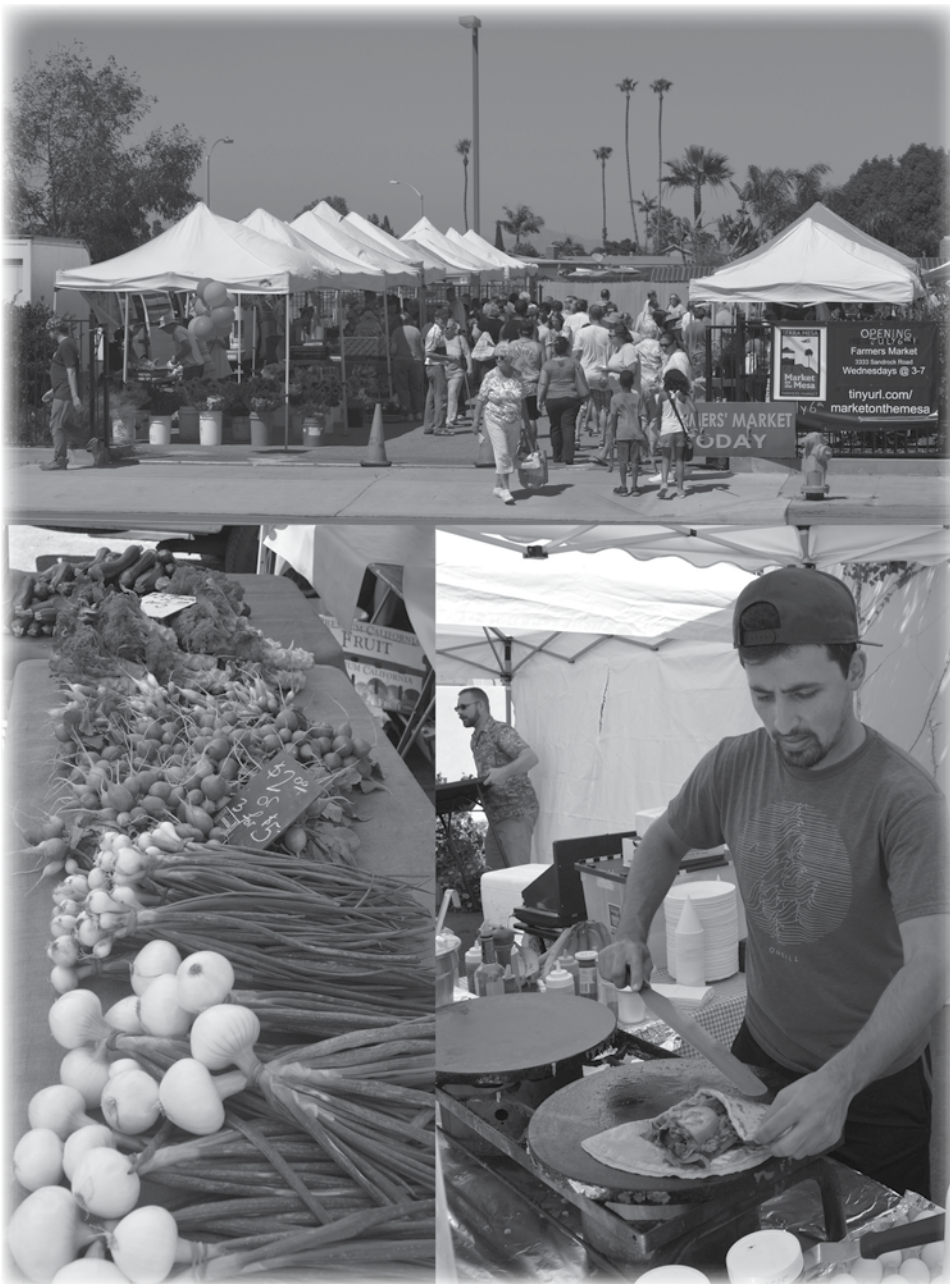




PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

*Support your local Farmer's Market*  
*Scheduled to re-open Wednesday, January 18*



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

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

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, February 22  
6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhood 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*
<i>SMRC</i>	
Cindy McIntyre.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Education Committee</i>	
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>	
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.

**Serra Mesa Observer** is published bimonthly by the Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approx 800  
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For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473  
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:** March / April Edition...February 19th  
P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193  
<http://www.serramesa.org>  
[communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)

### SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS

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>	

#### 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 Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber	(619) 531-7913
State Senator Toni G. Atkins	(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

Jan 10	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 17	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 21	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Jan 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 25	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 18	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Feb 21	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Feb 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 22	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 4	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**



### **Welcoming a New Year**

One of the great things about the New Year is that we get a chance to start over. Whatever happened in 2016 is done. Hopefully our horizons are filled with hope and enthusiasm as the future brings many things to appreciate. I have always found that if we focus on others and what we can do to make their life more enjoyable that we forget about our disappointments and personal issues.

One of the new and exciting things is our Observer and the Serra Mesa Connection. We are seeking out a better way of communicating to you. As our revenue of the Observer slips, the Serra Mesa Connection is a monthly media that comes every month and is largely sponsored by Serra Mesa Community Council board members Jennifer St. Clair and Terry O'Regan. As a 501 (c)3 The Observer is limited in several areas such as advertising and other legal limitations. The Connection is not. If you are not getting the publication now, you soon will be as circulation increases to include all of Serra Mesa and Birdrock. Meanwhile we thank Ronda Adams for being our editor and spending endless hours putting our Observer together.

The Serra Mesa Village is currently moving to the Serra Mesa Recreational Center who has provided space for us to meet and provide services to the community. Starting in 2017, we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to provide board games and movies to Village Members and Guests.

If you are neither, you will still be welcomed and if 55 or over you will be given the opportunity to become a member. The cost is minimal and gives you the opportunity of taking advantage of our free travel days which occur the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. by meeting in front of the Serra Mesa Library.

The Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library is offering more and better programs for the new year. Stay tuned as the schedules will be posted at the library as well as in the Observer and the Connection.

The Community Council has updated our website at [SerraMesa.org](http://SerraMesa.org). It is modernized and improved thanks to our special committee of Cindy Moore and Jon Cima. We also bid farewell and good fortune to our former web master Brad Beyenhof. Brad has recently run out of room as he welcomed new family members and is moving to larger quarters. We are always looking for new pictures and articles and ask that if you have things to offer to the Observer that you send them to our email address of [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org).

On a final note, you may have been disappointed at the lack of our Farmer's Market. A decision was made to give everyone a vacation over the holidays and they will resume on January 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup> you can experience a grand opening as we attempt to find a solution to dwindling shoppers and vendors. We are hoping that we can find a balance so this event can continue. Support your local Farmer's Market.

We at the Serra Mesa Community Council wish everyone a great and prosperous New Year and continue to look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Carl Demas, President

## **Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee**

The Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) wishes to thank all of you who have taken the time for ongoing maintenance-raking leaves, pulling weeds, picking up litter, painting your home when it needed it, repairing damaged fences, hiding the trash containers, and storing miscellaneous items out of sight. We thank you if you helped the neighbor who is physically unable to do some of these tasks. You are a good neighbor!

We thank those people who pick up litter as they walk through the neighborhood. As the City budget worsens Serra Mesa will remain clean because of the volunteer work of our residents.

New Beginnings – if your New Year’s resolution includes yard rejuvenation and you need ideas, take a walk through Serra Mesa. You may find the perfect yard and a resident willing to share their experience and the names of their plants. Drought tolerant plants are recommended given San Diego’s drought. Many resources are available to provide assistance in choosing plants. One resource is the Water Conservation Garden at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-660-0614, <http://thegarden.org/>, with about six acres of gardens and how-to displays and open daily. Please contact us if you wish to share other resources.

If you have a suggestion for a topic for this column or you wish to report a code enforcement violation that you want SMEC to investigate, you can send an e-mail to [serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com](mailto:serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com) or write to SMEC, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193. If you need immediate assistance on a code enforcement violation, contact Code Enforcement, 619-236-5500.

.....

## ***Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard***

We ended up pulling well over 300 lbs of sweet potatoes, beating last year’s total.

I’m amazed! Approximately 275 lbs were put in storage for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry -- 35 lbs more than last year, though admittedly that’s including a few rat-damaged roots that may end up as compost (in comparison, last years were all pretty well sorted and cleaned up). Total of comparable quality to last year’s is probably a little less.

Many thanks to Bev, Dee, and Ruth Ann for helping with the bulk of the harvest, and also Chris and Lindsey who came by later and helped us finish up.

Karl



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## Great News

Serra Mesa Village will be moving to the Serra Mesa Recreation Center as of January 2017. The City of San Diego has graciously allowed us to conduct meetings and events in the craft and music rooms. We will still work with Mission Village Christian Fellowship and Gethsemane Lutheran Church for our Friendship Lunch every Wednesday from 12 Noon to 1 PM at 2650 Melbourne Drive. Immediately after we will go to the Recreational Center at 1PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday for social gatherings, board games and possibly movies.

We have received a grant from the City of San Diego so you can look forward to improvements and updates which will greatly improve the comfort and enjoyment levels. So if you are a Seenager, between the ages of 55 and up, please join us at our Connection Meetings at the Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 3-5PM, one of our travel trips on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, or one of our social meetings. For your convenience, a calendar is provided.

Don't be a stranger, come be a Villager.

Carl Demas, President

## 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  
January 17 & February 21 at 6:30 p.m.

## Helping San Diegans Stay Competitive in the Job Market

### Free Classes

2017 Spring Classes



**Business, Computers,  
Information Technology  
and Digital Media**

Class schedule  
available online  
[sdce.edu](http://sdce.edu)

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## Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Karin Boye  
Interim Pastor

[rev.karin@yahoo.com](mailto:rev.karin@yahoo.com)

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

2696 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

Worship 8:00, 9:30 am  
(858) 277-6572

## ***New Look for Serra Mesa***

Visit the Serra Mesa website at [www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org) to view the new design. This website is used by most of the major Serra Mesa community organizations to provide information about their organization and community events. After several years of existence the “old” website needed technical revisions and “broke” following an update by the website host.

The Serra Mesa Community Council hired consultant Sara O’hara, a website expert and instructor with San Diego Oasis. (Oasis offers educational classes and excursions for adults 50+. In 2017 Oasis will relocate from their Mission Valley Shopping Center site to Grossmont Shopping Center. For more information on their programs, go to <http://www.oasisnet.org/San-Diego-CA.>)

Special thanks to:

- Brad Beyenhoff for his many years of maintaining the website and responding promptly when changes were needed. Brad and his family have moved to Mountain View in southeast San Diego. We’ll miss his tireless efforts on behalf of Serra Mesa!
- Anders Tomlinson, Serra Mesa resident, for the sliders (photos) that are shown on the website.
- James Feinberg for the widgets on the front page of the website. James, the original SMCC website designer, resides in the state of Washington. However, when widgets were needed for two additional community groups James provided them immediately. We are fortunate that he was willing to help his old community.
- Sara O’hara who contended with numerous emails and requests from website novices and facilitated a smooth transition to the new design. Thanks for her advice, prompt responses, and professionalism!
- Jon Cima and Cindy Moore, SMCC board members, who worked with Sara O’hara in making the numerous decisions needed for this redesign.

Website Changes:

- Web pages – Each major group has their own web page and is responsible for the content on their web page. Three new web pages were added: Hot Topics, Village, and Mesa Market. Designated SMCC board members and the SMPG representative, who attended Sara’s website training, will make requested changes.
- Calendar – A contact person from each community group has access to the master calendar and can add/edit events. Attachments (e.g., flyers) can be attached to the calendar event. This calendar feeds into the calendar at the Serra Mesa website.
- Sliders (e.g., sideshow) – The main page has sliders which can be changed as desired.
- Mobile Device Friendly – Website responsive to mobile devices.
- Social Media – Linkage to Facebook and Nextdoor. Additional links can be added as desired.

Future Changes: Other functions could include E-commerce (e.g., 92123 t-shirts), online subscriptions and donations. The website template that was selected is a popular one that’s easy to use and edit.

Improvements: If you have suggestions, please e-mail [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org) or the specific community group. The website is a work in progress.

**Volunteer Needed:** There are four trained volunteers, who can make basic changes (e.g., content, formatting, etc.) to the web pages. However, if there are any technical website requirements, this group doesn’t have the expertise and an expert would need to be hired. A volunteer with website expertise is desired on an as needed basis.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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



### Interested in playing baseball?

Serra Mesa Little League is looking for players of all skills and abilities to join us for the Spring Baseball Season! Boys and girls aged 4-14 on or by August 31, 2017 are eligible to play. The mission of Serra Mesa Little League is to be an outstanding community organization that creates a culture where kids love playing the game of baseball. Help us achieve our goal of promoting and developing the values of respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, courage, effort and commitment. We want our players to learn these values which will help them succeed throughout their lives. Games are held at Cabrillo Heights Park in Serra Mesa. Opening Day is March 4, 2017 and continues to Memorial Day. If you would like to join in on the fun and camaraderie that Little League has to offer, then go to [www.serramesalittleleague.org](http://www.serramesalittleleague.org).

## **Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library**

### **January/February, 2017 Events/Programs**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** on Sunday and Monday, **January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>** in observance of New Year's Day, Monday **January 16<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, **February 20<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Presidents' Day.

### **Adult Programs**

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of work by the Associated Fine Artists in the Community Room. An exhibit for the Lunar New Year on display in the library's display cases in the month of January and the sculptures of Howard Hill in the month of February.

**eReader/Tech Clinic – Saturdays and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. (Except January 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>)** Learn how to download library eBooks to your eReader or computer. Quick tips & helpful hints to get the most out of your downloads. Bring your own eReader, tablet, or laptop for hands on learning.

**Knitting Circle – Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.** Join the knitting circle. Improve your skills in this traditional art form.

**Zumba® Dance Fitness –Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.** The Zumba Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. Limit 30 participants.

**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. Limit 30 participants.

**January 10, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

**January 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *China Dolls* by Lisa See.

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

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

**January 19, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

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

**January 23, 1:30 p.m. OASIS Monday at the Library: Dark Chocolate, Red Wine & Heart Healthy Eating.** Join us for a FREE lecture that will provide practical dietary suggestions to reduce risk of heart disease and discuss continuous dietary controversies.

**January 24, 2:00 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.

**January 25, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council.** A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

**January 26, 4:00 p.m. Lunar New Year Lion Dance.** Celebrate the Lunar New Year's with a traditional Lion Dance performed by GDPT Chanh Kien. A must see event with amazing stunts.

**February 14, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Five Presidents* by Clint Hill.

**February 15, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that



advises the city on land use issues.

**February 16, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**February 16, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**February 26, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

**February 27, 1:30 p.m. OASIS Monday at the Library: Six Retirement Account Options.** Join us for a FREE interesting talk that will cover the rules for rollovers, the stretch IRA with a visual example of how it works, how beneficiary rules will affect beneficiaries and more.

### **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 preschoolers.

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

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

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

**January 11, 12:00 p.m. Baby/Toddler Explore Time. \*New Program** Come let your baby or toddler learn about the world by exploring. Little ones are able to make noise, play, and meet new friends. This is a loosely structured, baby-led program of play, music, art, stories, songs and more. For babies and toddlers 0-2 years.

**January 12, 19 & 26, 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.

**January 26, 4:00 p.m. Lunar New Year Lion Dance.** Celebrate the Lunar New Year's with a traditional Lion Dance performed by GDPT Chanh Kien. A must see event with amazing stunts.

**February 1 & 15, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**February 6, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**February 8, 12:00 p.m. Baby/Toddler Explore Time. \*New Program** Come let your baby or toddler learn about the world by exploring. Little ones are able to make noise, play, and meet new friends. This is a loosely structured, baby-led program of play, music, art, stories, songs and more. For babies and toddlers 0-2 years.

**February 9, 16 & 23, 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.

**February 13 & 27, 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 January 28 and February 25**

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.

## **TAFT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

My name is Lisa Forehand and I am so excited to join the Taft Team. I am passionate about teaching and building solid relationships with every child. I am a firm believer in respecting all learners and having safe, nurturing classrooms where every child can take risks and grow.

I have spent the past 23 years working in San Diego Unified School District in various capacities. I have worked in a supportive capacity in general education and special education classrooms. I have spent the past 18 years teaching grades K-5 and loving every minute of it!



I attended SDSU where I obtained a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and an Administrative Credential.

Professionally, I have been highlighted in multiple professional books and videos for my teaching. I am also a literacy consultant on Dr. Fisher's literacy team; I coach and consult teachers in various districts across the United States.

Personally, I have a beautiful blended family of 4 children: an 8th grader, a 9th grader, a 10th grader, and a 2nd grader. They keep me very busy and very tuned in to the current teenage thinking and culture. They have always attended SDUSD schools and I have been so grateful to their teachers and leaders.

It is an honor to be part of the Serra Mesa Community and serving on this leadership team at Taft Middle School. Go Eagles!



Lisa Forehand  
Vice Principal  
Taft Middle School  
858-935-2650

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." ~George Washington Carver



### **St. Columba School's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class to Hold Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser**

St. Columba School will kick off Catholic Schools Week by hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on January 28, 2017 at St. Columba Parish Hall, 3365 Glencolum Dr. 92123. The delicious dinner will include spaghetti, meatballs, breadsticks, salad, dessert, and non-alcoholic drink (beer and wine will be available for purchase.) Tickets for the dinner are \$10 in advance for adults, \$5 in advance for children, and are \$11 and \$5 at the door. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the school. Dinner will be served from 4:30-8:30. The Spaghetti Dinner has been a tradition at St. Columba School for over 15 years and is the main fundraiser for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp. This is a night filled with great food, friends and camaraderie – everything that makes Serra Mesa the wonderful community it is! So join us for St. Columba's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Annual Spaghetti Dinner!

## **MASS ON THE GRASS**

Nearly 200 parishioners of St. Columba Catholic Church celebrated the second annual Mass on the Grass, held Nov. 5 in the front lawn of the Serra Mesa church. Father Ed McNulty who recently became pastor led the Mass, which was accompanied by music from Spiritus. A post-Mass BBQ sponsored by the Men's Club followed the prayer-filled ceremony on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon.



### **Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church**

2235 Galahad Road, San Diego, CA 92123

**Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9 a.m.**

**Eastern European Ethnic Foods**

**Available in the Church Hall**

Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Friday-Tuesday

Closed on Wednesday and Thursday

Please call before coming to buy the food.

858-268-3458

### *Marvin Sloben*

Photographer

**619.239.2828**

Msloben@san.rr.com

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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.

Saturday

8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Mon-Fri.

7:00 a.m.

Holy Days

Please call the church for schedule

Serra Mesa Village Events for January 2017						
◀ Dec 2016						Feb 2017 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 1PM SM Village Board Meeting at SMRC	3 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	4 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF	5 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC  10A M-2PM Travel Event Viejas Casino	6	7
8	9	10 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	11 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF  1-3PM Social/Game/Movie at SMRC	12 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	13	14
15	16 1PM SM Village Board Meeting at SMRC	17 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	18 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF	19 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC  3-5PM SM Village Connection at SM/KM Library Program: Antarctica by Tom Large	20	21
22	23	24 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	25 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF  1-3PM Social/Game/Movie at SMRC	26 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	27	28
29	30	31 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	SMRC – Serra Mesa Recreational Center - 9020 Village Glen Dr. MVCF–Mission Village Christian Fellowship–2650 Melbourne Dr. SM/KM Library - 9002 Aero Drive			

Serra Mesa Village Events for February 2017						
◀ Jan 2017						Mar 2017 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF	2 8:30 – 9:30AM Fit Club at SMRC  10A M-2PM Travel Event TBA	3	4
5	6 1PM SM Village Board Meeting at SMRC	7 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	8 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF  1-3PM Social/Game/Movie at SMRC	9 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	10	11
12	13	14 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	15 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF	16 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC  3-5PM SM Village Connection at SM/KM Library	17	18
19	20 1PM SM Village Board Meeting at SMRC	21 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	22 12-1PM Friendship Lunch at MVCF  1-3PM Social/Game/Movie at SMRC	23 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	24	25
26	27	28 8:30-10AM Fit Club at SMRC	SMRC – Serra Mesa Recreational Center - 9020 Village Glen Dr. MVCF–Mission Village Christian Fellowship–2650 Melbourne Dr. SM/KM Library - 9002 Aero Drive			

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes  
November / December New and Renewed Subscribers***

Valarie Basham  
Dick & Dianna Bernard  
Mary Blankenship \*  
Donald & Sue Boyle  
Dorothy Burger  
Vincent & Susan Castiglione  
Ed & Sandy Clark \*\*  
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Carl & Marge Demas \*  
William & Koye Durmick \*  
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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.



### **Who says we don't have fall foliage in Serra Mesa?**

During the fall season, we see a lot on TV about the beautiful fall foliage in many places throughout the US. New England, Northwestern states, Midwest, and many more are on lavish display. We see very little of those red, orange, and yellow leaves coloring our local trees. We can drive up to our local mountains and experience the fall colors there. But except for a few trees planted here and there, our fall city foliage looks about like that in summer, or winter.

Well, here's one place right here in Serra Mesa where we have a fine display of fall colors. That's our pleasant neighborhood park called Murray Ridge Park. It's a fun place to stroll, unwind from the work-type stresses, watch your kids play, and perhaps enjoy a picnic. One section provides the bright fall colors and you'll have no trouble finding it, except the leaves are about all gone now – that's the way those fall colors work. Mark your calendar for a visit or two next fall to see those colors, just a few blocks from your home.

FYI it's right off 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.

Tom Leech is a frequent Observer contributor and a member of the SM Community Council Board and the SM Park & Rec Committee. He's the author, with wife Leslie, of *The Curious Adventures of Santa's Wayward Elves*, and other books. For info visit [www.presentationspress.com](http://www.presentationspress.com).



## **Canyon Enhancement Planning Continues for Ruffin Canyon**



On November 30th, San Diego Canyonlands held the second of a series of planning workshops for Ruffin Canyon with 20 in attendance at the Mission Valley Library. Facilitating the meeting in Mission Valley was purposeful, providing Mission Valley residents a closer venue for participation.

Ruffin Canyon stretches from Serra Mesa (at Taft Middle School) south to the Escala Community (HOA) in the Mission Valley. A narrow public easement for pedestrian and bicycle access was certified through Escala property as part of the development permitting process in 2003. This easement would allow Ruffin Canyon trails to reach the Friars Road tunnel and thus connect to the trail system along the San Diego River.

Being fully aware of concerns that some Escala residents have about the use of the easement, San Diego Canyonlands focused this meeting on possible trail improvements in Ruffin Canyon.

Starting in the North, Eric Bowlby, Executive Director of San Diego Canyonlands reported on a meeting with school district officials on November 21st, regarding the planned Joint Use Fields/Park at Taft Middle School. The joint use project includes an ADA accessible pathway around the inner perimeter of the chain link fence. Ruffin stakeholders attending the school district meeting were delighted that school district officials were receptive to the idea of having sections of roll-away fences that allow ADA access to canyon viewpoints along the outer edge of the fence.

While needing some improvements, the trails between Taft and Shawn Avenue finger canyon in the south are intact and functional and no new trails are proposed along that stretch. From Shawn Ave. south to Escala however, the trails are non-existent save a utility access road that uses the cobble bottom streambed to maintain sewer infrastructure.

Five Escala residents in attendance on November 30th shared their thoughts about the proposed trail. Concerns about homeless/transient access were raised and discussed.

“Use of canyon trails increases our sense of community, with Serra Mesa and Mission Valley residents sharing the wonderful Ruffin Canyon resource”, said John Raifsnider, an Escala resident since 2005. “The more the community has a presence enjoying the canyon, the safer it will be for everyone,” he added.

Discussion about the eight-foot wide Escala easement through the bottom of the canyon, connecting with City open space in the north, turned to a discussion of alternative alignments. The existing easement traverses the rocky canyon bottom through the endangered riparian woodlands along the ephemeral stream.... an unsafe and challenging location for trail users.

In 2015, San Diego Canyonlands received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to consider trail alignments in each canyon as part of the planning process. “For next steps, we will hire a qualified consultant to look at alternative routes to finish the trail system in Ruffin Canyon”, said Bowlby. “We hope to meet with the Escala HOA Board early next year to discuss conceptual alignments (and possible easement adjustments) that will bring the trail up out of the cobble stone floodplain, to a more sustainable, and comfortable trail along the bottom edge of the slope.”

The next Ruffin Canyon enhancement stakeholder workshop date has yet to be determined. For further information and to be notified of up-coming meetings/events, contact Eric Bowlby, Executive Director of San Diego Canyonlands, (eric@sdcanyonlands.org, or 619-284-9399).



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

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### **Serra Mesa Little League Needs Your Help!**

Baseball season is just around the corner and Serra Mesa Little League needs your help! SMLL is a non-profit organization that has provided coaching and guidance to Serra Mesa youth for over 50 years. We try to keep fees as low as possible, and these fees only cover a portion of our expenses. It's through the generosity of donors and sponsors that we are able to provide this opportunity for our youth to learn the great game of baseball.

If you would like to be part of this community organization that helps local youth learn the values of respect, teamwork, courage, sportsmanship, effort and commitment then please become a sponsor of Serra Mesa Little League! There are many sponsor packages available. If interested please contact us at [serramesalittleleague@outlook.com](mailto:serramesalittleleague@outlook.com) or go to [www.serramesalittleleague.org](http://www.serramesalittleleague.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"/>	<b>Community Council.</b> <i>Sponsors clean-ups, publishes newsletter, liaison between elected officials &amp; the community, meets 10 times/yr. Volunteers needed: Board &amp; special projects. Commitment: varies.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Planning Group.</b> <i>Advises the City on the Serra Mesa Community Plan and land use issues. Volunteers needed. Trained &amp; indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3.5 hours/month.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Recreation Council.</b> <i>Plans, promote, publicizes &amp; helps provide recreation opportunities for citizens in Serra Mesa. Volunteers needed: Council. No training needed. Commitment: 1.5 hour/month</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Enhancement Committee.</b> <i>Sends educational letters to residents requesting code compliance. Promotes community improvement. Trained &amp; indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3 hours/month.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of the Library.</b> <i>Provides summer reading program, extra books &amp; tapes, &amp; sponsors special library events for the Serra Mesa Library. Volunteers needed: Board. Commitment: 5 hours/month.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of Ruffin Canyon.</b> <i>Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Serra Mesa Food Pantry.</b> <i>Staff the Food Pantry, pick up donated food, coordinate food drives, organize community sponsors. Commitment: varies.</i>

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Complaint Referred to (specify date)

Action Steps (specify date)

\_\_\_\_\_ Code Compliance

Second Checker: No Violation, Close \_\_\_\_\_ Violation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Police

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_