

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2020

Elbert McCune celebrated his 103rd birthday

pictures by Tom Leech



www.SerraMesa.org

Java Garden, a Colorful New Coffee Shop

Article on page 15, pictures by Tom Leech



You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, September 23

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

No Meeting in October

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

Neighboring People
and Friendly Businesses
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 Cindy McIntyre(858) 565-2473*
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Friends of Ruffin Canyon
 Kristine Webb(858)565-2473*
Serra Mesa Food Pantry
 Karl Doering(858)565-2473*
SM Community Garden & Orchard

Serra Mesa Community Groups

Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473
 e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org
 Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473
 e-mail: smppg@serramesa.org
**Contact by calling (858) 565-2473 & leaving a message.*

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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

Meetings Postponed Until Further Notice - Stay Home Stay Safe**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

Sept 8	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sept 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Sept 17	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
No Mtg	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Sept 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 15	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 20	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
No Mtg	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Oct 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
No Mtg	Serra Mesa Community Council Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 5	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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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: November / December 2020 Edition...October 21st.

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

http://www.serramesa.org_communitycouncil@serramesa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we enjoy the “Lazy Days of Summer” and endure the hopefully waning days of this pandemic, we have many things to cherish and be grateful for. Living in Serra Mesa has many advantages, and I, for one, am grateful every day. We are a stable neighborhood, and many of us have lived here for a long time. With that comes neighbors who we can rely on and depend for assistance in times of need and just someone to talk to as they walk or drive by. Shopping and necessities like hospitals, hardware stores, and gas stations are only a short distance away, and those neighbors who don’t drive can find a neighbor to pick up things if we only ask them. Our connection media such as Nextdoor and other social media keep us in touch and our internet and television options, where many of us spend too much time. I am grateful for our Serra Mesa Food Pantry, which is now serving over 100 families every week thanks to Mission Village Christian Fellowship, who provides the space at no charge to ensure that those families receive staples. Pick up time is 10 AM to 1 PM on

Wednesdays at 2650 Melbourne Drive. The Pantry is supplemented by the Serra Mesa Garden who offers free fresh organic produce every week thanks to local volunteers. This space is donated free of charge by Mission Village Christian Fellowship and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Gardeners wishing space need only to contact Master Gardner Karl Doering at Karl@smcgo.org for availability and signup.

I am grateful for the service organizations that serve Serra Mesa; the Serra Mesa Community Council is joining with the League of Women Voters for the San Diego District 7 Candidate Forum on September 23rd, 6:30 PM. The meeting will be on Zoom, Serra Mesa Community Council will send out an email invitation to all who are signed up for emails. If you would like to receive an invitation from the League of women’s voters, that link is https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i8tYp3y8Rsm2SUZsoe-CKQ. They will confirm your invitation and give you the zoom information. Our two candidates are Raul Campillo, raul@runwithraul.com, and Noli Zosa, campaign@noli2020.com.

If you would like to be on our list, please register on our website at www.serramesa.org and include your email in “Sign up for Serra Mesa notices.” We have so much on this next election; we encourage you to ensure that you are registered and vote no matter how. We also have the Serra Mesa Village, a group of youngsters 55+ who normally have a full schedule of events but are now on hold until they can safely meet again other than Zoom, where they meet weekly. If you wish to join, please email serramesavillage10@gmail.com and be included on a weekly Zoom meeting invitation. Thank you and all our local churches who continue to offer services in the approved venues and provide many services to our residents. We have a wonderful grouping of churches in Serra Mesa, and should you be looking for a church home, please contact one for local service times and places.

The best feature of Serra Mesa is that we are small enough to be able to provide personal contact but big enough that we have all the services required in the shortest amount of time and distance. The board of SMCC congratulates community members for your continued safety precautions concerning masks and social distancing. Please consider yourself and others as we do our part to eliminate this virus.

Carl Demas, SMCC President

San Diego Continuing Education Begins Fall Semester

Locals looking to increase earning potential or start a new career can complete free job training

By: Allura Garis



Student Elizette Garcia finishes project inside SDCE's Auto Body and Paint Garage

Fall semester is underway at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE). Noncredit classes are available at no cost, and due to the pandemic will be taught fully online. Certificate programs are offered for numerous in demand industries including: Automotive, Information Technology, and Healthcare.

“Pursuing higher education becomes more important than ever as the economy changes,” said Sam Phu, SDCE Faculty. “Working in maintenance and repair is an essential career, people will always need their cars to be fixed.”

Students generally complete a certificate program within 3-6 months and upon completion are ready for entry-level employment or choose to transition to college.

While many residents were hopeful to pursue a hands-on education at an SDCE campus, free ‘Middle Skills’ training is still being offered through remote instruction with strategies in place to mirror in-person learning and industry competencies.

Inside SDCE’s auto department, faculty are using GoPro cameras to record National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) job sheets, allowing training technicians to have the same exposure of performing the task as they would on campus in the auto shop lab. Students who are currently working as mechanics are receiving real-time critiques and class credit.

While learning remotely, student welders are studying blueprint reading, welding symbols, theory, and math—essential skills for graduates pursuing careers at local employers General Dynamics NASSCO.

Culinary Arts students may not be cooking inside SDCE’s industrial kitchen, instead, they are concepting nutrition and diet plans, and business models that include restaurant demographics and location. Clothing Construction and Textile Arts teachers are showing students how to measure patterns without in-person contact and emphasizing an e-commerce foundation.

SDCE continues to scale innovation with ICOM Academy (Interactive Competency-based Online Micro-credentialing Academy). The digital platform will offer face-to-face, live interaction with faculty and other students in a fully online classroom equipped with free integrated software and textbooks.

In addition to middle-skills job training, SDCE offers free courses in High School Diploma/Equivalency, English as a Second Language, Citizenship, and Emeritus classes for older adults 55+.

Enrollment for fall semester is still open, to learn more visit [SDCE.EDU](https://www.sdce.edu).

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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www.stcolumbasandiego.com

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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

Temporarily Closed

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
September 15 & October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

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Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

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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.



You're not alone dealing with hearing loss – yours or a loved one's. Twenty percent of Americans have it. Join us for friendship, support and lots of "how to" information. Plus, we provide captions so you won't miss a word!

What: Hearing Loss Meeting
When: 10:30 a.m. 3rd Sat of month, Jan to May and Sept to Dec. Check website for details.
Where: Mission Village Christian Fellowship
2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
Cost: FREE
<http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org/>



Serra Mesa Food Pantry has
a drive-thru distribution every
Wednesday from 10am-1pm
at 2650 Melbourne Drive.



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When a Child is Abducted by a Parent, Fear and Trauma Linger

By Mara W. Elliott

Child abduction is one of the scariest byproducts of troubled relationships, inflicting unnecessary trauma on youngsters and often imperiling their lives.

When my Office has a chance to track down missing children and bring them home, we make it our highest priority.

As a safe place for domestic violence victims, the San Diego Family Justice Center (FJC) has significant experience working with parents whose children are abducted. In these complex and frightening cases, the abuser takes the child to exert power and control over their partner, often a custodial parent tormented with the thought of never seeing the children again. Every hour is agony.

In two recent cases, the FJC worked with local, state, and federal authorities to track down missing children and bring them home.

In the first case, a woman came to the FJC to seek help after being attacked and assaulted by her husband. The abuse had been going on for years.

Her second visit to the FJC was to meet an attorney for legal assistance. While there, she learned that her then-estranged husband had abducted their young children. She feared he planned to remove them from the country.

In these types of cases, FJC staff works with the San Diego Police Department, District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit, Child Welfare Services, the U.S. State Department, law enforcement from other regions, Homeland Security, Border Patrol, Transportation Security Administration, and National Child Abduction Registries to find the children. In the above case, through a massive coordinated effort, the children were found safe and reunited with their mother.

The second case happened early in the pandemic, when a woman contacted the FJC for help to obtain a restraining order. Shortly afterward, her child was abducted. Again, we worked with a network of local and state agencies in a multiple-week-long effort to locate the child and bring the child home safely. Nothing is more gratifying than reuniting a parent and child.

During the terrifying time when a child is missing and the outcome is uncertain, the FJC staff helps the custodial parent navigate the confusing maze of law enforcement agencies, supporting them through the ordeal of having to repeat painful stories numerous times.

And our work does not end with the reunification of children with their rightful parent. The FJC helps out by offering financial and legal assistance, finding a safe place for them to live, and more. Most importantly, we provide counseling that both the mothers and children need to help them overcome the lingering fear and trauma from the abduction.

For the best possible outcome, we rely on our community partners, including Free to Thrive, Center for Hope and Strength, the San Diego Center for Counseling, the Family Resource Center, and the District Attorney's Victim Advocates.

As the isolation due to the pandemic drags on, victims of domestic violence remain at risk. Many are trapped



Continued from page 7

at home with their abusers. Job loss, economic uncertainty, illness, and fear of illness add to already-stressful home situations. We worry about victims who may not be able to leave the house or make a phone call without being overheard.

Domestic violence may be harder for others to see during this pandemic, but the calls the FJC is receiving are even more urgent.

Our office remains committed to looking out for the welfare of the most vulnerable in our communities, especially families enduring violence at home.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner, please know that the FJC and City Attorney's Office are still here for you. Please call the FJC at (619) 533-6000 during business hours, or the crisis hotline at (888) 385-4657 after hours. We are ready to listen and we are ready to help.

Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney

Looking Out for Our Seniors – Safely

By Mara W. Elliott

We are several months into the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic, and our world continues to change quickly. As businesses reopen and stay-at-home orders are being lifted, we can't forget that our senior citizens remain largely isolated.

Normally we would be able to visit our elderly loved ones regularly and observe their living conditions, but for many of us, that hasn't been possible since March. Seniors are most the susceptible to the coronavirus, and most group living facilities remain closed to the public.

It's up to us to continue to look out for our elders not only to make sure they are being protected and their basic needs are being met, but also to provide emotional support and comfort during these trying times.

Here are some tips for supporting our seniors remotely:

- Schedule regular phone calls where you can see one another using apps like Skype, WhatsApp, Zoom, or the like. Confirm that those who reside in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or memory care facility, are being fed and cared for properly. Ask them what they miss most about their pre-pandemic lives. Maybe it's a need you can fill.
- Make sure that they have a four-week supply of any over-the-counter medicine and prescriptions available as well as adequate medical supplies (oxygen, saline solution, bandages, etc.) and backup materials.
- Arrange for grocery or meal delivery, and laundry services if needed. Make available an emergency supply of food and water.
- Help [develop a care plan](#) that summarizes their health conditions, medications, care providers, and preferences. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, care plans can reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and improve overall medical management for people with a chronic health condition, resulting in better quality of life.

Continued from page 8

- For those with dementia, send a card or letter, small gifts or mementos, or other things that they can read and touch, that will help trigger memories. Also, ask care staff about COVID-19 safety protocols and how they are maintaining daily routines and structured activities to support patients with dementia.
- Be vigilant about potential scams targeting elder adults. During phone calls and virtual visits, ask if they have received about any unusual phone calls, letters, or emails asking for money or offering something of value that seems to be too good to be true.

Seniors are increasingly vulnerable to financial scams due to cognitive changes that affect people as they age. Their judgment can be compromised by loneliness and social isolation, making them even more susceptible to fraud.

Some of the scams now emerging involve online offers of COVID-19 preventative medicines or treatments, fraudulent requests for personal information from people pretending to be coronavirus contact tracers working for health departments, and bogus calls allegedly from the U.S. Census, asking for personal and financial information.

Please contact my Office's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit at (619) 533-5618 or CityAttorney@sanidiego.gov if you suspect someone is trying to scam you, a friend, or relative.

If you suspect an elder adult is being mistreated by a caregiver or family member, please contact my Office's Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit at 619-533-5544, or the San Diego Family Justice Center at 619-533-6000.

If you know of an elder adult who lives in a substandard independent living facility where conditions are unsanitary or dangerous, please contact our Nuisance Abatement Unit at 619-533-5655 or CityAttorney@sanidiego.gov.

Lastly, if your loved one is demonstrating suicidal behavior or showing other signs of acute mental distress, and you know or suspect they have access to a firearm, call the police to request a Gun Violence Restraining Order. Our Office will file the court order to have the weapon removed from the home, eliminating opportunities to harm themselves or someone else.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office is working hard to keep you safe. Please contact our office if we can be helpful.



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Vickie Riggs, League of
Women Voters of San Diego
vice-president@lwvsandiego.org



**SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SPONSORS A CANDIDATES FORUM Moderated
by the League of Women Voters of San Diego**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

SAN DIEGO - Serra Mesa Community Council is sponsoring a candidate forum for candidates running for the following local offices in the November election for: City Council District 7 including Serra Mesa and will be moderated by the League of Women Voters of San Diego.

The event will be a Zoom Meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Take this opportunity to meet with the candidates in an informal atmosphere and learn where they stand on issues important to you. Information about the candidates can be found by contacting the Noli Zosa at <https://www.noli2020.com> and Raul Camillo at <https://runwithraul.com>. The Zoom reservation link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i8tYp3y8Rsm2SUZsoe-CKQ

A link to submit Questions to the candidates will be included in the zoom registration confirmation.

The forum will be conducted according to the guidelines of the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*Don't just be a voter, be an **informed** voter*

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

(858) 573-1396 facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/

Email Questions to **weblibrary@sandiego.gov**

Under the guidance of the CA Department of Public Health and San Diego County's Public Health Officer, the San Diego Public Library will be closed until further notice. Online Library services remain available to the public. For the most up to date information please visit the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Facebook and the San Diego Public Library homepage <https://sandiego.gov/public-library>

Contactless Pickup Service

While libraries are closed for full service, San Diego Public Library provides access to physical materials through our limited Contactless Pickup Service at 24 Pickup Service Locations. Place holds at <https://sandiego.gov/public-library> and find more information and for updates about Contactless Pickup Service at <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/pickup-service>

List of online library services available for you 24/7:

- **eBooks, eAudiobooks and Digital Magazines:** take a look at our eLibrary resource, we've got some new resources for the kids and adults <https://sandiego.gov/eLibrary>
- **Online Book Clubs** <https://sandiego.gov/bookclubs>
- **Videos:** <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-videos>
 - Learn Bicycle Repair & Maintenance
 - Library Opera Insights Series: a series of free lectures for the community by San Diego Opera and UC San Diego
 - Stay-In Storytime Club: virtual storytime collection <https://sandiego.gov/sdplstorytime>
 - medici.tv: classical music channel

San Diego Continuing Education Fall Classes

For information the SDCE Fall schedule and how to register visit <http://www.sdce.edu/> for free online classes.

Mail Ballot Dropoff Locations

The Serra Mesa Branch Library will be a Mail Ballot Dropoff Location from October 6th through November 3rd. For Mail Ballot Dropoff hours, please contact the branch at 858-573-1396. For more Mail Ballot Dropoff Locations, visit www.SDVote.com



Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition



Add blatant disregard for your health and that of your family to planning missteps, cost overruns, litigation and other problems that have plagued the City of San Diego's Real Estate Assets Department (READ).

READ is in charge of running Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport. It was Real Estate Assets chief, Cybele Thompson who decided that offering unleaded aviation fuel at the airport, alongside toxic leaded avgas would not be a good business decision for the city.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer and all City Council members also turned a deaf ear to Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition's request for the airport to offer unleaded fuel.

That, in spite of documented evidence that the airport generates more than a ton of toxic lead annually resulting from the exclusive sale of leaded avgas, which only a minority of piston driven planes need to use for safety.

Cybele Thompson recently resigned amid the debacle surrounding the city's 101 Ash St. acquisition. Her boss Assistant Chief Operating Officer Ronald H. Villa had also resigned because of his involvement in the city's troubled acquisition of that downtown high-rise which is costing taxpayers \$18,000 a day, while it sits empty.

Mayor Faulconer, is ultimately responsible for all READ decisions since he is the city's CEO. But what about the 2016 City Council which approved the Ash Street acquisition? Isn't due diligence a council member's responsibility before voting on an issue?

The City Council Rules Committee certainly did not practice due diligence when [Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition proposed a 2019 ballot initiative](#) to let voters decide if city airports should offer unleaded fuel, alongside leaded avgas.

The Council Rules Committee, without investigating further, simply referred the matter back to the Real Estate Assets Department who had already decided against it. In other words, the almighty dollar is more important to the city than your health and that of your family.

However, now there is a golden opportunity in the midst of the 101 Ash Street crisis.

Mayor Faulconer is termed out and a new Mayor will be elected in the upcoming November general election. The new mayor will be in charge of who will fill top positions in the Real Estate Assets Department.

Five new San Diego City Council members will also be elected in November for District 1, District 3, District 5, District 7, and District 9. District 7 encompasses Serra Mesa which is directly across Aero Drive from Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport.

With 5 council seats up for grabs, only 4 incumbents will remain seated.

Click [here](#) (page down halfway) to see a map of Council District boundaries.

The important thing is for you to exercise your right to vote for who will ultimately approve important decisions that affect you and your family!

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy,
Sandra Stahl, MGEC Executive Director, www.mgecsd.org

Ankle Biters

What a nuisance – mosquitoes and their bites! Until last year this wasn't a big problem in Serra Mesa. The County of San Diego's website, <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/pests/aedes.html>, shows a map with incidence activity (*Aedes aegypti* found in Serra Mesa), information on preventing and controlling mosquitoes, and contact information. The following information is summarized/copied from the website.

General

- San Diego County invaded by three species of non-native California mosquitoes
- *Aedes aegypti* (yellow fever) and *Aedes albopictus* are black with white stripes on legs and back
- Can transmit viruses including Zika and yellow fever
- Lay eggs in small containers of water (e.g., plant saucers, tires, buckets, etc.)
- Bite aggressively during the day

Prevention

- Securely screen/seal any rain barrels to prevent breeding
- Clean containers holding water weekly
- Fill saucers with sand or fine gravel to prevent water pooling

Protection

- Prevent mosquitoes from living/breeding in home by installing window and door screens
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Apply insect repellent; Find the Repellent that is Right for You at <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you>

Report *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* activity to vector@sdcounty.



Treatment of Bites – The county's website didn't discuss treatment. However, discussion on NextDoor mentioned the following treatments and prevention measures (effectiveness/safety not verified): bentonite clay, green oil, running hot water over a spoon and applying, steroid cream, cold pack/ice on bite for 15 minutes or longer, Avon's Skin So Soft, Benadryl itch stopping gel, Calendula gel, Melaleuca, melagel, witch hazel, tea tree oil, Mosquito Zapper Lantern, Mosquito Trap, and bug-bombing house..

Also, comments on NextDoor indicate mosquitoes can breed in a bottlecap, can detect carbon dioxide, and fly up to 300-feet. The 300 feet means that your neighbors will need to be vigilant, also, in combatting this pest.

Exciting News About Ruffin Canyon

By Cindy McIntyre

Friends of Ruffin Canyon needs your help on **Saturday October 3 from 9am to noon.** The Friends will be working to remove non-native invasive grass from the hillside south and east of Taft Middle School. This area is located behind the Native Plant Garden trail. Bring gloves, hat, water, mask and a rake or shovel. The area is outdoors and open, so we will be able to socially distance.

The mission of the Friends is to educate the community about native plants and habitats in the canyons of the community. With the pandemic, I Love A Clean San Diego has been unable to sponsor events like Coastal Clean-up Day or Creek to Bay this year. Our usual first Saturday of the month events have not been available at Taft or Shawn canyon either. We hope to re-start small and safely in October.

Did you know that San Diego County has one of the most diverse populations of butterflies, bees and bats in the world? Seventy percent of bees live in the ground. Native plants and habitats are essential to these species. We are looking for more volunteers to help guide our Friends of Ruffin Canyon group to preserve our local canyons. Contact us at Kevin Johnston, kevinjohnston1972@yahoo, or Monica Fuentes, jomonicer@yahoo.com

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Mask Commentary

Once Crunch closed I needed a new exercise program. I decided to conquer the stadium hillside which had defeated me in the past. As an added benefit hill walking may prove beneficial for bone density.

Most people don't wear masks while walking or running (in really good shape) down and up the hill, but they put on a mask and/or social distance when they encounter a fellow exerciser. Since almost half of American adults have underlying conditions (e.g., obesity, heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease and chronic kidney disease) wearing a mask can have a huge impact. Having a family member with an underlying condition and reluctantly admitting I'm in a vulnerable age bracket I appreciate their consideration.

Wearing masks reminds me of when my husband and I were dating almost 50 years ago. He refused to start his car until I clicked the seat belt. At the time I found it an irritation - an infringement on my rights. Having been in a car accident he only wanted to protect me. Now I don't feel safe in a vehicle unless I click that seat belt.

I hate masks – they're hot, fog up my glasses (maybe it's time for contact lenses again), and make it impossible to see facial expressions - especially smiles. But given the current situation I feel safer with the mask on than off when encountering people. More and more studies are proving that wearing a mask can protect the mask wearer and prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Attitude can make a big difference. Rather than seeing the mask requirement as an infringement of my rights, I view it as a sign of respect.

My inclination when I encounter people in a public space who are not wearing a mask or social distancing is to say something to them. But according to mask etiquette authorities the best approach in a public place is to avoid them and let it go. People can become very defensive when they feel judged or attacked. However, in your own home, you set the rules.

Thanks to all of you who wear your mask!

Cindy Moore

Project Updates

Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update – Item was heard at Planning Commission on July 30, 2020 and approved. Next step is a City Council hearing for their review and approval.

One planning commissioner asked about comments that were received regarding the drainage problem at the Aero/Sandrock intersection. The drainage issue is pertinent since the update designates a mixture of medium density residential and Urban Employment Village High (refers to residential density) along Aero between Kearny Villa and the library. Staff responded that it's an infrastructure problem and communication is needed between staff and the community. As directed by staff a complaint has been submitted through Get It Done. For information on the KMCP Update refer to <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/plan-documents/>.

Mission Center/Murray Ridge northwest corner empty lot – The lot is zoned as single unit residential, RS-1-7. Currently, the lot is being used to store vehicles, which the zoning prohibits. The violation has been submitted to Code Enforcement.

Mission Center Road Project, 8695 1/3 Mission Center Rd – Project 430233 AT&T Trenching A00557T. This project is located on the northern side of Mission Center Rd between I-805 and the electrical boxes near the corner of Mission Center/Murray Ridge. For technical project details, go to <https://opensd.sandiego.gov/Web/Projects/Details/430233>.

The project apparently includes the installation of a cell tower on the back corner of a lot that faces up and down the I-805; trenching to lay cable in the ground which requires cutting through some part of the Mission Center Road (22 ft asphalt), sidewalk (18 ft), and dirt (1602 ft); and connecting power through Man Hole 1663. The existing 3'x5' vault has phone connections.

Java Garden, a Colorful New Coffee Shop

Serra Mesa has a recently opened coffee house, providing a fun spot with some amazing artistic scenery to enjoy while partaking in a fresh cup of coffee and perhaps a muffin or roll. The café opened in April of this year, and in June came the arrival of the lovely floral mural installed by their friend and artist Tanya Hinkel and fills the entire wall – have a look, and you will know how the café got its name, the Java Garden.

Owners are Alena and David Layton, residents of Serra Mesa since 2007. Alena was born in the Philippines and came to the U.S. (Arkansas) with her mother at age 8. In 1986 the family moved to Escondido while Alena stayed behind to pursue a college degree, then in 1993 became a San Diegan. David's roots are right here as he was born and schooled in Pt. Loma. They had a common interest in sailing and met through the San Diego Yacht Club. This year marks their 20th wedding anniversary.

The Java Garden is located at the south end of Serra Mesa at 2699 Mission Village Drive, intersecting Shawn Ave. They are open Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., on weekends from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have good seating outside to meet current Pandemic rules. You can easily contact them at 858-276-7045 and javagardensd@gmail.com.

Tom Leech, author-speaker, amigo
tomaseb@aol.com, 858-650-0810

Newest book: FUN ON THE JOB: Amusing & true tales from Rosie-the-Riveters to Rocket Scientists at a Major Aerospace Company

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Natural gas pipeline safety

SERRA MESA REPLACEMENT PROJECT



The safety of our customers, employees and communities we serve is our highest priority. This includes the 14,000 miles of natural gas pipelines that are part of our system in San Diego County.

Our commitment to safety means constructing, operating, and maintaining our pipeline system to meet applicable federal and state regulations and requirements. We routinely perform various pipeline safety and maintenance tasks, including patrolling, inspecting, testing, repairing and replacing pipelines.

Overview

In January 2019, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved SDG&E's plan to upgrade and modernize an existing more than 70-year old pipe, called Pipeline 1600, through a series of pipeline safety projects. The Serra Mesa Replacement Project, which is located in the Serra Mesa community of the City of San Diego, is one of those pipeline safety projects.

The Serra Mesa Replacement Project will replace 4.2 miles of 1949-vintage pipe in Serra Mesa along Ruffin Road from Ridgehaven Court to Aero Drive, west to Sandrock Road. Construction will continue south to Murray Ridge Road, south to Raejean Avenue and Greyling Drive and ending on Sandmark Avenue, just north of SDG&E's Mission Station.

The replacement pipeline will incorporate new safety features, including modern, thicker steel pipe, a warning mesh placed above the



SDG&E has upgraded more than 23 miles of transmission pipeline in San Diego County as part of our Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan.

pipeline to minimize accidental third-party excavations, automated shut-off valves and new fiber optic technology.

These pipeline safety projects are part of SDG&E's broader Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan, or PSEP, approved by the CPUC in 2014, after new legislation and regulations were adopted and designed to enhance the safety of the natural gas transmission system in California. Since that time, SDG&E® has upgraded more than 23 miles of transmission pipeline in San Diego County.

Project construction impacts

Whenever SDG&E installs a replacement pipeline in a community, every effort is made to minimize construction impacts. Crews will work as safely and quickly as possible along these Serra Mesa streets as they construct the replacement pipeline. As this pipeline replacement is taking place in your community, you may notice numerous trucks and construction equipment, increased noise during construction activities, temporary

Did you know?

These pipeline safety projects are part of SDG&E's broader Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan, or PSEP, approved by the CPUC in 2014.

continued on back ►

- “No Parking” signs, lane reductions or closures and minor delays on surface streets. Steel plates will be used to cover open trenches to maintain driveway access and allow streets to be fully reopened during times when construction is not taking place.

It is anticipated that the timeline to complete the entire project will last from June 2020 - January 2021. It can take several weeks to more than a month to install a replacement pipeline, and the schedule depends on a number of factors, such as the time required to obtain necessary permits, work hour restrictions, length and location of the pipeline being replaced, and weather. Typical construction time in front of a given residence or business is expected to be only a few weeks, but some locations may take longer. While construction is taking place, natural gas service will be maintained to nearby residents and businesses.

About our natural gas system

SDG&E's gas pipelines transport natural gas received from interstate pipelines and natural gas producers to customers through a complex network of pipelines. Large gas

transmission lines, some as large as 36 inches in diameter, transport natural gas into the San Diego area where they connect to gas distribution lines ranging in size from one to 20 inches in diameter. Typically, service lines of one-half to one-inch in diameter branch off of the distribution pipes, delivering natural gas to homes and businesses. The construction work related to this Pipeline 1600 project involves a 16-inch transmission pipeline.

811 marks the spot – free

Gas pipelines may be located anywhere.

It's important to know where they are before doing any type of digging. Call

811 at least three days before digging to help prevent accidental contact with

underground gas pipelines. SDG&E will come out to locate existing pipelines before you dig, at no cost to you.



Contact us

For more information during or after construction, please visit sdge.com/psep or call us at 1-866-382-0886.



This map is for illustration purposes only. Not to scale.

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