

SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



VOLUME 39 ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025



You are invited to
participate in the next:

Serra Mesa Community Council General Meeting

***Tuesday
January 27, 2026
at 6:30 p.m.***

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

www.serramesa.org

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

The Serra Mesa Community Council is forming a committee to evaluate the PEIR. Invitees include representatives of neighboring communities, environmental groups, and interested residents. If you are interested in being involved or need more information, email communitycouncil@serramesa.org.

Information and resources about the PEIR are [HERE](#) and in an article in this Observer edition. Public comments due by November 23.

Jorge Rubio, Deputy Director, Chief of Airports, will speak at the Serra Mesa Planning Group meeting on November 20, 7pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library.

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Serra Mesa Observer
is published bimonthly
by the Serra Community Council

**Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming
Events** are welcome.

Editor reserves right to edit
articles.

For articles, e-mail Editor -

observer@serramesa.org

Deadline: Jan/Feb 2026 Edition,
December 27

For ads: [www.serramesa.org/sbcc/
observer-newsletter/](http://www.serramesa.org/sbcc/observer-newsletter/)

Council doesn't endorse ads.

P.O. Box 23315
San Diego, CA, 92193
<http://www.serramesa.org>
communitycouncil@serramesa.org

Please Note: SMCC discontinued phone
service due to cost and minimal usage.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Location Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library

Nov 4, 6pm	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Email serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com for the log in information for online meeting
Nov 20, 7pm	Serra Mesa Planning Group, Community Room
Dec 18, 7pm	Serra Mesa Planning Group, Community Room
Jan 6, 6pm	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Email serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com for the log in information for online meeting
Jan 27, 6:30pm	Serra Mesa Community Council, Community Room

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	(858) 694-7000
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
Fallen Trees-Urgent	(619) 527-7500
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888
Graffiti	(619) 527-7500
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 694-7000
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Neighborhood Code Compliance (Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety)	(619) 236-5500
Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
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

Serra Mesa Community Council

Officers

Joseph Konieczka, *President*
 Jon Cima, *Vice President*
 Andrea Eaton, *Treasurer/Community Events*
 Cindy McIntyre, *Secretary*

Board Members

Carl Demas, *Advisor*
 Alexia Longley, *Audio-Visual*
 Carmen Ojeda, *Community Involvement*
 Judi Mitchell, *SDSU Mission Valley*
 Sandra Stahl, *Chief Environmental Officer*
 Sam Yoeuth, *Friends of the Library*
 Jon Cima, *SMRC/SMPPAG*
 Cindy Moore, *Observer Editor & SMPG*

Appointed Positions

Geralyn White, *Neighborhood Awareness*
 Colin Dowling, *Webmaster*

Key Serra Mesa Volunteers

Chris Rosemond, *SMPG President*
 Monica Fuentes, *Friends of Ruffin Canyon*
 Kristine Webb, *Serra Mesa Food Pantry*
 Karl Doering, *SM Community Garden & Orchard*
 Preston Chipps, *Serra Mesa Village*

Serra Mesa Community Groups

Serra Mesa Community Council,
communitycouncil@serramesa.org
 Serra Mesa Planning Group, smpg@serramesa.org

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) 531-5522
County Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe	
<i>Birdland & Phyllis Pl Area</i>	(619) 531-5544
State Assembly Member Chris Ward	(619) 239-7801
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 Adam Schiff	(415) 393-0707
U.S. Senator Alex Padilla	(619) 239-3884



President's Column

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Serra Mesa Community, October is my favorite time of year here in Serra Mesa. Warm days, chilly nights, spooky season, and then right into the Holidays! There are tons of great decorations in the neighborhood this year. The "Castle" house on Raejean Avenue looked awesome this Halloween. It's good to see folks in the Holiday spirit. Inside the Observer this month, we are covering some very important and impactful topics for the community.

Montgomery-Gibbs Field Expansion: The Community Council has been working extra hard the last few weeks

digging into PEIR and the potential expansion at Montgomery Field and how it will impact our community. Please look for future email blasts on this topic as we'd like the community to submit their comments during the airport's PEIR review voicing their concerns. You'll see plenty of information about this topic in this month's Observer, please check it out.

Update on the Trash and Bin delivery: In my last letter, I mentioned that there is some legal action ongoing concerning the Trash fees. Well, it's time for us homeowners to pay our property taxes again and you'll notice that the Trash fee is on your bill. This is because [a judge ruled](#) that the fees are to stay in place for now in lieu of a trial date. The [trial](#) is now set for May 1st, 2026 to potentially void this fee. We'll keep you up to date as we get more information.

Trash bins should start to be delivered this month to the city and into next year. The city has a website up on when the bins will be delivered to your homes. As of now, we don't have a specific date yet for Serra Mesa, so keep this website bookmarked. <https://getitdone.sandiego.gov/ContainerDeliveryLookup>

Housing density update - SB79: [SB79](#) has been signed by the Governor. This bill could potentially be one of the biggest changes to San Diego and Serra Mesa in recent memory. It greatly relaxes building requirements and regulations as high density homes can be constructed within half a mile of major rail, bus stops, and overrides local zoning restrictions. Please stay tuned to see how it will affect our community.

Our next General Meeting is Tuesday, January 27th at 6pm at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. I Look forward to seeing everyone again after the holidays. Please tell all of your friends and neighbors to sign-up at <https://www.serramesa.org/> to receive email notices about our newsletter and come to our next meeting – we will have an exciting lineup of speakers for our January session! Please help make our voices heard by submitting comments on local issues, such as the Montgomery-Gibbs Field Expansion.

Happy Holidays!

Joe Konieczka

President, Serra Mesa Community Council

[Website](#) | [Observer Newsletter](#) | [Serra Mesa on X](#) | [Serra Mesa on Youtube](#)

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, 7pm, 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: November 20 and December 18. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org. Agendas and minutes are at <https://www.serramesa.org/smpg/smpg-documents/>.

Elections: SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen Board members. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa businessperson. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources.000>

Current SMPG board members are Jeff Berkwits, Debra Burns, Kira Finkenberg, Rick Gonzales, Wayne Harris, Joe Ippolito, Sharon Kramer, Carey Longley, Cindy Moore, Chris Rosemond (Chair). There are 5 openings.

Updates

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR): On October 16th SMPG passed a motion to request a 14-day extension for submission of comments. The PEIR is at <https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft>. Additional information at <https://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>.

Rady Children's Hospital - Mental and Behavioral Health building, 3020 Children's Way: Presentation made on October 16th meeting. Application submitted for constructing building dedicated to mental and behavioral health for 4-18 years old, 48 beds, will include secured landscaped outdoor space, anticipate completion date 2028, applying for grant, construction workers told not to park in residential area. SMPG passed a motion to support the project.

Future Agenda Items:

November 20

Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), Presenter: Jorge Rubio, Deputy Director, Chief of Airports

SMPG's Letter Commenting on PEIR

Not Scheduled - Birdland Housing Project Proposal: San Diego Unified School District's proposal to build affordable multi-family housing for educators and staff at their Cardinal Lane property in the Birdland area. Refer to article in Observer, May/June 2025 edition, <https://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>.

Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan

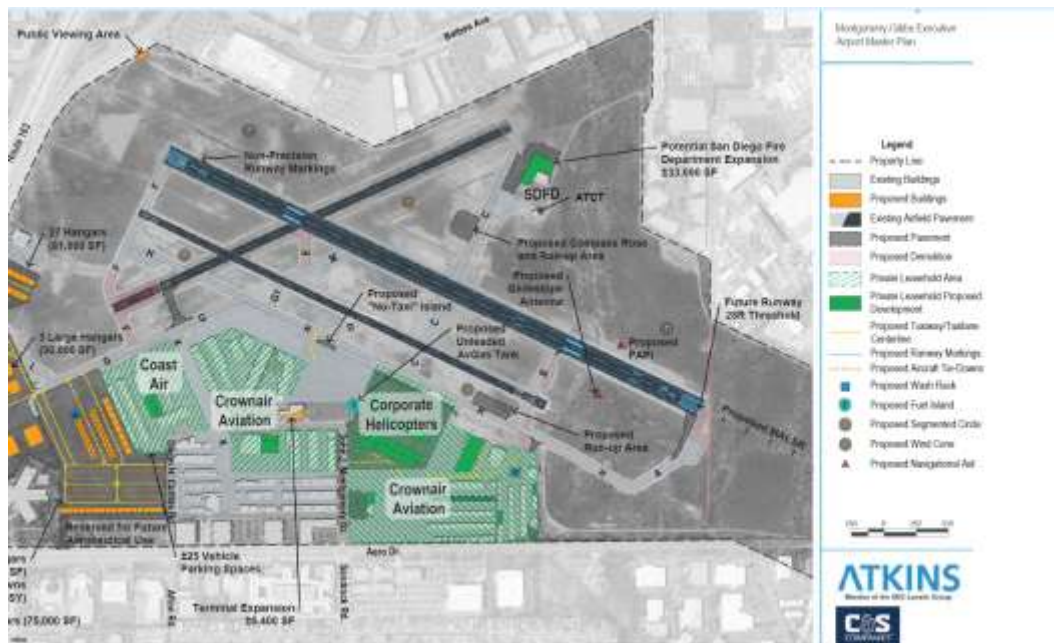
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) - [HERE](https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft) (<https://www.sandiego.gov/ceqa/draft>)

Describes the project, significant environmental impacts, mitigations, and alternatives to the project. The project is shown below (Figure 3-1, PEIR). The plan is shown in greater detail in Figure 3-2, PEIR.

Main components of project

(3.4, PEIR):

- Removal of pavement at end of Runway 5 & Taxiway F
- Reconfiguration of other taxiways
- Removal of Runway 28R Displaced Threshold: This would allow larger aircraft.
- 92 new hangars
- 48 new tie-down areas
- 6,400 sf expansion to existing terminal building
- Addition of public viewing area (outside fence line)
- Addition of unleaded fuel tank



Impacts: PEIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts in Biological Resources and Land Use areas.

Process:

- PEIR Comments: Anyone can submit questions and comments, and staff must respond to all of them. If the City disagrees with any comments on environmental issues, the regulations require that the City's response must address the comment with details and facts. If a comment expresses an opinion or one that does not raise any issues with the environmental analysis, it may likely receive a "Comment Noted" response from staff.

Send comments to PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov by close of business on Nov 23. Reference project name: Montgomery Gibbs Executive Airport Master Plan PEIR.

- Final PEIR: Final PEIR includes staff's responses to comments and may be revised to correct errors or provide clarification
- City Council Meeting: Item scheduled 2 weeks or more after release of Final PEIR. City Council is final decision maker.

Request for Extension:

Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) on October 16 requested a 14-day extension for submission of comments to the PEIR. Letter [HERE](#). The extension was granted for the Planning Group, but not the public. The public's deadline is November 23.

Action:

- Serra Mesa Community Council is forming a committee to review the PEIR. If interested in being involved, contact communitycouncil@serramesa.org.
- Serra Mesa Planning Group will discuss and vote on their response letter to the PEIR at their meeting on November 20, 7pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. Jorge Rubio, Deputy Director, Chief of Airports, will speak at the meeting.

Resources: Listed [HERE](https://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/) (<https://www.serramesa.org/hot-topics/>)

Serra Mesa Senior Enjoys Extra Income and Companionship Thanks to HomeShare



Serra Mesa resident, Rachel, is a HomeShare participant. She has been providing a room for her roommate for over a year and recommends ElderHelp's HomeShare services to seniors looking for extra income, companionship, and help around the house.

Rachel says HomeShare gives her peace of mind with its extensive background checks and thorough screening process. She says, "There are some crazy stories out there!"

Rachel especially likes her 3-day trial, which was so helpful in matching her with a compatible roommate. The trial process can last 3-14 days, and it's a great way to learn those day-to-day details and get a feel for compatibility in a real-life setting.

Rachel's current renter takes out the trash and waters her plants in exchange for reduced rent. Rachel is now hoping to rent a second room through the HomeShare service. She is sharing her story in hopes of encouraging Serra Mesa neighbors to consider HomeShare.

Do you have a spare room in your house? We can help you rent it out! HomeShare is a free roommate matching service providing safe, stable housing options for San Diego County residents. The HomeShare team at ElderHelp of San Diego thoroughly screens candidates and does background, reference, and medical checks. We offer a 3-day trial period and ongoing support. You have the final say on who moves in.

The room can be offered either through a Rental Exchange – home providers rent out a spare bedroom – or a Service Exchange, or a combination of both. Service Exchange is an option to receive assistance in exchange for a room, including housekeeping, cooking, transportation, grocery shopping, errands, and yard work.

One participant, either the room provider or room seeker, must be 60+ years old. The average match lasts 4 years, but there was one match that lasted over 17 years! For over 30 years, ElderHelp has been operating HomeShare and is a trusted resource for seniors.

Give ElderHelp a call at 619-284-9281 and ask about HomeShare or visit the website at www.elderhelpofsandiego.org to learn more.

Update on SB 79

Description: Prohibits zoning limitations to allow greater heights and densities for residential development near transit stops

Status: Passed legislature on Sept 13; signed by Governor Newsom on October 10

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Details:

SB79 bypasses local zoning and sets standards for housing within

- Tier 1 transit-oriented development stop - refers to areas served by heavy rail transit or commuter rail.
- Tier 2 transit-oriented development stop - refers to areas served by light rail or commuter rail or rapid bus service (and major transit stops). Tier 2 is applicable to San Diego.

Applicable to Tier 2: local government is prevented from imposing building height limit of less than

- 65-feet within one-quarter mile of transit stop; density of ≥ 100 dwelling units/acre; FAR 3.0
- 55-feet further than one-half mile of transit stop; density of ≥ 80 dwelling units/acre; FAR 2.5

A parcel can be exempted if the walking distance to transit from their residence is a mile or more.

Additionally, projects may qualify for an additional 20-feet height, a density bonus, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios.

SB 79 prohibits projects that would demolish existing rent-controlled units (typically three or more units). There are some exceptions.

Where Applicable in Serra Mesa: See map at end of article. High-fire areas or historic areas are excluded until 2029. Main area that is affected is in Birdland.

Future Action: San Diego can change zoning regulations to conform with SB 79 or develop an alternative plan for new housing.

Resources

California Legislative Information: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB79

Neighbors For A Better San Diego: <https://www.neighborsforabettersandiego.org/>

Neighbors For A Better California: <https://www.neighborsforabettercalifornia.org/>

Editor's Note: SB 79 is complex and not easily understood. For full information, refer to the resources.

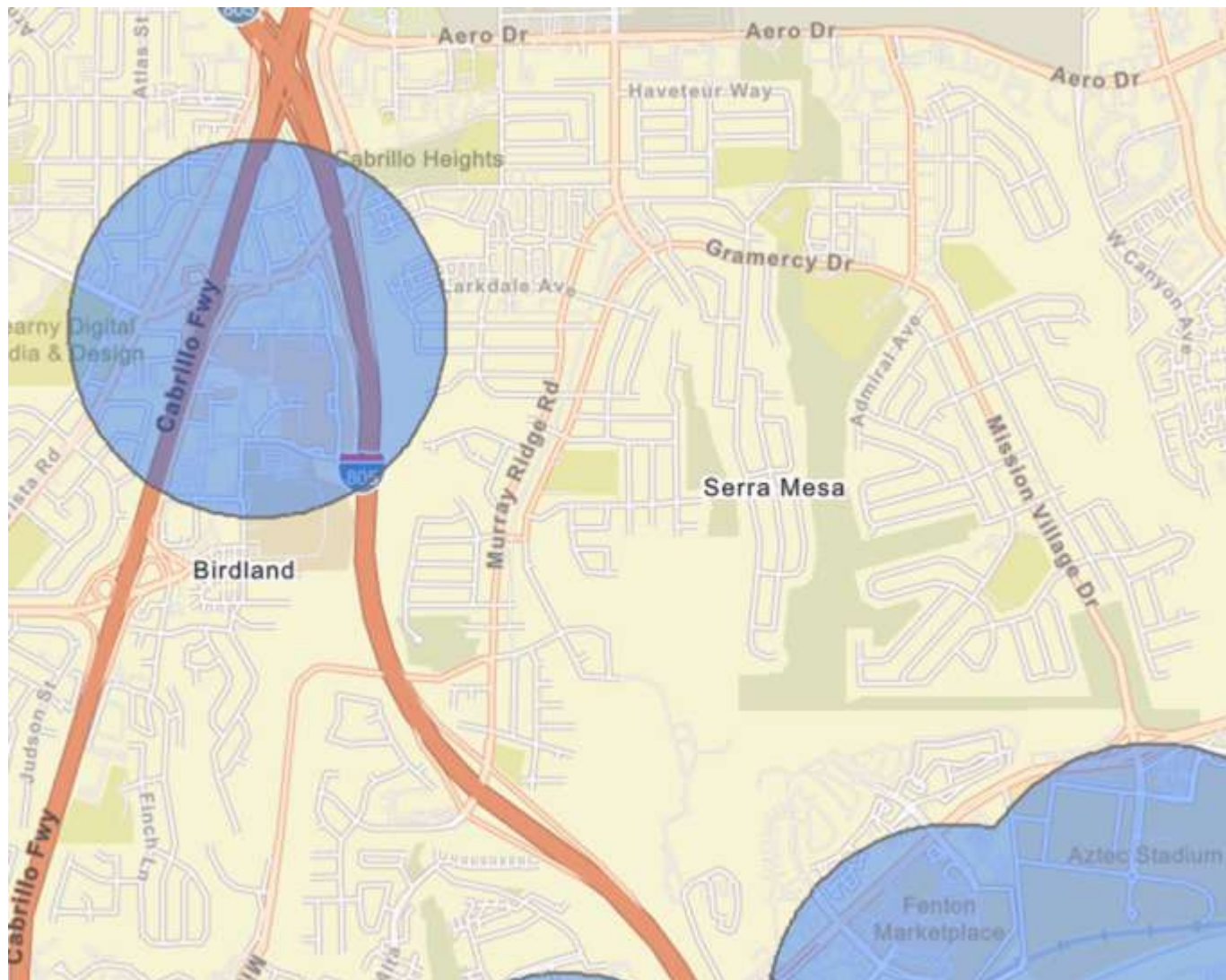
continued on next page

Update on SB 79 continued from previous page

SB 79 Eligible Areas in Serra Mesa

Map Provided by Neighbors for a Better San Diego

Legend: Blue = Half mile, rail



Another Aero Drive Development

Location: Aero Drive Family Apartments, 8575 Aero Drive, located between Olympus Corsair Apartments & Ion Apartments (under construction)

Developer: Mirka Investments, [Affordable Housing Communities | California LIHC Communities](#)

Project: 100% affordable units serve families between 30% and 80% AMI; 190 dwelling units in 6-story structure (5-story residential over a 1-story podium) with offices, community services space, and parking garage at ground floor. (PRJ-1138239)

Process: Fast-tracked under Mayor's executive order; proposing alternate methods and materials (don't know what that means)

Aztecs Rock Hunger

With food costs on the rise, many families in our community are feeling the strain. According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, as of June 2025, more than one in four San Diegans experience food insecurity. Additionally, 2 in 3 students within the California State University system also struggle to afford their next meal.

This fall marks the 15th anniversary of [Aztecs Rock Hunger \(ARH\)](#), an SDSU campaign committed to fighting food and nutrition insecurity. Now through Nov. 30, the annual campaign will be raising funds to support vital programs, including:

- The [SDSU Economic Crisis Response Team](#), an SDSU program assisting students facing housing, food insecurity or immediate financial crisis
- The [A.S. Food Pantry](#), a free on-campus food pantry open to students which distributed over 155,000 pounds of food last year
- The [Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank](#), which serves more than 400,000 San Diegans monthly

Every donation, regardless of size, will directly benefit programs made to support our community in having access to the food they need.

Ways to Participate:

1. Donate via the [SDSU Online Giving Portal](#) (tax-deductible)
2. Venmo [@aztecsrock](#)
3. Attend one of [Aztec Rock Hunger's fundraisers](#) at on-campus eateries and local businesses

A \$1 donation provides two meals to an SDSU student or community member in need. For more information, go to the [Aztecs Rock Hunger website](#) and follow the [Aztecs Rock Hunger Instagram](#) to help us raise awareness on food insecurity. Help provide real meals, real relief and real support one donation at a time!



SpaceX—Photo taken by Alexia Longley, Serra Mesa resident, from her backyard on September 28



What is Aztecs Rock Hunger?

Aztecs Rock Hunger (ARH) is an SDSU initiative led by Associated Students (A.S.) to collect monetary donations for students and San Diego community members experiencing food and nutrition insecurity at SDSU and in the San Diego community. This year, Aztecs Rock Hunger is hitting its 15 year anniversary!

What is Food and Nutrition Insecurity?

Food and nutrition insecurity is not having reliable access to enough food that is safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate due to financial hardship, limited physical access or other economic barriers.

How to Collaborate

- 1. Support ARH Financially**
as.sdsu.edu/rockhunger/donate
- 2. Give In-Kind Donations for the Friendsgiving with ARH**
Email associatedstudents@sdsu.edu for more information.
- 3. Partner with ARH and Host a Fundraiser at Your Business**
Email associatedstudents@sdsu.edu for more information.

Questions?

- ✉ associatedstudents@sdsu.edu
- 📷 @aztecsrockhunger
- 🌐 sdsu.edu/aztecsrockhunger



CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

October 27-November 30

Ways to Donate:

- 1.**  Venmo @aztecsrock
- 2.** Online at sdsu.edu/aztecsrockhunger
- 3.** At SDSU campus Starbucks, eateries and markets

Impact

Aztecs Rock Hunger supports:



The **A.S. Food Pantry**, which distributed over 155,000 pounds of food last year and is in its 10th year of operation.



The **SDSU Economic Crisis Response Team**, which distributed \$28,000 in emergency food support to students in the past academic year.



The **Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank**, which distributed 50 million pounds of food last year.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Aztecs Rock Hunger!



RAUL
CAMPILLO

City of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER
District 7

COFFEE WITH CAMPILLO



November 15, 2025

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

9005 Aero Dr, San Diego, CA 92123

9:30AM - 11AM

Email vvettiyil@sandiego.gov to RSVP

*Happy
Holidays*

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

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

Email Questions to SMstaff@saniego.gov



Library Hours

Tuesday: 11:30 m - 8pm; Wednesday through Saturday: 9:30am -6pm

Holiday Closures—San Diego Library Locations closed in observance of:

Veterans Day, Tues, Nov 11

Thanksgiving, Thurs & Fri, Nov 27 &28

Christmas & New Years, Wed, Dec 24- Thurs, Jan 1

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>

Pajama Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Tuesdays at 6:30pm (except November 11 and December 30)

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.

Chair Yoga – Tuesdays at 1:00pm (except November 11 and December 30)

Work on your flexibility, strength building, and quiet your mind with functional movement practice Tuesdays at 1:00pm. 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 at 10:00am

Love to read and talk about books? Join the Morning Book Club! November 13 will discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and December 11 will discuss club member's favorite books of the year.

Baby Toddler Time – Thursdays at 10:00am (except November 27, December 25, and January 1)

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

NEW TIME Knitting and Crochet Circle – Saturdays at 11:00am (except December 27)

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

November 4, 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.

continued on next page

Serra Mesa -Kearny Mesa Library continued previous page

November 13 and December 11, 4:00pm Lego Club

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.

November 15, 9:30am Community Engagement Meeting with Raul Campillo

Come meet District 7 Councilmember Raul Campillo. Bring your questions, concerns, and ideas and hear directly from your Councilmember.

November 15, 10:00am-2:00pm Friends of the Library Book Sale Crawl

Get an early jump on your holiday shopping while supporting the library. Visit the Friends Book Sale at four participating libraries; Serra Mesa, Balboa, Clairemont, and North Clairemont. Get your passport stamped at each of the locations and receive a special gift! (while supplies last)

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa (10:00-2:00): 9005 Aero Dr

Balboa Library (10:00-3:00): 4255 Mt Abernathy Ave

Clairemont Library (9:30-1:00): 2920 Burgener Blvd

North Clairemont Library (9:30-3:30) 4616 Clairemont Dr

November 15, 11:00am Author Talk with Michael Short

Michael Short, born in New York, now lives in San Diego. His writing touches on the themes of destiny, redemption, and the power of love to transform people's lives. We will be discussing Short's first book *Cool Girl*.

November 15, 12:00pm Piano Concert

Live piano and vocals from Joe and Dave (previously seen weekly at the Red Fox in San Diego), specializing in 50-60s crooner/jazz style music. Come by and hear your favorites from the likes of Sinatra, Crosby, Bobby Darin, and more.

December 9, 6:00pm Easy Steps to Preparedness: How to Make a Plan

In collaboration with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), SDPL is providing free emergency preparedness classes for the community. This class, "Easy Steps to Preparedness: How to Make a Plan", discusses the importance of taking care of yourself & your family before, during & after a disaster. Join this class to build your very own family disaster plan. (For ages 10+)

December 10, 4:00pm A Book and a Ballerina Storytime

Join City Ballet of San Diego for "A Book and a Ballerina!" Enjoy listening to a read-aloud, hearing from a professional ballerina, and learning some basic dance steps. This hour-long program is an introduction to the world of classical ballet for kids in grades Pre-K through 5th.

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.



Serra Mesa Recreation Center*

9020 Village Glen Dr. (858) 573-1408

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/recctr/serramesa>

Schedule

11am - 7pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:30am - 7pm Tuesday

12pm - 7:30pm Thursday

9am - 3pm Saturday

Closed Sunday

Holiday Closure: September 1

Gym Schedule: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/serramesaopenplay.pdf>

Registration for the fall program began Aug 16. Online at www.sdRecConnect.com. If help is needed, click the FAQS button for information.

Fall Sports Clinics: Basketball Clinic, Sept 9-Nov 25. Fee: \$40

12U Age: 10-12; Session 2—Oct 20-Nov 17, Clinic Day/Time: Monday, 4:45-5:45pm; Code: 125831

15U Age: 13-15; Session 2—Oct 20-Nov 17, Clinic Day/Time: Monday, 6:00-7:00pm; Code: 125834

Fall Sports League: Volleyball League, Sept 9-Nov 25. Fee: \$77

12U (Age: 10-12), Practice: Tues & Thurs 4:45-5:45pm, Code: 125842. Game Day/Time: TBD

15U (Age: 13-15), Practice: Tues & Thurs 6:00-7:00pm, Code: 125843. Game Day/Time: TBD

Kitchen Kraziness: Age: 8-14 yrs old, Oct 21-Nov 18, Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, Meeting Room & Kitchen. Fee, \$40. Code: 126262.

Card Games, Mahjong, and More... Age: 18 and older, Sept 15-Nov 17, Mondays, Noon-3pm, Game Room, Free. Community members can join others in playing Mahjong, Board Games, and other card games.

Ceramics—Age 55 and older, Sept 3-Dec 17, Wed, Noon-4pm, Craft Room, Free. Create and work on projects at your own pace. Studio offers Potters Wheel, functional kiln, and table space to independently build your projects. Some tools offered but participants need to bring supplies. To participate, contact Serra Mesa Recreation Center.

San Diego Civic Dance Arts—Thursdays. Fee: \$42.46

Beginner Hip Hop 1A/1B SM: 4:15-5pm, Code 122789

Advanced Beginner Hip Hop 1B/2A SM, 5:45pm-6:30pm, Code 122791

Advanced Beginner Tap 2A SM: 6:30pm-7:15pm, Code 122792

Serra Mesa Recreation Center continued from previous page

Vendor Programs

Robothink - Stem Program: Sept 8-Dec 17, Wednesdays ,5:30-6:30pm. Fee: \$30/month-Family \$70/month. Students learn STEAM principles while building & playing with cool robots, using bricks, Arduinos, electronics, sensors and more. Contact: <https://robothinkcv.com/robotics-club/>.

Skyhawk Sports: Offers Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer, and Volleyball. Grouped by ages (varies according to sport) from 1.5 years to 14 years old. Sessions: 3, Nov 11-Dec 16. For more information, visit <https://skyhawks.com/>.

Community Sports Information:

AYSO Soccer: Region 780- Registrar, <https://www.ayso780.org>, AYSO780Registrar@gmail.com

Serra Mesa Little League: <https://www.serramesalittleleague.org>, info@serramesalittleleague.org

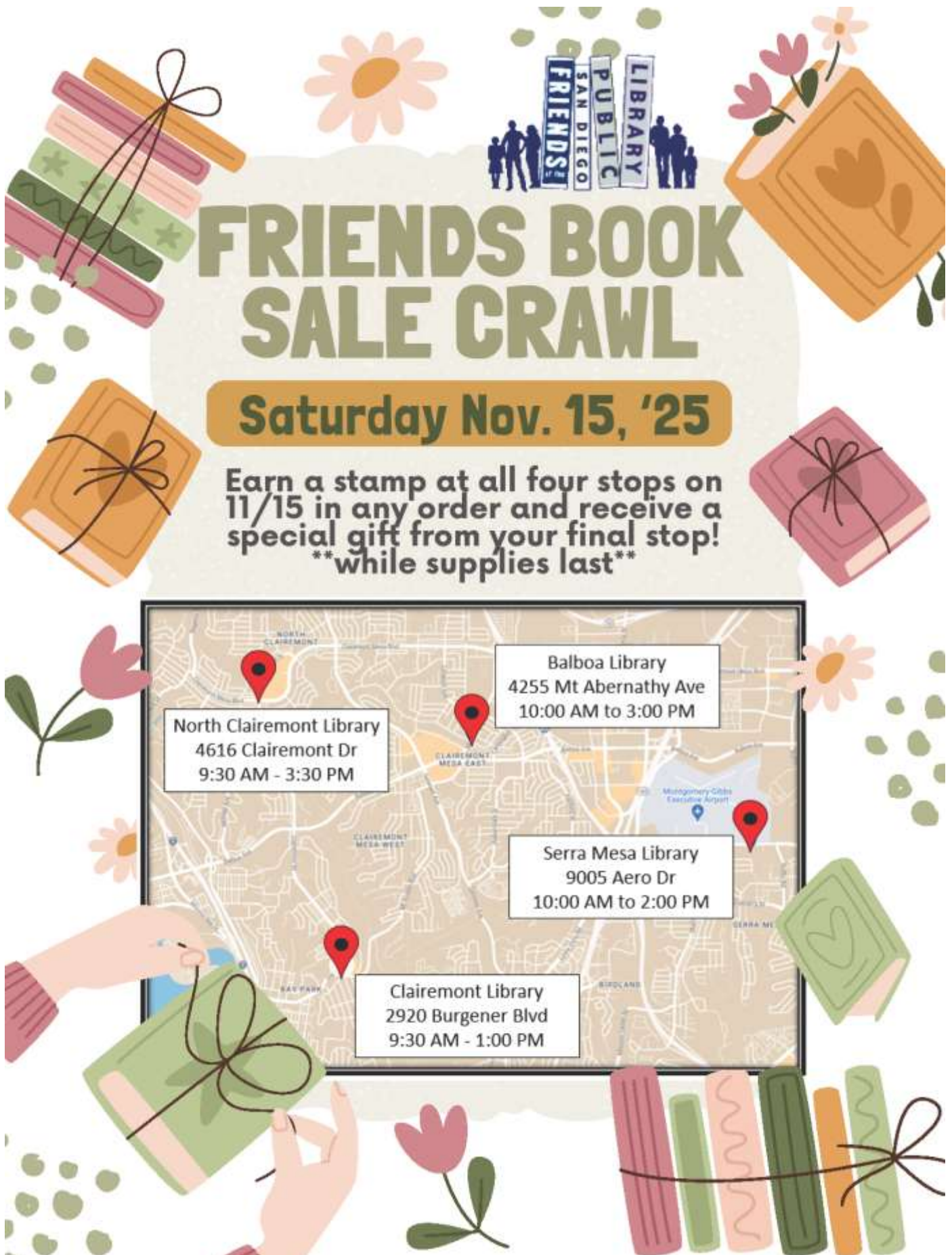
*Program copied/adapted from Serra Mesa Recreation Center Program Guide.

Serra Mesa Garden & Orchard— Plots Available



The Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard, located at the back of 2650 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary School), was established in November 2011 by community volunteer. Training and assistance was provided by Mission Village Christian Fellowship, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, San Diego Food Bank, Victory Gardens San Diego, and New School of Architecture.

Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard is starting its 15 year of renting 4' x 12' plots out to members of the community. **Anyone interested in a plot** should email info@smcgo.org.

A colorful poster for a 'Friends Book Sale Crawl'. At the top center, there's a logo for 'FRIENDS OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY' with silhouettes of people. The title 'FRIENDS BOOK SALE CRAWL' is in large, bold, green letters. Below it, a date banner says 'Saturday Nov. 15, '25'. A text block explains the event: 'Earn a stamp at all four stops on 11/15 in any order and receive a special gift from your final stop! **while supplies last**'. The central part of the poster features a map of the Clairemont area with four red location pins. Each pin is accompanied by a text box with the library name, address, and hours. The map is surrounded by decorative illustrations of books, flowers, and hands holding books. The entire poster is framed by a light green border with floral patterns.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE CRAWL

Saturday Nov. 15, '25

Earn a stamp at all four stops on 11/15 in any order and receive a special gift from your final stop!
while supplies last

North Clairemont Library
4616 Clairemont Dr
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Balboa Library
4255 Mt Abernathy Ave
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Serra Mesa Library
9005 Aero Dr
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

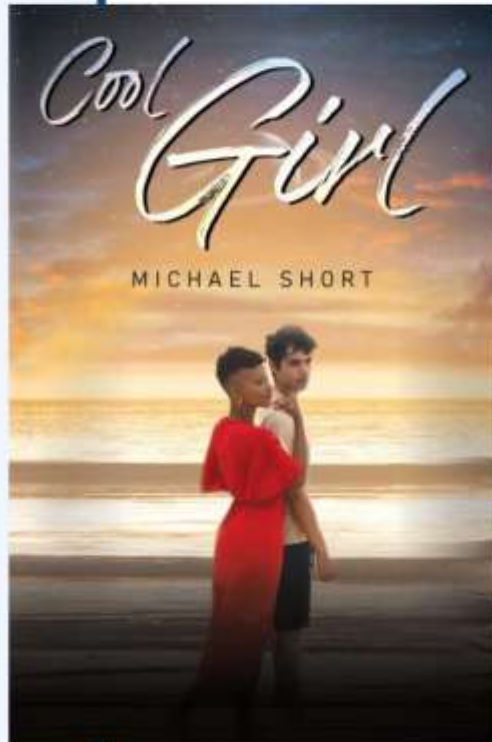
Clairemont Library
2920 Burgener Blvd
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

SERRA MESA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
PRESENT AN

Author Talk

with San Diego author
Michael Short

**Join us in our community room
November 15 at 11am**



Michael Short, born in New York, now lives in San Diego. His writing touches on the themes of destiny, redemption, and the power of love to transform people's lives. We will be discussing Short's first book *Cool Girl*.

Love is never just black and white... You would think that, when John Earley falls for Ernestine Jones, all would be well with the world. But this is America in June 1982, and John is white while Ernestine is Black. As the couple face antagonism from all sides, especially family, the twin spectres of Ernestine's old boyfriend and John's "girlfriend" from university rise up to threaten the happiness they are seeking. Is it all too much for love to conquer?

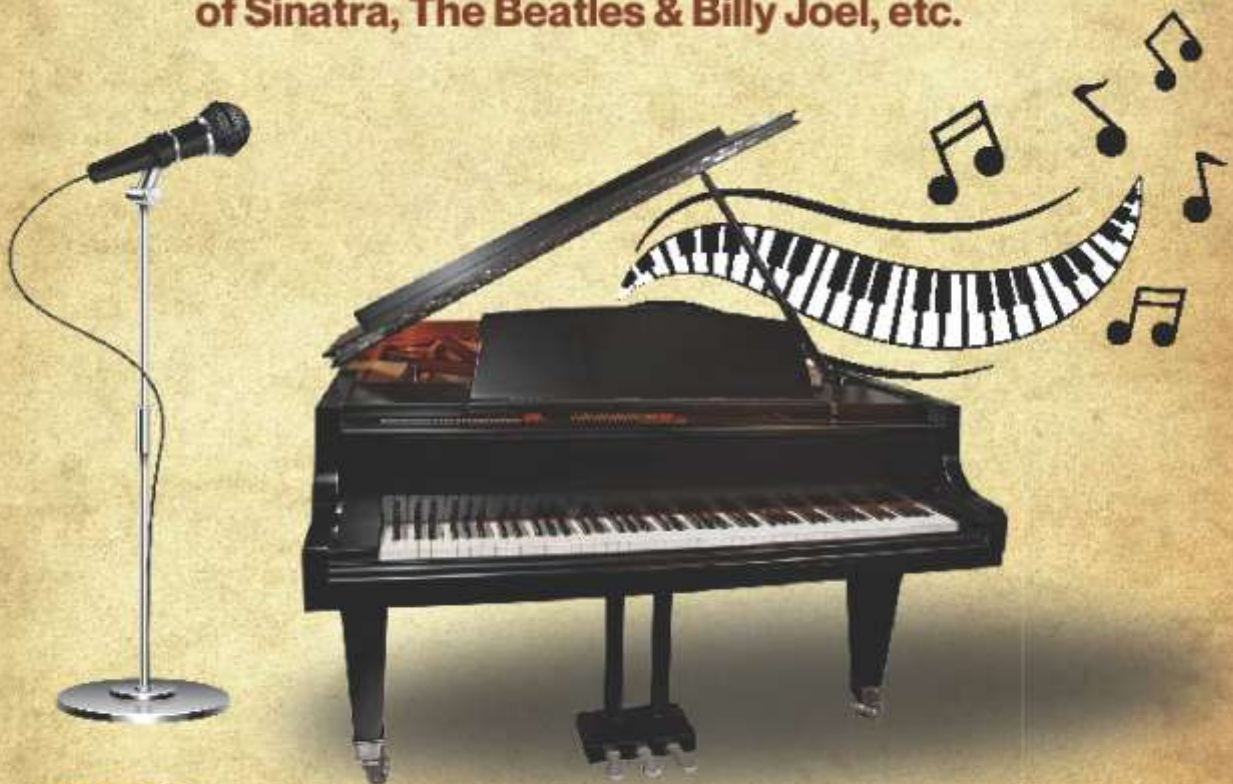
Piano Concert

SATURDAY 11/15 FROM 12-1PM

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA LIBRARY

—❧—

Live piano and vocals from Joe and Dave (previously seen weekly at the Red Fox in San Diego), specializing in 50-60s gentle jazz/pop. Come by and hear your favorites from the likes of Sinatra, The Beatles & Billy Joel, etc.



Sponsored by the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Friends of the Library a §501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF RECREATION PROGRAMMING IN SAN DIEGO!

We want to hear from you!

Do you have programs that you would like to see at your local recreation center? Do you have a preference on how you want to receive information from the Department? Do you have barriers to participation? Join us for an in-person Town Hall meeting, as your input is vital in helping guide our efforts to improve our recreational operations to meet your needs.

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS

27
OCT.

Council District 9 | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
City Heights Rec. Center
4380 Landis Street, San Diego, CA 92105

13
NOV.

Council District 8 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Montgomery-Waller Rec. Center
3020 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154

14
NOV.

Council District 4 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Rec. Center
6401 Skyline Drive, San Diego, CA 92114

19
NOV.

Council District 3 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
North Park Rec. Center
4044 Idaho Street, San Diego, CA 92104

21
NOV.

Council District 6 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Hourglass Field Community Park & Fieldhouse
10440 Black Mountain Rd, San Diego, 92126

24
NOV.

Council District 7 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Allied Gardens Rec. Center
5155 Greenbrier Ave, San Diego, CA 92120

03
DEC.

Council District 1 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Carmel Valley Rec. Center
3777 Townsgate Drive,
San Diego, CA 92130

09
DEC.

Council District 2 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
South Clairemont Recreation Center
3605 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

11
DEC.

Council District 5 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Carmel Mountain Ranch Sabre Spring Rec. Center
10152 Rancho Carmel Drive, San Diego, CA 92128



In-person meetings will include:

- A presentation, questions and answer session and interactive tables to provide feedback.
- Chance to win a \$25 gift card for attending and participating.
- Light snacks and childcare will be provided.



Scan to Take Survey

Scan the QR code to take the Community Recreation Needs Survey. Submit feedback by Feb. 28, 2026.

Survey Link: sandiego.gov/parksurvey



Development Project Resource Guide

To obtain more information about a project, refer to these San Diego City and County resources*.

Zoning and Parcel Information Portal (find zoning designation for parcel) - <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=75f6a5d68aee481f8ff48240bcaa1239>

Mapping and Geographic Information (many resources) - <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/mapsua/map>.

SanGIS Interactive **Parcel Map** - <https://sdgis.sandag.org/>. Find out addresses and parcel information.

Municipal Code, Chapter 13 & 14 (describes zones and uses) – <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/municipal-code>

Citizen Portal - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Default.aspx>

Lookup Property Information (enter address) - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/APO/APOLookup.aspx?TabName=APO>

DSD Permits: **Create an Application** - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fSANDIEGO%2fCap%2fCapApplyDisclaimer.aspx%3fmodule%3dDSD%26TabName%3dDSD>

DSD Permits: **Search Applications** (enter address) - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Cap/CapHome.aspx?module=DSD&TabName=DSD>

Enforcement: Private **Property Investigation** Request (submit complaint) - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Cap/CapEdit.aspx?Module=CE&stepNumber=2&pageNumber=1&isFeeEstimator=&TabName=CE>

Enforcement: Search for an **Existing Investigation** - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Cap/CapHome.aspx?module=CE&TabName=CE>

Cannabis: Search Applications - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fSANDIEGO%2fCap%2fCapHome.aspx%3fmodule%3dCannabis%26TabName%3dCannabis>

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) - <https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/programs/companion-junior-units>

Sustainable Development Area (SDA) <https://webmaps.sandiego.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0295d35b03a14d929d3459fe0b9b50cf&search=92116&extent=-13039150.8811%2C3862903.0948%2C-13035938.1373%2C3864964.5059%2C102100>. Part of Birdland and areas near Aero Dr are included in an SDA which is used to permit Bonus ADUs and Complete Communities projects.

SDA Description (Municipal Code, Chpt 11, Art 3, Div 1): "...the area within a defined walking distance along a pedestrian path of travel from a major transit stop that is existing or planned, if the planned major transit stop is included in a transportation improvement program or applicable regional transportation plan, as follows:

continued on next page

Development Project Resource Guide continued from previous page

- (a) Within Mobility Zones 1 and 3, as defined in Section 143.1103, the defined walking distance is 1.0 mile.
- (b) Within Mobility Zone 4, as defined in Section 143.1103, the defined walking distance is .75 mile.
- (c) For parcels located in Mobility Zone 4, in an area identified as a High or Highest Resource California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) Opportunity Area, the defined walking distance is 1.0 mile."

Complete Communities Housing Solutions - <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/housing/toolkit/housing-solutions>

Property Ownership – County’s website at <https://sandiegoparcels.com/>. Enter APN or address or move to desired parcel and click on it.

**Disclaimer: It’s possible the content on a website may not reflect the most recent development.*

Example – Find Information on Project at southeast Ruffin & Mission Village Corner

CityMark confirms they’re the owner of the property. Lot information at <https://sdgis.sandag.org/>. Clicked on APN Labels, Parcel Polygon and Existing Land Use > **Click on the desired lot**. Parcel information displays.

Zoning: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=75f6a5d68aee481f8ff48240bcaa1239>

Permits at - <https://aca-prod.accela.com/SANDIEGO/Cap/CapHome.aspx?module=DSD&TabName=DSD>, enter 3222 Mission Village Dr. Click on **Building Construction permit**, PRJ-1076402. At bottom of page, click **Application Information** for details.



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



David Hussain

BROKER ASSOCIATE

DRE: 02008317

real

Cell: 951.491.5302

Desk: 858.215.3512

David@ListedByDavid.com



@ListedByDavid
Buy. Sell. Invest. Retire

Projects & Other Information

(Current October 2025)

Serra Mesa Projects

Franklin Ridge Road Connection – Schedule for implementation of mitigations and road connection pending. The developer submitted a design plan for 5 travel lanes and 2 bike lanes for the Murray Ridge bridge (the configuration that's described in the approved October 2017 plan). This differs from Caltrans' draft plan which describes the redesign of the Murray Ridge bridge as 4 travel lanes (11' wide) and 2 Class IV Bikeways (9' separated for each bikeway). Also, other city-approved mitigations include 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.

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; Process 1 (staff approves project).

2696 Mission Village Drive (former gas station near corner of Shawn Avenue), called Dezi: 3 story, 18-unit apartment building with 1-2 bedrooms; rental units; 2 affordable housing units built off-site; 24 parking spaces. Construction completed. Leasing information at <https://www.deziapartments.com/>.

3222 Mission Village Drive (former Tom Russell Chevron Station): 3 story, 21-unit apartment building with 1-2 bedrooms on .96 acre; rental units; 2 affordable housing units built off-site; 21 parking spaces. Exit on Mission Village Drive. Construction almost completed.

3241 Mission Village Drive (former medical building complex) - Two sections – 4 story building, 35-unit apartment building facing Mission Village Dr and 3 story, 25-unit townhouses with 3 bedrooms and 2 car garages; exit on Ruffin Rd; 92 parking spaces; townhouses for sale units. Construction started. Plans at <https://citymarkdevelopment.box.com/s/1p564mqdb76pbwtusug2o2p15kmpe4fr>

Former Guild Mortgage Building, 9160 Gramercy Dr – Vacant.

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 a notification of no further action on 1/20/2022. July 2022 - Clean-up equipment removed from site.

continued on next page

Projects & Other Information continued from previous page

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.

Work details for the site of a One Hour Dry Cleaners located in the former shopping center are posted on the gate at 9280 Gramercy Dr. Information:

The applicable permit is PRJ-1108858 which was issued on 05/14/2024. The permit allows for excavation and offsite disposal of approximately 1,200 cubic yards of chlorinated solvent impacted soils from the site subsurface.

Sandrock Apartments, 3440 Sandrock Rd – Community HousingWorks (CHW) received in March 2025 City Council's approval for development agreement and lease to build 60 units (56 one bedroom and 4 two-bedrooms) on the .34 acre site, 22 parking spaces, 5 stories high, 100% units will have rents affordable for low- to middle-income families, 30 units reserved for veterans. Amenities include laundry room, multipurpose room with kitchen, computer lab, community garden, tot-lot, and management leasing office. Funding secured in summer 2025. Demolition may start in December 2025. For more details, refer to <https://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>, Sept-Oct 2025 edition.

Kearny Mesa Projects/Issues

Aero Drive Family Apartments, 8575 Aero Drive – 100% affordable rate, 190 dwelling units in 6-story structure (5-story residential over a 1-story podium) with offices, community services space, and parking garage at ground floor; Mirka Investments, developer, [Affordable Housing Communities | California LIHC Communities](#). (PRJ-1138239)

AMLI Aero, 8225 Aero Drive (3585 Aero Court)– Former Kelco building; developer AMLI Residential; 434 apartments (1, 2, & 3 bedroom units), 7 stories high, 712 parking spaces, to be completed in 2025. 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. Currently leasing.

Drainage Issue at Corner of Aero/ Sandrock – A solution was implemented to prevent water draining from the VA building. If the issue resurfaces, contact City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office. Currently, water pooling at the corner seems to be the result of either landscaping watering or when it rains (infrastructure issue).

Ion Aero, 8555 Aero Drive – Construction of 7-story above grade and 1-story below grade for 302 multi-family dwelling units and associated accessory uses. Parking spaces: vehicle, 331; motorcycle, 32; bicycle, 136. Project will include affordable units and requests an affordable housing bonus. (PMT-3158932)

9825 Stonecrest (former site of Fry's) – Phase 1: 319,702 sq ft apartment building, 310 multifamily housing units, 5 stories; pool and spa; entitled to 1,180 units (4 phases) on 18.8 acres; Wolf Properties, builder, more information including site plan at <https://alpaca-parrot-fkhk.squarespace.com/projects/stonecrest>; Reylenn Construction Company; city permit, PMT-3161757.

Name These Serra Mesa Businesses

Business #1



Business #2



Business #3



Business #4



Business #5



Brain Teaser

This brain teaser contains a one-word clue and 5 multi-word names (no space between words). The one-word clue describes a commonality for all the photos. The words can be joined vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards, or backwards.

Brain Teaser answers are at <https://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>.

S	Y	R	S	R	E	L	C	R	D
L	E	N	D	N	A	E	Y	&	Y
V	A	R	U	A	L	E	G	D	R
I	H	S	V	L	L	A	N	U	A
S	K	O	M	I	I	V	N	A	L
E	S	H	K	E	C	O	I	S	E
P	O	L	E	M	Y	E	S	M	A
K	C	O	E	E	F	L	S	S	R
S	M	I	E	S	O	I	T	I	R
H	T	G	E	N	R	S	M	S	E



The San Diego Mineral & Gem Society presents

GEM DIEGO – A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

San Diego's Finest Gem & Mineral Show!

November 1-2, 2025 SAT 10-6 SUN 10-4

Located at the **Liberty Station CONFERENCE CENTER**

2600 Laning Rd, San Diego 92106 (1mi So. of L.S. Marketplace & ½ block No. of San Diego Bay)

FREE ADMISSION & Ample Free PARKING, FREE Gem ID,

Eateries right next door, live lapidary demonstrations, 29 dealers, 24 exhibits, kid's zone, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, cut stones, rough, books, jewelry, engagement stones and rings, slabs, door prizes, grand prize raffle (you do not have to be present to win), and plenty more!

Come do your holiday shopping early—a great place to shop and have fun!

Trained Service Animals Only!

Contact: LuAnn at benton.luannz@gmail.com

Serra Mesa Observer

Editor: *Cindy Moore*

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

