



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4     JULY / AUGUST 2017

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## One Person Can Make a Difference

Bonnie's vision for a native plant garden and the restoration of Ruffin Canyon and her many hours of dedication and hard work in her wheelchair, planting, weeding, and watering are being appreciated.

This Spring the garden was a spectacular field of blooming yellow tarweed and white/pinkish flowering buckwheat. Also blooming were a beautiful purple Cleveland Sage and one of Bonnie's favorites a Woolley Blue Curl, along with poppies and sunflowers.

**More of this and other stories on pages 12, 16, and 17**



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

You are invited to participate in the  
**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
No Meeting in July

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, August 23  
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\*  
*President*  
 Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Treasurer/Community Events*  
 Cindy McIntyre .....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Secretary*

**Board Members**

Jackie Ander.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Friends of the Library*  
 Debbie Campbell.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Community Events*  
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*SMRC*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Education Committee*  
 Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Current Issues*  
 Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Special Projects/SMPG*  
 Kimberly Lieu/Diana Wendel.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Farmers Market*  
 Jennifer St. Clair.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Pantry, Garden, Village Coordinator*  
 Terry O'Regan.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Local Business Coordinator*

**Appointed Positions**

Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Subscription Records*  
 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Editor*  
 Melissa Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff/Education*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff*  
 Marge Demas.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Mailing Coordinator*  
 Robin Rivera.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Message Coordinator*  
 .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Welcome to Serra Mesa*  
 Elizabeth Rice.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Utility Box Coordinator*  
 \*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:** September / October Edition...August 25th

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: [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)  
 Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473  
 e-mail: [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto: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 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**

July 11	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
July 15	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
July 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
July 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
July 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Aug 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Aug 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Aug 19	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Aug 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 9	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



One of the wonderful things that I have found in the leadership of this community is the coming together to consensus of different backgrounds and opinions for the common good. Our SMCC board is made up of wonderful community people with different political and economic backgrounds, yet we can reason together and find a solution to just about any situation. Why can't it be that way with our local and national leadership. We are certainly not smarter than they are, but why not come together and discuss differences and solutions without walking away in disgust. That seems to be the way in Washington, Sacramento, and San Diego. For instance, Toni Adkins recently wrote in an article for the Mission Times Courier (May 19<sup>th</sup>) that California should adopt single-payer health care. It involves the ACA (Affordable Care Act) which has recently been repealed by the US House of Representatives. What Senator Adkins is proposing is a single-payer universal health care system which would make the state everyone's insurer. "In addition to providing universal health care, the goal is to reduce overall health care costs as we streamline the system." Senator Adkins adds that she believes that health care is a right just like education and safety protection."

On the same page of the same Guest Editorial Section, Representative Darrell Issa states that this year California monthly health insurance premiums will increase by an average of 13% and that premiums have risen an average of \$5,000 a year. Representative Issa uses the example of the State of Maine where they created an "invisible high-risk pool" to provide support for individuals with pre-existing conditions. By doing this, everyone could participate in the state system at the same rates with the result of premiums being reduced as much as \$7,000 per year.

My point is that both Senator Adkins and Representative Issa are stating that a Washington top-down health care solution has failed. There are solutions but our lawmaker's self-interests supersede the common good and we pay to suffer. If this whole issue were brought to the Serra Mesa Community Council for resolution, I believe we could come to consensus and solve the problem. Maybe like the insurance company advertisement asserts, we have chosen the wrong candidates. Why don't our elected officials adopt the same health care for themselves as they want us to have and lead the right way, from the front?

Carl Demas

President Serra Mesa Community Council



### **Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School -**

Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're  
LOVINGLY CRAFTED BY GOD.

Where kids learn they were created by God and built for a purpose! Kids learn: God made them; God is for them; God is always with them; God will always love them; and God made them for a reason.

Come join the fun!!

**Who:** VBS is open to all children from pre-school through those entering Grade 6.

You do not need to attend our church to attend VBS!

**What:** Kids will enjoy songs, games, crafts, skits and more as they learn about  
God's purpose for their lives.

**When:** Tuesday through Friday, July, 25-28, 6-8:15pm.

Parents are welcome to join us or enjoy a few hours of quiet time away from the kids!

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

Cost: VBS is FREE!

Register at <http://www.missionvillage.church/contact-us/>

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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  
July 18 & August 15 at 6:30 p.m.

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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

## Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) unanimously approved the letter developed by the Franklin Ridge Road Subcommittee in response to the recirculated draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Serra Mesa Community Plan Amendment Roadway Project. The Recirculated DEIR is at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa>. The roadway project refers to the Franklin Ridge Road connection between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa and Civita in Mission Valley.

Additionally, SMPG voted unanimously to approve a position statement regarding the community plan amendment. The position statement is included in this Observer. SMPG has received confirmation that the position statement will be included in the staff report.

**Meeting with City Councilmember Scott Sherman** - Representatives of SMPG attended a June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Councilmember Sherman and his staff explaining SMPG's position and providing justification for withdrawal of the amendment. Councilmember Sherman and his staff listened attentively, indicated he's also meeting with other groups, and would check with staff in regards to answers to our questions.

**Next Steps in the Process** –Staff is required to write a response to all comments. 114 letters were received. In the past staff has indicated that responses wouldn't be available until two weeks prior to the Planning Commission hearing. After this hearing the item is forwarded to the City Council's Smart Growth & Land Use Committee and then onto the City Council, the final decision maker. All of these hearings are open to the public.

**Tentative Schedule for Hearings** - When a definite date is confirmed for a hearing an email notice to the SMCC's email list will be sent with information about participating in the process.

Planning Commission – August 24

Smart Growth & Land Use Committee – September 20

City Council – October 17

**Posted** at <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>

- SMPG response letter
- SMPG position statement
- Response letter from the attorney retained by the Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) to review the Recirculated DEIR
- Get the Facts – Franklin Ridge Road Connection presentation at the SMCC May 24, 2017 meeting
- Presentation to City Councilmember Scott Sherman and his staff on June 15, 2017

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### ABLE PLUMBING AND DRAIN SERVICE

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**Scott Fiori**  
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Cell 619-985-8204 • plumber92123@gmail.com  
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## **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			



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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-Kearny Mesa Branch Library**

### **July/August 2017 Events/Programs**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.

#### **Adult Programs**

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of artwork by the Colored Pencil Society in the Community Room and Lego by the Ege Family in the display cases.

**eReader/Tech Clinic – Saturdays and Sundays, 2:00 p.m.** (except July 15 and August 12) 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.

**July 6, 2:30 p.m. Coloring Club for Adults.** Find out why coloring for adults is the latest & greatest way to de-stress! Come and spend an hour of stress relieving, mindful, and calm creative expression. Supplies are provided!

**July 11, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

**July 11, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer.

**July 19, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**July 20, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**July 20, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**July 23, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

**July 24, 1:30 p.m. OASIS Monday at the Library: Investment Crash Course.** Learn critical investment concepts including the fundamentals of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and ETFs. We will also look at the many layers of fees in investing, common investment mistakes, investment behavioral management, and how to best work with advisors.

**July 28, 1:00 p.m. Metro Career Workshop: Resume Strategies.** In this workshop, by San Diego Metro Career Center, learn to apply expert principles to build a professional, attention grabbing resume.

**August 3, 2:30 p.m. Coloring Club for Adults.** Find out why coloring for adults is the latest & greatest way to de-stress! Come and spend an hour of stress relieving, mindful, and calm creative expression. Supplies are provided!



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**August 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari.

**August 16, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

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

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

**August 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.

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

**August 28, 1:30 p.m. OASIS Monday at the Library: Great Castles in England** Enjoy a “virtual travelogue” of several castles throughout England (both famous, and lesser known) that spans the history of medieval castle building, and gives an understanding of the architecture, military significance, and cultural value of castles from the 9th century to the 15th century.

### **Children Programs**

**Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. (except July 4<sup>th</sup>)** 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!

**July 3 & 17, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**July 5, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Wild Wonders.** Wild animals from Wild Wonders will be here for “Nature by Design.”

**July 7, 4:00 p.m. STEAM2 Academy: Space Science.** Catch a glimpse at the life of astronomers by learning how to use a simple telescope! We will also construct a model of the solar system and learn about the Mars rover’s latest discoveries! This program is geared toward kids ages 4-8.

**July 10, 24 & 31, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children’s craft.

**July 12 & 26, 12:00 p.m. Baby/Toddler Explore Time.** 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.

**July 12, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Gaston’s Puppet Show.** Puppeteer Gaston Morineau presents ““Super Gingerbread Girl: an 8 Bit Adventure,” an interactive show that presents the classic tale of the gingerbread man in a video game setting.

**July 13, 20 & 27, 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.

## Congratulations to Serra Mesa Little League Junior Division for winning District 33 Tournament of Champions!

The Juniors division is composed of 13 and 14 year old's, many of which have been playing in Serra Mesa Little League since Tee Ball! Manager Tom Baker, Coaches Kelly Burton and Richard Hopkins lead the boys to a 14-1 victory over the Patriot Bulls at Shira Field located at Lake Murray on June 15, 2017. Members of the Serra Mesa Mariners include Simon Baker, Connor Bell, Kellen O'Donnell, Zakie Welch, Ryan Hopkins, Kai Jessie, Josh Blanchard, Devante Koyl, Aiden Bradley, Kyle Burton, Jeremiah Miranda, Tony DiLena, Marc Oefner, Alex Lopez, Mateo Benally, and Javon Thompson.

Serra Mesa Little League is currently registering for Fall Ball season. You can sign up or get more information about registration at [www.serramesalittleleague.org](http://www.serramesalittleleague.org). Season runs from September to November for ages 4-14 years.



## Serra Mesa Christian Fellowship is celebrating 60 years

Serra Mesa Christian Fellowship is celebrating 60 years of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. During that time, our church has served the community, the military families who live nearby, Jones Elementary school, church groups passing through to mission trips, a Christian charter school, Awana groups, youth groups, a polling station, an evacuation shelter in times of community crisis, and ministry to the homeless.

Through the years, the main roof has held strong with the occasional patchwork. Unfortunately, the main roof is now failing and causing damage to the sanctuary. But in confidence, we are looking forward to many more years of service to our community and all who will come in and fellowship under our roof. For the past couple of years, we have operated on a faith budget with a near zero balance and carrying no debt. God's faithfulness has been remarkable in meeting all our needs.

We invite you to join us with an opportunity to further the work of this ministry for future generations by donating to our special

**"RAISE THE ROOF"** project to help us replace the old roof.

**Our goal for this project is \$50,000 (based on contractor quotes), and we aim for completion of the work by the end of the year.**

All tax-deductible contributions can be donated through:

- our GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/RaiseTheRoofSMCF>, or
- mailed directly to the church 2649 Murray Ridge Rd, San Diego, CA 92123
  - Please make checks payable to "*Serra Mesa Christian Fellowship*."
  - Please include "*Raise The Roof*" on the memo line of the check.

Please also include your full mailing address to receive your tax-deductible receipt for your contribution.

You can find work details and follow our progress on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/SerraMesaChristianFellowship/> and our website <http://www.smcftoday.com/raisetherooft>.

If you have any questions about our project or would like to assist in our fundraising efforts, please email us at [SMCF2649@gmail.com](mailto:SMCF2649@gmail.com)

With God, all things are possible through His Son Jesus Christ.

"Jesus taught them to pray and to never give up..." (Luke 18:1)

Continued from page 9

**July 19, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Hullabaloo.** Join us for a toe-tapping good time with family favorite and local band, Hullabaloo!

**July 26, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Little Catbird.** Little Catbird will be presenting their all new musical show "The Fairy and the Dragon".

**August 2, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Pacific Animal Productions.** Learn about animal ecosystems and how animals are the building blocks of nature, with wild animals.

**August 4, 4:00 p.m. STEAM2 Academy: All About Apples.** Learn all about the growth cycle of the apple, from seed to tree to fruit. This program is geared toward kids ages 4-8.

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

**August 9 & 23, 12:00 p.m. Baby/Toddler Explore Time.** 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.

**August 9, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Found Object Juggling.** Join us for a juggling show with hilarious tricks, stunts and lots of comedy fun!

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

**August 14 & 28, 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 July 22 and August 26**

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. 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. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library or call 858-573-1396 starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

**Summer Reading Program 2017!! June 15 to August 15**

*Read by Design* and join the Summer Reading Program! It's free to sign up for ALL AGES at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org) beginning on June 15th. Keep track of the books you read this summer with your online reading log and earn prizes for reading! Every Wednesday from June 21st through August 9th at 4:00 p.m., join us for a special Summer Reading Shows featuring clowns, magicians, animals, and more!

## Landmark tribute for notable Serra Mesa nature preserver



Serra Mesa is blessed with many natural canyons, providing opportunities for residents to take a stroll or serious hike into the canyons, thus enjoying nature while adding to personal fitness. Our major canyon has a familiar name as it's at the end of Ruffin Road and located next to Taft Middle School. Serra Mesa environmental activists, working with the Sierra Club and Council member Donna Frye, saw success in January 2003 when the City Council voted to set aside this area as dedicated open space.



A key player in making that happen and continuing on for a dozen more years as leader of the Friends of Ruffin Canyon was Serra Mesa resident Bonnie Hough. The Friends, working with SD City Park & Rec, took on the major role of managing and upgrading this specific canyon and other natural areas in our community. Bonnie and the Friends partnered with Taft Middle School, wrote grants, and in 2005 formed the Taft Service Club that created and enhanced the native plant garden right beside Taft. For many years the Friends have organized frequent work parties at this garden to remove invasive weeds, plant native plants, and water as needed.

Bonnie passed away two years ago and, with the efforts of the Friends and San Diego City Park & Rec., on May 25 a plaque honoring her was placed in this Bonnie Hough Native

Habitat Garden. You can see the plaque and the kiosk describing the person the Garden is named for and stroll around to enjoy the many plants in bloom right now. Looking at Taft from the main road, Gramercy, the marked entry is to the left. The best way is to walk or bike from your neighborhood, or alternately there is parking in the Ruffin Road cul-de-sac, adjacent streets, and on weekends or after work you can park in the Taft School lot.

The Friends invite all to come join their frequent work parties, held right here at Ruffin, at Shawn Canyon off Mission Village Drive, and the yet-to-be-named trail from the SM Park and Rec Center over to the SM/KM Library. They mostly meet on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m. - noon at the specific canyon entrance (the July 1 location will be at Taft/Ruffin). Volunteers experience rewards by seeing how their efforts have significantly enhanced the access, native foliage, scenery and enjoyment of our canyons. For information check the SM web site.

<http://www.serramesa.org/friends-of-ruffin-canyon/>

Thank you Bonnie Hough.

Tom Leech is a member of the Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Board member of SM Community Council, and co-author (with Jack Farnan) of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*.

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## Wegeforth Elementary School

We had a great 2016/2107 school year, and have even more to look forward to in the next school year!

Some highlights from 2016/2017 are:

Monster Mash/Fall Festival – our turnout was fantastic and we had more games than ever before. All the families that attended had a wonderful time, several of whom shared their thoughts on Yelp, Facebook & GreatSchools!

Mission 2 \$ave – our amazing savers have put away over \$14,000 in 2016/2017 school year! We have 67 savers who have done. Amazing! Keep up the great saving habit!

Student Council – we've had a very strong Student Council this year, which have led our Morning Assemblies, led Awards Assemblies, determined which classes got to spin our Attendance Wheel, and hosted several fundraisers and community service projects.

Continue to page 16

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes  
May / June New and Renewed Subscribers***

Carlos & Evangeline Abeyta  
June Angus  
Audrey Blevins \*\*  
Margaret Brett  
Beverly Bruff  
Ernie Buck  
Sherrie Caradonna  
Jim & Frances  
Paul & Oona Clark \*  
Jerome & Hildegard Class  
Steve & Leana Dillon \*  
Jerry & Loyce Edwards  
Rachel Evans  
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Mrs. Jerry Wicks \*\*  
Keith & Louise Wilcox  
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OUR VALUED ADVERTISERS:  
Able Plumbing & Drain Service

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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.

# 2017 SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK

10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
★ 2007-2017 ★



Presented by

**SHARP**

Rees-Stealy  
Medical Centers

Free evening movies all summer for the whole family

**Saturday, August 12:**  
**Sing (PG)**

Movie will begin 15 minutes after sunset

## Location:

**Cabrillo Heights  
Neighborhood Park**  
8303 Hurlbut Street

San Diego, CA 92123 - (619) 235-1152

[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/recctr/serramesa](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/recctr/serramesa)

This is a smoke- & alcohol-free park. All dogs must be on leash

This is a fun, free, and fabulous family activity in your neighborhood.

Summer Movies in the Park is a perfect chance to relax and enjoy a safe & special night under the stars.

Arrive early to get a good location for your blankets & lawn chairs, and enjoy the pre-movie special entertainment for all ages!



Serra Mesa Recreation Council • Serra Mesa Town Council

Produced by



For full series schedule and select movie trailers, visit  
[www.SummerMoviesinthePark.com](http://www.SummerMoviesinthePark.com)





## **San Diego Police Department Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)**

### **Volunteers are Needed**

The Eastern Division of SDPD Eastern Division is reaching out to the Kearny Mesa, Serra Mesa community for volunteers for the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, an agency which provides assistance to the police department. Volunteers will participate in the following activities:

- Patrol the streets of our neighborhoods in a patrol car
- Perform business community checks
- Check the homes of vacationing neighbors
- Report city deficiencies, i.e. nonfunctioning traffic signals, potholes, street flooding
- Issue citations to those who violate disabled parking rules
- Visit homebound seniors
- Traffic control
- Public speaking
- Many more exciting and rewarding tasks

We do not participate directly in crime prevention, however we serve as the extra eyes and ears of the police department.

If you are interested in this type of community service and meet the following requirements, please contact us.

- 50+ Years Old
- Semi or Fully Retired
- Good Physical or Mental Health
- Ability to Volunteer in Community Service an Minimum of 3 days per month
- Valid California Driver's License



Please contact us at 858-495-7990, 9225 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

## Wegeforth Elementary School, continued from page 12

Variety Show – another show full of great Wegeforth talent!

Career Fair – we had an amazing Career Fair this year, which our Student Council was also instrumental in leading. We had 15 presenters, many of whom were our wonderful Wegeforth parents.

Retirements – we have several staff members who have reached that golden time of their lives and made the difficult decision to retire in June 2017, and we sent them off in style:

Sherrie Caradonna, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Tim Jenne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

Susan Kincade, Special Education Assistant

Nancy Mack, Café Manager

Debbie Wasserman, Health Technician

We have much to look forward to in the new school year as well:

Dance – our Dance program has survived the district budget cuts, and we'll be working to promote and expand this program so that our Wegeforth identity is crystal clear to our community.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant – Mrs. Farrell, one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers, wrote a grant for our school to develop a Community Reading Garden in front of our school. Wegeforth is *the only school in San Diego County* to win this grant! We're now developing the design and are reaching out to our parents to help with this project. It is our hope that it will be complete by mid-August! Drive by and take a look!

Have a wonderful summer!

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### One Person Can Make a Difference



Bonnie's vision for a native plant garden and the restoration of Ruffin Canyon and her many hours of dedication and hard work in her wheelchair planting, weeding, and watering are being appreciated. This Spring the garden was a spectacular field of blooming yellow tarweed and white/pinkish flowering buckwheat. Also blooming were a beautiful purple Cleveland Sage and one of Bonnie's favorites a Woolley Blue Curl, along with poppies and sunflowers.

The natives are alive and well.

Bonnie spent hours with many volunteers and Taft students creating this garden. The students painted rocks to place by the plants for identification. Lemonadeberry, Blue-eyed Grass, Duleya, Laurel Sumac, Toyon, Elderberry, Monkeyflower, Deerweed, Ceanothus, Broom Baccharis, White Sage, Bladderpod, Blue Dicks, Ladies Fingers, San Diego and California Sunflowers, Chaparral Mallow, Spiny Red Berry, Coast Live Oaks can all be found. The signature plant of the garden is the Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry with red flowers that dangle like a lovely fuchsias. Bonnie will always be remembered for inspiring others to protect and appreciate our environment. Thanks to Bonnie, the community can now enjoy and see the many plants native to Serra Mesa's canyons.



### **The Friends of Ruffin Canyon Wish to Thank You!**

**The Friends of Ruffin Canyon** wish to thank the many people and groups that supported our efforts for the naming and dedicating the Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden.

**Serra Mesa Community Council and "The Serra Mesa Observer"**

**Serra Mesa Planning Group**

**Serra Mesa Recreation Council**

**San Diego River Foundation**

**San Diego Park Rangers - Open Space Division**

**San Diego Canyonlands**

**Taft Middle School and After School Programs**

**Taft Middle School Maintenance Staff**

**Civita / Sudberry Properties**

**Bonnie Hough's Family and Friends**

During the 2017 Memorial Day weekend a memorial boulder plaque was installed at the **Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden** located on the west side of Taft Middle School (9191 Gramercy) at the end of Ruffin Road and at the entrance to Ruffin Canyon.

Mark Radelow/Civita /Sudberry Properties donated the boulder. Park Ranger, Jason Allen and Canyonlands Director, Eric Bowlby obtained the right of entry for the installation of the memorial boulder plaque. Darren Mahoney of Sign-Age installed the plaque on the boulder.

Thanks to the following for their individual donations for the memorial plaque: Jackie Anders, Don & Gail Bamber, Eric Bowlby, Steve Byrd, Jon Cima, Vryce Hough, Rob Hutsel, Tom Leech, Marsha Lindbeck, Walter Meins, Martha Mintz, Cindy Moore, Glenn Torbett.

We appreciated all the community support.

On June 6, 2015, the Friends of Ruffin Canyon voted unanimously to initiate the naming of the native plant garden next to Taft Middle School as a memorial to Bonnie Hough, a founder and chair of Friends of Ruffin Canyon. ---Monica Fuentes, Chair

On June 24, 2015, the Serra Mesa Community Council voted unanimously to approve the community memorial for Bonnie Hough. --- Carl Dimas, President.

On July 24, 2015, the Serra Mesa Planning Group voted unanimously to approve sending a letter in support of a community memorial for Bonnie Hough. --- Cindy Moore, Chair

On September 15, 2015, the Serra Mesa Park and Recreation Council approved the memorial for Bonnie Hough. --- Jon Cima, Chair.

Because of all the support ---**The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board approved the naming of the native plant garden at the entrance of Ruffin Canyon** on Nov.16, 2015.

## 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: _____	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with our mandate under Article II, Section 1 of Council Policy 600-24 to make recommendations to the City Council, Planning Commission, and City staff concerning the preparation of, adoption of, implementation of or amendment to a land use plan, the Serra Mesa Planning Group hereby presents the following comments for inclusion in the staff report to the Planning Commission and City Council on the Proposed Serra Mesa Community Plan Amendment Roadway Connection Project, Project No. 265605 SCH No. 2012011048.

## **SERRA MESA PLANNING GROUP'S SUMMARY/POSITION STATEMENT**

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1. SMPG recommends AGAINST amending the Serra Mesa Community Plan to include the roadway connection for the following reasons:
  - The emergency connection is redundant and is neither required nor necessary.
  - The connection will not improve overall traffic flow in the study area and, in fact, will degrade it.
  - The proposed Amendment has been rejected numerous times by Planning Commission (2004 and 2008) and City Council (2005).
  - The connection is strongly opposed by the affected Community.
2. SMPG recommends NOT to amend the Serra Mesa Community Plan to include a roadway connection on the basis that the Recirculated DEIR does not meet project objectives and shows a significant negative environmental impact on traffic. The Recirculated DEIR inadequately studied noise and pollution impacts (e.g., sensitive receptors not considered).

The Recirculated DEIR is NOT complete and NOT in compliance with CEQA. Information is fundamentally inadequate and conclusory.

- Two communities are connected with the existing emergency, pedestrian and bicyclist access between Kaplan Drive in Serra Mesa and Aperture Circle in Mission Valley. Also, at least one trail for pedestrians and bicyclists from Civita to Phyllis Place Park is mandated with or without the roadway connection.
  - Mission Center Road and Mission Village Drive provide interconnectivity between the two communities.
3. SMPG recommends that the proposed Community Plan Amendment be DENIED. The CPA does not meet proposed goals and does not benefit the residents of either community.
  4. SMPG recommends that the Mission Valley Community Plan be REVISED to exclude the Franklin Ridge Road Connection as it is not mitigable below a significant level and negatively impacts transportation/circulation in both communities.

## **EMERGENCY ROAD CONNECTION ANALYSIS FLAW**

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When the City Council requested the initiation of this CPA in 2008, their discussion was heavily focused on public safety, emergency evacuation, and fire department access. Unfortunately, no one who was so authorized informed the Council during this discussion that there is already an emergency-only connection at Kaplan Drive from Civita to Serra Mesa designed into the project and currently in use.

Issues City Council directed staff to analyze	Findings
1. Whether police and fire response time would be improved with road connection	Study/Documentation to support City's position of improvement not provided; Recirculated DEIR didn't consider Kaplan Dr
2. Whether the road connection could serve as an emergency evacuation route	Evacuation route already exists at Kaplan Dr and Aperture Circle
3. Whether it is feasible to make the road available for emergency access only	Emergency access already exists at Kaplan Dr and Aperture Circle
4. Whether pedestrian and bicycle access would be improved by the street connection	Pedestrian and bicycle access exists at Kaplan Dr and trail from Civita to Phyllis Place Park is mandated



## ROADWAY CONNECTION IMPACTS

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- Required 1.33 acre linear park along Phyllis Place divided in two by connection – safety issues
- Required to relocate high-pressure gas line
- Impacts environment, constructed through sensitive habitat, particularly coastal sage scrub
- Impacts 56 multifamily retirement/Senior units located across from roadway connection
- Creates “Potential to result in safety hazard for vehicles entering or exiting the City View Church” (5.2.6.1); church is located across from roadway intersection; church driveway and roadway intersection won’t align
- Steep grade (developer indicates steepest just under 10%) not considered in noise and air quality studies
- Mitigation requires removal of bicycle lanes on both sides of Murray Ridge to Sandroock Road; “City’s ability to implement...may be limited” so “impact would remain significant and unavoidable” (DEIR, p. 5.2-39)
- Implementation of 6 of the 19 mitigations violates City’s land use and mobility policies; 8 of the 19 mitigations assumes mitigation will not occur; 10 of the 19 mitigations would remain Significant and Unavoidable
- Huge traffic increase into a residential community brings with it by definition additional safety and quality of life issues (noise, accidents, parking, and pollution for example)

## TRAFFIC IMPACTS

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Roadway connection “generally relieve congestion on neighborhood streets” (DEIR, p. 5-1-15). This isn’t proven by the traffic studies long term analysis. See attachment for charts.

Impact Areas	Without Connection	With Connection	Results With Connection
Phyllis Pl	ADTs: 2,420	ADTs: 34,540	Significant Increased Traffic - Worse
Franklin Ridge/Via Alta to Civita	LOS: C	LOS: F	More traffic - Worse
I-805 Bridge	LOS: E	LOS: F	61% More Vehicles - Worse
I-805 on-ramps	Delays < 15 min	Delays 31-43 min <sup>1</sup>	Significant Delays - Worse
I-805 freeway	LOS: F	LOS: F	"would result in significant impact at six freeway segments" <sup>2</sup>

\*ADT=Average Daily Trips, \*LOS=Traffic Level Of Service, \*F=forced flow, extreme congestion, <sup>1</sup>Appendix C, p. 61, <sup>2</sup>DEIR, p. 5.2-37

Already planned and approved Phase 1 of SR-163 and Friars Road Interchange Project; scheduled for fall 2017 construction; will alleviate severe traffic delays on Friars Road (City website).

## MISSION VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAN INCONSISTENCY

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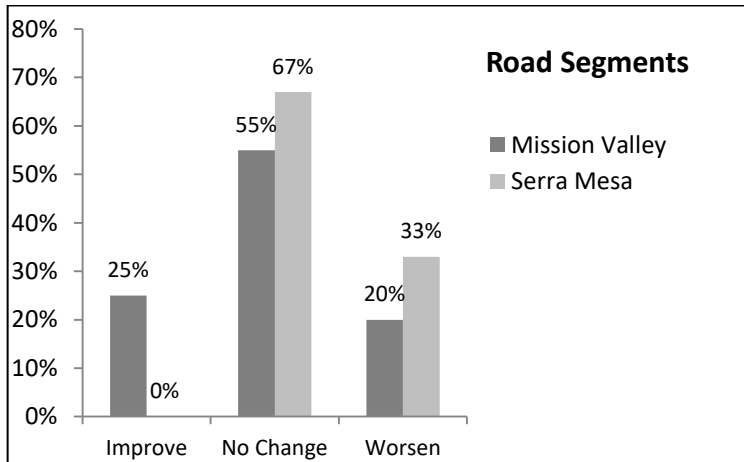
The Sand and Gravel Re-use Development section of the Mission Valley Community Plan (p. 56) states “Streets serving new development should be connected to the road network and not to major streets serving residential areas in the mesas.” This statement is consistent with the Serra Mesa Community Plan.

## SERRA MESA COMMUNITY OPPOSITION

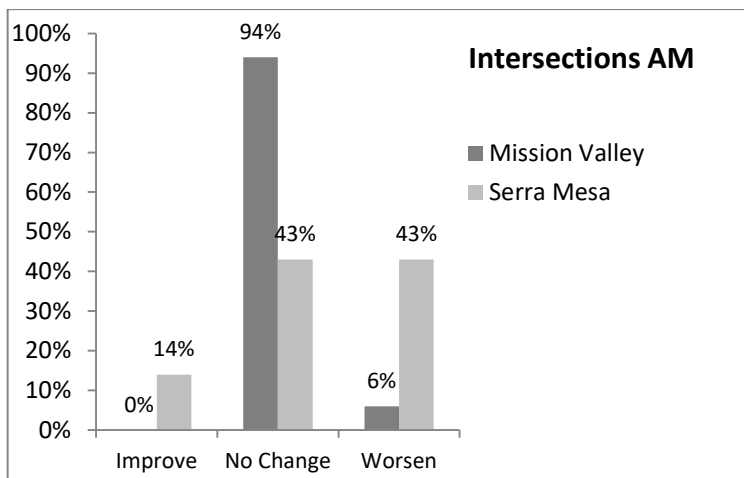
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The surveys conducted in the community over the years indicate overwhelming opposition to the street connection. The Serra Mesa Planning Group and members of the community have repeatedly expressed strong opposition to the street connection in writing and in person at all stages of the development process for Quarry Falls/Civita, and continue to express their opposition to the proposed Community Plan Amendment.

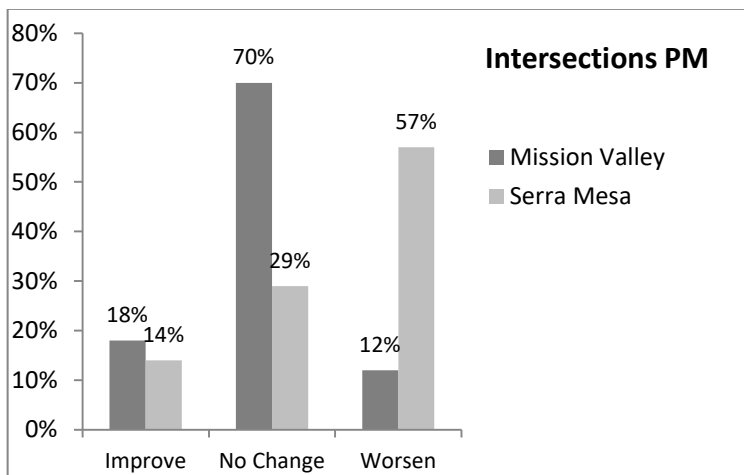
## Analysis of the LOS Level Long-Term Baseline vs Long-Term Cumulative with Project\*



In both Serra Mesa and Mission Valley the greatest percentage of the roadway segments will receive the same LOS level. Also, in Serra Mesa  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the segments will worsen and none will improve.



The LOS No Change is almost 100% percentage for Mission Valley while in Serra Mesa both No Change and Worsen receive the same percentage.



In Mission Valley 70% of the intersections won't change LOS level while in Serra Mesa more than half of the intersections will worsen.

**Conclusion: The road connection won't help most of the roadway segments and intersections in Mission Valley and will worsen ones in Serra Mesa.**

\*Charts based on Recirculated DEIR, Tables 5.2-16 and Table 5.2-17.

On-Ramps for Long-Term Without the Roadway Connection in Comparison to With (refer to Table 5.2.18)

- Murray Ridge I-805 NB on-ramp AM delay increases 9 min; queueing from 0 to 3,886 ft (.74 mi).
- Murray Ridge I-805 SB on-ramp PM delay increases 31 min; queueing from 2,407 to 10,368 ft (1.96 mi), beyond Sandrock.

***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