

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2015

“THE VILLAGE” COMES TO SERRA MESA



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, January 28
6:30 pm

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

Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, February 25
6:30 pm

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

Neighborly People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

See page 6 for more information

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

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For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473
 Council doesn't endorse ads.

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

Deadline: March / April Edition...February 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

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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

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

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Looking for things to celebrate in the New Year?

As we make our resolutions for the New Year, why not consider the positive things that we can change instead of failing with the usual stuff that we soon forget as the year progresses. While reading an article by Dr. Victor Legner, a Clinical Services Chief at UCSD and health care expert for Mission Healthcare, I learned that "it's never too late to take responsibility for physical, mental, financial and social well-being". So how is this different than our resolve to lose 10 lbs. or save more cash for a new trinket or car? I always look at resolutions as things I have to do or feel bad about myself when I fail. I hope that the new plans work but if I don't see immediate improvement, those aspirations are soon gone and it is back to the old habits.

Why not look at changes as celebrations for the future that have a better chance of success as opposed to the drudgery of the same old New Year's Resolutions?

In case you have not noticed, we have a Crunch Fitness Center in Serra Mesa. Two and a half hours of exercise each week is a great way to reduce the onset of our bodies that seem to cooperate less and less as we age. Dr Legner tells us that as

we exercise regularly, we increase the oxygen levels in our brain which releases a protein that strengthens cells and neurons. As the old saying goes, "move it or lose it". Whatever mode you use is your choice just find one or more activities that you enjoy over the others. If you are a senior, check with Crunch your membership may be free.

Think of food as a challenge. Eat healthy as new recipes are available on the web and take into account new and exciting foods and preparation methods. Make your own meal where you can control what goes in and the choices for wholesome and fresh ingredients and skip processed fats and sodium. You cannot start soon enough to provide your body with the fuel that is proven to reduce heart disease, cancer, and type 2 diabetes. Lose enough weight and maybe you can throw away some medications. Now that would be cause for celebration.

How many of us just continue to take the same medications because they are habit or we feel we have to take them to prevent problems? Take charge of your health and know what the medications are and do for you. As your health improves and if you work hard enough to lose some weight, you should start feeling better. Make sure you maintain regular doctor visits, keep track of your blood pressure, glucose, regular feelings like dizziness, balance, or memory issues. "Stay on top of your immunizations including shingles, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and pneumonia. If you find a setback, make a positive effort to correct the issue.

While you are feeling better why not take a closer look at your financial

health. Get in contact with your financial advisor and look at new ways to utilize your assets to their maximum worth. Get the living trust that you have been putting off for years. Plan for costs that social security does not cover like short term or long term care. The earlier you start, the less they will cost. Get your affairs in order by setting up a Legacy File where you keep track of those things that your loved ones need to know in the event that you are unable to tell them.

Last but not least, consider giving back to your community by volunteering which is a great way to meet and help friends and neighbors stay in their homes longer. The Serra Mesa Village is forming and is planning on having a lot of options for social connections as well as fun things to see and do. Get involved in the Serra Mesa Community Council, The Serra Mesa Planning Board, Friends of the Library, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, or Serra Mesa Recreation Board. They are all in need of new blood and especially those who bring talents from previous experiences. Get the Serra Mesa Observer to stay in contact with the goings on and references to all of the above.

January is the perfect time to reflect on your habits and improve your health by getting involved. "Stay positive as you make positive changes for healthy aging –it's never too late to make better choices".

"Celebrate the positive aspects of growing older", Dr Victor Legner, Mission Healthcare, (888) 871-0766, or info@homewithmission.com. Appeared in U-T San Diego, Nov 18, 2014

Carl Demas

KEARNY KOMETS HELP RESIDENTS IN SERRA MESA

Make your donations to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry this 2015

The holidays are a hard time for a lot of people. For those who live at the margins of society it can be even harder. Our own local community outlet for helping Serra Mesans, the Serra Mesa Food Pantry, knows just how important giving back can be. As does a school that has a proven track record in helping youngsters find their creativity, nurture their talents, maximize their life chances and prepare them for their future in both education and work...let me introduce you to Kearny High, the School of Digital Media and Design.

A huge success for our Food Pantry was recently demonstrated in one classroom at the School of Digital Media and Design. A video production class on its campus stepped up to help us during this holiday season with a weeklong canned food drive. Taking place during the last week of school, right before Christmas break, this last minute act of kindness did not go unnoticed. Students in various sections of this Video Production class took the time to both bring in cans from home and decorate the donation boxes in a holiday theme. The film instructor Liz Rice, also a member of the Serra Mesa Community Council heading Media/Marketing, wanted nothing more than to give back to her neighborhood for over 35 years.

Please help us to spread awareness as we enter 2015...you can make a difference in our community.

Donate today.

Serra Mesa Food Pantry Hours
Every Wednesday
10am to 2pm

Every Second Saturday of the Month
10am to 2pm

Article by Elizabeth Rice

Video Production Instructor, Kearny High School DMD Media/Marketing Coordinator, Serra Mesa Community Council Owner/Producer, EML Media



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(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
January 14 & March 11 at 6:30pm

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

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Gloria Espeseth
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“The Village” Comes to Serra Mesa

Under the sponsorship of the Serra Mesa Community Council, “The Village”, a neighborly network of seniors for seniors, comes to our community. Initial social, wellness, and organizational events are planned for January and February which will lead to a Membership meeting in March to elect leadership and in April to set dues.

A “drop-in” time has been set for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, January 13 and 27 from 1-4pm in the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 2696 Melbourne Drive. Bring cards, board games, crafts, or just yourself for part or all of the afternoon. Coffee and tea will be provided. Until we have identified a dedicated “Senior Center”, we will use places throughout the community to meet for social events. The dates for February (and March!) are the 10th and 24th. This is a great time for interest groups to form...a specific game, a book group, lunch bunch, or whatever 2 or 3 or more are interested in doing.

A tour of the SDG&E Energy Innovation Center and lunch has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 14. Meet at the Library on Aero at 10:15am to depart at 10:35 sharp. After the tour, all those who are interested will go to lunch at a local restaurant. There are many interesting places to explore in San Diego, and this first tour is testing the waters to gauge the interest.

On the 3rd Thursdays of the month, we will be using the Community Room at the Library on Aero for our General Membership meetings. There will be time for Q & A on the Village as well as a speaker planned for each month. In January, Randy Case of AFC Travel will help us explore the world and possibilities of travel outside of San Diego. At the February 19th meeting, we will have a speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association. The General Membership Meetings will also be a time/place for small groups to form.

What will the Serra Mesa Village be a year from now? We can’t tell you because it will be the membership that will determine it. Those who want this to happen will be the ones to make it happen. The Steering Committee has brought the concept this far, and now we are off and away!

SERRA MESA VILLAGE UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 13 1-4 pm INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Fellowship Hall 2696 Melbourne Dr.
- 14 11:00 am Tour - SDG&E Energy center, Meet at SM/KM Library
- 15 3-5 pm - Serra Mesa Village Membership Meeting SM/KM Library - 9005 Aero Drive
- 27 1-4 pm - INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Fellowship Hall

FEBRUARY

- 4 10-12 am Empowering Mind & body - 10 wk. Wellness Program (see flyer for details)
- 10 1-4 pm INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Fellowship Hall
- 19 3-5 pm Serra Mesa Village Membership Meeting Speaker from Alzheimer’s Assoc. at SM/KM Library
- 24 1-4 pm INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

MARCH

- 10 1-4 pm INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
- 19 3-5pm Serra Mesa Village Membership Meeting, Selection of Board, at SM/KM Library
- 24 1-4 pm, INFORMAL SOCIAL; CARDS; GAMES at Gethsemane Lutheran Fellowship Hall

For more info: serramesavillage.org

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

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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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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 January 15 and February 19. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

On March 19, 2015 SMPG will conduct an annual election for six board members for two year terms. 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. The City provides training. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml>.

Summary of November 20 Meeting (October meeting was cancelled)

Huntington Avenue Storm Drain – SMPG voted unanimously to support the replacement of the metal pipe with concrete pipe. The project is located in an easement from Huntington Avenue and Wilbee Court into the canyon. Additionally, a motion was passed requesting that the action be taken “fast and quickly” (sink hole exists).

Information on Radio Frequency – The federal government regulates radio frequency. The City requests a Radio Frequency Compliance Report for all telecom projects to ensure that a project is in compliance with federal standards. A community planning group can consider land use and aesthetics when reviewing a project. For more information on wireless communication facilities refer to <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/information/telecom.shtml>.

Sprint, SDGE Tower – SMPG voted in February 2014 to recommend approval of modifications to a wireless communications facility located west of I-805 and south of Phyllis Place. A subsequent modification (change from a chain gate to a pole gate) was proposed which SMPG voted unanimously to support.

Verizon Murray Ridge (2285 Murray Ridge Road in parking lot of Faith Community Church) – SMPG voted unanimously to support the application for a Process 3 Conditional Use Permit and Neighborhood Development Permit for a wireless communication facility consisting of a 30-foot tall architectural tower concealing 12 panel antennas, 18 remote radio units and a 2-foot diameter microwave dish. Associated equipment will be located in the base of the tower and an emergency generator will be located in a proposed 144-square foot block enclosure. A 264-square foot storage unit for the church is proposed adjacent to the generator.

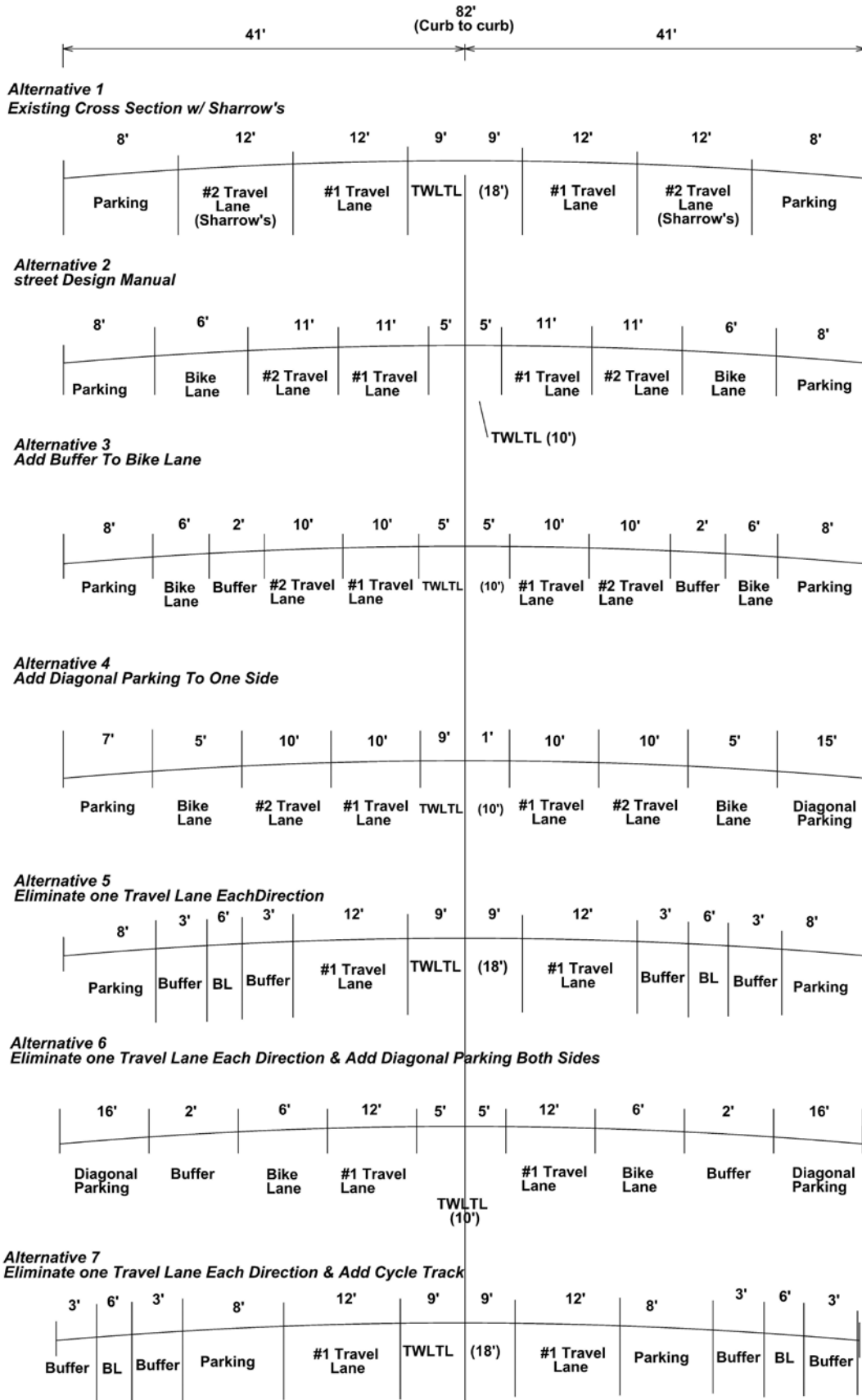
Agenda Item for January 15, 2015

Ruffin Road Improvements – Feasibility of providing bicycle facilities on Ruffin Road between Aero Drive and Gramercy Drive. The presentation will present alternative lane use configurations starting with a “No Action/Sharrows installation only”, up to possible traffic lane reductions, implementation of buffered bicycle lanes or cycle track, and implementation of angled parking to increase the on-street parking supply. The City’s traffic engineers will present the options and answer questions. Input from the audience and discussion will follow the presentation. This is a possible action item. See the design options on the next page.

Update

Environmental Impact Report for the Franklin Ridge Road connection between Phyllis Place and Mission Valley won’t be completed until late spring.

ALTERNATE ROADWAY CROSS-SECTIONS



THE NAMING OF SERRA MESA

The builders of 1950's and 60's American suburbia did not agree. No title was too grandiose, too cloying or coy to attach to their groupings of mass produced houses. The tracts of Serra Mesa sprung up after the Korean War were no exception. The area was parceled out into neighborhoods with such unlikely names as Murray Ridge Estates, Princess Park, and Royal Highlands.

Developers carried their fanciful selection of names over into their naming of streets. Our streets bear the names of family members, friends, pets, favorite places or things. Birdland derives its designation from the fact that it was laid out with streets named after birds. In a dispute with his wife over the naming of a street, one builder settled on Haveteur Way or "have it your way."

American Housing Guild's Mission Village, on the other hand, had the distinction of being located within reasonable proximity of its namesake, the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. In fact, all of the area we now call Serra Mesa was originally part of the Mission Rancho Lands of San Diego granted to the Catholic Church by the King of Spain.

When Mexico broke the power of the Church in 1834, the lands were deeded over to men like Don Santiago Arguello. His family held onto the grant, about 15,999 acres, as long as it could, but eventually the land was sold, divided, and settled by miscellaneous ranchers and homesteaders.

Our modern suburban history began with the Navy's Cabrillo Heights housing project built in the early 50's after the Korean War. Surrounding development occurred thereafter, most between 1955 and 1965.

The tracts were the creation of developers who were largely oblivious to modern concepts of community planning. Clusters of houses were plopped down here and there with little or no rhyme or reason except that the land was cheap and the parents of baby boomers were in search of nests. The advent of the freeways and imported water also contributed to the sudden expanse of tract housing on our barren mesa.

The name game came to a dramatic conclusion in June of 1961 when the Cabrillo Mission Community Council held a contest to name all of the communities from Birdland to Mission Village. Six names were submitted by area residents. Mrs. John Dowling submitted the winning entry, Serra Mesa. Her prize was a \$25 savings bond and a \$10 gift certificate! The City Council acted swiftly to ratify the selection, and hence forth, our entire community has been known as Serra Mesa.

Perhaps Gertrude Stein was right after all. Whether we live in Mission Village, Princess Park or Birdland we all live in a united Serra Mesa. "A Rose is a Rose is a Rose..."

by Peggy Lacy (Reprint, Serra Mesa Observer, July 1992)

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS NOTIFICATION

Rady Children's and Sharp Memorial Hospitals have been working with the City of San Diego and Caltrans on several short-term modifications to improve traffic flow around the hospitals. One of the improvements is the addition of a left turn lane onto the I-805 southbound on-ramp from westbound Mesa College Drive.

The project includes, but is not limited to, the demolition and modification of traffic signals, signage, median curb, median paving, paving, and striping at the I-805 overcrossing at Mesa College Drive/Kearny Villa Road and the I-805 southbound on-ramp.

Work is expected to begin by mid-January and will take approximately five weeks to complete. As dictated by Caltrans, work hours shall be 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM, Sunday through Thursday.

Noise pollution affects both health and behavior. Unwanted sound (noise) can damage psychological health, cause hypertension, high stress levels, hearing loss, sleep disturbances and other harmful effects. As we grow in size due in part to an increase of traffic in both the air and our streets, Serra Mesa residents in particular have been subjected to a high increase in noise pollution. If you are interested in knowing more or talking about this problem, please contact Joe at: quieterhomes@gmail.com.

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
November / December New and Renewed Subscribers***

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 Dick & Dianna Bernard
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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.

Finding Serra Mesa???

Confusion reigns! Is it Serra Mesa or Kearny Mesa? The news media constantly attributes news to the wrong area. Adding to the confusion is the shared 92123 zip code and the Kearny Mesa monument sign on Kearny Villa Road which incorrectly states Kearny Mesa on both sides (north side should state Serra Mesa).

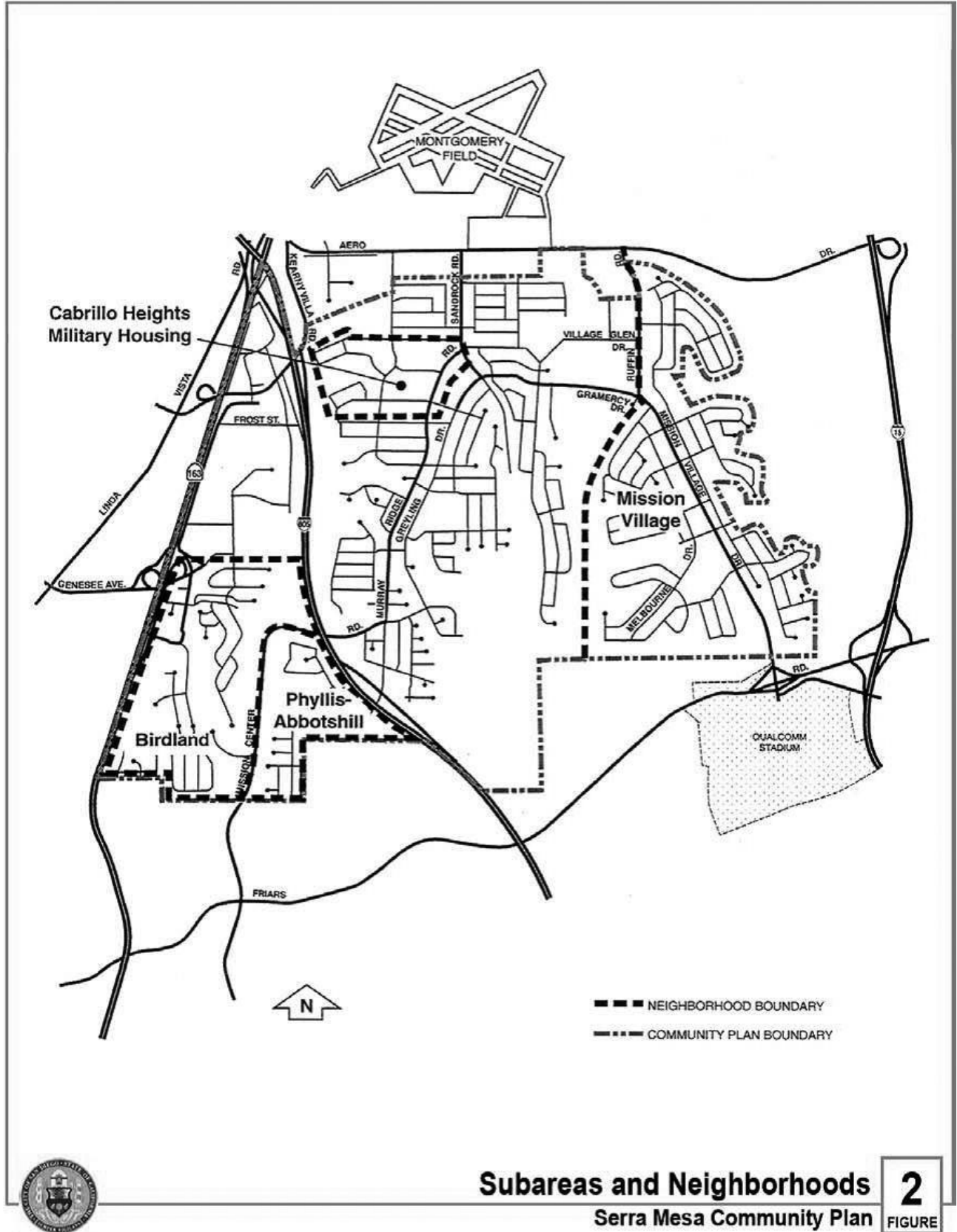
Serra Mesa is composed of neighborhoods with the most prevalent ones being Mission Village (Mission Village Drive area), Birdland (near the hospital complex), Phyllis-Abbotshill (west of I-805 Murray Ridge bridge), Hye Park (condominium complex on Mission Center Road), and the Village at Serra Mesa (formerly Cabrillo Heights Military Housing). In this Observer edition refer to the article, The Naming of Serra Mesa, for historical background/neighborhood explanation. This statement expresses the value of combining the neighborhoods into one community: “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Information

- The land use policy and document for the City of San Diego is found in the General Plan and includes 52 community plans approved by the City Council.
- The Serra Mesa Community Plan written in 1977 established the boundaries of Serra Mesa which included the Kearny Mesa area and part of Mission Valley (the sand and gravel extraction sites- the location of the Civita development). Subsequently, the Serra Mesa Planning Group disbanded for many years.
- In 1985, the City Council adopted the Mission Valley Community Plan which separated the sand and gravel sites from Serra Mesa and included them in Mission Valley.
- During the time when the Serra Mesa Planning Group was reorganizing, Kearny Mesa separated from Serra Mesa, forming a planning group, writing a community plan, and being recognized by the City in 1992. **Commercial and office parcels along Aero Drive were incorporated into Kearny Mesa, which explains the “odd” looking border shown on the map on the next page.**
- The Stonecrest area was originally zoned as office, commercial, and a hotel. Therefore, this area was incorporated into Kearny Mesa. Residential rezoning occurred in the mid-1990s following a recession. The Stonecrest area is part of the Kearny Mesa Planning Group area.
- The 2010 Redistricting Commission of the City of San Diego redrew the City Council boundaries. The south side of Aero Drive (includes Stonecrest area) is located in District 7, represented by City Councilmember Scott Sherman; north side of Aero Drive, District 6, represented by City Councilmember Chris Cate. The redrawing of the boundary doesn't change the community plan boundaries.
- The Serra Mesa Community Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit group with bylaws that describe the same boundaries as in the Serra Mesa Community Plan.
- 92123 zip code encompasses Serra Mesa and parts of Kearny Mesa.
- Serra Mesa Community Plan is at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/serramesa/>.
- An amendment to the Serra Mesa Community Plan for the Franklin Ridge Road connection from Mission Valley to Serra Mesa is being studied. The estimated completion of the environmental document is late spring. The amendment won't change the Serra Mesa boundary. There's a very informative article about the community plan process at <http://voiceofsandiego.org/2013/04/09/updating-a-city-block-by-block/>.

Serra Mesa Community Plan Boundaries

(Dotted lines indicate borders. Kearny Mesa planning area is north of dotted lines; Mission Valley, south.)



Subareas and Neighborhoods
Serra Mesa Community Plan

2
FIGURE

KUDOS -- WHEN A SERRA MESAN INTEGRATED THE CAPE

by Tom Leech

In 1963, a major San Diego employer was General Dynamics Astronautics, with the primary facility located a few miles away in Kearny Mesa along the eastern side of Highway 163. The product was the Atlas rocket, a vehicle with two missions of vital importance: to US military (ICBM --Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) and space operations (Project Mercury, which launched the first U.S. astronauts). Many employees moved to Serra Mesa as it made for a very short commute to the plant (in fact, the SM west side was built to provide convenient housing for GD employees).

Florida's Cape Canaveral (later name changed to Cape Kennedy) was a hotbed of activity as it was the U.S. primary rocket launching facility. Engineers, technicians and scientists from all around the nation regularly converged there to provide the many services needed for successful operations. Teams from GD Astro made frequent journeys from San Diego to support Atlas launches. One of those was the Guidance and Trajectory group whose responsibility was to prepare the Atlas radio guidance system for successful launches.

A key player on that team was Serra Mesa engineer Everett Kaukonen. He had hired on to Astro in 1961, following a tour of duty in South America with Chevron, doing oil exploration. That's also where he met his wife, Anne Marie, from Belgium and working there as a travel agent. They settled in to a new house in Serra Mesa.



As this was early years of rocket operations, his team of roughly a half-dozen tech specialists was required to put in long hours to meet their requirements. One of the complications of good team togetherness was that Florida was still a segregated world. A key team member, Wayman "Mac" McIntosh, was black, meaning he could not stay in any nearby hotel. Kaukonen: "We all had to be there to work, but no motel would accept Mac. He came in each day around 10 a.m. from Miami Beach, and then had to catch the plane back at 2 in the afternoon. This was ineffectual and we couldn't get much work done."

So one day in 1963 Kaukonen decided enough was enough. He picked up the phone in his Kearny Mesa office and called the division GM, Jim Dempsey. His call that day started action that ended the Cape's hotels' segregation policy. Dempsey had recently done a plant tour and invited employees to contact him if they had any problems. Kaukonen made that call, did not reach Dempsey but told the secretary about the problem. This was mid-afternoon on a Friday and the software team was scheduled to leave for the Cape the following Monday morning to support two launches. Kaukonen: "Just before 4 pm, we got a call that we were all going to Cocoa Beach. Arrangements had been made and a hotel had agreed to accept us all."

The team's first stop was New Orleans where the GD Base Manager met the team and flew with them to Melbourne at the Cape. They were driven directly to the Carriage House Motel and checked in, the first time a black had been there. (Across the street was the Cape Colony Hotel, a popular place owned in large part by the Mercury astronauts. They would not accept blacks.)

Per Kaukonen their team launch operations were much improved now that all the players could stay in the Cape overnight. "However, I was uneasy during this entire period and could finally appreciate how blacks felt all the time. Someone told me what it was like to be black -- like always wearing tight shoes, feeling constantly uncomfortable because of the uncertainty. On the plane heading home after that two week stay, it was a relief that I didn't have to worry about that any more."

The full story about how this major change came about was published 3+ decades later in a December 1998 article in the *San Diego Union Tribune*, as "Never a Vacancy: the Day San Diego Integrated the Cape." I was the author of that story, and with some remembrance of it as in '63 I was an engineer in Kaukonen's department. In November 2012 it was a feature in *Quest Magazine: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly*.

Everett and Anne Marie Kaukonen still live in the same Serra Mesa house they bought back in 1962. They're active in the community in a variety of ways, e.g. Everett is a past member of the Citizen Patrol, Anne Marie is a Mingei Museum Docent, and they volunteer often for classical music concerts. They keep active with tennis and daily strolls along the beach.

Now how about an "attaboy" drum roll and cheer for how this Serra Mesan's action made a major change in one Southern discrimination policy (there were still plenty more in place). And who's your candidate for our next Serra Mesa Kudo? Send me at outdoorsd@aol.com,

FYI, Tom Leech is a member of the SM Community Council Board and author, with Jack Farnan, of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*. His recent book, with co-author Leslie Johnson-Leech is a children's Christmas poem *The Curious Adventures of Santa's Wayward Elves*.

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

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.*

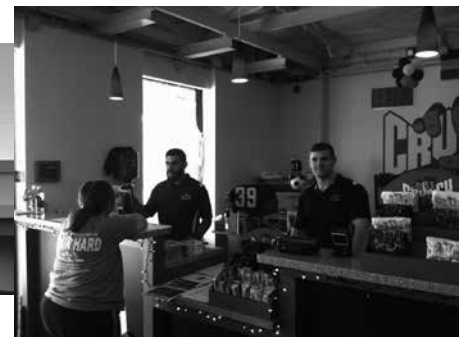
Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Basketball). *Volunteers needed: referees, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, etc. Training & commitment varies with activity.*

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.

LOOKING BACK 2014



LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW BEGINNINGS 2015

Review of Maggie's Café

3232-D Greyling Dr, Phone: 858-430-6755, Email: maggiescafe2014@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.maggiescafe2014.com/>

Scrumptious food, consistently good, attentive and friendly service, reasonably priced, clean!

Since the opening of Maggie's Café in November my husband and I have eaten in the restaurant or ordered carry out numerous times. My husband who frequently orders fish and chips at restaurants commented that the fish and chips served at Maggie's Café is one of the best he's tasted. I can make the same comment for the salmon and hamburgers. If you haven't eaten there, I encourage you to do so.

Here are additional comments from the community excerpted from Nextdoor Serra Mesa (for more information on Nextdoor, a free private social network, go to <https://nextdoor.com/>):

"Just had lunch at Maggie's Café. Delicious and Nutritious! Just what the neighborhood needed. They are open for Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch and Dinner and DESERT! Check out their Smoothies and Raw Juice Bar. Just a heads up, they have Taco Tuesdays with fresh, warm tortillas. Yum Yum!"

"My husband and I tried Maggie's Cafe today for lunch and it was great. I had the spinach salad with strawberries, pecans, kiwi, etc. It was fresh and really good. My husband had the fish & french fries. We were given a senior discount without asking for it and superior service. We'll be going again. This area needed something like this!"

"Had lunch at Maggie's yesterday. The food was awesome! We had a mushroom, onion cheese burger w/ sweet potato fries and a cobb salad. Shared both. We were so full, we had to take the whole salad home. I will say the sweet potato fries were the best we have ever had. Nice and crispy, not limp and soggy. Can't wait to try other things on the menu. It is GREAT to have a good restaurant so close to home. I hope they make it. The prices were just fine, we thought, especially for the quality and quantity. Will definitely go back."

"I've been there for breakfast lunch and dinner. All great. Staff is friendly. Nice place."

"My husband and I ate there on Saturday for lunch. It was DELICIOUS! Large portions! Will get water next time b/c the soda was really high in price, but refills were included. We will return - friendly, clean and happening! So many people there! I pray for success for the small business!"

Cindy Moore, Serra Mesa Resident

THANK YOU!

The Serra Mesa Community came together again to help those in need in our community. With immense gratitude we would like to say thank you to all the individuals and organizations that made this possible with your generous giving. We had 150 people come to the pantry on Wednesday, November 26 for our Thanksgiving Distribution and the Tuesday, December 23 for our Christmas Distribution. Thank you to the following schools that hosted food drives for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry: Angier Elementary, Taft Middle School, Benito Juarez Elementary, Cubberley Elementary, Kearny High School DMD, and Gethsemane Lutheran Pre-School. Thank you City View Church, Mary Magdalene Apostle Community Church, and FedEx for their food drives and thank you Gethsemane Lutheran and Mission Village Christian Fellowship, Serra Mesa Community Council, Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard, and Aero Auto repair for your continued support. May God continue to bless you so that we can continue working together to help our neighbors not only during the Holiday season but also throughout the year. Last but not least, thank you to all the volunteers of the Serra Mesa Food Pantry for all you do. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and the best to you all in 2015.

Luisa Johnson - Serra Mesa Food Pantry Manager

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

January/February 2015 Events/Programs

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present a Lego exhibit by the Ege Family 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.

January 10, 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.

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

January 13, 6:00 p.m. Aging Well: The Tools You Need for Successful Aging. An educational seminar about wills, trusts, estate planning, and the benefits of geriatric care management.

January 13, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Bookman's Tale* by Charles Lovett.

January 15, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community to learn about the Village movement and how you can participate.

January 23, 1:00 p.m. Getting LinkedIn. Learn LinkedIn account basics in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

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

January 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.

February 7, 11:00 a.m. Hellenic Cultural Society Lecture. The Hellenic Cultural Society presents an historical lecture.

February 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *When Everything Changed* by Gail Collins.

February 19, 2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community to learn about the Village movement and how you can participate.

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

February 24, 12:00 p.m. San Diego Coalition On Improving End of Life Care. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

February 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.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

February 27, 1:00 p.m. Salary Negotiations. Learn how to effectively negotiate your salary in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

AARP Free Tax Preparation – Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m. Starting February 6 to April 10. AARP Tax Representatives will prepare taxes for FREE by appointment only. Please contact the library at 858-573-1396 or visit the Circulation Desk.

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.

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

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

January 12 & 26, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

January 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.

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

February 4 & 18, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

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

February 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.

Apply for a Free Computer!!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on January 24 and February 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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FRIENDSHIP LUNCH OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Try something new this year! Join us for the Friendship Lunch.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Mission Village Christian Fellowship offer the Serra Mesa community a soup, bread, and dessert lunch every Wednesday at noon. The “Friendship Lunch” with **NO AGE LIMITATIONS** is at MVCF in the even months (i.e. October) and at Gethsemane in the odd months (i.e. September). There is no cost but all are invited to bring a can or package of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. The churches are located at 2696 and 2650 Melbourne Drive. More information at 858-277-6572 or 858-278-2633.