



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, January 22

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, February 26

No Meeting

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

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and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

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<i>SMPG President</i>	
Monica Fuentes	(858)565-2473*
<i>Friends of Ruffin Canyon</i>	
Luisa Johnson	(858)565-2473*
<i>Serra Mesa Food Pantry</i>	
Karl Doering	(858)565-2473*
<i>SM Community Garden & Orchard</i>	
<i>*Contact by calling (858) 565-2473 & leaving a message.</i>	

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SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS	
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e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org	
Serra Mesa Planning Group	(858) 565-2473
e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org	
ELECTED OFFICIALS	
Board of Education Kevin Beiser	(619) 725-5550
City Councilmember Scott Sherman	(619) 236-6677
Mayor Kevin Faulconer	(619) 236-6330
County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher	(619) 531-5544
State Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber	(619) 531-7913
State Senator Toni G. Atkins	(619) 645-3133
Governor Gavin Newsom	(619) 525-4641
U.S. Representative Susan Davis	(619) 280-5353
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	(619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS	
Jan 14	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 16	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 18	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Jan 21	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 22	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 15	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Feb 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Feb 20	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
No Mtg	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
<i>Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.</i>	

Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly by the Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approx 800 Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25 Benefactor...\$50 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 2020 Edition...February 21st. P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193 http://www.serramesa.org communitycouncil@serramesa.org	
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all! It feels like the rising sun of a new day as we begin 2020 with a brand-new calendar. There is also the expectation of new challenges, priorities, and of course, hope that the year will be better than the last.

The beginning of our community news is our San Diego Council District 7 candidate forum. We will sponsor along with The Cubberley PTA. The four candidates, who all have confirmed they will come and present their platforms to us. The League of Women Voters will control the whole affair at Cubberley Elementary School Auditorium. Cubberley is located at 3201 Marathon Drive and will start at 6:30 and go to 8:30 PM. This event is one not to be missed. Should you like to research the candidates, their links are as follows:

Raul Campillo, <https://runwithraul.com/>;

Monty McIntyre, <https://votemonty2020.com/>;

Wendy Wheatcroft, <https://www.wendy4sd.com/>; and

Noli Zosa, <https://www.noli2020.com/>.

The new exciting news is that the Serra Mesa Observer will be available **IN COLOR** at <http://ww.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>. Because of the popularity of online reviews of the Observer and subsequent fewer subscriptions, we are nearing the minimum number for our postal permit. As a result,

your Council Board has voted that we discontinue mailing except for those few exceptions of those not connected to the internet.

Another change is that because of dwindling attendance at our General Meetings, we will only be meeting four times a year. As we always meet on the 4th Wednesday, those months will be January, March, May, and October. We will also conduct our Council Business at these meetings to open up our transparency to all members. I would also like to ask for additional board members, so if you have an interest, we have positions available, and with only four meetings a year, why not volunteer today. You can do that by contacting me, Carl Demas at cjdemas@gmail.com, or calling me on my cell/text at (619) 807-8846. We would like to hear from you and invite you to our board.

We have so much going on this year. We invite you to visit our website frequently. Our librarian Rosa Kwon has an exciting year planned, and you should know that the schedule is also available on the Observer. If you are 55 or over, looking for excitement, join the Village and attend some of our events. The website for the Village is also available in the Observer or at www.serramesavillage.org. Membership dues are only \$25.00 per year as compared to other villages, which are as high as \$400 per year. If you have a neighbor who is not connected to the internet, why not print out a copy and bring it over to them. It gives a special way to start a conversation and place you in the "Best Neighbor" category.

Lastly, I have put out an invitation to all our elected officials to present a current state of their office to be published in the Observer each issue, so one more reason to get in the habit of logging on to our website. Your board feels that the Observer is one of the best newsletters out there, and we intend to continue to make it even better. Contact me if you have any suggestions or comments, and we want to know what you are thinking.

Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Community Council

Starting on December 16, the sound of chainsaws could be heard in our local Ruffin Canyon and its many fingers. This was the start of a major project to remove 300 invasive non-native palm trees that had invaded the canyons over many, many years.

The San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego Canyonlands and the City of San Diego came together on this palm removal project. The palms were cut in the canyons off Kobe Dr., Sandrock Rd and the canyons on both sides of Taft Middle School. On December 27, the aerial action began when a helicopter and ground crews from West Coast Arborists began lifting the palms out of the Kobe Dr. canyon and placing them on the SDG&E property at the end of Kobe Dr. Moving east to the Sandrock canyon area later that day, 172 palms were removed on Friday.

On Saturday December 28, the remaining cut palms in the Taft area were removed by the same process. Many community residents came out to see the action. The palms were airlifted and placed on the decomposed granite field at Taft. The helicopter working with great precision could grab a tree and deposit it at the middle school at an average rate of one every two minutes.

With these palms removed, our risk of fires in the canyons are greatly reduced. The palms attracted rats and other vermin. These palms also take valuable water resources away from native plants and animals. With the non-Native palms removed, Canyonlands will replant the canyon with willow trees and mule fat native plants that will help reestablish the coastal scrub.

The Friends of Ruffin Canyon is always looking for help to maintain the native plant garden adjacent to Taft and the canyon area off Shawn Ave. Odd months of the year, the clean-up and planting is at Taft and the even months they meet at Shawn Ave. All activities are the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. Local City Ranger Cary Goldstein will be leading a hike through Taft Ruffin canyon on January 11 at 9am. Sign-up through Meet Up, space is limited.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles &			
Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Animal Control-Incorporated S.D.	(619) 299-7012	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Dead Animal Removal stay on the line	(858) 694-7000	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Zoning/Permits - Questions & Violations	(619) 446-5000
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110		
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500		
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety			



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Saturday	8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mon-Thurs.	7:00 a.m.
Fri.	8:15 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule



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Serra Mesa Recreation Center

9020 Village Glen Dr.
(858) 573-1408

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

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

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on
November 19 & December 17 at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

2696 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
858-277-6572
www.gethsemanesd.org

Cell: 858-883-8038
E-Mail: karla.seyb.stockton@me.com
Worship: 8:00, 9:30 a.m.



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Where: Mission Village Christian Fellowship
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San Diego, CA 92123
Cost: FREE <http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org/>

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SHERMAN'S REFORM BALLOT MEASURE APPROVED FOR MARCH BALLOT

Scott Sherman

Recently, the City Council voted unanimously to place my proposed charter amendment on the March 3rd 2020 Primary ballot.

As Audit Committee Chairman and a member of this year's Auditor Search Committee, it became clear that there was a fundamental flaw in the Auditor selection process.

Currently the Mayor's office appoints the City Auditor. This appointment process could create accountability issues since the City Auditor would be tasked with conducting oversight of, and holding accountable the administration.

To fix this flaw, my ballot measure, if approved by voters, would make the following changes:

- The Audit Committee vets all applicants and nominates three candidates to the full City Council
- The City Council interviews the three candidates and appoints the best qualified
- Mayoral administration not involved in the appointment process

The City Auditor is vital to holding the city administration accountable and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent properly. The administration shouldn't be in charge of choosing who is overseeing the administration. This ballot measure will help ensure this vital position is truly independent.

I appreciate the unanimous and bipartisan support this measure received at City Council. I am also thankful for former Councilmember Donna Frye who helped push this measure through.

I look forward to speaking with voters in the upcoming months regarding the importance of passing this measure in March of 2020.

Be Informed – Attend City Council Candidate Forum

Cubberley PTA and the Serra Mesa Community Council are co-sponsoring a District 7 City Council Candidate Forum on Wednesday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Cubberley Elementary School, 3201 Marathon Drive. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters according to their guidelines. District 7 encompasses Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta.

As the result of 2017 state legislation California becomes one of 14 states to hold primaries on "Super Tuesday", March 3. Mail-in ballots will distributed in February. Consequently, if you haven't already selected a city council candidate, this forum is for you. It's a chance to meet the candidates, ask questions, and find out their position on issues – citywide and locally. If you can't attend the forum but have a question you want asked, please email communitycouncil@serramesa.org. Also, **what are the issues in Serra Mesa that need addressing?** We'd like to hear from you.

The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary advance to the general election in November. The city council representative is extremely important for Serra Mesa since we tend to keep representatives for a long time. In the last 18 years we've only had three representatives - Scott Sherman, Lorie Zapf (representative for only 4 years because her residence changed to another district as a result of redistricting), and Donna Frye.

The forum is open to all - invite your friends and neighbors!



SUPPORT AND A SAFE PLACE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Mara W. Elliott and Summer Stephan

The November 16th murder-suicide in Paradise Hills illustrates the critical importance of early action to protect domestic violence victims and their families before violence escalates. A 29-year-old mother and four of her children -- ages 3, 5, 9 and 11 -- were shot and killed in the culmination of a father's ongoing campaign of harassment and terror.

The tragedy has re-focused the community's attention on domestic violence and highlights the importance of a safe place where victims can go for help in San Diego County. It should also remind us all that police should be called when there's violence or a direct threat of violence.

The San Diego County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team tracks all domestic violence-related homicides and our county averages 13 a year. Even one homicide is too many. That's why we must remain vigilant in our efforts to spread awareness around this public health and safety issue.

Last year, more than 17,000 domestic violence reports were made to law enforcement. In the face of this ongoing threat to our families, friends and neighbors, two entities stand together to prevent domestic violence and protect victims and their children. The San Diego City Attorney's Office and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office want victims to know there are life-saving resources available to them.

One incredible resource is the San Diego Family Justice Center. Every year, thousands of San Diegans come through the Family Justice Center, a safe place where domestic violence victims and their children can reclaim their lives, seek justice, and begin healing. The Center, part of the City Attorney's Office, brings together community partners, including therapists, *pro bono* attorneys, forensic medical nurses, domestic violence advocates, military liaisons, prosecutors, and the San Diego Police Department all under one roof.

The District Attorney's Office is a strong partner in the Family Justice Center. Its on-site advocates work side-by-side with community partners to support victims fleeing violent relationships, to help victims understand the criminal justice process, and to bring abusers to justice.

Among the services the Family Justice Center provides are referrals to emergency housing and help in creating a Safety Plan for victims of, or people threatened with, domestic violence. A good Safety Plan is critical and should be in place before seeking a restraining order. Typically, the first 72 hours after a restraining order is granted can be the most dangerous for victims of domestic violence.

Part of a Safety Plan includes:

- Thinking of a safe place to go if an argument occurs -- avoid rooms with no exits (bathroom), or rooms

with weapons (kitchen).

- Thinking about and making a list of safe people to contact.
- Teaching your children how to call 911.
- Memorizing all important numbers (friends, SSN, etc.)
- Establishing a “code word” or “sign” so that family, friends, teachers or co-workers know when to call for help.

Another tool available to victims of domestic violence is the Gun Violence Restraining Order, which was pioneered by the City Attorney’s Office. A GVRO can be ordered against a person who poses a clear threat to himself or others, preventing him from possessing, accessing or purchasing firearms or ammunition.

Health care professionals have also been recruited to help recognize victims and refer them to law enforcement or services. Last month, the District Attorney’s Office and the County’s Health and Human Services Agency launched San Diego County Health CARES to bring greater awareness among health care providers to signs of strangulation crimes and help them identify victims of strangulation who might not otherwise report abuse.

Domestic violence is still the number one killer of women when it comes to violent crime in U.S. and causes a ripple effect that directly harms children, takes a toll on victims’ mental health, and—as we saw last weekend—can shake a community.

As a society, we must stand up to it and make sure victims have a safe place to go across the region where there are professionals who care and can provide the tools to stop violence from escalating to murder. Victims of domestic violence often feel like they are in a dark tunnel alone. We want them to know that we stand with them and are ready to provide real time help to guide them into the light and to safety.

Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney. Summer Stephan is the San Diego County District Attorney. The San Diego Family Justice Center is located at 1122 Broadway, Suite 200, in downtown San Diego. If you or someone you know needs help or wants to learn more about personalized safety planning and Domestic Violence resources, call the National DV Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or to go thehotline.org or loveisrespect.org. More resources can be found at www.SanDiegoDA.com and www.SanDiego.gov/CityAttorney

DRUGGED DRIVING HAS CONSEQUENCES – EVEN WHEN USING LEGALLY PRESCRIBED MEDICINE

By Mara W. Elliott

As we head into the holiday season, people need to be aware that mixing even the slightest amount of alcohol with prescription drugs can have serious consequences.

This is especially true for older drivers who may be using new medicines for the first time.

Our Office is seeing an increase in otherwise law-abiding San Diegans who get behind the wheel after consuming legal substances – alcohol, prescription drugs, and cannabis – that, in combination, impair their ability to drive, putting lives at risk.

Our Office prosecutes these drugged driving cases -- called “combo” cases when both alcohol and drugs are involved -- under a state grant that has allowed us to develop a high level of expertise in often tricky cases involving multiple substances.

Continue to page 10

Continued to page 9

While illegal drugs are always a significant part of the problem, we're seeing a surprisingly large number of cases involving older drivers who unthinkingly mixed alcohol with prescription drugs.

There are no blood-content standards for cannabis or prescription drugs like the one for alcohol, but all drivers must be able to drive with the care and caution characteristic of a sober person. Using evidence from blood tests, field sobriety tests, dashboard video cameras, and expert witnesses, our prosecutors have a conviction rate just shy of 100%.

In the past 11 months they handled 178 drugged driving cases. Only four went to trial, and only one defendant was acquitted – a woman who drove while on Ambien, a drug used to combat insomnia. The 174 other defendants all pleaded guilty.

Some recent examples:

- A 65-year-old woman crashed into the back of a car stopped at a red light at 11:30 in the morning. Though she seemed disoriented and slurred her speech, she claimed she hadn't had a drink in 16 years. But she'd taken the anti-anxiety medication Xanax a half-hour earlier, and sometimes took medications for chronic back pain.
- A 60-year-old man was found asleep in his car, which was blocking traffic on Harbor Drive. His blood-alcohol content was well under the legal limit but a blood test showed he had the opioid painkiller hydrocodone in his system, as well as clonazepam, a sedative which treats seizures, panic disorder, and anxiety.

Several factors contribute to this trend.

As our population ages, more people are taking prescription drugs and driving after taking them. Many people who use cannabis think it makes them better drivers, but studies show that even small amounts can have huge impacts, such as slowing a driver's response.

Often drivers have been taking a medication for years and think it no longer affects them, since they are accustomed to it. But it does – especially when mixed with even a small amount of alcohol, another drug, or even cold medicine.

People are also taking medicines in greater doses than prescribed, not realizing the effects.

And with drug prices so high, many seniors swap medicines with friends or use old prescriptions for new ailments.

Seniors' medicine cabinets are also a source of drugs for younger family members and thieves.

Anyone with a prescription for any kind of drug should be aware of how and where it is stored, and these medications should not be accessible to children, teens, or visitors to your home.

And I urge you to be especially vigilant this holiday season, when many people drink more than usual. Keep a careful eye on yourselves and others who get behind the wheel of a car.

Hail a cab, call a ride-sharing service, have a friend or family member drive, or better yet, stay home. There are plenty of options that won't end in a life-changing accident or land you in court.

Serra Mesa Community Plan Amendment Request for Rezone & Street Vacation Update

Mission Center Road Housing

The City has received an application for a rezone of two parcels to allow multi-family housing located west of I-805 and north of Mission Center Road (on right side going down the hill and before the curve) and to allow for a street closure (the street doesn't currently exist). One of the parcels is zoned as open space (Multiple Habitat Plan Area designation), depicted in green on map. The applicant's biologist stated that the rezone would impact sensitive plant and lizard species and potentially other sensitive species and require 1.4 acres of mitigation. The application proposed 14-16 dwelling units and suggests by lowering the site 8-10 feet to create a noise barrier a noise study wouldn't be needed. A more comprehensive article of the project along is in the Observer November/December 2019 edition.



At the November 21st Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) meeting the applicant proposed 26 units and indicated after the rezone he would sell the property to a developer. Questions, issues, and comments from the SMPG board and audience included:

- Affordable Housing – Needed; no guarantee it'd be built.
- Air Pollution – Measurement from site plan in applicant's application indicates less than 100 feet from freeway; health impacts from close proximity to freeway cited.
- Biological – Majority of site contains hillside coastal sage scrub plan community which is critical habitat for threatened/endangered species and overall canyon health. This is main reason for MHPA designation. Serra Mesa has a history of protecting and valuing canyon ecosystems.
- Homeless on Property – Developing property would eliminate problem; community expressed their success with minimizing homeless in Serra Mesa canyons and offered to help; Endangered Habitats Conservancy purchased neighboring properties and works with homeless organizations to relocate them.
- Noise – Sound propagation depends on many factors; in-depth noise study preferable.
- Safety – Access to project via Mission Center Road near bottom of hill and near the curve; Mission Center is busy narrow road without bike lanes and sidewalks; difficulty in providing safe access to and from project.
- Alternative Use – Possibility that this property could be sought after for building the MSCP preserve; acreage could be valuable and sold as mitigation credits.

The SMPG board passed the following motion "The SMPG recommends against the (initiation action) rezone (Project 644685 located at the NW Corner Mission Center Road and 805) for the following reasons: coastal sage providing habitat for gnat catcher, traffic on Mission Center Road causing a safety concern, lack of walkability, isolation from existing community, increasing car dependance, fire hazards due to canyon and accessibility, too close to the freeway posing risks to residence water and air quality, and no guarantee of affordable housing." The vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions. The reason for abstentions was "There was not enough information given on project or plans to approve project at this time."

What's next? Staff will make their recommendation. If the owner proceeds with the rezone request, the item will be heard by the Planning Commission. A community plan amendment requires an Environmental Impact Study (studies impacts and alternatives).

KEARNY MESA COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The process of updating the Kearny Mesa Community Plan began three years ago and has entailed numerous meetings with City staff and the community. Currently, work is being done on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) and the draft zoning map. Upon the DEIR's completion people will have 45 days to respond to it. If you would like to receive an email notice about future meetings or when the DEIR is available, sign up at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/your-voice-counts/sign-up-for-e-news/>. Information about the plan, process, and contact information is at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/>.

The draft plan is a 20 year plan and when approved would be implemented as redevelopment occurs. A detailed description of the changes that will impact Serra Mesa can be found in the Observer September/October edition. Since that article was printed the newest draft update removes the extension of Afton Court to Aero Drive, makes some changes to the land use and zoning map, and rescinds the Stonecrest Specific Plan. The changes were described at the November 20th Kearny Mesa Planning Group meeting. The draft plan and maps can be found at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/plan-documents/>.

Additionally at the meeting the MCAS Miramar Liaison Office indicated that the United States acquired easement rights for some privately owned parcels south of SR-52. These easements grant the government the right to “designate acceptable land uses, the densities or intensities of people and structures allowed on the site, and the maximum height of man-made and natural structures.” (Information sheet provided by Liaison Office) Since the easements aren't recorded by the City before redevelopment each property owner will need to check their title to determine if there's an easement on their property.

FRANKLIN RIDGE ROAD CONNECTION UPDATE

Summary: An environmental lawsuit regarding the approval of the road connection from Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa to Civita in Mission Valley was filed on November 27, 2017. The “Save Civita Because Sudberry Won't” group, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, that sued to protect public safety and the quality of life in Civita and Serra Mesa. There are Serra Mesa residents on this group's board, who represent Serra Mesa's interests.

Lawsuit Hearing: The newest date for the lawsuit hearing is January 23, 2020, 1:30 pm. If there's any revision to that date, it will be posted at to <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

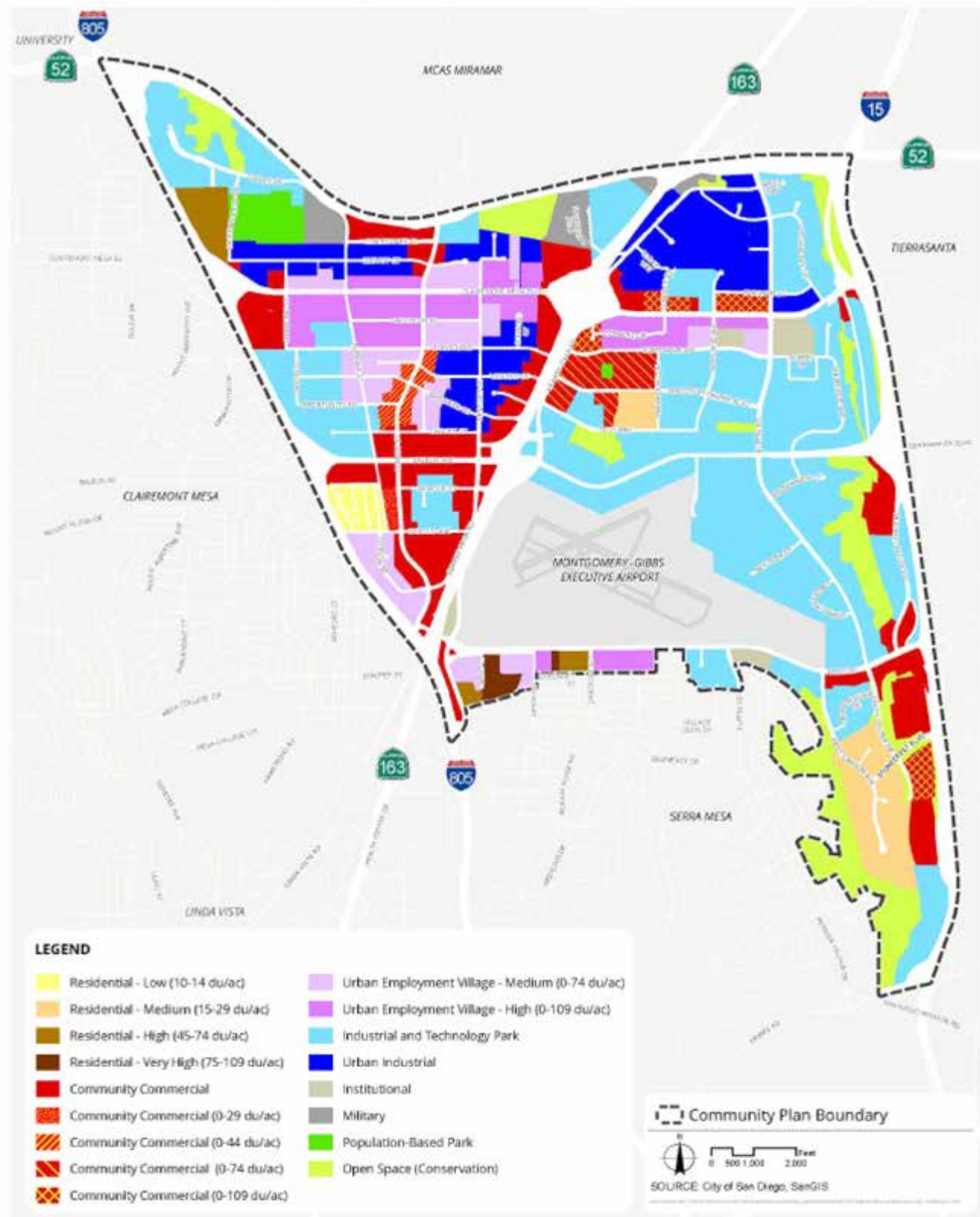
Briefs – Briefs are dry and tedious, full of case law; they aren't like a good novel. There isn't a link for the many references to the administrative record in the briefs.

Refer to <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/> for

- Opening Brief from Petitioner – Save Civita Because Sudberry Won't
- Opposition Brief from City
- Petitioner's Reply Brief

KEARNY MESA COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

November 2019 Draft Land Use Map




More information available at
www.kearnymesaconnected.com

SERRA MESA VILLAGE JANUARY 2020						
◀ December	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	February ▶
Sun						
			1	2 10:00 AM - SMV Trip SM/KM	3 Chocolate covered cherry day	4
5	6 12:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	7	8 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	9	10	11 Nat'l Milk Day
12	13	14 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	15 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	16 3:30 PM - SMV Mtg. - SM/KM	17 Hot Buttered Rum Day	18 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF
19 Popcorn Day	20	21	22 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	23 Pie Day	24	25 Irish Coffee Day
26	27 Choc Cake Day	28 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	29 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	30	31 Hot Chocolate Day	

MVCF- Mission Village Christian Fellowship - 2650 Melbourne Drive SM/KM - Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library - 9005 Aero Drive

SMRC - Serra Mesa Rec Ctr - 9020 Village Glen Drive KH - Katrina's House - 3501 Pomeroy

HABC - Holy Angela Byzantine Church - 2235 Galahad Road VISIT THE VILLAGE AT SERRAMESAVILLAGE.ORG

SERRA MESA VILLAGE February 2020						
◀ January	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	March ▶
						1
2	3 12:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	4 Stuffed mushroom Day	5 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	6 10:00 AM- SMV Trip SM/KM	7 NAT'L BUBBLE GUM DAY	8
9 NAT'L PIZZA DAY	10	11 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	12 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	13	14 VALENTINES DAY 	15 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF
16	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY	18	19 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	20 3:30 PM - SMV Mtg. - SM/KM	21	22 GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY
23 TENNIS DAY	24 NAT'L TORTILLA CHIP DAY	25 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	26 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	27 POLAR BEAR DAY	28	29 LEAP DAY
MVCF- Mission Village Christian Fellowship - 2650 Melbourne Drive SM/KM - Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library - 9005 Aero Drive						
SMRC - Serra Mesa Rec Ctr - 9020 Village Glen Drive KH - Katrina's House - 3501 Pomeroy						
HABC - Holy Angela Byzantine Church - 2235 Galahad Road VISIT THE VILLAGE AT SERRAMESAVILLAGE.ORG						

AVIATION UPDATE 2020



General Aviation



Military



Commercial

COMMUNITY MEETING

NOISE – SAFETY – SECURITY – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Serra Mesa is located at the crossroads of aviation traffic. Low flying aircraft arrive and depart from Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport every day. Those planes share airspace with MCAS Miramar jets on a daily basis and countless trans-regional, trans-continental flights and international flights also fly over Serra Mesa. A lot is going on in the air over your heads. Join your neighbors and stay informed at AVIATION UPDATE 2020

INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS BY:

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Montgomery Gibbs Environmental Coalition**
- **Citizens Advocating Safe Aviation – University City**
- **Quiet Skies La Jolla**

AIRPORT OFFICIALS

- **Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport**
- **MCAS Miramar**
- **San Diego International (SAN),**

WHEN: January 29, 2020 6 pm to 7:30 pm

WHERE: University City Community Library
4155 Governor Drive
San Diego, CA 92122

Hosted by University City Community Association's Citizens Advocating Safe Aviation (CASA)

Kudos to Monica and Cindy

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” – Dr. Seuss



Monica Fuentes and Cindy McIntyre

On a beautiful November Sunday afternoon I substituted for one of the women who normally maintain six trash barrels/cans in Serra Mesa. The strategic location of these containers helps to reduce the amount of litter in the community. On a regular basis Monica Fuentes and Cindy McIntyre empty the containers located on Aero, Hammond, Ruffin, and Gramercy. It’s a two person job – the bags are heavy, dirty and smelly. Afterwards my clothes, shoes, and body needed a washing (sometimes the bags leak). This first-hand experience left me with great appreciation for these two dedicated volunteers who do this without any expectation of recognition.

When not working a paid job (Monica is a flight attendant and Cindy works in special education for the school district) they volunteer for other community projects. Monica is involved with Friends of Ruffin Canyon and with clean-up events as well as regularly picking up litter, weeding, and working on maintenance of the canyon between the recreation center and the library and improving the lot at the end of Sandrock Road. Cindy is involved with the Serra Mesa Community Council, with clean-up events, picking up litter while walking her dog, and helping with other projects, e.g., the canyon.

Kudos to our dedicated volunteers who help to keep Serra Mesa a great place to live! If you know of other volunteers that deserve to be recognized publicly, please send an email to communitycouncil@serramesa.org.

Cindy Moore

Mission Center Road Property Purchase

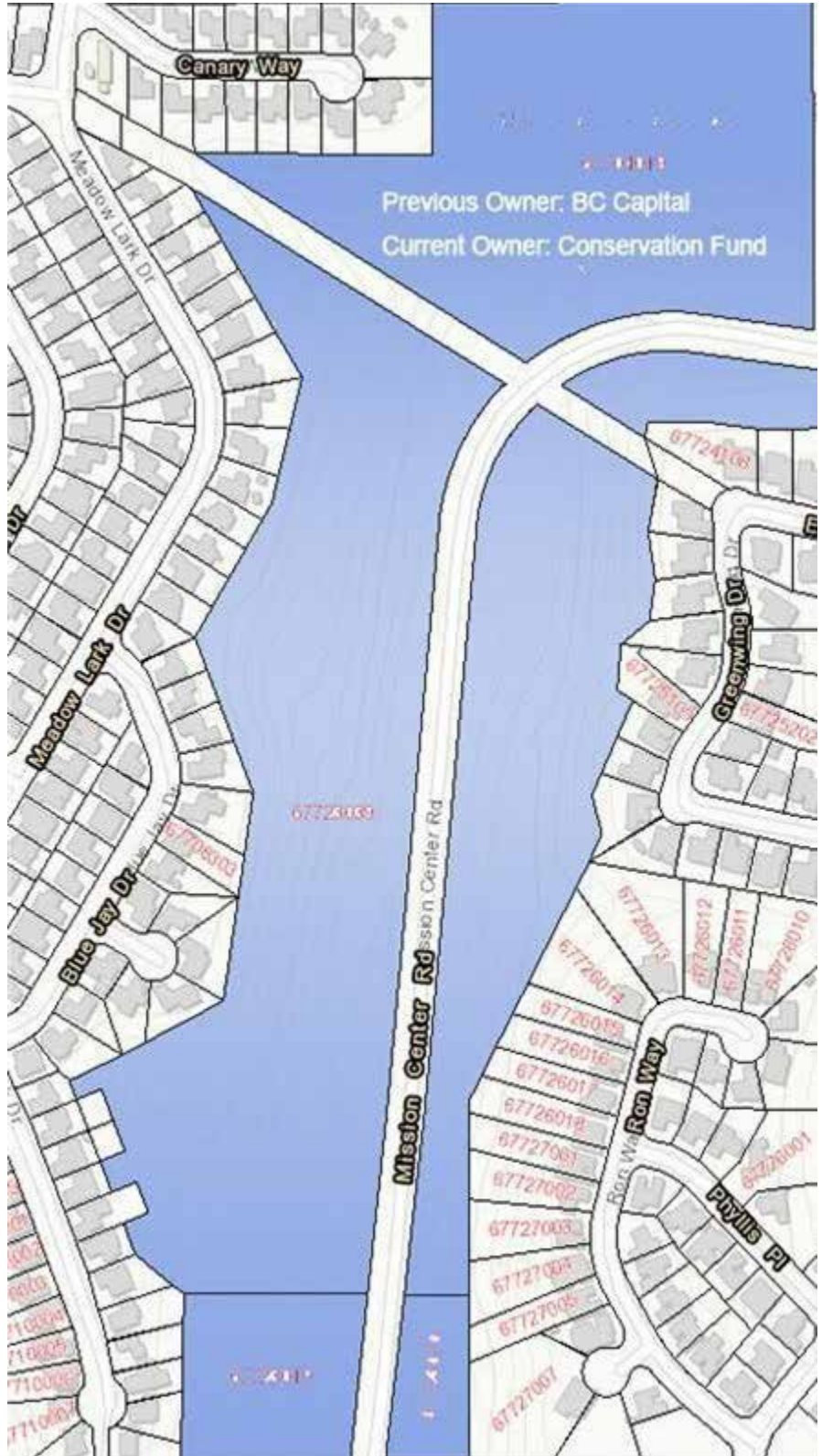
Endangered Habitats Conservancy has purchased the Mission Center Road ravine land. These properties are shown in blue on the map.

This map was posted on NextDoor by a resident during an ongoing conversation about the area.

The parcels include 677230390, 6770401900, 6772301900, and 6772302000.

A spokesperson for the Conservancy indicated they're working on developing "strategies for managing the property" and "working with the City of San Diego and local non-profits on improving the quality of the Preserve". Watch for an article on their plans in a future *Observer* edition. We welcome our new neighbors and look forward to hearing about their plans!

The Endangered Habitats Conservancy states on their website, <https://www.ehleague.org/projects.html>, that one of their San Diego projects is "To restore an imperiled river and benefit surrounding communities, EHL was instrumental in establishing the thriving San Diego River Park, and is currently working to expand its scope."



Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

January/February 2020 Events/Programs

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be Closed Wednesday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day, Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, February 17th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present the exhibit “Radical Inclusion” featuring collaborative artwork by six young artists with autism and six professional artists in the Community Room for the month of February.

Adult Programs

Communicating with Technology – Fridays, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (except 1/20 and 2/17) Focused on the technologies that we use to communicate. Includes hands on learning with smartphones and tablets, as well as lecture/discussion. Topics include: The Cloud, Productivity, Operating systems, Web browsers, Google, Apple and Microsoft tools, Social networks, Photography, Online safety and more. Bring your own device for more hands-on learning. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Piano Class: Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Beginner 1 Level** 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **Beginner 2 Level** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Intermediate Level** 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Explore your musical talent through learning the fundamentals of piano techniques. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Writing Class – Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Join a community of writers (beginning-advanced level) and learn techniques for writing autobiographies, fiction, and non-fiction reports. Designed to meet the interests of older adults in writing short stories, poetry, and articles for publication or self-improvement. Course covers writing newspaper articles, outlining and writing autobiographies, fiction techniques for writing short stories and novels, and an introduction to poetry writing. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Japanese Brush Painting – Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (except 1/2 and 1/23)

Learn how to create beautiful tones of Japanese sumi-ink and paint with unique Japanese brush style. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays, February 7 through April 10, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The AARP will be providing free tax help for taxpayers with low to moderate income on Fridays, February 7 - April 10. Taxpayer clients may come in on any Friday and sign in on the sheet for TODAY or sign up for ONE (1) date in the future.

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

January 7, 6:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

January 8, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Picturesque San Diego: Images and Stories from the Past. Picturesque San Diego (1887), written by Douglas Gunn, an editor for the San Diego Union who also served as mayor of San Diego. The book is lavishly illustrated with photos of places throughout San Diego County. Local historian Vincent Rossi will show many of these photos in a PowerPoint presentation while also relating

Continued from page 19

anecdotes describing San Diego County at a time when the livestock population far outnumbered the human population.

January 14, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.

January 15, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

January 16, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

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

January 22, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

February 2, 1:00 p.m. Vegan Cooking 101: Tofu, the Ancient Superfood. Learn the facts about soy, it's fascinating history, and how organic artisan tofu is used today as a substitute for meat, dairy, and eggs in a wide variety of plant-based culinary applications. Recipes and sampling include: San Diego Soy Dairy Crispy Tofu Nuggets with Dipping Sauce, Grilled Chick'n Sandwich, and Tofutti Ice Cream! *Registration required. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, or call 858-573-1396, or online at sandiego.librarymarketing.com starting on January 1st.

February 5, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Health Benefits of Wine and Chocolate. Wine and chocolate are derived from plants and thus contain nutrients that have specific health benefits. Not all forms of these pleasurable foods are healthy, however. Learn which claims are legitimate and how to select the healthiest forms of wine and chocolate.

February 11, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Empty Mansions* by Bill Dedman.

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

February 20, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

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

Family Program

February 1, 12:00 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.

Children Programs

Do Your Homework @ the Library Homework Help -Mondays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (except 1/1, 1/2, 1/20 and 2/17) Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade can come in for free homework assistance! Bring in your homework to get assistance from one of our Homework Coaches!

Monday Morning Storytime – Mondays, 10:00 a.m. (except 1/20 and 2/17) Join Ms. Carrie every Monday morning for stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills!

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Baby/Toddler Explore Time – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. 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.

Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:00 p.m. Children can read aloud to trained and certified therapy dogs. “Paws to Read” is designed to help children improve their reading skills and confidence in reading out loud.

January 8, 4:00 p.m. After School Krafteernoon Craft. Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

January 15, 4:00 p.m. LEGO Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

February 5 & 19, 4:00 p.m. LEGO Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

February 12, 4:00 p.m. After School Krafteernoon Craft. Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 Kids, Basic Computer Class for Adults at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on January 25 and February 22.

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 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 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 1st of each month.

Serra Mesa Planning Group News

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Dr. Next meetings: January 16 and February 20. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. **SMPG has two board openings.** The board will fill the opening at the January 16th meeting. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. Also, on March 19, 2020, SMPG will conduct an annual election for board members for two year terms. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>. If you are interested in being on the board, please email smpg@serramesa.org.

Current SMPG board members are Jim Antoshak, Chris Castillo, Ian Clampett, Bob Crider (Vice Chair), Denise Davidson, Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, Adam Gardner, Tony Guerra, Nicole Johnson, Bob McDowell, Bryce Niceswanger (Chair), Sandra Stahl, and Catherine Tomovich (Secretary).

The boundary between Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa is convoluted. The Kearny Mesa planning area includes most of Aero Drive, part of Ruffin Road south, part of Afton Road, and Kearny Villa Road. SMPG representatives monitor development proposals in these areas by attending the Kearny Mesa Planning Group (KMPG) meetings.



Serra Mesa Little League

2020 Spring Registration

We are looking for players of all skills and abilities!

(Ages 4-14 on or before August 31, 2020)

We are also looking for volunteers, coaches, managers, and umpires. No experience? No problem! Training will be provided.

Division	Age	Cost
T-Ball*	4-6	\$160
Rookie*	5-6	\$160
Caps*	7-8	\$180
Minors*	9-10	\$180
Majors*	11-12	\$180
Juniors**	13-14	\$160
*Included in registration fee is a \$50 snack bar deposit which is refunded when 2 snack bar shifts are completed.		
** No deposit required.		
Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.		

Registration includes:

team hat, shirt, socks, belt, team picture and trophy.

Important Dates

Player Assessments	1/18/20
	1/25/20
Cap Day	2/8/20
Opening Day Ceremonies	3/7/20
Picture Day	3/14/20

Online registration available at www.serramesalittleleague.org

Soup D'Jour

Looking for a new local restaurant? Try a tasty new place called Soup D'Jour located at 8583 Aero Dr. The restaurant took over the old Carve location in the Olympus Corsair apartment complex.

The pleasant little restaurant is way more than just soup, although they offer six soups in either a cup or a bowl. The bowl is quite large and makes for excellent leftovers. I had the chicken tortilla. Just the right amount of spice. The soup comes with a selection of four different sides ciabatta, tortilla strips, wonton strips or brown rice. My son tried the corn clam chowder. We split an order of spiced street chicken; a crispy breaded chicken tossed in spices and basil.

Soup D'Jour offers stews and salads as well. Drinks include a small selection of local microbrews, wines, and teas. Cookies are available for dessert.

Help support local businesses. This is an easy walk from central Serra Mesa. There is limited parking in the apartment complex, but across Aero Drive, the business park is empty after 5pm and the signal light is directly across from the restaurant. Give Soup D'Jour a try, you won't be disappointed in this wonderful eatery.

Hours Monday- Friday 11am to 8pm, Saturday 3pm to 8pm, closed Sunday.



Student Rebrands Home Bakery with Free Culinary Classes

For pastry chef Kayla Felderhoff, the new year marks a new beginning for Bee Sweet Bakeshop and Such, her homebased business she licensed while a student at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE).

Felderhoff, 28, a Marine wife and mom, sought out a flexible career path to pursue during her spouse's deployment schedule. She started experimenting in 2014 with sugar and flour to create special occasion desserts for friends and family.

A few years later Bee Sweet Bakeshop and Such went through a major rebrand and Felderhoff thought to improve her baking skills at SDCE. Through the support of the school's free Professional Bakeshop Academy, she grew her company, received her Cottage Food Operators License, business license, seller's permits, and held her first pop-up shop.

"This bakery has always been my dream. Being both a mom and a military wife are demanding jobs," she said. "I'm glad I'm able to work my business part time as well as be home with my family."

Bee Sweet Bakeshop and Such sells custom cakes and decorated cookies using only top-quality ingredients. The growing company now operates out of her kitchen in Tierrasanta, in pop up shops around San Diego and pays it forward to the city's service men and women by employing military spouses.

SDCE's free bakeshop classes are led by professionally trained culinary faculty. Instruction includes theory and hands-on production, industry safety and sanitation guidelines, in-depth analysis of baking tools, ingredients, measurement and basic business skills to benefit entrepreneurial students like Felderhoff.

Felderhoff's future for her business include operating out of a commercial kitchen and owning a brick and mortar bakeshop in San Diego.

Learn more about SDCE's free hospitality and culinary arts program at SDCE.EDU.

Serra Mesa Observer

Editor: *Ronda Adams*

Post Office Box 23315

San Diego, CA 92193

Dated Material

SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY

Wednesdays 10:00-2:00 p.m.

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive 92123

858-278-2647

