**New landscaping program takes root in MV**

A new landscaping program designed to conserve water, promote slope stability and enhance the community’s aesthetic appeal is beginning to take root in Mission Viejo.

It’s evident along the slopes that contour natural areas and parks. It’s becoming established on newly graded slopes, and in some cases, where construction is yet to begin. And it’s even being introduced along many of the major thoroughfares, where lush green vegetation has already encamped itself in the berms that slant up to the residential neighborhoods of this planned community.

The program, a Mission Viejo Company project, is no small endeavor, according to its creator, Randall Ismay, administrator of water resource management for the company.

Why is a community development and homebuilding firm undertaking a project of such magnitude?

According to Ismay, one reason is water, which soon will be in short supply in Southern California.

“During the 1980’s, interstate and international water treaties are projected to reduce California’s present Colorado River allocations by nearly two-thirds,” he explained.

“Additionally, special low utility rates for pumping water to southern California will be increased drastically during that same time. (The current contracts with utility companies were signed before the Arab oil embargo of 1974. New contracts will reflect much higher oil prices.) As a result of these two factors, water supplies in Southern California will diminish and costs for remaining water will increase sharply.”

Mission Viejo Company’s new landscaping program will help minimize the effects of the future water situation, according to the horticulturist. At the same time, greater slope stability will be achieved, maintenance costs will be limited significantly (an aspect which will fare well with Mission Viejo homeowners associations), and the aesthetic appeal of the community will not suffer.

The concept behind the program is relatively simple. The company is incorporating plant materials that can withstand the semi-arid climate here—plants that grow naturally in this environment. It’s called environmental horticulture—the exclusive use of plants best suited to a particular ecosystem,” Ismay said.

In the course of developing its landscape plan, Mission Viejo Company is actually compiling a “palette” (a documentation of vegetation suited to thrive in this environment)—plants that grow naturally in this environment—and it is evident that the company is leaving no stones unturned in the development of this tool.

Ismay is well qualified to handle the task. He holds bachelor’s degree in environmental biology and ornamental horticulture from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, respectively, as well as a master’s degree in agricultural science with a specialization in ornamental horticulture from the latter.

The development process includes seeking materials that are known to prosper in other regions of the world which have similar environments to the semi-arid climate of Southern California.

In the fall, Ismay, accompanied by Ron Peck of Pecoff Brothers, Inc., a consultant for the project, will travel to Australia in search of such materials. “And,” he added, “we’re looking into the possibility of importing plants from South America, South Africa, and the Mediterranean area as well.”

The company has set aside parcels of land where its landscaping experts can experiment with these new materials to determine which will prosper and which will not. There is also the possibility that some of the flora will be produced by professional growers, a process called introduction.

“We want to weed out, if you’ll excuse the expression, the plants that prove not to be suited for our purposes,” he said.

Meanwhile, there are a number of specimens that are perfectly suited to Mission Viejo’s environment, and Ismay has already initiated their use throughout the community. Additionally, he has studied the existing vegetation and is taking steps to improve its environment.

Take, for example, the red fescue grasses—which cover many of Mission Viejo’s neighborhood slopes. “These require tremendous amounts of water and fertilizer to maintain their lush appearance,” Ismay explained. “However, we have found that excessive irrigation and fertilization are actually detrimental to the well-being of the landscape. Not only do they provide a ripe environment for pest and disease problems, they also prevent the grasses from establishing the deep root systems so vital for slope stability.”

During recent months, some home-owners (Continued on page 7)

**Happenings:**

**In and around Mission Viejo**

“TENNIES AND TOTS” — If you have a pair of tennis shoes that have seen their last foot, like the ones on the right, then enter the “rotten sneaker contest of the year” sponsored by the Mission Viejo Recreation Center. Open to members and their guests, the contest will consist of two divisions: 13 to 18 and 12 and under. All tennis shoes must be naturally worn out. A new pair of shoes, Dr. Scholl’s foot powder and a trophy will be awarded to the winner in both divisions. Below, Gregory Burns, 3, and Jenny Chang, 4, are brushing up on their art skills before the next Tiny Tot class begins. The program, sponsored by the Mission Viejo Recreation Center, runs monthly.

**Learn to dance**

Youngsters in the fourth through ninth grades are invited to an introductory party-lesson at the Mission Viejo Cotillion on Sunday evening, Sept. 23.

Although there is no charge for this event, each child must be accompanied by a parent who will be present from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Telephone reservations will be accepted by Montanoso Recreation Center as long as space permits.

Cotillion membership provides an opportunity to gain poise and self-confidence at a monthly dance party while learning traditional and popular social dances from foxtrot to polka to the latest hustle and disco, according to Mrs. Robert Smith, Cotillion director. The newest hit records are played and refreshments are served.

During the regular social season, the youngsters are divided by age into peer and junior groups. While etiquette and self-assurance are the purpose of Cotillion, the keynote is always “Fun.” The children are constantly changing partners and everyone is included.

Reservations to attend the Cotillion open house are available by calling Montanoso Recreation Center at 837-4981.

**Active seniors**

The Saddleback Valley Seniors Club board members have planned a number of activities for the upcoming year. The seniors will kick-off the fall schedule with a meeting on Sept. 14 at Montanoso Recreation Center. Dr. Jonathan Paine will be speaking on “Helping cope with arthritis” at the gathering beginning at 11 a.m.

Sign-ups for the dine out, at Barclay Inn on Santa Ana, will be taken at this meeting.

On Sept. 28 the board has scheduled an evening of bingo. The cost is $1.75 per person which includes prizes. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Montanoso Recreation Center.

Seniors who enjoy traveling will enjoy a three-day trip to Death Valley in November; planned for interested seniors and another trip (destination to be announced) is set for October.

**Seniors Fun** — Saddleback Valley Senior Citizens Club board members Dorothy Waddell, vice president; Len Hauer, treasurer; and Chap Lay, president, plan a number of activities for the upcoming year. The club is open to all persons 55 and over residing in the Saddleback Valley.

Randall Ismay

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Explorers share in day to day lives of firefighters

The teenager thought he’d had it. Four hundred fifty feet uphill carrying a 50-pound backpack. It’s just a drill, he thought, and asked: “Can I rest?”

“I’m sorry,” said the captain. “You must go on.” The boy found a second thought, and asked: “Can I rest?”

“Try again, then,” said the captain. The boy found a third thought, and asked: “Can I rest?”

“I’m sorry,” said the captain. “You must go on.”

They're part of the Boy Scouts of America and the fire and rescue program is one of several opportunities to explore careers ranging from dentistry to journalism to astronomy.

At the local fire and rescue posts, applicants are screened for physical strength and police records, then admitted if the group’s majority approves.

“Developing judgement is part of the program,” says Greg Matteson, Explorer advisor for Post 638 at Station 31. The post serves a live fire.

 authorized Explorers, notified by their local station. They may advance through training, officials serving the county’s unincorporated areas are now developing a new program to allow Explorers even further participation. It should be implemented next fall.

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Mission Minor All-Stars edged out of National tourney

After placing first in their district, the Mission Minor League All Stars Bobby Sox team advanced to nationals competition which was held Aug. 11 through 17 in Buena Park.

The Mission All Star team, sponsored by Mission Viejo Company, advanced to the national preliminaries after placing first in their district by placing first in district playoffs which included teams from El Toro; Mission de Oro and Mission del Norte, in Mission Viejo; San Clemente; Los Altos; Capistrano Valley; and Laguna Niguel.

The district tournament was held in July and hosted by Mission at Mission Viejo's Alicia Park.

Despite a strong showing the Mission team was edged out of the nationals after they lost their second game in the double elimination tournament.

Mission suffered its first loss in the opening round of play on Saturday, Aug. 11, when Roseville outscored Mission 8-5. Roseville scored their eight runs in the first two innings but were shut down by Mission's defensive play.

Despite Mission's strong efforts they couldn't rally enough runs to overtake Roseville's lead.

In the second game Tustin jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the third inning. Mission rallied to tie the game 5-5 in the fourth then went ahead 6-5. Tustin came back and tied it 6-6 at the end of five then drove in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the game 7-6.

Mission Coach Tom King commended his team for their efforts, "They never gave up. They were nervous but played well." Mission is the oldest and largest of the three leagues which represent the community of Mission Viejo. The league was formed in 1968 and this year had eight major and 10 minor teams.

According to Jo Ann King, president of the Mission team, this is the first time that Mission has ever gone to the national tournament in the minor division.

The girls who played on the Mission team were Kara Brown, Traeanna Clinton, Toni Cukrov, Dayna Eden, Stacey Geis, Mary Jane Longfied, Shereen Loh, Nancy Morosky, Shelly Pahk, Nancy Pikula, Jennifer Schultz, Sandra Turner, Amy Viano, Wendy Walters and Stephanie Weaver.

Alternates included Ann Hele, Diana Wamer, Laura Hopkins, Andrea Duncan, Kim Shiel, and Kris Guli.

Nadadores shine

If the Mission Viejo Nadadores Swim and Dive team had entered last month's Pan American Games at an individual nation, they would have finished fifth in gold medals.

As it turned out, Nadadores athletes won five of the U.S. team's 127 gold medals.

Brian Goodell, Linda Jiraval and Jesse Vassallo each won two golds in individual events. Goodell and Jiraval each added one more gold in relay events.

In diving, the Nadadores' Greg Loug and Dan Thomas took two gold medals in both the springboard and platform events.

The Nadadores' efforts placed them ahead of 17 other nations in gold medals. With three silver and three bronze medals, the team's total of 16 landed them in eighth place overall.

With 46,000 residents, Nadadores members brought back one gold medal for each 4,600 of the community citizens. By contrast, the U.S. team had a gold medal for every 1.9 million Americans.

Landscape program planted in MV

(Continued from page 2)

owner associations have been reducing fertilizer and irrigation of their slopes. This action will force the foliage's root systems to reach deeper for the moisture they require.

In conjunction with this acclimatization program, Mission Viejo Company has been introducing Achillea (or Yarrow) - a sturdy, but elegant plant which displays a feathery, fern-like appearance. Some of the other introductions are low-growing Acaicas, Rosmary and French Lavender - an addi-

tion to their attractive green appearance. These plants offer a number of advantages. They are low-maintenance, deep-rooting plants which require less water and have a longer life expectancy. This in turn means added slope stability and lower long-term maintenance costs.

Also being used is a lush ground cover called O'Connor's Legume. It is a hybrid Strawberry Clover named for its clover-like foliage and strawberry-like fruit. Another ground cover being used is Alliplex glauca, or Salt Bush, a shrub whose leaves maintain an attractive blue-green color all year.

During the course of establishing this new landscape program it is normal for some materials to show signs of stress. However, says this is a temporary condition.

"Mission Viejo has long been known for its beautifully manicured parks, greenbelts and parks, and Mission Viejo Company has a very strong interest in maintaining that reputation. "Although native plants require care and attention to establish, they soon flourish with little maintenance. We're quite certain that the long term advantages will far outweigh the growing pains of the program's early stages."
For your convenience

Emergency and frequently-called Telephone numbers

- Orange County Fire Dept.: 538-3501
- Orange County Sheriff’s Dept.: 834-3000
- Mission Viejo Municipal Advisory Council: 581-7610
- Pacific Telephone: 642-1161
- San Diego Gas & Electric: 498-7043
- Moulton Niguel Water District: 831-2500
- Santa Margarita Water Dist.: 586-1973
- Southern California Edison: 835-5200
- Southern California Gas Co.: 634-0251
- U.S. Post Office: 495-5020
- OCTD Dial-A-Ride: 540-6215

Mission Viejo

- Cordova Homes: 831-2530
- Felipe Recreation Center: 495-1484
- Lake Mission Viejo Information: 837-3172
- MVC Escrow Corporation: 837-6050
- Madrid del Lago Homes: 830-8320
- Marguerite Recreation Center: 837-4084
- Mission Viejo Company Security: 837-6050
- Mission Viejo Decorator Center: 837-6050
- Mission Viejo Home Office: 831-1000
- Mission Viejo Real Estate: 837-9500
- Lake Forest Office: 770-2111
- Montiel Homes: 586-5210

Mission Viejo Company

- Sandcastle Club (S): Ballroom Dancing
- Mix It and Make It (M): Square Dancing
- Tiny Tots (M)
- Cartoon Carnival (S)
- Snow Cone Day (S)
- Senior Meeting (M)
- Popcorn Feast (S)
- Pumpkin Bust (M)
- Ice Cream Scoop Days (S)
- Pinata Bust (M)

September in Mission Viejo

CALENDAR ITEMS WANTED
Send details on your October activities to The Reporter at the address below. They will be published on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Vol. 14, No. 9
Published Monthly by MISSION VIEJO COMPANY
Susie Burns Sappok, Editor
(714) 837-8080
Box 2247, Mission Viejo, Calif. 92691
Member. California Newspaper Publishers Association