

serra mesa observer

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2011

Serra Mesa Community Fair Discover Serra Mesa!

October 15, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for the 10th Anniversary of the Serra Mesa Community Fair at our new location the Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park located next to Angier Elementary School.



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council Meeting

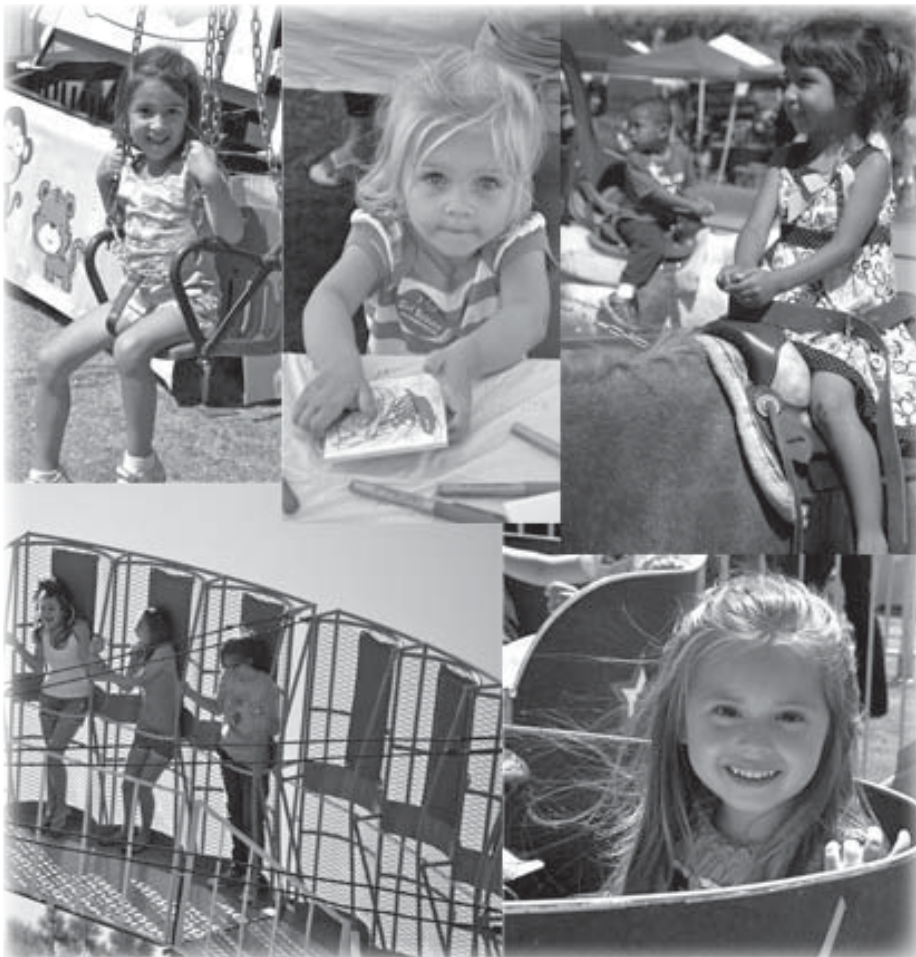
Wednesday, September 28th
6:30 pm

Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive

Serra Mesa Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 26th
6:30 pm

Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive



Photos by SteveWhite 9/11/2010

See insert for more information

Neighborly People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

Serra Mesa Community Council Board

Officers

- Carl Demas.....(858) 565-2473*
President
- Geralyn White..... (858) 565-2473*
Vice President
- Janeen Ameral.....(858) 565-2473*
Treasurer
- Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473*
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Board Members

- Jackie Ander.....(858) 565-2473*
Friends of the Library
- Pat Brownyard.....(858)565-2473*
Welcome to Serra Mesa
- Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473*
Community Fair
- Andrea Eaton.....(858)565-2473*
Schools Committee
- Gloria Espeseth.....(858) 277-6572
ACIC Liason
- Richard Hoot.....(858)565-2473*
Community Maintenance
- Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473*
Special Projects

Appointed Positions

- Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473*
Observer Editor
- Marge Demas.....(858)565-2473*
Mailing Coordinator
- Bonnie Hough, Monica Fuentes.....(858)565-2473*
Friends of Ruffin Canyon
- Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473*
Membership
- Virginia Brust, Cindy McIntyre, Marvin Sloben..(858)565-2473*
Observer Staff

*Contact by calling (858) 565-2473 & leaving a message.

SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473
e-mail: serramesacommunitycouncil@hotmail.com
- Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473
e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
- City Councilmember Lorie Zapf (619) 236-6616
- Mayor Jerry Sanders (619) 236-6330
- County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544
- State Assemblymember Toni Atkins (619) 645-3090
- State Senator Christine Kehoe (619) 645-3133
- Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641
- U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter (619) 448-5201
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sep 13	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sep 14	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Sep 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Sep 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Sep 28	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 12	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Oct 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Oct 26	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.

Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly by the Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approximately 800.

Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25
Benefactor...\$50

Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles. Council doesn't endorse ads.

For articles, email Ronda Adams (rondakadams@msn.com)
For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473

Deadline: November / December Edition...October 19th

P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193
http://www.serramesa.org
serramesacommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Not just your ordinary
Community Fair!

In case you have not heard, your Serra Mesa Community Council, joined by the Serra Mesa Recreation Council, has planned a Community Fair to be held on Saturday, October 15th at Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park located at 3445 Kearny Villa Road. We will open at about 10:00 AM and will be active until 4:00 PM. We have been hard at work since last year’s Family Day in an effort to provide a bigger and better day for you to enjoy a sense of “COMMUNITY”. That is what we are, all of us residents, business owners, students, elected officials, volunteers, and folks that find some

reason to visit our Serra Mesa. It is a time when we can come together to celebrate our similarities and differences, love for great music, a super place for our kids to have fun, to be family, and generally just to get to know each other better. This year we plan to do it even better. One of our goals is to have more kid activities on our stage. There is so much talent in Serra Mesa and we want to provide our kids with a place to strut their stuff. So if you are a kid, or know of a kid who has a talent, we are looking for you. If you are a parent and would like to show off your kid’s talent, this might be the time and place. If you are a teacher and your class has something to crow about, we might just be the venue.

We plan on having booths for neighborhood groups to let the world know what they are doing. If you are a non-profit and need some publicity, let us know as we might be able to help. We will have booths so you can sell your crafts or early Christmas gifts. If you are a church and would like the “hood” to know what you are about, this is the time and place. We will, of course, have rides and food. I have heard that if you liked the bands in the past that this

year they will be even better. We are told that we will have crafts for children to work on and we promise something for everyone. We will have prizes and raffles with plenty of neat stuff for you to win. If you are a big spender looking for a place to stash your cash, we have just the place. (Donations are always gratefully accepted and acknowledged)

If you are new to the neighborhood, this is the perfect place to meet your neighbors. If you are a small business looking for new customers (and who isn’t) there will be no better place to be than on this date.


Soooo, mark the date now so you won’t forget. Invite the neighbors, friends, and family for a fun day at Cabrillo Heights Park. There will be lots of parking nearby and we plan on “Making your Day”!

If you have questions or a talent to offer, please contact us at:

Phone: 858.565.2473 or
Email: SerraMesaFair@gmail.com.

Carl Demas

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Serra Mesa Planning Group

I recently have replaced Doug Westcott as chair of the Serra Mesa Planning Group. He is currently living in Southwestern Alaska with his wife who was offered a very good position there. The expectation is that they will return when she has completed the initial contract with the agency employing her. I have received several emails from Doug, who continues to be concerned about Serra Mesa and attentive to issues affecting us, and he indicates that he is enjoying his stay in Alaska so far. It seems like a pretty remarkable change and adventure at this point. We will see how he likes it once winter hits.

With regard to the Planning Group, we lacked a quorum in July and cancelled the August meeting as there were no issues requiring attention. At the July meeting we met Jack Straw who is the new representative for Lorie Zapf's office. He is pleasant and seems to be quite knowledgeable. I look forward to working with him and having his input. At the June meeting there was a presentation about a proposed change to the plan for the Palladium Project at Aero Drive and Sandrock Road. However, due to opposition to the plan to deviate from the agreement that settled the civil suit against the project, these changes were withdrawn. The project is going forward though the spokesperson indicated that it will likely take a couple of years to break ground.

I attended the Mission Valley and Kearny Mesa Planning Group meetings in August. Of note at the Kearny Mesa meeting was that Sunroad is planning a third building at the site where Astronautics used to be. This one will be the same height as the one currently built. Interesting is that there are also two above ground parking lots planned.

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

The Serra Mesa Food Pantry continues to serve many people out of 2650 Melbourne Drive. It is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. The Saturday opening has moved to the 2nd Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. due to the food distribution already on the 4th Saturday.

One other change is that due to demand and availability of food, the SMFP will only be able to serve people from the 92123 zip code. We have information on other pantries and food distributions for residents of other zip codes.

Food or financial donations are welcome. Your club, neighborhood, or church could sponsor a food drive, contact luisa.johnson@serramesafoodpantry.org for information.

If you look at the site you will notice that the parking lots have not been constructed and the second building (that is to be 8 stories high) has not been begun either so "you ain't seen nothin' yet". The presentation was rather depressing as the buildings, that are placed in such a prominent and skyline dominating position on the Mesa, don't show much flair or concern for the community. Apparently, as I gathered from the discussion at the meeting, was that the major improvement to the project (other than bringing it into compliance with FAA rules that required removing the top of building one) was to make the parking lot look a little less like a parking lot.

The other news is that the Re-districting Commission plans to place Serra Mesa into District 7. Unless there is some last minute magic, I am expecting this to happen. I met with Planning and Community Group representatives from all the communities that will be included in the new district recently. I found the meeting productive and interesting and it seems likely that we will be able to work together to improve the situation for all of us.

Bob McDowell, Chair,
Serra Mesa Planning Group

Name That Trail Update

The Name That Trail Contest continues until October 1. You can submit an entry to name the trail between the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and the Serra Mesa Recreation Center by sending an email to communitycouncil@serramesa.org or by writing to SMCC, Attention: Name That Trail, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193. A \$25 prize will be awarded to the person submitting the selected entry. If more than one person enters the same trail name, the first submission will be recognized.

Vote on your favorite name at the Serra Mesa Community Fair on Saturday, October 15. The outcome will be an advisory vote to the Serra Mesa Parks & Recreation Council, who will select the winning entry at their November 9 meeting.

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

- Car no longer parking on the lawn or on the sidewalk*
- Grass/weeds cut • Sidewalk not obstructed with plants*
- Fence repaired • Litter cleaned-up from a yard*
- Temporary structure removed • Wood pile from front yard removed*
- Garage Sale signs gone • Political signs almost non-existent • Dog(s) not barking*

The above examples demonstrate the impact of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC).

SMEC has successfully persuaded many residents to come into compliance with the City of San Diego Municipal Code through our “educational” letters. If a resident does not comply, we turn the case over to Neighborhood Code Compliance or the appropriate agency. Most people wish to avoid a fine and/or the court system so they correct the problem. There is the occasional case that receives a fine or goes to court.

To report a case email serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com or write to SMEC, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

Serra Mesa Recreation Center

9020 Village Glen Dr.
(858) 573-1408

1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
1:00 - 9:00 p.m.. Wednesday
2:00-6:00 p.m., Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday
Closed Sunday.

Community Sports Information:
A.Y.S.O. Soccer: (858) 268-5880
N.Y.S. Soccer : (858) 973-6101
SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625
Serra Mesa Senior Softball: (858) 279-4283
Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council
meets on September 14th at 6:30pm



St. Columba Parish

3327 Glencolum Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 277-3863

Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays	8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mon. & Fri.	8:15 a.m.
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.	6:30 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule

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Friends of Ruffin Canyon

There are barn owls in the nest box FRC had erected east of Taft a couple of years back! We can't say when they came, because they hunt and call only at night. Working too late in the garden in July, Glenn Torbett heard the rasping call of begging owlets. We crept toward the sound and were rewarded by the sight of an adult as it silently sailed onto the box. The greedy owlets squawked even louder. In a week they fledged (left the nest), but continued to demand food as hunting skills developed. A family of owls will consume about 1000 mice, rats, and gophers in one 3-month nesting cycle, and may nest several times in a good year like this. Nesting season starts in December, but owlets are still calling in the canyon west of Pasternack Place.



Female Barn Owl

You can build a simple nest box for barn owls from a single sheet of plywood or recycled materials like a barrel or an enclosed kitty litter box. Key features are an entrance hole 4" above the floor, no more than 5" to prevent predation from great horned owls, and holes for ventilation and drainage, and a hinged side door for cleaning. A great design for wood is at [www. sky-hunters.org/BarnowlNestboxplans.pdf](http://www.sky-hunters.org/BarnowlNestboxplans.pdf), but if you place the entrance higher 12', good luck cleaning it!

Bees claim 1/3 of all nest boxes. It is controversial, but you may want to keep them out by treating just the ceiling with the insecticide permethrin. FRC supports organic gardening practices to protect pollinators, but this limited use will only discourage scouting bees. Speaking of organic, rodent poisons kill lots of owls and other predators like cats and dogs. Besides, you won't need them; I haven't seen rats and mice since we got owls nearby.

Other news: Serra Mesa will host a Coastal Cleanup 9 a.m. to noon Saturday September 17 at the southeast corner of Gramercy Drive. Register at www.cleanupday.org in order to not add to the trash, please bring your own reusable drink bottles, gloves, and buckets. You'd be a neighborhood hero if you offer your pickup to carry some off site junk to the dumpster. Call Monica Fuentes at 619 517-4314 to coordinate this.



Young Barn Owl

Starting in September FRC will resume holding our 4th Monday meetings 6:30pm in the Taft school library. That's Sept. 26th, Oct. 24th, and so on. Canyon care events continue on 1st Saturday mornings: Sept. 3rd from Taft MS, Oct. 1st at Shawn Ave, Nov. 5th at Taft MS, December 3rd at Shawn Ave., and continuing to alternate with Taft on odd months and Shawn on even ones. The Ruffin Canyon Club for Taft MS students on Wednesday afternoons will start its 9th year. If you would enjoy introducing young people to the wonders of the Coastal Sage Scrub and have an hour or two on Wednesdays, please call Bonnie Hough at 858 560-8327.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Gloria Espeseth
Pastor

www.gethsemanesd.org

2696 Melbourne Drive Worship 9:30am
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Carl Demas

Owner - Travel Specialist

Crime Prevention Program Increases Safety at San Diego Apartment Communities

A unique crime prevention program is reducing the prevalence of drugs, gangs and other safety concerns in and around apartment communities throughout San Diego County.

The program, known as Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH), is implemented in three phases to help apartment managers and residents identify, eliminate and – in many cases – prevent illegal nuisance-related activity from occurring at their properties.

In Phase One, apartment managers attend an 8-hour workshop conducted by local law enforcement agencies. This in-depth training session teaches managers how to identify individuals who could become difficult tenants and how to use lease addendums to address current residents who may be causing problems.

Managers also learn how to tap the assistance of several city and county agencies regarding issues like drug sales, domestic violence, child abuse, truancy, gangs and graffiti.

In the last two years, 108 apartment managers have participated in these training sessions. In San Diego alone, the workshops have fostered dramatic crime reduction strategies impacting more than 15,000 apartment units and approximately 41,000 tenants, according to Community Relations Officers with the San Diego Police Department.

In Phase Two, deputies or officers conduct an on-site inspection with the apartment manager to identify and correct potential safety concerns including broken windows, screens and locks; inadequate lighting and overgrown trees/shrubs that could diminish visibility around the complex.

In Phase Three, residents join law enforcement officials and the manager at the complex to raise awareness about crime-prevention techniques, build trust and strengthen ongoing communications.

In addition to reducing crime and blight, the program also saves valuable taxpayer money. After implementing CFMH at one apartment complex in Lakeside, police and fire calls for service dropped 73 percent over the last two years, creating a savings of more than \$35,000 for local law enforcement and emergency services, according to the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department.

For more information about implementing Crime Free Multi-Housing in your apartment community, contact your local Community Relations Officer with the San Diego Police Department or Crime Prevention Specialist with the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department.

Free Classes

- » **Computer classes** for basic through advanced levels including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Web Page Design, Flash, eBay, PHP and MYSQL, QuickBooks, plus many more
- » **Parent Education classes** parents attend with children for many classes (childbirth preparation, caring for newborns and toddlers, baby sign language, and preschool experience are some examples)
- » **Certificate programs for job training** including Account Clerk, Administrative Assistant, CISCO, Data Entry Specialist, Front Desk/Office Assistant, Interactive Media, Medical Office Assistant and Web Server Maintenance and Security

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Angier Elementary School

September/October

The staff and I look forward to welcoming Angier students and parents to the new 2011-2012 school year. Angier continues to be on the move with much improved test scores for the 3rd year in a row. The results are directly linked to the expectations we hold for ourselves and the students we serve. We continue to be committed to helping each student achieve their greatest potential through *The Angier Way*. The

California Standards Test	English Language Arts	Math	5 th Grade Science
2011	75.0	81.0	82.2
2010	67.9	73.9	89.6
2009	57.3	65.5	60.8
2008	42.3	51.3	37.5

five points of the Angier Star symbolizes important character and life skills: *Honor Self, Honor Others, Honor Achievement, Honor Environment, and Honor Peace*. In addition, our upper grade students participate in the Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program that prepares 4th and 5th graders for middle school, high school and college readiness. Our dedicated teachers use collaborative planning to focus on improved student achievement. We believe that building positive relationships and using best teaching practices across the curriculum results in higher student performance and the development of lifelong learners. In addition, our school has an amazing community partnership with the Toby Wells YMCA who provides 20-days of free gymnastics, swimming and soccer lessons during the instructional day. We are grateful to the Department of Defense for providing us with a Math, Science and Technology grant for the next 2-year. Operation Student Achievement will provide welcome resources for all of our students, parents and teachers.

Angier is clearly a neighborhood school to be proud of in the Serra Mesa community. It is my pleasure to serve you and the community of Angier Elementary School. Check out www.cde.ca.gov to see more of our fantastic 2011 STAR test scores. We invite parents and community members to celebrate with us!

Kimberlee Kidd
Principal

Wegeforth Elementary School

Wegeforth Elementary PTA is pleased to present the annual Halloween Event:

Monster Mash!

Friday, October 28th

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wegeforth Elementary School Campus
3443 Ediwhar, San Diego, CA 92123

There will be games, crafts, food, contests and more. Children are encouraged to wear costumes!

Please, no children without a guardian. If you have any questions about the event please contact the school at 858-496-8274 or email the PTA at WegeforthPTA@yahoo.com.



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What Redistricting Means for Serra Mesa

As many of you are aware, the District 6 boundary lines are about to change. This year's redistricting process has been especially complex due to the expansion of the City Council, something that has not occurred since 1963. My office has received many questions about the impact this will have on the Serra Mesa community, and we are working with the City Attorney to determine exactly what redistricting means for Serra Mesa.

There have been reports that the Final Redistricting Plan could take effect as soon as September 24, 2011. However, this would leave people living in the new 9th District without representation at City Hall for over a year. This goes against the very purpose of redistricting: to give everyone fair and equitable representation. The City Attorney determined in an August 9th memo that "Councilmembers will continue to represent the people and territory of their current districts until December 3, 2012, when the new 9th District Councilmember is sworn in and qualified to serve the new district". This conclusion is supported by the City Charter sections 270(a), 10 and 12.

The Redistricting Commission believes it was important to unite the communities that border the Interstate 8 corridor in the new District 7. This includes Mission Valley, Serra Mesa, Linda Vista, and the portion of Kearny Mesa south of Aero Drive. These communities, along with the rest of the new District 7, will be able to elect their councilmember in 2012. Based on the City Attorney's determination, I will continue to represent Serra Mesa until December 2012. After that date, Serra Mesa will be represented by the winner of the 2012 election.

Redistricting has dramatically changed the makeup of my district. I want to assure every current District 6 resident that I will continue to effectively represent the people who elected me to City Council. After December 2012, my office will offer our services to the new District 7 Councilmember to make the transition as smooth as possible for Serra Mesa.

If you have questions on redistricting, please contact my office at (619) 236-6616 or email me at loriezapf@sandiego.gov.

Councilmember Lorie Zapf



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Trekking the neighborhood-Murray Ridge Park

This is a fun little park for a variety of outdoors opportunities: strolling, picnicking, enjoying the kids playing, engaging in sports pursuits, or just loafing and contemplating about the good life here in Serra Mesa. It's reasonably popular with the nearby residents (who often aren't telling non-neighbors) and some others who know about it and pop in to enjoy it.

It's easy to get to, but easy to miss if you don't know about it. Thus many people zoom by on Murray Ridge Road and don't think about that nearby spot for a break. Here's how to get there: From 805, head east on Murray Ridge Road, past the 4-way stop sign. Then you have two options: (1) take the first left onto Celestine. It dead-ends quickly and there's usually street parking; (2) take the next left onto Chantilly (bet some of you will start mouthing that Big Bopper tune). Go to the dead end at Escondido Ave. and turn left. Park entrance is right there. Drive on in to the ample parking lot. Or if you come from the Serra Mesa central area, head toward 805 and turn right at either Chantilly or Celestine (right before Mission Center Road).

Once you've arrived, here are some options, with the pace your choice: fitness treks, rambling explorations, fun with the kids or mutts: - From the parking lot head over to the wooded section nearby. You'll find a trail that wanders through the foliage a short way and comes out over near the park entrance. Here will be some flowering shrubs to test your plant smarts.

- Over behind the sidewalk and drinking fountain, near the houses, is another modest trail, providing another area to just poke along as though you're out in the country, and not 30 seconds from busy Murray Ridge Road - Take a few laps around the park on the sidewalk and you can meet your day's fitness target. (Remember health experts strongly recommend a good fitness hike 3-4 times each week). This is more fun than just walking the neighborhood streets.

- Take the kids and let them have fun with the playground swings, slides and climbs.

- Take your shot on the various fitness gadgets along the sidewalk. Want to work on those biceps? Do a few pull-ups (my standard activity). Toughen up that gut? Try another gadget.

- You can bring your sports gear and have a horseshoe tussle with a friend, have a tennis match, play some basketball solo or with chums, set up some markers and have a soccer match on the central grassy section. (I've seen these various sports at play, but have yet to see anyone trying their hand at horseshoes).

- Several picnic tables under trees provide a shaded spot to set out some goodies and partake with leisure.

Note: there are no rest rooms here. Drinking fountain, yes. A bit of freeway traffic noise, but be glad you're not on it. And please pick up after the pooches. Regulars do a good job of keeping the park clean but when you spot some trash, how about picking it up and depositing it into one of the several trash containers?

Disclaimer: when you hike into publicly-accessible nature areas, it's not the same as walking down the street. Exercise proper caution; the author and publication assume no responsibility for problems that might occur.

Serra Mesan Tom Leech is lead author of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*. For many other tips about our special outdoors world, visit his website at www.outdoorssandiego.com. He can be reached at outdoorssd@aol.com.

Tom Leech, author, hiker, travel writer

858-650-0810 -- tomaseb@aol.com -- outdoorssd@aol.com

Author of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*,

also *On the Road in '68: A year of turmoil, a journey of friendship* www.outdoorssandiego.com

www.presentationspress.com

Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes July / August New and Renewed Members

Ted & Donna Altman	Donna Grauel	Julia Patterson
Carmen Anderson	Chuck & Joan Grauerholz	Robert Pipkin
Steven Anderson	Geoff & Julie Haslam *	Carole Porter
Marilyn Atwood	Charlotte Hasson	Claire & Edward Robillard
Harry & Mary Baldwin	Cynthia Henkel	Patricia Robison *
Roma Brown	Myla Heyenga	Carol Roland
Lori Burke	Cyril & Joyce Hines	Kathie Schmit
Pat Burke	Barbara Holt	Stanley & Beverly Skoff
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James Chism *	Louis Kleis	Sheila Snell
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Observer Renewal

When it is time to renew your Observer, the renewal date is highlighted and stamped, "to be renewed." Also, a postcard will be mailed and, if possible, a phone call is made to remind you. It is greatly appreciated if you pay as soon as you notice it's time to renew.

Maybe you have a special neighbor that you'd like to say "thank you" to, or maybe you have a new neighbor that you'd like to say "welcome." We highly recommend giving a subscription to the Observer (six editions/year). A post card will be sent to the recipient.

Please fill out the enclosed form and send it with your check to P.O. Box 23315,
San Diego, CA. 92193.

"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PLUMBER"



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858.278.3330 (fax)
missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net
www.servants4jesus.com
or www.mvcf.net

Carl Baker, Pastor
Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor

Sunday Worship Service
9:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Youth Group—Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study, Discipleship &
Home Fellowship Groups at Various times

We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library **September, 2011 Events/Programs**

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits:

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of the art by members of the San Diego Colored Pencil Society in the Community room.

These works will be on exhibit through October 31. All Ages

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and Thursday at 12 p.m. - Zumba® Dance Fitness

The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt while burning fat. Add some Latin flavor and international zest to your workout by attending our free Zumba® class! Teens and up.

Every Friday at 2:00 p.m. Free Chess Classes for Adults

Learn – or refresh your skills in -- the universal game of chess. This introductory course begins on Friday, September 9 at 2:00 p.m. Classes will last 6 weeks. Pre-registration is required. Limit of 14 students per course.

To sign up call 858-573-1396 or ask at the circulation desk.

Friday, September 9, 1-3 p.m. Interview Strategies I: Basic Concepts Workshop

The interview is where preparation and opportunity meet. Gain confidence by preparing effectively for an interview in this workshop presented by the San Diego Metro Career Center. Identify potential pitfalls and gain insight into answering questions. Learn to handle behavioral questions effectively and powerfully.

Tuesday, September 13, 6:45 p.m. - Librarian's Book Club

Join members of your community to discuss the book Here if You Need Me, by Kate Braestrup. No registration is required, and the book is available for checkout at the Serra Mesa Library. Adults

Friday, September 16th, 1:00 p.m. - Interview Practice: Salary Negotiation Workshop

Learn to determine what the prevailing wages are for your skills and level of expertise in the current job market and the best strategies for negotiating your salary, in this workshop presented by the San Diego Metro Career Center. Then take your interviewing skills to the next level by refining them in a realistic mock-interview setting. Bring a resume and a job listing to take full advantage of this workshop.

Sunday, September 18, 2 – 4 p.m. Art Exhibit Reception

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library host a reception party for an exhibit of works by members of the San Diego Colored Pencil Society. The Colored Pencil Society's works will be on exhibit through October 31st. All Ages.

Sunday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. - Music on the Mesa Afternoon Concert

Music on the Mesa presents San Diego Symphony Principal Harpist Julie Smith and violinist Pei-Chun Tsai playing a program of French music featuring pieces by Jacques Ibert, Marcel Tournier, Camille Saint-Saens, Carlos Salzedo, and Maurice Ravel. This concert is free and open to the entire family. All Ages.

(Continued to next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Children Programs

- Every Tuesday from 6 – 7 p.m. Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots. Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for babies and toddlers.
- Every Wednesday from 6 – 7:45 p.m. Free Tutoring - In cooperation with Volunteer San Diego, the library offers free tutoring and homework help.
- Bob Snavelly A.K.A. “Cowboy Bob” – Great live music and stories for Pre-Schoolers. Come and join us. You hear. Note: Cowboy Bob is scheduled every Thursday morning, except the 1st Thursday of the month or Holidays.

September - Thursday 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10:00 a.m.

October – Thursday 13, 20, & 27 at 10:00 a.m.

- Every Friday at 10:00 a.m. Grandma Patti Preschoolers Storytime. Join Grandma Patti for our very popular story time, which is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

Homework Help Center Online/Centro de Ayuda para la Tarea en Línea

Live Homework Help – Ayuda con la Tarea por Internet.

One to one help with a certified tutor. Students from kindergarten through adult will connect with expert tutors for live help with homework assignments in math, science, English and social studies. You can access Live Homework Help from home or at any city library computer. This service is available daily from 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in English and Spanish. All you need is your library card from the San Diego Public Library. *Hay tutores disponibles por Internet en español a diario de la 1:00 p.m. a las 10:00 p.m. ayudando estudiantes desde el kindergarten hasta adultos. Ud. puede conectarse desde su casa o desde la biblioteca. Lo único que necesita es su tarjeta de la Biblioteca Pública de San Diego.* For more information please visit the Homework Help Center Online/Para más información visite: <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/hwcenter.shtml>

“One World, Many Stories” Summer Reading Program 2011

Our annual Summer Reading Program kicked off Wednesday, June 15, 2011. This year’s themes are “One World, Many Stories” for children 0-12 yrs. and “You Are Here” for teens 13-17 yrs. A terrific line up of performers including comedians, clowns, magic and animal shows, etc. brought lots of laughter to children of all ages. This year for the first time at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library the Summer Reading Program was also opened to adults. Children received prizes for reading 10 books or 10 hours, reading 10 books to others or having someone read ten books to them. Adults had the option of reading and rating 5 books, or rating 5 books read to a child. We had a record of 1,050 participants. Finishers received prizes, such as free tickets to baseball games sponsored by the San Diego Padres, free admission to the San Diego Zoo, and many of other goodies. The program ran from June 15, 2011 through August 15, 2011.

Free Violin Lessons

In partnership with the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus’ Music Outreach program, the library will once again be offering free violin lessons starting Wednesday, September 7, and continuing for 10 weeks every Wednesday. There is a 3:30 p.m. introductory level class, and a 4:30 p.m. class for children who have already taken the introductory class or have some experience. Lessons are free, but instruments are not provided. Please call 858-573-1396 to sign up. For more information about the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Outreach program, go to www.lajollasympphony.com. Ages 5 and up

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Sharing...

The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; people who will appreciate our compassion, our encouragement, who will need our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. It's overwhelming to consider the continuous opportunities there are to make our love felt.

Leo Buscaglia, Excerpted from Readers Digest

Perhaps you know someone who fits the above description. There are many of you who have shared with the community - painting out graffiti, picking up trash, coaching youth sports teams, volunteering in a school or with a community group, helping an incapacitated neighbor, etc.

These unsung heroes help to make Serra Mesa a wonderful place to live for all of us. If you know someone who deserves to be thanked personally, give them this essay as a token of our appreciation.

If you have extra time and need to feel like you can make a difference, check out Serra Mesa's community groups - Serra Mesa Community Council, Planning Group, Recreation Council, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Friends of Serra Mesa Library, and local PTAs. These organizations are full of people who did not know anyone initially, but were willing to take that first step and offer their services. That first step might be a hard one, but it could be worth it.

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Palladium At Aero Update

Westcore Properties, the developers of the future *Palladium at Aero* project planned for the southwest corner of Sandrock Road and Aero Drive, have submitted revised plans to the City to comply with the conditions of the legal settlement between Westcore and Serra Mesans for Responsible Planning (SMRP).

The revised plans, presented to the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) in June, include 188 one bedroom units, 172 two bedroom units, and 5,000 s.f. of retail. The setbacks along Aero and Sandrock have been increased and the perimeter building heights in those areas have been decreased. The pool area has been moved from the Sandrock side to the Aero side, and the main entry courtyard on Aero has become wider and flatter. The interior parking structure is now shorter with solar panel carports instead of solar "trees" on the top deck, and has become a straight rectangle instead of an L-shape. These changes are all consistent with SMRP's settlement and the City's original approval.

If you're interested in this project, watch for future articles or add your email address to the Serra Mesa Community's Council list by email emailing communitycouncil@serramesa.org. If the item is added to SMCC or the Serra Mesa Planning Group's agenda, you will be notified.

Serra Mesans for Responsible Planning

Marvin Sloben
Photographer
619.239.2828
Msloben@san.rr.com



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Casino Night

Come join in the fun on September 10, 2011 from 6:30 to 10:30 at
North Shores Vocational Center, 9575 Aero Drive!

There will be simulated gambling (Roulette, Craps, Black Jack and Texas Hold'em!
There will be a Light Buffet, Cash Bar and a Jazz Combo! Also, wonderful prizes!

All of this for only \$50.00 per person!
All guests must be 21 and older.
For more information call 858-571-0881.

(Continued from page 13)

Free Chess Classes for Youth

Youngsters ages 9-14 can achieve greater mental fitness by learning the universal game of chess. This introductory course begins on Friday, September 9 at 3:30 p.m. Classes will last 6 weeks. Pre-registration is required. Limit of 14 students per course. To sign up call 858-573-1396 or ask at the circulation desk.

Apply for a Free Computer!!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers to kids for families in need. Sign up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library or call us to schedule an appointment. Computers 2 SD Kids will give you a Technology Assistance Program application. They will review it and notify you whether you qualify based on your verified income. Volunteers will guide you through an introductory computer class at the library. Attendance at this class is required before you can receive a computer. After the class you can pick up your computer from Computer 2 SD Kids site and take it home. Each computer is loaded with Microsoft Windows and Office Suite software. Call 858-573-1396 to reserve your space for the next class Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Read/San Diego Families For Literacy Program

For parents & grandparents and their children under 5 years old. Learn how to be your child's best teacher. Turn your home into a literacy rich environment. Classes meet the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month. **Registration is required.** Please call to sign up at 619-527-3163.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436
Animal Control	(858) 236-4250
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477
Dead Animal Removal	(858) 492-5060
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Water Leaks - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000

Serra Mesa Observer
Editor: *Ronda Adams*
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Dated Material

Trekking the neighborhood-Murray Ridge Park

This is a fun little park for a variety of outdoors opportunities: strolling, picnicking, enjoying the kids playing, engaging in sports pursuits, or just loafing and contemplating about the good life here in Serra Mesa. It's reasonably popular with the nearby residents (who often aren't telling non-neighbors) and some others who know about it and pop in to enjoy it.

Read about this Serra Mesa Gem on page 10

