

# SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2 MARCH / APRIL 2023



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

You are invited to participate in the

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

March 22, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council**

April 26, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhoodly People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together



**Lunar New Year Lion  
Dance:** The performance  
by GDPT Chánh Kiến



More on page 11

**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**

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 Cindy McIntyre.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Education Committee*  
 Sam Yoeuth.....(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](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)  
 Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473  
 e-mail: [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org)

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

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

Mar 1	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Mar 4	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Mar 16	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Mar 21	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Mar 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 22	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Apr 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Apr 20	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Apr 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 26	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 3	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

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

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

For articles, e-mail Ronda Adams - [rondakadams@msn.com](mailto:rondakadams@msn.com)

**Deadline:** May / June 2023 Edition...April 21nd.

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

<http://www.serramesa.org> [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)





I am writing this message on Valentine's Day and feel it only appropriate to use "love" as the theme. The song title "What the world needs now is love, love, love," resonates so deeply as we as a nation, city, and neighborhood deal with the world around us. We are threatened on so many fronts that we need something to heal our hurts whether it be in our relationships, finances, jobs, families, politics, schools, or just the way we view our world. From a Community Council prospective, I think of our volunteers in our neighborhood who are greatly enriching our lifestyles by their service.

First and foremost is our Serra Mesa Pantry who makes food available to our neediest residents by providing fruits, vegetables, canned goods, and whatever every week every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM from the curbside at 2650 Melbourne Drive. My last count found that we are servicing over 120 families every week. That is only possible because of Kristine Webb and her team who lovingly provide that service. Along with that is fresh fruits and vegetables from our Serra Mesa Garden and Orchard led by Karl Doering who has led his team for at least the last 10 years. If that is not love, I do not know what is. Thank you, Pantry and Garden volunteers, for your love.

Next would be our Community Service Organizations. Our *Serra Mesa Planning Group* is dealing with our city Planning Department to improve our neighborhood with new buildings and projects designed to make our lives

better. Our *Friends of the Library* provide all those classic books for \$1 or \$2 dollars with proceeds going to help our fabulous library supply you with books, music cd's, movies, magazines, children's programs as well as other neighborhood services like tax preparation. Friends of *Ruffin Canyon* meets to keep our canyons clear of debris, invasive plants, and trees, keep trails clear, and report homeless residents and campsites. Also thanks to the Serra Mesa Community Council Board for staying involved and making sure that we continue to improve our community with informative general meetings, this document the Observer and distribution to keep you informed. Finally I would like to thank Volunteers Ronda Adams, our editor, and Colin Dowling, our webmaster, for their time and love to make sure you stay in the know.

Last thing this month is to introduce you to our new Community Officer Salvador LaurelTorre, he can be reached by phone at: 858-495-7919 or by email: [slaureltorre@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:slaureltorre@pd.sandiego.gov). Welcome Officer LaurelTorre, please know that you are welcomed and are our Special Valentine.

Carl 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](mailto:pastorhasd@gmail.com)  
[www.holyangelssandiego.com](http://www.holyangelssandiego.com)  
Facebook: Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

**All are Welcome!**



## Holy Angels Ethnic Foods

**858-268-3458**

2235 Galahad Rd • San Diego, CA 92123-3931

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

*Please always call before coming*

**Ethnic Foods Available**

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

# Improving your access to public records

By Mara W. Elliott

Every year, people request and receive records from the City of San Diego on anything from department staffing levels to City policies. Residents may want to know about crimes in their neighborhood, or police calls to a specific property. They may want to know which pesticides are used at their community park, or when



power lines on their street will be undergrounded. People seek everything from contracts to traffic surveys to landscape maintenance plans. In a recent two-year period, City employees responded to more than 11,000 public record requests.

Access to public records is a right protected by state law and our Constitution. A public record is defined by law as “any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics.” Record requests can be made in writing, by phone, or in person. The City’s website portal -- [sandiego.nextrequest.com](http://sandiego.nextrequest.com) -- is also a helpful tool. Once the requestor enters a request into the portal, the requestor will receive status updates by email.

A small team under the mayor oversees the process by determining which departments have or may have the requested records and coordinating the City’s response. Every department – including police, fire, streets, libraries, and parks and recreation – has staff assigned to assist this team. Providing a complete and accurate response to each request can take minutes or months depending on the scope of the request. Older City records may be housed off-site, or in files that have been closed out. Often, numerous departments have responsive records.

My Office trains City employees on applicable laws and advises departments when they have questions about their responsibilities under the law. In rare cases when an attorney sues, my Office defends the City and its taxpayers.

San Diego was sued nine times over public record requests in a two-year period -- suggesting a rate of less than 1 alleged error per 10,000 requests. Although this is admirable, our goal is to timely provide complete responses with no errors at all. To achieve that goal, I have again suggested the creation of a Transparency Office with a devoted and expanded public records team. By centralizing this important work, the City can provide the public with a single point of contact and ensure a properly trained staff provides timely responses that are coordinated across all departments.

Spreading the responsibility among departments may have made sense years ago, when the City received just a few hundred requests a year, but the increasing demand requires a new approach. What we’ve seen in litigation is that unless the City’s response is flawless, a lawyer can sue and win attorney fees, even if the error was inadvertent or minor.

A recent case concerned a request for the 911 call about a specific incident. No 911 call was made, however, so no records existed. Unfortunately, City staff mistakenly informed the requestor that it had a record of the call, but that the record was exempt from disclosure under state law. City staff was right about the exemption, but wrong that it had a record. The City was sued and a judge ordered it to pay \$27,661 in attorney’s fees to the requester’s lawyer -- all over a record that never existed.

The typical requester isn’t looking for a payout, but for information about the condition of a Little League field, or about the number of traffic accidents that occur near their kid’s school. That’s why the public record law was created – as a tool for citizens to get quick and easy access to public information. Our City would further the intent of the law and better serve its citizens if it created a Transparency Office. This investment would benefit all of us.



## Food, Food, and Food

Juarez Elementary School received a grant from Berry Good Food, a non-profit dedicated to supporting “programs around food security and food education.” Refer to <https://berrygoodfood.org/what-we-do/>. According to Benito Juarez Elementary PTO “Thanks to a generous grant from Berry Good Food, Juarez Elementary Garden Club has our very own Lettuce Grow Tower garden.”

### Other Local Food Programs

#### Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard

At the last class on April 2, 2011, **Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard** was launched with a vision, basic rules and guidelines, and officers. Having learned the basics of soil preparation, growing seeds, composting, fencing, watering, fruit trees, building garden beds, and more, **volunteers built out the garden infrastructure and initial set of raised beds, opening to community gardeners November 5, 2011.**

The orchard's 18 fruit trees supply fresh fruit to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry, supplemented with donations of produce from the garden's 68 4' x 12' plots.

Check out the garden at the back of 2650 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary School) or email [info@smcgo.org](mailto:info@smcgo.org) for information on renting one of the plots, as available.



*Photo taken late February 2023. Shows a fenced, well-maintained community garden — individual plots, kiosk, covered areas, and storage unit. Looking at photo: compost area to the right of storage unit and orchard behind structures.*





## Serra Mesa Food Pantry

**Service:** Provides food to people in need residing in Serra Mesa. Drive-thru at 2650 Melbourne Dr, on Wednesdays, 10am-1pm. Commodities are distributed monthly; produce weekly. Information at <http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/food-pantry/> and <https://www.facebook.com/serramesafoodpantry>. Contact information: [SMFoodPantryManager@gmail.com](mailto:SMFoodPantryManager@gmail.com); (858) 278-2647.

**Donations:** The number of participants in the program has been steadily increasing so donations are needed.

- Monetary tax deductible, 501c(3) nonprofit – Make a check payable to: Mission Village Christian Fellowship, and write "Serra Mesa Food Pantry" on the memo line. Send it through the mail or drop it off in person at 2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego, CA 92123.
- Food (non-expired) and plastic bags – Drop off on Wednesdays at the site. Set-up usually begins before 7:30am. Photos show produce set-up and cars lined up.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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

Sunday Mass 7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
 Mon-Thurs. 7:00 a.m.  
 Fri. 8:15 a.m.  
 Holy Days Please call the church for schedule

### ABLE PLUMBING AND DRAIN SERVICE

**SCOTT FIORI**  
**PLUMBER92123@GMAIL.COM**

8431 FIRESIDE AVE, SAN DIEGO CA 92123  
 CALL OR TEXT 619 985 8204

CA LICENSE 681475



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

**STEVE DE VOS, PASTOR**  
 Cell 858.829.2097  
[stevdevos79@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.gethsemanesd.org)

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





The Serra Mesa Village is an independent part of a national movement whose goal is to deal with our aging population. The basic concept is to provide an environment where mature adults can continue to live in familiar environments known as “aging in place”. Instead of moving to Independent Living, Assisted Living, or Memory Care, many adults would like to stay in their own homes. In some cases, financial sustainability may be an issue in which case a mature adult may need to reside with family members. Those who do not qualify for Medicaid must rely on private sector services which can be unaffordable, unavailable, inaccessible, or inadequate.

The first model of “The Village Concept” was Beacon Hill Village developed in 2001. The primary objective of the Village is to give purpose to the individual who in many cases have time and social association with others who also have time. The association includes events where the group can go together and experience things which may not be possible due to alone. For instance, many seniors do not drive and are restricted in getting about. In other situations, many seniors have lost a spouse and are living alone therefore requiring socialization with other persons other than family. The mission and goals of the Village are: 1. Help seniors live in their own homes or apartments for as long as possible. 2. Provide independence. 3. Encourage safer environments. 4. Connect seniors with well-being and quality of life. 5. Provide seniors with information and educational sources. 6. Provide educational experiences. 7. Assist in providing volunteers to seniors to help with physical disabilities.

The Serra Mesa Village was established in 2014 and while our membership has been reduced by the pandemic, we are again having person to person meetings in the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month from 2-4PM. Our General Meetings include a short board meeting followed by an informative meeting. For example, on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> our meeting was an Educational Presentation on Aging-Related Topics. The session will include, Living Well, Good Mental Health is Ageless, Medicines, Alcohol and Tobacco, Elder Abuse/Fraud Prevention, etc. At this meeting we will also get suggestions and ideas from the attendees as to what services would be helpful to them.

If you would like to learn more about the Serra Mesa Village, our latest trifold follows for your information and possible participation.



TrifoldOrganizations.pdf



TrifoldHouseholdHelp.pdf



TrifoldWelcome.pdf



TrifoldTransportaion.pdf

We are looking for a few good members. If you are so inclined, please give us a holler.

Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Village.

Leave a message: (858)565-2473

Email us at: [serramesavillage10@gmail.com](mailto:serramesavillage10@gmail.com)

URL: <https://www.serramesavillage.org>



## ***What You Need to Know About Organic Waste Recycling in the City of San Diego***

*(Article Provided by City of San Diego Environmental Services Department)*

Organic waste – food scraps, food-soiled paper products, wood and yard trimmings – accounts for about 40% of the waste in our landfills. Left to decompose in landfills, organic waste produces methane, a pollutant that traps the sun's heat, warms the atmosphere and accelerates climate change. Recycling organic waste has an immediate positive impact on our environment while producing a valuable local resource.

By simply putting the right materials in the correct containers, we can all have a direct impact on the outcome of what that waste produces, reducing damage to our environment. Under the new recycling system (<https://organicwasterecyclesd.org/>), we can turn food and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost, which can then be used to nourish our gardens, parks, farms and open spaces without releasing significant amounts of methane gas into our atmosphere.

Compost applied to soil increases water conservation, which is especially important given San Diego's drought-prone environment. One of the other processes used to recycle organic waste can create natural gas, which is trapped and cleaned to power vehicle fleets and generate energy.

### **What constitutes organic waste?**

Generally, if the waste item was edible, grew out of the ground or from a tree, then it is capable of decaying and should be added to your organic waste recycling bin to help our local environment.

### **Homes Serviced by the City**

Starting in January 2023, residents with waste hauling services from the City of San Diego will receive ample notification prior to their start date and delivery of the appropriate bins for the collection of their organic waste.

Green bins will be delivered to City-serviced residences that do not currently have one, and kitchen pails will be delivered to all City-serviced residences. The kitchen pail is to be used for the easy collection and transfer of food scraps and food-soiled paper products to the larger green bin. The green bin will be picked up weekly on the same day as your trash at your normal collection location.

The City of San Diego is conducting a series of free informational presentations (<https://organicwasterecyclesd.org/>) for homes receiving waste collection services from the City. Zoom webinars and in-person workshops will be offered periodically for the duration of the Citywide organic waste recycling rollout in 2023. City-serviced residents can visit [OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org](https://OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org) to register and learn more about how and when their homes will receive their new green bins, how to participate and best practices.

Residents will have the option to indicate language preferences during registration and are encouraged to register after they have received official notifications from the City that their home will be onboarded into this new program.

To find out if the City is your waste hauler, visit the Get it Done webpage (<https://getitdone.sandiego.gov/CollectionMapLookup>) or download the app.

### **Businesses, Apartments and Condominiums**

Businesses also have an important role to play in recycling our city's organic waste. Private waste haulers serve businesses and many multifamily apartment and condominium property owners in the City of San Diego. These haulers will now provide organic waste recycling services for weekly pick up from the property.

To ensure your business, apartment or condominium is receiving services, the following resources are available:

- Contact City-approved franchise haulers or certified recyclers to request new and/or additional organic waste recycling containers and service needs.
- Please reach out to your waste hauler for more information on what you can expect. Contact [SDRecyclingWorks@SanDiego.gov](mailto:SDRecyclingWorks@SanDiego.gov) or 858-694-7000 for helpful tips and technical assistance to set up organic waste recycling at your site.

### **Think Organic Waste Recycling is Icky?**

We get it. Some people think recycling organic waste is icky and some are excited by this new earth-friendly service. The

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benefits of organic waste recycling are immediate and have a great local impact. We ask all San Diegans to visit [OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org](https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/organic-waste-recycling) to find out what's Good for the Green Bin and learn more about how to recycle organic waste, care for your green bin, attend an educational presentation and receive updates.

### Learn More and Go Green

While recycling organic waste is new for many of us, it's a great way to do our part to help reduce the impacts of climate change and ensure a more sustainable future. We can start small today, and soon it will be as natural as putting a can or bottle in the blue bin. By using green bins at home and at work, we are all taking action now to protect the environment for future generations of San Diegans.

For more information, please visit [OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org](https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/organic-waste-recycling) or contact the Customer Care Center at [Trash@SanDiego.gov](mailto:Trash@SanDiego.gov) or 858-694-7000 for questions.

### Organic Waste Recycling Classes

Information about the green bin rollout is at this link: <https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/sb1383/webinars-and-workshops>. It's suggested that people register for the Zoom webinars or in-person workshops after they receive their notification from the City about the service. Green bins or kitchen pails aren't provided at the workshops.

Upcoming green bin webinar and workshop:

- **Zoom Webinar:** Wed. March 8, 6-7pm, "Your Home's New Green Bin" – [Register Here](#)
- **In-person Workshop:** Sat. March 18, 11am-noon, "Your Home's New Green Bin" at Skyline Hills Library (7900 Paradise Valley Rd) – [Register Here](#)

More dates will be added in the future.

**Schedule for Rollout in Serra Mesa** (best estimate): If current collection day is Wednesday, residents most likely receive bins before end of February; if Thursday, residents receive between March-April.

**More Recycling Information:** Refer to the article from the City in this Observer edition.

### 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  
March 24 & April 18 at 6:30 p.m.



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



## Video of Councilmember Campillo State of City Update



More than 50 people attended the presentation of the State of City Update by City Councilmember Raul Campillo at the Serra Mesa Community Council January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. He answered numerous audience questions. Video [HERE](http://www.serramesa.org/news-events/) (<http://www.serramesa.org/news-events/>).

## Library Event

Approximately 300 people attended the Lunar New Year Lion Dance, Serra Mesa Friends of Library Book Sale, and the Library Master Plan Listening Session on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Lunar New Year Lion Dance:** The performance by GDPT Chánh Kiến was highly entertaining!

**Book Sale:** The Friends made \$347 from the Book Sale. Proceeds will be used on library needs. To join the Serra Mesa Friends of the Library, go to <http://www.serramesa.org/membership-application/>. Books in good condition can be donated to the Friends whenever the library is open.

**Listening Session:** Participants provided input on what they want for the library's future. A Master Plan is being developed by the San Diego Library and Library Foundation SD. Learn more about the Library Master Plan at <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/about-the-library/library-master-plan>. Go to <https://surveyhero.com/c/SDPLP2LibraryCommunitySurvey> to share your comments.



## **Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library**

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

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

### **Library Hours**

Monday and Tuesday: 11:30 am - 8:00 pm

Wednesday through Saturday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

### **Holiday Closures**

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be Closed Friday, March 31 in observance of César Chávez Day.

### **Online library services available 24/7**

- **eBooks, eAudiobooks and Digital Magazines:** take a look at our eLibrary resource, we've got some new resources for the kids and adults <https://sandiego.gov/eLibrary>
- **Movies:** Free access to movies with your library card <https://sandiegopl.kanopy.com/>
- **Online Book Clubs:** <https://sandiego.gov/bookclubs>
- **Program Videos:** <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-videos>

### **In-Person Pajama Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Mondays at 6:30pm**

Put on your favorite PJs and join Ms. Carrie in the Community Room Monday evenings at 6:30pm for a pajama storytime. Pajamas are encouraged, but not required. No sign up required.

### **Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Wednesdays at 10:00am**

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for virtual stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills. Register at the SDPL Virtual Branch at [www.SanDiego.LibraryMarket.com](http://www.SanDiego.LibraryMarket.com) When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes for future Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytimes, so you do not need to register for each session.

### **Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:00pm**

Children can read aloud to trained and certified therapy dogs. "Paws to Read" is designed to help children improve their reading skills and confidence in reading out loud.

### **Chair Yoga – Tuesdays at 11:45am**

Work on your flexibility, strength building, and quiet your mind with functional movement practice Thursdays at 11:30am. Participate at your own ability. Suitable for adults of all ages. Wear flexible clothing and bring any preferred yoga equipment. Chairs provided.

### **Morning Book Club - 2nd Thursday, 10:00am**

Love to read and talk about books? Join the new Morning Book Club! March 9<sup>th</sup> will discuss *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, and April 13<sup>th</sup> will discuss *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.

**AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays February 3 through April 14, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** The AARP will be providing free tax help **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** for taxpayers with low to moderate income on Fridays, February 3 - April 14. Appointments can only be made **IN PERSON**. Fridays, sign up with AARP tax preparers at the library to schedule an appointment. Masks will be required for individuals ages 2+ regardless of vaccination status.

### **March 1, 6:00pm Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Meeting.**

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](mailto:serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com) for the log in information.

### **March 7, 1:00pm Body Workout: Beat to the Beat.**

Using drumsticks, shaker bells, cymbals, tambourines, and other percussion instruments, you will move yourself towards a fitter self! This total body workout class for adult will challenge your balance and strength while drumming to the beat of the music. No previous music experience required!



### **March 21, 1:00pm Wellness Workshop: Arthritis 101**

Learn about the different types of arthritis. Learn how to better manage arthritis through a variety of complementary lifestyle strategies.

### **March 22, 4:00pm Kids to Canyon Nature Walk and Talk**

Join Park Ranger Tiffany for a nature walk in the canyon right outside the library! Together we'll explore and learn about some of the native plants and animals that call this area home! Bring a hat, sunscreen, and a water bottle for an easy trail walk.

### **March 23, 10:00am Oasis at the Library: Present & Future Water Supplies for the S.D. Region**

Do we have adequate water supplies available to San Diego County to satisfy our future needs? How dependent on imported water are we? Phil Pryde, Professor Emeritus at SDSU, will join us for this illustrated presentation about the status and future of our most important natural resource.

### **April 4, 1:00pm Financial Wellness**

One of the dimensions of health is financial wellness. What are you doing for your financial wellness? Learn about some strategies to develop your own financial wellness.

### **April 27, 1:00pm Oasis at the Library: Legacies of The Past, San Diego's History**

Linda Canada has drawn upon local archives and private photograph collections to create a program which she hopes will surprise you, and maybe even astound you! There are so many little details of the San Diego region's history wrapped up in street signs, maps, and photographs that may cause you to take a second look at the places you think you know, and to create a desire to know more about the area's hidden, and not so hidden, past!

### **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](mailto:serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com) or DM on Instagram @serramesalibraryfriends

### **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>



## From the Desk of Councilmember Raul Campillo

It's already March, and I'm happy to share some updates happening in the Serra Mesa community.

Thank you to the Serra Mesa Community Council for inviting me to your January meeting where I was able to share what I've been doing on behalf of your community at City Hall. It is an honor to represent you, and I appreciate those who attended and participated in the meeting. I look forward to our continued work together in 2023.

In case you missed the meeting, I provided an update on the progress being made at the Taft joint-use field. Construction is well underway, and I expect to see it finished in the early Summer! Additionally, thanks to the continued advocacy of the Community Council and other Serra Mesa residents, the unleaded fuel tank for Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport is currently in the design phase. Once it reaches 30% completion, it will go to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for review for a tentative groundbreaking in 2024.

I will be holding office hours throughout District 7 again this year rotating between communities. This is an opportunity for you to meet with me directly to discuss community issues and/or ask me questions about certain things specific to the City of San Diego. See the details below to schedule your time.

### **Thursday, March 22**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

San Carlos Library

7265 Jackson Dr, San Diego, CA 92119

Schedule your time by sending an email to Cheryl Willis at [CherylW@sandiego.gov](mailto:CherylW@sandiego.gov)

Finally, if you haven't received the online newsletter for District 7 (The District 7 Dispatch), I encourage you to subscribe. Each month I share what is going on not only in each community but throughout the city of San Diego. To subscribe, please visit [www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7](http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7).





## 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 the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive, and via online meetings. To receive notices about meetings, which would include a link for the online meeting, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Next meetings: March 16 and April 20. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

**Elections:** SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. On March 16, 2023, 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. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>.

Current SMPG board members are Ian Clampett, Denise Davidson, Kira Finkenberg (Secretary), Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, Tony Guerra, Joe Ippolito, Sharon Kramer, Ken Maguire, Cindy Moore, Chris Rosemond (Vice-Chair), and Catherine Stempel (Chair).

### Ongoing Item – Taft Crosswalk

SMPG is working with the city to get a crosswalk installed on Gramercy Ave between Mobley and Ruffin Rd. Many students have been crossing in a non-crosswalk area as cars speed down Gramercy. Safety concerns were brought to the SMPG meeting from a Taft Middle School teacher and from parents that drop their kids off. Additionally, Taft is the pickup location for children to be transported to other schools like the Language Academy and Kearny High School. A request for a traffic study and funding has been communicated to city officials.

### Information Item, February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Presentation made by CityMark Development, <https://citymark.com>, on plans for three lots purchased from the Gleich Trust. The lots are zoned as a commercial zone that allows residential. The projects qualify for the density bonus, which provide incentives/waivers to not provide commercial and to provide affordable housing. The projects are a Process 1, which means staff approves the application and the developers were not required to make a presentation to SMPG. Once the permit is issued construction could begin, possibly as soon as summer 2023. Amenities will be minimal. Rental rates are not determined.

3222 Mission Village Drive (former Tom Russell Chevron Station): Build 3 story, 21-unit apartment building with 1-2 bedrooms on .96 acre; rental units; 2 affordable housing units; 23 parking spaces

2696 Mission Village Drive (former gas station near corner of Shawn Avenue): Build 3 story, 18-unit apartment building with 1-2 bedrooms; rental units; 2 affordable housing units; 21 parking spaces

3241 Mission Village Drive (Hope located there, former medical building complex): Two sections – 4 story building, 35-unit apartment building facing Mission Village Drive with 29 parking spaces and 3 story, 25-unit townhouses with 3 bedrooms and 2 car garages; exit on Ruffin Road; still determining if townhouses will be rental units

At the SMPG meeting lack of adequate parking concerns were expressed and solutions to increase the amount of parking were suggested. Watch for more details in future Observer editions!

**Action Item, February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting** – SMPG passed a motion to send a letter to the City to request residential paid parking permits for LeMans homeowners, located in the Birdland area. Permits are common in other areas with parking problems, for example, College area and Mesa College.

**Future Agenda Item** – AT&T Wireless Communications Facility at 2696 Melbourne Dr (Gethsemane Lutheran Church). Refer to AT&T Melbourne-CAL01761, February 14, 2023 Notice at <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/public-notices>, Land Use and Development.

SERA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR MARCH 2023							April ▶
◀ February	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
5	6 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		7	8 Int'l Women's Day 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 Daylight Saving Begins	13 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		14 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	15 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	16 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	17 St Patrick's Day 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	18
19	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC		21	22 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	23	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 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	31 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	

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



SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS							APRIL 2023		May ▶
◀ March	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
2		3 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	4	5 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	6 Holy Thursday 10:00 AM - SMV DAY TRIP SM/KM	7 Good Friday 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	8		
9 Easter		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		17 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	18 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	19 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	20 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	21 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	22 Earth Day		
23		24 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	25 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	26 Administrative Professionals 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	27 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	28 Arbor Day 8:00 AM - SMV WALK SMRC	29		
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

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WEDNESDAY  
3/8 • 6 P.M.



**ZOOM  
WEBINAR**

SATURDAY  
3/18 • 11 A.M.



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**\*Mga serbisyo ng pagpapakahulugan ay makukuha kung hihilingin. Tukuyin ang ginustong wika sa panahon ng pagparehistro sa online o makipag-ugnayan sa amin:**

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858-694-7000

[sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov](mailto:sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov)



***Serra Mesa Observer***

Editor: *Ronda Adams*

Post Office Box 23315

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**

