



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Walk Against Drugs October 20

The community is gearing up for the 24th Annual Walk Against Drugs on Saturday, October 20. This event unites the City, Sheriff's Department, schools, businesses and local groups with students and families to embrace a healthy lifestyle and say "no" to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use.

The walk, which highlights National Red Ribbon Week, begins at 8 a.m. with a 30-minute rally at Mission Viejo High School Stadium, 25025 Chrisanta Drive. Peanut Louie Harper, a former professional tennis player, will kick off the day speaking at the rally. She collaborated with legendary UCLA Coach John Wooden on the children's book "Inch and Miles: The Journey to Success."

The rally will also feature 2012 Mission Viejo's Got Talent Winner Katherine Cotter singing the National Anthem and her award-winning "Astonishing."

After the rally, the crowd of more than 3,000 sporting red T-shirts will form a red ribbon as they walk down La Paz Road through the Oso Creek Trail to a Community Fair on the Village Green at Oso Viejo Park, 24932 Veterans Way. The fair is from 9 a.m. to noon and includes inflatables, games, crafts, obstacle courses, live music and free hot dogs, chicken nuggets, chips and salsa and ice cream.

Mission Viejo schools, clubs and nonprofit youth groups will host activity booths as fundraisers for their programs. There will be fun activities catering to children with special needs.

Supervisor Pat Bates will also host her 5th Disaster Preparedness Expo from 8:30 a.m. to noon featuring invaluable information along with an earthquake simulator sponsored by the City and a lift truck provided by OC Public Works. The Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Bureau, Alert OC, American Red Cross, Southern California Edison-San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and others will also be on hand.

Please note that westbound La Paz Road, between Marguerite Parkway and Chrisanta Drive, will be closed from 6:30-9:30 a.m. that morning to ensure the safety of the walkers.

For more information, visit www.cityofmissionviejo.org/policeservices.