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Outlook

Fall / Winter 2019



Oso Fit 5K Fun Run

FINA Diving Grand Prix

Family Arts Day

Campout

Concert on the Green

Pacific Symphony

Children's Environmental Fair

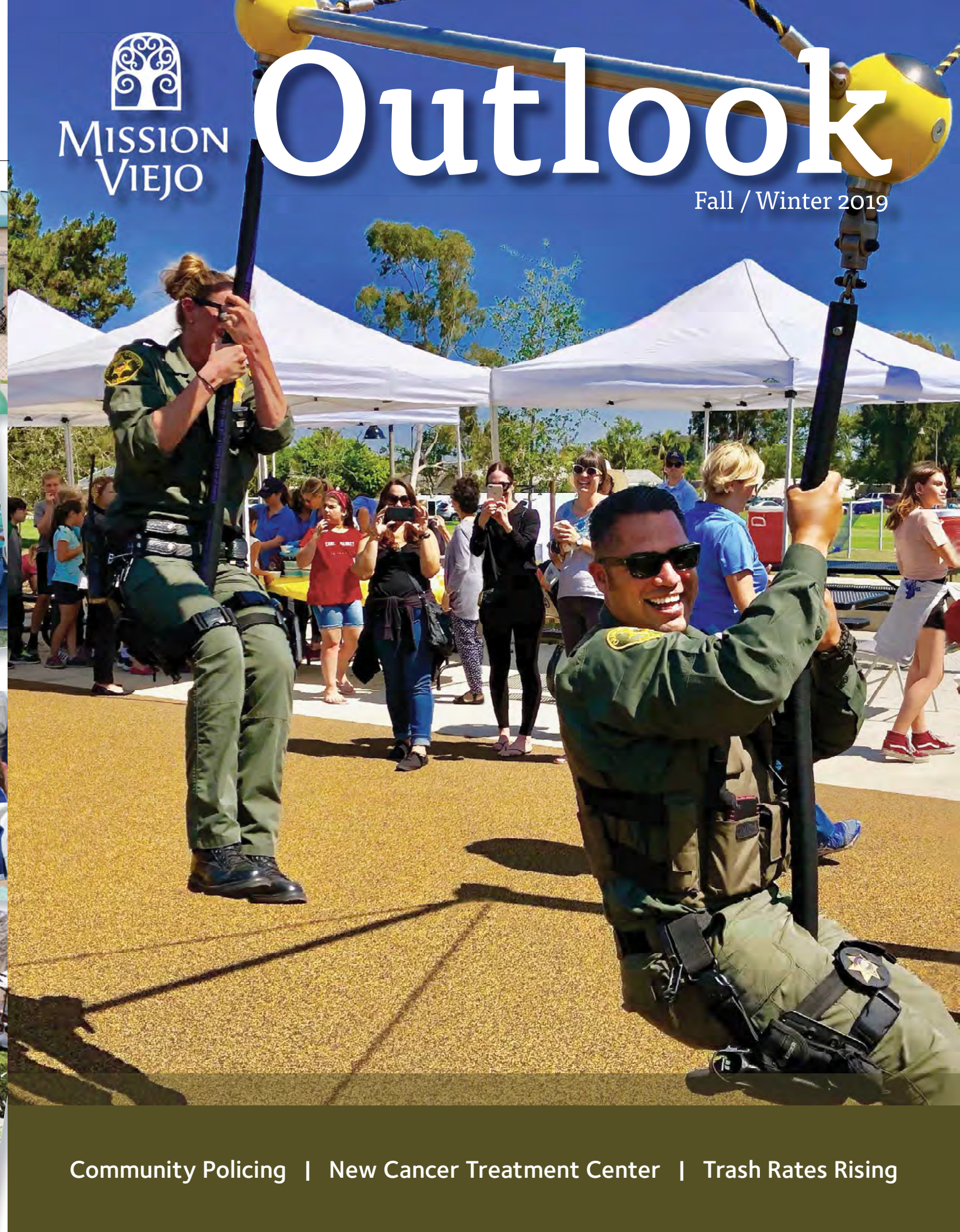
Bike Rodeo

Prelude in the Park

Comic-Con

Spring / Summer Events

The people of our community are what make it special. Thanks to your participation, our spring and summer events created memories and enriched our lives, our families and our community.



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Incorporated in 1988, the City of Mission Viejo is a Council/Manager form of government. Legislative power is held by the publicly elected five-member City Council. As the Legislative Branch of Municipal Government, the City Council adopts laws and makes policy decisions for the City. The Council appoints the City Manager to function as the City's chief executive. City Council meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings are broadcast live on Mission Viejo Television on Cox Channel 30, AT&T U-verse Channel 99, or through the City's Web site at <https://cityofmissionviejo.org>. Meetings are open to the public and held in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

With a population of more than 96,000, the City of Mission Viejo spans 17.4 square miles and is consistently recognized as one of America's safest communities. Mission Viejo is home to several award-winning schools, parks and offers a robust business environment for residents and visitors alike. A true hometown with family traditions, community events and organized sports, Mission Viejo features a mature evergreen landscape with more than 955 acres of parks, slopes and open space. The City also boasts the manmade Lake Mission Viejo, 44 parks and eight recreational facilities.



DAWG WALK/ADOPTION EXTRAVAGANZA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Village Green at Oso Viejo Park

The DAWG Adoption Extravaganza includes different breed rescue groups with dogs available for adoption; a walk along the Oso Creek Trail; Howl-A-Ween pet costume contest and more!

\$25 / person (advanced registration)
\$30 / person (registration at event)
FREE Admission (Faire) / <https://dawg.org>



HOMETOWN HALLOWEEN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
4:00 – 7:00 pm

Village Green at Oso Viejo Park

Celebrate this fall holiday with themed carnival games, crafts, music and much more. From 6:00-7:00 pm, it's fun or fright as you travel through our glowing haunted maze.

FREE w/ nominal charges for some activities
460-2777



31ST ANNUAL WALK AGAINST DRUGS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
8:00 am – Rally at MVHS
9:00 am – Community Fair & Disaster Preparedness Expo

MVHS & Village Green at Oso Viejo Park

The event kicks off with a rally at MVHS Stadium, followed by the walk down La Paz Road through the Oso Creek Trail to the Fair and Disaster Preparedness Expo.

FREE
<https://cityofmissionviejo.org/policeservices>



VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11
2:00 pm

Norman P. Murray Community Center

On this special day, we honor and remember the men and women of the armed forces. Reception immediately follows the ceremony. The City is now seeking applications for its annual male and female Veterans of the Year who will be honored at the event, Application deadline is Oct. 1. FREE



PUMPKIN DIVING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
2:00 – 5:00 pm

Sierra Recreation and Fitness Center

Join us for this annual event as we transform the Sierra pool into a floating pumpkin patch. Decorate your pumpkin at one of our stations and play fun carnival games. Sponsored by Family Tree Orthodontics, i9 Sports, SDCCU and Sullivan Solar.

\$5 presale tickets (until October 19)
\$10 at the event /859-4348



SANTA'S ARRIVAL & CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
3:00 – 6:00 pm / Festival & Entertainment
6:00 pm / Santa Arrives

Civic Center

Join the celebration as Santa arrives in Mission Viejo! Enjoy game and activity booths where children can make crafts and visit live reindeer. Santa will arrive atop a fire engine and help usher in the holiday spirit. FREE / 830-7066

<https://mvactivities.com>

COMMUNITY

Strategic Focus on Community Policing is Leading the Way in Safety

Proactive public safety and community policing have always been a hallmark of the City of Mission Viejo's agenda – practices that keep this City of 96,000 people among the safest cities in the nation. Across the world, public safety is the most important task facing city governments, with a constant need for innovative policing strategies and creative programs to engage, educate and protect people.

"Community outreach is extremely important to us," said Lt. Quyen Vuong, Chief of Police Services. "We strive to deliver useful and timely information to citizens – whether it's crime trends affecting our City, school lockdowns, notable arrests, crime prevention tips or police-related activity."

With a robust social media presence, Mission Viejo Police Services' strategically focuses on community policing and creating a culture of resident engagement among deputies. Information and tips are provided to help direct enforcement efforts, and citizens are encouraged to be co-producers of their personal safety.

Safety programs are offered throughout the year like Childhood Watch Academy, Citizens Academy and women's self-defense workshops. Residents learn about situational awareness – and schools, religious organizations and businesses are offered free threat assessments.

To help residents with neighbor disputes, homelessness and mental health issues, Police Services created the first Quality of Life deputy position in the Sheriff's Department and partners with nonprofits like the Mission Viejo Police Foundation to help folks in need. Through this effort, bicycles have been donated to kids whose bikes were stolen; clothing and school supplies given to the less fortunate; and shelter provided for domestic violence victims.

To reduce the cost of policing to City coffers, Police Services uses volunteers who act as additional eyes and ears in the community such as Sheriff's Explorers, Senior Corps of Retirees (SCOR) and Professional Services Responders (PSRs) for traffic control, neighborhood and vacation home checks and working the front counter and special events.

"In countless ways, we encourage the community to take an active role in crime prevention," Lt. Vuong said.

This includes handing out Challenge Coins to Good Samaritans who help others in the City; providing Neighborhood Watch meetings; hosting ice cream socials and Coffee with a Cop along with creating school challenges – calling on students to be champions of safety.



The result of all these efforts is that our community is growing and thriving but crime is not.

"We want to send the message to criminals and evildoers that Mission Viejo is educated on crime trends and their shenanigans ... our citizens have the tools to stay safe, report suspicious activity and help keep Mission Viejo one of the safest and engaged communities in the nation," Lt. Vuong said.



New State-of-the-Art Regional Cancer Center Set to Open in October

A new state-of-the-art facility dedicated to bringing cancer research, treatment and prevention to the residents of South Orange County will open across from Mission Hospital this October, providing a world-class resource to those who are dealing with any form of the deadly disease.

The 104,000-square-foot Judi and Bill Leonard Institute for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Wellness at Mission Hospital includes extensive medical office space for physicians dedicated to caring for patients with cancer and other specialty needs.



Bringing together an interdisciplinary team in the fight against cancer, the facility will be the largest cancer program in South Orange County.

Construction of the four-story project located next to The Shops at Mission Viejo began last year. It includes a dedicated parking structure and pedestrian access to Mission Hospital and the mall. The Mission Hospital Foundation is partnering with the community to raise \$35 million in philanthropy to support the center – and last year, longtime donors Judi and Bill Leonard made an eight-figure gift to Mission Hospital, which has a second campus in Laguna Beach.

The Leonard's donation – along with additional funds now being raised – will help advance cancer care for the nearly two million people who live in South Orange County. The need is certainly there, as cancer is the second-leading cause of death in California, exceeded only by heart disease. It accounts for 1 in every 4 deaths in the state.

To address this devastating statistic, the center will complement and expand the hospital's oncology nursing and inpatient clinical services with a collaborative multi-disciplinary approach to treatment based on the clinical research and evidence-based practice. The treatment will be personalized to each patient's specific tumor and type of cancer.

The facility will feature a comprehensive research and clinical trial program as well as dedicated and specialized tumor boards. A clinical nurse navigation program will provide stewardship and assistance for cancer patients and their families along with a varied menu of alternative and complementary therapies, programs and cancer education.

"The Leonard Cancer Institute will transform cancer care in our community by combining the latest in precision medicine with the highly personalized care that is our hallmark," said Mission Hospital Chief Executive Seth R. Teigen. "As the first comprehensive cancer center in South Orange County, we are establishing a place of new possibilities, hope and healing for our community."

The institute expands Mission Hospital's role as one of six facilities with Commission on Cancer accreditation as comprehensive cancer treatment centers in Orange County.



VIEW FROM MEDICAL CENTER ROAD



VIEW FROM PARKING STRUCTURE

Advertise Your Business or Organization on Mission Viejo Television

If you're looking for a unique and low-cost way to promote your business or organization, consider advertising on the Mission Viejo Television (MVTV) Bulletin Board. Reaching thousands of households through Cox Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99, MVTV features popular local programming spanning news, sports and event coverage.

The award-winning channel is home to established local shows like "MVTV News," "South County SportsZone," and "Coaches Corner with Paul J. Higgins," with the daily Community Bulletin Board airing around the clock.

During the Bulletin Board, full-screen Mission Viejo business and organization notices are each displayed for about 15 seconds, and all the slides are enhanced by local radio station KSBR or classical music playing in the background.

A slide for Mission Viejo businesses and organizations is only \$20 per notice and can run for an entire year. In addition to slides, MVTV can air brief company videos for added exposure. Certain restrictions apply, so contact 949-470-3034 for information on Bulletin Board notices and other programming sponsorship opportunities. Don't miss out on this incredible chance to promote your business today.



Disability Needs Assessment will Make Programs More Accessible, Inclusive

The Mission Viejo Library received a \$33,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the California State Library to conduct a disability needs assessment. The project complements the City's Special Needs Adaptive Programs (SNAP) Initiative, focused on making programs and services more accessible and inclusive.

Roughly 10% of Mission Viejo's population has a disability, according to Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates. This is about the same percentage as California but higher than Orange County overall (8.6%). Most disabled residents are 65+, but the number of children under 18 with disabilities has doubled since the last estimate. Requests for more adaptive programs and services in Mission Viejo continue to come from parents and caregivers of children with disabilities.



In recent years, the City has made successful forays into inclusive and adaptive programs and services. The library provides a low-vision computer station, Sensory Storytime and delivery service to a local assisted living facility. Recreation

offers wheelchair tennis programs, adaptive swim programs – and partnered with the Children's Cerebral Palsy Movement to provide children's runs for all abilities in the annual Oso Fit 5K. For seniors with limited mobility and disabilities, the City's senior center offers programs – including adaptive fitness classes.

"As these programs have grown in popularity, we're seeing an increase in requests for more adaptive programs citywide," said Genesis Hansen, Director of Library & Cultural Services. "It's time to pause and do a comprehensive needs assessment to ensure we're providing the best in accessibility, adaptive and inclusive programs for all residents."

The City will work with the Disability Visibility project to obtain critical data in identifying the needs of disabled community members to make services more inclusive and accessible, so they can participate in the life of the community.

Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten Through ABCs with Tiny Tots

Help your child get ready for kindergarten through the ABCs with Tiny Tots program at Montanoso Recreation Center.

For ages 3-5, the program helps prepare children for kindergarten in a fun, loving and structured environment. They develop skills in socialization, listening and patience by learning to write their names, letters and numbers along with enjoying cooking, music, science, story/circle time and art. With many schools transitioning to full days of kindergarten, the need for such a program is even more apparent.



"We started the program to fill a need for early childhood programming at our recreation centers and had all the elements for a successful kindergarten-ready program," said Director of Recreation and Community Services, Mark Nix. "This also gives parents, grandparents and caregivers the chance to work out simultaneously if they purchase a recreation center membership. It's a win-win."

The program complements the longtime early literacy programs offered through the Mission Viejo Library. Kids learn to engage better with other children and adults, express their own ideas, make friends, and become accountable for their actions.

Studies say children who receive early education are known to have a reduced need for special education instruction in elementary school and beyond. Quality programs help to build a strong foundation for kids' physical, mental, emotional and social development that prepare them for a lifetime.

Led by an experienced teacher and assistant, the program takes place on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to noon Sept. 3-26; Oct. 1-24 and Nov. 4-27; and from 1:30-4:30 pm Monday and Wednesday Sept. 4-30; Oct. 2-28; and Nov. 5-26. Parent participation is not required; but children must be potty-trained. The cost for 8 classes (4 weeks) is \$200 for recreation members; \$224 for non-members. For more information, call 949-859-4348.

City Grant Funding Benefits Community's Social Service Needs

For nearly two decades, the City has received federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This longstanding program focuses on benefiting low-income people by providing resources for livable neighborhoods, economic empowerment and decent housing.

CDBG continues to play an important role today as a unique community development resource. For many jurisdictions, it's a steady source of funding benefiting low-income individuals and communities. Its flexibility also allows localities to tailor solutions to their own needs and fund a wide range of activities.

In Mission Viejo, the City can use up to 15% of the annual funding to address the community's social service needs. To do so, proposals are solicited each year from



nonprofit organizations serving Mission Viejo residents, which are reviewed by both the Community Services Commission and Planning and Transportation Commission, with ultimate approval by the City Council. This year, the funding was awarded to nine nonprofit organizations benefiting our community. Those include Age Well Senior Services; the Camino Health Center, which provides low-cost medical and pediatric dental care services; and the Council on Aging, serving folks living in managed-care facilities. In addition, grant money supports services offered through Alzheimer's OC; the Fair Housing Foundation; and Families Forward –providing housing services for homeless families. South County Outreach, which provides food for families at risk of homelessness; Stand Up for Kids, serving homeless teens and young adults; and Vocational Visions, which provides job training for adults with developmental disabilities, also received grant funding through the program.

For more information, call 949-470-3053.

ENVIRONMENT



Shift in Handling of Solid Waste will Impact Mission Viejo Residents

With new state laws, the next few years present a paradigm shift in the handling of solid waste, and organic waste in particular, which impacts programs and rates charged to customers.

Beginning in January 2020, Assembly Bill (AB) 1594 will prohibit green material used as alternative daily cover (ADC) on landfills from qualifying for diversion credit. ADC is material placed on the surface of the active-face of a landfill at the end of each operating day to control vector, fires, odor, etc. With this new law, green waste will go through a higher and more expensive level of processing and composting, so it will likely mean higher rates.

In addition, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 sets the following statewide targets: 50 percent reduction of the 2014 level of organic waste sent to landfills by 2020 and 75 percent reduction by 2025; and the recovery of at least 20 percent of all currently disposed edible food for human consumption. Effective January 1, 2022, cities and counties in California will be required to provide organics recycling services to all residents and businesses. This change will impact residents who will need to separate food waste from trash and recycling – and while there are many environmental benefits to this law, it will cause an increase in trash rates.

As local jurisdictions like Mission Viejo and their franchised haulers implement and expand programs to meet these state laws and increase diversion of organics from waste streams, new challenges are emerging. The City is

currently seeking proposals for new solid waste management services agreements, which includes significant changes from the existing agreement to comply with both AB 1594 and SB 1383.

However, these laws are meant to benefit our environment and state. California generates about 23 million tons of organic waste per year – and 5-6 million tons of that is food waste. When we landfill recyclable material, it negatively affects our environment by emitting methane gas, which is a climate-altering greenhouse gas.



Fortunately, organic waste can be recycled into beneficial products like compost and renewable natural gas.

In addition, the statewide organics recycling program will create recycling and manufacturing jobs and help Californians save millions in healthcare costs each year by improving air quality. It will also benefit our most vulnerable citizens. California's growing edible food recovery network will capture food to help 1 in 8 Californians; 1 in 2 UC students and 1 in 5 California children who are food-insecure.



Commissioners Make Government More Efficient in Mission Viejo

If you want to make a difference in your community, consider serving on a City body.



Serving on a City of Mission Viejo commission or committee is one of the most effective ways citizens can influence City policies and activities.

It gives residents the chance to participate in government and increase their knowledge and skills on issues that might not otherwise be a part of their private lives. The City Council created the Planning & Transportation Commission, Investment Advisory Commission and Community Services Commission to provide public input and assist the Council in information gathering and the deliberative process. These positions are held by residents whose contributions are invaluable to the City.

The Planning & Transportation Commission's main role is to advise the Council on land use and planning legislation including the City's General Plan and Development Code. Serving in a quasi-judicial role, this commission hosts public hearings and takes final action on discretionary applications like Conditional Use Permits and Planned Development Permits. All Planning and Transportation Commission actions are appealable to the City Council. Commissioners also take turn sitting on the 2-member Design Review and Traffic Committees. Joseph Blum (2019 Chair); Robert Breton (2019 Vice Chair); Cameron Knauerhaze;

Dave Leckness; and Bob Ruesch make up the current Planning & Transportation Commission.

Folks who sit on the Investment Advisory Commission oversee implementation of the City's investment programs. They review the City's investment policies and portfolio and recommend changes for the Council's consideration. To serve on this board, residents must have specific qualifications such as experience in the banking, financial or investment field. The commission includes Nina Altountash (2019 Chair); Richard Steinhoff (2019 Vice Chair); William Ernisse; Elizabeth Pagliarini; and Edward Rosenblatt.

Citizens serving on the Community Services Commission advise the City Council on the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Most recently, they recommended a prioritized list of 15 capital improvement projects for Council consideration, suggested design improvements for Christopher Park and provided input on the City's Bikeway Master Plan.

In addition, this commission provides feedback and recommendations about adult and youth recreation services, human and senior citizen programs and cultural and fine arts services. Commissioners make recommendations for the four recreation and tennis centers; community and senior center; center for the arts; historic preservation and various City-supported committees. Commissioners include Pam Smith (2019 Chair); Victoria Avery (2019 Vice Chair); Cathy Allen; Gary Magill, Debbie Ruesch; Steve Spillman; and Grant Voss.

For more information about the panels, meetings and application, visit <https://cityofmissionviejo.org>.



Take Me Home Registry Helps Reunite At-Risk People with Their Loved Ones

A new program is helping to reunite Mission Viejo families and caretakers with loved ones who have a medical condition or disability that makes communication challenging.

“Take Me Home” is a regional information system designed to help law enforcement when contacting members of the community who have medical conditions, special needs or disabilities like autism, dementia, Alzheimer’s, Down syndrome or any other developmental disability. Accessible only by law enforcement, the free registry serves as a valuable resource to help reunite at-risk missing people with their loved ones by maximizing search efforts and minimizing response time. Through this program, police can obtain crucial information about the registered person even before arriving at the door.

The program is aimed at helping people whose communication abilities are challenged when interacting with police. Families or caregivers can upload information into the registry about their loved one that would help deputies when contacting folks in the field who appear disoriented or have special needs. Information such as medical diagnoses, a detailed physical description, emergency contact information, known routines, behaviors and an up-to-date photograph could help get the person home quicker and safer.

“We are always looking for opportunities to enhance our ability to keep all residents safe and this registry is one way to do that,” said Sheriff Don Barnes.

Families that have loved ones who need assistance in communicating with law enforcement can help the Sheriff’s Department by providing information to Take Me Home.



“If they are registered with Take Me Home, families can know the Sheriff’s Department has a tool to assist in communicating with their loved ones and bringing them home safely,” Sheriff Barnes said.

Take Me Home was piloted this spring in Mission Viejo and Laguna Niguel and implemented throughout the county on July 1. Available to residents living within the Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s jurisdiction, the registry was modeled after San Diego’s Take Me Home and other similar programs utilized by law enforcement including the Irvine Police Department’s Return Home Registry.

For more details about the program, visit the Orange County Sheriff’s Department website at ocsd.org/about_ocsd/take_me_home_program.