arizona



Dee Wells Ice Castle in Excelsior, MN



Kevin O'Donnell - Berlin, Germany



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Dott Custis Schroeder - Natural Bridge, Utah



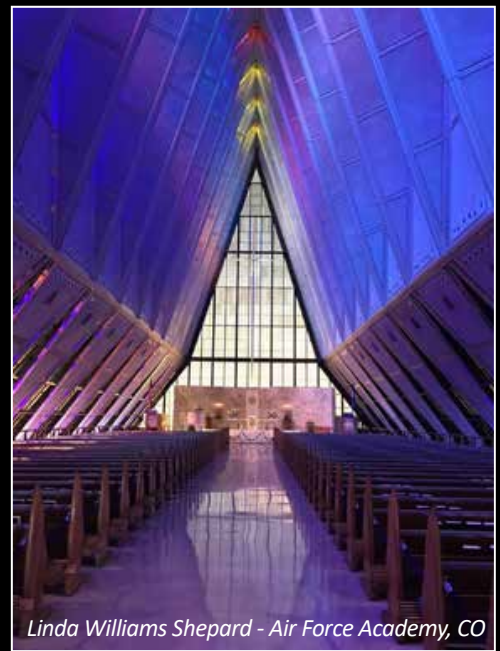
Kristin Molloy - Zion National Park



Vanessa Bauer - Roadtrip to Bend, OR



Marilyn Soper Elliott - Ireland



Linda Williams Shepard - Air Force Academy, CO

Ask Aunt Sandy



- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON

MISSION VIEJO BERRY PIE

Dear Aunt Sandy,

There is a row of trees and bushes along the fence that separates my neighbor's yard from mine. Our old neighbor used to keep them trimmed and under control. Unfortunately, that neighbor moved away, and another family lives next door. The branches now hang over, dropping berries that cause stains on my concrete patio.

I asked my new neighbor several times to please keep the branches trimmed. After several months of waiting, I trimmed the trees and bushes back myself and deposited the trimmings on the neighbors' side of the fence. They called the Mission Viejo Sheriff Department. The deputy said what I did was legal, but it would have been "more neighborly" had I disposed of the trimmings myself. The next day I offered to remove the debris, but my angry neighbor shouted, "Don't talk to me. I'll do it myself!" This happened seven months ago. My neighbors are still not talking to my wife and me. How do I handle this?

- Mister ChainSaw

Dear Mr. ChainSaw,

You were within your rights to cut back any branches that protruded onto your property. However, it was spiteful and childish to dump the trimmings on your neighbors' property.

Apologize again -- and this time make a peace offering. Pick up a gift certificate for a lovely dinner at a nice Mission Viejo restaurant or you could make a pie from some of those berries.

- Aunt Sandy

FROM OUR GREEN DEPT.

IRISH FESTIVAL MISSION VIEJO

The MVAC Annual Irish Festival on the Green hits Mission Viejo on March 14, from 11-5pm at the Village Green located at 24932 Veterans Way.

There will be plenty to do for all ages: OC favorite **Cillian's Bridge** will be on the stage. **OC Herding**, **BFOC Irish Dance**, inflatables for the kids, Euro Bungee, dart and axe throws, free crafts and games, face painting and so much more. Food, beer and drinks are available for purchase. There will be a judged Irish costume contest at 2pm sharp. Best of all, **admission is FREE!!**

Please contact **MVAC at 949-830-7066** with questions.



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Tour the Trampas Canyon Reservoir! Get a behind-the-scenes tour of the construction of Orange County's largest recycled water reservoir, Trampas Canyon Dam & Reservoir. The 1.6-billion-gallon recycled water reservoir is being built near Ortega Highway and Antonio Parkway. Construction will be completed this summer – don't miss this chance to be a part of local history.

The District has just completed a gorgeous **demonstration garden** called WaterWorks! This garden is dedicated to modeling innovative landscaped designs and maintenance practices that minimize landscape waste and environmental pollution. Be inspired by small space designs and native plants. The WaterWorks garden includes interactive stations to learn about irrigation, soil health, and weather.

SMWD.COM

Los Dos Adobes de Mission Viejo

MISSION VIEJO'S ORIGINAL SETTLERS



Don José Serrano called his ranch 'Cañada de Los Alisos', and along the El Camino Real he built his first adobe near a spring where native sycamores grew in abundance.

Not far from Serrano's home, on the other side of El Camino Real, **Don Juan Avila**, owner of the even more magnificent Rancho Niguel land grant, also built an adobe. The two families were close, all the more so when Serrano married **Maria Petra Avila**, identified as a sister of Don Avila.

Don José Serrano Those traveling El Camino Real often were invited to stay overnight at the adobes. Music and dancing followed the meal. Then the guest was shown to a room and bed.



Plaque dedicated at the site

Approximately 140 years after Don Serrano took title of his land, members of the newly formed Saddleback Area Historical Society set about identifying the location of the first Serrano adobe. After researching original maps and land deeds, then working with consultants, city officials and the Orange County Historical Commission, they established that the original Serrano home was located in what is now **Mission Viejo's Sycamore Park**, just off Alicia Parkway at the end of Charlinda Drive.

On May 18, 1996, descendants of both the Serrano and Avila families, along with members of the historical society and various Orange County dignitaries, gathered to dedicate a plaque installed where the first Serrano home once stood.

Today, the site remains a peaceful place marked by sycamores and palms. Even the hum of the I-5 freeway—once the location of El Camino Real—doesn't take away any of the beauty.



Sycamore Park - home of the Serrano Adobe



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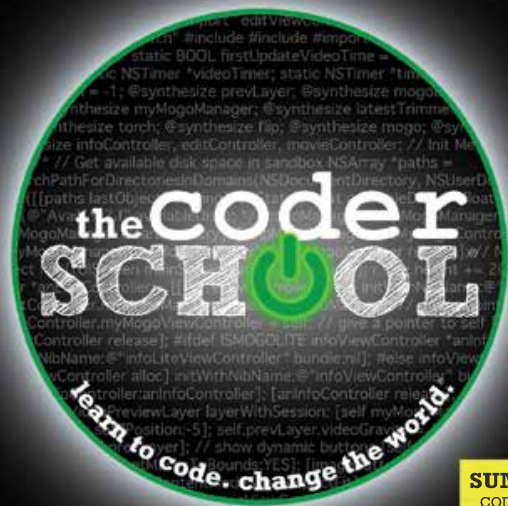
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PORTOLA'S ORIGINAL RIDERS



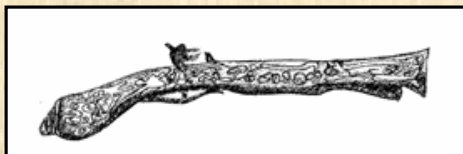
Portrait of Gaspar de Portola

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



The first baptism in California

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



Artist's sketch of a "Trabuco"

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

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

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



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I served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division and as a Drill Instructor. I've been a licensed marriage and family therapist for over 30 years. I retired with Saddleback Church and opened a private practice. I hold dearly to many of the principles of my faith and those I learned in the Army. I work with individuals, couples and families in the areas of marriage, communication, substance and alcohol abuse, anger, depression, anxiety, adult forms of ADD and ADHD and PTSD. I work with an incredible team of therapists. We meet weekly to collaborate together to give our clients the very best care. If you're ready to make life changes that will give you the best in life...go online or give us a call.

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MUSIC CITY USA

Wets Its Whistle On Water From Lake Mission Viejo

Bill Moorhead has worked in the California water industry for 40+ years, but he didn't expect to see some local water over 2,000 miles east of OC—in Nashville! While vacationing recently in Tennessee, Bill and his wife **Beverly Kelly** visited the Gaylord Opryland Resort, the largest non-casino hotel in the US. Part stately Southern mansion, part indoor arboretum—this magnificent resort includes 9 acres of indoor atriums with 50,000 plants, rushing waterfalls, and a canal with boat rides called the **Delta River**!



The Delta River

At the edge of this river, there's a large plaque commemorating the "blending of the waters," a ceremony where water from over 1,700 different bodies of water from all over the world had been poured into river to herald the opening of the Delta wing of the hotel. As a "water guy" (Bill currently sits on the Lake Mission Viejo Association Board of Directors and is also a Director of Moulton Niguel Water District), he was particularly interested in whether California water was properly represented here. And—as they'd say in the South, "Well, butter my buns and call me a biscuit!"—the waters of Lake Mission Viejo had indeed been blended into them!

LAKE ARROWHEAD
LAKE BALBOA
LAKE BERRESSA
LAKE CACHUMA
LAKE CUNNINGHAM
LAKE DEL VALLE
LAKE HAVASU
LAKE HODGES
LAKE LAQUINTAS
LAKE MEAD
LAKE MURRAY
LAKE PEACHTREE
LAKE POWAY
LAKE SHERWOOD
LAKE TAHOE
LAKE WILDWOOD
LAKE MISSION VIEJO
LAMIRADA CREEK
LITTLEROCK RIVER AND DAM
LAS PADRES FOREST STREAM
LOS ALAMITOS BAY

(Above) Way to represent! Lake Mission Viejo stands proud among other famous lakes in California whose water mingled with other global waters to form the Delta River at the Opryland Resort.

(Left) **Bill Moorhead** finds Lake Mission Viejo on the plaque listing the water from California that was donated to the Delta River in Nashville.



MOUNT OF OLIVES

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Family Oriented For Over 30 Years



Mount of Olives Adult Day Program has since 1987 been the longest continuously operating licensed adult day program in Orange County. The program is client-centered, with all activities geared toward maintaining the cognitive abilities of those with early to moderate stage dementia and Alzheimer's.

Safety is ensured in a fun environment where friendships are made and allowed to grow. They offer activities, a nutritious lunch, local live entertainment, as well as birthday and seasonal celebrations.



Mount of Olives tries to embrace a whole family approach, caring not only for the needs of their loved ones, but also for the caregivers, the spouses and adult children, by offering a support group to assist in this arduous journey.

One of the resident's children told us, "I am relieved to know that my mom is in a safe, engaging, fun environment." Call them for a free tour.

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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Jordan McClanahan, Tennis - Fitness

Our Athlete of the Month is a little different from the usual ones we typically feature. Consider her an alumna and a budding role model. In her hometown of Mission Viejo, **Jordan McClanahan** began dancing and performing at the age of three. A natural competitor, she transitioned from Ballet to the sport of Tennis. As the team Captain and top singles and doubles player of California Lutheran University Women's Tennis team, inspiring and motivating her teammates is what she enjoyed most.

Jordan graduated from college with a degree in international business and an Asian studies minor. Jordan speaks Mandarin Chinese, and moved to Shanghai, China for her career - she spent over 4 years living and working in the international city of Shanghai.

Today Jordan is a business owner and a fitness instructor certified in Pilates, Barre, Indoor Cycling, & Yoga. As a fitness instructor, Jordan channels her enthusiasm into each and every fitness class. She is passionate to see students become the best they can be through the personal development journey of fitness.



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