

# SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2022



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

You are invited to participate in the  
**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, September 28  
6:30 p.m.

*Jones Elementary School Auditorium,  
2751 Greyling Drive*

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, October 26  
6:30 p.m.

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

*National Night Out  
2022*

*Neighborhoodly People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together*

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550  
 City Councilmember Raul Campillo (619) 236-6677  
 Mayor Todd Gloria (619) 236-6330  
 County Supervisor Joel Anderson (619) 531-5544  
 State Assembly Member Akilah Weber, MD (619) 531-7913

State Senator Toni G. Atkins (619) 645-3133  
 Governor Gavin Newsom (619) 525-4641  
 U.S. Representative Sara Jacobs (619) 280-5353  
 U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712  
 U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (619) 239-3884

**Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers**

Carl Demas.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*President*  
 Cindy Moore.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Vice President*  
 Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Treasurer/Community Events*  
 Cindy McIntyre .....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Secretary*

**Board Members**

Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Current Issues*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Education Committee*  
 Sam Yo euth.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Friends of the Library*  
 Rebecca Moreno .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Local Business Coordinator*  
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*SMRC/SMPPAG*  
 Yusuf Nazar.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Special Projects/SMPG*

**Appointed Positions**

Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Serra Mesa Email Directory*  
 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Editor*  
 Geralyn White.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Neighborhood Awareness*  
 Colin Dowling .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Webmaster*

**Key Serra Mesa Volunteers**

Catherine Stempel .....(858)565-2473\*  
*SMPG President*  
 Monica Fuentes .....(858)565-2473\*  
*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](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)  
 Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473  
 e-mail: [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org)

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

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**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

Sept 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Sept 7	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sept 15	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Sept 20	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Sept 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 28	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Jones Elementary School, Auditorium
Oct 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Oct 20	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 26	Serra Mesa Community Council Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 2	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
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.

**Serra Mesa Observer** is published bimonthly  
 by the Serra Community Council

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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](mailto:rondakadams@msn.com)

**Deadline:** November / December 2022 Edition...October 21st.

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

<http://www.serramesa.org> [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)



### WHY I LOVE SERRA MESA

We read so much today on the Best and Worst places to live, not only in the U.S. but the world. One of the most important attributes to the Best is location, weather, what is there to see and do, and of course the cost of living. In California, along with Illinois and New York, we are witnessing people moving out of state to more affordable locations. I now make the case for Serra Mesa where we currently reside. The weather is perhaps the best in the Country, we are centrally located to almost all sights and destinations in the area, we have endless possibilities of places to go and see, and then there is the cost of living. Depending on your age, financial condition, spending habits, and requirements for living, many of us are making cuts in our expenses, perhaps downsizing our travels, meals, and purchases. So, what else is new. Just turning 80 years old this year, I have seen this pattern repeat itself over and over again. While many can find heaven in Texas, Florida, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, etc., we do not see the value in leaving our home, neighborhood, neighbors, and an environment that is peaceful for the most part and very livable.

One of the reasons I love Serra Mesa is our Library. For those who participated in our latest, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we spent an evening with our First Responders and were able to meet many of our police, and fire personnel. We had fire engines, police cars, and even Mayor Gloria and City Council Member Campillo attended. Did you know that Mayor Gloria's mom is from Serra Mesa? We had members of the Community Council, Serra Mesa Village, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, and Friends of the Library to answer questions. Council Member Campillo had 2 of his team at the meeting to ensure that everyone's questions were submitted and answered. In all it was a great night and not one to be missed. The attendance was really good and for those who attended, a great time was had and at no cost. The

event was organized by Rosa Kwon, our librarian, and Rosa, "You are the Best".

Mark your calendars now for a San Diego Unified School District B Candidate Forum to be held on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Jones Elementary School Auditorium, 2751 Greyling Drive. Please make sure you are included on our contact list which is confidential and you can be added to this list by going to our website: [www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org) and on our homepage is a link to add your email address to be advised of all Serra Mesa upcoming events.

Another reason that I love living in Serra Mesa is the volunteers who continue to try to improve the traditions that we have and continue to make the community better. The Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) works to inform and improve the services provided by City Agencies. The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) works with the City Planning Group to give input from the community as we plan for new projects and infrastructure repairs. The Friends of Ruffin Canyon picks up trash and provides safe paths for canyon trails as well as keep an eye on the homeless who inhabit our canyons. The Friends of the Library organize and sell books to fund many library functions not provided by the City. Our Serra Mesa Pantry and Garden work to provide groceries and vegetables to those residents who have needs. All in all, there too many services to list here but all need your participation. Please look to our Newsletter: [www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/](http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/) for the latest news and information and contact information.

Carl Demas, President SMCC Board

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

2235 Galahad Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Phone: (858) 277-2511

Fr. James Bankston  
Administrator

pastorhasd@gmail.com

www.holyangelssandiego.com  
Facebook: Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

All are Welcome!



## Holy Angels Ethnic Foods

858-268-3458

2235 Galahad Rd • San Diego, CA 92123-3931

Open 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Friday - Tuesday  
(Closed Wed & Thurs)

Please always call before coming

Ethnic Foods Available

Kolbasi - Holubki - Kolachi - Pirohi - Rozky  
Other seasonal items

## City Attorney's Office Ready to Prosecute If You Drive After Mixing Drugs, Alcohol

By Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney

Witnesses will never forget the accident they saw that July day on Interstate 8. The driver, a man from Chula Vista, swerved across the freeway into the center divider, then back again into traffic, where his car sideswiped a box truck.



The driver was so impaired that he did not realize his vehicle was totaled. Witnesses described him as looking dazed while behind the wheel, and he didn't know whether that was from the accident or the combination of methamphetamine, heroin, other narcotics, and benzodiazepines cycling through his blood system.

Motorists on the road that day were fortunate. The driver survived, and because he didn't injure anyone, he only faced misdemeanor charges.

Still, the consequences were significant. He was sentenced to 30 days in custody, 10 days of public works service, and five years' probation. He was fined \$2,133 and ordered to attend a MADD victim impact panel and participate in a three-month first-conviction program.

In addition, his driver license was suspended for six months. He probably incurred attorney fees and lost wages from court appearances and public works service. If he is driving again, he will pay higher insurance rates.

Impaired driving is all too common in San Diego. And it's a particular problem in summer months, when drunk driving increases.

Did you know that one in every four drivers you encounter on our roads is impaired? Most have been drinking and, increasingly, drivers have both alcohol and drugs in their system.

Recent studies have shown that almost half of all injury accidents in California involve drivers who had used legal or illegal drugs.

My Office is committed to keeping our roads safe by seeking real consequences for impaired drivers before their behavior leads to injury or death. That's why we created a specialized unit, the Drug DUI Prosecution Team, specifically to address vehicular crimes involving drugs and alcohol.

Team members train with the state's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to better understand the challenges of prosecuting drug-impaired driving.

Their jobs are complicated by the wide availability of drugs from fentanyl to meth to Xanax and the phenomenon of older drivers with otherwise spotless records regularly driving while under the effects of prescription medicines.

Having a prescription does not mean you are safe to drive while using it. Our office has prosecuted cases for drivers who have taken:

- painkillers, such as Vicodin or OxyContin;
- antidepressants, such as Prozac and Seroquel;
- stimulants, such as Adderall and Dexedrine; and
- anti-anxiety drugs, such as Valium and Xanax.

Many of these medications can cause drowsiness, and some can lead to aggressive driving. All can affect your reactions and especially when they are mixed with alcohol.

Remember, if it says "Do not operate heavy machinery" on the bottle, that includes driving a two-ton automobile.

These cases are challenging. The legal standard for drunk driving in California is straightforward, blood-alcohol levels

Continued from page 4

over 0.08 percent are illegal for adult drivers. (Any alcohol level is illegal for drivers under 21.)

But what's the standard when the driver is impaired with a mix of alcohol and, say, marijuana? That's what our Drug DUI team trains to understand and explain to juries.

Our prosecutors work with officers in the field to assess the driver's level of impairment through field sobriety tests. In addition, they secure a blood sample to test for levels of drugs and alcohol.

Working with toxicology experts, they explain how combining alcohol with marijuana can be even more dangerous than either alone. Alcohol slows normal brain functions. It also impairs hand-eye coordination. Marijuana combined with alcohol can heighten the effects of both on the body and brain.

All this work has paid off. Almost 100 percent of drivers charged with drug-impaired driving in San Diego over the last five years have been convicted.

To review: Don't mix alcohol and drugs. If you do, don't drive. Should you ignore this good advice, we have a specialized team of attorneys prepared to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law and who have a near-perfect conviction rate. You can lose your license, possibly go to jail, and spend thousands of dollars on your defense and fines.

Keep yourself and others safe. Don't drink, do drugs, and drive.

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## PICKLEBALL COMES TO SERRA MESA

Pickleball has become one of the hottest sports sweeping the nation for the old and young. The Park and Recreation department has painted two courts on the existing tennis court at Murray Ridge Park. The rule of one hour of court time is posted for tennis, but pickleball usually is played in rotation with winners remaining on the court and losers rotating out for pairs that are waiting to play. The game is fairly fast and many can play within a short time. Currently there are no nets at the court. In the future the Serra Mesa Rec Center may provide them. Looking for a partner, maybe Nextdoor or Facebook will provide the connection.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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



### St. Columba Parish

3327 Glencolum Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 277-3863

[www.stcolumbasandiego.com](http://www.stcolumbasandiego.com)

Sunday Mass 7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
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



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



MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

#### OFFICE

2650 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858.278.2633  
[missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.missionvillage.church](http://www.missionvillage.church)

#### STEVE DE VOS, PASTOR

Cell: 858.829.2097  
[stevedevos79@gmail.com](mailto:stevedevos79@gmail.com)

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Group—Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
Small Group Study & Home Fellowship  
Groups at Various times through the week.

*We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community*



Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

2696 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858-277-6572  
[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org)

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

## **Cleaning Up Independent Living Facilities and Helping the Vulnerable**

By Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney

An “Independent Living Facility” (ILF) is a special type of group home where unrelated adults live and pay rent individually to a property owner or operator.

When ILFs live up their promise, they are a boon for people of limited income who would otherwise fend for themselves in a high-priced housing market.

When they don’t, and unscrupulous operators put their tenants’ health or safety at risk, my Office is empowered by the law to step in.

Since 2018, we’ve been cracking down on operators who fail at their responsibilities as landlords and caretakers. Our prosecutors shut down seven ILFs and forced 35 others to correct their deficiencies and come into compliance with health codes and zoning laws. Seventeen cases are still open.

Prosecution can send a message and lead to meaningful change. We’ve begun to see the fruits of our labors -- the number of referrals to our Office has dropped significantly. Two years ago, we were receiving a dozen new referrals a month, and we’re now seeing two or three.

Operators of assisted living or skilled nursing facilities are regulated by the state, which means that there are rules on the books, expectations are in place, and oversight occurs. ILFs, on the other hand, are unlicensed by any government entity.

When ILF operators rent rooms to people they know are not independent, i.e., they cannot meet their own needs, such as bathing, feeding themselves, washing clothes, and taking medications, a predatory relationship can develop. Our cases have involved unscrupulous ILF operators who’ve pocketed rent money from residents, some of whom are mentally or physically disabled, while subjecting them to filthy and hazardous conditions.

These stories are heartbreaking: rooms infested with bedbugs, roaches, and rodents; people living in filthy beds and wearing soiled clothes; and operators denying their tenants phone privileges. Urinary catheters neglected, dangerous conditions from the lack of proper medical care, horrific bedsores and more. Our inspectors have seen ILFs with inoperable showers and toilets, no refrigerators, and one where the owner unplugged the washing machine so residents wouldn’t “waste water.” We’ve intervened in situations where residents needed immediate hospitalization.

Our work became even more critical during pandemic-related lockdowns.

When our prosecution forces an operator out of business and substandard housing conditions exist, we assist in relocating their residents, many of whom are one step from homelessness. In those cases, a City Attorney’s Victim Services Coordinator works with the residents to find them appropriate housing where they will be treated with dignity and receive any services they need.

This work could not be accomplished without the concerted efforts of many hard-working individuals in the city Code Enforcement Division and San Diego Police Department. These public servants partner with the City Attorney’s Nuisance Abatement Unit, led by Chief Deputy City Attorney Gabriela Brannan, to work together on an Independent Living Facilities task force.

In addition to filing civil enforcement actions, Deputy City Attorney Joseph Raskin has investigated and criminally prosecuted our most egregious cases -- criminal abuses by predatory ILF operators who exploit vulnerable victims, using the ILF exemption from licensing and inspection as a shield.

Task force members agree that word has gotten out among ILF owners and operators that the City Attorney’s Office will come after them if they skirt the law. In addition to being forced to shut down, some ILF owners and operators have been ordered to pay civil penalties, fines, have been permanently enjoined from operating an unlicensed residential care facility in the City of San Diego, and have been placed on probation with jail time stayed pending compliance with the court’s order.

Representatives from San Diego County Adult Protective Services and the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division have also joined the monthly task force meetings, to better share pertinent information and foster interagency cooperation.

Together we’ve been able to stem the rising tide of bad-faith ILF operators who willfully take advantage of those who need our protection the most. We will continue in this effort to hold accountable those who would profit from the misery of others and ensure that neglected ILF residents receive the help they deserve.





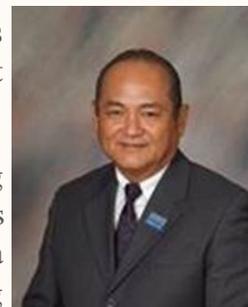
### **Godwin Higa for San Diego Unified School Board – District B**

Godwin Higa was born and raised on a farm in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and moved to San Diego 37 years ago. He retired in 2017 as principal after creating the first Trauma-Informed School in San Diego, Cherokee Point Elementary School, in the Mid-City. Cherokee Point Elementary School has been recognized by the Huffington Post/CA Endowment foundation as one of the nation's few successful Trauma-Informed/Responsive Schools with zero suspensions, increased attendance rate, and one of the highest teacher retention rates.

Why a trauma-informed, restorative justice school?

The CDC reports that the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest suicide rate in the United States is among our students' ages 10-24, and trauma-informed/restorative justice schools would address this and other major mental health crises in our schools and the nation. We must stop the School to Prison Pipeline! He believes that for students to accelerate their education capabilities, all schools must create the right conditions for learning and It is the responsibility of all educators to ensure a positive environment conducive to learning.

Higa's proven outstanding leadership, teaching experiences, and compassion for working with students allow him the highest qualifications to serve on the SDUSD Board. Godwin's priority is "Students Always First!" His proven record of 35 years in education and as a principal with the San Diego Unified School District extends to 20 years of serving Elementary and Secondary Schools.



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## **Be Informed – Attend School Board Candidate Forum**

Jones PTA and the Serra Mesa Community Council are co-sponsoring a San Diego Unified School District, Board of Education, District B Candidate Forum on Wednesday, September 28, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Jones Elementary School, 2751 Greyling Drive. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters according to their guidelines. District B encompasses Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta and part of College Area, Kearny Mesa, Mission Valley, Normal Heights and University Heights.

The election is on November 8. Mail-in ballots go out to voters on October 8. This forum is chance to meet the candidates, ask questions, and find out their position on issues. If you can't attend the forum but have a question you want asked, please email [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org).

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

**IIHFD Fundraiser Event for Human Factor Leadership Academy in Ghana**

# MOMENTUM

## GHANA ON THE MOVE

**DATE:** Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022  
**TIME:** 5:00-7:30 p.m.  
**COST:** \$25 per person  
Register at:  
<https://buytickets.at/iihfd/736033>

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



**ENJOY...**  
Dinner, Auction,  
Music, Speakers,  
and FUN!



SCAN ME



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE for HUMAN FACTOR DEVELOPMENT

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**Contact:** [senyoadjibolosoo@pointloma.edu](mailto:senyoadjibolosoo@pointloma.edu) **Visit:** [iihfd.org](http://iihfd.org)

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This extra special “MOMENTUM...Ghana on the Move” event will benefit the Human Factor Leadership Academy (HFLA) in Ghana. The evening will include entertaining music, a delicious Ghanaian dinner, an array of auction items, engaging informative speakers, and a fun memorable experience for all.

Founder and President Senyo Adjibolosoo, Ph.D., created IIHFD (International Institute for Human Factor Development) with the belief that improving the human condition is not dependent on external factors like laws, money, or technology, but rather on internal factors like Love, Grace, Compassion and Forgiveness – the primary positive Human Factor qualities. The vision of IIHFD is to improve the quality of the Human Factor with a mission of producing honest and compassionate leaders.

IIHFD was initially established in 1992 in Canada. In 1999, IIHFD was incorporated in the United States as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Human Factor Leadership Academy (HFLA) was established in Akatsi in the Volta Region of Ghana in 2010 and continues to provide worldwide impact of the IIHFD.

The HFLA in Ghana is thriving and successful and has been achieving the Human Factor quality goals for over 12 years. The school currently serves approximately 400 students ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal is to reach out globally with HFLA’s ongoing excellent academic program and training.

There is a basic school and a senior high campus at HFLA in Akatsi. In May 2022, a severe tropical rain in Ghana caused major flooding and damage to the basic school campus. Many books, laptops, and other supplies were lost. There is much to replace and rebuild. The MOMENTUM fundraiser will help with these immediate needs as well as ongoing essential necessities.

Please join us for this event. Tickets can be purchased at <https://buytickets.at/iihfd/736033>

For more information, visit [iihfd.org](http://iihfd.org)

If you have any auction items to donate or have questions about IIHFD, contact [senyoadjibolosoo@pointloma.edu](mailto:senyoadjibolosoo@pointloma.edu)

Akpe! (Thank You!)

## Serra Mesa Planning Group News

**Meetings:** 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 Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and via online meetings. To receive notices about meetings which will include an online link, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Next meetings: September 15 and October 20. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

**4 Board Openings:** SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen board members. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>. Several people have volunteered to be on the board. The election will be held at the next SMPG meeting.

### Update on August 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- **Council Policy 600-24** – SMPG passed a motion to send a letter with SMPG comments on the proposed amendments to Council Policy 600-24. This item will be heard by the City Council on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The letter indicated support of the letter sent by the Community Planners Committee ([https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cpc\\_special\\_mtg\\_13\\_june\\_2022\\_wattach.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cpc_special_mtg_13_june_2022_wattach.pdf)), that if it's stipulated that renters have a pro-rata share of designated seats on the board that the seats can be filled by any eligible candidate if unable to fill with a renter, and that staff is required to notify planning groups of discretionary permits.
- **SDSU West Mission Valley Stadium Site** – Representative answered questions including ingress and egress during events. For more information, refer to <http://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/>.
- **Mission Village Drive Lane Reconfiguration** – The City has approved the reconfiguration of Mission Village Drive. Implementation is planned for September 2022. For visuals (file received wasn't of the highest quality), refer to <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

### Reconfiguration:

- From Friars to Ronda Ave – Redesigned northbound to gradual reduction from two lanes to one lane and installs buffered Class II bike lanes (no physical barrier). Class II bike lanes are defined by pavement striping and signage.
- From Ronda to Ruffin Road – Redesigned to three lanes (two travel lanes and a middle turn lane) and installs buffered Class II bicycle lanes (no physical barrier). This results in the elimination of one travel lane in each direction. At the four way intersections there are left turn lanes.

**SMPG Concerns:** SMPG expressed concern that notification of the lane reconfiguration from the City's Transportation Department wasn't received until August 8<sup>th</sup>. The notification included the designs dated 12-22-2021. Other concerns included lack of communication with the residents residing on Mission Village Drive, lack of input from residents, using "old" 2016 traffic data that doesn't account for present and future conditions as one factor in the basis for decision making, the impact on side streets, and speed limit. City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office will work with staff on communicating the change to the residents. SMPG passed a motion to send a letter listing our concerns. Refer to the letter included in this edition. Also, it's posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SMPG-MVD-Project.pdf>.

## 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

<http://www.ayso780.org>

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 19 & August 16 at 6:30 p.m.

## Year-round Mission Valley Farmers Market Opens Saturdays in Civita Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO** – The new year-round Mission Valley Farmers Market is now open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Civita Park, 7960 Civita Blvd.

The market features 35+ vendors, including seven certified growers offering a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. An array of specialty growers and producers offer exotic mushrooms, microgreens, honey, salsa, hummus, olive oil, vegan cheese, almonds, seafood, beef, eggs, chicken, baked goods, spices, teas, coconuts, Moroccan delicacies, kombucha, bakery items and more. Plus, there is live music every week.

In addition to abundant produce and specialty items, the Mission Valley Farmers Market features a wide variety of prepared foods for a convenient breakfast or lunch. There is a full-service coffee cart, plus cuisine from around the world, including crepes, tamales, sushi, and Thai, Filipino, and Indian dishes.

“We have about 35 vendors now and we will be growing to about 50 vendors in the next months,” said Ron LaChance, the market manager, who has been establishing and managing markets in San Diego County for 22 years.

“Civita Park is a unique venue for a farmers market, offering an amazing environment for the whole family,” he said. “The market is adjacent to the interactive 48-jet splash fountain, which is a magnet for little kids. Additionally, there are picnic tables, expansive lawns, playgrounds, and game areas surrounding the market. No other farmers market in San Diego County has access to such a beautiful amenity.”

LaChance says he is planning to add a “Makers Market,” featuring home-crafted items from local craftsmen, once a month and periodic blood drives.

For information on vendors and special events, visit the [Mission Valley Farmers Market Facebook Page](#).



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

(858) 573-1396 [facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/)

Email Questions to [SMstaff@san Diego.gov](mailto:SMstaff@san Diego.gov)

### **Library Hours**

Monday and Tuesday: 11:30 am - 8:00 pm

Wednesday through Saturday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

### **Holiday Closures**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be closed Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

### **Online library services available 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>
- **Movies:** Free access to movies with your library card <https://sandiegopl.kanopy.com/>
- **Online Book Clubs:** <https://sandiego.gov/bookclubs>
- **Program Videos:** <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-videos>

### **In-Person Pajama Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Mondays at 6:30pm**

Put on your favorite PJs and join Ms. Carrie in the Community Room Monday evenings at 6:30pm for a pajama storytime. Pajamas are encouraged, but not required. No sign up required.

### **Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Wednesdays at 10:00am**

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for virtual stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills. Register at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/event/virtual-wednesday-morning-storytime-ms-carrie-59>. When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes until October 26<sup>th</sup>, so you do not need to register for each session.

### **Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:00pm**

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.

### **Serra Mesa Book Club – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm**

Join the Serra Mesa Book Club on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. September 13<sup>th</sup> will discuss *When All Is Said* by Anne Griffin, and October 11<sup>th</sup> will discuss *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* by Carol Leonnig.

### **Chair Yoga – Thursdays at 11:30am**

Work on your flexibility, strength building and quiet your mind with functional movement practice Thursdays at 11:30am. Participate at your own ability. Suitable for adults of all ages. Wear flexible clothing and bring any preferred yoga equipment. Chairs provided.

### **September 5, 5:00pm Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Meeting.**

Community members are welcome to join, become a member, and discuss ways to support the library. This meeting will be held in virtually on Zoom. Please email [serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com) for the log in information.

### **September 8, 10:00am Morning Book Club.**

Join us for the inaugural meeting of the new Morning Book Club. The first meeting will discuss book title choices and future meeting dates.

### **September 21 at 4:00pm Park Ranger Storytime.**

In honor of library mascot "Odi the Coyote," Park Ranger Tiffany will read stories and give facts all about real life coyotes.

### **October 25, 4:00pm Halloween at the Library.**

Join us for Halloween fun! We will be screening the classic animated short film "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (run time 26 minutes) and making a Halloween themed craft. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

### **Friends of the Library Donations**

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library are currently accepting book donations during the library's open hours.

### **Friends of the Library Volunteers Needed**

Looking to get more involved with your community? Love books and your library? Reach out to Friends of Serra Mesa Library to hear more about how you can help! Email us at [serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com) or DM on Instagram @serramesalibraryfriends

### Mobile Hotspots

Mobile Hotspots are now available for check out at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. The mobile hotspots are easy to use and allow users to connect their laptop, tablet and other Wi-Fi enabled devices to the internet. Find out more information at <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/san-diego-access-4-all>

**July 20, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Music with Hullabaloo.** Everybody clap your hands along with the family friendly music of Hullabaloo!

**July 26, 4:00 p.m. Library NExT: Natural Wonders of San Diego.** Did you know our bays are relict canyons from the last ice age? This workshop will tour various canyons, coastlines, and mountains within the region investigating the clues our rock record leaves about how things came to be. Program is for students 3rd-5th grade. Space is limited. Registration required. SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext

**July 27, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Juggler Michael Rayner.** A juggling show like no other! See Michael Rayner perform strange amazing feats with everyday objects!

**August 2, 6:30p.m. National Night Out: Community Safety Awareness Gathering.** A community-building campaign promoting strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Featuring community leader guest speakers, demonstrations, activity booths, and light refreshments. Open to all ages.

**August 3, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Zovargo Animal Show.** Zovargo provides an interactive program featuring friendly animal ambassadors! Get close & experience an animal program that is full of fun!

**August 10, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Mad Science.** Check out out-of-this-world demonstrations and experiments. See amazing chemical reactions, fantastic forces, and more.

**August 16, 4:00 p.m. Library NExT: Making of a Superhero.** Participants will learn about the concept of the hero's journey, the attributes of a hero, identify their own "superpowers," and explore how science, technology, psychology and medicine contribute to today's heroes. Program is for students 3rd-5th grade. Space is limited. Registration required. SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext

**August 17, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Ventriloquist Marc Griffiths.** Meet a cast of undersea characters and dive into a hilarious, feel-good show "Oceans of Possibility"

### Friends of the Library Donations

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library are currently accepting book donations during the library's open hours.

### Friends of the Library Volunteers Needed

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### Mobile Hotspots

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◀ August		SEPT 2022 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS					October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				<b>1</b> 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	<b>2</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>3</b> Infl bacon Day	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Labor Day	<b>6</b> Read a book Day	<b>7</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> Patriot Day	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>13</b> 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	<b>14</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	<b>15</b> 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	<b>16</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>17</b> Natl apple dumpling Day	
<b>18</b> Natl Cheeseburger Day 	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	<b>22</b> Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox)	<b>23</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b> Natl Comic Book Day	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	<b>27</b> 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	<b>28</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	<b>29</b> 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	<b>30</b> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		

SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE  
 SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR  
 HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD

OCT 2022 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS							November ▶
September	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	<b>10</b> <i>Columbus Day</i> 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		
30	31	<b>SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE</b> <b>SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR</b> <b>HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD</b>					

## Sharp HealthCare Envisions the Future



Sharp Memorial Hospital broke ground on its expansion of the Cushman Emergency and Trauma Center. The center's expansion will provide 31 new treatment rooms, a new CT room, two specialized rooms for patients with contagious diseases and an expanded quick-care pod to meet the needs of the growing San Diego community.

"Sharp Memorial is at the forefront of expert care, and we are thrilled to expand upon that legacy," said Tim Smith, senior vice president and CEO of Sharp Memorial Hospital. "Our Level II trauma center provides critical services to San Diego, and we've received two consecutive Lantern Awards for excellence in emergency services. This expansion is an investment in our community and furthers our commitment to patient-centered care."

Smith added that the expanded emergency department will foster the growth of the Generational Health Program to all areas of the hospital. The program was made possible by a generous donor's gift and supports age-appropriate medical care for older adults with unique health needs.

The Emergency and Trauma Center expansion is part of the first phase of the largest set of transformational capital projects in the history of Sharp's medical campus in central San Diego.

The Serra Mesa Planning Group formally approved the Sharp Metropolitan modernization project on June 16, 2022. Additional capital projects include:

**New patient tower at Sharp Memorial Hospital:** The centerpiece of the transformation will be a new, seven-story tower for patient care. The tower — which will feature additional beds in advanced medical and surgical units for Sharp Memorial — will include dining facilities and office and conference space for clinical and specialty programs.

**Expansion of Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns:** A six-story addition on the east side of the hospital for women's services.

**Creation of a Critical Care Podium:** A connecting platform will enhance the delivery of care and provide a more seamless experience across the campus. The podium will integrate all surgical and procedural areas at Sharp Memorial, Sharp Mary Birch and Sharp Memorial Outpatient Pavilion onto the same level.

Learn more at [sharp.com/envision](https://sharp.com/envision).

## Free Clothing and Textile Arts Program at SDCCE Helps Student Start Inclusive Undergarment Brand

Written by: Allura Garis



*Darius Stokes, SDCCE Clothing and Textiles Graduate*

San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) Clothing and Textiles graduate, Darius Stokes, launches Dluxware, an inclusive high-end underwear and apparel brand.

A hairstylist of 12 years, Stokes originally created the garments for male burlesque dancers. With a vision to bring new styles, textures, and design lines to underwear, Stokes enrolled at SDCCE. Students learn basic to advanced apparel construction skills at SDCCE including professional standards of workmanship, and how to turn a sewn product from concept to consumer.

Today Dluxware is inclusive of all gender identities and body types. In support of the LGBTQIA+ community, Stokes released a Pride collection during the summer. “Pride means a lot of things for different people. For some, the San Diego Pride Parade may just be a fun time to go out, and for others, it can be about coming out and expressing who they are as a person, or who they support, or what their beliefs are,” he said.

Stokes credits SDCCE’s free Clothing Construction certificate and Sewn Products Business certificate programs in launching Dluxware. He now designs and produces his own apparel, takes brand photos, and manages an online store. “I started the idea of my brand 6 years ago, but I did not take it seriously until I took the Sewn Products Business course with Shirley Pierson,” said Stokes.

He added, “That is what I love most about SDCCE, they are career-oriented, and they really care about what you are doing. If you are stuck doing a job you do not love, just a couple of hours a week can guide you into something you are really interested in.” In addition to specializing in Clothing and Textiles, SDCCE’s tuition-free priority workforce training programs from healthcare, hospitality and culinary arts to information technology open a world of possibilities for those looking to upskill or reskill.

Enrollment is open at SDCCE, apply at [SDCCE.EDU](https://www.sdcce.edu).

## **Friends of Ruffin Canyon**

**By Cindy McIntyre**

Join the Friends of Ruffin Canyon and I Love a Clean San Diego for their annual Coastal Clean-up Day on September 17, 2022, from 9-noon at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center lower field, 9020 Village Glen Drive. We will be removing invasive non-native plants and trash from the canyon between the rec center and the Serra Mesa Kearny Mesa library.

Come for the whole time or stay for an hour, any participation is appreciated. When you do come wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, if you have them or we can supply some pairs, wear sunscreen, and bring a reusable water bottle. September is notably hot. All trash flows from our canyons to the ocean. To keep our waterways and ocean clean, it starts in our canyons. Non-native plants choke out natives that feed and shelter local birds, bees, and animals. Please come help us keep our canyons healthy and the animals happy.

## **Serra Mesa Food Pantry**

**by Cindy McIntyre**

The Serra Mesa Food Pantry is an amazing operation. Located at the Mission Village Christian Fellowship Church and operating since 2010, it feeds 130 families a week. The Pantry manager Christine heads a large contingency of volunteers. Dry goods and commodities are packed and ready to go on Wednesday mornings from the work of volunteers the week before. The day of distribution a large Feeding America truck arrives with fresh vegetables and fruits that will complement the produce picked up on Tuesday at the warehouse by other volunteers who go and select what will feed the recipients.

Before any food is distributed 8 banquet size tables, 4 card tables and 4 pop-up canopies must be set up. Once they are set up, and the fresh produce arrives, then the produce bags are filled. It must be determined, based on how much and what they receive, how much goes into each bag, the volunteers load up the bags. Example: potatoes, onions, cucumbers, plums, broccoli, apples, and cantaloupe were in a recent bag handed out. Once that is completed, then the commodities bags are brought out. Fresh bread is available most weeks as well as dog and cat food. All boxes are recycled. All spoiled fruit is composted.

Throughout the distribution day, next week's commodities bags are packaged and newly received commodities are stored for future distribution. After all the bags are picked up by those in need, the tables and canopies need to be stowed away for next week. All of this done by volunteers. The Pantry appreciates people bringing in donations each week as well.

How can you help? If you are able and would like to make a monetary donation these can be sent to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry at 2650 Melbourne Drive, SD 92123. The Pantry could also use 2 new banquet tables, preferably the plastic heavy duty like Lifetime brand, 2 new card tables, new pop-up canopies (12x12) and cleaning solution and paper towels to keep the tables sanitized. These tables and canopies do not have to be new, if you have something around your house you are not using any longer and are wondering what to do with them, think of the Pantry.

## SERRA MESA VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

The Serra Mesa Village is an independent part of a national movement whose goal is to deal with our aging population. The basic concept is to provide an environment where mature adults can continue to live in familiar environments known as “aging in place”. Instead of moving to Independent Living, Assisted Living, or Memory Care, many adults would like to stay in their own homes. In some cases, financial sustainability may be an issue in which case a mature adult may need to reside with family members. Those who do not qualify for Medicaid must rely on private sector services which can be unaffordable, unavailable, inaccessible, or inadequate.

The first model of “The Village Concept” was Beacon Hill Village developed in 2001. The primary objective of the Village is to give purpose to the individual who in many cases have time and social association with others who also have time. The association includes events where the group can go together and experience things which may not be possible due to alone. For instance, many seniors do not drive and are restricted in getting about. In other situations, many seniors have lost a spouse and are living alone therefore requiring socialization with other persons other than family. The mission and goals of the Village are: 1. Help seniors live in their own homes or apartments for as long as possible. 2. Provide independence. 3. Encourage safer environments. 4. Connect seniors with well-being and quality of life. 5. Provide seniors with information and educational sources. 6. Provide educational experiences. 7. Assist in providing volunteers to seniors to help with physical disabilities.

The Serra Mesa Village was established in 2014 and while our membership has been reduced by the pandemic, we are again having person to person meetings in the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month from 2-4PM. Our General Meetings include a short board meeting followed by an informative meeting. For example, on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> our meeting was an Educational Presentation on Aging-Related Topics. The session will include, Living Well, Good Mental Health is Ageless, Medicines, Alcohol and Tobacco, Elder Abuse/Fraud Prevention, etc. At this meeting we will also get suggestions and ideas from the attendees as to what services would be helpful to them.

If you would like to learn more about the Serra Mesa Village, our latest trifold follows for your information and possible participation.



TrifoldOrganizations.pdf

We are looking for a few good members. If you are so inclined, please give us a holler.

Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Village.

Leave a message: (858)565-2473

Email us at: [serramesavillage10@gmail.com](mailto:serramesavillage10@gmail.com)

URL: <https://www.serramesavillage.org>

# CANDIDATES FORUM

WHEN:

**WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28**

WHERE:

**JONES Elementary School  
Auditorium  
2751 Greyling Drive**

TIME:

**6:30 to 8:30 PM**

Meet candidates, Shana Hazan and Godwin Higa, for the San Diego Unified School District, District B position, ask questions, and find out their position on issues.

District B includes Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta and part of College Area, Kearny Mesa, Mission Valley, Normal Heights, and University Heights.

General Election  
on November 8

*Co-Sponsors*



Visit website at  
[www.jpjonespta.org](http://www.jpjonespta.org)



**Serra Mesa  
Community Council**

Visit website at  
[www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org)

**Forum Moderated by:**



# Serra Mesa Planning Group

A Recognized San Diego City Planning Group - Serving the Citizens of Serra Mesa

Post Office Box 23315 San Diego, CA 92193  
smpg@serramesa.org

August 21, 2022

## Regarding Upcoming Mission Village Drive Reconfiguration Project

Dear City Councilmember Raul Campillo and Everett Hauser of the Transportation Department of San Diego:

The Serra Mesa Community Planning Group has voted to send a letter to voice our concerns over the Mission Village Drive Reconfiguration Project or also known as Bicycle Improvements on Mission Village Dr. While we appreciate Everett Hauser attended our August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting via Zoom, it was disappointing to see that these plans had been drawn up for 7 months and only communicated recently. With the decision already made by the transportation department to move forward with the reconfiguration in October, we feel there has been very poor community input. Below are the concerns we have with the Mission Village Drive Reconfiguration Project.

- The Planning Group was notified on August 8<sup>th</sup> with a 17 page engineering schematic that gave us little time to get the word out and get community input.
- The study used 2016 data for traffic studies which doesn't take into consideration the new Snapdragon Stadium slated to do 100 events every year.
- There is no change in speed limit and the response was that we would worry about that later. 40 MPH seems high and no guarantee this will slow speed for the many people walking the community.
- What impact will this change have on the side streets off of Mission Village Drive especially during events at Snapdragon Stadium.

Respectfully submitted,  
Serra Mesa Planning Group



## Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update

**Background:** A lawsuit against the Franklin Ridge Road connection linking Civita (formerly Quarry Falls) in Mission Valley to Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa didn't prevail. More information is at <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

**Issue:** If this freeway connector is completed, *lives are at risk*. **A 4-lane, 55-mph freeway connector will immediately allow over 23,000 cars daily increasing to over 34,000 cars a day** through Serra Mesa and half-mile stretches of Via Alta and Franklin Ridge roads in Civita. This freeway connector will clog the only access road for many homes in Serra Mesa, creating a dangerous situation for emergency access and evacuation of that area. Also, the road connection creates a safety risk for the elementary school at the corner of Via Alta and Civita Blvd scheduled to open in Fall 2022.

**Action:** Since the Franklin Ridge Road connection has been approved the Transportation Phasing Plan for Alternative 4 (with road connection) in the Quarry Falls environmental document applies. Consequently, a Substantial Conformance Review (SCR) Application was submitted to the City by Sudberry Properties requesting a change from the plan without road connection to the one with road connection. The deadline for appeal was August 12. As of press time the City hadn't issued the applicant an approval letter.

Prior to the deadline staff was asked about mitigations and as of press time answers haven't been provided:

- **Murray Ridge Bridge** – The mitigation in the Quarry Falls document stipulates five lanes. The mitigation in the Serra Mesa Community Plan Amendment document stipulates five lanes and bike lanes. A review of the official hearings indicates that the addition of bike lanes to the mitigation was integral to the city council's approval of the project. Staff assured the city council that the Murray Ridge bridge could be configured to two bike lanes and five travel lanes.

Question to Staff: **Will bike lanes be included in the Murray Ridge Bridge mitigation?**

- **Phyllis Place** – The mitigation requires that Phyllis Place be widened from Franklin Ridge Road to I-805 SB ramps to accommodate five lanes (three EB and two WB), including a median, and maintain any currently existing bike lanes/and or any bike lanes included in the Bicycle Master Plan.

Question to Staff: **Since the Phyllis Place mitigation isn't included in the Quarry Falls Transportation Phasing Plan, who will be responsible for this mitigation and how will it be funded?**

- **City View Church Driveway** – Driveway shall be relocated as part of the four-way intersection design with the proposed roadway and Phyllis Place. The Serra Mesa Community Plan amendment indicated this mitigation may not be feasible because this is private property, but the City would work with the developer and property owner on solutions for traffic hazards.

Question to Staff: **Since the City View Church mitigation isn't included in the Quarry Falls Transportation Phasing Plan, who will be responsible for this mitigation and how will it be funded?** When does the church's CUP expire? What effort has been made for potential solutions for traffic hazards? Does the installation of a Phyllis Place signal create any inconsistency with City Code?

Mitigations are required prior to the any grading activities or prior to issuance of a building permit. For a complete list of mitigations refer to [https://docs.sandiego.gov/council\\_reso\\_ordinance/rao2017/R-311380.pdf](https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2017/R-311380.pdf). Community representatives will continue to advocate for implementation of all required mitigations before the road is built.

## Update on Projects/Issues/Policies Affecting Serra Mesa

### Political Representation

#### Redistricting

- **City:** All of Serra Mesa to remain in District 7; Montgomery Airfield will be in same district. Representative Raul Campillo. Becomes effective after general election 2022.
- **County:** Birdland in District 4, rest of Serra Mesa in District 2. District 4, representative Nathan Fletcher. District 2, representative Joel Anderson. Currently in effect.

### Projects/Issue As Of August 2022

**Aero Project, 8225 Aero Drive** – Former Kelco building, Project 692190, 434 unit project. Refer to May/June Observer at <http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>.

**AT&T** – (Project 430233) located on Mission Center Rd between I-805 and electrical boxes near corner of Mission Center/Murray Ridge. Project includes installation of cell tower on back corner of lot. Pending.

**T-Mobile Cell Tower at Mission Village Christian Church**, 2650 Melbourne – Approved by hearing officer on August 18, 2021. Conditional Use Permit issued on 11/17/2021. Project 664070 - Placement of nine antennas and six RRUs within a concealed 30'-tall tower in the rear of the church painted to match the building and associate equipment at the base of the tower. Pending.

**Lights out along Mission Village Drive going up the hill from Friars** – Related to SDSU work.

**Former Mission Village Shopping Center, across from Taft Middle School.** Approval in 2004 for 160 rental units and 15,000 s.f. retail (8,000 s.f. along Ruffin Rd and 7,000 s.f. at Ruffin/Gramercy corner). In 2005 approval for condominiums, required to make the community room available to community at no cost, and condominium owners have a assigned parking space deeded to them. In 2007 never expiring Site Development Permit, Approval #57551, created for 9178 Gramercy Drive. Grading permit issued in 2006. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a notification of no further action on 1/20/2022. July 2022 - Clean-up equipment removed from site.

**Montgomery-Gibbs Airport** – \$700,000 in budget for unleaded gas tank; Serra Mesa representative for Montgomery Gibbs Airport Advisory Committee pending.

**Old Serra Mesa Library on Sandroek** – Community Works selected to build 26 units for chronically homeless youth. Pending.

**Taft Joint Use Park** – Project includes grass playfield, walking/running track, 4 pickleball courts, tennis and basketball, exercise equipment. Original approved plans called for a raised stage. Because of accessibility requirements the raised stage was redesigned with concrete pad and low seat wall. Possibly March 2023 completion.

**Franklin Ridge Road Connection** – Schedule for implementation of mitigations and road connection pending.

### City-Wide Policies As Of August 2023

**Planning Group Changes** – City Council hearing on September 13th. Highlights: Developer not required to present, staff not required to notify planning groups of discretionary permits/actions in their area, and lots of paperwork to submit for recognition. Information on Councilmember Joe La Cava's website, <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/policies-priorities>.

**ADU/JADU (Accessory Dwelling Units)** – ADU s provide living area either detached or attached. Regulations – Encroachment into side and rear yards, no parking required; maximum size 1,200 s.f., rental term minimum 31 days, major fees waived, owner doesn't have to live in premises. Number of ADUs permitted on single family property based on TPA (area within ½ mile of existing or planned major transit stop). Could affect 748 acres in Serra Mesa.

*Serra Mesa Observer*

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San Diego, CA 92193

# Dated Material

## Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Has a Drive-Thru distribution every Wednesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive 92123

858-278-2647

