



# the mission bell

**DECEMBER 2009**

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**NEWSLETTER**  
Pat Kellenbarger  
231-9609

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This will be my last article as President of our Homeowners' Association. For personal reasons, I have resigned as President for the remainder of my term. I will continue on the board as Member at Large to assist with transition. Serge Duarte was appointed by the Board to assume the position of President, at least until the next annual meeting, this coming April. Please continue to support Serge at the same level you've supported me as president for the past four plus years.

You have received the 2010 budget by now and will notice the increase in our monthly dues to \$70. One of the deciding factors for this increase is almost \$9,000 in uncollectible fees, due to bankruptcies and foreclosures of a few homeowners within the past 18 months. This is an unfortunate problem for homeowner associations, as the cost of maintaining the association continues without benefit of those funds.

Mark Bramhall and the Architectural Committee have been working on updates to our architectural guidelines along with a new process for processing home improvement projects. Please refer to our website for the most current submission forms. Our website (maintained by Nick Ruddick) can be accessed at:

<http://the-missions.org>

Happy Holidays  
-- Connie Cain

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Oceanside Special Election  
Holiday Home Decorating Contest  
Holiday – ML King Day  
Book/Reading Club (new)  
HOA Board Meeting  
Holiday – Presidents' Day  
Mission Bell Deadline

Tuesday, December 8  
Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 PM  
Monday, January 18  
Tuesday, January 19, 7 PM  
Thursday, January 21, 5 PM, Library  
Monday, February 15  
Saturday, February 20

## YOUR BOARD AT WORK

### A Message from our new HOA President:

I want to thank Connie Cain for her outstanding leadership and service to our community. She has worked tirelessly for our benefit, and I'm deeply grateful to her. I'm proud to live in the best community in Oceanside, and my goal as your new President is simple: To maintain or improve the board's quality of service to you. I welcome everyone to attend our board meetings, and invite you to contact me via email ([sduarte@cox.net](mailto:sduarte@cox.net)) as needed.

--Serge Duarte

### Board News:

The HOA Board of Directors has been very busy these last few months working on your behalf. Treasurer Tom Coley reported that we are under budget in many areas, and are gaining significantly in our efforts to become financially healthy again.

We are pleased and proud to report that the Smart Water program we initiated last year is producing great results. The water sensors have not only allowed us to use much less water for irrigation, but it has also allowed us to save a lot of money as well. Through October, we spent \$9, 573 for water compared to our budget for water of \$13, 400.

At the Board's request, the Architectural Committee is revising the guidelines to be more "user friendly" during this period of water shortages. They are developing plans for artificial turf, suggestions for drought-tolerant plants, and advice concerning vegetation that is not beneficial for our yards. Thanks to Mark Bramhall and his committee for their hard work.

We continue to plan for the perimeter wall repairs, and after walking the entire perimeter as a group, have decided to repair and paint the walls in two phases. Our budget does not allow us to complete this project all at once, so those walls that are most visible will be done first. We anticipate that we will have the money to complete Phase Two shortly.

I'm sure you all join me in thanking Connie Cain for her many years serving us on the Board, many of which were as president. Many of us credit Connie for "getting us back on track" after some difficulties with a previous management company. She has spent countless hours and much emotional investment helping to select and advise our current management and landscaping companies, both of which are great. Connie has always done so much more as president than the job description requires, and she will be greatly missed. "Thank you" seems inadequate...

-- Ellen Stotmeister,  
Secretary

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

It is important to keep *The Missions Homeowners' Directory* as current as possible. Please send any corrections or updates of phone or email contact information to Sue Ruddick. Her email address is [sue@ruddick.com](mailto:sue@ruddick.com)

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

#### EDITOR

Pat Kellenbarger  
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#### RESTAURANT REVIEW

Ray Chesloff  
967-7834

#### WRITERS

Norma Craig  
Carola Phelps  
Sue Ruddick  
Annette Bramhall  
Linda Sweeny

We welcome your  
comments and  
input.

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Saturday,  
February 20, 2010

## ***From Pat's pen. . . .***

Winter, as we know it in Oceanside, is here. Our cold mornings, clear star-filled night skies, and the barrage of holiday catalogs filling our mailboxes remind us that the holiday is coming soon.

Even with the last of the Thanksgiving leftovers gone and my count down for Christmas in full swing, I am certain that I am not alone in regretting that the monthly cul de sac parties are "on hold" until warmer Spring evenings arrive. Thanks to all who planned, hosted, and attended. If you didn't attend – you missed some great evenings and getting to know some interesting folks in our neighborhood.

My phone did not ring announcing that the secret address had been decoded in the last issue. Will you win the prize this month? Read very carefully!

Due to Charlie's on-going challenges with Parkinsons Disease, we have decided to move to a continuing care community, near our daughter's home in Escondido, and will be seeking a tenant for our lovely Missions home. We've reserved a pet-friendly cottage and look forward to new opportunities, while continuing our friendships and activities here.

I have really appreciated your positive feedback comments and kudos on my efforts in publishing the *Mission Bell*. The March 2010 issue will be my last as editor. If you are interested in being the next editor or joining the writing team, please call me or email Serge. I'll be available to assist in the transition. I believe the *Mission Bell* is one of the special perks of being a resident of this special community.

I'm hoping to see many of you at the first book meeting. I heard Greg Mortinsen speak and he is an amazing man with a mind-blowing story of how one person can change the hearts and minds of others for the betterment of mankind.

Wishing each of you a very special holiday season, one filled with good friends, good health, and great family memories.

*--Pat Kellenbarger, editor*

## **CAROLA'S CORNER**

In this time of frantic cooking and baking, do you find yourself out of at least one ingredient just when the turkey is in the oven, the potatoes are on the stove and company will be at the door in ten minutes?

Buttermilk is such an important part of holiday recipes and yet it's sometimes left off the last minute grocery list! You can make a tasty equivalent in a pinch. For each cup of buttermilk you can use one tablespoon of white vinegar or lemon juice, plus enough milk to measure one cup. Stir and let stand five minutes. Or, keep powdered Buttermilk on hand and you can reconstitute the amount needed in seconds. You can find a Cultured Buttermilk blend in most markets near the dry and canned milk section.

I hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season.

--Carola Phelps

## **The Missions' Reading Group**

We're starting a reading group! Please join us for our first meeting, where we'll discuss the book "*Three Cups of Tea - One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time*" by Greg Mortinsen and David Oliver Relin. This was the "One Book, One San Diego" selection for 2008. The book is in paperback, and readily available at booksellers and the library.

We are planning to meet every other month, and we encourage anyone who is interested to bring a book or two to recommend for future meetings - we can consider any genre.

We want the reading group to be fun and casual ...don't worry if you've already read the book - we'll have a great discussion! Beverages and dessert will be served.

First meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Jenny Flynn - 367 Benevente Drive

Please RSVP to Jenny at 1-760-429-5118 or email [navyfpdoc@hotmail.com](mailto:navyfpdoc@hotmail.com)

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

**Fresco Trattoria & Bar**  
264 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad  
PH: 1-760-720-3737

Recently, we discovered a charming Italian restaurant in the center of Carlsbad. Before you enter the restaurant, you pass through the cozy patio with a fountain, bistro tables and fire pits – a perfect spot to stop for cocktails. Fresco Trattoria & Bar has a warm and comfortable dining room, with Tuscan frescos on the wall and a casual bar in the back. The dinner menu is very large, and on a recent visit, the daily specials included veal osso bucco, rack of lamb, seafood ravioli and parmesan crusted tilapia. Before our entrée, we enjoyed an appetizer of Calamari Darati (\$10.50), which was lightly fried with a spicy marinara sauce. The portions are generous and very tasty, and dinners include a wide selection ranging from pasta, pizza, veal, chicken, beef and fish. In addition to the dinner menu, Fresco lunches also offer paninis and kobe beef burgers. Fresco is open seven days a week. I highly recommend trying it out. Lunch entrees range from \$7 - \$15. (My tilapia entrée was \$14.50 w/steamed veggies or pasta) Dinner entrees range from \$10-\$20. Salads were \$4-\$6 for small, regular \$7- \$8.50

–Linda Sweeny  
Guest restaurant reviewer

We look forward to Ray Chesloff's return to this column. Thanks to Linda for filling in this month.

## LET'S SAY THANKS

Xerox is doing something wonderful this holiday season. If you go to this web site, [www.LetsSayThanks.com](http://www.LetsSayThanks.com), you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! It is FREE and it only takes a few seconds of your time.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our soldiers need to know we appreciate them.

## GARDENING IN THE MISSIONS

December is supposed to be a winter month, but in our area, we can have a heat wave between Christmas and New Years that reminds us of August. We should be prepared to protect tender plants in case of a frost, but if the weather is hot, dry and windy make sure to continue to water.

Stop fertilizing and watering roses this month. They need to harden off for winter. They will be ready to be pruned back in January or February.

Bougainvillea is one of the best and easiest plants to grow in Southern California. It takes very little water and thrives on neglect. If you are going to plant it from a container, be careful to not disturb the roots. Make sure the soil is moist in the container before you try to remove the plant because, if the soil is too dry, it can come apart and disturb the roots. Dig a hole just as deep as the plant in the pot and twice as wide. Do not try to pull the plant out of the pot. Take a knife and slit the pot down the side and across the bottom. Set it in the hole and gently pull the pot apart and out of the hole, disturbing the soil as little as possible. Fill in the hole with soil, tamp it down and water well.

Now is a good time to buy culinary herbs to grow them indoors in a warm sunny spot. Buy in a two-inch size nursery pot and replant them in a six-inch container. They grow fast at first and then slow down. Keep them the size you want by keeping the leaves pruned. Too much fertilizer makes herbs overgrow and lose their savor. I think they probably do better indoors this time of year, because we planted some outdoors and our cilantro is doing poorly. If you want to experiment in starting basil from cuttings, snip off a piece several inches long and put in a little vase of water and it will begin to root. Transplant it to a container filled with good potting soil and place it in a warm place where it will get a lot of sun. If you keep repeating this process you should have enough basil to last you through to summer.

December is the month to plant cold weather crops, such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, lettuce and many other vegetables. We planted tomatoes and zucchini in September, although it was late in the year. Our tomatoes are very healthy with little tomatoes and we are harvesting a good crop of zucchini. I think you can grow anything in Oceanside.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season. See you next year.

– Norma Craig

## HOSPITALITY

### WELCOME:

Steve and Christine Campanelli  
387 Justina Drive

Steve and Lisa Wootten  
& sons, Steven and Cole  
330 Justina Drive

(Telephone numbers and e-mail information not available at this time)

### FAREWELL:

Carlos and Elizabeth Gil and family  
387 Justina Drive

Jim Kennington and Dana  
330 Justina Drive

Please insert this update information into your copy of The Missions Directory of residents.

### SAD NEWS :

Our condolences to Mary Kay Villere and her family on the death of her husband, Allard, who passed away on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Mary Kay and Allard moved from Orange County to their brand new home in The Missions in 1995.  
--Sue Ruddick

### THINKING OF YOU

Several residents of our community have not been out and about due to recent or on-going health problems, medical treatments or age-related challenges. Your smiling faces and goings & comings are missed. If an errand needs to be run, want your mail retrieved, or you need a cup of tea and a friendly visit, please alert one of your caring neighbors. If you would like someone to pray for you or your situation, there are neighbors who would gladly do that or connect you to someone in your faith community to pray with you.

### TECHNOLOGY SAFETY HINTS

If you use a GPS system in your car, don't use your home address – use a nearby landmark (school, store, etc.) from which you know your way home. Thieves are taking GPS systems and garage door openers from cars while owners are knowingly occupied, (i.e., Charger game, concert) and using your GPS “home” address to find your house, use the garage clicker to gain access — and you come home to a house robbery!

## FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Each year our association holds a contest with 3 homes receiving the coveted awards, *Most Beautiful*, *Most Festive*, and *Most Creative* (signs that go in the winner's yard). The signs will remain until the New Year, and then picked up for future use.

This year, the judging will be done on **Wednesday evening, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.** We will also be posting our reminder boards for all to turn on their lights. Last year some of our front runners didn't have their lights on. Natalie Meyerson with two other Social Committee members will be in charge of this ever difficult task. Good Luck to all.

Have a wonderful holiday,  
-- Annette Bramhall

### GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR GREAT KIDS

Griffin Cartin (16) was recently an invited speaker at the California South District Optimist International luncheon held at the El Camino Country Club. It's the year of the Eagle and they wanted to honor an Eagle Scout. Griffin spoke about his journey towards earning his Eagle, and his Eagle project. The group awarded him a beautiful glass eagle with his name engraved on the base.

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### Vendor Recommendations

If you need a recommendation for a tradesman to help you maintain or upgrade your (330J\*st\*a) home, a list of recommended vendors is maintained by Trish Munley.

Call Trish at 721-8887 if you need a referral or if you have a great recommendation. If you have had a poor experience with a tradesman, that information might be helpful for others seeking top quality tradesmen.

### New In-Home Technology

If you are interested in wireless video equipment that can monitor the interior of your home or your family while you are away and allow you to see that information off-site..... Information on this new security monitoring system is available on this website: [www.VueZone.com](http://www.VueZone.com).

**ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS:**

Today over 1.4 million men and women serve in the U.S. armed forces and over 24 million veterans have served in the past. The holiday season is the perfect time to honor and extend a warm holiday greeting to those who've served and continue to do so.

Send cards before December 7:

**Holiday Mail for Heroes**  
P.O. Box 5456  
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Every card received will be screened for hazardous materials by Pitney Bowes and distributed to participating Red Cross chapters nationwide, who then distribute them to service members, their families and veterans in communities across the country.

**Do...**

- Sign all cards
- Entitle cards "Dear Service Member, Family or Veteran"
- Limit cards to 15 per person or 50 for school class or business group
- Bundle groups of cards in single, large envelopes

**Don't...**

- Send letters
- Include personal information (home or email addresses)
- Use glitter –can aggravate health issues of wounded recipients
- Include inserts of any kind as they must be removed in the screening process

**HOA Reminder. . .**

If you are planning *any improvements or changes* to the exterior of your home, approval must be given by the Architectural Committee **BEFORE** you start the project. This approval is in addition to any city permits that may also be required.

Project plans, such as the addition of solar panels, landscaping changes to your front or back yard or additions to your home affecting the exterior must be submitted to the Architectural Review Committee for review. If you have questions regarding your project plans, please contact the Architectural Committee chair, Mark Bramhall, ph. 721-3467.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Professional Community Management (PCM)**

**PCM Corporate Office**  
23726 Birtcher Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630  
PH: 800-369-7260

**PCM Local Office**  
5921 Priestly Drive, Suite 110  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
PH: (760) 918-8040  
FAX: (760) 603-9156

**Community Manager:** Linda Oberski  
PH: 918-8040  
[loberski@pcminternet.com](mailto:loberski@pcminternet.com)

**Linda's Assistant** Lauren Catton  
PH: 918-8040  
[lcotton@pcminternet.com](mailto:lcotton@pcminternet.com)

**Violation Complaints:** Lauren Catton  
Linda Oberski

**Accounting Questions:** PH: 800-369-7260  
or [billing@pcminternet.com](mailto:billing@pcminternet.com)

**ADDRESS FOR PAYMENTS:** P.O. Box 51412  
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**The Mission Bell**

Published quarterly by The Missions at Ivey Ranch Homeowners' Association, Oceanside, CA

The articles herein represent the opinions of the submitters for informational purposes only and neither express nor infer an endorsement or recommendation by *The Missions* Homeowners' Association, its officers or agents.

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