



MISSION  
VIEJO

# Outlook

Fall / Winter 2018





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#### Mission Viejo City Council

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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 Uverse 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 95,000, 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.



#### MOVIES IN THE PARK SATURDAY SEPT 29 & OCT 6

Parks make life better by bringing families together. Join us for this free movies in the park series. Movies begin at dusk. Drop off blankets and chairs early. Refreshments are available along with fun games and music.

**September 29** *The Incredibles* Cordova Park  
**October 6** *The Greatest Showman* Flo Jo Park  
 FREE / 949-470-3062  
[rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org)



#### HOMETOWN HALLOWEEN SATURDAY OCT 27 / 4:00-7:00 pm Norman P. Murray Community Center

Celebrate this fall holiday with carnival games, crafts, music and much more. It's fun or fright as you travel through our glowing haunted maze (6:00 to 7:00 pm). FREE (minimal charges for some activities) 949-768-0981 [rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org)



#### DAWG WALK & PET ADOPTION EVENT SATURDAY OCT 6 / 8:00 am – Noon

**Village Green at Oso Viejo Park**  
 Enjoy a walk on the Oso Trail with your favorite K-9 buddy. The Pet Faire includes different breed rescue groups with dogs available for adoption, plus pet contests, raffle prizes and exhibitors with unique products and services.

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



#### VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE Sunday NOV 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 following the ceremony. The City is now seeking applications for its annual male and female Veterans of the Year. Application deadline is October 6. Veterans of the Year will be honored at the City's Veterans Day Observance. / FREE [rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:rsc@cityofmissionviejo.org)



#### 30TH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST DRUGS SATURDAY OCT 20 8:00 am – Rally at MVHS 9:00 am – Community Fair & Disaster Preparedness Expo

**MVHS & Village Green at Oso Viejo Park**  
 Kick off the event by attending the rally at MVHS Stadium. Walk down La Paz Road through the Oso Creek Trail to the Fair and Disaster Preparedness Expo on the Village Green.  
 FREE <https://cityofmissionviejo.org/policeservices>



#### SANTA'S ARRIVAL & CELEBRATION SUNDAY NOV 25 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 / 949-830-7066 <https://mvactivities.com>



## Marguerite Aquatics Complex renovation ushering new chapter of Mission Viejo's storied history

The City of Mission Viejo continues its commitment to upgrading its infrastructure and providing the community with the greatest facilities possible. This is evident throughout Mission Viejo, but most recently signified by the extensive renovation of one of the community's most notable landmarks – the Marguerite Aquatics Complex.

Nestled at the corner of Marguerite Parkway and Casta Del Sol, this iconic center has born and bred countless Olympians since it first opened in 1972. The facility has hosted world-class swimming and diving meets, putting Mission Viejo on the international stage. In April of this year, many of those Olympians like Greg Louganis and Brian Goodell, whose careers were cemented here, returned for the center's dramatic grand re-opening ceremony.

That warm spring day ushered in a new tradition of excellence for the 46-year-old facility that was long in need of an extensive facelift. The 18-month renovation transformed the middle-aged facility into a world-class complex with a 45-foot-tall dive tower with doublewide platforms, new dive and swim school offices, an additional restroom building, shaded grandstand and on-deck dryland training center as well as a complete renovation around the pool deck. The project also added drought-tolerant landscaping and water-efficient irrigation as well as high-speed internet to complete the expansion of the City's fiber optic network.

The dive tower is the centerpiece of the renovation with the picturesque Saddleback Mountains serving as a backdrop. The tower was designed to meet the requirements of

synchronized diving competitions, making it the only qualifying tower in Southern California. The Marguerite Aquatics Complex has long been the training center and competition home of the Mission Viejo Nadadores, one of the largest swimming and diving clubs in the United States. The club is world-renowned for producing Olympic-caliber athletes responsible for 20 Olympic medals, 22 World Records, 91 American Records, 148 National Champions and 47 National Team Titles.



***Over the years, the Nadadores' success has been inspirational for other sports and helped turn Orange County into a hotbed for Olympians.***

Today, the complex consists of three pools – the activity pool used for swim lessons for the public; competition pool for competitive swimming; and the cutting-edge dive pool and tower.

"With these state-of-the-start improvements, including a new dive tower with 12-foot-wide platforms, I'm confident in saying we have the best outdoor diving platforms in America," said Assistant City Manager Keith Rattay.

# ENVIRONMENT



## Mission Viejo receives high marks for outstanding parks and amenities

Mission Viejo has long been renowned for its safety, schools and producing countless Olympians. Now it's gaining a reputation for its vast parks and recreational amenities.

The Trust for Public Land recently ranked Mission Viejo's parks among the best in the country through its ParkScore index, which rates every major U.S. city's park systems.

PARKSCORE		
2017 National Rankings		
City	Score	Rank
Minneapolis	87.5	1
St. Paul	82.5	2
San Francisco	80.0	3
Washington DC	79.0	4
Portland	77.5	5
Arlington VA	76.5	6
Irvine	74.0	7
New York	74.0	7
Madison WI	73.5	9
Cincinnati	71.5	10

**Mission Viejo scores well above the national median of 51 points with a total score of 83.5 out of 100, or 2nd in the nation.**

The study's criteria include the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park; median park size and percentage of total city area dedicated to parks; park spending per resident; and the availability of basketball hoops, off-leash dog parks, playgrounds, water play structures, recreation centers, senior centers and restrooms.

People choose Mission Viejo to live, work, play and raise a family for its vast amenities. Those include eight recreation and community center facilities, 53 parks and trails totaling 800 acres of natural open space and a dog park. There are seven community parks in town that include lighted baseball and soccer fields.

Living close to parks encourages residents to exercise more, reducing risk for obesity, diabetes and other serious health conditions, studies say. Parks also help clean the air, build relationships among neighbors and contribute to economic growth. The City's landscape complements its designation as a as a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) city.

In the Trust for Public Land study, the City ranks higher than the comparison cities in recreational offerings. Irvine's score of 10 out of a possible 20 points is above those of Santa Ana (4 out of 20) and Anaheim (3 out of 20). However, the City of Mission Viejo's recreational amenity score came out on top of those Orange County cities with 17 out of 20.

With regards to maintaining parks versus staffing costs, Irvine spends \$57 in operational expenses per resident and \$195 on staffing; whereas, Mission Viejo spends \$77 on operational expenses and \$36 on staffing.

The City is proud of its picturesque parks, open space and recreational amenities and works hard to maintain its high quality of life for Mission Viejo residents. You can find out more at <https://cityofmissionviejo.org>.

## Mission Viejo Police Services launches new Outstanding Citizen Challenge

Along with catching the bad people in our community, Mission Viejo Police Services is now on the lookout for people doing good.

“As an incentive for our citizens, we have come up with the Mission Viejo Outstanding Citizen Challenge,” said Administrative Sergeant Paul Schaff. “We will hand out Orange County Sheriff’s Department/Mission Viejo Police Services challenge coins to citizens who help make our community safer and care for our neighbors.”

The new challenge is part of Mission Viejo Police Services’ ongoing efforts to enhance community policing and engage and connect with the community. The challenge is meant to strengthen police and resident interaction and give people a glimpse behind the badge.

“There are no criteria for when we hand these out ... we are looking for people who do something positive for the community and the folks who live in Mission Viejo,” Sgt. Schaff said.

Along with receiving a challenge coin and forever bragging rights, citizens can have their photo snapped



with the deputy and posted on Mission Viejo Police Services’ social media sites with the hashtag #MVOCC.

“This is a fun challenge meant to motivate others to do positive

acts in their everyday lives to help each other in our community,” said Chief of Police Services Lt. Quyen Vuong. “We truly appreciate those unsung heroes, and this is just a small way of thanking them for making Mission Viejo even safer.”

## Felipe Tennis and Recreation Center has more exciting opportunities for all ages

Since the revamped Felipe Tennis and Recreation Center reopened to the public this summer, people of all ages have flocked to the popular facility for fitness and fun.

Nestled on Nogal, the Felipe Tennis and Recreation Center has been a mainstay of the community since the City inherited it from the Mission Viejo Company shortly after its 1988 incorporation.



Enhancing the recreational experience, the City added new restrooms, community spaces, improved lighting, landscaping, extended storage and staff office area.

Along with new restrooms inside for members, the bathrooms are accessible from outside the building – providing dog walkers, park users and passersby with a clean and safely lit restroom and parking lot.

The new community room is perfect for birthday parties, special events, rental space options and community gatherings as well as new City programs and classes kicking off this fall. In addition, shading on the courtyard is ideal for youth to gather for teen and homework help programs.

Four new pickleball courts will help lessen the waitlisted socials and provide additional court use times and clinic options.

“The City has made it a priority to focus on what we can do to improve recreational experiences,” said Community Services Manager Lydie Gutfeld. “The completion of this project has been highly anticipated by the community, and we appreciate the neighborhood’s patience and support in getting it done. This center is now home to much more than just tennis activity.”

## One-of-a-kind Maritime Mural will celebrate Mission Viejo’s past

About 13 million years ago where the Montanoso Recreation Center now exists, an ancient sea rich in marine life including large dolphins flourished. The fossilized skulls of two different dolphins were found in eastern Mission Viejo in 1991 and 1997.

From this fascinating past, the Mission Viejo Maritime Mural was born – with dolphins Monty (short for Montanoso) and Sierra (depicting the Sierra Recreation Center) as the centerpiece. With reconstructed fossilized dolphin skulls, the mural will be adorned to the Montanoso Recreation and Fitness Center for the public to embrace. Its creation stems from a partnership between the City of Mission Viejo and Saddleback College.

The idea began a year ago and centered on a visual tile concept of pre-historic marine life by Recreation



Commissioner Grant Voss. The fossils of Monty and Sierra were unearthed during Mission Viejo’s development and prepared by professors Peter Borella, Jim

Repka, Renee Garcia and Tony Huntley. Saddleback College Ceramics Program Chair Laura Haight, artist Kathryn Stovall Dennis and her team of students spent weeks painstakingly crafting the sculptural mural. Professors Glen Stevenson, Katlin Choi and student Natalie McFarlane added the final piece of the Maritime Mural by creating state-of-the-art 3D prints of the fossil dolphin skulls that will allow future generations to safely enjoy these incredible discoveries. This one-of-a-kind mural will be unveiled at Montanoso Recreation and Fitness Center this fall.

“Families and folks who visit our pool deck will be able to experience dolphins Monty and Sierra close up and see that we’ve been swimming in Mission Viejo for 13 million years,” said Mark Nix, Director of Recreation and Community Services.

## Mission Viejo’s Budget is balanced and healthy

The City of Mission Viejo has a long history of fiscal responsibility and ensuring City coffers are solid. The 2018-19 adopted operating and capital improvement program (CIP) budget demonstrates the continued commitment of the City Council, Executive Leadership Team and all City employees to maintain and improve the unique qualities of this community.

The City stays in tune with the current economic climate while providing top-notch public services to citizens and our business community. The budget period is July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and highlights include:



- A balanced operating budget: Ongoing expenditures do not exceed current revenues meaning the spending plan does not include the use of General Fund accumulated reserves.

- Total revenues are estimated at \$74.2 million, including \$34.5 million in property taxes.

- Total operating budget is estimated at \$66.4 million.

- 32% of the budget is dedicated to Public Safety including police services provided by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

- 23% is dedicated to infrastructure maintenance, which includes the maintenance of all City parks, slopes, medians and City-owned facilities.

- The CIP budget includes \$6.8 million for the Christopher Park playground renovation and multiple street and road improvement projects.

- The General Fund reserves are estimated at \$26.6 million or 45% of General Fund revenue.

For more information, visit <https://cityofmissionviejo.org> and click on the Finance Department page.



## City launches new Kinder-Ready program to nurture lifelong learners

The City continually seeks ways to enhance the services and programming available at the Mission Viejo Library to nurture lifelong readers and academic success.

In this spirit, the City is launching the Mission Viejo Kinder-Ready! Project, a grant-funded program designed to increase opportunities and access to kindergarten readiness programs and materials for children ages 0-5. The need is certainly there. Research shows the lasting effect the first five years have on a child's academic success and overall well-being.

According to First 5 California, "Children's brains are 80% developed by age 3 and research supports an interactive and experiential process of learning spoken and written language skills that begins in early infancy. Children gain significant knowledge of language, reading and writing long before entering school."

Since 2014, all OC public schools with a kindergarten population have participated in the annual Early Development Index (EDI) assessment of school readiness in five key developmental areas: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge. Latest results show 18% of young Mission Viejo children are vulnerable in one or more developmental areas when entering kindergarten. The most significant areas are in language and cognitive development with 25% of kindergartners falling somewhere below the national normative benchmark for "on-track." This data has been mapped by neighborhood to show areas of highest vulnerability.

"We can interpret from this information that our community has a need for early childhood

development programs, particularly in neighborhoods that do not immediately surround the library," said Genesis Hansen, Director of Library and Cultural Services.



**Through this project, the City hopes to make school readiness resources more visible and accessible in our community.**

The library will take early literacy storytimes and programs to different locations including daycare centers, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) offices and more. Furthering efforts to make early development programs more convenient by reaching families where they already are, library staff will visit the babysitting area at the Montanoso Recreation Center to provide children with access to books, toys, games and crafts that support early kindergarten readiness skills.

These efforts will complement the library's existing programs that include Storytime, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and Summer Reading.

"This grant project will further our ability to reach beyond the traditional library model of in-house storytime to provide a wider variety of activities at various locations that help children prepare for school," Genesis said.

For more information, visit <http://cmvl.org>.



## Mission Viejo's SNAP initiative will provide more inclusivity to all

Everyone is different but should have the same opportunities. In an effort to better serve residents of all ages and abilities, the City is launching a SNAP (Special Needs Adaptive Programming) initiative this fall.

The program is designed to provide opportunities to people with disabilities to partake in adaptive programs and experience the mental, physical, emotional and social benefits of recreational activities. The SNAP initiative will focus on community-integrated programs and safety, wellness and socialization while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Programs that provide specialty options will have the colorful SNAP logo, which will be posted at entry points, so caregivers can easily identify where to go.



***This initiative is the latest effort by the City of Mission Viejo to provide healthy, fun and safe services and programs that benefit all segments of our community.***

For years, the City has hosted wheelchair tennis camps for youth from Mission Viejo and well beyond as well as the prestigious Wheelchair Tennis Masters tournament at the Marguerite Tennis Pavilion. The City's Pavion Park was also the first universally designed park in Orange

County, providing equal access for all, including children and caregivers of all ages and abilities.

Through the SNAP initiative, City recreation staff will work to identify ways to make the recreational experience even better for everyone while also becoming advocates for the special needs community and educating people who attend programs and activities at the Tennis and Recreation Centers.

Along with wheelchair tennis including a free daylong Wheelchair and Adaptive Tennis Clinic on September 9, the programs will include birthday parties on the splash pad; early childhood/ kindergarten ready programs; sensory-friendly spaces at Recreation Center events; early open or close hours specifically for SNAP; open houses; socialization programs; and much more. Staff will work with caretakers to ensure people are included in all recreation activities at special events to create unique, safe and fulfilling environments where everyone can thrive. The initiative will extend to community partners such as the Mission Viejo Nadadores and recreation programs offered through Saddleback College.

"With the continuing support of our community, our SNAP initiative will improve City services, accomplish goals and provide leisure opportunities that enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities," said Mark Nix, Director of Recreation and Community Services.

For more information about the SNAP initiative, contact [recreation@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:recreation@cityofmissionviejo.org) or call 949-470-3061.

## Bears About Town popping up at local businesses

The Mission Viejo Friends of the Arts is working with the City to permanently install several life-like bears along the upper Oso Creek Trail to connect the Norman P. Murray Community Center and newly renovated Potocki Center for the Arts.

The Bears About Town project pays tribute to the magnificent brown bear that once roamed the county. Mission Viejo's Oso (Bear) Creek Trail was one of the last places in Orange County where the brown bear was sighted. Although the bears vanished decades ago, their artistic representation is alive and well.

The bears were the brainchild of mosaic artists Aileen May and Joy Aldrich, who teamed up with the City of Mission Viejo in 2012 to create nine bear sculptures adorned with mosaic tiles. Each bear represents a different culture or ethnicity that makes up this special Mission Viejo community. The Bears About Town project was a collaborative art adventure that brought together more than 1,000 community members of all ages – from infants to seniors – at different events and venues to decorate the bears in a unique way to express their cultural heritages. The effort took more than three years and demonstrated a shared love for the arts, this community and its diversity.

The cultures and ethnicities represented include a Persian, Native American, African-American, European, Mexican, Asian, South American and Pacific Island bear.

“For many community volunteers, the Bear Project has been a life-changing experience of discovery and fellowship – a celebration of diversity that fosters unity,” said Cultural Arts Manager Dru Maurer.

Two of the bears – Fiesta and Hope – were installed at the Potocki Center for the Arts and Norman P. Murray Community Center, respectively. Four will be on display at different businesses in town before joining the others in their permanent homes along the Oso Creek Trail.

This fall look for the Pacifica Bear at Trader Joe's on Marguerite Parkway; Liberty Bear at the Volvo Dealership; Rain Forest Bear at World Market; Saffron Bear at Crown Valley Market; and the Juaneno Bear at Arroyo Trabuco.



**Having the bears at various businesses throughout Mission Viejo will give people the chance to embrace the intricate detail and love that went into creating these diverse and dynamic art structures.**

“The bears will visit the businesses until there is enough funding to permanently install them along the trail,” Dru said.







City of Mission Viejo  
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Arts Alive



Aquatics Complex Re-Opening



Bunny Days



Concert on the Green



Public Safety Ice Cream Social



Mission Viejo Library Comic-Con



Campout



Prelude in the Park



Earth Day/Arbor Day



Musical Playground

## 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.