



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 3 MAY / JUNE 2014

SAVE THE DATE! July 4th Breakfast and Hike



Again this year, you can begin the 4th of July with neighbors and nature at the "Come for Breakfast and Take a Hike" event.

For the rest of the story...see page 4



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, May 28

6:30 pm

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, June 25

6:30 pm

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

Neighborhoodly People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

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Treasurer/Community Events
Secretary.....(858) 565-2473*
Secretary

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Observer Staff

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

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Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer
are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.
For articles, email Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com

Deadline: July / August Edition...June 19th

P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193
<http://www.serramesa.org>
communitycouncil@serramesa.org

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: smpg@serramesa.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
City Councilmember Scott Sherman (619) 236-6677
Mayor Kevin Faulconer (619) 236-6330
County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544
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State Senator Marty Block (619) 645-3133
Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641
U.S. Representative Susan Davis (619) 448-5201
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 13	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 14	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
May 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
May 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
May 28	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
June 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
June 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr
June 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
July 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Aging and Independence

One only has to turn 50 years old and they get an application for AARP. For me it was kind of a wakeup call to ask the question, "Has this really happened to me?" While it has happened a long time ago, I can only say that things have never been the same since. The realization came that I need to step-up to prepare financially for retirement and that this body was not going to get better than it is. I was right on both counts.

So what can a community like Serra Mesa do to facilitate aging successfully? There is plenty to do but first we must consider it a priority and then determine what is important and will be accepted by those we are attempting to assist. The first priority would seem to be to assess the needs of each individual. Do they wish to accept caregiving from relatives, neighbors, and friends? Do they have a place where they can stay? Is there someone who is willing to provide caregiving in accordance with the person needing it? What provisions are available from the City, County, or State? Identify the organizations who specialize in the aging and can offer support to the person whether insurance or Meals on Wheels, etc. Even more important is who will make the

decision that a person can no longer live in their home and must find a facility which meets the person's needs. Providing the interest exists in the community, how do we contact the persons looking for assistance? How can we reach them and make contact without overpromising what we can do?

One of the things we can do is to provide a Senior Center for seniors to socialize and learn things they need to know. We are fortunate in that we have a public library with a community room where we could facilitate programs to enrich the senior experience as well as educational programs put on by public agencies. Another source is to have a day where seniors can get together and have a lunch which includes soup, bread, and dessert. Again we are fortunate that we have an available program offered by two churches in the neighborhood who take turns every month to host this community event. Every Wednesday we meet at noon and the food is provided free of charge at: Mission Village Christian Fellowship, 2650 Melbourne Drive or Gethsemane Lutheran Church right next door at 2696 Melbourne Drive. Lunch lasts for one hour and we ask for a donation of one can good for the Serra Mesa Pantry. The lunch is community directed and open to the whole community.

So do you know of someone who might be interested in serving on a committee for the aging? Would you be willing to attend weekly meetings for an hour to set up this program? Will there be enough interest in our community to make this a reality? I really hope so as several of us agree that this would be a worthy activity to benefit those wish to age gracefully. Please leave a message at (858) 565-2473 or email us at: communitycouncil@serramesa.org.

Carl Demas, President

MEMORABLE SERRA MESA SCENES – DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

By Tom Leech

Serra Mesa has some special scenes that readily catch your eye when you see them. That is, IF you see them. We're showing several such memorable buildings, objects, places, gardens, etc. in this continuing series. This one is a lovely floral entry to a pathway you might take for a stroll away from the hustle of city streets and to enjoy scenic views and a touch of nature. Important words from Wm. Shakespeare: "One touch of nature makes the whole word kin," which happens to be the opening words in *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*. (And do you have a memorable scene for us to present? Contact Tom at www.outdoorssd@aol.com with your suggestion.).

So where is this colorful place? For the answer, go to page 8.



SAVE THE DATE: July 4th Breakfast and Hike

Again this year, you can begin the 4th of July with neighbors and nature at the "Come for Breakfast and Take a Hike" event. Breakfast will be served at the entry to Shawn Canyon (one block off Mission Village Drive at Shawn) from 7 to 9am. Groups will form to hike the canyon at 7:30 and 8am but you can go on your own anytime. A tour of the nearby Serra Mesa Community Garden & Orchard will also be available. In past years, some simply stayed put and enjoyed the morning and a second cup of coffee with their neighbors (table and chairs provided). There is no cost with an optional donation toward the breakfast. For more information, call 858-277-6572.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 19, 5:40 pm

San Diego Padres vs. New York Mets
at Petco Park

Fundraiser to benefit the Serra Mesa Food Pantry

For tickets please contact Jerry Albert at Gethsemane Lutheran Church 858-277-6572 or Luisa Johnson at 619-770-8517.

"Serra Mesa Village"...is it for us?

We had a spirited presentation by folks from "Tierasanta Village of San Diego" at our April 23 Serra Mesa Community Council meeting. Communities like Serra Mesa turn out to be "Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities" (cf. "Planned" retirement communities) when people live in their homes and apartments and want to age in place. Two sources for information are www.tierrasantavillage.org and the website of the national "Village to Village Network" at www.vtvfnetwork.org. If you are interested in a beginning conversation about the village concept in Serra Mesa, email or call the Serra Mesa Community Council at communitycouncil@serramesa.org or 858-565-2473.





- » Join us as the San Diego community gathers in celebration of our rich and diverse history of providing adult education in San Diego for 100 years.
- » Visit sdce.edu for more information about the World Cultural Festival on Saturday, May 17 and to see a current class schedule.

**SAN DIEGO
CONTINUING
EDUCATION**



Serra Mesa Recreation Center

9020 Village Glen Dr.
(858) 573-1408

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

Community Sports Information:

A.Y.S.O. Soccer: (858) 268-5880

N.Y.S. Soccer : (858) 973-6101

SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625

Serra Mesa Senior Softball:
(858) 279-4283

Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on
May 14th and July 9th at 6:30pm

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*Work with your neighbor who knows the neighborhood.
Jason LaMell - Serra Mesa resident*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Gloria Espeseth
Pastor

www.gethsemanesd.org

2696 Melbourne Drive
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WEGEFORTH?

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is just around the corner! This has been an incredible year for me, my first year as a principal, and I was so fortunate to spend it at Wegeforth Elementary School.

Getting to know the students, parents and staff at Wegeforth was effortless because everyone in our community is so warm, welcoming and supportive. As I reflect upon everything that has transpired this year, my anticipation and excitement is building for next year – this community can accomplish anything it puts its mind to!

This has been a year of firsts: a new principal, a new front office clerk, a new secretary, a new school nurse, a new Building Services Supervisor, a new PTA, a new School Safety Patrol Officer, a new School Safety Patrol parent volunteer, the introduction of robotics to our 5th grade, a new dance studio, a newly-painted school, a new motor lab, a Student Store...I'm sure I've left something out! The point is, we've had a great deal of change this year and we've had a great time.

The biggest change this year, however, was the adoption of the California Common Core State Standards and making colossal shifts in curriculum, student expectations and the manner in which students are taught. We had the luxury of "trying them on" this year in order to be ready for full implementation next year.

On another note, our fantastic fifth graders are ready to embark upon the next leg of their educational adventure. They've been taught strategies for building good character and how to stand up for themselves and others. They know that their academic goals, along with strong character, are the most important things for them to focus on, because these are the skills that will enable them to lead a successful life. They're asked to remember their Wegeforth teachers and staff, who care about them so dearly, and whose only desire is to see them get the most out of life. They're reminded to continue demonstrating some of the character development traits that we've focused on this year, such as kindness, courtesy, perseverance and honesty.

Our school grounds have never been more beautiful! As I said above, our little school received a big paint job this year and it is absolutely gorgeous. To further enhance our campus, our Partner in Education, City View Church donated a Saturday and a great deal of manpower in a Campus Beautification project wherein our new Dance Studio was cleaned and organized, all our picnic tables were moved around and painted, our lost and found was organized for easy access and several new bulletin boards were put up. As a very small thank you, we provided light breakfast-type refreshments for our wonderful volunteers.

Now that our grounds are so exquisite, we are all ready for our new grade level: Transitional Kindergarten! We will have TK beginning in Fall 2014 and look forward to having more little people to share our amazing school community with. All of our new TK students will be extremely well supported because Wegeforth is a K-5th GATE school. All of our teachers have been trained in the Nurtured Scholar program, which is a K-2nd grade GATE program, or they're GATE certified.

A new program that we hope to implement before the end of the year is our STEP Patrol, which will provide additional supervision to our TK through 2nd graders. This patrol consists of responsible 4th and 5th graders, who will "patrol" the primary playgrounds, ready to assist with any conflict resolution that needs to be done. STEP is an acronym: Say the problem (without blame), Think of solutions (safe and respectful), Explore consequences (what could happen if...), Pick the best solution (make your plan). We're all ready to train our recruits – as soon as testing is completed, of course.

We have something small to brag about...our student attendance has shown improvement! In order to provide incentive for even more improvement in student attendance, our school counselor has set up a competition between all the schools that she serves. She will cut her hair off, very short, at the school that demonstrates the largest improvement in student attendance in the month of May. She will be donating her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that collects human hair to construct wigs for folks who are receiving

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436
Animal Control	(858) 236-4250
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477
Dead Animal Removal	(858) 492-5060
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Water Leaks - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Zoning/Permits - Questions & Violations	(619) 446-5000



St. Columba Parish
3327 Glencolum Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 277-3863

Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mon-Fri.	7:00 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Food drives needed for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. The local food banks are feeling the effects of the drought. If you, your children's school, Church or business can help, please contact Luisa Johnson at luisa.johnson@serramesafoodpantry.org or call 619-770-8517.

Most needed items are: peanut butter, canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned or bagged beans, spaghetti and oatmeal. We have barrels and/or boxes. We can help you have a successful food drive to benefit the SMFP clients.

Also, there is another wonderful opportunity to help the pantry by buying tickets to the Padres game on Saturday, July 19, 2014 as the Padres face the New York Mets at Petco Park.

Thank you for your support!!!

Luisa Johnson

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

Please send any code compliance complaints that you would like SMEC to pursue to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193 or serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com. Our procedure is to send letters to the resident asking for voluntary compliance. We send letters for excessive litter, excessive weeds, graffiti, illegally parked vehicles, illegal signs, and other violations (e.g., noise, fences, home business) on an as needed basis.

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- ☒ Can you prepare other state returns? **YES!**
- ☒ Can you handle my business taxes? **YES!**
- ☒ Can I meet you before I decide? **YES!**



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St. Columba Catholic Church
 Church email: stcolumbarectory@sbcglobal.net
 Church Phone 1(858) 277-3863

(Answer from page 4)

Find this is at the south end of Sandrock Road, past CVS Drug Store and Greyling Dr. This bougainvillea-covered archway is the entry into lightly-visited Sandrock Canyon. The walking path goes straight ahead (at this section), with housing to the right, and the canyon to the left. Now is a good time for a stroll along this trail as spring flowers should be on display, esp. cacti, of which there are plenty off to either side. And you can take your pooch pal along with you, on leash (and with pickup sacks).

For a modest and easy stroll, a few hundred yards in you'll see the trail exit (and entry sign) off to the right onto Kobe Way. From here you can (a) return back on the trail to your starting place or (b) choose the urban way, walking left on Kobe Drive, then right on Geraldine, right on Cabrillo Mesa Dr. and over to Sandrock.

If you prefer to continue to walk on the trail, a couple recommendations: wear good lug-soled shoes and take a walking stick as it does get steep in a couple spots. You might get confused as a section of the pathway is on a concrete drain channel. You'll eventually arrive at a path off to the right, leading upward and over to a trail exit/entry onto Chauncey. Walk over to Gowdy, turn right, then left onto Kobe Drive and back onto the original trail entry at Kobe Way. Walk back over to the arched entryway and head back into the urban world, refreshed and perhaps humming as you recall the major change of pace you've just experienced, ready to head back to work, home or school.



Disclaimer: when you hike into publicly-accessible nature areas, it's not the same as walking down the street. Exercise proper caution; the author and publication assume no responsibility for problems that might occur.

Serra Mesan Tom Leech does explore our community a bit. He's the author, with Jack Farnan, of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*. And for further tips about exploring our local and international worlds, visit www.outdoorssandiego.com. Note: as trail hiking can be tricky, you're responsible for your own safety.

Audit Committee OKs Results of Graffiti Abatement Audit Requested by Sherman

Graffiti is a major problem in our neighborhoods. Not only is graffiti an eyesore, but according to the Department of Justice it can increase residents' fear of gang activity, cause lost revenue from reduced ridership on transit systems, reduce retail sales, and lower property values.

Finding a solution to quickly abate and cover up this illegal activity is necessary in order to maintain our neighborhoods at a higher standard.

Last year, as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee, I requested that the City Auditor conduct a performance audit on the City's Graffiti Control Program. This program is responsible for graffiti abatement, law enforcement, and community outreach efforts.

Currently, the process for graffiti abatement is highly decentralized. The responsibilities for complaint intake, routes and clean-up in the field are shared by the Transportation and Storm Water Department's Street Division, the Developmental Services Department's Neighborhood Code Compliance section, and Urban Corps of San Diego.

All three of these groups take in graffiti requests; however the responsibility to address the abatement of the graffiti is split depending of its location. If you have ever tried to call into the graffiti hotline, you know it is not very user friendly.

In order to address this, the Office of the City Auditor has recommended that the City look into streamlining the graffiti abatement process in order to centralize it under one department and improve the program's overall performance. I look forward to working with the Mayor, the Chief Operating Office and city staff to see this program implanted.

Common sense approaches like this one to streamline the Graffiti Control Program will increase customer service and increase efficiency at the City.

Yours in Service,

Scott Sherman

Councilmember –District 7

continued from page 6

treatment for cancer. Not only will the winning school have the opportunity to see her locks but, but they also get to choose her new, short hair style! We can do this!

Another grand event that has recently taken place is our annual Science and Invention Fair. All 3rd – 5th grade students were provided with a plethora of science projects to choose from. They had to come up with a hypothesis, conduct an experiment that would either prove or disprove their hypotheses, recording the progress of the experiment over time. Each child gave an oral presentation in class, describing their entire project, as well as create a display that included a visual of every step of the project.

For the Invention portion of our fair, the kindergarten – 2nd grade students each created their own inventions. Our kindergarten students created home-made instruments, our 1st graders created new items using recycled materials, some of our 2nd graders completed animal research reports that they had to present in diorama format, while others created Earth-friendly inventions. The reports were not inventions, but they involved a great deal of work, using research from reliable sources and creating a comprehensive visual display.

It is my hope, and that of the Wegeforth community, that our Serra Mesa community has a safe and relaxing summer. Yours in education,

Lori Sandoval

Wegeforth Principal

SERRA MESA PLANNING GROUP NEWS

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Drive. The next meetings are May 15 and June 19. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Summary of March 20 Meeting

Annual Board Election

The following people were elected to the Board on March 20, 2014: Christine Castillo, Dicken Hall, Cindy Moore, Barbara Ryan, and Tom Wright. Welcome to Christine who is a new board member. Dicken Hall has subsequently resigned since he's termed out.

Summary of April 20 Meeting

New Board Member – Welcome to Nicholas Romero, who was elected by the Board. There is still one opening. 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 is eligible to be elected. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml> for City training information.

SMPG's Prioritization of Serra Mesa Projects for using Broadstone Ad Hoc Fees (\$3,504,600) – Determined criteria and discussed the projects. City staff answered numerous questions regarding the projects. A subcommittee will work on ranking the projects using the criteria developed at the meeting and make a recommendation to SMPG at the May 15 meeting.

List of eligible items from Serra Mesa's Public Facilities Financing Plan (PFFP) – refer to <http://www.sandiego.gov/facilitiesfinancing/plans/serramesa.shtml>; listed below are 2014 costs

Jones Elementary School Joint Use (4 acres) – \$3,400,000

Cubberley Elementary School Joint Use (2 acres) – \$1,400,000

Taft Middle School Joint Use (2 acres) – \$1,400,000

Community Center (old library building conversion) – \$1,500,000

Path from Serra Mesa Park to New Library – \$500,000 (cost could increase due to environmental and accessibility regulations)

Juarez Elementary School Joint Use Upgraded ADA Equipment – \$815,000

Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park Synthetic Turf (New not on PFFP)

Western Fields (approximately 3 acres) – \$3,600,000

Eastern Fields (approximately 2 acres) – \$2,400,000

Cabrillo Heights Sports Field Lighting (New not on PFFP)

Western Fields (two sets of lights) – \$1,212,559

Eastern Fields (one set of lights) – \$735,150

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
March / April New and Renewed Subscribers***

Patricia Barton	Robert & Sharon Horn	Gene & Evelyn Ripley
Don & Emma Berdan	Bill & Barbara Horton	Rick & Robin Rivera
Dolores & Hugh Bertram	Art & Marilyn Imdieke	Dolores Salini
William Brunnhoelzl	Dolores Janik	Lori Sandoval
Virginia Brust	Richard W. Jones *	M. Schaefer & P. Simon
Douglas Byrne	Everett & Anne-Marie Kaukonen	Gail Scott
Curtis Carlson	Sonia & Thomas Khuu *	Edward & Maxine Solarski
Connie Chovan *	Bryan & Andrea Knox *	Richard & Alice Tanner
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Lyn Elms	Bud & Jean Lupton	Lorraine Webb
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Observer Renewal

When it is time to renew your Observer, the renewal date is highlighted and stamped, "to be renewed." Also, a postcard will be mailed and, if possible, a phone call is made to remind you. It is greatly appreciated if you pay as soon as you notice it's time to renew.

Maybe you have a special neighbor that you'd like to say "thank you" to, or maybe you have a new neighbor that you'd like to say "welcome." We highly recommend giving a subscription to the Observer (six editions/year). A post card will be sent to the recipient.

Please fill out the enclosed form and send it with your check to P.O. Box 23315,
San Diego, CA. 92193.

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Project information highlights:

- Joint Use Projects – Maintenance typically reflects park maintenance provided at city owned parks. During the City's budget process a request is made for a staff position equivalent to the acreage added. Joint Use agreements are typically 25 years between the City and the school district and subject to renewal (usually renewed). Generally, it takes three years for planning and development of a project.
- Artificial Turf – The guidelines on the use of synthetic turf were provided. Lots of pros and cons! Artificial turf doesn't need to rest like natural turf. Artificial turf has an expected life span of 10+ years. If you would like a copy of these guidelines, send an email to smpg@serramesa.org.
- Converting old library to community center – Questions were raised that need clarification regarding the condition of the old library, possible use of the building, and staffing requirements.
- Trail between Recreation Center and Library – This trail would be required to be ADA compliant so a costly environmental study is required.

Criteria

Revenue Potential

Unlimited Accessibility

Ease of Implementation

Project Readiness

Regular Maintenance

Replacement Cost

Increase Participation

Collaborative Opportunities

Minimal Environmental Constraints

Proximity to Broadstone

Low Cost/High Benefit

Improvement to the Environment

Speed Limit on Phyllis Place between Abbottshill Road and Murray Ridge Road being raised from 25 mph to 35 mph.



From Concept to Completion

18 years strong Serra Mesa
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FRIENDS OF RUFFIN CANYON

Do you know a quicker way to find out how much pride people have in their community? On Creek to Bay Cleanup Day, 4/26/14, many of our neighbors did themselves proud at our area around the Serra Mesa Recreation Center. We removed trash and invasive plants from the watershed, which would otherwise pollute our bay and smother the critical native habitat in Ruffin Canyon. The trails between the Recreation Center and the SMKM Library and between the Center and Wegeforth Elementary School were enhanced as well.

It was a well-coordinated event thanks to Co-captains Kevin Johnston and Monica Fuentes, both FRC leaders. It involved more dedicated people than can be mentioned here. FRC would like to thank the staff of the Serra Mesa Recreation Center for their gracious support, Bear Buns for the yummy festive cookies, Steve Byrd for the lemonade and logistical help, Bob McDowell for extended use of his van, Cindy Moore for getting and spreading mulch and much more, Metropolitan Life Insurance for sending volunteers, and all the other wonderful people who gave their time. I Love a Clean San Diego sponsored this event providing tools, snacks, water, and shirts for leaders, as well as Sea World passes for some noted volunteers. Mark your calendar for September 20th, I Love a Clean San Diego's big fall event Coastal Cleanup Day.

Our monthly Canyon Care event on first Saturday morning continues. Next up: May 3rd starting at Taft Middle School and June 7th at the Shawn Ave entrance to the canyon. Don't miss them. Last time we saw blooms on fuchsia-flowering gooseberry, California lilac (smells like honey), purple wishbone bush, red monkey-flower, yellow bladderpod, yellow deerweed, white chemise, San Diego sunflower, Munz's sage, and powder puff pink coyote mint.



Our next outdoor event will be May 10th, International Youth Day of Service. Kearny High students are using GPS mapping to guide volunteers to the best places to remove invasive plants. We will be one of the first events of San Diego River Days which runs May 10, 11, 17 & 18. Check out all the activities at <http://sandiegoriver.org/sdriverdays/>.

Our business meetings are on the 4th Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Taft Middle School library during the school year and are largely focused on how to get a walking/biking trail to Mission Valley started. Councilmember Scott Sherman and City staff attended in March. Next we plan to have a stakeholders meeting to iron out perceived differences and find a grant to support the arduous and expensive process of getting it permitted by the City. As always, we welcome your input.

Bonnie Hough, Chair
Friends of Ruffin Canyon
619 840-8327



SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

May/June, 2014 Events/Programs

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of Military Action Figures by George Dixon in the display cases.

Zumba® Dance/Toning Fitness – Mondays & Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. Monday's class includes a half hour of Zumba Dance and a half hour of toning.

Zumba® Gold Fitness – Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. The Zumba® Gold Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. This class is designed for beginners and active seniors.

May 9, 1:30 p.m. Exploring Your Job Options. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you an effective process to help you evaluate yourself and your best job matches.

May 13, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

May 13, 5:30 p.m. Water Conservation Garden Seminar. Come learn great tips and insights on water-saving ideas for your garden landscape.

May 13, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks.

May 18, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Peter Rutman. Come and enjoy a FREE piano concert by the local musician, Peter Rutman.

May 23, 1:30 p.m. Finding Hidden Jobs. Learn the best, proven search strategies for tapping into the hidden job market in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

May 25, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

May 28, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 6:00 p.m. Smart Investing @ Your Library Seminars. These seminars will address financial issues and introduce strategies to increase fiscal responsibility.

June 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* by Amanda Foreman.

June 13, 1:30 p.m. Skills & Accomplishments. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to identify and present your best skills to prospective employers.

June 15, 6:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Muyco Panchenko Duo. Come and enjoy a FREE piano concert by Sharon Muyco and Natalya Panchenko.

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

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

June 27, 1:30 p.m. Thank You Letters. Learn how to effectively send follow-up Thank You letters to prospective employers in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

Children Programs

Summer Reading Program, "Paws to Read" – June 15 to August 15

Join us this summer for our annual Summer Reading Program! Children and Teens can read books and collect prizes. Register online or at the library starting June 15. Come to the library every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. for special programs throughout the summer including music, magicians, animals and clowns.

Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Preschool Storytime – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Join Grandma Patti for our very popular story time, which is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

May 5 & 19, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

May 7 & 21, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

May 12, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

May 15, 22 & 29, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob. Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

June 2 & 16, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

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

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

June 12, 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob. Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

June 18, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Wild Wonders Animal Show. Join us for a fun program showing off exotic animals!

June 25, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Raggle Taggle Band. Join us for a fun show filled with music and laughter!

Apply for a Free Computer!!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on May 17 and June 28

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library starting on the 1st of each month. Volunteers will guide you through an introductory computer class at the library. Attendance at this class is required before you can receive a computer. Computers 2 SD Kids will give you a Technology Assistance Program application. They will review it and notify you whether you qualify based on your verified income.

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GRAFFITI affects all of us.

Here are some helpful phone numbers.

When reporting the graffiti get the address and street name, graffiti cannot be painted over without being specific. If the graffiti is on a business ask to speak to a manager and just say you are a concerned resident. You do not have to leave your name.

San Diego Graffiti Control: (619) 525-8522 and leave a message.

Urban Corps: 1(800) 829-6884 and listen to the message.

Street signs-etc.: (619) 527-7500

SDG&E utility boxes: (858) 650-4041

Postal Mail boxes: (858) 674-0127

Bus benches: (619) 595-7037

Freeways: (858) 467-4042

AT&T utility box repair: (858) 352-8486