



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

**In this issue we are celebrating Luisa Johnson and
the volunteers at the Serra Mesa Food Pantry**
see page 13 for the story



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, November 19

6:30 pm

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

December

No Meeting

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

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**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: January / February Edition...December 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
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Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473
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U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Nov 11	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Nov 12	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Nov 19	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Nov 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Dec 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Dec 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
No Meeting	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Dec 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr
Jan 3	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



We have many assets in Serra Mesa but none quite as viable as our RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol).

These are volunteers who are Serra Mesa residents who can be clearly identified in white marked cars. All are retired professional persons with military, public, and private experience who bring that experience to the job. Their mission is crime prevention with an objective of making a difference in people's lives. They assist police by doing traffic control at accidents, searching for lost or missing children, wandering Alzheimer's victims, and enforcing disabled parking violations. They work in partnership with the San Diego police and are trained in many police related duties such as taking finger prints on vehicles that have been burglarized. They can be found patrolling around schools being alert to suspicious activity or persons. One of their very import programs is the YANA Program. (You Are Not Alone). They check on the welfare of our senior citizens who are home bound. They even have a license plate reader that can be used to find stolen

vehicles and assist in returning them to their owners. They participate in our Neighborhood Watch Program and are on hand for neighborhood gatherings such as fairs and block parties. On patrol, they notify police of any goings on as well as monitor the police radios so they can respond when needed for emergency safety duties. Another of their duties is to monitor homes of persons on vacation and they even participate in Homeland Security Assignments. RSVP finds women among the teams as well. The advantage is to give a feminine touch when addressing community related problems and dealing with the public. We all know that no one deals better with problems with children and senior citizens than women who are more sensitive to personal feelings and gentle handling. If you are looking to donate some time to a really worthy cause, please consider volunteering for this very important service to our community. The very professional coordinator for RSVP is: Bob Mazeika whose phone is: 858-495-7966; email: rmazeika@pd.sandiego.gov or Shirley Paley; Phone: 619-282-5934; email: shirleypaley@aol.com. Call them directly if you would like to join their ranks. As we form our Serra Mesa Village, we welcome RSVP as a valued partner in serving our elderly population. We are also proud of our Community Relations Officer Adam McElroy; Phone: 858-495-7971; email: amcelroy@pd.sandiego.gov. Crime statistics are down in

Serra Mesa because I believe that RSVP, and great police service have shown criminals that they should go elsewhere. Of course, having them in the neighborhood doesn't hurt either. Kudos to our police and RSVP for keeping crime down in Serra Mesa. Another area that we have been made aware of is Senior Abuse. Seniors in many cases are being taken advantage by criminals and even family members. We all need to be aware that it exists and can be dealt with providing it is exposed. Please consult your Serra Mesa Observer for important telephone numbers for contacting the many services in Serra Mesa. Please mark your calendars for November 2nd and December 14th when we will have meetings in our library from 2-4 PM where we will discuss all aspects of "The Village" and in December we will concentrate on Health & Safety. We welcome anyone 55 or over or care-takers of persons over 55 to attend to find out what services and activities are being planned. I know you will be impressed. We still have room in our Serra Mesa Community Council, Serra Mesa Planning Group, and Serra Mesa Park and Recs. Get involved and become part in making Serra Mesa the best neighborhood in San Diego. Our last General Meeting of SMCC this year will be Nov 19th to not to conflict with Thanksgiving. Remember December is dark.

Carl Demas, President SMCC

LANDSCAPING-GUIDE TO REDUCING YOUR WATER BILL & CONSERVING WATER

The California Friendly Landscaping Training Class held at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library in October proved to be informative and entertaining! An added bonus was coffee from a popular coffee shop.

Refer to <http://www.watersmartsd.org/programs/california-friendly-landscape-training-classes> for the future class schedule. Unfortunately, the remaining calendar doesn't show any nearby classes.

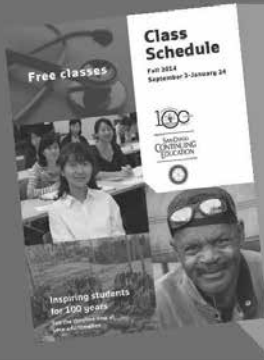
References to the easily read materials that were provided in the class:

- How To Make A Rain Garden – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/raingarden.pdf>
- How To Capture The Rain – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/raingarden.pdf>
- How To Test Your Soil – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/raingarden.pdf>
- Soil Lasagna Recipe (removing turf) – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/raingarden.pdf>
- Right Plant Right Place (planting) – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/raingarden.pdf>
- Sprinkler Rotary Nozzles – http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Sprinkler_to_Rotary_Nozzle.pdf
- Sprinkler To Drip Retrofit – http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Sprinkler_to_Drip_Retrofit.pdf
- Plan Your Garden Project – <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/site-plan.pdf>
- Resources: copied from <http://www.watersmartsd.org/sites/default/files/ca-friendly-landscape-training-resources.pdf>
 - o Bewaterwise: watering calculator, information on gardens, plants, design ideas
www.bewaterwise.com
 - o SoCalWaterSmart: rebates for residential and commercial customers
www.socalwatersmart.com
 - o US EPA WaterSense: water conservation indoors and out; certified irrigation professionals and products www.epa.gov/watersense
 - o Save Our Water – Real People, Real Savings: profiles of Californians and their gardens; Sprinklers 101 www.saveourh2o.org
 - o California Landscape Contractors Association: information on hiring a professional www.clca.org
 - o Dig Alert: check on underground utilities before you dig www.digalert.org
 - o California Invasive Plant Council: information on invasive plant species to avoid www.cal-ipc.org
 - o Cal Fire “100’ Defensible Space”: video on how to make your home fire safe
http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/movies/communications_firesafety_why100ft_2.php

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1:00 - 8:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

1:00 - 9:00 p.m. Wednesday

2:00-6:00 p.m. Friday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday.

Community Sports Information:

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

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

SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625

Serra Mesa Senior Softball:

(858) 279-4283

Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on
November 12th & January 14th 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

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Take A Break – Dine At Maggie's Café

Don't feel like cooking? Don't feel like traveling? Want a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere to dine? Or would you like to take food home? Want a choice in types of food?

Try the recently opened Maggie's Café. The owners, David and Argelia Granda, needed a larger site for their popular Grantville restaurant and selected the Rancho Serra Mesa Shopping Center at 3232 D Greyling Drive.

The Grandas describe their restaurant and menu as "an original Fusion Cuisine concept of traditional home made Mexican food, American food and a fresh healthy choice menu offered to our guests in a casual, sit down restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to our delicious original recipe plates, our drink menu offers a great variety of beverages ranging from unique mixes of raw juices, smoothies, coffees and more." Beer and wine will be added in the future. Take-out is available. Prices are reasonable. Seniors and the military qualify for a discount. The restaurant is open from Monday-Saturday, 7 am to 9 pm; Sunday, 9 am-9 pm.

Their response when asked about their experience, "We pride ourselves on being a family owned and operated business restaurant with 23+ years of knowledge and hands-on experience about all aspects of the food and beverage industry earned from hard work escalating our way up from dishwasher/busser to restaurant managers and events executives. We believe our most important accomplishment has been our ability to develop high standards that allow us to deliver great customer service and food quality making every guest happy."

The Benefit Nights program reflects their commitment to contributing back to the community. A non-profit or school group can receive 20% of all sales generated by their group on a specific night.

The Grandas state that their vision for Maggie's Café is "to become the top community gathering and social destination place where local families, neighbors, individuals, and San Diego visitors can enjoy our diverse food fusions and our exclusive drink selection in a fun and relaxed atmosphere." The tastefully decorated interior reflects a warm and inviting atmosphere complete with several wall mounted televisions and can seat 80 people.

The interview concluded with this statement from Argelia Granda, "I just want to express that we are very happy to open our doors here in the Serra Mesa Community. The support and good will of the community has reached our hearts. On behalf of my family thank you very much!"

Contact Information: 858-430-6755, maggiescafe2014@gmail.com, Facebook – Maggie's Café

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436
Animal Control	(858) 236-4231
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
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500
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
SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
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 Emergencies - 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	8:00a.m. & 5:30p.m.
Mon-Fri.	7:00 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule

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



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SERRA MESA ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

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.

YOU'RE INVITED!!

St. Columba School's 15th Annual Dinner-Dance-Auction Fundraiser will be held at the Ascension Parish Hall on November 22nd. Tickets are only \$35 and include: Mexican Buffet Dinner, Dancing, Silent & Live Auction Baskets, Door Prizes & our Annual \$10,000 Opportunity Draw (\$100/ticket with only 350 tickets sold – go in with some friends)! We are also offering \$29 Program Sponsorships for all Businesses.

Call St. Columba School 858-813-1882 or visit our website: stcolumbaschool.org

SERRA MESA VILLAGE DEVELOPING

Serra Mesa may not have a building for a Senior Center nor a social service agency focused on seniors; but what it does have is a dynamite Steering Committee, supported by the Serra Mesa Community Council, working to bring the "Village" concept here. "Villages" have been developing around the US with the first one in Boston's Beacon Hill in 2002 (check it out at www.beaconhillvillage.org). "Villages" are networks of seniors (and people who care about them) for seniors to embrace life and make each day the best possible. Most "Villages" include social activities, classes, community service, and support systems for those with chronic conditions or increasing frailty. One of the hallmarks of a "Village" is to know the resources available to seniors in the city and county. "Villages" are membership organizations, locally developed and run. The Serra Mesa Village Steering Committee anticipates having membership applications available by October or November with its first general membership meeting in January 2015.

The Steering Committee is open to additional members who want to see this concept come to Serra Mesa. You need to commit to attend the weekly meetings where plans/decisions are made and to take on at least one task to work on between meetings. Steering Committee meetings are held at Gethsemane, 2696 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary School), on Mondays from 1:30-3:00 p.m. There is an Interest Survey in this issue of the Observer to find out what Serra Mesa residents want/need. The Steering Committee has set a "Meet and Greet" for Sunday, November 2, from 2-4 p.m. in the Community Room at the Serra Mesa Library on Aero Drive. Look for more information or contact the SMCC: communitycouncil@serramesa.org (put "Village" in the subject line); leave a message at 858-565-2473; or write to Serra Mesa Village, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

The "Serra Mesa Village" will happen because we make it happen. It is an exciting new dimension for this wonderful neighborhood and for all who have the good fortune to age.

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, 9005 Aero Drive. The October meeting wasn't held since there weren't any agenda items. The next meetings are November 20 and December 18. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Summary of September 18 Meeting

Cardinal Slope Easement Vacation, Cameron Brothers Company. Description: Application request to vacate a 0.277 acre slope easement located at 2383 Cardinal Drive. The slope easement was obtained by the state for CA-163, but was relinquished to the City because it was no longer needed. The site is designated for residential use within the Serra Mesa Community Plan and zoned RM-3-9 and RM-2-5 zone. The zone allows up to 30 additional units on the site. The proposed slope easement vacation is in an area where potential development of future housing can be constructed in accordance with the San Diego Municipal Code. SMPG voted (5-4) to approve the easement vacation.

Many Birdland residents attended this meeting and expressed concerns about the current traffic and parking situation and the impacts of any future development. SMPG voted unanimously on the following motion: "In recognition of the strong opposition and concerns of the Birdland community regarding traffic and parking issues, we request that any future development at this property be brought to the attention of the Birdland community and the Serra Mesa Planning Group."

SMPG needs Birdland representatives. After attending two meetings a resident can be elected by SMPG.

Ruffin Canyon Trail Park Equivalency (relevant to the Broadstone Ad Hoc Fees). The motion, "The Ruffin Canyon Trail is a park equivalency for the Serra Mesa community per the General Plan standards", passed unanimously.

November 20 Agenda Items

Huntington Ave Storm Drain Replacement

Purpose: The existing 24" storm drain pipe on the slope near Huntington Avenue and Wilbee Ct is failing and causing slope destabilization and is in need of replacement. This project will eliminate the existing corroded CMP in this location to eliminate the ongoing occurrence of pipe failures, erosion and future maintenance.

Scope of Work: Replacement of existing 24" CMP storm drain pipe with 290 lineal feet of new 24" RCP in the same 12' wide easement. Additional storm drain cleanouts are proposed to be installed at the connection point on the slope and at the downstream end of the storm drain. The adjacent storm drain inlet on Huntington Avenue and the 120 lineal feet of existing 24" RCP near Wilbee Ct is not recommended to be replaced.

Sprint, SDGE Tower (by 8320 Phyllis Place), Neighborhood Use Permit (NUP)/ Neighborhood Development Permit (NDP), Process 2, for a Wireless Communication Facility consisting of two panel antennas and two Remote Radio Heads attached to an SDGE transmission pole located west of I-805 and south of Phyllis Place. Associated equipment is located within a 334-square foot enclosure. Modifications to the equipment are being proposed with this project. This item was heard at the February 2014 SMPG meeting. Subsequently, changes were made in the design necessitating another review by SMPG.

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
September / October New and Renewed Subscribers***

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Russell Armstead *
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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.

FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH YOU

This time of year has historically been the most dangerous months for wildfires. To help spread the word on fire safety, my office has been working hard to meet with residents and give them information on how to keep their properties safe.

The warning signs couldn't be more ominous. Earlier in the year, fires scorched over 27,000 acres and destroyed several homes in San Diego County.

In June, a wildfire started in Mission Trails Regional Park burning 93 acres of land in the heart of District 7.

These fires serve as an excellent reminder for residents to get prepared immediately for wildfire season if they have not done so already.

To be proactive, my office produced an informational fire safety brochure to District 7 residents with important information regarding how to keep property safe. To view the brochure, please visit my website at sandiego.gov/cd7

Also, my office organized a fire safety townhall with fire experts where safety techniques were given to residents.

Finally, my office teamed with the San Diego Fire Department to walk all neighborhoods near canyon lands to meet with residents and give informational brochures.

The Fire Departments "Ready, Set, Go" program provides information regarding brush fire management and family preparedness in case of fire. More information can be found at the following link: sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/readyssetgo.shtml

It takes everyone to keep a community safe. A wildfire only needs one unprepared home to spread to an entire neighborhood. This is why it is important that we all stay diligent in the upcoming months.

If you have any questions or concerns in the Serra Mesa community, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 619-236-6677 or email me at ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov.

SERRA MESA AUTHORS HAVE NEW HOLIDAY BOOK

From Tom Leech & Leslie Johnson-Leech comes The Curious Adventures of Santa's Wayward Elves.

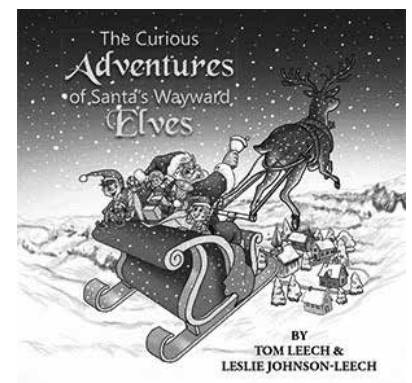
Every Christmas Eve Santa's job is to deliver presents to the good little boys and girls. Up at Santa's North Pole shop, two of his worker bees -- Zoppo and Sheenette -- are curious about what Santa's up to out there on his long rides. So they decide to find out for themselves.

On Christmas Eve, as Santa is getting his sleigh and reindeer ready, they sneak aboard and off they go. They ride along with curiosity unquenched, until finally they decide the time has come. When Santa comes up from his visit inside this special house, they sneak away and slide down the chimney themselves. Once there, they are amazed and often bewildered at what goes on inside a real house, with real creatures they've never seen before.

What will happen to them? Will they even survive? Does Santa even know they snuck away? Will they be able to get back to their North Pole shop and elf cronies? This new book tells the story, with full color illustrations, in a manner children of all ages will find entertaining.

From PJ Adams, author of Intoxicating Paris: Uncorking the Parisian Within and Daughter Wisdom: "For some ho-ho-ho holiday cheer, share this illustrated delight from Tom and Leslie -- master and mistress of Christmas NOW -- while cuddling near the fireplace or under some mistletoe. Très Bon."

Santa's Wayward Elves is available in softcover for \$15.99 and e-book, available online at www.xlibris.com.



KUDOS FOR SPECIAL SERRA MESANS

by Tom Leech

In this Observer feature, we call attention to fellow Serra Mesans who are deserving of a strong “attagirl” or “attaboy.” This time our “attagirl” goes to Luisa Johnson, Manager of the Serra Mesa Food Pantry.

In May 2010, Mission Village Christian Fellowship took action that led to setting up the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Carl Demas, a church member and head of the Serra Mesa Community Council Board, mentioned that church member Brenda Casey had gone to Ethiopia as part of a project helping out people there. She came back and said it would be good if a program could be set up here at home, providing food to fellow residents in need. With space and funding provided by the church, plus a grant from San Diego County, Ron Roberts Supervisor’s office, the Food Pantry got started.



The first manager hired was Luisa. She had arrived in the US fifteen years ago from Colombia, settling first in North Park, then El Cajon. Fluent in both Spanish and English, she was hired to do telemarketing, then switched to an office job in Mission Valley. Since she didn’t (and still doesn’t) drive, she rode the trolley to work. Also often on that trolley was a chap named Steve. Per Luisa “We hit it off.” They got married in 2001, moved to Serra Mesa two years later, and she was hired as Food Pantry Manager in 2010. They live conveniently near the Food Pantry so she walks to work.

The Serra Mesa Food Pantry is linked with larger groups: Feeding America and the San Diego Food Bank. The local team of volunteers – per Luisa “the backbone of the Pantry” – picks up food from the larger groups, receives donated food and bags it for recipients. Then every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Pantry is open, as they provide food for 80-100 families every week. More neighbors are helped on the 2nd Saturday of the month, with the Pantry operated by Corbin and Susan Stone from the Rock Church on those days.

Luisa has seen the Pantry change over its young life, noting the Serra Mesa community, both donors and people in need, are increasingly becoming more aware of their presence. Also more local residents and groups have become active supporters, with contributions by school events, churches, businesses and the Community Council concerts and movies where people bring food donations. Recent helpful contributors are members of the Serra Mesa Community Garden & Orchard located behind the two churches on Melbourne Drive and overlooking Shawn Canyon. Luisa: “Everybody with a garden plot donates a portion to the Pantry. This summer we got about 168 lbs. of food per month.”

What does Luisa think about being Pantry Manager? “I love my job! Being able to help people. Finding people that you didn’t know needed help and seeing them happy when they pick up the food from us.”

What do others think? From Gloria Espeseth, Minister of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church: “Luisa is a gift to the community, with her faithfulness and absolutely good humor. She’s been onboard since the beginning and that



Continue on page 17



Grand Opening



Crunch Fitness announces the grand opening of its newest franchise location in Serra Mesa, California. Officially open for workouts as of October 16th, the renowned gym chain best known for making serious fitness fun through innovative group fitness programming and cutting-edge training offerings, has taken its 'No Judgments' philosophy to the suburban neighborhood in San Diego just in time for residents to focus on fall fitness goals.

Conveniently located in the Rancho Serra Mesa shopping center, the new gym can be found at 3270 Greyling Drive. The 12,000 square foot space boasts the latest state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment and a weight room with tons of free-weights. Members will enjoy top-notch amenities including full-service locker rooms with showers, tanning booths and aHydroMassage bed. Memberships start at \$9.95 so members can enjoy Crunch's facilities at an incredible value.

The club has a designated group fitness studio with an extensive schedule of the most fun and unique cardio fitness classes on the market including Zumba®, BodyWeb with TRX®, Yoga Body Sculpt, BOSU® Bootcamp and more, led by elite instructors. Members will find expert personal trainers on hand to provide personalized fitness and nutrition plans to help them achieve any fitness goal.

Crunch and its 'No Judgments' philosophy, will be a great addition to the already health conscious community. After celebrating with a grand-opening party on October, 25th with its new members the operators and staff at Crunch look forward to serving the Serra Mesa community and continuing to meet more of locals as the club's member base expands.

For more information on Crunch Serra Mesa, visit www.CrunchSerraMesa.com.



SMCC Subscription Application or Renewal Form & Interest/Volunteer Survey

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

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

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

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

How did you hear about us? _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The role of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is to provide information, education, cooperation, and assistance in the area of City Code Compliance. After confirming a code violation SMEC sends a friendly, educational letter asking for compliance. In 90% of the cases people come into compliance and cases are not reported to the City. If you have a problem in your area, report the problem with this confidential form.

Request for Investigation

Return form to: Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee,
Post Office Box 23315, San Diego, California 92193

Please investigate this address _____

This is the problem: (give complete details; time of day, license plate of vehicles, type of vehicles, condition of property, owner's or renter's name if known etc.)

(Please use back if necessary.)

Your name (will not be disclosed) _____

Date _____ Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

===== for office use =====

ID# _____ Area _____ Contacted complainant _____

Complaint Referred to (specify date)

_____ Code Compliance

_____ Community Policing

_____ Signs

_____ Tree Division

_____ Vector Control

_____ Vehicle Abatement

_____ Weeds

_____ Other

Action Steps (specify date)

Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____

1st Letter: _____

Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____

2nd Letter: _____

Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____

Thank You: _____ Reopen Previous Case: _____

Continued from page 13

continuity has strengthened our ability to accomplish the job.”

From Carl Demas: “Luisa has a heart of gold and communicates wonderfully with all the families that come to pick up food.”

So DRUM ROLL...TRUMPETS BLARE...let's hear it for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry Manager Luisa Johnson and her volunteer teams.

For more info check www.serramesafoodpantry.org, call 858-278-2633 x 13, or email to info@serramesafoodpantry.org. Oh yes, they definitely invite your food (cans, packages, not fresh) and financial contributions. Drop them off at the Pantry Wednesday mornings at 2650 Melbourne Drive, across from Juarez Elementary. Also the two churches accept donations most days. Hey, who's your candidate for our next Serra Mesa Kudo? Send me to outdoorssd@aol.com.

FYI, Tom Leech is a member of the SERRA MESA Community Council Board and author, with Jack Farnan, of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*.

Events for Military Families:

Mom's Day Out Tuesday, November 18, 8:30am - 11:30am for military children (ages 3-5). While Moms have three hours to themselves, the children will enjoy supervised indoor and outdoor play, story-time, craft activities, and a snack that will keep them busy and having fun. Limited space available and preregistration is required. Preregister via e-mail to tlcmm@tierrasantalutheran.com (include parents name/phone # and names/ages of children) beginning Nov 1 and ending Nov 16.

Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, December 13, for military children (ages 5 to 12). Children will have the opportunity to make a Holiday gift for their parents, design a holiday card, and make a holiday ornament. There will be two sessions 9:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Limited space available and preregistration is required. Preregister via e-mail to tlcmm@tierrasantalutheran.com (include parents name/phone #, names/ages of children, and preferred session) beginning Nov 9 - ending Nov 30. Cost is \$1.00 per child.

Location for both events is TBD but will be at either the Murphy Canyon Chapel or Tierrasanta Lutheran Church (11240 Clairemont Mesa Blvd).

GRAFFITI affects all of us.

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

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

November/December 2014 Events/Programs

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present a Designer Barbie doll exhibit by Kimberly Fowler 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.

November 2, 2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meet-and-Greet. Join members of your community to learn about the Village movement and how you can participate.

November 4, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

November 4, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Killing Jesus* by Bill O'Reilly.

November 14, 1:00 p.m. Finding Hidden Jobs. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you the best strategies for tapping into the hidden job market.

November 19, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

November 22, 11:00 a.m. When the Byzantine Dollar Ruled the World Lecture. The Hellenic Cultural Society presents a lecture by Professor Edward Watts.

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

December 9, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

December 12, 1:00 p.m. Career Assessment Tools. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to assess your best skills and interests.

December 14, 2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meet-and-Greet. Join members of your community to learn about the Village movement and how you can participate.

December 16, 6:30 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Mesa College Guitar Ensemble. Come and enjoy a FREE concert by the Mesa College Guitar Ensemble.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

Children Programs

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.

Chess Club – Fridays, 4:00 p.m. Join instructors from the Lone Kings Chess Club and learn game tactics and strategies.

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

November 10 & 24, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

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

November 13 & 20, 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.

December 1 & 15, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

December 8 & 22, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

December 3 & 17, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

December 11 & 18, 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.

Apply for a Free Computer!!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on November 15 and December 13

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.

Serra Mesa Observer
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