



VOLUME FIVE, NUMBER SIXTY-TWO

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

Oct/Nov/Dec 2021

# MISSION VIEJO<sup>®</sup> REPORTER



## CAMP PENDLETON

THE STORY BEHIND THE MARINE'S WEST COAST HOME

## STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO'S CROWN JEWEL

## NOT FAKE NEWS

GREAT PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS IN MISSION VIEJO HISTORY

MISSION VIEJO  
REPORTER

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Ashtyn Kuiper, Lake Mission Viejo



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Dave Leckness  
Editor



## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CORE VISION PLAN



by Trish Kelley  
Mayor, Mission Viejo

In an extraordinary effort to spur economic development and revitalization and benefit our community for generations to come, my City Council colleagues and I passed the Core Area Vision Plan. This exciting and historic move is the visionary first step in revitalizing the City's Downtown Core area, and it comes at a time when we also need to address the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Since 2016, we've been engaging the community to gather resident input and ideas regarding a new downtown area through multiple workshops, surveys, social media outreach, pop-up kiosks at an array of City events, press releases and more. Through those robust community outreach efforts, the Core Area Vision Plan was drafted presenting a vibrant framework for the future. We heard from many residents who said they want to embrace the Oso Creek and trail; revitalize the old Village Center; and make walkable connections between them so that families can safely enjoy shopping, dining, recreation, cultural features, and improved public amenities. Residents said they wanted to experience all these things in their own downtown Mission Viejo, and importantly, keep the local economy strong by spending their tax dollars here rather than venturing out of Mission Viejo.

Mission Viejo is the 9th largest City in Orange County, yet retail sales have declined as compared to the County average. Coupling that with the economic fallout from the pandemic, it's never been more vital to accelerate an economic revitalization by investing in the Downtown Core – an investment in our future.

What your City Council did on your behalf was to approve the options for financing the purchase of the Stein Mart site off Marguerite Parkway – the first tangible action toward implementing this community-driven vision for a walkable village, paseo, and incredible entry that connects to Oso Creek and Trail.

With the amplified economic challenges we have all faced, it's exciting to embark on something that will enhance the way we live, work and play.

You can see a video and information detailing the proposed plan at [www.envisionmissionviejo.com](http://www.envisionmissionviejo.com). I also encourage you to sign up for our City's eNewsletter and follow our official social media sites for updates.



Artist's Representation

## FROM OUR COVER

Our cover girl this month is **Ashtyn Kuiper**, we asked her a little about herself and she sent us this: "I'm 13 years old, I attend Newhart Middle School as an 8th grader. I'm one of a set of triplets (all girls) and we have another sister who is only 11 months older.

People often ask me what it's like to be a triplet- it's fun and chaotic, and can also be a little annoying, as you might imagine :) One of my triplet sisters has Epilepsy, so I consider myself an Epilepsy Advocate, sharing with others about how they can help, often by just extending a hand to someone with Special Needs.

My family and I live on Lake Mission Viejo and love to boat and swim in the Lake. As a family, we love to travel whenever we can. In fact, my sisters and I are all named after places in the world! In my spare time, I love doing makeup and creating fun looks; you can follow me at AshtynKuiper1 on Tik Tok and Instagram (@AshtynKuiper). I am obsessed with fashion and just got signed to a modeling agency, so I am looking forward to having some fun with that. I am thrilled to be on the cover of the MV Reporter! "



Ashtyn Kuiper



# OLD MacDONALD HAD A FARM IN MISSION VIEJO

## FAMOUS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ATTRACTION HAD A HOME IN MISSION VIEJO FOR A SPELL



Old Mac Donald's Farm was located at Crown Valley/5 Frwy., right where the Kaledioscope sits today

Located where the Kaledioscope Shopping Center is today, "Old MacDonald's Farm" was the home of many a Mission Viejo birthday party.

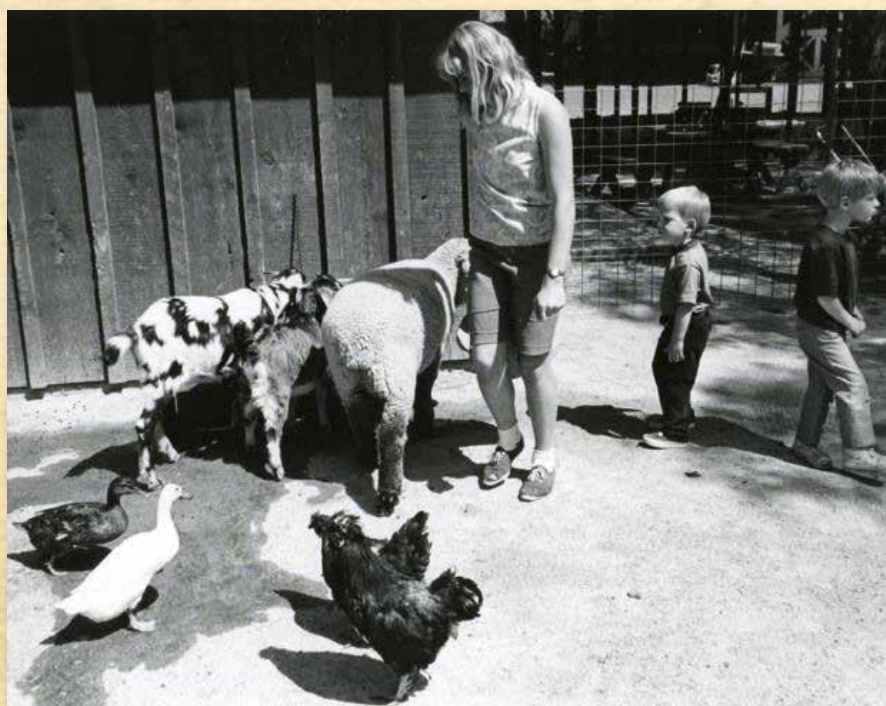
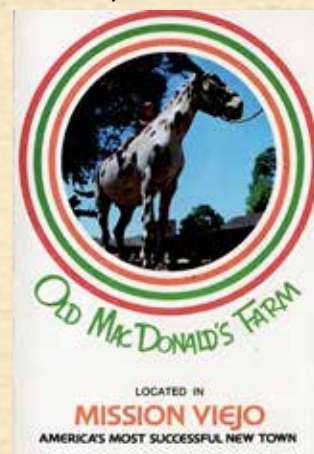
Back then, people would park their cars at the top of a hill on Crown Valley Parkway and push a button that would sound a big horn to let the people at the farm know you were there. The farm would send a farm tractor pulling a trailer filled with hay bales for people to sit on, and then they would take you back down the hill to the farm which had a petting zoo, a mule-powered merry-go-round, a blacksmith, a barn, a country store and various animals and attractions.

The farm was an attraction that had previously been at Knott's Berry Farm and was run by Kay and Fulton Shaw who then moved it to Mission Viejo in 1969

after a disagreement with Walter Knott and his wife Cordelia.

One of the most beloved features of the farm was the performing animals. **Methuselah**, the goat, would butt things for his oats and grain pellets. **Chicken Little** played a piano for snacks. **Porky Pig** slid down a slide for a treat. **Peter Cottontail** hopped onto a cable car and nibbled alfalfa pellets at the end of the line. They also had chickens that would play pianos, and rabbits that would go down slides for a nickle.

Probably their most famous resident was **Tilly the Taper**, who once escaped from the farm and was found by the police in San Juan Capistrano along Camino Capistrano, in a story that made the national news.





FROM OUR PUBLIC ART DEPT.

# MISSION VIEJO HISTORY

## THE CITY'S STORY TOLD IN TILES



These mosaic tile walls depict the eras of Mission Viejo history. One section recalls the cattle, cowboy and brand of Mission Viejo early days. The tile walls are located at the Trailhead of the Oso Creek Trail on Marguerite Parkway. Residents of Mission Viejo installed more than 14 mosaics depicting scenes from the city's history, some at the trailhead on Marguerite Parkway and others along the Oso Creek Trail. In April 2004, almost 2,000 volunteers provided service to their community by installing 15,000 trees and bushes and installing tile on the mosaic wall at the Trailhead Garden.

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# **FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**Saturday, October 30 ~ 9:00 am to noon**

at the Norman P. Murray Community Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

## **STOP Human Trafficking through Education and Action**

- **Learn** ways to recognize, prevent and stop human trafficking.
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**KATHIE  
PERINO**

- **An Orange County Sheriff** will give an update on human trafficking in the Mission Viejo area.
- **Dr. Sandra Morgan**, Director of the Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University. She was the co-chair of the *White House Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to End Human Trafficking*. She serves on OC Human Trafficking Task Force and on the OC Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Steering Committee. Learn what Orange County is doing to prevent human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable.
- **Ruthi Hanchett**, who served on the United Nations NGO Advisory Council on the violence against children, coaches the Live2free club at Vanguard University, helping student teams speak on human trafficking at middle schools and high schools throughout Orange County. Learn methods to combat the luring of minors and young adults through popular social media platforms.
- **Kathie Perino**, volunteer team leader of the Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative of Saddleback Church, has participated in street outreaches for victims and worked closely with detectives in their rescue operations and emergency aftercare. She will present easy ways you can make a difference.

**Contact Karen Dennis, Program Coordinator,  
aauwmvsv@gmail.com or (949) 525-6850 to receive more information,  
become an event sponsor, or volunteer at the event.**

***Sponsored by AAUW Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley,  
Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce, and  
The City of Mission Viejo***



## What's the Difference Between Infestations & Infection

By Tony Angelo, Founder & CEO  
Angelo Termite and Construction & ATC Academy

In 2015, a balcony in Berkeley collapsed due to structural failure, as a result 6 people died and 7 were injured. Consequently, California law SB 326 ("Balcony Bill") was passed. It requires that by January 2025, HOA boards cause the inspection of the elevated elements of their communities. As a licensed structural pest control operator and general contractor that has been serving Orange County since 1976, Angelo Termite and Construction is committed to increasing the awareness of HOA boards, property managers and homeowners about what truly leads to structural damage.



*The Berkeley Balcony Collapse in 2015*

Infestations, which are most commonly noticed and easier to identify, are caused by the infiltration of an outside source, such as subterranean termites, drywood termites or other wood-boring insects.

Infections are less obvious to the untrained eye. They are defined as moisture in direct contact with wood, often identified in inaccessible areas. This creates the perfect environment for fungal growth, due to lack of ventilation.

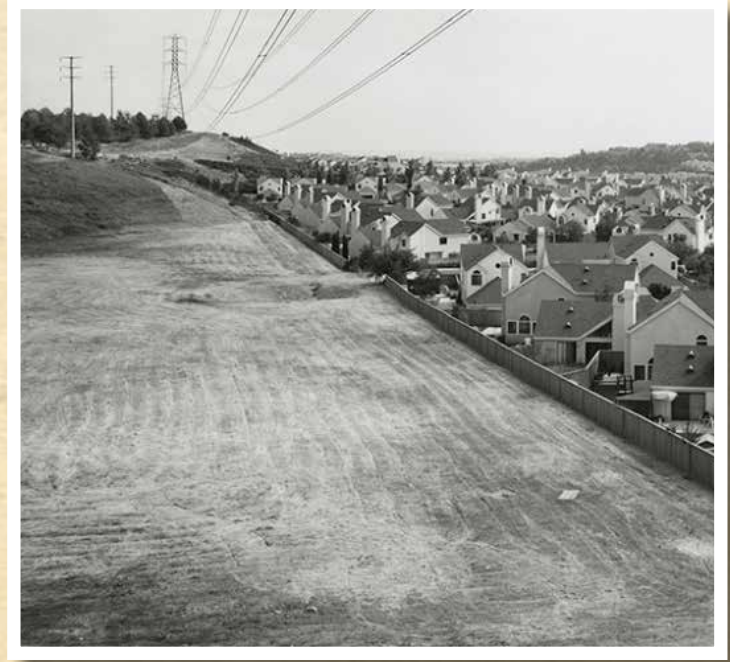
Fungus and dry rot create far more structural damage than termites. Fungus growth is caused by leaks, and many times it is caused by improperly adjusted sprinkler systems.

It is critical for HOAs to utilize structural pest control firms that are not only concerned with the inspection and recommendations, but also know the uniform building code and local codes, and are licensed to perform all structural repairs and replacements. Contractors must work in conjunction with a licensed Structural Pest Control Operator to apply state registered chemicals, per the Business and Professions Code #8556(a).

Visit [www.angelotermite.com](http://www.angelotermite.com) to learn more or to attend our live and online classes, e-mail us [connect@angelotermite.com](mailto:connect@angelotermite.com) or call 949-595-0111.



## Intersections We Remember



*View of Mission Viejo From Santa Margarita Parkway 1993*

# COVER FAILS!



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



*Mission Viejo's Dating Seniors*



*The Beauty Issue*



*Safety Around The House*



*Mission Viejo's Fun Happy Hours!*



*The Fitness Issue*



*Mission Viejo's Hottest Bachelors*



*Playing With Your Pet*





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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH DEPT.



## NOT FAKE NEWS

### GREAT PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS IN MISSION VIEJO HISTORY



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



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



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FROM OUR LEAVING A MARK DEPT.

## R. HERO at La Paws Park

In 2013, former Mission Viejo Mayor **Dave Leckness** saw this sculpture along El Paseo in Palm Desert and with the dog park opening soon, he thought it would be a perfect fit. He contacted the city of Palm Desert and asked if Mission Viejo could purchase the piece for the entrance to our new dog park. Palm Desert put him in contact with the artist's representative **Bunni Benaron**. Bunni and **Rick Benaron**, are the founders of **The Hero In You Foundation**, and they provide the financial support for the placement of R.HERO sculptures.

Bunni explained that the \$15,000 6-foot tall sculpture piece wasn't for sale...but, they would be happy to donate it. Bunni told Leckness, "These



Sculptures were meant to be displayed at fire stations and police departments, not dog parks, but with you, I'll make an exception."

The Hero in You Foundation seeks to honor first responders, and the sculptures serve as reminders of the sacrifices firefighters, police officers, paramedics and military service personnel make. They place the art pieces and support them with a kids' educational program hoping to inspire future generations to become heroes.





Rita Tayenaka



John Livingston



Brooke Morrow



Jeanette Graham



Jeff Mays



John Livingston



Sue Nunnery Cook



Jennifer Leamon McGraw



Cathy Calhoun



## Oso Creek Trail Resident Photos



Maggie Pacheco



John Livingston



Kathie Rennie-Sauro



Maggie Pacheco



John Livingston





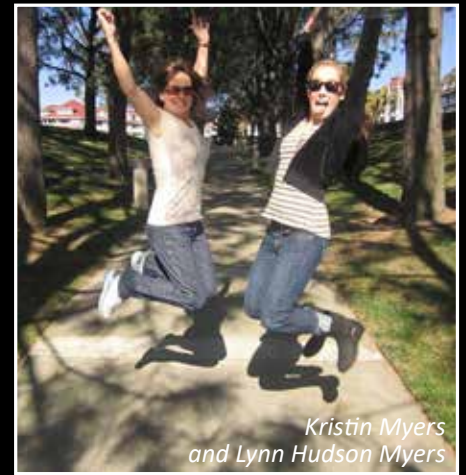
Nova Cerda Heinsohn



Heela Mon Ster 1



Blanca Moctezuma Serrato



Kristin Myers  
and Lynn Hudson Myers



Teresa Stone McEwan



Brooke Morrow



Julie Kirker Labac



Kelly Crosby Brewer



Karen Osato



Marla Lackey



Marisa Fiore Severen



Jenn Waters



Hailey Harrelson



Tricia Acres

# JUMPING INTO FALL

## Reader Photos

 **MISSION VIEJO  
REPORTER**



Nicole Sorenson



# CAMP PENDLETON

## THE STORY BEHIND THE MARINE'S WEST COAST HOME



General Joseph H. Pendleton

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

### HISTORY:

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



19th Century Map of the original Rancho Mission Viejo



Camp Pendleton in 1944

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

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

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

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# MISSION VIEJO CRASH SITE?

## RESIDENTS LOCATE PAST WRECKAGE LOCATIONS

Aircraft crash sites in Mission Viejo? Yes, and there have been plenty of plane wrecks in the Santa Ana Mountains, Robinson Ranch, Laguna Hills, and San Juan Capistrano area too! Mission Viejo resident **G. Pat Macha**, began documenting aircraft accident sites in the mountains and deserts of California in 1963.



Twenty-five years ago, Macha founded the all volunteer, **Project Remembrance Team**, and is dedicated to facilitate requests made by next of kin who wish to learn more about the loss of loved ones in local aircraft accidents. The Project Remembrance Team has assisted more than one hundred-fifty next of kin fulfill their wishes for accident reports, maps, photographs, and crash site visitations. More than two dozen memorial markers have been placed at or near crash sites, all accomplished with the permission of property owners. All missions are completed with respect and admiration for those who have come forth to honor the memory of those whom they have lost. Losses suffered by our first responders and members of our armed forces receive an appropriate extra measure of attention.



The Project Remembrance Team includes retired military service members, pilots, rangers, educators, fire-fighters, law enforcement officers, professional scuba divers and business people, and many are from the Mission Viejo area. Macha has authored six books on crash sites in California, and he is a well received speaker on aviation accident history and aircraft archaeology. To learn more, visit [www.aircraftwrecks.com](http://www.aircraftwrecks.com).

# MISSION VIEJO

## Pictures from our past...



Somewhere on Marguerite Parkway - 1965



Mission Viejo Library - 1970



Intersection of Avery and Marguerite Parkways - 1972



Trabuco and Marguerite - 1978

Provided by Mission Viejo Heritage Committee

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# STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

## MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO'S CROWN JEWEL

Just two minutes from Mission Viejo in our neighboring city of San Juan Capistrano, is a "must see". **Mission San Juan Capistrano** is renowned as the "Jewel of the Missions". The key building of the Mission is **Serra Chapel**, which was constructed by Juaneño Native Americans. The center piece of the Chapel is the beautiful baroque altar made of hand-carved cherry wood with a gold leaf overlay and adorned with more than 50 angel faces. It is estimated to be close to 400 years

old and is the largest and most elaborate altar within California's 22-mission system. They opened the boxes in the courtyard, where it took them several months to figure out how the pieces fit and to reassemble the altar. When they were finished they discovered the altar was too tall to fit in the chapel! So to fit it in, they lifted the roof and added adobe bricks to the walls on the altar side of the chapel, allowing the masterpiece from Barcelona to settle in to its new home.



*The Mission's beautiful altar, also known as a retablo*  
across the United States by train. When it arrived at the Mission it was in 396 separate pieces, packaged in 10 larger boxes with no directions on how they should be put together.

In the 1920s, **Father St. John O'Sullivan**, 'the Great Restorer', initiated a major restoration and expansion of the Serra Chapel. It was during this time that the golden altar was placed inside. It was donated to the church by the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Getting it here was no easy matter. The incredible altar is from Barcelona, Spain. First, it had to be shipped by boat across the Atlantic and then taken

across the United States by train. When it arrived at the Mission it was in 396 separate pieces, packaged in 10 larger boxes with no directions on how they should be put together.

## MARILYN AT THE MISSION



One day in 1945, fashion photographer **André de Dienes** met an aspiring model named **Norma Jeane Dougherty**, soon to be known to the world as **Marilyn Monroe**. It was a momentous moment, both for his personal life and his photographic portfolio.

Over the next few years, he would be briefly engaged to Norma Jeane, take a number of adventurous road trips with her, and build up a stunning series of portraits which would help launch her modeling, and later, movie career. Enjoy these pictures he took of her at the **Mission San Juan Capistrano** in 1946.



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# NEXT STOP MISSION VIEJO

## A WHISTLE STOP THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN NAMED GALIVAN

Just south of today's Oso Parkway and Cabot Road was the whistle stop siding called **Galivan**. This train stop was used for transporting crops, cattle and other freight. Galivan became a daily stop for the Santa Fe in 1922. It was four miles (six minutes) from El Toro and five miles (eight minutes) from San Juan Capistrano. This stop is said to be named for a prominent Santa Fe engineer, **J.B. Galivan**.

For many years, the Santa Fe would whistle when it had something or someone to drop off at Galivan, as well as stopping there if anyone was "flagging" to be taken aboard.

**DEFINITION:** A *flag stop*, or *whistle stop* is a stop or station at which trains respectively stop only on request, that is, only if there are passengers or freight to be picked up or dropped off.



Photo by Ken Mills, 1964

# MISSION VIEJO - A LOOK BACK

## THIS PHOTO FROM 1968 LOOKS LIKE IT'S FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE

After 50 years, it's hard to recognize some of our City's landmarks. In this picture from 1968, follow the first segment of Marguerite Parkway's development.

- 1 KALEIDOSCOPE
- 2 THE SHOPS AT MISSION VIEJO
- 3 AVERY & MARGUERITE PARKWAYS
- 4 MISSION HOSPITAL
- 5 SADDLEBACK COLLEGE
- 6 CROWN VALLEY & MARGUERITE PARKWAY
- 7 ALLEN CADILLAC





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## Ask Aunt Sandy

- WITH MISSION VIEJO'S SANDRA FERGUSON

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

## BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

Dear Aunt Sandy,

It's September and my neighbor still has his Christmas lights strung up on his house from last December. I called the city, and they said it's a HOA problem. Well, we don't have an HOA where I live, near Alicia and Jeronimo. What would Aunt Sandy do?

-Strung Out In Mission Viejo

Dear Strung,

I would leave a polite note like this on Mr. Lazy front door step:

"Dear Neighbor,

It's the "twelve days of Christmas" not the "twelve months of Christmas", so get that obnoxious blinking Santa off your roof. It's Summer. Your wreath died months ago, and your manger's been taken over by a family of raccoons.

And finally, take down those glittery ornaments and faux icicle lights. This time of year, the only thing that should be sparkling is the LGBTQ group down the street."

- Aunt Sandy

FROM OUR NOT EATING WITH OUR HANDS DEPT.

## TABLE MANNERS THAT MATTER

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

### Lessons Fit For a Queen or King

ETIQUETTE FROM THE PASADENA ROSE QUEEN TRAINER

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





# Ask **UNCLE EARL**



Aunt Sandy is out of town this month. Uncle Earl is filling in. If you have a question for Uncle Earl, email to [missionviejoreporter@gmail.com](mailto:missionviejoreporter@gmail.com). We'll make sure he gets it.

Dear Uncle Earl,

I live near Gilleran and Bebe Park. A lot of deer get hit by cars on Felipe. This has been bothering me ever since I saw the deer crossing sign on Felipe. There are too many cars to have a deer crossing sign here.

My frustration is that the city should not allow a crossing sign in such a high traffic area. I understand that deer are wild animals and they need to travel across the streets occasionally to find food, but, it seems so irresponsible to allow these deer crossings to be in areas where these deer are so likely to be struck by oncoming traffic. The deer crossing sign needs to be moved to a road with less traffic. Could you ask the city to move the sign to a road with less traffic?

-Donna the Deer Lover

Dear Donna,

*You're right! If the City doesn't move the sign, maybe at least they could put another sign warning the deer to look both ways before crossing the street.*

-Uncle Earl



# **BRAIN TWISTER**



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**Happy Holidays from Sandy Gruzdis**

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