

SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 3 MAY / JUNE 2023



www.serramesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

May 24, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

June 28, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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



**Creek to Bay Clean-up
Event at Rec Canyon**

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**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
 Debbie Campbell.....(858)565-2473*
Communications
 Sam Yoeuth.....(858) 565-2473*
Friends of the Library
 Rebecca Moreno(858)565-2473*
Local Business Coordinator
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473*
SMRC/SMPPAG
 Sandra Stahl.....(858)565-2473*
Special Projects/SMPG

Appointed Positions

Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473*
Serra Mesa Email Directory
 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473*
Observer Editor
 Geraldyn 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: smpeg@serramesa.org

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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
May 16	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
May 18	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
May 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 24	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
June 15	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
June 20	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
June 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
June 28	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
July 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
July 5	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 2023 Edition...June 23rd.

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

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



Lots going on in our neighborhood and a great time to get informed and let your elected officials know of your thoughts regarding things that affect us.

Our library is losing Rosa Kwon, our fabulous head librarian to the Rancho Bernardo Library which is much closer to her home. Thank you, Rosa, for the many great years of serving Serra Mesa. I know that you will be missed.

Many of us have heard of SB 9 and SB 10. Our State and City officials have called it affordable housing, but it is massive profits for developers. In the process, our planning groups who were advised of new projects and had input as to the impact on our neighborhood are trying to do away with this force in lieu of those who may not even live in our area. Under SB 9 & SB 19, a developer can purchase a residential lot and construct up to six living units. Our city has decided that this was not enough and with Housing Action Package Update 2.0 raised the number to ten. In many cases there is no regard for increased parking or traffic congestion. You can show your support by logging in to: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighborsForABetterSanDiego>.

Hopefully, you have heard that aviators will be given the option of using unleaded aviation gas and we heard that it will be installed soon. We have recently been informed that it will not be installed until the end of 2025 at the earliest. The problem is that 1.442 tons of lead particles are released annually over our schools and neighborhood because of our proximity to Montgomery Gibbs Municipal Airport. Studies have shown that no level of lead in our air is acceptable. This airport is

managed by the city and this action has been postponed even after suggestions and recommendations by local organizations have attempted to cut through the red tape but to no avail.

If you have a passion for something you would like to see in Serra Mesa, I invite you to join your Serra Mesa Community Council board. We exist to make Serra Mesa a better place to live. We are open to new ideas and pride ourselves on being accessible and available to all. If you would like to join our board or any of our volunteer organizations, please contact us at: (858) 565-2473 and leave a message or email us at: communitycouncil@serramesa.org.

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
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

Stalking is all too common; reporting isn't

By Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney

Aided by technologies that make it easy to track victims online and in real life, stalking is a growing and often deadly crime that largely targets young people.

Thirty years ago, the term “stalker” was hardly known. Today, more than 1 million victims are stalked every year, most of them women and most of them under 25. Their stalkers are usually someone they know – an ex-boyfriend, a date, or someone at work – and 80 to 90 percent of stalkers are male.

Parents need to be especially vigilant. Children may not recognize the point when a romantic interest in them becomes an obsession or an unrequited crush leads to a desire to control and harm.

Stalking can occur in many ways, but here are some commonly identified tactics:

- Following and watching the victim;
- Showing up uninvited in places such as the victim's home, workplace, or school;
- Repeatedly seeking information from friends and family;
- Sneaking into the victim's home or car to scare the victim or let the victim know he'd been there;
- Making repeated phone calls, including hang-ups and voice messages; and
- Sending unwanted texts, emails, social media messages, cards, letters, flowers, or presents.

Advances in technology are adding more tools to a stalker's toolbox.

Stalkers use social media profiles to monitor the habits, preferences, and likely whereabouts of their victims. They use hidden cameras and recorders to spy on victims and the Internet to post threats or virtually harass them. Global positioning system (GPS) technology allows stalkers to track a victim's location. Small GPS devices, like Apple AirTags, can be dropped into a purse or a car window.

My Office prosecuted one stalker who'd attached a GPS device to the bottom of his victim's car. He was caught on a home surveillance camera as he checked on the device while the car sat in the victim's driveway.

In another case, the victim got aggressive and threatening texts from her ex, including photos of her damaged car with messages like “this is just the start.”

As with many stalking victims, she changed her phone number.



The stalker, consistently persistent, found her new number and contact her 400 times in one day, threatening violence against her, her son, and her ex-husband.

When a restraining order failed to stop the conduct, my Office filed a criminal complaint alleging stalking, annoying or harassing communications, and vandalism. The defendant pleaded guilty to the stalking charge. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, three years of probation, and a 52-week counseling class, and is the subject of a 10-year Criminal Protective Order.

In 1991, California became the first state to make stalking illegal, though the law primarily referred to obsessively pursuing celebrities. It was later expanded, and today, every state has stalking laws.

Stalking may be charged as a felony or a misdemeanor, depending on the facts. My Office handles misdemeanors, and we take all such incidents seriously. We recognize that victims can experience psychological distress, including post-traumatic stress and an increase in suicidal thoughts.

Before we can prosecute, however, we must hear from the victim. Most stalking incidents are not reported out of fear, embarrassment, or a failure to recognize that the behavior is a crime.

If you are a victim or hear about repeated incidents of stalking behavior, please report it to the police. They can investigate, identify the stalker, and take steps to keep you safe. This could include seeking restraining orders, arresting the stalker, or adding patrols to your home or workplace. In some cases, police officers may recommend counseling or other support services to help the victim.

As with any behavior where someone tries to assert power over you, being stalked is a terrifying experience that can take a huge emotional toll – or prove lethal. Calling 911 is not an overreaction.

In addition, my Office's [Your Safe Place – A Family Justice Center](#) offers a safe, supportive environment for victims of stalkers who also experience domestic violence, family violence, or sexual assault. You can find out more at 619-533-6000.

From the Desk of Councilmember Raul Campillo

Happy April, Serra Mesa. I am happy to share some updates happening in the community.

This past month, I had the pleasure of attending Elevate Elementary School's Leadership Days, where I was able to meet and speak with many outstanding students and potential future leaders of our community. I applaud the teachers and administrators at Elevate Elementary School for their dedication to their students in developing and teaching leadership strategies to our youth.

Over the past month, San Diego Canyonlands, whose mission is to promote, protect, and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County canyons and creeks by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy and by collaborating with others, has been hard at work restoring Ruffin Canyon. Most recently, they planted over 450 native riparian trees in the canyon to reintroduce native plants and stabilize the hillsides leading into the canyon. Thank you, Canyonlands, for your hard work and dedication to preserving our local habitats.

This month I will be holding Community Office Hours at the Tierrasanta Public Library. 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.

Wednesday, April 26

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Tierrasanta Public Library

4985 La Cuenta Dr, San Diego, CA 92124

Schedule your time by sending an email to Cheryl Willis at 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 in each community and throughout the city of San Diego. To subscribe, please visit www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7.

The Aero Project

Building permits for The Aero, 3585 Aero Court (former Kelco location), were issued via ministerial review. The project is a seven story, 434 multi-family rental apartment building with an eight-level parking structure, 712 stalls.

The March 8th Airports Advisory Committee meeting minutes included "Developer has requested a deviation not to build 21 required spaces per the conversion of single bedroom units with dens to two-bedroom units... Staff will request developer to add obstruction lights to disclose to the exposure to residents the high level of aircraft noise."

Information on the Airport Advisory Committee is at <https://www.sandiego.gov/airports/aac>. The representative for Serra Mesa is Richard Ram.

Creek to Bay Clean-up Event at Rec Canyon



For the annual Creek to Bay Clean-up event sponsored by I Love A Clean San Diego the Friends of Ruffin Canyon focused on Rec Canyon. More than 20 volunteers helped remove non-natives in the canyon, cleaned up trash, and cleared and mulched the trail between the Serra Mesa Recreation Center and the Serra Mesa Library. There were two high schoolers and a middle schooler who obtained community service from the event. If others need community service in the future, a Coastal Clean-up Day will be scheduled in September.

City Councilmember Raul Campillo and his staff attended the event and helped with the effort. Councilmember Campillo presented a proclamation to Joe Mazzella, I Love A Clean San Diego representative.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for this event, to the Friends of Ruffin Canyon (Monica Fuentes, Kevin Johnston, and Cindy McIntyre) who organized the event, and to Councilmember Campillo for acknowledging the event with the proclamation.

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

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

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 CALL OR TEXT 619 985 8204

CA LICENSE 681475



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.

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. To receive notices about meetings, which would include a link for the online meeting, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Next meetings: May 18 and June 15. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Results of March 16th Board Election: Denise Davidson and Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, reelected; and Deborah Burns, elected. Welcome to new member, Deborah!

SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members, 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>. Any qualified person interested in filling a board opening can be elected at a board meeting. If interested in joining the board, please contact smpg@serramesa.org.

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

Information Items, April 20th Meeting

Presentation on proposed **Cricket Pitch at Fletcher Elementary Joint Use Facility** made by Shannon Scoggins, Parks and Recreation Department, and Marty Kain, Youth Cricket San Diego.

- Youth cricket only
- Synthetic turf pitch with concrete and padding underneath
- 10' wide x 80' long, north/south configuration
- Used primarily on weekends
- Privately funded
- Maintenance by Youth Cricket San Diego
- At least 50 parking spaces
- Required permit is issued by Parks & Recreation
- Next step is San Diego Unified School District Self Help Department

Presentation on City of San Diego's **Housing Action Package 2.0** (HAP) made by Geoffrey Hueter, Neighborhoods for a Better San Diego. HAP would amend the land development code. Mr. Hueter focused on SB 10 and Missing Middle Housing.

- SB 10, a state law, is optional; no other city in California has opted in, yet; once implemented, can't be undone by City Council or any future City Council
- Rezones single family zoning to high density multifamily
- More than 50% of city's single-family dwellings eligible for SB 10
- Sustainable Development Areas (SDA)* violates San Diego's legally binding Climate Action Plan
- No exemption for fire hazards
- Up to 10 units (1 per 1,000 s.f. of lot space)
- 5' front setback, 4' elsewhere
- 35' high, 3 stories, FAR 3.0
- No on-site parking required
- No public input or notice
- Anticipate item will be scheduled for a City Council summer meeting
- With existing incentives have capacity to build over 2 million new homes

Continued from page 8

* SDAs allow housing density within 1 mile of an existing or future transit stop.

The Housing Action Package was an action item for the April 27th Community Planning Committee (CPC) meeting. CPC is composed of one representative from each of the City's planning groups.

Action Item, April 20th Meeting: The City Council has revised the policy governing community planning groups. In 2024 existing planning groups and potential new groups will be required to submit an application for recognition from the City Council. Required documents will include revised bylaws, terms and conditions, Guidelines for Ethical Standards, and a Participation and Representation Plan. SMPG formed a subcommittee to work on these documents. More information at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans/planning-group-resources>.

Reports from Elected Officials (provided via email)

City Councilmember Raul Campillo's representative, Miles Noel, mnoel@sandiego.gov

Budget Town Hall

- The City of San Diego is currently going through its FY23 Budget Process, and the Councilmember wants to hear directly from you on your priorities.
- Our office is currently soliciting feedback from the community on how the FY23 Budget should be prioritized, and would like to invite all of you to our FY24 Budget Town Hall on May 9, 2023 at 6PM via Zoom.
- This meeting will provide a time for you to learn about the budget process and offer feedback on budget allocations for District 7. All of this feedback will be considered as the Councilmember drafts his revised FY23 Budget Priority memo that he will submit to the Mayor and IBA. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to me and I will get you signed up for the Zoom meeting.

Fire Safety Memo to Mayor Glora

- Following the recent rains across the region, we have seen an increase in brush, plants, and flowers grow to superbloom levels.
- With all that beauty, the Councilmember is also concerned with the upcoming dry season that all of this new fuel can catch a quick spark and pose an immediate risk to all District 7 residents.
- Given the history of District 7 with fires such as the Cedar Fire in 2007, and the impact of the Valley Fire in 2020, this major growth is cause for concern.
- As such, Councilmember Campillo believes it is critical that we take proactive measures to ensure that our community is prepared for the threat of wildfires.
- He specifically requested that the Mayor increase the number of inspectors and firefighter staff to manage brush and mitigate fire risks in our district, and by supplementing staffing and increasing inspections, we can ensure that brush management and fire precautions are adequately addressed prior to the fire season.

Mayor Todd Gloria's representative, Emily Piatanesi, epiatanesi@sandiego.gov

Smart Streetlight

- The San Diego Police Department is proposing to turn on the Smart Streetlights to help investigate and solve crimes through a new and more transparent public process.
 - In 2022, the City passed San Diego Privacy Ordinance to enforce rules that govern the use of camera surveillance.
 - The City also created a Privacy Advisory Board to address the concerns of San Diegans and ensure public oversight and input are directly involved in the process.
 - Starting March 6, SDPD conducted a series of community meetings to inform the public and gather feedback on the proposal to use Smart Streetlights and Automated License Plate Recognition technologies.

Budget (Report included lots of details. For these details, contact Mayor's office.)

Continued from page 9

- On April 14, 2023 Mayor Todd Gloria released his “Getting It Done” Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget. The \$5.12 billion spending plan focuses on delivering on the major investments included in the last two budgets, while adding strategic new expenditures to address homelessness, repave streets and enhance public safety.
- The budget is called “Getting It Done” for its emphasis on execution; Mayor Gloria said the goal is to sustain all funding from the prior budget year, maintaining service levels while adding expenditures needed to make progress in key priority areas.

Assemblymember Chris Ward’s representative, Miki Holmes, miki.holmes@asm.cagov. His office is “available to assist with issues you may be experiencing with the DMV, EDD, or any other state entity.” Assemblymember Ward’s legislative package is available at <https://a78.asmdc.org/>. Highlights:

- AB 2 (Solar Recycling Program): Establishes a statewide solar panel end-of-life program to recycle raw materials and other valuable components into new solar panels, reducing the environmental impact of solar power waste.
- AB 30 (Atmospheric Rivers): Broadens the atmospheric river program administered through the Department of Water Resources to link reservoir and flood control operations with best practices in prediction modeling to optimize water management, increase storage, and reduce flood risk.
- AB 799 (Homelessness Accountability and Results Act - L. Rivas and Ward): Sets consequences for failing to meet goals, including the potential for HHAP funds to be reallocated to another entity within the same region, and streamlines administrative burdens on local systems while ensuring that more detailed information is made public to improve transparency and oversight.



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

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 16 & June 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

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

Email Questions to SMstaff@saniego.gov

Library Hours

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

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

NEW Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Holiday Closures

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be Closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day and Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Online library services available 24/7

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

Summer Reading Program 2023!! June 1 to August 31

Join the Summer Reading Program and Find Your Voice! 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! Saturday, June 24 will be our Friends of the Library Book Sale and Kick-Off for Summer Reading, including a book sale, children's authors' book talk, and more! Every Tuesday from June 27th through August 15th at 4:00 p.m., join us for a special Summer Reading Event featuring clowns, magicians, animals, and more!

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. Except May 29 and June 19.

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 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! May 11 will discuss *Razorblade Tears* by S. A. Cosby, and June 8 will discuss *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot.

May 2, 1:00pm Healthy Cooking Class: Low Cost Healthy Eating.

There are ways to cook inexpensively and still focus on healthy eating. Learn ways to cook healthy for your family and still be cost-conscious.

May 3, 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 for the log in information.

May 16, 5:00pm Spring into STEAM: San Diego Jones-A Virtual Reality Adventure.

Explore ruins of the world right from San Diego in this dynamic & exciting new adventure! Students will survey ancient ruins using VR/AR technology. Program is for students 9-12 years old. *Registration is required. [SanDiego.gov/STEAM](https://www.sandiego.gov/STEAM)

May 23, 4:00pm Library NExT: Envisioning a Sustainable City of the Future.

Want to help build a more sustainable future? Use Google Earth to survey sites around the world where people have settled through history. Then create a design for a sustainable home in a place of your choice. Program is for students 6th-8th grade. *Registration is required. [SanDiego.gov/LibraryNext](https://www.sandiego.gov/LibraryNext)

May 25, 10:00am Oasis at the Library: Aging in Place-Can You Do It Safely?

In this course, we will talk about what you can do to your current living environment to make it more safe, comfortable, and livable as you age. From simple fixes to major remodels, there are things you can do to decrease the chances of an accident or injury in your home.

June 22, 10:00am Oasis at the Library: Current Events.

Facilitator Rick LeVine will cover topics based on what's in the news (elections, court cases, law reform, tax cuts, foreign affairs, etc.) This class includes lectures, dialogue, questions, and answers. Rick LeVine is an attorney and former newscaster. Participants appreciate his wealth of knowledge and ability to present the news without bias.

June 27, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Kids to Canyons 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 water and a hat and wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen for an easy nature walk into the canyon located behind the library.

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](https://www.instagram.com/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>

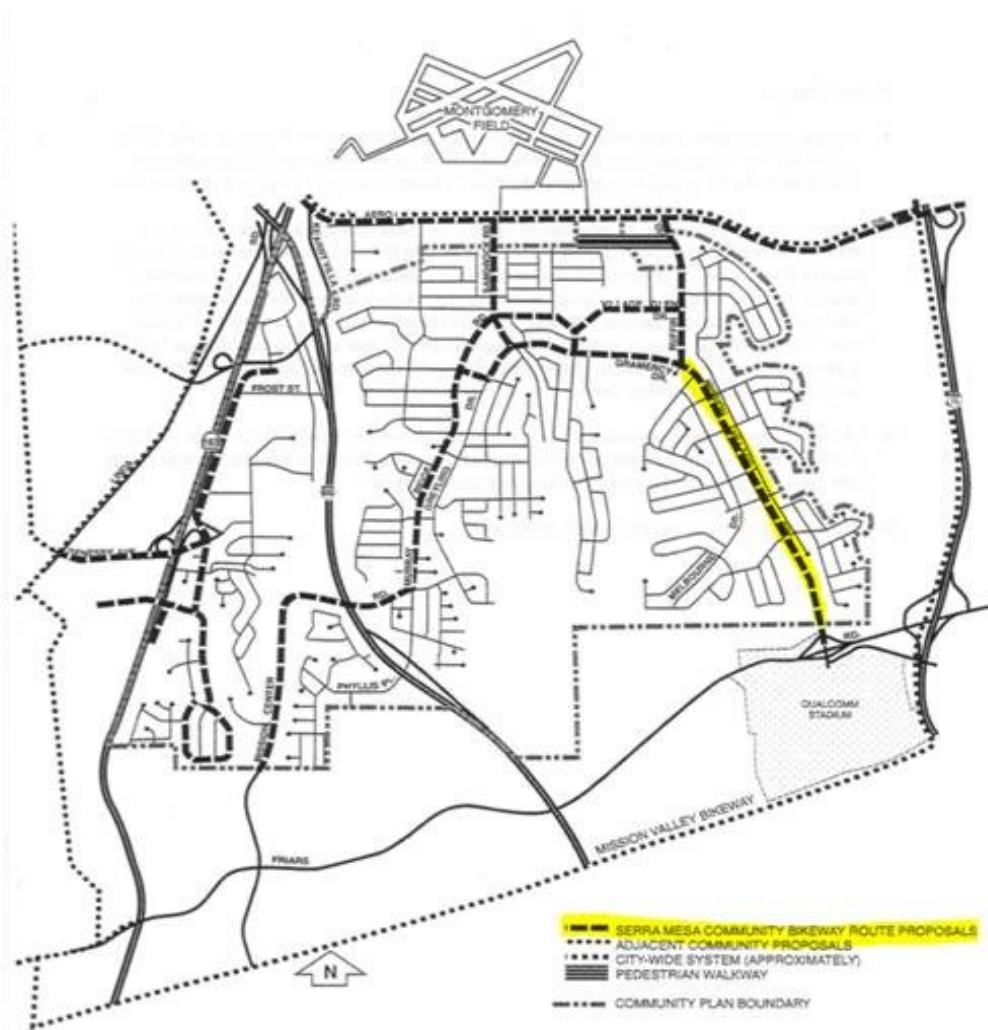


Mission Village Drive Reconfiguration

Reconfiguration - Mission Village Drive between Shawn Avenue and Ruffin Road is scheduled (date unknown) for reconfiguration which results in one travel lane and a bike lane in each direction and a middle turn lane. For visuals (file received wasn't of the highest quality), refer to <http://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

- From Friars to Ronda Ave – Redesigned northbound to gradual reduction from two lanes to one lane and installs buffered Class II bike lanes (no physical barrier). Class II bike lanes are defined by pavement striping and signage.
- From Ronda to Ruffin Road – Redesigned to three lanes (two travel lanes and a middle turn lane) and installs buffered Class II bicycle lanes (no physical barrier). This results in the elimination of one travel lane in each direction. At the four way intersections there are left turn lanes.

Staff Justification for Redesign - Staff in an email trail indicated that “The community plan identifies allowable buildout. Operational changes are allowed within the framework of the community plan...streets that are designated as major streets like Mission Village Drive allow for the buildout. It's the designation itself that allows for it... Build out would be all the lanes and features (like bike lanes) included in a community plan. Since Mission Village Dr is currently missing its identified bike lanes and the traffic volumes can be handled by two lanes and center turn lane, the reconfiguration is an acceptable operational modification.” Staff included this figure (https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/serra_mesa_cp_amended2017.pdf, p. 38):



SERRA MESA
FIGURE 12
BIKEWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

Continued from page 14

Community Response: Community Plan Doesn't Justify Reconfiguration – A response email was sent to staff with the following information. “From the community plan (p. 42 and 43) in reference to Figure 12:

Bicycle Routes

- A community bikeway system should be designated as shown on the Bikeways Map. This system should be developed so as to adequately serve the major bicycle traffic generators identified in the Plan and connect with the bicycle route systems in adjoining communities.
- Three access routes should be established linking the mesa to regional bikeways serving Mission Valley and Murphy Canyon. One route should follow Mission Center Road from Murray Ridge Road to the Mission Valley bikeway. Should this route prove unfeasible, studies for an alternative route should be carried out. A second route should connect Aero Drive with the Murphy Canyon Bikeway. A third route should serve the Mission Village area. On a near term basis, a route connecting Mission Village Drive to the Mission Valley Bikeway should be investigated, possibly involving the City-owned slope easement on the west side of Mission Village Drive.
- Means of improving transportation linkages and lessening the impact of motorized vehicular traffic on the environment should be considered. Two possibilities are the “bicycle park-bus ride” and “piggy back” bicycle-bus transportation concepts.

See Figure 12: Bikeways and Pedestrian Walkway.

The first bullet talks about developing a connection and the second bullet talks about the connection. For Mission Village Drive it states that the City-owned slope easement on the west side of Mission Village Drive should be investigated.

Additionally, **Mission Village Drive being 4 lanes is supported by the following references: The community plan designates Mission Village Drive as a Major Street (p. 36) and is shown as 4 lanes (Refer to Figure 11 and Table 3); and “Major streets are also usually four to six lanes wide...” (p. 33)."**

As of press time, a response hasn't been received.



Serra Mesa Village Newsletter May/June 2023

Serra Mesa Village is a 50+ group of seniors who are committed to living in the homes they love. Our group is event orientated in that we are looking for seniors who want to be as active as they can. Our activities are listed below:

1st Thursday of Month: General Meeting; 2-4 PM located at the Serra Mesa Library.

2nd & 4th Tuesday of Month: Classic Movies; Holy Angels Byz Church 2-5 PM, 2235 Galahad Rd.

Every Wednesday: Ceramics Class, Serra Mesa Rec Center, 12:30-4:30 PM, 9020 Village Glen Rd.

4th Thursday of Month: Lunch as advised by Social Director.

To be included in our email list, call Kathy at (858) 565-2473 and leave a message or email us at:

serramesavillage10@gmail.com

KingdomQuest 2023

KingdomQuest is a four-day kid's event in July that is open to children ages 5-12 years old from our surrounding communities. At KingdomQuest there will be interactive games, Bible lessons, kid prizes, lively music, snacks, crafts, and a missions project where kids are invited to donate coins every day to raise money for an orphanage in Guatemala. This four-day event will not only give kids something fun to do during the summer, but it also gives parents a break!

The registration fee for each child is \$30.00



MAY 2023 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS					
◀ April	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 HUG YOUR CAT DAY	2	3 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	4 11:00 AM- LETS GO TO LUNCH DAY SM/KM	5 Cinco De Mayo
					6 PLAY OUTSIDE DAY
7	8 NO SOCKS DAY	9 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	10 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	11 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	12 NUTTY FUDGE DAY
					13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 BBQ DAY	17 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	18 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	19
					20 Armed Forces Day
21	22 SHERLOCK HOLMES DAY	23 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	24 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	25 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	26 WORLD LINDY HOP DAY
					27
28	29 Memorial Day	30 MINT JULEP DAY	31 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC		

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 2023 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS							July ▶
◀ May	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:00 AM- LETS GO TO LUNCH DAY SM/KM	2	3 WEAR BLUE DAY
4		5	6 NATL YO-YO DAY	7 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	8 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	9	10
11		12 NATL PEANUT COOKIE DAY	13 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	14 Flag Day 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	15 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	16	17
18 Father's Day		19 Juneteenth	20 NATL ICE CREAM SODA DAY	21 Summer Solstice (Summer Begins) 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	22	23	24 SWIM A LAP DAY
25		26 NATL CHOCOLATE PUDDING DAY	27 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	28 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	29 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	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

Letter to the Editor by Sean Haug for SD Network for Accountability

The Union Tribune has run a number of articles and Letters to the Editor relative to public dissatisfaction with what the City and staff impose on us. Among the topics, the failure of the Planning Department and other City departments to give consideration to the rights of residential home owners. There is a pressing need for market rate, affordable, and low-income housing. In response Sacramento and the City enacted legislation that expedites residential construction. Most of the legislation is directed to densification of residential communities with rules that override the zoning of our single-family neighborhoods. Rather than concentrate along urban corridors, areas that have infrastructure and public transit routes that would support increased population, Sacramento and the City decided the path of least resistance was to offer developers the opportunity to build high-rise multi-family residential buildings on streets zoned for single family houses.

Council Policy 600-24 establishes a procedure by which a Community Planning Group (CPG) for a designated area will make advisory recommendations to the City and other governmental agencies on land use matters within the CPG's planning area boundaries. Those matters include the preparation of, adoption of, implementation of, or amendment to, the General Plan or a land use plan that relates to its boundaries. Recognized CPGs may also advise on associated matters as described in this Policy such as housing developments. There are 42 CPGs representing areas of the City. We know them by the common names of "Navajo," "Serra Mesa," "La Jolla," and the like. Each CPG is composed of residents, property owners, and business persons who are presumed to have special knowledge of the needs of their communities. They are charged to represent the interests of those communities. The section of the policy headed "Scope of Advisory Recommendations" provides in part, "Private project applicants are not required by this policy to present their application before CPGs, although the City encourages applicants to conduct robust engagement with CPGs, the community, and project neighbors." [emphasis added] The section headed "Responsibilities" provides in part, "The CPG recognizes that City staff and development project applicants are not required by the City to present their project or application before the CPG although the City encourages applicants to conduct robust engagement with all CPGs, the community, and project neighbors." [emphasis added] The section headed "Community Participation and Representation" provides in part, "The CPG and its voting members should routinely seek robust community participation in the CPG planning and implementation process to serve the best long-term interest of the community at large." [emphasis added]

The key word that defines the function of the CPGs is "robust." This standard is not being met. When a developer files for a building permit it is first reviewed by the Development Services Department (DSD) of the City Planning Department. If the development meets all criteria for the zoning or the special exemptions for a Sustainable Development Area, affordable housing, and other exemptions the project is permitted as "ministerial" and referral to the CPG for advisory recommendation is not required. If the development does not comply with zoning and no exemptions apply it is "discretionary" and must be referred to the CPG for review and recommendations.

The problem is that these characterizations are made by DSD in close consultation with the developers. It is not be surprising that as the result of adjustments most developments escape the requirement of examination by the CPG. It is equally unsurprising that the most intrusive of projects avoid the robust recommendations of the persons with the greatest understanding of the needs of the neighborhood. This disregard for the interests of our residential communities is not restricted to the actions of the Planning Department. We cite as example, with the understanding that there are many other such occasions, projects on which the community was given little opportunity to offer recommendations:

The narrowing of Mission Village Drive to two lanes.

The extension of Texas Street/Qualcomm Way through Civitas to connect to I805 by way Phyllis Drive.

Residential density in the College area generally and a hotel that will replace much of the library parking lot.

Bicycle lanes in North Park.

A regional cellphone tower in the Webster area.

The six-story housing development on Del Cerro Boulevard east of College Avenue.

☐ The eight-story complex on Cleveland Avenue sited on a single family lot.

We are more than willing to support the goals of community development through the agencies of our Community/Town Councils and our 42 Community Planning Groups. But it is our common experience that the City departments treat the participation of these organizations as an impediment to its desired outcomes. So far as the City Staff is concerned, we are only the cause of delay. The citizenry is not seen as a powerful tool, an invaluable resource, in the process. Every Capital Improvement Project (CIP) or real estate development can be for community benefit but many will have adverse effects on the neighborhood. It is our experience that developments if first taken to the public emerge with enhancements in design and with fewer impositions.

Serra Mesa Observer

Editor: *Ronda Adams*

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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

