To keep the community updated with timely, essential information, the City is continuing its robust public education and outreach campaign that includes multiple/press releases on our dedicated COVID-19 webpage to educate, inform and provide useful resources to our businesses and residents of all ages. With the number of people receiving our weekly eNewsletter continuing to increase (more than 34,000), we will begin issuing two eNewsletters a week.

We also continue to record, post and include video messages from Mayor Goodell in our eNewsletter as well as proactively update our social media sites and alert the news media of Mission Viejo-centralized news. Along with our essential COVID-19 news, we are including feel-good stories developing from the crisis, which have been well-received by the community.
On April 21, the County Board of Supervisors issued a directive with guidelines that would enable golf courses in Orange County to reopen. The City of Mission Viejo has cleaned up and performed some work on the facility during the closure. The facility was repainted; parking lot slurried and restriped; and significant plumbing repairs were made. The facility also received new light fixtures and furniture.

City staff has also moved the check-in process to the exterior of the facility near the cart pick up. Additionally, the City has prepared the building in anticipation of the opening using the COVID-19 protocols. Access to the clubhouse has been limited to the restrooms only and a queuing line has been created to accomplish and meet the social-distancing requirements.
The putting green and exterior dining and bar patios have all been blocked off for access during this first phase of the reopen.

The course reopens on May 1 with nearly all tee times already booked. We are reopening with “walking only” as per the guidelines and will continue to monitor the operations, so we can offer a single-use cart system as soon as possible.

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**CITY OF MISSION VIEJO TO HOST GIVE-AND-TAKE DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD PANTRY EARLY MAY**

In an effort to help residents impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and give others a chance to give back, the City is hosting a Give-and-Take Drive-Through Food Pantry in May.

On Saturday, May 2, the City will collect food donations from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center. Donations sought include peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, cereal, rice, hearty soups, and other food items. You can take part by placing food items in your trunk or driving up and simply popping your trunk for staff who will collect the items. You will stay in your vehicle, and social-distancing guidelines will be followed.

Then on Monday, May 4 from 9 to 11 a.m., the City will host the Drive-Through Food Pantry where people will pull up, pop their trunks, and a bag of food will be placed in their trunks until the food runs out.

This drive is designed to help the individuals and families struggling to put food on the table during this crisis as well as give the community the opportunity to help those in need.
FOOD DRIVES

On Saturday, April 25, the Recreation and Community Services Department partnered up with South County Outreach to host a food drive. The team collected more than 3,300 pounds of food while unloading 125 cars. The food was then transported to the main pantry for South County Outreach where staff unloaded, weighed and sorted food donations. It was another rewarding day of community engagement and pride!

Next up is our City’s Give-and-Take Drive-Through Food Pantry starting on May 2. The team has selected a theme for each food drive and will provide fun entertainment for all donors driving through! On collection days, folks wanting to donate simply pull up to the center with their donation in the trunk, pops the trunk, and the Recreation staff (equipped with masks and gloves) collects the donations.

On distribution days, anyone needing food simply pulls up, pops the trunk, and Recreation staff will place a bag of food in the trunk. This program always follows social-distancing guidelines while providing interaction and much-needed resources to the community. Make sure to participate in all five food drives, so you can give back and collect an awesome Mission Viejo swag bag!

MISSION HILLS CHURCH DONATION

On Wednesday, April 29, Mission Hills Church donated 150 hand-sewn fabric masks to Age Well Senior Services to distribute to all seniors on the Meals on Wheels Program. Many homebound seniors need meals but are also without PPE like masks. Recipients will appreciate the wonderful effort.
HYGIENE PRODUCT DRIVE
BENEFITS AGENCIES IN NEED

The City not only supports local food drives but is first to respond to urgent hygiene product needs expressed by two charities serving homeless and at-risk populations in Orange County: Orange County Rescue Mission and Standup for Kids.

Orange County Rescue Mission houses and supports homeless individuals and families in Orange County. Standup for Kids Orange County is dedicated to supporting the needs of at-risk, homeless youth ages 12 to 24. Both agencies are experiencing an increase in the numbers of individuals served and critical shortages of non-food supplies. Items needed include full-size soap bars, shampoo, underwear for kids and women (all sizes), diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products (all varieties), laundry detergent, toilet paper, warm socks, umbrellas and fast-food cards.

On April 22, the Recreation and Community Services Department presented the first round of donations collected from the community to these two charities. The value of the product donations is more than $6,000. The campaign will continue through May or until the needs subside. 🧼
TRAFFIC SIGNALS WEATHER POWER OUTAGE

Last Friday afternoon, power went out for a couple of hours in a large portion of SDG&E’s service area. Of the 16 city traffic signals affected, 14 continued to operate normally on battery back-up systems.

The power surge associated with the outage damaged the battery back-up system at La Paz and Veterans Way signal while the signal at La Paz and Marguerite went into red flash due to component failure in the controller cabinet.

Although the City’s traffic signal technician was monitoring the signal system remotely from home, he drove into town to oversee the timely repairs of the two damaged signals and checked the other 14 as well.

GUARDIAN STORAGE AT CROWN COMMERCE CENTER

Another new application submitted to the City would allow conversion of a 23,700-square foot single-story vacant building, previously occupied as a Los Angeles Times newspaper warehouse, into a 51,329-square-foot two-story self-storage facility. The property is located within the Crown Commerce Center at 27831 Center Drive, situated between the Crown Valley Market Place, with Persian cuisine restaurant, to the north and a self-service car wash facility to the south. The proposal includes personal storage within the building and uncovered RV storage to the south of the building, screened by walls and landscaping.
TRUMARK RESIDENTIAL

Applications were recently submitted to the City by Trumark Homes to allow construction of a 91-unit condominium development on a 6.46-acre site located on the south side of El Toro Road, between Marguerite Parkway and the SR 241 Toll Road.

The property is currently owned by Saddleback Church and is zoned for recreational land uses.

The proposal includes General Plan Amendment and Zone Change applications to change the land use designation of the site from Recreation/Open Space to Residential 30. The 91 for-sale homes would include one, two, and three-bedroom units ranging in size from 885 square feet to 1,920 square feet. The condo units would be clustered in a total of 10 three-story buildings. Recreational amenities include a swimming pool and spa.

MOSAIC APARTMENT HOMES RENOVATION

Mosaic Apartment Homes, formerly Park Ridge Villas, located at 27444 Camden, is a 250-unit apartment complex built in 1986 that is undergoing efforts to modernize the property and create a new branding image.

Applications have been submitted to allow renovation of the community including conversion of a tennis court to an outdoor resident amenity area with lounging, seating, barbecue facility and activity areas.

The building upgrades include interior renovations to the common areas, new roofs, stone finishes, and color scheme; new branding monument signage; vehicular gates; and landscape improvements throughout.
Mission Viejo Animal Services Officer Stewart responded to a call regarding a possible injured animal. The caller said the family dog was barking and pacing back and forth along their backyard fence. When Officer Stewart arrived, he went behind the property to investigate, saw the cat run off, and discovered a litter of young kittens in a small hole. The mother dug the hole to keep them safe, while she searched for food. Officer Stewart rescued the kittens and set a trap for the mother cat.

The kittens were taken to the shelter and placed in a foster home where they could be bottle-fed around the clock. Officer Stewart went back later in the day to check the trap, but it was empty. He returned the next day and found the mother cat, which was reunited with her kittens.

Shelter staff members are caring for the mama and her kittens, which are thriving! If the kittens had not been rescued, their chances of survival would’ve been slim. The mother cat was named Aquaria, and her kittens all have zodiac sign names. Aquaria and the kittens will be available for adoption in the near future. 🐹