Mira Mesa Town Council Newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 3 March 2013

Mira Mesa Town Council Meeting

- Monday, March 4, 2013
  7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
  Mira Mesa Senior Center
  8460 Mira Mesa Blvd.

Agenda:

- SANDAG

Business of the Month:

- Property Gallery

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It's True: Mira Mesa Does Have the Best Schools

By Lisa Halverstadt
Voice of San Diego

Statement: "Mira Mesa High is one of our highest-achieving high schools and the elementary and middle schools also win honors. Mira Mesa schools are neighborhood schools. The overwhelming majority of Mira Mesa families stay in Mira Mesa schools," San Diego Unified School District board president John Lee Evans said in a Dec. 24 U-T San Diego story.

Determination: True

Analysis: If the San Diego Unified School District had its way, most students would attend schools in their own neighborhoods.

The district has pushed attendance at these schools in recent years as part of its Vision 2020plan. The district sees Vision 2020 as its blueprint for improving schools, engaging parents, attracting quality educators and operating more efficiently.

Members of the Mira Mesa High School Orchestral and Jazz Ensemble, part of the school's award-winning music program.

One of the initiative's major goals is to bolster educational programs and achievement at neighborhood schools so parents are less likely to enroll their children at schools in other areas of the district.

In an interview with U-T San Diego last month, the school board president said Mira Mesa schools deserve credit for their success.

Evans, who represents San Diego Unified's Sub-District A, which includes Mira Mesa, said most students there attend schools in their neighborhoods and that

*(See **School** on page 15)*

'New Orleans Night' Theme for Volunteer of the Year Dinner

by Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Town Council will honor Bari Vaz, whose active community volunteering includes being the current MMTC First Vice-president/program chair, Chair of the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group, and Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce President, as 2012 Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year at the MMTC's annual Volunteer of the Year Dinner on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Verne Goodwin Mira Mesa Senior Center, 8460 Mira Mesa Blvd.

Active planning is now underway for the gala event, which will start with a reception from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dinner and presentations to Bari by elected officials and her appreciative fellow volunteers and friends. In addition her enthusiastic commitment to the community of Mira Mesa, Bari, a

*(See **Volunteer** on page 14)*

2013 MIRA MESA TOWN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Ted Brengel,
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Christina Keene
Jennifer Kvalvik
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Maria Pankau

President's Message for March

I won't dwell on this, but we still need help. Please mention MMTC when you can and don't forget what a valuable resource our website can be. It contains links to information on your Town Council and just about everything you might possibly need from your city government.

As most of you know there is some sort of community organization for just about every neighborhood in San Diego. While conversing with Ryan Trabuco, the president of the Clairemont Town Council, a few weeks ago, it occurred to us that there just might be some benefit in an organization that facilitates sharing of information among Town Council leaders. We have been discussing this ever since and just recently we got officers from eight town councils together to see if they agreed. A representative of the mayor's office was also in attendance.

They result of the meeting was the adoption of a very simple set of bylaws for an organization to be called "Community Council Coalition of San Diego" or CCCSD.

It's hard to tell exactly where this will go and there were a few in attendance who don't believe that such an organization is really necessary. Discussion at the meeting last week seemed to center on how to handle "issues" that may arise. My thinking is that most of the councils don't actually weigh in on issues but rather deal with them as does MMTC: we provide a forum for all sides but do not take a position as an organization. So to me, the real benefit of the CCCSD will most likely be in sharing organizational information.

For example, one representative spoke of making income for the organization from the newsletter. It might be interesting for other community councils to learn how this is mechanized. Hopefully CCCSD will serve to make all the community organizations such as MMTC stronger and better. We'll see.

Have a look at Jeff Stevens' article on Jonas Salk Elementary School below. Is it possible that after all these years this project is going forward? I surely hope so. Otherwise we are going to be hard pressed to find classroom space for the children coming from our new construction projects.

Switching to our favorite eyesore, shopping carts, for a moment —w e now have three major grocery and variety stores (Von's, Target, and H-Mart) and one drug store (Walgreen's) with cart containment systems. I have spoken with two store managers and they said that it is a simple dollars and cents proposition. Shopping carts are expensive, but containing then is relatively inexpensive. Now all we need to do is to convince others that their best interests are served by containing those carts. Please mention this should you speak with a store manager of a store that lets its carts drift around the community.

In closing let me wish you Happy Daylight Savings Time! It begins on Sunday, March 10, so get ready to *spring* forward one hour.

Jonas Salk Elementary May Finally be Moving Forward

By Jeff Stevens

More than 30 years after initial site preparation for the future Salk Elementary School, an agreement to build the school is finally close to completion.

The property, at the corner of Flanders Drive and Parkdale Ave., was created for the school and the neighboring Maddox Park by grading a ridge top and filling the two adjacent finger canyons. For financial reasons the school district did not continue with construction at that time, and by the time the project was funded through Proposition MM, vernal pools had formed on the site.

In order to build the school a complex agreement was worked out that included not only the School District, but also the City of San Diego and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Under that agreement the school district will preserve and enhance vernal pools on city-owned property adjacent to Challenger Middle School.

A memorandum of understanding between the city and school district was approved in 2009, but the USFWS wanted additional property included, so the revised MOU now also includes a small site at the south end of Parkdale.

The revised MOU is expected to go to the School Board within the next few weeks, and then to the City Council. If all approvals stay on schedule, school construction will begin this summer, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jonas Salk's 100th birthday in October 2014 and the school will open in September 2015.

Mira Mesa Schools Are United in the Neighborhood

John Lee Evans

By John Lee Evans

Since I came onto the Board of Education four years ago, we have placed an emphasis on neighborhood schools. As reported in the U-T and the Voice of San Diego, I have touted Mira Mesa as an example of great neighborhood schools. This is based on two facts. The vast majority of MM parents send their children to their neighborhood school and MM schools are among the highest performing in the district.

To promote neighborhood schools we have organized school cluster councils in each of 16 communities across San Diego. In Mira Mesa we have the advantage that our principals have been meeting and cooperating for many years prior to the district's neighborhood schools initiative.

A cluster council can be compared to a town council or a community planning group that advises the city government on matters affecting the neighborhood. Cluster councils serve as advisory councils to the school board regarding neighborhood needs and district policies. They also promote the schools within the community and find local ways to improve the schools. Cluster councils are made up of teachers, parents, students and administrators, as well as other community members.

All MM residents are encouraged to attend cluster meetings. The MM Cluster Advisory Group meets the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Mira Mesa High School Media Center. For more information visit www.mmcluster.org.

You can reach me by email a johnleeevans@sandi.net.

'Les Mis' Page-to-Stage Discussion at Mira Mesa Library

By Pam Stevens

The Mira Mesa Banned Book Club invites everyone to experience this classic story in one or more ways — read *Les Misérables*, by Victor Hugo, in either its unabridged, abridged, or adapted "youth" version (there is a good approximately 100 page adaptation by Monica Kulling), and/or watch the current movie musical Les Miserables (or any movie version of the book), and/or see Mira Mesa High School's production of the stage musical, *Les Misérables*, March 15-23, 2013, then join in a "compare and contrast" discussion of the story with others at the meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Branch Library.

For more information, call the library, (858) 538-8165, or email book group facilitator Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com.

Two Mira Mesa High School Facilities Nearing Completion

Mira Mesa High broadcast news studio.

By Cynthia Reed-Porter
San Diego Unified School District

Mira Mesa High School is getting a double dose of upgrades for its College, Career & Technical Education (CCTE) Programs. Both the Broadcast Journalism Program and the Screen Printing and Computerized Graphic Design Program are getting extreme makeovers thanks San Diego Unified School District's Prop. S and a California Prop. 1D matching-fund grant.

The $2.6-million renovation to the Broadcast Journalism Program included the remodeling of the existing television studio into a new, state-of-the-art broadcast facility with a studio and classroom. Existing areas were remodeled to generate proper audio visual, server and storage rooms. A new vestibule was also constructed. The classroom, conference room, and control rooms were reconfigured and upgraded as well. New broadcast/television equipment was installed; and the electrical system, building systems (heat/air, fire, data), lighting and acoustical properties were all upgraded. Fiber optic cables were also added to the theater to allow for live broadcasts.

The Screen Printing & Computerized Graphic Design Program facility included an $900,000 renovation of the existing, outdated graphic arts classroom into a new in-screen printing/graphics classroom with an adjoining computer graphics lab/classroom. The existing graphics arts classroom was remodeled and upgraded into screen printing classroom with an upgraded ventilation system. In the computer lab/graphic design classroom, technology infrastructure was installed and upgraded to accommodate current computer needs; and a visual and physical link to the main classroom was provided.

Construction phase on these two facilities is 99 percent complete. An official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for May.

Culinary arts students at the 2013 San Diego Unified Teen Iron Chef competition.

Mira Mesa Places Second in 'Teen Iron Chef' Competition

Culinary arts students have gathered for the eighth year to test their skills and Madison High's team came out first, followed by Mira Mesa and San Diego high teams in the 2013 San Diego Unified Teen Iron Chef competition.

Based on the popular Food Network TV show, the contest gave teams from five of the eight culinary arts programs in the district a chance to work under pressure, creating a complete meal in an hour for some of San Diego's top chefs. Madison, Mira Mesa, San Diego High School of Business, Scripps Ranch and Hoover high schools participated; Garfield and Morse have the other culinary programs.

Students are able to work on their ideas, go shopping, portion their protein and measure any dry or liquid ingredients the day before. They are not allowed to do any actual cooking, pre-making of dough, or premixing ingredients ahead of time. On the day of the competition, they were presented with a secret ingredient that must be incorporated into at least one of their three courses. They are allowed to have their recipes or prep-list at the station during the competition.

The secret ingredient this year was tofu. Some of the secret ingredients from previous years include calamari, brie, balsamic vinegar, prosciutto,

*(See **Chef** on page 14)*

'Les Misérables' performances will be March 15-16 at 7pm; March 21 at 6pm; March 22 at 7pm; and March 23 at 2pm and 7pm.

Mira Mesa High School Stages Classic Victor Hugo Musical

By Pam Stevens

Walking into Mira Mesa High School's 400 building after school on a recent Friday afternoon felt like stepping into *Les Misérables* world. Not only the main stage in the auditorium and the drama classroom, but corridors, other rooms, and the courtyard outside had all become hubs of active rehearsal and set construction. In one room a chorus was singing, in another two young men were rehearsing a fight scene, outdoors a large "rock" pillar painted with 3D relief onto plywood was taking shape, and at a command-center desk at the side of one room, MMHS drama teacher and *Les Misérables* director Daniel Kriley, was making notes and talking with an assistant. Somewhere in the background music was playing. I found myself walking away humming, "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

Mira Mesa High School will proudly present the musical, *Les Misérables*, based on Victor Hugo's classic novel set in 19th century France, March 15 – 23. The long-running Broadway show has music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, original French lyrics by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel, and an English-language libretto by Herbert Kretzmer. Tickets are $15 for Friday and Saturday nights; $ 10 for Thursday, March 21; and $12 for the 2pm Saturday matinee March 23. Tickets sold in advance online or (if available) at the door.

***Love, Sex and the I.R.S.* plays for six performances at Wangenheim Middle School**

Theatre Guild's 'Love, Sex and the I.R.S.' Opens March 1

By Pam Stevens

Just in time for tax season, Mira Mesa Theatre Guild proudly presents a contemporary farce, *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.*, by William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore. Directed by Tim Arends, the PG-13-style comedy runs Friday and Saturday evenings March 1 – 16, 2013, 7:30pm at Wangenheim Middle School, 9230 Gold Coast Drive, San Diego 92126. (School entrance from Westbury, theatre at south end of parking lot.) Tickets are $15 general admission, $12 seniors/students/military, available at the door or in advance online.

THE STORY: Two young unemployed musicians, Jon and Leslie, try to save money by filling out their tax returns as a married couple. A visit from a lonely I.R.S. auditor, one young man's girlfriend, the other young man's mother and a suspicious landlord, all at once, throw the two guys into a cross-dressing frenzy of cover-ups, half lies, outright lies, and even some home truths. Imagine a cross between *I Love Lucy* and *Some Like It Hot!*

The *Love, Sex, and the I.R.S.* cast includes:

- Aubrey Eyrolles as Kate Dennis
- Will McTagart as Leslie Arthur
- Fernanda Torres as Mrs. Jansen
- Mike Edmond as Jon

*(See **Theatre** on page 14)*

From the office of County Supervisor Dave Roberts

Dave Roberts

By Dave Roberts

Let me begin by saying that I am honored to serve as your new Third District County Supervisor.

After 20 years, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price retired and I was honored to be elected by you to the Board of Supervisors in November. I am now in my fifth week in office and I am pleased to give you this report on my work to improve and protect your neighborhoods, and to enhance your quality of life.

Here's a summation of what I have accomplished so far:

My Office:

I have hired my staff and I want each of them to be responsive, and to work hard for you. Our main office is located at the County Administrative Center, downtown, an historic building most noticeable for its beautiful façade. Additionally, I have secured my first satellite office at the Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th Street, where I will meet with constituents from 3 to 5 p.m. the third Friday of every month. But I will soon open satellite offices in Escondido and Mira Mesa.

Meetings of the Board of Supervisors:

With the economy first and foremost on our minds, I joined my colleagues on the board to support two housing projects in the unincorporated area. The projects will create a few hundred construction jobs at least. But many vendors of supplies such as wood, plumbing, flooring, roofing, and other products will see a boost in orders. Some local contractors will also see the positive impact, as they are able to put employees to work.

- Plans for Cumming Ranch, new, 125-home community in Ramona, got my vote. I

*(See **Supervisor** on page 13)*

New Mira Mesa Ambassadors Miss and Miss Teen Crowned

Both young women will be Mira Mesa Ambassadors and represent the community during the upcoming year.

By Maria Pankau

On Feb. 4, 2013, the Mira Mesa Town Council (MMTC) sponsored the Second Annual Miss Mira Mesa and Miss Teen Mira Mesa pageant.

The event took place in the Grand Salon of the Country Inn and Suites located at 5975 Lusk Boulevard in western Mira Mesa.

After a 20 minute interview with each one of our five judges, a bathing suit/ sportswear competition, an evening gown competition, an impromptu on stage question and a two-minute speech on what it means to live in Mira Mesa, Madison Dodd was selected as 2013 Miss Teen Mira Mesa and Keshia Lee Llarenas was selected as 2013 Miss Mira Mesa.

Both young women will be Mira Mesa Ambassadors and represent the community during the upcoming year. Their duties will include grand openings within the community, parades within the San Diego area, representing Mira Mesa in the Ronald McDonald Red Shoe Day event and the American Cancer Society's Relay for

(Continued on page 13)

Theatre Guild Launches Fund Drive for Monster Manor

Monster Manor looking for sponsors for the 2013 season. For more info, visit miramesatheatre guild.org or monster manor.org.

Monster Manor, Mira Mesa's popular haunted attraction built and operated by volunteers since 2001 is set to rise again this fall as long as the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild can "scare up" sufficient funds in its spring fundraising drive to cover the costs of putting on the event.

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild operates the Manor with a volunteer cast and crew of adults and high school students. Set-up and construction of the tent and rooms in this year's version of the Ghastley Family's Manor will start in September. The "haunt" opens in October to thrill adults and teens weekend evenings, with Lite Frite on Saturday and Sunday afternoons offering fun for children and anyone who prefers less scary themed entertainment.

Monster Manor and Lite Frite has the potential to generate funds, not only for Mira Mesa Theatre Guild and its future activities as a non-profit theatre group, including its regular season of staged plays and plans to return to offering a children's theatre program, but also for other non-profit groups and community events. Over the years, the Fourth of July fireworks have been a prime beneficiary of proceeds from the haunted attraction. However, it's an expensive event to produce. Mira Mesa Theatre Guild is now launching an active campaign to raise the funds needed for the production. MMTG is seeking donations, large or small, sponsorships in return for publicity as an official Monster Manor and Lite Frite sponsor.

Not all teens get recommended vaccines.

County Says Half of San Diego Adolescents Not Vaccinated

Vaccinations don't stop when children reach kindergarten. Preteens and adolescents also need to be up-to-date on them to stay healthy.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adolescents get the annual flu shot, a pertussis booster (Tdap), and vaccines for meningococcal disease, human papillomavirus (HPV), and chickenpox (if needed.) Yet only half of the 300,000 adolescents in our region have received all recommended vaccines.

Scheduling a preteen preventive health visit is a great way to make sure older youth and teens get their recommended vaccines. This can also be done as part of a sports physical or other medical visit.

"These diseases can have serious and severe complications, including death in some cases, but they are preventable," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. "Vaccinating your children is the best line of defense."

The vaccines are available at physician offices, community clinics, and many retail pharmacies. People without medical insurance can get vaccinated at one of the seven County Public Health Centers.

Everyone 6 months and older should receive an annual flu shot. Two doses of flu vaccine are recommended for children 8 years and younger who are receiving it for the first time. Two doses of chickenpox vaccine are recommended for unvaccinated adolescents who have not had the disease.

While flu activity continues to decline, county health officials say it's still not too late to get vaccinated.

Flu Season May Have Peaked, Fewer People Sick from Influenza

The number of lab-confirmed flu cases in the region declined for a third week in a row, the County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reported today. The percentage of emergency department visits due to influenza-like-illness also dropped. However, seven additional deaths were reported.

Based on the latest Influenza Watch report, covering the week ending Feb. 16, 2013, HHSA reported the following:

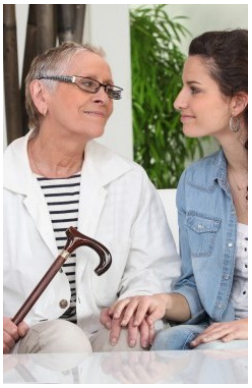
- Lab-confirmed influenza cases for the week: 382 (last week's total revised upward from 718 to 834)
- Influenza-like-illness at emergency departments during the week: 8 percent (11 percent last week)
- Total influenza deaths to date: 40
- Total lab-confirmed influenza cases to date: 4,175

San Diego residents who died with influenza ranged in age from 42 to 99 years and all but one had underlying medical conditions or advanced age. The reported number of flu-related deaths this season is the second highest on record. Fifty-eight deaths were reported during the 2009-2010 flu season.

While flu activity continues to decline, county health officials say it's still not too late to get vaccinated.

"The flu typically extends through late March or early

*(See **Flu** on page 12)*



County has several webinars to offer help for adult caregivers.

County Offers Webinars, Tips and Support for Caregivers

Who takes care of you when you're spending all your time taking care of someone else? It's a problem for many caregivers, and one that adds to the stress of taking care of someone else 24 hours a day.

Here's some help: a series of free webinars for caregivers is being offered on Fridays during lunch hours and here's the best part — caregivers can watch and participate in the 45-minute webinar from any computer or mobile device that has access to the internet.

These webinars are being offered by the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Aging & Independence Services, in conjunction with the Caregiver Coalition of San Diego.

Adult children of aging parents, spouses caring for loved ones, seniors and professionals in the field of aging are all encouraged to watch and participate in the interactive webinars that begin on Fridays at noon.

March 8 — Mom or Dad Needs to Move: What Do I Do About Their House? – Valerie Upham, Pacific Sothby's International Realty

March 15 — Avoiding Financial Scams – Lois Kelly, Attorney at Law

March 29 — Palliative Care: What Everyone Needs to Know – Helen McNeal, ED, CSU, San Marcos Institute for Palliative Care

To register or for more detailed information on the webinar topics visit www.caregivercoalitionsd.org.

Mira Mesa Organizing Neighborhood Watch Program

The community of Mira Mesa is organizing its Neighborhood Watch Program. The goal is to register Mira Mesa's NHW programs and open the lines to better communication. To sign up, email miramesacommunityoffice @gmail.com. By signing up, you will be registered as an official NHW community and receive crime information emails.

Homes being tented for fumigation have been a citywide target for residential burglaries. If you are planning to have your home tented for fumigation, ere are a few tips to assist in keeping your property safe.

- Notify a trusted neighbor and ask they call the police if they should see anything suspicious
- Remove valuable items such as: jewelry, cash, guns and laptops
- Inquire with the pest control company if they offer any additional security while you are away from your home.
- Request a "Vacation House Check" from RSVPs. This is a free service and is available by completing out a request form and returning it to the storefront three days prior to your tenting date.

Congressman Scott Peters Announces Full Staff Roster

Congressman Scott Peters announced the completion of his staff in his San Diego and Washington, DC offices.

"Since taking office, we've worked around the clock to get everything up and running," Peters said. "Our DC office was open the same day I was sworn in, with a very limited staff, and only a few weeks later we opened our San Diego office. Now, I am pleased to announce that both offices are fully staffed. We've assembled an impressive team eager to use their expert knowledge of San Diego and Capitol Hill to best serve the 52nd District."

Peters' staff has a wide range of backgrounds and experience that reflects the broad diversity of the district. The staff includes representatives from the Latino, Asian-American, African-American, LGBT and veteran communities.

MaryAnne Pintar, District Director, San Diego Office

Pintar was the Communications Director for Peters' congressional campaign and served as his Chief of Staff when he was San Diego City Council President. Previously she held the same positions with San Diego Mayor Susan Golding. Pintar has both public and private sector experience, including running her own public affairs consulting business. Pintar has a Bachelor of Arts in journalism, and a Master of Science in Mass Communications with dual emphases in political science and advertising, both from San Diego State University.

Shea Benton, Field Representative, San Diego Office

Originally from Fair Oaks, California, Benton moved to San Diego in 2007. Benton previously worked at a government affairs firm in Sacramento and most recently was a District Representative for California State Assemblyman, Nathan Fletcher. Benton has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from San Diego State University.

Hugo Carmona, Field Representative, San Diego Office

Carmona worked as a Field Representative for Peters while he was City Council President. Most recently, Carmona has been practicing law dealing with immigration, housing and labor issues. Carmona is fluent in Spanish and has a Bachelor of the Arts from the University of California San Diego and his Juris Doctor from the University of California Hastings.

Sarah Czarnecki, Field Representative, San Diego Office

Czarnecki has both campaign and state government experience. Czarnecki worked on Bob Filner's Mayoral race as Campaign Coordinator, and has also worked for the California State Assembly. Czarnecki has a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from the University of California San Diego.

Anthony Nguyen, Field Representative, San Diego Office

Nguyen most recently worked as a Service Representative for the Social Security Administration. Prior to that, Nguyen interned for the U.S. Department of State in the Reports & Political Affairs Office and the Public Affairs & Public-Private Partnership Office. Nguyen is fluent in Vietnamese and has a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University.

Sarah March, Field Representative, San Diego Office

March was previously an Operations Specialist in the US Navy where she did two Western Pacific deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and was a part of the tsunami relief in Sri Lanka in 2004. March has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from San Diego State Uni-

*(See **Staff** on page 12)*

"We've assembled an impressive team eager to use their expert knowledge of San Diego and Capitol Hill to best serve the 52nd District."

The most spectacular show has finally reached the Mira Mesa stage. Get ready for the upcoming show, Broadway's long-standing musical production, 'Les Misérables' which starts March 15, 2013.

Events of Interest

- **March 1 — 'Sex, Love and the I.R.S.', Wangenheim Middle School, 7:30pm**
- **March 2 — Mason Elementary School beautification, Mira Mesa HEROES, 8am**
- **March 15 — 'Les Misérables', Mira Mesa High School, 7pm**
- **March 19 — Russell Rowe Presents Multiple Intelligences, Mira Mesa Library, 6pm**
- **March 30 — San Diego Police Department Northeastern, Mira Mesa HEROES, 8am**

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm, Wangenheim Middle School	2 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm,
3 Our Town Flea Market – 8 am, Mira Mesa High School	4 Mira Mesa Town Council – 7pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	5 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	6 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	7 Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	8 Pastel Drawing with Joseph Nyiri, 4pm, Mira Mesa Library 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm, Wangenheim Middle School	9 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm, Wangenheim Middle School
10 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS** Our Town Flea Market – 8 am, Mira Mesa High School	11 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors – 6pm, Mira Mesa Community Office Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	12 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	13 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	14 Sr Center Board of Governors – 2 pm, Mira Mesa Senior Center Mira Mesa Theatre Guild – 6 pm, location varies Community Pride – 6:30 pm, call for location Black Mountain Democratic Club – 7 pm, Mesa Village Rec Hall 1	15 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm, Wangenheim Middle School 'Les Misérables,' – Mira Mesa High School, 7pm	16 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library 'Love, Sex and the IRS' – 7:30pm, Wangenheim Middle School 'Les Misérables,' – Mira Mesa High School, 7pm
17 **ST PATRICK'S DAY** Our Town Flea Market – 8 am, Mira Mesa High School	18 Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – 7 pm, Vulcan Materials Office, 7220 Trade St, Suite 205 Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	19 Golden Friends – 10 am, Mira Mesa Senior Center	20 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	21 'Les Misérables,' – Mira Mesa High School, 7pm Teen Writing Club – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	22 'Les Misérables,' – Mira Mesa High School, 7pm	23 Kathak Dance Classes – 10 am, Mira Mesa Library Zumba w/ Azi – 1 pm, Mira Mesa Library 'Les Misérables,' – Mira Mesa High School, 2pm & 7pm
24 Our Town Flea Market – 8 31 **EASTER**	25 Crafts with Kim – 1pm, Mira Mesa Library	26 Banned Book Club– 6:45 pm, Mira Mesa Library	27 Line Dance – 4:30 pm, Mira Mesa Library Mira Mesa Homework Helpers – 6pm, Mira Mesa Library	28 Gentle Yoga – 9:30am, Mira Mesa Library	29 Teen Advisory Board – 4pm, Mira Mesa Library	30

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 January meeting, by acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

- Three checking accounts have been consolidated into one so we do not get charged fees on low balance accounts. Defer budget and bank balances until next month.

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS OF THE MONTH — A-1 Self Storage.

FIRST RESPONDERS — **SDPD Northeastern Division** - Officer Susan Steffen, Community Relations Officer. Community Relations Officer. Mostly quiet this month. There was an officer-involved shooting. A man would not respond to officer requests and was threatening to throw a rock. At a "routine" traffic stop found methamphetamines, marijuana and $1,800 cash. Trying to restore neighborhood watch via MMTC. Using for email miramesacommunityoffice @gmail.com. Photo enforcement lights are being removed. Poway still has them. There is a Facebook page for SDPD Northeastern Division.

SDPD Northeastern Division - Officer Natalie Hone, Community Relations Officer. Northwestern Division starts at Camino Santa Fe then west and up to Villa de la Valle. They also have a Facebook page. Bevmo bandit — has hit 5 times since November. Hit yesterday during Superbowl power outage. Jim Hearn – please give photo of bandit to RSVP. They patrol that shopping center. Christiane — need more traffic enforcement around Qualcomm.

SDFD – Captain Abel Flores, Mark Dembrowski, Oscar Salcedo. Wintertime – electric blankets cause fires. Fire engines use Hillery and Westonhill to avoid Mira Mesa Blvd gridlock. Lots of traffic accidents recently. Not many fires. Most fires are electrical. Take safety precautions. Beware of warm outlets. Don't put too many plugs in outlets. Only one heat producing appliance per outlet. Fluorescent bulbs are good, but require a special dimmer. Surge protectors help prevent fires.

CLAIREMONT TC — Don Azul, Don Azul – rep from Clairemont Town Council. Going on ridealongs with PD. MM and Clairemont are similar communities with similar issues. 72,000/76,000 residents. Forming joint public safety committee to address crime related issues within our two communities. Draft and implement strategies that help both communities. Appoint 1-4 members. Motion to approve MMTC participation in public safety committee. Passed 29-0.

PRESENTATION — Presentation: SANDAG Transportation Overview - Barrow Emerson. SANDAG administers ½ cent sales tax. Summarized MM transportation projects. Distributed fact sheet. Bus rapid transit is in planning stages. New transit station at Miramar College and Hillery. 11 bus bays for local and regional buses. Electronic "next bus in X minutes" signs. Getting access to 300 parking spaces in Miramar College parking structure. Station should be open before Christmas. Red line UCSD to MM transit center will run all the time at 15-30 minute intervals. Downtown to Escondido with limited stops. More frequent 810 buses. Traffic mitigation/calming is being done as part of the DAR construction. Dave Schumacher – long range projects. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. More transit. Bus Rapid Transit, Trolley lines, high speed rail. UTC to Mira Mesa trolley. Much more frequent bus service. 10 minute access. Managed lanes.

PRESENTATION — 2013 Miss Mira Mesa Keshia Lee Llarenas and Miss Teen Mira Mesa Madison Dodd – Maria Pankau.

PRESENTATION — Monster Manor – Alex Nguyen. Will be back again this year. Want more adult volunteers. Featured on KUSI and has won awards. Need sponsorships. Expect to be back at Target again.

PRESENTATION — Walker School – Rochelle Dawes. MMTC donated food with Christ Community Church. Walker partners with them. Free tutoring Wednesday. Have over 75 students come for tutoring. Fill out volunteer application form and TB test. 79% of families at school below poverty line.

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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Congressman Scott Peters

Staff: Reflects neighborhood with backgrounds, experiences

(Continued from page 7)
versity. While at SDSU, March participated in a work study program through the Post 9/11 GI Bill where she helped veterans use their education benefits.

Michelle Dorothy, Chief of Staff, Washington, DC Office

Dorothy previously served as the Chief of Staff for a moderate democratic congressman. Before her work as a congressional aide, she spent 9 years working for a Silicon Valley high tech firm. Dorothy has a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University, as well as two master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh: one in business administration and one in public and international affairs.

Morgan Jones, Legislative Director, Washington, DC Office

Jones began working on Capitol Hill in 2009 as a Legislative Assistant and then Senior Legislative Assistant. Most recently, Jones worked as a Legislative Representative for Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Federal Affairs. Jones has a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science and History from American University.

Taylor Lavender, Communications Director, Washington, DC Office

Lavender has a campaign background and has worked in the communications offices of both House and Senate races. She recently finished working on a Senate race in Connecticut, where she was Deputy Communications Director. Lavender has a Bachelor of the Arts in Environmental Thought and Practice from the University of Virginia.

Anne Moriarity, Scheduler, Washington, DC Office

Moriarity previously worked on Capitol Hill for now-retired North Carolina Congressman Brad Miller, where she was Legislative Correspondent and Scheduler. Moriarity has a Bachelor of the Arts in History with a minor in Political Science from Duke University.

Kate Lyon, Legislative Assistant, Washington, DC Office

Lyon most recently served as Peters' Political Director for his congressional campaign. Prior to joining Peters' campaign, Lyon worked for the California State Legislature and in government relations for nonprofits, focusing on health care and women's rights including Planned Parenthood and NARAL. Lyon is a licensed attorney and attended college at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, San Diego.

Lumay Wang, Legislative Assistant, Washington, DC Office

Wang previously worked for Senator John Kerry as his Legislative Correspondent. Prior to this, Wang worked for the National Gallery of Art, where she worked with patrons and the Department of Education to help run the gallery's education programs. Wang has a Bachelor of the Arts in International Relations and Art History from Tufts University.

Daniel Zawitoski, Legislative Correspondent, Washington, DC Office

Zawitoski most recently worked as the Director of Research for Peters' congressional campaign. Zawitoski has a Bachelor of the Arts from Colby College and a Master of Arts from San Diego State University.

Michael Campbell, Staff Assistant, Washington, DC Office

Campbell is from Point Loma. Previously, Campbell worked on Peters' congressional campaign. Campbell attended high school at The Bishop's School in La Jolla and has a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Flu vaccine is safe and effective.

Flu: Season widespread but has been moderately severe

(Continued from page 6)
April," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. "People should continue to take preventive measures to avoid getting sick, including getting the vaccine."

This influenza season has shown widespread distribution and has been moderately severe.

While influenza commonly affects the elderly, pregnant women, infants, and people with chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, or a compromised immune system are also at higher risk for complications.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months or older, who is not allergic to it, should get a flu vaccine every year. The vaccine is safe, effective, and available at many locations in the county. It takes about two weeks for immunity to develop after getting vaccinated.

The seasonal flu vaccine offers protection against Influenza A H3N2, Pandemic H1N1-like, and Influenza B strains. It is well matched for the viruses that are circulating, and has been determined by the CDC to be 62 percent effective.

The vaccine is available throughout San Diego County at doctors' offices and retail pharmacies. County public health centers have flu vaccine available for children and adults with no medical insurance. For a list of locations, visit www.sdiz.org or call 2-1-1.

Pageant: Bar set high for incoming Miss, Miss Teen Mira Mesa

(Continued from page 5)

Life events, hosting various MMTC sponsored events such as Volunteer of the Year, 4th of July extravaganza, MM Street Fair and others. Madison and Keshia will also have the chance to represent Mira Mesa in the Miss and Miss Teen Greater San Diego pageant, should they choose to do so.

Miss Mira Mesa and Miss Teen Mira Mesa will be present at all MMTC meetings, on the first Monday of every month, and at the Mira Mesa Farmers' Market on the last Tuesday of every month. Stop by say "hello" and get to know your community ambassadors.

During the pageant, we had a chance to say "so long and thank you" to our outgoing Miss 2012, Monica Fung and Miss Teen 2012, Morgan Sibley. They did an outstanding job as the first ever combined Miss and Miss Teen! The bar has been set very high for all the ladies to come.

The third annual pageant will take place on the first Saturday in February 2014. Interested young women can get information or leave questions on facebook at Miss-Miss Teen Mira Mesa or by selecting Miss Mira Mesa at miramesatown council.org

The new Miss Teen and Miss Mira Mesa.

Supervisor: Pledges to improve county's foster children system

(Continued from page 5)

was especially pleased that my colleagues supported my recommendation that all the homes be wired for electric vehicle charging and solar panels. This requirement for energy-efficiency wiring was the first of its kind in the unincorporated area. All parties, including the Cumming Ranch developer, agreed that the renewable-energy amenities would add value to the project and help preserve the environment.

- Additionally, almost 70 percent of the 683-acre Cumming Ranch community will remain untouched as a permanent addition to the Ramona grasslands. The project will include 2 ½ miles of public hiking trails.
- I voted to approve final maps for a mixed-use, rural village in Harmony Grove. The project calls for 742 dwellings on 408 acres and includes open space, parks and equestrian facilities.
- I voted to update the county's parking ordinance for the unincorporated area, but did not change church parking standards. This was the first revision of the ordinance since 1985.
- We also approved the Sol Orchard solar project in Ramona by a 4-1 vote. I wanted to delay approval for further analysis but the motion was to approve and I voted yes. I strongly believe in solar and clean energy.
- Implemented commercial recycling in the unincorporated county to increase diversion of business waste from landfill disposal. The County's current ordinance requires businesses 20,000 square feet or larger to recycle specified materials. The proposed ordinance would require businesses that produce four cubic yards of waste or greater weekly to recycle. The ordinance would increase the amount of materials recycled in the unincorporated area of the county, conserve landfill capacity and encourage investment in the recycling and waste reduction industry.

I also was pleased to add my voice to a chorus of opponents protesting the restart of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. A meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Orange County drew hundreds of attendees, including dozens of elected officials. Fortunately, the federal regulators appear to be moving toward setting tougher requirements for the facility. In my testimony, I told the commission that public safety — not money and not nuclear power — must be our number one concern. Fix the problems before it is ever re-opened.

Chairman Greg Cox this week welcomed over 500 people aboard the USS Midway to deliver the 2013 State of the County address. During his remarks, Chairman Cox mentioned that he and I would work together to improve the county's system for foster children. I look forward to that collaboration. The chairman also stated that he would work to improve veterans services and communications systems for emergency responders. I look forward to supporting Chairman Cox with these important initiatives.

There is much more to report, but I have limited space. So I will report again next month. Should you need the assistance of my office please call (619) 531-5533.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve your needs at the county.

"I told the commission that public safety — not money and not nuclear power — must be our number one concern."

'Sex, Love and the IRS'

Theatre: Producer was performer in previous production

(Continued from page 4)

Trachtman

- Jake Lewis as Floyd Spinner
- Carm Greco as Vivian Trachtman
- Beth Gallagher as Connie
- Brandon Molina as Arnold Grunion

For cast biographies and further information, see www.miramesatheatreguild.org

Director Tim Arends, who grew up in Mira Mesa and Alpine, has extensive experience performing and directing in the U.S. and abroad. While in the US Air Force, he twice was part of the winning cast of the USAFE Best Play in Europe for the shows *Barefoot in the Park* and *Footlight Frenzy*. Arends was a cast member of the British theatre company The Marlow Players' original show *A Dickens of an Evening*, which performed in both England and France. His first show as a director was Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*.

More recently, Arends directed three successful MMTG productions in the past 18 months, *Greetings!* (Dec. 2011), *Greater Tuna* (spring 2012), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (October 2012.) Mira Mesa resident Adam Sheldon is the producer for the show. Local audiences saw Sheldon on stage last fall as Lane in the MMTG production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

For more information, call 858-222-4815, or visit the MMTG website, where tickets can be ordered online, www.miramesatheatre.guild.org

"It is so much fun and makes all of our classroom cooking projects more meaningful."

Chef: Schools held mock competition leading up to 'Iron Chef'

(Continued from page 4)

and cantaloupe. Many of the schools hold mock competitions in the week leading up the event in order to select the students for the team or practice the nuts and bolts of the competition.

"It is so much fun and makes all of our classroom cooking projects more meaningful because we are cooking for professional judges," said Vannak Seang of runner-up Mira Mesa High School team. It was Seang's second time in the Iron Chef competition, where the students are guided by teacher Zhee Zhee Aguirre and mentor Juan Esquivel from Bully's.

The Culinary Arts and Management course in the San Diego Unified School District is supported by the Office of College, Career and Technical Education. Major support for the program comes from the California Restaurant Association San Diego Chapter. San Diego Gas and Electric Company provided the facility used for the event, the Sempra Energy Innovation Center, 4760 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

For more information, contact Lisa McDonnell at (858) 503-1841.

Mira Mesa Volunteer of the Year Bari Vaz.

Volunteer: Annual dinner will have Cajun/Creole menu

(Continued from page 1)

New Orleans native, also volunteers in organizing annual charitable events with a group of Louisiana expatriates in San Diego. This year's MMTC Volunteer of the Year Dinner will have a "New Orleans Night" theme, with a catered meal featuring a Cajun/Creole menu, provided by Tress Balch (of Happy Sushi) and his HS Catering team. At the conclusion of the formal program, enjoy music and dancing into the evening.

The annual MMTC Volunteer of the Year Dinner also offers an opportunity for people to make donations to the MMTC/Verne Goodwin Scholarship Fund, named after Mira Mesa's first Volunteer of the Year, Verne Goodwin, in 1984. MMTC uses the fund to award college scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Mira Mesa based on their community service.

MMTC members will receive mailed invitations to the Dinner, and online reservation and payment will again be available via the MMTC website.

For further information, contact MMTC Volunteer of the Year Dinner Committee co-chairs Pam Stevens, pstevens@san.rr.com, or Christina Keene, christina keene@gmail.com.

School: More Mira Mesa students attend neighborhood schools

(Continued from page 1)
those schools are high-performing.

We decided to scrutinize Evans' claims because the neighborhood schools initiative is a major component of the district's Vision 2020 plans, and he offered Mira Mesa schools as an example of the success that's possible when the majority of students remain in their local schools.

We started by reviewing state Academic Performance Index scores across the school district.

The index evaluates schools based on the California Standardized Testing and Reporting exam and the California High School Exit Examination results. Scores range from 200 to 1,000 and schools try to reach at least 800.

Mira Mesa High School scores have steadily increased in recent years, according to API data from the California Department of Education.

In the last five years, the high school's score rose by 73 points. In 2012, the school received an 861 and a year earlier, scored 844.

Those scores put Mira Mesa High among the school district's highest-scoring schools in the past two years.

There are about 40 high schools within San Diego Unified boundaries. Here's how Mira Mesa's scores compared among that group's top-scoring high schools in 2012:

• Scripps Ranch High: 900

• The Preuss School UCSD: 892

• Kearny High School International Business: 877

• Mt. Everest Academy: 873

• San Diego High School of International Studies: 861

• Mira Mesa High: 861

• La Jolla High: 854

And in 2011:

• The Preuss School UCSD: 899

• Scripps Ranch High: 883

• San Diego High School of International Studies: 873

• Kearny High School International Business: 860

• La Jolla High: 849

• Mira Mesa High: 844

• University City High: 810

About half of those schools are considered non-traditional. The San Diego and Kearny international business schools are magnet schools that require students to submit applications and The Preuss School UCSD is a charter school. Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa, La Jolla and University City high schools are considered neighborhood schools so students in those neighborhoods are eligible to attend.

Mira Mesa High was among the top-scoring schools in both years, so Evans gets a "true" rating on his claim that the school is among the district's highest-achieving schools.

Now let's zero in on Evans' second statement. He said the "overwhelming majority" of Mira Mesa parents choose to enroll their children in Mira Mesa schools.

A school district report broke down the number of students who live within district boundaries and attend Mira Mesa schools.

The analysis showed 4,151 students attend one of the neighborhood's six elementary schools. Only 486 students don't attend those schools, meaning about 90 percent attend San Diego Unified's Mira Mesa schools.

The proportion of students who attend one of the district's two middle schools in Mira Mesa was similar. The district said 1,891 students, or about 89 percent of students, attend one of those schools and another 241 go to other schools.

The percentage is lower for Mira Mesa High. District numbers show about 78 percent of high school students who live within that school's boundaries attend the high school. About 690 out of the 3,117 students go to another high school.

All told, about 86 percent of students who live in Mira Mesa attend one of the neighborhood schools.

That makes Evans' second statement true.

While strong academic performance may spur Mira Mesa parents to keep their children in local schools, the school board president suspects choice plays a role in student success too.

"We believe there is higher student achievement when there's more parental involvement and it's difficult to have parental involvement when the students are farther from the school," he said.

If you disagree with our determination or analysis, please express your thoughts in the comments section of this blog post. Explain your reasoning.

Lisa Halverstadt is a reporter at Voice of San Diego. Know of something she should check out? You can contact her directly at lisa.halverstadt @voiceofsandiego.org or 619.325.0528.

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"We believe there is higher student achievement when there's more parental involvement."

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