Mira Mesa Town Council Newsletter

Volume 37, Issue 10 November 2012

Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting

- Monday, Nov. 5, 2012
  7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
  Mira Mesa Senior Center
  8460 Mira Mesa Blvd

Agenda:

- CERT
- Board Elections

Business of the Month:

- The Joint Chiropractic

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DA Partnering with Schools on Crime, Prevention Programs

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis announced the San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education has voted unanimously to approve a resolution supporting the District Attorney's Youth Advisory Boards and other DA initiatives aimed at breaking the cycle of gang violence, helping students make good decisions, and improving the safety of schools in San Diego.

"As District Attorney and as a former judge, I've seen the direct link between students who drop out of school and defendants who end up in prison," Dumanis said. "Our programs are working to keep students on the right track and we've already seen some inspiring success stories from our Youth Advisory Boards. Helping our kids get the best educational opportunities available continues to be a personal focus of mine and an area where the DA's Office has an important role to play."

The District Attorney's Office is working with San Diego Unified's Race and Human Relations Department and other school leaders to establish more Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) in specific schools.

More recently, the DA's Office partnered with City Schools to conduct crime mapping in an effort to learn more about the types and amount of crime occurring around San Diego schools. Results showed higher concentrations of crime around schools in central San Diego, southeast San Diego and Mira Mesa. As a result, preventative programs like the Youth Advisory Board plan to be offered at schools in those areas first.

"The Youth Advisory Board has had a positive impact on many students at Lincoln and Morse High schools by helping students to maintain a focus on the importance of education in their lives," said Shelia Jackson, Board of Education trustee. "The Board of Education values this partnership with the District Attorney and our students will continue to benefit from the work of Youth Advisory Boards."

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis

The DA's first Youth Advisory Board was created in 2008 to allow students to address pressing issues affecting young people in San Diego County and

*(See **Prevention** on page 9)*

Mira Mesa Library Sees Its Service Hours Slowly Restored

By Pam Stevens

Mira Mesa is one of four branch libraries that will have its Sunday hours restored. The branch returns to being open on Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. starting Sunday, Nov. 4.

The others are Rancho Bernardo, Logan Heights, and Valencia Park/Malcolm X. That brings the number of branch libraries in the City of San Diego open on Sundays to a total of eight, including the branches which currently have Sunday hours, City Heights/ Weingart, La Jolla/Riford, Point Loma/Hervey, and Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa. The Central Library in downtown San Diego is also open Sunday afternoons.

In addition, the Central Library (820 E Street, downtown San Diego) will return to being open on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. starting Saturday, Nov. 3. A further increase restoring a full day of service on Mondays at San Diego Public Library System branch libraries is planned to take place before the end of 2012. When that occurs, city branch libraries such as Mira Mesa will be open on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., rather than the current Monday hours of 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays

*(See **Library** on page 9)*

2012 MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Ted Brengel,
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President's Message for November

Election Day is approaching! Finally! In fact, the November MMTC meeting is on the evening before the election. We will finally be able to put all that rhetoric and arguing behind us and get behind the new (or reelected old) office holders. First, however, each of us has to vote. Please, whatever you do, don't forget to cast your vote. If there are candidates with whom you are not familiar, ask friends, or just Google them. There is a wealth of information in the voter guide and on the web. You don't have to rely upon what is said on television about the propositions either. The voter guide contains statements by both supporters and opponents of each one, and the full text of each is included. If you take a little time you can see for yourself if the claims of either are true or false. By all means though, please vote.

This month's meeting will include a number of important events including the selection of next year's board of directors and nominations for this year's Volunteer of the Year. Your participation in these decisions is important. Read further in this issue for more information on the Volunteer of the Year.

Let's shift for a moment to a subject that arises every few days. The mural on the large wall you can see from I-15 has drawn the attention of many people, but recently one of the editors of the *Voice of San Diego* wrote about it asking for information from anyone who knows what it is. Just in case you didn't know about it, it was placed there by Garden Communities, the developer and manager of the large apartment complex being constructed at I-15 and Mira Mesa Boulevard. Each phase of Casa Mira View consists of a five-story parking structure surrounded by apartments. The idea is that you will be able to park your car in the central parking structure on the same level as your apartment. As the apartments are constructed the parking structure gets completely covered, but during the construction bare walls are visible until the apartments covering each of them are built. The art on the wall depicts education in Mira Mesa.

It was painted by the same artist who leads the painting of utility boxes in Mira Mesa, LeoAngelo Reyes. Casa Mira View will start showing apartments for lease in December. When completed, the project will include more than 2,000 apartments.

On another subject, has anyone noticed the work going on in front of our EpiCentre? The EpiCentre shares the parking lot with the Senior Center. While the main use of the EpiCentre is for youth activities, our Mira Mesa Scripps Ranch Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol shares the building and maintains our Mira Mesa Police Storefront there. About six months ago the RSVP administrator, John Sunde, decided that it was high time for the weed-clogged front area of the building to start looking like something of which we can all be proud. Now, after many donations totaling several thousand dollars and many hundreds of hours of volunteer work, the area is starting to look magnificent. If you haven't noticed it, I urge you to stop by the Storefront and look around. Don't hesitate to drop in and introduce yourself while you are there. And don't forget, the storefront is the place to get "fix-it" tickets signed off after the necessary repairs are made to your car.

As a recap don't forget to vote and come to the November MMTC meeting on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

Town Council Seeking Nominations for Board of Directors

By Jon Labaw

Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at the Nov. 5 meeting and the nominating committee is soliciting nominations.

The board positions are: President (serve as the CEO, preside at meetings, appoint special committees, oversee prep for general meetings), First Vice President (coordinate programs, prepare for general meetings), Second Vice President (maintain membership files and seek new members), Recording Secretary (record the proceedings at all meeting and maintain a file of MMTC business), Newsletter Editor (prepare and mail all publications for MMTC), Treasurer (monitor all expenditures, provide monthly balance sheet for MMTC, acquire and independent audit, maintain insurance documents, update 501(c) documentation), Parliamentarian (interpret rules and procedures, chair bylaw review committee, chair nominating committee), Members at Large (assist other Board Members as needed).

Current nominations are:

- President – Ted Brengel
- First VP – Bari Vaz
- Second VP – Brandy Ludwick
- Recording Secretary – Jeff Stevens
- Newsletter Editor – Alexander Nguyen
- Treasurer – John Horst
- Parliamentarian – Christina Keene
- Members at Large – Christiane Hoffman, Jennifer Kvalvik, Jon Labaw, Maria Pankau

If you would like to add your name to the list of nominees please email jlabaw13@gmail.com or nominate yourself at the general meeting in November.

Sapphire Sound, MMIMB Host 20th Tournament

By Maria Pankau

Sapphire Sound, the Mira Mesa High School Band and Color Guard, and the Mira Mesa Instrumental Music Boosters (MMIMB) will host the 20th Mira Mesa Invitational Band Review (parade) and Field Tournament on Nov. 3, 2012.

Who doesn't like a parade? Especially one where 20 bands display their most perfect musical and marching abilities in order to win the Parade Sweepstakes award. This edition of the Band Review will display bands, from throughout Southern California, in five distinct divisions, from small bands with less than 50 members to bands with more than 150 members all marching in straight lines while playing some of the most difficult marches ever written. Sapphire Sound, as host, will be in the parade as the final group in the competition.

But before (and after) the parade, purchase a ticket and sit a while in the Mira Mesa High School stadium to see an amazing display of precision marching, musical ability and color guard drills from the more than 30 marching bands participating in this year's competition. The Field Shows will be divided into six divisions, with each band having just 11 minutes to present their show in front of Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) judges. Each caption (marching, music, precision, etc.) has at least one judge. For those of you that have no idea what a Field Show is — it is the half time presentation at many college football games, however, the high school version is much more refined. These musicians and color guard members aim for perfection!

The event begins at 8 a.m. in the stadium where bands with less than 50 musicians will display their mastery at marching, music and flag and rifle routines. At 12:30 p.m. all participating bands will take to the street for their five minutes in front of SCSBOA parade judges. The parade will take place between Westonhill Drive and Reagan Road and it is free to all. Lastly, at 3:15 p.m., we return to the stadium for the larger band field competition. The largest bands, those more than 100 members will compete starting at 7 p.m. Sapphire Sound will take the field at 8 p.m. and, even though they will be judged and given a score, as hosts of the competition, they will not be eligible to receive a trophy.

There will be two awards ceremonies, one at 2:20 p.m. for those bands competing in the morning field and another at 9:30 p.m. for all other bands. Parade awards will be given at the time of each bands ceremony.

After the last large band show and prior to the final awards' ceremony, there will be a special exhibition by the San Diego State University Marching Aztecs.

This event is Sapphire Sound's biggest fundraiser and the best way to help them continue their excellent program at the high school level. This award-winning group can only thrive with help from the community they so excellently represent. So, stop by. Enjoy great music, marvel at the marching prowess of our young people, purchase a program, lunch, snacks, etc., and help the program continue.

Remember that these students spend most of their free time practicing, practicing, practicing — whether its music, marching, flag and rifle routines, it is only fitting that we enjoy that which they are so selfishly providing to us and help them to proceed to bigger and better things.

Sapphire Sound, Mira Mesa High School Band and Color Guard

Mira Mesa ROTC Commander Selected as 2012 Girl of Merit

Mira Mesa High School senior Arnelle Sambile was recently recognized by the Girls World Expo as a 2012 Girl of Merit.

The honor is given to girls 12-18 years old who through their actions, activities, leadership and positive influence on others have proved themselves exceptional members of the community.

Sambile was nominated for her inspiration and leadership skills she exhibits as Wing Commander of Mira Mesa's Air Force NJROTC program.

An awards ceremony publicly recognizing Sambile and nine other local honorees will be held Oct. 21 at the Girls World Expo San Diego event. The Girls of Merit ceremony includes a keynote speech by Brent & Kelly King of Chelsea's Light Foundation.

The Girls World Expo is an organization that hosts expos that center on the educational and cultural development of girls 11-18. Expos feature seminars that allow girls to meet with and hear from successful women in the local community who show them the path to success. Similar expos are held in New York, Washington D.C. and St. Louis. More information can be found at the Girls World Expo website.

Arnelle Sambile

The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Play for Serious People, Oscar Wilde's witty Victorian-era comedy.

Banned Book Club's Discussion Titles Announced

By Pam Stevens

Do you enjoy reading and talking about thought-provoking books? The Mira Mesa Library's Banned Book Club, a book group with a "freedom to read" theme, meets the last Tuesday of each month at the library, 8405 New Salem St., 6:30 p.m. social, discussion 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. The group reads and discusses books that have been banned or challenged somewhere over the years, as well as other titles that tie into the theme. All are welcome, "regulars" as well as "drop-ins" for a particular title!

Books selected for discussion in 2012-13 are:

The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Play for Serious People, by Oscar Wilde. The book group plans a special page-to-stage discussion of this witty Victorian-era comedy! Read the play (copies are in the library system, as well as available to read online or download for Kindle, Nook, or Sony e-reader), and/or watch a movie version of the play, and/or attend a performance of the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild production of "The Importance of Being Earnest," Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm Oct 19-20 and Oct. 26-27, at Wangenheim Middle School, tickets available at the door or in advance at miramesa theatreguild.org, then discuss the play at the book group meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Infidel, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali – memoir that covers Hirsi Ali's life from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya, to political activism in the Netherlands, to life beyond that. (Nov. 27, 2012)

Existence, by David Brin – new near-future novel by award-winning San Diego science fiction author. (Jan. 29, 2013)

The Rent Collector, by Camron Wright – new novel, based on a real-life family, that tells the story of a young mother struggling to survive by picking through garbage at Cambodia's largest municipal dump. (Feb. 26, 2013)

Les Misérables, a Page-to-Stage Discussion – Participants can choose to read whatever version they prefer of *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo's classic novel — unabridged, abridged, or adapted "youth" version 0 (there is a good approximately 100-page adaptation by Monica Kulling), and/or watch a movie version of *Les Misérables* (the new movie based on the stage musical will be in theaters starting Dec. 25, 2012), and/or see Mira Mesa High School's production of the stage musical, "Les Misérables," in March 2013, then join in a compare-and-contrast discussion of the story with others at the meeting. (Mar. 26, 2013)

The Road Not Taken: A Selection of Robert Frost's Poetry, by Robert Frost, with commentary by Louis Untermeyer – in celebration of National Poetry Month in April. (April 30, 2013)

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson – the controversial classic book that awakened many to the dangers of pesticide overuse. (May 28, 2013)

Lady Chatterly's Lover, by D. H. Lawrence (June 25, 2013)

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, by Cheryl Strayed (July 30, 2013)

The Outsiders, by S. E. Hinton. (Aug. 27, 2013)

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

San Diego School Board President

Mira Mesa Schools Showing Great Success

By John Lee Evans

San Diego School Board President

At the State of the District Address on October 2 I celebrated the significant achievement gains that we have made over the past four years. San Diego Unified ranks in the top two among large urban districts in California.

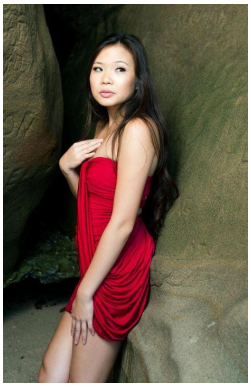
Mira Mesa schools have come out very high on the state API ratings, setting an example for the entire district. The state sets a standard of 800 for all schools. Every school in Mira Mesa has exceeded this.

Challenger Middle School and Sandburg Elementary broke past the 900 barrier with scores of 908 and 919 respectively. Nudging right up to this high level of success was Ericson at 899.

These test scores reflect only a small part of the excellence of our neighborhood schools. This year we are working on broader measures of success including creativity, physical fitness, critical thinking and much more. Character education has also been a strong component of Mira Mesa schools.

Voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on California's investment in education with Propositions 30 and 38. San Diego voters will also weigh in on Proposition Z for facilities and technology. Mira Mesa schools have proven that they are worth the investment.

Being Miss Mira Mesa was the 'Best Job I Ever Had'



Miss Mira Mesa Monica Fung.

By Monica Fung

A couple of weeks ago I was talking to my Miss Teen Mira Mesa, Morgan Sibley, about how fast time flew since we were crowned. It had occurred to me that we are a little more than halfway through our reign. It's been an amazing and exhilarating experience so far! I always tell everyone that this is the "best job" I ever had.

I would first like to thank our pageant coordinator, or what I like to call our "pageant mother" Maria Pankau, for setting up and chaperoning our every event. She always makes sure our hair, sashes and crowns are on point and she's always been supportive of our endeavors. Without her, we wouldn't be able to have so many functions that keep us updated with Mira Mesa.

One of the best events I remember attending was the Ronald McDonald Red Shoe Day where we were able to raise money to provide a 'home away from home' for children with serious illnesses.

It made me realize how generous the people of our city are to be able to give donations for a great cause. The second most memorable event was the Volunteer of the Year Dinner where we were able to pay homage to Judy Taylor for all the great volunteer work she has done for our community. Last but not least was the 4th of July Parade & Celebration at the Recreation center.

It was an honor to be a part of the parade and overall a fun experience to walk around the park to meet the many great people of our community.

Every person I have met, from the members of the Mira Mesa Town Council to even guests I met at the Volunteer of the Year Dinner, have reiterated how great our community is and what I stood for when I first spoke about Mira Mesa at the pageant. We have a diverse, open-minded community that our current and future generations can be proud of. I strongly encourage every young lady to participate in the next pageant on Feb. 2, 2013, because they will get to experience all the glory that is Mira Mesa through their eyes. Not only will you be awarded scholarship money towards your education but you gain so much more than that through your experience as an ambassador for Mira Mesa.

Miss Teen: 'I Have Grown' Thanks to the Pageant

Morgan Sibley (second from right) at the Miss Greater San Diego Teen USA pageant. *Photo courtesy of Jay Renard*

By Morgan Sibley

During the past seven months as Miss Teen Mira Mesa, I have grown tremendously. Since the day I was crowned, I began to discover more about myself. I am more confident with meeting and speaking with new people; public speaking in general; and finding my voice. Some of the new opportunities that have come my way include Relay for Life and Survivor Soirée (with respect to cancer survivors and their caregivers); Town Council meetings which allow me to learn from our town leaders; invitations to various city/community pageants and fashion shows; grand openings for new city parks and businesses; and the opportunity to participate in the Greater San Diego Teen Pageant, representing Mira Mesa, where I placed 1st Runner Up.

The pageant experience taught me self-discipline. I managed to keep up with my school work, fitness schedule, healthy eating habits, all while building new friendships. One of the best prizes I have received as Miss Teen Mira Mesa was becoming close with Miss Mira Mesa, Monica Fung. Monica is so much fun to be around and good role model for me. She has become part of my family and I hope that Monica is in my life for many years to come.

I am also very blessed to have gone through this experience with my pageant mom, Maria Pankau, my sister, Olivia and my mother. Without their help, guidance and encouragement, I may not have been able to have as much fun with my pageant obligations as I actually had. Their support has been invaluable. I also wish to thank my sponsor, Sandy Smith. Sandy's kind words and bright smile keep my spirits high. Last but not least, Mira Mesa Town Council for the scholarship provided to the pageant winners to help with advanced our education.

I am looking forward to passing my beautiful crown to Miss Teen Mira Mesa 2013 in February and I am excited for the adventures that continue to come my way.

Sapphire Sound hosts band tournament Nov. 3 at Mira Mesa High School

Events of Interest

- **Nov. 3 — Band Tournament, Mira Mesa High School, all day**
- **Nov. 3 — Hip-Hop Dance Class with Mira Mesa High School Dance Team, Mira Mesa Library**
- **Nov. 8 — Gentle Yoga, Mira Mesa Library, 6 pm**
- **Nov. 8 — Sign4Baby with Joann Woolley, Mira Mesa Library, 3:30 pm**
- **Nov. 10 — Heavenly Hands Craft Bazaar, 9 am - 3 pm, Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church (8081 Mira Mesa Blvd.)**
- **Nov. 30 — Teen Advisory Board, Mira Mesa Library**

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	2 Khanh's Drawing Class – 4 pm, Mira Mesa Library	3 Story Time & Craft – 11 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
4 **DAYLIGHT SAVING STARTS**	5 Mira Mesa Town Council – 7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Crafts with Kim – Mira Mesa Library	6 **ELECTION DAY** Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	7 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 6:30 am, Mimi's Restaurant Exchange Club of San Diego – 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6 pm, Mira Mesa Library	8	9	10 Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library Heaven Hands Craft Bazaar – 9am, Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church.
11 **VETERANS DAY**	12 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors – 6pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	13 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center 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, Scottish Rites Center	14 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Exchange Club of San Diego – 6:30 pm, Mandarin Garden Restaurant Mira Mesa Banner District – 6:30 pm, location TBD Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	15 Sr Center Board of Governors – 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Mira Mesa Theatre Guild – 6 pm, location varies Community Pride – 6:30 pm, call for location Black Mountain Democratic Club – 7 pm, Mesa Village Rec Hall 1	16 Khanh's Drawing Class – 4 pm, Mira Mesa Library	17 Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
18	19 Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – 7 pm, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205 Crafts with Kim – Mira Mesa Library	20 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	21 Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	22 **THANKSGIVING**	23	24
25	26 Mira Mesa Cluster Schools Council - 6 pm, Mira Mesa High School Media Room	27 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center Banned Book Club – 6:45 pm, Mira Mesa Library	28 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library	29 Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce – Mixer, 6 pm, see website for location	30 Khanh's Drawing Class – 4 pm, Mira Mesa Library	

Minutes From Last Month's General Membership Meeting

15 minutes before the meeting started we were entertained by the Mira Mesa High School Madrigals.

CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Singing of our Nation's National Anthem by Mira Mesa High School Madrigals.
- Approval of Minutes from the September meeting, by acclamation

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS OF THE MONTH — Sandwich Emporium. Alex Nguyen accepted the award on behalf of Sandwich Emporium, and commented on their value to the Mira Mesa community.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Jeff Stevens

- 4th of July Account $685
- Street Fair Account $22,874
- Checking Account $12,969
- Savings Account $15,875
- Scholarship fund $12,361

NO FIRST RESPONDER REPORTS

MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL NOMINATION COMMITTEE — Jon Labaw solicited for volunteers to be on a committee to nominate people to run for the Mira Mesa Town Council 2013 Board. Anyone interested in running for MMTC Office or be on the nominating committee please contact Jon Labaw at jlabaw13@gmail.com.

PRESENTATION —

- State Assembly Candidate - R.J. Hernandez, State Senator Candidate , Assemblymember Marty Block, and County Board of Supervisor Candidate - Dave Roberts (Steven Hadley) introduced themselves and presented their backgrounds, qualifications, values and vision for their respective candidacy positions. They answered questions from the audience.

COUNCILMEMBER CARL DEMAIO — John Ly

- Made some announcements regarding the city and fielded questions from the audience. There are some concerns about gang activity in the north part of Mira Mesa.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR PAM SLATER-PRICE — Marc Reggir

- Made some safety, health and agriculture announcements. He fielded questions from the audience.

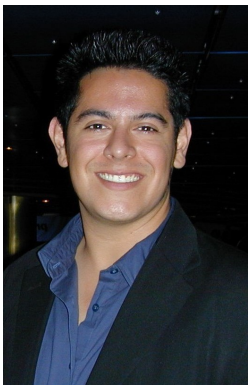
CONGRESSMAN BRIAN BILBRAY — Christine Pierce

- Told us about some legislation that Congressman Bilbray was involved with and she answered questions from the audience.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pam Stevens of the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild (www.miramesatheatreguild.org)-- announced the performance of the play The Importance of Being Earnest a comedy by Oscar Wilde at Wangenheim Middle School - October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27, at 7:30pm. Pam presented some playbill advertising opportunities.
- Mira Mesa High School Band Review is November 3, 2012. Mira Mesa Blvd will be closed most of that day. 32 competing bands. Event strictly funded by community and private donations. MOTION: A motion was made by Joe Frichtel, seconded by Pam Stevens for Treasurer Jeff Stevens to issue payment of $300 for a Mira Mesa High School Band Review trophy. Motion unanimously passed.
- Chuck Sweet requested funding for the Halloween Carnival. MOTION: A motion was made by Christiane Hoffman, seconded by Christina Keene for Treasurer Jeff Stevens to issue payment of $400 for the Halloween Carnival. Motion unanimously passed.
- Parks and Recreation Chair, Jeff Stevens gave a short overview of what is going on with the parks in Mira Mesa.

MEETING ADJOURNED



State Assembly Candidate -R.J. Hernandez was at the October meeting.

Judy Taylor, 2011 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year.

Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year 2012 Nominations Due

By Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Town Council invites members and the community at large to submit their nominations for the 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year. (Nomination form is available online at miramesatowncouncil.org.) The due date is Nov. 10, 2012 (Saturday after the November MMTC meeting). Mail or email your nominations to Jeff Stevens (jeffstev@san.rr.com) or return your nomination form in person at the Nov. 5 MMTC meeting at the MM Senior Center.

Honoring a longtime community volunteer as Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year is an annual tradition of the MMTC since1984, when Verne Goodwin was selected as the first honoree and MMTC named its college scholarship fund after him. The Volunteer of the Year need not be a Mira Mesa Town Council member, but should be 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.

2011 Volunteer of the Judy Taylor was honored at a dinner in May 2012. For details and photos from that gala event, see www.miramesatowncouncil.org/news.htm. The annual dinner is also a fundraiser for MMTC's Verne Goodwin Scholarship Fund, which awards college scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have been involved with community service.

Brief biographies of nominees will be published in the December 2012 MMTC newsletter. MMTC members will vote to select the 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year at the December MMTC meeting on Monday, December 3, 2012. (Anyone who joins MMTC as a member on or before Nov. 3 is eligible to take part in the voting.)

In February 1995 MMTC members adopted standing rules for the "Volunteer of the Year" award that MMTC policy would be to select only one Volunteer of the Year and to not select an honoree who has previously been Volunteer of the Year.

Previous Mira Mesa Volunteers of the Year are:

- 1984 Verne Goodwin
- 1985 John Worthington
- 1986 Bruce Brown
- 1987 Sandra Sparks
- 1988 Dawn Gutierrez
- 1989 Orlando Vernacchia
- 1990 Pam Stevens
- 1991 Brenda Bowman
- 1992 Jeff Stevens and Sharon McCollum
- 1993 Bob O'Hara
- 1994 Bruce Brown
- 1995 John Malo
- 1996 Eldon Jacobs
- 1997 Marvin Miles
- 1998 Larry Brady
- 1999 Debbie Vincent
- 2000 Keith Flitner
- 2001 Robin Stutsman
- 2002 Karen Burger
- 2003 Tim Allen
- 2004 Steve Stutsman
- 2005 Joe Frichtel
- 2006 Chuck Sweet
- 2007 Mike Davis
- 2008 Ted Brengel
- 2009 Sandy Smith
- 2010 John Sunde
- 2011 Judy Taylor

MMTC Plans Program on Emergency Preparedness

By Pam Stevens

A presentation by the Mira Mesa CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is scheduled as the main program at the Nov. 5 Mira Mesa Town Council, according to Bari Vaz, MMTC first vice president and program chair. At this year's Mira Mesa Street Fair on Sept. 15, Mira Mesa CERT team members demonstrated some of their emergency response skills in action, such as wound care. Mira Mesa has a very active CERT team, with a blog for discussion by CERT team members and others interested in topics related to CERT, http://miramesacert.blogspot.com.

The MMTC Board has invited CERT to share with MMTC members and the public what the group does and how Mira Mesa residents can better prepare themselves for emergency situations. In other business at the Nov. 5 meeting, MMTC members will elect officers for 2013, and the non-profit civic group is accepting nominations for the 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Verne Goodwin Mira Mesa Senior Center, 8460 Mira Mesa Blvd.

At the Dec. 3 Mira Mesa Town Council meeting. MMTC members will vote to select the 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year honoree. (See miramesatowncouncil.org for details.) Other than that, the evening will primarily be a social gathering, with light refreshments and entertainment by Mira Mesa High School musical groups. Public welcome!

Mira Mesa Student Semi-Finalist in Prestigious Scholarship

A Mira Mesa student is a semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement Program, a prestigious academic scholarship that pays $2,500 or more.

Open only to African American high school students, Mira Mesa High's Nicole M. Hardson-Hurley is one of six semi-finalists.

"These are among the most difficult scholarships for students to obtain," Superintendent Bill Kowba said. "I know I join all staff and students in our district in wishing these semi-finalists good luck in their efforts."

The National Achievement Scholarship Program, conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Program, is a privately financed academic competition that operates without government assistance. It was initiated in 1964 to recognize academically promising black students throughout the nation and to provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding program participants. To date, more than 31,900 young men and women have received Achievement Scholarship awards worth more than $100 million.

To advance to the Finalist level in the competition, the Semifinalist and their high school must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide information about the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and educational goals. Semifinalists must present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn sat scores that confirm their PSAT/NMSQT performance.

For more information on the program, students should see their school counselor.

Nicole M. Hardson-Hurley

Prevention: Advisory board gives students positive mentoring

(Continued from page 1)

work toward a positive change throughout the community. The first schools with YABs were Morse and Lincoln High Schools. As part of the program, the students wrote and produced an Emmy-winning short film, *4 or 40: The Choice is Yours*. The film continues to be used during presentations to students across San Diego County.

"The District Attorney's Youth Advisory Boards provide positive mentoring to our students and helps them to make the right choices about their futures," Superintendent Bill Kowba said. "We look forward to continuing and expanding this partnership to keep our students in school and away from the negative consequences of gangs and crime."

The District Attorney's Office is also working to provide schools with its Girls Only Toolkit. The DA, in partnership with the City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention (CGPI), crafted a new educational curriculum called Girls Only, designed to prevent young girls from becoming involved in gangs and prostitution, will now be offered countywide. The curriculum promotes self-esteem, develops healthy coping skills and inspires positive motivation.

The innovative education toolkit focuses on girls age eight to 12 and works to empower girls before they enter their difficult teenage years. The program provides a forum for young girls, giving them the opportunity to find alternatives to the kinds of abusive relationships that often lead to involvement with gangs, substance abuse and, eventually, the criminal justice system.

"We look forward to continuing and expanding this partnership to keep our students in school and away from the negative consequences of gangs and crime."

Library: New Assistant Joins Mira Mesa Branch Staff

(Continued from page 1)

and Wednesdays hours are planned to remain the same, 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. both days. Thursdays hours will continue to be 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays will continue to be 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The date for increased Monday hours has not yet been announced, but it will likely take place during December.

For more information, see the San Diego Public Library website, sandiegolibrary.org, or call the Mira Mesa Branch Library, (858) 538-8165.

New Assistant

The Mira Mesa Branch Library welcomes Deborah L. Surroz-Weber to its staff as the branch's new library assistant. Surroz-Weber will share reference duties with Branch Manager Jennifer Suder and Youth Services Librarian Rosa Kwon, as well as assist with overall operations at the busy branch.

Surroz-Weber moved to San Diego about three months ago from Illinois. She was the head librarian at Antioch High School in Lake Villa, Ill., and has worked in public libraries as well. She has an MLS from Dominican University, River Forest, Ill. She has been described as "passionate about books, and very knowledgeable about young adult literature."

Deborah L. Surroz-Weber

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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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MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL

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