Mira Mesa Town Council Newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 6 June 2013

Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting

- Monday, June 3, 2013
  7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
  Mira Mesa Senior Center
  8460 Mira Mesa Blvd.

Agenda:

- Scholarship Winners
- Relay for Life
- Water Purification Demonstration

Business of the Month:

- Marv Miles Property Gallery

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I-15 Continues to Spring Forward

By Gustavo Dallarda
Corridor Director

The I-15 Express Lanes, winner of seven statewide awards, opened last year under budget and nearly a year early. Since then, we began construction on the Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp (DAR), the Miramar College Transit Station, and the new Sabre Springs/ Peñasquitos Transit Station.

We also completed many key projects, including the replacement of the Nordahl Road Bridge and upgrades to the Del Lago and Rancho Bernardo Transit Stations. Everyone who has pulled together — Caltrans and SANDAG engineers, the contractors, and most importantly, the ever-patient public — deserves credit for the current and future advances along this important San Diego inland corridor.

View of a recent landscaping project located along the I-15 on-ramp at Poway Road in Sabre Springs.

We are continuing to visually improve the I-15 corridor with our landscaping projects by using sustainable roadside elements, including drought tolerant trees, plants, and native grasses, we are enhancing and preserving the corridor's natural environment.

Rapid Transit, modeled after successful Bus Rapid Transit systems in other major U.S. cities, is set to launch in summer of 2014 and will be a key component of the Express Lanes. The future Rapid Transit service will help commuters get to regional destinations quickly and more efficiently.

The recent improvements to the transit stations and the completion of the Mira Mesa DAR will help make the Rapid Transit system a premier travel option.

The I-15 Express Lanes corridor is a model for the nation when it comes to reducing commute times. We are proud to bring you an innovative and multi-modal system.

Talent Show Highlights Mira Mesa Culture

Mira Mesa residents proved once again that Mira Mesa does indeed have talent. At the Third Annual Mira Mesa's Got Talent show presented by the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild on Sat. May 25, 18 acts competed for a grand prize of $500 in cash and prizes and the bragging rights of the being the most talented.

The winners of this year's talent competition are Ivan Cheong, Raelee Nikole, the Cool Juggler, Melanie Jimenez and Hans Oropallo. There was a change in the rules this year to allow winners in two categories, Kids/Teens and Adults divisions.

The event was judged by local celebrities: Matt Couch from San Diego Sockers, reigning Miss Mira Mesa Kehsia Lee, and News8 anchor Carlo Cecchetto. 10News reporter Joe Little emceed the show.

The winners will represent Mira Mesa Theatre Guild at community events such as the Fourth of July Fun Day in the Park, Mira Mesa Street Fair and the Miss Mira Mesa Pageant.

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President's Message for June

We have had a busy Spring. With June and graduations just around the corner and summer plans in the making, it has been a very busy season full of fantastic events. Of course the Mira Mesa High School Foundation put on one heck of a fantastic *Taste of Mira Mesa* and the Theatre Guild, not to be topped, just produced a fantastic *Mira Mesa's Got Talent*. Add to that, planning for the Fourth of July celebration got into full swing and planning for the Street Fair got started. Each year we get busier and the events get a little richer.

So let me mention a few of these. First, *A Taste of Mira Mesa*. As I mentioned last month, this event has so many good attributes that I can hardly enumerate them all.

If you didn't attend *Mira Mesa's Got Talent* then you missed a very entertaining evening. As always, the event was well-staged by the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild. Those of us who were there can definitely testify to the fact that Mira Mesa does indeed have talent. And while I expected to be entertained as I am each year (this is the third successive annual edition of the event), this year they truly outdid themselves. Several of the acts were spectacular. The San Diego celebrities who emceed and judged the event added to its festive nature. Hopefully we will get another installment of *Mira Mesa's Got Talent* next year. If so, don't miss it!

Our Fourth of July celebration is always fantastic. It all starts with a pancake breakfast but on by the Black Mountain Masonic Lodge at the Epicentre. Then comes the parade which is always spectacular. This year our grand marshal is the commanding officer of MCAS Miramar, Colonel John Farnam. After the parade the Family Fun Day gets into full swing with rides, a kid zone with entertainment and games for little ones, and food galore. Then at 9 p.m. comes the crowning touch: fireworks. I have to interject at this point that we still are looking for donations for the fireworks.

I won't dwell on it now, but the next major event is the Mira Mesa Street Fair on Sept. 21. Planning is underway for a bigger, better event. And this year we have a little surprise that should make a lot of people very happy. More on this later.

Let me change the subject for just a moment to address another point of enormous confusion: Mira Mesa's boundaries. First, Mira Mesa is a recognized community within the City of San Diego. Typically communities are recognized by virtue of a published Community Plan and an established community planning group.

The boundaries of Mira Mesa are largely geographic. On the south, our boundary is MCAS Miramar, on the north, the boundary is Los Peñasquitos Canyon. To the east, Mira Mesa is bounded by Interstate Highway 15, and to the west, I-805 generally forms the boundary (the actually southern portion of our western boundary is the Santa Fe railroad track).

Often times we hear a news item referring to a place called Sorrento Valley. Sorrento Valley is a neighborhood of the Torrey Pines Community that forms a portion of our western border. People living on the ridge to the east of that neighborhood wish to call their neighborhood by that name as well without regard to the fact that they clearly do not live in a valley. Well despite the misnomer (valley vs. ridge) they are entitled to call their neighborhood anything they choose, so in a divided vote the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group recently made the neighborly gesture of agreeing to recognize the neighborhood on the ridge west of Camino Santa Fe along Sorrento Valley Boulevard as Sorrento Valley. Please note that no matter what the residents or the Planning Group choose to call the area, it is still well and truly part of Mira Mesa.

Incidentally, the industrial area west of Camino Santa Fe that includes some of San Diego's most prosperous firms is actually Sorrento Mesa, yet another neighborhood of Mira Mesa. This area is often misrepresented by misinformed members of the fourth estate as Sorrento Valley.

I am sure that information won't clear up all the confusion about our boundaries, but at least the people who read this will have a reference when the subject arises as it seems to all too often.

So, with that I'll sign off until next month. Have a fantastic Mira Mesa June!

Verne Goodwin Scholarship Recipients Announced

The winners of the 2013 Verne Goodwin Scholarships are Jennifer Luu, Kamakshi Ramanarayanan, and Zabrina Reyes. They were selected from an outstanding group of applicants by our scholarship committee based on their volunteer experience and work. Each of the three winners have worked throughout their high school years to give back to the community in many ways, while maintaining excellent grades and participating in numerous extracurricular activities. Each winner will receive a check for $1,000 at the Town Council's June meeting.

Mira Mesa Students Wins First Place at Junior Achievement

At Junior Achievement of San Diego's The Next Big Thing: Entrepreneurs Showcase presented by Cymer, Inc. May 16, nine student-run companies competed to be named the Student Company of the Year.

All part of JA Company Program, the student entrepreneurs came from Barrio Logan, City Heights, Chula Vista, Poway, San Marcos and Mira Mesa schools for a chance to advance to the Junior Achievement National Student Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. this summer. The judges from Cymer, Hewlett-Packard, Intuit, Point Loma Nazarene University and Big Bamboo, LLC picked the winners based on their marketing and financial performances, professionalism and business pitches.

During the two eight-minute pitches, Re-Boxed from Harmonium wowed with their products — eco-friendly shadowbox photo frames — winning the first place trophy. Westview High School's Beyond, Inc. took home second place for their clothing line promoting unity and self-value. Winning the third place and The Best Showcase Award, Westview's Active Youth Sports, presented their after-school sports clinic for elementary school students.

Moreover, High Tech High North County's Undercover — the company that creates "secret" wallets and file folders from recycled books — got awarded The Ingenuity Award for the most creative product. Monte Vista High School's Get It Here Spirit Gear — the high school spirit-wear company — received The Best Profit-Margin Award for the most

*(See **JA** on page 14)*

Re-Boxed team from Harmonium

County Officials Ask Residents to Prepare for Fire Season

California has already seen 1,569 wildfires this year, about 500 more fires compared to the same period last year and 85 percent more fires than in an average year. With the long, hot and dangerous summer a real possibility, County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and public safety officials today urged residents to protect their homes against wildfires by creating a 100-foot buffer zone.

"Now is the time to prepare for what is shaping up as a tougher-than-usual fire season," said Supervisor Jacob. "The firestorms of 2003 and 2007 taught us that homes with defensible space are far more likely to survive than homes without it."

Defensible space is an area around the home where plants and trees are maintained to prevent fire from spreading quickly. A buffer zone also gives firefighters a better chance to work in relative safety to protect property.

Fire officials on Tuesday announced several regional efforts to educate homeowners about defensible space. This Saturday, community volunteers and firefighters will be out in force in the San Miguel District hanging an easy-to-understand flier on front doorknobs.

In rural communities serviced by CAL FIRE and the San Diego County Fire Authority,

*(See **Wildfire** on page 13)*

"The firestorms of 2003 and 2007 taught us that homes with defensible space are far more likely to survive than homes without it."

Help is on the Way for Mira Mesa Commuters

Two simultaneous construction projects will greatly enhance travel choices and services in the Mira Mesa community and surrounding areas by providing convenient access to the I-15 Express Lanes, and the opportunity to use a new transit station.

Both a Direct Access Ramp (DAR) to the Express Lanes and the Miramar College Transit Station are under construction. The DAR, the fifth for the corridor, will connect Hillery Drive in Mira Mesa to the Express Lanes with one elevated ramp across southbound I-15 and four on- and off-ramps. That means local commuters will no longer have to drive north or south to get on the Express Lanes.

The new transit station will feature 12 bus bays, traveler shelters, and signs noting next bus arrival times. The transit station will be located on the southeast corner of the Hillery Drive and Westview Parkway intersection on the edge of San Diego Miramar College. It will offer commuters the chance to use the current MTS Premium Express Bus and new Rapid Transit service.

Both projects are expected to be completed in summer 2014 to coincide with the launch of the Rapid Transit service.

Crews constructing columns that will support the DAR over I-15 in Mira Mesa

With a FasTrak Account, You Can Kiss Traffic Goodbye

Tired of congestion in the I-15 corridor? There's another choice: Kiss Traffic Goodbye! The I-15 Express Lanes offer 20 miles of stress-free travel from State Route 163 in San Diego to State Route 78 in Escondido.

Whether you're a regular commuter or want an insurance policy to keep you out of traffic, here's how you can use the I-15 Express Lanes:

- Open a FasTrak account. Tolls on the Express Lanes are determined based on traffic, where you enter, and the distance traveled in the lanes. Overhead signs display the minimum and maximum toll you can expect to pay, which starts at 50 cents.
- Carpools and vanpools may use the I-15 Express Lanes for free. Place your transponder in a Mylar bag so you don't get charged when you carpool.
- Ride an MTS Premium Express Bus for a quick and relaxing commute.
- Watch for the overhead message "All Open, Open to All." This message indicates the Express Lanes are open to everyone. No tolls will be assessed during these times and all drivers may use the lanes.

More Ways to Save with FasTrak

When you open a FasTrak account, you'll be eligible for these great promotions:

*(See **FasTrak** on page 14)*

"We have schools throughout the state that are getting it right for all students and this should not be a secret."

Mira Mesa Schools Among Those Getting Star Treatments

The California Business for Education Excellence has named 63 San Diego Unified School District schools and charter schools to its annual honor roll. Two Mira Mesa-area schools are among those honored.

The 2012 Honor Roll includes public elementary, middle and high schools recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes measures of college readiness.

The 2,108 Honor Roll schools statewide is a record, according to the group, and includes871 higher poverty schools that are increasing academic performance and closing the achievement gap, and 100 "STEM" schools that excel in science and mathematics.

"We have schools throughout the state that are getting it right for all students and this should not be a secret," said Greg Jones, Chairman of California Business for Education Excellence and past member of the California State Board of Education. "To ensure more of our schools succeed, we must change the conversation from being about fixing failing schools to one that focuses on replicating the success of schools like those on the Honor Roll."

Over time, the group has identified a common set of suc-

*(See **Star** on page 13)*

Vital Aging Conference at Liberty Station June 13.

Vital Aging Conference: Remaining Active in Twilight Years

The man credited with keeping the First Family in great physical shape – Cornell McClellan – will be the keynote speaker at June 13 Vital Aging Conference.

McClellan, a 55-year-old grandfather, began his health and fitness career in his 20s as a student of karate. He now owns Naturally Fit, Inc., a Chicago training and wellness center. He met First Lady Michelle Obama 15 years ago and became her personal trainer, then started working with the President three years later. He regularly travels to Washington, D.C., to make sure the First Lady and the President keep a fitness routine in their busy schedules.

The free Vital Aging Conference, called "Eating Well and Staying Active," will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at two venues: Liberty Station in San Diego and the San Marcos Community Center. The speakers from Liberty Station will be webcast to the San Marcos audience.

"Today, more and more, seniors are placing an emphasis on remaining active," said Chairman Greg Cox, County Board of Supervisors. "This conference will provide older adults with practical tips for staying fit and healthy."

Deborah Szekely, the 91-year-old health and fitness pioneer and founder of the Rancho La Puerta and Golden

*(See **Aging** on page 13)*

Seven Decades of Working She Keeps Going and Going …

Carmen Duron

Apparently, there's a word missing from Carmen Duron's dictionary. Unlike most people's Merriam-Webster, Duron's doesn't seem to contain the word retirement. The 83-year-old is still working. She works three days each week for the San Diego County Health and Human Service Agency Aging & Independence Services (AIS).

Duron's job with AIS is one many would find emotionally or psychologically taxing. She works in the Adult Protective Services division investigating cases of suspected elder or dependent adult abuse.

She's one of six older adults being honored in a project called "San Diego Legends: Living Well." The joint project from AIS and the San Diego County Library is a celebration of Older Americans Month. Each of the six individuals honored will have their portrait done by artist Mona Mills. The artwork will be displayed at a reception at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 31 at the Rancho San Diego Library branch, and then travel to various libraries across the County.

As an investigator, Duron takes calls on the 24/7 hotline (800-510-2020) and begins determining what needs to be done as a result of the call.

"We take calls 24 hours a day on the hotline and anyone can call in," she said. "It can be anonymous, and by law, we can't tell anyone who reported them.

"We try to focus on 'someone is trying to help' by making a call," she added.

Duron said investigators have 10 calendar days from the date of a referral to go see the person who is the subject of the hotline call.

"Are they safe?" said Duron. "That's the big thing we look at."

Many times, a call to the hotline results in saving people

*(See **Duron** on page 15)*

Top Marauder scholars honored at Mira Mesa High

Mira Mesa High School acknowledged 371 students with a 4.0 or higher grade point average in academics for Semester 1 in a recent ceremony. This annual event is an important opportunity to recognize the incredible academic success of students in grades 9-12.

The Class of 2013 Valedictorians, William Quach and Salutatorian, Benjamin Lam, were also introduced to the students, staff and community, receiving medallions from Principal Scott Giusti. There were speakers discussing the importance of maintaining the excellence and dedication to academics that these students have exhibited. Students were inspired by peers and find the experience rewarding to be surrounded by so many other students (and families) who value high scholastic achievement.

Each Top Scholar receives an award and a pin which they can collect through the years and wear with their cap and gown in the graduation ceremony their senior year. If you have any questions about Top Scholars, please contact Vice Principal, Sara Leonard at sleonard@sandi.net or 858-566-2262.

Each Top Scholar receives an award and a pin which to wear with their cap and gown in the graduation ceremony

BluFi Lending Opens New Location in Mira Mesa

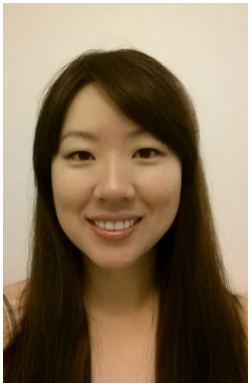
BluFi Lending, a direct lender for home loans, announces the new hire of Benjamin Lee as Branch Manager, and the opening of its newest San Diego office in the Mira Mesa community. The new additions reflect BluFi's 2013 plans for aggressive company growth and enhanced home loan services.

The new office, located at 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd., will cater to clients in the Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Poway, and other nearby communities. The office opens with a staff of five including mortgage loan officers and support staff, but Lee expects to add six more new hires by the end of the year. Lee, a bilingual Korean American mortgage banker well known in the Asian community, has also hired bilingual employees to offer multi-lingual services at the new office.

"I had heard some great things about BluFi Lending, but meeting the CEO John Lee was what really sealed the deal for me because he gave me insight into what a sophisticated and successful company BluFi is," Benjamin Lee said. "John's passion, vision, and ambition are infectious, and I was eager to take on the role of Branch Manager because that is a challenge I've never tackled before. John and BluFi have brought great opportunities to me, now I want

*(See **BluFi** on page 12)*

BluFi LENDING



Brianna Sha

Brianna Sha Joins The Joint — Mira Mesa in San Diego

The Joint Corp., a leading franchisor of chiropractic clinics, is proud to announce that Brianna Sha has joined the team at The Joint clinic in the Mira Mesa area of San Diego. The clinic is owned by Dr. Stephen Harkins of Harkins Chiropractic Corp. and is managed by The Joint franchisees and sisters Stephanie and Beth McRae.

Sha serves as an office manager and marketing coordinator at The Joint – Mira Mesa. Sha, who is proficient in Mandarin Chinese, is also studying human resources management at University of California, San Diego. Previously, she served as executive assistant to the president of FAR-TECH. She has also volunteered with Engineers without Borders and studied abroad at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The licensed chiropractor servicing patients at the Mira Mesa clinic is David Marshall. Dr. Marshall and Sha know, and have seen firsthand, that everyone benefits from regular chiropractic treatment. "I feel that chiropractic is for those who want to enjoy a longer, better, more active and fuller life." said Sha. "I am excited to be a part of a team that will help people in this community."

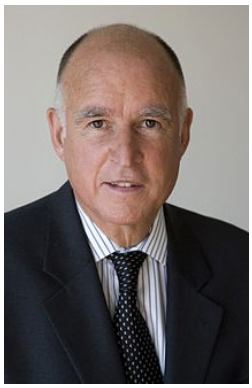
The Joint – Mira Mesa is located at 8155 Mira Mesa Blvd., Ste. 5, in the Target shopping center. Please visit Brianna Sha and Dr. David Marshall, Monday through Friday, from 10am to 7pm, and Saturday. 10am to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 3pm. No appointment is necessary and introductory adjustments are only $19, which includes an exam by the doctor. The Joint – Mira Mesa can be reached at 858.537.9588 or go to www.miramesa.thejoint.com f or additional information.

DynoGreen Tech Inks International Distributions Deal

Serge Monros, Founder, Chief Executive Officer/Chief Technology Officer, SaviCorp and Victor Chu, President, SaviCorp have announced this morning a new five-year exclusive international marketing and distribution agreement with Mira Mesa-based DynoGreen Tech, LLC, giving SaviCorp and the DynoValve its largest distribution arrangement to date.

"The long-term exclusive distribution agreement will create incredible sales opportunities by exposing the DynoValve to international fleet operations and individual consumers worldwide," said Serge Monros. "We will be dispatching a team of installers and training technicians, who will travel to Dubai in the next several weeks to begin our program," Monros continued.

*(See **Distribution** on page 12)*



Gov. Jerry Brown

Latest State Budget Proposal Shows Increase in School Funds

Adjustments to Gov. Jerry Brown's 2013-14 state budget proposal, commonly known as the "May Revise," may mean more funds for San Diego Unified next year.

Gov. Brown's May revision to his proposals for the 2013-14 State Budget were released on Tuesday, May 14. It reflects changes in the national and state economic outlook and the corresponding effects on revenues generated from the passage of Proposition 30 and the state's obligation to schools.

"We appreciate the Governor's continued commitment to supporting our neediest students by maintaining his plan for the Local Control Funding Formula in his May budget proposal," said Superintendent Bill Kowba. "The new investment to support the transition to the Common Core with one time funding will also be very helpful to our district.

"Since ongoing funding for 2013-14 will change only slightly, San Diego Unified will need to stay the course on our budget strategy to balance our structural deficit next year with property sales and attrition based staff reductions. In future years as additional funding materializes, the district can begin to restore education programs that have been lost over the last five years of education budget cuts."

The Governor's proposed Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding model fixes the state's outdated and broken school finance system with a formula that allow schools maximum flexibility in allocating resources to meet local needs. It will be phased in over several years as funding increases for

*(See **School** on page 14)*

Summer Barbecues Around the Corner, Remember to Cook Safely

Time to remind home chefs how to keep everyone safe from bacteria including salmonella, listeria, E. coli and other unwanted meal-time guests.

It's also the perfect time to remind all at-home chefs how to keep everyone safe from bacteria by following some simple rules. Just remember: Plan Ahead, Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill. And keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold!

PLAN AHEAD:

Before you start cooking, decide how much food you can safely serve. For example, figure out how much cooking and refrigerator or cooler space you have available to work with. There's nothing worse than having leftovers — or perishable foods waiting to be cooked — with no place to keep them cold. If you have to defrost meat, poultry or fish, make sure that you give yourself plenty of time to safely thaw it in your refrigerator (defrosting in the open air or in still water encourages bacterial growth). Always buy food from a safe source, such as a market or restaurant.

CLEAN:

Don't let bacteria into your meal.

Wash your hands before and after handling food — and between switching from handling raw meats to ready-to-eat salads, fruit or other food stuff to avoid cross-contamination.

Thoroughly rinse raw fruits and vegetables.

Wash and sanitize counters, cutting boards and equipment before and after preparing your holiday feast.

SEPARATE:

Keep produce (fruits and vegetables) separated from raw meat products.

Defrost meat, poultry and fish slowly in the refrigerator over 24 hours. Place it on a plate or in a pan at the bottom of your refrigerator to keep juices from dripping on other foods.

Try to use separate cutting boards for meat and fruit and vegetables. If you can't, thoroughly wash your cutting board between uses with hot soapy water.

COOK:

Cook thoroughly. Use a meat thermometer to ensure that proper internal cooking temperatures are reached. In general, that's 160°F for ground meat; 145°F for steak, chops, roasts, fish and shellfish, and uncooked ham; and 165°F for poultry or to reheat leftovers and reheat cooked ham.

CHILL:

Keep cold foods chilled to 41°F or lower. Check the temperature inside your refrigerator with a refrigerator thermometer.

If you are preparing food ahead of time, refrigerate it to minimize bacterial growth.

Remember to refrigerate leftovers within two hours of preparation.

Q&A with Mark Bobotis, Mira Mesa DAR Senior Engineer

Mark Bobotis, Caltrans Senior Resident Engineer

How long have you been with Caltrans?

I've been with Caltrans for 27 years.

What are the major phases of work being done on the Mira Mesa DAR?

We are finished constructing retaining walls, a loading dock replacement for the Miramar College warehouse, earthwork for the Miramar College Transit Station, roadwork, drainage, undergrounding of utilities, including the relocation of several sewer and water lines, one being a 60-inch diameter water pipeline. We are now building columns on the freeway median that will support the DAR structure.

What challenges do you expect to encounter as the project progresses?

The project is on a mix of state, city, and college property. The Transit Station will be operated by MTS, the utilities belong to the City of San Diego and SDG&E, and the DAR structure will belong to Caltrans. It takes coordination to have all the work fit together and meet a variety of schedules.

What type of equipment will the public be seeing in the area?

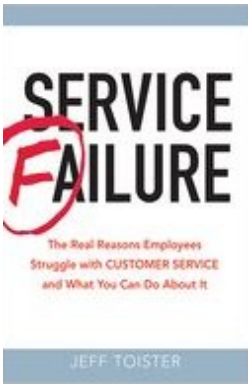
Our crews have been working with loaders, excavators, pavers, and welders for the utility, drainage, and roadwork. For the structure work, crews will use cranes, drill rigs, falsework (temporary wood and steel structure), and a lot of concrete trucks.

What can the public look forward to when the Mira Mesa DAR and Miramar College Transit Station are complete?

The Mira Mesa area will have a DAR location to access the I-15 Express Lanes and a transit station that will feature Rapid Transit service. It will all blend into a diverse community which is comprised of residential, commercial, shopping, restaurants, theaters, and a college.

What motivates you and your team?

I have a great team and support on this project. The effort they put in creates its own motivation. It's an interesting project that puts a lot of big things in a very small area, a little like building a ship in a bottle on a big scale.



Author Jeff Toister will be in to discuss and sign his book Service Failure: The Real Reasons Employees Struggle with Customer Serive and What You Can Do About It. Wednesday, June 19, 7pm, Barnes & Nobel

Events of Interest

- **June 9 — Author Signing: Bill Siren's Contrails: *Airline Flying in Eastern Europe Before the "Wall" Came Down,* Barnes & Nobel, 5pm**
- **June 12 — Author Signing: *The Tao of Martha*, Barnes & Nobel, 7pm**
- **June 20 — Mira Mesa Teen Writing Club, Mira Mesa Library, 4pm**
- **June 29 — Clean and Green, Mira Mesa HEROES Clean up event.**

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
2	3 Mira Mesa Town Council – 7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	4 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	5 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	6 Sr Center Board of Governors – 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Gentle Yoga – 9:30am, Mira Mesa Library	7 Pastel Drawing with Joseph Nyiri – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	8 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
9	10 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors – 6pm, Mira Mesa Community Office Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	11 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	12 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	13 Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library Community Pride – 6:30 pm, call for location Black Mountain Democratic Club – 7 pm, Mesa Village Rec Hall 1	14 **FLAG DAY**	15 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library
16 **FATHER'S DAY**	17 Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – 7 pm, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205 Crafts with Kim –	18 Gentle Yoga – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	19 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	20 Gentle Yoga – 9:30am, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Theatre Guild – 6 pm, location varies	21 Teen Advisory Board – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	22
23 30	24	25 Banned Book Club — 6:30pm, Mira Mesa Library	26 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	27 Street Fair Committee Meeting – 6:45pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center	28	29

Minutes From Last Month's General Membership Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

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

TREASURER'S REPORT — John Horst

- First quarter report distributed. Account balances: Checking: $37,706.46, Savings: $15,880.18, CD: $12,377.48, TOTAL: $65,964.12.

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS OF THE MONTH — Mira Mesa's Women's Club.

- Louise Jefferis gave the history of women's clubs starting with the exclusion of women from a press club meeting in the 1880s. There are over 3200 women's clubs in the USA. 7 million volunteer hours last year. $38 million donated. International organization with clubs all over the world. 6 departments – art, conservation, education, home life, international outreach and public issues. MMWC donated to Verne Goodwin scholarship fund, and the Mira Mesa library. Many US libraries were created by women's clubs. Focus of home life is on comfort pillows for mastectomy patients. They volunteer at Feeding America. Raising $5000 for Heifer America. Preparing for stand down for homeless vets. Making 200 bags before stand down occurs. Need new ideas and new members are needed. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Mira Mesa Senior center at 7 PM. Must attend two general plus one board meeting and participate in one project to join. Started in early 1970s. Have 23 members.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

- SDPD Northeastern Division - Officer Susan Steffen, Community Relations Officer, acting Captain Bill Ramos. Bill Ramos has been on police dept since 1988. Used to live in Mira Mesa. Daughter went to school here. Susan Steffen – no serious problems lately. Mostly juvenile related crime. NE division Facebook page is very active. Nextdoor.com is new social page from police department. Collects neighbors to form online neighborhood watch.

PRESENTATION —County Supervisor Dave Roberts. First new elected supervisor in 20 years. 4 months in office today. There is a sharing of duties between the city and county. Working with Bob Filner to promote solar energy. Residents can add solar and then pay off on tax bill over 20 years. Father of 5 adopted children. Proposing improvements in adoption system. Trying to get foster children into loving homes. Prescription drug take back program – just had a collection day. Can go to county buildings any time to dispose of them. Taken to secure facility and destroyed. Number one killer of children. County grant program – will meet with local residents to go through all grant requests. Bari is on the review committee (volunteer service).

REPORT FROM CLAIREMONT TOWN COUNCIL – MITZ LEE

- Mitz attended the meeting and was asked by the president to give a report. Scott Peters, Kevin Falconer and Lorie Zapf were there. Visited garden houses. 9-5 – all day. Good idea. Lorie Zapf opened house to visit. ~800 people visited houses.

PRESENTATION — Candidates for District 6 Council (3 candidates, time limit 5 min each; introduction only, no Q&A). Don Azul, Chris Cate, Mitz Lee.

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Councilmember Lorie Zapf, District 6 (Ken Nakayama) – Starting budget season. Gray water can be used for irrigating water, etc. Trying to streamline permit process. Spearheading pothole fixes. Just need location of potholes.
- b) State Senator Marty Block, District 39 (Joyce Temporal and Jay Bariuan) – passed out new monthly newsletter. Chair of budget and fiscal review committee on education, public safety, business and economic development committees.
- c) Congressman Scott Peters (Anthony Nguyen) – passed out flyer on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Having "Congress on Your Corner" at the library May 25th 10-11:30 PM – check website in case of time change. Supports no cuts to Social Security and Medicare. Question – opposed to CISPA. Does not like Peters vote in favor.

TWO-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS BY SOME COMMUNITY GROUPS

MEETING ADJOURNED

Supervisor Dave Roberts

In the March issue of the Newsletter, "It's True: Mira Mesa Does Have the Best Schools" mischaracterizes Voice of San Diego's position. Mira Mesa has some of the best schools in the district. We regret the error.

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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A-1 Self Storage
9701 Camino Ruiz
San Diego, CA 92126
(800) 219-4854 ext 141
fran@a1storage.com

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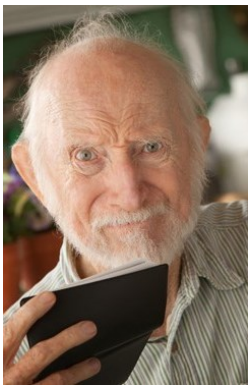


Latest trend in financial fraud is commonly referred to as the grandparents scam.

Top 10 Tips for Avoiding Elder Financial Abuse

"YOU'VE WON A LOTTERY!" screams the writing in red on the outside of the envelope. All you need to do is send in money for a processing fee and a check will be on its way with your name on it. We've all heard the saying, "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." If truth in advertising rules applied, the envelope would say "WE'RE TRYING TO RIP YOU OFF."

But that's just one of the more popular scams crooks try on older adults.

Kathy Holmes-Hardy, a social worker for the San Diego County Health and Human Service Agency Aging & Independence Services, provided east county seniors with several strategies for financial and physical self-defense at the San Diego County Library's Spring Valley branch.

Holmes-Hardy said the latest trend in financial fraud is commonly referred to as the grandparents scam.

"Someone calls the older adult and identifies themselves as their grandchild," she said. "They have obtained all their information such as the grandparents and family members' names.

"They claim they are in the hospital, have been in a car accident or on an overseas trip and have been arrested."

The scam is telling the grandparent that they need money for the accident deductible or bail and beg them not to tell their parents. They ask the older adult to wire money and promise to pay them back.

Holmes-Hardy said sometimes those scams have bilked seniors of upwards of $10,000. The perpetrators get the information for the phone calls from social media sites such as Facebook where teens post photos and names of family members.

Another popular method used to try to defraud older adults preys on emotions after a community has suffered the loss of a peace officer or firefighter. Callers will claim to be from a police officer or firefighter widow's association seeking donations in the wake of

*(See **Abuse** on page 15)*

"We are thrilled at the opportunity to bring this incredible product to an international market"

Distribution: DynoValve to improve air qualities in Middle East

(Continued from page 6)

Saheed Palkkandy Kottoth, Chairman/CEO of DynoGreen Tech, and SaviCorp signed this historic major distribution and partnership agreement on May 18. "We are thrilled at the opportunity to bring this incredible product to an international market that includes Dubai, the UAE, and India along with a number of other foreign countries," said Palkkandy Kottoth. "This is the kind of product that we have been waiting for. In India, and the Middle East, where exhaust emissions pose such a terrible threat to people's health and the environment, we believe we can help each country significantly improve air quality in urban areas significantly and also increase automotive performance by introducing the DynoValve," Palkkandy Kottoth continued.

The exclusive distribution agreement includes an immediate initial purchase of 2,000 DynoValve units, which will be distributed among the 2,000 foreign distributor locations. Additional inventories will be ordered after completion of training and certification. The partnership guarantees SaviCorp minimum sales of 500 units per quarter throughout the five-year term.

Benjamin Lee

BluFi: Lee also volunteers at community organizations

(Continued from page 5)

to do the same for our clients."

Lee was recently awarded the 2013 Five Star Mortgage Professional award from San Diego Magazine and Five Star Professional. Based on consumer surveys sent to more than 20,800 households, award winners make up less than 7 percent of the mortgage professionals in the San Diego area. Lee is eager to transition from loan originator into the managerial role to cultivate a strong, service-oriented team for BluFi Lending.

In addition to growing the new Mira Mesa branch, Benjamin Lee will also focus on growing BluFi Lending's name recognition by volunteering for community organizations such as Pacific Arts Movement and sharing information about the company's exceptional service standards. BluFi's new 21-Day Closing Guarantee has already been well-received by his consumer clients and their real estate professionals.

"Benjamin is a great asset to the BluFi family, and our new Scripps branch is the perfect office for him to manage," said John Lee , BluFi Lending president and CEO.

Star: Business groups make the annual honor program possible

(Continued from page 4)
cess factors in higher performing Honor Roll schools and districts. These include high expectations for all students; ongoing collaboration among teachers to improve practice; targeted use of data to pinpoint challenges and monitor progress; continual intervention for struggling students; and mastery of content knowledge and pedagogical practices.

"Honor Roll schools are overcoming challenges and obstacles every day for all students and are especially succeeding with kids who have been historically underserved. Our goal is to highlight their results, and provide a voice to these outstanding educators so that their success can be emulated in other places, " said Jim Lanich, California Business for Education Excellence president.

The Honor Roll list grew from 261 schools when the program began in 2005 to the current 2,108 for 2012. The number of Honor Roll STAR (higher poverty, high achieving) schools increased from 74 in 2005 in to 871 in 2012. A full list of the Honor Roll schools and districts can be found at: www.cbee.org.

The annual Honor Roll program is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, Macy's, Edison International, Wells Fargo, Southern California Auto Club, Enterprise Rent--A--Car, the California Business Roundtable, and several private foundations. Chevron Corporation provided specific support in the creation of the STEM Honor Roll.

2012 Star Schools

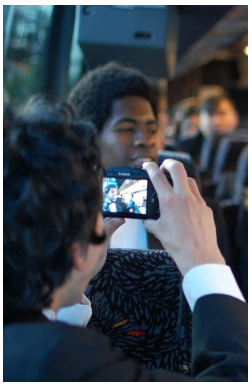
High poverty, high performing, achievement gap closing schools

- Mira Mesa High

STEM Schools

Honor Roll schools with higher poverty and higher performance in math and science

- Sandburg Elementary



Mira Mesa High School Orchestra members

Wildfire: Residents need to take steps to prepare for fire season

(Continued from page 3)
fire inspection teams have visited almost 6,000 properties in the last month, distributing educational materials and working with homeowners who haven't yet cleared their properties. In addition, the County Fire Authority recently mailed about 4,000 informational letters to residents in rural communities.

Besides maintaining their properties, residents should take a few key steps to prepare for peak fire season, Supervisor Jacob said. This includes registering mobile phones with AlertSanDiego, the region's reverse 911 system. The system contains all landline numbers, but to receive emergency notifications such as evacuation orders by mobile phone or email, people must register. They can do so at ReadySanDiego.org.

Other key preparedness resources include:

SD Emergency: The County's free mobile app, which alerts users with news updates, shelter locations, regional social media feeds and maps during an incident. It also helps residents prepare with interactive checklists and guidance to create a family disaster plan and assemble a 72-hour survival kit. Download it at ReadySanDiego.org.

SDCountyEmergency.com: The County's go-to website for comprehensive information and maps in the event of an emergency.

smgfire.org. Residents can learn how to become a volunteer Fire Preventer. Educate a neighbor and save your home.

Besides maintaining their properties, residents should take a few key steps to prepare for peak fire season, Supervisor Jacob said.

Aging: Healthy activities and demonstrations at both conference sites

(Continued from page 4)
Door spas will also be a featured presenter. Both conference sites will have healthy activities, including demonstrations by local chefs, workshops on gardening and exercise, plus vendors and resources. Lunch will also be served.

"Supporting healthy choices is one of the goals of the County's Live Well, San Diego! initiative," said Nick Macchione, Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. "Using our abundant local food and fitness resources, the Vital Aging Conference is designed to inspire older adults to live long, and live well."

Vital Aging sponsors are the County HHSA Aging & Independence Services, AARP, the City of San Marcos and the North County Action Network (NorCAN).

Reservations are required: see www.AISevents.org or call the AARP Registration Line at (877) 926-8300.

Mira Mesa High Marching Band.

School: Legislators have until June 15 to approve revised budget

(Continued from page 6)

K-12 education from Prop. 30 and will include accountability measures for academic and fiscal outcomes.

According to a preliminary analysis by San Diego Unified staff, the May revision proposal includes:

- An increase, over the original January proposal, in the repayment to district of previous year "deferrals," funds owed to school districts but held back by the state.
- A one-time expenditure statewide of $1 billion to help schools implement Common Core Standards, California's conversion of curriculum to a new national standard. Possibly an additional $18 million for San Diego Unified.
- Funds to make up for federal cuts in special education funding.
- The fundamental components of the Local Control Funding Formula proposal remain essentially unchanged from January, with an emphasis on providing additional resources to school districts with the highest concentrations of English learners, low-income students, and foster youth, and a commitment to ensuring there is local flexibility and local accountability.

The state Legislature faces a June 15 constitutional deadline for adopting the state budget for 2013-14. For more information on the Governor's plan, visit his website.

FasTrak: Will be at the Mira Mesa Famers Market June 4

(Continued from page 4)

- Win $100 in Free Toll Credits

Sign up for a FasTrak account or add a transponder between now and June 15 for a chance to win $100 in toll credits.

- Refer-A-Friend: $10 for You, $10 for Them

Earn $10 in toll credits when you Refer-A-Friend.* Email, call, or Facebook your friends and invite them to open a FasTrak account with your referral code and they'll get $10 in toll credits too. You can refer as many friends as you like and get $10 in toll credits for every account opened with your referral code!

FasTrak in the Community

Stop by our FasTrak booth and say hello when you see us at community events this spring. Get $5 in free toll credits when you open a FasTrak account or add a transponder to your existing account. You could win $100 in free tolls too! Here's we'll be next.

- Mira Mesa Farmers Market

Tuesday, June 4, 2:30 – 7 p.m.
Mira Mesa High School
10510 Reagan Road
San Diego, CA 92126

Re-Boxed team from Harmonium

JA: Re-Boxed selected to Junior Achievement summit in June

(Continued from page 3)

advantageous financial performance.

Emceeing the trade show, JA Company Program alumnus Andre Hosseinpour shared with the young leaders his life since Junior Achievement's Entrepreneurs Showcase that he participated in last year. Hosseinpour, Westview High School's 2013 graduate and the in-coming San Diego State University freshman, founded his company Place-Mate as part of JA Company Program last spring.

During the dinner program, another alumnus Michael Burrafato related to the students by sharing his experience at JA Company Program in Chicago, and Cymer's Arash Malekahmadi's speech inspired the companies to succeed.

On May 19, Junior Achievement USA announced Re-Boxed as one of the 15 companies in the nation to go to the Junior Achievement National Student Leadership Summit in June. At the summit, the team will make a commercial about their product, give a presentation to a judging panel and will compete in a trade fair. Plus, through a series of hands-on workshops, students will learn teamwork and leadership skills while developing feasible business solutions to society's most pressing challenges.

To learn more about JA Company Program, visit Junior Achievement's YouTube page. Learn more about Junior Achievement of San Diego County at www.jasandiego.org.

Abuse: Always check with the BBB for legitimate charities

(Continued from page 12)
the tragedy.

"Always check with the Better Business Bureau," said Holmes-Hardy. "They rate charities, and you should make sure the charity uses at least 75 percent of donations directly on the cause they are benefiting."

Here are 10 tips for preventing financial abuse:

1) Check your bank accounts, credit card and investment statements every month.

2) Make sure you check your legal or financial advisors references thoroughly.

3) Read the fine print on all documents before signing and insist on getting a copy.

4) Make sure you have an estate plan (no matter your financial position) and the person you have chosen to act on your behalf is someone you know you can trust.

5) Make sure you know who you are donating to and how the money will be used before you give to any charitable cause.

6) Do not respond to any sweepstakes, contest or prize offer that requires a purchase or a fee of any amount.

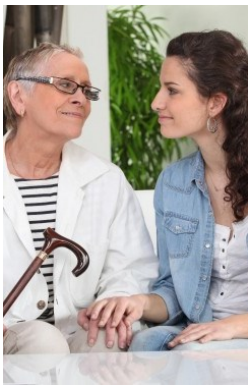
7) If you are making a payment online, make sure you use your credit card (debit card purchases can't be charged back or disputed similar to a credit card) and always look for the secure lock symbol on the payment site.

8) Always lock up jewelry, check blanks and documents with financial information on them before you have someone come into your home such as a housekeeper, home health care worker, contractors, etc.

9) Be careful on any phone call or email that you didn't initiate – do you really know who you're talking to on the other end?

10) Obtain your credit report two or three times a year. Experian, Equifax and Trans Union are required to provide you a free copy of your credit report once a year. www.annualcreditreport.com is the website maintained by the Federal Trade Commission.

For more information or to report elder and dependent adult abuse, call Adult Protective Services at 800-510-2020, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If a situation appears to be life threatening or a crime is in progress, call 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement.



Popular methods used to try to defraud seniors often prey on emotions after a recent tragedy or natural disasters.

Duron: Plans on working as long as people need her to

(Continued from page 5)
from some bad living conditions or situations of abuse. Sometimes nothing can be done.

"We as people have the right to do dumb things," she said.

If it's a case of self-neglect, and as long as the person is mentally competent, an investigator can only suggest they get assistance or check into available services.

"Sometimes there's not a thing you can do about it," said Duron. "We investigate and then try to encourage people to be safe or seek services that can help."

One thing that helps Duron is her background as a nurse. She got her nurse's training at St. Joseph's College of Nursing in San Francisco 60 years ago and obtained a bachelor's degree from Mt. St. Mary's in Los Angeles in 1962.

"That's a 100 years ago," she joked.

She's certainly witnessed lots of changes to health care over the years.

"I tell people back in those days, we used to boil our syringes and reuse them," she said. "They were glass – we didn't have plastic syringes.

"I can't believe some of the stuff we did!"

Duron said they even sharpened their own needles.

For two decades she worked as a nurse for a religious order in Southern California and as an operating room nurse in Orange County. After working with farm workers in a Kern County Clinic, she volunteered with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Union.

She ended up joining Chavez in Wisconsin for a boycott of wine farmers and ended up staying for 10 years, working for the Madison Public Health Department.

When she returned to California, she began working with an El Cajon nursing pool before joining the County. She spent a decade working first with Maternal Child Health and TB control, then with immunizations and the AIDS waiver program.

"Then I 'retired' somewhere along the line," she said. But retirement has meant seven years of working with AIS.

"I'm so used to working," she said. "I've worked since I was 13- or 14-years old, ironing and babysitting for neighbors and then working at Newberry's Five and Dime.

"I plan to keep working as long as they need me."

But don't think all she does is work. Duron has traveled to China, Israel, the Caribbean, Hawaii, Alaska and all over Europe.

"I rode a camel to Mr. Sinai at 4 a.m. in the morning," she said. "It was a three-hour trip, and then you had to walk the final part."

She also went skydiving at age 76.

This July, she plans to visit her sister by driving to Alaska with three of her friends.

"I'm so used to working. I've worked since I was 13- or 14-years old, ironing and babysitting for neighbors and then working at Newberry's Five and Dime."

Mira Mesa Town Council
PMB 230
10606-08 Camino Ruiz
San Diego, CA 92126

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.