

SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3 MAY / JUNE 2022



*Picture taken at the San Diego Zoo,
Leucospermum cordifolium or
Nodding Pincushion*



www.serramesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, May 25
6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, June 22
6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhoodly People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
 City Councilmember Raul Campillo (619) 236-6677
 Mayor Todd Gloria (619) 236-6330
 County Supervisor Joel Anderson (619) 531-5544
 State Assembly Member Akilah Weber, MD (619) 531-7913

State Senator Toni G. Atkins (619) 645-3133
 Governor Gavin Newsom (619) 525-4641
 U.S. Representative Sara Jacobs (619) 280-5353
 U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712
 U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (619) 239-3884

Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers

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

Board Members

Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473*
Current Issues
 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473*
Education Committee
 Sam Yo euth.....(858) 565-2473*
Friends of the Library
 Rebecca Moreno(858)565-2473*
Local Business Coordinator
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473*
SMRC/SMPPAG
 Yusuf Nazar.....(858)565-2473*
Special Projects/SMPG

Appointed Positions

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

Key Serra Mesa Volunteers

Catherine Stempel(858)565-2473*
SMPG President
 Monica Fuentes(858)565-2473*
Friends of Ruffin Canyon
 Kristine Webb(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.*

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 4	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
May 17	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
May 19	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
May 25	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
June 16	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
June 21	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
June 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 22	Serra Mesa Community Council Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
July 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
July 6	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room

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 2022 Edition...June 22nd.

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

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



INTERESTING TIMES?

As a 32-year resident of Serra Mesa I am writing this newsletter as a call of unity not only as a resident of San Diego but as an American Citizen who is proud of our Country and all it stands. While we are living in interesting times, we are also witnessing turbulence in our world and in our nation. I don't think I can ever remember the distances between us as citizens of the US being so great. That being said, where do we go from here? What can we do to rekindle hope for our people to experience the basic founding desires of our forefathers? Can we restore the virtues of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness?"

I am convinced that it has to start with us. This year my wife and I will celebrate 56 years of marriage and I would like to use that as a starting point of how to coexist in different worlds. We are not the same and often as other married couples, we have differed in opinions, likes, appetites, and many other aspects of life. When courting, we were given the advice by wise grandparents, "give 60% and take 40%". I remember the day some 60 years ago when that was given, and I have to say it works. Love is a word that reminds us that the needs of others should come before our own. In a marriage it means that sometimes we have to forgo our own expectations in favor of providing for our spouse. As a neighbor, it could mean exceeding the expectation of that person or family relative to property or other shared responsibilities. In a community like Serra Mesa, it means considering the needs of the community and providing for the wellbeing of all members.

That is what the Serra Mesa Community Council, the Serra Mesa Planning Group, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Friends of the Library, Serra Mesa Garden, Serra Mesa Pantry, and the Serra Mesa Village are all about. If you

are looking to assist us in improving the distance between us, it involves becoming a part of one of these organizations and contributing to the community with your involvement. If you are willing to donate a little time and effort to benefit the community your involvement is welcomed and needed. What I love about our Board of SMCC (Serra Mesa Community Council) is that we are all from differing economic, political, religious, and vocational areas but come together with the purpose of providing a better life for citizens of Serra Mesa. I think the secret behind the success of our organizations is that we look past our personal differences and work toward what is best for our community.

I am concerned that the problems with our economy, nation, and world will continue and we need a means to work through the coming turbulence. There is strength in numbers, and we need to come together to the benefit of each other. We need to put aside our differences and contribute to the welfare of each other as neither the nation or city have the resources beyond what they are already dealing with. Make an effort to know your neighbor, join one or more of our community organizations, and know that your involvement will bring satisfaction to you and our community.

We, the council, welcome your ideas. Let us know what you expect and desire. Help us make Serra Mesa a better place to live.

Carl J. Demas, President of SMCC

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
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 2235 Galahad Rd • San Diego, CA 92123-3931

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 (Closed Wed & Thurs)

Please always call before coming

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 Other seasonal items



Transit Employees Deserve Our Respect

By City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

Among the many unsung heroes of Covid, I've been especially impressed by the bus and trolley drivers who keep San Diego moving.

Doing their jobs, they help thousands of others get to theirs. They get students to class, shoppers to market, and elders to their doctors.

They also get a lot of abuse. The widespread erosion in public civility has also impacted decorum on our buses and trolleys. But unlike airline pilots, who have screeners and flight crews and air marshals to keep order, bus and trolley drivers are often on their own.

Consider their situation:

Every week, 500,000 to 600,000 passengers ride the trolleys and buses of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. MTS drivers come into close contact with nearly every passenger, none of whom are screened by security before boarding.

Like air travel, the vast majority of public transit trips in San Diego are pleasant and uneventful. But there are exceptions.

Drivers have been yelled at, slapped, punched, kicked, and spat upon. In the past two months, passengers have boarded trolleys and buses carrying hunting knives, guns (real and replicas), a hammer, an axe, and lighter fluid. One rider threatened a bus driver with a knife because the bus was late. Another assaulted a driver with a tree branch.

MTS drivers and employees must also break up fights, look out for arsonists setting fires in transit station trash

cans, and put up with people who break windows by throwing rocks at buses and trolley cars.

The public employees responsible for getting us safely from one place to another shouldn't have to tolerate such abuse. And as society looks to public transit to address problems with traffic, parking, and climate change, we all have a growing stake in its success – whether or not we are riders.

These crimes are underreported by MTS drivers and staff who perhaps have accepted this conduct as just part of the job. I recently reached out to the MTS drivers' union to encourage their employees to step up and report incidents of abuse and assault. You can help: If you observe an incident, please report it and, if you can do so safely, record it on your phone. Our Office takes these cases seriously, and we will prosecute offenders.

MTS has recently taken steps to increase safety for riders and employees. It established security teams that travel the entire trolley system during service hours and added security staff at the busiest transit stations. Last year, MTS launched a new Bus Enforcement Special Team to provide extra security assistance to bus operators and passengers.

MTS has also made some changes to its security policies and practices, including increased training for staff, and updating its use-of-force policy. There are now security cameras installed on all MTS vehicles, and at all trolley stations.

As hiring becomes more difficult in all lines of work, we cannot afford to be without qualified, trained MTS employees. Their service to the public goes far beyond providing safe and reliable transportation. These public servants often help passengers who are overdosing on drugs, summoning paramedics and saving lives. MTS workers also try to help unsheltered passengers, bringing in outreach workers to connect them with the assistance they need. In addition, drivers and staff try to humanely deal with passengers who are intoxicated or mentally ill.

Let's work together to give our public transit workers the respect they deserve. They do a great job meeting our transportation needs, day and night, and they are immensely appreciated.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Animal Control-Incorporated S.D.	(619) 299-7012	Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
Dead Animal Removal stay online	(858) 694-7000	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
		Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000



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



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



OFFICE
2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
858.278.2633
missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net
www.missionvillage.church

STEVE DE VOS, PASTOR
Cell: 858.829.2097
stevdevos79@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 AM
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



Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

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

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

MISSION VILLAGE
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP

2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

**Saturday,
May 7, 2022
8:00am-1:00pm**

Rummage Sale



A Fundraiser for the MVCF Youth Group

Any help will be appreciated.
Donations will be gladly accepted.
Please call Terri Carver
at 619-208-1180

Thank You!

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. The Petition for Review filed with the Supreme Court of California on January 25, 2022 was declined on March 18, 2022.

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: Stay tuned! Send comments/information to SaveCivita@gmail.com.

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

Serra Mesa Planning Group News

Meetings: The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library and via online meetings. To receive notices about meetings which includes a link for the online meeting, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Next meetings: May 19 and June 16. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Elections: SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen board members. On March 17, 2022 SMPG conducted an annual election for board members for two year terms. The following members were re-elected to the SMPG Board: Ian Clampett, Tony Guerra, Chris Rosemond, and Cindy Moore. The following new SMPG board member was elected: Sharon Kramer. That makes 11 board members with room for four more new elected members. 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 <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>.

Future Agenda Items: May 19th Meeting

- Two additional bus stop signs at Greyling Drive and Pollard Street
- Street Sweeping Changes, City of San Diego Stormwater Department Think Blue

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

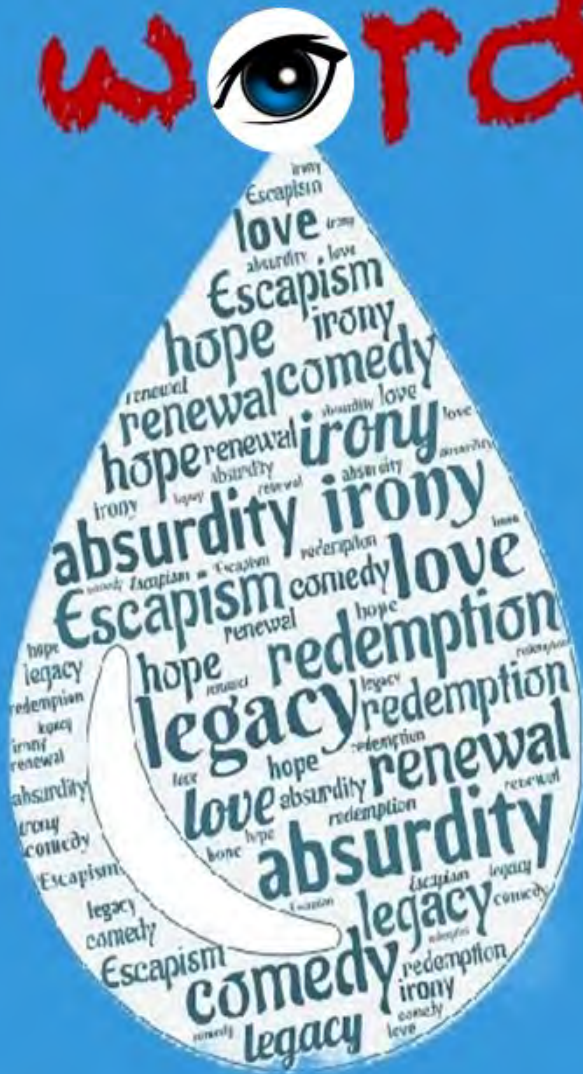
Serra Mesa Senior Softball:
(858) 279-4283

Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on
May 17 & June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

June 3, 4, 10, 11

word plays



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Three Women

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MMXX

2020 revisited, with a twist.



My Prosecution Priorities: Victims, Guns, and Drunk Driving

By Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney



By focusing on three priorities – crimes involving victims, guns, and drunk driving – prosecutors in my Office stayed productive even while Covid shut down our courthouses.

Now that jury trials have resumed, the priorities we set for our Criminal Division pre-Covid seem almost prescient, given how America responded to the pandemic: Domestic violence rose, some gun crimes soared 60 percent in three years, and drunk-driving fatalities spiked to their highest level in 15 years.

Getting trial dates is still challenging due to the enormous backlog caused by Covid-related closures. For most of 2020, only significant cases and important felonies warranted court time. Things opened up a bit in 2021, but the backlog of cases kept growing: one Covid-related cancellation could still set back a case for six months.

Delays will still occur, but not because my Office isn't prepared to prosecute. Our evidence is ready. Our witnesses are ready. And the stakes are as high as ever.

In setting our three priorities, Chief Prosecutor John Hemmerling and I chose the crimes that pose the greatest danger to innocent lives, especially children.

One of our concerns is with cases of Driving Under the Influence, or DUI, which can involve drugs, alcohol, or both. My Office, and others, have felt pressure to go easy on any driver whose Blood Alcohol Level is than 0.16 (twice the DUI standard of 0.08) as a way to lighten the court's caseload. We're saying no.

The difference between a 0.08 and a 0.15 BAC is significant. The National Highway Traffic Safety Council reports these are typical effects at 0.08: "Muscle coordination becomes poor (e.g., balance, speech, vision, reaction time, and hearing), harder to detect danger; judgment, self-control, reasoning, and memory are impaired."

That's dangerous enough, but as the Council reported, at a 0.15 BAC, the effects also include a "substantial impairment" in vehicle control and attention to driving, as well as a major loss of balance and occurrences of vomiting.

A second priority for our Office is standing up for victims of hate crimes, sex crimes, domestic violence, elder abuse, and child abuse. Without advocates, victims can get lost in the criminal justice system.

Though Covid created challenges, our Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit continued its work to bring abusers to justice.

Yet the trend toward lighter sentences and diversion programs – accelerated by reasonable fears that incarceration would lead to Covid – is having an impact on the prosecution of these crimes, even domestic violence cases involving strangulation. I believe that any domestic abuse that includes strangulation – a deadly weapon used to terrorize and control victims – warrants jail time. According to the San Diego-based Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, a woman who has suffered a nonfatal strangulation incident with her intimate partner is 750% more likely to be killed by the same person with a gun. In addition, I'm sponsoring state legislation by Assemblymember Brian Maeinschein that will require jail time for abusers who violate protective orders by trespassing in a victim's house. This invasion of personal space and privacy, often accompanied by ransacking and theft, creates a special type of terror for victims and their children.

Our third priority is gun crimes, and I'm pleased that Covid had no impact on my Office's ability to obtain Gun Violence Restraining Orders to protect the public. The Superior Court made special accommodations for GVROs because they prevent bloodshed and save lives, and we've obtained hundreds since Covid emerged.

GVROs are one way to remove guns from bad situations. My Office has sponsored legislation (again with Assemblymember Maienschein) that will expand the list of those who are banned from owning guns to include misdemeanor child abuse and elder abuse. Our Office receives as many as 20,000 misdemeanor cases a year, and we strive for justice in each. By prioritizing victims, guns, and drunk driving, we believe we can provide the greatest service to the community even in difficult times.

Serra Mesa Village Newsletter

The Seven Habits That Lead to Happiness in Old Age

I recently read an article in the February 17th Edition of The Atlantic titled, “The Seven Habits That Lead to Happiness in Old Age”. The Author is Arthur Brooks has a Podcast titled, “How to Build a Happy Life”. His premise is that happiness declines until age 50 then rebounds until the mid 60s then splits into two groups: those who get much happier and those who get less happy. Also, about this time people realize the importance of making good financial decisions and have planned ahead and those who did not. This is similar to a happiness level similar to a happiness 401 (k). The conclusion was that there are seven happiness levels that lead to happiness in old age. These are:

1. Don't smoke—or if you already smoke, quit now. You might not succeed on your first try, but the earlier you start the quitting process, the more smoke-free years you can invest in your happiness account.
2. Watch your drinking. Alcohol abuse is strongly correlated with smoking in the Harvard study, but plenty of other research shows that even by itself, it is one of the most powerful predictors of winding up sad-sick. If you have *any* indication of problem drinking in your life, get help now. If you have drinking problems in your family, do not take your chances: Keep that switch turned off. Although forgoing alcohol can be difficult, you'll never be sorry you made this decision.
3. Maintain a healthy body weight. Eat a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables and moderate serving sizes, but avoid yo-yo diets or intense restrictions that you can't maintain over the long run.
4. Prioritize movement in your life by scheduling time for it every day and sticking to it. Arguably the single best, time-tested way to do this is by walking daily.
5. Practice your coping mechanisms now. The earlier you can find healthy ways to deal with life's inevitable distresses, the more prepared you'll be if ill luck strikes in your 80s. This means working consciously—perhaps with assistance from spiritual practices or even therapy—to avoid excessive rumination, unhealthy emotional reactions, or avoidance behavior.
6. Keep learning. More education leads to a more active mind in old age, and that means a longer, happier life. That doesn't mean that you need to go to Harvard; you simply need to engage in lifelong, purposive learning. For example, that can mean reading serious nonfiction as part of a routine to learn more about new subjects.
7. Do the work to cultivate stable, long-term relationships now. For most people, this includes a steady marriage, but other relationships with family, friends, and partners can fit in this category as well. The point is to find people with whom you can grow, whom you can count on, no matter what comes your way.

The Serra Mesa Village is designed by seniors for seniors with the mission statement: “Serra Mesa Village is an active, non-profit organization for residents aged 55+ that promotes social connections to help our members thrive and remain independent in the homes they love.”

You can join or contact us at: URL: www.serramesavillage.org, EMAIL: serramesavillage10@gmail.com or leave a message at (858) 585-2473

Carl Demas, President of Serra Mesa Village

IT IS TIME FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS

By Mark Linsky, Chair, Clean Elections San Diego

Twenty-Five years ago the journalist and political commentator Hendrik Hertzberg wrote: “Money, the curdled mother’s milk of politics, is the most humiliating, corrupting part of a politician’s life”. Not much has changed since he wrote that, but there is a way the system can be dramatically improved in San Diego. The answer is Clean Elections, in which the power of private interests and private monies are countered by candidates who are publicly funded.

To qualify for the money a participating candidate must, among other things, agree not to solicit or accept private funds, must gather hundreds of \$5 donations to show he or she in fact has the backing of the community from which they come and is not some fly-by-night opportunist. And the candidate cannot use personal funds as a work-around.

The advantages of Clean Elections are many including the obvious big one: It removes the shadow of special interests from the campaign itself. But it also empowers neighborhoods by giving well known and well-respected local candidates a way to fund a competitive campaign without drinking that ‘curdled mother’s milk’. In addition, it frees up a candidate to spend time out in the community, listening to neighbors, asking the right questions and gathering ideas from neighborhood organizations rather than spending countless hours raising money. Finally, if elected, the payoff is programs and policies which are enacted free from the taint of undue influence.

The only objection those of us involved in the Clean Elections campaign have heard over the years is the ‘cost’ of such a program. In our 2020 initiative the cost was pegged at about \$4 per resident of the City of San Diego per year. Now we believe we can run it for even less. But citizens need to ask themselves the following: What has the ‘cost’ been in sweetheart deals, questionable practices and benefits accrued to private interests over past decades?

Clean Elections is an alternative to the present electoral system which can and should be implemented no later than 2024. Money will continue to flow to candidates willing to maintain the status quo, but as a new generation of publicly funded candidates run for and win office, the result will be policies and programs which increasingly benefit the citizens, not private interests. We talk about San Diego as ‘America’s Finest City’, and in many ways we are, but the time has come to add a better and more inclusive way of electing our representatives so that the slogan becomes equally meaningful when it comes to holding public office.

For more information, please contact campaign coordinator John Hartley at 619-299-8870 or email him at hartley2k@aol.com.

Goody’s Donuts

Hey, our wonderful family who operated Goody’s donuts just sold it. They accomplished their goal of successfully launching their daughters and all the hard work paid off. The oldest is in her third year of medical school and the youngest is entering optometry school this fall. We will be losing a couple of local treasure.

Dr. Sparrow



Campuswide Improvements Underway at Wegeforth Elementary - Pardon Our Dust!

Serra Mesa neighbors, the time has come for modernizations at Wegeforth Elementary School!

Construction is starting on a Whole Site Modernization project that will revitalize classrooms, improve play areas, enhance campus safety and security, and much more!

The Whole Site Modernization follows a 2016 joint-use field project that brought a grass playfield with a picnic area, walking/running track, and a baseball field to the Serra Mesa community.

Funding is made available through Propositions 5 & 7, and Measure YY, which are school bond measures approved by San Diego voters to improve San Diego Unified schools.



Construction Begins!

- Learning spaces will be significantly improved by removing aging portables and modernizing existing classrooms, the multi-purpose building, and library. Campus support spaces will also be enhanced with new playgrounds, shade structures, and collaborative learning areas.
- Renovations will be made to student services offices and food services/dining areas, restrooms, and storage spaces. Additional improvements include new signage and graphics, exterior and interior paint throughout the campus, roofing replacement, visibility screening of HVAC rooftop units, accessibility improvements, and repairs to sidewalks and hardscapes.
- Campuswide safety will be enhanced with a redesigned secure single point-of-entry, new student drop-off and pick-up area, security fencing, communications systems, fire alarm, and security cameras.
- There may be minor traffic control along Edinwar Avenue at times. Our construction contractors will do their best to limit noise, dust, odors and disruptions associated with this project. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

For more project information, visit sdprojects.sandi.net, or email sdusdfacilitiesinfo@sandi.net.

Phase II
Early Summer 2022

Kindergarten building, classroom building 7, and library modernizations

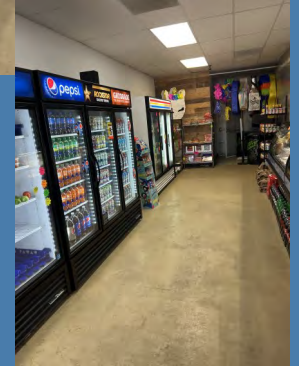
Phases III-IV
Fall 2022 - Fall 2023

Classroom building 2, multi-purpose, and student services renovations

Phase V
Spring - Fall 2023

Portables removal, playground improvements, and campus entrance renovations

Located in the heart of Serra Mesa, Wegeforth Elementary is a diverse school that offers a comprehensive Common Core curriculum and programs in School Choice and dance. As Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school, Wegeforth Elementary and educational partners work together to ensure each student has a successful learning outcome. **Go Wildcats!**



NEW MARKET IN SERRA MESA

With a year and a half of persistence Jerry Rios has opened the new San Diego Meat Market in Serra Mesa. The San Diego Meat Market is located in the CVS shopping Center next to the donut shop.

The market is a welcome addition to Serra Mesa carrying a large selection of meats and other essential grocery items. Open Monday-Friday from 7am-8pm, Saturday 8am-8pm and Sunday 8am-6pm, they carry all types of meat and if they don't have what you are looking for, they want to know what the community would like them to provide.

Some of the meats available are Asada Picada, ready for tacos carne asada, chorizo, tri-tip, brisket, ribs, chicken fajita, leg quarters as well as salmon, shrimp and tilapia. The prices are very reasonable. A selection of vegetables like potatoes, onions, and peppers were on hand along with dairy products like milk, eggs, whip cream and much more. They have household essentials like cleaning products and paper goods also.

They have many packaged baked goods and a large selection of popular sodas and sports drinks. Please support this new local market. With the price of gas, the San Diego Meat Market will save you a trip to Vons or Ralphs.

Follow them on Instagram
[@sdmeatmarket](https://www.instagram.com/sdmeatmarket)



You're Invited!

SAT 6/25 @10-3PM

CELEBRATE SUMMER READING
W/SERRA MESA LIBRARY

FEATURING:



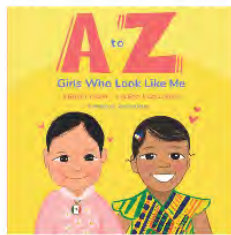
Guest Author:
HELEN WU
Reading @11AM

FREE BALLOON
ANIMALS
11:30-1PM



SUMMER READING KICK-OFF!

Guest Authors:
NGUYET PHAM
HELENA MCALLISTER



TEENY TINY
ORCHESTRA
10:30-2:30PM



FOOD/DRINKS:



BOOKSALE
\$5/bag of books

MAY 2022 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

← April	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	June →
	1	2 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	3	4 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	5 Cinco De Mayo 10:00 AM - SNV DAY TRIP - SANJIN OLD TOWN	6 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	7	
				11 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	12 1:00 PM - SNV ZOOM CHAT	13 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	14	
	8 Mother's Day	9 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	10 2:00 PM - SNV MOVIE HABC					
	15	16 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	17	18 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	19 3:00 PM - SNV CONNECTION MTG. SM/KM	20 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	21 Armed Forces Day	
	22	23 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	24 2:00 PM - SNV MOVIE HABC	25 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	26 1:00 PM - SNV ZOOM CHAT	27 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	28	
	29	30 Memorial Day 8:00 AM - SNV WALK SMRC	31					

SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE
 SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR
 HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD

JUNE 2022 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS							July
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	2 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP - SM/KM	3 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	4 10:00 AM - SMV MEETING-COMPOSTING SM/KM	
5	6 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	7	8 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	9 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	10 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	11	
12	13 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	14 Flag Day 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	15 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	16	17 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	18	
19 Father's Day	20 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	21 Start of Summer (Summer Solstice)	22 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	23 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	24 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	25	
26	27 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	28 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	29 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	30			

SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE
 SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR
 HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD ROAD



Free IT Summer Program for Adults

Written by: Allura Garis

San Diegans interested in computers and information technology (IT) can start training this summer for the well-paying career field. A tuition-free IT program at San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) prepares students to enter the workforce within four to eight months.

A+ (Cisco IT Essentials), N+ (Basic Network Configuration), and the Intro to Cybersecurity certificate programs and courses will begin on June 13, 2022. These classes provide a pathway for entry points into the security administration and cyber professions as well as prepare students for SDCCE's Cybersecurity Analyst certificate program offered in the fall.

At SDCCE, students can earn an IT certificate at no-cost, including Cybersecurity Analyst, Virtual Datacenter, and Cloud Solutions AWS-Associate. New students are encouraged to start with the Desktop Technician Certificate Program at SDCCE to become familiar with managing and securing computers and basic network infrastructures. Working IT professionals often enroll directly into the Cybersecurity Analyst certificate programs.

SDCCE has been designated a Preferred Provider for information technology (IT) and cyber talent by [CyberHire](#). San Diego Workforce Partnership, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp, and the Cyber Center of Excellence have joined forces to launch [CyberHire](#) — a program designed to address the region's growing demand for Cybersecurity skilled workers by creating accessible pathways that are available for job seekers who are under resourced and underemployed.

Jessly Altamirano, 39, holds a bachelor's degree of engineering and information technology from the Catholic University Redemptoris Mater (UNICA), a private university located in Nicaragua. "My degree is not certified in the US. When I arrived in San Diego, I started to look for programs that would help me find a job," she said. Altamirano enrolled in the Cybersecurity Analyst certificate program at SDCCE. "Even though the college is free, the classes are hard to get into, you really have to show commitment. When you see all the doors that open, it is worth it."

After graduating from SDCCE, Altamirano became employed by AppFolio, a cloud-based property management software company as an associate security analyst.

To learn more or to sign up for orientation visit, SDCCE.EDU.



Photo of Joshua Yonas, DVM, and his dog Gus

News Release

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2022

Media Contact:

Barbara Metz, Metz Public Relations (858) 677-0720 metzpr@gmail.com

Anne Law, Sudberry Properties anne@sudprop.com

Southpaw Vet Celebrates Grand Opening in Civita

The veterinary practice is the first retail business to open in the 230-acre urban village in Mission Valley. LA Fitness and El Tianguis Rolled Taquitos are set to open soon

SAN DIEGO – [Southpaw Vet](#), a full-service veterinary practice is celebrating its grand opening in Civita at 7995 Civita Blvd, Suite 3. The veterinary practice is a family-owned, independent clinic, operated by veterinarian Joshua Yonas, DVM, and Matt Worthey, hospital manager. The clinic, which features a fully equipped surgical suite, provide a wide range of services from annual exams and preventative care to advanced surgical procedures by a board-certified surgeon and complete dental care.

Catering exclusively to dogs and cats, Southpaw Vet is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“The opening of Southpaw is the culmination of a lifetime of hard work and dedication to animals and their owners, and we’re proud to be the newest addition to the neighborhood,” said Dr. Yonas. “We look forward to serving residents of Civita and the surrounding communities,” he said.

Southpaw Vet is the first retail business to open in Civita. Other local businesses expected to open soon include El Tianguis Rolled Taquitos and LA Fitness. Plans call for a total of 480,000 square feet of retailers, dining venues, and entertainment.

[Civita](#) was named the 2019 best urban master-planned community in San Diego County by the Building Industry Association. www.Civitalife.com

ABOUT CIVITA

Civita is a new sustainable, transit-oriented village in San Diego’s Mission Valley that has transformed a 70-year-old sand and gravel quarry into a lively urban village. To encourage small-town spirit and civic pride, Civita is designed around the 14.3-acre Civita Park, which is connected to neighborhoods with a network of pedestrian paths. Plans for the 230-acre property call for 4,780 residential homes and apartments in numerous configurations, an elementary school, approximately 480,000 square feet for a lifestyle retail center and 420,000 square feet for an office/business campus. Developed by Sudberry Properties, Civita has already earned major regional and national recognition for its sustainability, smart growth, and environmental leadership, including the 2009 California State Governor’s Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership (GEELA), California’s highest environmental honor, and 40 national and regional design awards. www.civitalife.com

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

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

Email Questions to SMstaff@san Diego.gov

Holiday Closures

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be closed

Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day

In-Person Service

The Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library is 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.

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://san Diego.gov/eLibrary>
- **Kanopy:** Free access to movies with your library card <https://san Diegopl.kanopy.com/>
- **Online Book Clubs** <https://san Diego.gov/bookclubs>
- **Videos:** <https://san Diego.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://san Diego.gov/sdplvirtual) virtual library media collection <https://san Diego.gov/sdplvirtual>

Summer Reading Program 2022!! June 1 to August 31

Join the Summer Reading Program and Read Off the Beaten Path! It's free to sign up for ALL AGES at www.sandiegolibrary.org beginning on June 1st. Keep track of the books you read this summer with your online reading log and earn prizes for reading! Every Wednesday from June 22nd through August 17th at 4:00 p.m., join us for a special Summer Reading Event featuring clowns, magicians, animals, and more!

Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for virtual stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills. Register at <https://san Diego.librarymarket.com/event/virtual-wednesday-morning-storytime-ms-carrie-46>. When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes until July 27th, so you do not need to register for each session.

Serra Mesa Book Club

Join the Serra Mesa Book Club on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. May 10th will discuss *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline, and June 14th will discuss *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* by Judith Heumann.

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. 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 during the library's open hours.

Friends of the Library Volunteers Needed

Looking to get more involved with your community? Love books and your library? Reach out to Friends of Serra Mesa Library to hear more about how you can help! Email us at serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com or DM on Instagram @serramesalibraryfriends

Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Meeting. June 1, 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 virtually on Zoom. Please email serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com for the log in information.

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>

May 3, 3:00 p.m. Make a Lotus Flower Card. In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, please join us in learning how to make a Lotus Flower Card for a loved one. This program is open to all ages.

June 22, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Kids to Canyons Nature Walk and Talk. Join Park Ranger Tiffany for a nature walk and talk focusing on the different plants, and their uses, that are found in the canyon right outside the library. Bring water and a hat and wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen for an easy nature walk into the canyon located behind the library.

June 25, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Book Sale and Kick-Off for Summer Reading. Join us at the library to kick off our Summer Reading Program. There will be a book sale, children's authors' book signing, entertainment, and fun music programs. Food and Drink trucks will be available.

June 29, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Sparkles the Clown. Sparkles the Clown come to give us hilarious and whimsical magic and bubble show!



The Village at Serra Mesa*

Lincoln Military Housing Forms Largest Property Management ESOP in the U.S. and First for Military Housing

October 4, 2021 |by Liberty Military Housing

Lincoln Military Housing (LMH) today announced the creation of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) that will give its employees, many of whom are military-affiliated, an ownership stake in the company, its mission, and its future. This transition also makes LMH the largest property management company ESOP in the United States and is a first for the military housing industry.

"When surveyed, our LMH team members consistently respond that the most rewarding aspect of their career is having the opportunity to work with the service members and their families who serve our country," said Philip Rizzo, CEO/COO of LMH. "By giving each of our team members ownership, LMH hopes to better reward their dedication and commitment to serving our residents for years to come."

The formation of the ESOP further benefits the over 36,000 military service members and their families that call a Lincoln community home by giving each LMH team member a vested interest in the company. Our team members will continue to take ownership of the quality of the daily services they provide and also in the company's reputation and overall success, with the knowledge that our collective success will now ensure greater financial security for their families.

With the formation of the ESOP, LMH will now be independent of our former parent company, Lincoln Property Company. As such, another exciting component of our transition to an ESOP is the transition to our new name, Liberty Military Housing. Our mission of exemplary service for our military families will not change, nor will our dedication to providing our team member-owners with unparalleled opportunities for personal and professional development and our continued commitment to providing our military partners with quality homes and vibrant neighborhoods. To ensure a smooth transition and provide clarity around our new name and brand, the company website will feature both an introduction on the homepage as well as maintain all historical news and updates from Lincoln Military Housing.

"We are proud of our 20-year history as Lincoln Military Housing and have always been dedicated to upholding the values and integrity associated with the name," said Rizzo. "We are excited to adhere to those same guiding principles under our new name, Liberty Military Housing, and new employee-owned structure, for the benefit of our families and all of our dedicated team members."

[Click here](#) for more information.

* The Village at Serra Mesa is a 900 unit military housing complex with two, three, and four bedroom units located near the corner of Murray Ridge/Aero Drive that is managed by Liberty Military Housing.



The Aero Project



This article is in response to inquiries about the demolition of the Kelco building at 8225 Aero Drive and the large banyon tree. The photo and information are copied/adapted from <https://www.sares-regis.com/post/srg-residential-begins-design-of-aero-apartments-in-san-diego-ca>.

Sares Regis Group Residential is building 434 apartments (1, 2, and 3 bedroom units), 7 stories high, to be completed in 2024. Amenities include pool, spa, dog run, game courtyard, golf putting green, outdoor culinary kitchen, co-work space, conference room, clubhouse, fitness center, and bike repair room.

More information can be found at the City's website, <https://opendsd.sandiego.gov/web/approvals/>, Project 692190 - DIGITAL-The Aero G &PI.





THE SAN DIEGO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

Contact: Susan Wormsley, Communications Director
Phone: 858-750-6477
Email: communications@sdws.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

San Diego Artist Wins First Place

Luis Juarez, an artist and resident of San Diego, California, has won the first-place award in the continually competitive March 2022 San Diego Watercolor Society (SDWS) Member's exhibition "Go Paint!!", an in-gallery show of the SDWS at 2825 Dewey Road in Liberty Station, San Diego, CA. Juarez's painting entitled "Balboa Park Bikes" was selected by prominent arts ambassador Pierre Guidetti for this honor, out of over 210 entries. Guidetti said of the painting, "This painting is very fresh and spontaneous. It is direct, and shows movement - you can really see the bicycles traveling and people walking. It is almost like watching a movie. You can use your imagination, and you can see that much action!"

Luis is an award winning artist who has been painting watercolor art since 2008, specializing in painting Plein Air in San Diego. Juarez says, "I paint what I see. However, I always feel free to move a building or a mountain to enhance the painting. The final result for a successful composition is more important than the reality of what I see." He has been a member of the San Diego Watercolor Society since 2014. More of Luis's work can be found at <https://luisjuarezfineart.com/>

The SDWS Gallery Exhibit will run through Sunday March 27, 2022 at the SDWS gallery at 2528 Dewey Road in Liberty Station. Paintings can be viewed and purchased from the gallery as well as on the SDWS website at <https://www.sdws.org/galleryart.php?cat=6992>.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

The San Diego Watercolor Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1965, is dedicated to expanding the appreciation of and involvement in watermedia painting through education, exhibition and promotion. More information can be found at <http://www.sdws.org>.



**“Balboa Park Bikes” by
Luis Juarez
Watercolor, 20 x 15 in**

Image courtesy of San Diego Watercolor Society

CONTACT INFORMATION –Carla Scheidlinger communications@sdws.org

Serra Mesa Observer

Editor: *Ronda Adams*

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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

