SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024



www.serramesa.org

You are invited to participate in the Next:

Serra Mesa Community Council General Meeting
January 29, 2024—5:45 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

Neighborly People and Friendly Businesses Living and Working Together

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Shana Hazan	(619) 725-8000	State Senator Toni G. Atkins	(619) 645-3133
City Councilmember Raul Campillo	(619) 236-6677	Governor Gavin Newsom	(619) 525-4641
Mayor Todd Gloria	(619) 236-6330	U.S. Representative Sara Jacobs	(619) 280-5353
County Supervisor Joel Anderson	(619) 531-5544	U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler	(202) 224-3841
State Assembly Member Akilah Weber, MD	(619) 531-7913	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
Geralyn White.....(858)565-2473*
Neighborhood Awareness
Colin Dowling .....(858)565-2473*
Webmaster

Key Serra Mesa Volunteers

Catherine Stempel .....(858)565-2473*
SMPG President
Monica Fuentes .....(858)565-2473*
Friends of Ruffin Canyon
Kristine Webb .....(858)565-2473*
Serra Mesa Food Pantry
Karl Doering .....(858)565-2473*
SM Community Garden & Orchard

Serra Mesa Community Groups

Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473
e-mail: communitycouncil@serramesa.org
Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473
e-mail: smpg@serramesa.org

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan 3	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 6	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Jan 9	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 18	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 29	Serra Mesa Community Council Meeting 5:45 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 13	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Feb 15	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Feb 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
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

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

In This Issue…

SMCC Community Forums	1
Community Phone Numbers, Calendar	2
President's Message	3
The facts San Diego needs safe holiday season	4
Serra Mesa Village	5
Serra Mesa Town Hall	6
Important Phone Numbers, Business Cards	7
Continuing Saga of Aero/Sandrock Water Drainage Issue	8
Serra Mesa Planning Group	9
Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update, SMCC Bylaws	10
Serra Mesa—Kearny Mesa Branch Library	11
Serra Mesa Food Pantry	Back Page

Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly
by the Serra Community Council
Annual fees: Household…$15 Sponsor...$25 Benefactor..$50
For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473 Council doesn't endorse ads.
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: March / April 2024 Edition...February 22nd.
P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193
http://www.serramesa.org communitycouncil@serramesa.org



As we begin a new year, it is with great anticipation and hope for a year beginning with so many opportunities. It is an election year, so we can keep our republic alive by electing the people's choice. Of all the countries in the world, I am encouraged that we have choices, and they are directed by "we "the people." I am encouraged that we live in one of the best neighborhoods in San Diego by virtue of location, safety, and proximity of services. While we could use a more central grocery store near our center, we have choices that are not too far away.

We have great schools in Serra Mesa, and they are being put to good use as our neighborhood evolves with new, younger families moving in. I don't remember seeing so many youngsters in the last 33 years that I have lived here, and we are better off for it. Our community spirit is alive, as evidenced by the great Christmas decorations on many Serra Mesa homes. Our Recreation Center is as alive as I have seen it and was put to good use on our 92123 Day on September 16th, where longtime resident Holly Fuller organized a great day to celebrate our unity. Our library, in my estimation, is one of the best in San Diego, and if you have not met our new librarian, Zeina Guoin, stop in and say hello.

Did you know that we have a Food Pantry in Serra Mesa? We have a great place to serve those who need to pick up groceries every Wednesday from 11 AM – 2 PM at Mission Village Christian Fellowship at 2650 Melbourne Drive. You only need to prove residence in 92123. If you have groceries to donate or a tree with more fruit than you can use, consider donating to a great cause. We currently serve over 125 families every week.

Your community, as noted, is a great place to live, and we have several support organizations to help make it better, such as Your Community Council, Planning Group, Friends of the Library, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, and Garden & Orchard. We all need your support and attendance. Please log on to serramesa.org and add your email to "Sign up for Serra Mesa Notices," you will be informed of all upcoming Serra Mesa events. If you would like to receive our newsletter, it is also available at serramesa.org, where you need to click on Community Council and then the dropdown menu showing the newsletter or Observer.

As we begin our new year, I would like to thank all those who donate their time to our community, as our volunteers are necessary for our continued improvement. I would especially like to thank Ronda Adams, our Observer Editor, and Colin Dowling, our webmaster, for their time and effort to keep you informed.

We intend to improve Serra Mesa and fill our residents with hope for this upcoming exciting year.

Respectfully,

Carl Demas,

Serra Mesa Community Council President

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

Phone: 858-565-2473, Leave message

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

The facts San Diego needs for a safe holiday season.

Of all the stories we share over the holidays, there is one we need to retire, and it has nothing to do with reindeers or elves. Every holiday season, millions of our fellow Americans tell themselves they are fine to drive after using cannabis or a prescription drug. The story they tell themselves goes like this: cannabis is a safe, natural product; prescription drugs are also safe, or doctors would not prescribe them; and, driving under the influence only applies to alcohol; you can't be convicted of a DUI, unless you have been drinking. That story is wrong.



As San Diego City Attorney, our Office aggressively prosecutes drugged drivers -- people driving under the influence of drugs, often in combination with alcohol. The reason is simple: almost half of all injury accidents in California involve drivers who used legal or illegal drugs. On some holidays, one in every four drivers on the road is impaired. Most have been drinking and often have both alcohol and drugs in their system. The most detected drug, other than alcohol, is cannabis, which people use more frequently and less cautiously since it became legal.

San Diegans need to know people using cannabis are more likely to be involved in crashes. Alcohol, which is a depressant, slows normal brain functions and impairs hand-eye coordination. Cannabis alters perception. The THC in cannabis impairs psychomotor skills, impedes the ability to multitask, disrupts lane tracking and cognitive functions, divides a driver's attention, delays the ability to react, and may also increase risk-taking behavior like speeding. Combining alcohol and cannabis can heighten the effects of both on the body and brain.

The misuse of prescription drugs and illegal drugs – often in combination with alcohol - is equally dangerous. Many of these medications cause drowsiness, and some can lead to aggressive driving. All can affect your reactions and especially when they are mixed with alcohol. Our Office has seen a significant increase in drugged driving cases involving the anti-anxiety drug Xanax. This prescription drug can be used to treat depression and panic disorder, but it can also cause dizziness or drowsiness – effects which can be exacerbated by alcohol.

It is especially important for San Diegans to hear this message now since the holiday season has now begun. Psychologists say 38% of people suffer from increased stress over the holidays, which can lead to depression, anxiety, and substance misuse. The average American drinks 27% more during the holidays compared to the rest of the year. Misconceptions about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, prescription drugs and illegal drugs can prove the deadliest.

As a community, we owe it to ourselves to recognize the dangers of drunk and drugged driving to keep each other safe. Anyone inebriated can have a designated driver, take public transportation, or utilize a rideshare app to safely travel. So, remember:

1. Don't mix alcohol and drugs. If you do, don't drive. The use of cannabis and other drugs in combination with alcohol makes driving even riskier than using either drug by itself.
2. Many prescription drugs – particularly those with a warning to refrain from operating machinery – can have a huge impact on your ability to operate a two-ton automobile.
3. Even without alcohol, the use of cannabis or prescription drugs can lead to a DUI arrest.
4. The City Attorney's Office holds dangerous drivers accountable. You can lose your license, possibly go to jail, and spend thousands of dollars on your defense and fines.

The holidays can be stressful, but they can also be joyous. As a mother, there is no greater joy than having my family together to celebrate each important milestone. I hope your holiday season is filled with love and good memories you can remember for years to come. Please share the facts on driving, drinking and drug use with your loved ones. Through education, we can keep our entire community safe.

Serra Mesa Village

A Neighborly Network of Seniors for Seniors

San Diego County's 28 senior centers are plagued by symptoms of insufficient funding: They have few or no full-time employees, limited operating hours, and many are far from public transportation and are in old buildings, a recent study says.

If the grim state of San Diego's senior centers isn't seen as a problem now, it will be soon. By 2030, more than a third of San Diego County's population will be older than 55, totaling about 1.2 million individuals, says a study by the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation. The community is home to about 671,605 people who are older than 60 according to SANDAG. This means over the next decade the elder population could increase by more than 75%.

San Diego's senior centers are far from being ready to fully address the needs of this growing population, said Bob Kelly, president of the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation. "We haven't caught up yet, and we've got a long way to go, "Kelly said. Local senior centers are supposed to be hubs of activity and inclusion, helping seniors combat the effects of social isolation, senior advocates say. Many are not fitting the bill, according to the report that lists 15 areas that the county's senior centers should improve, starting with the most widespread need – funding.

Serra Mesa's Village is one answer. For the past 10 years since forming, the Village has served to provide purpose to seniors who wish to remain in their homes yet have events and activities to resolve the issues of aging. Events involve a monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the library where we have a speaker with a timely subject. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday we have a first run movie at Holy Angels Rectory, on every Wednesday we have a Ceramics Class that meets at the Recreation Center from 12:30 to 4:30PM. On the 1st Thursday we have a travel schedule or lunch at a local restaurant. We are currently considering a game time so stay tuned for new developments.

We have lots of room for new members and we invite you to become one of us if you or someone you know is 55 years or older. The dues are only $25.00 per year, and you can find more information on our website at: www.serramesavillage.org.

Contact Us: Serra Mesa Village, P.O. Box 3315 San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 565-2473
(Leave a message) or email: serramesavillage10@gmail.com

Carl Demas

Serra Mesa Village

The Office of Councilmember

Raul A. Campillo

Proudly serving San Diego's 7th District

SERRA MESA TOWN HALL



Join Councilmember Raul Campillo for a Serra Mesa Town Hall to hear an update on the past year, plans for 2024, and to answer your questions

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM | 6:00 PM

MONDAY JANUARY 29, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT VVETTIYIL@SANDIEGO.GOV

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
SCOTT FIORI
PLUMBER92123@GMAIL.COM
8431 FIRESIDE AVE, SAN DIEGO CA 92123
CALL OR TEXT 619 985 8204
CA LICENSE 681475

MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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
stevedevos79@gmail.com
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 A.M.
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

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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.

Continuing Saga of Aero/Sandrock Water Drainage Issue

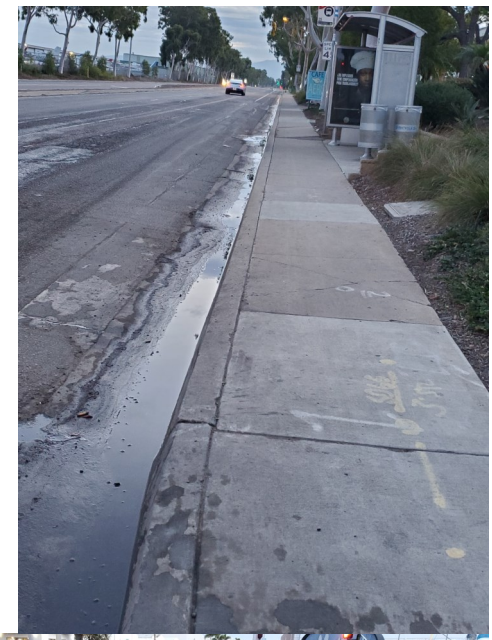
Water accumulates at the southeast corner of Aero and Sandrock. When the VA building was constructed, the community was assured "Compliance with the stormwater requirements identified above would ensure that no significant impacts related to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would occur." (Reference - https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/dsd_614178_mnd01172019.pdf) Additionally, the VA environmental documents written by their consultant stated that "Therefore, no adverse impact to offsite drainage infrastructure is anticipated." Obviously, there has been a significant and adverse impact – a safety issue for pedestrians and bicyclists wishing to cross the street and a long-term infrastructure impact.

This water drainage issue was reported to the City as far back as summer 2021. In March 2022 the Mayor's representative reported that

> "There is currently an open case for the discharge at the corner of Aero Drive and Sandrock Road coming from the VA's Hospital's structural Treatment Control Best Management Practice. According to our Stormwater Department's Inspection team, the Treatment Control Best Management Practice is designed for the treatment of storm event flows and is allowed to discharge up to 72 hours after a storm event; however, there have been discharges beyond the allowable time period. Due to this, a Notice of Violation has been issued. The Code Compliance Supervisor visited the site on Thursday and confirmed that an ongoing flow beyond the 72 hour limit occurred, and is contacting the VA Hospital to determine if there are any other connections to the Treatment Control Best Management Practice."

Since that time the water accumulation has worsened. City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office was contacted in late October 2023. His representative, Miles Noel, provided this report from staff:

> Prior to December 11 - "Our Code Enforcement team has inspected this location several times in the past few weeks, as well as worked with our Inspections team to look more closely at this recurring discharge. It was determined that the treatment control structure located onsite is designed to treat rainwater and discharge it off the property and into the street, where it eventually flows to the closest inlet. However, this BMP is not designed or permitted to discharge any water during dry weather. We have reached out to the VA Hospital to discuss this issue, but our team has not been able to make contact. As this is considered an illegal discharge to the stormwater system, we have issued a $250 citation. Another inspection is scheduled for the week of December 11 to determine if they have stopped this discharge.
>
> Once we make contact with the property owners, we will have a better idea of where the water may be coming from and what the next steps are. If it is determined that it is groundwater, we would refer them to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to apply for a NPDES permit to discharge groundwater to our system."
>
> We will provide an update once we have more information from the property owners in the coming weeks."
>
> December 11 – "A representative from the property owner reached out to our Code Enforcement Supervisor on Thursday and has committed to hiring a plumber or other service to determine where the water is originating."





Hopefully, the issue will be resolved. Thanks to Miles for the follow-through.

Photos taken on December 19, 2023

Photo from southeast Sandrock/Aero Corner facing Aero east (water flows west from VA building)

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 when there are agenda items, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive, and via online. Next meetings are January 18 and February 15. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org. To receive notices about meetings, which would include a link for the online meeting, sign up at http://www.serramesa.org/. Agendas posted at https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/serramesa/agendas.

Board: 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.

Information Items

Community Planning Group Recognition: All planning groups in the City are required to submit an application by December 31, 2023 to represent their community. On October 25, 2023, SMPG submitted their application and the required documents: bylaws, a Participation and Representation Plan, and Ethical Standards. All of the documents are HERE (http://www.serramesa.org/smpg/smpg-documents/).

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Process: Presentation made by Sanna Loando, City Councilmember Raul Campillo representative, on budgeting for the CIP process at the November 16th SMPG meeting. There was interest in a Serra Mesa Recreation Center renovation project, but the CIP process is very involved.

Action Item – November 16

Sale of 3440 Sandrock Road (former Serra Mesa Library): The City was proposing selling the property (.34 acre) for $15,000 for development of 60 Affordable Housing Units. Participants at the meeting expressed concerns regarding height (5 stories), the low sales price of $15,000, and lack of parking (22 spaces). SMPG passed a motion to send a letter to the City Council and Mayor voicing concerns.

This item was removed from the November 16 City Council Land Use & Housing Committee agenda at the request of the staff for further analysis. The City's Economic Department and Department of Real Estate Assets have recently consolidated.

Future Item

Reconfiguration of Gramercy Drive at January 18 Meeting: Presentation by City of San Diego Transportation Staff. 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. Plans are available at this link." Link is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a1qTq_TNjvD2Eo2hDilWVmdeb4IdqSES/view.

Background: In mid-October 2023 SMPG sent a letter to Mayor Gloria requesting that "Community and school representatives who know the area and issues well should be involved in the discussion of the Gramercy Drive configuration." As of press time this discussion didn't happen. Miles Noel, City Councilmember Raul Campillo's representative, arranged for the January 18th staff presentation. A community member emailed Shana Hazan, San Diego Unified School Board Trustee, the reconfiguration plans and expressed a concern about the unresolved safety issues and potential for worsening the situation with the reconfiguration. Shana was following up with the school district staff.

Franklin Ridge Road Connection Update

Murray Ridge Bridge

In October 2017 the City Council passed a resolution (R-311380) for the Franklin Ridge Road connection between Phyllis Place in Serra Mesa to Civita in Mission Valley and for mitigations associated with the new road connection. One approved mitigation is the reconfiguration of the Murray Ridge bridge over I-805 to 5 travel lanes and 2 bike lanes.

In July 2023 Caltrans, the official entity responsible for the bridge, described their draft reconfiguration plan for the bridge as 4 travel lanes (11' wide) and 2 Class IV Bikeways (9' separated for each bikeway). The draft technical plans, provided in November 2023, show that the lane configuration will be the same as it is now. Traveling from Phyllis Lane northeast towards Murray Ridge Road there is one lane until the addition of a left turn lane for the northbound 805 entrance. Traveling from Murry Ridge Road southwest towards Phyllis Place there are two lanes with the left lane becoming a dedicated left turn lane for the southbound 805 entrance. Also, a 7-foot bike lane with a 2-foot divider/buffer between the bike lane and travel lane will be added. The existing sidewalks will remain.

According to Caltrans the project could go to construction in summer 2024. Thanks to Assemblymember Chris Ward's office for obtaining this information from Caltrans.

The City Council approved the mitigation of 5 travel lanes for the Murray Ridge bridge which differs from Caltrans 2023 design of 4 travel lanes. Currently, inquiries have been submitted to City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office asking if the Caltrans bridge redesign will impact the design for another required mitigation, widen Phyllis Place to 5 lanes and 2 bike lanes, and whether changes in mitigation(s) will require subsequent environmental review and approval by the City Council.



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 January 9 & February 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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, January 1 in observance of New Years Day; Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Monday, February 19 observance of Presidents' 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

Winter Reading Challenge 2024

Join the Winter Reading Challenge from January 1st - January 31st. San Diego residents of all ages are encouraged to take the challenge by reading 5 books or for 5 hours, or doing 5 "Where We Come From" activities to receive a San Diego Public Library lunch bag. For more information or to sign up, visit https://www.sandiego.gov/WinterReading

Do Your Homework @ the Library Homework Help - Mondays - Thursdays 3:00pm - 6:00pm (except January 1, January 15, and February 19)

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 January 1, January 15, and February 19)

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 *NEW DATE *

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 and 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! January 11 will discuss *The Reading List* by Sara Adams, and February 8 will discuss *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

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 – Every Sunday in January and the 3rd Sunday in February at 3:00pm

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

January 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.

January 18, 4:00pm Why Should I Be Careful.

Geared for ages 4-7, learn tips for being safe like what to say if a stranger talks to you, family code, and how and who to ask for help. Information will be presented in a child friendly manner, with fun and interactive games.

February 3, 10:30am Lunar New Year Lion Dance.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a traditional Lion Dance performed by GDPT Chanh Kien. A must-see event with amazing stunts.

February 11, 3:00pm Asian Story Theatre presents *Naga and the Princess*

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with *Naga and the Princess* performed by The Asian Story Theater. This is an Indonesian shadow play featuring Balinese shadow puppets.

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*
Post Office Box 23315
San Diego, CA 92193

Dated Material

