

SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 2 MARCH / APRIL 2024



www.serramesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Next:

**Serra Mesa Community Council
General Meeting**

March 26, 2024—6:30 p.m.

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

**Serra Mesa Community Council
General Meeting**

March 26, 2024—6:30 p.m.

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

Happy Birthday Jean! *The Party Times* SPECIAL AD
Today we're celebrating Jean's 100th Birthday!

Terre Haute, Indiana - January 3, 1924 PRICE 2 cents

JEAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

100 YEARS LOVED! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



30th U.S. President
Calvin Coolidge
U.S. Population
114.1 million



WHAT THINGS COST

New house:\$7,750.00
New car:\$640.00
Monthly rent:\$15.00
Gallon of gas:\$0.25
Loaf of bread:\$0.10
Dozen eggs:\$0.55
Bacon:\$0.47/lb
Postage stamp:\$0.02
Movie ticket:\$0.25

Average Income Per Year
\$1,300

**JEAN WAS NOT THE ONLY
STAR BORN IN 1924 ★**
Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush,
Marlon Brando, Lauren Bacall,
Audie Murphy, Rod Serling,
Roberts Blossom, Benny Hill
— THE GREATEST GENERATION —



WORLD POPULATION HITS 1.9 BILLION

Jean's Tips for a Long, Healthy, Joyful Life

- Take your vitamins
- Eat your carrots to keep your eyes healthy
- Smile and laugh. Laughter is the best medicine
- Read and read some more
- Listen
- Be a lifelong learner
- Family and friends are treasures
- Love one another
- Be a helper
- Keep on moving
- Believe in the Holy Spirit
- Pray about it
- Go to Church
- Be young old, not old old!
- Go to bed

In Style...

WOMEN

Art Deco fashion
Felt hats, Bonnets
Chemise dresses
High heeled shoes

MEN

Knickerbockers
Wingtip shoes
Custom tailored suits
Fedora & newsboy hats

20's SLANG

Ankle - To walk
Bearcat - A lively woman
Hotsy Totsy - Attractive

A Little More Jean Wisdom

- Always be up for an adventure, even a big one!
- Don't be afraid to re-invent yourself, or, be afraid, but do it anyway
- Make lots of friends across many generations
- Decide for yourself what can or can't be done
- Don't believe everything you hear. "Do you know how many times someone told me the world was coming to an end?"
- Keep your family traditions going and celebrate them
- Mint juleps on Derby Day and bourbon/red wine in moderation
- Marriage advice - keep your love notes and letters and re-read them to remember why you fell in love.
- "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars" - Norman Vincent Peale

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ♡ WE LOVE YOU!

For the whole story go to page 5

Neighborhood People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Shana Hazan (619) 725-8000
 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 Laphonza Butler (202) 224-3841
 U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (619) 239-3884

Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers

Joseph Konieczka.....(858) 565-2473*
President
 Jon Cima.....(858) 565-2473*
Vice President
 Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473*
Treasurer/Community Events
 Cindy McIntyre(858) 565-2473*
Secretary

Board Members

Carl Demas.....(858)565-2473*
Advisor
 Alexia Longley.....(858)565-2473*
Audio-Visual
 Carmen Ojeda.....(858)565-2473*
Community Involvement
 Judi Mitchell.....(858)565-2473*
SDSU Mission Valley
 Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473*
Current Issues
 Sandra Stahl.....(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
 Cindy Moore.....(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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Mar 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Mar 6	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Mar 12	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Mar 21	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Mar 26	Serra Mesa Community Council Meeting 5:45 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Apr 9	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Apr 18	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Apr 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Apr 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 1	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 4	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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Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly
 by the Serra Community Council

Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25 Benefactor...\$50
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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: May / June 2024 Edition...April 19th

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

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



We started the year off with a District 7 Town Hall held at the Serra Mesa Library on Monday, January 29th. For those who attended, we got a state of the city report by Councilman Raul Campillo but the most productive was a question-answer period where many questions were answered. I got the feeling that our councilmember is trying his best to provide us with a safe and orderly community but as usual, the City is not able to resolve all of our issues. Two of the most pressing issues are the failure of the City Owned Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport to get an unleaded aviation fuel tank installed. The importance of this is that as a training facility, many touch and go practice landings are conducted and tons of lead are spewed into our air that is dangerously close to our schools and recreation centers. Reports show that no amount of lead is acceptable and it causes issues with a young person's health. Waiting until 2025 just cannot be tolerated. The other issue that appeared was in the planned reduction of lanes on Gramercy Drive at Taft Middle School where traffic jams and double parking are causing traffic issues when children are dropped off and picked up after school. When the City Traffic Department was contacted by members of our Serra Mesa Planning group, it turns out that the director of the City Traffic Department had never been at the site to confirm the issues, he was also unwilling to meet with them to view the problems. Councilman Campillo promised that he would contact him and conduct an inspection. Here's hoping we can receive solutions quickly to these two issues.

Because of the conflict with other Town Councils, Serra

Mesa Community Council (SMCC) has changed our meeting dates to the 4th Tuesday of January, March, May, and September. We are attempting to invite all of our elected officials so you can meet and discuss specific issues with them. We hope you will mark your calendars and attend these meetings. It is hoped that only having four (4) meetings per year will show that we respect your time and want to insure we use it wisely. At our January meeting we also elected four (4) new board members and they are: Alexia Longley, Carmen Ojeda, Joseph Konieczka, and Judi Mitchell. Welcome new board members and thank you for helping improve Serra Mesa.

Some good news is that funding for the easement for Ruffin Trail between Serra Mesa and Mission Valley is in place so soon we will have a completed trail to enjoy by Fall of 2024. This has been a long time coming and many I have talked to are anxious to hike this trail. Other good news is that our Serra Mesa Pantry is flourishing and if you are a Serra Mesa Resident, the pantry is open from 10AM – 1PM on Wednesdays at 2650 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary School). The pantry is serving about 130 families per week and is a treasure of Serra Mesa. Because of the volume, you may be asked for identification showing that you reside in Serra Mesa. If you have citrus or garden surplus, you can donate during or just prior to opening and it will be welcomed and well received.

In the event you are unaware that our Newsletter, [The Observer](#) is available at: serramesa.org, Click on Community Council and again on dropdown menu Newsletter or Observer. Should you like to be advised of Serra Mesa Meetings, when at our Webpage look for the space to enter your email and we will advise you of all upcoming events.

Enjoy a prosperous year and we hope to see you at our meetings.

Carl Demas, President



Serra Mesa Village

A Neighborly Network of Seniors for Seniors

Serra Mesa Village has been around since 2014 and is made up of folks who are 55+. Our objective is to provide purpose, recreation, but most of all companionship for people who want to age in place in the comfort of their own home. We are a community based organization under the umbrella of the Serra Mesa Community Council and therefore a 501 C(3) organization so any dues are tax exempt. Annual dues are only \$25.00 which basically covers the cost of mailing, website, and organization dues. Soooo, if you are looking for some excitement and a good reason to get out of the house and do things with some exciting people, the Village is for you.

Never heard of the Village Movement before, logon to <https://villagemovementcalifornia.org> to get some information on the "Village" and what they are doing in California. You can also get some information on <https://www.aarp.org>.

We are a happy group looking for folks who want to join us for fun and companionship. You can contact us at: <http://serramesavillage.org>, email us at: serramesavillage10@gmail.com, or call us and leave a message at (858) 565-2473



Happy Birthday Jean!

The Party Times

SPECIAL EDITION
Today we're celebrating
Jean's 100th Birthday!

Terre Haute, Indiana - January 3, 1924

PRICE 2 cents

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100 YEARS LOVED! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



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Calvin Coolidge
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What happened in 1924

Rhapsody in Blue, by George Gershwin, is first performed in NYC at Aeolian Hall on February 12. ★ IBM is founded in New York State. ★ Calvin Coolidge becomes the first President of the United States to deliver a radio broadcast from the White House. ★ American media company Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) is founded in Los Angeles. ★ U.S. President Calvin Coolidge signs the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 into law, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born within the territorial limits of the United States. ★ Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming is elected as the first woman governor in the United States.



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Audie Murphy, Rod Serling,
Roberts Blossom, Benny Hill

— THE GREATEST GENERATION —



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In Style...

WOMEN

Art Deco fashion
Felt hats, Bonnets
Chemise dresses
High heeled shoes

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Knickerbockers
Wingtip shoes
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Fedora & newsboy hats

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- "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars" - Norman Vincent Peale

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 🌸 WE LOVE YOU!

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

ABLE PLUMBING AND DRAIN SERVICE

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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.

Projects & Other Information As Of February 2024

Serra Mesa Projects

Franklin Ridge Road Connection – Schedule for implementation of mitigations and road connection pending. Caltrans plans to redesign the Murray Ridge bridge to 4 travel lanes (11' wide) and 2 Class IV Bikeways (9' separated for each bikeway), construction possibly beginning in summer 2024. In October 2017 the City Council approved the mitigation of 5 travel lanes and 2 bike lanes for the bridge which differs from the Caltrans redesign. Also, other city-approved mitigations included 5 travel lanes and 2 bike lanes for Phyllis Pl from the Franklin Ridge connection to the bridge, and 4 travel lanes and 2 bike lanes for the connection. The bridge redesign may impact the design of these mitigations.

Currently, inquiries have been submitted to City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office asking if the Caltrans bridge redesign will impact the design for the required Phyllis Pl mitigation and for the connection, and whether the changes in mitigation(s) will require subsequent environmental review and approval by the City Council.

Gramercy Drive Reconfiguration from Ruffin Rd to Mobley St – According to staff "As part of Slurry Group 2422 Gramercy Dr will be modified to include bicycle facilities per the Bicycle Master Plan. To achieve this gap connection, the number 2 lane will be repurposed as a bicycle lane. The current center-turn-lane, on-street parking spaces, and bus stops are being retained."

In October 2023 the Serra Mesa Planning Group sent a letter to the Mayor requesting that the community, Taft Middle School, and CityMark Development (owner of dirt lot) be invited to participate in discussion of the Gramercy Drive reconfiguration before a decision is made. The letter listed these concerns regarding school dismissal time: cars double parking in outer driving lane, illegal u-turns, students crossing in unsafe areas, and cars parking on the dirt lot (lot will become unavailable when construction begins). Safety was emphasized. The letter didn't receive a response.

City Councilmember Raul Campillo during his January 29, 2023 Serra Mesa Town Hall committed to a site visit and will invite the City's Transportation Department, SDPD, the school district, and community representatives.

AT&T Wireless Communication Facility, 2696 Melbourne Dr – 40' high tall faux eucalyptus tree; 12 antennas, 9 remote radio units; 300-foot ground level equipment enclosure, faux rock; located near labyrinth.

Mission Village Drive Properties owned by CityMark Development (purchased from Gleich Trust); zoned as a commercial zone that allows residential; qualifies for affordable density bonus; amenities minimal; rental rates not determined; Process 1 (staff approves project), waiting for approval.

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.

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.

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

Continued from page 7

Former Guild Mortgage Building, 9160 Gramercy Dr – Vacant. For sale.

Former Mission Village Shopping Center, across from Taft Middle School, 9280 Gramercy Dr. Approval in 2004 for 160 rental units and 15,000 s.f. retail (8,000 s.f. along Ruffin Rd and 7,000 s.f. at Ruffin/Gramercy corner). In 2005 approval for condominiums, required to make the community room available to community at no cost, and condominium owners have an assigned parking space deeded to them. In 2007 never expiring Site Development Permit, Approval #57551, created for 9178 Gramercy Drive. Grading permit issued in 2006. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a notification of no further action on 1/20/2022. July 2022 - Clean-up equipment removed from site. Site for sale.

Old Serra Mesa Library on Sandrock – The City was proposing selling the property (.34 acre) for \$15,000 to Community HousingWorks for development of 60 Affordable Housing Units. The Serra Mesa Planning Group sent a letter in January 2024 expressing concerns regarding height (5 stories), the low sales price of \$15,000, and lack of parking (22 spaces). Project on hold.

Kearny Mesa Projects

Aero Project, 8225 Aero Drive – Former Kelco building, Sares Regis Group Residential is building 434 apartments (1, 2, & 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://opensdsd.sandiego.gov/web/approvals/>, Project 692190 - DIGITAL-The Aero G & PI.

Airport Plaza Building, 8555 Aero Dr – Construction of 7-story above grade and 1-story below grade for 302 multifamily dwelling units and associated accessory uses. Project will include affordable units and requests an affordable housing bonus. (PMT-3158932).

Montgomery-Gibbs Airport – \$500,000 in budget for unleaded gas tank. Installation of the unleaded tank has been delayed for a couple of years. City staff decided to have the tank "designed and constructed" by the Capital Improvements Department instead of purchasing a "turn-key" ready tank that would have saved the city thousands of dollars, and could have been installed within 6 months.

City-Wide

Planning Group Changes – All planning groups were required to submit an application by December 31, 2023, to represent their respective community. The documents SMPG submitted are at <http://www.serramesa.org/smpg/smpg-documents/>.

ADU/JADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) – ADUs provide living area either detached or attached. Regulations – Encroachment into side and rear yards, no parking required; maximum size 1,200 s.f., rental term minimum 31 days, major fees waived, owner doesn't have to live in premises. Number of ADUs permitted on single family property based on TPA (area within ½ mile of existing or planned major transit stop). Could affect 748 acres in Serra Mesa.

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 21 and April 18. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Elections: SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. On March 21, 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 Debra Burns, Ian Clampett, Kira Finkenberg (Secretary), Rochelle Freeman-Zuniga, Tony Guerra, Joe Ippolito, Sharon Kramer, Ken Maguire, Cindy Moore, Chris Rosemond (Vice-Chair), and Catherine Stempel (Chair). Board members termed out are Ian Clampett and Tony Guerra. Board members up for reelection are Joe Ippolito, Sharon Kramer, Ken Maguire, Cindy Moore, Chris Rosemond, and Cat Stempel.

Gramercy Reconfiguration, Action Item, January 18: Presentation made by City of San Diego Transportation Department on the reconfiguration of Gramercy Drive between Ruffin Road and Mobley Street to three lanes (two travel lanes and a middle turn lane) and bike lanes on both sides of the street. This results in the elimination of one travel lane in each direction. Safety concerns were discussed. A request for a traffic study and funding for a crosswalk was submitted to the City in January 2023. Motion passed to incorporate an updated drop off zone and fund the Beacon Hawk crosswalk for the safety of the kids and parents.

Balboa Park, Information Item, January 18: Peter Comiskey, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, presented the Experience Plan for the Park. A plan is being developed to make it easier for visitors to experience all the park has to offer. Any community that would like to be involved can reach out to peter.comiskey@bpcp.org. Construction to begin end of next year, facility open 2027.

Friars Road WB Ramp and Mission Village Drive Concern: A city traffic engineer made the following report in mid-February, "Per evaluation, we have created work orders for Street Division to improve signage, striping, and pavement markings at Friars Rd off-ramp onto northbound Mission Village Dr. The "Yield" sign will be installed at the yield pavement markings for northbound traffic coming from the westbound Friars Rd off-ramp onto Mission Village Dr. Unfortunately, due to backlogs, we do not have an estimate of when these improvements will be completed."



Saga of Gramercy Drive Reconfiguration

At City Councilmember Raul Campillo's January Serra Mesa Town Hall residents shared concerns about the reconfiguration of Gramercy Drive between Ruffin Rd and Mobley St from 4 lanes to 2 traveling lanes, a middle turn lane, and 2 bike lanes. The concerns included illegal U-turns, double parking in the driving lanes, and kids crossing in unsafe areas on Gramercy during Taft Middle School dismissal time. A short video that demonstrated these issues was shown. Councilmember Campillo committed to a site visit along with inviting the City's Transportation Representative (who didn't visit the site prior to the reconfiguration decision), a school representative, and community representatives. It was confirmed with Campillo's office that projects were being put on hold while staff assisted in the flood recovery.

Additionally, a community representative informed the San Diego Unified School District Board Representative, Shana Hazan, who contacted the area superintendent. The superintendent indicated that if there was an impact, they would take a position. An update was never received.

On February 15, no parking construction zone signs were placed along Gramercy Dr, restricting parking on February 22-23. Contact was made with the pavement company, who confirmed that a slurry seal was planned. Contact was made with the Taft Middle School principal, who wasn't aware of the slurry seal and didn't know of any district plans for modifying the dismissal process to avoid issues. Contact was made with Campillo's office, who contacted Mayor Gloria's office. In October 2023 the Serra Mesa Planning Group sent a letter to the Mayor listing concerns and asking that a meeting with the school district, traffic engineer, and community be held before implementation. The Mayor's office never responded.

At press time Gramercy was being prepared for the slurry seal. Campillo's office has scheduled a February 29th site visit with a representative from his office, the school principal, Transportation Department Program Manager, SDPD Community Relations Officer, and community representatives.

What was the rush to implement a reconfiguration that placed students at greater risk? The condition of Gramercy Dr didn't require immediate attention. Why couldn't safety concerns at Taft Middle School be addressed first?

As preparations were being made throughout the city for month-long activities planned to celebrate Lunar New Year, the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library was first to kick off the festivities on Saturday, February 3rd.

Hundreds of families and neighbors arrived early to watch a stunning performance of Lion Dancers whose cultural ceremony provided a visual display that delighted the crowd. With drums pounding and festive music playing, ornamental dancers put on an enjoyable, acrobatic show.

Children had a chance to “Feed the Lion” donations believed to bring good luck to their households throughout the coming year.

After the event, the Library hosted a Book Faire giving visitors the opportunity to grab and carry as many items as they could pack in a large, provided bag for only \$5 with proceeds going to the Library. Included for sale along with many great novels to read were audio books and DVDs. It was the best deal in town.

Imaginative Library staff members held free craft classes allowing children to hand paint Chinese lanterns bringing fun-filled smiles to all.

Thanks to our new Librarian, Zeina Guorn, and her staff for putting on activities designed to delight all ages. Their hard work and creativity are appreciated. We look forward to Library events they may have planned for us in the future.

The Serra Mesa Community Council piloted a table at the Faire, helped with book sales, offered information to the community, and welcomed new neighbors. A good time was had by all.



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 12 & April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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

Fr. James Bankston
Administrator



pastorhasd@gmail.com

All are Welcome!

www.holyangelssandiego.com

Facebook: Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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



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

SMCC Bylaws Revision

On September 5, 2023, the Serra Mesa Community Council board passed the recommendation to revise the bylaws from ten general meetings to a minimum of four meetings per year. This bylaws change requires a vote at the general meeting on January 29, 5:45 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa library.

5.5.1 Number of Meetings

The Board shall hold a minimum of ~~ten regular monthly~~ **a minimum of four meetings** per year, at a time and place set by the Board members and announced to the membership. Meetings may be cancelled by majority vote of the Board.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

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

Email Questions to SMstaff@sandiego.gov

Library Hours

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

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

Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Holiday Closures

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be closed Monday, April 1 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>

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance – Fridays February 2 through April 12, 10:00am – 3:00pm

(except March 29) The AARP will be providing free tax help **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** for taxpayers with low to moderate income on Fridays, February 2 - April 12. Appointments can only be made **IN PERSON**. Fridays, sign up with AARP tax preparers at the library to schedule an appointment.

Do Your Homework @ the Library Homework Help - Mondays - Thursdays 3:00pm - 6:00pm (except April 1)

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade can come in for free homework assistance! Bring in your homework to get assistance from one of our Homework Coaches!

In-Person Pajama Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Mondays at 6:30pm (except April 1)

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 Tuesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Tuesdays at 10:00am

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Tuesday 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 Tuesday Morning Storytimes, so you do not need to register for each session.

Chair Yoga – Tuesdays at 11:45am

Work on your flexibility, strength building, and quiet your mind with functional movement practice Thursdays at 11:45am. Participate at your own ability. Suitable for adults of all ages. Wear flexible clothing and bring any preferred yoga equipment. Chairs provided.

Game Night – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:00pm

Join us to learn and play board games. We will have a collection of games available and game play will be self-led by participants.

Lego Club – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 5:00pm

Come build with us and become a Master Builder! Join us each month to enjoy an hour of free building and then see your Lego creations displayed in the library.

Tech Help – Wednesdays at 3:00pm and alternating Saturdays at 10:00am

Bring your tablet, phone, or laptop for general questions and hands on learning with your device.

Morning Book Club - 2nd Thursday at 10:00am

Love to read and talk about books? Join the Morning Book Club! March 14 will discuss *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee, and April 11 will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

Baby Toddler Time – Thursdays at 10:00am

This loosely structured, baby-led time for play, bubbles, stories, and more. Designed for little ones 0-2 yrs.

Knitting and Crochet Circle – Saturdays at 10:00am

Join the knitting and crochet circle. Improve your skills in these traditional art forms. Bring your project for social crafting!

Piano Concerts with Dave Chamberlin – 4th Sunday of the month at 3:00pm

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library is excited to announce a new piano concert series in collaboration with pianist, David Chamberlin.

March 6, 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 virtually on Zoom. Please email serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com for the log in information.

March 13, 4:00pm Children's Author Event Featuring Rachel Ignotofsky.

Come meet author Rachel Ignotofsky as she reads and discusses her newest nonfiction book for children *What's Inside a Bird's Nest?* Perfect for young nature fans in grades K-3, this title includes gorgeous images and interesting facts for bird enthusiasts! This special author event is presented by The Library Shop and is FREE and open to all. Perfect for young nature fans ages 5-9.

March 14, 11:30am Brain and Body Strong Workshop.

Participate in a group training class where you'll practice sensory-motor skills, balance, coordination, processing and more to enhance your cognitive, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing through an integrated, proven approach.

March 16, 11:00am Spring into STEAM Kick Off

Come celebrate with us as we launch Space Out, our eighth annual Spring into STEAM program!

Discover the programs for this year and be sure to register! Come meet amazing community partners, participate in interactive space-themed activities, and see live demonstrations! All ages are welcome to this free event!

March 20, 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 30, 2:00pm Spring Into STEAM: Portable Planetarium

Take an out-of-this-world journey inside the portable planetarium! Explore the night sky, visit constellations and galaxies, and learn about our solar system. This program includes special effects, such as lasers and music. For youth ages 9-12.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED www.SanDiego.gov/STEAM

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

Mobile Hotspots & Chromebooks

Mobile Hotspots and Chromebooks 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>



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

