



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, January 23
6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, February 27
6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhood People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

Serra Mesa Community Council Board

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 Cindy McIntyre(858) 565-2473*
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Local Business Coordinator

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 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473*
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 Melissa Cima.....(858)565-2473*
Observer Staff/Education
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 Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473*
Utility Box Coordinator

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

SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS

Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473
 e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org
 Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473
 e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
 City Councilmember Scott Sherman (619) 236-6677
 Mayor Kevin Faulconer (619) 236-6330
 County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544
 State Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber (619) 531-7913
 State Senator Toni G. Atkins (619) 645-3133
 Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641
 U.S. Representative Susan Davis (619) 280-5353
 U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan 8	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 17	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 19	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Jan 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Feb 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Feb 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

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

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Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer

are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.

For articles, e-mail Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com

Deadline: March / April 2019 Edition...February 22nd.

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

<http://www.serramesa.org> communitycouncil@serramesa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HAPPY NEW YEAR

A new year brings excitement with new goals and objectives. So many factors effect our daily lives as we attempt to try and provide more for the community and our residents. One of the great gems in our crown is our library with Rosa Kwon who continues to bring more programs and services. If you are not aware, on the 4th Monday of every month we have Oasis programs which enable us to learn more about the myriad of programs that they have. If you receive the Observer, our bi-monthly newsletter a schedule of library activities is included in every issue. If you do not receive it, you can get it by logging on to www.serramesa.org and click on the community council drop down menu and get all the editions for the year.

Another goal is to follow all the activities for our Parks and Recreation Facility. If you are not aware, we have started a ceramic class for seniors (55 and up) at the "Rec Center" which will be held every Wednesday from 12-4PM. Check in at the front desk and they will direct you to our workroom where you can create your treasure. We have our own kiln and you can complete your project right on the premises.

We are attempting to create a Senior Center which will provide a place where our seniors can go to socialize, play games, watch movies, and be with other seniors at a time that is convenient for them. This is being done at the direction our Serra Mesa Village and if you are a senior and looking for some activities with some friendly people, contact us at the Serra Mesa website and click on Serra Mesa Village.

We continue to monitor the connection between Civita and Serra Mesa and as it turns out, Civita is not looking forward to the connection any more than we are. Our concern is traffic and the current plan shows the connection running through the middle of a new park. We also remain concerned with the new stadium options to ensure that the developers of whichever project is selected is done with the input of our Planning Group.

We look forward to your input on community issues and invite you to our Serra Mesa Community Council meetings held at our library on the 4th Wednesday of every month except July and December when we are dark. If you would like to be included in our email listing which gives details of all of our meetings, please email me at: communitycouncil@serramesa.org, or call and leave me a phone message at: (858) 565-2473. If you would like to join our board, we have vacancies and would love to include you to help us. Remember, we are all about you and if you would like to help us, WE WANT YOU!

Carl Demas, President SMCC

Serra Mesa Village January 2019						
◀ December						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HABC - Holy Angel Byzantine Church - 2235 Galahad Road	SMRC - Serra Mesa Rec Ctr, - 9020 Village Glen Dr.	1 NATIONAL HANGOVER DAY	2 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 AM Exercise MVCF 1:00 PM OASIS SMK 1:00-4:00 Ceramics SMRC	3 10:00 AM - SMV Day Trip SMK	4 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	5
6 CUDDLE UP DAY	7 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 1:00 PM- SMV Board Mtg HABC	8 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC BUBBLE BATH DAY	9 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 AM Exercise MVCF 1:00-4:00 Ceramics SMRC	10 BITTERSWEET CHOC DAY	11 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	12
13 MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE DAY	14 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	15	16 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 AM Exercise MVCF 1:00-4:00 Ceramics SMRC	17 3:30 PM - SMV Meeting SMK	18 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC THESAURUS DAY	19 10:30 AM - HLAA MVCF
20 NAT'L CHEESE LOVERS DAY	21 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	22 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	23 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 AM Exercise MVCF 1:00-4:00 Ceramics SMRC	24 COMPLIMENT DAY	25 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	26
27 CHOCOLATE CAKE DAY	28 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	29 NAT'L PUZZLE DAY	30 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 AM Exercise MVCF 1:00-4:00 Ceramics SMRC	31 INSPIRE YOUR HEART WITH ART DAY	SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR MVCF - MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - 2650 MELBOURNE DR	

Serra Mesa Village February 2019						
◀ January						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	2
3	4 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 1:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	5	6 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 Exercise MVCF 12:00 Ceramics SMRC 1:00 PM Oasis SMK	7 10:00 AM SMV Day Trip SMK	8 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	9
10	11 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	12 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	13 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 Exercise MVCF 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	16
17	18 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	19	20 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 Exercise MVCF 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	21 3:30 PM SMV Meeting SMK	22 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	23
24	25 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC	26 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	27 9:00 AM Walking group SMRC 10:30 Exercise MVCF 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	28	SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR - 9020 VILLAGE GLEN DR SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR MVCF - MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - 2650 MELBOURNE DR HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD	

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Cell: 928-978-2300
E-Mail: carol.j.reed@gmail.com
Worship: 8:00, 9:30 a.m.

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 15 & February 19 at 6:30 p.m.



You're not alone dealing with hearing loss –
yours or a loved one's. Twenty percent of
Americans have it. Join us for friendship,
support and lots of "how to" information.
Plus, we provide captions so you
won't miss a word!

What: Hearing Loss Meeting
When: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 19 and February 16
Where: Mission Village Christian Fellowship
2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
Cost: FREE

<http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org/>

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MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT FOR RESIDENTS

Scott Sherman

Recently, Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced the expansion of an online portal that will make the application process for single-family home improvements easier and more efficient.

The new residential feature is an expanded function of an online business website called OpenCounter, an innovative web portal that streamlines the process of locating, expanding, and getting permits for a business in the city.

Now, the program will be expanded to help homeowners, contractors, and builders with information on potential permits required for home-improvements. The program guides users through the permitting process such as building or repairing a secondary structure such as a pool or a deck; installing solar panels or graywater systems; and upgrading building exteriors like replacing a roof or windows.

By moving the permitting process online, the City is providing customized assistance 24 hours a day and giving City officials a new level of insight into economic trends. Since 2017, OpenCounter has logged more than 75,000 site visits and launched more than 23,000 business projects, becoming a valuable one-stop-shop for entrepreneurs and residents.

I am proud that the City of San Diego continues to move services online and implement innovative ideas to better serve taxpayers and businesses. To access this new and convenient tool please visit: business.sandiego.gov.

If Serra Mesa residents have other ideas on how the city can better improve services, please contact my office at 619-236-6677 or email at ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov.

FRANKLIN RIDGE ROAD CONNECTION UPDATE

Summary: An environmental lawsuit regarding the approval of the road connection from Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa to Civita in Mission Valley was filed on November 27, 2017. The “Save Civita Because Sudberry Won’t” group, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is suing to protect public safety and the quality of life in Civita and Serra Mesa. There are Serra Mesa residents on this group’s board, who will represent Serra Mesa’s interests.

Lawsuit Timeline Update: City reviews and certifies the Administrative Record by December 31, 2018; City files answer to petition in January; Petitioner (Save Civita Because Sudberry Won’t) files brief in February; City’s response due in March; Petitioner’s reply brief due in April; hearing before judge scheduled on April 23, 2019. The judge will decide on the merits of the case. It’s assumed that the dates could change if there are extenuating circumstances.

Here’s a description from the Internet of “Answer to the Petition”: Once a defendant has received a summons and petition, he is required to file an “answer” to the petition with the court. In the answer, the defendant tells the court his side of the story, and why he does not agree with certain facts in the legal petition.

Lawsuit Fees: Funds are needed for the lawsuit. If you have concerns about the road connection, please consider donating to this cause. Donation information is at <http://savecivita.com/take-action/> or checks can be addressed to Save Civita and mailed to PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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



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www.stcolumbasandiego.com

Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00a.m.&5:30p.m.
Mon-Thurs.	7:00 a.m.
Fri.	8:15 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule

SERRA MESAN GRABBING THAT CENTURY MARK

John Ritz, with wife Naomi Adams Ritz, is a longtime Serra Mesan, and one who has seen and experienced a lot more than almost all of us during his 101 years on this earth. He's still going strong, though slowed down no surprise, while living in the house they bought in 1961 on the Phyllis Place side of I-805.

He was buying property in that part of Serra Mesa for the California State Highway Department, where he headed the department in charge of acquiring right-of-ways along the pathway of several upcoming freeways. "That area became the route for 805" per John. "An earlier one was I-5, and to get property rights I went up to the Camp Pendleton area, then came on south through Oceanside and other cities to San Diego. Did the same for I-8, buying property all the way over to Yuma."

Going back a few decades, he arrived in this life in 1917 in Atlantic City, NJ, where his father was the assistant manager of one of the huge hotels along the Boardwalk. John was an active and curious kid growing up, with a strong memory today. "I met Charles Lindbergh in 1927, when he came to our hotel after his landmark flight from the U.S. to France. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, came often for vacations and I met him. When I graduated from high school in 1935, he hired me to do typing (I was good at that), then posting, for the department of investigations."

Watching Rose Bowl games lured him west in 1940 to Los Angeles where he got a job with Lockheed Vega. "A supervisor there knew me from before when we were both worked for the FBI." A year later he switched to Consolidated-Vultee's (yes that major San Diego-based company) Long Beach operation. In 1943 he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Force and was assigned to the Aviation Cadets school in Texas. "When the war ended in August 1945, the general in charge -- Hap Arnold -- was going to send us all off to occupy Japan as privates. I didn't want to do that and contacted a U.S. Senator I'd heard on the radio. He helped me, and I was discharged, along with 7,000 of my Cadet colleagues."

Then a civilian, John headed back to LA where he almost got a job with the District Attorney. Another attorney intervened and said he could get him a better job with the Santa Monica city government which had a new mayor and a new stadium. "I was hired, not elected, to become the Santa Monica Deputy Mayor. Met lots of celebrities, e.g. Clark Gable, in that role."

Skip ahead to John's California Highways job in San Diego, where John and Naomi met on a blind date in Pt. Loma, where Naomi then lived. Said John "Unlike today where I'm legally blind and hard of hearing, then I had all my senses. We got married and 45 years later, here we are."

John departed from his California Highways job in 1976 to start his own firm, Interad, with several partners and multiple overseas offices, which helped many countries obtain loans. That meant lots of traveling, which after retirement, he and Naomi have often done as a main pleasurable activity.

John will hit the big 102 age next September. "My life has been blessed. I never had to look for a job and I always met people who got one for me." How about an attaboy KUDO for this dude and wife Naomi, for sure!

Tom Leech is a frequent Observer contributor and a member of the SM Community Council Board and the SM Park & Rec Committee. He's the author of many books, including FUN ON THE JOB: Amusing & true tales from Rosie-the-Riveters to Rocket Scientists at a Major Aerospace Company. For info visit www.presentationspress.com.

Tom Leech



SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

January/February 2019 Events/Programs

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** Tuesday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day, Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present and oil paintings by Shin Art Studio in the Community Room, and a display of Mexican carved wooden animals in the display cases.

Adult Programs

Japanese Brush Painting – Mondays, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. until January 14

Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to create beautiful tones of Japanese sumi-ink and paint with unique Japanese brush style. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Piano Class: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (except 1/1 & 1/29)

- **Beginner 1** (No experience) 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **Beginner 2** (Limited, less than 1 year of experience) 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Intermediate** (More than 1 year of experience) 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Explore your musical talent through learning the fundamentals of piano techniques. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Writing Class – Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (except 1/1 & 1/29) Join a community of writers (beginning-advanced level) and learn techniques for writing autobiographies, fiction, and non-fiction reports. Designed to meet the interests of older adults in writing short stories, poetry, and articles for publication or self-improvement. Course covers writing newspaper articles, outlining and writing autobiographies, fiction techniques for writing short stories and novels, and an introduction to poetry writing. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

Communicating with Technology – Fridays, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. until January 25

Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. beginning February 4 (except 2/18)

Focused on the technologies that we use to communicate. Includes hands on learning with smartphones and tablets, as well as lecture/discussion. Topics include: The Cloud, Productivity, Operating systems, Web browsers, Google, Apple and Microsoft tools, Social networks, Photography, Online safety and more. Bring your own device for more hands-on learning. Geared towards 55+, but everyone 18+ is welcomed. Enroll anytime in the class.

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays, February 1 thru April 12, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The AARP will be providing free tax help for taxpayers with low to moderate income on Fridays, February 1 - April 12. Taxpayer clients may come in on any Friday and sign in on the sheet for TODAY or sign up for ONE (1) date in the future.

Knitting Circle – Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Join the knitting circle. Improve your skills in this traditional art form.

Tech Clinic – Saturdays and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. (except 2/2 and 2/3) Need help understanding how to use your tablet or mobile phone? Bring in your device for hands-on, one-on-one help to answer general questions about your device. Learn how to access SDPL's digital content and other eResources.

January 2, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Diet Secrets to Banish Inflammation Forever. What you eat

Continued from page 9

can determine and reverse the inflammation you feel in your joints, muscles, gut, etc. Come learn the hidden dangers in so called “healthy” foods that cause disease and weight gain. Stop suffering with inflammatory pain and live a slimmer and healthier life.

January 8, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

January 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs.

January 16, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

January 17, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

January 17, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

January 23, 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 6, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: The Real Story About Monopoly. The old story that Parker Brothers liked to tell centered on an unemployed Depression-era steam mechanic inventing the game to feed his family. The real story involves a famous nineteenth-century tax theorist, rewriting the trademark laws, experts and tournaments, new editions, globalization, and collectors.

February 6, 6:00 p.m. Sharp Health Workshop: Medicare 101. If you’re turning 65 or are planning to retire soon, it’s time to start thinking about your Medicare options. Attend this free workshop where an expert from Sharp will explain how Medicare works in clear, easy-to-understand language. You’ll learn about Medicare Parts A and B, special enrollment requirements if you start using Medicare after age 65, and the difference between Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement Insurance plans.

February 12, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Milk & Honey* by Rupi Kaur.

February 20, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group. A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

February 21, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting. Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

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

February 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.

Family Program

February 2, 4:00 p.m. Lunar New Year Lion Dance. Celebrate the Lunar New Year’s with a traditional Lion Dance performed by GDPT Chanh Kien. A must see event with amazing stunts.

February 7, 4:00 p.m. Valentines Rocks: Rock Painting. Celebrate the fall with rock painting fun. Paint a rock to hide around the neighborhood as part of #SerraMesaRocks. Painting supplies will be provided, please bring your own rock.

Continued from page 10

Children Programs

Do Your Homework @ the Library Homework Help -Mondays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (except 1/1-1/3, 1/21, and 2/18) Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade can come in for free homework assistance! Bring in your homework to get assistance from one of our Homework Coaches!

Monday Morning Storytime – Mondays, 10:00 a.m. (except 1/21 and 2/18) Join Ms. Carrie every Monday morning for stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills!

Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:00 p.m. Children can read aloud to trained and certified therapy dogs. “Paws to Read” is designed to help children improve their reading skills and confidence in reading out loud.

Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. (except 1/1) Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for toddlers and preschoolers.

Baby/Toddler Explore Time – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Come let your baby or toddler learn about the world by exploring. Little ones can make noise, play, and meet new friends. This is a loosely structured, baby-led program of play, music, songs and more. For babies and toddlers 0-2 years.

January 2 & 16, 4:00 p.m. LEGO Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

January 9, 4:00 p.m. After School Kafternoon Craft. Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

January 19, 1:00 p.m. Viruses: The Zombies of Biology. Learn about some of the world’s most interesting (and dangerous) diseases, how they are transmitted and why some of them are so harmful to the human body. Use creative methods to showcase your knowledge about viruses and find out how they might relate to icons in popular culture (like Spider-man, or Venom!). Program is for students 6th-8th grade. Space is limited.

Registration required. SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext

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

February 13, 4:00 p.m. After School Kafternoon Valentine’s Craft. Join us for a fun and free Valentine’s Craft geared towards ages 4-10.

February 16, 1:00 p.m. Medicine and the Heart. Explore the body’s circulatory system, with a focus on the heart. Get an introduction to human anatomy and physiology and learn about different diseases linked to the heart. This workshop is for students with an interest in anatomy, especially those considering careers in medicine. Program is for students 6th-8th grade. Space is limited. **Registration required.** SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext

Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on January 26 and February 23

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. 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. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library or call 858-573-1396 starting on the 1st of each month.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF SMCC?

SMCC 2019 Budget – The budget is being developed and the Budget Committee would like your input. What would you like the SMCC's focus to be in 2019?

Current SMCC Balance – SMCC, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, has a healthy balance. Your SMCC board is very frugal, spending funds only on what is essential for keeping the organization operational and legal.

The biggest expense is for the *Observer*. The proceeds from subscription income cover most of the costs of printing and mailing the *Observer*. Dedicated volunteers make this possible. These long-term volunteers are **Ronda Adams**, *Observer* editor; **Myra Webb**, maintains the subscription record and prints the labels and the paperwork for the post office; and **Carl and Marge Demas**, labels and mails the *Observer*. Thanks to their efforts we have a bi-monthly *Observer*.

SMCC has additional funds because we received the proceeds from the closure of the Market on the Mesa. We appreciate that the market committee donated their remaining funds to SMCC. This committee worked diligently for many months to provide a market in Serra Mesa's food desert and we thank them for their efforts.

Boundaries for SMCC – SMCC uses the boundaries that are dictated by the City of San Diego. These boundaries are described in the Serra Mesa Community Plan and used by the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG). Within the boundaries are smaller communities, for example – Birdland, Mission Village, Village at Serra Mesa (military housing), and the Phyllis Place area. The northern boundary on Aero is the most confusing one. Both sides of Aero Drive, part of Afton, and the Stonecrest area are all part of Kearny Mesa.

Suggestions – If you have suggestions for SMCC's focus for 2019, please email communitycouncil@serramesa.org. The suggestions can include a program or a project. If it's a big project but something worth pursuing, we'll need to conduct a fundraising campaign and will need lots of help from volunteers.

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MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT FOR RESIDENTS

Scott Sherman

Recently, Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced the expansion of an online portal that will make the application process for single-family home improvements easier and more efficient.

The new residential feature is an expanded function of an online business website called OpenCounter, an innovative web portal that streamlines the process of locating, expanding, and getting permits for a business in the city.

Now, the program will be expanded to help homeowners, contractors, and builders with information on potential permits required for home-improvements. The program guides users through the permitting process such as building or repairing a secondary structure such as a pool or a deck; installing solar panels or graywater systems; and upgrading building exteriors like replacing a roof or windows.

By moving the permitting process online, the City is providing customized assistance 24 hours a day and giving City officials a new level of insight into economic trends. Since 2017, OpenCounter has logged more than 75,000 site visits and launched more than 23,000 business projects, becoming a valuable one-stop-shop for entrepreneurs and residents.

I am proud that the City of San Diego continues to move services online and implement innovative ideas to better serve taxpayers and businesses. To access this new and convenient tool please visit: business.sandiego.gov.

If Serra Mesa residents have other ideas on how the city can better improve services, please contact my office at 619-236-6677 or email at ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov.

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

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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.

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 Dr. Next meetings: January 17 and February 21. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. **SMPG has one board opening** due to the resignation of Cindy Moore. Cindy writes that she is traveling a lot and can't always attend meetings but indicates that whenever possible she'll stay involved.

The board will fill the opening at the January 17th meeting. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. Also, on March 21, 2019, SMPG will conduct an annual election for board members for two-year terms. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>. If you are interested in being on the board, please email smpg@serramesa.org.

Current SMPG board members are Jim Antoshak, Chris Castillo, Ian Clampett, Bob Crider (Vice Chair), David Dalton, Denise Davidson, Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, Adam Gardner, Tony Guerra, Nicole Johnson, Bob McDowell, Bryce Niceswanger (Chair), Matt Shirley, and Catherine Tomovich (Secretary).

The boundary between Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa is convoluted. The Kearny Mesa planning area includes most of Aero Drive, part of Ruffin Road south, part of Afton Road, and Kearny Villa Road. SMPG representatives monitor development proposals in these areas by attending the Kearny Mesa Planning Group (KMPG) meetings. Being a good neighbor KMPG usually asks that developers of proposed projects in the aforementioned areas make presentations to SMPG.

Pending Projects in Kearny Mesa – <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs>, select Public Notices, enter Kearny Mesa in Searchfor: box

Program Environmental Impact Report for Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update – Detailed information at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/pn_1619_607857_notice_of_preparation_and_scoping_meeting_kearny_mesa_community_plan_update_110918.pdf. An environmental impact report will be prepared. It's being proposed that there be "...increased housing capacity for approximately 25,000 residential dwelling units generally located along Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Convoy Street, and south of Aero Drive."

VA Facility Conditional Use Permit – Application for expansion of an existing two-story building to create a 141,000 square-foot, new hospital annex for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, with new parking structure, located at 8825 and 8875 Aero Drive. Detailed information at http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/LandUseAndDevelopment/PN%201300%20PTS%20614178%20NA%208-22-2018%20VA%20Facility%20%20%20CUP.pdf. As of December 20 the VA has declined an invitation to attend a SMPG meeting.

The Aero – Proposal for a 434-apartment unit development, which consists of six-stories with mezzanine surrounding a seven-story parking structure at 8225 Aero Drive (former Kelco building). Details at http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/LandUseAndDevelopment/PN1300%20PTS%20606376%20NA%207-23-2018%20The%20Aero.pdf. The developer for this project has presented at one SMPG meeting and will return in the future.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO AGE WELL

The World Health Organization (WHO) is promoting their livable communities' program through their affiliate, AARP in the United States. The emphasis of the program is on Age-Friendly communities.

There are 311 Age-Friendly communities in the U.S. (aarp.org/agefriendly). Currently 720 cities and communities around the world have joined the WHO Global Network.

The WHO Age-Friendly program highlights 8 Domains of Livability that cities and communities can address better to adapt their structures and services to the needs of older people: the built environment, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication, and community support and health services.

The County of San Diego has decided to participate in this program and is in the second of a five-year plan to make San Diego a better place to live. A series of meetings at the San Diego County Operations Center generated five goals to guide this year's planning: Health and Community Support, Housing, Social Participation, Transportation, and Dementia-Friendly.

After planning measurable goals, the plan will be implemented for three years, and goals measured to assure successful attainment of an Age-Friendly community.

The City of Chula Vista began their participation in Age-Friendly at the same time as the County of San Diego, and La Mesa is expected to be next in this region. On December 5, 2018, the San Diego City Council heard from citizens who asked the City of San Diego to join the Age-Friendly program.

Serra Mesa Village has assigned a liaison to the AARP meetings associated with the Age-Friendly program. A Serra Mesa community center development plan could make our community more Age-Friendly, so its advocacy will be included in the discussion of Age-Friendly goals in future San Diego County (and maybe someday City) meetings.

Preston Chipps is the newly appointed liaison to the AARP and Secretary of the Serra Mesa Village.

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KEEP SERRA MESA TRASH FREE

Many of us in Serra Mesa walk daily around the neighborhoods and notice trash in many forms. Cups, bags, straws from fast food establishments. Bottles and cans thrown in the gutter or laying on the sidewalks. Many items are good size, but many pieces of small plastic trash are everywhere. Plastic bags and now plastic straws have been banned or on an ask for basis. It is a tragedy that we Americans cannot pick up after ourselves. Even where trashcans are placed for public use, people are too lazy to place the trash in them. Well, many of us are banding together and as we walk are picking up trash as part of daily or weekly routines. If you would like to become one of those in support of a clean Serra Mesa and pick up trash, we would like to provide you with a free grabber to use to pick up any trash you come across. Contact the Community Council at communitycouncil@serramesa.org and we will be in touch to get you your grabber.

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