

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 3 MAY / JUNE 2020

***Ruth Gallivan, Serra Mesa Resident,
Celebrates 104th Birthday***



Story on page 4.

Photos credited to Facebook; more photos at <https://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightSanDiego/>. April 1.



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, May 27

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

No Meeting

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

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 Luisa Johnson(858)565-2473*
Serra Mesa Food Pantry
 Karl Doering(858)565-2473*
SM Community Garden & Orchard

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

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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

Meetings Postponed Until Further Notice - Stay Home Stay Safe**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

May 12	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
May 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
May 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
May 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jun 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Jun 16	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jun 18	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jun 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jun 20	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Jun 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
No Mtg	Serra Mesa Community Council Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jul 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

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

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Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer
 are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.

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

Deadline: July / August 2020 Edition...June 21st.

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we go to print for this issue of the Observer, our world has changed, and tomorrow may be different from today. As we enter this new era of quarantine and social distancing, we first need to thank those around us who have kept us safe from this pandemic. That includes first responders, medical personnel, public officials, news media, bus drivers, mailpersons, grocery store personnel, food pantries, caregivers, and a host of others who has made sure that we can safely stay home. One only must see what New York has endured and know that what we have experienced is not to that degree thanks to our governor, mayor, and county officials. It is heartening to see the sacrifice of caring individuals who have abandoned warnings and have added those who needed it even without the availability of safety gear. America was caught off guard, and hopefully, we have learned a lesson to keep this from repeating.

I am especially proud of friends and neighbors who have heeded the warning of local politicians to stay home and buy some time for our research and medical researchers to find a cure. I also applaud those who have taken steps to help the homeless and more sensitive of our citizens to ensure that they have a safe place to stay and food to eat. Who knew that so many would be furloughed or laid off, without a source of income to pay current bills?

I was amazed at the availability of technology that has kept us informed and able to communicate with each other. The presence of programs like Zoom, which enables us to see and talk in groups so that

each person has a voice and presence in group meetings. How fortunate we are so that our children can continue to receive education as we search for a solution and vaccine to assist us in dealing with the Virus. I am so thankful for our telephone systems so we can stay in touch with families and friends regardless of location. In some cases, we have reached out to friends with whom we have been out of touch for way too long.

I am proud of America as we have stood up and faced our predicament regardless of the cost or consequences. There was never a hint of quitting or giving up. We faced a situation caused by others and came together to resolve problems and make sure we found solutions, no matter what the cost. We have protected the weak and compromised with dignity and respect to the best of our ability. Democracy works, and we as a Nation should be proud of our actions and make sure that those who provided solutions are properly rewarded.

Lastly, I mourn for those who lost their lives as well as their families who endured those last moments without family presence. I hope it makes you think of your family and allows you to put aside differences that keep us apart. We have each other, and our similarities are so much greater than our differences. We have a good nation, and hopefully, we can find ways to make it even better, under God. Stay safe and pray for one another.

Carl Demas
President Serra Mesa Community Council Board

Ruth Gallivan, Serra Mesa Resident, Celebrates 104th Birthday

The 104th birthday celebration of Ruth Gallivan, Serra Mesa resident on April 1st, was widely covered by the news media. Honor Flight San Diego, a non-profit organization that escorts veterans to Washington DC to visit memorials dedicated to their service, organized a drive-by celebration when the original plans were cancelled because of coronavirus.



The celebration included a garage door decorated with 1940s memorabilia, decorated vehicles that drove past her home, and musicians leading the group in singing “Happy Birthday”, “God Bless America”, and the Marine Corps Hymn.

Ruth is considered to be the oldest living female Marine west of the Mississippi River. She was born in Darlington, Wis. and enlisted in the Marines in 1943. After boot camp she was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar. Since there weren’t any women’s barracks she was given the assignment to establish one. After her discharge in 1945 she worked for decades at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and retired in 1986 as a general’s assistant. In 1955 she married Jim Gallivan, settled in Serra Mesa, and raised two sons.



Photos credited to Facebook; more photos at <https://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightSanDiego/>. April 1.

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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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

Temporarily Closed

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
May 19 & June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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858-277-6572
www.gethsemanesd.org

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



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

HLAA
Hearing Loss Association of America
San Diego Chapter

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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Serra Mesa has had a Senior Organization called the Serra Mesa Village since 2014. We are a group of folks that are aged 55 and over. The objective of the Village Movement is to provide purpose, recreation, and companionship for people who want to age in place while remaining in their current homes. We are a community-based organization under the umbrella of the Serra Mesa Community Council and, therefore, a non-profit organization, so any dues or donations are tax exempt.

We are not affiliated with any church, as this is a community based social organization to help fill senior years with activities and events.

Should you or anyone in your household or neighborhood be 55 or over, we would like to extend an invitation to join our group.

Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Village Board.

Serra Mesa Village, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193, (858)565-2473

Beautifying 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 or would like to paint a utility box (**a great pastime during this stay-at-home time**), 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

City Attorney's Office Protecting Public During Health Emergency

By City Attorney Mara W. Elliott



Even in the best of times, there is an abundance of legal work for the attorneys who advise our elected officials and department heads. We find that keeping a \$3 billion municipal government out of trouble and operating effectively is as satisfying as it is challenging.

During a crisis, however, the workload grows exponentially. Unprecedented situations may require original solutions, and even new laws. Urgent questions arise and need quick answers. Emergency orders need to be clarified for city employees and the public, as they can change everything from how government stays transparent to what is legal and illegal.

At times like these, the attorneys in our Civil Advisory Division are the unsung heroes of City government, toiling behind the scenes to ensure the City can respond to rapidly developing situations swiftly and legally. When the COVID-19 emergency hit, my Office received what might otherwise be six months of legal questions in just two weeks.

Issues covered by our advice included nearly every aspect of City operations:

- The use of City facilities and property for emergency housing and other purposes necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19,
- The City's ability to provide relief to tenants, landlords, businesses, water customers, and others impacted by COVID-19,
- Definitions of "essential" and "non-essential" businesses under the Governor's executive order, and the City's powers to enforce the closure of businesses that refuse to comply,
- The City's ability to preemptively cancel public events in parks and on leased property that appear to violate the Governor's executive order,
- Protocols for minimizing City employee exposure to the novel coronavirus, including police officers who deal with symptomatic arrestees,
- Keeping City business flowing smoothly when the employees needed to review and sign documents are working remotely, and
- Rules for holding public meetings under the Brown Act when members of the public cannot be physically present.

In addition to addressing these issues, and dozens more, our Office quickly drafted the Eviction Moratorium and Business Relief resolutions that were unanimously approved by the City Council on March 25.

We also worked on establishing emergency childcare for our City's public safety personnel, who continue to work long hours even while their children are home from school.

Other divisions in our Office are working equally hard to keep San Diegans safe during the health emergency.

Attorneys and investigators in the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit (ACE) are working nights and weekends to protect consumers from exploitation. Price gouging – or selling essential items for more than 10 percent of the normal cost – is illegal under state law after a state of emergency has been declared.

Continued from page 8

ACE is also tracking down scammers that peddle false promises of treatments and cures, fraudulent financial investments, fake at-home testing kits, and deceptive online ads and email campaigns.

San Diegans shouldn't have to worry about being cheated when taking precautions to stay healthy. To report price gouging or scams, please call at (619) 533-5618.

Even while courtrooms are closed, our Office works directly with the courts to ensure access to justice. Gun Violence Restraining Orders to prevent gun violence and Restraining Orders for victims of domestic violence are still being obtained.

And our Family Justice Center, which serves victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, has adapted to the times. Its dedicated staff is available by phone to provide safety planning and connect victims to community resources. To reach a victim services coordinator at the FJC, call (619) 533-6000 or (619) 533-6001.

During this difficult time, everyone in the San Diego City Attorney's Office is working diligently to protect the health and safety of you and your community.

Pink Laces Senior Workout group is having classes online on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 am. They are being streamed on Zoom. If you are interested please contact Katrina at fitkatinsd@aol.com and title the subject line : online workouts

Franklin Ridge Road Connection Lawsuit Appeal

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. A 501(c)3 nonprofit Board, composed of representatives from Civita and Serra Mesa, sued to protect public safety and the quality of life in Civita and Serra Mesa.

On January 28, 2020, more than two years later, the San Diego County Superior Court ruled against the environmental lawsuit. The decision supported the City's process.

When the court reopens (closure due to coronavirus) the Board will appeal the decision to the 4th District Court of Appeal. We're concerned about safety for both Civita and Serra Mesa residents. An appeal is heard by three judges and takes approximately 18 months.

Thanks to all of the generous people who have donated to this cause and made the fundraising effort a success. **Some additional funds are needed.** Turn your concerns about the road connection into action. Donations are tax deductible. Online donation information is at <https://savecivita.com/take-action/> or checks can be addressed to Save Civita and mailed to Save Civita, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

More information: <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/> (includes briefs and judge's ruling) and <https://savecivita.com/>.

Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update

Comments on the Kearny Mesa Community Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), <https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft>, were due May 1st. The City's Planning Department director denied the Serra Mesa Planning Group's request to extend the deadline. Since the Kearny Mesa Planning Group didn't announced any online meetings for this item, there weren't any planned group discussions. Individuals/organizations needed to submit their own comments. These comments and the City's response will be included in the final PEIR which will be reviewed by the Kearny Mesa Planning Group and the Planning Commission. The City Council makes the final decision.

At least one letter was sent which questioned the drainage problem at the Aero/Sandrock intersection, the impacts on Serra Mesa recreational facilities/parks, and if any of the projects would require the removal of parking spaces in front of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library.

Some Update Highlights:

- Designation of mixture of medium density residential and Urban Employment Village High (refers to residential density) along Aero between Kearny Villa and library
- Commercial increases 58% from 19.4M to 33.7M s.f.
- Residential increases 111% from 2,857 to 25,826 units
- Lack of 7,100 s.f. of recreational facilities
- Bicycle plan for Aero Dr: Northside from Kearny Villa to West Canyon - Class I multi-use path; Southside from Convoy to Kearny Villa – Class IV one way cycle track
- Aero Promenade – one mile linear park from Kearny Villa to the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and entrance to Ruffin Canyon
- Additional trail connection 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
- Trolley line preliminary plans run from San Ysidro to Kearny Mesa (from stadium in Mission Valley running along Daley Center, Ruffin Road, and Clairemont Mesa). Stations at Ridgehaven Court and Ruffin Road, and Overland Avenue.

From Brazil to College in San Diego



Gabriel Souza, 22, left Curitiba, Brazil last year to pursue his dream as a doctor. Traveling to San Diego, he expected to overcome a language barrier and adjust to unfamiliar customs but instead he was surprised with a college scholarship.

When Souza arrived in his new city, he began his pursuit of a doctoral degree, hoping to become a Clinical Psychologist. “My role models are my grandparents. They weren’t able to finish their academics, even though they work really hard to have a good life,” he said.

Although Souza already completed high school in Brazil, he had to repeat some classes in the United States. He achieved his diploma and studied English language at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE). There he was selected to be a part of a unique program, San Diego Gateway to College and Career.

With a goal of helping students after graduation, SDCE’s Gateway model for Opportunity Youth is one of the only programs of its kind nationwide that offers paid internships and motivational support for young adults ages 18-24.

Through Gateway, Souza secured an administrative internship for the county. Following this role, he now interns with San Diego Youth Services, a nonprofit that provides housing and mental health outreach for LGBTQ and homeless teens.

“This work is so important. I’m learning how to help youth during a crisis,” said Souza.

While studying at SDCE, he was awarded a Dwight Brydie Scholarship through the California Workforce Association. Souza will use his scholarship toward a psychology degree at City College.

SDCE is the center of a comprehensive continuing education program serving approximately 40,000 students, many of whom transition to San Diego City, Mesa, or Miramar colleges for associate degrees.

Enrollment is still available for spring semester. Learn more at [SDCE.EDU](https://sdce.edu).

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. As a result of COVID-19 the City Council suspended in person meetings on March 17. Consequently, the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) didn't conduct an annual March election of board members.

On April 14 the City Council approved a resolution that stipulates that community planning groups (CPGs) "...that have not held March elections but have fewer candidates than vacancies, the election will become final and seating of new members will occur at next meeting." (Staff Report, April 6, 2020). Besides the candidates that were automatically elected SMPG has additional vacancies. The board can elect a qualified candidate at a future meeting. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa businessperson and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected.

Provisions are now in place for teleconference meetings for CPGs.

To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.



Housing at Old Library Site

Old Serra Mesa Library on Sandrock & Hurlbut, 3440 Sandrock Road – This property, .336 acres, potential 29 units, is one of the five properties that Mayor Faulconer announced in February 2020 would be made available for permanent supportive housing. The deadline for the City's Real Estate Assets Department Request for Proposal (RFP), <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/supportivehousing.pdf>, has been extended to May 22, 2020.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

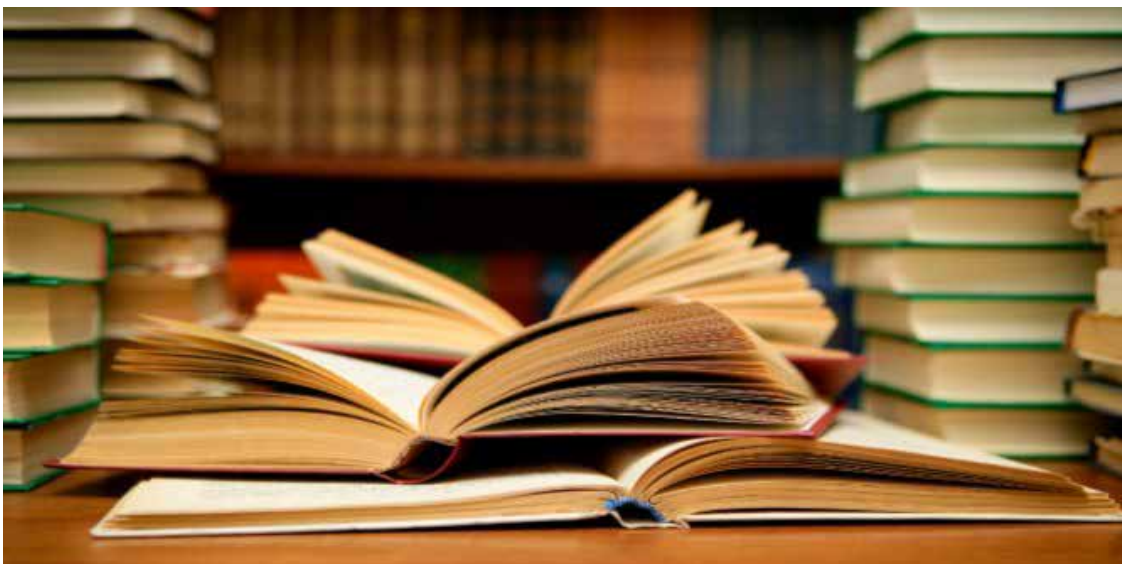
(858)573-1396 facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/

Email Questions to weblibrary@sandiego.gov

Under the guidance of the CA Department of Public Health and San Diego County's Public Health Officer, the San Diego Public Library will be closed until further notice. Online Library services remain available to the public. Please visit the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Facebook and the San Diego Public Library homepage <https://sandiego.gov/public-library>

List of online library services available for you 24/7:

- eBooks, eAudiobooks and Digital Magazines: take a look at our eLibrary resource, we've got some new resources for the kids and adults <https://sandiego.gov/eLibrary>
- Online Book Clubs <https://sandiego.gov/bookclubs>
- Spring Into Reading program <https://sandiego.gov/SpringReading>
- Videos: <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-videos>
 - » kanopy: streaming movies and videos
 - » Learn Bicycle Repair & Maintenance
 - » Library Opera Insights Series: a series of free lectures for the community by San Diego Opera and UC San Diego
 - » Stay-In Storytime Club: virtual storytime collection <https://sandiego.gov/sdplstorytime>
 - » medici.tv: classical music channel



Serra Mesa Food Pantry



It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Serra Mesa Food Pantry Director for the last ten years. On May 15, this year will be the 10th anniversary of the pantry. Time sure flew by. We were thinking of so many ways to mark this important milestone, with the present Covid-19 situation, celebrations are not possible, except for decorations at the pop-up tent where we have moved our distribution. (See picture). You are welcome to drive by on Wednesday, May 13, during the hours of operation (10 - 2 p.m.) and honk to let the volunteers know how much their job is appreciated.

We at the pantry feel very blessed to serve this amazing community of Serra Mesa. I know the pantry will be in excellent hands as the new pantry Director, Kristine Webb, steps in to continue serving our neighbors in need, as I step down at the end of June 2020. Kristine will have the most fantastic team of volunteers any organization could ask for. We have seen an increase of 50% in the number of families coming to the pantry during this crisis.

We are very grateful for all the help and support we have received over the years from Churches, businesses, schools, and individuals who have seen the need to help our neighbors and have committed to help. Thanks to Mission Village Christian Fellowship and Serra Mesa Community Council and a special thank you to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, who increased their donations during the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to everyone who hosted food drives and fundraisers.

The number of people we serve now is about 120 families, which is an increase of 50%. Please continue to support the SMFP with your prayers, donations, encouragement, etc. God has been good to us.

With much gratitude,

Luisa Johnson



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