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 or "like" us on facebook

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2011

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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:

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

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

Contact Us:

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www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org

Please send items for publication to:
newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org

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.

Business Member of the Month: Vulcan Materials Company

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 **Bari Vaz**, perhaps the busiest person in Mira Mesa, who is not only the 1st Vice President of MMTC and Chairman of the 4th 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 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.

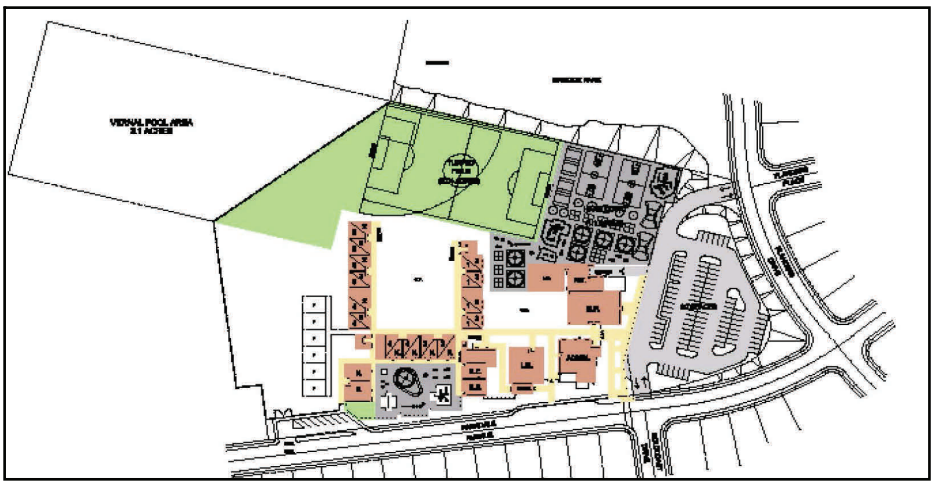

Photo credit: San Diego Unified School District

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
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: 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
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.

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

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: Nancy Gudino
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

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
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
Web site: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup4/
Field Representative: Lauren Prescott

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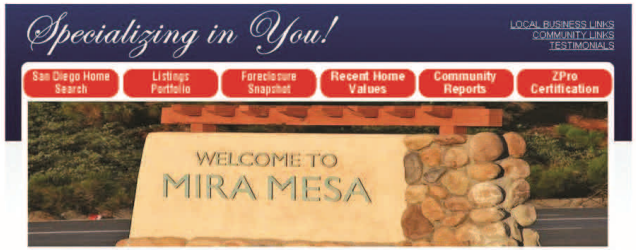

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Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

8081 Mira Mesa Blvd.
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Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Preschool: 858-578-2160

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

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December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Greetings! (0pening Night Gala) - 5:30 p.m	3 Fil-Am Sr. Citizens Assn – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Greetings! - 7 p.m
4 FAASDNC Meeting – 12 pm, Mira Mesa Recreation Center Brian Bilbray USO Pancake Breakfast — 9 am	5 Mira Mesa Town Council—7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	6 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Mira Mesa Maintenance Assessment District – 7 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	7 Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	8	9 Greetings! - 7 p.m	10 Greetings! - 7 p.m
11	12 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors – 6:45 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	13 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Epicentre Oversight Committee – call for information Mira Mesa Women's Club – 7 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Friends of the Library – 7 pm, Mira Mesa Library Recreation Council – 7 pm, Lopez Ridge Rec Center Black Mountain Masonic Lodge #845 F.& A,M. – 7:30 pm, Mission Valley Scottish Rites Center	14 Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 6:30 am, Mimi's Restaurant Exchange Club of San Diego – 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant	15 Mira Mesa Theatre Guild – 6 pm, location varies	16 .Greetings! - 7 p.m	17 Greetings! - 7 p.m
18	19 Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – No meeting this month, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205	20 CHANUKAH BEGINS Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce—7:00 am Mimi's Café, 10788 Westview Pkwy	21 Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	22 Sr Center Board of Governors – 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Community Pride – 6:30 pm, call for location Black Mountain Democratic Club – 7 pm, Mesa Village Rec Hall 1	23	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 KWANZAA BEGINS Mira Mesa Cluster Schools Council - 6 pm, Mira Mesa High School Media Room	27 CHANUKAH ENDS Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Banned Book Club—no meeting this month, Mira Mesa Library	28 Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant Exchange Club of San Diego – 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant Mira Mesa Banner District – 6:30 pm, location TBD	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

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)
- 1st Vice President: Bari Vaz (re-elected)
- 2nd Vice President: Maria Pankau (re-elected)
- Recording Secretary : Jerry Ollinger
- Treasurer: Jeffry 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 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 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.miramesatowncouncil .org/miss_mira_mesa.html

For additional information please contact Maria Pankau at mgpankau@hotmail.com.

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

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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

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Businesses whose names are proceeded 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

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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 joint 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) and other approved council expenses.

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

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