Mira Mesa Town Council

January 2010

2010 is off to a great start with our very own city councilman. Yes, Carl DeMaio will be with us to bring us up-to-date on the current goings on at City Hall. He's been a busy man these past couple of years; he brought lots of ideas to the table when he began his tenure, and he can give details on what progress has been made and what needs to still be accomplished. So please join us on Monday, January 4, 2010 at Mira Mesa Library. The meeting begins at 7PM and this one, you don't want to miss.

Carl DeMaio, Councilmember, District 5

On June 3, 2008 Carl DeMaio was elected to the San Diego City Council to represent District 5. DeMaio's pledge to the voters was simple: Clean Up City Hall. His goals include balancing the budget, reforming the pension system, fixing crumbling infrastructure, and restoring ethics and accountability to every level of city government.

Outside of his work as a local government watchdog, DeMaio was a businessman who founded two multi-million dollar companies by the age of 30. In 2000, he founded the Performance Institute, a non-partisan, private think tank dedicated to reforming government through the principles of performance, transparency, competition, and accountability.

Carl DeMaio is an active member of the community helping with numerous non-profit organizations in San Diego. He has made constituent service a top priority in his Council office and is working to improve the quality of neighborhoods in his District.

City Budget Cuts to Change Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting Dates

Recent budget cuts by the City of San Diego include a reduction in the days of operation for public libraries, including our library in Mira Mesa. Beginning shortly after the first of the year, all public libraries in the City of San Diego will be CLOSED on Mondays. The first Monday of each month has traditionally been the meeting date for the Mira Mesa Town Council, so as a result of the budget cuts we must make a change to our meeting dates.

Beginning with the February, 2010 meeting, the Mira Mesa Town Council will now meet on the first TUESDAY of every month. Our next meeting will therefore be moved to February 2, 2010, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Our branch library has not yet received official notification of when the Monday closures are to begin. Therefore, please check the Mira Mesa Town Council website prior to our February meeting to confirm our next meeting date. Our website address is: www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org.

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Mira Mesa Town Council Meetings

Town Council meetings provide a public forum for community issues relating to civic, cultural, social, educational and recreational development and improvement in the area. Beginning in February, 2010, regular meetings will usually held the first Tuesday of each month at the Mira Mesa Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m., with no meeting held in July.

Agenda for the **January 4, 2010** meeting:

- **Carl DeMaio, City Councilman, District 5**
- **Installation of MMTC officers for 2010**

The next MMTC meeting is **Tuesday, February 2, 2010**

Visit us online at www.miramesatowncouncil.org

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

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

Mira Mesa Town Council

Annual Membership Application

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

Primary Member Name

Companion Member Name (s)

Address

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

☐ Address Change

City | State | Zip | Date

Home Phone | Work Phone | Email Address/Website

☐ Regular Individual ($20) with _____ Companion Members ($10 each)

☐ Senior (Age 60 and over — $10)

☐ Corporate/Business Member ($50)

☐ Associate Member (non-voting — $20)

There will be a $25 charge for all returned checks.

Check #_____ Amount: $_____.00

The Mira Mesa Town Council is a nonprofit volunteer organization. Membership dues are used to defray the costs of operation, such as printing and distributing the Newsletter, maintaining the website (www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org) and other approved council activities.

LOCAL NUMBERS

General County Services Information

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

Criminal Activity

Police Community Relations Office 858-538-8120
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

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 or 619-236-5500
Trash: uncollected, overflowing dumpster, trash-strewn lot, or recyclables 858-492-5055

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

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

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2009

PRESIDENT
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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 community groups include:

- **Banner District Committee**
- **Cluster Schools Council**
- **Community Planning Group**
- **Community Pride Committee**
- **Fourth of July Committee**
- **HEROES**
- **MMTC Street Fair Committee**
- **Maintenance Assessment District Committee**
- **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 6 for specific meeting times and locations.

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Ad Rates
(business card size)

One Time Placement $40.00
Three Times per Year $75.00
Full Year Subscription $150.00
(11 issues)

Please contact Jeff Stevens, jeffstev@san.rr.com, for more information.

San Diego Unified School District News
By John Lee Evans
San Diego Unified Trustee, District A

San Diego Unified is facing potentially massive budget cuts next school year unless the legislature decides otherwise. Cutting over $200 million dollars out of the budget would be like asking 40,000 students to stay home for the entire year. Trustee John Lee Evans held a Town Hall meeting in District A on December 8 where over 200 parents, teachers and community members showed up to discuss the budget crisis.

The Board is in the process of developing a priority-based budget. Rather than going through a long list of cuts, the Board is going to start with the basics and build from there. The participants were asked to indicate what were the absolute essentials for our schools. One of the biggest priorities that came up was to not increase class sizes any larger than they already are. Parents feel that the quality of instruction would not survive if the classes are too large. We must approach this crisis from the point of view of shared sacrifice on the part of employees, parents and the community.

A few months ago we were preparing to face a $63 million dollar cut, which would have been extremely difficult. We already have 1,000 fewer employees than last year and larger class sizes. We cut $150 million out of the last budget. But now one projection is that we will have to cut $222 million on top of that. If we raised class sizes, laid off teachers, eliminated music and the arts, athletics, GATE, librarians, counselors, nurses, vice principals, magnet programs and shortened the school year by a week... it would not come close to solving the problem.

And now the good news....many gains in state test scores were reported last summer. Science scores have been steadily rising over the last several years. Our eighth graders had some of the highest math scores in the nation among urban districts and our fourth graders did very well, too. Our teachers and students are moving forward in spite of this crisis.

More good news...the parents, teachers and community members were united at our town hall meetings in their willingness to fight for education. They realize that the solution lies in a combination of cuts and revenues. If the rules of Proposition 98 are followed our cuts will not be so severe. Proposition 98 was the voters' direction that education is the number one priority of state government and mandates minimum spending. The community is uniting to put the pressure on legislators who claim to support public education. A Mira Mesa cluster advisory committee has been formed to advocate for Mira Mesa schools. Contact ebasil@basilaw.com for more information. We need parent groups to visit our local legislators. You can find information on how to let your legislators know what you think on the District website, www.sandi.net. You can also read updates and post your comments on the John Lee Evans Blog by looking under Board of Education/John Lee Evans on the website.

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Continued on page 11

President's Message

By MMTC President Ted Brengel

I would like to begin by thanking Jeff Stevens not only for his outstanding service as President of MMTC, but also for his many years as an active volunteer in Mira Mesa. Of course Jeff will continue to help the Town Council this year by serving as our Treasurer.

Looking back at the President's messages of the past, it appears that little has changed in the past year. Unemployment is high, our city and state governments are basically broke, and there seems to be no agreement on how to fix the problem. I don't want to launch myself or the Town Council into the political morass of those budgetary issues; I think that our representatives are doing the best they can to sort things out. What is important to MMTC however is that more than ever the efforts of community volunteers will be required to keep Mira Mesa the kind of community we can all be proud of.

The Mira Mesa Town Council is one of the chief sources of volunteer effort in Mira Mesa. The events that the Town Council doesn't support directly are at least supported in the form of donations or volunteer assistance. In addition the Town Council is the chief point of contact for state and local elected representatives and state and local government departments with projects in Mira Mesa. In short, MMTC is *the* vital link between the community and its volunteer outreach and our government.

What I don't understand is that despite the vital position of the Town Council our membership has been steadily dropping albeit very slowly. That is a trend we must change. So, as we embark on a brand new year I would like to challenge our existing members to be *ambassadors* for MMTC by spreading the word about the Town Council, to talk with friends and neighbors about joining, and to encourage them to participate in community activities. I think that word-of-mouth is the best way to improve our membership picture, but as I am sure you will agree, word-of-mouth can only help a little. We are going to need some additional ideas to get things going and keep our membership high. So I also challenge you to come up with some ideas—changes we can implement to let people know how to get involved. Please provide those ideas to our new Membership Chairman, Second Vice President Maria Pankau.

As a closing note, there are many changes to City services being proposed right now. And as of this moment we simply do not know which will be implemented or exactly what form they might take. We believe that additional hours will be trimmed from those that our library is currently open but we are not sure of that nor do we know how the reduced hours might be implemented. We have been advised that one way to shave hours is to close the library on Mondays. Should this happen, the current plan will be to change our meeting night to Tuesday. Let me emphasize however, that nothing has been decided on this. As of right now the January Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4 at the Library at the usual time of 7:00 PM. Please give us your inputs on this. See you at the meeting.

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild Elects 2010 Officers, Invites All to January 21 Meeting

by Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Theatre Guild, Mira Mesa's own community theatre group since 1991, will hold a public general membership meeting and Board on Thursday, January 21, 6 p.m. at the Lopez Ridge Recreation Center, 7245 Calle Cristobal, San Diego CA 92126. Everyone interested in live local entertainment is welcome to attend! Anyone who'd like to become a member of Mira Mesa Theatre Guild can join for nominal annual dues and receive email updates about the non-profit group's activities.

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild currently produces the annual Monster Manor haunted attraction and "Lite Frite" for children each October. During its heyday a little over 10 years ago the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild produced a full season of plays each year at a storefront theatre in the Mira Mesa Mall. After losing that storefront when the Mall remodeled, the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild became a troupe without a permanent home. In 2010 the group is planning to produce its first play in nearly a decade. MMTG officers for 2010 were elected at the December 2009 meeting:

President—Trey Barkley
Vice-President—Lacey Coggins
Secretary—Alexander Tri Nguyen
Treasurer—Jeff Barkley
Community Liaison—Sandy Smith
Parliamentarian—Steve Rivette
Board Member at Large – Pam Stevens

In addition, the MMTG Board voted to have Mira Mesa Theatre Guild join Mira Mesa Town Council as an organizational/business member of MMTC in 2010, with Alexander Tri Nguyen as MMTG's designated representative. Either Alex (Tri) or Sandy Smith will give regular reports about upcoming Theatre Guild activities at Town Council meetings. For more information about Mira Mesa Theatre Guild and its programs, see www.miramesatheatreguild.org.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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

San Diego Unified School District Board, District A: John Lee Evans
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E-mail: board@sandi.net
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Website: http://www.sandi.net/board/evans.pdf

Mayor, City of San Diego: Jerry Sanders
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E-mail: JerrySanders@sandiego.gov
Website: http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/
Representative to Mira Mesa: Stephen Lew

San Diego Community College District Board, District B: Bill Schwandt
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County Supervisor District 3: Pam Slater-Price
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Representative to Mira Mesa: Erica Holloway

County Supervisor District 4—Ron Roberts
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Ph: (619) 525-4641
Website: www.governor.ca.gov.

Please Report
Abandoned Shopping Carts
(800) 252-4613

Visit the Mira Mesa Town Council website for more information

The Mira Mesa Farmer's Market will reopen on February 9, 2010 Information on hours of operation will appear in the next Mira Mesa Town Council Newsletter

Mira Mesa HEROES
by Mike Davis

Heroes come in all sizes and shapes in our community. While many of us are familiar with our local nonprofit, Mira Mesa HEROES, much of what they do is supported by only a few companies' support and donations – thus heroes in their own way. One such company is Richard & Richard Construction – and even as they are located in San Marcos, their commitment to helping others extends well beyond their own community.

Their generosity in rebuilding both of the two-story steps for Grace Chapel, an extensive undertaking with around a dozen folks working all day from their superb construction crew, is only surpassed by their community support and spirit in their own town. Where their "community support clients" list therein is very impressive – a partial list of those would include: Vista Boys & Girls Club; Vista & San Marcos Little League; San Marcos High School; Saint Judes; Oceanside Homeless Mothers; and Becky's House… and now our own Grace Chapel.

Established in 1991 in Oceanside, California, Richard & Richard Construction has earned a reputation for high-quality, affordable and responsive professional service. Since that time, the firm has expanded to include a total staff of over 50 employees and has completed more than 1200 commercial projects. The firm offers personalized, "small company" service, working with clients to develop, sensible and affordable solutions to construction challenges. The success of this approach is evident by the large number of repeat clients. Be sure to consider them when a high value and top notch quality result matters in any type of construction (http://www.rrconstruction.com/)

So sometimes the real heroes are those supporters behind the scenes, being a good neighbor with little fanfare, and facilitating the well-being of others. Richard & Richard Construction is just such a community hero. The many Grace Chapel parishioners, their youth and other outreach groups, and our whole community thanks them for being the model corporate citizen that they demonstrate over and over again. Helping us to make Mira Mesa a better place to live, work and play - one superb deed at a time.

To get involved within improving YOUR community, contact Mike Davis from Mira Mesa HEROES for any one of their upcoming projects. You can also use this link to suggest a project for consideration. (www.MiraMesaHeroes.org)

At left, photos from the December HEROES project at Grace Chapel. Our thanks to Richard and Richard Construction for their continued support of the Mira Mesa community and HEROES.

IS YOUR CHECKBOOK MORE BALANCED THAN YOUR 401(k)?

To learn how Edward Jones can help you make sense of your 401(k), call me today.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1 —New Year's Day
January 14—MMCPG Hillery DAR Subcommittee Meeting
January 18 —Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1ST MONDAY / January 4	**Town Council Meeting (MMTC)** — 1st Monday (no meeting in July) — Mira Mesa Library — 7:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday after library hours change
1ST TUESDAY / January 5	**Golden Friends (Senior Center)** — Every Tuesday (business meeting on 1st Tuesday) - Mira Mesa Senior Center—10:00 a.m. **Maintenance Assessment District** — 1st Tuesday, — Mira Mesa Senior Center— 7:00 p.m. (subject to change)
1ST WEDNESDAY / January 6	**Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch** — Every Wednesday —Mimi's Restaurant — 7:00 a.m.
2ND SATURDAY / January 9	**Fil-Am Sr. Citizens Assn** — 2nd Saturday — Mira Mesa Senior Center — 10:00 a.m.
2ND SUNDAY/ January 10	**FAASDNC Meeting**—12:00pm—Mira Mesa Recreation Center
2ND MONDAY January 11	**Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors**—Mira Mesa Senior Center—6:45 pm (6:00 pm at Library for September meeting)
2ND TUESDAY / January 12	**Golden Friends (Senior Center)** — Every Tuesday (business meeting on 1st Tuesday) - Mira Mesa Senior Center—10:00 am **Recreation Council (Parks)** — 2nd Tuesday —Lopez Ridge Rec. Center — 7:00 p.m. **Black Mountain Masonic Lodge #845 F.&A.M** — 2nd Tuesday — Mission Valley Scottish Rites Center — 7:30 pm
2ND WEDNESDAY / January 13	**Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch** — Every Wednesday —Mimi's Restaurant — 7:00 a.m. **4th of July Committee** — Mira Mesa Senior Center — 6:30 p.m. **Exchange Club of San Diego**—2nd and 4th Wednesday—Mandarin Garden Restaurant (Mira Mesa Blvd) — 6:30 pm
3RD TUESDAY / January 19	**Community Planning Group**—3rd Tuesday —Mira Mesa Senior Center—7:00 p.m. **Golden Friends (Senior Center)** — Every Tuesday (business meeting on 1st Tuesday) - Mira Mesa Senior Center—10:00 a.m. **Mira Mesa Women's Club** —3rd Tuesday - Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church — 7:00 p.m. **Teen Center (The Epicentre) Oversight Committee** — Call Epicenter for next meeting date and time. **Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce**—Location Varies—6:00pm
3RD WEDNESDAY / January 20	**Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch** — Every Wednesday —Mimi's Restaurant — 7:00 a.m. **Friends of the Library** —3rd Wednesday — Mira Mesa Library — 7:00 p.m. **Halloween Committee** — 3rd Wednesday — Mira Mesa Senior Center — 7:00 p.m.
3RD THURSDAY/ January 21	**Community Pride** — 3rd Thursday — 8605 Pagoda Way — 6:30 p.m. **Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee** —3rd Thursday, odd months — Penasquitos Adobe Ranch House, 7 p.m. **SR Center Board of Governors**— 3rd Thursday— Mira Mesa Senior Center **Black Mountain Democratic Club**-3rd Thursday-7-9 p.m., 10550 Caminito Flores (Mesa Village Rec. Hall 1)
4TH MONDAY/ January 25	**Banned book club** —Last Monday of each month except December at the Mira Mesa Library. 7 PM.
4TH TUESDAY / January 26	**Golden Friends (Senior Center)** — Every Tuesday (business meeting on 1st Tuesday) - Mira Mesa Senior Center—10:00 a.m. **Mira Mesa Theatre Guild** — 4th Tuesday — Mira Mesa Rec. Center — 6:30 p.m. (Board), 7:00 p.m. (General)
4TH WEDNESDAY / January 27	**Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch** — Every Wednesday —Mimi's Restaurant — 7:00 a.m. **Stake Holders** — 4th Wednesday, every other month —Mira Mesa Library, small conference room — 6:00 p.m. **Exchange Club of San Diego**—2nd and 4th Wednesday—Mandarin Garden Restaurant (Mira Mesa Blvd) — 6:30 pm
4TH THURSDAY January 28	**Street Fair committee (senior center)**-4th. Thursday—6:30 PM April through October

Mira Mesa Banned Book Club
by Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Banned Book Club, which currently meets the last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Branch Library, will likely change its regular monthly meeting to the last Tuesday of the month once branch libraries switch to their new schedule of being open Tuesday through Saturday. That change is anticipated to take place in late January/early February. Currently the Banned Book Club is scheduled to discuss Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," a portrait of the African-American experience in the twentieth century, on Monday, January 25. If new library hours go into effect as early as that week, the meeting date will shift to Tuesday, January 26, 7 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Library. (When branch libraries change to a Tuesday through Saturday schedule, Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be the days they are open from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.) Otherwise, Banned Book Club meetings will change to the last Tuesday starting in February with the group's discussion of the eighteenth century erotic classic, "Fanny Hill," by John Cleland, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23. Everyone who enjoys talking about thought-provoking books is welcome, drop-in visitors who'd like to discuss a particular title as well as regular participants. For more information, contact the Mira Mesa Branch Library, 858-538-8165, or email book group facilitator Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee meets January 21
by Pam Stevens

The bimonthly meeting of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee will take place Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the historic Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House, at the end of Canyonside Park Drive west of Black Mountain Road. Everyone interested in Mira Mesa's own "wild backyard," a joint City/County open space preserve, is invited to attend. For more information contact Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group representative on the LPCP CAC. Do you want to know more about the adobe? San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Ranch Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. If you're interested in a guided hike on one of the Preserve's many trails, contact the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 858-484-3219 or see www.penasquitos.org

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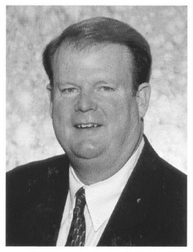

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Past MMTC Board Member
Past LMD Chair
Past Community Pride Chair
President—MM/SR RSVP "Foundation"
"Chief Graffiti Buster Since 1993"
"Ask for MMTC Discount"

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Highlights of the December 7, 2009 MMTC Meeting

POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS

Police Department (Officer Susan Steffen)
- Series of burglaries in the industrial area; perpetrators smash bottom office windows and remove office equipment & laptops.
- Criminals following UPS and Fedex trucks, stealing packages left on porches or doorsteps if no one is at home.
- City budget cuts may reduce staff at storefronts and cause staff "sharing" between several storefronts.

SD Fire Department (Capt. Myers)
- No report

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

City Councilman Carl DeMaio (John Ly)
- Fire Department "brown-outs" will cause 8 of 13 units to close 1 day each week; one of two units at 44 affected.
- Park and Rec cell phone revenues that previously went to the community affected will now go to the General Fund, as will vending and recycling revenues from parks and recreation centers; community will no longer receive funds.
- Mounted Police and Harbor Police to be eliminated; civilian force will be reduced, and academy may be closed.
- Salk Elementary—MOU signed, and an appeal was filed with the 9th Circuit Court; awaiting a court date.
- Canyon Hills Park WILL get benches and tables.
- Since U-T story regarding non-payment of $4 million to City, the largest debtors have "paid up".
- Pension and Retiree Health Care MUST be reformed for long-term improvement of the City's financial crisis.

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)
- "State of the County Address" to be held in Mira Mesa—Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Qualcomm Hall.
- Critical service area cuts may be necessary due to the budget crisis; public safety will be maintained, but other areas such as libraries may be affected.
- "Oxy Task Force" - fight oxycontin and oxycodone abuse by teens stealing prescription drugs from older adults. October 19 was the launch of prescription drug "take backs", where old prescription drugs are turned in for disposal; 419 lbs collected. Another "take back" will be scheduled in the near future. Police recently broke up a "counterfeit prescription" ring run by teenagers; Supervisor is exploring ways to fund treatment programs, such as grants from the S. D. Foundation.
- Property Taxes are due December 10, 2009.
- Congratulations to Jeff on his service as MMTC President; reminder to audience to "Volunteer!"

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Farmer's Market (Cathy)
- Last Farmer's Market for the year is on December 15; will resume on February 9, 2010.

Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel)
- Next Recreation Council meeting will be held on Friday, December 18, at 7 p.m.
- "Thank You" to Carl/John for convincing the County Water Authority to fulfill their promise of benches and tables for Canyon Hills Park.

Peñasquitos Canyon (Pam Stevens)
- Trails are closed due to the recent rain; the creek is currently 9 feet above normal.
- The "Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon" brochure is now available; "Friends" now own 8 parcels of land on north side of canyon.

Mira Mesa Library (Pam Stevens)
- "Banned Book Club" - no meeting in December; the book for January is "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison.

RSVP (John Sunde)
- Code Compliance Officers are "on the chopping block" with the upcoming City budget cuts; please contact the City Council and let them know how valuable these officers are to our community.

Fourth of July Committee (Sandy Smith)
- "Casino Night" fundraiser is now a project of the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce; it is scheduled for March 12, 2010.
- Monster Manor was quite successful ($15,000) despite the roof problems. The Theatre Guild may continue funding the Fourth of July events as its main charitable endeavor.

Mira Mesa Community Planning Group (Bari Vaz)
- Final Hillery DAR Subcommittee meeting to be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at Qualcomm. Further information will be posted on the MMTC website after the first of the year.

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS

Election to fill vacant office for 2010 (Jeff Stevens)
- Motion to appoint Hang Chau as Recording Secretary for 2010; moved by Chuck, seconded by Brad, approved by membership.

Selection of "Volunteer of the Year" (Jeff Stevens)
- Ballots were collected from MMTC members present; Sandy Smith was selected as "Volunteer of the Year".

RETIRED VOLUNTEER SENIOR PATROL (John Sunde)

John Sunde presented an overview of the RSVP program, and the group which serves Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, and Sorrento Mesa. The group reports to Officer Susan Steffen and works out of the storefront on Mira Mesa Boulevard. Services provided to the community by RSVP include:
- Assistance to SDPD in the event of county-wide disaster, missing persons, etc. RSVP also assists with searches for missing persons and patrolled at Mira Mesa High School during the fire evacuations.
- RSVP can provide a "Color Guard" for events, issues disabled parking citations, provides YANA (You Are Not Alone) visits, performs vacation house checks on request, and performs security checks of substations and pumping stations.
- RSVP supplements law enforcements; they do not carry weapons, only radios and cell phones. Their presence helps deter crime by scaring away the "bad guys" who don't like to be seen while committing their crimes.
- RSVP members work three 8-hour shifts and attend one 2-hour training session per week. RSVP members must be 50+, retired or semi-retired, pass a background check and attend a 40-hour training course.
- RSVP members asked that community members contact the City Council to ask that Public Service Officers NOT be cut as part of the upcoming budget; loss of these officers will require patrol officers to be taken off of the street to do basic reports and perform other duties now performed by the PSO's, thereby reducing the number of officers protecting the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Mira Mesa Maintenance Assessment District (Tom Derr)
- Tom Derr presented the proposed MMMAD budgets for 2010 and 2011. The goal of the proposed budgets is to reduce costs by replacing some existing landscaping with native plants and reducing the amount of water used by as much as 2/3.
- Maintenance assessments can be reduced in future from $11.72 to $10.00

Orlando Vernacchia (Chuck Sweet)
- Various ways to honor Orlando were discussed at the meeting. Ideas include: plaque at Senior Center, Walk of Fame, and a MMTC monthly volunteer award named for him.

Callahan's recognition (Chuck Sweet)
- Chuck wanted to recognize Callahan's for its continued gift of cookies to the Fire and Police stations in Mira Mesa.

Mira Mesa High School Saxophone Music for the Holidays (Maria Pankau)
- MMHS has a group of saxophone players who will serenade residents at homes that are decorated for the holidays.