



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

**FINAL PRINT ISSUE
WE'RE GOING DIGITAL!
SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS**

Starting January 2020 go to
<http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>
for your bi-monthly Observer



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, November 27

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, December 25

No Meeting

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

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Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers	
Carl Demas.....	(858) 565-2473*
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Andrea Eaton.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Treasurer/Community Events</i>	
Cindy McIntyre	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Secretary</i>	
Board Members	
Tom Leech.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Current Issues</i>	
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<i>Education Committee</i>	
Jackie Ander.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Friends of the Library</i>	
Rebecca Moreno	(858)565-2473*
<i>Local Business Coordinator</i>	
Jon Cima.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>SMRC</i>	
Cindy Moore.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Special Projects/SMPG</i>	
Appointed Positions	
Myra Webb.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Subscription Records</i>	
Ronda Adams.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Editor</i>	
Melissa Cima.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Staff/Education</i>	
Cindy McIntyre.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Staff</i>	
Marge Demas.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Mailing Coordinator</i>	
Geralyn White.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Neighborhood Awareness</i>	
Colin Dowling	(858)565-2473*
<i>Webmaster</i>	
Key Serra Mesa Volunteers	
Bob Crider.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>SMPG President</i>	
Monica Fuentes	(858)565-2473*
<i>Friends of Ruffin Canyon</i>	
Luisa Johnson	(858)565-2473*
<i>Serra Mesa Food Pantry</i>	
Karl Doering	(858)565-2473*
<i>SM Community Garden & Orchard</i>	
<i>*Contact by calling (858) 565-2473 & leaving a message.</i>	

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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	
Nov 12	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Nov 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Nov 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Nov 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Nov 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Nov 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Dec 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Dec 17	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Dec 19	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Dec 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Dec 21	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
No Mtg	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
No Mtg	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
<i>Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.</i>	

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: January / February 2020 Edition...December 15th.
 P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193
<http://www.serramesa.org> communitycouncil@serramesa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last month, we reviewed some of our current affairs in Serra Mesa, which included our Serra Mesa – Civita Road connection, leaded aviation fuel emissions from Montgomery Gibbs Municipal Airport, and the need for a Center for our seniors. Sorry that there are no current updates as there are no changes at the time of this writing. From my perspective, our elected officials are not listening, which leads us to the conclusion that we need “new” elected officials. One of the ways we can accomplish this is to work to provide “Clean Elections” which is the funding of neighborhood candidates to run for office provided by public funds instead of funding by developers and special interest groups. If you are interested and want to know more about Clean elections, you can go to www.sdcleanelections.org.

At our last Community Council meeting, we had a presentation by SDSU West for the new development at Qualcomm Stadium, Currently SDCCU stadium, where we learned that after the last Aztec Football game, demolition is planned to take place. The new stadium is planned to open for the 2022 Football Season. At the latest presentation, SDSU offered 68.2 million along with some sweeteners to bring the deal to an estimated 150 million. In addition, some issues

need to be resolved, such as a Fenton Parkway Bridge to connect to Camino Del Rio North for which SDSU will front 22 million. No mention, warnings, or concern over the effect of the construction on Serra Mesa. Who is looking out for our best interests, certainly not SDSU or The City. Keep in mind that 13 intersections and 12 freeway segments will be impacted, yet where is the EIR that affects Serra Mesa. Get ready, Serra Mesa, your worst nightmare is coming.

Mark the date January 22nd as we will be hosting a District 7 Candidate Forum for 7th District City Council candidates, this will be your chance to meet the candidates close and personal. It is anticipated to be an exciting time as we get to hear what position the candidates are taking. Our current councilmember is terming out, and many are attempting to take his place. I have contacted all the candidates and am attempting to acquaint them with our issues. Make sure you are there to make your feelings known.

Keep in mind; this will be the last printed Observer. Future issues will be available only online. Remember to go to www.serramesa.org, click on community council, then on Observer.

The year would not be complete without our heartfelt thanks to the SMCC Board, Cindy McIntyre, Andrea Eaton, Cindy Moore, Jon Cima, Jackie Ander, Tom Leech, and Rebecca Moreno. Also, to Monica Fuentes, Jamie Chaney, and Geralyn White for picking up and keeping Serra Mesa clean, and a special tribute to our webmaster Colin Dowling for his IT talents. I would also be remiss for not thanking Ronda Adams for organizing and publishing our Observer. We could not do what we do without these wonderful folks. Additional thanks to Myra Webb for picking up and delivering our mail and keeping our contact list and Marge Demas for assembling and mailing the Observer.

Happy Holidays from your Community Council.

Carl Demas, President

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

Sincerely,

Your Serra Mesa Community Council Board

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 Animal Removal 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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 San Diego, CA 92123

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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



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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
November 19 & December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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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. 3rd 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/>



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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.

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Showcasing Local Youth Talent – Torrey Woodfill

The Playwrights Project chose a play by Torrey Woodfill, the youngest recipient and a Serra Mesa resident, for a staged reading for the 35th annual festival of Plays by Young Writers in 2020 at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre in Rolando. Her play was one of the four chosen from 561 submissions for this annual contest and the only one from San Diego Unified Schools. In Torrey's play, The Hurricane, two friends experience the emotional rollercoaster of facing their fears.

Torrey is 12, attends Albert Einstein Academy Charter School, and plays soccer for Kearny Mesa AYSO (14U) at Cabrillo Park. She is an avid reader and writer and is passionate about her education. She wants to be an OB/GYN in the future.

Congratulations, Torrey!



Graffiti

If you receive NextDoor notifications, you may have noticed comments regarding an increase in graffiti in Serra Mesa. Research shows removing graffiti as quickly as possible discourages more graffiti.

Graffiti Information - Adapted from the City of San Diego Website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/street-div/services/graffiti>

- Reporting Graffiti: If you see anyone tagging property, don't confront the person. Contact 9-1-1.
- Reporting Existing Graffiti: Report graffiti on public or private property to the Graffiti Control Program - Graffiti Hotline, 619-527-7500, or online at <https://getitdone.force.com/TSWNewReport?type=Graffiti>. The City endeavors to remove graffiti from City property within five days of a report. The City will notify private property owners of their responsibility for removing graffiti from their property.

Graffiti Deterrents

- Special products applied to surface to make them graffiti resistant
- Good lighting on vulnerable walls and fences
- Plant shrubs or climbing vines, especially plants with thorns or foul scents
- Painted utility boxes

Painting Utility Boxes

In 2013 the Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) established a Serra Mesa Utility Box Project. SMCC has permission from SDG&E to paint artwork on any of their utility boxes in the community. This project was created to both beautify the community and deter graffiti tagging. Talented local artists are recruited to paint the boxes.

To cover the cost of materials SMCC asks for a \$100 donation from any resident who wishes to have a utility box painted in their area. The donation is requested because SMCC doesn't have the extra funds to pay for a community-wide utility box painting project. Before the final painting of the utility box SMCC must approve the design.

If you have a utility box that you'd like painted, please contact communitycouncil@serramesa.org.

Most of the painted utility boxes in Serra Mesa are the result of this project. Some Examples:

- Mission Village and Shawn – Students Marlie Gonzales and Kat Schroeder conceived of the design, secured the funds, and painted the box. Truly a work of art and a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their artistic talents!
- Corner of Larkdale and Greyling – Result of donation from homeowner
- Wegeforth Elementary School on Ediwhar

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 trial date is December 5. The judge will issue a tentative ruling on December 4th. The brief and the City’s response and any changes will be posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

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!



Wonder-full. Short. Plays.

Clairemont Act One presents

c'est la vie

Originals Collection 2019

November 22, 23, 29, 30

clairemontactone.org

Serra Mesa Community Plan Amendment Request for Rezone and Street Vacation

Applicant: Private owner; since 1982

Location: Two adjoining parcels west of I-805 and north of Mission Center Road which form a long triangle. (The triangular long side runs parallel with the I-805.) The steep southern edge descends to Mission Center Road. The rest of property is mainly flat.

Status: Northern portion is zoned RS1-4 , which requires minimum 10,000 s.f. lots, 4 units per acre (before density bonuses); Southern portion is zoned OR-1-1. OR zones preserve Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) preserve and open space designations and allow single dwelling units (additional MHPA regulations may apply).

Request: 1) Rezone parcels to RM1-1 (3,000/units); 2) Allow street closure, Raleigh Ave, and Alley (doesn't currently exist; would intersect with Mission Center Road). Application at <http://www.serramesa.org/smpg/major-projects/>.

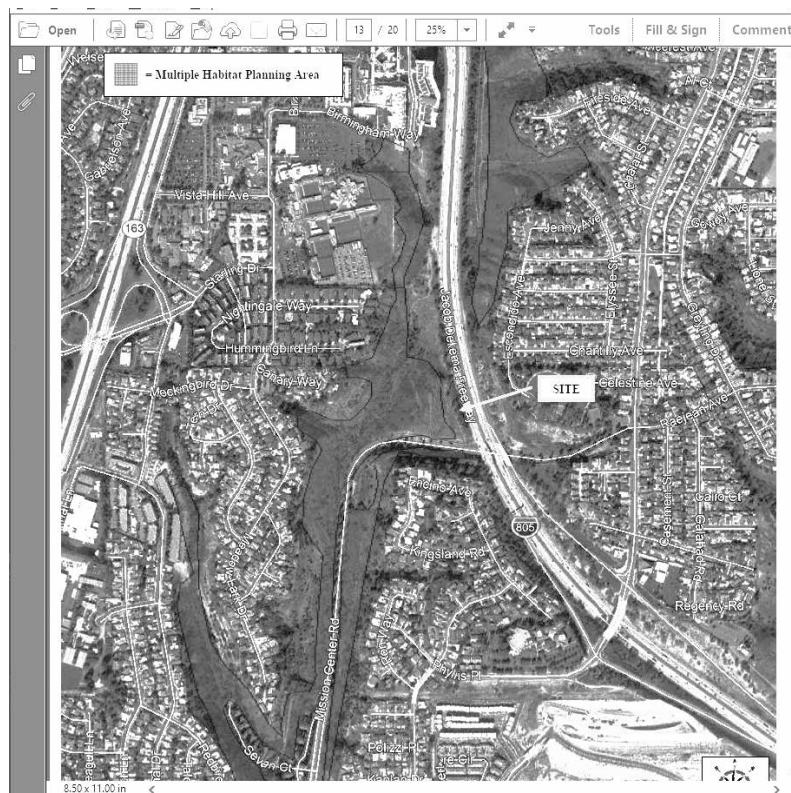
Proposal: 14-16 dwelling units

Biology Report: Impacts four sensitive plants species, one sensitive lizard species, and potentially other sensitive, wide-ranging species. Project will impact Environmentally Sensitive Lands. Detailed report at <http://www.serramesa.org/smpg/major-projects/>.

Requirement: MHPA Boundary Adjustment would be required because MHPA encumbers 75% of the property. The impacts within the MHPA require 1.4 ac offsite mitigation.

Process: Either Planning Commission or City Council initiation is required before a community plan amendment process can proceed. Staff is in process of reviewing the application and will be requesting a Planning Commission date within the next few months depending on staff availability. The Serra Mesa Planning Group is requested to provide a recommendation on the initiation action. SMPG listened to the applicant's presentation at their September 19th meeting and will vote on the item at a future meeting.

Information for this article is copied/extracted from the Application and the Biology Report



Finding Serra Mesa???

Confusion reigns! Is it Serra Mesa or Kearny Mesa? The news media constantly attributes news to the wrong area. For example, restaurants at the Olympus Corsair project at the corner of Aero and Sandrocks, a part of Kearny Mesa, are identified as being located in Serra Mesa. Adding to the confusion is the shared 92123 zip code and the Kearny Mesa monument sign on Kearny Villa Road which incorrectly states Kearny Mesa on both sides (north side should state Serra Mesa).

Serra Mesa is composed of neighborhoods with the most prevalent ones being Mission Village (Mission Village Drive area), Birdland (near the hospital complex), Phyllis-Abbotts Hill (west of I-805 Murray Ridge bridge), Hye Park (condominium complex on Mission Center Road), and the Village at Serra Mesa (formerly Cabrillo Heights Military Housing). In this Observer edition refer to the article, The Naming of Serra Mesa, for historical background/neighborhood explanation.

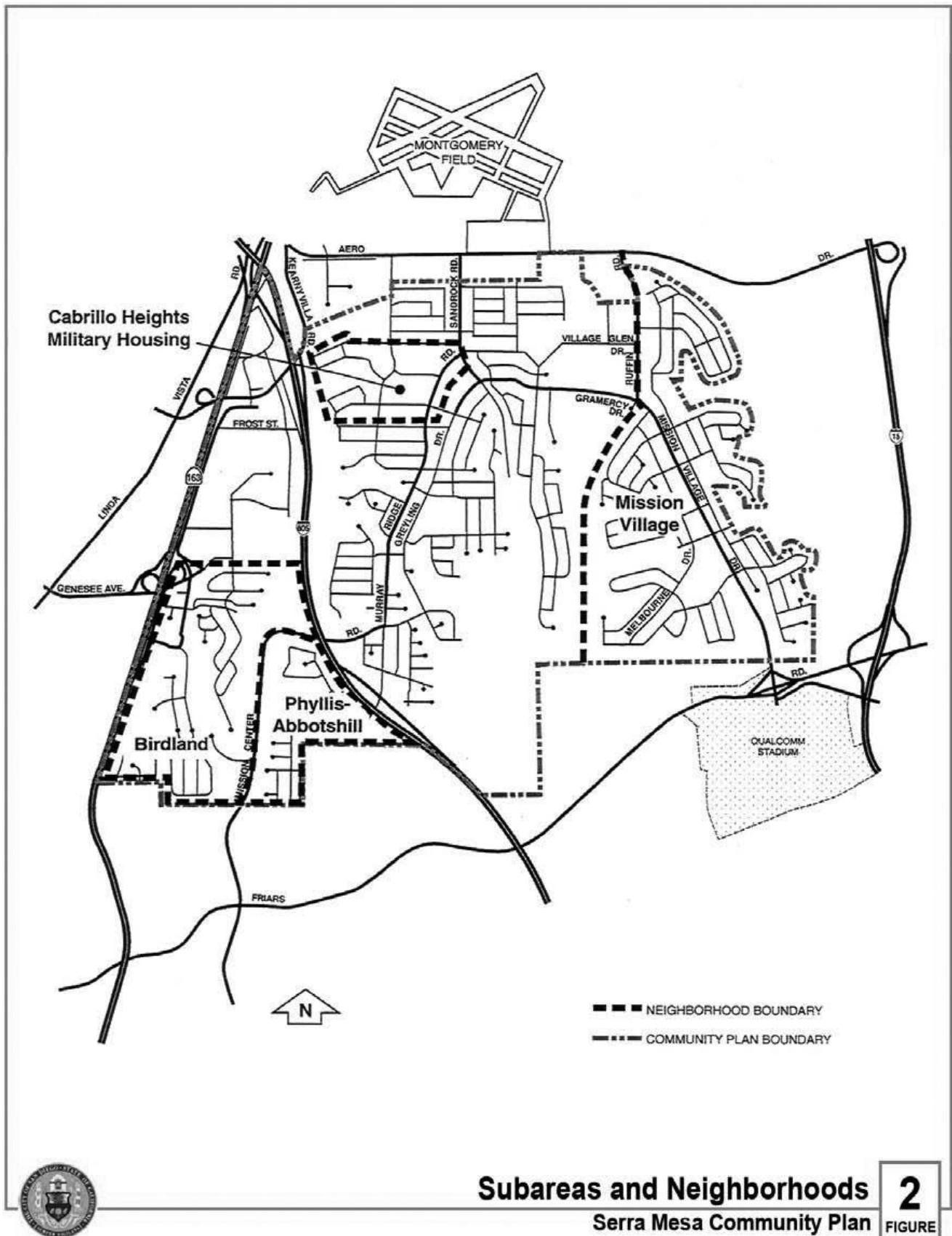
This statement expresses the value of combining the neighborhoods into one community: “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Information

- The land use policy and document for the City of San Diego is found in the General Plan and includes 52 community plans approved by the City Council.
- The Serra Mesa Community Plan written in 1977 established the boundaries of Serra Mesa which included the Kearny Mesa area and part of Mission Valley (the sand and gravel extraction sites- the location of the Civita development). Subsequently, the Serra Mesa Planning Group disbanded for many years.
- In 1985, the City Council adopted the Mission Valley Community Plan which separated the sand and gravel sites from Serra Mesa and included them in Mission Valley.
- During the time when the Serra Mesa Planning Group was reorganizing, Kearny Mesa separated from Serra Mesa, forming a planning group, writing a community plan, and being recognized by the City in 1992. **Commercial and office parcels along Aero Drive were incorporated into Kearny Mesa, which explains the “odd” looking border shown on the map on the next page.**
- The Stonecrest area was originally zoned as office, commercial, and a hotel. Therefore, this area was incorporated into Kearny Mesa. Residential rezoning occurred in the mid-1990s following a recession. The Stonecrest area is part of the Kearny Mesa Planning Group area.
- The 2010 Redistricting Commission of the City of San Diego redrew the City Council boundaries. The south side of Aero Drive (includes Stonecrest area) is located in District 7, represented by City Councilmember Scott Sherman; north side of Aero Drive, District 6, represented by City Councilmember Chris Cate. The redrawing of the boundary doesn’t change the community plan boundaries. The 2020 boundaries won’t be redrawn until after the final federal census information.
- The Serra Mesa Community Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit group with bylaws that describe the same boundaries as in the Serra Mesa Community Plan.
- 92123 zip code encompasses Serra Mesa and parts of Kearny Mesa.
- Serra Mesa Community Plan is at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/serramesa/>.

Serra Mesa Community Plan Boundaries

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





Walking to School Makes for One Big Day

On the first Wednesday in October, 39 students (and amigos) gathered to take a stroll as a group over to their Serra Mesa Juarez Elementary School. As they strolled, many of them waved flags from multi-countries as this was an official event known as National Walk to School Day. The Juarez students were joined by hundreds of thousands of other students, parents, school officials, and local leaders across the U.S. for the 23rd annual celebration which highlights the importance of safer, more active transportation for youth in their local communities.

Serra Mesan Joanne Snyder said the Juarez students had done this October walk for 5+ years. She volunteers two days per week at Juarez, reading to students from first to third grades. For the Walk, she passed out flags that were provided by another volunteer from Mission Federal Credit Union. "It was a fun event as the kids really enjoyed chatting with each other (and others accompanying them) as they walked and waved their individual flags. They started at Sean & Amulet Streets, with kids also carrying three waist-high call-outs that looked like a miniature school bus, and they walked up Melbourne to the classes at Juarez."

The coordinating agency for this annual event is the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Per Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Center Director. "Participation increases every year, which is quite an impressive legacy of people coming together with the common goal of starting children on the right foot so they can thrive for years to come." So far, in 2019, more than 4,000 schools in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., have registered Walk to School Day events at walkbiketoschool.org.

Tom Leech is a frequent Observer contributor and a member of the Serra Mesa Community Council. He's authored several books, with most recent *FUN ON THE JOB: Amusing and true tales from Rosie-the-Riveters to Rocket Scientists at a Major (San Diego) Aerospace Company*. For specifics check his web-site www.presentationspress.com.

IS YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH & IQ AT RISK?

Sandra Stahl, Executive Director
Montgomery Gibbs Environmental Coalition

As a parent you might sometimes wonder if you are doing enough to protect your child's health and welfare. You make sure they eat healthy foods; you make sure they brush their teeth; you make sure they get enough rest and you take them to regular visits with a pediatrician. But sometimes there are dangers outside of your immediate control.

One of those dangers is lead, a toxic heavy metal. Adults exposed to lead face an increased risk of kidney disease, high blood pressure, hearing loss, and impairment of cognitive functions. But children are particularly vulnerable to lead pollution, and even a very small amount is extremely dangerous for young children. The experts say lead poisoning can lead to a variety of health problems in kids; some of those include decreased bone and muscle growth, poor muscle coordination, as well as hearing, speech and language problems, and developmental delay.

Lead is particularly dangerous for the developing brains of our youngsters. According to a study released by Cornell University, children exposed to supposedly "safe" levels of lead had reduced IQ scores. The World Health Organization and a multitude of other health professionals have found that no amount of lead is safe.

A recent study by MIT researchers found that annually, IQ losses attributed to leaded aviation fuel result in about \$1 billion in damages from lifetime earnings reductions, with an additional \$0.5 billion in economy-wide losses due to decreases in productivity. So the threat to our children and community is very real.

There are at least six schools within a mile radius of Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport which generates 1.4 metric tons of toxic lead pollution every year. Children attending those schools are at risk, as well as toddlers and the unborn babies of pregnant women who live in our Serra Mesa neighborhoods, along with other adults who can suffer health problems from lead exposure.

In spite of all the science showing that no amount of lead is safe, the City of San Diego continues to refuse to offer unleaded general aviation fuel at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport which sits right across the street from Serra Mesa. If unleaded UL94 aviation fuel, which a majority of general aviation planes can safely use, was offered alongside leaded Avgas, the danger to our community would be substantially reduced.

However, city and airport officials have decided that it is *not financially viable* for unleaded fuel to be offered at Montgomery Field. In an attempt to place the decision in the hands of voters, the Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition submitted a ballot proposal to the San Diego City Council Rules Committee in July to let people who live in the community decide the issue in the upcoming elections. It was denied.

There would be City administrative costs associated with offering unleaded fuel at the airport, and costs or reduced profits for fuel suppliers which contract with the City; however such costs are minimal and reasonable compared to the physical and economic burdens faced by victims of lead exposure and the public.

The costs of lead exposure should be shifted away from children and others who are exposed to lead, and onto the companies and government agencies that have the capability and thus the moral duty to protect the public from unnecessary lead pollution. You can help by flooding City Hall with phone calls and email demands that unleaded aviation fuel be offered at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport. You can find more information at mgccsd.org.

If you would like to become more involved with this effort to protect you and your children, along with your neighbors and their children, please consider joining MGEC. The membership application is on the webpage.

The Naming of Serra Mesa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

History of Serra Mesa Street Names


This information is compiled from NextDoor posts (especially from posts by Brenda Hamilton), a San Diego Reader article, Mental Floss website, and a San Diego Metro article. Accuracy hasn't been verified. Please contact communitycouncil@serramesa.org if you have additional information on street names.

- Harjoan Street – Named after Harjon Engineering
- Raejean Avenue – Named after secretaries “Rae” and “Jean”
- Haveteur Way - Resulted from a dispute between two friends. One friend stated “Have it your way!”
- Ediwhar Street – Morphed from the Haveteur Way dispute with one of the friends calling the dispute “Eddie Way”
- Unida Place – “You Need A Place”
- Gowdy Avenue – Names after Leonard Gowdy, City Engineer during the building of Serra Mesa
- Phyllis Place – Named after office manager at Harjon Engineering
- Kaplan – Named after Ted Kaplan, American Housing Guild (built a lot of housing in Serra Mesa)
- Hector – Named after developer Harvey Furgatch’s dog
- Towser – Named after developer Harvey Furgatch’s dog
- Birdland Area – Named by city planner
- Ruffin Road – Named after Roger Ruffin, Superior Court Judge

SERRA MESA VILLAGE NOVEMBER 2019							◀ October	December ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1 Nat'l Authors Day	2 9:00 - 4:00 Successful Aging Convention Ctr		
3 Daylight savings ends	4 12:00 PM - SMV Board Mtg HABC	5 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	6 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	7 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 3:30 PM - SMV Trip SM/KM	8 Tongue Twister Day	9		
10	11 Veteran's Day 	12 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	13 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC World Kindness Day	14 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC Pickle Day	15	16 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF Fast Food Day		
17 Nat'l Take a Hike Day	18	19 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	20 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	21 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 3:30 PM - SMV Mtg. - SM/KM	22 Go For A Ride Day	23		
24	25 Cake Day	26 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	27 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	28 	29 Black Friday	30		

MVCF - Mission Village Christian Fellowship, 2650 Melbourne Dr.
 SMRC Serra Mesa Rec Ctr, 9020 Village Glen Dr.
 KH - Katrina's House - 3501 Pomeroy
 VISIT THE VILLAGE AT SERRAMESAVILLAGE.ORG

HABC - Holy Angels Byzantine Church, 2235 Galahad Rd
 SM/KM - Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library

SERRA MESA VILLAGE DECEMBER 2019							January ▶
◀ November	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Eat A Red Apple Day	2 12:00 SMV Board Mtg HABC	3 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	4 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	5 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 10:00 AM - SMV Day Trip - SM/KM	6 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch - SMRC	7 Nat'l Cotton Candy Day	
8 Brownie Day	9	10 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC 1:00 PM SMV Movie HABC	11 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	12 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch - SMRC	13 Nat'l Cocoa Day	14	
15 Lemon Cupcake Day	16 Nat'l Chocolate Covered Anything Day	17 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	18 11:15 AM Exercise KH 12:00 Ceramics SMRC	19 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch - SMRC 3:30 PM - SMV MTG - SM/KM	20 Go Caroling Day	21 10:30 AM HLAA MVCF	
22 Winter Solstice (shortest day of the Year)	23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	27	28 Card Playing Day	
29	30 Bacon Day	31 8:00 AM-Exercise, strength & stretch SMRC	MVCF - Mission Village Christian Fellowship, 2650 Melbourne Dr HABC - Holy Angels Byzantine Church, 2235 Galahad Rd SMRC Serra Mesa Rec Ctr, 9020 Village Glen Dr. SM/KM -Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Dr. KH - Kartrina's House, 3501 Pomeroy St				

To Learn more about SMV and our events-visit us at serramesavillage.org



Serra Mesa Little League

2020 Spring Registration

We are looking for players of all skills and abilities!

(Ages 4-14 on or before August 31, 2020)

We are also looking for volunteers, coaches, managers, and umpires. No experience? No problem! Training will be provided.

Division	Age	Cost
T-Ball*	4-6	\$160
Rookie*	5-6	\$160
Caps*	7-8	\$180
Minors*	9-10	\$180
Majors*	11-12	\$180
Juniors**	13-14	\$160
*Included in registration fee is a \$50 snack bar deposit which is refunded when 2 snack bar shifts are completed.		
** No deposit required.		
Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.		

Early Bird Discount!!
Sign up in November and save \$20!!
Sign up in December and save \$10!!

Registration includes:

team hat, shirt, socks, belt, team picture and trophy.

Important Dates

Player Assessments	1/18/20
	1/25/20
Cap Day	2/8/20
Opening Day Ceremonies	3/7/20
Picture Day	3/14/20

Online registration available at www.serramesalittleleague.org

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

November/December, 2019 Events/Programs

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be **Closed** Monday, November 11th in observance of Veterans' Day, Thursday, November 28th in observance of Thanksgiving, and Wednesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas. The library will close early, at 6:00pm, on Wednesday, November 27th for Thanksgiving and Tuesday, December 24th for Christmas.

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present artwork by the Colored Pencil Society America in the Community Room.

Adult Programs

Communicating with Technology – Fridays, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (except 11/11, 11/25, 12/23 and 12/30)

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 11/26, 12/24 and 12/31)

- **Beginner 1 Level** 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **Beginner 2 Level** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Intermediate Level** 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 11/26, 12/24 and 12/31) 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. (except 11/28 and 12/20)

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.

Continued from page 19

November 6, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: How Disneyland Imagineers Brought Animals and

People to Life. Learn about the technology called Audio-Animatronics, seen on The Haunted Mansion, Pirates of the Caribbean, and Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room, and its evolution through the first fifteen years of Disneyland (1955-1970).

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

November 12, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

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

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

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

December 4, 1:00 p.m. OASIS at the Library: Gadgets and Gizmos. Learn to unravel the mysteries of cutting-edge technology: scanners, flash-drives, portable hard drives, wireless technology and more.

December 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.

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

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

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

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 11/11, 11/25-11/28 and 12/23-1/2/20) 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 11/11) Join Ms. Carrie every Monday morning for stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills!

Continued from page 20

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

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

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

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

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

December 31, 11:30 a.m. Noon Year's Eve Party. Want to ring in the New Year, but your bed time is way before midnight? Come to our Noon Year's Eve Celebration and celebrate at noon! Join us crafts and a countdown to the Noon Years.

Apply for a Free Computer!! Computers 2 SD Kids, Basic Computer Class for Adults at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on November 16 and December 14

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. Volunteers will guide you through an introductory computer class at the library. Attendance at this class is required before you can receive a computer. Computers 2 SD Kids will give you a Technology Assistance Program application. They will review it and notify you whether you qualify based on your verified income. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library or call 858-573-1396 starting on the 1st of each month.

Serra Mesa Community Council News

Donations: Although the Observer will be digital SMCC will still need operational funds: e.g., post office box, Constant Contact, etc. If you are trying to decide where to donate for 2019 tax purposes, 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.

SMCC Board Members: There are openings and we could use your help. If you are interested, please contact us.

Goals: The SMCC board needs to establish 2020 goals. What should be the board's focus? What does Serra Mesa need?

Contact Information: PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193; 858-565-2473; communitycouncil@serramesa.org

Coastal Cleanup Day at Library/Rec Canyon

On Saturday, September 21, the Friends of Ruffin Canyon (FRC) hosted another Coastal Cleanup Day event at Library/Rec Canyon, located between the Library and Rec Center. I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) sponsors this event every year, by providing dumpsters, supplies, and publicity for cleanup sites throughout the region.

FRC leaders were happy to see the largest turnout in years, with 47 volunteers, including groups from the Marines and the University of San Diego. Volunteer projects included clearing invasive plants along the trail through the willows, other trail maintenance, clearing cut pepper tree branches and other dead branches all over, trash removal, painting over graffiti near the ball fields, and maintenance in the native plant restoration site (along where the creek channel meets the trail to the Library).

Unlike Ruffin Canyon, Library/Rec Canyon is not managed by the city's Open Space Division (with Ranger support) and can use plenty of extra volunteer support. The next big cleanup day at this canyon will be the Creek to Bay Cleanup in late April. Look for information on that event in early 2020, and let us see even more volunteers from Serra Mesa! Aside from these ILACSD events, the Friends of Ruffin Canyon stays involved with volunteer projects in Library/Rec Canyon and Ruffin Canyon every month. If you are interested in getting involved, please email FRC Chair Monica Fuentes at jomonicer@yahoo.com.





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Post Office Box 23315
San Diego, CA 92193

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