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Mira Mesa Town Council

The Mosaic

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Don't Forget

Labor Day	3 Sep
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President's Message
-Ted Brengel-

Wow, September already!!! Are we ever going to get fall weather? Shouldn't it start cooling down soon? I sure hope so.

The first thing I would like to mention is our Community Plan update. A community plan is a foundation document that describes a community physically. It includes every conceivable detail about existing conditions and future land uses. I see it as an agreement between the City and all its many functionaries, with the people of the community as to the allowable uses of all real property within the community. Its purpose is to provide a firm foundation for planning future changes to the community. The existing Mira Mesa Community Plan is dated 1992, so it is clearly time for an update. The plan may be viewed online and copies are available at the Mira Mesa Library

The first task in updating the Community Plan is to formally detail all existing conditions. This process has been started, and the first draft of our new Mira Mesa Community Atlas Documents is online. Please have a look and see if you can spot any problems. We have already found a few, but overall it is very well done. It is available from the City Website at the following URL.
https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpu/miramesa/atlas-documents
As time goes by there will be other important documents placed on the CPU (community plan update) website, so if you want to know what's going on in this important process, watch that website.

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The Mira Mesa Town Council is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organized to foster the public welfare of the community. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at the Mira Mesa Library at 7pm. See page 12 for newsletter advertising rates and contact info.

An Urban Wildfire Could Happen in San Diego

-By Diane Leonard, Voice of San Diego

On March 27, a brush fire swept the canyon under the Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge in University Heights. Despite a five-engine response and helicopter water drops, neighbors watched flames climb another eucalyptus, moving closer to craftsman homes perched on the canyon rim. Luckily it was a mild day, with hillsides still green from light rains. A final water drop doused the tree. Would the story have been different during red flag conditions?

As damaging wildfires rage across California – firefighters are already fatigued, though the typical wildfire season hasn't even started yet – most of the focus is on forests and fire-prone swaths of backcountry.

Urban San Diego may seem like an unlikely place for an out-of-control wildfire. After all, the city's many canyons are small — much smaller than the wildlands currently burning in other parts of the state. They are also cut-through with street networks, and close to city fire stations to ensure a quick response.

But San Diego's unique topography sets the stage for what could actually be a damaging wildfire: flammable vegetation on steep slopes — fire can burn faster upslope — with older neighborhoods sitting at the top of these slopes. This is what's called the wildland-urban interface, where the city meets nature. The two are tightly woven here.

"Given the right conditions and environment, an urban wildfire is a real threat," said Eddie Villavicencio, the assistant fire marshal of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. "The Fire Department is aware of and proactively addressing the threat."

A big concern is how quickly a brush fire could reach homes and possibly spread into a neighborhood.

"If you have older construction that is very fire prone, it doesn't take much to ignite a house," said Chris Dicus, a professor of wildland fire and fuels management at California Polytechnic State University.

Embers are the key to wildfire spread. They can fly from treetop to rooftop and from house to house, easily crossing streets, especially during extreme fire weather. Dicus, who leads the Wildland-Urban Interface group for the California Fire Science Consortium, has seen fire "hopscotch" around neighborhoods and ignite homes several blocks away.

"Embers can go well past where the flames would be," he said.

So where does the wildfire threat loom large? The city of San Diego formally adopted wildfire hazard maps, based on recommendations from CAL FIRE, in 2009. The maps show "very high" fire hazard severity zones throughout urban and suburban San Diego, closely following vegetated slopes. For example, these "red" zones run through central areas like Mission Hills, Hillcrest, University Heights, Balboa Park, South Park, City Heights and Normal Heights. The zones often extend beyond the canyons, several blocks into neighborhoods.

Derived from a fire behavior model, the hazard zones offer a warning about where flames or embers could intrude into an urban area. The model considers many factors, such as slope, fuel (anything flammable), weather and fire history. The city adjusted CAL FIRE's initial maps to include more localized terrain and vegetation, like smaller canyons.

Any brush fire that receives multiple calls becomes a first alarm vegetation fire, which involves at least four fire engines and places a fire-fighting helicopter on standby. They aim to be on the scene in less than five minutes.

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We've been successful at quickly controlling brush fires and limiting their damage and spread to under five acres," Villavicencio said. "Seconds matter when brush is close to structures."

That may help explain why urban San Diego hasn't seen a damaging brush fire since the 1985 Normal Heights Fire. That fire started near Mission Valley slopes and sped into the canyon network to destroy 76 homes and damage 57. A witness described seeing flames "50 feet in the air" and the fire "leaping streets" after it crested the canyon. Ultimately, the fire perimeter extended to Copley Avenue and 35th Street, a roughly two- by seven-block section of the neighborhood.

To protect property in very high fire hazard severity zones, the city now requires that new construction or home remodels meet fire-proofing standards under the California building code, such as ignition-resistant roofs and decks, and ember-resistant attic vents. The building standards, however, do not mandate retrofits of existing older homes. And the hazard zones fall within many of San Diego's classic "streetcar suburbs," most built by the 1940s.

Canyon residents are also required by law to maintain 100 feet of defensible space, clearing dry vegetation in a way that can slow flames' easy pathway to the home. Although it's important, defensible space alone won't safeguard property — not during the extreme weather and erratic fire behavior seen across California in the last year.

Wind-driven fires are "the fires that really make disasters roll," said Richard Halsey, director of The California Chaparral Institute, a non-profit that works to preserve the state's shrubland ecosystems. Trained as a wildland firefighter, he has long advocated protecting communities from the house out, instead of the wildland in.

"It's not the canyons, it's human infrastructure placed in the wrong place, in the wrong way," he said.

He suggests homeowners take proactive steps to prevent embers from igniting a home. Even simple measures can make a difference, like removing wooden fences, firewood piles, dry leaves, and the most flammable landscaping: Mexican fan palm and acacia. Major retrofits can be expensive but can save an older home, such as flame-resistant roofs and siding and roof and under-eave sprinkler systems.

Urban residents may not know they are living in a wildfire hazard zone. Alexandra Webber and her husband David Shirk, who live on a canyon in University Heights, entered their address into the county's wildfire hazard mapping tool and found that their area ranks "very high" – the highest hazard level. Even though they've worked with inspectors on defensible space, wildfire wasn't something they actively worried about.

"I thought, given our urban-ness, someone would smell smoke and report it," Webber said.

Villavicencio laments that preparedness, which always spikes after a devastating event, has waned.

"We are trying to figure out how to get more people engaged," he said.

A good place to start is the city's Ready, Set, Go! guide to wildfire preparedness. It covers home hardening (fireproofing to prevent ignition from embers), defensible space (vegetation thinning to keep flames away from the home) and family disaster planning. Canyon homeowners can also consult the Fire-Rescue Department's brush management guide. Most important? Be ready to go and leave early if a wildfire threatens.

At the neighborhood level, Fire Safe Councils work to bolster preparedness across California. San Diego County has 35 of these community groups, but this map shows almost all are in far-flung suburbs and backcountry communities.

Beverly Barrett established the Kensington Fire Safe Council, the lone group in urban San Diego. Their work has helped to educate neighbors, who now know evacuation routes and participate in an annual brush-clearing program.

"Before, they just didn't have any awareness," she said. She points to the finger canyons that branch out from the I-15 freeway and run behind residential streets. "We are just in a bad place here. There aren't 20 acres you could burn and not get a home."

The March fire under the Vermont Street Bridge has nearby residents on alert. They've written letters demanding that the city clear brush and debris from the area, known as Camelot Canyon.

"It's just loaded with dead stuff down there," neighbor Deborah Morrison said.

Continued on Page 4>>>>>

City Councilman Chris Ward, who represents the neighborhood and has been fielding concerns from constituents, said in a statement: "I hope that this unfortunate incident will act as a catalyst for a more concentrated and coordinated effort to maintain San Diego's canyons. With so many homes aligning with the dense vegetation of canyons and other open space areas, it is critical that brush management activity is done in an efficient manner that reduces the risk of fire and minimizes the damage to the surrounding environment."

After a very dry winter and record warmth this summer, fuels – both dead and live vegetation — are extremely dry. The wildfire outlook for the region is ominous, as fuels continue to dry and Santa Ana winds arrive in the fall.

"We are entering the most critical time of our fire season," said Tom Rolinski, senior meteorologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Riverside. "The potential is very high for significant fires to occur."

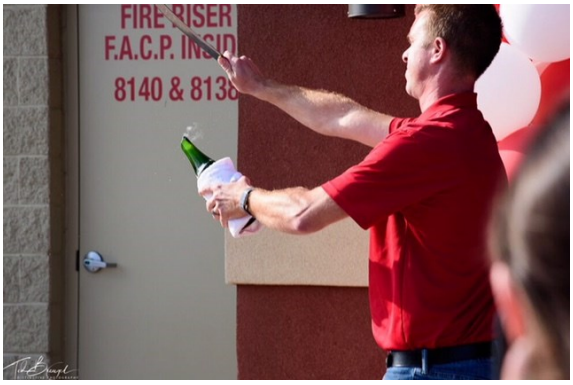
-Diana Leonard is a freelance science writer living in San Diego.

Firefighters assigned to MCAS Miramar Fire Department start a controlled burn in April 2005.

Photo credit : WIKICOMMONS

BevMo! Grand Opening!

BevMo! opened its doors on Thursday, August 16th. The new store is now located at 8140 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92126. At 21,150 square feet, the new store is more than double the size of the previous location on Mira Mesa Blvd, near Camino Sante Fe. The new BevMo! will feature more than 2,000 wines, 1,500 beers and 2,000 spirits, with a focus on local products.



Photos by Ted Brengel!!!

Are you a member yet??????

https://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/membership/

etcetera, etcetera...

President's Message (cont.)

You can also attend the Community Plan Update Meetings of the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group. These will generally be at 6:00 PM in the Mira Mesa Library conference room, just before the Planning Group meeting on the third Monday of the month. If you plan to attend just make certain there is a Planning Group meeting that evening as some of the meetings have to be shifted for holidays.

Changing the subject to MMTC business, Street Fair Day, October 6, is drawing closer. If you are thinking of having a booth or participating in another way, now is the time to sign up and make plans. The deadline for reserving a booth without a $50 penalty for being late is August 24, but if you mention the magic word on your application, you can get an additional two weeks before you must pay the extra $50 to get a booth.

The of 4th of July celebration was once again a huge success. Many thanks to all those volunteers who made everything possible. The day started with the Pancake Breakfast expertly done by the Black Mountain Masonic Lodge at the Verne Goodwin Senior Center. That was followed by the parade and Family Fun Day in the Park led by Judy Sluyter of Generations Life Center and many volunteers. Then at Nine PM we got the grand finale—a fireworks spectacle put on by Scripps Mesa Fireworks led by Michael Spencer. I join the people of Mira Mesa in thanking each one of you for making our 2018 4th of July very special.

So, with September comes fall sports. There is a new coaching staff at MMHS led by Coach Thompson and everyone I have spoken with says that we should expect to see some serious football. Keep your eye on those Marauders!

School is starting. Make certain that your driving vigilance takes a step ahead because of the kids that are out and about. If you see children, SLOW DOWN! Think about how much time you save by driving on Mira Mesa streets at five to fifteen miles per hour (or more) over the speed limit. Thanks to our signs and signals, among other things, *you save nothing*. Now think of the danger you pose to yourself and others by speeding. My friends, this is truly a no-brainer!

On that note, I wish you a very prosperous September. Incidentally, the magic word is *volunteer* .

MIRA MESA
TOWN COUNCIL

Mira Mesa Street Fair is coming on October 6th!

We are taking wait list applications for performances and we can still accept vendor applications (except food vendors). Please go to www.miramesatowncouncil.org to complete an application. We also need volunteers! Please email Pam Stevens at programs@miramesatowncouncil.org.

"You Are Not Alone" YANA Checks

If you know someone who is elderly or disabled and also alone, police volunteers can stop by and check on these people regularly. To request this service, contact Northeastern Division.

858-538-8000

TTY: 858-538-8093

sdpdnortheastern@pd.sandiego.gov

Community Contacts and Resources

GENERAL COUNTY SERVICES INFORMATION

2-1-1 San Diego.....2-1-1

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police/Fire/EMS.....9-1-1

Poison Control.....800-222-1222

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SDPD Community Relations.....858-538-8120

Suspected Arson.....800-472-7766

Gangs.....619-531-2847

Graffiti.....619-525-8522

Non-Emergency Crime.....858-484-3154

UTILITIES

Fire Hydrant Accidents/Open.....619-515-3525

Gas Leak.....800-411-7343

Power/Phone Lines Down.....619-811-8081

Tree Limbs in Power Lines.....800-411-7343

NUISANCES

Animal, dangerous.....619-236-2341

Animal dead.....858-492-5060

Animal manure (dog).....619-338-2283

Animal, rodents/rats 858-694-2888

Building abandoned or dangerous....619-236-5500

Car abandoned or inoperative.....858-495-7856

Noise (loud).....619-236-5564

Code Compliance.....619-236-5500

Trash: uncollected, overflowing dumpster, trash-strewn lot, or recyclables.....858-492-5055

STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT

Bus shelter damaged.....619-231-1466

Manhole cover missing or damaged.619-515-3525

Street, flooded/pothole.....619-527-7500

Street, sink hole or collapse.....619-515-3525

Street, traffic light non-functioning..619-525-8650

Swimming Pool.....858-689-6296

Weeds overgrown, fallen trees, or clogged storm drain.....619-527-7500

Community Events

September 3	**Labor Day!!!!!**
September 10	**MMTC Board Meeting, 6pm** **MMTC Meeting, 7pm** **Main Program: City Council District 6 Strategic Plan - Mira Mesa Budget Priorities** **Mira Mesa Library**
September 11	**Mira Mesa Recreation Council Meeting** **Lopez Ridge Neighborhood Park, 7-9pm**
September 15	Mira Mesa Lions Club Classic Car Show, www.MiraMesaCarShow.com Mira Mesa High School parking lot, 11am—3pm
September 17	**Mira Mesa Community Planning Group Meeting** **Mira Mesa Library, 7-9pm**
September 28-30	**MCAS Miramar Air Show** **http://miramarairshow.com**
October 6	Mira Mesa Street Fair www.miramesatowncouncil.org
October 20	Chalk the Walk, Community Art Festival Mira Mesa Women's Club, www.MiraMesaWomensClub.org
November 3	26th Annual Mira Mesa High School Invitational Band Review and Field Tournament

Business Member Directory

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Black Mountain Democratic Club
PO Box 261988
San Diego, CA 92129
858-689-9185
jerryollinger@hotmail.com

Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve
PO Box 26523
San Diego CA 92196
858-484-3219
Pat Watkins
pwatkins2008@gmail.com

Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 261848
San Diego, CA 92126
858-429-5759
info@MiraMesaChamber.com

Mira Mesa Girl Scouts
11451 Westonhill Drive
San Diego CA 92126
858-735-7662
Stephanie Kwiatkowski
mmgsmanager@gmail.com

Mira Mesa High School Foundation
10510 Reagan Rd
San Diego CA 92126
858-450-3667
sabrinabazzo@gmail.com

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild *
PO Box 261482
San Diego CA 92196
858-222-4815
Betty Trinh
starrie2@yahoo.com

Mira Mesa Women's Club
PO Box 26013
San Diego CA 92196
858-800-2108
Charlene Ellsworth
omaopa83@gmail.com

Rancho Family YMCA
9410 Fairgrove Lane
San Diego CA 92129
858-484-8788
dzaczkiewicz@ymca.org

William Male Foundation
P.O. Box 261326
San Diego CA 92196
858-922-7720
Mylinh Arnett
mylinh@williammalefoundation.org

CONSTRUCTION/ CONTRACTORS

TR Construction
9335 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92126
(858) 537-6490
Trish Munna
trconstructionmail@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING BUSINESSES

Vulcan Materials, Western Division
500 N Brand Blvd Ste 500
Glendale CA 91203
818-553-8953
Michael Linton
LintonM@VMCMAIL.com

Mira Mesa Lanes
8210 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-578-0500
cballa@miramesalanes.com

Mira Mesa Shopping Center
8294 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-271-4682
brett@mesacenters.com

Tom's Snake and Rattlesnake Rescue
PO Box 261640
San Diego, CA 92196
619-933-1213
Tom Derr
Toms.Snakes@pacbell.net

GOGO Charters San Diego
10251 Vista Sorrento Pkwy Ste 280
San Diego, CA 92121
619-312-4991
John Brewer
sandiego@gogocharters.com

EDUCATION

San Diego Miramar College
10440 Black Mountain Rd
San Diego, CA 92126
tvnguyen@sdccd.edu

The Learning Choice Academy
4215 Spring St Ste 221
La Mesa, CA 91941
619-463-6845
Renee Olmeda
events@learningchoice.org

FINANCE/BANKING

Mission Federal Credit Union
8198 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-524-2850
Melissa Young
melissay@missionfed.com

Navy Federal Credit Union
(888) 842-6328 - All Branches
PO Box 45302
San Diego, CA 92145
MIRL-BOD@NAVYFEDERAL.ORG

San Diego County Credit Union
6545 Sequence Dr
San Diego, CA 92121
858-597-6218
nschmidt@sdccu.com

Jonathan D. Lea, CPA
6780 Miramar Road, Suite 101
San Diego CA 92121
(619) 750-6074.
jonathanleacpa@outlook.com.

Linda Ann Smith
Notary Public/Certified Loan Signing Agent
8490 Westmore Rd #354
San Diego, CA 92126
858-361-9096
lsmithnotary@att.net

State Farm Insurance
9474 Black Mountain Rd, Ste D
San Diego, CA 92126
858-564-8194
JR Toliver
JR@coachtolver.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Xanesti Technology Services LLC
11075 Ice Skate Pl
San Diego CA 92126
800-804-6852
John Horst
info@xanesti.com

Please consider patronizing our Mira Mesa town council business members!

MEDICAL/DENTAL

Golden Triangle Acupuncture
5665 Oberlin Drive, Ste 104
San Diego, CA 92121
858-535-0508
acudoc@aol.com

The Joint Chiropractic
8155 Mira Mesa Blvd #5
San Diego, CA 92126
301-395-8374
Brittany Olenick
Brittany.olenick@thejoint.com

San Diego Smile Center
10737 Camino Ruiz, Ste 120
San Diego, CA 92126
619-392-9262
teamsdsc@gmail.com

Take Off Pounds Sensibly "TOPS"
wpickeral1@gmail.com

PERSONAL/FAMILY SERVICES

Brengel Productions
11975 Thomas Hayes Ln
San Diego CA 92126
619-985-4094
Ted Brengel
TedB@BrengelProductions.com

El Camino Memorial Park
5600 Carroll Canyon Road
San Diego CA 92121
858-453-2121
ErmaLinda Cote
ermalinda.cote@dignitymemorial.com

REAL ESTATE

RC Realty of San Diego
8250-B Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-722-9322
brookesdca@gmail.com

Realty Source/Team Balch
9845 Erma Rd #210D
San Diego, CA 92131
858-722-8640
teambalch@gmail.com

Top Gun Realty
11231 Camino Ruiz
San Diego CA 92126
858-578-6540
Julius Hitchens
julius@san.rr.com

Property Gallery
9396 Mira Mesa Blvd, Ste B
San Diego, CA 92126-4836
858-271-8400
Marvin Miles
mmiles5050@aol.com

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Christ Community Church
9535 Kearny Villa Rd Ste 101
San Diego CA 92126
858-549-2479
Darrell Dunlap
pastordarrell@gotochrist.com

Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church
9082 Westmore Rd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-1741

Generations Life Center
10733 Westview Parkway
San Diego CA 92126
619-251-7773
ps.judy.glc@gmail.com

Mira Mesa Grace Chapel
9050 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92121
858-271-7730
Rev. Bill Impey
bill@gotograce.org

Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church
8081 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92126
858-271-0194
Parrish Bridges
mmpcusa@sbcglobal.net

RESTAURANT/GROCERY

Finest City Kettlekorn
8729 Blue Lake Drive
San Diego, CA 92119
619-480-0880
poppingcorn@cox.net

Grocery Outlet
8145 Mira Mesa Blvd, Suite 3
San Diego CA 92126
858-444-3810
Bud Kottman
miramesa@groceryoutlet.com

Kona Ice Little San Diego
12906 Hideaway Lane
San Diego, CA 92131
858-275-3075
jrod@kona-ice.com

Rockin' Baja Lobster
8223 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
858-860-5558
Adrian Hinojosa
adrian@rockinbaja.com

YOUTH SPORTS

Mira Mesa Little League
10219 Westonhill Dr
San Diego CA 92126
858-603-4953
Dennis Conzemius
president@miramesalittleleague.org

Mira Mesa Youth Baseball
PO Box 261344
San Diego CA 92196
858-699-3705.
miramesayouthbaseball@hotmail.com

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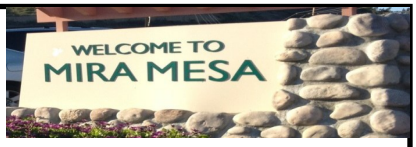

newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org

'Spread' Ad: $400

'Full Page': $250.00

'1/2' Page Ad: $125

'1/4' Page Ad: $65

1/8 Page: $35.00

Business Card: $20.00

Mira Mesa
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION • Richness in Culture • Innovation in Industry

2018 Mira Mesa Town Council Board of Directors

President	Ted Brengel	president@miramesatowncouncil.org
First Vice President (Program Chair)	Pam Stevens	programs@miramesatowncouncil.org
Second Vice President (Membership)	Jenn Kuyper	membership@miramesatowncouncil.org
Treasurer	Jonathan Lea	treasurer@miramesatowncouncil.org
Recording Secretary	Jeff Stevens	secretary@miramesatowncouncil.org
Newsletter Editor	Chris Thibodeaux	newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org
Parliamentarian	Charlene Ellsworth	parliament@miramesatowncouncil.org
Member at Large	Teri Ang	MMTC1@miramesatowncouncil.org
Member at Large	VACANT	MMTC2@miramesatowncouncil.org
Member at Large	Kaanchan S Farkiya	MMTC3@miramesatowncouncil.org
Member at Large	Eric Kolbeck	MMTC4@miramesatowncouncil.org

Have an issue?
issues@miramesatowncouncil.org

Want to join?
https://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/membership-payment/

General information?
https://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/

Have you checked out our Facebook page?
https://www.facebook.com/MiraMesaTownCouncil/

Postal Address

Mira Mesa Town Council
PMB 230
10606-8 Camino Ruiz
San Diego, CA 92126

Mira Mesa Community Office

10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 119
San Diego, CA 92126

Membership Application

NAME (Primary Member)	COMPANY NAMES(S)
COMPANY NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
ADDRESS	PHONE
CITY, STATE ZIP CODE	DATE

- ◊ Individual ($20)
- ◊ Companion ($10)
- ◊ Senior/Military/Student ($10)
- ◊ Corporate/Business ($50)
- ◊ Non Profit + MMCC ($90)
- ◊ Business + MMCC ($150)

Annual memberships run from July 1st to June 30th. Any resident, business, or non-profit with an address in the community of Mira Mesa as shown in the Mira Mesa Community Plan may join as a voting member. Members with addresses outside of the community will be non-voting members. Dues are used to support the mission of advocating for the welfare of the community of Mira Mesa.

Amount $_____ Cash/Check #_____($25 fee for returned/declined check/ACH)

Mira **M**esa **T**own **C**ouncil

10606-08 Camino Ruiz, PMB 230

San Diego CA 92126

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