



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

You are invited to participate in the

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, January 27

6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhood People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together



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<div> <div>SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS</div> <div> <div>Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473</div> <div>e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org</div> <div>Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473</div> <div>e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org</div> </div> <div>ELECTED OFFICIALS</div> <div> <div>Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550</div> <div>City Councilmember Scott Sherman (619) 236-6677</div> <div>Mayor Kevin Faulconer (619) 236-6330</div> <div>County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544</div> <div>State Assemblymember Toni Atkins (619) 645-3090</div> <div>State Senator Marty Block (619) 645-3133</div> <div>Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641</div> <div>U.S. Representative Susan Davis (619) 448-5201</div> <div>U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712</div> </div> </div>	
<div> <div>CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS</div> <div> <div>Jan 12 Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library</div> <div>5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room</div> <div>Jan 19 Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting</div> <div>6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive</div> <div>Jan 21 Serra Mesa Planning Group</div> <div>7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room</div> <div>Jan 27 Serra Mesa Community Council</div> <div>6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm</div> <div>Jan 27 Friends of Ruffin Canyon</div> <div>5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm</div> <div>Feb 6 Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup</div> <div>9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon</div> <div>Feb 16 Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting</div> <div>6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive</div> <div>Feb 18 Serra Mesa Planning Group</div> <div>7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room</div> <div>Feb 24 Friends of Ruffin Canyon</div> <div>5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm</div> <div>Feb 24 Serra Mesa Community Council</div> <div>6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm</div> <div>Mar 5 Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup</div> <div>9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon</div> <div>Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings -</div> <div>write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.</div> </div> </div>	
<div> <div>In This Issue...</div> <div> <div>SMCC Community Forums 1</div> <div>Community Phone Numbers, Calendar 2</div> <div>President's Message 3</div> <div>Jones Elementary Bike to School, Spring Fling 4</div> <div>Free Classes SDCE, SM Rec Center 5</div> <div>Serra Mesa Planning Group News 6</div> <div>Important Phone Numbers 7</div> <div>Serra Mesa Food Pantry, Senior Fitness Class 8</div> <div>Serra Mesa Community Garden &amp; Orchard, Ads 9</div> <div>Serra Mesa Little League Registration, SMEC 10</div> <div>SMCC New and Renewed Members 11</div> <div>Kearny High-DMD Food Drive 12</div> <div>Youth Educational Arts Program, Open House Moose Lodge 13</div> <div>Kudo's - Cindy Kunz Owner of San Diego Sandwich Company 14</div> <div>New Serra Mesa 92123 T-shirt Design 15</div> <div>Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 16</div> <div>Addressing Pedestrian Dangers on Health Center Drive 17</div> <div>Serra Mesa Village News 18</div> <div>Serra Mesa Little Leage Flyer 19</div> <div>SMCC Subscription Application or Renewal 20</div> <div>Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library 21</div> </div> </div>	
<div> <div>Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly by the</div> <div>Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approx 800</div> <div>Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25 Benefactor...\$50</div> <div>For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473</div> <div>Council doesn't endorse ads.</div> <div>Articles, Ideas, &amp; Upcoming Events for the Observer</div> <div>are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.</div> <div>For articles, e-mail Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com</div> <div>Deadline: Mar / Apr Edition...Feb 19th</div> <div>P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193</div> <div>http://www.serramesa.org</div> <div>communitycouncil@serramesa.org</div> </div>	

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### **Who will you vote for?**

I always enjoy the New Year where things are new, everyone has just celebrated the holidays with family. We all have resolutions to help us make the world a better place and ourselves while we are at it. I personally would like to wish you and yours the best year ever. I hope this year brings you much happiness and prosperity. I wish the best health to you and yours. We live in the greatest Country, in the most progressive State, and a Great City with the best weather in the world. Yes, we have problems but now is the time to review our elected officials and make sure that the ones we select are looking out for us. Is it not easier to choose when we take the time to consider, research, and interact with our officials?

The time to think about our future has arrived, elections are upon us and this year we will be electing new legislators, new judges, and other City, State, and National public offices as well as a new president. Meanwhile, we will be inundated with campaign speeches, television ads, mailing stuffers, and all the other things that make democracy work. We will be choosing those people who we hope will be speaking for us and acting in our best interests. Somehow our feelings when elections are over are a sigh of relief so we can get on with our lives and regular advertising that tries to convince us of ailments that we do or not have that can be corrected if we purchase them in the next 10 minutes.

Have we noticed that the promises made in the past are the same promises that are being made now: gun control, border security, illegal aliens, homelessness, hunger, school dropout rates, more taxes for better

education, roads and infrastructure, cost of the military and troop withdrawals, international economics, aid to countries that hate us, and the list goes on and on. What is going on? How to we restore those qualities that are important to us. Do we really have a voice?

We do have a voice and it called our vote. Our populace is made up of many persons with different backgrounds. We all have opinions and candidates who are willing to represent us have different opinions. We will never find one who thinks exactly as we do. So the answer is to find one who thinks the closest to us and will be accountable to his/her platform. My fear is that too many folks lose interest when a candidate stands for a principle for which they don't agree. The result is that they do not vote and their voice is lost.

What your community council board has done was to endorse a Clean Elections Campaign Committee who will change the current system with a voluntary system of public financing of elections. Traditional means of financing elections from special interests and wealthy candidates choosing their own funds would still apply. Neighborhoods for Clean Elections would enable anyone to run for any office providing they comply with the regulations of getting enough people to back them with a \$5.00 donation. (A candidate for Mayor or City Attorney would need to generate 2,000 \$5.00 donations to be eligible for clean money funding.) You can get further information by logging on to: [sdcleanelections.com](http://sdcleanelections.com) or find them on Facebook by logging on then searching for Neighborhoods for clean elections.

I am not attempting to tell you what you should do. I am only telling you that what we are doing is not selecting the candidate who will represent our best interest. We are ending up with a selection of those whose allegiance is to those who funded them. I do not think that our founding fathers had this in mind when they created our constitution.

I hope that I am convincing you to vote and to vote for the best person for the job. I hope that this will not be the lessor of two evils.

Carl Demas, President

### Jones Elementary Bike to School week a success!

Thanks to a grant from SANDAG, Jones Elementary students participated in a Bike, Walk and Roll to School week in November. Students who signed up to participate received a free helmet and water bottle. Over 113 students participated by walking, rolling or biking to school! Traffic congestion was reduced and students contributed to reducing pollution and living a healthier lifestyle. Officer Barb Navarette from School Police presented a safety presentation, and John Webber from Vee Tire Co. presented a bike maintenance class for students to round out the weekly festivities.



Dan and Sydney Brown lead a pack for Bike to School day at Jones Elementary.



## CALLING ALL VENDORS

Crafters, clubs, and community service groups are invited to host a booth at the



The PTAs of Taft Middle School and Jones Elementary School are planning this fun, outdoor event for March 19, 2016 from 9am-3pm on the Taft Middle School campus.

Cost is \$50 for a 10 x 10' space. Those interested in a booth space should contact this email or visit the schools' websites for more information.

[PTASpringFlingCraftFair@gmail.com](mailto:PTASpringFlingCraftFair@gmail.com)

## Helping San Diegans Stay Competitive in the Job Market

**Free Classes**

**February 3-June 11**



**Business, Computers and Information Technology**

Class schedule available online  
[sdce.edu](http://sdce.edu)

**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  
January 19 & February 16 at 6:30 p.m.



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## Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Gloria Espeseth  
Pastor

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

2696 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

Worship 9:30am  
(858) 277-6572

## **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 21 and February 18 (possible change in meeting location). To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

SMPG's revised bylaws increase the number of Board members to 15. With one vacancy and the approved increase in membership **SMPG has four board openings**. Also, on March 17, 2016 SMPG will conduct an annual election for 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>. Bylaws are available at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpg/bylaws.shtml>.

Welcome, Adam Gardner, elected to the SMPG board on December 17.

Tom Wright resigned from SMPG. Thanks to Tom for his many years of community service.

### **Summary of November 19 and December 17 Meeting**

**Decision Making Process for Franklin Ridge Road Connection Environmental Impact Report between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa and Civita in Mission Valley** – An EIR is being conducted for an amendment for the Serra Mesa Community Plan. This is the information that was emailed to SMPG from City staff:

Community Plan Amendment Approval Process:

1. City releases draft environmental impact report (EIR) for 60-day public review
2. City presents the community plan amendment and draft EIR to the Community Planning Group for a recommendation
3. City responds to comments received during the public review process and prepares the final EIR
4. City presents community plan amendment and final EIR to the Planning Commission for a recommendation
5. City presents community plan amendment to the City Council Smart Growth and Land Use Committee for a recommendation
6. City presents community plan amendment and final EIR to the City Council for approval

**Serra Mesa Gateway Sign on Sandrock Road** – Alliance Residential Company, developer of the Broadstone Corsair project on Aero Drive, presented designs for a new gateway sign within the median of the Sandrock Road public right-of-way. A straw vote from the audience indicated nearly unanimous support for the canyon design located on the following page. SMPG voted to recommend the canyon design. Also, SMPG asked that the sign include solar and be two-sided. The leasing sign located at the Broadstone Corsair entryway represents an example of the “thick” aluminum material that will be used for the Serra Mesa gateway sign.

**Franklin Ridge Road Subcommittee Formed** – The main purpose of this subcommittee will be to review the EIR when it becomes available and draft a response letter for the review of the Serra Mesa Planning Group. If you're interested in participating on this subcommittee, please send an email to [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org). This *Observer* edition includes an information sheet on Franklin Ridge Road.

**Citygate Report on Fire Station Funding and Proposed Fire Station in Serra Mesa** – A presentation was made by City Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald, fire department representatives, and other staff explaining the need to build more fire stations in order to decrease response time. SMPG was asked to approve a letter to conceptually support the Citygate Report for new fire stations and conceptually support public bond financing, subject to voter approval, to design, construct, and equip new fire stations throughout the City of San Diego. The report includes a proposal for a Serra Mesa fire station, which came as a surprise to SMPG. SMPG passed a motion to approve the program as presented with the exception that **the Serra Mesa fire station site be presented to SMPG before being approved by the City**. The City owns land at the end of Encino and at this meeting this site was mentioned as a possible location. An audience member suggested the lot at the corner of Ruffin Road and Gramercy Drive. If you have other suggestions, contact

continue to next page

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Animal Control	(619) 767-2675	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Dead <b>Animal</b> Removal (stay on the line)	(858) 694-7000	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
		Zoning/Permits - Questions & Violations	(619) 446-5000

continued from page 6

Marisa Berumen, [mberumen@sanidiego.gov](mailto:mberumen@sanidiego.gov), in Marti Emerald's office or [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

**Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Solar Project** – An approximately 140 K W solar carport canopy system will be installed at the library as part of a city-wide effort to install approximately 6.6 megawatts of solar at 25 different locations. The system will be installed by a third party provider through a Power Purchase Agreement. It's anticipated that the generated solar energy will offset 80% of the library's energy use. The project is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2016 and be completed by the end of 2016. Staff will provide more information in the future.

### **Update & News**

**Speed Limit Change** – The City is required by the state to survey the prevailing speeds on classified streets every seven years to keep the speed limits radar enforceable under the provisions of the state law. Survey results indicate that the speed limit must be changed for Mobley Street between Dolly Place and Gramercy Drive from 25 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour.

### **Agenda Items for January 21**

**Conditional Use Permit for Private K-12<sup>th</sup> Education Facility at 8401-8461 Aero Drive** (first floor of the former San Diego Community College building) in the Kearny Mesa area. The school, a French immersion program, is currently located at Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

**Redevelopment of the Kelco building at 8225 Aero Drive** in the Kearny Mesa area – Possible mixed use project. The developer is interested in a dialog with the community before definitive plans are developed. Developer welcomes and encourages input.

### **Future Agenda Item**

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Franklin Ridge Road connection** between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa and Civita in Mission Valley – It was reported in the November/December edition of the *Observer* that staff would make a presentation on this item at the November 19 meeting. After the newsletter was sent to the printer staff notified SMPG that the EIR was not ready for a presentation. Watch for an email notification from SMPG for confirmation of the date of this agenda item and the location of the meeting. To receive email notices, sign up at [www.serramesa.org/](http://www.serramesa.org/). Once the draft EIR is completed, the public has 60 days to comment.

### **Serra Mesa Food Pantry**

We are so blessed by the generosity and support of people in our community and beyond.

Last May the Pantry celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Back then, we were not well known in the community, yet people started helping. The first day we opened we had 30 people; today we serve approximately 300-350 families every month. We are blessed to have the support from the beginning from Mission Village Christian Fellowship, Gethsemane Lutheran Church and MMACC. These three Churches still support us and we have volunteers who attend these Churches.

The summer concert and the movie organized by the SMCC was a success and lots of food was collected.

We are extremely blessed by the Food Drives from: Angier Elementary, McDole Family Daycare, Taft Middle School, Benito Juarez Elementary, Wegeforth, also the Padres Fundraiser. Thank you Jerry Albert who every year, faithfully organizes this fundraiser. Thank you also to the continued support of Aero Auto repair. Jenny Mendoza working on her Gold Award is bringing fruit from neighbors' yards who also want to help and Susan Mendoza-Lowery picks up bread from Cie Bakery and brings it to the pantry every Wednesday. Thank you Dee Myers for the beautiful Thanksgiving baskets filled with so many goodies and distributed the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you also to the people who donated turkeys.

It is worth mentioning that a group of girls from Troop 4069 earned their Global Action Award by discovering how hunger and poverty affects people in our community. They visited the pantry with Troop Leader Jennifer Barajas. This small group of beautiful and smart girls took action by running a food drive to collect food for the pantry.

For the last 3 years Angela Brannon and her Foundation "It is all about the kids" has been collecting and donating toys to the pantry at Christmas time. Also through Angela a group of children and their parents went to Legoland, all paid for by one of the Charger Players. Thank you Angela and Keenan Allen.

Thank you Liz Rice and Kearny Mesa High School for all the food collected during this month for the SMFP.

Through the Partnership with the San Diego Food Bank, Feeding America San Diego and the Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard we are making efforts to provide more nutritious food to our clients.

Thank you to all volunteers who do not fail to show up and do the job, so that we can distribute food every Wednesday and the second Saturday of the month.

And last, but not least, our thanks to all of the individuals who have also helped throughout the year. You are all amazing and you are a blessing to us.

God bless you all and all the best in 2016.

Luisa Johnson

.....

### **Senior Fitness Classes**

Senior Fitness classes are ongoing. On Wednesdays at 11 am at 3501 Pomeroy. We are currently only doing classes one day a week but would like to eventually add another day, maybe a Monday but we'd need more interest. Classes are \$10 a month. Classes are set up so that all levels can participate. Chairs are offered for those who need them. You can work at your level, cardio, strength, balance and fun are all covered in classes. Hope to see you join us to start off your New year right!

Email Katrina if you have questions at [fitkatinsd@aol.com](mailto:fitkatinsd@aol.com)



### Serra Mesa Community Garden & Orchard

Ever wonder what 267 pounds of sweet potatoes looks like?

240 pounds of sweet potatoes (90% of pictured) were donated to the food pantry, plus the pictured cucumbers, lettuce, and carrots -- yes, all from SMCG&O plots.

Special thanks to Kathy Dalton for assisting with the sweet potato harvest.

Karl



**Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church**  
2235 Galahad Road, San Diego, CA 92123

**Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9 a.m.**

**Eastern European Ethnic Foods**

**Available for sale in the Church Hall**  
Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Friday-Tuesday  
Closed on Wednesday and Thursday  
Please call before coming to buy the food.  
858-268-3458

*Marvin Sloben*

Photographer

**619.239.2828**

[Msloben@san.rr.com](mailto:Msloben@san.rr.com)

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**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 Little League registration on now!

Batter up! Sign-ups for boys and girls are going on now for Little League in Serra Mesa. Players must be 4 years old by August 31, 2016. Games are held at Cabrillo Heights Park in Serra Mesa. Get to know your neighbors and promote physical activity and teamwork for our kids. Registration can be done online at [www.eteamz.com/serramesall/](http://www.eteamz.com/serramesall/). Any questions? Contact League President Bill Brindle at 619-813-9815. See attached flyer.



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## Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee is not operational. Mutually agreed upon procedures are being developed. To report a violation to the City of San Diego call 619-236-5500 or fill out the form online at <http://www.sandiego.gov/ced/report/investigation.shtml>. You will be required to provide your name and contact information. This information is kept confidential.

At <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/opensd/> the City provides the following information:

**Land development permit** – application, issuance, inspection, and completion dating back to 2003; timelines, scope, decisions, and costs.

**Code Enforcement** – cases dating back to 2011. Provides information on date of complaint, description of complaint, source, close date, close reason, inspection due date, investigator contact information.

Search options include browsing by a specific address or by the map (exact address not needed). There's a tremendous amount of information available and the site is user friendly. The Code Enforcement information is easy to understand. The Land Development information is more complicated and difficult for the person unfamiliar with the construction field. The City provides FAQs on the website. If you're interested in what's happening in your neighborhood, you may be interested in the website.

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

Valarie Basham  
Tom & Sally Benge  
Dick & Dianna Bernard  
Gene & Joann Bertsch  
Donald & Sue Boyle  
Dorothy Burger  
Vincent & Susan Castiglione  
Mike & Irene Champine \*\*  
Ed & Sandy Clark \*\*  
Doris Darling  
William & Koye Durmick \*  
George Edwards  
Nina Ewert \*\*  
Ron & Gail Ewert \*\*  
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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.

## Food Drive Thank You

Nearly 300 cans from Kearny High School-School of Digital Media and Design (DMD) were donated over the past 2 weeks to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. The 'pantry' works hand in hand with the Serra Mesa community to distribute food to residents in the 92123 area code.

The food drive organizer was Liz Rice, both a media teacher at Kearny and a member of the Serra Mesa Community Council. Students were more than excited over this food drive and even took time out to plaster the school with food drive flyers and decorate donation boxes. On behalf of the residents of Serra Mesa families in need, I would like to say thank you Kearny students for all that you did to make our holiday food drive a tremendous success. Because of your efforts, you made the holiday season just a little bit brighter. Kearny DMD staff presented the food to the 'pantry' on Tuesday December 22nd. Representatives received the food donations with great appreciation. Together we can all make a difference.

#giveback #HappyHolidays



## **Introducing New Youth Educational Arts Program**

**Scott Sherman**

**Serra Mesa**

In November, I joined with San Diego Opera General Director David Bennett to announce a new youth educational program named "My Voice in the Arts" that will provide free full-season subscriptions to San Diego Opera performances to San Diego youth in each Council District.

Students will also be able to go backstage after performances to meet and learn from singers, performers, and backstage personnel.

This new program will expose students from all backgrounds who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience the arts firsthand. The program will also help create and educate a new generation of opera enthusiasts. My Voice in the Arts was funded through the Council Offices of Sherman, Cate, Gloria and Zapf.

To apply, students must complete an application and submit a written 250-500 word essay responding to the question: "One example of how art has affected me is..."

To be a world class city, San Diego needs world class arts and entertainment. This new youth program will help inspire new interest in the opera for the next generation of San Diegans.

Applications for My Voice in the Arts are currently being accepted. Students and parents can find more information and apply at: <http://sdopera.org/education/my-voice-in-the-arts>.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet with opera performers and experience a new musical art form. If you have any questions or need assistance in applying, please contact my office at 619-236-6677.

If you may know of family or friends that have children who may be interested in this program. Please forward this information to them. Submissions are due January 11th.

.....

## **OPEN HOUSE AT THE KEARNY MESA MOOSE LODGE**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015**

**9AM TO 3PM**

**3636 Ruffin Rd**

**KID BAND "THE NATURAL DISASTER"  
AND OTHER MUSICIANS UNDER THE AGE OF 16  
FROM THE ROCK N ROLL SCHOOL OF SAN DIEGO  
CAR SHOW ALSO, ENTRANTS \$25,  
trophy to be awarded for People's Choice.**

Child ID program, ask about it when you arrive. Hot dogs hamburgers, and soft drinks.  
For more information call Duane Shockey at (858)278-9676.

## KUDOS – Here's to someone who helps enrich our Serra Mesa community

In this Observer feature, we call attention to fellow Serra Mesans who are deserving of strong “attagirls” or “attaboys.” This time our appreciation goes to Cindy Kunz, owner of the San Diego Sandwich Company. Cindy has many fans who appreciate her many contributions to our community.

Cindy took over ownership of her café-deli 20 years ago, as the 3rd owner of what was originally called Shrewsbury when founded by two Philadelphia brothers 40 years ago. She and her family also arrived here from Pennsylvania, choosing San Diego because her brother lived here (maybe the change in weather was also a factor). She's the chief cook (and bottle washer) who cooks up fresh soups, baked goods and sandwiches every day. A daily product is Granny's Chili -- her grandma was Louise, which explains the source of Cindy Lou's middle name. Check the menu at [www.sandiegosandwich.com](http://www.sandiegosandwich.com)



Heer's Cindy!



In addition to the food, her café at 3373 Sandrock Rd. is worth visiting to check out the walls. She has the main wall covered with pictures of San Diego's history (and the black and red colors of SDSU's Aztecs spread along the wall). Photos highlighting local aviation history is on another wall. Another wall is covered with kudos from many of the groups that have enjoyed Cindy's good services. For years, she's hosted field trips from Wegeforth, Angier, and Jones elementary schools with kids (250 so far this year) walking over to experience her kitchen, cooking techniques and products, as a treat for doing well at school (as noted by teachers), scoops of ice cream. Several wall photos are thanks for her sponsorship of local soccer and baseball teams. She regularly donates or gives discounted sandwiches to local military groups for key events. At the end of each day, she donates any leftovers to help homeless. Local community activist Geralyn White is a frequent visitor and notes how Cindy greets people not only as customers but as friends (indications of that are in wall photos of some long-timers). On the bulletin board are many business cards helping customers promote their own businesses. On the personal side, Cindy lives in Lakeside, because our SM neighborhood is not a conducive environment for her three horses (she recently adopted horse #3 from a Bonita animal shelter). She also gets a lot of joy from three grandkids.

So how about some drum rolls and cheers of appreciation for the long-term and continuing good services of our Serra Mesa friend to many, Cindy Kunz!



San Diego aviation history display on the wall of San Diego Sandwich Company



Part of the wall of history at the San Diego Sandwich Company

Tom Leech is a member of the SM Community Council Board and author of *On the Road in '68: a Year of Turmoil, a Journey of Friendship*. Visit his website at [www.presentationspress.com](http://www.presentationspress.com) for info about his books covering San Diego's outdoors world, travel, business communication and Wm. Shakespeare's timeless tips. (And who's your candidate for our next Serra Mesa Kudo? Send info to Tom at [tomaseb@aol.com](mailto:tomaseb@aol.com).)



## New Serra Mesa 92123 T-shirt Design



Order your Serra Mesa t-shirt with a brand new design and support your community! T-shirts are navy blue with white lettering. We have men's tank tops and t-shirts, women's tank tops and v-neck t-shirts in a variety of sizes. Shirts are \$9.90 and can be ordered by contacting the Serra Mesa Community Council at 858-565-2473, [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org). T-shirts will also be for sale at monthly community council meetings.

More designs coming up! Kearny DMD students are currently working on yet another design that will be offered as well in the near future.



## **Information on Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Franklin Ridge Road Extension from Civita (formerly Quarry Falls) in Mission Valley to Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa**

### **Timeline**

March 15, 2005 – City Council denied the road connection.

October 22, 2008 – City Council approved the Quarry Falls development (4,780 residential units, 900,000 s.f. of retail and office, 17.5 acres of parks, open space and trails, and optional school site). The EIR for the project studied different alternatives including one with the road connection and one without the road connection.

Also, the City Council authorized **the initiation of a Serra Mesa Community Plan amendment**. The Serra Mesa Community Plan does not show a road connection. **The initiation states:**

“...the initiation of a community plan amendment in no way confers adoption of a plan amendment and City Council is in no way committed to adopt or deny the amendment once it goes forward for approval;...this Council directs staff to analyze the following issues in relation to the aforementioned street connection and land use plan amendments:

1. Whether police and fire response times would be improved with the road connection.
2. Whether the road connection could serve as an emergency evacuation route.
3. Whether it is feasible to make the road available for emergency access only.
4. Whether pedestrian and bicycle access would be improved by the street connection.”

February 7, 2012 – City conducted a community scoping meeting to obtain input on items that should be studied in the EIR for the road connection. SMPG and SMCC each submitted letters describing items that will create an impact and need to be studied. It was explained that the City would hire a consultant for assistance with the EIR.

Note: The Serra Mesa Planning Group opposed the road connection in 2005 and 2008.

### **Facts About the EIR**

- EIR is being prepared for a Serra Mesa Community Plan amendment to allow a four lane Franklin Ridge Road extension from Civita in Mission Valley to Phyllis Place (across from City View Church) in Serra Mesa.
- Six acres of the Civita development are located in Serra Mesa. A 1.3 acre park will be built on Phyllis Place across from City View Church by the developer. The EIR, required by the state, evaluates environmental impacts, including traffic, air quality, neighborhood character, etc.
- Cost of EIR paid from City's general funds.
- The Civita developer has taken a neutral position on the road connection.

### **Process for deciding whether the Franklin Ridge Road connection will be built:**

- After the release of the draft EIR the public (individuals and entities) has 60 days to make comments.
- Serra Mesa Planning Group, at a noticed meeting, can decide to make a recommendation to support or oppose the road connection.
- City staff prepares a report - responding to all EIR comments and makes their recommendation.
- City Planning Commission hears item at a noticed meeting and votes on their recommendation to City Council.
- San Diego City Council hears item at a noticed meeting and makes the final decision.

Community input via email, written, or verbal is accepted for any noticed meeting. To be added to the SMPG email list, go to <http://www.serramesa.org>. To be added to the City's mailing list for this project, contact Tara Lieberman, [tlieberman@sandiego.gov](mailto:tlieberman@sandiego.gov), 619-236-6531. For information on the Environmental Review Process, go to <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/information/infobulletins/subject.shtml>, Information Bulletin 401 (excellent summary of the process and requirements).



## Addressing Pedestrian Dangers on Health Center Drive

Several recent traffic incidents involving pedestrians have occurred on Health Center Drive. The map below is a dramatic illustration of how serious the problem is.

Many of these incidents resulted from pedestrians crossing from parked cars on the west side of the street to the Sharp campus. To help address this, Sharp leadership has worked with the City of San Diego, which has jurisdiction over this street, to eliminate parking on the west side of Health Center Drive between Frost Street and Vista Hill Avenue. Additionally, the bus stop currently located on the west side of the street at Mary Birch Lane will be consolidated with the bus stop to the north, at Frost Street.

These changes are anticipated in early 2016. To reduce the impact on parking in the area, the City will try to remove some of the red curb on the east side of the street to add new parking spaces. Additionally, Sharp has launched an offsite parking and shuttle service for employees and students who come to the campus regularly during the workweek. Since launching in September, the service has grown to over 70 riders, and plans are underway to expand it further.

These changes are necessary to help ensure the safety of all those who work, visit, and seek care at Sharp's Serra Mesa campus. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Tony Guerra, VP of campus planning and development at (858) 939-4090 or [tony.guerra@sharp.com](mailto:tony.guerra@sharp.com). Any questions for the City can be directed to Biljana Dekic, transportation engineering at (619) 533-4842 or [bdekic@sanidiego.gov](mailto:bdekic@sanidiego.gov).



Since 1998, there have been 12 pedestrian accidents on Health Center Drive; one of these was fatal.

## **Serra Mesa Village News**

The Serra Mesa Village is one year old in January 2016. Among our accomplishments of this past year are the following:

1. Gathered members and elected a Board. Have over 50 people who have attended events and asked for information.
2. Have a core of people who are willing to invest time and energy in the vision of a “neighborly network of seniors for seniors” in an “unplanned retirement community”. People who have not yet become members are welcome at all of our activities.
3. Held 12 monthly meetings at 3pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Library on Aero, began monthly outings around San Diego on the 1st Thursday, and held social times on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1-3pm.
4. Received a Grant through Lutheran Social Services and Gethsemane Lutheran Church for our Health Committee so that we are able to provide assessments by an experienced Geriatric Case Manager from Jewish Family Service for a senior needing “help” but not knowing where to go or what is available. This assessment is available for any senior in Serra Mesa whether or not you are a Village member.
5. Have a website that is coming along nicely...it will be a great communication link. Meanwhile, our email is [serramesavillage10@gmail.com](mailto:serramesavillage10@gmail.com) or leave us a message at the Community Council message phone at 858-565-2473.
6. Have gathered information about resources for seniors in the greater San Diego area. We were able to introduce a Fitness for Seniors class to Serra Mesa.

Challenges this past year is that we have scoured the area for space to meet on a regular basis. We are grateful to the Library and Gethsemane for providing provisional spaces. Anyone have ideas?? We also find it difficult to find and communicate with those in Serra Mesa who are interested in/need the services of the Village. With help from wonderful volunteers we hand delivered information to many homes.

So what's up in January 2016?

January 4 and 18, 1-2:30pm, Board meetings at Gethsemane, 2696 Melbourne Drive...these meetings are open. Come and check us out. We'd like to expand the leadership.

January 7, Trip to Seaport Village. (Will have passed by time Observer is out. However, put 1st Thursdays February 4 and March 3 on your calendar now! Local destinations to be announced soon.)

January 12 and 26 from 1-3pm...games, conversation, and fun at the Meeting Room at Gethsemane, 2696 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary).

January 21, 3pm General Meeting at Library on Aero. Speaker to be announced. Dues of \$25 per person are due beginning in January.

The Board would like to hear from YOU...what needs do you see in Serra Mesa. Email us at [serramesavillage10@gmail.com](mailto:serramesavillage10@gmail.com) or leave us a message at the Community Council message phone at 858-565-2473.

# Serra Mesa Little League 2016 Spring Season Registration

**Home of the 2014 District 33  
T.O.C. Minors and Majors Champions!  
Come join our team!**

## Registration Information:

Players ages 4-16 on or before August 31, 2016

Early Bird Discount - Register online or in person by December 31, 2015

Online Registration at Serra Mesa Little League website: [www.eteamz.com/serramesall/](http://www.eteamz.com/serramesall/)

## Cost:

Division	Age	Cost	Final Cost After 2 Snack Bar Shifts *
T-Ball	4-6	\$145	\$95
Caps	7-8	\$165	\$115
Minors	9-10	\$165	\$115
Majors	11-12	\$165	\$115
Juniors	13-14	\$140	n/a
Seniors (second half)	15-16	\$85	n/a

## Registration Fee Discounts:

- Active Military ~ \$20
- Early registration: November (walk-in and online)~ \$20, December (online only)~ \$10
- Each Sibling registered after the first ~ \$10

## Supplied with Registration:

Team Hat, Shirt, Socks, Belt, Team Picture, Trophy

\*In order to receive \$50 refund, you must fulfill two snack bar shifts. Snack bar fee is for all levels below Juniors.

Contact Bill Brindle with questions 619-813-9815



## 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"/>	<b>Community Council.</b> 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"/>	<b>Planning Group.</b> 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"/>	<b>Recreation Council.</b> 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"/>	<b>Enhancement Committee.</b> 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"/>	<b>Friends of the Library.</b> 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"/>	<b>Friends of Ruffin Canyon.</b> Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Serra Mesa Food Pantry.</b> 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.

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## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

### **January/February, 2016 Events/Programs**

#### **Adult Programs**

**Zumba® Dance/Toning Fitness – 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.

**Knitting Circle – Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.** Join the Knitting Circle to meet new friends and practice a traditional art form.

**January 4, 10:00 a.m. Diabetes Wellness.** Coaching for people with diabetes, their family and friends presented by Mary Hyde, CHHC. For more information contact 858-750-3112 or maryhyde@we-are-well.com.

**January 8, 1:00 p.m. Finding Hidden Jobs.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to tap into the hidden job market.

**January 9, 9:30 a.m. Colored Pencil Society.** A club meeting to share and discuss their artwork.

**January 12, 1:00 p.m. Associated Fine Artists.** Join us for a free art demonstration sponsored by the Associated Fine Artists.

**January 12, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith.

**January 12, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

**January 20, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**January 20, 3:00 p.m. San Diego Travel Club.** A club meeting to share and discuss travel plans.

**January 20, 5:45 p.m. San Diego Homeopathic Society.** A club meeting to discuss and promote holistic health.

**January 21, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**January 21, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**January 24, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

**January 27, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council.** A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

**January 31, 1:30 p.m. Shakuhachi Trio Concert.** Join us for a concert of traditional Japanese music played on the Japanese Bamboo flute by Jonathan Crick, Mary Lu Brandwein and Bruce Jones.

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## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

**February 1, 10:00 a.m. Diabetes Wellness.** Coaching for people with diabetes, their family and friends presented by Mary Hyde, CHHC. For more information contact 858-750-3112 or maryhyde@we-are-well.com.

**February 2, 9, 16 & 23, 6:00 p.m. Smart Investing Workshops.** Sign up for our 4-week workshop series on credit repair, investing, retirement and more. Contact 619-238-6684 or email [SDLBSmartInvesting@sandiego.gov](mailto:SDLBSmartInvesting@sandiego.gov).

**February 9, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Killing Patton* by Bill O'Reilly.

**February 13, 9:30 a.m. Colored Pencil Society.** A club meeting to share and discuss their artwork.

**February 16, 1:00 p.m. Associated Fine Artists.** Join us for a free art demonstration sponsored by the Associated Fine Artists.

**February 17, 12:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**February 17, 3:00 p.m. San Diego Travel Club.** A club meeting to share and discuss travel plans.

**February 17, 5:45 p.m. San Diego Homeopathic Society.** A club meeting to discuss and promote holistic health.

**February 18, 3:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**February 18, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**February 21, 1:30 p.m. Japanese Music Concert.** Come and enjoy a free, live concert performed on the koto and shakuhachi.

**February 24, 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 26, 1:00 p.m. Salary Negotiation.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to effectively negotiate your salary with any employer.

**February 28, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

### **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 us for a storytime that 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.

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## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

**January 4, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**January 6 & 20, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**January 8 & 22, 11:00 a.m. Math Circle.** Learn new ways of approaching math problems in a group led by Dr. A. Chiznik from San Diego State University. Pre-register at [mathcircle@cfspoway.org](mailto:mathcircle@cfspoway.org).

**January 11 & 25, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

**January 14, 21 & 28, 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 1, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

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

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

**February 11, 18 & 25, 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 12 & 26, 11:00 a.m. Math Circle.** Learn new ways of approaching math problems in a group led by Dr. A. Chiznik from San Diego State University. Pre-register at [mathcircle@cfspoway.org](mailto:mathcircle@cfspoway.org).

**Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on January 23 and February 27**

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children and seniors. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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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**Happy New Year**  
**2016**  


***Serra Mesa Observer***  
Editor: *Ronda Adams*  
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## **FRIENDSHIP LUNCH OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

Join us for the Friendship Lunch  
Volunteers from our neighborhood offer  
the Serra Mesa community  
a soup, bread, and dessert every Wednesday noon to 1:00 p.m.

The "Friendship Lunch" has **no age limitation**

There is no cost but all are invited to bring non-perishable cans or  
packages of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship 2650 Melbourne Drive 92123  
More information at 858-277-6572 or 858-278-2633