Mira Mesa Town Council

March 2010

In March, we are joined by San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts, and Lilliam Blundell from California MENTOR. Both of these speakers will be bringing information to us in their respective areas of expertise.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to changes in the hours of operation of city libraries, we will be moving to a new location beginning in April. **The March Meeting will still be held at the Mira Mesa Library, beginning at 7 pm**.

Ron Roberts, County Supervisor, District 4

A product of public schools who grew up in Linda Vista, Ron earned a social science degree, with a math minor, from SDSU while working as a clerk in a local supermarket. He next earned a master's in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. After college, Ron embarked upon a 20 year career in architecture, spending most of that time as Managing Partner of a firm with offices here and in San Francisco . His design savvy, business skills and commitment to community landed him numerous volunteer civic positions, including as chairman of the city Planning Commission. Inspired by public service, Ron in 1987 gave up his practice to mount a successful campaign for a seat on the San Diego City Council. After serving two terms on City Council, Ron was selected by voters in November 1994 to represent the San Diego County's multi-ethnic Fourth District as one of five County Supervisors.

Throughout his career, Ron has worked diligently to make San Diego a better place for all of us. Deeply passionate about preserving our region's beauty and charm for the next generation while protecting existing neighborhoods from over development, his accomplishments and priorities include jobs, cleaner air, healthier communities, alternative energy, and public safety.

Lilliam Blundell, California MENTOR

California MENTOR is a Family Home Agency providing a range of support for adults with developmental disabilities. Helping hundreds of people grow and thrive in the communities they call home through quality-based services including our innovative Host-Home program.

In California MENTOR's host-home program, adults with developmental disabilities live in private family homes with specially trained caregivers who we call Mentors. Because this model is geared towards the needs of one person, host-home living is highly flexible and focused on personal choice for the Mentor and the individual receiving services. In partnership with the people we serve and our Mentors, we strive to create that "perfect match", ensuring successful placements that lead to long-term, meaningful relationships --- the basis of our program success.

With the dedicated support of our program staff, Mentors help those we serve acquire skills, access services and participate in community life according to their own needs and preferences. By opening their homes and their hearts, our Mentors help to create richer, more meaningful lives for adults with developmental disabilities. For information call California MENTOR, (760) 754-8456 x10.

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Mira Mesa Town Council Meetings—New Location

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.

Agenda for the **March 1, 2010** meeting:

- **Ron Roberts, County Supervisor, District 4**
- **Lilliam Blundell, California MENTOR**

The next MMTC meeting is **Monday, April 5, 2010**

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR APRIL!

Visit us online at www.miramesatowncouncil.org

LOCAL NUMBERS

General County Services Information

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

Emergency Services

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

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

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

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

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2010

PRESIDENT
Ted Brengel, Ted@TedBrengel.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAM CHAIR)
Pam O'Donohoe, pam1220@aol.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)
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TREASURER
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MEMBERS AT LARGE
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John Daley, jedaleyiii@aol.com
Mike Davis, mike.davis.sd@gmail.com
Sandy Smith, miramesarealty@gmail.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 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.

President's Message—Upgrading Mira Mesa

By Ted Brengel, MMTC President

Perception is everything! It controls among other things, the desirability of homes in a community and thus their selling prices. But there is something much more profound—more subtle about the perception of a community. If a given community is perceived as a desirable place to live, to go to school, to shop, to conduct ones daily life, there is an associated feeling of belonging among the residents—a bond with the community.

I don't pretend to understand the sociological dynamics that go into the creation of the sort of bond to which I refer, and in fact, I can't fully define what I am writing about. I do know, however, that without it decay sets in and the community will soon be considered undesirable.

Like most members of the Town Council, I consider Mira Mesa a desirable community. I absolutely love living here and don't want to move elsewhere. But we have problems. There are things about Mira Mesa that cannot persist into the future if we are to remain a place where people want to live—a place to start and raise a family. There must be some changes as we move forward.

I guess that the point is that while Mira Mesa is a fine place to live, there are things in the community that would make it seem otherwise. One might cite the age and general appearance of our central park. It certainly needs something more than a facelift. But then it is already scheduled for just that. The project which will start in the next few years will result in major improvements to both the park itself and to the ball fields across New Salem Street.

Just parenthetically, New Salem Street around the park is about the number one place in Mira Mesa to get a ticket. It would be good to slow down to 25 MPH or less when taking that route.

I am often told about graffiti appearing on walls or utility boxes. The good news here is that by the time I hear of it, one of our graffiti fighters has already painted it out of existence. This is one small but very reassuring sign of a vibrant community. Also, have a look at the two utility boxes which have recently been painted on the street near the Ultra Mar Gas Station. This is a trial balloon to see if we like utility boxes thusly decorated. Please let me know what you think.

There are other things about Mira Mesa that give people pause when considering living here and among those is the abundance of abandoned shopping carts littering our streets. By the time you read this, there will have been one demonstration (Saturday, February 20, Red Lobster Parking Lot) to underscore that abandoned shopping carts are a problem and that there are those of us who will not stand idly by while miscreants trash our community. I urge each of you to become a part of the solution to this blight. We need ideas and we need you to let our public officials know that the status quo is unacceptable. In order to stop this we will need the help of residents, businesses, law enforcement, and community volunteers all working together. Please join us.

In closing let me mention one additional important effort to help craft Mira Mesa's path to the future. Mira Mesa Community Vision is collecting ideas for a statement of Mira Mesa's future—something that says what we expect our community to look like in twenty five to fifty years. The key point is that you simply cannot have a road map without a destination. And while the Mira Mesa Community Plan lays out the various land uses, there are many important elements of community life that are not addressed in community plans. The group wants to create that point in the future—that vision—as a target to help direct and shape our efforts as we move forward. Please think about this and be ready to provide your inputs.

Mira Mesa Invitational Band Review & Field Tournament

By Maria Pankau

Due to an oversight in this year's Mira Mesa Calendar, the Mira Mesa Invitational Band Review and Field Tournament was omitted. Please take a moment to add it to your calendar.

As usual, the MMBR&FT will be held on the first Saturday in November with this year's event on November 6, 2010. The Band Review (parade) is slated to step off at approximately 12:00 noon with field shows starting at 8:30 am and 2:30 pm (all times are approximate). Expect the regular street closures during parade set-up and competition.

Questions regarding the event can be directed to Mr. Daly at the Mira Mesa High School Band Office, at 858-578-5143.

City Announces New Library Hours

By Pam Stevens

Due to budget constraints, the City of San Diego has announced a new operating schedule for all libraries. The changes include new, shorter hours and the closure of ALL branch libraries on Monday.

The list of hours may be viewed at the San Diego Public Library webpage—http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/. The site includes the new hours/days of operation, a link for "Frequently Asked Questions", and a link that allows the public to send comments to Mayor Sanders regarding the changes.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Council District 5: Carl DeMaio
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
Ph: (619) 725-5550, Fax (619) 297-5624
E-mail: board@sandi.net
District Website: http://www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/
Website: http://www.sandi.net/board/evans.pdf

Mayor, City of San Diego: Jerry Sanders
Ph: (619) 236-6330 Fax: (619) 236-7228
E-mail: JerrySanders@sandiego.gov
Website: http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/
Representative to Mira Mesa: Stephen Lew

County Supervisor District 3: Pam Slater-Price
Ph: (619) 531-5533
E-mail: pam-slater@co.san-diego.ca.us
Website: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup3/
Representative to Mira Mesa: Erica Holloway

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
Web site: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup4/
Field Representative: Woo Jin Shim

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
Capitol office: State Capitol Room 3141 ,
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: (916) 319-2075.
Field Representative: Lori Carrillo, LoriCarrillo@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

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: Andrew Lund

Governor: Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building 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.

San Diego Community College District Board, District B: Bill Schwandt
bschwand@sdccd.edu
Website: http://www.sdccd.cc.ca.us/public/district/trustees/schwandt.html

Volunteer of the Year Dinner — Save The Date! By Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Town Council "Volunteer of the Year" Dinner, honoring Sandy Smith as our 2009 Volunteer of the Year, will take place on Saturday, May 15, at the Country Inn and Suites in western Mira Mesa. For more information, contact "Volunteer of the Year" co-chairs Mike Davis or Pam Stevens.

Taste of Mira Mesa — Save The Date! By Pam Stevens

"Taste of Mira Mesa," organized by the Mira Mesa High School Foundation to support MMHS and now Mira Mesa elementary and middle schools, will take place Tuesday, April 6 in the garden patio at Gen-Probe in western Mira Mesa. For more information please see the Mira Mesa High School Foundation website, www.miramesahighschoolfoundation.org.

Mira Mesa Farmer's Market

Every Tuesday - Mira Mesa High School 3 pm to 6 pm

Mira Mesa Town Council Proposes New Membership Benefits

By Maria Pankau

To better serve its members, the MMTC will institute new membership guidelines and benefits.
Beginning with July 1, 2010, all memberships will come due at the same time. By doing this the MMTC will be able to provide new benefits to its membership. In order to accomplish the new due date, all upcoming membership dues will be prorated to bring everyone to date and into the new system. The prorated dues will be as follows:

Current Membership Due Date	Prorated Dues	Prorated Due Date	Membership Type	Next Full Payment Due Date
January 2010 to March 2010	$10.00	1-Mar-10	Individual or Associate Member (non-Voting)	1-Jul-10
April 2010 to June 2010	$5.00	30-Apr-10	Individual or Associate Member (non-Voting)	1-Jul-10
July 2010 to September 2010	$20.00	1-Aug-10	Individual or Associate Member (non-Voting)	1-Jul-11
October 2010 to December 2010	$10.00	1-Nov-10	Individual or Associate Member (non-Voting)	1-Jul-11
January 2010 to March 2010	$5.00	1-Mar-10	Companion or Senior	1-Jul-10
April 2010 to June 2010	$2.50	30-Apr-10	Companion or Senior	1-Jul-10
July 2010 to September 2010	$10.00	1-Aug-10	Companion or Senior	1-Jul-11
October 2010 to December 2010	$5.00	1-Nov-10	Companion or Senior	1-Jul-11
January 2010 to March 2010	$25.00	1-Mar-10	Corporation or Business	1-Jul-10
April 2010 to June 2010	$12.50	30-Apr-10	Corporation or Business	1-Jul-10
July 2010 to September 2010	$50.00	1-Aug-10	Corporation or Business	1-Jul-11
October 2010 to December 2010	$25.00	1-Nov-10	Corporation or Business	1-Jul-11

The new system will enable us, in conjunction with the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce, to bring you a benefits package available only to MMTC members. As part of the package, all members will be issued a membership card which will be used to cast your vote on all MMTC issues. This card will also make you eligible for discounts provided by all participating MMTC Business members and Chamber of Commerce members. The benefits package will include:

Individual, Companion, or Senior Members

- Printed Newsletter
- E-newsletter
- Meeting reminders (online/e-mail)
- Membership Identification Card
- Discount benefits from participating business members
- MMTC Liaison to assist members with issues/problems
- Voting rights
- Invitation to special "members only" events

Business Members

- Printed Newsletter
- E-newsletter
- Meeting reminders (online/e-mail)
- Participation in discount program for members
- "Business Members" area listing online and in printed newsletter
- Opportunity to host "Business of the Month" table at monthly MMTC meeting
- Voting rights (as limited by bylaws)
- Invitation to special "members only" events

Past monthly newsletters will be available to non-members, on the website and at the MMTC booth at the Farmer's Market. Only current members will receive a printed copy of the current newsletter, or be able to access it at the MMTC website.

Business members will be able to become members of MMTC and the Chamber of Commerce will be able to do both at the reduced price of $150.00 that is a $10.00 discount from each group's current membership dues.

Please take a look at the proposal presented above and send any comments, questions, or ideas to Maria Pankau, MMTC Second Vice President (Membership), at mgpankau@hotmail.com. We are planning on instituting the process as soon as possible and your comments will be greatly appreciated.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve CAC Meets March 18

By Pam Stevens

The Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m. at the historic Penasquitos Adobe Ranch House. Anyone interested in issues or programs relating to this San Diego City/County open space preserve, Mira Mesa's own "wild backyard" and a natural treasure that all San Diegans share, is welcome to attend.

The March 18 meeting follows a special meeting of the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee scheduled for Feb. 25 (7 p.m. at Park Village Elementary School in Rancho Penasquitos) at which there will be a City staff report and public hearing about the Resource Management Plan, including a future trails system, for the Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Open Space Preserves, which are adjacent to Penasquitos Canyon Preserve to the north. On March 18 CAC members are scheduled to discuss and possibly vote on the Committee's recommendations about the Resource Management Plan.

The City has recently released a Final Draft of the Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa RMP, which can be viewed at http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp. Hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers interested in using the future trails system as a connection from Penasquitos Canyon, as well as all concerned about preservation of natural habitat for wildlife and plantlife in the area, are encouraged to review the plan and provide your input. Please provide written comments by March 10, 2010, to Betsy Miller, Open Space Division, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, at bmiller@sandiego.gov. The RMP boundary is within the Carmel Valley and Del Mar Mesa community planning areas, so the Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Valley Community Planning Boards are also scheduled to review the RMP and make their recommendations.

A public notice was also recently released that a site development permit application has been filed for the planned permanent City Ranger Station to serve both Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Park, which will replace the trailer building now located at the northeast corner of Black Mountain Road and Mercy Road. The LPCP Citizens Advisory Committee and Mira Mesa Community Planning Group previously reviewed that project at an earlier planning stage, and will make recommendations to the City about the site development permit.

Since we're in the rainy season, do you want to know if trails in the Preserve are open or closed? You can call Gina Washington, Senior Park Ranger, City of San Diego, Open Space Division, at 858-538-8066 for a trails update.

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of the Adobe Ranch House, San Diego's second oldest standing residence, 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. From Mira Mesa, take Black Mountain Road north and turn left at Canyonside Drive, continuing past Canyonside Park to the parking area near the ranch house. For more information call the County Ranger office at the Adobe, 858-484-7504.

For information about the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and their guided hikes and other activities, see www.penasquitos.org.

The LPCP Citizens Advisory Committee holds regular meetings on the third Thursday of odd-numbered months, 7 p.m. at the Penasquitos Adobe Ranch House. The group makes recommendations about the preserve to the San Diego City Council and San Diego County Supervisors via reporting to the LPCP Task Force, which consists of City Councilmembers Carl DeMaio and Sherri Lightner, as well as County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. At the most recent Task Force meeting, First District San Diego City Councilmember Sherri Lightner was elected Task Force chair.

For more information, contact LPCP CAC Chairman Marvin Gerst, mgerst@ucsd.edu , or Mira Mesa Community Planning Group CAC representative Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com.

Resurfacing of Mira Mesa Blvd

By Ted Brengel

A report just received from the Pavement Management, Streets Division, gives us an indication as to which sections of Mira Mesa Blvd are scheduled for resurfacing and when this work is projected to begin. The list received is as follows:

Scripps Ranch Blvd to Marbury Av	- Last resurfaced in 2005 with installation of Black Mountain Rd pipeline; not on backlog
Marbury Av to New Salem St	- Last resurfaced in 1998; not on backlog
New Salem St to Shilling Av	- Asphalt Overlay Group I, FY10; should begin construction in July
Shilling Av to Pacific Heights Blvd	- Asphalt Overlay Group II, FY10; should begin construction in August
Pacific Heights Blvd to Scranton Rd	- Asphalt Overlay Group III, FY10; should begin construction in September
Scranton Rd to Sorrento Valley Rd	- Last resurfaced in 2002; not on backlog

We will monitor this work, and advise you of any changes or when we anticipate work will begin.

Mira Mesa Community Vision—"Branding" Mira Mesa

By Bari Vaz

What do you think of when you hear the words "Mira Mesa"? Some have an image of a quiet suburban community. Others think of traffic jams. Pete Wilson, who coined the slogan "San Diego: America's Finest City", used the unfortunate campaign slogan "No More Mira Mesas!" And even recently, a Union-Tribune article about the Cohn Restaurant Group quoted David Cohn as saying "When we get that call to do a restaurant in a strip center in Mira Mesa, we're not interested. We're interested in neighborhoods."

The Mira Mesa Community Vision initiative wants to put an end to the old, negative stereotypes about Mira Mesa, and show the world the positives and possibilities of our community. Toward that goal, the Mira Mesa Nonprofit Executive Council is supporting our efforts by sponsoring a Mira Mesa Logo and Slogan contest.

During the month of March, students at Mira Mesa High School will be encouraged to design a new logo for the community of Mira Mesa. In April two winners will be selected, with the first place entry receiving a $100 prize and the second place entry receiving a $50 prize. These two winners will move forward into the community-wide competition, which will run from April 15 through May 14. At the end of May, a new logo will be selected to use in the Mira Mesa Community Vision "branding" campaign. The winner of the community-wide campaign will receive a prize of AT LEAST $250.

Community members are also encouraged to submit their suggestion for a new "slogan". If San Diego is "America's Finest City", then what is Mira Mesa? Slogan ideas will be collected throughout the month of June, after we have selected the Mira Mesa logo. Winner of the slogan contest will receive a $100 prize.

This "branding" campaign for Mira Mesa is but a first step in the process of defining our community—who we are, and where we want to go. A website for the initiative has been set up—www.MiraMesaCommunityVision.org. Here we will publish news regarding what we have accomplished, and invite community members to get involved in the process. Further information about the Logo and Slogan contest will be posted at the site beginning March 1.

MMTC Begins E-Newsletter and Community Announcements for Members

By Bari Vaz

In an effort to keep our members better informed of what is happening in the Mira Mesa community, the Mira Mesa Town Council has begun publishing an "e-newsletter" on the 15th of each month. Members will continue to receive their printed newsletter prior to each month's MMTC meeting. This mid-month "e-newsletter" will update you on events and news items that occur after the publication date of the newsletter.

Additionally, the Mira Mesa Town Council has begun sending e-mail notices of events that will affect members in their daily lives. MMTC receives these notices from entities such as MCAS Miramar and Caltrans, regarding such issues as controlled burns, nighttime flyovers, road closures and other traffic issues.

If you are not receiving the new "e-newsletter" or the community announcements, please contact First Vice-President (Membership) Maria Pankau to update the e-mail address we have on record.

Also, we would like to hear from you about these new e-mails. Please send us your comments regarding the "e-newsletter' and community announcements, and be sure to let us know if there are any issues you would like to see included in future e-mails.

Mira Mesa High School Presents "Honk!" the Musical

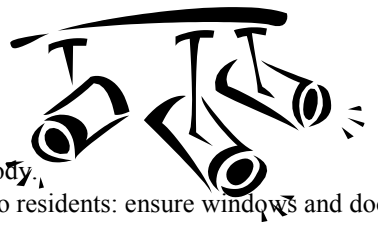
By Pam Stevens

Have you ever been to a farm where the animals sing? Come enjoy the MMHS Performing Arts Department All-School Musical "Honk" March 11-13, and 19-20, in the Mira Mesa High School Theatre. The musical is based on the "Ugly Duckling" story. It's a clever re-telling of the fairytale that is reminiscent of a cross between "Charlotte's Web" and "Once Upon A Mattress" (based on "The Princess and the Pea"), a musical that offers family entertainment for all ages.

Performances and ticket prices are:
Thursday March 11 at 3:30 PM -- $8
Friday March 12 at 7:00 PM -- $10
Saturday March 13 at 2:00 PM -- $8
Friday March 19 at 7:00 PM -- $10
Saturday March 20 at 7:00 PM -- $10

Buy your tickets in advance from any cast member or technical crew member, or at the door a half hour before show time. For more information, contact Daniel Kriley, MMHS drama instructor, 858-566-2262 x4401, or send email to dkriley@sandi.net.

Highlights of the February 1, 2010 MMTC Meeting



POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS

Police Department (Officer Susan Steffen)

- Vandalism on Scripps Poway Pkwy, damage $55,000. After 1-1/2 yrs, person in custody.
- Rancho Bernardo, 4 cases, entered through unlocked sliding door or side door. Note to residents: ensure windows and doors are locked.
- Question: Is panhandling legal? Citizens' arrest can be cited if person is panhandling aggressively. People are allowed to stand on the raised median.
- Question: What if we hit someone who is panhandling? Answer: The pedestrian is at fault if they leave the median.
- One resident would like bicycle signs to address that bicyclists must follow the same rules as vehicles.
- Question: Regarding a homeless gentleman who walks around with a cart in Mira Mesa. Answer: Homeless Outreach Team has offered services, but he chooses not to take advantage of them. If he has a conservator/family member who chooses to be responsible for this person, they can make him get help against his will. Can also be taken care of for Indecent Exposure.

SD Fire Department (Capt. Pepper)

- Mostly Flu Problems
- Question: What is the department's status with City budget cuts? Answer: Eliminated 8 units per day. Haz-Mat Unit on Black Mountain Rd will be split. Fire Engine will be here, and cruise unit will be displaced. There is the potential for large open areas that will be unmonitored.
- Question: Estimate of increase in homeowner's fire insurance cost due to reduced coverage? Answer: Unknown
- Question: Does this cut affect emergency ambulance response time? Answer: No, but first responders (i.e. fire engines) will be affected.
- Asked to come back in 90 days to update us and to let us know what we may have to do.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

City Councilman Carl DeMaio (John Ly)

- Budget Update:
  - 100 million dollar deficit that is being "fixed" with one-time cuts.
  - Ballot measure to open services to competitive bidding will help save $30 million/year
  - All city contracts should be posted online and along with number of bids
  - Politicians should have full disclosure if they receive contributions from contractors.
  - Auditor has identified millions of dollars in waste.
  - Prioritize—PETCO Park is being paid for out of general fund; redevelopment agency should have to pay
  - Convention Center is being subsidized 14 million dollars a year
  - 75% of budget is derived from labor costs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we are paying more.
  - Pension reform and retiree benefits (example: Retirement cost is 69% of payroll, $370 million)
  - What we need are stakeholders willing to come to the table and compromise. We haven't seen that from organized labor
  - Call to Action: We need letters/calls to Union-Tribune
  - We need to redefine role of management (Roads, Response Time, Fire Department, Recreation, Libraries, etc.) Restructure plan for over 2 to 3 years
  - Re: Cart Retrieval/blight. Mira Mesa Issue—identify worst offender, need stores to sign up for retrieval service.
  - Brown-outs, 3 stations were affected. Total savings is about $12 million, with additional modification, is $13 million. The chief says this is the best possible plan.
  - Carl DeMaio voted no against the budget. Issues should be presented to Carl.
  - Community Clean-Up day in Mira Mesa with electronic recycling is being scheduled.
  - Facility Investment Plan: want a long-term plan for 20/30 years in future.
    Source of funding from development.
    Deferred maintenance report for senior center, recreation center, and Epicenter
    Would support "Strong Mayor" - may create Council District 9
    Bari is leading community plan update/vision
  - Item 330 vote is tomorrow—Abrams property, developer—that is not paying community fees

- Roads need to be fixed. "Pot-hole Killer ", one man machine, may be available.
- Labor contracts prohibit use of volunteers in positions previously filled by contract.

Representative Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)
- Presented Newsletter
- State of the County Address is next week at Qualcomm Hall.
- Presentation is being set up about break-ins and prescription drug abuse. Pam Slater-Price's office is working with the Oxy Task Force. Children are stealing prescription drugs and selling.
- There has been an increase in pharmacy robberies.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Woo-Jin Shim)
- H1N1 vaccine is still available for free at county health clinics. 5055 Ruffin Rd is closest location.
- County is working with several agencies to help educate individuals who qualify for EITC.

State Senator Hollingsworth (Ellen Malin)
- $20 billion deficit in the next 20 months.
- Response is working on job friendly state and public safety.
- Re: EDD office response time. Senator Hollingsworth's office can serve as liaison to EDD office
- Presented information on how to get off of junk mail lists.
- Question: What is Senator's position on S373 bill (bans transportation of Boa)? Response was deferred to Andrew Lund.

Brian Bilbray (Andrew Lund)
- Measure to ban in-state tuition for illegal immigrants.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Mira Mesa High School (Sara Leonard)
- Will be going through WASC accreditation process.
- Asking community members to share positive experiences with students by coming to the reception.
- Reception is on Sunday, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm—sleonard@sandi.net, 858-271-6578
- Town Council will send a support letter. Motion to support. Passed unanimously.

Non-profit Executive Council (Mike Davis)
- Power boxes on Camino Ruiz and Mira Mesa Blvd have been painted. Will work with MMHS to get additional designs
- NEC is also recharging the shopping cart issue.

Epicenter (Meredith F.)
- Teen Oversight Meeting, Wednesday, February 24th, 10 am
- Information will be provided on what the teen center has been doing.

Penasquitos Canyon Preserve (Pam Stevens)
- Advisory Meeting Thursday, February 4th
- Special meeting at school, Thursday, February 25th to discuss resources and trails plan for Carmel Mountain/Del Mar Mesa north of Penasquitos Canyon. Link will be on MMTC website.
- Regular citizens meeting, Thursday, March 18
- Canyon Cam now available

Mira Mesa Library (Pam Stevens)
- Friends of Library meeting
- Library needs help with ongoing book sale
- Book discussion group, Banned Book Club, meets February 22—Reading "Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure"
- One Book, One San Diego—"Outcasts United". Author will do a special event at Point Loma library. Book discussion date will be set in March/April

Maintenance Assessment District (Tom Derr)
- 2nd median across from Jack-In-The-Box has been landscaped
- Please send comments on new landscaping—Tom@Tomsmm.com
- MMMAD meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Question: Light on "Welcome to Mira Mesa" sign near Westview has been out for months. Answer: Mall is responsible

Mira Mesa Community Planning Group (Bari Vaz)
- Hillery DAR Subcommittee recommendation will be presented at MMCPG meeting on February 16.

Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce (Sandy Smith)
- Chamber of Commerce is hosting Casino Night to serve as (1) Fundraiser for 4th of July, and (2) opportunity to network.

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS

President (Ted Brengel)
- Grocery Carts are a contimued blight, we are asking for ideas; Mike Davis is taking the lead.

Treasurer (Jeff Stevens)
- December beginning balance $84,424.40; Income $891.26; Expenses $181.71; Net cash flow ($709.55); Ending balance $85,133.95.

NEW BUSINESS

San Diego Mediation Center (Bridget Lambert)
- Use skills taught in mediation training to reach students.
- Mediation Center provides training and has a Business Center that manages issues such as Divorce Mediation, etc.
- History: San Diego Mediation Center, grassroots effort that started in 80's in Mira Mesa to resolve conflict in non-adversarial way.
- County funded program
- Effort to build capacity in neighborhood by training leaders in "exchange" to address conflict. Training is sponsored by federal stimulus funds. Program runs through the end of the summer.
- Save The Date: Annual Peacemaker Event
- Question: Example of community concern. Answer: neighborhood disputes, noise issues, property line issues. Can use public facilities for mediation/offices.

MMHS Yearbook Advertisement
- Motion to have MMHS yearbook page ad, up to $200. Motion passed.

Budget Committee (Jeff Stevens)
- Additional budget items this year to stimulate support and encourage more community involvement. These are one time expenditures/increases.
  Items include: $3000 for paint, $5000 for 4th of July Committee, Scholarships/Donations, Liability Insurance Increase
- Motion to pass (Mike Davis), and 2nd (Tom Derr); passed unanimously.

Open Forum
- A resident wants Epicenter and stakeholders to meet to discuss solutions to regular maintenance at Epicenter.
- Epicenter Program Director invites stakeholders to meet Additional information will be sent out.
- Salk Elementary—Protest: School enrollment has dropped 20% since housing market; DAR project will affect Walker Elementary
- Mike Schwartz, resident, uses Maddox Dog Park and wants lights for night time use. Chairman of Recreation Council, Joe Frichtel, responded that lights will be installed by year end.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12—**CASINO NIGHT**, supporting the Mira Mesa 4th of July, 5 pm to 9 pm, Country Inn & Suites, 5975 Lusk Blvd
March 12—Girl Scout Day
March 14—Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15—Ides of March
March 17—St. Patrick's Day
March 19—St. Joseph's Day
March 19—Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1ST MONDAY / March 1	**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING (MMTC)** — 1st Monday (no meeting in July) — Mira Mesa Library — 7:00 p.m.
1ST TUESDAY / March 2	**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 / March 3	**KIWANIS, SCRIPPS-MIRA BRANCH** — Every Wednesday —Mimi's Restaurant — 7:00 a.m.
2ND MONDAY March 8	**Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors**—Mira Mesa Senior Center—6:45 pm **MIRA MESA CLUSTER SCHOOLS COUNCIL—**Mira Mesa High School Media Room—6:00 pm
2ND TUESDAY / March 9	**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 / March 10	**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
2ND SATURDAY / March 13	**FIL-AM SR. CITIZENS ASSN** — 2nd Saturday — Mira Mesa Senior Center — 10:00 a.m.
2ND SUNDAY/ March 14	**FAASDNC Meeting**—12:00pm—Mira Mesa Recreation Center
3RD MONDAY / March 15	**COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP—**3rd Tuesday **—**Mira Mesa Library—7:00 p.m.
3RD TUESDAY / March 16	**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.
3RD WEDNESDAY / March 17	**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. **MIRA MESA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**—Location Varies—6:00pm
3RD THURSDAY/ March 18	**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) **HALLOWEEN COMMITTEE** — 3rd Thursday — Mira Mesa Rec. Center — 12:00 p.m. (June, August, September, October only)
4TH TUESDAY / March 23	**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 / March 24	**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 March 25	**STREET FAIR COMMITTEE (SENIOR CENTER)-**4th. Thursday—6:30 PM April through October
5TH TUESDAY/ March 29	**BANNED BOOK CLUB** —Last Tuesday of each month except December at the Mira Mesa Library. 7 PM

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San Diego, CA 92126

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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Preschool: 858-578-2160

Church: 858-578-2150
Fax: 858-578-4096
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E-mail: mmpcusa@sbcglobal.net

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Mira Mesa Town Council thanks all of our Business Members for their continued support of our efforts and the Mira Mesa community.

To become an MMTC Business Member, please complete the application on the back of this newsletter.

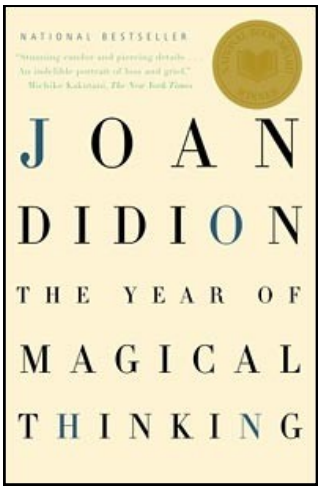
Did You Know?

February is National "Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket" Month!

Fight the Blight! Return Your Cart, Don't Leave It On The Street!

Banned Book Club to Discuss "*The Year of Magical Thinking*" March 30

By Pam Stevens



On Tuesday, March 30, the Mira Mesa Library's Banned Book Club, a book group with a focus on reading and talking about books that have been banned or challenged, as well as other thought-provoking titles that tie into a "freedom to read" theme, will discuss Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*. This memorable and poignant memoir describes Didion's life during the year following the sudden death of her husband, novelist John Gregory Dunne. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and take part in the discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. in the Mira Mesa Library community room.

March brings a change in the regular monthly meeting night of the Banned Book Club from the last Monday to the last Tuesday of the month due to a change in branch library hours that becomes effective March 20. Like other branch libraries in the City of San Diego, the Mira Mesa Branch Library will operate on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule and be closed on Mondays (starting March 22) as a cost saving measure. When that occurs, branch libraries will be open on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., as well as on Wednesdays.

As a reminder, titles for discussion in future months are:

April - *Ragtime*, by E. L. Doctorow
May - *A Grave in Gaza*, by Matt Baynon Rees
June - *Cat's Cradle*, by Kurt Vonnegut
July - *The Bookseller of Kabul*, by Asne Seirstad
August - no meeting
September - annual book selection meeting

For more information, email Banned Book Club facilitator Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com , or call the Mira Mesa Branch Library, 858-538-8165.

MMNEC Demonstrates Against Abandoned Shopping Carts

By Mike Davis

Responding to community concerns, the Mira Mesa Non-profit Executive Council sponsored a "Shopping Cart Demonstration" on Saturday, February 20. Between 10 am and Noon, community volunteers collected abandoned shopping carts from neighborhoods near several local malls. The carts were brought to the Mira Mesa Mall, at the corner of Mira Mesa Blvd and Camino Ruiz, and displayed in front of the Red Lobster Restaurant. Other volunteers waved signs indicating their desire for shoppers to "Stop Stealing Shopping Carts". **97** shopping carts were retrieved in only two hours.

The community has recognized that abandoned shopping carts present two problems: blight and a public safety hazard. Abandoned carts indicate a community that does not care about petty crimes, which invites further and more severe criminal activity. This effect is well documented in the "Broken Window Theory"; unrepaired broken windows on empty properties attract litter, graffiti, and eventually an increase in burglary and robbery.

The public safety hazard of abandoned carts has been less well documented. Carts abandoned along curbsides and in parking lanes can roll into oncoming traffic, striking vehicles and causing traffic accidents. Abandoned carts also become "entertainment" for school children in the neighborhood. How many times have you seen local children climbing on, riding in, or pushing around shopping carts in your neighborhood. These children can be injured by falling from a cart, or by riding a cart into oncoming traffic. In the event of injury, everyone involved can become the target of a "deep pockets" lawsuit; this includes the store/cart owner, the owner of the property on which the cart was abandoned, and the City/County of San Diego. There are many instances of stores settling injury claims related to shopping cart injury. However, most such judgments are sealed so that exact details and settlement amounts are not divulged. Should the City/County have to pay a settlement due to injury, those funds would come from YOU—the taxpayers of San Diego.

Future activities will include picketing the store(s) who owned the largest number of carts collected on Saturday morning. For a list of carts collected, please see the MMTC website or the "Stop Shopping Cart Theft in Mira Mesa" Facebook page.

Mira Mesa 4th of July "Casino Night" - Friday, March 12

By Sandy Smith

"Casino Night", the annual fundraiser to support the Mira Mesa Community 4th of July, is scheduled for Friday, March 12, beginning at 5 p.m. The Country Inn and Suites, 5975 Lusk Blvd., will again be the site of this fun-filled fund-raiser.

Businesses and individuals interested in sponsoring game tables can download a sponsorship form from the Mira Mesa Town Council website—www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org. Additionally, auction items are being sought for Casino Night and donors will receive tickets to the event. Donation forms are also available at the MMTC website.

The Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event, which provides a great opportunity for employers to thank their employees or loyal customers.

For additional information, or to sponsor a table or donate an auction item, contact Bonnie Apple or Laurita Long, at 858-784-3676 or Bonnie.Apple@expresspros.com.

MMCPG Hillery DAR Subcommittee Presents Traffic Mitigation Recommendations

By Bari Vaz

The Mira Mesa Community Planning Group's Hillery Drive Direct Access Ramp Subcommittee presented its traffic mitigation recommendations to the MMCPG at the group's February 16 meeting. The Hillery DAR Subcommittee has been working since last April to review plans for the new Direct Access Ramp to be built by Caltrans connecting the I-15 Managed Lanes to Hillery Drive, and make recommendations on methods to reduce the anticipated increase in traffic in the residential areas.

The strategies recommended by the subcommittee include:

1. Traffic Study of Mira Mesa, with synchronization of traffic signals
2. Changes to student drop-off/pick-up at Walker Elementary
3. Lane adjustments on eastbound Hillery Dr at Black Mountain Rd
4. "Do Not Block" striping
5. Raised crosswalk on Hillery Dr for Walker Elementary
6. Traffic circles on Hillery Dr at three locations
7. Chicanes on Rickert Rd and Marbury Dr
8. Extend right turn lane on eastbound Mira Mesa Blvd at Black Mountain Rd
9. Dual left turn lanes on southbound Black Mountain Rd at Hillery Dr
10. Adjust lane configuration on Hillery Dr east of Black Mountain Rd, to accommodate dual turn lanes
11. Post-DAR Traffic Study and "Fail-Safe" plan

Further details can be viewed on the Planning Group page of the MMTC website. The Planning Group will review these recommendations and make a final proposal at its March meeting.

Need a hero? HEROES is here to help!

By Mike Davis

Know an elderly neighbor who could use a hand with some repairs? Has your favorite park become overrun with trash and in need of a good cleaning? HEROES is here to help!

HEROES — "Hometown Efforts to Rescue Our Endangered Society" - is a proactive bunch of volunteers who just want to DO something real-time for the disadvantaged folks in our community, with minimal to no overhead or long-term commitments needed. The group's main goal is to assist the greater Mira Mesa and surrounding areas needy individuals, organizations and public spaces that need clean-up and fix-it-up support to make them safe and livable. Through a collaborative team of local organizations, businesses and individuals, HEROES is able to improve our collective community environment and spirit - one person/family/location at a time.

"Before" and "After" photos taken at a recent HEROES event

For more information or to start helping HEROES, please contact Mike Davis at mike.davis.sd@gmail.com or visit our website, www.miramesaheroes.org.

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

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San Diego, CA 92126

Mira Mesa Town Council

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Companion Member Name (s)			☐ Renewal
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☐ Corporate/Business Member ($50)

☐ Associate Member (non-voting — $20)

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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.