

## Thank you for Serving and Protecting our Community

### Police RSVP Eastern Division



See pages 10, 15, 17, 18  
Picture from <http://www.rsvpeastern.org>

### Neighborhood Watch Program



See pages 4, 13, 16

### Safe Routes School Program



See pages 19, 20  
Picture from Kristine Schindler



[www.SerraMesa.org](http://www.SerraMesa.org)

You are invited to participate in the  
**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, November 25  
6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, December 23  
6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborly People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together

<b>Serra Mesa Community Council Board</b>	
<b>Officers</b>	
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<i>President</i>	
Diane Romita .....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Vice President</i>	
Andrea Eaton.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Treasurer/Community Events</i>	
Cindy McIntyre .....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Secretary</i>	
<b>Board Members</b>	
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Welcome.....	(858)565-2473*
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<i>Education</i>	
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<i>Community Events</i>	
Annemieke Frost Hutchinson.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Neighborhood Watch/Community Events</i>	
Tom Leech.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Current Issues</i>	
Cindy Moore.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Special Projects/SMPG</i>	
<b>Appointed Positions</b>	
Myra Webb.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Subscription Records</i>	
Ronda Adams.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Editor</i>	
Melissa Cima.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Staff/Education</i>	
Cindy McIntyre.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Staff</i>	
Marge Demas.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Mailing Coordinator</i>	
Geralyn White.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Neighborhood Awareness</i>	
Robin Rivera.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Message Coordinator</i>	
Pat Brownyard.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Welcome to Serra Mesa</i>	
Elizabeth Rice.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Marketing/Media</i>	
Brad Beyenhof.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Webmaster</i>	

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

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**Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer** are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.  
 For articles, e-mail Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com  
**Deadline:** Nov / Dec Edition...Oct 19th  
 P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193  
<http://www.serramesa.org>  
[communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)

<b>SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>	
Serra Mesa Community Council	(858) 565-2473
e-mail: <a href="mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org">communitycouncil@serramesa.org</a>	
Serra Mesa Planning Group	(858) 565-2473
e-mail: <a href="mailto:smpg@serramesa.org">smpg@serramesa.org</a>	
<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>	
Board of Education Kevin Beiser	(619) 725-5550
City Councilmember Scott Sherman	(619) 236-6677
Mayor Kevin Faulconer	(619) 236-6330
County Supervisor Ron Roberts	(619) 531-5544
State Assemblymember Toni Atkins	(619) 645-3090
State Senator Marty Block	(619) 645-3133
Governor Jerry Brown	(619) 525-4641
U.S. Representative Susan Davis	(619) 448-5201
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	(619) 231-9712

<b>CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS</b>	
Nov 10	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Nov 17	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Nov 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Nov 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 25	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Dec 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Dec 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Dec 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Dec 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 2, 2016	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall, in my opinion, is one of the best times of the year. It brings out the best in all of us to the surface as we prepare for the holidays. One of the most positive of emotions is Thanksgiving. It is a holiday that all Americans can celebrate and look back to the previous events in the year and past years and give thanks. What a positive thing to thank those who have helped you and the causes you support. We as Americans have so much to be thankful for. We live in a country founded and based on freedom. What a gift that is. As we look around the world and compare other countries to ours, I can think of no other that I would trade places with. Too often we take freedom for granted and forget what other people in the world are going through. We can voice our opinions, elect our own government, improve our economic status by hard work and education, have as many children as we can afford, own our homes, and many other benefits that our brothers and sisters around the globe are wishing for. We can voice our opinions without persecution, worship who and where we please, travel without restriction, and volunteer to help payback those who have gone before us.

I am thankful for the security that our military forces give us and what about the police and fire fighters who are sworn to keep us safe. We live in a democracy where we can elect those who would represent our interests. I am thankful for our neighborhood and

the wonderful persons who are Serra Mesans. We have a Community Council who stands up for our best interests through the actions of the Serra Mesa Planning Board, our Parks and Recreation Board, Our Friends of the Library, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, and the Serra Mesa Community Council Board who works tirelessly to present Movies on the Lawn, and a Musical Concert, not to mention standing up when we think we are not being treated fairly. All of this done by volunteers who just want to provide a better place to live. Watch in our newsletter the Observer for programs being put on by our library. There is something for everyone.

Why not join your fellow Americans in thanking those who do things for you. If you are able, why not help someone who needs it and if you are out of ideas, keep in mind our Serra Mesa Village, made up for seniors by seniors. They provide activities for seniors to meet, share lunch, participate in games and crafts, travel to local places of interest. They have currently created a care section who has a list of vetted persons and places to offer assistance to those who need it. No report would be complete without thanking the persons at our local pantry who serve over 100 families every week as well as the Serra Mesa Garden who supports the pantry.

Above all, thank you for caring enough to receive the Observer or download it from our website ([www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org)). Happy Holidays to all and to all great Joy.

Carl Demas  
President of the Serra Mesa Community Council  
and Serra Mesa Village

## **TAFT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**

Hello, Fellow Serra Mesans! Taft Middle School is asking for your support as we kick off the new school year.

Located in the center of Serra Mesa, on Gramercy Drive, Taft is our neighborhood Middle School, and it's filled with dedicated, caring teachers and administrators. Our students come from all backgrounds and, whether or not they are gifted, straight-A students, English learners, and/or kids with special needs, they are nurtured and supported at Taft.

The PTA works hard each year to raise modest funds to supplement their education with extra classroom supplies. We also strive to give them opportunities such as field trips, awards assemblies for outstanding citizenship and academic performance, book fairs, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion ceremony.

We welcome PTA membership and/or sponsorship from our local community members – whether you have a student at Taft, a former student, future student, or if you'd just like to help out our kids. Please consider making a small donation to our school. Every dollar counts and is deeply appreciated! We can accept donations via cash or checks made out to "Taft PTA".

Please mail or hand-deliver your contribution to:

Taft Middle School PTA  
9191 Gramercy Dr,  
San Diego, CA 92123

We humbly thank you for supporting our "Eagles" at Taft Middle School!

Sincerely,

Jennie Williams/Taft PTA President, and  
Suzanne Wells/Taft PTA Vice-President

## **Clearing Storm Channels in District 7: Preparing for El Nino**

Scott Sherman

In the past few months, storm channels throughout District 7 have been cleaned to ensure proper drainage occurs to prevent flooding for the upcoming rainy season.

The upper and lower portions of Alvarado Creek were recently cleared which will help prevent flooding in the several areas in District 7.

Though this is good news, there is much more work that needs to be done. Unfortunately, burdensome regulation and lawsuits from environmental lawyers have put the clearing of vital storm channels way behind.

The permitting process for any maintenance efforts in the City's storm channeling system takes approximately 24 months to complete.

The burdensome federal, state, and local permitting process requires the city to obtain permits from five, sometimes six separate government agencies.

Each individual permit requires the development and submission of several studies including hydrologic conditions, biological resources, archeological/cultural resources, noise impacts, and mitigation options.

In addition to these costly regulations, the city must buy land to replace vegetation that has been cleaned out from the concrete storm channels.

With El Nino approaching it is important to ease the regulatory burdens and hurdles that local governments must overcome to clear clogged drainage channels.

The system is unworkable, burdensome, and impractical. We need long term regulatory relief. In the short-term, we must have the regulatory flexibility and cooperation to meet the challenges of El Nino.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with my office if you have any feedback or if my office can ever be of service.

.....  
**NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SIGNS**

The Serra Mesa Community Council would like to thank City Council Member Scott Sherman's office, Liz Saidkhanian, and the many volunteers that helped replace and add new Neighborhood Watch signs in Serra Mesa. They replaced/added 12 new signs throughout our streets. Some of the signs were so old and were not recognizable anymore. We are very pleased and happy to see the new signs around the neighborhood. Thank you, Council Member Scott Sherman, District 7, for being so helpful!

Annemieke Frost Hutchinson

Neighborhood Watch Program, Serra Mesa Community Council



Emeritus Program  
for Age 55+

Fall 2015

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visit [sdce.edu](http://sdce.edu)

**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  
November 17 & December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

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*Work with your neighbor who knows the neighborhood.*  
Jason LaMell - Serra Mesa resident

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**



Gloria Espeseth  
Pastor

[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org)

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## **SERRA MESA PLANNING GROUP NEWS**

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Drive. The next meetings are November 19 (to be held at City View Church Chapel, 8404 Phyllis Place and not at the library) and December 17. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

SMPG's revised bylaws increase the number of Board members to 15. With one vacancy and the approved increase in membership **SMPG has four board openings**. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two of the last six SMPG is eligible to be elected. Bylaws are available at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpg/bylaws.shtml>.

Welcome to Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, elected to the SMPG board on September 17.

### **Summary of September 17 (October 15 meeting cancelled)**

**City of San Diego, Public Utilities, Review of Cost of Service** – Proposed rate changes were presented by staff.

**Review of Climate Action Plan Draft EIR** – SMPG voted to endorse the plan.

**Improving Mission Village Drive Subcommittee Report** – Passed motion to present the suggestions of the attendees at the subcommittee meeting to Councilmember Scott Sherman's office and to schedule a meeting with Bob Crider representing SMPG. If interested in receiving the letter with the suggestions, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

**Review Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Stadium Reconstruction Project** – SMPG approved sending a letter and response to the City describing the impacts to Serra Mesa and concerns. If interested in receiving the letter and response, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

### **Update & News**

**Emergency Slope Repair Storm Drain Replacement at Cardinal Drive** – A collapsed 24-inch corrugated storm drain pipe has caused a slope failure, about 90 feet long in Murray Canyon behind 2341 Cardinal Drive. The project will replace the storm drain, conduct cleanouts, cut off walls, and repair the eroded slope. For questions contact 619-533-7588. The notice is at [http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin\\_publicnotices/CEQA\\_appeal/NORA%2010-19-2015%20Cardinal%20Dr.pdf](http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA_appeal/NORA%2010-19-2015%20Cardinal%20Dr.pdf).

### **Improving Mission Village Drive Subcommittee** – Report from Bob Crider

Cindy Moore (Serra Mesa Planning Group Chair) and Bob Crider (Improving Mission Village Drive Subcommittee Chair) met with Councilmember Scott Sherman on Thursday (10/1) to discuss the list of suggestions that was sent to his office. The meeting lasted about a half-hour and was extremely productive. The two items that can be acted on without study are items that block visibility (e.g. fences with illegal heights) and sidewalk repair. All his office needs is a summary of the problem and the address where the problem exists. You can send this information to Scott Sherman's office directly, bring your request to the next Serra Mesa Planning Group meeting or email your information to [SMPG@SerraMesa.org](mailto:SMPG@SerraMesa.org). We're looking forward to hearing from you!

**Mazzika Hookah Lounge On-Site Beer License** at 8690 Aero Drive – The lounge was required to obtain approval from the San Diego Police Department before the California Department of Beverage Control would consider issuing a license. The SDPD conducted a Public Convenience or Necessity investigation (PCN). In August 2015 it was determined that they did not meet the PCN. The lounge appealed that decision. In September 2015 the PCN denial was upheld. Consequently, the ABC license won't be issued.

**Phyllis Place and Abbots Hill Road Intersection** – An evaluation by the City indicated that the intersection met the criteria for an all-way stop sign, which has been installed.

continue to next page

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Animal Control	(619) 767-2675	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Dead <b>Animal</b> Removal (stay on the line)	(858) 694-7000	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Zoning/Permits - Questions & Violations	(619) 446-5000
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		



continued from page 6

**Unfinished Parking Structure at Broadstone Corsair** – The exposed concrete will be painted a light beige color to match the current stucco.

**Agenda Items for November 19 Meeting – Special Meeting Location at City View Church Chapel** (near back parking lot), 9404 Phyllis Pl

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Franklin Ridge Road connection** between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa and Civita in Mission Valley will be presented by staff at the November 19 meeting. If you're interested in this item, sign up to receive email notices at [www.serramesa.org/](http://www.serramesa.org/). Once the draft EIR is completed, the public has 60 days to comment.

The City Council authorized the initiation of a Serra Mesa Community Plan amendment in October 2008 to specifically study whether police and fire response times would be improved with the road connection, whether the road connection could serve as an emergency evacuation route, whether it is feasible to make the road available for emergency access only, and whether the pedestrian and bicycle access would be improved by the street connection. The final decision maker is the City Council. If it's approved, Sudberry Properties (developer of Civita) will pay for the road connection. If it's not approved, they will pay for improvements to Mission Center Road.

**Serra Mesa Gateway Sign on Sandrock Road.** Alliance Residential Company, developer of the Broadstone Corsair project on Aero Drive, is required by conditions in their permit to construct a new gateway sign within the median of the Sandrock Road public right-of-way and to present the sign to the Serra Mesa Planning Group for review. The Serra Mesa Community Council Board discussed desirable elements for a sign and submitted their ideas to Alliance for consideration. Alliance's proposal for a gateway sign will be presented to SMPG on November 19 for their review and input.

## SERRA MESA ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

SMEC is now operational with the completion of volunteer training. SMEC had suspended activities in December 2014 while awaiting new training. A Request for Investigation form is included in this *Observer* edition. If you are interested in joining this group, please email serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com.

**Focus:** The focus of SMEC is information, education, cooperation and assistance in the area of code compliance. SMEC sends educational letters to residents requesting voluntary compliance in the areas of excessive weeds, miscellaneous storage, lawn parking, and other violations on an as needed basis. Many people are simply not aware of the codes, whose main purpose is to help keep the community looking nice, keep peace among its neighbors, and prevent nuisances in the neighborhood.

**Composition:** SMEC is composed of residents living in Serra Mesa (includes the Birdland area). SMEC volunteers are required to go to a City-sponsored training in order to be indemnified by the City. The amount of volunteer time varies with the volunteer from one hour a month to many.

**Confidentiality:** SMEC maintains the confidentiality of complainants, violators, and volunteers. SMEC members remain anonymous so the benefits of volunteering are intrinsic - the satisfaction of seeing improvements in the community and helping residents resolve community concerns.

**Accomplishments:** SMEC provides information through regular *Observer* columns. The efforts of SMEC have resulted in improvements in many residences in Serra Mesa and the resolution of community issues. The identity of SMEC cases is kept confidential.



## FRIENDS OF RUFFIN CANYON UPDATES

Monica Fuentes and Kevin Johnston will be the new Co-Chairs.  
Kathleen Ford will continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

**Our meeting place and time have been changed.** We will now be meeting at the Library on Aero Drive at 5:30 before the Community Council meeting on the **4th Wednesday of the month.**

The **Canyon Clean-ups** will continue at 9 to 12 on the **1st Saturday of the month** under the leadership of Park Ranger, Josh Lambdin. We alternate between Taft and Shawn. In September, about twenty volunteers worked and cleaned up the Native Habitat Garden. In October, the volunteers continued to work on the restoration of Shawn Canyon.

Friends of Ruffin Canyon sponsored the Coastal Clean up on September 19 at the Recreation Center and Library canyon. We hope to continue our partnership with Taft Middle School with students helping with the restoration of the garden and canyon. We are still working with the City, to proceed with a safe trail through Ruffin Canyon to Friars Road. The River Conservatory has provided funding for this trail, but now we need City permitting to proceed.

We are proceeding with our plans for naming the park land on the east side of Taft, **“The Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden.”** We are in the process of getting approval from the San Diego City Park and Recreation Board. We want to thank the Community Council, the Planning Group, and the Serra Mesa Park and Recreation Council for writing letters to the City Park and Recreation Board showing community support for this memorial to Bonnie. When we get approval, we will proceed with getting a permit for placing a plaque to designate this garden for Bonnie Hough. Bonnie Hough was the Chair of the Friends of Ruffin Canyon and died in May.

We always welcome new members or volunteers to help with the restoration of Ruffin Canyon. Please join us.

**Senior Fitness Class for 55+**

Come join us to get the benefits of exercise while socializing and having fun to great music. You can sit or stand for the duration of the class, based on your fitness needs.

Components of the class include: cardio, strength, stretch and balance work.

Through October, the class will meet at Gesthemane Church on Melbourne Drive on Wednesdays at 11 am.

Beginning November the location will change but is unknown at the time of this printing.

If you are interested in the class or have questions, please contact Katrina at fitkatinsd@aol.com.

Men and women are welcome, first class is free, Monthly fee of \$10 a month or \$2.50 per class. Equipment is provided.

Thank you!  
Katrina



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**St. Columba Parish**

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

Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
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Mon-Fri.	7:00 a.m.
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## RSVP VOLUNTEERS

In 1992, the San Diego Police Department created a volunteer program now known as the “Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol” (RSVP). The focus of this program is to extend community-based services throughout the City of San Diego and to assist police officers. The RSVPs are uniformed volunteers who supplement the police department by performing many important non-confrontational and educational duties as well as providing an extra set of “eyes and ears” for the department and who are also considered “Ambassadors of Good Will” while patrolling their defined areas.

This program is comprised of over 400 men and women who are dedicated volunteers representing communities throughout the greater San Diego area.

The RSVP recruits are trained at an academy by police officers and receive field training on law and procedure. The partnership between volunteers and police have had a positive impact in reducing crime in the City of San Diego.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 50 years or older.
- Semi or fully retired.
- Valid California driver’s license.
- Available for patrol a minimum of 3 days a month.



All new volunteers are required to spend one week in training at the police academy on procedures and policy.

### **RSVP DUTIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- “Vacation House” security checks.
- “YANA” visits – You Are Not Alone checks.
- Patrolling local schools.
- Marking abandoned vehicles.
- Disabled parking enforcement.
- Collecting fingerprints at crime scenes.
- Participating in community events (optional).
- Conducting business security surveys.
- Traffic control.
- Mandatory monthly training (two hours).
- Assisting detectives..., and many other duties.



***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes  
September / October New and Renewed Subscribers***

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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.

## KUDOS – Here’s to major contributors to school kids’ learning experience and success

In this Observer feature, we call attention to fellow Serra Mesans who are deserving of strong “attagirls” or “attaboys.” This time our appreciation goes to Peggy and Jim Van Cleave. They’re long-time Serra Mesans who have received recognition for their major volunteer pursuits for Taft Middle School. As Julie Eiter, Taft Head Counselor, says “The Van Cleaves are the most generous people, always giving of their time for events and important activities here.”

Peggy and Jim live about a half block from Taft. Peggy was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved here with her family when she was a little girl. Jim was born here and they met when they both were students at Clairemont high school. After tying the knot, they bought their SM house back in 1964. Jim worked as a golf professional at what was known then as the Stardust Golf Club (in Mission Valley with different name next to the Handlery Hotel). When Jim’s uncle retired from his Iowa restaurant, the Van Cleave’s took it over and ran it for 13 years, then came back to their Serra Mesa house which they had kept during their Iowa venture.

The Van Cleaves began their initial volunteer efforts nearly a dozen years ago at Taft and also nearby Cubberly Elementary. Per Julie E, “The kids at Taft know them and love them – they’re always ready to help out.” Among their many activities are Jim’s nurturing the Rose Garden from its run-down condition and every month updating the school front marquee which displays events ahead. They help out with evening events, providing refreshments, cooking hot dogs, and taking care of the many other details. Per Special Education Teacher Teese Smith their examples have clear results, noting “The kids want to volunteer as they’ve seen what the Van Cleaves bring to the student world.” Smith is also a Serra Mesa resident, with her kids Taft graduates.

Among Peggy and Jim’s activities is support for “Gear Up,” a Statewide program to promote early the value of college education. They read the many essays written by the competing Taft students and fill out rating sheets which are used to choose winners. At the June 2015 graduation five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to the top scorers in grades 6, 7 and 8 (they receive these awards once they enter college). At graduation the 8<sup>th</sup> grader rated highest both for academic and volunteering activities gets his/her name engraved onto the tall Van Cleave Service Award trophy kept on display at Taft.

Per Peggy: “We’ve been there so long, faculty often say we have tenure.” Another recognition is the bench in front of the Taft library, with a marker honoring the Van Cleaves for their service. In their occasional spare time, the Van Cleaves especially enjoy sharing summers with grandchildren who visit regularly from their Midwest families. One grandson went to Taft, and now is in college. They have fun decorating their house at holidays, providing fun displays for neighbors.

So how about some drum rolls and cheers of appreciation for the long-term and continuing good services of our Serra Mesa neighbors, Peggy and Jim Van Cleave?



Tom Leech is a member of the SM Community Council Board and author, with wife Leslie Johnson-Leech of their new children’s Christmas illustrated poetic tale *The Curious Adventures of Santa’s Wayward Elves*. Visit his website at [www.presentationspress.com](http://www.presentationspress.com) for info about his other books covering nature, world travel, business communication and Wm. Shakespeare’s timeless tips. (And who’s your candidate for our next Serra Mesa Kudo? Send info to Tom at [outdoorsd@aol.com](mailto:outdoorsd@aol.com).)

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## **HOLIDAY SAFETY**

The holidays are fast approaching once again and that means a potential for higher risk of break-ins. None of us wants that to happen, and when it does, we feel violated. Here are some great ways to try and help prevent these home evasions.

### **AT HOME**

- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- Don't advertise what you got for Christmas by putting the boxes out on trash day. Break the boxes down or take them to the dump yourself.
- Don't open your door at the sound or a knock or bell. Know who's at your door before opening it.
- If you don't want to answer the door and don't want the person there to think that no one is home, say something like "We can't come to the door now," or "We don't open the door to strangers."
- Don't open the door to a delivery person unless you are expecting a package. Ask for the person's name and the name and phone number of the company. Call it to confirm the visit. Keep the door closed and locked in the meantime.

### **AWAY FROM HOME**

- Lock all doors and windows, even if you will only be gone for a short time. Use deadbolts, dowels, or locking pins in sliding glass doors and windows to keep them from being pried open.
- Leave window blinds and curtains in their normal daytime positions without exposing any valuable items.
- Never announce your vacation plans or whereabouts on Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking sites.
- Wait until you get home to post your vacation blog and photos.
- Leave lights and a TV or radio on when going out for an evening to make it appear that you are at home.
- Use timers on lights, radios, TVs, etc. to make them go on and off during the day and night to make your home appear occupied.
- Stop mail delivery, or have neighbor pick it up. (This also helps to prevent identity theft.)
- Stop newspaper delivery or have neighbor pick them up. Also have a neighbor pick up anything left at your door, on your driveway, or elsewhere.
- Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor that will be home during the day.
- Ask the neighbors to watch your home and report any suspicious activities.
- Leave your itinerary with a neighbor so you can be contacted in an emergency.
- Disconnect your electric garage door opener and padlock the door, preferably on the inside.
- Lock or otherwise secure all pet doors that a person might crawl through.
- Install a good side-yard gate and keep it locked at all times. Side and back entries are the most common access points for burglars.
- Visit your local SDPD Area Station to request home checks while you are away.
- Set your burglar alarm and notify your alarm company that you will be away. Then if an alarm occurs when you are away the company will not call your home first to verify the alarm; it will notify the police directly. Also provide the alarm company with an up-to-date list of persons to contact about the alarm and the need to secure your home after a burglary.
- If you have a house or pet sitter, familiarize that person with your home's security systems and procedures and stress the importance of following them.

For more tips, see the SDPD papers on Home Security, Personal Safety and Security, and Vehicle Security on its website at [www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/HomeSecurity.pdf](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/HomeSecurity.pdf), [www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/PersonalSafetyAndSecurity.pdf](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/PersonalSafetyAndSecurity.pdf), and [www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/VehicleSecurity.pdf](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/VehicleSecurity.pdf), respectively.

\*\*Reprinted from [www.sandiego.gov/police/services](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/services)

Annemieke Frost Hutchinson – Neighborhood Watch

## Saint Columba Church Members Step Out for ‘Mass on the Grass’

By Leonel Sanchez

10.7.2015

**Serra Mesa** –With a heavenly nod to the sunny weather outside Saint Columba Church, Father Mel Monreal on Saturday afternoon welcomed more than 250 parishioners to the Serra Mesa church’s first “Mass on the Grass.”

It was an expression of faith in God’s love professed in full public view by young and old Catholic believers in the North San Diego neighborhood. Spiritus, the Catholic contemporary musical group started the Mass by playing “Morning has Broken.” Father Mel reiterated the purpose of the church holding Mass outside the main entrance of the 60-year-old church on Glencolum Drive.

“It’s a perfect expression of what life is all about,” Father Mel told the diverse congregation who filled the makeshift pews on the grass.

While love of God and love of neighbor were the main messages of the day so was stewardship. “Each one of you has a role. That’s what stewardship is all about,” Father Mel said. “It’s not just about money but about the time that you put in for the good of the community.”

Peggy Keller, co-chair of “Mass on the Grass,” said Saint Columba has been blessed with parishioners who have embraced the concept of stewardship and that the event was serving as the kick-off for the Year of Ministry at Saint Columba. “Together we will continue our journey of discipleship with Jesus Christ,” she said.

Father Mel thanked the many volunteers who head up the many church ministries that are making a difference each day in this neighborhood just north of Qualcomm Stadium and Mission Valley. One longtime parishioner and beloved volunteer was singled out for special prayers, Shawn Quinn, who recently passed away.

“Mass on the Grass” ended with song and prayer and a barbecue across the street at the Korean Catholic Community Center.

*Leonel Sanchez is a writer who lives with his family in Serra Mesa and is a parishioner at Saint Columba Catholic Church.*



## Police RSVP program makes a big difference

Posted: October 16th, 2015 | Features, Top Stories | No Comments

By Doug Curlee | Editor at Large

### YANA program keeps eyes on those who need human contact

Billy Martin lives alone in Del Cerro.

He's pretty much confined to a wheelchair.

He's almost totally alone in the world, with only a sister to visit him. She's 90.

Billy is 92.

Think about that, and think about the fact that, were it not for the San Diego Police Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, Martin would likely have no one to talk to.

But he does have someone, at least three times a week. On this day, RSVP members Julie Dahlin and Wayne Findlay checked in on Martin, just to visit, and to check on his welfare. Things like making sure the stove is off, checking to see if Martin's medication is handy for him. In other words, just be there for him.

"You'll have to excuse how my voice sounds" said Martin, who is a veteran of both WWII and Korea. "I'm just out of practice. I don't get much chance to talk to anyone these days."

After chatting for a while, Dahlin and Findlay had other stops to make. It was easy to see that Martin really would have liked to talk more, but there will be another visit in two days.

"We see so many people like Billy," Dahlin said. "They just don't get the human connection most people really want and need."

Giving seniors much-needed human companionship is what the You Are Not Alone (YANA) program is all about.

But YANA is only one of a whole litany of tasks the RSVP members perform for the police department and the public.

Dr. Dennis Brown is the director of the RSVP program at the department's Eastern Division, which covers the areas usually covered by this newspaper.

"Department-wide, we have about 400 members in the RSVP program, but we need a whole lot more."

You've no doubt seen RSVP cars and teams. You'll see them driving through parking lots at shopping centers, maybe writing tickets to people illegally parked in handicapped zones, maybe helping control traffic at accident scenes, and many other duties that help free up sworn police officers for the real demand on their time.

"These volunteers are not police officers," Brown is quick to point out. "They are another set of eyes and ears for the department. They are in radio contact with the police dispatchers, but their duty is only to observe and report."

Anyone 50 years of age, retired or semi-retired, with a valid California driver's license and at least two to three days a month to volunteer their time is welcome to apply. You'd need to spend one week at the Police Academy, learning the ropes, and what you can and cannot do as a volunteer.

Dahlin and Findlay get a tremendous sense of fulfillment, just doing things like the YANA visit with Martin.



Police volunteer Wayne Findlay (r) sits with Billy Martin. (Photo by Doug Curlee)

## SETTING UP A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

\*\*Reprinted from [www.sandiego.gov/police/services](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/services)

Interested in starting up your own Neighborhood Watch in your area? Not sure what to do? Below is a great guideline for getting started and making your streets safer.

### **What Is Neighborhood Watch?**

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area. In it you will get to know and work with your neighbors, and learn how to:

- Recognize and report crimes and suspicious activities
- Protect yourself, your family, and your property,
- Protect your neighbor's family and property, and
- Identify crime and disorder problems in your area and work with SDPD personnel to solve them.

### **How to Start and Maintain a Neighborhood Watch Program**

The following steps explain how to get a Neighborhood Watch program started and maintained in your area:

**Talk to your neighbors.** See if there's interest in forming a Neighborhood Watch group in your area. If there is contact the SDPD for help.

**Talk to the SDPD.** Contact the SDPD area station in your neighborhood and ask to talk to the Community Relations Officer (CRO) who is responsible for Neighborhood Watch. SDPD division addresses and phone numbers are listed under IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD on this website. The CRO will suggest how you should proceed and discuss the crime and disorder problems that you will have to deal with.

**Talk to your neighbors again.** Tell them about the benefits of a program and the problems to be addressed. Ask about convenient times and places for the first meeting. Be sure to mention that Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings or personal risks, and that a CRO will be invited to the first meeting to answer questions.

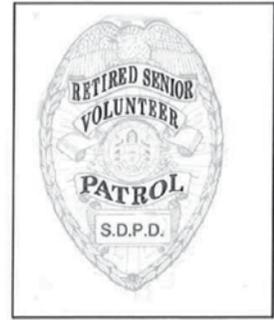
**Planning the first meeting.** Select a date, time, and place for the first meeting. Invite the CRO. Meetings are usually held at a home, school, church, or community center. They can also be held at a SDPD area station or storefront office. Send out meeting announcements a few weeks ahead of the date. You can distribute fliers, make phone calls, or send emails. Send out reminders a few days before the meeting.

Prepare an agenda and sign-in sheet for the first meeting. Ask the CRO to talk about the crime and disorder problems in your area, how to get crime statistics and crime prevention information, and how the partnership with the SDPD will work. The meeting should last about one hour. Consider providing refreshments, e.g., cookies and coffee. The agenda should allow time for questions, answers, and other topics.

**First meeting.** The first meeting is critical in forming of a group. All attendees should introduce themselves and sign a sheet with their names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses so they can be contacted about future meetings and activities. They should be assured that their personal information will not be given to anyone without their permission. The CRO will talk about the topics listed above and answer questions. Then the group should define the area to be covered and select a Block Captain or Co-Captains.



**RSVP**  
**RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PATROL**  
 EASTERN DIVISION  
 SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**GO FOR THE SILVER**

Since 1993, the RSVP has become a VERY important part of the San Diego Police Department in partnership with the community.

You too can become a part of this neighborhood safety and crime prevention organization. You need only to be at least 50 years of age and be free to commit a minimum of three and a half days per month of your time.

Following a 40 hour Police Academy, plus some on the job training, you will be ready to wear the SILVER BADGE OF THE RSVP.

**WHAT DO WE DO? .**

- > Patrol the streets of our neighborhoods in a patrol car
- > Act as eyes and ears for the Police Department
- > Search for lost children and Alzheimer patients
- > Perform business security checks
- > Help wipe out graffiti
- > Check the homes of vacationing neighbors
- > Report City deficiencies
- > Issue citations to those who violate disabled parking rules
- > Help remove abandoned vehicles from our streets
- > Visit homebound seniors
- > Crime prevention
- > Assist with Homeland Security
- > Public speaking
- > Witness checks for crimes
- > Fingerprinting
- > Traffic control
- > Participate in many special events
- > Help staff police storefronts
- > Many more exciting and rewarding tasks

**WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US! WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

**CALL 858-495-7990.**



## RETIRED SENIORS VOLUNTEER PATROL

RSVP

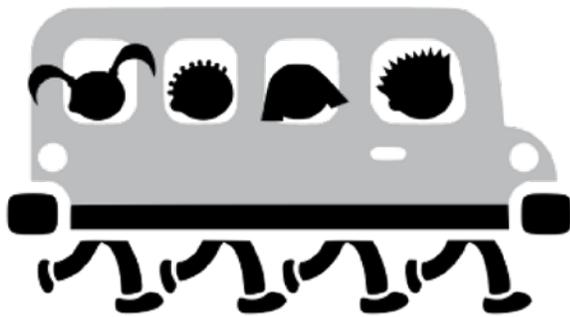
San Diego Police Department

- 50+ Years Old
- Semi or Fully Retired
- Good Physical and Mental Health
- Ability to Volunteer in Community Service a Minimum 3 Days per Month
- Valid California Driver's License

Contact RSVP Eastern Division (858) 495-7990



Juarez Bulldogs and parents –  
Come join in and walk to school



**WALKING  
SCHOOL BUS**

Next dates:

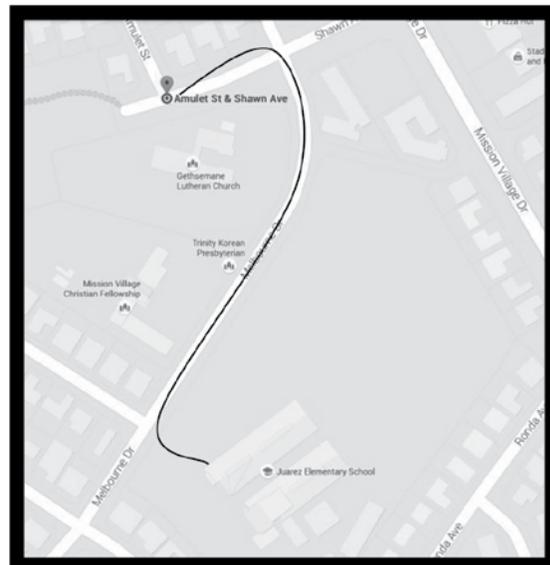
Wednesday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meet-up location:

Shawn Ave near Amulet St.

Meet-up time: 8:40am to walk by 8:50am



*Remember: Please thank your Juarez Guardians (Volunteer Safety Patrol team) for their eyes on the street to make our streets safer !!!*



## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AT JUAREZ ELEMENTARY

What do you get when you combine great weather, community participants, smiles, students, parents, a new school Principal, school staff, generous volunteers, and walking? Yes, you guessed it. A successful Walk to School Day event !!!

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> was International Walk to School Day. And at Juarez Elementary it was a chance to try a remote drop-off and meet-up location a few blocks from the school. The group walked together in a walking school bus for a short morning walk to school. Benefits are many - physical activity for all, community connections, less cars and congestion in front of the school, fresh air, smiles, and more.

Here are a few photos from the day. Many thanks to all those involved, including a great turnout from SDPD Eastern Division, Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) members, Juarez's own Volunteer Safety Patrol (Juarez Guardians), Juarez school staff, Serra Mesa neighbors, and of course students and parents.

If you are interested in connecting with the program for future events and to learn more about the Safe Routes to School program at Juarez, please contact Kristine Schindler, Rady Children's Hospital Center for Healthier Communities Intergenerational Coordinator at [kschindler@rchsd.org](mailto:kschindler@rchsd.org) or 858/966-1700 x3557. We are always looking for more volunteers, especially active and available seniors, to get involved.



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# SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

## November/December, 2015 Events/Programs

### Adult Programs

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present a Star Wars Lego exhibit by the Ege Family in the display cases and the art of the Associated Fine Artists in the Community Room.

**Zumba® Dance/Toning Fitness – Mondays & Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.** The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. Monday's class includes a half hour of Zumba Dance and a half hour of toning.

**Zumba® Gold Fitness – Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.** The Zumba® Gold Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. This class is designed for beginners and active seniors.

**Knitting Circle – Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.** Join the Knitting Circle to meet new friends and practice a traditional art form.

**November 2 & 16, 10:00 a.m. Diabetes Wellness.** Coaching for people with diabetes, their family and friends presented by Mary Hyde, CHHC. For more information contact 858-750-3112 or maryhyde@we-are-well.com.

**November 10, 1:00 p.m. Associated Fine Artists.** Join us for a free art demonstration sponsored by the Associated Fine Artists.

**November 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *The Circle* by Dave Eggers.

**November 13, 1:00 p.m. Thank You Letters.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you the benefits of sending a "Thank You" letter within 24 hours of a job interview.

**November 14, 9:30 a.m. Colored Pencil Society.** A club meeting to share and discuss their artwork.

**November 18, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**November 18, 3:00 p.m. San Diego Travel Club.** A club meeting to share and discuss travel plans.

**November 18, 5:45 p.m. San Diego Homeopathic Society.** A club meeting to discuss and promote holistic health.

**November 19, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**November 22, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

**December 1, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

**December 7 & 21, 10:00 a.m. Diabetes Wellness.** Coaching for people with diabetes, their family and friends presented by Mary Hyde, CHHC. For more information contact 858-750-3112 or maryhyde@we-are-well.com.

**December 8, 1:00 p.m. Associated Fine Artists.** Join us for a free art demonstration sponsored by the Associated Fine Artists.

**December 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Killing Patton* by Bill O'Reilly.

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## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

**December 11, 1:00 p.m. Cover Letters & More.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to prepare impressive and effective cover letters.

**December 13, 1:30 p.m. Classical Guitar Concert.** Come and enjoy a free, live concert of performed by the Keiichi Ito Classical guitar Studio.

**December 16, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**December 16, 3:00 p.m. San Diego Travel Club.** A club meeting to share and discuss travel plans.

**December 16, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council.** A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

**December 17, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**December 17, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**December 19, 1:30 p.m. Holiday Music Concert.** Come and enjoy a free, live concert of Holiday Music performed by The Pacific Coast Chorale.

### **Children Programs**

**Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.** Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

**Preschool Storytime – Fridays, 10:00 a.m.** Join us for a storytime that is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

**Chess Club – Fridays, 4:00 p.m.** Join instructors from the Lone Kings Chess Club and learn game tactics and strategies.

**November 2 & 16, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**November 4 & 18, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**November 9, 23 & 30, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

**November 12 & 19, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob.** Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

**November 13, 11:00 a.m. Math Circle.** Learn new ways of approaching math problems in a group led by Dr. A. Chiznik from San Diego State University.

**December 2 & 16, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**December 7 & 21, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**December 9, 5:00 p.m. The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore Film.** Join us for a One Book One San Diego Kids event. Come watch the short film, hear the original story read and make a book craft.

## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

**December 10, 17, 24 & 31, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob.** Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

**December 11, 11:00 a.m. Math Circle.** Learn new ways of approaching math problems in a group led by Dr. A. Chiznik from San Diego State University.

**December 14, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

### **Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on November 14 and December 12**

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Volunteers will guide you through an introductory computer class at the library. Attendance at this class is required before you can receive a computer. 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.

Continued from page 16

**Continuing duties of the Block Captain or Co-Captains.** After the group is formed their duties will depend on their organizational skills and interests, and the nature and objectives of the group. The following are some possibilities:

- Recruit new members
- Maintain a membership list and area map with home addresses
- Keep members informed about area crime and disorder
- Try to see group members frequently
- Establish and maintain a phone tree with home and work numbers that group members can use to contact residents in an emergency
- Develop an area activity profile to help members recognize unusual or suspicious activities in the area. This could include vehicle descriptions, work hours, school hours for children, and scheduled services, e.g., gardening
- Act as a spokesperson for the group
- Serve as liaison with the SDPD
- Plan, announce, and facilitate meetings
- Organize crime prevention activities, e.g., watching homes when residents are away

**Subsequent Meetings and Activities.** Meetings of the whole group should be held at least once a year. They can be held more often if there is information to be distributed and discussed, a problem to address, or a special event to be planned and held. The key to keeping a Neighborhood Watch group active is maintaining interest over time and communicating with members.

Annemieke Frost Hutchinson – Neighborhood Watch, Serra Mesa Community Council

*Serra Mesa Observer*  
Editor: *Ronda Adams*  
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## Dated Material

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### FRIENDSHIP LUNCH OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Join us for the Friendship Lunch  
Volunteers from our neighborhood offer  
the Serra Mesa community  
a soup, bread, and dessert every Wednesday noon to 1:00 p.m.

The "Friendship Lunch" has **no age limitation**

There is no cost but all are invited to bring non-perishable cans or  
packages of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship 2650 Melbourne Drive 92123

More information at 858-277-6572 or 858-278-2633

# SMCC Subscription Application or Renewal Form & Interest/Volunteer Survey

If you are interested in being contacted about any of the organizations listed below and/or you wish to receive a bi-monthly newsletter **or renew** your subscription, please fill out the following information. Return this form to the Serra Mesa Community Council, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**Subscription Form** - Enclosed is my check payable to the Serra Mesa Community Council to subscribe at the following level:

Household (\$15) \_\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$25) \_\_\_\_ Benefactor (\$50) \_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Need More Information	Want to Volunteer	Brief Description of Serra Mesa Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Community Council.</b> Sponsors clean-ups, publishes newsletter, liaison between elected officials & the community, meets 10 times/yr. Volunteers needed: Board & special projects. Commitment: varies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Planning Group.</b> Advises the City on the Serra Mesa Community Plan and land use issues. Volunteers needed. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3.5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Recreation Council.</b> Plans, promote, publicizes & helps provide recreation opportunities for citizens in Serra Mesa. Volunteers needed: Council. No training needed. Commitment: 1.5 hour/month
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Enhancement Committee.</b> Sends educational letters to residents requesting code compliance. Promotes community improvement. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of the Library.</b> Provides summer reading program, extra books & tapes, & sponsors special library events for the Serra Mesa Library. Volunteers needed: Board. Commitment: 5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of Ruffin Canyon.</b> Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Serra Mesa Food Pantry.</b> Staff the Food Pantry, pick up donated food, coordinate food drives, organize community sponsors. Commitment: varies.

To volunteer for one of the groups listed below call 858-565-2473.

**Churches.** Volunteer needs, training, & commitment varies with each church.

**Education & PTAs.** Volunteers needed: school based parent groups, readers/listeners in the schools, & various projects at schools. Training & commitment varies with activity.

**Sports** (Soccer, Baseball, Basketball). Volunteers needed: referees, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, etc. Training & commitment varies with activity.

**Youth Activities** (Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.). Volunteers needed: leaders, sponsors, & volunteers for special activities. Training provided. Commitment varies.

**Views concerning the present and future Serra Mesa.** Please attach a sheet with issues, suggested goals, and suggestions.

**Skills/Experience/Interests.** Sometimes an organization needs specialized help. If you wish to volunteer, then please attach a sheet with a list of your skills/experiences.

# Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The role of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is to provide information, education, cooperation, and assistance in the area of City Code Compliance. After confirming a code violation SMEC sends a friendly, educational letter asking for compliance. In 90% of the cases people come into compliance and cases are not reported to the City. If you have a problem in your area, report the problem with this confidential form.

## Request for Investigation

**Return form to:** Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee,  
Post Office Box 23315, San Diego, California 92193

Please investigate this address \_\_\_\_\_

This is the problem: (give complete details; time of day, license plate of vehicles, type of vehicles, condition of property, owner's or renter's name if known etc.)

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(Please use back if necessary.)

Your name (will not be disclosed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

===== for office use =====

ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Contacted complainant

\_\_\_\_\_

Complaint Referred to (specify date)	Action Steps (specify date)
_____ Code Compliance	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Community Policing	_____
_____ Signs	1st Letter: _____
_____ Tree Division	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Vector Control	_____
_____ Vehicle Abatement	2nd Letter: _____
_____ Weeds	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Other	_____
	Thank You: _____ Reopen Previous Case: _____