

serra mesa observer

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014



Happy
New
Year



www.SerraMesa.org

You are invited to participate in the
Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, January 22
6:30 pm
*Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive*

Serra Mesa Community Council
Wednesday, February 26
6:30 pm
*Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive*

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- Bonnie Hough, Monica Fuentes.....(858)565-2473*
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- *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: March / April Edition...February 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 Interim Todd Gloria (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 Susan Davis (619) 448-5201
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan 8	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Jan 14	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Jan 16	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Jan 22	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Jan 27	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Feb 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Feb 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Feb 24	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr
Feb 26	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Mar 1	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.

In This Issue...

SMCC Community Forums	1
Community Phone Numbers, Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Serra Mesa Food Pantry News, Memorable SM Scenes	4
New North County Campus SDCE, SM Rec Center	5
Important Phone Numbers, Finding Support/Mental Illness	7
Juarez Elementary School, Angier Elementary School	8
What's Happening at Wegeforth?	9
SMPG	10
SMCC New and Renewed Members	11
SMEC	13
Holiday Decorating Contest, Water Conservation	14
Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library	15
Memorable SM Scenes Answers	19

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to 2014 and a brand New Year.

When I think of what we accomplished in 2013, I am gratified that we accomplished success in so many new challenges. Rest assured that it was the new enthusiastic members on our council and interested citizens that made it happen. If you find yourself with a desire to work with fellow Serra Mesans and accomplish things in the neighborhood, we can use your help and talents. I know that we will have new challenges and need all the help we can secure.

For those who receive the Observer, we would not have what I consider the best newsletter in town without our advertisers. When you work with any of them, be sure to tell them that you saw their ad in the Observer. Their ads have been helping to publish the Observer since its inception. I am sure they would also thank you for using their services. Anyone in business appreciates when they can see their hard earned dollars working for them and the best way to thank them is to use them.

One of the things that your Serra Mesa Community Council desires is to know what will bring you out to our meetings. We very often have great speakers with a message that all should hear. The reason we do this is to inform you of services or programs that will enhance our neighborhood. We get the word out by our newsletter available at: www.serramesa.org. We

have a great new volunteer named Brad Byenhof who is our web master and he does a commendable job of keeping up with all the challenges that we present him. Thank you Brad for your service which you donate to our cause. You can get a ton of information from this website from learning who to call when you need to solve a problem or to finding out when and where key meetings are being held. Our newsletter (Observer) can be downloaded by clicking on Community Council and then on Newsletter. You can get the latest information about our Serra Mesa Food Pantry and how you can partake or donate. Our schools give you the latest information and there is always an article about our Planning Group who makes community recommendations to the City of San Diego concerning our desires and priorities. If you want a schedule of what is happening at the Library, our librarian outlines all of the activities for the two months that the Observer covers. I encourage you to go online to use this great tool. Of course, you can continue to read the Observer in hard copy by filling out the form in the Observer each year.

Another way of keeping you informed is by email. We encourage you to give us your email so we can give you some notice of the meetings that occur all month. We promise to never share your email address with anyone. Just email us at, communitycouncil@serramesa.org and advise us that you would like to be on our email listing. We will then email you with the time, place, and program to encourage your attendance. We also encourage your using www.nextdoor.com. This is a service to connect our neighborhood.

In conclusion, the Serra Mesa Community Council, the Serra Mesa Planning Group, the Serra Mesa Recreation Center, Friends of the Library, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Serra Mesa Food Pantry, Serra Mesa Garden and Orchard, and Serra Mesa schools depend on your participation. We look forward to seeing you at our events and encourage you to get involved and assist us in our goal of a better Serra Mesa.

Have a great year and let us know how we are doing!

Carl Demas, President

SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Holiday season is almost coming to an end and we at the Serra Mesa Food Pantry would like to thank the Serra Mesa Community for your support this year. We could not do it without you! Thank you to all the people, churches and businesses which hosted food drives this year and to all the individual donors and volunteers.

But, 2014 is right around the corner, and we need your continued support! We are asking individual churches and businesses to pick a month in 2014 to host a food drive to benefit the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Wegeforth Elementary School has already accepted the challenge for the month of January and as before, Angier Elementary will be hosting their annual food drive in October. If you, your group, church or business would like to host a food drive in the available months in 2014 please send an email to: luisa.johnson@serramesafoodpantry.org. Thank you again! We are blessed to have such a wonderful base of support in this great community!



“Hunger takes no holidays”.

MEMORABLE SERRA MESA SCENES – DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

By Tom Leech

Serra Mesa has some special scenes -- buildings, objects, places, gardens -- that readily catch your eye when you see them. That is, IF you see them. This series started in the July-August Observer, and here’s the latest. Do you know what this is and where it is? For the answer, go to page 19.



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9020 Village Glen Dr.
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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

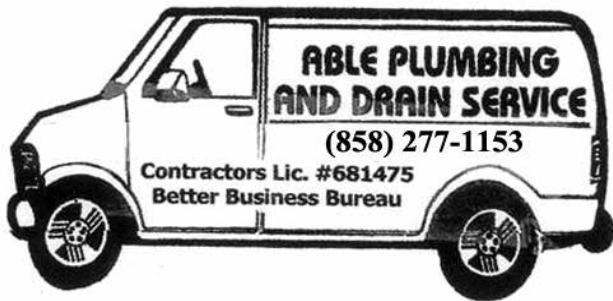
SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625

Serra Mesa Senior Softball:
(858) 279-4283

Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on
January 8th & March 12th at 6:30pm

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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

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Church email: stcolumbarectory@sbcglobal.net

Church Phone 1(858) 277-3863

Marvin Sloben

Photographer

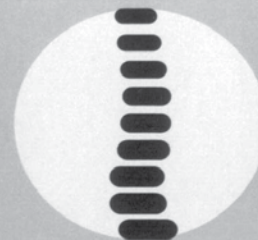
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drtoregan@hotmail.com

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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

FINDING SUPPORT IN THE CHALLENGES OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Most families find themselves alone and struggling when serious mental illness comes their way. Doctors have limited time to explain what is happening, and each family’s experience and need is different. Because of the deep and persistent need, NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) has created “Family to Family”, an educational and supportive gathering of people facilitated by people who know firsthand what others go through. The trained facilitators are family members just like the students and have a proven curriculum to work through and warm-hearted support to offer. NAMI has many other classes and support groups information is available at www.namisanidiego.org.

NAMI will bring this class to Serra Mesa on Saturdays, 10:00am - 3:30pm, starting January 11, 2014, and ending February 15, 2014. It will be held in the Meeting Room at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 2696 Melbourne Dr. While the class has usually been 3 hours for 12 weeks, this one is an experiment with an accelerated 6-week format. To register call NAMI at 619-543-1434 or 1-800-523-5933.



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

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JUAREZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Juarez student contributes to book featuring 55 young authors

Lexy Torres, a fourth grade student at Juarez Elementary School in Serra Mesa, has had her story published in an anthology that includes stories from 54 other students across America.

The story, about an injured starfish and the lessons she learns in recovery, is being published in "I Write" Short Stories by Kids for Kids, edited by Melissa M. Williams, a Texas author and president of the non-profit READ3Zero. Lexy's story was the only one selected from a Southern California student.

"Lexy has a great imagination and when she is out somewhere, she always looks around to get ideas for stories and characters" said Michelle Hutchinson, the school's library assistant.

Lexy's story is about a starfish who was injured and helped back to health by her friends. The starfish recovers, but having enjoyed the attention from her friends, tries to hide her good health. From there, life's lessons unfold.

This is the fourth year that author Melissa Williams has created "I Write."

"Encouraging not only students but parents, teachers, partners and businesses to inspire literacy is our goal with READ3Zero." she said. "The combination of literacy and creativity within the community is going to heavily influence the lives of young children to continue to learn outside of the classroom."

To learn more about Read3Zero and see the entire list of award recipients, visit www.Read3Zero.org.



ANGIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from Angier Elementary School:

Winter has finally arrived with real seasonal weather for a welcome change. Coming up in January/February is our annual All Star Jogathon February 8. This fundraiser is dedicated to supporting our amazing Toby Wells YMCA PE Outreach Program that provides every student with 20-days of free soccer, gymnastics and swimming lessons throughout the school year. This off-campus PE program, valued at \$80,000, provides qualified instructors for sports that cannot be offered at school. It is financed exclusively from generous public donations during the YMCA's Annual Support Campaign. Toby Wells YMCA is a wonderful community resource. Serra Mesa Observer readers are also welcome to partner with us by sending a tax-deductible donation to Angier PTO.

I also want to note the great learning and achievement happening at Angier. In the month of December we recognized 213 students in 3rd through 5th grade at our Honor Roll Assembly for their performance and progress on the 2013 CST. I want to applaud the students, teachers, and families for their commitment to learning. Our Angier All-Stars continue to soar each year, and we expect even more awards next year.

Angier staff and students wish Serra Mesa Observer readers a healthy and happy new year as well.

Andrew Gergurich, Principal

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WEGEFORTH?

Happy New Year from all of us at Wegeforth Elementary! We wish you good luck in 2014.

In November, Wegeforth welcomed the NED Show to our school. The NED Show is an assembly for all students, and it encourages children to be their very best. NED is an acronym, which stands for Never give up; Encourage others; and Do your best. These lessons were taught using a cartoon character named NED, humor and yo-yo tricks. Normally, the fee for hosting this assembly is \$1,200.00. However, the folks at the NED Show have a Pay it Forward program: agree to sell the NED yo-yos and accessories for five days following the show. Our Student Council decided to take this on, and they sold approximately \$1,100.00 in yo-yos and accessories. We will definitely invite the NED Show to Wegeforth next year. The students were all very excited about the yo-yos, and the message they heard in the show.

On December 6, 2013, we held our annual Winter Dance Performance. All students at Wegeforth receive instruction in dance, following the California State Standards in Dance. Each classroom performed its own number, with our 3rd/4th grade combination class choreographing their own African dance. The entire show was very impressive, and every student performed stupendously.

Our dance studio construction is on track to begin in January, and I suspect our Spring Dance Performance will be even better; students will be able to observe their movements in the floor-to-ceiling mirrors and will be able to perfect their motions using the professional grade ballet bars.

In January, we'll begin work on a new character development/habits of mind program. Our goal is to help students become the best that they can be, and the most effective way to do this is to build a culture of high character. Many of the traits we'll work on with our students also align with Common Core State Standards, such as perseverance. Teachers will be teaching lessons around the components of the program, and students will be invited to share the writing they've done about their learnings and experiences during our daily whole-school morning opening.

Also in January, we will add more after school programs for our students. Wegeforth has a free Harmonium PrimeTime before and after school program, which serves approximately 90 students. Additionally, we have Art Smart, Heartlight Aerobics, RockSTAR, and Academic Chess. Participating in these programs enriches students' lives, and building skills through art and exercise helps increase student academic achievement. We are adding Musical Minds keyboarding classes and Basketball with Coach Jesse. We look forward to our students enjoying these additional programs.

Our Student Council will be providing a valuable community service during the last week of January. As you can imagine, food banks receive the largest volume of donations around Thanksgiving and Christmas. During the remaining months, they have more difficulty securing food donations. The Wegeforth Student Council is partnering with the Serra Mesa Food Pantry and will run a food drive from January 27, 2014, through January 31, 2014. Our goal is to hold at least one food drive per school year in order to provide our community with food resources, and to instill the need for community help in our students.

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. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Drive. The next meetings are January 16 and February 20. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

SMPG elected Michael Hudon at the December 19 meeting. Michael lives near Wegeforth Elementary School and has experience with planning and construction. Thanks to Michael, we have a full board now.

On March 20, 2014 SMPG will conduct an annual election for six board members for two year terms. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml>.

Summary of November 21 and December 19 Meeting

San Diego's Water Purification Demonstration Project – Presentation was made by the City's Public Utilities Department Water Resources Specialist. Subsequently, the following information was provided by the department:

San Diego imports 85% of its water supply from the Colorado River and Northern California. Due to the rising cost of imported water and other water reliability challenges, San Diego needs to develop a local, sustainable source of drinking water. The City of San Diego's Water Purification Demonstration Project tested and confirmed the feasibility of producing a local supply of purified water that meets all safety and water quality standards. The City Council adopted the Project Report in April 2013, and now the City is developing an implementation plan for a full-scale water purification facility, continuing its education and outreach program, and working on other next steps.

For more information, visit www.purewatersd.org. You are also invited to see the water purification process up close by taking a tour of the City's demonstration-scale Advanced Water Purification Facility. Visit www.purewatersd.org/tours.shtml to sign up for an existing tour, or email purewatersd@sandiego.gov to schedule a special tour for your group.

Friars Road/SR-163 Interchange Improvements – Refer to http://sandiegoite.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/2010.06.SR163_Friars-Road_LLG.pdf for an example of the presentation and graphics that show the interchanges. Studies are being conducted to determine the best cost-effective solutions for noise mitigation for nearby residents (e.g., sound walls, home remodeling with new windows, etc.). Construction is expected to begin in early 2015.

Overview (excerpted from <http://www.sandiego.gov/cip/projectinfo/featuredprojects/friars163.shtml>):

- This project provides for construction of an extended southbound State Route 163 (SR-163) to westbound Friars Road off-ramp, widening of the Friars Road overcrossing structure to eight lanes extending to Frazee Road, and construction of a flyover structure to eliminate conflict between traffic entering southbound SR-163 and exiting SR-163 to I-8 west.

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes
November / December New and Renewed Subscribers***

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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.

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

continued from page 10

- Bike lanes and sidewalks will be constructed in both directions of Friars Road. The on and off ramps will be realigned to eliminate “free right” movements and improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Additional improvements include traffic signal modifications at the on and off ramp intersections, Frazee/Friars Road intersection and Avenida de las Tiendas/Friars Road intersection. Frazee Road near the Friars Road intersection will be reconfigured to increase the number of thru and turning lanes.
- This project includes an auxiliary lane on southbound SR-163 from Genesee Avenue to the Friars Road/SR-163 Interchange. Elimination of the weave between southbound SR-163 and exiting I-8 west traffic requires widening of the bridge over the San Diego River. Additionally, over 5,300 feet of retaining walls will need to be constructed along SR-163 and Friars Road, including one that is over 30 feet high. Friars Road widening and ramp improvements at Friars Road will be constructed with Phase I. The San Diego Bridge widening and Flyover structure will be constructed in Phase II and the southbound SR-163 auxiliary lane and northbound on-ramp with auxiliary lane will be built in Phase III.

Verizon Wireless Sandrock Sector Split, 3202 Greyling Drive – Current situation: telecommunications facility which includes an existing concrete block equipment enclosure on grade and 6 panel antennas mounted behind RF transparent radomes on two existing light standards. Proposed modifications: remove and replace 3 panel antennas on light standard #1, install new 26” radome on light standard #1, and install 6 additional 7/8” coaxial cables from equipment enclosure to light standard #1 adjacent to equipment enclosure. SMPG voted to support the proposed modifications.

Continuing Items

AeaLAS Charter School Conditional Use Permit (CUP), 9160 Gramercy Rd (former Guild Mortgage Building) – SMPG is waiting for staff comments and the completion of documents before making a recommendation to the decision maker, a Hearing Officer.

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. If you are interested in participating, please email smpg@serramesa.org.

continued from page 9

CONTINUED-WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WEGEFORTH?

Also in January, we begin our work around building a budget for the upcoming school year. The decision-making process involves staff and parents. Even with the passing of Prop 30, our school district continues to operate with a sizable deficit. This deficit has been reduced in the past two years; however, it has not been completely vanished. Therefore, the need to be thoughtful and frugal in the manners in which we budget money continues. The goal is always to ensure that the majority of school funds be tied directly to student instruction and support.

Several years ago, all of our teachers became Nurturing Scholars, which is a K-3 GATE instructional program. GATE instruction officially begins in grade three, following the GATE testing that takes place in the 2nd grade for every student in San Diego Unified School District. When all of our teachers were trained in the Nurturing Scholars, Wegeforth became a K-5 GATE school. In March, we plan to provide our teachers with a refresher in this program. GATE instruction is the perfect match for bringing students up to the levels expected by the new Common Core State Standards.

In addition to building on our K-5 GATE instruction, our teachers will be receiving supplementary instruction on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Thanks to funds our district received specifically for building the knowledge of teachers and administrators around the CCSS, each teacher will have one full day of release time that will focus solely on learning about the new standards and doing grade level instructional planning to ensure quality, standards-based instruction in every classroom. I am very excited about this additional opportunity for our staff to go along this journey together.

Our PTA has agreed to dedicate funds to purchase the materials needed to begin a Robotics program at Wegeforth. The plan is to start this program with our 5th graders, and add a grade each year. Taft is building its Robotics program as well, so we're looking forward to increasing the number of student opportunities that will continue through middle and high school. Kearny also has a Robotics program.

The Wegeforth community wishes each and every person in the Serra Mesa area a happy and prosperous 2014.

Yours in education,
Lori Sandoval
Wegeforth Principal

SERRA MESA ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Please 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.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Serra Mesa was ablaze in lights this holiday season, and the first “Serra Mesa Holiday Decorating Contest” was held on December 21. Cans or packages of food or cash donations to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry earned one vote. The winners were:

House: 3312 Stellar

Condo/Apartment/Attached home: 8682 Iverson

Street/Block: Rebecca

Business: Dr. Joe Sparrow, Dentist

The house winner, Debbie Collins, began lighting up her dark end of Stellar Avenue about 7 years ago. Following her mother’s tradition, she always decorated inside and the windows. When her daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Jon Adams, came to live with her, Debbie began to expand. They do all this the weekend after Thanksgiving, and it takes 2 to 3 days to put everything out. Debbie now has over 75 set pieces including a mailbox that opens and shuts into which children leave letters (“Santa” comes back later to retrieve them!). Raised on Pasternack Place, this is a four generation Serra Mesa effort through the donations of her dad, Bill Burmeister, and the help of her granddaughter, Madysen.

Honorable mention for homes goes to 2621 Raymell and 8631 Al Court.

Sponsors of the event were the Serra Mesa Community Council, Rawknykz Barbershop, FireRock Real Estate and Investments, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Polling places were provided by Bear Buns Bakery and Café, the Serra Mesa Food Pantry, and the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. Over \$100 and 100 cans of food were collected for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Thanks to all who participated! Hopefully, we’ll see you next year!



WATER CONSERVATION

Have you visited the City of San Diego Public Utilities’ Water Web Pages yet? This website has a plethora of valuable information regarding water conservation and services available to residents of the City of San Diego. The website address is <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/gen-info/index.shtml>.

One program from our Public Utilities Department I would especially like to share with you is the FREE Residential Water Survey Program.

This City-wide program is offering free-of-charge single-family and multifamily (up to eight units) water surveys to water customers who pay their water bills to the City of San Diego. As part of this program, a Water Conservation Representative will tour your property to identify leaks and water-saving opportunities.

Participants can receive water-saving equipment and information, including low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and other free items. The Representative will also evaluate your landscape and irrigation systems. Since this program emphasizes customer education, it is important the tenant/occupant be present at the time of the survey.

For more information, or to schedule a Water Survey, call the City of San Diego Water Conservation Hotline at (619) 570-1999 or email us at watersurvey@sandiego.gov and provide your name and day time phone number.

It is an honor to serve as your representative at City Hall. As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions or suggestions at (619) 236-6677 or email me at ScottSherman@sandiego.gov.

In Service,

Scott Sherman

Councilmember – District 7

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

January/February, 2013 Events/Programs

Adult Programs

Art Exhibits – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present the exhibit *Passin' Through: Fragments of Time and Place* by Eric Rife and Rene Gehr in the Community Room and 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.

January 10, 1:00 p.m. What to Say in a Job Interview. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how conduct yourself during a job interview.

January 14, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

January 19, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Besos de Coco. Come and enjoy a FREE concert by a local Latin American and Mediterranean trio.

January 21, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *Sky of Red Poppies* by Zohreh Ghahremani.

January 22, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

January 24, 1:00 p.m. Getting LinkedIn. Learn LinkedIn account basics in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

February 11, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club. Join members of your community to discuss *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver W. Sacks.

February 14, 1:00 p.m. Your Personal Commercial. This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how communicate your value to potential employers.

February 16, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: Neave Trio. Come and enjoy Classical music in a concert which is FREE and open to the entire family.

February 23, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society. Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

February 26, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council. A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community problems.

February 28, 1:00 p.m. Salary Negotiations. Learn how to effectively negotiate your salary in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

Children Programs

Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Homework Help – Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. The library offers free tutoring and homework help every Wednesday evening for children ages 5 and up.

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.

January 6, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

January 8 & 22, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

January 13 & 27, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

January 16, 23 & 30, 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.

February 3, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids. Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

February 5 & 19, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club. Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

February 10 & 24, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft. Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

February 13, 20 & 27, 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.

Apply for a Free Computer!!! Computers 2 SD Kids at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library – Classes on January 25 and February 22

The San Diego Public Library and Computers 2 SD Kids are teaming up to provide computers for families with children. Sign-up at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library starting on the 1st of each month. Volunteers will guide you through an introductory computer class at the library. Attendance at this class is required before you can receive a computer. Computers 2 SD Kids will give you a Technology Assistance Program application. They will review it and notify you whether you qualify based on your verified income.

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: _____

Answer from page 4

This is the Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard. It's an active set of plots for growing veggies and fruits located behind two churches on Melbourne Drive – Mission Village Christian Fellowship and Gethsemane Lutheran. You can read the history of how the community garden was birthed at www.serramesa.org/smcc/victory-garden/ is the history of how it came about – here is a segment *“Because of the success of the Serra Mesa Food Pantry, the San Diego Food Bank (SDFB) selected Serra Mesa as a possible site for a pilot program to develop a Community Garden and Orchard with plots for the benefit of the pantry and for individual households. The original idea was presented by Lisa Martinusen, Non-Profit Supervisor of the San Diego Food Bank, to Brenda Casey of Mission Village Christian Fellowship and Pastor Gloria Espeseth of Gethsemane Lutheran Church and others from their respective churches since the two churches have unused land available at the back of their adjoining lots overlooking Shawn Canyon. Significant interest was shown by not only church members but also people who use the Serra Mesa Food Pantry and members of the Serra Mesa community, including Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Community Council. Modest beginning funds have been committed, and we are awaiting word on a grant through SDFB. This is envisioned to be a true community garden with plots available to the Serra Mesa community”*

I've talked with several of the key players involved to get filled in about this intriguing spot.

The main organizer behind the Community Gardens is Victory Gardens of San Diego, linked with the New School of Architecture.. The Serra Mesa garden started with an 8-week class several years ago. Triggered by an article in the Observer, Bev Latham attended the classes, and came onboard. She brought two decades as a professional gardener and, following years of volunteering for the PTA (and the kids had grown up) felt this would be a perfect fit. And with many people enthused about the concept the SM Garden-Orchard became a reality.

Karl Doering and Bev headed up a dozen volunteers who worked diligently every Saturday for nearly a year to build fences, plant trees and create the raised garden boxes developed (put in as the original hard-pack clay is not gardening-friendly). About 2/3 of the space is for gardens, with the other third – the Orchard – occupied by fruit trees. Brad Savall heads the volunteer group that's been nursing the varieties of fruit trees, chosen to eventually have fresh fruit appearing at all seasons. The trees, donated by SDG&E, include citrus, avocados, plum, cherries (true) and apricots (which per Brad is doing well). Almost all of the fruit, and part of the veggies, goes to the SM Food Pantry.

Want to get involved? The 2nd Saturday of each month work parties form at 9 a.m. to continue the necessary tuning and pruning. The Orchard team meets once a month for a workshop, led by Brad, to learn about pruning and other key skills. And about a half-dozen garden plots are still available for those who want to start growing their own fresh veggies. For some specifics call and leave return number at 858-278-2633x12 or email info@smcgo.org. You can also visit their Facebook/webpage at www.smcgo.org.



Tom Leech

tomaseb@aol.com 858-650-0810 (office and cell)

www.outdoorssandiego.com and www.presentationspress.com (all books)

and for my recent book *On the Road in '68: a year of turmoil, a journey of friendship*, please visit amazon.com (paper back or e-book)

Serra Mesa Observer
Editor: *Ronda Adams*
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San Diego, CA 92193

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FRIENDSHIP LUNCH OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Try something new this year! Join us for the Friendship Lunch.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Mission Village Christian Fellowship offer the Serra Mesa community a soup, bread, and dessert lunch every Wednesday at noon. The "Friendship Lunch" with no age limitations is at MVCF in the even months (i.e. October) and at Gethsemane in the odd months (i.e. September). There is no cost but all are invited to bring a can or package of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. The churches are located at 2696 and 2650 Melbourne Drive. More information at 858-277-6572 or 858-278-2633.