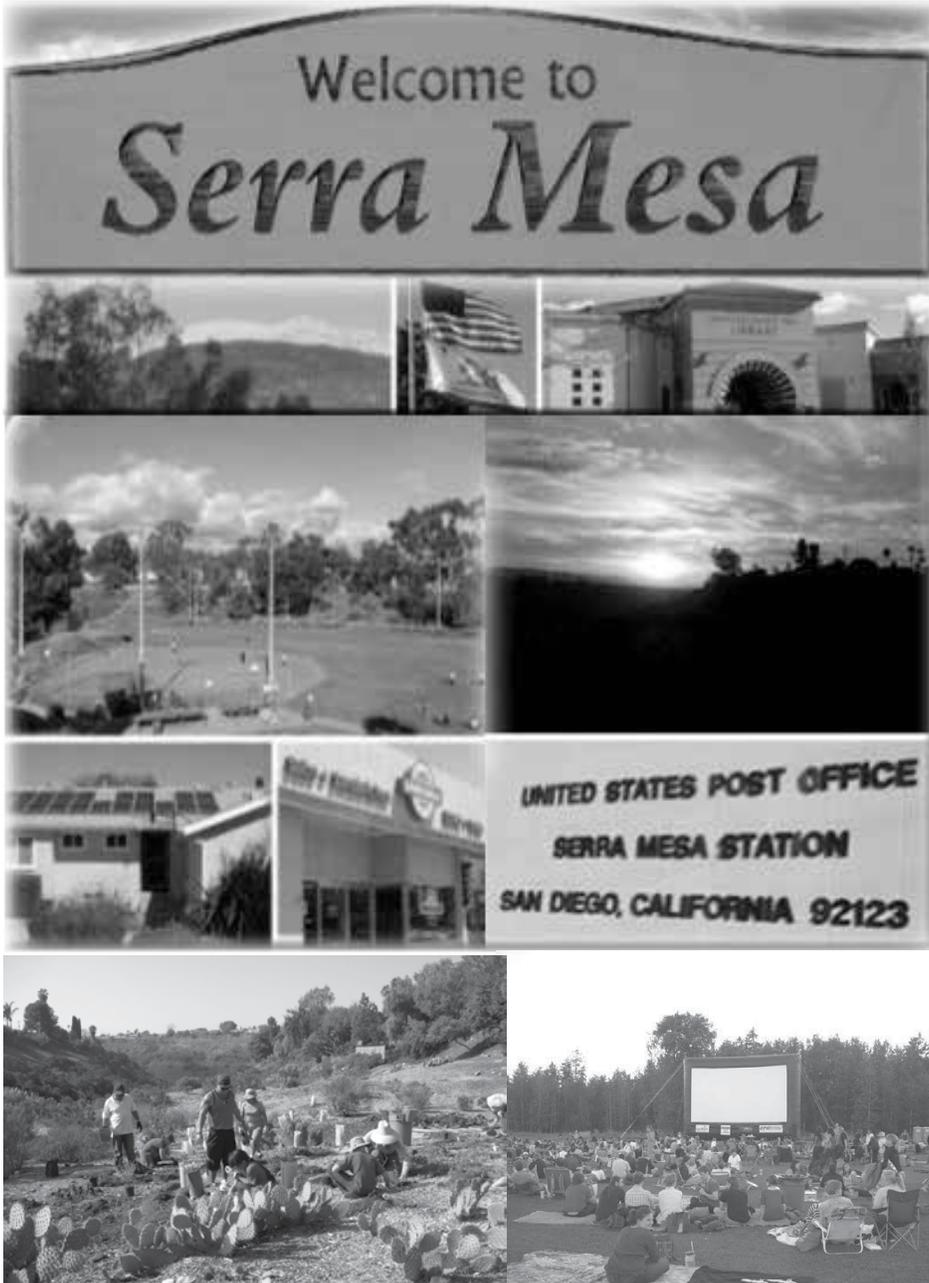


serra mesa observer

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2 MARCH / APRIL 2016



Our Community



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, March 23
6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, April 27
6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborly People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

Serra Mesa Community Council Board	
Officers	
Carl Demas.....	(858) 565-2473*
<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>	
Board Members	
Jackie Ander.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Friends of the Library</i>	
Debbie Campbell.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Community Events</i>	
Jon Cima.....	(858)565-2473*
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Cindy McIntyre.....	(858)565-2473*
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Tom Leech.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Current Issues</i>	
Cindy Moore.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Special Projects/SMPG</i>	
Annemieke Frost Hutchinson.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Neighborhood Watch/Community Events</i>	
Jennifer St. Clair.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Pantry, Garden, Village Coordinator</i>	
Terry O'Regan.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Local Business Coordinator</i>	
Appointed Positions	
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>	
Brad Beyenhof.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Webmaster</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>Utility Box Coordinator</i>	

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

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Council doesn't endorse ads.

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: May / June Edition...April 19th

P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193

http://www.serramesa.org

communitycouncil@serramesa.org

SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS	
Serra Mesa Community Council	(858) 565-2473
e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org	
Serra Mesa Planning Group	(858) 565-2473
e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org	
ELECTED OFFICIALS	
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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS	
Mar 8	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Mar 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Mar 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Mar 19	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Mar 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Apr 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Apr 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Apr 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Apr 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon <i>Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.</i>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Program Worth Pursuing Again

We all have been relieved that Serra Mesa is not one of those high crime areas and for the most part it is true that we are a quiet hidden community surrounded by canyons. Many of us have become complacent that because we have low crime statistics that we are beyond the reach of the "common criminal" and therefore do not have to keep our doors and windows locked. Well the fact is we are subject to theft, car break-ins, robberies and house break-ins, not only when we are not in the house but at night when we are home. Be prepared and do not leave visible items in your car at any time. Bring in your garage door opener when your car is parked outside your home as a burglar can break into your car then use the garage opener to gain access to your home. Make sure you lock your car and with the garage opener in your home, should you see a thief breaking into your car, press the emergency button that will perhaps scare them away. At night when you turn in, make sure all your windows and doors are locked and turn off your garage door opener if you can. It might also be a good idea to keep your outside lights on so you can see if anyone is trying to break in. Burglar alarms are a good idea and so are dogs who seem to know when anyone is anywhere near your home.

We, your Community Council are joining with the police to resurrect the Neighborhood Watch Program. At one time we had a really great program and you can still see many worn out and beat up Neighborhood Watch signs in your area. Over the years, as the neighborhood has aged many neighbors were home

all day and we have lost the great system we have had. Now as we are rejuvenated by young families with small children it is imperative to update our neighborhood relationships. 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 crime and suspicious activities,

Protect yourself, your family and your property,

Protect your neighbor's family and property, and

Identify crime and unusual problems in your area with SDPD personnel to solve them.

As with any endeavor, we need volunteers. We would like to set up Watch Captains on every block who interacts with all neighbors to update and inform them of information pertinent to their safety. In Serra Mesa, call our Community Relations Officer (CRO) is Tom Bostedt at 858-495-7919 and he will suggest how you should proceed and discuss the crime and issues for which you will experience. Take time to talk to your neighbors and ask if they would set up a meeting for which the CRO can come and explain the program. At the meeting you can introduce all with a sign in sheet with names, address, phone number, and email address to they can be contacted about future meetings and activities. It is imperative that all who sign in know that their information will not be shared without their permission.

Our Neighborhood Watch Council person is: Annemieke Frost Hutchinson and if you have any questions, she is a great help. You can leave a message for her at: 858-565-2473 or myself at the same number.

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

Movie nights and Proud of our Kearny Mesa AYSO Extra U9 Boys

SAVE THE DATES! For the upcoming movie nights this summer! July 23, August 13 and September 17. Family friendly movies to be announced. All movie nights will be held at Cabrillo Heights park at dusk.



Proud of our Kearny Mesa AYSO Extra U9 Boys!
2015 – U9B EXTRA League and Tournament Champions
2015 – U9B 3v3 Tournament Champions
2015 – Stuffed Turkey Tournament 2nd Place
Congratulations!



Saturday, March 19, 2016
9am-3pm

Taft Middle School
9191 Gramercy Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

The PTAs of two Serra Mesa schools are hosting this fun, outdoor event. Come out and enjoy delicious food and shop for special gifts. Vendors of all kinds are invited to join in this big day. Arts, crafts, unique products, clubs, and community services will be featured.

Vendors interested in a booth space should go to:
<https://spring-fling-craft-fair-vendor-information.cheddarup.com>
For questions, contact PTASpringFlingCraftFair@gmail.com

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SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION



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
March 15 & April 19 at 6:30 p.m.



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Gloria Espeseth
Pastor

www.gethsemanesd.org

2696 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

Worship 9:30am
(858) 277-6572

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 Dr. Next meetings: March 17 and April 21. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. **SMPG has two board openings.** Also, on March 17, 2016 SMPG will conduct an annual election for board members for two year terms. 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 SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml>.

Welcome, Tony Guerra and Bryce Niceswanger, elected to the SMPG board on January 21.

Summary of January 21 and February 18 Meeting

Conditional Use Permit for Private K-12th Education Facility at 8401-8461 Aero Drive (first floor of the former San Diego Community College building) in the Kearny Mesa area. The school, a French immersion program, is currently located at Clairemont Mesa Blvd. SMPG passed a motion in support unless there are significant changes. The facility was asked to make another presentation as the project progresses.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Solar Project – An approximately 140 K W solar carport canopy system will be installed at the library as part of a city-wide effort to install approximately 6.6 megawatts of solar at 25 different locations. The system will be installed by a third party provider through a Power Purchase Agreement. It's anticipated that the generated solar energy will offset 80% of the library's energy use. The project is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2016 and be completed by the end of 2016. After the December 17 SMPG presentation the design was revised and presented at the February 18th meeting. The solar carport will be placed on the western and southern perimeters of the parking lot. A motion was passed to support the redesign with a request for adding trees to the trail between the library and the recreation center. The mitigation was requested because adding the panels requires the removal of trees.

Proposed Changes to SMPG Bylaws – The main revisions were to clarify the step-by-step process for counting votes of candidates by school area district. SMPG voted to approve the revised bylaws.

All Way Stop Sign at Hammond/Ediwhar – The traffic study was conducted and the area didn't qualify for traffic calming measures. Comments from the City's traffic engineer: "The speed profile revealed vehicles traveling at an 85% of 34MPH, and an average speed of 29MPH between Towser Street and Ediwhar Avenue. This means the vehicles are traveling near the posted speed limit and this roadway is just below the level at which we feel traffic calming measures are necessary. ...Traffic calming measures are considered when speeds typically exceed the posted speed limit by 10MPH or greater. Road lumps have specific requirements where they are considered on residential streets only (not collector or major roads), no hills, no curves, and not on emergency vehicle routes." SMPG could ask City Councilmember Scott Sherman's office to request a stop sign. After extensive discussion of the pros and cons of a stop sign, there wasn't sufficient support on the SMPG board for the stop sign.

Update & News

Franklin Ridge Road Subcommittee Formed – The main purpose of this subcommittee will be to review the EIR when it becomes available and draft a response letter for the review of the Serra Mesa Planning Group. If you're interested in participating on this subcommittee, please send an email to smpg@serramesa.org. This

continue to next page

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Animal Control	(619) 767-2675	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Dead Animal Removal stay on the line)	(858) 694-7000	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110		
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500		
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety			

continued from page 6

Observer edition includes an information sheet on Franklin Ridge Road.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Redevelopment of the Kelco building at 8225 Aero Drive in the Kearny Mesa area – Possible mixed use project. The developer is interested in a dialog with the community before definitive plans are developed. Developer welcomes and encourages input.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Franklin Ridge Road connection between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa and Civita in Mission Valley –Watch for an email notification from SMPG for confirmation of the date of this agenda item and the location of the meeting. To receive email notices, sign up at www.serramesa.org/. Once the draft EIR is completed, the public has 60 days to comment.

Seniorobics with Katrina on Wednesdays at 11 am.

This is a class for Seniors looking to stay active, socialize and meet new people. Class can be done either sitting or standing. Includes cardio component, strength training, balance and stretching and fun! Class is \$10 a month, hope to see you there!

They are held at my home at the present time. Pleases call Kathy with any questions and directions of how to get there. Kathy 858-3617561

Thank you!

Katrina



One in Five Americans Has Hearing Loss

*By Charlene Sivertson
President of HLAA San Diego*

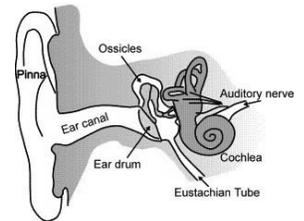
Serving the hearing loss community in San Diego

Most everyone knows someone with hearing loss. What you may not know is that there is a powerful hearing loss support organization with a chapter in San Diego.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. According to the National Center for Health Statistics 48 million Americans (20 percent) have some degree of hearing loss, making it the third most prevalent public health issue after heart disease and arthritis. You may also be surprised to learn that hearing loss is one of the most common military service-related injuries.¹

What is the Stigma?

Hearing loss is a health problem that has been misunderstood and stigmatized. The stigma associated with hearing loss can be a big hindrance for people who need help to hear well. Negative stereotypes and prejudices like "they are old", "less intelligent", or "they only hear what they want to hear" have plagued people with hearing loss for ages, and it is surprising how many people still associate those misperceptions with hearing loss.



The Good News



The good news is that it is a new world for those coping with hearing loss. Every month HLAA members in San Diego come together to share the newest technology via subject matter experts and members' own experiences with the latest in hearing aids, cochlear implants, phone technologies, captioning, hearing loops, FM systems, Bluetooth technology and the list goes on. Truly, this information can transform quality of life and social interactions.

But HLAA San Diego provides more than technology awareness. Meeting with others going through similar issues is hugely empowering. Just ask HLAA members. Lives change, family dynamics improve, self-confidence has a chance to flourish, and lasting friendships are made. HLAA provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss.

HLAA has an impact on communication access, public policy, research, public awareness, and service delivery related to hearing loss. Its national support network includes an office in the Washington D.C. area, state organizations, and HLAA chapters and state organizations across the country.

What to Do Next

Just show up. No local dues are required although you may want to join the HLAA national organization to receive their excellent magazine. Our meetings are not only for those with hearing loss but also for family and friends who want to learn how to better communicate with the people in their lives who often struggle to hear them.

Where?

Mission Village Christian Fellowship
2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

When?

The third Saturday morning of every month, 10:30 to 12:30 p.m.

More info <http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org/>

<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

csivertson@juno.com

¹ http://www.publichealth.va.gov/vethealthinitiative/hearing_impairment.asp

Montgomery Field Airport Announcement

“Mr. Rod Propst, Deputy Director of City Airports, announced that the City Council has approved Changing Montgomery Field airport to Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport”.

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is now operational. The Request for Investigation form is included in this Observer edition. SMEC contact information: Address - P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193; Email - serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com. If you are interested in becoming a SMEC volunteer, please contact us. The City requires training for volunteers; your name will be added to the list for the next available training (approximately 2 hours).

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. SMEC makes referrals to Code Compliance as a last resort when the resident doesn't respond to our letters.

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 will be participating in the Creek to Bay Clean-up on Saturday April 23. Join us at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center located at 9020 Village Glen Dr. We will be removing non-native plants from the canyons on the path to the library and spreading mulch along the pathway.

This activity is suitable for all ages. Any students needing volunteer hours, this is a good way to earn your time. We will meet from 9am to noon. Come for the whole time or just an hour. Any time is helpful. See you there!

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
January / February New and Renewed Subscribers***

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William Shoots

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Donald & Dorothy Smith
John & Patsy Smith
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Larry & Kathy Sterling
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Charles West *
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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.

Planning Commission Approves Councilmember Sherman’s Charter School Permitting Reform

Scott Sherman

For Serra Mesa Community Council Newsletter

Last month, the Planning Commission approved a proposed measure of mine to reform the City of San Diego’s Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that would ease permitting requirements on San Diego public charter schools.

Public charter schools serve over 21,000 students in 51 schools within the City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District. They have become an important educational option for thousands of San Diego parents. Unfortunately, the City’s burdensome CUP is enormously complex, time consuming, and expensive.

My plan would achieve the following:

- Revise municipal code to reduce the permitting requirements to help charter schools obtain facilities
- K-12 schools with less than 300 students will be permitted in residential multi-family, commercial regional, commercial office, and commercial community permitting zones
- These revisions would allow more money to go directly to education instead of navigating through the permitting process

My office began working with public charter schools and affiliate organizations after being contacted by four charter schools in the district that were having trouble navigating the burdensome permitting process.

The proposed changes will make it easier for charter schools to obtain quality facilities for their students and will allow more funding to be directed to student instruction by reducing the need for land use consultants to navigate the complex bureaucratic process.

Thousands of San Diego working families depend on charter schools throughout San Diego to educate their children. I applaud the Planning Commission for approving this important measure. I urge my Council colleagues to join me in support when this item reaches Committee and the full Council.



Location Secured for Farmers Market

It has been one full year since a group of residents got together over a shared desire to bring fresh fruits and veggies to our community. Since then we’ve built up a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/serramesafarmersmarket>) followed by nearly 500 people, gathered almost 900 survey responses indicating overwhelming interest in a farmers market, and scouted out several potential market locations, including churches, schools, the old library, and the big vacant Guild building lot.

The ideal spot is highly visible and centrally located, close to existing retail and commercial space, accessible via public transit and by foot or bike, and with easy parking. The Afghan Community Islamic Center at 3333 Sandrock Road (formerly a bank) fit the bill perfectly and in summer we approached them with the idea. At last, we are super pleased to announce the Center is excited to work with us and will let us hold the market once a week in their parking lot.

Securing a location was just one major step. *The next step is to launch a fundraising campaign* where we ask residents and others who care about Serra Mesa for money to fund the market’s operational costs through the first year. We are going to request small to medium pledges from *many* people as a way for you to personally invest in the market’s existence and show your support. The only way for a farmers market to succeed over the long run is if many residents shop there, in a steady and consistent stream, week after week. So watch Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/serramesafarmersmarket>), Nextdoor.com (https://nextdoor.com/about_us/), and the Serra Mesa Community Council over the next few weeks for the fund-raising announcement. Our hope is to open the market before summer!

KUDOS – Here’s to a volunteer crew who’ve long helped enrich our Serra Mesa community

In this Observer feature, we call attention to fellow Serra Mesans who are deserving of strong “attagirls” or “attaboys.”

Murray Ridge Park is one of our popular small neighborhood parks, located just east from I-805 and off... surprise... Murray Ridge Road. It can be entered from the cul de sac at Celestine Ave, and via the main entrance gate at 2550 Escondido Avenue into the parking area. It’s a convenient resource for kids’ playgrounds, picnics, strolls, walking the family pet (on leash and picked up after), has a tennis and b-ball court plus a set of workout gadgets. (Just remember, leave it cleaner than when you arrived.)

As long as the entrance gate to Murray Park has been in use, someone has had to open it every day at 7 a.m. and close it at 10 p.m. Opening the gate has typically been done on a daily basis by City Parks & Recreation staff. Closing the gate each evening was originally the responsibility of SD Police Department, but due to a reduction in SDPD resources, that presented some difficulties.

Fortunately a nearby resident volunteered to make sure it was closed each night. Also, city staff was not always available to open the gate, so the volunteer took on the duty to make sure the gate was opened on Sundays and Holidays, and closed every night regardless of holidays or weather. Unfortunately, after many years of “manning the gate,” that resident volunteer experienced health issues and was no longer able to perform the task.

Starting in 2001, Peggy Lacy, then President of the SM Community Council (SMCC) Board, asked fellow Board member, George DeLaBarre, if he could help out. At the time, George was also a member of the SM Recreation Council (SMRC). He took on the added assignment to tend to the gate, was able to keep up his college courses, but quickly realized that it was too much of a task for one person. So George recruited Tom Wright and then Russ Orrell to share the load.

Over the last 15 years the group has continued that gate maintenance, with some volunteers coming and going. The team that currently “mans the gate” are all nearby residents and consists of:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| George DeLaBarre | Tom Wright | Russ Orrell | Bob & Ruth Valentine |
| Steve & Leana Dillion | Glenn McHenry | Kris Dufault | |

George is currently Vice Chair of the SMRC and works with city staff to determine coverage requirements and then prepare and distribute the schedule to the team. He invites SM community members to join the volunteers’ team; if interested, please e-mail him at GeorgeD@SerraMesa.org.

George: “Very often the team trades stories about the observations they make when they arrive at night to close the gate. From the nocturnal wild life to the strange behavior of some of the nighttime users and parking lot visitors, it keeps the job interesting. Although not all the stories can be repeated here, the team continues to quietly go about their little known task. They are also very conscientious about their safety and interactions with others that late at night.”

So how about some drum rolls and cheers of appreciation for the long-term and continuing good services of our Serra Mesa volunteer team that staffs that important gate operation for our special Murray Ridge Park?

Tom Leech is a member of the SM Community Council Board and author of *On the Road in '68: a Year of Turmoil, a Journey of Friendship*. Visit his website at www.presentationpress.com for info about his books covering San Diego’s outdoors 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 tomaseb@aol.com.) Tom Leech, Contact info: tomaseb@aol.com 858-650-0810 (office and cell)



Tom Wright



Steve & Leana Dillion



Caption: Part of Volunteer 7-member team are (l to-r) Russ Orrell, George DeLaBarre, and Glenn McHenry.



George DeLaBarre, Russ Orrell and Glenn McHenry at the gate the volunteer crew opens and closes each day and night.

Friends of Ruffin Canyon Updates

Chairperson: Monica Fuentes (858 268-0106) (619-517-4314) (jomonicer@yahoo.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Kathleen Ford (kfr3@yahoo.com)

Our business meeting place and time is at the Kearny Mesa/Serra Mesa Library on Aero Drive at 5:30 pm before the Community Council meeting on the **4th Wednesday of the month.**

The **Canyon Clean-ups** are from 9 to 12 on the **1st Saturday of the month** under the leadership of Park Ranger, Josh Lambdin. We alternate the cleanup location meeting place between the entrance to Ruffin Canyon at Taft Middle School or at end of Shawn Ave. off of Mission Village Drive.

Good News for Ruffin Canyon: *Canyonlands (a non-profit dedicated to preservation and restoration of canyons throughout San Diego County) has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy for canyon enhancement planning in 12 canyons throughout the city, including Ruffin Canyon! **Ruffin Canyon will be the second canyon to go through this planning process in the timeline of utilizing the grant.** Public workshops are anticipated to start sometime in 2016, to discuss ideas for improvements, which could include invasive plant/invasive tree removal, native plant restoration, trail connections/improvements, interpretive signage, and/or erosion control, among other possibilities. If you would like to be added to the Ruffin Canyon Enhancement Planning (CEP) stakeholder list, please send an email to Kevin Johnston (kevin@sdcanyonlands.org.)*

We are proceeding with our plans for naming the park land on the east side of Taft, **“The Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden.”** On Nov. 19th, we were given approval from the San Diego City Park and Recreation Board. We want to thank the many community members, friends and family that attended this hearing. Also thanks to 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. Now that we have permission for the memorial, we will proceed with getting a permit for placing a boulder and plaque to designate this garden at Taft for Bonnie Hough. Bonnie Hough was the Chair of the Friends of Ruffin Canyon and died in May. We hope to continue our partnership with Taft Middle School students and with the restoration of this garden and canyon.

If anyone is interested in making a **donation to Friends of Ruffin Canyon/Bonnie Hough Memorial**, just send a check payable to **Serra Mesa Community Council** and in the memo line write Friends of Ruffin Canyon. **Mail to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.** If anyone is interested in volunteering to work on the Memorial Committee. Just let us know. Our first meeting was on Saturday, Feb. 13th at 10.30 at the Serra Mesa Library on Aero Drive.

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

Mary J. Johnson (858-278-1317)
(maryjjohnson@earthlink.net)

.....
March-April Edition of: The Serra Mesa Village Crier
Hearing Loss Association of America, San Diego Chapter

Are you looking to do something about your own or another’s hearing issues? Well, be advised that we have a local chapter of: “Hearing Loss Association of America”. It provides information, education, support, and advocacy for persons with hearing loss. Some of the things they do are:

- Provide education on current technology and support services to help people with hearing loss
- Offer tips on how to cope with hearing problems for people with hearing loss, their families and friends
- Come together in fellowship, empathy and concern based on common experiences
- Encourage identification of people who have hearing problems
- Engage in free and open communication about hearing loss and
- Support a variety of programs that help people deal with the effects of hearing loss

Come and learn about this great organization. Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. All meetings are free and captioned. Meet at Mission Village Christian Fellowship at 9650 Melbourne Drive, San Diego, 92123. (Across from Juarez School). You can find out more about it at: www.hearingloss.org, www.hearinglossca.org, www.hearinglosssandiego.org,

Their email address is: HLAASD@gmail.com.

Carl Demas, President of Serra Mesa Village, www.serramesavillage.org.

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"/>	Community Council. 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"/>	Planning Group. 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"/>	Recreation Council. 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"/>	Enhancement Committee. 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"/>	Friends of the Library. 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"/>	Friends of Ruffin Canyon. Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serra Mesa Food Pantry. 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.

Craft Fair

Saturday, March 19, 2016

9am-3pm

VENDORS
we want you!

Taft Middle School
9191 Gramercy Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

The PTAs of two Serra Mesa schools are hosting this fun, outdoor event.

Vendors of all kinds are invited to join in this big day. Arts, crafts, unique products, clubs, and community services will be featured.

We are looking to fill all our Vendor Spots!! Sign up and lock in your spot.

Vendors interested in a booth space should go to:

<https://spring-fling-craft-fair-vendor-information.cheddarup.com>

For questions, contact
PTASpringFlingCraftFair@gmail.com

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

March/April, 2016 Events/Programs

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be Closed on Thursday, March 31st in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.

Adult Programs

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.

Zumba® Dance Fitness – Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. There will be NO CLASS on March 31st.

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

eReader Training – Saturdays, 3:00 p.m. and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. Learn how to download library eBooks to your device. Bring your eReader or tablet for hands on learning. There will be NO CLASS on April 2.

March 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.

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

March 8, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

March 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Lion's Game* by Nelson DeMille.

March 11, 1:00 p.m. Resume Strategies. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center shows you how to build a professional, attention-grabbing resume.

March 12, 9:30 a.m. Colored Pencil Society. A club meeting to share and discuss their artwork.

March 15, 1:00 p.m. Death Cafe. A safe, agenda-free place to discuss death, dying and end of life concerns. This is not a grief therapy group.

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

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

March 16, 5:45 p.m. San Diego Homeopathic Society. A club meeting to discuss and promote holistic health.

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

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

March 20, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Swamp Critters. Join us for a concert by local Cajun Zydamo group, Billy Lee & the Swamp Critters.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

March 23, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

March 25, 1:00 p.m. Thank You Letters. This workshop, offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center, teaches you the benefits of sending a “Thank You” letter within 24 hours after a job interview.

March 27, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

April 4 & 18, 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.

April 8, 1:00 p.m. Cover Letters & More. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to create impressive and attention-getting cover letters.

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

April 12, 1:00 p.m. Associated Fine Artists. Join us for a free art demonstration sponsored by the Associated Fine Artists.

April 12, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

April 17, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Silverwood. Join us for a concert by local classical ensemble, Silverwood.

April 20, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

April 20, 3:00 p.m. San Diego Travel Club. A club meeting to share and discuss travel plans.

April 20, 5:45 p.m. San Diego Homeopathic Society. A club meeting to discuss and promote holistic health.

April 21, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

April 21, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

April 22, 1:00 p.m. Labor Market Websites. Learn how to navigate and explore the best labor market information websites in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

April 24, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

April 27, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

Children Programs

Do Your Homework @ the Library Homework Help – Monday-Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade can come in for free homework assistance! Drop in-no sign ups required. Mondays & Thursdays 3:00-6:00pm, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 3:00-7:00pm.

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.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

Friday Morning Storytime – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Join Ms. Carrie every Friday morning for stories, songs, and fun!

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

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

March 3, 4:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss Celebration. Come celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a Dr. Seuss animated short film and a Dr. Seuss craft.

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

March 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. Pre-register at mathcircle@cfspoway.org.

March 14 & 28, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

March 10, 17 & 24, 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.

March 19, 12:00 p.m. Chess Tournament. Kids and teens are welcome to put their chess skills to the test in this friendly tournament.

April 4 & 18, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

April 6 & 20, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

April 8 & 22, 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. Pre-register at mathcircle@cfspoway.org.

April 11 & 25, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

April 14, 21 & 28, 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.

April 23, 12:00 p.m. Chess Workshop. Kids and teens are welcome to join this workshop to learn to improve their chess skills.

Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on March 19 and April 23

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children and seniors. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library starting on the 1st 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.



San Diego Unified School District
Building Quality Neighborhood Schools

GARY STANFORD
Director, Project Management Department
Facilities Planning and Construction
858.637.6280
Fax: 858.573-5880
gstanford1@sandi.net

January 21, 2016

Dear Taft Middle School Parents and Neighbors:

Subject: Construction Begins on Whole Site Modernization Project

San Diego Unified School District is beginning construction on the whole site modernization project at Taft Middle School this month. During this project, you may see and hear work associated with site preparation and construction. The following information describes the project, and outlines some of the construction activities.

Project: The whole site modernization project includes the installation of a new 10-foot ornamental fence in front of the school, improvements to parking and the student pick-up/drop-off area, with the addition of a new parking lot and pick-up/drop off area on the west side of campus. The administration office will be relocated to Building 100W. Building interiors will have the finishes/fixtures repaired, replaced or upgraded as necessary. Performance spaces will have the stage curtains and stationary stage replaced as necessary. Lockers for the boys' and girls' physical education building 900 will be replaced. The food services area will be renovated with new self-service kiosks and new finishes. Accessibility will be improved with repairs and/or renovations to classrooms, labs and restrooms.

Additionally, aging wiring will be repaired or replaced, as well as exit/emergency lights and the intercom system will be repaired or restored. Other as-needed repair/replacement projects include heating and ventilation exhaust fans in restrooms, sidewalks and deteriorating plumbing and sewer lines.

What to expect: Heavy equipment will be used during trenching and parking expansion on the west side of school, and the student walking path may be rerouted temporarily. The construction activities and workers will be separated from the rest of the campus, and adjacent properties will be separated by fencing. Our contractors will do their best to limit noise, dust and disruptions associated with this project.

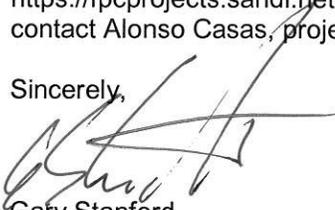
Construction is by nature a disruption we tolerate to improve school facilities for the future, and we appreciate your patience while this project is underway. When the whole site modernization project is finished, the upgrades to Taft Middle School will benefit the students and the community for years to come.

Completion: Construction is expected to be completed during summer of 2017.

When a project is complete, often there's a dedication ceremony and/or open house. Should such an event be scheduled, and you would like an invitation, please send your name, e-mail address and phone number to SDUSDFacilitiesInfo@sandi.net. Also, please indicate that you are interested in Taft Middle School's event.

This project is part of the district's capital improvement program funded by Propositions S and Z, which were passed by voters in 2008 and 2012 respectively. For more project details, please visit <https://fpcprojects.sandi.net/Pages/Reports.aspx?SchoolName=9326> (scroll down to "Project Schedules") or contact Alonso Casas, project manager, by phone at 858-573-5839 or by e-mail at acasas@sandi.net.

Sincerely,



Gary Stanford
Director of Project Management

GS:gb

Serra Mesa Observer
Editor: *Ronda Adams*
Post Office Box 23315
San Diego, CA 92193

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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