



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5     SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021



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

You are invited to participate in the  
**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, September 22  
6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
No Meeting in October

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

Neighborhood People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser	(619) 725-5550	State Senator Toni G. Atkins	(619) 645-3133
City Councilmember Raul Campillo	(619) 236-6677	Governor Gavin Newsom	(619) 525-4641
Mayor Todd Gloria	(619) 236-6330	U.S. Representative Sara Jacobs	(619) 280-5353
County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher	(619) 531-5544	U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	(619) 231-9712
State Assembly Member Akilah Weber, MD	(619) 531-7913	U.S. Senator Alex Padilla	(619) 239-3884

#### Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers

Carl Demas.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>President</i>	
Cindy Moore.....	(858) 565-2473*
<i>Vice President</i>	
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>	
Cindy McIntyre.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Education Committee</i>	
Sam Yoeuth.....	(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/SMPPAG</i>	
Yusuf Nazar.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Special Projects/SMPPG</i>	

#### Appointed Positions

Myra Webb.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Serra Mesa Email Directory</i>	
Ronda Adams.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Observer Editor</i>	
Geralyn White.....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Neighborhood Awareness</i>	
Colin Dowling .....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Webmaster</i>	

#### Key Serra Mesa Volunteers

Catherine Stempel .....	(858)565-2473*
<i>SMPPG President</i>	
Monica Fuentes .....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Friends of Ruffin Canyon</i>	
Kristine Webb .....	(858)565-2473*
<i>Serra Mesa Food Pantry</i>	
Karl Doering .....	(858)565-2473*
<i>SM Community Garden &amp; Orchard</i>	

#### 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: smppg@serramesa.org	

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

### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sept 1	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sept 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Sept 16	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Sept 21	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
No Mtg	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Sept 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 22	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 16	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Oct 19	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Oct 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 27	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
Nov 3	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Nov 6	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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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 2021 Edition...October 21st.

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The views expressed in this message are personal and not the views of the SMCC Board. I would appreciate comments and/or opposing views and they can be addressed to my personal email [cdemas@startmail.com](mailto:cdemas@startmail.com)

### **Enough is enough**

Well here we are half way through the year and if this were an athletic event, the coach would start to analyze the data. Do we know our opponent, have we studied his tactics, have we reviewed our own, what is our current status, and how do we win the game? Let's look at our opponents one by one.

**The Pandemic** – As one of the very few countries in the world, we recognized the problem, found a cure and developed a vaccine, distributed it free to the most vulnerable first, made it available and convenient to receive, and now 68% of those who could have received it have. In review, we find that Americans do not receive mandates lightly and those who have not received the vaccine are the most vulnerable. As a result, the mutated Covid 19 is spreading in those areas. Now the issue of masks. Do they or do they not prevent or slow down the disease? The answer is what else do we have, more isolation? What about kids in schools? Why has it taken this long to study this aspect? What about boosters and who should receive them. The answer is that the CDC has become political and with everything else political is not believable and has lost credibility. With all the money we pay for leadership in the CDC why can't we get truths by credible people? Why isn't the leadership of our country responsible for the CDC doing their job, maybe they need replacing too.

**The Borders** – The problem, thousands and thousands of persons coming into the U.S. illegally. We are a nation of laws, and we have laws for those who wish to come to this country just as every other country in the world. The problem has existed for years and because of the complexity we kind of had it under control until this year when we offered an invitation to the Southern Hemisphere that our borders were opened. And the flood

began and because of the need to care for the uninvited guests our border patrol was no longer able to restrict the drugs coming into the country as experienced by the increase of drug overdoses. Currently we are allowing persons to come into our country without Covid tests and transporting them all over the country yet do not allow Canadians with Vaccines and Covid tests to enter. Again, it is our elected leadership who is not monitoring causes and making adjustments to correct the problems.

**Lead in Aviation Fuel** – Montgomery-Gibbs Municipal Airport is growing and expanding much of it being a training facility for new pilots. What do they do but practice landing and touch downs to earn their wings. The problem is tons of lead in our air adjacent to 6 schools in our area alone. Serra Mesa has asked the airport manager to provide unleaded fuel on many occasions and is being ignored because of the inconvenience and assumed cost. The real cost is the effect on our kids as no amount of lead in our air is acceptable and we keep getting the run around. i.e.: The fuel is not available, it is. It does not mix with leaded fuel, it does. When planning a new expansion approved by the city council, a new fuel bank will be available in 3 years, not acceptable. Whose problem is it? Federal, State, City, Local? No one seems to want to take this on. What about our kids? That is the problem and we sit and watch it happen.

I could go on but enough is enough. "When we see something, we should say something" I have had it. I have discontinued my subscription to the San Diego Union Tribune, I do not watch or listen to network news, and I am filtering my input sources who concentrate on journalism as was intended to be, the truth and nothing but the truth. I want the facts and just the facts, opinions are only in the minds of the journalist. I don't care what reporters think and/or understand, just report the truth. I am writing my elected officials on everything I find unacceptable and marking my time to vote for those who care about what I think and suggest that you do too.

The views expressed in this message are personal and not the views of the SMCC Board. I would appreciate comments and/or opposing views and they can be addressed to my personal email [cdemas@startmail.com](mailto:cdemas@startmail.com)

Carl Demas, President

## Tackling Nuisance Properties in Your Neighborhood

By Mara W. Elliott

Safe and healthy neighborhoods benefit all of us. And when even one property is allowed to deteriorate, we are all imperiled by the hazards it creates: Yards piled high with flammable junk, festering pools of stagnant water, infestations of rats and roaches that spill over property lines.

My office intervenes in situations where dangerous property violations persist, and inspections and warnings by police, fire marshals, and City Code Enforcement inspectors are ignored. We provide relief to the neighborhood, and help the occupant obtain resources that may be necessary to address drug addiction, hoarding behavior, and other mental illnesses.

My Office's Nuisance Abatement Unit focuses on quality of life crimes by addressing nuisance and substandard housing properties throughout San Diego. It has successfully petitioned the court to appoint a receiver to bring 22 challenging properties into compliance.

The California Health & Safety Code authorizes the court to appoint a Health and Safety receiver when a property has substandard housing conditions and when the violations are "so extensive and of such a nature that the health and safety of residents or the public is substantially endangered." Working under the direction of the court, the receiver is charged with cleaning up the property, relocating the occupants if necessary, and even offering them counseling or other assistance to address the underlying issues that allowed their home situation to escalate out of control.

Our Nuisance Abatement Unit has pursued Health and Safety receiverships in cases involving abandoned buildings and general public nuisances, but most involve hoarding.

Here are just some of our cases:

- In a Pacific Beach house, piles of furniture and trash inside the home created a serious safety hazard for the occupants, which included young children. The bathroom sinks drained into buckets and water leaks caused mold throughout the structure.
- The yard of a City Heights man was overtaken by squatters, who filled his property with junk and debris while he was busy caring for his seriously ill wife. The trespassers set fires in the canyon behind the property, endangering the entire community. Police were called to the address 117 times in three years. The homeowner had no way to evict the squatters and clean up his property.
- An elderly couple was forced to live in their Bay Ho backyard because there was too much trash inside their home to safely enter it. They lived in a camper shell for five years, took sponge baths in the yard, and cooked on a portable camp stove. Feral cats, skunks, and possums lived alongside them in the piles of debris.
- A University Heights home had a 20-year history of excessive junk, abandoned cars, and a strong stench from rotting food inside and out. The occupant cleaned it up twice after being contacted by authorities, but when it became a nuisance again, the court appointed a receiver to step in.
- A man living in a house in Bay Terraces that had no working toilets or showers was collecting urine in hundreds of plastic bottles stacked in his backyard. Doors and windows were blocked by a ceiling-high accumulation of trash, creating an extreme fire hazard.

My Office does not get involved until Code Enforcement inspectors have visited a problem property repeatedly to determine the extent

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## **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 online	(858) 694-7000	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Zoning/Permits - Questions & Violations	(619) 446-5000
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886		
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055		
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110		
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500		
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety			

### 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

<http://www.ayso780.org>

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  
<http://www.serramesalittleleague.org>

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on  
September 21 & October 19 at 6:30 p.m.



Serra Mesa Food Pantry has  
a drive-thru distribution every  
Wednesday from 10am-1pm  
at 2650 Melbourne Drive.



#### 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

Continued to page 4

of the issues, and the occupants or owners are issued warnings to comply with the Health & Safety Code.

If the problems are not addressed, the City issues a legal Notice and Order to vacate and repair or demolish the property. The notice clearly identifies every violation, compliance measures, and informs the property owner that failure to comply could lead to the appointment of a receiver. By law, the property owner has a reasonable amount of time to correct the violations. The City makes every attempt to work with the property owner before seeking a receiver, which is always the last resort.

If you have a property in your area that appears to pose an extreme health and safety hazard, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Division at 619-236-5500, the Nuisance Abatement Unit at 619-533-5655, or email [CityAttorney@sandiego.gov](mailto:CityAttorney@sandiego.gov).

*Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney*

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## Friends of Ruffin Canyon---SAVE THE DATE

Friends of Ruffin Canyon invite all volunteers to help with our Canyon Clean-up on Saturday, October 2 from 9am to Noon. We will meet at the lower parking lot of the Serra Mesa Recreation Center at 9020 Village Glen. Come for an hour, stay for all 3. Any help is appreciated.

We will be removing non-native invasive plants and trash from the canyon adjacent to the rec center and along the path to the library. Bring gloves, wear long pants, sturdy shoes and apply sunscreen. Help us fill a dumpster provided by Serra Mesa Recreation Center with plants and debris that doesn't belong in our canyon.

See you there! Any questions email [friendsofruffincanyon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofruffincanyon@gmail.com)

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## SMCC Donations and Observer Ads

The Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) is in the process of establishing online forms for

- Donations at [www.serramesa.org/smcc-donation/](http://www.serramesa.org/smcc-donation/)
- Observer ads at [www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/](http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/).

Once the online forms are operational an email will be distributed.

Donations help pay for the annual fee for the website and the email account (Constant Contact) services, used by numerous community groups. Please consider donating. Also, if you have suggestions for improving the website, send them to [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org).

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## Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update

**Appeal:** Filed on May 21, 2020. The appellant's brief was filed on December 18, 2020; City's brief, April 9, 2021; appellant's reply brief, July 12, 2021. When the court hearing is scheduled it will be posted on the website.

**Background:** 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.

**More information:** <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/> (includes appeal, briefs, and ruling) and <https://savecivita.com/>.



Friday 6:00pm - 10:00pm  
 Saturday 12:00pm - 10:00pm  
 Sunday 10:30am - 3:00pm

3327 Glencolum Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92123

## The Fall Festival is back! Oct.22-24

Join us for the biggest event in Serra Mesa.

Enjoy a fun-filled event for the entire family with games, inflatables, food, beer garden and raffle for a new Toyota!

**Plus, live performances by:**

**Friday: Grooveline (7-10pm)**

**Saturday:**

**Barstool Cowboys (12-1:30pm)**

**The Siers Brothers (2-5pm)**

**3 Car Garage (6:30-9:30pm)**

**Sunday: Hullabaloo (11-11:45am)**



**Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton**

2696 Melbourne Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92123  
 858-277-6572  
[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org)

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

## Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

2235 Galahad Road  
 San Diego, CA 92123  
 Phone: (858) 277-2511

Fr. James Bankston  
 Administrator

[pastorhasd@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhasd@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church



**All are Welcome!**

## Holy Angels Ethnic Foods

**858-268-3458**

2235 Galahad Rd • San Diego, CA 92123-3931

Open 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Friday - Tuesday  
 (Closed Wed & Thurs)

*Please always call before coming*

**Ethnic Foods Available**

Kolbasi - Holubki - Kolachi - Pirohi - Rozky  
 Other seasonal items



**OFFICE:**  
 2650 Melbourne Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92123  
 858.278.2633  
[missionvillage1@sbccglobal.net](mailto:missionvillage1@sbccglobal.net)  
[www.missionvillagechurch.org](http://www.missionvillagechurch.org)

**STEVE DE VOS, PASTOR**  
 Cell 858.829.2097  
[stevedevos79@gmail.com](mailto:stevedevos79@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 A.M.

Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
 Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Zoom Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
 Youth Group—Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
 Small Group Study & Home Fellowship  
 Groups at Various times through the week

*We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community*

## Update from Office of City Councilmember Raul Campillo

*Presented to the Serra Mesa Planning Group*

The Council is currently in Legislative Recess until after Labor Day, but I do have a few updates to provide from the final Council meetings at the start of August that I have laid out below.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- If you've driven by Taft Middle School, you'll have started to see some construction happening.
- The development of the Taft Joint Use Facility Development is underway, and construction is anticipated to be completed by next June.

### **Funding Additional Critical Infrastructure**

- The Aug 3 Commercial Paper item allocates an additional \$1 million to installation of street lights, \$4.7 million to sidewalk repair, and \$39.5 million to street resurfacing
- All these numbers are citywide, district-specific info is not yet available.
- These streets will be in addition to the \$27-million in slurry seal contracts that were approved in June.
- Streets approved in June include: All of Ruffin from Aero, Mission Village from Ruffin to Ronda, and sections of Admiral, Fermi, Forrester, Fullerton, Melbourne, Amulet, Epaulette, Overton, Palace, Yolanda, Larrabee, and more.
- Also included in this was funding for the Mobley Street Storm Drain, which is starting to deteriorate. The drain is on the west side of the street along the Sandrock Canyon Trail. The project is in the design phase, with construction slated for 2023.
- The most up to date list of projects across the City can be found here: <https://sandiego.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a1c45c92fb6d46efa4b1209941f58c8a>

### **Sandrock Library**

- There is no update to this project. The Real Estate and Assets Department (READ) is still currently in negotiations with Community Housing Works on a ground lease for the property. This will still need to come to full Council for final approval.

### **Starling Drive Property Inquiry**

- There are active permits on file with the Development Services Department (DSD) for this property. It is an Extended Stay Hotel, and the project was approved in 12/2019. It is currently under construction/inspection via the Code Enforcement Division of DSD.

### **Case Work**

- Our office is continuing to address questions of streetlights, code enforcement issues regarding ADUs, and encampments to just mention a few. If any issues come up, please feel free to reach out to Vic at [vvettiyil@sandiego.gov](mailto:vvettiyil@sandiego.gov) or give him a call at 619-236-6749.





## Emeritus Students Dive into Art at a Distance

### Allura Garis

Older adult students took to art classes offered through San Diego College of Continuing Education's (SDCCE's) free Emeritus programs to cope with the lack of socialization caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Art scholars engage virtually as they learn traditional and modern art techniques and styles.

"Art is a powerful way to stay connected. Many students are making creative spaces in their homes amid quarantine," said award-winning artist and faculty member Remi Dalton.

SDCCE's Emeritus program offers classes for students aged 50+. Dalton teaches drawing, painting, and art appreciation. Her students journey through virtual tours inside the studios of San Diego's modern working artists and after engage in lecture-discussion on intergenerational sculptors, photographers, poets, and printmakers from Claes Oldenburg to Jean-Michele Basquiat and Helen Frankenthaler.

For retired students Kris Nelson, 70, and Joan Stevens, 82, SDCCE's Emeritus programs mean more than just finding a new hobby.

"If I didn't have any people to talk about art with, I would feel isolated," said Nelson, who graduated from San Diego State University in 1972 with an art degree. The Emeritus classes at SDCCE provide healing through her husband's passing and the unforeseen challenges of isolation due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Following forty years in an elementary school, the then 64-year-old Stevens spent a lot of time thinking about what to do during retirement. She first enrolled in a music appreciation course at SDCCE and since then for nearly twenty years has filled her days with music, art, literature, and brain fitness classes. "I am so inspired by the intellect and humor of the people at SDCCE," Stevens said. "This community keeps me going. I plan to take classes for as long as I can."

From nutrition to arts, retirement and more, SDCCE's Emeritus program offers hundreds of free classes specifically designed to support older adults maintain independence, rejoin the workforce and actively engage in the community.

SDCCE is enrolling for the fall semester. Visit [SDCCE.EDU](https://www.sdcce.edu) to learn more.

## Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

(858) 573-1396 [facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/](https://facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/)

Email Questions to [SMstaff@sanidiego.gov](mailto:SMstaff@sanidiego.gov)

Under the guidance of the City of San Diego, 29 San Diego Public Library locations are open for limited in-person services and an additional 3 locations provide Contactless Holds Pickup and Online library services. All book drops are available to the public. For the most up to date information please visit the <https://www.facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary> and the San Diego Public Library homepage <https://sandiego.gov/public-library>

### Contactless Pickup Service

While the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library is closed for in-person service, we provide access to physical materials through our limited Contactless Pickup Service, as well as at an additional 2 Pickup Service Locations. Place holds at <https://sandiego.gov/public-library> and find more information and for updates about Contactless Pickup Service and In-Person Service at <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/in-person-library-services>

Hours: Monday and Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### In-Person Service

29 locations are now open for In-Person Services. Available Services include Item Checkout, Computer Usage, Printing, Holds Pickup, Reference, Browsing, Study Rooms, and Library Account Assistance.

Hours: Monday and Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Limited In-Person Service Locations:

- |                           |                                |                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Allied Gardens/Benjamin | • Logan Heights                | • Rancho Bernardo         |
| • Balboa                  | • Mira Mesa                    | • Rancho Penasquitos      |
| • Carmel Mountain Ranch   | • Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox | • San Carlos              |
| • Carmel Valley           | • Mission Valley               | • San Ysidro              |
| • Central                 | • North Park                   | • Scripps Miramar Ranch   |
| • City Heights            | • North University Community   | • Tierrasanta             |
| • College-Rolando         | • Otay Mesa-Nestor             | • University Heights      |
| • Kensington              | • Pacific Beach                | • Valencia Park/Malcolm X |
| • La Jolla/Riford         | • Paradise Hills               |                           |
| • Linda Vista             | • Point Loma/Hervey            |                           |

### Online library services available 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>
- **Videos:** <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-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

- [Virtual Hub](https://sandiego.gov/sdplvirtual): virtual library media collection <https://sandiego.gov/sdplvirtual>

### **Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie**

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for virtual stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills. Register at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/virtual-wednesday-morning-storytime-ms-carrie> When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes until September 29th, so you do not need to register for each session.

### **Serra Mesa Book Club**

Join the Serra Mesa Book Club virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. For registration, contact library staff at [smstaff@sandiego.gov](mailto:smstaff@sandiego.gov). September 14th will discuss News of the World by Paulette Jiles and October 12th will discuss Notorious RBG-The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon.

### **Library NExT 2021**

In partnership with Sally Ride Science, check out this series of workshops for elementary, middle and high school students on topics including robotics, circuits, coding, and 64 + other STEAM subjects. Visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/librarynext> for more information and to view the current workshop schedule.

### **Friends of the Library Donations**

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library are currently accepting book donations on Mondays from 4:00-8:00pm. Stay tune for news about upcoming used book sales by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary>

### **Mail Ballot Dropoff Locations**

The Serra Mesa Branch Library will serve as an official Mail Ballot Drop-Off location for the California Gubernatorial Recall Election from Tuesday August 17 through Tuesday September 14. Your signed, sealed and dated mail ballot envelope can be dropped off during these hours:

Monday & Tuesday 11:30 am – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 9:30 am – 6:00 pm

On Election Day, Tuesday September 14, hours for dropping off mail ballots will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more Mail Ballot Dropoff Locations, visit [www.SDVote.com](http://www.SDVote.com)

### **In-N-Out Cover to Cover Program October 2 to November 13, 2021**

Children ages 4-12 can join the In-N-Out Cover to Cover program and receive a free hamburger for reading 5 books and can earn up to 3 certificates. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.SanDiegoLibrary.org](http://www.SanDiegoLibrary.org) starting October 2.



## 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. Until the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library opens SMPG is meeting online. Next meetings: September 16 and October 21. When there isn't an agenda item a meeting cancellation notice is sent to anyone who has signed up at [www.serramesa.org/](http://www.serramesa.org/). To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

**Board Openings** – There are three openings on the Board. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See [www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources](http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources).

**CIP Community Priorities Survey** at July 15<sup>th</sup> SMPG meeting – SMPG submitted this list to the City:

### High Priority Items

- Serra Mesa Community Plan Update
- Architectural Barrier Removal (pedestrian ramps)
- Median Strip Improvements on main Serra Mesa streets
- Swimming Pool at Serra Mesa Recreation Center
- Signal at New Library Site on Aero Dr
- Comfort Station at Murray Ridge Park
- Widen Cardinal Road/Improvements
- Widen Frost Street to provide 4 lanes (local Street)
- Genesee Avenue Widening Between the SR 163
- Genesee Avenue Widening on South Side
- Health Center Drive Widening
- Starling Drive Widening
- Starling Drive and Meadowlark Drive Intersection to add a light after Juvenile buildings construction finishes
- Fletcher Elementary School--Joint-Use Area Improvements
- Paths to new library & residential (southwest & southeast)
- Serra Mesa Community Park Recreation Building
- Fletcher Park and/or Juarez-(Neighborhood Park) Acquire land and develop
- Juarez Elementary School-Joint Use Area Improvements
- Fix the drainage issue at Sandrock and Aero Dr. (currently in Kearny Mesa Community Plan Area but effects the SM community)

### Medium Priority Items

- Traffic Signal Improvement at Gramercy Rd/Greyling Dr at Sandrock
- Traffic Signal Installation: Afton Road & Hurlbut St
- Comfort Stations at Juarez & New Parks
- Fire Station #28

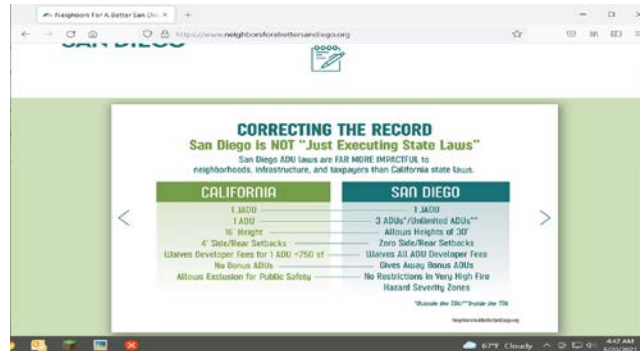
### Low Priority Items

- Traffic Signal Interconnect (various streets in community)
- Hickman Field Athletic Area--Community Pool
- Hickman Field Athletic Area--Recreation Building

- Jones Elementary School Turfing, Joint-Use

**AT&T Communications Facility Modification at 8010 Frost Street** at August 19<sup>th</sup> SMPG meeting – SMPG passed a motion to support the modification.

**City Laws Regarding Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs)** at August 19<sup>th</sup> SMPG meeting: Neighbors for a Better San Diego presented their analysis of the City Council's approval of municipal code changes effective November 2020 which exceed what is required by state law.



According to their analysis the ADUs “affordable” rent levels “are comparable to market rate” and “the returns on investment to developers are particularly biased against building the 2+ bedroom units that are needed by low- and middle-income families.” (San Diego ADUs Won’t Provide Affordable Housing, NFABSD’s white paper) For NFABSD’s analysis and to sign the petition asking for a moratorium on ADU changes go to [www.neighborsforabettersandiego.org/](http://www.neighborsforabettersandiego.org/).

SMPG passed a motion for a resolution that supports Neighbors for a Better San Diego’s proposed ADU code changes.

In order to reduce the adverse impacts of excess density while strengthening affordability benefits, we propose the replacement of the density bonus with an ADU size bonus and fee waiver, and other changes, as follows:

- Pre-approved architectural plans
- Increase interior side yard and rear yard setbacks to 4 feet
- Limit ADU/JADU heights to no more than 16 feet
- Clarify requirement for record (property) owner to live on premises of ADUs permitted after January 1, 2025
- Exclude ADUs in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- Reduce square footage of non-designated-affordable ADUs
- Replace density bonus with an ADU size bonus, fee waiver, and 30 year deed
- Restrict affordability incentives to Very Low and Low Income households
- Fire Safety Setbacks for JADUs
- Fee exemptions

Further concerns, but no specific recommendations:

- Allowance of parking in setbacks
- Potential abuse of provision to sell

\*Basically, Transit Priority Area (TPA) means an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned. Areas of Serra Mesa are located in a TPA.

## Redistricting And Serra Mesa

The City of San Diego's charter requires the establishment of a Redistricting Commission to specify district boundaries following the completion of the U.S. Census. To receive Redistricting Commission updates sign up at <https://www.sandiego.gov/redistricting-commission>. Also, the website provides links for supporting documents (e.g., population tables and maps).

Currently District 7 includes the communities of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta.

**Criteria for redrawing the lines** (adapted/copied from website):

- Equal population— each council district contain 1/9 of the city's population
- Continuity – council districts should be composed of continuous territory
- Geographically compact – nearby areas of population aren't bypassed for more distant populations
- Communities of interest – preserve communities who have similar concerns
- Reasonable access between population centers
- Natural boundaries – bounded by natural boundaries, street lines, and/or City boundary lines.

**History:** The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) during the 2011 redistricting process advocated for the following: "Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa should be considered as one due to natural boundaries, compact geography, shared and unique resource of Montgomery Field Airport, shared library, shared retail areas, and shared history; originally made up one Community Plan."

**Input:** In early fall SMPG will schedule a meeting to discuss their position on redistricting maps. Please watch for a SMPG meeting announcement. Additionally, you can make input at any time by contacting [redistricting2020@sandiego.gov](mailto:redistricting2020@sandiego.gov) or attending one of their meetings announced on their website.

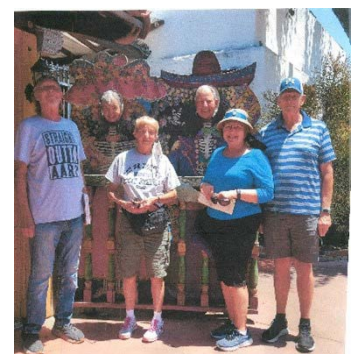
## Serra Mesa Village Getting Active Again

The Serra Mesa Village is a neighborhood organization designed to give purpose to those people who are 55+, living in their own homes, and wanting to enjoy an exceptional time in their life. Since the pandemic we have been communicating over weekly zoom meetings, but we are now ready to break out and beginning meeting in persons again. Look for a schedule of our events on the Serra Mesa Website: [www.serramesavillage.org](http://www.serramesavillage.org) and click on events. Our first event was a trip to Old Town on August 5<sup>th</sup>. We met at the Serra Mesa Library and carpooled to Old Town, shopped until we needed to drop then had lunch at La Paloma Mexican Restaurant in Old Town. We then drove back to the library with our treasurers and dropped off riders. We are hoping the library will be open for our September 16 General Meeting but make sure to check out our website. If you are not on our email listing, please submit your name to Kathy Andrews at [serramesavillage10@gmail.com](mailto:serramesavillage10@gmail.com). If you would like us to contact you, please call 858-565-2473 and leave a message and we will get back to you.

Finally, we have been advised by the Serra Mesa Recreation Center that we can again begin our weekly ceramic classes and they will begin on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-4PM. Preferences is given to seniors but if there is space non-seniors can attend but children cannot be accommodated. Look for our bi-monthly movies to begin shortly and we will advise when they start as well.

If you are 55+ and would like to join us, we would be happy to include you. We really enjoying being together and take pride in providing purpose for almost everyone.

Carl Demas, Board Member



## Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition

P.O. Box 231294 - San Diego, California 92193 - (619) 736-9522 - mgecsd.org



### WHY NOT IN SAN DIEGO

#### San Jose Airport Now Offering Unleaded Fuel

Pilots flying into and out of Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport here in San Diego do not have the option of filling up the tank with unleaded UL94 fuel because only toxic leaded avgas is sold at the airport. But it's a different story at Reed-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

Pilots at Reed-Hillview Airport can now purchase Swift Fuels unleaded UL94 aviation fuel. Reed-Hillview Airport has become the second airport in California that sells unleaded UL94. And it appears the price is right!

Dan DeMeo, the owner of Rabbit Aviation Services that offers UL94 at San Carlos Airport in Northern California, tells [The Mercury News](#) that UL94 has become more available and the price has dropped by nearly \$2 per gallon. DeMeo now sells unleaded fuel at San Carlos Airport for about 10 cents less than the price of leaded avgas.

But the story is a lot different here in San Diego. Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition has been pushing for unleaded UL94 fuel to be offered at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport for more than three years to no avail. Former Mayor Kevin Faulconer, the City Council, and the city's Real Estate Assets Department all turned a deaf ear to our pleas to offer unleaded fuel.

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport operations generate more than a ton of toxic lead air pollution annually according to City documents. Medical experts like the World Health Organization, Mayo Clinic, and the American Academy of Pediatrics among others say that there is no safe level of lead.

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Lead is a neurotoxin and buildup in the body causes serious health problems for both adults and children. But it is even more dangerous for kids because it replaces calcium in their growing bodies and can cause reduced IQ, loss of developmental skills, and behavior and attention problems among other things.

In fact, a recent scientific study commissioned by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors revealed that children who live within 1.5 miles of San Jose's Reed-Hillview Airport have elevated blood lead levels. The [study](#) concludes that the continued use of leaded aviation fuel has contributed to those increased blood lead levels. The scary thing is that according to the EPA, San Diego's Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport generates more toxic lead air pollution from leaded avgas than Reed-Hillview Airport does.

However, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel locally since San Diego has a new mayor, Todd Gloria, that hopefully will remember that he supported offering unleaded fuel at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport when he was a state Assemblyman.

The Airports Deputy Director Jorge Rubio also recently announced at a meeting of the Airports Advisory Committee that the City is looking into bringing unleaded fuel to the airport. Mr. Rubio has spoken with Swift Fuels regarding unleaded UL 94 fuel and is setting up meetings with the FBOs (vendors) and Swift Fuels to see if an agreement can be reached.

However, should the FBOs decide that they do not want to offer unleaded UL94 fuel, then it is imperative that the City of San Diego must become its own vendor. FAA Order 5190.6B specifically says that *"the airport sponsor may elect to provide any or all of the aeronautical services at its airport, and to be the exclusive provider of those services."*

The [Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operation](#) that spearheaded the campaign to sell unleaded at Reed-Hillview airport is comprised of airport businesses & employees, pilots, and San Jose residents according to their website.

Let's hope that Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport pilots and business owners will join the battle to get unleaded fuel offered in San Diego. They are also at risk of having health problems related to lead exposure from toxic leaded avgas.

You also can help. Get on the phone and call Mayor Gloria's office at (619) 236-6330 and tell him you want unleaded fuel offered at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport.

***Serra Mesa Observer***  
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San Diego, CA 92193

# Dated Material



## **SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY**

Has a Drive-Thru distribution every  
Wednesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship  
2650 Melbourne Drive 92123  
858-278-2647