



## National Night Out:

### Community Safety Awareness Gathering

On Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa City Public Library joined for the first time, in the National Night Out campaign, by having a Community Safety Awareness Gathering in their front yard.

Continue on page 11



Pictures by Rebecca Moreno



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

You are invited to participate in the

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, September 25

6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

Wednesday, October 23

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 - Officers**

Carl Demas.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*President*  
 Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Treasurer/Community Events*  
 Cindy McIntyre .....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Secretary*

**Board Members**

Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Current Issues*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Education Committee*  
 Jackie Ander.....(858) 565-2473\*  
*Friends of the Library*  
 Rebecca Moreno .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Local Business Coordinator*  
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*SMRC*  
 Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Special Projects/SMPG*

**Appointed Positions**

Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Subscription Records*  
 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Editor*  
 Melissa Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff/Education*  
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff*  
 Marge Demas.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Mailing Coordinator*  
 Geralyn White.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Neighborhood Awareness*  
 Colin Dowling .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Webmaster*

**Key Serra Mesa Volunteers**

Bob Crider.....(858)565-2473\*  
*SMPG President*  
 Monica Fuentes .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Friends of Ruffin Canyon*  
 Luisa Johnson .....(858)565-2473\*  
*Serra Mesa Food Pantry*  
 Karl Doering .....(858)565-2473\*  
*SM Community Garden & Orchard*

*\*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 Nathan Fletcher (619) 531-5544  
 State Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber (619) 531-7913  
 State Senator Toni G. Atkins (619) 645-3133  
 Governor Gavin Newsom (619) 525-4641  
 U.S. Representative Susan Davis (619) 280-5353  
 U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

Sept 10	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sept 17	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Sept 19	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Sept 21	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Sept 25	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Oct 17	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 19	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Oct 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

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

**In This Issue...**

SMCC Community Forums	1
Community Phone Numbers, Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Dear Observer Subscriber	4
Important Phone Numbers, Business Cards	5
SMRC, Business Cards	6
Making a Difference, SMPG	7
Ruffin Canyon Palm Removal & Restoration Grant	8
Latest News, Stadium Redevelopment	9
Take A Ruffin Canyon Hike	10
National Night Out: Community Safety Awareness...	11
Comping Weeds, St. Columba Fall Festival	12
Companion Unit Handbook Released...	13
Camp Pendleton Marine Veteran Achieves...	14
Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update, Library Donation...	15
Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update	16
Taft & Other Joint Use Parks	17
Keep the Lead Off my Head	18
Serra Mesa / Kearny Mesa Branch Library	19
Free Trees	21
Serra Mesa Village Calendars	22

**Serra Mesa Observer** is published bimonthly by the

Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approx 800  
 Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25 Benefactor...\$50

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

**Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer**

are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.

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

**Deadline:** November / December 2019 Edition...October 15th.

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

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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



### **The current state of affairs in Serra Mesa**

Let's start with our ongoing issue with the road connection between Civita and Serra Mesa. The Serra Mesa Community Council has approved support of our sister community. The purpose is to oppose the connection, because of the increased traffic and interruption of a planned park for which the connection would bisect. Civita does not want a thoroughfare running through their community any more than we do. The original goal was to provide an additional connection from Friars Road to the I-805 as currently, Mission Center Road is the only solution. Our pleas as citizens have not been addressed. As a member of the San Diego Coalition of Town Councils, we are finding that other groups are facing the same issues of City Organizations not listening to the wishes of the people.

Another issue is leaded aviation fuel emissions from Montgomery Gibbs Airport. As we live near an airport used by small planes, air quality problems are a daily reality. Lead pollution from small airplanes that continue to use lead-based fuel is a major problem since lead can adversely affect the nervous system, kidney function, immune system, reproductive and developmental systems, and the cardiovascular system. The California Environmental Health (CEH) organization has taken legal action in California to address the pollution problem from lead-based aviation fuel and have reached an agreement to help alleviate lead pollution around 23 California airports, including Montgomery Gibbs Airport. We also expect our legal action will prompt the aviation

industry to adopt lead-free fuel more quickly, sparing the air around airports nationwide. To date, we have not received any response except for a warning sign hidden on Aero Drive advising residents of the danger. Montgomery Gibbs is not interested in solving the issue.

The last issue involves a Senior Center for residents 55 and older. Currently, we are limited to one meeting a month at the library and must find other places for our events which include, our connection meeting, travel events, two movie afternoons, board meetings, and missed recreational gatherings because of a lack of meeting facilities. While local churches have been generous, seniors are reluctant to attend functions held at churches. We have inquired about the previous library but to no avail. It seems that the homeless will utilize that property.

I refer to our community as the best-kept secret in town, but when one looks at Aero Drive and Murry Ridge Road in prime time, our secret is getting out. Patience and understanding are the mode of the day as it will only continue to worsen as folks try to find a better and faster way to get around. We are changing for the better and I really like what I see with more baby carriages, home additions, and programs available for residents. Our Recreation Center and Library continue to be our highlights as they both work hard to give us their best. I hope you feel as I do as we continue to be a better community.

Carl Demas, President SMCC

Dear Observer Subscriber,

The Serra Mesa Community Council Board voted on April 15, 2019 to **suspend printing and mailing of the *Observer* beginning in January/February 2020**. The *Observer* will continue to be provided online at <http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/> and an email notice will be distributed when the newest edition is available. If you don't already receive SMCC notices for meetings and events, please visit <http://www.serramesa.org/> and enter your email address in the "Sign up for Serra Mesa Notices" box. These email addresses are only used by Serra Mesa community groups and aren't shared with any other entity.

**Current Subscribers:**

Receive the *Observer* until end of year. If you renewed or subscribed in 2019, you can contact us and request a refund. Refund for January/February 2019 subscribers is \$2.50; March/April 2019, \$5.00. If you have a different situation, please contact us.

**New/Renewals Subscriptions:**

No longer accepted except in a special situation.

**Special Situation:**

We recognize that some of you may not have Internet service or have a special need for a paper copy. We want you to have access to the *Observer* so if you need a paper copy, please contact us with your contact information (listed at end of letter). An arrangement will be made for your special situation.

**Reasons for Decision:**

The *Observer* has been published and mailed for 33 years. We thank all of you who have been loyal subscribers. We recognize that this decision may be a disappointment. This hard decision was made based primarily on the following:

Costs – Increase in cost of printing the newsletter. Since the number of subscriptions has steadily declined, we will reach the point this year where the *Observer* no longer qualifies for the cheapest mailing rate. The new mailing rate would be cost prohibitive.

Volunteers – Maintaining a subscription database and mailing the *Observer* requires a lot of volunteers hours. Dedicated volunteers have provided this service for decades. If any of these volunteers needed a break, it would be a challenge to replace them.

Timeliness – An online publication will provide more timely information.

**Donations:**

SMCC will still need operational funds: e.g., post office box, Constant Contact, etc. Donations would be welcomed and are tax deductible since SMCC is a 501(c)3 organization. Checks can be mailed to SMCC, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193. Please write **SMCC Donation** in the memo.

**Contact Information:**

PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193; 858-565-2473; [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)

Sincerely,

Your Serra Mesa Community Council Board

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>Abandoned Vehicles &amp;</b>			
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			



**\*From Concept to Completion\***  
 18 years strong Serra Mesa  
 Video Production Company  
 Venue Filming\*Music Video Production\*Video Montages  
 Media/Marketing Relations  
 Ask for Liz: [emlmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:emlmedia@yahoo.com)

*Marvin Sloben*  
 Photographer

**619.239.2828**

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

3026 North Park Way • San Diego, CA 92104

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



**St. Columba Parish**

3327 Glencolum Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 277-3863

[www.stcolumbasandiego.com](http://www.stcolumbasandiego.com)

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





**IMPROVE**  
— REALTY —

*Improve* your home.  
*Improve* your bottom line.

Jason LaMell | Broker  
619.300.5697  
www.improverealtyus.com  
CalBRE#01861043

*Instead of selling  
your home "As-is",  
let us remodel to get  
you more money!*

- We **remodel** your home
- We **sell** it fast
- You keep the **profit**  
(No out-of-pocket costs)

Put our expertise to work  
for you! Call to find out  
how. 619.300.5697

## 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  
September 17 & October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Endodontics      Crowns      Cosmetics  
Prosthodontics      Implants

**WILLIAM E. LARSON, D.M.D.**  
AERO DENTISTRY

3755 Murphy Canyon Rd. #D      Tel: (858) 277-2999  
San Diego, CA 92123      Fax: (858) 277-3086



**HLAA**  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
San Diego Chapter

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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of month, Jan to May and Sept to Dec. Check website for details.  
Where: Mission Village Christian Fellowship  
2650 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Cost: FREE <http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org/>



**Gethsemane**  
Lutheran Church

**Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton**

2696 Melbourne Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858-277-6572  
www.gethsemanesd.org

Cell: 858-883-8038  
E-Mail: karla.seyb.stockton@me.com  
Worship: 8:00, 9:30 a.m.

**CABRILLO POOL SERVICE**  
For A Sparkling Clean Pool!




**MIKE NELSON**  
OWNER/OPERATOR

Text/Phone 619-756-2087      **Free Estimates!!**  
cabrillopoolservice@outlook.com      P.O. BOX 23726  
SAN DIEGO CA 92193

## **Making A Difference**

### **Community Volunteer, Library – Ellie Rupert**

About a year ago Ellie Rupert stopped by the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and asked about volunteering. Ellie's offer to volunteer was prompted by her sister's volunteer work at the Ridgecrest public library. On Sundays and other days when not working as a letter carrier in the 92123 area she spends two or more hours in the Friends of the Library nook area shelving books and helping customers.

When asked about what she likes about volunteering, she stated that, "I like answering questions and helping people select books." Thank you, Ellie, for your dedication and service to the community.

More volunteers are needed! Spend some of your free time in a great, beautiful building (as described by Ellie) on a worthwhile cause. A win-win situation! The proceeds from the sale of donated books are used to purchase new books and equipment and to provide programs for our library.

Send an email to [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org) with contact information for any other Serra Mesa community volunteers that deserve recognition.



## **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: September 19 and October 17. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. SMPG has two board openings. 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 businessperson 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>.

The up and coming topics include the Stadium Site Redevelopment and the traffic impacts on Serra Mesa Roads such as Mission Village Drive and Murray Ridge Road. The impacts of Road connections to Mission Valley, traffic implications from Mission Valley and Kearny Mesa Community Plan Updates. Our focus is to give recommendations to our City Planners and communicate how we want our Community to develop. We have a plan in place and anything that does not fit into the current plan or needs rezoned for building purposes needs to get approval from the City. SMPG is the first step and where your voice can be heard before approval is given by the City and the changes have already been made. Our City Council Representative, and City Planners attend these meetings and give regular updates on what's happening in your neighborhood.

Hope to see you at our next meeting to be involved in your community!

Bryce Niceswanger  
SMPG Chair



## **Ruffin Canyon Palm Removal & Restoration Grant**

San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) has been awarded a grant of \$514,844 from the San Diego River Conservancy in California Proposition 1 funding (The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 - "Prop 1") which was approved by voters in November 2014. The grant was approved for palm removal and subsequent riparian and upland restoration in Ruffin and Sandroek Canyons, both within the San Diego River watershed. The grant would cover the removal of over 300 mature palms in Ruffin and Sandroek, via helicopter. SDCL hopes to have all permits in place to do the helicopter lift this year.

Following the palm removal, the grant would cover planting of native willows, mulefat, and other riparian vegetation to improve the habitat in and around the stream corridors in these canyons. The grant would also cover some upland restoration of coastal sage scrub and chaparral plant communities, where needed.

The palms take up water and space from native habitats and pose a fire hazard with excessive amounts of dried fronds. SDCL completed a similar palm removal operation in Rueda Canyon of Tierrasanta, last December, followed by native plant restoration.

A 501C3 non-profit with a mission to promote, protect, and restore the natural habitats of San Diego County canyons and creeks, SDCL has, since their inception in 2008, partnered with the Friends of Ruffin Canyon and supports their volunteer work. Pursuing a grant for palm removal and subsequent restoration was one of the top recommendations resulting from the Ruffin Canyon Enhancement Planning (CEP) stakeholder meetings of 2016-2017, in Serra Mesa and Mission Valley. Longtime SDCL Executive Director Eric Bowlby has announced his retirement in November and is proud to have worked on securing this important grant for Serra Mesa.

The San Diego River Conservancy is a state agency, established in 2002, to work specifically within the San Diego River watershed to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance the San Diego River and its connected resources.



## Latest News/Updates

City Councilmember Scott Sherman's office in response to questions provided some of the information used in the summary listed below.

**Mission Village/Ruffin Lot** \*(across from Taft) – The lot is privately owned. Developer is locked into the 2004/2008 terms – 160 residential units and 15,000 s.f. retail. Refer to <http://www.serramesa.org/smpg/major-projects/>, bottom of page, for details. There could be some changes to state laws that would be applicable. Generally, plan changes require a permit to be submitted to the Development Services Department.

**Old Serra Mesa Library on Sandrock** – This property is one of the eight properties that Mayor Faulconer announced in May 2019 would be made available for permanent supportive housing. As described by Voice of San Diego in an excellent guide on types of homeless and low-income housing at <https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/government/what-we-mean-when-we-talk-about-housing-the-homeless/>, “These are permanent homes that typically come with onsite services and amenities such as a cafeteria, community activities and case managers who regularly check in with residents.” The City's Real Estate Assets Department will post a Request for Proposal, anticipated in September.

**Sandrock and Murray Ridge Road** (also, other nearby streets) – Utility potholing occurred in August to locate the depth of the utilities for a future project. The project is probably sewer lateral repair with an anticipated completion date of October 31, 2019 (subject to change).

**Shawn/ Mission Village Drive Lot** \*(former gas station) – Zoned CN-1-2, allows development with an auto orientation and permits a maximum density of 1 dwelling unit for each 1,500 square feet of lot area. The permit requirements aren't changed by the City's recently approved parking reductions and the inclusionary housing ordinance. Changes such as increased density require a rezone and likely resubmittal for project development permits and plan approval.

\*Note: If a new permit is submitted or a rezoning is requested and the decision-making process is deemed Process Three, Four, or Five, the Serra Mesa Planning Group will receive a notice.

## Stadium Redevelopment

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mission Valley Project is available for review. The website at <http://missionvalley.sdsu.edu/> describes the environmental process, lists public meetings, and the link for reviewing the draft EIR. Send comments to [mvcomments@sdsu.edu](mailto:mvcomments@sdsu.edu) by October 3. The Final EIR will include the response to comments and issues.

This is an important document proposing many road changes to the Mission Village/Friars area and indicating that **traffic impacts to Serra Mesa will be insignificant**. For example, Mission Village Drive isn't projected to receive any additional traffic in the project trip generation for 2035 non-stadium land uses (Transportation Impact Analysis Appendix, p. 78 of 268) and only 2.5% for stadium events (Transportation Impact Analysis Appendix, p. 81 of 258).

The Serra Mesa Planning Group will discuss the draft EIR and their response on September 19, 7 pm, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library.

## Take A Ruffin Canyon Hike

On a beautiful July morning Cary Goldstein, City of San Diego Park Ranger, led a group on a two hour hike through Ruffin Canyon. The hike began on the west side of Gramercy Drive, traveling down the switchback, over the wooden footbridge crossing the creek, and continuing south.



The bridge was built in late 2017 as Shane Britton's Eagle Scout Project. He developed the design, obtained the materials, and secured the labor to complete the project. Great bridge – solid, in good shape and a real benefit for the trail!

Ranger Cary recently spent two days mapping the plants in the canyon. Many of these plants are identified in the Friends of Ruffin Canyon's brochure, Explore Ruffin Canyon, found at <http://www.serramesa.org/friends-of-ruffin-canyon/>.

Some Hike Highlights:

- Found Cochineal beetles on prickly pear cactus – used for adding red and purple color (carmine dye) in some soft drinks, smoothies, etc.
- Lemonade berry and Laurel sumac – related to poison oak family
- Mulefat – lots of uses by the natives
- Geology – Rhyolite (cobblestones on path), a type of volcanic rock, common in western San Diego county, possibly from volcano 120 miles east of San Diego
- Fenced landscaped sewer maintenance area

The canyon is “international” with Mexican palms, Brazilian peppers, and Argentina pampas grass. These invasive with nothing to keep them in check prevent the growth of native plants that are well adapted for droughts. The palms suck up water and create a fire hazard, which could impact nearby homes. See article in this edition about palm removal.

The hike ended at the Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden on the eastside of Taft Middle School. This garden, open to the public, entrance at Ruffin Road, is dedicated to a community volunteer, who was extremely instrumental in establishing it. The garden, which includes a donated wooden bridge, is replete with tar weed, toyan, sage, curly blues, and buckwheat.

While this hike presented challenges with lots of cobblestones and uneven surfaces, it was well worth it. When you're walking in the canyon, you forget that you're in the middle of a large city. Studies are showing that nature walks can improve blood pressure, boost mental health and reduce cancer risk – and perhaps, improve memory. Serra Mesa with all of its canyons and parks, dedicated Friends of Ruffin Canyon volunteers, and a knowledgeable and dedicated park ranger is quite fortunate.

This hike was announced on the San Diego Day Hikers site at <https://www.meetup.com/sandiegodayhikers/>, which lists hikes throughout the County of San Diego.



## National Night Out: Community Safety Awareness Gathering

On Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa City Public Library joined for the first time, in the National Night Out campaign, by having a Community Safety Awareness Gathering in their front yard. Over 100 people attended this community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie! The Serra Mesa Community Council, Serra Mesa Planning Group, Friends of the Ruffin Canyon group and Friends of the SM-KM library, local library supporters, set up booths. Rady Children's Hospital had "healthy eating" booth. Children enjoyed chalk drawing, hula hoops, and participating in family-friendly games like hopscotch and cornhole. Neighbors met each other and listened to guest speakers Diana Lara, the Field Representative for Senator Toni G. Atkins's, Lisa Scott, from District 7, Scott Sherman's office and Community Relations Police Officer, David Gibson, from the Eastern Division. The event brought back a true sense of community as people learned about safety awareness and other important topics. While answering questions, Officer Gibson, handed out his card which put people at ease by assuring them that he would reply to their emails. He spoke about the types/majority/prevention of offenses in the community. As Kearny Mesa Fire Station #28's fire truck pulled up, it immediately left on an emergency, but the firemen, who are troopers, returned. Excitement arose as people took pictures sitting in and around the truck. Einstein Bagels, McDonald's, Party City (on Friar's Road), 7/11, Starbucks and Vons, local area businesses on Aero Drive and Murphy Canyon Road, generously donated light snacks and beverages. Bill Howe Plumbing provided additional parking. The library's Area Supervisor, Kelly Pepo, listened to the thoughts of the community and observed Lisa Scott present the Library's Branch Manager, Rosa Kwon, with a "Certificate of Recognition" award from the City of San Diego Councilmember Scott Sherman's office. The Certificate states: "In honor of: National Night Out." "In special recognition of Branch Manager, Rosa Kwon's service to her community as a dedicated ambassador of literacy and voice for law enforcement-community engagement. District 7 is proud to host and honor Serra Mesa's first Nation Night Out." Library Staff agree that Rosa is a hard-working, dedicated Branch Manager and were happy to see her receive this Certificate of Recognition. With lots of positive feedback from the community, the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library looks forward to joining in next year's National Night Out event! See you there!

Written by: Sandy Phillips, Library Assistant III, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch



## Chomping weeds

In July the 1+ acre piece of land along Phyllis Place, west of I-805, was full of mostly dead weeds, a product of our major winter and spring rainfall. It was not pleasing to look at and many were concerned that the extensive weeds might soon pose a fire hazard.

This section of land is part of the major Civita development, which has agreed to turn it over to the city and it will become a neighborhood park, the only one on the Phyllis Place part of Serra Mesa. When that will happen is pending final settlement of the proposed road from Civita to connect with Phyllis Place (a project many residents and the SM Community Council have voted to oppose).

So, what about those weeds? Well, in July the Civita project brought forth – literally – the solution when they contracted to bring a large batch of goats to gobble up those weeds. And there they were, maybe 100 or so goats, chomping away, one section at a time. This became a neighborhood attraction, with many locals and visitors parking their cars and walking the few feet over to observe the bucks, nannies and kids doing their jobs (and enjoying their meals at the same time). After 10 days or so the goat managers brought in trucks and removed their goat employees (are they unionized?), likely moving them over to some other weedy location to tackle another job. They did a good job on ours as the weeds are all cleared off.

End

Tom Leech is a frequent Observer contributor and a member of the Serra Mesa Community Council. He's authored several books, with specifics at his website [www.presentationpress.com](http://www.presentationpress.com).



**FALL FESTIVAL**  
ST. COLUMBA PARISH

---

**October 18-20, 2019**  
Friday 6:00pm – 10:00pm  
Saturday 12:00pm – 10:00pm  
Sunday 10:30am – 2:00pm

---

3327 Glencolum Drive,  
San Diego, CA 92123

## 5th Annual St. Columba Fall Festival

Enjoy a fun-filled event for the entire family with games, inflatables, food, beer garden and brewing competition.

Plus, live performances by:

3 Car Garage	FRI 7:00pm-10:00pm
Siers Brothers	SAT 2:00pm-5:00pm
Ranger Jim & Friends	SAT 6:00pm-7:00pm
The 80s Underground	SAT 8:00pm-10:00pm
Fiery Friday	SUN 12:00pm-2:00pm

### 3rd Annual Beer Brewers' Competition

Friday, October 18th 6pm

Taste testers are welcome

Ages 21 & up | \$5 to sample



**ENTER TO WIN A 2020 TOYOTA!**

## Companion Unit Handbook Released to Help Guide Homeowners

Recently, my office teamed up with the San Diego Housing Federation, the Local Incentive Support Coalition (LISC), and the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors (PSAR) to write the “Companion Unit Handbook,” a helpful guide to homeowners to better navigate the process of constructing a companion unit on their property.

Companion units, otherwise known as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and granny flats are an important tool in fixing San Diego’s housing crisis. These units are uniquely useful in increasing housing in low density residential units.

In a region where average rent is nearly \$1,800 a month and the median price of a house is over \$50,000, renters are actively seeking alternative options for affordable rent. In addition, homeowners are seeking alternative options to offset the cost of a home mortgage. Companion units provide an immediate solution to the region’s housing supply crisis.

The design and construction of a companion unit is a step by step process. Success often depends on preparation and a solid understanding of the process. When considering building or adding a companion unit on a property, the Companion Unit Handbook will help homeowners understand:

- A property’s zoning and issues such as setback and parking
- Companion unit design and construction
- Permitting requirements
- Funding
- Supporting documents and resources

Companion units provide a great housing option for many San Diego families. Unfortunately, in the past, the process for permitting approval was cumbersome and difficult. Thanks to the help of the SD Housing Federation, LISC, and PSAR, San Diegans now have a pathway to completion.

To review the Companion Unit Handbook, please visit my website at [SanDiego.Gov/CD7](http://SanDiego.Gov/CD7) or feel free to contact my office at 619-236-6677 or email at [ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov](mailto:ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov)



200 goats hired by Sudberry Properties to clear brush and weeds in Civita. For more than two weeks residents of Serra Mesa and Civita, also, enjoyed the presence of these goats. The photo was taken on July 16th across from the church on Phyllis Place prior to their removal.



## Camp Pendleton Marine Veteran Achieves Goals with Brain Injury

Written By: Allura Garis



Mario Sanders, United States Marine Veteran receives support from SDCE's Acquired Brain Injury program

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a leading cause of death and disability among children and adults in the nation. The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) noncredit/non-fee classes at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) support people recovering from such ABIs as brain trauma, stroke/aneurysm, brain tumor, brain infection and anoxia.

SDCE's ABI program is led by faculty who have expertise in the field of brain injury including speech pathologists, rehabilitation counselors, recreation therapists and counselors.

Mario Sanders, United States Marine Veteran, enrolled in SDCE's ABI program after suffering a severe motor vehicle collision in 2016. He remembered the military as fast-paced, "you have to be quick on your feet. There is no time to sit back and think you have to be reactive or people could possibly die." He explained nowadays his memory and thinking skills are delayed.

SDCE's ABI curriculum equips students with the tools needed to achieve daily tasks and long-term goals to support their transition back into career and education. Classes emphasize rebuilding a sense of self through cognitive retraining, personal development, communication, academic skills, vocational exploration, coping strategies, creativity development and advocacy awareness.

Following the accident Sanders was transferred from serving as active duty to the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Pendleton, where he learned about SDCE's free ABI program.

"If I hadn't discovered this program, I don't think I would be as accepting with my brain injury as I am now," said Sanders. "When I was discharged from the hospital, I believed school was definitely not for me anymore. College was something I never would have done."

Sanders is dually enrolled at San Diego Miramar College.

SDCE's ABI classes are open-entry/open-exit, students can enroll at any time. Classes take place at Educational Cultural Complex in Mountain View and at CE-Mesa in Clairmont.

Fall semester begins Tuesday, September 3, 2019. To learn more please contact SDCE Disability Support Programs and Services at 619-388-4812 or visit, [SDCE.EDU](http://SDCE.EDU).



---

## **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: Because the updates record had not been certified as of early-August the September 19<sup>th</sup> trial date will probably need to be rescheduled. When the revised trial date is available it will be posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

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.

Steps in the timeline: City certifies administrative record > 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.

Lawsuit Fees: 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. Thanks to all of you who have donated to this worthwhile cause!

---

## **LIBRARY DONATIONS NEEDED**

An ordinance adopted in 2002 calls for the city to use a minimum of 6% of its budget on Libraries. This has been over-ridden by the City Council each year.\* A recent assessment of branch libraries found that 30% are in poor condition.

The “Friends of the Library” at Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa have augmented our library by selling books and magazines in our foyer. We thank all of you that participate. These funds support children and adult programs.

There are some needs that we have not been able to fulfill, such as **security cameras, a new hand dryer, and some additional maintenance**. All donations are tax deductible and would be used for these needs. Donation envelopes can be picked up at the library or a check made payable to FSDPL (Friends of San Diego Public Library) and written in Memo – Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa branch, can be mailed to the library, 9005 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123-2312.

For more information about this volunteer group refer to <http://www.serramesa.org/friends-of-smkm-library/> and <https://www.friendsofsdpl.org/chapters.htm>.

\*Please refer to ‘San Diego library funding policy more about ambitions’, *San Diego Union Tribune*, in July 14, 2019 edition, at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/san-diego/story/2019-07-12/san-diego-library-funding-policy-more-about-ambitions-than-reality>.

## Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update

The process of updating the Kearny Mesa Community Plan began three years ago and has entailed numerous meetings with City staff and the community. Currently, work is being done on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) and the draft zoning map. Upon the DEIR's completion people will have 45 days to respond to it. If you would like to receive an email notice about future meetings or when the DEIR is available, sign up at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/your-voice-counts/sign-up-for-e-news/>. Information about the plan, process, and contact information is at <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/>.

The draft plan, <http://kearnymesaconnected.com/plan-documents/>, is a 20 year plan and when approved would be implemented as redevelopment occurs. The draft mobility study, [http://kearnymesaconnected.com/wp-content/uploads/Kearny-Mesa-Mobility-Technical-Report-DRAFT\\_CLEAN.pdf](http://kearnymesaconnected.com/wp-content/uploads/Kearny-Mesa-Mobility-Technical-Report-DRAFT_CLEAN.pdf), was presented at a July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. These documents, which describe many changes that will impact Serra Mesa, are worth reading.

Some Update Highlights Applicable to Serra Mesa (details and explanations found in the plan and study):

- Trolley line planned running from San Ysidro to Kearny Mesa (from stadium in Mission Valley running along Daley Center, Ruffin Road, and Clairemont Mesa). Refer to [https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid\\_2093\\_21559.pdf](https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_2093_21559.pdf). Stations at Ridgehaven Court and Ruffin Road, and Overland Avenue.
- Commercial from 35.4m to 57.4m
- Residential increase to 25,000; residential corridors along Clairemont Mesa and Aero
- Designation of mixture of medium density residential and Urban Employment Village High (refers to residential density) along Aero between Kearny Villa and library
- Linear landscape features south of Aero Drive to unify residential and commercial uses
- Aero Promenade – one mile linear park from Kearny Villa to the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and entrance to Ruffin Canyon
- Additional trail connections to Ruffin Canyon from Aero to Serra Mesa Recreation Center
- Airport Loop – 5 mile loop with wider sidewalks along Balboa, Ruffin, Aero and Kearny Villa
- Completion of sidewalks along Aero
- Class I (WB)/ Class IV (EB) Bicycle Facility on Aero between Afton and Ruffin; Class I refers to multi-use path, which will be on north side; Class IV, one way cycle track on south side
- Extend Aero Place to Afton
- Removal of on-street parking on Aero from Sandrock to Corporate Court; includes in front of library
- Major arterial with Smart Lane Each Direction along Balboa and Clairemont Mesa (becomes 4 lane road with 2 Smart Lanes); Smart Lanes serve transit and autonomous vehicles
- Traffic Study confirms that Sandrock/Aero intersection operates PM at worst level, LOS F, and Sandrock at LOS E
- Traffic Study identifies poor on-time performance of buses along Aero

## Taft & Other Joint Use Parks

Joint use park agreements between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District allow for a park to be used by school children when school is in session and by the general public when school is not in session. Typically, the school district owns the land and the City improves and maintains the park.

The Taft Joint Use Project has been transferred to the San Diego Unified School District. From City Councilmember Scott Sherman's office on June 24:

"Originally, the CIP [refers to capital improvement project] included only the one joint use field to be built by the City, which was fully funded at approximately \$3.5 million. The school district also wanted to build a second joint use field on the Taft school premises. Due to the increasing size and cost of the total project, the City and SD Unified School district have made the decision to transfer the responsibility to the school district.

The original design plans for Taft Joint use (city portion) have been approved and the total plans are being finalized this week (hopefully today- maybe we can speak it into existence). Entire project completion is estimated for July 2020. The school district has enough funding to cover the entire scope of the project and the City will reimburse SD Unified for our portion of the costs (which would be covered by the \$3.5 million in funding allocation)."

The City's funding comes primarily from development impact fees collected from the Olympus Corsair housing project on Aero Drive.

Answer to a subsequent question regarding the stage on the southern end of the site:

"The final plans do include the stage and double gate to the adjacent canyon. The stage will look like a concrete pad at the same level of the walking track. To my understanding, the original intent was for the stage to be slightly raised above the walking track, but due to accessibility requirements, there simply wasn't an easy or aesthetic way to provide wheelchair access onto a raised stage. Therefore, the decision was made not to create a raised stage. However, there is a low seat wall that defines the stage area."

Other joint use projects in Serra Mesa include:

- Angier and Wegeforth– primarily funded from development impact fees collected from the development of Mirabella on Kearny Villa Road and Olympus Corsair on Aero Drive (negotiated during former City Councilmember Donna Frye's term); the City was responsible for development
- Cubberley – funded and developed by San Diego Unified School District
- Fletcher
- Juarez

According to San Diego Unified School District at <https://www.sandiegounified.org/joint-use> the City of San Diego commits "to operating and maintaining joint-use parks." The City of San Diego allocates in the annual budget staff time for maintenance of joint use parks. If a joint use park isn't being maintained, bring it to the attention of the Serra Mesa Area Manager, San Diego Park and Recreation, Monica Honore, [MHonore@sandiego.gov](mailto:MHonore@sandiego.gov), 858-573-1407.

These numerous parks provide lots of opportunities for exercising and enjoying nature. We can thank community groups, both the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) and the Serra Mesa Recreation Advisory Group (SMRAG), for their role in the development of these parks. SMPG supported the recommendation from SMRAG that development impact fees be spent on the joint use projects. Additionally, SMRAG contributed input into their design and monitored the process, which required many meetings. SMRAG meets on the third Tuesday of every other month, 6:30 pm, at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center. The next meeting is September 17.



## Keep the Lead Off My Head!

Quentin C. Yates, Executive Director  
Montgomery Gibbs Environmental Coalition, (MGECS)

**L**ead is a poisonous metal substance. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Mayo Clinic and other reputable healthcare providers and researchers all agree that there is no safe level of lead exposure. Lead has been eliminated from many things such as paint and automobile fuel. Lead was removed from automotive fuel in 1995. However, it was never removed from aviation fuel that is used by piston-driven General Aviation (GA) planes, such as those flying in and out of Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport (MYF) in Kearny Mesa and Brown Field in South County.

**E**xposure to lead is particularly harmful and toxic to children. Lead is a highly poisonous heavy metal, just like arsenic, which affects almost every organ in the body. Of all the organs, the nervous system is the mostly affected target in lead toxicity, both in children and adults. The toxicity in children is however of a greater impact than in adults. This is because their system is still developing. Long-term exposure of adults can result in decreased performance in some tests of cognitive performance that measure functions of the nervous system. Infants and young children are especially sensitive to even low levels of lead, which may contribute to behavioral problems, learning deficits and lowered IQ.

**A**lternative aviation fuels are available, but so far, the local aviation fuel suppliers have ignored requests to offer it. Instead, they only offer 100LL that is a fuel that contains lead. Most of the GA aircraft flying today could immediately begin to use unleaded fuel. Swift Fuels produces FAA Certified UL94, which is the unleaded alternative to 100LL. There are about 70 public and private airports in the nation that carry UL94, including Perdue University. There is only one located in CA at the San Carlos airport at this time. However, the demand for UL94 there was so high that they installed a larger fuel tank. The use of UL94 not only reduces most of the lead dropping from GA aircraft, but it makes their engines run much cleaner, which extends the maintenance intervals and the life of the sparkplugs. Pilots are flying into San Carlos from other airports specifically to take advantage of the benefits of UL94. 100LL and UL94 are completely interchangeable and mixable with each other so the aircraft that use either one can fill up at any airport that carries both, or just one, of the fuels.

**D**id you know that Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (MYF) in Kearny Mesa drops 1,442 Metric Tons of Lead a year on the neighborhoods surrounding it? That's right – it falls on you, your kids and your family. It also falls on the schools where your children go to school, along with places of worship, businesses and homes. Both MYF and Brown Field are owned by the City of San Diego. Sadly, letters to the Mayor and City Council have been passed on to staff of the Real Estate Asset Division of the City rather than addressing the problem. Even when a ballot initiative was placed before the City Council Rules Committee so that you and I could vote on removing lead from our skies, it was brushed aside and not allowed on the ballot. In fact, it was passed back to the Real Estate Asset Division. That division previously stated that offering UL94 alongside of 100LL was not "economically feasible." In other words, money was more important to them than the health of San Diego citizens. If you wish to have more information and take action on this issue, go to [www.mgecsd.org](http://www.mgecsd.org). And if you no longer wish to have lead falling on your, and your children's' heads, contact the Mayor and the San Diego City Council and demand that they take action to offer UL94 that will reduce most of the lead falling on us all.



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

### **September/October 2019 Events/Programs**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Labor Day and Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> for Staff Training Day.

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library presents artwork by the Associated Fine Artists in the Community Room.

### **Adult Programs**

**Communicating with Technology – Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. except September 2** 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.**

- **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.

**Writer's Workshop – Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.** 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. – 3:30 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.

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

**September 4, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Visiting the Natural Wonders of Antarctica.** Antarctica is as fantastic as you've heard, has more wildlife than you'd imagine, and is warmer (in summer anyway) than you would expect. This fascinating show will take you photographically to the Antarctic Peninsula, spectacular South Georgia Island, and the Falkland Islands. You will enjoy an intimate look at the landscapes and wildlife of the world's least visited, but perhaps most remarkable continent. The presentation, by Dr. Philip Pryde, is based on his personal experiences in the Antarctic realm.

**September 10, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

Continued from page 19

**September 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafron.

**September 18, 11:30 a.m. Kearny Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**September 19, 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Village Meeting.** Join members of your community for presentations on healthy lifestyles for older adults.

**September 19, 7:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Planning Group.** A community meeting for an organization that advises the city on land use issues.

**September 25, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council.** A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

**October 2, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Step to Better Health with Reflexology.** Reflexology is a science that deals with the principle that reflexes in the hands and feet correspond to each part of the body. Join Board Certified Reflexologist, Bobbi Warren, as she shares some tips from her 40 years in this field. Learn hand techniques for headaches, stomach aches, back and neck pain, as well as foot pain. Presented by Bobbi Warren, Certified Reflexologist.

**October 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham.

**October 9, 6:00 p.m. One Book One San Diego Event: Medical Insights, AIDS/HIV.** Dr. Chinn will speak about his experiences working with AIDS/HIV patients in the 80s as well as the some of the science behind this once deadly disease.

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

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

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

### **Children Programs**

**Monday Morning Storytime – Mondays, 10:00 a.m. except September 2** Join Ms. Carrie every Monday morning for stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills!

**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. except October 11** 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.

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

**September 11, 4:00 p.m. After School Kafternoon Craft.** Join us for a fun and free craft geared towards ages 4-10.

Continued to page 21

Continued from page 20

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

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

**October 23, 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. Bring water and a hat and wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen for a nature walk into the canyon located behind the library.

**October 30, 4:00 p.m. Halloween at the Library.** Join us for Halloween fun! We will be screening the animated short "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," making a Halloween themed craft, and having a fun mini dance party. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

**Apply for a Free Computer!! Basic Computer Training for Adults and Seniors by Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on September 28 and October 26**

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.

---

## Free Trees

As I walk around Serra Mesa with my neighbor or with my dog or delivering community flyers I gravitate towards the areas with trees, especially on a sunny day. If you have space in your public right-of-way (parkway strip), consider taking advantage of the City's free tree program described in detail at <https://www.sandiego.gov/blog/free-tree-sd>.

A resident can receive a free tree for the parkway strip by filling out and submitting a form. A horticulturist determines the appropriate tree for the space. A resident agrees to water the tree for three years.

Benefits of trees (Adapted from <https://www.treepeople.org/tree-benefits>)

- Clean the air – absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>; absorbs odors, gases and particulates (dust)
- Provides oxygen
- Releases water into air
- Cools the streets; shield from ultra-violet rays
- Conserve energy – placed strategically around home can cut air conditioning needs
- Saves water – shade slows water evaporation
- Prevent water pollution – reduces runoff by breaking rainfall
- Healing – studies show patients with views of tree out window heal faster and with less complications
- Reduce violence – neighborhoods and home that are barren shown to have greater incidence of violence
- Increase property values; eye-soothing canopy

Let's "clean and cool" Serra Mesa by adding more trees.

SERRA MESA VILLAGE SEPTEMBER 2019							◀ August	October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1	2 LABOR DAY	3	4 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	5 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	6 Read a Book Day	7		
8 Grandparents Day	9 1:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	10 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	11 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	12 Choc Milk Shake Day	13	14 Int'l Crab Feast Day		
15	16 Collect Rocks Day	17	18 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	19 3:30 - 5:30 PM - SMV MTG - SM/KM	20 Nat'l Pepperoni Pizza Day	21 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF		
22 Elephant Appreciation Day	23 Checkers Day	24 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	25 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	26	27	28 Ask a Stupid Question Day		
29	30 Nat'l Mud Pack Day	SMRC - Serra Mesa Rec Center, 9020 Village Glen Dr MVCF - Mission Village Christian Fellowship, 2650 Melbourne Dr. SM/KM - Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive KH - Katrina's House - 3501 Pomeroy St. HABC - Holy Angels Byzantine Church - 2235 Galahad Rd.						

SERRA MESA VILLAGE OCTOBER 2019							November ▶
◀ September	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Int'l Coffee Day	2 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	3 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	4 World Smile Day	5
6 Octoberfest	7 1:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	8 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	9 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	10 Nat'l Angel Food cake Day	11 World Egg Day		12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	17 3:30 - 5:30 PM - SMV MTG - SM/KM	18		19 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF
20 Brandied Fruit Day	21	22 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	23 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	24 Nat'l Bologna Day	25		26
27	28 Plush Animals Lovers Day	29	30 10:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	31 Carve a Pumpkin Day (no surprise here)			

SMRC - Serra Mesa Rec Center, 9020 Village Glen Dr  
 MVCF - Mission Village Christian Fellowship, 2650 Melbourne Dr.  
 SM/KM - Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive  
 KH - Katrina's House - 3501 Pomeroy St.  
 HABC - Holy Angels Byzantine Church - 2235 Galahad Rd.



***Serra Mesa Observer***  
Editor: *Ronda Adams*  
Post Office Box 23315  
San Diego, CA 92193

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 0639  
SAN DIEGO CA

# Dated Material

