

serra mesa observer

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 4 JULY / AUGUST 2013



Have you seen these?
for more details
see pages 16-18



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, July 24
6:30 pm
*Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive*

Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, August 28
6:30 pm
*Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive*

Neighborhood People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together

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Friends of Ruffin Canyon
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Observer Staff

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

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Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles. Council doesn't endorse ads. For articles, email Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473

Deadline: September / October Edition...August 19th

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

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
City Councilmember Scott Sherman (619) 236-6677
Mayor Bob Filner (619) 236-6330
County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544
State Assemblymember Toni Atkins (619) 645-3090
State Senator Marty Block (619) 645-3133
Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641
U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter (619) 448-5201
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

July 9	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
July 10	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
July 18	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
July 22	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
July 24	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 3	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Aug 15	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Aug 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr
Aug 28	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 7	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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What's New in San Diego's Finest Neighborhood?

We treasure those things that do not change such as: our weather, our convenient entrance to any freeway, our fabulous library, our active Park and Recreation opportunities, our top notch schools, our Food Pantry which includes our Serra Mesa Garden and Orchard, our Serra Mesa Planning Department, and last but not least, those hard working board members of the Serra Mesa Community Council. While talking with many Serra Mesa residents, I am pleased to say that a NEW line of communication has opened with Nextdoor.com. My feeling is that this is one of the most exciting things to come down the pike in a long time. While it is a social media opportunity, it is monitored by our local SDPD and is tailored to only be visible to your neighbors and allows you to speak what is on your mind. For instance, one of our citizens mentioned that there was no actual sidewalk on Mission Village Drive from Ronda Avenue down to

Qualcomm Stadium. We do have a makeshift asphalt path on both sides of the Drive but it is not continuous and has not been maintained for a long time. Many who have used this path for all the right reasons have found it needing an upgrade with a sidewalk to insure a safe walking surface. People have reported tripping on the walkway and some even use the road to ease the walk up or down the walkway. Meanwhile, our Planning Group has that on their list of wants for Serra Mesa and our question is, with our cash-strapped city coffers, would our citizens be willing to contribute to the sidewalk via their property taxes? We will also be looking what other issues our citizens have that we could communicate to our Councilmember Scott Sherman. If you have an interest, please attend one of our Planning Group Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of every month (Check the Observer for specific months.) Please also considering attending our Serra Mesa Council General Meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month except for July and December

Another new announcement is that we are cancelling our Serra Mesa Community Fair for several other venues which would include: Movies in the Park, Concert in the Park, Come for breakfast and Take a Hike July 4th, and a Harvest Festival. If you have a suggestion or would like to see a special event, let us know by calling: (858) 565-2473, emailing us at: communitycouncil@serramesa.org or commenting on Nextdoor.com. Leave your message and we will get back to you within a day. Meanwhile make sure

that we have your email address so we can contact you when a new activity is planned. Your council will take a look at the Fair for next year after reviewing how the smaller venues were attended.

Please refer to your Observer (our bi-monthly newsletter) available by mail or internet access: www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/ for all meetings and let us know how we can be of service.

Please have a fun-filled and safe summer. Our Community Council General Meeting does not meet in July.

Carl Demas, 2013 President

KAVOD ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

NEW: Dynamic Hebrew Immersion Elementary School Opening in Serra Mesa - Enrolling Now!

Kavod Elementary Charter Schools intertwines a uniquely dynamic learning model with the benefits of dual language. This is your opportunity to provide your students with an unparalleled academic experience.

Kavod is opening its doors August 26th for grades K-2. Each year the school will grow by one grade ultimately servicing, at a minimum grades K-5. Its innovative program incorporates an interactive workshop model with Hebrew immersion. This model provides differentiated learning techniques that engage students in their own learning process, while being naturally immersed in the Hebrew language. Kavod uses a co-teaching method, with a student to instructor ratio of 15:1, to ensure students understand both the core academics along with their development of a secondary language.

Kavod emphasizes social responsibility and global citizenship with lessons developed around cultural awareness and service learning projects. Our program helps students understand that they are integral members of a variety of communities. They develop an appreciation of other cultures and learn to be thoughtful community contributors.

Now enrolling! To become a member of the Kavod community, contact our director at 858.429.9254 or visit www.KavodElementary.org

Alexa Greenland, Director

GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL TO CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church is having an Open House and Picnic from 4-6pm on Saturday, August 17, to celebrate its Preschool's 30th Anniversary. Come anytime for a light supper, and there will be a brief program at 5pm.

Lee Bergeron, an experienced Preschool Director, was hired on August 1, 1983, and the doors were opened and students welcomed that September. Lee continues as Director today with Associate Directors and 25+ year teachers, Vicki Coffee and Becky Ackerman. Two former students, Amanda Kulp and Ashleigh Parker, are on staff as well as 15+ year teacher, Sharlet Mowrer. The stability of the staff and the strong, consistent program have been hallmarks of the school. Known for its free kid-sized Halloween carnival and joy-filled music programs at Christmas and in June, the day to day program is its foundation. For 30 years, parents, grandparents, great grandparents, foster parents, and guardians have utilized this program for daycare, kindergarten readiness (and for kindergarten for a few years), and social development with other children as well as a loving "child-sized" Christian community.

Everyone is invited to the Open House and Picnic, and we especially hope that many of our alumni and their families will come. If you cannot come that day, you are invited to come by the Preschool sometime in August. The Preschool is open from 7am to 6pm (naptime is 1-3pm).

Gethsemane Church and Preschool is located at 2696 Melbourne Drive (one block off Mission Village Drive at Melbourne, across from Juarez Elementary) and can be contacted at 858-277-7710 (Preschool), 858-277-6572 (church) or email church@gethsemanesd.org.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A SUMMER VACATION

Food insecurity does not take a summer vacation. In fact, it increases for some families because their children do not have the school lunch program available.

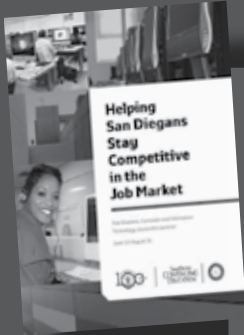
The Serra Mesa Food Pantry, at 2650 Melbourne Drive (across from Juarez Elementary), is open from 10am to 2pm every Wednesdays and the second Saturday of the month. In partnership with the Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard, San Diego Food Bank, and Feeding America, fresh vegetables and fruit and bread are available every week as well as an assortment of canned and packaged food. Serra Mesa Food Pantry is currently serving 320-350 families a month. Due to demand, services are limited to people residing in the 92123 zip code but we have referrals to other agencies across San Diego.

Donations are needed and appreciated! Food items (basics are best) can be dropped off during Food Pantry hours. Cash donations which enable the Pantry to buy canned and packaged goods at significantly reduced prices through the Food Bank are welcome. Make checks payable to MVCF with "Food Pantry" in the memo line and send to Serra Mesa Food Pantry, 2650 Melbourne Drive, San Diego, CA 92123.

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Free classes this summer

June 10-August 16



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Class schedule available online sdce.edu

SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION



Serra Mesa Recreation Center

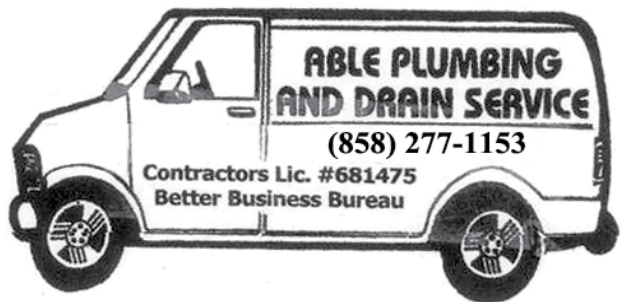
9020 Village Glen Dr.
(858) 573-1408

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
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 July 10th and September 11th at 6:30pm

"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PLUMBER"



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Travel Agent

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MyTravelGuy@san.rr.com
Gonowinc.com

Questions you should ASK before hiring a Tax Preparer...



- Are you available all year? **YES!**
- Can you prepare military taxes? **YES!**
- Can you prepare other state returns? **YES!**
- Can you handle my business taxes? **YES!**
- Can I meet you before I decide? **YES!**



For your **FREE** Get Acquainted meeting

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Work with your neighbor who knows the neighborhood.
Jason LaMell - Serra Mesa resident

Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Gloria Espeseth
Pastor

www.gethsemanesd.org

2696 Melbourne Drive Worship 9:30am
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 277-6572



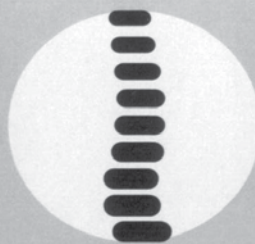
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Timothy O' Regan, DC
858.569.4567
www.wheelerfamilychiro.com
drtoregan@hotmail.com

5482 Complex Street
Suite 101
San Diego, CA 92123

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS


Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436
Animal Control	(858) 236-4250
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) 492-5060
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
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
Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
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 Leaks - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000

NEW PRINCIPALS IN SERRA MESA

At the June 18 meeting of the Board of Education of San Diego Unified School District, Joel Spengler was appointed Principal of Taft Middle School and Lori Sandoval, Principal of Wegeforth Elementary. In this past school year, Mr. Spengler was Vice Principal of Standley in University City, and Ms. Sandoval was Vice Principal of Hage in Mira Mesa. Welcome to Serra Mesa!

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH
ALL ARE WELCOME!


For several years, Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Mission Village Christian Fellowship have been serving soup, bread, and dessert at noon every Wednesday. The location rotates from month to month between these neighbors at 2650/2696 Melbourne Drive, across from Juarez Elementary. There is no cost but a can or package of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry is requested. All are welcome!



MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

<p>2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego, CA 92123 858.278.2633 (office) 858.278.3330 (fax) missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net www.servants4jesus.com or www.mvcf.net</p> <p>Carl Baker, Pastor</p>	<p>Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Youth Group—Wednesday 6:30p.m. Women's Bible Study & Home Fellowship Groups at Various times</p>
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We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community



St. Columba Parish
3327 Glencolum Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 277-3863


Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mon. - Fri.	7:00 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule


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CUBBERLEY ELEMENTARY

Greetings Serra Mesa Community!

Cubberley students, teachers, staff, and community had a great year of learning! We are very excited about being one of the Serra Mesa Cluster schools offering *Transitional Kindergarten*, for students turning 5 years old between October 2 and December 2, 2013. Students turning 5 years old on or before October 1, 2013 will register for Kindergarten. For more information, please visit our website at www.sandi.net/cubberley or during the summer months; please contact principal, Rosemary Cruz, rcruz1@sandi.net. We are also enrolling students K-5 at this time as well.

Our school office will reopen on August 19th for registration and enrollment, our office phone number is (858) 496-8075.

We have the BEST teachers and staff that focus on student growth and achievement. We are very proud of 4th/5th grade teacher Mrs. Steffanie Zambrano for receiving the *Greater San Diego Reading Association Excellence Award* for her work in Common Core Standards for our district and her contributions in professional development for Cubberley and Juarez schools. Also Resource Specialist, Mrs. Patricia Harver was honored with the *CAC (Community Advisory Committee for Special Education) Above and Beyond* teacher award for exceptional contributions to the educational outcomes of students with disabilities. Congratulations to Mrs. Harver and Mrs. Zambrano!

Our door is always open to the Serra Mesa community in volunteer opportunities and visits!

Sincerely,
Rosemary Cruz
Principal

Cubberley End of the Year Events

Serra Mesa Career Fair, May 23 Fifth-graders from Cubberley Juarez, Wegforth and Jones elementary schools got a head start preparing for the workforce at the second annual Building Bridges to the Future, a career-ready event for elementary students. Approximately 175 kids explored fields ranging from engineering, robotics, the Coast Guard to the arts in directing chorale music.

Serra Mesa 5th Grade Basketball Tournament, May 31 Fifth grade students from Juarez, Angier, and Fletcher joined Cubberley students in a 3 round basketball tournament, lunch, and camaraderie. Lots of team spirit was demonstrated from all the schools!

Spring Carnival, May 31 It was an evening of fun, food, prizes, and community spirit!!

Field Day June 4, Students enjoyed a morning of fun physical activities to include; relay races, hurdles, tug-of-war, bowling, softball throw, t-ball batting, sack races, scooter races, target practice, running jump, 2 man ski walking, Frisbee golf, team water challenge, and spray bottle aim. Parent volunteers were on hand to join in the fun!

Promotion Day, June 11, This was the last day of school and a very special day for promoting 5th grade students. We wish all our students the very best as they leave elementary school and begin their new journey into middle school.

Robotics Team Compete @ Del Mar Fair, June 15, The Cubberley Metal Bots Team competed for the last time this school year at the Del Mar Fair. It was a great way for our promoting 5th grade members to participate in their last tournament of building and programming and allowed for our up and coming members to gain some experience for the new year.

St. Columba School Celebrates 50 Years of Catholic Education in 2013

Are you Alumni? Parishioners? Neighbors? Find out how you can support St. Columba. Three easy ways to stay connected to St. Columba Church and school.

Go to:

www.facebook.com search for St Columba Catholic School for current events and alumni.

www.st.columbaschoolsd.org for the school website.

www.stcolumbasandiego.com for the church website.



BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE BUILT AT CUBBERLEY ELEMENTARY EVENT

Taken from the San Diego Unified School District's Friday Notes.

Fifth-graders from Cubberley, Juarez, Wegeforth and Jones elementary schools got a head start preparing for the workforce at the second annual Building Bridges to the Future, a career-ready event for elementary students. Approximately 175 kids explored fields ranging from engineering, robotics, the Coast Guard to the arts in directing chorale music.

"It's never too early to begin thinking about your future," Cubberley Principal Rosemary Cruz told the students. "Begin now so that your learning has meaning and purpose,"

Honored guest speaker, Supt. Bill Kowba explained to students that before joining the school district and being appointed superintendent, he had a long career in the military. Supt. Kowba also explained that one may be in a career for many years and eventually choose a different path later on.

The event featured six presentations from speakers like Shalimar Oliver, an animal control officer for the San Diego County Department of Animal Services, and San Diego Sports Hall of Fame member Willie Buchanon, a former NFL player for the Green Bay Packers and San Diego Chargers. Chemist and Cubberley parent, Brad Savall, from Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development LLC, inspired a student to proclaim his career aspirations.

"I learned so much about science today," said fifth-grader Alejandro Sanchez. "I want to build new atom structures and molecules and now I know I want to be an engineer, scientist, or chemist when I grow up."

Presenters encouraged the students to set goals and pursue professions they would love, even if they did not have a particular career in mind already.

The event was organized for Serra Mesa neighborhood schools by Cubberley counselor, Molly Williams and 4th/5th grade teacher, Steffanie Zambrano. For more information please contact Mrs. Williams at mwilliams9@sandi.net.

Andrea Eaton
Maintenance Planning Senior Coordinator
San Diego Unified School District
4860 Ruffner Street
San Diego, California 92111
(858) 637-6267
aeaton@sandi.net



SERRA MESA PLANNING GROUP NEWS

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. There are three vacancies which SMPG needs to fill to remain in good standing. 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 is eligible to be elected. If you have an interest or an expertise in areas related to building, landscaping, environment, or planning, SMPG needs you. The City provides training. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml>.

SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Drive. The next meeting is July 18. No meeting will be held in August. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Summary of May 16 Meeting

Lighting retrofit at the San Diego Juvenile Hall in the Birdland area: Described replacement of sodium halogen lamps with LEDs. Project funded by zero percent loan from SDG&E for encouraging energy savings. Exact project date is to be determined.

Rady Children's Hospital Construction: Bungalows on the campus would be removed and replaced with a 67,000 sf building no higher than 60 ft for use as office and meeting space. Fifty parking spaces would be added and development impact fees collected. The contract with the construction company would stipulate that their employees and construction vehicles not park on the street. When this article was submitted to the Observer City staff had not decided on the project's approval process. Depending on the designated process staff may make the decision or community input may be required. Rady's plans to attend a future SMPG meeting (hopefully, scheduled in the Birdland area) to further discuss the project.

Summary of June 20 Meeting

Cabrillo Hts Turf Renovation Letter: SMPG voted to send a letter to Mayor Filner and City Councilmember Scott Sherman asking that the Cabrillo Hts Turf Renovation be funded with fees collected from the Broadstone Kearny Mesa Project (formerly Palladium At Aero). This is a priority need for Serra Mesa. The fields need to be totally redone, e.g., inadequate irrigation, cobble stones, etc.

Broadstone is located in the Kearny Mesa Planning Group area. A condition in Broadstone's Site Development Permit states that "These funds shall be placed into an interest bearing account for parks in the Kearny Mesa/Serra Mesa area." The amount that is being collected is close to \$4 million. Additionally, in the resolution is this statement "The proposed development requires a Site Development Permit and will contribute its fair share cost towards construction of improvements in the Kearny Mesa community and also make contributions to the Serra Mesa community."

Management Assessment Districts (MAD): Description: "A Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) is a legal mechanism by which property owners can vote to assess themselves to receive enhanced maintenance, landscaping, and lighting services. These services are above and beyond the City's baseline general services." The amount will vary with each MAD and the needs of the community. The community determines their needs. There's a very involved process described at <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/madformationhandout.pdf>. and <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/mads/mad4.shtml>.

Comments from residents to the Serra Mesa Community Council indicate a concern about the deterioration of Serra Mesa and an interest in rejuvenation. SMPG decided to form a committee to make a recommendation about proceeding with a community discussion and the process for this discussion.

Ruffin Canyon Trail from Serra Mesa to Mission Valley: Placed on hold. The state funds that were going to be used for this project had an expiration date and instead will be used for removal of invasive plants in other locations. Consequently, the proposed trail will require funds to be identified. In the interim this provides time to address the concerns of residents.

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
May / June New and Renewed Members***

Carlos & Evangeline Abeyta	Paula Griffith	Gary Rotto
Wayne & Margaret Adamson	Sandra Gunning	Armida & Emmanuel Sablan
June Angus	Mary Hart	Ron & Linda Sanders
Donald & Gail Bamber *	Bill & Barbara Horton	Floyd & Ruth Sedlund
Nancy Bauer	Sean & Jessica Horton	Christine & Lee Shick *
Eileen Behrens	Dick & Debbie Hull	Richard & Dolores Shick
Audrey Blevins *	George Jackson	Dr. J.D. Skidmore **
Garnett Brown	Peter Jacoby	Wanda Smith
Beverly Bruff	Stanley Jarosin	Lee Speth **
Sherrie Caradonna	Jean Jenkins	Chris & Lisa Taylor
Pauline Casey	Richard W. Jones *	Red & Van Thibodeaux
Preston Chipps	Mary Jo Lau	Pam Thomas
Jerome & Hildegard Class	Jan Lawrence	Anita Watts
Thomas Connors	Richard & Diane Lorkowski	Lorraine K. Webb *
Craig & Theresa Davis	Lieta Maffei	Michael Webb
Steve & Leana Dillon	Charles & Diane Moore	Donald Wheeler
William & Beverly Faddis **	Margee Moore	Keith & Louise Wilcox
Kathy Farnum **	Dorothy O'Connell	Lynn Wilson
Janet Farrell **	Anne Palmer	Betsy Winters *
Donna & Skip Frye **	Beverly Patch	
Faye Geilfuss *	Alice & Richard Portra	
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Observer Renewal

When it is time to renew your Observer, the renewal date is highlighted and stamped, "to be renewed."

Also, a postcard will be mailed and, if possible, a phone call is made to remind you. It is greatly appreciated if you pay as soon as you notice it's time to renew.

Maybe you have a special neighbor that you'd like to say "thank you" to, or maybe you have a new neighbor that you'd like to say "welcome." We highly recommend giving a subscription to the Observer (six editions/year). A post card will be sent to the recipient.

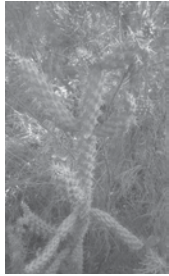
Please fill out the enclosed form and send it with your check to P.O. Box 23315,
San Diego, CA. 92193.

COUGAR DEN MEETS RUFFIN CANYON

On April 26, 2013, half of the members of the Cougar Den (aka our 4th graders) of Cubberley Elementary walked to our beautiful local habitat-Ruffin Canyon. Together with their teacher Mrs. Vaughan and several parent volunteers they joined with Ms. Monica Fuentes from the 'Friends of Ruffin Canyon' group to explore the canyon. Being fourth graders, they had already studied a variety of habitats. They had created terrariums to study the way plants grew, had received a fish tank from San Diego Unified to study fish and how they interact with aquatic snails and water plants, and had even observed the different habits of beetles compared to isopods.



However, this day was different. They were actually going to be out in the 'wild' observing both plants and animals under the guidance of Ms. Fuentes, who is with Friends of Ruffin Canyon, who was an incredible source of information for the thirty-one fourth graders. They hiked down into the canyon from the entrance close to Taft Middle School, where there is a sort of wild garden planted by the Friends and students of Taft- full of native plants. From there they followed Ms. Fuentes onto an unexpectedly scenic, full of surprises trail.



One of the surprises which were informative for the students from an ecological viewpoint was the human junk found in the most unlooked for places. The students gained a healthy respect for why it was important to 'pick up their messes', since they saw the unsightly consequences of such irresponsible behavior against the backdrop of such a scenic environment. They also found out about how they had a real treasure living right near their doorstep-the Ruffin Canyon.



By: Donna Vaughan
4th/5th grade Teacher
Cubberley Elementary

MEMORABLE SERRA MESA SCENES – DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

By Tom Leech

Serra Mesa has some special scenes that readily catch your eye when you see them. That is, IF you see them. We'll be showing several such memorable buildings, objects, places, gardens, etc. in this series. Here's the first. Where can you see this stacked piece of sculptural art? And in fact, where can you see all eight of them? For the answer, go to page 16.



FRIENDS OF RUFFIN CANYON

FRC is proud of our busy Spring 2013. As always, we had great “Canyon Care” restoration events on each First Saturday Morning. During the summer, all such events will start at Taft, not Shawn Ave.

Interaction with students at Taft has shrunk as the Prime Time program develops more competing activities, takes students into the canyon without FRC guides, and grows more bureaucratic. Since education is central to our Mission Statement, we are happy to see other schools take advantage of Ruffin Canyon. In April Monica Fuentes hosted Donna Vaughn, Cubberley Elementary School science teacher, and her well-prepared 4th and 5th graders in the Native Habitat Garden and trails.

Also April was the 11th annual Creek to Bay Cleanup. By volunteering to co-captain a site for this countywide event, Kevin Johnston and Monica brought logistical and material support from I Love a Clean San Diego (ILCSD) to Serra Mesa (esp. Mission Village Dr. and the north side of Gramercy) for a spring cleaning. Volunteers have removed enormous amounts of garbage from the canyon over the years, but the job will never be finished as long as people treat the canyon as their personal trash can or dump.

This year ILCSD donated the wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels used for the cleanup to FRC, to be stored at Taft MS, in a fenced space we share. We were ecstatic until a bunch of them went missing. Monica found some of them north of Gramercy, where children had used them to build bike ramps! Do they want to live in a community where theft and destruction of public property is OK? The City has built a park in Point Loma designed especially for daredevil sports on wheels. How loud would they complain if that were dug up?

San Diego River Days 2013, a two week celebration with lots of activities along the river, opened with the International Youth Day of Service. For our event, youngsters with scout leaders or parents gathered in the new Butterfly Garden at Taft to paint rocks with pictures and names to label native plants in the Open Space Park. Finding where the rocks should go was fun! Everyone got event tee shirts and treats.

The last biggest news is the status of a Ruffin Canyon trail to the San Diego River. In May, SD City Council unanimously approved the San Diego River Master Plan, which directs development along the river and into tributary canyons like ours to preserve habitat and historical sites while creating pedestrian access between communities and along the river. It is the foundation for the San Diego River Park, of which Ruffin Canyon, a tributary to the river, is a part. A trail connecting Ruffin canyon to Mission Valley and beyond has been planned for many years. The building permit for Escala specifies a public right-of-way for hikers. The tunnel under Friars Rd. was opened. The politics, sustainability, and impact of several routes were studied, at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. When a route was chosen for stability and light impact, it was presented at multiple open meetings including FRC, SD River Coalition, SD Canyonlands, and SMCC. The Observer announced it.

The SM Planning Group heard some homeowners’ fears of erosion, fire, crime, noise and harm to wildlife; then accounts of lowered crime, of habitat protection, slope reinforcement, improved emergency access, and increased property values where good trails were installed. Benefits for children’s brain development and for weight and stress management were cited. SMPG endorsed the trail. Still, a flurry of critical letters caused the SD River Conservancy to drop the May 2nd agenda item to approve the negative mitigated environmental impact report and direct \$1.5 million dollars to Serra Mesa for the trail. It went to remove invasive plants somewhere else.

Here, residents who want to hike go to Clairemont or Mission Trails; our own canyon is treacherous below Shawn Ave and fragile riparian area above it. Children from Mission Valley have to walk next to traffic up Mission Village Drive to get to the schools in Serra Mesa.

Bonnie Hough
Chair for Friends of Ruffin Canyon

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

July/August, 2013 Events/Programs

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of original paintings in the Community Room.

Lobby Showcases – The Action Figure Collection of George Dixon will be in the display cases.

Zumba® Dance/Toning Fitness – Mondays & Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. Monday's class includes a half hour of Zumba Dance and a half hour of toning.

Zumba® Gold Fitness – Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. The Zumba® Gold Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. This class is designed for beginners and active seniors.

July 2, 6:30 p.m. Author Talk: J. Elke Ertle. The author will discuss and answer questions about her book *Walled-In: A West Berlin Girl's Journey to Freedom*.

July 9, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

July 9, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Queen's Lover* by Vanora Bennett.

July 12, 1:00 p.m. How to Find a Job. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how and where to search for jobs.

July 21, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Buena Vista SoCal Club. Come and enjoy Latin American and Cuban music in a concert which is free and open to the entire family.

July 23, 6:00 p.m. E-Reader Clinic. Bring your electronic reader devices and learn how to download and view library ebooks.

July 26, 1:00 p.m. Your Personal Commercial. Learn the best way to present your skills to potential employers in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

July 28, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

August 9, 1:00 p.m. What to Say at Job Interviews. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you to prepare and practice for job interviews.

August 13, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson.

August 18, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Westwind Brass. Come and enjoy free music in a concert which is open to the entire family.

August 23, 1:00 p.m. Salary Negotiations. Learn how to judge your value and negotiate salary with potential employers in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

August 25, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

August 27, 6:00 p.m. E-Reader Clinic. Bring your electronic reader devices and learn how to download and view library ebooks.

August 28, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

Children Programs

Preschool Storytime – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. Join Grandma Patti for our very popular story time, which is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

July 1 & 15, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

July 3, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Wild Wonders Animal Show. Join us for a fun program showing off exotic animals!

July 5, 12, 19 & 26, 11:00 a.m. A Taste of Summer Reading Fun. Join Ms. Kim as she introduces food and traditions from around the world.

July 8, 22 & 29 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

July 10, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Ronald McDonald Show. Join us for a wonderful program filled with fun and laughter!

July 17, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Pig Eye Puppetry. Join us for a fantastic puppet show and an introduction to the art of puppetry!

July 18 & 25, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob. Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

July 24, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Alakazam Magic Show. Join us for this wonderful magic show full of laughter and great tricks!

July 31, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Sparkles the Clown. Sparkles the Clown will bring fun, magic and bubbles!

August 2, 11:00 a.m. A Taste of Summer Reading Fun. Join Ms. Kim as she introduces food and traditions from around the world.

August 5 & 19, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

August 7, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Mad Science. Join us for a fun show with awesome science experiments!

August 12 & 26, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

August 14, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Boo Hoo Crew. Join us for our final Summer Reading Program show and dance to the music!

August 15, 22, & 29, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob. Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

Summer Reading Program, "Reading is So Delicious" – June 15 to August 15

Join us this summer for our annual Summer Reading Program! Children and Teens can read books and collect prizes. Register online or at the library starting June 15. Come to the library every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. for special programs throughout the summer including music, magicians, animals and clowns.

TAFT STUDENT TEACHER RECEIVED HIGH HONOR



At Taft Middle School this past year UCSD grad student Linjue Cao taught Life Sciences to 7th grade classes, completing both her UCSD Masters and Teaching Credentials Programs. At the June meeting of the San Diego chapter of the professional society AFCEA – Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association – Linjue’s work and academic record were recognized with a major honor, the National AFCEA STEM* “Teachers for America’s Future” Award, and a \$5,000 scholarship. (A second UCSD grad student also received this same award.) In July she will receive her MS in Education in Bio Sciences, with her work at Taft having made a major contribution to her degree and to many Taft students.

* STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Picture by Jesse Hamilton

Answer from page 12...

You’ll find these interesting rock sculptures at the south end of -- appropriately named – Sandrock Road. That is the end past Greyling Drive (near the Post Office, not Montgomery Field). I don’t know the artist. If you know please send me the info at outdoorssd@aol.com.

Serra Mesan Tom Leech is the author of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*. Check his frequently updated web at www.outdoorssandiego.com.

BEAUTIFYING SERRA MESA, ONE BOX AT A TIME

As you enter our neighborhood of Serra Mesa, you may have noticed a new sense of culture, a sense of art and definitely more curb appeal.

The Serra Mesa Utility Box Project is an art movement that we are beyond excited about and is completely funded by the Serra Mesa Community Council. This project is a grassroots venture created to both beautify our community and deter the up-rise of graffiti taggers.

OVERVIEW OF THE PAINTING PROJECT:

SDG&E has granted the Serra Mesa Community Council permission to paint artwork on any of their utility boxes in our community. The project is focusing on recruiting talented local artists whose work will beautify our neighborhoods. The project’s artistic value to our community has received nothing but positive feedback.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Artists may email proposed artwork to Liz Rice, the council’s Media and Marketing Coordinator, at emlmedia@yahoo.com. Your artwork will then be evaluated by the council for consideration. Please include your name, phone number and sample of your artwork. After the committee evaluates your design, you will receive an email accepting, rejecting, or suggesting alterations to the design.

IF THE ART PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED:

A particular box will be assigned to you, as well as the location, design theme and wording needed on the box.

THE ARTISTS. THEIR BIOS. THE BOX LOCATIONS. THEIR WORK.

Lukia Esparza

Out of Oceanside, California, Lukia loves being multi-cultural. Having grown up in this unique environment/city, it has given rise to her creativity in the Arts. With her visual style, her displays are colorful, vivid, and abstract with a touch of tropical infusion and a joy to look at.

Box Location: Corner of Sandrock and Gramercy Drive



Sonia López-Chávez

Born in the vibrant city of Guanajuato, Mexico, at an early age Sonia moved to San Diego and has remained ever-since. She is inspired by the gorgeous scenery and diverse culture. Lopez-Chavez's work embodies pulsating color schemes and themes of heritage as based off her own vivid Mexican background and childhood.

Box Location: Corner of Mobley and Gramercy Dr.



Saratoga Sake

He started like everyone else, drawing and painting as a kid...he got into graffiti when we was 12 years old. Inspired by the old-school New York subway graffiti. Over the next couple of decades, Sake earned numerous awards including two Emmy's for his portrait work created for the Fox network...and he been painting non*stop ever since.

Box Location: Serra Mesa Library



Elura Morris

She is a 21 year old aspiring artist. She attends local community colleges and will transfer to UCSD soon. Her goal with art is to continue doing murals and to get into gallery work. She hopes to achieve artwork that forces people to look at the world and their lives differently, while seeking understanding of the human condition.

Box Location: Wegeforth Elementary

**Adam Murillo**

His passion for art has led him through an amazing journey and now mission to seek new challenges while making new friends and satisfied customers. He has done murals in homes, businesses and clubs, painted and airbrushed bikes, cars and motorcycles. He does portraits in charcoal as well as paint, including caricatures and realistic and is an expert of full size scale models of animals, automobiles, and false fronts and props.

Box Location: Taft Jr. High.



By: Elizabeth Rice

Media/Marketing Coordinator, Serra Mesa Community Council

SERRA MESA ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Send any code compliance complaints that you would like SMEC to pursue to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193 or serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com. Our procedure is to send letters to the resident asking for voluntary compliance. We send letters for excessive litter, excessive weeds, graffiti, illegally parked vehicles, illegal signs, and other violations (e.g., noise, fences, home business) on an as needed basis.

SMEC was contacted by a resident asking for information about a neighbor's landscape water runoff. SMEC volunteers are untrained in this area and aren't in a position to pursue these types of complaints. However, the following information has been copied/adapted from the City's website at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/prohibitions.shtml.

Waste No Water Information and Resources

The City Council has approved permanent, year-round restrictions on wasteful water use. To report water waste, call 619-515-3500.

Prohibitions:

- Customers shall repair or stop all water leaks upon discovery seventy-two hours of notification by the City of San Diego.
- The time of day when watering is allowed (before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. from June to October, and before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. from November to May) is a permanent restriction. This does not apply to irrigation as required by a landscape permit; for erosion control; for establishment, repair or renovation of public use fields; for landscape establishment following a disaster; for renovation or repair of an irrigation system; and for nursery and commercial growers using hand held containers, positive shut off nozzles, or drip/micro-spray systems. The City will review variance applications from customers who feel they cannot abide by this watering schedule.
- City of San Diego water customers must prohibit excessive irrigation and must immediately correct leaks in their private water systems. The City's regulations now state that customers "shall not allow water to leave their property due to drainage onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets or gutters due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks."
- Customers cannot use a running hose to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate safety or sanitation hazards, unless that hose is connected to a water efficient device such as a commercial water broom.
- Overfilling of swimming pools and spas is strictly prohibited.
- All decorative water fountains must use a recirculating pump.
- Vehicles may only be washed at a commercial car wash or by using a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle or with a hand-held water container.
- The City will not provide new water service connections for customers using single pass-through cooling systems.
- All new conveyer car wash and commercial laundry systems connections will be required to employ a recirculating water system.
- Restaurants and other food establishments shall only serve and refill water for patrons upon request.
- Guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments will be provided the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.

Information on enforcement and penalties is at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/enforcement.shtml.

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Editor: *Ronda Adams*
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“SAVE THE DATES”

Concert in the Park

Sunday, August 11

11:00-3:00 p.m.

Movie Night

Saturday, September 21

5:00 p.m.

Both at Cabrillo Heights Park

