



MISSION VIEJO BUZZ

Keeping the California Promise

Week of November 18, 2006

The Patriot Post Founders' Quote Daily

"Cherish, therefore, the spirit of our people, and keep alive their attention. Do not be too severe upon their errors, but reclaim them by enlightening them. If once they become inattentive to the public affairs, you and I, and Congress, and Assemblies, Judges, and Governors, shall all become wolves." -- Thomas Jefferson (letter to Edward Carrington, 16 January 1787) Reference: The Learning of Liberty, Prangle, 111.

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Mission Viejo as Battleground by Dale Tyler

The municipal election of November 7, 2006, will be remembered in Mission Viejo as one of the most contentious and polarizing in recent memory. All three incumbents were reelected, although the vote counts were lower than they received in 2002. Perhaps the voters were not that interested or maybe they were tired of the negative campaigning.

In the interest of full disclosure, I supported Ferrall, Woodin and Ledesma in this election. I was responsible for printing signs that urged voters to not support Kelley and MacLean, since I believe that their attempt to raise taxes in 2004, despite their promise in 2002 not to do so, should have disqualified them for re-election.

During the last eight years, each succeeding election has been nastier than the one before it. Various factions around the city battled for control and eventually replaced the gang of four who were responsible for so many failed policies and the city's descent into debt. In the process, new council members were elected, among them Frank Ury, who has become the focal point for a group who, while calling other's opinions hateful and mean, refused to take responsibility for their own actions.

An example of this is the sign fiasco. It has been my experience that there is always talk of people taking signs down that do not belong to them. I personally have witnessed signs that were uprooted, others that were torn to shreds and still others that vanished minutes after being erected, with other signs nearby untouched. It seems that this kind of bad behavior is often done by those whose anger surpasses their own ethical standards. In general, those people who make the most noise about sign theft or damage are the most likely to be doing it themselves as they rationalize their actions as "getting even" or an "eye for an eye."

In this election the supporters of Greenwood, Barker and McCusker accused at least two people of moving or touching their signs. In one case, they called 911 to report the moving of a sign. Of course, this was a huge waste of city resources, and one should hope no actual police emergency suffered a delayed response because of this foolishness. It turns out that the supporters of Greenwood had taken to placing Greenwood signs directly in front of their opponent's signs. While not illegal, it is certainly not at all in the spirit of fair play. So, when the person whose sign was blocked moved the offending Greenwood sign to a place nearby that did not block the original sign, Greenwood's supporters called 911. In another case, a Greenwood supporter accused someone else of "stealing a sign." However, no sign was removed and, thus, no theft occurred. Again, the Greenwood

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supporters involved the police.

Candidates should expect to be criticized for positions that they take and be prepared to defend those positions in public debates. Candidates who cannot accept that others may genuinely disagree with their positions should find another hobby.

However, involving a candidate's family or employer crosses the line of civil discourse unless the involvement bears on the campaign, such as getting a job for a family member with a city supplier or coercing suppliers of one's employer to contribute to a campaign fund. Unfortunately, the Greenwood, Barker and McClusker supporters failed to play fair. After the 911 sign incident, one of those supporters emailed the employer of the one who moved the sign to "inform" them of the incident. In my view, this matter was unrelated to the employment of the candidate and was inappropriate. One may disagree with a candidate's actions or positions quite strongly, but threatening their outside job seems unfair.

It has been said that the two subjects one cannot discuss in polite company are politics and religion. To some people, if someone criticizes a political candidate they support, that criticism is a direct attack on them. They invest so much of themselves into the campaign and the candidate, that anyone who says the slightest thing opposing their favorite candidate must be lying or deceitful or hateful. Yet, their own actions are seen to be as pure and the "right" thing to do, no matter what the cost. In a broader sense, this is one way wars begin.

I suppose everyone, including myself, minimizes the faults of those we support in politics, while focusing on the failings of our opponents. However, we need to be careful that we do not become so wrapped up in the events of the moment that we fail to recognize our own responsibility to keep an open mind, objectively evaluating the things we hear about our favorites and when the election is over to put the "sharp knives" away until the next election. The Greenwood supports have been angry since the 2004 election and will likely stay that way indefinitely, much to their detriment.



To them and others who accuse every-



one else of lying or whatever: The NewsBlog will continue to critically examine the failings and successes of our City Council, Planning Commission and city staff to keep the citizens of Mission Viejo informed. We will offer fact and opinion, some of which will offend someone, I am sure. Just remember that if your favorite is being criticized, there may actually be a sound basis for the criticism, and it may not be a lie or hateful or whatever excuse you wish to make for someone disagreeing with you. We welcome well-reasoned, rational discussion of the issues and believe that through this forum the people of Mission Viejo will gain more power over their city government.



Candidate Diane Greenwood uses her signs to obscure the signs of other candidates. She then calls 911 to summon the police on an emergency basis if anyone "interferes" with her covering up the signs of other candidates.

Ladies (?) You need to learn to play nice with others.

CAPISTRANO SCHOOL
DISTRICT
UPDATE
HENNESS TAKES PARTING SHOTS

The Capistrano Unified School District board meeting on Nov. 13 was Sheila Henness' last as a trustee. Ms. Henness was defeated in the Nov. 7 election by challenger Ellen Addonizio. Incumbent John Casabianca was also defeated

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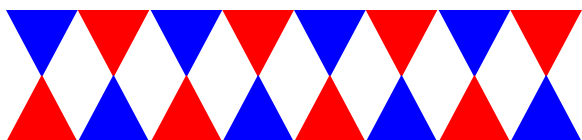
in the election.

Following an hour-long farewell ceremony, Henness took shots as those she claimed worked to defeat her. She accused others of lying and cutting deals” to remove her from office. She concluded with “They’ll get theirs.”

Call for housing ideas News brief

At the low-income housing workshop on Nov. 15, all community members were urged to send in their ideas and plans on how to address this important issue.

Your comments must be received by Dec. 1, 2006. Please email them to communitydev@cityofmissionviejo.org. Plans should be as specific as possible and should identify sites, if any, where you think this housing would best be built.



The Buzz

November 16

The Registrar of Voters is running out of votes to count unless a lot of dead people filled out provisional ballots. Late absentee ballots have been counted, and relatively few provisional ballots remain. At midday Friday, the totals were Trish Kelley – 11,959, John Paul Ledesma – 10,565, Lance MacLean – 8,431, Diane Greenwood – 8,299, Neil Lonsinger – 6,165, Bill Barker – 6,093, Michael Ferrall – 6,066, Justin McCusker – 5,423, Jim Woodin – 5,326 and Brian Skalsky – 4,601.



Of the ballots counted, turnout for Orange County is around 49 percent – not particularly good. Numbers for individual cities won’t be known for awhile, as the RoV has 28 days following the election to release a Statement of Votes. The total number of votes cast for Mission Viejo City Council candidates was 72,928. Given that Mission Viejo has approximately 60,000 voters and each voter could vote for three council candidates, the turnout would be around 40 percent. Residents either chose not to vote for anyone in the council race or the city’s turnout was well below the county average.



Mission Viejo usually is among the top cities in Orange County when it comes to voter turnout, and it often tops the list for high turnout among the largest cities. What happened this year? On the Republican side, a lobbyist has been running the county show. Perhaps he should fire himself. At the city level, the county lobbyist chose his buddy Frank Ury to get out the vote in Mission Viejo. Clearly, both failed to deliver. Ury seems to have his fellow Republicans buffaloed if anyone thinks he’s Mr. Republican. The front page of the Nov. 10 Saddleback Valley News pictured Ury with Greenwood – a lifelong Democrat until she decided to run for council – checking out her short-lived victory party before MacLean passed her by.



The Republican Party of Orange County usually prints a bazillion door-hangers in anticipation of hundreds of volunteers walking precincts just before Election Day. The literature is left on the doors of registered Republicans, recommending the entire slate of Republican candidates. This year, the county GOP decided to meddle in non-partisan city council races as well. The rather confused Central Committee chose to endorse Mission Viejo candidates John Paul Ledesma, Trish Kelley and Justin McCusker – in combination an unacceptable trio to almost everyone who might otherwise have participated in Get Out The Vote in Mission Viejo. Did even one person in Mission Viejo receive a door-hanger? The recipient of almost all the door-hangers would be one of

the county's landfills.



How did the council slates perform in Mission Viejo? The incumbents didn't run as a slate, but two other combos emerged. The lobbyist-funded slate of Greenwood/Barker/McCusker totaled 19,815 votes. The residents' choice of Ledesma/Ferrall/Woodin totaled 21,957. Despite an infusion of cash from out of town, "expert" advice from multiple consultants and an aggressively nasty campaign, the lobbyist group placed no one on the council.



The "Pants on Fire" award this week goes to a letter-writer whose creative nonsense appears in the Nov. 17 Saddleback Valley News. Among other representations, she claims the incumbents benefited from developer dollars while implying her own



choice of Greenwood/Barker/McCusker did not. What about all the money funneled into their campaigns by lobbyist John Lewis? Would anyone else like to write a letter to SVN describing the lobbyist's team signs placed directly in front of anyone they opposed? Following Anderson's revelation it's not a crime to move a sign – particularly one that's blocking that of another candidate – she concludes that "crime does pay." The lobbyist group of Greenwood/Barker/McCusker set new records for lies and nasty rhetoric.



David Doomey, deputy supt. for Capistrano USD, is retiring in June. Doomey appeared before the M.V. council to beg for dollars when a redevelopment deal and a potential gymnasium giveaway were on the table. Despite his pleas for cash "for the Mission Viejo schoolchildren," district residents discovered millions of dollars were being diverted to the CUSD Taj Mahal administration center in San Juan Capistrano. How's the audit coming along – the much-touted investigation of redevelopment and other dollars collected in Mission Viejo for CUSD? With the election over, the love-fest between Trish Kelley and David Doomey can resume.



the end