Mira Mesa Town Council Newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 4 April 2013

Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting

- Monday, April 1, 2013
  7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
  Mira Mesa Senior Center
  8460 Mira Mesa Blvd.

Agenda:

- Congressman Scott Peters
- 2-1-1

Business of the Month:

- Collins Jeweler

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RSVP Volunteers: Hidden in Plain Sight

They're in practically every corner of the county – you just might not know it. They're not hiding or trying to be incognito. In fact, they're happy to be recognized.

You might see them at the San Diego Botanical Gardens, the Alpine Community Center, one of the Sharp hospitals or a Balboa Park museum.

More than 500,000 volunteer hours are donated annually in San Diego County by 2,000-plus retired or older adults through the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), sponsored locally by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency's Aging & Independence Services.

When most people think of RSVP they picture the volunteer patrols that assist law enforcement in the county. While that is one of the more high-profile assignments, that barely scratches the surface of the contributions the volunteers make in our communities.

San Diego County RSVP Manager Linda Hopkins

RSVP works with more than 125 sites doing everything from delivering meals to guiding tours to teaching children and adults to read.

Linda Hopkins, the new RSVP manager, is working on raising the visibility of the program. The San Diego County RSVP is the largest in Southern California.

"I call it our identity crisis," she said. "Most people think the program is law enforcement volunteers, but we're much more than just law enforcement opportunities."

There are a couple ways Hopkins intends to do that. New "RSVP Volunteer Serving Here" signs are on the way for

*(See **RSVP** on page 15)*

A Day with the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol

By Pat Clark
RSVP Board Member

The Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol is in the SDPD storefront, 8450 Mira Mesa Blvd. The volunteer patrols meet there to check in, get their computer, and let SDPD dispatch know they're in a vehicle. I was able to join them for two days. The first day we covered Scripps Ranch and the second day Mira Mesa. There are two patrols each day, six days a week, one to Mira Mesa and another to Scripps Ranch.

My partners the first day were Floyd Kellman and Barry Klopstein. The second day I rode with Bob Antipuesto and Celto Benitez. They have been volunteering for RSVP between one and five years. The common thread among these men was that they were helping people and showing their volunteer spirit. I found them to be very dedicated and loved what they were doing.

Day one started out by going to the substation in Rancho

*(See **Volunteer** on page 15)*

2013 MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Message for April

What a month March was! Wonders will never cease! First, the way is now clear for the construction of a new elementary school in Mira Mesa, and second, your favorite town council has taken the lead in creating a new way to support good works in our community.

That's right. On March 26 the San Diego City Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the San Diego Unified School District on the use and management of the land that includes the future Jonas Salk Elementary School. That finally clears the way for construction of the school to begin in July of this year and for the school to open in September 2015. The 100th anniversary of Dr. Salk's birth will be on Oct. 28, 2014, so expect to see a ceremony of some sort at the construction site.

This is truly a landmark event for Mira Mesa! We are deeply honored to have a school named after this great and noble researcher. Thanks to his tireless work in immunology including the discovery of the Salk Polio Vaccine, polio, perhaps the most feared disease of the twentieth century, was halted in its tracks around the world.

Another landmark is the incorporation of the MMTC Foundation, which was approved for 501(c)3 status by the IRS on March 17. Our new community foundation was created to support projects that contribute to the improvement of Mira Mesa. Donations made by individuals to the MMTC Foundation are tax deductible (for those who can take this deduction on their tax return).

What we are hoping, though, is that corporate donors who would like to do something special for Mira Mesa will be attracted by virtue of this new organization's status. Cross your fingers.

Another Taste of Mira Mesa is behind us. This annual event is sponsored by the Mira Mesa Schools Cluster Council and benefits all the schools in the community. In addition, it provides an opportunity for our fine eating establishments to allow us to sample their fare. Since I am writing this a few days before the event, I can't tell much about this year's TOMM. Suffice it to say though that each succeeding TOMM has been better than its predecessor. Watch for this outstanding event each and every year toward the end of March.

A fantastic Mira Mesa event to watch out for in April is Chalk the Walk. Do not miss this event! You will be amazed at what can be done on concrete with a few pieces of chalk. The event is being sponsored by the Mira Mesa Women's Club and the Chamber of Commerce. So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27 and come on out to the Mira Mesa Recreation Center and be prepared to be dazzled. You can also sign up to be a sponsor and create your own art on the sidewalk. All art will be photographed and posted online by yours truly. See www.MMWomensClub.com or www.MiraMesaChamber.com for more information.

Planning for the September 21 Street Fair starts this month, so if you want to be a part of the single largest event in Mira Mesa, start think about that right now.

JROTC juniors headed to Patriotic Education Seminar

Top performing JROTC cadets from around the district will be heading to Washington, D.C. and Mt. Vernon, Va., during Spring Break to attend the Patriotic Education Seminar.

Sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, the students will visit the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress and numerous other sites to gain greater awareness of our national history, monuments and museums. The chapter sponsors cadets from not only the San Diego Unified School District, but other districts around San Diego County.

The students are among the top ten percent in academic, citizenship and leadership skills. The students were selected following interviews by members of the Military Order of the World Wars. This year's winners are: Samantha Bui, Mira Mesa; Jessica Plein, Patrick Henry; Emanuel Baeza, Madison; Julia Sterling, San Diego; Melissa Ly, Point Loma; DeShawn Walker, Hoover; Junelle Aquino, Serra; Michelle Burlaza, Crawford; Shannon Douangsavanh, Lincoln.

The seminar provides a wide range of educational and awards programs for students and teachers to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the principles and responsibilities of a free and democratic society. These programs include: U.S. history, citizenship and civics, Constitutional rights, citizen responsibilities, American political process and public policy issues.

Board Unanimous in Selection of New Superintendent

John Lee Evans

By John Lee Evans
School Board President

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a Cindy Marten as the next Superintendent for San Diego Unified. The Board selected a Superintendent who would carry out our long term plan: Vision 2020: A Quality School in Every Neighborhood.

Last month Superintendent Bill Kowba announced his retirement when his contract finishes on June 30. Mr. Kowba brought stability and integrity to our district in a time of great financial turmoil.

To continue forward with our San Diego version of community based school reform we selected one of our team to lead us. Cindy Marten has been an educator for 25 years. She started in the Poway School District and then came to San Diego to work at one of our most challenging schools in City Heights where she has been for 10 years. She started off as a teacher and then became the principal. Central Elementary serves 850 at-risk youth of which 100% live in poverty and 85% of the students are English learners. She has delivered on the promise of a high quality neighborhood school in spite of all its challenges.

Ms. Marten believes that a child should not have to leave his or her neighborhood for a quality education. She has worked hard for 10 years with a team to make this dream a reality through their motto: "Work hard. Be kind. Dream big. No excuses." She believes that the quality of our schools can be improved in all of our neighborhoods from City Heights to Mira Mesa.

The Board was unanimous and enthusiastic in its decision to appoint Cindy Marten. This is a bold step forward for the district's mission of an excellent education for each and every student in our district.

Free Tax Preparation for Low-Income Residents Ends April 15

Fifteen days and counting — that is how many days you have left if you want to have your income taxes prepared for free. What do you need to do? Be a low-income family or individual and call 2-1-1 to make an appointment.

That's what Valencia Park resident Elizabeth Contreras did. Contreras and her husband, Juan Gomez, made an appointment at the Jacobs Center, where Home Start, Inc. offers free tax preparation services.

"It's a great program," said Contreras.

Contreras and Gomez both work cleaning houses and have used the free service for the past three years, saving about $300 dollars. "It's a lot of help for people like us."

Launched in late January, the free tax preparation service will continue through April 15. About 400 volunteers donate their time to help low-income residents prepare and file their taxes at about 100 locations throughout the region. All income taxes are filed electronically, which means people can get their return in as little as two weeks. Residents can call 2-1-1 to make an appointment at a location near them.

The County and its part-

*(See **Tax** on page 14)*

"All income taxes are filed electronically, which means people can get their return in as little as two weeks."

Maienschein Announces New District Office Location

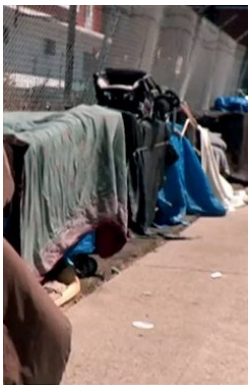
Brian Maienschein

Assemblyman Brian Maienschein announced that his San Diego district office has moved to a new location. The new office will be located at 12396 World Trade Drive, Suite 118 San Diego, CA 92128.

"My new district office will continue to offer residents of our community the very best constituent services to assist them in any way they need," Maienschein said. "Navigating the different state agencies can be complex and confusing. Fortunately, we are here to help with any issues or concerns you have regarding state government, and I encourage you to use us as a resource."

Maienschein's district staff includes Chief of Staff Lance Witmondt, as well as Senior Field Representatives Robert Knudsen and Michael Lieberman. The office opened to serve the community beginning March 14. The new office phone number is (858) 675-0077 and the new fax number is (858) 675-0688.

Maienschein represents the 77th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the communities of 4S Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Clairemont, Del Dios, Del Mar Heights, Fairbanks Ranch, Kearny Mesa, Mira Mesa, Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, Rancho Santa Fe, Sabre Springs, San Carlos, San Pasqual Valley, Scripps Ranch, Sorrento Valley, and Tierrasanta.



San Diego has the third highest homeless population, but 18th in federal funding to help the homeless.

County Wants Fair Share of Federal Funding for Homeless

San Diego County has the third highest homeless population in the nation yet it ranks 18th when it comes to federal funding to help the homeless.

The statistics were reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in a report last November and shows San Diego County falls behind only New York and Los Angeles in the number of homeless people.

During a Board meeting Tuesday, the County Board of Supervisors voted to fight for more federal dollars in keeping with the size of its homeless population. The County plans to join the City of San Diego in lobbying HUD for more money to help the region's 10,000+ homeless.

Supervisor Ron Roberts told Board members San Diego is not being treated fairly.

"Whether we're focusing on the homeless youth, the homeless veteran or the homeless family, this is one of those common sense items that we all need to get behind," said Supervisor Roberts.

Each year, the County's Department of Housing and Community Development, on behalf of the Regional Continuum of Care, applies to HUD for federal funding. HUD relies on formulas originally designed to address high density populations on the nation's East Coast. The formulas haven't

*(See **Homeless** on page 13)*

"Roberts said early studies have suggested that implementing Laura's Law could save taxpayers money."

County Supervisors Direct Staff to Study "Laura's Law"

San Diego County supervisors voted unanimously Wednesday to have County staff thoroughly study "Laura's Law" to determine if the state law could improve the County's ability to help people who suffer from severe mental health problems and their families.

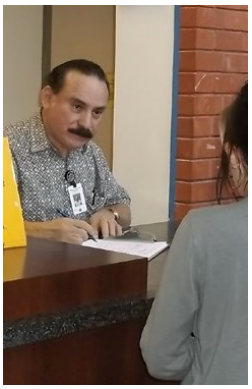
The Board, at the recommendation of Supervisors Dave Roberts and Dianne Jacob, directed County staff to come back in 90 days with a report comparing Laura's Law to the County's In Home Outreach Team (IHOT), a County pilot program that has drawn praise from mental-health officials and affected families.

Roberts and Jacob said they want the County to determine if there is even more it can do to help mental-health patients; whether implementing Laura's Law would improve mental-health services and whether Laura's Law would cost more than current County programs or cut costs.

"We wanted to make sure that the County is doing all that it can to help them and to protect the public overall," Roberts said, "and the only way we can do that is to look at what we're doing now and comparing it to other options of care that are available to us."

Laura's law, passed into law in 2002, allows patients with severe mental health problems to be mandatorily compelled by court order to

*(See **Law** on page 14)*



Family Advocate Manuel Pacheco helps answer questions for families.

Guiding Families through the Juvenile Court Process

Imagine getting a notification that your teenage son or daughter is in trouble and needs to appear in court. Adding to that stress, court documents provided to you are full of legal terms you don't understand.

That's when the Family Advocates step in at Juvenile Court. The retired probation officers can help translate legalese into English or Spanish.

"We know how difficult it can be for a family when a child has contact with the juvenile justice system. We also know the importance of engaging the family to help youth on probation succeed One of the ways we are trying to do that is by working with families to help them understand and successfully complete court and probation requirements," Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins said.

The San Diego Association of Governments surveyed more than 400 people who used the Family Advocate program in 2012 and recently released its results. The survey found:

- 93 percent of families felt "very satisfied" with the advocates
- 92 percent felt they had a better understanding of the juvenile court process and knew what was required of them

The survey noted that nearly two-thirds of those who responded were Latino and 42 percent of them said Spanish was

*(See **Advocate** on page 13)*

Getting Connected with SDUSD Superintendent Designate

Cindy Marten

By Cindy Marten
Superintendent Designate

What an incredible honor it is to be selected by the Board of Education as the next Superintendent of San Diego Unified. The heart-felt welcome and well wishes I've been receiving from the community-at-large have energized me to fully embrace this opportunity to work together on behalf of our children.

Superintendent Kowba and I have met to design a smooth and seamless transition plan. During the next four months of taking on my new role, I will spend significant time connecting with our staff, parents, students and community members. I look forward to learning more about the district through my interactions with all of you.

As an educator, I have seen the power of community engagement in building highly effective schools. I am committed to working with each cluster community to ensure that we have a quality school in every neighborhood.

Please share this email with anyone interested in public education. Be sure to subscribe to the updates I'll be sending weekly. I invite you to join me in the coming weeks at any of the events listed below. Also, please invite me to any events or forums that you would like me to attend. You can email me at DreamBigSupt @sandi.net .

My goal in the next several months is to reach out to every corner of our fine district to listen and learn about your hopes and dreams for the education of our children. I am filled with hope as I invite you to join me as we continue to build the best public school system in the nation.

Green Flash Building Second Brewery in Virginia Beach

Green Flash Brewing Co. is planning to build a second brewery in Virginia Beach, owners Mike and Lisa Hinkley announced. The 58,000 square-foot Virginia Beach facility will employ 40-plus people and utilize $20 million of invested capital. From a production standpoint, the new brewery will replicate the state-of-the-art production capabilities of the Green Flash Mira Mesa headquarters, which were commissioned in 2010 when the brewery upgraded from a smaller facility in Vista.

To best duplicate the operations of their West Coast brewery, all brew house and fermentation cellar equipment will once again be manufactured by Paul Mueller Company. Ultimate production capacity will be 100,000 annual barrels. Plans are to break ground later this year, and to be open for business in 2015.

"The Mid-Atlantic region provided logistical advantages," says Lisa Hinkley of Green Flash. "Virginia is a great place to do business, has a developing craft beer culture, and Virginia Beach felt like home."

Like San Diego, Virginia Beach is historically a military town and is celebrated for a vibrant local beach culture. Both cities are also thriving tourist destinations — Virginia

*(See **Beer** on page 13)*

"The Mid-Atlantic region provided logistical advantages"

Scripps Mesa Retail Center Sold to Wis. Company for $6.9M

The CBRE San Diego Private Capital Group arranged the sale of Scripps Mesa Retail Center for $6,925,000. Located at 9801-9841 Mira Mesa Blvd. immediately east of the I-15 and adjacent to the Mira Mesa Boulevard off-ramp, the 25,721-square-foot retail center was 86 percent leased at the time of sale.

Reg Kobzi and Joel Wilson of the CBRE San Diego Private Capital Group arranged the sale on behalf of the seller, Scripps Mesa Central, LLC, and the buyer, Hendricks Commercial Properties, LLC.

Built in 1988 on 1.69 acres, Scripps Mesa Retail Center tenants include Play it Again Sports, California Coast Credit Union, Primal Training, Bead Gallery Farmers Insurance and Manilla Sunset.

Based in Wisconsin, Hendricks Commercial Properties currently manages and owns more than 15 million square feet of real estate properties in 43 states including industrial, office, retail, multifamily and development land.

Scripps Mesa Retail Center, located at 9800 block of Mira Mesa Boulevard, sold to Wisconsin company.

Fourth of July Fireworks in Danger, Needs to Raise $30K

By Mitz Lee

On behalf of Scripps Mesa Fireworks, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood celebration, the annual 4th of July Fireworks.

As you may know the fireworks show almost didn't happen last summer. Again, we ask for your donation to make this year's fireworks celebration possible.

Our goal is to raise $30,000 to cover the 20-minute show, all of the safety requirements, and other associated expenses. The fireworks deposit of $15,000 is due April 3, less than a couple weeks away.

We are asking for your support by participating in one of the sponsorship levels below:

- Silver Sponsor - $1,000 - provides 5 willow shells and 2 bottle rockets
- Brocade - $500 - large spherical break of stars that produce very long lasting trails dripping down, usually silver or gold
- Beehive - $250 - color stars that actively swarm around illuminating into a visual beehive appearance
- Chrysanthemum - $100 - a dense spherical burst of stars, where the stars leave a burning trail of particles as they expand outward
- Crossette - $50 - a shell that when breaking, splits across from each other, usually in the shape of a plus sign moving outward
- $25
- $10

Anything helps!

To donate online, please visit scrippsmesafireworks.org. Mail your check payable to Scripps Mesa Fireworks to PO Box 261264, San Diego, CA 92196.

Scripps Mesa Fireworks is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Tax ID# 31-1695456

We hope we can count on your generous donation to ensure our neighborhood celebration and Independence Day traditions continue.

Sabre Springs/Peñasquitos Station Closes for Construction

The Sabre Springs/ Peñasquitos Transit Station will close for about a year for upgrades, SANDAG announced. Cars left in the parking lot will be towed. For details about alternate Park & Ride locations, visit the I-15 Transit Projects section on KeepSanDiego Moving.com.

The upgrades are in preparation for the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) to launch all-day Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along Interstate 15 starting in 2014. MTS operates local service from the Del Lago station and a combination of local and downtown Premium Express service from Rancho Bernardo. North County Transit District (NCTD) operates the BREEZE Rapid from Del Lago near the Westfield North County Mall.

The future BRT system,

*(See **Transit** on page 14)*

Abagail Arroyo at a event featuring Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Supreme Court Justice Inspires Mira Mesa High Student

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor left a great impression on six San Diego Unified students who attended her recent local appearance.

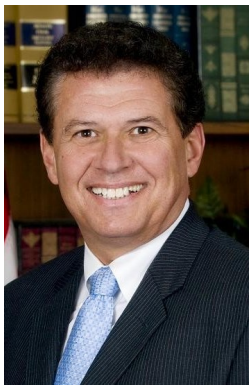
"I felt honored to have been at this event," said Abagail Arroyo, a student at Mira Mesa High School. "As a Latina myself I hope one day I will be able to represent individuals who may be inadequately represented."

Arroyo attended the event courtesy of Chris Yanov, president of Reality Changers, along with Kathy Silva from Madison, Rosa Oloscoaga of Patrick Henry, and Leslie Chavez and Jennifer Zamora from Preuss UCSD charter. All students are part of the Reality Changers program in City Heights, a program aimed at building first-generation college students.

Justice Sotomayor visited San Diego Jan. 27, speaking at the University of San Diego and signing copies of her new book, "My Beloved World," at a La Jolla bookstore. The five high school students were given copies of the book and met Sotomayor, who is the first Hispanic and just the third woman on the nation's highest court.

Arroyo said she couldn't contain her excitement when she first saw Sotomayor and was inspired by the event. Arroyo hopes to attend University of California Irvine in the fall and major in political science; her plans include becoming an immigration lawyer.

Welcome Message from State Senator Marty Block



State Senator Marty Block

by Marty Block
State Senator

Last November, I was honored and privileged when voters elected me as their State Senator for the 39th District which includes Mira Mesa. I have enjoyed working with and for my new constituents in this community and the rest of my district.

My Senate Committee assignments include Budget and Fiscal Review, Business, Professions and Economic Development, Education, Public Employment and Retirement, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs. I am also chair of the Budget Subcommittee 1 which focuses on K-12 and higher education fiscal issues.

This year, Governor Jerry Brown's 2013-14 state budget has many new proposals regarding education, health care and public safety. These are important and far reaching proposals, and I welcome your input as we study and discuss the Governor's ideas in Sacramento.

One of my education bills that is receiving a great deal of attention is SB 316. It would require that all school classrooms have doors that lock from the inside. Not all schools have these locks. Today, teachers must go outside the classroom to secure their classrooms during lockdowns, placing themselves and their students in harm's way.

After the recent school shooting tragedies, many school districts across the state and nation are already moving to install interior locking doors to keep out intruders. Enacting SB 316 is one way to make our school students and staff safer.

If you would like to learn more about SB 316 or the Governor's education proposals and have the opportunity to share your feedback, please attend my upcoming Education Budget Town Hall. The town hall is scheduled for April 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the University City High School Auditorium, 6949 Genesee Ave., near the UTC Mall in San Diego. My district office may be reached at (619) 645-3133 and my capitol office may be reached at (916) 651-4039. My staff can also provide information about obtaining assistance from a state agency or other constituent services.

I thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mira Mesa Tech Company Receives $1.2M Boeing Contract

Z Microsystems
MISSION-READY

Z Microsystems will deliver customized Gen3 Orion UDPs through 2014

Mira Mesa-based Z Microsystems, a leading provider of deployable computing systems, has received a contract from Boeing Defense, Space and Security for its Gen3 Orion Universal Display Platform (UDP) for installation on the U.S. and French Air Forces' Advanced Warning and Control System (AWACS). The value of the combined contracts is approximately $1.2M.

The Gen3 Orion UDP was selected for the AWACS Block 40/45 upgrade, which is the largest in the history of the AWACS program. The Block 40/45 upgrade dramatically enhances the system's potential for using network-enabled operations and increases the AWACS mission execution capability, effectiveness and reliability while lowering lifecycle costs through a number of improved features. The Block 40/45 upgrade includes enhancements to the primary AWACS display, which increases situational awareness through its intuitive mission displays and detailed map database.

Z Microsystems will deliver customized Gen3 Orion UDPs for installation in the AWACS fleet under this contract through 2014.

"The selection of Z Microsystems' Gen3 UDP's for the AWACS Block 40/45 upgrade program is a testament to the quality, performance and reliability of our rugged display products," said Jack Wade, CEO of Z Microsystems. "We are proud to support the Boeing Company and the U.S. Air Force on this important air battle management platform."

The Gen3 Orion UDP boasts a new ultra-high performance modular video processor that supports Picture-in-Picture (PIP), Dual-View, Quadview, Real Time Enhanced Video (RTEV) options, and resistive touch technology that provides operators the most advanced options in control and customization. Z Microsystems' new third generation electronics feature high-performance FPGA-based graphics cards, designed to be smaller and more powerful; delivering cutting edge display solutions in a new lower-profile Orion design. The models to be delivered under the Block 40/45 upgrade contract have passed stringent environmental qualification testing, including Mil-Std-810 and Mil-Std-461 standards.

A unit of the Boeing Company, Boeing Defense, Space and Security is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions, and the world's largest and most versatile manufacturer of military aircraft.

The Big Read … inspiring people across the country to pick up a good book. Listen to radio programs, watch video profiles, and read brief essays about classic authors.

Events of Interest

- **April 4 — Free Tax Preparation by VITA, Mira Mesa Library, by appointment**
- **April 13 — Science Fiction Screenwriter George Clayton meet & greet, Mira Mesa Library, 11am**
- **April 19 — Family Movie Friday, Mira Mesa Library, 3pm**
- **April 20 — Volunteer of the Year Dinner, Mira Mesa Senior Center, 6pm**
- **April 26 — *Fahrenheit 451* movie, Mira Mesa Library, 3pm**

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 **APRIL FOOL'S DAY** Mira Mesa Town Council – 7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	2 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	3 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	4 Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	5 Pastel Drawing with Joseph Nyiri, 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	6 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
7	8 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors – 6pm, Mira Mesa Community Office Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	9 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	10 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, 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	11 Sr Center Board of Governors – 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Gentle Yoga – 9:30am, Mira Mesa Library 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	12 Pastel Drawing with Joseph Nyiri – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	13 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
14	15 **TAX DAY** Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – 7 pm, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205 Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	16 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	17 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library Kiwanis, Scripps-Mira Branch – 7:15 am, Mimi's Restaurant	18 Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	19	20 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
21	22 **EARTH DAY** Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	23 Gentle Yoga – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	24 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	25 Gentle Yoga – 9:30am, Mira Mesa Library	26 Teen Advisory Board – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	27
28	29 Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	30 Big Read Discussion: What book would you save? — 6:30pm, Mira Mesa Library				

Minutes From Last Month's General Membership Meeting

Out-going Miss, Miss Teen Mira Mesa.

CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Minutes from the February meeting, by acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

- $36,939.38 in Checking. $15,878.86 Savings, $12,373.48 CD. Draft budget to be presented to Board next week.

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS OF THE MONTH — "Marvin Miles, Property Gallery". Marv has been painting out graffiti for many years, together with Bruce Brown, Ted Brengel, John Sunde and others. Same group plus others painted 13,000 feet of wall along Mira Mesa Blvd. and Camino Ruiz. Helped start RSVP, now president. RSVP volunteers have put in 180,000 hours of volunteer service. Also involved with fireworks fundraising. Office next to Big Lots.

FIRST RESPONDERS — **SDPD Northeastern Division** - Officer Susan Steffen, Community Relations Officer. Noted that Marv helps with RSVP foundation. Peñasquitos RSVP was down to $80. Marv helped them stay alive. There have been two Mira Mesa incidents. Arrest of forgers, male and female. Caught trying to buy jewelry. Found IDs, credit cards, false checks, social security numbers in house. Awesome arrest. Feb 13 serious injury accident at Carroll Canyon and Maya Linda. Motorcycle and auto. Speed trailer slows drivers who see them.

SDPD Northeastern Division - Officer Natalie Hone, Community Relations Officer. Caught BevMo bandit. Lived at Flanders and Caminito Alvarez. 21 year old male with alcohol problems. Carmel Valley has a lot of trouble with break-ins. One on Ave del Gato today. S. Steffen – has been an increase in eastern area also. Have been taking car keys from inside house and stealing cars.

CLAIREMONT TC — Don Azul, Don Azul – rep from Clairemont Town Council. James Madison High School warhawks are CIF champions. Clairemont Town Council fiscal cliff is over – finally passed budget. September is 60th Anniversary. CCCSD not approved yet because had not yet reviewed language of bylaws. Last day today – resigning from Board because running for District 6 City Council seat. Opponent from Carlsbad moved into district. Clairemont Town Council will send a replacement.

REPORT FROM CCCSD — Ted Brengel. Ted noted that there are email addresses for all Board members and the whole board: board@miramesatowncouncil.org. CCCSD is a coalition of town councils to share ideas. At organizational meeting the conversation kept drifting to support for specific issues. Had rep from Mayor's office, reps from 10 town councils. Del Cerro makes big money on their newsletter. Next week the MMTC Board will review the bylaws.

PRESENTATION — Relay for Life – Gail Hernandez. Asked people to come to event and form teams. At Hilltop Park. May 18-19. Want to end cancer. Motion (Stevens/Sweet) to donate $200 to Relay for Life. Approved 26-0. Tom Derr suggested that MMTC have a team. Miss Mira Mesa and Miss Teen Mira Mesa will be there.

PRESENTATION — Bus Rapid Transit – Barrow Emerson, Senior Transportation Planner, SANDAG. Distributed four fact sheets. Managed lanes. Bus transit stations and services funded by Transnet sales tax. New regional services will be starting and both regional and local services will come to station at Miramar College. DAR open by next March, transit station by Christmas, new buses in January. Trying to get more transit for people in Mira Mesa, and people out of cars on roads and into transit. 7 very bad intersections. Traditional solution is transit queue jumps and transit signal priority. Makes bus arrival times reliable. No room for bus lane. Shared right turn is proposed solution. Trying to do with minimal impacts, but may need to relax some standards. Will implement shared bike and bus lanes. There are impacts. Will not impact buildings, but will impact sidewalks, landscaping, some back yards. Width of landscaping may be reduced. May need to modify entrances to buildings on MM Blvd. 3 or 4 properties may need to take part of back yards. Environmental document produced before decision. Transit rates will not increase. Jim Hearn – how about access to Post Office? Probably will not be affected. Queue lanes are typically ~200 feet from corner. Ted – may relieve some traffic on MM Blvd.

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

TWO-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS BY SOME COMMUNITY GROUPS

MEETING ADJOURNED

Business Members Directory

New Ad Rates—Business Card Size

One Issue - $25.00, **Three Issues** (Buy 2, Get 1 Free) - $50.00, **Full Year** - $150.00 (Buy 6, Get 5 Free) - To place an ad contact: Newsletter@MiraMesaTownCouncil.org

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Volunteer of the Year Bari Vaz.

'New Orleans Night' to honor Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year

By Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Town Council's Volunteer of the Year Dinner honoring Bari Vaz as 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year will take place Saturday, April 20 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Verne Goodwin Senior Center, 8460 Mira Mesa Blvd. Join fellow MMTC members, other local business and non-profit group leaders, elected officials and their representatives, and Bari's family and friends at this gala event!

Bari Vaz moved to Mira Mesa from New Orleans in 2008 and rapidly became a leader in most of Mira Mesa community groups. She became a Mira Mesa Community Planning Group Board member in 2009, and chaired a Planning Group subcommittee that reviewed the future high occupancy vehicle onramp to Interstate 15, working for months to develop mitigation plans. Bari served as Mira Mesa Community Planning Group Chairman from 2011 to March 2013.

She currently serves as MMCPG secretary. Bari served as Mira Mesa Town Council newsletter editor from 2010 to 2011, and has served as First Vice-President of the Mira Mesa Town Council from 2011 to present (2013). 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 has chaired the Mira Mesa Fourth of July committee for the past three years, and is also active with Scripps Mesa Fireworks, Inc., the non-profit that raises funds for the fireworks display. Bari is a leader in creating the new MMTC Foundation, a tax-deductible non-profit now being launched as a sister group to Mira Mesa Town Council.

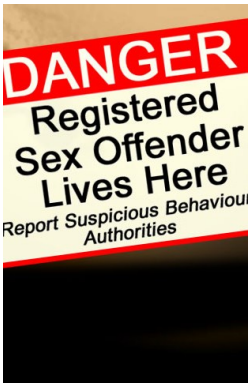
Bari also serves on the board of the Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Inc. (2011 to present) and as Chairman of the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce (2010 to present). Bari lived in New Orleans prior to coming to Mira Mesa and was just as active in that community, among other efforts helping residents with the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

The dinner cost is $25 per person and includes a New Orleans inspired buffet, catered by Tress Balch's HS Catering. Dinner starts at 7pm, preceded by a reception from 6 to 7pm. Plan to arrive in time to enjoy the reception with hors d'oeuvres of panko-fried okra, baked brie with caramel sauce, and cheddar andouille bites. There will be a cash bar available throughout the reception and dinner. Dinner includes a garden salad, corn flour-crusted whitefish with remoulade, chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, sautéed vegetables, red beans and jambalaya!

MMTC members should already have received their Volunteer of the Year dinner invitations in the mail. The invitation is also posted at www.miramesatowncouncil.org . Payment is available online or by sending a check with names of those attending to Mira Mesa Town Council, PMB 230, 10606-8 Camino Ruiz, San Diego, CA 92126. The RSVP deadline is April 5.

Each year at the time of the Volunteer of the Year dinner MMTC also takes donations in recognition of our honoree to the college scholarship fund that MMTC awards to graduating high school seniors based on their community service. In addition to attending the dinner, you can honor Bari Vaz by making a scholarship fund donation in any amount.

For more information contact VOY@miramesatowncouncil.org.



Forty-two sex offenders live in Mira Mesa.

San Diego Launches Sex Offender Email Alert System

The county has launched a new Sex Offender Email Notification System, which gives locals automated email alerts about sex offenders living in their area as listed on the Megan's Law website. Joining the system is free and information on more than one area or ZIP code can be requested. Sign up at SanDiegoCountySexOffenders.com.

Supervisor Bill Horn proposed the alert system to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in May 2010. Later that year, officials estimated one-time cost to implement the system was $20,000. In addition, hosting costs would be $200 per month.

Since 2004, Megan's Law websites provide information on registered sex offenders living in local communities across the country, but legal exceptions and omissions limit their usefulness.

Of the approximately 4,000 registered sex offenders living in San Diego County, 42 are living in the Mira Mesa area (92126 and 92121 zip codes) and three in are in violation of their registration requirements.

Officials are reminding people that while strangers can pose a danger, 80 to 90 percent of sex offenses against children are committed by people who know the children and their families.

Advocate: Parents distracted, often hear few of judge's orders

(Continued from page 4)
the primary language in the home.

One survey respondent wrote, "Thank you for having someone that speaks our language."

Family Advocate Manuel Pacheco, who retired after 25 years in the Probation Department, has been part of the program since it started in 2010.

Parents and juveniles in court often only hear one or two things that a judge says and then they get so fixated on those things they don't hear the entire order, Pacheco said. He likens it to when a mechanic tells people what they need to do to a car or when a medical doctor gets too technical.

Pacheco's job is to go over specific court orders to make sure all is clear. He spends between 10 to 15 minutes with each family to make sure they understand the next steps.

"Before they leave the building, they know exactly what they need to do, so they can leave on the right foot," Pacheco said.

While Pacheco is bilingual, he said he is there to help anyone who asks. He also does not consider himself just a translator. He is primarily a probation officer, and he does his best to make sure the juveniles understand they can get past their mistake.

"I feel it's an opportunity to reach the kids," Pacheco said.

He explains the terms of probation and encourages juveniles to report to their probation officer, avoid gangs and drugs, work harder in school and follow curfew or car restrictions.

Often when a juvenile is ordered into custody, parents are just as scared as their child, and may be emotional.

Pacheco said he talks to them about how the various probation programs work including counseling and classes for drug treatment, better decision-making and anger management. Usually, once the parents learn about these programs, they realize the programs can be beneficial to their troubled child.

"I have to tell the parents that if their kid plays their cards right, they are going to come out better than they started. A lot of times good comes out of bad," he said.

Getting in trouble could be the impetus that straightens a young person out, Pacheco said.

"Most kids learn their lesson and we never see them again," he said. "I think we provide a great service. I'm proud to be part of it."

The Family Advocates work Monday through Friday at the Juvenile Court.

When juveniles are ordered into custody, parents are just as scared as their children.

Beer: Virginia developing a craft beer culture like San Diego

(Continued from page 5)
Beach draws more than 5.5 million people during the peak summer season.

While San Diego is known as a leading city in the craft beer movement, Virginia has a growing community of craft breweries and a developing craft beer culture.

"As a San Diego brewer for over 15 years, I have observed how the city developed into a great beer town," Green Flash Brewmaster Chuck Silva said. "Local brewers working together to improve each other's products and advice on business acumen was a key contributor."

If asked about Green Flash's plans to build two relatively small breweries on opposite coasts, Mike Hinkley said, "I have great confidence in Chuck and our team to duplicate the great quality and consistency of our ales on both coasts, and look forward to being closer to market to provide all of our fans fresher ale. I suppose, if we run out of capacity on both the West and East coasts that we will build another small brewery in the middle of the country."

"As a San Diego brewer for over 15 years, I have observed how the city developed into a great beer town."

Homeless: Mayor leading efforts to bring housing dollars to region

(Continued from page 4)
been updated to reflect growing homeless populations on the West Coast.

"This is unfair to the people of San Diego County and our action today is the first step to changing that outdated federal funding formula," Chairman Greg Cox said. "This region deserves a more equitable distribution of HUD dollars to allow us to provide more transitional housing, rental assistance, shelter assistance and other programs to support the homeless."

Chairman Cox added that Mayor Bob Filner is leading the lobbying effort and that by working jointly, the County and the City of San Diego may be more effective in bringing housing dollars to the region.

Earned Income Tax Credit designed to lift low-income individuals out of poverty.

Tax: People making less than $50K could qualify for tax credit

(Continued from page 3)
ners, including United Way, the IRS, and AARP, launched the free tax preparation services in 2003. The goal was to help people file their income taxes for free and also claim their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Established in 1975, EITC is the federal government's largest cash assistance program designed to lift low-income families and individuals out of poverty.

About $70 million EITC dollars go unclaimed each year by San Diego County low-income residents.

Individuals and families who worked in 2012 and earned less than $50,300 could qualify for as much as $5,891 in EITC. Residents must file a tax return to be eligible.

In 2012, more than 46,000 federal and state returns were filed through the County's EITC campaign, bringing a total of $48 million to working families and the local economy. More than $10 million were EITC dollars.

Most people who use the service are aware their taxes will be prepared for free. However, some are shocked to learn it won't cost them a penny.

"They are very appreciative when we tell them there is no fee," said Oneida Ramirez, program coordinator for Home Start, Inc., adding they prepared about 320 returns at the Jacobs Center last month alone. "It's really cool they get to keep all their return and take it all home."

"We wanted to make sure that the County is doing all that it can to help them and to protect the public overall."

Law: County has a number of mental health help programs

(Continued from page 4)
take required medications and treatment if they pose a danger to themselves or others.

The State left it up to counties to determine if they wanted to implement the law. To date, just one County, Nevada County, has done so.

However, San Diego County adopted its IHOT program — which is similar to Laura's Law, but allows for voluntary rather than mandatory treatment — in 2011.

Roberts said early studies have suggested that implementing Laura's Law could save taxpayers money, and reduce the numbers of mental-health patients who end up homeless, hospitalized or arrested.

San Diego County has introduced a number of programs to help mental-health patients. Some of those include: programs to raise awareness about mental illness and to reduce the stigma that often accompanies it; the creation of a Behavioral Health Court; the early-intervention "Kick-Start" program; the creation of the Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT); and the Bridge to Recovery Program that helps people who suffer from mental-health problems and substance abuse problems.

Bus Rapid Transit will operate in addition to express buses during peak hours.

Transit: Upgrades to station will include parking structure

(Continued from page 6)
the first of its kind in the region, will pick up riders at the upgraded transit stations and use the I-15 Express Lanes to reduce travel times to employment centers between Escondido and Downtown San Diego. The BRT buses will operate in addition to the peak-hour Premium Express services.

"The investments we are making to launch the I-15 Bus Rapid Transit service represent a giant step forward in expanding travel choices in the region," SANDAG Chair and Santee Councilmember Jack Dale said. "The I-15 Express Lanes and the Direct Access Ramps to the Express Lanes will allow buses to speed up travel so they are time-competitive with solo driving."

The upgraded Sabre Springs station will include a four-story parking structure and added surface parking for a total of 630 spaces, bus staging areas, new shelters, next bus arrival signs, water-efficient landscaping, lighting, a photovoltaic system that doubles as a shade structure for cars, electric vehicle charging stations, fuel-efficient and smart vehicle spaces, security cameras, and a modular bicycle parking facility.

The project will be built by McCarthy Building Companies under a $12.2 million design-build contract that will accelerate the construction schedule, saving time and money.

Two additional transit-related projects also are underway on I-15. The new Miramar College Transit Station and Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp (DAR) are under construction and will be completed in summer 2014.

To learn more about projects along the I-15, call the information line at (858) 668-3368 or visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com.

RSVP: Benefit of volunteering, a new social network for seniors

(Continued from page 1)
the sites with volunteers. Hopkins is also making community presentations and making the rounds to visit volunteer sites.

She also wants to add more of a personal touch to the program by sharing stories of the volunteers and how their activities are helping their respective organizations and contributing to our communities.

"It's about showing the value of volunteerism to seniors," Hopkins said. "One of the huge things we see is that some people lose their sense of value as they leave the workforce.

"Volunteering with RSVP gives many of them a sense of 'I feel like I'm making a difference in my community,'" she said. "That's important to seniors."

One of the biggest benefits to volunteering is that older adults gain a new social network or can great expand their existing one through their service.

The only requirement for volunteers is that they are age 55 years or older. Volunteers may receive supplemental insurance, limited mileage reimbursement, recognition as the volunteer of the month and be eligible for the annual RSVP dinner.

"Some of our volunteers put in around 2,000 hours a year," said Hopkins. "It's basically full-time for them."

The average age of volunteers is 74. In 2012, there were 8 volunteers that were between the ages of 95 and 99, and 49 between the ages of 90 and 94.

A site can use RSVP volunteers if they are a public entity or non-profit organization, provide liability insurance and have a signed memorandum of agreement with the program.

For more information on the program, visit http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/ais/volunteers/ or call 1-858-505-6399.

Mira Mesa RSVP members.

Volunteer: Elderly appreciative of RSVP's wellness checks

(Continued from page 1)
Peñasquitos to deliver mail. Our substation's territory is: Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, Carmel Mountain, Poway, Sabre Springs, Scripps Ranch, and Mira Mesa. The whole area is 100 square miles!

Our first check in Scripps Ranch was a power distribution station — I didn't even know this existed! Traveling around Scripps we went to banks, credit unions, library, Evans Pond, Lake Miramar — which I found out, is 110 feet deep. We also went to every school. Along the way we also did vacation checks. This entailed checking the front door, the garage, going in the backyard and checking the back door, and checking the windows. Vacation checks are made every day, except Sunday. There were also pump station checks, ensuring that everything is locked and secure. We also made a YANA (You Are Not Alone) — checking on the elderly. We spent 15 minutes with Virginia, a lovely visit.

Going to every park is Scripps Ranch was part of our schedule and recorded on our computer. Traveling out to Stonebridge, I learned that there is a water tower and a lovely park in that neighborhood. More banks and schools to check on our way back to the storefront. We traveled 73 miles that day.

My second day was Mira Mesa. First stop was the library parking lot and then going to our first of four YANA checks. We said hello to Tom, who loves our visits. We are sometimes his only visitor. Off to check schools, banks, and many more parks. Driving through the Mira Mesa Mall and Target shopping center I was so tempting to go shopping, but duty called.

Three more YANA visits: Tom, who is 86 years old, Connie and Rafael, who are 74 and 78, and Elaine, who is 83. These elderly visits mean so much to the people and to our drivers. Our drivers are very dedicated and want to be with the people. The elderly were also very appreciative of the RSVP visits. We went to another pump station to check their locks, more banks, parks, and schools. All these checks are recorded on the computer. We had driven 36 miles that morning.

We had to get back before noon because there was an RSVP graduation at the War Memorial Building at Balboa Park that we were scheduled to attend. There were 20 graduates and two were going to be in the Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch RSVP. Our new RSVP members are Dorothy Jones and James Judilla.

Mayor Filner was one of the speakers, as well as, Chief Lansdowne. They both spoke of the wonderful support RSVP gives to the San Diego Police Department and the community. Many countries come and learn about RSVP to duplicate in their own country — what an awesome message we are sending out to the world. Our contribution is not only to Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa but to the city of San Diego. Come by the storefront and chat with our members or contact John Sunde, RSVP Administrator, at 858-538-8156 or jsunde@ pd.sandiego.gov to join this important community organization.

"These elderly visits mean so much to the people and to our drivers. Our drivers are very dedicated and want to be with the people. "

Mira Mesa Town Council
PMB 230
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issues@miramesatowncouncil.org
www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org

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

Mira Mesa Town Council — Annual Membership Application

Primary Member/Contact Name _____

Business/Corporation Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Business/Cell Number _____

Companion Member Name(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

State/Zip Code _____

Date _____

Membership Type (check one):

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

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.

Rates (annual membership begins July 1 and ends June 30):
(Pro-rated membership applies to first time members only; all renewals are for the full amount)

Join Between:	Individual	Companion/Senior Military/Student	Corp/Bus	Corp/Bus Joint MMCC	Non-Profit Joint MMCC
July 1 - Sept 30	$20.00	$10.00	$50.00	$150.00	$90.00
Oct 1 - Dec 31	$15.00	$7.50	$37.50	$112.50	$67.50
Jan 1 - Mar 31	$10.00	$5.00	$25.00	$75.00	$45.00
Apr 1 - June 30	$5.00	$2.50	$12.50	$56.25	$22.50

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

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