



MISSION VIEJO REPORTER

NEWS FROM THE MISSION VIEJO HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Vol. 02 No. 8

August 2009

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A Patriotic 4th in Mission Viejo!

Colorado has been experiencing a bit of rain lately. Which is great for the yard, but when a few weeks of rainy weather occur right before July 4th, you can get pretty nervous watching the clouds roll in. While the sun did hide every once in a while, never did a drop fall. It was perfect. The sun would shine and shine and shine, and just when you started looking for a patch of shade, a cloud came by.

For this year's Interdependence Day celebration, we had fighter jet fly-overs, fire trucks and an ambulance. We had Cub Scouts on parade and a magician to entertain, and permeating the air in the park was the delicious scent of grilled hot dogs. Once out in the parking lot, you could see emergency vehicles covered in kids. Under the first pagoda was the Mission Viejo HOA Interdependence 2009 headquarters. Here, one could grab a meal ticket, find out what was happening in the park, grab a business card from a friendly neighborhood company or you could wander the park at your leisure, discovering something new each moment.

The event started off, appropriately enough, with The Star Spangled Banner, sung by Boy Scout Troop #749. Immediately afterward, all the children were led by the Scouts in a parade around the park. The Scouts had taken the opportunity to decorate their bikes, and so you saw nothing except red, white and blue stretching for over a block! Thank you, Scouts, for a wonderful opening ceremony.

In honor of the birth of our nation, we had Representative **Cindy Acree**, (R) HD 40 here, as well as members of the HD 40 Arapahoe County Democrats. The democrats

were jovial and energetic when speaking with the people, answering questions or just chatting! Mrs. Acree recently had surgery on her leg, but she didn't let that stop her from speaking with anyone who came up, be it for a friendly hello and hand shake or discussion of the topics that affect us all. We thank you representatives of our government for spending our Nation's birthday with us.

The food lines, however long, were much worth the time as the food was delicious! And to help pass the time, the magician **Scott McCray** was on hand to entertain and mystify. I particularly liked it when he would bend a massive quarter. The food line also meandered by the Plains Conservation Center representatives, who had on

continued on page 2



Everything's Coming Up Roses!

Have you noticed the flower garden that is adjacent to the shelter next to the playground in Mission Viejo Park? If you have not, you should take a look! Thanks to a small group of volunteers and a generous donation of money for plants, this flower garden is looking very beautiful these days!

About a year ago, a small group of people met at the park to formulate plans for the placement of a bench in the park to honor **Mary Ann Lewis**, a community volunteer who died of ovarian cancer in July of 2007. As the group talked and made plans, they pulled weeds that were waist high. It was decided that the garden that Mary Ann and her husband, Ed and other volunteers had begun so many years ago needed to be restored to its former beauty. The bench was placed in the park last fall and volunteers began the work

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Short Mission Happenings

Hello everyone. It's been a busy summer. We have hosted a successful community-wide garage sale, had a fantastic 4th of July celebration, are planning a great Music in the Park event on September 7, have coordinated efforts with the YMCA to raise funds to assist them in purchasing and renovating our former recreation center, and we are trying to rectify old issues regarding the peripheral right-of-way areas with the City. Many of you may be getting new roofs, as our neighborhood was one of the hardest hit areas in the City for hail damage. We have also reached and created a new network of advocates in Mission Viejo, California who are currently celebrating our neighborhood's design with the exhibit we created last year. At the same time, the HOA is trying our best to represent the community with the threat of more City reductions in service. After the City put 3.9 million dollars to make improvements to Meadowood Creek in 2000 which included new trees, sod, and a sprinkler system which helped to nearly complete the master plan for our community, the City decided recently to call the Creek area a water conservation area, which means no watering and a reduction of maintenance. Does the City think we can be fooled by this disguised reduction? The City spent millions on improvements just nine years ago but now all of that is gone and it is doubtful it can be reclaimed. Another threat from the City looms as we have word that if the general improvement district tax plan fails for the libraries, the Mission Viejo Library will close indefinitely. An empty library would surely become another eye

continued on page 3

Next HOA Meeting
Third Tuesday
August 18th • 6:30 p.m.
Mission Viejo Library
Everyone is Welcome!

A Patriotic 4th, continued from front page

hand examples of typical prairie wildlife, including a live wild rooster. One of the highlights of the event started almost without notice. First you hear a low, buzzing roar. After a minute, you realize that it's getting louder and louder. Then you look up just in time to see four, count 'em, four fighter jets tearing across the sky! Thank you Buckley Air Force base and to the servicemen who flew those planes that day!

We must thank all the sponsors who helped to make this day a reality, not only by donating money, but also for coming out and running some of the games!

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Special thanks to Aurora Police and Fire, Buckley Air Force Base, Rural/Metro Ambulance and Cub Scouts Pack #749. A very heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have donated countless hours producing this wonderful event! And of course, thank you to all who came out and celebrated with us!

— Daniel Beringer

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AURORA, COLORADO



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Alan Engels, Executive Vice President and Treasurer
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Tricia Roush, Board Member At Large
boardmember2@missionviejohoa.org

MISSION VIEJO TRASH PROGRAM

Pro Disposal, Inc., 303-791-3827

MISSION VIEJO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

4255 S. Buckley Road, #110
Aurora, CO 80013-2951

COMMITTEES

Neighborhood Watch

Tom Tobiassen, neighborhoodwatch@missionviejohoa.org

Welcome Committee

Tricia Roush, welcome@missionviejohoa.org

WEBSITE

www.missionviejohoa.org
webmaster@missionviejohoa.org

The Mission Viejo Homeowners' Association Inc. is a state non-profit organization. The purpose of the Mission Viejo HOA is to unite the unit owners of the Mission Viejo subdivisions in Aurora, Colorado; to encourage civic improvements within said area, to encourage community activities including, but not by way of limitation, the beautification, maintenance, and general appearance of vacant and improved lots, streets, parkways, entrances, open and recreational areas situated within the area and used in common by its residents; enhance the safety of Mission Viejo; facilitate enforcement of any and all building restrictions, protective covenants, and to otherwise act in the interests of the members of the Association.

The deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue except the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th. **All articles must be approved by the editor for publication, or as space permits.** To submit an article, e-mail an attachment to Todd McMahon at president@missionviejohoa.org. All letters or articles need to include your name and daytime phone number. All articles must be approved by the Board for publication, or as space permits.

To place an ad, call Colorado Lasertype, 303-979-7499 or e-mail getinfo@ColoradoLasertype.com • www.ColoradoLasertype.com

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Roses, *continued from front page*

of weeding and planting flowers that were donated to the community garden by Tagawa Garden Center.

The work has continued this summer. **Ed Lewis and Dala Giffin** generously purchased flowers valued at \$1,000 from Tagawa. These flowers included: 20 shrub roses, five verbenas, four violas and some spring flowering bulbs. The work of weeding and planting was accomplished by Ed, Dala, **Sandy Weiner, Darlene Fulton and Elaine Lay**. The city of Aurora removed all of the cat mint that was growing at the west end of the garden and replaced it with mulch.

The work on this garden is an ongoing process. Volunteers are needed to not only weed the garden, but also to water it as needed. The Parks Department does water most of the area in the summer, but sometimes additional watering is needed in the spring, fall and winter. Dala would like to set up a weekly schedule so that each week one person would be responsible for the care of the flowers



by weeding and watering as necessary. If there are many volunteers, each person would not need to be responsible more than 3 or 4 weeks a year. Please call Dala Giffin at **303-690-0492** if you are able to help with this project. As the volunteers work, many of the people passing by have said "thank you" for creating a garden that will only grow more beautiful with each passing year.

Mission Happenings, *continued from front page*

sore in the community. I urge you to carefully consider this outcome when you vote in the November election regarding the library issue. The City should do its best to maintain its commitments and prior obligations with our Master Plan – one that is being celebrated right now in California. Please take part in our online surveys and remember that many of the things we all would like to see in our neighborhood requires active participation. If we all do a little and voice our individual concerns about these issues, we can continue to make Mission Viejo a great place to live.

— **Todd McMahon, Mission Viejo HOA President**

Volunteer Newsletter Carriers Needed

Many of the volunteers who deliver the newsletter report that they enjoy the walk and look forward to delivering the newsletter each month. The newsletter does an excellent job of unifying the neighborhood and most routes can be done in one or two hours. Since two of the volunteers recently had to resign due to other matters that take up much of their time (see the Meet Your Neighbor article), we are presently looking for two more volunteers. Remember that it saves the HOA over \$300 a month. Please call **Elaine Lay** at **303-699-0657** if you are able to help out.

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Meet Your Neighbors: Randy and Cathryn Ridlen

Randy and Cathryn Ridlen are busy these days taking care of the small herd of alpacas that they recently transported from Washington State to Franktown, Colorado. The alpacas had been staying at a farm near Olympia owned by Randy's cousin, who was the one who first interested the Ridlens in alpacas in 2006. Randy bought their three females later in 2006. Presently, Randy has three pregnant females, a 14 month male and a 9 month old female. One of the females was due June 20, another on July 7 and the third in September. A baby alpaca is called a cria and they normally weigh from 18 to 20 pounds when first born.

Alpacas are very adaptable and can live in a variety of climates. They are found all across the U.S., as well as well as other countries around the world. The 7th Annual Great Western Alpaca Show was held in Denver in May and there were nearly 300 breeders present. The Ridlens are preparing their alpacas for next year's show. The alpacas are judged on variety of characteristics, includ-

ing the quality of their fiber, and physical structure. The animals that are judged well obviously are more valuable when selling to other owners and breeders. Alpacas are in the camel family and are gentle animals, more gentle than llamas. They are very curious by nature, and often make a humming sound when around them.

The Ridlens' herd is kept on an alpaca ranch near Franktown. There are at least 50 alpaca farms in the area of Franktown, Elizabeth and Parker, and more than 170 in all of Colorado. In 1984, the first alpacas were imported to the US from Chile and Bolivia. Then in 1994 the first ones from Peru arrived in the U.S. Only the finest quality alpacas were allowed to be imported. There is a movement in the United States to grow the number here to have a viable industry of clothing made from alpaca fiber. Presently, there are about 150,000 alpacas and estimates have been made that to have a viable industry, a million alpacas are needed. So you can see that it is a growing industry.

The alpacas are sheared once a year in the Spring and their fiber is processed in a variety of ways, with the fiber eventually being made into clothing such as hats and scarves and purses. When an alpaca is sheared, they yield 6 to 12 pounds of fiber. Alpaca fiber is in the same class as cashmere, but shares many properties with sheep's wool. It is the strongest natural fiber known to man and has an insulating value from three to five times higher than sheep's wool. These properties, when combined with exceptional softness and luster, make alpaca fiber one of the most valuable textile fibers in the world. The 3rd annual Denver Fiber Fiesta was held in conjunction with the Great Western Alpaca Show. Another reason that alpacas are raised is to sell to other

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Meet Your Neighbors, continued from page 4

alpaca farmers. Generally the price for a quality breeding female alpaca is between \$8,000 and \$35,000. However, you can buy a quality pet alpaca for as little as a few hundred dollars. Healthy female alpacas usually have one baby a year and can live up to 25 years. The Ridlens do sell alpacas, but they also are trying to discover ways to use alpaca fiber in artistic works. Cathryn is an artist who designs artistic works from mixed mediums. Randy is a graphic designer who in his spare time creates pottery.



If you know of other interesting hobbies, jobs or interests held by other residents in Mission Viejo, please let us know. This could even be a high school graduate starting off to college for the first time. You can contact any of the board members and these residents can be featured in future articles.

— Elaine Lay,
Mission Viejo HOA Secretary

Two Cherry Creek School District Teachers Honored by President Obama

July 9, 2009

Two Cherry Creek School District teachers were named by President Obama today as among more than 100 science, math and engineering teachers and mentors as recipients of two prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence.

Kathryn Eyolfson, fifth-grade teacher at Coyote Hills Elementary School and **Lana Hansen**, first-grade teacher at Willow Creek Elementary School, both received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to the best pre-college-level science and math teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates, going either to science and math teachers in grades K through 6 (as it is this year) or to those teaching in grades 7 through 12.

Winners of the Presidential Teaching Award receive \$10,000 awards from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a White House awards ceremony in the fall and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders.

"There is no higher calling than furthering the educational advancement of our nation's young people and encouraging and inspiring our next generation of leaders," President Obama said. "These awards represent a heartfelt salute of appreciation to a remarkable group of individuals who have devoted their lives and careers to helping others and in doing so have helped us all."

First day of school, traditional calendar: August 24, 2009

Fall Break: Oct. 26-30, 2009

Winter Break: Dec. 21, 2009 - Jan. 1, 2010

Spring Break: Mar. 29 - Apr. 2, 2010

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Around Aurora

Banks in Harmony Summer Concerts in the Park

Enjoy music on the lawn at these annual concerts. Music played from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free.

Aug. 6: Patrick Emerine (Contemporary and Classic Rock), Meadowood Park, 3054 S. Laredo St., Aurora

Aug. 13: The Dean Bushnell Orchestra (Big Band Swing), Meadowood Park, 3054 S. Laredo St., Aurora. 303-344-1500

Wii Friday, grades 6 to 12

Play some fun games on Wii, including karaoke. Free. Register at aurorallibrary.org or call 303-326-8600.

Aug. 7, 3:30 p.m. Mission Viejo Library,
15324 E. Hampden Circle, Aurora

Women's Financial Network Workshop, women ages 18 and older

Learn about different topics such as money management, smart investing, retirement, college planning and mortgages. Free. Register at aurorallibrary.org or call 303-326-8600.

Aug. 11, 7 p.m.

Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle, Aurora

Mountain Pine Beetle: Past, Present and Future

Learn about the ecology of the mountain pine beetle from a Colorado State Forest Service representative. \$4 (\$3 Aurora residents). **Aug. 19, noon to 1 p.m.**

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway
303-739-6666 or auroramuseum.org

CLASSIFIEDS

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Website

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Music in the Park

Be sure to mark your calendar for September 7 at 6 p.m. The Mission Viejo HOA will host our Music in the Park event with the brass quintet of the Aurora Symphony Orchestra in Mission Viejo Park. Bring a chair, a blanket and yourselves for this end of summer event. Keep in mind, we list all event happening in the Mission Viejo Community including recycling days, library functions, HOA events and more on our website. Bookmark this link: <http://www.missionviejohoa.org/calendar.htm>



"While on a ladder, never step back to admire your work."

—Unknown

Mission Viejo HOA Financial Report

Alan Engels – Mission Viejo HOA Treasurer and Vice President

Beginning Balance 1/1/09	\$ 2,813.09		
	Budget	Actual	Difference
YTD Income-Dues	\$1,270.00	\$2,540.00	\$1,270.00
YTD Income-Corp. Contrib.	\$5,000.00	\$1,966.35	(\$3,033.65)
YTD Budget Expenses	\$6,740.33	\$3,201.24	(\$3,539.09)
YTD Unfunded Expenses	\$0.00	\$660.74	\$660.74
Current Balance 7/16/09		\$3,457.46	



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What's Happening in Mission Viejo California?

The exhibit on our neighborhood is now on display at The Heritage House, 28951 Melinda Road in Mission Viejo, California and is open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from noon to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. For information, call **949-470-3062**. If you want to keep up with more Mission Viejo, California news, sign up for one of their free e-mail alerts at <http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org>.

Make the Trash Switch: Join Tour Homeowners' Association!!

If you are not in the Mission Viejo Trash Program, you might want to consider joining with the over 800 other participating homeowners. The program offers state of the art trash service for its participants, including Single Stream Recycling every other week. This provides you with the opportunity to combine paper and other recyclables into the labeled container of your choice. Recycling still must be separated from your regular household trash, but the recycling center now separates the paper from the bottles, cans, etc. The HOA is now in good financial standing as we have received our first rebate! Pricing for the program is just \$64.00 for 4 month billing or \$176.00 for yearly billing (this equates to one free month of service a year)! Make the change today, Pro-Disposal Inc. provides great service too! Just fill out the form that is located in this newsletter and fax it in, or sign up on our website. It's easy to do and you will be helping your community. So come on, save some money, help your community and join YOUR homeowners' association.

Aurora Recreation Survey

The Aurora Residents for Recreation Task Force (ARRTF) was authorized by City Council to assess recreational service and facility needs of Aurora residents. The ARRTF created and is implementing an extensive and comprehensive process to allow all Aurora residents the opportunity to provide their input to the needs assessment. We need your input! Please take a few minutes to complete our needs assessment survey.

Adult residents (19 years of age and up) please use this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VtK9LOv8Cj66kemIddmJJA_3d_3d

Young adult/youth residents (18 years of age and under) please use this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Gbbn1dSqFtRFR1a58G1O3Q_3d_3d

If you or someone you know would prefer to receive a paper version of the survey, please contact **Tim Strach at 303-739-6706 or tstrach@auroragov.org**.

Thank you for providing your input to our efforts to provide a set of recommendations to Aurora City Council on how best to meet the recreational needs of Aurora residents.



*Mission Viejo
Neighborhood
Garage Sale held
June 26 & 27, 2009.*



Independently Owned and Operated

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Living and Working in Mission Viejo to keep Values Up

- 21 year resident of Mission Viejo
- Accredited Buyers Representative
- Weichert University Graduate
- 2007 President of Aurora Association of Realtors®
- Graduate of Real Estate Institute
- Relocation Director for Weichert Realtors® Unique Homes
- Certified Residential Specialist
- E-Pro Certified
- Free Market Analysis on our neighborhood