



PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, January 26

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Wednesday, February 23

6:30 p.m.

*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 Yeouth.....	(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/SMPG</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>SMPG 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 & 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: smpg@serramesa.org	

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

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan 5	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 15	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Jan 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 20	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 26	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Feb 17	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 19	Hearing Loss Association of America (San Diego) Meeting 10:30 a.m., Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Feb 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 23	Serra Mesa Community Council Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 2	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Mar 5	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: March / April 2022 Edition...February 22nd.

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with great anticipation that 2022 will be a better year than the previous two years. We have a better handle on the pandemic and ground rules have been established as we learn more about this virus. We see people returning to work or working from home as vocations are reviewed and modified to fit our wishes, desires, and lifestyles. We are seeing our home values escalate to levels we never thought possible, and San Diego seems to be in a growth spurt as we see an influence of major companies wishing to expand here such as Apple and Amazon. We are noticing the return of the auto traffic recently missing during the pandemic but as we recover, we seem to be more conscious and suspecting of scams, viruses, and other means to harm our well-being.

Where I am going with this is that we often overlook our greatest asset and that is our neighborhood. Many of us have neighbors that we have never met. Our community is growing younger as noticed by more and more parents with young children. We have convenient local businesses who are longing for our business and I would encourage us to utilize them as a priority and even befriend other customers when in Maggies, Bear Buns, or our Donut shops. We will be returning to open face to face meetings such as the Serra Mesa Community Council which will meet at 6:30PM at the Serra Mesa Library on January 26 and will hear from Council Member Raul Campillo on the state of our city. If you are a senior and looking for purpose and events to enjoy with others who are 55+, we have our Serra Mesa Village which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of

every month at the Serra Mesa Library from 2-4PM until our library opens full time at which time it will change to Thursdays. For a calendar of events, see the website at: www.serramesavillage.org

No matter what your interest or skill, your neighborhood needs you. We serve each other and our goal is to improve Serra Mesa to remain the great neighborhood it is. If your interest is in the library, we have Friends of the Library; if free space, we have Friends of Ruffin Canyon; if in planning, join the Serra Mesa Planning Group; we have something for everyone and if you have an idea or inspiration for a new group, let us know.

Your Serra Mesa Community Council (SMCC) exists for you, and we want to invite everyone to participate to the level of your interest. Give us a good look and get involved.

Carl Demas, President

Communitycouncil@serramesa.org

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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

Fr. James Bankston
Administrator

pastorhasd@gmail.com
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

Street Racing and “Sideshows” Endanger the Public

By City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

Street racing has been around for decades, but a dangerous new variation is tearing up our city streets and putting lives in danger. Called “sideshows” or “takeovers,” they are gatherings where people show off their cars while performing perilous stunts that threaten the safety of our communities.

My Office has established a special task force to prosecute these drivers with the goal of protecting public property and keeping our community members safe from harm.

Typically, these gatherings involve dozens of vehicles and sometimes hundreds of spectators. Meet-ups usually occur at night, in parking lots, cul-de-sacs, roads, and even freeways throughout the county. The spinning, speeding cars often careen close to spectators. Bystanders have been struck and even killed in San Diego County.

This newest trend originated in Oakland in the 2010s, and has since spread across the country, fueled by pandemic boredom and videos posted on social media. The drivers are usually men between the ages of 18 and 25, and the cars are typically modified for street racing so that they are faster, noisier, and spew more exhaust.

The San Diego Police Department’s ABLE (Airborne Law Enforcement) helicopter plays a crucial role in spotting these events from the air and tracking vehicles until they can be safely pulled over by patrol officers.

Our Office prosecutes street racers for reckless driving, exhibition of speed, and other misdemeanors stemming from street racing to high-risk stunt driving.

Other crimes often go hand-in-hand with these activities. Law enforcement has noted a correlation between street racing and possession of illegal drugs and “ghost guns” – firearms without serial numbers that cannot be traced – across the country.

Our task force is handling more than 30 street racing cases where the defendants have allegedly:

- Taken turns doing “donuts” (speeding rapidly in circles), sometimes with passengers hanging out the windows, in the center of a crowd of bystanders.
- Performed “burnouts” (keeping their cars at a standstill while the tires spin, burning rubber) and other dangerous stunts on crowded streets and in residential neighborhoods.
- Slid out of control, endangering spectators and causing them to scramble to safety.
- Slowed down on the freeway, side by side, then took off at speeds of up to 120 miles per hour.
- Tried to evade police, either by speeding away or by abandoning their cars and running off on foot.
- Modified their cars to make the engines louder and the exhaust fumes smokier.
- Outfitted their cars with high-traction racing tires, or driven with tires worn down to the metal threads as a result of skidding across the pavement.
- Lost control and run into a parked car or a freeway divider.
- Driven without a valid driver license, insurance, or auto registration.
- Driven with open containers of alcohol in the car, despite being underage.
- Driven with a loaded concealed gun in the car.

Our Office has received dozens of complaints about this concerning conduct. We will continue to take this safety hazard seriously by working closely with our law enforcement partners to send a strong message that this conduct will not be tolerated in the City of San Diego.



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 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
January 18 & February 15 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

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

Protecting Your Personal Information Online

by San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

From shopping to paying bills, we conduct most of our personal business online. As consumers, we entrust online companies with protecting the confidential information we share on their platforms. When they fail, they have a duty under the law to inform anyone whose information has been compromised.

Unfortunately, that's not what consumer credit reporting agency Experian did when a security lapse led to the exposure of personal financial information of more than 30 million individuals, a massive data breach that has impacted more than 2 million Californians. That's why my Office sued on behalf of the People of the State of California to hold Experian and its affiliates accountable and to force Experian to notify victims of the breach. Our case is headed to trial in January of 2022.

A dark web data breach

Experian will make billions of dollars this year by aggregating and selling highly confidential consumer information, including Social Security numbers, email passwords, and mothers' maiden names. From July 2010 through February 2013, Experian sold access to its databases to a hacker – a teenager living in Vietnam posing as a Singapore-based private investigator. The hacker admitted he resold the information to more than 1,300 individuals on the dark web for millions, and pled guilty to a federal crime for which he served several years in prison.

Holding Experian accountable

Despite knowing of the breach for years, and despite assurances to Congress that it would inform consumers of the breach, Experian and its affiliates still have not notified consumers. This is a violation of California law that has left people vulnerable to identity theft and other crimes.

Our lawsuit seeks to compel Experian and its affiliates to:

- Notify victims that the security lapse occurred, so they can take action to protect their financial data;
- Provide credit-monitoring and identity-theft protection services to the victims at no cost; and
- Pay fines and penalties as ordered by the court.

How to keep your data safe

Although consumers cannot control the actions of the companies that have access to their personal data, we can all take steps in our own lives to secure our information.

1) Be diligent about cybersecurity best practices

Use strong passwords and update them regularly. Never allow your browser to save your password automatically. Instead, consider using password management software to establish and keep track of unique passwords for each of your accounts. You can also establish a two-factor authentication system for your most important accounts that prompts a second security verification through text or another application. Also, it is advisable to restrict the personal information you share on social media. Finally, be sure to download the latest security updates to your phone and computer and regularly clear your 'cache,' which can include saved cookies, searches, or other identifying information.

2) Use your smart phone when making purchases

Most mobile apps require an additional identification step such as biometric fingerprint. This second verification adds an additional layer of security to the transaction.

3) Don't fall for phishing

Phishing is an attempt to obtain personal information through deceptive texts, emails, or

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other communications. Often the sender pretends to be from a well-known company or organization. Red flags for phishing include misspellings and grammatical errors, links to unfamiliar websites, or bizarre email domains. Don't click on or respond unless a communication comes from a known source.

4) **Guard your browsing history and turn off ad personalization**

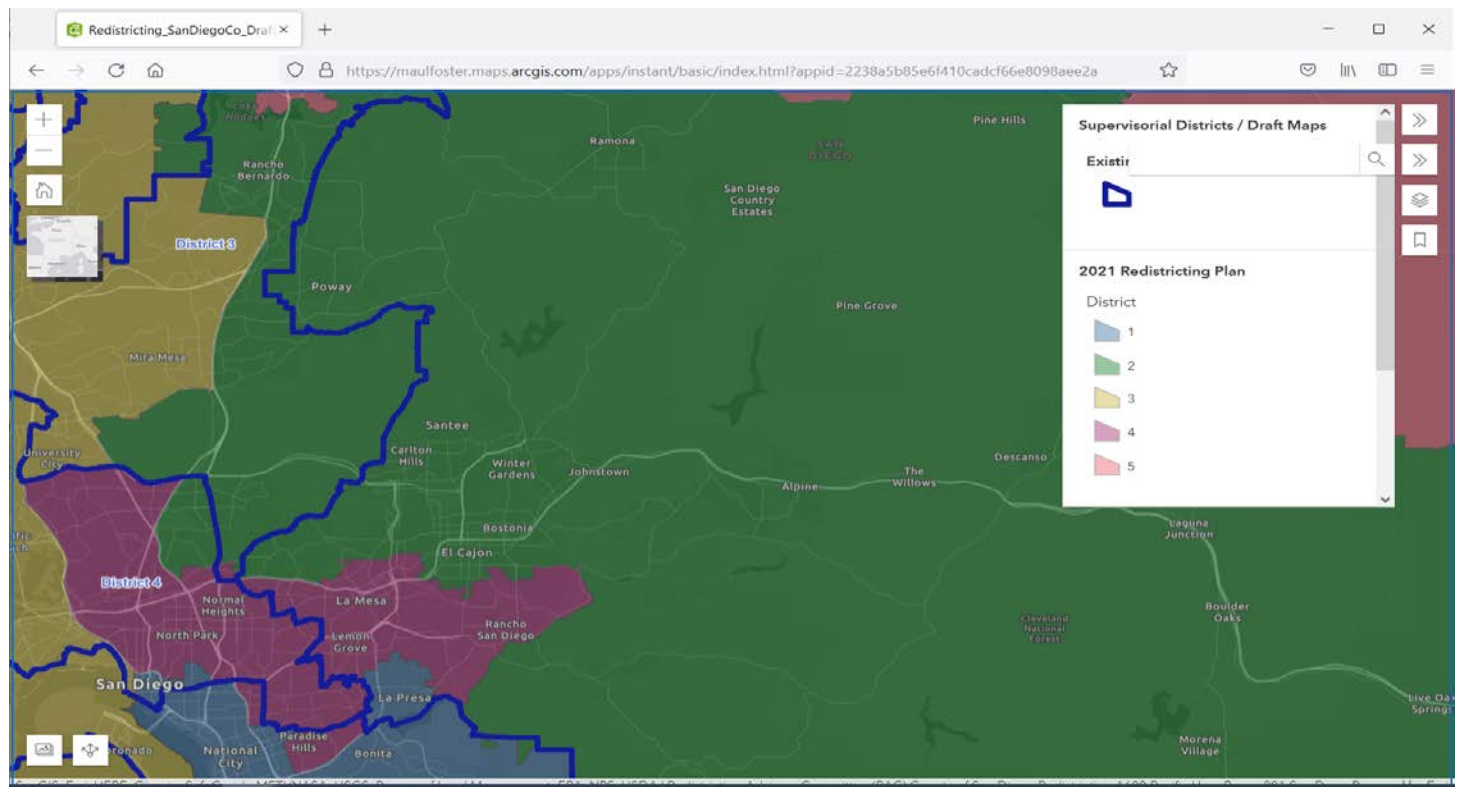
Our browsing histories and online interactions provide companies with information about who we are – our finances, health, religious beliefs, consumer habits, and so much more. This information is used to tailor the online advertisements we encounter. Software is available that blocks these ads and the data they capture. You can also go into you the privacy settings on your devices and turn off ad personalization.

Consumers have a right to privacy and online safety. If you believe you have been a victim of online theft or fraud, please contact the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit of the City Attorney's Office at (619) 533-5618. Complaints may also be filed online, by filling out the ACE Complaint Form here: <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/divisions/civil litigation/civilprosecution>

County Redistricting Map

Serra Mesa is split into two districts – Birdland in District 4 and the rest of Serra Mesa in District 2. Neighboring communities: Part of Kearny Mesa, all of Tierrasanta and Allied Gardens in District 2; Mission Valley in District 4. The map becomes effective after the 2022 general election. Currently District 2 is represented by Supervisor Joel Anderson; District 4, Supervisor Nathan Fletcher.

Your community representatives concentrated on participating in the City of San Diego Redistricting discussions and weren't able to participate in the county meetings. Apparently this adopted county map is controversial. This will be a new experience since Serra Mesa and our neighboring communities aren't typically linked with the north and east county communities.



Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update

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. An appeal was filed on May 21, 2020. On December 16, 2021 the Court of Appeal ruled against the appeal and supported the judge's ruling against the environmental lawsuit.

Issue: If this freeway connector is completed, *lives are at risk*. **A 4-lane, 55-mph freeway connector will immediately allow over 23,000 cars daily increasing to over 34,000 cars a day** through Serra Mesa and half-mile stretches of Via Alta and Franklin Ridge roads in Civita. This freeway connector will clog the only access road for many homes in Serra Mesa, creating a dangerous situation for emergency access and evacuation of that area. Also, the road connection creates a safety risk for the elementary school at the corner of Via Alta and Civita Blvd scheduled to open in Fall 2022.

Action: File appeal to the Supreme Court of California before February 2022.

Funds Needed: Turn your concerns about the road connection into action. Donations are tax deductible. Thanks to all of the generous people who have donated to this cause and made the fundraising effort a success. 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 appeal, briefs, and rulings) and <https://savecivita.com/>.



Taft Joint Use Project – Stage Removed

As many of you may already know, there is a current effort underway to establish a joint use park at Taft Middle School. Joint use parks are a partnership between the school district and the City of San Diego to jointly create space that can be used by students during school hours and becomes a public park space outside of school time.

In preparation for this project the community met numerous times with City staff and consultants in 2016 regarding the design of the Taft Joint Use Project. The community, in combination with the Serra Mesa Community Council and the Serra Mesa Recreation Council, requested a raised stage and the original approved plans included the stage. Subsequently, because of accessibility requirements the raised stage was redesigned with a concrete pad and low seat wall that defines the stage area.

According to the Parks & Recreation Director, Andy Field, and the Chief of Facilities Planning and Construction for the San Diego Unified School District the plans have once again been redesigned and the concrete flush stage pad and curved seat wall have been removed because of funding issues. Yet, in 2018 our former city councilmember's office and Mr. Field assured the community that the project was fully funded.

The community is the entity that fought hard to obtain the funding from the Olympus Corsair development for the Taft Joint Use Project. It's disturbing that the community was asked to provide input, plans were approved that included the community's request, full funding was available, and, yet, this request was removed without any discussion with the community.

City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office wasn't involved in this decision making for the redesign, but has helped to obtain information. The Mayor's office has been contacted with questions about the funding. We will continue to ask questions and monitor the situation in hopes that those responsible will follow through on the original plan and promises.

Serra Mesa Village

The Serra Mesa Village is a group of seniors (55 years of age and older) who support each other in all aspects of life and especially to stay in our homes as long as possible. We have people who are young seniors and we have older seniors. We have married couples and men and women who are single. It's a good way to stay social during these trying times.

We talk about all things affecting us and help each other through this maze we call life. Problems always come up in our houses. We have lists of specialists to call when we need a plumber, electrician, roofer, handyman, gardener, etc. We have speakers at our monthly meetings, who talk about what we are most interested in. We meet monthly at the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library and since the pandemic have been meeting weekly via Zoom as well to chat and just keep up with and see each other.

There are times our monthly meetings include a speaker of matters important to us, and there are times when we do projects like making holiday cards, decorating pumpkins or giving "white elephant" gifts at Christmas.

The Serra Mesa Village has a movie day (2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month) in the afternoon at a nearby church and a local trip on the first Thursday of each month to see things of interest in our town and nearby. Barbara and Bill Horton do the driving, and we usually have lunch at the place we are headed to. In the past we've seen Old Town, Liberty Station, San Diego Botanical Garden and Bates Nut Farm. There is a walking group that meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8 am at the Serra Mesa Rec Center (plenty of parking) and walks through the neighborhood.

It is certainly worthwhile for any senior to join this group. The dues are minimal at \$25 per year, and members get so much from joining. Members get the activities mentioned, plus the added bonus of meeting people from Serra Mesa!

If you are interested at all, please join us at one of our Zoom meetings or our monthly meetings. Details on how to join the meetings are in your monthly newsletter. There is no obligation to just stop in and see if you like it.

Staycation in Serra Mesa

At a fall Serra Mesa Community Council meeting Cindy McIntyre, Friends of Ruffin Canyon representative, discussed Serra Mesa trails. This informative and entertaining PowerPoint presentation included commentary on the plants and history of Ruffin Canyon, Ruffin Canyon Loop, Shawn Canyon, and Sandrock Canyon Rim. Additionally, the audience received a brochure with the native plants found in Ruffin Canyon and a resource guide with a map and list of trails and parks in Serra Mesa and other hiking resources. These materials are posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/friends-of-ruffin-canyon/>.

Serra Mesa is surrounded by abundant and diverse hiking from easy trails to challenging ones with interesting and unique plants. The Friends of Ruffin Canyon has dedicated many years to maintaining trails and the Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden at the end of Ruffin. Recently Canyonlands has "adopted" Shawn Canyon and Ruffin Canyon and is removing dead brush. Fire prevention!

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 normally meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm., at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, however for the January meeting we will meet virtually on Microsoft Teams. To receive notices about meetings, which would include a link for the online meeting if SMPG provides this alternative, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Next meetings: January 20th and February 17th. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. On March 17, 2022 SMPG will conduct an annual election for board members for two year terms. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>.

For the January meeting on the agenda we will have the San Diego Housing Commission present Fiscal Year 2023 Affordable Housing Fund Annual plan. Public comments at the meeting will be submitted as attachments to the plan which is approved by the city Council and presented in June of 2022. We will also have a representative from the Engineering & Capital Projects Department at the City of SD to present the upcoming sewer replacement project that will be taking place in Serra Mesa beginning in Summer of 2022.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

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

Email Questions to SMstaff@saniego.gov

Holiday Closures

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be closed

Saturday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day

Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr Day

Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents' Day

Limited Hours In-Person/Contactless Pickup Service

The Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library is open for in-person service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Monday and Thursday-Saturday we provide access to physical materials through our limited Contactless Pickup Service. Place holds at <https://saniego.gov/public-library> and find more information and for updates about Contactless Pickup Service and In-Person Service at <https://www.saniego.gov/public-library/in-person-library-services>

In Person Services

Tuesday
11:30-8:00
Wednesday
9:30-6:00

Contactless Pickup

Monday
11:30-8:00
Thursday-Saturday
9:30-6:00

In-Person Service

29 locations are now open 6 days a week 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.

In-Person Service Locations:

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

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://saniego.gov/eLibrary>
- Kanopy: Free access to movies with your library card <https://saniegopl.kanopy.com/>
- Online Book Clubs <https://saniego.gov/bookclubs>
- Videos: <https://saniego.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: 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-26>. When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes until February 23rd, so you do not need to register for each session. Serra Mesa Book Club

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. January 11th will discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, and February 8th will discuss *The Jell-O Girls* by Allie Rowbottom.

Library NExt 2022

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. <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>

Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Meeting. January 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Community members are welcome to join, become a member, and discuss ways to support the library. This meeting will be held in the library's Community Room. Masks will be required for unvaccinated individuals ages 2+.

Winter Reading Challenge 2022

Join the Winter Reading Challenge from January 1st - January 31st. San Diego residents of all ages are encouraged to take the challenge by reading 5 books or for 5 hours to receive a free pass to the Japanese Friendship Garden San Diego and a San Diego Public Library branded snack container OR utensil set. For more information or to sign up, visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/WinterReading>

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays February 4 through April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The AARP will be providing free tax help BY APPOINTMENT ONLY for taxpayers with low to moderate income on Fridays, February 4 - April 15. Appointments can only be made IN PERSON. Fridays, beginning 2/4/22, sign up with AARP tax preparers at the library to schedule an appointment. Masks will be required for individuals ages 2+.

Mobile Hotspots

Mobile Hotspots are now available for check out at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. The mobile hotspots are easy to use and allow users to connect their laptop, tablet and other Wi-Fi enabled devices to the internet. Find out more information at <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/san-diego-access-4-all>

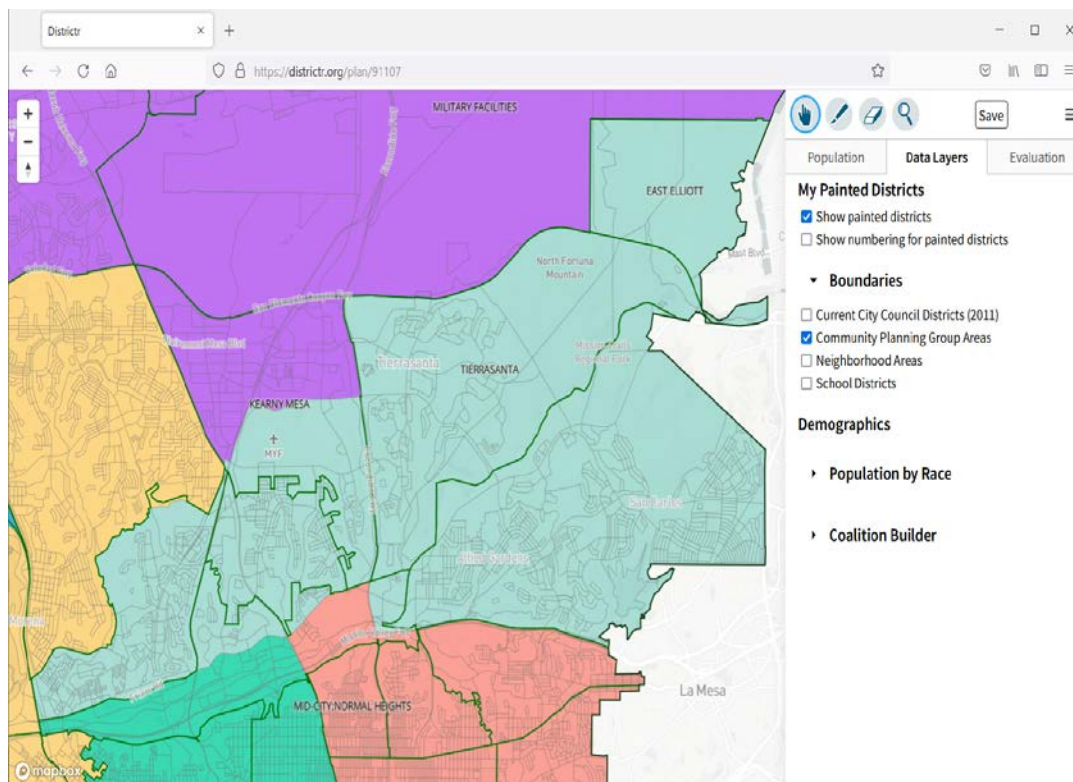


Redistricting And Serra Mesa

Background: The City of San Diego's charter required the establishment of a Redistricting Commission to specify district boundaries following the completion of the U.S. Census. Criteria for redrawing the lines: equal population, continuity, geographically compact, communities of interest, reasonable access between population centers, and natural boundaries.

Final Map: Voted by the commission on December 15th becomes effective after the 2022 general election. City Councilmember Raul Campillo will remain our representative; his term ends in December 2024.

Currently District 7 includes the communities of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta. District 7 was revised to include Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport, and the area south of Balboa Avenue between the airport and I-15, and only part of Mission Valley-area north of Friars between Hwy 163 and I-805 (Civita) and the Escala community, across from Costco.



Final Map: Redrawn District 7, approved by Redistricting Commission, shown in light green. Green borders show community planning areas. A community representative was unsuccessful with the request to correct the planning group area boundary that incorrectly incorporated many Birdland streets into Mission Valley.

Representation: Representatives from the Serra Mesa Community Council and the Serra Mesa Planning Group provided verbal (some online meetings lasted over five hours) and written comments to the Redistricting Commission. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers for representing the interests of Serra Mesa.

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport: SMCC and SMPG representatives were successful with the request to incorporate the airport into District 7. The commissioners unanimously supported this request. We hope that the issues along Aero Drive (e.g., flooding at the corner of Aero/Sandrock) and with the airport (e.g., leaded gas) will have a better chance of being resolved under the responsibility of one city councilmember.

Author's Observation: Participation in these proceedings was critical to the outcome. Verbal comments seemed to be the most effective. A couple of neighboring communities with minimal to no participation ended up being separated in either two or three districts.



Kearny Mesa VA Clinic





A grand opening ceremony for the Kearny Mesa VA Clinic, 8875 Aero Drive, was held on November 12. Representatives of the Serra Mesa Community Council and the Serra Mesa Planning Group attended the event. A tour of the 99,986 s.f. space, twice the size of Mission Valley VA Clinic, revealed a spacious, state of the art facility. The clinic, open Monday-Friday, 7 am-5 pm., offers the following services:

- Allergy
- Audiology
- Dental
- Dermatology
- Diabetes
- Gastrointestinal
- Health Benefits and Enrollment
- Laboratory Services
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Military to VA
- My HealtheVet
- Optometry
- Orthopedics
- Pain Management
- Pharmacy
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Podiatry
- Prosthetics
- Primary Care
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Sleep
- Social Work
- Telemedicine/Teleretinal Imaging
- Urology
- Women's Health

For more information on the clinic, refer to <https://www.va.gov/san-diego-health-care/locations/kearny-mesa-va-clinic/>.

January 2022 - Serra Mesa Village Calendar of Events							February ▶
◀ December	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 New Year's Day Nat'l Hangover Day
2 Int'l Stop Spam Day	3 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	4 Trivia Day	5 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	6 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	7 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	8 Bubble Bath Day	
9	10 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	11 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	12 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	13 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	14 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	15	
16 Appreciate a Dragon Day 	17 Martin Luther King Jr. 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	18 2:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG. SM/KM	19 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	20 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	21 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	22 Nat'l Brownie Day 	
23	24 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	25 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	26 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	27 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	28 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	29 Nat'l Puzzle Day	
30	31 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR - 9020 VILLAGE GLEN DR SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD					

February 2022 – Serra Mesa Village Calendar of Events							March ▶
◀ January	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	3 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	4 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	5 Bubblegum Day
6 Ice Cream for Breakfast Day		7 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	8 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	9 8:00 AM - SMV WALK 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	10 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	11 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	12
13 Super Bowl		14 Valentine's Day 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 	15 2:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG. SM/KM	16 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	17 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	18 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	19 Chocolate Mint Day
20 World Whale Day 		21 Presidents Day 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	22 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	23 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	24 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	25 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	26
27		28 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR - 9020 VILLAGE GLEN DR SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD				

Revisions to Community Planning Groups

The City of San Diego's charter requires that advisory boards be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The community planning groups (CPGs) are governed by Council Policy 600-24, but are not appointed members. According to the City Attorney CPGs are not operating within the law and one solution would be to amend the council policy and municipal code to make CPGs independent advisory bodies.

Consequently, the City Council is considering revisions to Council Policy 600-9 and 600-24 that alter the operations of the Community Planners Committee (CPC) and CPGs respectively. CPC includes representatives from 42 CPGs in the City who discuss and make recommendations on policy and development issues. The CPGs make recommendations to the City on land use issues. City Councilmember Joe LaCava, District 1, is spearheading the policy revisions. The pertinent documents can be found at his website, <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/policies-priorities>.

The proposed revisions will be on the agenda for the Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) on January 20th; CPC, January 25th; Planning Commission, winter 2022; and the City Council, spring 2022. The SMPG board, composed of volunteers elected every March by the community, plays a vital role in the community by:

- Providing a community forum for discussion of land use issues (e.g., bike lanes, development proposals, road connection, etc.);
- Monitoring neighboring community projects that would impact Serra Mesa (e.g., VA project on Aero Drive);
- Making recommendations that represent the Serra Mesa interests to the decision makers (staff, Hearing Officer, Planning Commission, and City Council).

The latest success was redistricting – SMPG and the Serra Mesa Community Council joined forces and convinced the Redistricting Commission to incorporate Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport into District 7. (See *Redistricting and Serra Mesa* article.)

CPG Revision Highlights

- Posting – Should Planning Department be responsible for posting rosters, minutes and annual reports in a centralized location
- Development Project Applicant Present to CPG – Applicants not required to present
- Agenda – Should the Chair and CPG have authority to adjust the agenda
- Staff Attendance – Should staff attend a CPG meeting when a discretionary land use item on agenda
- Requirement for CPG candidates – Should candidate be required to attend meeting(s) prior to eligibility for CPG board
- Voting Eligibility– Should community members be required to attend previous CPG meetings to be eligible to vote
- Renters – Should renters be given a pro-rata share of seats to fairly reflect the community
- Voting – Should voting be required for at least two hours concurrently with the meeting
- Ballot – Should a ballot be identified by name, community served, profession, employer and qualifications of candidate
- Outreach Plan – Should CPG be required to submit a public participation outreach plan or should staff develop methods and provide resources
- Demographic Data – Should CPG be required to gather data to ensure voting members are representative of community
- Termed-Out Member – Can requirement be waived
- Training – Should City provide ongoing education
- Brown Act Violations – Should individual members who violate Brown Act be potentially subject to civil remedies
- Bylaws Shell – Should bylaws shell be replaced with Terms and Conditions
- Annual Report – Should template be provided by City staff
- Audit – Should the City Auditor be required to conduct a review of all CPGs every five years
- Posting of Documents – Should City or CPG be required to post documentation of CPC recommendations
- CPG Vacancy – Should councilmembers appoint new board members when vacancy
- Appointed Positions – Should CPGs incorporate appointed positions by councilmembers
- For Recognition CPGs Required to File Organizational Documents six to seven Months after Council updates 600-24 – Lot of paperwork for volunteer organization. Will there be assistance and templates?

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Dated Material

