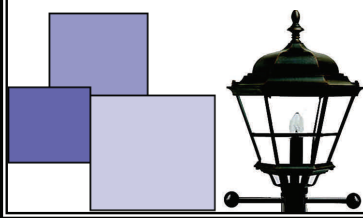


December 2011



# Mira Mesa Town Council

## \$25 Million Community Park upgrade in the works



Photo credit: Pam Stevens

City Councilmember Carl DeMaio with Bruce Brown, past chair of Mira Mesa Recreation Council and Mira Mesa Community Planning Group; Stuart Posnock, CEO of Garden Communities, developer of the Casa Mira View multifamily complex now under construction in northeast Mira Mesa; John Horst, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group secretary and Mira Mesa Youth Baseball president; and Joe Frichtel, Mira Mesa Recreation Council chairperson.

by Pam Stevens

A three-phase major upgrade of Mira Mesa Community Park that was the topic of extensive community workshops in 2004 is now closer to becoming a reality, Fifth District San Diego City Councilmember Carl DeMaio announced at a Nov. 10 press conference.

The \$25 million project will provide park improvements not only in the current community park surrounding the Gil Johnson Mira Mesa Recreation Center but also in the dirt area north of New Salem, where the ball fields currently operated by Mira Mesa West Little League are located. The plan includes upgraded multi-use ball fields, a 25-meter by 25-yard community swimming pool (to be built on the site of the current basketball courts, which will be relocated south of the recreation center), described as “able to serve the community for open swim times as well as water polo and swim competition,” and a new field house/gymnasium next to the current recreation

See *Parks* on page 9

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### Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting

Monday, Dec. 5, 2011  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Mira Mesa Senior Center  
8460 Mira Mesa Blvd

#### Agenda:

Volunteer of the Year  
Holiday Party

Business of the Month:  
Vulcan Materials Company

Visit us online at [www.miramesatowncouncil.org](http://www.miramesatowncouncil.org) or



## MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2011

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### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAM CHAIR)

Bari Vaz, [BariVaz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BariVaz@sbcglobal.net)

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Jeff Stevens, [jeffstev@san.rr.com](mailto:jeffstev@san.rr.com)

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy Madsen, [rmadsen1@att.net](mailto:rmadsen1@att.net)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sandy Smith, [sandysmith92126@gmail.com](mailto:sandysmith92126@gmail.com)

### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Jon Labaw, [jlabaw13@gmail.com](mailto:jlabaw13@gmail.com)

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Daley, [jedaleyiii@aol.com](mailto:jedaleyiii@aol.com)

Jennifer Kvalvik, [jkvalvik@sandi.net](mailto:jkvalvik@sandi.net)

Alexander Tri Minh Nguyen, [alex909@gmail.com](mailto:alex909@gmail.com)

Jerry Ollinger, [jerryollinger@hotmail.com](mailto:jerryollinger@hotmail.com)

## Want to help your community, but don't know how?

Mira Mesa is made up of people just like you who are looking for ways to get involved in the community. Whether you are interested in local planning, parks and recreation, community appearance, family events or something completely new, there's a place for you.

Ongoing MMTC committees and community groups include:

- **MMTC BANNER DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
- **MMTC COMMUNITY PRIDE COMMITTEE**
- **MMTC FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE**
- **MMTC STREET FAIR COMMITTEE**
- **MMTC MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT COMMITTEE**
- **CLUSTER SCHOOLS COUNCIL**
- **COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**
- **HEROES**
- **MIRA MESA COMMUNITY VISION**
- **RECREATION COUNCIL**
- **RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PATROL (RSVP)**

Come to a Mira Mesa Town Council general meeting or contact one of our directors for more information. Also see page 7 for specific meeting times and locations.

### Mira Mesa Town Council Meetings

Mira Mesa Town Council meetings provide a public forum for community issues relating to civic, cultural, social, educational and recreational development and improvement in the area. Regular meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Mira Mesa Senior Center* from 7 to 9 p.m., with no meeting held in July.

2011 Mira Mesa Town Council meeting schedule:

<b>January 3</b>	<b>July - NO MEETING</b>
<b>February 7</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>September 12 **</b>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>October 3</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>November 7</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>December 5</b>

\*\* Sept meeting is on the 2nd Monday due to Labor Day

### Contact Us:

**Mira Mesa Town Council**  
**PMB 230**  
**10606-08 Camino Ruiz**  
**San Diego, CA 92126**

[issues@miramesatowncouncil.org](mailto:issues@miramesatowncouncil.org)

[www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org](http://www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org)

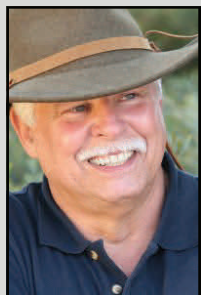
Please send items for publication to:  
[newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org](mailto:newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org)

### Business Member of the Month: Vulcan Materials Company



Vulcan Materials Company is our largest and most consistent sponsors for Street Fair and 4th of July. Vulcan is the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates: primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel. its construction materials segment produces aggregates used in nearly all forms of construction. The company goes to great lengths to make sure it operates as a good corporate citizen.

## President's Message for December



**Ted Brengel**

Wow! The year is almost gone — the Holiday Season is upon us. This month, as in years past, our MMTC meeting will be a celebration of the past year and the one to come. We are hoping to be entertained by the Mira Mesa High School Orchestra and the MMHS Madrigals.

If this doesn't put you in the Christmas spirit, nothing will!

The only business we plan to conduct at the meeting is the selection of the 2011 Volunteer of the Year. This year we have three excellent nominees: **Julius Hitchens**, the driving force behind Mira Mesa Youth Soccer; **Judy Taylor**, the lovely lady who keeps our Scripps Ranch-Mira Mesa Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol going; and **Barri Vaz**, perhaps the busiest person in Mira Mesa, who is not only the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of MMTC and Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, but also the Chairman of the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group. Complete biographical information on these fine volunteers can be found page 4 of the newsletter.

If anyone reading this isn't anguishing over their choice among these three, talk to me for a few minutes and I'll make you change your mind. This will be one tough decision. I wish we could honor all three as Volunteer of the Year, but alas, only one is allowed.

As you will read in this edition, Jonas Salk Elementary School is moving forward. Progress is slow, but even small steps in this vital project give us hope that construction is not far in the future.

Please take special note of the long awaited and much anticipated presentation of *Greetings!*, a play by Tom Dudzick, by the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild. Tickets are \$15 (a steal!). Dates are December 2 (for the Opening Night Gala), and December 3, 9, 10, 16, 17. The location is the Mira Mesa EpiCentre at 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard (across the parking lot from the Senior Center). Call (858) 222-4815 or go to [www.MiraMesaTheatreguild.org](http://www.MiraMesaTheatreguild.org) for additional information.

Finally, I speak for the entire Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors when I say I hope everyone had a fabulous family Thanksgiving and I wish you a very Merry Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

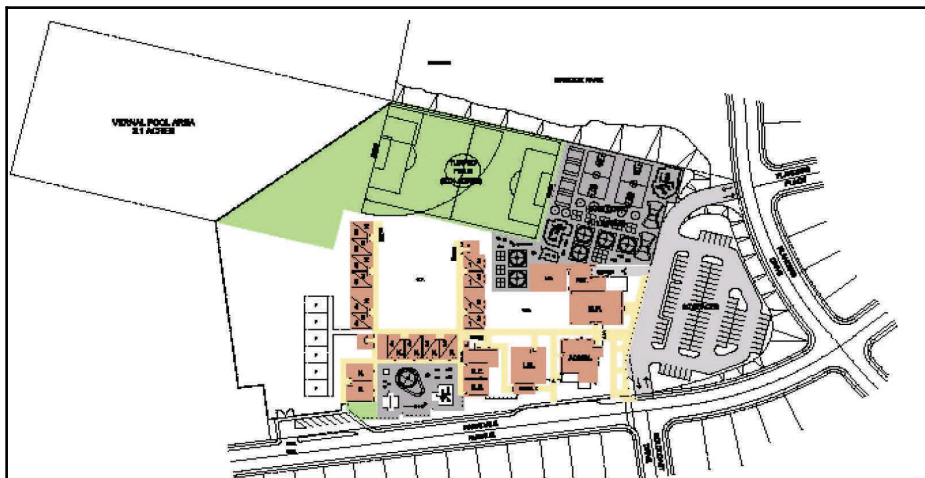


Photo credit: San Diego Unified School District

Prop MM school bond passed by voters in 1998 provided money to build Salk, but the project was delayed due to environmental concerns raised when it was discovered vernal pools had formed on the land.

## School Board Certifies Environmental Impact Report for Salk Elementary School

by Pam Stevens

The Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District voted unanimously on Nov. 8, 2011, to approve a resolution certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the construction of Jonas Salk Elementary School in southwest Mira Mesa. The school will be built at the corner of Parkdale Avenue and Flanders Drive. The motion passed without discussion.

The Salk Final EIR, released on Oct. 14, 2011, includes response to comments on the Draft EIR (which was circulated from July 30, 2010 to Oct. 18, 2010), and a Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program. The board will have an opportunity to approve and award a construction contract at a subsequent board meeting.

A brief background report posted on the School District website as a "Board Doc" for the Nov. 8, 2011 meeting, Agenda Item I-1, summarizes the project:

"The district proposes to construct and operate the Jonas Salk Area Elementary School (including a park and joint-use facilities) within the Mira Mesa Community of the City of San Diego. The proposed project includes the following components:

- Construction and operation of the new school
- Construction and operation of a park and joint-use facilities (to be owned and operated by the City of San Diego (City))
- Implementation of a Vernal Pool Restoration Plan (mitigation) within the City of San Diego's McAuliffe Park site (restoration site to be owned and maintained by the District)
- Implementation of 0.76-acres of vernal pool mitigation within the City of San Diego's Carroll Canyon Preserve site.

The proposed new school would support the enrollment needs in the Mira Mesa Community and help the district achieve the enrollment standards set forth in its Long Range Facilities Master Plan. As part of the project, the district would convey 6.1 acres of the school site to the City (4.1 acres of park use and 2 acres of joint-use play field) in exchange for allowing the district to implement vernal pool mitigation on approximately 12.7 acres of the project mitigation site at McAuliffe Park."

McAuliffe Park is city-owned land next to Challenger Middle School. The Carroll Canyon Preserve site is a vernal pool preserve at the south end of Parkdale Avenue.

Under "fiscal impacts," the background report states that costs associated with preparation and filing the EIR were originally included in Proposition MM but the environmental delays caused the funding to be shifted to State School Facilities Funds (SSFF) earned as a match during Proposition MM construction. The total cost of the Salk project is currently budgeted at \$30,338,522.

The Salk Final EIR is posted on the School District's Facilities Planning and Construction web page at: <http://www.sandi.net/page/948>.

## Teenage skater dreams of competing in the Olympics

Meet Justin Frederick Ly, a 14-year-old figure skater from Mira Mesa who just recently earned himself the No. 2 slot on the United States Figure Skating Jr. National Team. The National Championships are taking place Dec. 10 through 14 in East Lansing, Mich.

Justin started skating at the age of 8. His strong self-motivation and love of figure skating quickly became evident as he rapidly progressed through the USFSA Learn to Skate levels and Bridging Classes.

Within a 10-month period, Justin went from Snow Plow 1 level to landing a clean axel and skating his first program to the Peter Gunn Theme. His longer-term goals include competition at the Junior National level and eventually the Senior National and International levels.

### What is one of your most significant accomplishments and why?

Being on the U.S. Figure Skating Junior National Team for two seasons so far. I have enjoyed the honorable competitive spirit and have become very close friends with several of my competitors. I look up to the skaters who have gone before me and I love to set a positive example for those who look up to me. I hope to continue for many years in the sport of figure skating as I know that each and every day I have so much to learn and so many opportunities for personal growth.

My goal this season is to skate my hardest and aim for first place at Nationals. I want to thank everyone who loves and supports me, especially during this time of financial hardship for our family. My mom works at my ice rink in exchange for my ice time and my coaching team is banning together to help my mom with my training expenses. I love them all so much and I hope to be able to give back to them some day, in some way.

### What are some of your future skating goals and what you plan to do to attain them?

My immediate skating goal is to have my double axel clean and consistent for the Southwest Regional Championships. Then, I want my triple Salchow consistent for Nationals. I am always practicing, whether it's on the ice, in the ballet studio, in my visuali-

See *Justin* on page 11

## Volunteers of the Year Nominees 2011

Each year since 1984 the Mira Mesa Town Council has held an annual dinner to recognize special volunteers who make this community a better place. The Volunteer of the Year is someone who has made a significant contribution to Mira Mesa through volunteer work, not just during the past year but over the years s/he has been involved with the community. This year the following volunteers have been nominated for this award:



**Julius Hitchens** - Julius Hitchens has been involved with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 285 of Mira Mesa for over 15 years. He has held several positions within the organization, such as Coach Administrator and Division Coordinator, and currently sits on the Board of Directors as Assistant Regional Commissioner. He has also been a referee for AYSO soccer games. Mira Mesa AYSO plays host to one of the largest soccer tournaments in the region, the Top Gun Tournament, held annually on Memorial Day weekend, where Julius can be seen as Top Gun Tournament Director and Coach. Both his boys (BU19) and girls (GU19) teams brought home championship medals in the 21st Annual Top Gun Tournament this past year. Julius has spent the past seven years coaching the Mira Mesa High School Boys Varsity and JV Soccer teams and six years coaching the Mira Mesa High School Boys and Girls Golf teams. Julius has volunteered as a member of the Board of the Tiburon Homeowners Association for the last eight years. Julius and his family have resided in Mira Mesa for 17 years and run a family business at Top Gun Realty.

**Judy Taylor** - As a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) Judy Taylor is the extra eyes and ears of sworn police officers. She patrols area schools and banks, and does homeland security checks on storage tanks, pumping stations and electrical sub stations. She does vacation house checks and patrols shopping malls. She checks on the welfare of shut-ins, mostly seniors, who can no longer go out on their own. Judy is also president of the Mira Mesa Golden Friends. She gives rides to those who no longer drive and stays with shut-ins who have caregivers, allowing the caregiver a needed break to do other things. Judy organizes the setup of two RSVP booths at the Mira Mesa Street Fair, where she does fingerprinting of young children to create a fingerprint record for the parents. Judy moved to Mira Mesa in May of 1971 with her husband and three children. She started the Mira Mesa Women's Softball League in 1974. She was President, Vice President and Treasurer of Walker Elementary School PTA. She was den mother for Cub Scouts and Manager of Girls Softball teams. Judy graduated with honors from Miramar College in criminal justice and then transferred to SDSU to receive her BS degree. Judy was probation officer with the County of San Diego and after retiring became a substitute teacher. As a probation officer she started an award-winning program for pregnant teens who were using illegal substances, to break the cycle of substance abuse.



**Bari Vaz** - Bari Vaz moved to Mira Mesa from New Orleans in 2008 and rapidly became a leader in most of our community groups. She is now chair of the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group, first vice president of the Mira Mesa Town Council and chair of the Mira Mesa Fourth of July committee, Vice Chairman of the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce, and represents Mira Mesa as an Ambassador for the San Diego Foundation's "Our Greater San Diego Vision." She often hosts a Town Council booth at the Farmer's Market, spreading the word and encouraging new people to participate in our community organizations. She chaired a Planning Group subcommittee that reviewed the future high occupancy vehicle onramp to Interstate 15, working for months to develop mitigation plans. She chaired the Town Council redistricting subcommittee, attending almost all of the City Redistricting Committee meetings, with her efforts leading to a result beneficial to our community. Bari lived in New Orleans prior to coming to Mira Mesa and was just as active in that community, among other efforts helping residents with the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

## LOCAL NUMBERS

### Emergency Services

Police/Fire/EMS ..... 9-1-1  
 Poison Control ..... 1-800-222-1222

### Utilities

Fire hydrant open ..... 619-515-3525  
 Gas leak ..... 800-411-7343  
 Power/phone line downed ..... 619-811-8081  
 Tree limbs in power lines ..... 800-411-7343

### Nuisances

Animal, dangerous ..... 619-236-2341  
 Animal, dead ..... 858-492-5060  
 .....5pm-7am or weekends & holidays: 619-573-1276  
 Animal manure (dog) ..... 619-338-2283  
 Animal, rodents/rats ..... 858-694-2888  
 Building abandoned or dangerous ..... 619-236-5500  
 Car abandoned or inoperative ..... 858-495-7856  
 Noise (loud) ..... 619-236-5564  
 Code Compliance ..... 619-236-5500  
 Trash: uncollected, overflowing dumpster, trash-  
 strewn lot, or recyclables ..... 858-492-5055

### General County Services Information

2-1-1 San Diego ..... 2-1-1

### Streets & Environment

Bus shelter damaged ..... 619-231-1466  
 Manhole cover missing or damaged ..... 619-515-3525  
 Street, flooded ..... 619-527-7500  
 Street, light out (see below for traffic lights) .... 619-527-7500  
 Street, pothole ..... 619-527-7500  
 Street, sink hole or collapse ..... 619-515-3525  
 Street, traffic light non-functioning ..... 619-525-8650  
 Swimming Pools..... 858-689-6296  
 Weeds overgrown, fallen trees, or clogged  
 storm drain ..... 619-527-7500

### Criminal Activity

Police Community Relations Office, NE..... 858-538-8120  
 Police Community Relations Office, NW..... 858-523-7031  
 Suspected Arson ..... 1-800-472-7766 (47ARSON)  
 Gangs ..... 619-531-2847  
 Graffiti ..... 619-525-8522  
 Non-emergency crime or suspicious activity e.g.  
 belligerent person, car/building alarm,  
 nuisance bar, underage drinking ..... 858-484-3154

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### **City Council District 5: Carl DeMaio**

Ph. (619) 236-6655, Fax (619) 238-0915  
 E-mail: [carldemaio@sandiego.gov](mailto:carldemaio@sandiego.gov)  
 Website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd5/index.shtml>  
*Representative to Mira Mesa John Ly, [JwLy@sandiego.gov](mailto:JwLy@sandiego.gov)*

### **San Diego Unified School District Board,**

#### **District A: John Lee Evans**

Ph: (619) 725-5550, Fax (619) 297-5624  
 E-mail: [johnleeevans@sandi.net](mailto:johnleeevans@sandi.net)  
 District Website: <http://www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/>  
 Website: <http://www.sandi.net/board/evans.pdf>

### **San Diego Community College District Board,**

#### **District B: Bill Schwandt**

[bschwand@sdccd.edu](mailto:bschwand@sdccd.edu)  
 Website: <http://www.sdccd.cc.ca.us/public/district/trustees/schwandt.html>

### **Governor: Jerry Brown**

State Capitol Building, Suite 1873, Sacramento, 95814  
 Ph: (916) 445-2841, Fax: (916) 445-4633  
*Local office:* 1350 Front St., Suite 6054, Sixth Floor  
 San Diego 92101  
 Ph: (619) 525-4641  
 Website: [www.governor.ca.gov](http://www.governor.ca.gov).

### **Congressman, 50th District: Brian Bilbray**

San Diego County Office: 462 Stevens Ave. Suite 107  
 Solana Beach, CA 92075  
 Ph: (858) 350-1150 Fax (858) 350-0750  
 E-mail via website: <http://www.house.gov/bilbray>  
*Field Representative: Will Zasadny*  
[Will.Zasadny@mail.house.gov](mailto:Will.Zasadny@mail.house.gov)

### **Mayor, City of San Diego: Jerry Sanders**

Ph: (619) 236-6330 Fax: (619) 236-7228  
 E-mail: [JerrySanders@sandiego.gov](mailto:JerrySanders@sandiego.gov)  
 Website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/>  
*Representative to Mira Mesa: Nancy Gudino*  
[ngudino@sandiego.gov](mailto:ngudino@sandiego.gov)

### **State Assembly, 75th District:**

#### **Nathan Fletcher**

9909 Mira Mesa blvd., Ste. 130, San Diego, CA 92131  
 Ph: (858) 689-6290, Fax: (858) 689-6296  
 Website: : <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/fletcher>  
 Ph: (916) 319-2075.  
*Field Representative: Chasen Bullock,*  
[Chasen.Bullock@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Chasen.Bullock@asm.ca.gov)

### **State Senate, 39th District: Christine Kehoe**

2445 Fifth Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101  
 Ph: (619) 645-3133 Fax: (619) 645-3144  
*Representative to Mira Mesa: Andrew Kennerly*

### **County Supervisor District 3:**


#### **Pam Slater-Price**

Ph: (619) 531-5533  
 E-mail: [pam-slater@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:pam-slater@co.san-diego.ca.us)  
 Website: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup3/>  
*Representative to Mira Mesa: Nadia Moshirian*



### **County Supervisor District 4: Ron Roberts**

S.D. County Administration Center: 1600 Pacific Highway  
 Room 335, San Diego, CA. 92101  
 Ph: (619)531-5544  
 E-mail: [ron-roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:ron-roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
 Web site: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup4/>  
*Field Representative: Lauren Prescott*

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December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <u>Greetings! (Opening Night Gala)</u> - 5:30 p.m	<b>2</b> <u>Fil-Am Sr. Citizens Assn</u> - 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Greetings!</u> - 7 p.m
<b>4</b> <u>FAASDNC Meeting</u> - 12 pm, Mira Mesa Recreation Center <u>Brian Bilbray USO Pancake Breakfast</u> - 9 am	<b>5</b> <u>Mira Mesa Town Council</u> - 7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	<b>6</b> <u>Golden Friends</u> - 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Mira Mesa Maintenance Assessment District</u> - 7 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	<b>7</b> <u>Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch</u> - 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <u>Greetings!</u> - 7 p.m	<b>10</b> <u>Greetings!</u> - 7 p.m
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <u>Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors</u> - 6:45 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	<b>13</b> <u>Golden Friends</u> - 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Epicentre Oversight Committee</u> - call for information <u>Mira Mesa Women's Club</u> - 7 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Friends of the Library</u> - 7 pm, Mira Mesa Library <u>Recreation Council</u> - 7 pm, Lopez Ridge Rec Center <u>Black Mountain Masonic Lodge #845 F. &amp; A.M.</u> - 7:30 pm, Mission Valley Scottish Rites Center	<b>14</b> <u>Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch</u> - 6:30 am, Mimi's Restaurant <u>Exchange Club of San Diego</u> - 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant	<b>15</b> <u>Mira Mesa Theatre Guild</u> - 6 pm, location varies	<b>16</b> <u>Greetings!</u> - 7 p.m	<b>17</b> <u>Greetings!</u> - 7 p.m
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <u>Mira Mesa Community Planning Group</u> - No meeting this month, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205	<b>20</b> <b>CHANUKAH BEGINS</b> <u>Golden Friends</u> - 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce</u> - 7:00 am Mimi's Café, 10788 Westview Pkwy	<b>21</b> <u>Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch</u> - 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	<b>22</b> <u>Sr Center Board of Governors</u> - 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Community Pride</u> - 6:30 pm, call for location <u>Black Mountain Democratic Club</u> - 7 pm, Mesa Village Rec Hall 1	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b> <b>KWANZAA BEGINS</b> <u>Mira Mesa Cluster Schools Council</u> - 6 pm, Mira Mesa High School Media Room	<b>27</b> <b>CHANUKAH ENDS</b> <u>Golden Friends</u> - 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center <u>Banned Book Club</u> - no meeting this month, Mira Mesa Library	<b>28</b> <u>Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch</u> - 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant <u>Exchange Club of San Diego</u> - 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant <u>Mira Mesa Banner District</u> - 6:30 pm, location TBD	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>



Highlights of the Nov. 7, 2011 MMTC Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Minutes from September meeting, by acclamation
- Recognition of our "Business of the Month" - Target

**MMTC ELECTIONS** – The following people were elected to the indicated positions for the 2012 MMTC Board of Directors.

- President: Ted Brengel (re-elected)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Bari Vaz (re-elected)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Maria Pankau (re-elected)
- Recording Secretary : Jerry Ollinger
- Treasurer: Jeffrey Stevens (re-elected)
- Newsletter Editor: Alexander Nguyen
- Parliamentarian: Jon Labaw (re-elected)
- Members at Large: Brandy Ludwick, Christina Keene, Christiane Hoffman, Jennifer Kvalvik (re-elected)

### RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS (SDPD)

- SDPD – a representative from SDPD was present and though he did not make a presentation, he did make himself available for questions

### PRESENTATION – MIRA MESA 2020

- Ted Brengel, Jeff Stevens, and John Leppert provided thumbnail sketches of projects that are either under construction in Mira Mesa or are planned for development in the not-too-distant future. Projects included Casa Mira View, Sorrento Heights, and Stone Creek

### RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

- Councilmember Carl DeMaio (John Ly)
  - Councilman Carl DeMaio will have a press conference Nov. 10 regarding the park expansion. Money for the Community Park could be locked in by next year. \$4.4 million for Phase 1 and \$9.5 million for Phase 2 (including pool).
- Congressman Brian Bilbray (Will Zasadny)
  - Congressman Brian Bilbray with Bridgepoint Education and The USO Council of San Diego will be presenting Christmas for the Corps Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at MCAS Miramar Officers Club, Building 4472 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Please bring an unwrapped new toy to the event for our young marines and their families. RSVP to Will Zasadny at Will.Zasadny@yahoo.com

### ADJOURNMENT (9:00 P.M.)



*Photo credit: Alexander Nguyen*

'Greetings!' stars (top to bottom) Gregory Batty, Emily Jefferys, Haig Koshkarian, Elouise Potomac and Sean Sterling.

## Theatre Guild returns to stage with holiday comedy, 'Greetings!'

By Alexander Nguyen

After a decade of being dark, the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild is returning to the stage with a holiday comedy, "Greetings!"

"Greetings!" by Tom Dudzick is a story about young man who has a sweet Catholic mother, a sour Catholic father, and a severely retarded younger brother. When he brings his Jewish atheist fiancée to meet the folks on Christmas Eve, his worst fears about family blow ups are realized. A visit from "an old friend" sets about healing the family in unexpected ways.

To mark this historic moment, we invite you all to come to our Opening Night Gala on Dec. 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the EpiCentre before the show opens. It's a catered event where you can enjoy dinner, drinks and then watch the show afterwards. Catering for the event will be Happy's Sushi, Mira Mesa's favorite sushi spot. Tickets are \$35 per person pre-sale, \$40 at the door and the show is included in the price.

"Greetings!" performs at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 2 through Dec. 17. Tickets are \$15 per person, \$12 for Military and Mira Mesa Town Council Members.

### **Raffle drawing date extended**

To raise money to build to build a performing arts center in Mira Mesa, the Theatre Guild is raffling off an Apple iPad 2 to raise money. The drawing date has been extended to Dec. 17, the closing night of "Greetings!"

Tickets are \$10 each. To buy a ticket, send check or money order to: Mira Mesa Theatre Guild Inc., PO Box 261482 San Diego, CA 92196-1482.

For more info about the show or official raffle rules, visit [www.miramesatheatreguild.org](http://www.miramesatheatreguild.org) or call (858) 754-9228.

## High school honored with two awards

By Jennifer Kvalvik

The California Department of Education (CDE) through a very stringent selection process has honored some of the states most inspiring public schools.

Based on Academic Performance Index and federal standards Mira Mesa High School has been named a 2011 **California Distinguished School** and is concurrently awarded for its **Exemplary Career Technical Educational Program**.

Only seven schools in the State of California received both of these honors. We are very proud of our students, staff and the community of Mira

Mesa. There are two plaques that will be presented and placed into the wall of the school administration building.

We would like for you to join us in a celebration of our success on Thursday, Dec 15 at 1 p.m, in front of the Mira Mesa High School Administration Office off Reagan Road. We look forward to hearing inspiring words from SDUSD Superintendent Bill Kowba and Councilmember Carl De Maio at the celebration.

Reception will follow sponsored by Chick-fil-A.

For Questions and to RSVP please contact Jennifer Kvalvik at [jkvalvik@sandi.net](mailto:jkvalvik@sandi.net) or call 858-566-2262 ext 4419.

## Mira Mesa pageant looking for participants

By Maria Pankau

The Mira Mesa Town Council and the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce are proud to present the Miss Mira Mesa/Miss Mira Mesa Teen Pageant. The pageant will take place on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 (postponed from September, 2011) at Country Inn and Suites, 5975 Lusk Blvd., San Diego, CA 92121.

This pageant, a stepping stone to the Miss Greater San Diego, Miss California and Miss America pageants, will not only serve to instill poise and pride to the young women of our community, it will also allow them to compete for scholarship(s) with which

to further their education.

During their year reign, Miss and Miss Mira Mesa Teen will represent Mira Mesa and be the "Face of Our Community" during happenings, grand openings and other area events. Upon the completion of their reign, they will have the chance and entry fee to compete in the Miss Greater San Diego/Miss Greater San Diego Teen pageant should they wish to do so.

Applications are available now at [www.miramesa-towncouncil.org/miss\\_mira\\_mesa.html](http://www.miramesa-towncouncil.org/miss_mira_mesa.html)

For additional information please contact Maria Pankau at [mgpankau@hotmail.com](mailto:mgpankau@hotmail.com).

## Parks: Expansion will happen sooner than later, Councilman DeMaio says

*Continued from page 1*  
building.

DeMaio is working to secure construction funding for the park improvements sooner rather than later and to create partnerships between the city and local non-profits and services organizations to operate and maintain the new facilities. Representatives of Mira Mesa Youth Baseball, Mira Mesa West Little League, and the Rancho Family YMCA were in attendance as DeMaio spoke with a backdrop of the current Little League ball fields behind him.

Also in attendance were representatives of developers whose project fees will help fund the park upgrade, as well as civic and community leaders including Mira Mesa Town Council President Ted Brengel, Recreation Council Chair Joe Frichtel, longtime community leader Bruce Brown, and Mira Mesa High School Athletics Director Dan Regas.

"Welcome to San Diego's

finest neighborhood to raise a family," said John Horst, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group secretary and president of Mira Mesa Youth Baseball.

"When I took office I made a commitment to tackle Mira Mesa's park deficit," DeMaio said.

The current Mira Mesa Community Park opened in 1977 when Mira Mesa had a population of 37,500. Today Mira Mesa's population is approaching 80,000. New neighborhood parks have been built, and Hourglass Field Community Park with the Ned Baumer Aquatic Center was developed as a joint use facility on the southeast corner of the Miramar College campus.

Initial plans to build a community park and swimming pool next to Challenger Middle School, however, fell through due to restrictions on building an active use park on land that was discovered to be prime vernal pool habitat. The Mira Mesa Community Park

upgrade and building the swimming pool there was planned as a result. Funding was scheduled to come from the Mira Mesa FBA (Facilities Benefit Assessment), but slower development in the past decade resulted in insufficient FBA fees to start the project. Now that's about to change.

Mira Mesa FBA fees paid by Garden Communities, the developers of Casa Mira View, the multi-family complex in northeast Mira Mesa now under construction north of Best Buy, will enable the construction of the first phase of the park upgrade.

Phase One includes the renovation of the ball fields, a new jogging trail, a comfort station, additional parking, an upgraded concession stand (a funding source for non-profit sports groups who will be partnering on maintenance of the facilities), storage facilities and a playground. DeMaio said construction on

Phase I could begin within a year to 18 months.

Phase Two of the project will be the construction of the aquatic center/community swimming pool, including relocation of the basketball courts, as well as construction of a skate plaza. Phase Three will be the construction of the field house/gymnasium.

Funding for these later phases, also slated to come from the Mira Mesa FBA, might be speeded up through a development agreement process for the Stone Creek mixed use residential/commercial development in Carroll Canyon now in the planning stages by Vulcan Materials.

It's possible that Vulcan might agree to pay fees "up front" rather than as development occurs. The Mira Mesa Community Planning Group and its Stone Creek subcommittee are actively reviewing plans for that major development

Fran Laporga-Ching  
**A1 Storage**  
 9701 Camino Ruiz  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 619-287-8873  
 Fran@A1Storage.com

Jason Long/Christina Renken  
**Bangin' Burgers**  
 7070 Miramar Rd.  
 San Diego, CA 92121  
 858-578-8000  
 Jason@bangin-burgers.com

Tommy Mooney  
**Being Fit Fitness Center**  
 8292 Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-549-3456  
 beingfitmm@hotmail.com

Jeff Mudd  
**Best-Rate Repair Co., Inc.**  
 4580 Alvarado Canyon Rd, #K  
 San Diego, CA 92120  
 619-229-0116  
 Best\_RateforJeff@yahoo.com  
 www.best-rate-repair.com

Bart Conn  
**Biophysics Chiropractic**  
 5820 Oberlin Dr # 204  
 San Diego, CA 92121  
 858-678-8900

Jerry Ollinger  
**Black Mountain Democratic Club**  
 PO Box 261988  
 San Diego, CA 92126-0000  
 858-245-8979

Howard McGill  
**Black Mountain Masonic Lodge #845 F&AM**  
 Scottish Rite Center  
 1895 Camino del Rio South  
 San Diego, CA 92108  
 858-271-6573

Chris Yu  
**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Unlimited**  
 7060 Miramar Rd. Suite 210  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-245-2107  
 bjjunlimited@gmail.com

Ted Brengel  
**\*Brengel Productions**  
 11975 Thomas Hayes Ln.  
 San Diego, CA 92121  
 619-985-4094  
 Ted@TedBrengel.com

Ilana Rosenfield/Damon Morris  
**California Solar Innovations**  
 6440 Lusk Blvd #101  
 San Diego, CA 92121  
 858-535-5356  
 liana@csigreenliving.com  
 www.csigreenliving.com

Brent Baillio  
**\*Chick-Fil-A**  
 10750 Camino Ruiz  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-566-7800  
 02656@chick-fil-a.com  
 www.chick-fil-a.com

Lark Mayeski  
**\*Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church and Academy**  
 9028 Westmore Rd.  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-566-1741  
 www.ctc-academy.org

Fe' Haynes  
**Creative Memories Scrapbooks & Digitals**  
 9023 Mesa Woods Ave.  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-271-0766  
 cmfe@san.rr.com

Carl Montgomery  
**Coastal Kona Ice**  
 13115 Shalimar Place  
 San Diego, CA 92014  
 858-793-1335  
 konacoastal@gmail.com

Sharon Collins  
**\*Collins Family Jewelers**  
 8220 Mira Mesa Blvd Ste A  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-578-6670  
 sharoncfj@sbcglobal.net

Therese Warah  
**Comerica Bank**  
 9350 Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-577-0234  
 thereseawah@comerica.com

Norma Torres/Jen Martin  
**COSTCO**  
 12155 Tech Center Dr.  
 Poway, CA 91942  
 858-848-2451  
 w775mbr@costco.com

Maria Elena Davo  
**\*Davo Family Child Care**  
 8924 Cord Ln.  
 San Diego, CA. 92126  
 858-695-1930  
 manenadavo@aol.com

Vanessa Huff  
**eLiveLife**  
 619-450-3114  
 info@elivelife.com

Brahna Derr  
**Exchange Club of San Diego**  
 PO Box 262266  
 San Diego, CA. 92196  
 619-258-8674  
 brahna@tomsmm.com  
 www.xcsd.org

Tom Yanagihara  
**Finest City Kettle Corn**  
 8729 Blue Lake Dr  
 San Diego, CA. 92119  
 619-480-0880  
 poppingcorn@cox.net

Lois M Knowlton and Kathryn Holt  
**The Friends of Adult Day Health Care Centers**  
 4506 Nebo Dr.  
 La Mesa, CA 91941  
 619-466-3094 (H)  
 858-748-5044 (W)  
 loisknow@aol.com

Pat Watkins  
**Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve**  
 pwwatkins2008@gmail.com

Caroline Grondin  
**\*Grondin Construction**  
 9235 Trade Place  
 San Diego, CA. 92126  
 858-549-1682  
 grondinconstruction@msn.com

Liz Oh  
**groSolar, Inc.**  
 415-307-0288  
 liz@solarmarketinggroup.com

Bruce Ackerman  
**Horizon Hospice**  
 13053 Poway Road #A  
 Poway, CA 92064  
 858-748-3030

Seva Soto  
**Kids Against Hunger**  
 10907 Tobago  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-530-2028  
 sevasoto@dslextreme.com

Marcelle Rhinesmith  
**Kiwanis Club of Scripps Mesa**  
 9974 Scripps Ranch Blvd #28  
 San Diego, CA 92131  
 858-752-2338  
 mmfish@sbcglobal.net

Ted Wang  
**Loving Hut**  
 9928 Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92131  
 858-578-8885  
 sandiego\_02@lovinghut.us

Mark James  
**Magical Moments Professional DJ Services**  
 7435 Andasol St  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-353-1287  
 Djmarkjames@aol.com

Dr. Robert Simmons  
**Miramar Chiropractic and Health Center**  
 9484 Black Mtn. Rd. #1  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-566-2446

Terri Clark  
**Mira Mesa Christian School**  
 9696 Candida St  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-578-0262  
 MMCSAdmin@sbcglobal.net

Marvin Miles  
**Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce**  
 9450 Mira Mesa Blvd,  
 Suite B, #118  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-429-5759  
 info@MiraMesaChamber.com

Esther Alameddin  
 Joyce Gonzales  
**Mira Mesa High School Foundation**  
 PMB 264  
 10606-8 Camino Ruiz  
 San Diego, CA. 92126  
 858-735-3923  
 ealameddin@gmail.com

Jennifer Kvalvik  
**Mira Mesa High School**  
 10525 Reagan Rd  
 San Diego, CA. 92126  
 858-566-2262 x4419  
 jkvalvik@sandi.net

Michelle Tsai  
**Mira Mesa Living**  
 editor@MiraMesaLiving.com  
 www.MiraMesaLiving.com

Brad Roth  
**Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church**  
 8081 Mira Mesa Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-271-0194  
 www.mmpcusa.com

Brett Feuerstein  
**Mira Mesa Shopping Center**  
 8294 Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-271-4682  
 brett@mesacenters.com

Alexander Nguyen  
**\*Mira Mesa Theatre Guild**  
 P. O. Box 261482  
 San Diego, CA 92196-1482  
 858-222-4815  
 info@miramesatheatreguild.org

Kristyn Drechsler  
**Navy Federal Credit Union**  
 8260-A Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92196  
 858-537-3838  
 Kristyn\_Drechsler@navyfederal.org

Darrel Larson  
**Newbreak Church**  
 10791 Tierrasanta Blvd #104  
 San Diego, CA 92124  
 858-576-0007  
 darrel@newbreak.org

Andrew McAtee  
**Pacific Coast Theatre Company**  
 858-863-7282  
 amcatee@pacificcoasttheatre.com

Phil Lisotta  
**Qualcomm, Inc.**  
 5775 Morehouse Dr.  
 San Diego, CA. 92121  
 858-845-6240  
 plisotta@qualcomm.com

Susan Fantus  
**Rancho Family YMCA**  
 9410 Fairgrove Ln.  
 San Diego, CA. 92129  
 858-484-8788  
 sfantus@ymca.org

Brooke Chambless  
**\*RC Realty of San Diego**  
 8250-B Mira Mesa Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-722-9322  
 BrookesDCA@aol.com

Sandy Smith  
**\*RC Realty**  
 8250-B Mira Mesa Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-361-5229  
 sandysmith92126@gmail.com  
 www.sandysmith92126.com

Gail M Hernandez  
**Relay For Life/Mira Mesa—  
 Rancho Penasquitos**  
 8843 Corvus Place  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-382-4245  
 giggles03553@yahoo.com

**San Diego County Family  
 Child Care**  
 9972 Avenida Magnifica  
 San Diego, CA 92131  
 858-695-2252  
 deeds2000@aol.com

Tom Derr  
**San Diego Herpetological Society**  
 PO Box 503835  
 San Diego, CA. 92150  
 619-933-1213  
 tom@tomsmm.com  
 www.sdherpsociety.org

Sean Kaye  
**SK Digital, Inc.**  
 7686 Miramar Road  
 San Diego, CA. 92126-4202  
 858-408-0732

Jackie Paras & Mandeep Walia  
**Sorrento Valley  
 Pain Relief Center**  
 5955 Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92121  
 858-404-5944  
 Jackie  
 @sorrentovalleypainrelief.com

Mitch Belding  
**Sunfusion Solar**  
 2707 Garnet Avenue  
 San Diego, CA. 92109  
 858-754-9902

Mario Aguirre  
**Sylvan Learning Center of  
 Mira Mesa**  
 9430 Mira Mesa Blvd, Ste 5B  
 San Diego, CA. 92126  
 858-566-4116  
 sylvanmiramesa  
 @knowledgeboost.org

Tom Derr  
**\*Tom's Master Mechanics**  
 5820 Autoport Mall  
 San Diego, CA 92131  
 858-566-1653  
 www.tomsmm.com

Ken Harmaning  
**TOPS**  
 10295 Caminito Toranjo  
 San Diego, CA 92121-2514  
 858-450-9494  
 wharmani@san.rr.com

Collin Purple  
**United Studios of Self Defense**  
 9870 Hibert St., Suite D7  
 San Diego, CA 92131  
 858-271-8677  
 ussdscripps@gmail.com

Taylor Bullock  
**US Bank—Albertsons Office**  
 10740 Westview Parkway  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-530-8500  
 taylor.bullock@usbank.com

Michael Linton  
**Vulcan Materials**  
 3200 San Fernando Rd  
 Los Angeles, CA. 90065  
 323-474-3202  
 LintonM@VMCMail.com

Sophie Genicot  
**\*Walgreen's Pharmacy**  
 10787 Camino Ruiz  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-437-0761  
 mgr.11654@store.walgreens.com

Lynn Horn  
**Welcoming Services San Diego**  
 1281 Activity Drive  
 Vista, CA 92081  
 760-509-4682  
 marlyn  
 @welcomingservicesandiego.com

Shawn Bay  
**Wyndham Vacation Resorts**  
 911 5th Ave.  
 San Diego, CA 92101  
 619-564-3538

Andrew Samida  
**\*YogurtLand Mira Mesa**  
 8220-F Mira Mesa Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-566-6100  
 ylmiramesa@gmail.com

Brandon Stapper  
**858 Graphics**  
 9705 Carroll Centre Rd  
 Suite 101  
 San Diego, CA 92126  
 858-568-5133  
 Brandon@858graphics.com

Businesses whose names are  
 preceded by an asterisk offer  
 discounts to Mira Mesa Town  
 Council members who show  
 their current membership card.

## Justin: Needs help to attend National Championships in Detroit, Michigan

*Continued from page 4*

zations or anywhere else I can practice. I do jumps in the parking lot, at the grocery store, in my room and everywhere I can. It is in my blood and I love it!

I constantly ask my mom how I can earn additional time to train on the ice (because it costs \$10 an hour!) as a reward for getting my school work done or doing extra chores. I also listen to every word my coaches say to me and I use positive visualization.

### ***What is the most difficult situation you have faced and what did you learn from it?***

The most difficult situation that I have ever faced in my entire life was having to leave my house with just a suitcase with my mom. We left to get away from my dad because he was abusive. My parents are still going through a very scary divorce and it has been a long, hard, and tiring journey for my

mom and me.

Thank goodness my grandparents have been able to help us by giving us a place to live! I have learned the hard way that life's trials eventually make us stronger. My mom has taught me how to be resilient and be grateful for the blessings that we have. She even works at the rink in exchange for ice time for me! She says she is so grateful that the rink allows her to do that, and I am grateful that she works so hard for me to be able to skate.

So, I know that my job is to work as hard as I can because life is precious and my family relationships are precious. Nothing is more important than your family. I have also learned that sometimes change is good and not to be afraid of it. Sometimes, I just have to suck it up and move forward because life is not fair, but life is what we make of it.

◆  
 His mom, Juliann Cook-Ly, is trying to come up with funding to get Justin to the National Championship in Detroit from Dec 9 to Dec 15. He needs your help!

The estimate the total cost of the trip will be between \$3,000 and \$3,500. You can donate to Justin through the New England Amateur Skating Foundation. The Foundation is 501(c)3 and holds an account for Justin so that donors can receive tax exemption. Funds can be donated by sending a personal check, along with a separate note indicating that 100 percent of the money is



to be applied to Justin Frederick Ly's account. The address is:

New England Amateur Skating  
 Foundation  
 P.O. Box 6881  
 Providence, RI 02940-6881

**MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL—ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Primary Member/Contact Name	Companion Member Name(s)
Business/Corporation Name	E-mail Address
Address	Phone Number
City	State/Zip Code
Business/Cell Number	Date

**Membership Type (Circle Choices):**

Individual    Companion    Senior/Military/Student    Corporate/Business    Combined MMTC/MMCC (Corporate/Non-Profit Only)

**Rates (annual membership begins July 1 and ends June 30):**

Join Between:	Individual	Companion/Senior Military/Student	Corp/Bus	Corp/Bus Joint MMCC	Non-Profit Joint MMCC
May 15 - Aug 14	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$150.00	\$90.00
Aug 15 - Nov 14	\$15.00	\$7.50	\$37.50	\$112.50	\$67.50
Nov 15 - Feb 14	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$45.00
Feb 15 - May 14	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$22.50

If you choose a joint membership with the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce, you will be contacted to provide additional information required for your Chamber application.

Joint memberships are restricted to Corporation/Business or Non-Profit organizations.

Prorated rates are for new members only.

Any resident, business, or non-profit may join the Mira Mesa Town Council; members with addresses outside the Mira Mesa Community will be non-voting associate members. The Mira Mesa Town Council is a non-profit volunteer organization. Membership dues are used to defray the cost of operations such as printing and distributing the newsletter, maintaining the website ([www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org](http://www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org)) and other approved council expenses.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash / Check # \_\_\_\_\_ There will be a \$25 fee for all returned checks.



**Mira Mesa Town Council**  
**PMB 230**  
**10606-8 Camino Ruiz**  
**San Diego, CA 92126**

The MMTC would like to thank the Mira Mesa Shopping Center, LLC for their continuing support in providing postage for the MMTC newsletter.