

SERRA MESA OBSERVER

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 4 JULY / AUGUST 2023



www.serramesa.org

You are invited to participate in the

Serra Mesa Community Council

July 26, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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

Serra Mesa Community Council

August 23, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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



**Grand Opening
Taft Joint Use Park
More on page 14-15**

**Neighborhood People
and Friendly Businesses
Living and Working Together**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550
 City Councilmember Raul Campillo (619) 236-6677
 Mayor Todd Gloria (619) 236-6330
 County Supervisor Joel Anderson (619) 531-5544
 State Assembly Member Akilah Weber, MD (619) 531-7913

State Senator Toni G. Atkins (619) 645-3133
 Governor Gavin Newsom (619) 525-4641
 U.S. Representative Sara Jacobs (619) 280-5353
 U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712
 U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (619) 239-3884

Serra Mesa Community Council Board - Officers

Carl Demas.....(858) 565-2473*
President
 Cindy Moore.....(858) 565-2473*
Vice President
 Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473*
Treasurer/Community Events
 Cindy McIntyre(858) 565-2473*
Secretary

Board Members

Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473*
Current Issues
 Debbie Campbell.....(858)565-2473*
Communications
 Sam Yoeth.....(858) 565-2473*
Friends of the Library
 Rebecca Moreno(858)565-2473*
Local Business Coordinator
 Jon Cima.....(858)565-2473*
SMRC/SMPPAG
 Sandra Stahl.....(858)565-2473*
Special Projects/SMPG

Appointed Positions

Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473*
Serra Mesa Email Directory
 Ronda Adams.....(858)565-2473*
Observer Editor
 Geryl White.....(858)565-2473*
Neighborhood Awareness
 Colin Dowling(858)565-2473*
Webmaster

Key Serra Mesa Volunteers

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

Serra Mesa Community Groups

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

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

July 5	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
July 18	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
July 20	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
July 20	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
July 26	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
July 26	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Aug 15	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. 9020 Village Glen Drive
Aug 17	Serra Mesa Village Connection 3:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Aug 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Aug 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Sept 1	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Sept 6	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room

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

In This Issue...

SMCC Community Forums	1
Community Phone Numbers, Calendar	2
President's Message	3
A Code of Conduct Will Encourage...	4
County Supervisor District 4 Election	5
Serra Mesa Planning Group	6
Important Phone Numbers, Business Cards	7
Serra Mesa	8
Serra Mesa Village	10
Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library	11
The Naming of Serra Mesa	13
Grand Opening of Taft Joint Use Park	14
SDNTC Development Notice Letter	16
Tom Leech, Vacation Bible School	18
Village Calendar March/April 2023	20
Serra Mesa Food Pantry	Back Page

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 For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473 Council doesn't endorse ads.

Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles.

For articles, e-mail Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com

Deadline: September / October 2023 Edition...August 25th.

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

<http://www.serramesa.org> communitycouncil@serramesa.org



Mark your calendar Now! First and foremost, we are beginning to plan **92123 Day** on September 16th at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center ballfield. This is really going to be something. It will be an all-out day with music, games, food trucks, displays and a wonderful time like nothing we have ever had in Serra Mesa before. See flyer included with this edition.

Good news from our **Community Officer Salvatore Laurel-Torre** about crime in our area. Crime is down in our area. Stats show:

Vandalism-4 some property damage; **Domestic Violence-6**; **Simple Assault-4**; **Officer injured-1**; **Car Prowls-9** (cars broken into some stolen items); **Auto Thefts-7**; **Narcotics-2**; **Residential Burglary-1**; **Street Robbery-1**; **Rape-2**; **1 Assault with deadly weapon-1**; and **Petty Theft-2** (items stolen from yards. Should you need to contact Officer Laurel-Torre you can reach him at (619) 531-2000.

Sale of Unleaded Aviation Fuel at Montgomery Field. Implementation of an unleaded fuel option has been tabled until November of 2025. The City has opted to disregard a simple installation option in favor of the City Department of Engineering Capital Project. Your Community Council has attempted to ensure the health of our youngsters of clean air only to be overlooked by the bureaucracy. Should you have questions or comments contact the Engineering & Capital Projects Department at (619) 533-4207 or Email: engineering@sandiego.gov

Narrowing of Mission Village Drive from Ronda to Ruffin Drive - As you know this length of road will be reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes to provide for a bike lane. Currently, many residents have resented this change of the busy road only to be ignored by the City Planning Department.

Change of Serra Mesa Planning Group Status - The City of San Diego Planning Department has not been listening to our Serra Mesa Planning Group for some time. We were not

consulted on any of the building code changes as well as not considered in the SDSU West development even though it affects us more than it does Mission Valley. As a result of a coalition of San Diego Town Councils, of which Serra Mesa is one, a letter has been sent to Mayor Gloria concerning support of local planning groups. (See letter to Mayor Todd Gloria included in this Newsletter)

Join us now! A lot is happening in the process of improving Serra Mesa and we need your involvement. Let us know if you have an interest in being on our board or part of our many auxiliary groups. You can reach me at: Email: communitycouncil@serramesa.org or call and leave me a message at: (619) 565-2473 and leave me a message.

Respectfully,

Carl J. Demas, President

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church
 2235 Galahad Road
 San Diego, CA 92123
 Phone: (858) 277-2511

Fr. James Bankston
 Administrator

pastorhasd@gmail.com
www.holyangelssandiego.com
 Facebook: Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church



All are Welcome!

Holy Angels Ethnic Foods

858-268-3458

2235 Galahad Rd • San Diego, CA 92123-3931

Open 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Friday - Tuesday
(Closed Wed & Thurs)

Please always call before coming

Ethnic Foods Available

Kolbasi - Holubki - Kolachi - Pirohi - Rozky
Other seasonal items

A Code of Conduct Will Encourage Participation in Civic Affairs

By Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney

The erosion of civility in our society is troubling on many fronts, but especially when it infringes on people's ability to participate in matters of public importance.

For those of us who were brought up to say "please" and "thank you," it is disheartening to see how everyday interactions can now be punctuated by rudeness or personal attacks. Incivility rarely has consequences, and it can even be celebrated – on social media and by the mainstream media – as clever, or justified, or important.

Each round of bad behavior encourages and makes easier the next. The result is that many people no longer want to participate in public discourse.

I'm not here as Miss Manners, but as your City Attorney. I see the effects of incivility through the lens of city government and how it can impede our ability to best serve our constituents. In my view, full public participation depends on our creating safe places for our citizens to interact with city officials and with each other.

Our city needs to operate with a Code of Conduct that protects the public's rights before things get too far out of hand. Through such a code, we can set standards for how city officials, city employees, and the public treat each other when we are conducting official business.

For example, members of the public should not be intimidated from giving input into public policy. If they cannot address the City Council without being vilified by people who disagree with them, they may never return to the council chambers. They may also balk at bringing other concerns to our attention, such as reporting sexual harassment, conflicts of interest, or other serious problems.

At a recent public hearing on a contentious issue, one group of San Diegans repeatedly hurled vile insults at another during the public comment period. Nothing was said to lower the temperature in the room or subdue the angry rhetoric, perhaps because we're so accustomed to ugly behavior that we no longer gauge its impact on others. But nothing prevents us from promoting mutual respect. Rather than impeding free speech, it encourages it.



Many agencies across the country have adopted codes of conduct. They typically include:

- Creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that allows people of different viewpoints to disagree and freedom to challenge one another's thinking.
- Modeling of professional and respectful behavior by all elected and appointed officials, including their facial expressions and body language.
- Allowing speakers to make remarks without interruption or argument.
- Promoting thoughtful debate that is free of accusations and personal attacks.
- Extending courtesy even to those who don't return it. Our values are cheapened if they apply only to those who share our views.

Frequently a code of conduct, once adopted, will be posted at public meetings, printed in their agendas, and shown as part of televised proceedings. It also should apply to employees who take phone calls, answer emails, field complaints, or in any way interact with the public.

Of course, adopting a code, and even referring to it regularly, will not prevent some people from acting coarsely and interfering with the conduct of business. But a code can discourage those people from crossing a line that leads to their removal from a public building or meeting.

Just as importantly, everyone benefits from occasional reminders about how a civil society works. If the loudest and rudest appear to wield the greatest influence, it may be tempting for others to adopt their tactics. Setting ground rules to make clear what we should expect, and what is expected of us, allows everyone to have a fuller voice in our civic affairs.

County Supervisor District 4 Election

The area of Serra Mesa west of I-805 (includes Phyllis Place and Birdland neighborhoods) is located in District 4. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher resigned from the position in May and a special election will be held to fill his seat. The term ends in January 2027. Candidates are Janessa Goldbeck, Amy Reichert, and Monica Montgomery Steppe.

You can check the district you live in by going to the San Diego County Registrar of Voters at sdvote.com.

The League of Women Voters of San Diego is hosting a candidate forum on Saturday, July 8, 11:00 am- 12:30 pm at City Heights Recreation Center, 4380 Landis Street. More information is at <https://lwvsandiego.org/>. If the League records the forum, it will be available online.

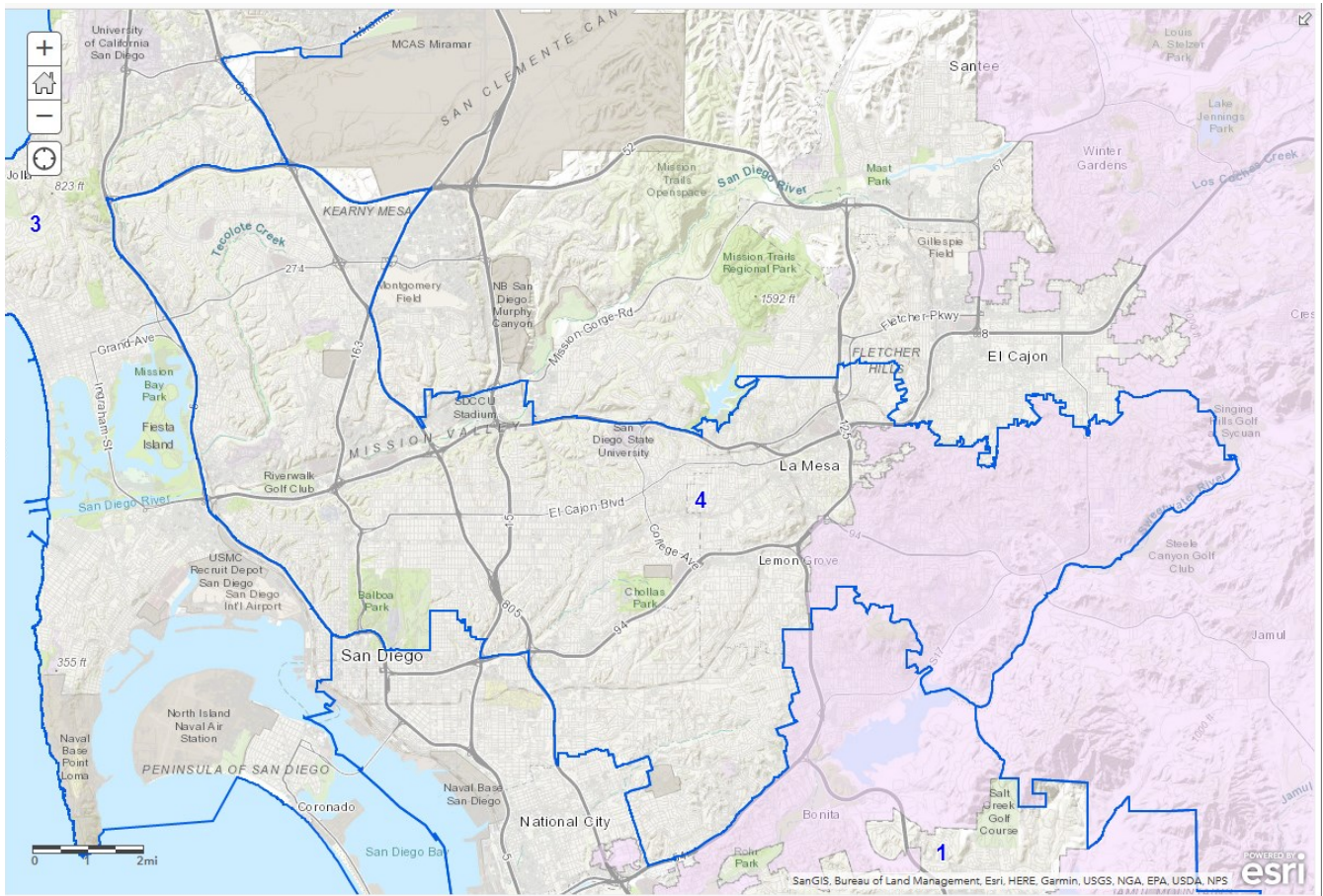
Important Dates

Week of July 16 – Mail ballots distributed

July 31 – Voter registration deadline

August 15 – Primary Election

November 7 – General Election (if no candidate wins a majority of the vote)



Serra Mesa Planning Group News

Meetings: The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive, and via online. To receive notices about meetings, which would include a link for the online meeting, sign up at <http://www.serramesa.org/>. Agendas posted at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/serramesa/agendas>. Next meetings: July 20 and August 17. To contact us, email smpg@serramesa.org.

Board: SMPG's bylaws allow fifteen 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 businessperson and who has attended two SMPG meetings in the last six months is eligible to be elected. The City provides training. See <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources>. Any qualified person interested in filling a board opening can be elected at a board meeting. If interested in joining the board, please contact smpg@serramesa.org.

Action Items, May 18th Meeting

Wireless Communication Facility at 2696 Melbourne Dr presentation made by Harold Thomas Jr, AT&T

- 40' high tall faux eucalyptus tree
- 12 antennas; 9 remote radio units
- FirstNet for First Responders, emergency backup generator
- 300-foot ground level equipment enclosure, faux rock
- Tower meets San Diego city and FCC requirements.
- Located near labyrinth.

Major concern about exposure for children expressed by meeting attendees regarding tower proximity to Gethsemane Lutheran Church Preschool and Juarez Elementary School. Mitigation efforts to stem the possible harmful effects of the tower to children were discussed and included but not limited to prudent avoidance, coding, shields, paint, foliage, curtains and other deemed material to protect grown and developing children.

Motion passed that the AT&T tower is approved as designed with potential mitigation efforts between AT&T, Gethsemane Lutheran Church Preschool and church prior to protect children.

Housing Action Package 2.0 (HAP) – Includes SB-10 section. SB 10, a state law, is optional; no other city in California has opted in, yet; once implemented, can't be undone by City Council or any future City Council.

- More than 50% of city's single-family dwellings eligible for SB 10
- Up to 10 units (1 per 1,000 s.f. of lot space)
- No on-site parking required.
- No public input or notice

Refer to <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/housing-action-package> and to Observer May-June 2023 edition for more information.

Motion passed that the Serra Mesa Planning Group opposes the SB-10 section of the Housing Package 2.0 and have SB-10 portion pulled from the Housing Package 2.0.

Subsequently, the Planning Commission heard the item and continued it to their August 3rd meeting.

Budget Town Hall – An important project for Serra Mesa is the Serra Mesa Recreation Center, which is in need of either total rehabilitation or, at a minimum, major repairs. Encourage City Councilmember Raul Campillo and Mayor Todd Gloria to include this project.

Reports from Elected Officials

City Councilmember Raul Camillo's Representative, Miles Noel – Budget goal and investments in District 7 include: Renovations to Serra Mesa Recreation Center, no more pedestrian deaths, increase police officers and fire inspectors and to prepare for wildfires.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000	Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436	Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Animal Control-Incorporated S.D.	(619) 299-7012	Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004	Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411	Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191	Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000	Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000	RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477	SDG&E Emergencies	(800) 411-7343
Dead Animal Removal stay online	(858) 694-7000	Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490	Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Fallen Trees	(858) 527-7500	Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300	Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888	Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522	Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000	Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222	Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886	Water Emergencies - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055	Weeds	(619) 533-4444
		Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000



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

www.stcolumbasandiego.com

Sunday Mass 7:30, 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 Mon-Thurs. 7:00 a.m.
 Fri. 8:15 a.m.
 Holy Days Please call the church for schedule

ABLE PLUMBING AND DRAIN SERVICE

SCOTT FIORI
 PLUMBER92123@GMAIL.COM

8431 FIRESIDE AVE, SAN DIEGO CA 92123
 CALL OR TEXT 619 985 8204

CA LICENSE 681475



OFFICE
 2650 Melbourne Drive
 San Diego, CA 92123
 858.278.2633
missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net
www.missionvillage.church

STEVE DE VOS, PASTOR
 Cell: 858.829.2097
stevedevos79@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 AM
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Youth Group—Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Small Group Study & Home Fellowship
Groups at Various times through the week.

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



Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

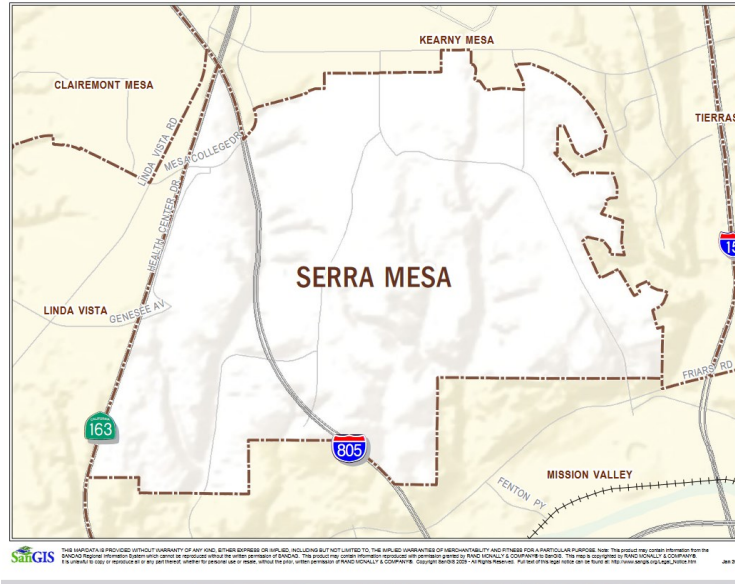
2696 Melbourne Drive
 San Diego, CA 92123
 858-277-6572
www.gethsemanesd.org

Cell: 858-883-8038
 E-Mail: karla.seyb.stockton@me.com
 Worship: 8:00, 9:30 a.m.

Serra Mesa

Name – Selected in a 1961 community contest and ratified by the City Council. Refer to the *Naming of Serra Mesa* by Peggy Lacy article in this Observer edition for details. Also, the article is printed at <http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/serra-mesa-history/>.

Boundaries – Official map from the City of San Diego:



Neighborhoods – When Serra Mesa was founded in the 1950s and 60s there were numerous neighborhoods with their own identity. Currently some of the most well-known neighborhoods are Birdland, Mission Village, and Village at Serra Mesa (formerly Cabrillo Heights Military Housing). These neighborhoods are all part of Serra Mesa.

Recreation

Serra Mesa Recreation Center, 9020 Village Glen Dr; Gymnasium, Kiln, Kitchen, Multipurpose rooms

Parks

- Serra Mesa Community Park, 9020 Village Glen Dr; Softball, Basketball, Playground, Tot Lot
- Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park, 8303 Hurlbut St; Baseball, Softball, Comfort Station, Concession Stand, Multipurpose field, Playground
- Murray Ridge Neighborhood Park, 8651 Celestine Ave; Basketball Courts, Playground, Tennis Court, Pickleball Court (no net)

Joint Use Parks (Located on school property with use agreement between City of San Diego and San Diego Unified School District) – Typically open to the community when school not in session

- Angier, 8450 Hurlbut St; Basketball courts, Multipurpose fields, Softball
- Cubberley, 3201 Marathon Dr; Basketball courts, Multipurpose field, Playground
- Fletcher, 7666 Bobolink Way; Basketball court, Multipurpose field, Playground, Softball, Tot lot
- Juarez, 2633 Melbourne Dr; Basketball courts, Multipurpose fields, Playgrounds, Softball, Tot lot
- Taft, 9191 Gramercy Dr; Grass playfield, Walking/Running Track, Hardcourts (Pickleball, Tennis, Basketball), Exercise Equipment, Drinking Fountain, Parking Lot
- Wegeforth, 3443 Ediwhar Ave (enter from Village Glen); Grass playfield, Comfort station, Multipurpose field, Softball, Parking Lot

Trails – Discussed at a Serra Mesa Community Council 2021 meeting. The PowerPoint presentation, the brochure with the native plants found in Ruffin Canyon, and a resource guide with a map and list of trails and parks in Serra Mesa and other hiking resources are posted at <http://www.serramesa.org/friends-of-ruffin-canyon/>.

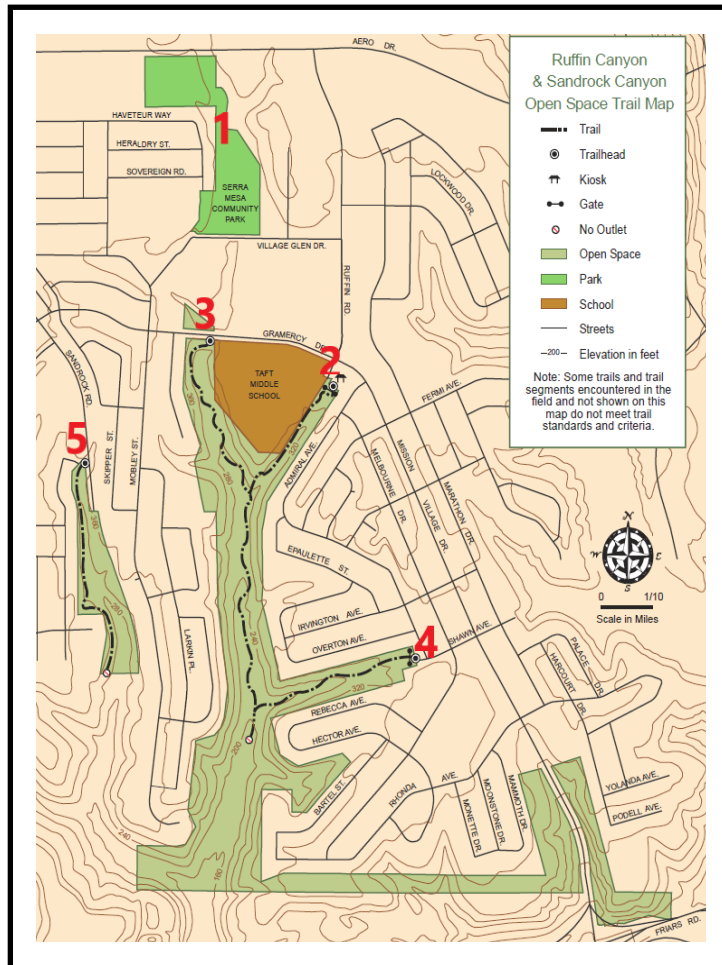
Continued from page 8

The August/September edition of the Observer will include a description of Serra Mesa community groups.

Serra Mesa Trails (Refer to Map)

Name	Location	Distance (est)	Ease	Parking
1 Trail between Library and Recreation Center	Either start at path behind library or behind recreation center	.4 mi roundtrip	Easy	Library or Recreation Center
2 Native Habitat Garden	End of Ruffin Rd	<.25 mi	Easy	Street Parking
2 Ruffin Canyon (east side of Taft to Mission Valley)	End of Ruffin Rd. Path between Native Habitat Garden & Taft Middle School	2.6 mi roundtrip	Difficult	Street Parking
3 Ruffin Canyon Loop	Either start at path between Native Habitat Garden & Taft Middle School or at west end of Taft at Gramercy	1.4 mi roundtrip	Intermediate	Street Parking at Ruffin or Gramercy
4 Shawn Canyon	End of Shawn Ave	2.5 mi roundtrip	Intermediate	Street Parking
5 Sandrock Canyon Rim Sandrock to Kobe Kobe to Gowdy	End of Sandrock Rd	Roundtrip <.1 mi <1 mi	Easy Intermediate	Street Parking

Serra Mesa Trails Map



Map adapted from City of San Diego's website



Serra Mesa has had a Senior Organization called the Serra Mesa Village since 2014. Our group is made up of folks that are aged 55+. The objective of the Village Movement is to provide purpose, recreation, and companionship for people who want to age in place while remaining in their current homes. We are a community-based organization under the umbrella of the Serra Mesa Community Council and therefore a non-profit organization so any dues or donations are tax exempt. We are not affiliated with any church as this is a community based social organization to help fill senior years with activities and events.

Living Well. As an overview of the eight dimensions of well-being, one of the most prevalent is to avoid isolation and loneliness. The activities of the Serra Mesa Village are designed to allow us to be involved in events with each other in a manner to provide association.

Our **Serra Mesa Village Connection Meetings** occur on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Library. The subject of our meetings is to encourage Good Mental Health through awareness of issues that are meaningful to seniors. Our June meeting was a presentation by the City of San Diego to provide contact to every member of the Village to insure that they are doing well through contact vial phone.

Our Village Movie occur on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, we provide movies at 2Pm at Holy Angels Byzantine Church to allow our members to enjoy 1st run movies together.

Village Travel or Lunch – On the 1st Thursday of each month we meet to travel to a well-known San Diego Destination or

Restaurant for those who have difficulty getting around. At this time we can catch with each other’s lives and reveal what is exciting or not in each our lives. It is always a time of fun and laughter as only interesting characters are part of our group and we genuinely love to “hang out” together.

Zoom or Library Programs – At least 2 times a month we participate in Zoom Calls, Library Events, or Oasis Programs that bring information to our membership.

Finally, we interface with organizations such as **elder help** who provides services to seniors such as home share with options for Rental Programs, Service Exchange (free room in exchange for help such as transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, and companionship), and trained social workers.

If you, a neighbor, or someone you know could benefit from our group, please contact us at: Serra Mesa Village,

P.O. Box 3315, San Diego, CA 92193, (858)565-2473 (Leave a message) or email: serramesavillage10@gmail.com

Carl Demas, President of the Serra Mesa Village Board.

Serra Mesa Recreation Center

9020 Village Glen Dr.

(858) 573-1408

1:00 - 8:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

1:00 - 9:00 p.m. Wednesday

2:00-6:00 p.m. Friday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday.

Community Sports Information:

A.Y.S.O. Soccer: (858) 268-5880

<http://www.ayso780.org>

N.Y.S. Soccer : (858) 973-6101

SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625

Serra Mesa Senior Softball:

(858) 279-4283

Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on

July 18 & August 15 at 6:30 p.m.



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

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library

(858) 573-1396 [facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/SerraMesaLibrary/)

Email Questions to SMstaff@sandiego.gov

Library Hours

Monday and Tuesday: 11:30 am - 8:00 pm

Wednesday through Saturday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Holiday Closures

All San Diego Public Library Locations will be closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Online library services available 24/7

eBooks, eAudiobooks and Digital Magazines: take a look at our eLibrary resource, we've got some new resources for the kids and adults <https://sandiego.gov/eLibrary>

Movies: Free access to movies with your library card <https://sandiegopl.kanopy.com/>

Online Book Clubs: <https://sandiego.gov/bookclubs>

Program Videos: <https://sandiego.gov/public-library/program-videos>

Summer Reading Program 2023!! June 1 to August 31

Join the Summer Reading Program and Find Your Voice! It's free to sign up for ALL AGES at www.sandiegolibrary.org. Keep track of the books you read this summer with your online reading log and earn prizes for reading! Every Tuesday through August 15th at 4:00 p.m., join us for a special Summer Reading Event featuring clowns, magicians, animals, and more!

In-Person Pajama Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Mondays at 6:30pm

Put on your favorite PJs and join Ms. Carrie in the Community Room Monday evenings at 6:30pm for a pajama storytime. Pajamas are encouraged, but not required. No sign up required.

Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytime with Ms. Carrie – Wednesdays at 10:00am

Join Ms. Carrie, on Zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for virtual stories, songs, and fun that foster early literacy skills. Register at the SDPL Virtual Branch at www.SanDiego.LibraryMarket.com When you register for one storytime, you will receive an email with the Meeting Room and Passcode good for storytimes for future Virtual Wednesday Morning Storytimes, so you do not need to register for each session.

Paws to Read with Love on a Leash – 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:00pm

Children can read aloud to trained and certified therapy dogs. "Paws to Read" is designed to help children improve their reading skills and confidence in reading out loud.

Chair Yoga – Tuesdays at 11:45am

Work on your flexibility, strength building, and quiet your mind with functional movement practice Thursdays at 11:45am. Participate at your own ability. Suitable for adults of all ages. Wear flexible clothing and bring any preferred yoga equipment. Chairs provided.

Morning Book Club - 2nd Thursday, 10:00am

Love to read and talk about books? Join the new Morning Book Club! July 13 will discuss *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot, and August 10 will discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

July 5, 6:00pm Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library Meeting.

Community members are welcome to join, become a member, and discuss ways to support the library. This meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. Please email serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com for the log in information.

July 11, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Zovargo.

Zovargo provides an interactive program featuring friendly animal ambassadors! Get close & experience an animal program that is full of fun!

July 18, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Ralph's World.

Ralph Covert of Ralph's World will lead kids and parents on a musical journey of fun. Kids will find their own voices as they join in with singing, dancing, pretending to be animals, and lots of silliness.

July 25, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Sparkles the Clown.

Join us as Sparkles the Clown drops by to give us a hilarious and whimsical magic and bubble show!

August 1, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Found Object Juggling with Michael Rayner.

A juggling show like no other! See TikTok sensation, Michael Rayner, perform strange and amazing feats with everyday objects!

August 18, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Noteworthy Puppets *The Three Little Pigs*.

The timeless lesson that hard work and dedication pay off comes to life with handmade puppets and original songs. While two little pigs are content to take the easy route, their pigheadedness could spell trouble when the Big Bad Wolf comes knocking. Will the third Little Pig, who has a commitment to excellence, have the inventiveness to save the day?

August 15, 4:00 p.m. Summer Reading Program: Wild Wonders.

Come meet and learn about real life wild animals! Wild Wonders will bring a variety of live wild animals to the library.

Friends of the Library Donations

The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library are currently accepting book donations during the library's open hours.

Friends of the Library Volunteers Needed

Looking to get more involved with your community? Love books and your library? Reach out to Friends of Serra Mesa Library to hear more about how you can help! Email us at serramesalibraryfriends@gmail.com or DM on Instagram @serramesalibraryfriends

Mobile Hotspots

Mobile Hotspots are now available for check out at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library. The mobile hotspots are easy to use and allow users to connect their laptop, tablet and other Wi-Fi enabled devices to the internet. Find out more information at <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/san-diego-access-4-all>



The Naming of Serra Mesa

The builders of 1950's and 60's American suburbia did not agree. No title was too grandiose, too cloying or coy to attach to their groupings of mass produced houses. The tracts of Serra Mesa sprung up after the Korean War were no exception. The area was parceled out into neighborhoods with such unlikely names as Murray Ridge Estates, Princess Park, and Royal Highlands.

Developers carried their fanciful selection of names over into their naming of streets. Our streets bear the names of family members, friends, pets, favorite places or things. Birdland derives its designation from the fact that it was laid out with streets named after birds. In a dispute with his wife over the naming of a street, one builder settled on Haveteur Way or "have it your way."

American Housing Guild's Mission Village, on the other hand, had the distinction of being located within reasonable proximity of its namesake, the Mission San Diego de Alcala. In fact, all of the area we now call Serra Mesa was originally part of the Mission Rancho Lands of San Diego granted to the Catholic Church by the King of Spain.

When Mexico broke the power of the Church in 1834, the lands were deeded over to men like Don Santiago Arguello. His family held onto the grant, about 15,999 acres, as long as it could, but eventually the land was sold, divided, and settled by miscellaneous ranchers and homesteaders.

Our modern suburban history began with the Navy's Cabrillo Heights housing project built in the early 50's after the Korean War. Surrounding development occurred thereafter, most between 1955 and 1965.

The tracts were the creation of developers who were largely oblivious to modern concepts of community planning. Clusters of houses were plopped down here and there with little or no rhyme or reason except that the land was cheap and the parents of baby boomers were in search of nests. The advent of the freeways and imported water also contributed to the sudden expanse of tract housing on our barren mesa.

The name game came to a dramatic conclusion in June of 1961 when the Cabrillo Mission Community Council held a contest to name all of the communities from Birdland to Mission Village. Six names were submitted by area residents. Mrs. John Dowling submitted the winning entry, Serra Mesa. Her prize was a \$25 savings bond and a \$10 gift certificate! The City Council acted swiftly to ratify the selection, and hence forth, our entire community has been known as Serra Mesa.

Perhaps Gertrude Stein was right after all. Whether we live in Mission Village, Princess Park or Birdland we all live in a united Serra Mesa. "A Rose is a Rose is a Rose..."

by Peggy Lacy (Reprint, Serra Mesa Observer, July 1992)



Grand Opening of Taft Joint Use Park

The grand opening for the Taft Joint Use Park was June 5. Speaking at the opening were Vice President of Board of Education and Serra Mesa's representative Shana Hazan, City Councilmember Raul Campillo, Taft Middle School Principal Hortensia Garcia-Rubio, and Taft students. Kearny High School basketball students attended the opening and joined Taft students on the court. For a full description of the event go [HERE \(https://www.sandiegounified.org/about/newscenter/all_news/taft_m_s_joint-use_field_opens\)](https://www.sandiegounified.org/about/newscenter/all_news/taft_m_s_joint-use_field_opens).

The park includes a ½ mile walking/running track, concrete hardcourts (pickleball, tennis, basketball), exercise equipment, large grassy field, drinking fountain (includes dog fountain), trees, benches, tables, security fencing, gates, and a separate parking lot.

Joint use park agreements between the City of San Diego and SDUSD allow for a park to be used by school children when school is in session and by the general public when school is not in session.

Check out the park – enjoy the canyon view, exercise, picnic, play games, or rest.

This beautiful park is full of amenities to be enjoyed by Taft students and the community.

Background

July 2016 – The former Serra Mesa Park & Recreation Council voted to approve the joint use project concept (included a raised stage) after meeting numerous times with City staff and consultants regarding the design of the park.

January 2017 – The Park & Recreation Board approved the design.

June 2017 – The Serra Mesa Recreation Council approved amendment for additional multi-purpose natural turf field.

July 2017 – Park and Recreation Board approved amendment for additional multi-purpose natural turf field.

June 2019 – Agreement that SDUSD would construct the park since their desire for an additional field increased the cost of the project. The school district contributed 5.3 acres of land and approximately \$4.4 million; the City, \$3 million (additionally \$419,000 was spent “to complete the public input GDP and construction document phases of the project”).

The City's funding for the park comes primarily from the fees collected from the Olympus Corsair housing project (formerly Palladium) on Aero Drive. Former City Councilmember Donna Frye was in office when the project was proposed in 2008.

Subsequently, SDUSD removed the raised stage from the project because of funding issues.

July 2022 – Joint use agreement: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/joint-use-taft-middle.pdf>

Thanks to the efforts of former City Councilmember Donna Frye's funds received from the Olympus Corsair project were available for development of the park. Additional thanks go to the many community members who worked on the design of the park.





June 1, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Gloria:

The San Diego Network of Town Councils (SDNTC) wants to express support of the San Diego Community Planning Groups and asks for better transparency to the community in the planning process. Specifically, we would like San Diegans to have thorough and contemporaneous notice of building proposals and permits, both ministerial and discretionary.

The SDNTC is made up of civic minded volunteer leaders from a large number of San Diego's Community Associations, Town Councils and other community groups. Each group meets with their community members to share information and hear concerns about local issues. Notice and transparency of process are very important issues over which our communities have great concern.

We understand there is a pressing need for market rate, affordable, and low-income housing. In response to that demand, California and the City of San Diego enacted legislation that expedites residential construction. In a recent meeting among the leaders listed below, most of the communities expressed concern over the lack of notice and process for development in our communities. Also of great concern is the limited information provided to our Community Planning Groups (CPG).

We look to improve processes of urban development in our neighborhoods and the citizens most affected. We propose the following:

1. That the City of San Diego's Development Services Department (DSD) begin to immediately publish real time information on their website, a list of all building permits requested, by month, in an address and zip code searchable format. *All* permits or developments include both ministerial and discretionary.
2. That our Councilmembers be given notice of all building permits on a monthly basis to have the opportunity to inform their constituents of those developments.
3. That notice of all development applications be provided on a monthly basis to the Community Planning Group for robust examination and recommendation to the City.
4. That upon request of the Community Planning Group, any development, whether ministerial or discretionary, be placed on the CPG agenda for discussion.

Page 2

Mayor Todd Gloria

Each of our neighborhoods have their own CPG. Historically, CPGs have not only been given deference, but acted as the communication conduit for our communities. Even City Council's own policies establish a procedure for the CPG to make advisory recommendations to the City on land use matters within the CPG's planning area. See - City Council Policy 600-24.

Although private project applicants are not required to present their plans to the CPG, the CPG should be apprised of all building plans and developments in their planning area. This would foster, consistent with Council's own policy, "...robust engagement with CPGs, the community, and project neighbors¹."

Ministerial permit review and issuance should not preclude notice or robust CPG examination. Every real estate development can be for community benefit. But every such development has the potential to impose something adverse on the neighborhood. We hope that developments, shared with the public and CPG, can emerge with enhancements in design and with more benefit to the people it is meant to serve.

The citizenry is a powerful tool and valuable resource in the urban development process. We are more than willing to support the goals of community development through the agency relationships of our Community Associations/Town Councils and our 42 Community Planning Groups.

Transparency and Communication is key to a successful government+community partnership. We look forward to the developing changes and continued dialogue.

Respectfully,

Lynn Haims, Nicole Crosby and Lil Nover

San Diego Network of Town Councils

Signed:

Shain Haug – Allied Gardens Town Council

John Percy – Bankers Hill Community Group

Nicole Crosby – Clairemont Town Council

Laura Riebau – El Cerrito Community Council

Gary Wonacott – Residents for Mission Beach

Klaus Mendenhall – Mission Beach Town Council

Tracy Dezenzo – Ocean Beach Town Council

Wayne English – Paradise Hills Village Council

Lynn Edwards – Rolando Park Community Council

Robert Campbell – Rosemont Community Town Council

Mickey Zeichick – San Carlos Area Council

Carl Demas – Serra Mesa Town Council

Bob Ilko – Scripps Ranch Civic Association

Lillith Nover – Sorrento Valley Town Council

Chris Shamoon – Tierrasanta Town Council

Marc Johnson – University Hts. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Council

Steve Lamprides – Webster Community Council

Cc: City Councilmembers Districts 1-9

Elyse Lowe, Director, Development Services Department

Heidi Vonblum, Director, Planning Department
City of San Diego Community Planning Groups

¹ City Council Policy 600-24

My Life's Stirring Adventures

Our Serra Mesa neighbor, Tom Leech, has a new book just out. ***“My Life’s Stirring Adventures,”*** is a look at many pursuits, travels, and activities Tom has undergone during his more than a few years in this world. It’s a memoir with lots of fun details about his experiences in the U. S. and many other countries he’s visited. In one six-months journey he did about 50 years ago (yes, he’s been around awhile), he visited 27 countries. Especially memorable were the people he got to know along the way, and the several he continues to stay in touch with decades later.

Years later he published a book about that journey, called ***“On the Road in ‘68: a year of turmoil, a journey of friendship.”*** Tom is a prolific author, with books covering a variety of topics: enjoying nature, experiencing travel, relaying humorous true tales, and, with his wife, Leslie, even stirring us with Christmas adventures. His poems have appeared in many of his own books, magazines, and group anthologies.

Before he hit the road for those many months, Tom had been employed as an engineer at the Kearny Mesa General Dynamics Astronautics Division. A senior manager had authorized his departure and, fortunately for Tom, welcomed him back on board. A couple months later, he was moved over to a new job in Atlas/Centaur marketing. He recalls a fellow employee remarking “This guy goes on vacation for six months, comes back, and 2 months later gets promoted!”

Tom worked another dozen years for GD, then left to start his own coaching service and become a more active author. Tom and Leslie moved to Serra Mesa nearly 30 years ago, and he’s been a member of the SMCC (Serra Mesa Community Council) for several years.

Tom’s newest book will be available at Barnes & Noble (his publisher) bookstores. For info about all his books, visit his website www.presentationspress.com, amazon.com, and social networks. You can purchase any of his books via those places as well. Tom invites you to communicate with him via Facebook and e-mails tomaseb@aol.com or tomleech68@gmail.com.



MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Vacation Bible School

JULY 25-28 2023
6:00PM-8:15PM

2650 MELBOURNE DR
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

Register at: www.missionvillage.church/2023vbs

The poster features a dark blue and black background with a starry space theme. At the top, the text 'MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP' is written in a gold, sans-serif font. Below this is a central oval logo with a colorful nebula background, containing the word 'STELLAR' in large, metallic, 3D letters and the tagline 'SHINE JESUS' LIGHT' in smaller white text. The main title 'Vacation Bible School' is written in a large, flowing, purple cursive font. Below the title, the dates and times 'JULY 25-28 2023' and '6:00PM-8:15PM' are displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. The address '2650 MELBOURNE DR' and 'SAN DIEGO, CA 92123' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the registration information 'Register at: www.missionvillage.church/2023vbs' is written in a purple, sans-serif font.

92123 DAY CELEBRATION - NO.2

BRING
BLANKET
&
LAWN
CHAIRS

VISIT
PHOTO &
MEMORABILIA
TENT

ZIPCODE

9 2123

TAX
DEDUCTIBLE
DONATIONS
@SMCC.ORG

SATURDAY,
SEPT, 16TH
10AM-4PM


VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
2 HOUR
SHIFTS



FOLLOW 92123 DAY PAGE ON FB FOR UPDATES

9020 VILLAGE GLEN DRIVE 92123

FREE FAMILY EVENT

◀ June		JULY 2023 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS					August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Nat'l Gingersnap Day	
2	3 Eat your beans Day	4 Independ. Day 	5 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	6 11:00 AM- LETS GO TO LUNCH DAY SM/KM	7 Nat'l Macaroni Day	8 Body Painting Day	
9	10	11 2:00 PM - SUNV MOVIE HABC	12 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	13 1:00 PM - SUNV ZOOM CHAT	14	15	
16	17	18	19 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	20 Lollipop Day	21 Junk Food Day	22	
23	24 Tell an Old Joke Day I can do that	25 2:00 PM - SUNV MOVIE HABC	26 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	27 1:00 PM - SUNV ZOOM CHAT	28	29 Chicken Wing Day	
30	31 Nat'l Avocado Day	SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD					

AUGUST 2023 SERRA MESA VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS							September ▶
← July	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	3 11:00 AM- LETS GO TO LUNCH DAY SM/KM	4 Nat'l Beer Day	5 Nat'l Hangover Day
6 Wiggle your toes day	7		8 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	9 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	10 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT	11	12
13	14 Nat'l Creamsicle Day		15	16 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	17 2:00-4:00 PM - SMV CONNECTION MTG SM/KM	18	19 Nat'l Potato Day
20	21 Senior Citizens Day YAY!!		22 2:00 PM - SMV MOVIE HABC	23 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	24	25 Banana Split Day	26
27	28		29 More Herbs Less Salt Day	30 12:30 - 4:30 - CERAMICS SMRC	31 1:00 PM - SMV ZOOM CHAT		

SMRC - SERRA MESA REC CTR 9020 VILLAGE DRIVE
 SM/KM - SERRA MESA/ KEARNY MESA LIBRARY - 9005 AERO DR
 HABC - HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CHURCH - 2235 GALAHAD RD

Serra Mesa Observer

Editor: *Ronda Adams*

Post Office Box 23315

San Diego, CA 92193

Dated Material

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Has a Drive-Thru distribution every Wednesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Located at Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive 92123

858-278-2647

