

VOLUME FIVE, NUMBER FIFTY-EIGHT

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

September/October 2020

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

MISSION VIEJO
STRONG

READER MASK PHOTOS

The **ART OF
HITCHHIKING**

MISSION VIEJO RESIDENTS SHARE
THEIR MEMORIES OF THE ROAD

**HAVE CAT
WILL TRAVEL**

CAT ENJOYS WALKS BY THE LAKE ON SUNDAYS



**"Now we know why
Sandy is smiling"**



**MISSION VIEJO
REPORTER**

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MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

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Dave Leckness
Editor



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



by Brian Goodell
Mayor
City of Mission Viejo

To our Mission Viejo family:

On behalf of my City Council colleagues and the City of Mission Viejo, I want to assure you that your community is as safe, secure and protected as possible during this challenging time of COVID-19. This infection is being more fully understood every day, and more specific preventative measures are being formulated daily. Until we understand the full picture of the disease and the best responses to it, we must follow the broad preventative measures as directed by the President, Congress, our Governor and Legislature, County Board of Supervisors and Chief medical officers at all levels.

We've had to make the extremely difficult decisions to cancel beloved and important community events. These hard choices are made out of an abundance of caution to protect you, our Mission Viejo family.

We also want you to know that the City has an extremely organized Emergency Operations Center, staffed with well-trained professionals. Led by the City Manager, his team monitors all levels of government and medical officers to maintain the City at the most current and highest of response levels. While our City was already covered by the County of Orange Board of Supervisors declaration of a local State of Emergency, I and my Council colleagues have jointly reviewed the totality of the circumstances and concluded that a City declaration of a State of Emergency is in order. This will aid in our ability to tap into outside resources and ease the process to receive any possible Federal reimbursement for costs incurred.

We thank you for your trust in our efforts to protect our Mission Viejo community and know that you will continue to assist us in these efforts to keep our residents' quality of life the best it can be.

Respectfully,
Mayor Brian Goodell

RESPONSE-ABILITY TAKING CHARGE OF OURSELVES AND LIFE



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

Mission Viejo has character! As a Community of Character since 2003, the City focuses on 12 character qualities throughout the year. In September, we promote the trait of Responsibility. This is the quality of being able to fulfill duties or tasks, and it involves knowing what is expected of you and doing it!

Often the tasks are specific requirements, such as requests from parents, employers, or teachers. However, responsibility also involves having an intuition or sense of what needs to be done and then taking the initiative to do it. It includes being trustworthy, dependable, reliable, proactive, and being able to plan ahead. Responsibility is a life skill, which does not come naturally, but can be taught and instilled in children through training and practice!

Although we cannot always control what happens to us in our lives, we absolutely can control our response to every circumstance. As Charles Swindoll states, "Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond." We can choose our attitudes and responses to situations, which puts us in control! Adults and children may shape and transform their lives by taking complete responsibility for their actions, successes and failures, as well as choosing how they will respond to circumstances.

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

Trish Kelley, City Council Member
Co-Founder, Mission Viejo Community of Character
trishkelley@cox.net

LIMITING RISK



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

Social isolation serves primarily to 'flatten the curve'. The greatest public health concern is that too many people will get Covid-19 simultaneously, and if the requisite percentage of them go to the hospital, our hospitals just won't have enough doctors/beds/ventilators to treat all of them.

If fewer new people get Covid-19 per unit time, then hospitals won't get overloaded and can discharge people before new cases come in.

Italy's biggest problems is that their healthcare system is overloaded and they're having to make some really really really ugly decisions.

The worst is when the other regular hospital patients come in (heart attacks, strokes, etc) and can't be seen because Covid-19 has taken up capacity.

Since there's no definite cure available yet, the best thing we can do is to slow down the spread - which we'll do by not letting it jump from person to person. The social isolation shouldn't scare you; it's just a preventative measure.



TRAINS & LOCOMOTIVES

FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY

The railroad. It's thought of as a thing from another time period long gone. What is sometimes missed is how important that one invention was to the development of Mission Viejo and California in general, and the role it still plays in our City today.

In 1887, the Atcheson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad completed the track through Mission Viejo. A section of the line between Avery and Oso



The remains of the **Galivan Whistle Stop** with the Santa Fe Railroad to the left and Hwy. 101 to the right. - (Photo from 1960)

Parkway was named Galivan, and there the Santa Fe built a whistle-stop that included a cattle ramp. That cattle ramp was important to the O'Neill Ranch. The ranch had large numbers of cattle, far more than the local markets could handle, so being able to export their beef to other parts of the country allowed the Ranch to flourish and grow economically. That in turn eventually led to the development and founding of the City of Mission Viejo.

Today, Galivan is long gone. Metrolink is the main source of train activity through Mission Viejo today. Over a million passengers ride its system each month - which reduces congestion on our freeways and the amount of air pollution in our region. The trains are used for activities ranging from the daily work commute to going to schools or visiting beaches in the summertime. So while railroads may seem a thing of the past, they are still holding their own today.



Intersections We Remember



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Circa 1972

Montanoso Recreation Center
- Today



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HAVE CAT WILL TRAVEL

CAT ENJOYS WALKS BY THE LAKE ON SUNDAYS

Meet **AJ Jones**. Don't be surprised if on any given Sunday you see AJ and his Blue Point Persian Cat **Winston** traveling around the lake. He usually takes Winston to Bagels and Brew for breakfast and then walks Winston around with a leash.

Winston is a year-and-a half old, and was purchased from a local breeder. AJ isn't just a cat person, he also has a weasel named **Maverick**. Maverick and Winston are great friends and battle on who gets to go out and ride with AJ on Sundays.



Winston, AJ and dog friend at breakfast



Winston and AJ out for a stroll on the Segway on a Sunday

AJ said his Segway is not one of those \$4000 Segway's, but a \$1500.00 Chinese knock-off. AJ likes to practice going green on the weekends but during the week he drives vehicles that suck up the gasoline.

1984 OLYMPIC PENTATHLON COTO DE CAZA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Modern Pentathlon consists of 4 events in 5 different disciplines: Fencing, Freestyle Swimming, Equestrian Show Jumping and a final event that combines Pistol Shooting and Cross-Country Running. The modern version is based on the original Pentathlon that was held in the Ancient Greek Olympics which were considered the skills needed by the ideal Greek soldier of the time.



In 1984, Coto de Caza was chosen as the location for 4 of the 5 events (the swimming portion was held in Irvine) for the 23rd Olympic Games in Los Angeles. A total of 52 athletes from 18 nations competed individually and as teams, from nations as diverse as Bahrain, South Korea, Egypt, Switzerland and Chinese Taipei.

In the end, when all the dust in Coto had settled,

Italy had come out the Team winner, the United States took home Silver, and France captured the Bronze. Daniele Masala from Italy took the Individual Gold and Coto de Caza and Mission Viejo were broadcast all over the world with large signs saying "Coto de Caza" in the background of almost every camera shot.



Team USA crosses the finish line during the running phase

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Intersections WE REMEMBER



Avery Parkway and Marguerite Parkway - 1975



Avery Parkway and Marguerite Parkway - 2017


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FROM OUR **SENDING YOU A SIGN** DEPT.

BLUE REFLECTORS MEANS WATER SOURCE NEARBY

The blue reflectors you see around town are very important



tools for emergency responders; they mark the location of fire hydrants and are especially helpful at night and in smoky or foggy conditions. Next time you notice a blue reflector in the pavement, take a quick look at the curbing to the

right or left, and chances are that you'll spot a fire hydrant. In addition to functioning as invaluable help to firefighters, the reflectors can provide kids with a fun distraction. The hunt for the blue markers and corresponding hydrants can occupy the crankiest of passengers of any age.



Visit our Mission Viejo Reporter Facebook page & check out our video on Mission Viejo's Blue Reflectors.

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Ask Aunt Sandy



- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON

ALL WET IN THE LOCKER ROOM

Dear Aunt Sandy,

My grandson who attends La Paz Jr High, says they don't allow the kids to shower together after P.E. or any other physical activity.

Why is this? Could you get to the bottom of this delima? When I grew up, we were forced to take showers with the other boys. In fact, we were't allowed to exit the locker room unless we had a dirty towel, and you could only get a towel by going in the shower room.

- All Wet in Palmia

Dear All Wet,

We had to shower in middle school PE, and it was horrifying. The gym teacher (female, of course) would come in and make sure we all showered. With the exception of one or two show-offs, we'd all undress under a towel, wrap the towel around us, go to the shower, take the towel off just long enough to get wet, then go back and try to dress under the towel. Nevertheless, it was the rule, and we had to do it. Pretty lame, when you take into account that I doubt I ever once broke a sweat in gym class.

Anyways, times are changing. As far as I can tell, there is no code governing school showers, according to the California Department of Education, but the prevailing view among public educators is that it's no longer appropriate to require students to take showers. Teachers are more sensitive to charges of harassment.

And then there's the matter of towels. With as many as a 1,000 kids, they would need thousands of towels laundered each week, and schools just don't have that kind of money.

- Aunt Sandy



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For more information, contact Karen Dennis,
Co-President, aauwmvsv@gmail.com.

*Membership is open to college/university graduates
and students in degree-seeking programs.*



GREG RATHS



CONGRESS 2020

CALIFORNIA 45TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



The ART OF HITCHHIKING

MISSION VIEJO RESIDENTS SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF THE ROAD

One guy I picked up was sitting on the fender of a car, I assumed it had broken down. I offered him a ride on my way to work. In the course of our conversation, it turns out it wasn't his car. He said he knew he could get a ride that way. - Monty M.

I hitchhiked across northern Spain for 5 days, traveling with truckers (couples only). Fantastic experience. -Lisa J.

When my car was down, used to hitchhike back and forth to base when I was in the USAF in CA. -Skip L.

"I read true crime and most people that pick up hitchhikers end up getting murdered by them...you know, just common sense."- Phoenix H.

Yes in Indiana, I used to hitchhike down to the interstate where they had a gas station/diner. Loved those french fries. -Jerry H.

"I once picked a hitchhiker up on Tioga pass in Yosemite. We got talking and I found out that he was a doctor hiking the John Muir trail. Somehow he got separated from the rest of his group, which is why he needed a lift to meet back up with them."- Will K.

"My parents picked people up all the time in the 70's. I was a little kid then, and it was never scary or anything, just smelled bad sometimes. My dad was very clear that I was never to pick anyone up myself. - Robin M.

I have tried once and gave up. That was 50 years ago. I would do it if without transportation, but I would have to be pretty desperate. -Bill C.

"No, I have never. It's a sort of conundrum: people picking you up from side of the road will kill you, and people you pick up will kill you. Generally we're told our whole lives not to."- Nicole W

I was 14 years old on a group bicycle ride, and my bicycle broke down. I had to hitchhike to our destination point. -Mark M.

I never hitchhiked, but I picked up hitchhikers. I had a standard for who I would pick up - *she* had to be cute. Once I stopped for a cute girl, next thing I know, she and her boyfriend were in the car - that was a bummer to say the least. - Dwight B.

When I was 12 years old, my brother's car broke down along the road, about 20 miles away from our house in New York at night in the middle of a sub-zero freezing blizzard, so we had to hitchhike. Luckily the first car that passed, picked us up and got us to safety. - Patrick S.

Coming back from the gun range when I was in the military. Picked up a guy and a girl (mid 20's) and drove them about ten miles to a random liquor store. - Mike R.

When I was in the Marine Corps based in Yuma, Arizona, I picked up a hitchhiker when I was driving to Phoenix. It ended up he wanted me to take him to the Phoenix jail since there was a warrant out for his arrest. Although the trip was uneventful, I was a bit nervous for the two-hour drive.

Used to thumb home from high school all the time. Wouldn't be caught dead riding the bus. Would never do it now. - Paul B.

On the way home from college, I picked up a hitchhiker. During the drive, there were awkward silences and uncomfortable conversations. It made me question my decision of picking him up as a good deed was really a bad idea. After finally letting him go and giving him a few dollars - that he was weirdly persistent to have, I vowed never to pick up a hitch hiker again. - Trung N.

Yes I have picked up a hitchhiker, only once in my life. I spent two hours making out with her in a park, but she ended up being weird. -Paul V.

Yes, Stagecoach makes me do crazy things. -Chuck M.

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MISSION VIEJO
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THIS TOGETHER



April Jennings



Debbie MacLennan



Nina DeRenzo-McCann



Anonymous



Nancy Bell



Jeanni Montgomery



Melissa Wood



Christine Marcotte Weiss



Joe Vahey



Dawn Antis

FROM OUR **SAVE THE PARENTS** DEPT.

CHIPPING IN

Back-To-School Supply Drive Helps Mission Viejo Elementary Schools

In an effort to help our local elementary schools facing funding deficits escalated by the COVID-19 crisis, the **City of Mission Viejo** and **PKSA Karate** have teamed and hosted a Back-to-School Supply Drive ended August 18.



Principal Laura Lyons of Castille Elementary

With schools unsure when children can return to the classroom, planning for the school year has become exceedingly difficult for administrators and teachers. When kids do finally return to school, they won't be able to share anything.

The most-needed supplies were collected including #2 pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, child-safe scissors, glue sticks, folder with pockets and single-subject notebooks. These have been distributed to local elementary schools.

Although the drive ended August 18th, school supplies will be accepted as long as our community will provide them. Please drop off your donations Monday through Thursday from 4-7 pm at PKSA Karate, 25290 Marguerite Parkway, Suite A.

For more information, contact **949-454-9476** or email info@pksawest.com



Principal Jayne Martin of Bathgate Elementary & Bob Stewart of PKSA

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FROM OUR LONG AND WINDING ROAD DEPT.

SAUNTERING AROUND MISSION VIEJO

TAKE A MINUTE TO APPRECIATE WHAT IS AROUND YOU

What does it mean to saunter? Well it's a word from the 1600s - a verb or a noun, which means to walk in a slow, relaxed manner, without hurry or effort or to take a 'a leisurely stroll'. Either way, it's about smelling the roses, enjoying the moment, and taking the pace down a notch.

So with that in mind, here are our suggestions for a few places to go for a nice saunter in Mission Viejo. We hope to catch you and your loved ones out there enjoying the view on a nice walk around our the City.



BARANO TRAIL - This location is a birdwatcher's paradise with many rare and beautiful birds present. Birdwatchers from all over Orange County know about this spot. Just a pleasant walk in general with 5 separate entrances.



OSO CREEK TRAIL - One of the most popular trails in Mission Viejo with something for everyone. A walk here can take you miles away from your stresses and problems.



LAKE MISSION VIEJO - Walking by water is supposed to do wonders for a person's mood due to positive ions, so this walk has that in droves: add in the spectacular view of Saddleback, and you have a winning saunter!

FROM OUR TEACHING KIDS TO DREAM BIG DEPT.

The History of de Portola's RED CABOOSE



The Red Caboose as it is today

Back in 1974, de Portola Elementary School **Principal Jim Mitchell** was inspired to acquire a historic 1940 Southern Pacific Railroad caboose for the children of his school. It has been there ever since and remains there to this day.

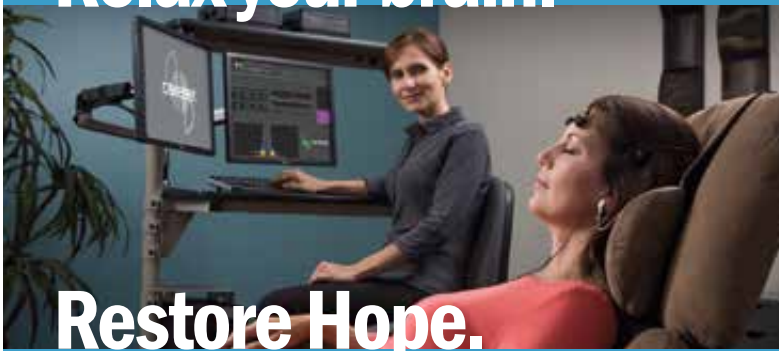


The Red Caboose as it was in 1974 with Principal Jim Mitchell and kids

Over time, it has seen the worst of the sun, and so consequently it has been painted many times over by students, Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Badges, and others.

It remains a reminder of a simpler time and the regional history of our area. Plus, we are told it is fun to climb on.

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METAL BIRDS FLYING

AT ONE TIME, IT WASN'T ONLY SWALLOWS IN THE AIR IN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO



This photograph shows the buildings and a number of airplanes tied down. Del Avion starts at the left of the image and intersects Alipaz near the top right. Congdon House (Kinoshita Ranch today) is visible among the trees. After it relocated, Bruce Winton and the Capistrano Flying Service operated it. It was closed in 1977 after a crash killed a young girl playing in the nearby creek bed.

This panoramic view of the original Capistrano Airport was taken from the air, looking northeast toward distant Saddleback. The original airport opened in 1946, was operated by Fred Stoffel and Bill Webb, and was located on the west side of San Juan Creek. The intersection of Del Avion and Alipaz would be located near the center of the photograph. The Joel Congdon House, now known as the Kinoshita Ranch, is left center and can barely be seen. A 1948 airport guide said it had 1,800 feet of runway, although other publications reduced that length. It was relocated across the creek to the east side in the early 1960's.



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LIFTING SPIRITS



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by John Rodriguez
M.V. Chamber of
Commerce Ambassador

Since starting in 2004 with only a few members, Spirit League has grown to over 450 amazing athletes in 2020. Spirit League, though, it is so much more than the sports. The League is a place where children with autism and other developmental disabilities between the ages of 6-22 years can learn how to gain new individual skills while accomplishing a group goal.

In Spirit League kids can practice social skills and communicating in new ways, learning to listen to a coach, following directions and learning team behaviors. All these things are critical life skills and the Spirit League organizers really appreciate the City of Mission Viejo for their SNAP Initiative and ongoing support of athletes with special needs. They say that, "Their support is doing great things."

Spirit League is the only organization in Orange County with three seasons of sports (Basketball, Baseball and Soccer) tailored to the needs of kids dealing with developmental disabilities. With the increased rate of autism, the demand for their League has grown tremendously. That demand continues for adults with special needs who are wanting a place to play team sports in a non-competitive



environment and often are seeking a safe place to make friends. They come to Spirit League for exactly that. The program wants to fill that need and provide a team sports program for adults with developmental disabilities where they can grow, thrive and be part of a community. This summer their new adult program will



include both Volleyball and Basketball; both in the City of Mission Viejo.

They are looking for people to volunteer as a Coach or Team Mentor for their Baseball or Soccer season, which are played at the Oso Viejo Fields by Newhart Middle School or join us for our 6th Annual Hit-a-thon on May 9 as a community supporter. For more information, go to SpiritLeague.org or check them out on Facebook or Instagram. Come celebrate with them!



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



BRAIN TWISTER

This month's Brain Twister seems simple enough, but very few people will solve this in less than one minute.

CAN YOU SPOT SPOT A MISTAKE HERE?

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(Answer On Back Cover)

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FROM OUR SHHHHHSSSSHH DEPT.

The Mission Viejo Library

Now You Know The Rest Of The Story

Not very long ago, the Mission Viejo Library celebrated its twentieth anniversary, but the dream of a Mission Viejo Library really began to take shape some thirty years ago.

In 1987, a committee appointed by the Mission Viejo Municipal Advisory Council concluded that the existing 9,155-square-foot county branch library across Chrisanta Drive from the Mount of Olives Lutheran Church was "inadequate both in size and with respect to materials and parking" to serve a community of 60,000 people, and that a new library was needed.



In 1989, respondents to a questionnaire mailed in preparation for writing the city's first General Plan ranked library service "essential," placing it in the same category as health

and safety. As a result, the *Mission Viejo General Plan* called for both relocation and expansion of the library. The questions were where to build the new library, how to fund its construction, and how to pay for its ongoing operating expenses.

Members of the Mission Viejo City Council appointed Planning Commissioner Sherri Butterfield to chair a Library Site Selection Committee. After evaluating several sites, the committee recommended a parcel at the southwest corner of Marguerite Parkway and La Paz Road because it was vacant, highly visible, and in the heart of the city. In August 1992, the city purchased this land from the Mission Viejo Company.



Meanwhile, a small group of critics said that public libraries were an example of "liberalism in its purest form." If youngsters needed books, their parents could buy them in bookstores. Research could be done on the Internet and any

municipal money invested in library buildings or services would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

But Sherri held onto the dream. First, she chaired the Mission Viejo Library Committee, which was tasked with making the case for the new library. Next, she chaired the Mission Viejo Library Foundation, which began raising money for its construction. Finally, she ran successfully for a seat on the Mission Viejo City Council so that she could cast a deciding vote.



On September 19, 1995, Sherri, who by then was Mission Viejo's mayor pro tem, went with former Mayors Sharon Cody and Susan Withrow to ask the Board of Supervisors to allow Mission Viejo to withdraw from the county library system and take with it the property tax dollars that were being collected from city residents for the provision of library service. The supervisors unanimously agreed.

Ground for the new Mission Viejo Library was broken on September 7, 1996. When the 27,400-square-foot library opened to the public on October 25, 1997, a dream that had been ten years in the making finally came true. Expanded to 42,000 square feet between October 2000 and March 2002, the Mission Viejo Library now has 161,647 cardholders and, from its home in the heart of the city, serves all who can read or be read to.



FROM OUR ANCIENT HISTORY DEPT.

ARCHIVES

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER, APRIL 1974

MISSION VIEJO REPORTER
Mission Viejo Enters Second Phase
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CAL-MED PHARMACY — manager, John Bruce, chats with Kenneth Dills, a local customer who lives in the Costa del Sol neighborhood, after filling his prescription.

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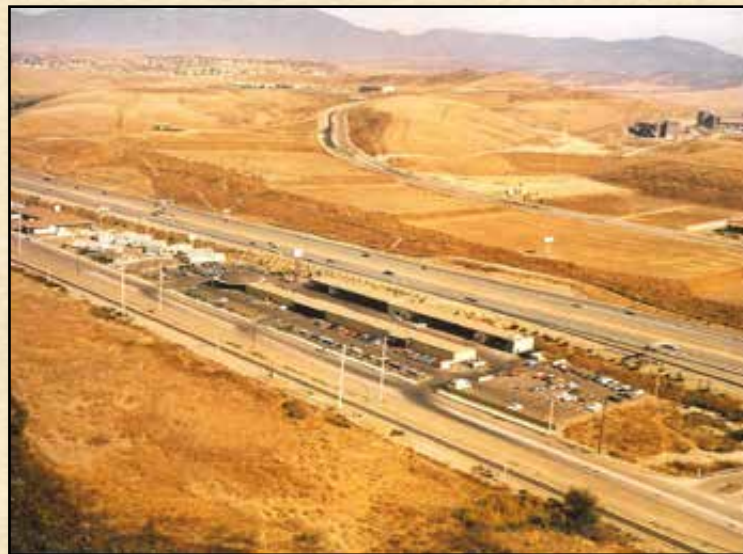
I served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division and as a Drill Instructor. I've been a licensed marriage and family therapist for over 30 years. I retired with Saddleback Church and opened a private practice. I hold dearly to many of the principles of my faith and those I learned in 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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ARCHIVES

LOOKING TOWARDS SADDLEBACK MTN - 1972



1972 - Above Allen Cadillac looking towards Mission Viejo

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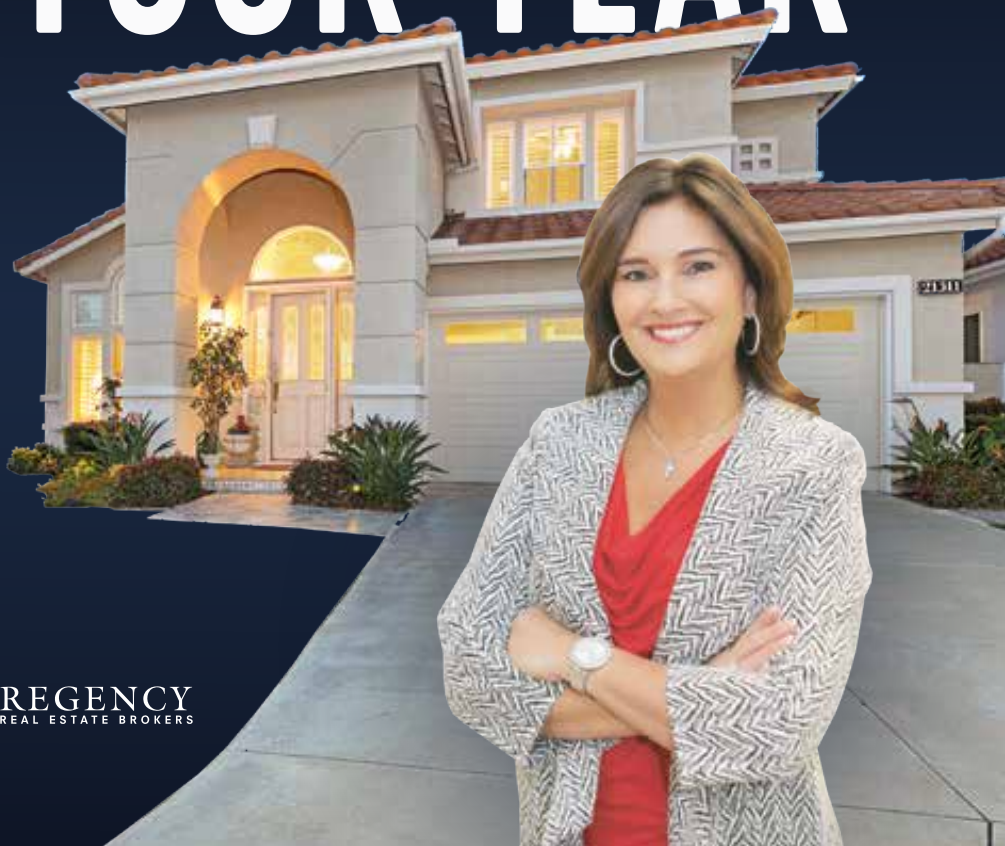
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SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH Ryan Bommarito, Soccer



Ryan Bommarito has been a dedicated soccer player for 11 years. He's a quick decision maker and skillfull at passing the ball with precision. The best part about playing his favorite sport is the "time he spends with his teammates on the field". As a Center Midfielder, Ryan is all about helping his team. Regardless of the outcome of a game, he mostly attributes their success to teamwork.

In his first year at CVHS, Ryan played on the JV soccer team and "enjoyed getting to know his new teammates". He also continued playing on his Club team, South Slammers - together they placed 2nd in the First Annual California Premier League Soccer Tournament. A generous player, with a positive attitude, Ryan is liked and admired by his coaches, teammates and close friends.

Off the field, his generosity extends to helping his community and family - always with a smile on his face. He even makes time to help "his dad on house projects". A busy schedule keeps Ryan productive and grounded, but he's still a teen who likes nothing more than hanging out at the beach, boogie boarding with his buddies.

Awards: Scholar Athlete for maintaining a 4.0 GPA



ANSWER: SAYS SPOT TWICE

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