

More Traffic Lights Coming to Murray Ridge Road

See SMPG article on page 4



Intersection of Murray Ridge Road and Mission Center Road



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

**Serra Mesa Community Council
Meeting**

Wednesday, March 23rd

6:30 pm

Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library

**Serra Mesa Community Council
General Forum**

Wednesday, April 27th

6:30 pm

Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library

Neighborly People
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Don't Miss the San Diego Science Festival March 19 - 26

Each year in March, the San Diego Science Festival cascades over San Diego County in a weeklong celebration of science and engineering that invigorates over 75,000 students, parents, scientists, educators and other community members. Over 30,000 participants join the largest single-day science and engineering event in Southern California at EXPO DAY, the Festival's grand finale event held the final Saturday of Festival week at PETCO Park. With opportunities to participate in hands-on activities, meet real scientists and engineers and learn how their discoveries and research affect our daily lives, the Festival is a unique opportunity to reach students of all ages and backgrounds, inspiring the next generation of innovators. Visit www.sdsciencefestival.com for details.

Serra Mesa Community Council Board

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- Geralyn White..... (858) 565-2473*
Vice President
- Janeen Ameral.....(858) 565-2473*
Treasurer
- Robin Rivera.....(858) 565-2473*
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- Pat Brownyard.....(858)565-2473*
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Observer Editor
- Marge Demas.....(858)565-2473*
Mailing Coordinator
- Kathleen Hoot.....(858)565-2473*
Welcome to Serra Mesa
- Bonnie Hough, Monica Fuentes.....(858)565-2473*
Friends of Ruffin Canyon
- Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473*
Membership
- Virginia Brust, Cindy McIntyre, Marvin Sloben..(858)565-2473*
Observer Staff

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

SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
- City Councilmember Lorie Zapf (619) 236-6616
- Mayor Jerry Sanders (619) 236-6330
- County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544
- State Assemblymember Toni Atkins (619) 645-3090
- State Senator Christine Kehoe (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

Mar 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Mar 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Apr 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Apr 21	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Apr 25	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Apr 27	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
May 7	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
May 10	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
May 11	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glan Drive

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

Serra Mesa Observer is published bimonthly by the Serra Mesa Community Council with a circulation of approximately 800.

Annual fees: Household...\$15 Sponsor...\$25
Benefactor..\$50

Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles. Council doesn't endorse ads.

For articles, email Melissa Cima (mjcima@pacbell.net)
For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473

Deadline: May / June Edition...April 22nd

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Californians are involved!

I recently received an article titled "California Civic Health Index". It speaks about how civic involvement for citizens in California has increased. The percentage of Americans volunteering has increased by 2% while in California it has increased by 9%. Studies since 2007 reflect that Californians who are assisting neighbors has improved by more than 40%. In part this appears to be a positive civic response to the economic crisis; but it is worth noting that these California trends are significantly greater than for Texas or New York. The result is that California shows that there is still room for optimism in these difficult times.

Specifics for volunteers by State population shows:

1. Church group or religious associations – 14.1%
2. Sports or recreation association – 9.7%
3. Service or civic associations – 5.1%
4. School group – 13.1

Civic engagement broadly encompasses many forms of political and civic activities which include registering to vote, voting, attending community meetings, and working with others to improve one's community. In other words, if we know what is going on, we are less liable to find ourselves in the financial situation that our Nation, State, and City are in. We have no one to blame but ourselves. Our complacency and willingness to allow our elected officials to fill their coffers at our expense is coming to an end because they are unsustainable. So once again, it is the taxpayer who will have to step up to the plate and save the day.

Please do not think that I want to take benefits away from public employees. We promised to provide them, and I feel that it is our obligation to fulfill our promises. What I do not understand is why no one is willing to stop what is going on and mandate that all future employees will receive a 401K that they contribute to, as well as medical coverage that is provided much the same as what private industry has had for years. There is no reason to expect private citizens to insure public employee investments regardless of what the market does, especially when taxpayers have to make up the difference. Why do public employees have privileges that none of the rest of us have? Why can't they get the same medical coverage, social security, and Medicare that the rest of us have. Why do they ordain privileges to themselves that they are unwilling to provide for us regular folks. As we discuss a new medical health

plan, the waivers are rolling in. So far more than 700 have been granted to special interest groups. Huh?

So have you had enough yet? Do you have a desire to voice your opinion and let your elected officials know how you feel? At every General Meeting in Serra Mesa we have "Community Speaks" where you have an opportunity to voice your opinion to our elected official's administrative aides. They want to speak to you and hear your thoughts to take back to their office.

Support Serra Mesa Community Council with your presence at our general meetings. We have positions on the board should you want to become more involved. We have a big job ahead as we provide support to the many services in our neighborhood. We currently have a very successful Food Pantry and are in the process of forming a Community Garden. We need someone to take over as editor of our award winning newsletter the Observer. We will teach you Adobe InDesign. Become a part of the team and help us help Serra Mesa excel as one of the best communities to live in.

Naturally, I invite your feedback and would be happy to introduce your willing name to our board.

Carl Demas

Serra Mesa Planning Group

A Recognized San Diego City Planning Group - Serving the Citizens of Serra Mesa

Seven Planning Group Seats Up for Election

Elections will be held at the March Planning Group meeting, on March 17th. Six seats are up for election each year, and we have an empty seat due to a resignation. Eight candidates were certified at the February meeting: incumbents Eric Jimerson, Doug Wescott, Dicken Hall, James Feinberg, Bob McDowell, and Brian Peterson, and new candidates Kerry Garnett and George Brownyard. All residents of Serra Mesa are eligible to vote, and are encouraged to attend the March meeting to do so.

Mission Village Apartments ConocoPhillips and TRC gave a presentation on the status of the plume project from the previous Union 76 Gas Station at the corner of Ruffin Road and Gramercy Avenue. At one point the plume had moved under Taft Middle School, but it has since moved back out, and there is no threat to Taft. TRC continues to monitor the plume's movement. This site is no different than dozens of other former gas station sites around the city. It currently presents no threat either from fumes migrating up through soil or moving into drinking water supplies. It is also not holding up development of the approved Mission Village Apartment project. Work will continue on the site for two to three years.

Civita Update Mark Radelow of Sudberry Properties gave a presentation on the Civita (Quarry Falls) project, at the February meeting. You may have noticed the activity at the site. The first development will be a 306-unit apartment complex. The second project is in design, and will be a 200-unit row home development. Traffic mitigation projects will start in the next three to four months, and include: new signals at

- Murray Ridge Road and Mission Center Road,
- Murray Ridge Road and Pinecrest Avenue,
- Murray Ridge Road and northbound I-805 off-and on-ramp.

The latter will include removal of the porkchop, making the intersection a normal, four-way one. There will also be more work done along Mission Center Road near the project, and on Friars Road, including some widening and the addition of

sidewalks.

Sandrock Gas Station The Planning Group voted to send a letter to the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department in support of the Sandrock Gas Station as long as they operate within the requirements of the current Conditional Use Permit ('CUP') and any future amendments.

Planning Group Meetings are held the **third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in the Community Room of the Serra Mesa – Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. Agendas are posted at one week prior to the meetings at the Serra Mesa Library, online at www.SerraMesa.org, and distributed via an e-mail list.

Did You Know?

More than 23,000 people live in Serra Mesa, yet **less than NINE PERCENT of Serra Mesa residents receive important news about their community in a timely manner**, including meeting notices for both the Planning Group and Serra Mesa Community Council.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to visit www.serramesa.org and add their email addresses to the list. The more people who sign up, the more effective both groups will be.

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New Observer Editor Needed

For the past five years, I have been the editor of the Serra Mesa Observer. This has been a truly positive and rewarding experience. I've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful neighbors and contribute to our great community.

Before becoming editor, I enjoyed reading the Observer and was glad to have such a great resource for local news. It's important to know what's going on in your own neighborhood and the Observer is the best place to get information about Serra Mesa.

The time has come for me to pass the torch as editor of the Observer. This is a great opportunity for someone to step in and continue to provide our community with a quality newsletter. No experience is needed.

If you are already familiar with Adobe InDesign software, you are ready to go. If not, I'd be happy to show you how I put the newsletter together. The needed software would be provided to you. Also, San Diego Continuing Education offers excellent FREE classes on using this software just down the street at their Aero Drive location. This could be your opportunity to learn a valuable new skill! When I began as editor I had no experience and developed my skills along the way.

If you have experience using different publishing software, we may be able to convert to your software of choice.

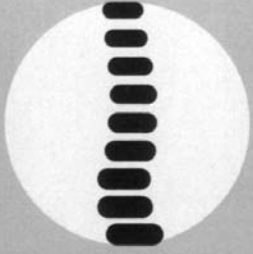
The Observer is printed bi-monthly. Following is a list of steps taken to create the newsletter every other month (that's only six times a year!).

- Send an email reminder to regular contributors approximately two weeks prior to the deadline. The deadline is set by the editor. This email list is already created and would be provided.
- Collect articles as they are submitted by various community members. You would not be required to write any articles, but certainly could do so if desired.
- Create the newsletter using Adobe InDesign software, or alternative compatible software if desired.
- Have proofreaders review final draft. We have two great proofreaders to assist with spelling, grammatical and content errors.
- Send final copy electronically to the printer. This is only a few steps and a very simple process.
- That's it! Another group of volunteers handles distribution of the printed newsletters.

I've received many positive comments about the Observer over the years. Our friends and neighbors really appreciate getting the news that affects them from our local newsletter.

Please contact me at mjcima@pacbell.net or 858-277-5169 if you are interested in this great volunteer opportunity.

Melissa Cima, Observer Editor



**WHEELER FAMILY
CHIROPRACTIC**

Timothy O' Regan, DC
858.569.4567
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5482 Complex Street
Suite 101
San Diego, CA 92123

I-805 Murray Ridge Bridge Work

In January 2011 work was completed on the shoulders of the I-805/Murray Ridge Road ramps and the entire roadway at the top of both ramps and both ends of the overcrossing bridge were resurfaced and restriped. Since I had heard that Sudberry Properties would be installing in a few months a new traffic signal at the east end of the Murray Ridge bridge and removing the porkchop, I expressed my concern with Caltrans about the redundancy of the work. I received the following answer from Caltrans representative, Steve Saville:

“The work at the intersections and near the Murray Ridge Road Bridge was additional work added to a larger \$1.7 million project to repave freeway ramps and shoulders at various locations along I-805 from Murray Ridge Road to State Route 163. According to the senior construction engineer on the project, public complaints of potholes prompted a field safety review of the Murray Ridge Road Overcrossing. It was determined that a number of large potholes had created safety and liability concerns. The decision was made to add this work to a project in close vicinity and eliminate these concerns. The senior construction engineer estimates that about \$1,900 worth of this work at the “pork chop” on the east end of the bridge may be replaced if and when a permittee project takes place near this location.”

For more details on upcoming Serra Mesa traffic improvements, please see the Serra Mesa Planning Group article on page 4.

Cindy Moore

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

One focus of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is to provide information.

If you have a suggestion for a topic for this column or you wish to report a code enforcement violation that you want SMEC to investigate, you can send an email to serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com or write to SMEC, P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

If you need immediate assistance on a code enforcement violation, contact Neighborhood Code Compliance, 619-236-5500.

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 May 11th at 6:30pm

District Proposes to Close School in Serra Mesa

On February 10, San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education approved the Superintendent's preliminary budget for 2011-12. The budget proposes the reduction of one elementary school in the Taft feeder pattern of the Kearny Cluster. The 2011-12 budget accounts for \$120 million in reductions. An alternative budget was also presented, contingent on ballot approval of extended taxes, accounting for \$63 million in reductions. The closure of a school in Serra Mesa is considered in both budgets.

The following is excerpted from the Board Report, "The School Closure/Realignment Committee has met multiple times to review data related to realigning/restructuring/closing schools. The focus has not been on small elementary schools, but on a wide range of schools across the district. The committee strongly recommends that the Board, community and staff complete a thorough and holistic review of what SDUSD should look like out into the future. The district needs to create a comprehensive plan for the future. The committee does not believe schools should be closed without this thorough and complete review. Grade level models and optimal school size should all be determined through this process. There has been no serious discussion of district realignment for years. The committee believes the district has suffered from ad hoc discussions and decisions over the years, without a thorough and serious review of the complete picture. The committee strongly recommends that the Board direct staff to initiate such a process to be conducted over the 2011-2012 school year and in accordance with current district policy/procedures.

The committee has also considered the feasibility of ... (bullet points mentioning other possible sites for possible closure have been excluded from this article, the full report can be found on www.sandi.net)

- Discussions regarding the closure of any specific school inhibit the attendance at that school.
- The committee recommends that extreme caution be used prior to naming schools for potential closure. Certain small schools are "closure weary."
- Middle schools need to be a focus of any intensive effort to "right size" the district.
- The movement and/or consolidation of staff on fewer administrative sites. The committee believes that staff has shrunk due to budgetary reductions, yet is still spread out too much all over the district.
- The committee believes savings could be the result of closure of administrative sites, especially those that cannot be used by students.

While the committee believes that many of the points listed above are feasible, it strongly recommends a comprehensive and thorough review of all the factors that go into reshaping the district for the future. The committee encourages the Board to direct staff to initiate such a process with input from all district stakeholders over the course of the 2011-2012 school year. The committee believes any attempt to close schools in the brief window between now and the beginning of next school year would be one more fragmented approach to a process that could otherwise have a positive impact on SDUSD as a whole."

More information can be found at www.sandi.net or by calling Board Member Kevin Beiser at kbeiser@sandi.net or (619) 725-5550 or by calling our Area Superintendent, Mike Price at mprice1@sandi.net or (619) 725-7232.

Andrea Eaton

Jones Elementary School

I would like to thank every parent who brought your child out to our first K-2 Jones Family Science Night. The evening was a well organized event, sponsored by the Rueben H. Fleet Science center, with the goal of engaging students, parents, and staff in science activities focused on physics. Students rotated through centers and engaged in fun, hands-on activities for almost two hours. We are currently planning for the next Science Family Night which will be for 3rd through 5th grade students and their families this Spring. More information will be sent home on this event in the near future.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 31st and April 1st. If you are having concerns with regard to your child's academic and/or social progress in school, it is important to meet with your child's teacher.

The following pointers, if followed, can prevent problems before they occur:

- Communicate and stay in touch with your child's teacher on a regular basis (by letter, telephone, school visits, etc...)
- Read all material that is sent home from school
- Attend all scheduled school meetings and conferences
- Arrange meetings with your child's teachers (special

education and general education) whenever concerns arise

- Write notes to your child's teachers (praise, questions, and ideas)
- Visit your child's class and observe
- Volunteer to assist at school (regularly and/or on special occasions)
- Check all of your child's school work (before and after grading)
- Ask questions whenever you think necessary
- Devise a plan to monitor your child's progress
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher on a regular basis (by letter, telephone, school visits, etc...)
- Work directly with your child's teacher to solve problems when they first occur.
- If more help is needed to resolve problems, work your way up the administrative "ladder"
- Give school personnel a fair opportunity to respond to your concerns before you move up the administrative ladder

Active involvement in your child's education, and regular communication with your child's teacher will result in greater academic success and well-being.

Rita Powell
Principal

Serra Mesa Community Garden

Victory Gardens will be holding Garden Education Workshops every Saturday until April 2nd. They will begin at 1:00 p.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. All workshops will take place where the garden is located:

*Mission Village Christian Fellowship
2650 Melbourne Dr
San Diego, CA 92123*

The garden site backs up to the canyon in the rear parking lot. The first workshop will take place in the garden itself, so plan to meet there. Street parking is available on Melbourne Drive.

Contact the church at 858-278-2633 for more information.



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MARY KAY

Friends of Ruffin Canyon

This is one of the best times to see Ruffin Canyon that we have had for years. Late winter and spring is always the best time for wildflowers, which bloom longer when more water is available. Be sure to visit the Habitat Garden, where young students from Cubberly ES put in 100 new native plants, under the San Diego Audubon Society's "OutdoorExplore!" program. Each plant has a flag bearing the name of the child who planted it as well as the plant's name, so children can follow and help care for their own special plant.

FRC and Taft MS recognize the many benefits of introducing students to horticulture and plants native of Ruffin Canyon. Several attempts have been made to utilize space by the athletic fields for a school garden, without lasting effect. Now it looks like a garden better than we could have dreamed is about to materialize!

The American Society of Landscape Architects will hold their annual meeting in San Diego this year over Halloween. Their tradition is to create a "Legacy" project each year in the town where they meet, showcasing the work and materials of local businesses. Serra Mesa resident and FRC member JT Barr found time to promote our garden plans in spite of a full time job and a baby at home. FRC, as its Partner in Education, won the grant for Taft! The Legacy committee toured the campus with Principle Mike George February 12th, brainstorming all sorts of variations. No matter what the final plan, Serra Mesa will sport a fine new asset by the end of November.

Now for Ruffin Canyon's busy schedule.

February 28: FRC's monthly fourth Monday meeting, 6:30pm at the Taft library. Don't be shy; pay a visit.

March 5th: First Saturday Canyon Care 9am-noon at the Habitat Garden and nearby. Meet at Taft parking lot. Best to wear a hat.

March 26th: Volunteers from Rock Church remove invasives between the Rec. Center and the Library.
March 28th: FRC business meeting 6:30pm, Taft Library.

April 2nd: Canyon Care 9am-noon at west end of Shawn Canyon.

April 25th: FRC meets 6:30pm, Taft Library.

April 30th: I Love a Clean San Diego's 9th annual Creek to Bay Cleanup in Library Canyon. Meet 9am at the Rec. Center. Badges for scouts. Prizes.

May 7th-May 15th: San Diego River Days. Visit sandiegoriverdays.org for activities all along the watershed.

May 7th: Canyon Care 9am-noon at Taft.

May 7th: Kicking off River Days, Eric Bowlby of SD Canyonlands will offer a short presentation on watersheds and canyons at 9am before leading a fun and informative hike into the library canyon. Eric knows his onions, and captivates audiences of all ages. Don't miss this if you have wondered or wandered about this canyon!

July 4th: Pastor Gloria of Gesthemane Lutheran Church hosts a community breakfast and hike into Shawn Canyon.

Bonnie Hough for FRC



Ranger Jason demonstrates planting for students from Cubberly Elementary School

SMCC Subscription Application or Renewal Form & Interest/Volunteer Survey

If you are interested in being contacted about any of the organizations listed below and/or you wish to receive a bi-monthly newsletter **or** **renew** your subscription, please fill out the following information. Return this form to the Serra Mesa Community Council, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

Last Name _____ First _____ E-mail _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Occupation _____

Subscription Form - Enclosed is my check payable to the Serra Mesa Community Council to subscribe at the following level:

Household (\$15) ____ Sponsor (\$25) ____ Benefactor (\$50) ____

How did you hear about us? _____

Need More Information	Want to Volunteer	Brief Description of Serra Mesa Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Council. Sponsors clean-ups, publishes newsletter, liaison between elected officials & the community, meets 10 times/yr. Volunteers needed: Board & special projects. Commitment: varies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Group. Advises the City on the Serra Mesa Community Plan and land use issues. Volunteers needed. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3.5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation Council. Plans, promote, publicizes & helps provide recreation opportunities for citizens in Serra Mesa. Volunteers needed: Council. No training needed. Commitment: 1.5 hour/month
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhancement Committee. Sends educational letters to residents requesting code compliance. Promotes community improvement. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends of the Library. Provides summer reading program, extra books & tapes, & sponsors special library events for the Serra Mesa Library. Volunteers needed: Board. Commitment: 5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends of Ruffin Canyon. Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Staff the Food Pantry, pick up donated food, coordinate food drives, organize community sponsors. Commitment: varies.

To volunteer for one of the groups listed below call 858-565-2473.

Churches. Volunteer needs, training, & commitment varies with each church.

Education & PTAs. Volunteers needed: school based parent groups, readers/listeners in the schools, & various projects at schools. Training & commitment varies with activity.

Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Basketball). Volunteers needed: referees, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, etc. Training & commitment varies with activity.

Youth Activities (Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.). Volunteers needed: leaders, sponsors, & volunteers for special activities. Training provided. Commitment varies.

Views concerning the present and future Serra Mesa. Please attach a sheet with issues, suggested goals, and suggestions.

Skills/Experience/Interests. Sometimes an organization needs specialized help. If you wish to volunteer, then please attach a sheet with a list of your skills/experiences.

Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The role of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is to provide information, education, cooperation, and assistance in the area of City Code Compliance. After confirming a code violation SMEC sends a friendly, educational letter asking for compliance. In 90% of the cases people come into compliance and cases are not reported to the City. If you have a problem in your area, report the problem with this confidential form.

Request for Investigation

Return form to: Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee,
Post Office Box 23315, San Diego, California 92193

Please investigate this address _____

This is the problem: (give complete details; time of day, license plate of vehicles, type of vehicles, condition of property, owner's or renter's name if known etc.)

(Please use back if necessary.)

Your name (will not be disclosed) _____

Date _____ Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

===== for office use =====

ID# _____ Area _____ Contacted complainant _____

Complaint Referred to (specify date)	Action Steps (specify date)
_____ Code Compliance	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Community Policing	_____
_____ Signs	1st Letter: _____
_____ Tree Division	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Vector Control	_____
_____ Vehicle Abatement	2nd Letter: _____
_____ Weeds	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Other	_____
	Thank You: _____ Reopen Previous Case: _____

NAVAL SEA CADETS UNIT AT MONTGOMERY FIELD IS GROWING

Local Cadets Will Learn About Aviation and Other Military Skills

Naval Sea Cadet units BLACK KNIGHT Squadron and Training Ship Murphy Canyon at Montgomery Field are providing opportunities for young people in the communities of Allied Gardens, Bay Park, Clairemont, Grantville, Linda Vista, Kearny Mesa, Pacific Beach, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps offers a non-school based extra-curricular program similar to NJROTC for young people, ages 10-17. Through organization and cooperation with the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard to encourage and aid American youth to develop an interest and skill in basic seamanship and in its naval adaptations, to train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues in a drug-, gang- and alcohol-free lifestyle. Both the Navy and NSCC strive to provide Naval Sea and League Cadets with a broad educational base so as to develop the "whole person" concept. To this end, both civilian and military lecturers are invited to present to cadets the wide range of civilian and military career opportunities available to them, and to help explain youth's responsible role in society. There is no obligation to join any military component upon graduation.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps may be just what young people are looking for to broaden their horizons and to increase their opportunities to socialize with young people their own age. Our programs are traditionally held during the "school year" between September and June, with camp and away training periods held between June and August. Our camps are subsidized through federal funding, and are some of the most economical available to families today. This will be the ideal time to enroll because it is at the beginning of our training year and there are opportunities for camps in Spring and Summer 2011! You must be enrolled to participate in our camps, which include Recruit Training, Airman and Seamanship Schools, as well as Leadership Academy, Special Warfare/SEALs, and Foreign Exchange!

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps supports education by offering a wide variety of scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors who are interested in matriculating to college or beyond.

We are partnered with organizations such as the Presidents Physical Fitness Challenge, Drug Enforcement Agency, and Office of Naval Research to challenge our Cadets, physically, ethically/morally, and scientifically. We are an ADA compliant organization and welcome all young people who are willing to accept the challenge. There are volunteer opportunities for adults as well! Informational meetings are scheduled regularly, so contact us if you are interested in attending!

Please visit our National Website at www.seacadets.org for more information.

LCDR Scott D. Oram, NSCC

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News From Councilmember Zapf

Protecting our environment and keeping our communities clean and safe are my most pressing priorities on the City Council and are things that we can all lend a hand with. Coming together as members of a community to work with one another strengthens neighborhoods and improves quality of life for everybody!

One of the easiest ways to keep our community pristine is to lend a helping hand; and that's exactly what we are doing on Saturday, March 26th from 8AM until 12PM at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center on 9020 Village Glen Drive. We'll be partnering with The Rock Church to clean and refresh the Serra Mesa community through volunteerism and we would love your help!

I'm also proud to announce that in just the past two months dedicated members of the community working with my office and our outstanding police department have started six Neighborhood Watch groups! Neighborhood watch groups, like the one I participate with in my neighborhood, are an important preventative measure against crime. They act as a deterrent to criminals and can dramatically increase the likelihood that police can respond early enough if a crime is taking place.

If you'd like to hear more about improving our neighborhoods, I'll be holding a community coffee get together on Monday, March 21 at 6PM at the Sandwich Emporium on 3054 Clairemont Drive. If you have any questions or concerns, need help with anything, or just want to sit down and talk with me please come by!

If you're interested in helping with our community clean up, starting or joining a Neighborhood Watch, or stopping by my community coffee, please be sure to let me know. You can do this by calling me at (619) 236-6616 or e-mailing LorieZapf@SanDiego.gov

Free Classes

- » **Computer classes** for basic through advanced levels including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Web Page Design, Flash, eBay, PHP and MYSQL, QuickBooks, plus many more
- » **Parent Education classes** parents attend with children for many classes (childbirth preparation, caring for newborns and toddlers, baby sign language, and preschool experience are some examples)
- » **Certificate programs for job training** including Account Clerk, Administrative Assistant, CISCO, Data Entry Specialist, Front Desk/Office Assistant, Interactive Media, Medical Office Assistant and Web Server Maintenance and Security

Continuing Education

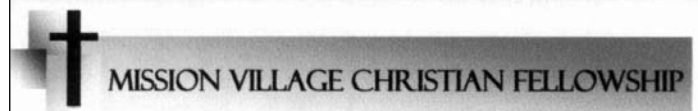


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Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor

Sunday Worship Service
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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 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study, Discipleship &
Home Fellowship Groups at Various times

We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community

Spice Is Not Nice

Adolescent children will try almost anything. It's part of the age and the reckless behavior that goes along with the "age of experimentation". Recently I became aware of some young men, boys, who were trying to impress each other by attempting to use a new non-controlled substance that has appeared on the streets of San Diego and in our own community of Serra Mesa.

This substance traveled all the way from Europe where it is now outlawed in most countries on that continent. Some people believe it was first imported by U.S. military personnel who experimented with it while serving in Europe, Japan, and in the Middle East. The United States military has now banned its use because of the dangerous side effects that many military personnel experienced when they tried it.

In some social circles it's referred to as "legal marijuana". In the middle school arena it is called an "uncontrolled substance" that we have very little power to stop or prevent from coming on our campuses. "Spice" is the street name, Cannabicyclohexanol is the chemical name. Webster's New College Dictionary description of cannabis is: 1. The hemp plant. 2. The dried flower buds of the hemp plant. Sound familiar? Sold at our local convenience and liquor stores under the trade product name of GDS, Grand Daddy Spice. The bottle that it is sold in, 2.0 g for \$12.00, lists it as an incense. It smells like a sweet marijuana. Presented in the GDS form it looks very much like real marijuana.

Under laws in the United States it is a completely legal product that authorities have no control or power over, at least for now. I have been told by law enforcement agencies and legal counsel that the Drug Enforcement Agency is attempting to introduce legislation in Congress that could place Spice on the controlled substance list. There are problems with this "designer drug" because once the DEA introduces Spice in one Congressional bill the manufacturers make a minor chemical change to the substance the DEA is trying to outlaw and "bam" you have yet another legal, uncontrolled drug on the market.

A recent on-line article calls it a "New marijuana-like drug "spice". It's cheap, it isn't regulated, it causes serious impairment, and it can have severe side affects. It's called "Spice" and it's also known as "K2" or "Kind". German professor John W. Huffman, who first synthesized many of the cannabinoids used in synthetic cannabis, is quoted as saying, "People who use it are idiots. You don't know what it's going to do to you." In some international circles Spice has been declared to contain Salvia Divinorum. (Hawaiian

Wood Rose and Blue Lotus and are prohibited to be sold.) These substances have been found to have "psychotropic, narcotic effects, containing poisonous components and represent potential threat for humans". About.com Teen Health calls Salvia Divinorum "a legal trip". "The chemical salvinorin A, which is contained in salvia sits on the kappa opioid receptors in the brain, causing an altered perception of reality. When used, salvia causes intense, but short-lived effects, including visual distortions, hallucinations, intense dissociation and disconnectedness from reality, physical or visual impairment, disorientation and dizziness." Sounds like an LSD trip to me.

The bottom line is we now have a new and dangerous drug in our community that is being sold at some of our local stores. Our children have complete access to this substance and know that school authorities, as well as law enforcement, might not have a legal leg to stand on to prevent its use in our community. Our parents and community leaders need to rally to put a stop to the sale of this product. We need our elected officials to support municipal, state, and federal legislation to remove these products from our store shelves and to keep this drug out of the hands of our children.

Those who want to make money from the misfortunes of our children need to know that we do not want them doing business in our community. People who push these dangerous products need to be told by all Serra Mesa community residents to remove these products from their stores so that our children are not given the opportunity to harm themselves. We need to demand that the franchise store owners, who sell these products and are harming the names and reputations of their parent companies, immediately remove these items from our community. Parents need to contact their elected officials at the city, state, and federal levels to let them know we want these products designated as dangers to our children and communities.

There is a push by federal law enforcement agencies to have these drugs banned in our country. We need to support these efforts for the protection of our children. We need to take action now!

*Mike George
Principal
William Howard Taft Middle School*

Serra Mesa / Kearny Mesa Branch Library

Art Exhibits

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library will host a reception for the opening of an exhibit of photographs by local artist Casey Withers on Sunday, March 6th at 1 p.m. Works by Mr. Withers will be on display in the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library community room through April 28th.

Howard Taft Middle School students from Ms. Erin Cortes art class put together a display in the Children's area. It was inspired on the Mexican Huichol culture. Yarn paintings with contrasting colors were used to create a glowing effect around the shapes. You are invited to drop by and see the works of our young local talent.

Zumba® Dance Fitness

Our Zumba® Fitness program has been so popular that we have added another day! Zumba fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt while burning fat. Add some Latin flavor and international zest to your workout by attending our free Zumba class, Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at noon.

Free Violin Lessons

In cooperation with the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Outreach Program, the library is offering free violin lessons for adults and children ages 5 and up every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m, starting on March 9th. The class is already full, but anyone who is interested should call to be added to our waiting list.

Free Tax Preparation

The AARP will be providing free tax help for taxpayers with low to moderate income every Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please call 858-573-1396 to make an appointment if you would like some help with your taxes.

Knitting and Crochet Classes

Our very popular craft programs for people ages 10 and up continue with a crochet class in March, and

then in April another introductory knitting class – this one with American Sign Language Interpreting! Classes are every Saturday at 12:30 p.m. The crochet class is already full, but will be repeated, so do contact us if you are interested in getting on the waiting list, at 858-573-1396.

Career Workshops

In partnership with the San Diego Metro Career Center, we are offering a “Resume and Cover Letter Strategies” workshop on Friday, March 4th from 1-3 p.m.; “Online Job Search Strategies: Making the Internet Work for You” on Wednesday, March 9th at 1 p.m.; “Resume and cover letter review” on Friday, March 18th, from 1-3 p.m.; “Online Job Searching” on Friday, April 1st from 1-3 p.m.; and “Searching the Labor Market” on Friday, April 15 from 1-3 p.m. These workshops are free and open to the public, and no registration is required, so please join us.

Librarian's Book Club

Join members of your community to discuss the book The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, by C. Alan Bradley, on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:45 p.m.; and Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand, on Tuesday, April 12th, at 6:45 p.m. No registration is required, and the book is available for checkout at the Serra Mesa Library.

Therapeutic Stress Reduction and Laughter Yoga

Is tax season making you stressed? Dr. Funshine, also known as Caroline Ann Meeks, MD, will show you how to reduce stress and add joy and laughter to your life, through breathing, meditation and exercise, on Friday, March 11th at 4 p.m., and again on Friday, April 8th at 4 p.m. No yoga mats or special clothes are required, and all are welcome.

Music on the Mesa Concerts

Music on the Mesa continues its busy concert schedule with jazz duo David Bandrowski and Adrian Demain on Sunday, March 20th at 2:00 p.m. Join us on Sunday, March 27th at 2:00 p.m., for “Spiritual Fusion: Persian Music with Amir & Friends,” and come hear solo harpist Ivan Gomez on Sunday, April 17th, at 2:00 p.m.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page, **Library**)

All concerts are free and open to the entire family.

Children Programs

Kids Night with Hopsotch Tiny Tots - Every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Stories and Crafts. Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for babies and toddlers.

Bob Snavely A.K.A. “Cowboy Bob” – Great live music and stories for pre-schoolers. Sing and dance... Come and join us. You hear.

Special Note: *Cowboy Bob will be scheduled permanently every Thursday morning - except the 1st Thursday of the month or Holidays.*

March 10, 17, 24, 31 @ 10:00 a.m.

April 14, 21 28 @ 10:00 a.m.

Grandma Patti Preschool Story Time - Every Friday at 10:00 a.m. Join Grandma Patti for our very popular story time. It is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

Free Tutoring – Every Wednesday 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. With the help of our friends at Volunteer San Diego, the library continues to offer free tutoring and homework help for children ages 5 through 18. No registration is required.

Read/San Diego Families For Literacy Program.

For parents & grandparents and their children under 5 years old. Learn how to be your child’s best teacher. Turn your home into a literacy rich environment. .

March 2 at 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

March 3 at 9:00 a.m.-noon

April 6 at 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

April 7 at 9:00 a.m.-noon

Registration is required. Please call for more information or to sign up at 619-527-3163.

Homework Help Center Online/Centro de Ayuda para la Tarea en Línea

Free one to one help with a certified tutor. Students from kindergarten through adult will connect with expert tutors for live help with homework assignments in math, science, English and social studies. You can access Live Homework Help from home or at any city library computer. This service is available daily from 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in English and Spanish. All you

need is your library card from the San Diego Public Library. *Hay tutores disponibles gratis por Internet en español a diario de la 1:00 p.m. a las 10:00 p.m. ayudando estudiantes desde el kindergarten hasta adultos. Ud. puede conectarse desde su casa o desde la biblioteca. Lo único que necesita es su tarjeta de la Biblioteca Pública de San Diego.* For more information please visit the Homework Help Center Online/*Para más información visite:* <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/hwcenter.shtml>

Computers 2 SD Kids Introductory Class

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers to kids and families in need. Parents and guardians can attend an introductory class to learn about the program, and apply for the Technology Assistance Program on Saturday, March 26th and on Saturday, April 23, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Computers 2 SD Kids provides free computers preloaded with software and free technical support. Preregistration is required. Please call 858-573-1396 for more information or to sign up.

Follow us online!

Want to learn more? Follow us online, visit the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library at <http://tinyurl.com/smkmlibrary>. Please visit the San Diego Public Library webpage at <http://www.sandiegolibrary.org> for information on other free online resources available to you.

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Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes January / February New and Renewed Members

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 John & Kathleen Andrews
 Rose & Russell Andrews
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 Larry & Sharon Bay **
 Tamara Bentz
 Doris Boyd
 Vern & Margaret Branson
 George & Pat Brownyard
 Virginia Brust
 Tammy Burst
 Ray & Evelyn Buttles *
 Bart Caravantes
 Connie Chovan *
 Jon & Melissa Cima
 Elaine Colter
 Doug & Kathie Conklin **
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 Barbara & Fred Crothers
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 Linda Domenick
 Kira Finkenberg
 Janice Fletcher
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 Faye & Dale Geilfuss **
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 David & Helen Johnston
 William A. Jones *
 Arno & Else Kikillus
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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.

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City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477
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Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888
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Health Violations	(619) 338-2222
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886
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Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(619) 287-7787
Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
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Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
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Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Since 1958 the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

See page 13



Members of BLACK KNIGHTS Squadron and Training Ship MURPHY CANYON pose for a groups photo with an F/A-18 fighter jet after completing their annual inspection. Photo by: Naval Sea Cadet Corps