



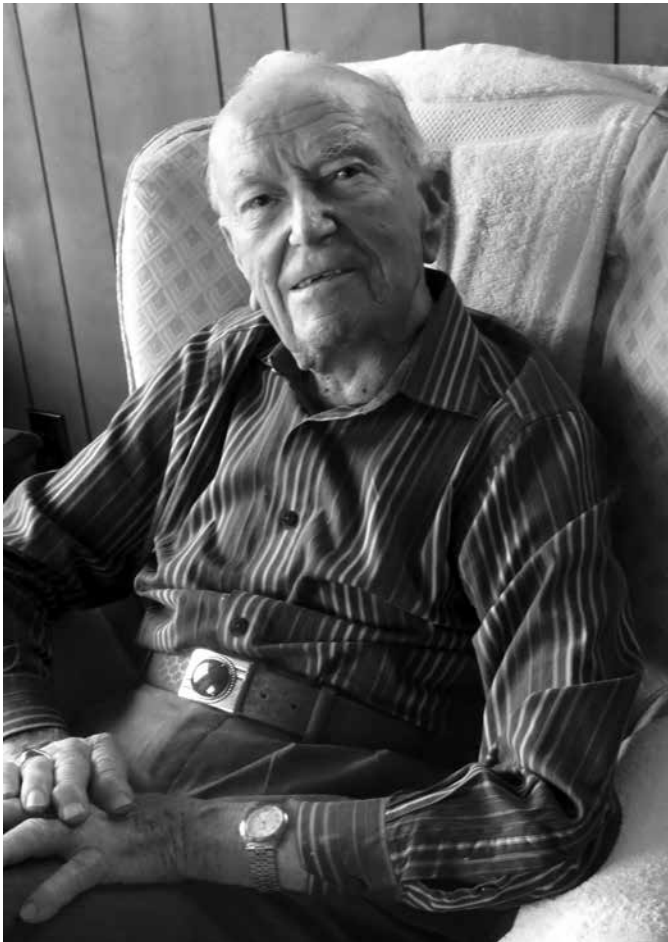
PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2    MARCH / APRIL 2019

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**ANOTHER SERRA MESAN GOING STRONG**  
**PAST THAT CENTURY MARK**



Picture by T. Leech  
See page 4 for the rest of the story.



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

You are invited to participate in the

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, March 27

6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, April 24

6:30 p.m.

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

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 Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473\*  
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 Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Special Projects/SMPG*  
 Kimberly Lieu/Diana Wendel.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Farmers Market*  
 Jennifer St. Clair.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Pantry, Garden, Village Coordinator*  
 Terry O'Regan.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Local Business Coordinator*

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 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Editor*  
 Melissa Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff/Education*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff*  
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*Message Coordinator*  
 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**

Mar 12	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Mar 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Mar 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Mar 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Mar 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Apr 16	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Apr 18	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Apr 20	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Apr 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 24	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 4	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:** May / June 2019 Edition...April 15th.

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

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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



### **WE LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES**

I find it exciting to see so many young families pushing baby carriages as well as so many home modifications and additions in our neighborhood. It shows that we are growing and no longer the sleepy, secret community hidden among the canyons. It is great to see a business in our community like Maggie's Restaurant flourish and supported by many locals. The food is always plentiful, reasonable, and accommodating especially with their added space. Our home values have climbed to the point of almost being unaffordable, but a value based on comparison to adjacent areas and the wonderful location we enjoy.

With the increased traffic on Aero Drive, Ruffin Drive, Mission Village Drive, and Sandrock, I caution automobile drivers to be conscious of School Buses, School Crossings, and speed limits during marked school hours. When the blinking lights of the School Bus are lit, the law stipulates that traffic in both directions should stop and watch for school children crossing the street. I also notice that Post Office users like to park in front of the outside mailboxes in no parking zones and prevent those of us who want to deposit mail from our cars cannot. It is just not the way we want to treat neighbors.

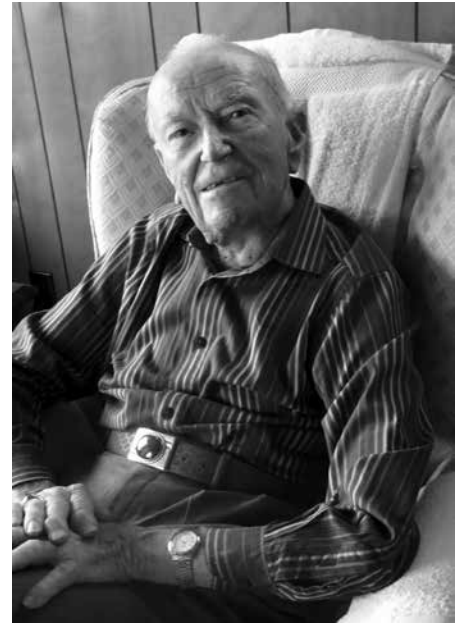
I want to congratulate our librarian, Rosa Kwon for the many interesting Library programs which have captivated our neighborhood and established us as one of the outstanding libraries in San Diego. Rosa and her staff are always available for assistance to answer our questions and assist us in any of our endeavors at the library. Our community room is the envy of the City and a beautiful place for gathering.

If you would like to receive the Observer in your mail, you can subscribe with our Application or Renewal Form & Interest Survey included with this newsletter. It is only \$15 per year for a Household edition or more if you would like to support SMCC. If you prefer, you can view on our website at <http://www.serramesa.org>, click on Community Council and click again on the observer (newsletter). In addition, you can submit your views concerning the present and future of Serra Mesa. Please send us a sheet with issues, suggested goals, and recommendations. We are always looking to utilize the skills and experiences of Serra Mesa residents. Please send us the sheet with a list of your special skill to SMCC, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193 or email us at [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org).

Carl Demas, President of SMCC Board

### **Another Serra Mesan going strong past that century mark**

When you meet Elbert McCune, you might well conclude this is one fellow taking on life well. He'll hit the 102 mark on his upcoming July 13 birthday. "I was born on Friday the 13th," he notes, "That's my lucky number." He's about as active as anyone you likely know, including many much younger. For example every week he's at the historic Balboa Park Spanish Village, teaching a class at the San Diego Mineral & Gem Club. "I first got involved in 1972, learning how to cut large gems. In 1986 I started teaching people how to cut and polish gems and am still doing that."



He was born and raised in a small Missouri town to age 17, joining the Navy in February 1942. In the Navy Air Corp, he was trained in Aviation Maintenance School and got an Air and Engine License. He was assigned to the Submarine Patrol, flying seaplanes that landed in water from many East Coast operations. "One of my Navy career highlights was in February 1945 when we escorted President Roosevelt's fleet armada (partway) across the Atlantic Ocean to the major Yalta conference in Crimea, Soviet Union."

Following his Navy career, he came to San Diego in 1948. With his aviation maintenance training, he hired on to Convair, working on their popular dual engine passenger liners. "I only worked there for six months, as when Navy North Island Air Station offered me a raise of 50 cents/hour I hired on to their Coronado operation. I worked there for 27 years and retired in 1975."

Here he was introduced by a friend to Edna, and they were married on St. Patrick's Day in 1951. They moved into their Serra Mesa new home in 1960, enjoying life here for 4+ decades. Edna passed on in 2001, with Elbert continuing to keep the house in good trim.

Another regular activity and community contribution is his weekly support of the Mission Outreach Thrift Store on Adams Avenue. "I volunteer there for 4 hours every week," he notes, "and am still a maintenance guy, doing repairs and upgrades of items donated by members of the Methodist Church." Did I mention he ushers at the Mission Valley First United Methodist Church every Sunday? Nothing like staying busy to keep life and our Serra Mesa world percolating.

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end article, include TL bio info

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.presentationpress.com](http://www.presentationpress.com).

Tom Leech, author-speaker, amigo

tomaseb@aol.com, 858-650-0810

Newest book: FUN ON THE JOB: Amusing & true tales from Rosie-the-Riveters to Rocket Scientists at a Major Aerospace Company

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E-Mail: karla.seyb.stockton@me.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  
March 19 & April 16 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!

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## **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 represent Serra Mesa’s interests.

**Lawsuit Timeline Update:** The original timeline stipulated that the City would review and certify the Administrative Record by December 31, 2018. There have been “discussions” between the City and the petitioner’s attorney about the documents to be included in the Administrative Record. Consequently, there’s been a delay.

The Administrative Record is important because this is the evidence for the lawsuit and incorporates the materials that were directly or indirectly considered by the decision maker, the City Council. Typically the materials that are included are the project application and supplemental documents, environmental documents, staff reports, public hearing records, and comments and submissions from interested parties.

Next steps in the timeline: City files answer to petition > Petitioner (Save Civita Because Sudberry Won’t) files brief; City’s response > Petitioner’s reply > hearing before judge. The judge will decide on the merits of the case.

The updated timeline when available will be posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

**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 Save Civita, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

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## **Serra Mesa Planning Group News**

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Dr. Next meetings: March 21 and April 18. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

SMPG’s bylaws allow fifteen Board members. **SMPG has one board opening.** Also, on March 21, 2018 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 in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>.

### **Update**

- Veterans Affairs Hospital Annex project at 8825-8875 Aero Drive was approved on January 31, 2019 by the Planning Commission. See related article in this edition.
- Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update draft: Comments were due February 15, 2019. Documents at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/plan-documents/>.
- Notice of Preparation for the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan: Comments were due March 9, 2019. Information at <http://www.sairportplans.com/documents/>. NOP at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa#Public%20Notice%20of%20the%20Preparation%20of%20an%20EIR>.
- Mission Valley Community Plan Update Draft CEQA Document: Comments due March 23, 2019. Information at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa>.
- Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the SDSU West Mission Valley Campus Master Plan Project: Comments were due February 19th, 2019. Information at <http://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/community-engagement.html>. Rachel Gregg, SDSU representative: The CEQA/EIR process has begun with the goal of ultimately beginning construction in 2020. Please send questions or comments to [mvcomments@sdsu.edu](mailto:mvcomments@sdsu.edu). The new email list to share periodic updates that will keep you informed of timely announcements and other news as we progress. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to sign up by visiting <https://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/> via the SDSU Mission Valley website.



## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Abandoned Vehicles &			
Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Animal Control-Incorporated S.D.	(619) 299-7012	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Dead <b>Animal Removal</b> stay on the line	(858) 694-7000	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110		
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500		
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety			



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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

## **Planning Commission Hearing on VA Hospital Annex CUP**

**Project Background:** The Veterans Affairs Hospital Annex project, located at 8825-8875 Aero Drive in the Kearny Mesa planning area, proposes “a building renovation that would include two building additions of approximately 25,000 square feet, resulting in a two-story, 139,000-square-foot office building for the hospital use, the construction of a four-story parking garage, and associated improvements. One addition would be located along the northern edge of the building and the second addition would be located along the western edge of the building.

The project proposes to provide services for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including audiology, pathology, eye clinic, radiology, mental health, and general wellness clinics. A total of 637 parking spaces will be provided, where 486 are required by the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC). The additional 151 parking spaces are necessary to meet federal requirements.” (p. 2, City staff report)

**Planning Commission Hearing:** Representatives from the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) and the Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) spoke at the Planning Commission hearing on the VA Hospital Annex Conditional Use Permit project on January 31. The SMPG spoke primarily about their efforts to obtain information and the declined invitations to present the project at a community meeting. SMCC presented the concerns regarding the proposed improvement to Sandrock Road and the drainage issue at the Sandrock/Aero intersection. None of the representatives expressed opposition to the VA Hospital Annex. The Planning Commission was asked to either continue the item or to delete the line regarding Sandrock Road, “The northbound approach shall be restriped to provide two dedicated left-turn lanes and a shared thru/right-turn lane.”

Drainage at the Sandrock/Aero intersection was discussed. Louis Schultz, City Engineer, [LSchultz@sanidiego.gov](mailto:LSchultz@sanidiego.gov), stated that “Aero is a very challenging drainage system. If a project is going to send an increase to that drain system, then that probably needs to be addressed by the project. But if they are not, then that is not a responsibility of that project.”

**Planning Commission Decision:** The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the project as recommended by City staff. According to the CUP the Sandrock improvement “...shall be completed in a manner that is satisfactory to the City Engineer. All improvements shall be installed and operational prior to occupancy.”

The Planning Commission didn’t discuss who is responsible for the drainage issue.

**Future:** Your community council and planning group made a valiant effort to represent the best interests of the community. The Planning Commission was asked to foster communication, coordination, and cooperation.

Morris Dye, Development Project Manager for city, [mdye@sanidiego.gov](mailto:mdye@sanidiego.gov), indicates that the plans for Sandrock Road presented at the Planning Commission hearing are conceptual. “A design will be approved during public improvement plan review.” In a subsequent communication Morris indicated that “The public improvement plan would be a plan submitted by the applicant for City transportation staff to review. It is a ministerial review similar to a building permit review which does not solicit public input.” From the City’s public information officer, “...please submit any inquiries about the project details including plans for the ensuing submittal of a public improvement plan regarding the intersection, directly to the applicant Steven Bossi or the Atlantis Group.” Contact information for Steven Bossi: [sbossi@atlantissd.com](mailto:sbossi@atlantissd.com), 619-450-6440.

Contact information for the drainage issue wasn’t available prior to the deadline for this article. But Lisa Scott, [lscott@sanidiego.gov](mailto:lscott@sanidiego.gov), is the representative for our city councilmember, Scott Sherman.



## **Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library**

### **March/April 2019 Events/Programs**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library presents *Grand Designs: Oodles of Doodles* by David Ege in the Community Room, and a display of ceramics by Nancy Howard and acrylic paintings and soapstone sculptures by Jody Abssy in the display cases.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale - Saturday, March 29, 10:00a.m.** Join us for a Fill-A-Bag Used Book Sale! \$5 (cash only) for reusable bag and all the gently used books you can stuff into it! Just about every genre you can think of! Great way to get rid of your loose change while helping to provide programs and activities at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library!

### **Adult Programs**

#### **Communicating with Technology – Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (except 3/25 and 4/1)**

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.

#### **Piano Class - Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (except 3/26)**

- **Beginner 1** (No experience) 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 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 3/26)** 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.

#### **Japanese Brush Painting - Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (except 3/28)**

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.

**AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays, through 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.

Continued from page 9

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

**March 6, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Women Impressionists.** Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Marie Braquemond, Eva Gonzales and Lilla Cabot Perry were just some of the female artists of the Impressionist period in France. We will explore the artworks of these well-known and not so well-known artists and demonstrate their contributions were just as innovative if not more to their male counterparts.

**March 8, 11:00 a.m. VoiceOver Screen Reader Workshop.** The VoiceOver screen reader gives users auditory descriptions of what is on the screen of their Apple devices. The feature is designed to increase accessibility for blind and low-vision users, as well as for users with Dyslexia. Please bring your Apple device for more hands-on experience. Register at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/voiceover-screen-reader-workshop>

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

**March 12, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea.

**March 16, 2:00 p.m. Voice of San Diego Education Guide Community Event.** Join Voice of San Diego and the San Diego Workforce Partnership for a free information session where you can get your copy of the guide. Experts will be on hand to answer questions about school choice, special programs, and other factors to consider as you decide where to enroll your K-12 student.

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

**March 20, 6:30 p.m. Mesa Classical Guitar Ensemble Concert: From Baroque to the Beatles.** An eclectic mix of classic/acoustic guitar arrangements. Director, George Svoboda.

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

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

**March 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.

**April 3, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Walking the Camino: A Pilgrimage Across Northern Spain.** Follow along on Camino Frances, the most popular of the medieval pilgrimage routes established to honor the Apostle St. James. Learn about the path's history and see the variety of Spanish landscapes that pilgrims walk through to reach the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. With over 200,000 people walking the Camino in 2013, this ancient route has captured the imagination of twenty-first century spiritual seekers and adventurers. Come explore the art, architecture, and pilgrim practices associated with the path and discover what it's like to be a walker.

**April 9, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham.

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**April 17, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**April 18, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

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

**April 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.

### **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 4/1)** 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 4/1)** Join Ms. Carrie every Monday morning for stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills!

**Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.** 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.

**March 2, 1:00 p.m. Messy Science.** Learn about Earth science as you never have before – by handling messy slime and conducting noisy and colorful experiments. Discover the physics, chemistry and biology of volcanoes, rain clouds, rock formation and other natural phenomena as you stomp, squeeze and sometimes eat your way through hands-on activities. Program is for students 3rd-5th grade. Space is limited. **Registration required.** [SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext](https://sandiego.gov/LibraryNext)

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

**March 13, 4:00 p.m. After School Kafternoon Craft.** Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

**March 18, 4:00 p.m. Create a Creature.** See how sea life has adapted to their unique environment and use this knowledge to create a creature of your own! Program is for geared towards 9-12 year olds. Registration is required. <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/create-creature>

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**March 27, 4:00 p.m. Kids to Canyons Nature Walk and Talk.** Join Park Ranger Carey for a nature walk and talk focusing on the different plants, and their uses, that are found in the canyon right outside the library. Wear comfortable shoes for an easy nature walk into the canyon located behind the library.

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

**April 10, 4:00 p.m. After School Krafteernoon Craft.** Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

**April 13, 1:00 p.m. The Making of a Superhero.** In this interactive workshop, students will explore the hero's journey in literature and the real world. Participants will learn about the concept of the hero's journey as described by mythologist Joseph Campbell. They will learn the attributes of a hero, identify their own "super powers," and explore how science, technology, psychology and medicine contribute to today's heroes. Program is for students 6th-8th grade. Space is limited. **Registration required.** [SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext](https://sandiego.gov/LibraryNext)

**April 29, 4:30 p.m. Making Waves.** Did you know that if we take three deep breaths, the oxygen from two of those breaths comes from plants which live in the ocean? Marine plants help reduce global warming and provide our atmosphere. Learn about the science behind these funky plants at this Spring into Steam event! Program is geared towards 9-12 year olds. Registration is required. <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/create-creature>

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

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**Please Note:** In the Jan/Feb Observer edition it was reported that the VA had declined an invitation to attend an SMPG meeting. Subsequent to that article it was learned that VA is not involved in the City's application process. The applicant for the VA Hospital Annex Project is Protea Aero Drive LLC.

**References:** At the last minute staff made a change to the conditional use permit and Condition #37 referenced in the Serra Mesa Community Council speech and Planning Commission booklet became Condition #38. References are at <http://www.serramesa.org/news-events/>.

- Speeches from Serra Mesa representatives
- Booklet given to Planning Commissioners
- Planning Commission Hearing - [http://sandiego.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=8](http://sandiego.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=8) > January 31, 2019 > 2:40. Community speeches begin at 24:04.
- Approved Conditional Use Permit
- Resolution

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes  
January / February New and Renewed Subscribers***

Mary Lou Allgire  
 Jackie Ander  
 Kathleen Andrews \*  
 Russell Armstead \*  
 Carolyn Barr \*  
 Pat Baumgartner  
 Larry & Sharon Bay \*\*  
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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.



## **Growing Up in a Medical Family: Free Career Education helps Student become a CNA**

By: Allura Garis



San Diego Continuing Education prepares students for CNA examination

The healthcare industry is showing rapid growth across Southern California and San Diego residents could strengthen their earning power with free career education.

The largest provider of noncredit education in California, San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) offers six free Healthcare Career certificates; Nursing Assistant, Rehabilitative Nursing Assistant, Acute Care Nursing Assistant, Personal Care Assistant/Caregiver, Home Health Aide and Behavioral Home Health Aide.

Faithe Thogode was raised in a family of healthcare professionals but never intended to choose the same career as her parents until trying SDCE's free program.

Faithe has been a barista and a doggy daycare manager for years. "It's my time to learn, further my career and earn better wages," she stated.

For 4 months, she commuted from Poway to Barrio Logan to attend SDCE's Cesar Chavez Campus, the Campus of Excellence for Healthcare Careers.

Though she may not be far along in her studies yet, Faithe had a career advantage growing up in a medical family. Both of her parents are well educated; her dad works as a Psychiatric Licensed Vocational Nurse and her mom is a Registered Nurse.

Through lecture and hands-on skills practice, SDCE's Nursing Assistant training program students learn to assist patients as well as report changes in their physical or mental status. The comprehensive course prepares students for the CNA examination and graduates become certified as a Nurse Assistant by the State of California.

Following SDCE, Faithe accepted a position as a CNA with a Grossmont hospital.

After certification completion, SDCE students are ready for entry-level employment or can transition to San Diego Mesa College to pursue an associate degree in Medical Assisting or Health Information Technology and then toward a bachelor's degree in Health Information Management. Mesa is one of fifteen local community colleges to take part in California's Baccalaureate Pilot Program.

SDCE's spring semester is underway. Visit [SDCE.EDU](https://www.sdce.edu) to sign up for a free Healthcare Careers orientation.

## 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Serra Mesa Village.</b> An active non-profit organization for residents 55+ who promote connections to help our members thrive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Serra Mesa Observer***  
Editor: *Ronda Adams*  
Post Office Box 23315  
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