



THURS APRIL 2
UHCA Meeting

- ☛ Crime watch 6:45 pm
- ☛ Living in Harmony/Urban Wildlife presentation
- ☛ Drop off "doggie poop bags" and eyeglasses for Lions Optometric Vision Clinic
- ☛ Light refreshments

Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium
4345 Campus Ave.

University Heights Community Association April 2015

NEWS

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University Heights Top Chargers Stadium Pick

By AF Daie

The San Diego mayor's committee to find a home for the new Chargers stadium has settled on the Board of Education property in University Heights as their top choice. "The central location and proximity to downtown is ideal," said committee head, Dan Freed. While there's enough property to build the new state of the art 100,000 seat capacity stadium, there's no room for parking. To solve that, a multi-level parking structure will be built in the canyon surrounded by Highway 163 below and Johnson, Maryland and Meade Streets above. Automobile access to the parking will be through new exits built on 163 and I-8. Fans will exit the parking structure on Maryland Street for the easy 2 block walk to the stadium. To combat the anticipated noise from drunk, rowdy fans walking through the neighborhood, each homeowner along the main walking route will be given a yard sign stating, "Quiet! It's Our Neighborhood!" "These signs have proven to be 100% ineffective in other areas," said Freed.



THURSDAY APRIL 2 UHCA MEETING

Speakers at the meeting will include representatives from two organizations that provide care and resources to local wildlife populations and surrounding communities - the Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, an affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States, and Project Wildlife, which recently merged with the SD Humane Society and the SD SPCA.



Photo by David Holts

and also discuss how to deal with the predatory animals that live in our canyons, particularly coyotes.

The mission of Project Wildlife is to improve the quality of life for local wildlife and communities such as University Heights

can serve as the primary resource for animal rehabilitation and conservation education. Since 1972, Project Wildlife's dedicated staff and volunteers have given injured, orphaned, and sick wild animals a second chance. In addition to Project Wildlife's Triage Centers in Metro SD and Carlsbad, they offer more than 70 satellite care sites manned by volunteer rehabilitators who work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide pre-release care. The group has trained at least 10 animal-specific teams to care for rabbits, raptors, raccoons and others. The Project Wildlife speaker will discuss the most common issues surrounding urban native wildlife populations and how we can live in harmony with them.

This meeting will offer the perfect opportunity to have your questions answered regarding how to keep your pets safe, what are the proper forms of cruelty-free pest control, what to do when you discover an injured animal, and more. It will provide actionable takeaways to help all UH residents compassionately co-exist with our beautiful surroundings and native residents, so you don't want to miss it!

Canyon Wildlife Photos and article by David Holts



RACOONS

coyotes, squirrels and rats. Many bird species nest or migrate through these canyons this time of year.

Watch for nesting birds from the small Anna's hummingbird to Black-hooded orioles and large raptors, including Red-tailed and Coopers hawks and Great-horned owls. Although not seen often, the canyons also provide good habitat for garter and gopher snakes .

The dusk-to-dawn period is especially busy with mammals. Skunks, foxes and raccoons are out looking for food, including your vegetable garden and fruit trees. Opossums are an introduced marsupial in San Diego and, while not very pretty, they serve an important role by eating insects, snails, small rodents and uncollected fallen fruit from our

Continued on Page 3

It's springtime and San Diego's canyon lands, including our canyons here in University Heights, are blooming with native plants and wildlife. San Diego's canyon complex allows wildlife to easily move from the coast to the Llagunas and Anza Borrego. The canyons provide an abundant habitat for many mammals, birds and reptiles. These include Grey foxes, skunks, opossums, raccoons,

Bike Master Plan By Beth Jaworski

San Diego has a "Bike Master Plan" included in its citywide mobility plan.

In presentations to local community groups, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has outlined its proposal to implement the Uptown section of its bike plan through Hillcrest along University Ave. The SANDAG plan calls for Class I, five-foot wide bike lanes with a three-foot buffer that would separate cyclists from auto traffic but which would also require removing up to 91 parking spaces.

As an alternative to SANDAG's plan, architect Jim Frost offered a proposal dubbed Transforming Hillcrest. Frost's plan relies on decreasing traffic lanes



on University Avenue through Hillcrest and committing space on the north side of that street between 1st Ave. and Normal St. to parking and pedestrian use. The Frost Plan includes bike lanes comparable to the SANDAG plan.

To the advantage of Hillcrest businesses, Frost's plan would replace today's parallel street parking with angled parking, adding 51 parking spaces and transforming the north side of University Avenue into a more pedestrian friendly zone.

While Frost's plan and its added parking could be a boon to businesses and their patrons in central Hillcrest, surrounding neighborhoods - University Heights residents, in particular - voiced their concerns about where the traffic diverted from University Ave. would go. While a traffic study of the Transforming Hillcrest proposal has not been conducted to determine its impact on surrounding areas, many speculate that traffic pushed from off University Ave. in central Hillcrest would be shunted over to Washington and other streets,

such as Robinson Ave, with unknown consequences.

The community praised the vision and creativity of the Frost Plan; however, it urged the city to conduct a formal analysis of how that plan might affect surrounding areas. In particular, the traffic impacts to University Heights, Washington Ave. and the residential areas of Hillcrest need to be identified, considered and weighed against any benefits to central Hillcrest.



president's corner by Bernie Horan

I am happy that you are reading this article as it means you get this paper delivered to your door or from a neighborhood business. In either case, you are interested in reading about University Heights and finding out what is happening here or future plans. This paper serves a useful function. The unfortunate news is that the advertising revenue does not cover our production costs. Therefore, we've raised our advertising rates. But your support is needed as well.

University Heights Community Association (UHCA) raises all its own funds to cover our programs. Our main source of revenue is membership subscriptions, followed donations, city and county grants for specific projects and advertising revenue. Despite these funds, we struggle to fund all the suggested projects. Currently, we have unfunded projects that must be put on hold for lack of funds.

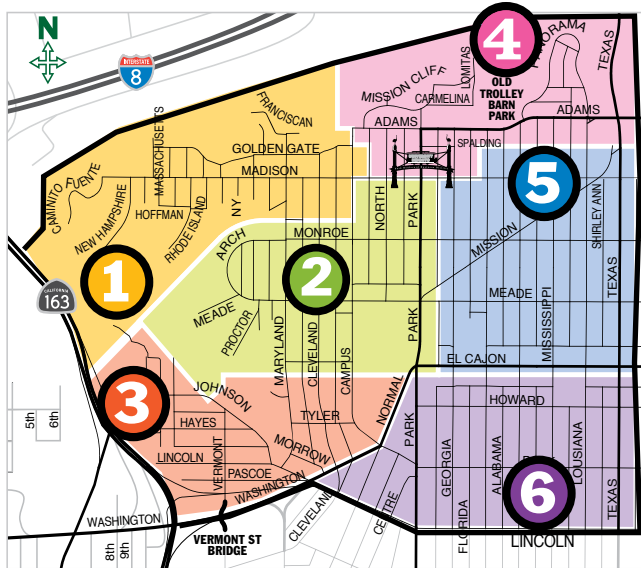
Where does the money go? Well, a variety of places. There's the website and donations to various Birney Elementary projects and our local branch library improvements. We help maintain the

Vermont St. Bridge, pay for the "Caroling in the Heights" and support the UHCA Beautification Committee that cleans the 163 on-ramp and other neighborhood areas. In addition, we produce and sell affordable merchandise such as hats, t-shirts, pullovers and mugs.

UHCA was formed to stop the building of condos at what is now the Trolley Barn Park. Thank goodness there were involved community members back then. Imagine that space not as open land for community use but as private condos. I am grateful that others cared enough to make that park happen. They invested time and money to fight for something to benefit the entire community.

Other projects followed over the years: the joint-use field at the corner of Meade and Park with that wonderful gate; the beautiful sign stretching over Park Blvd. with the bright red trolley atop and colorful lighting to brighten the night sky; and the Vermont St Bridge, a community landmark that was torn down yet replaced because of the actions of UHCA. With your help and generosity, we organized and

University Heights Map Boundaries and Zone Watch



The bold outer boundaries on this map define the community of University Heights. Every block and apartment/condo should have an established Neighborhood Watch.

A Zone is a neighborhood within University Heights as defined by the 6 Zones on this map.

The blocks within each Zone are linked together via a Zone Watch Coordinator, who manages an email list of participants wishing to receive crime watch information. Please contact your Zone Coordinator for more information.

| ZONE | COORDINATOR | E-MAIL CONTACT |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Nan McGraw | nmcsan@aol.com |
| 2 | Pam Isaacs | pamisaacs1@gmail.com |
| 3 | Susan Fosselman | susan.fosselman@microsoft.com |
| 4 | Christopher Hutchinson | christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com |
| 5 | Tamara Zyhylij | tamara@tamarazhomes.com |
| 6 | Nan McGraw | nmcsan@aol.com |

uhca news

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Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the 10th of the month. Email submissions to uhcanews@yahoo.com. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

uhca officers

President: Bernie Horan president@uhsd.org or (619) 301-0835
Vice President: Christopher Hutchinson
Secretary: Monica Lancot and Mary Anne Stevens
Treasurer: Peter Rose

UHCA Website: www.uhsd.org

facebook.com/universityheightscommunityassociation

Clip & return to: UHCA P.O. Box 33032, San Diego, CA 92163

Join UHCA today and be part of the team! The success of the **University Heights Community Association** is largely dependent upon the volunteer efforts of area residents.

Yearly Membership

- \$10 Senior
- \$15 Single
- \$20 Family
- \$30 Friends of Trolley Barn Park
- \$35 Membership & mailed UHCA News
- \$50 Vermont Street Bridge Builders
- \$65 Business Membership
- \$100 Golden Ostrich Elite

Donor

\$ _____ Donation for Keeping up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

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 NEW RENEWAL

University Heights Community Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization. A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

UH news AD rates

| AVAILABLE AD SIZES | B & W | COLOR | BACK COVER |
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| 1/24 Page Classified: 3.75" H x 1.6" W | \$35 | N/A | N/A |
| 1/8 Page Horizontal: 3.75" H x 5" W | \$50 | \$65 | \$80 |
| 1/4 Page Vertical: 7.5" H x 5" W | \$100 | \$130 | \$160 |
| 1/2 Page Horizontal: 7.5" H x 10.25" W | \$180 | \$230 | \$280 |
| 1/2 Page Vertical: 15.5" H x 5" W | \$180 | \$215 | \$280 |
| Full Page: 15.5" H x 10.25" W | \$270 | \$350 | \$750 |

Place your ad today! Call Susan Holts at: (619) 295-3950. *Effective: 05.01.15 (May Issue)

funded the successful UH125 anniversary celebration two summers ago.

Most recently, we addressed the needs of our furry friends by placing poop stations in several locations, with more to come and placed banners along Washington St and Park Blvd (thanks to a county Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant) to beautify the streetscape and promote the community. The vintage photos and modern ostrich logo reflect our colorful past and future.

What about next month and next year? Last year, nearly 500 UH residents were asked what was most important to them. We learned that their first interest was to maintain and improve the Trolley Barn Park and our local branch library. So we developed a list of park improvements and submitted them to the city. The UH library for its 100th anniversary (the oldest branch in the city library system) was given a make-over that

Continued on page 8

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Griffiths & Grant Wilson, Dennis Smith & Linda Johnson, Jeffrey Harding, Jeff & Julie Rubtchinsky, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Walter Roussel, Jacklyn Lewicki, Marce Ziolkowski, A.C. & Constance Bothof

THANK YOU RENEWALS

Joan Emerick, John & Kirsten Chandler, Richard C. Burhenne, Jennifer Colosimo, Evelyn de la Rosa & Karen Keltner, R. Daniel Hernandez, Liz Bernal & Suzanne LaTour, Mary Anne Stevens, Marie DeSanti, Dave Falkner, Jeannie Hine, Linda & David Litzau, Erin & David MacKinnon, Mykl Parsons, Margaret Cobleigh & Sandra Roberts, Randall Mann & Sarah Luth, Alexandra Elias & Keith Comey, Richard Hook, Bill York & Sal Usman, Steve Winchell & Michele Morgan, Herb Kulman, Lindy Rodwell, Greg & Marcia Sorini

THANKS TO UH BUSINESSES

ELE Collective (new owners of Bourbon St. and Lei Lounge) and H.G. Fenton Co.

Volunteer your time on any of the following committees and tax forces:

- Beautification & Planning** • Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker** • Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising** • Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership** • Help meet record goals for 2015 membership and meeting attendance.
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch** • Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.
- UHCA News** • Write articles, take photos or sell ads; these are just a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity and energy to our paper.
- Program & Events** • Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

Are you, family members, or neighbors celebrating an award, recognition, house historic designation, anniversary, etc. or anything else that's special? If so, let us know about it so we may include it in the UHCA News. Email us (uhcanews@yahoo.com) with details and your contact info.

For more info, email membership@uhsd.org



TROLLEY BARN PARK CELEBRATING 24 YEARS APRIL 6



Their initial concern was the desire to stop the development of a proposed high density apartment complex where the Trolley Barn used to stand. The Duvalls felt this site was better suited for a community park. After galvanizing University Heights neighbors and lobbying the City Council, the park officially opened April 6, 1991.



Janice and Eric Duvall founded the University Heights Community Association in the winter of 1983.



The park was awarded San Diego's prestigious AIA Orchid award in 1992.



In addition to the many birthday parties and barbecues taking place in the park each day, Trolley Barn Park also hosts a free, live outdoor concert series each summer.



A 25 BIRTHDAY EXTRAVAGANZA APRIL 2016

Celebrating the Community and The Trolley Barn Park

Join us with the Duvalls, founders of the UHCA and other residents in planning an important milestone for the community as UH celebrates 25 years of our neighborhood park! Contact Nan McGraw to learn more at (619) 260-0668 or nmcsan@aol.com.

Canyon Wildlife *Continued from Page 1*

fruit trees. Coyotes, abundant in our neighborhood, are out often scouting for that may include small rodents and any cats or small dogs left outside at night. Pets should never be left outside after dark. Hardly a week goes by without a new sign posted describing a missing pet.

Feeding our wildlife sounds like fun but is not good idea and can lead to problems. Coyotes and raccoons are both predators and scavengers and they can be aggressive. Be sure to collect any outdoor pet dishes each evening so as to not attract the wildlife. Never feed or approach these animals. Though they generally shy away from people, they have been reported to attack.

If you are experiencing particular problem animals, do not try to eradicate them with poisons. Poisons accumulate in the food chain and can do harm or kill other birds and mammals. As an example, one single poisoned rat or squirrel could potentially kill a nest of baby hawks if the mother brings it in as food. It is always best to seek the guidance of professionals who know the safest methods to remove problem pests. There are also several wildlife protection agencies and private companies that have the resources and knowledge to deal with any pest. Some of these are listed below:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: (858) 467-4201 (info licensing, rules and regs concerning local wildlife)
- City of San Diego Environmental Services: (858) 694-7000 (dead animal removal)
- San Diego Humane Society: (619) 299-7012
- wildliferehab@fundforanimals.org



RED TAIL HAWK WITH HATCHLING



GREY FOX



COOPER'S HAWK



COYOTE

Looking Ahead:

May 7 Meeting

Join us at the May 7th meeting and learn about some local solutions to the complex problem of homelessness. Speakers that evening will include Dr. Dave Folsom, medical director of St Vincent de Paul Family Health Center and UCSD clinical professor, Lt. Debra Farrar, supervisor of the SD Police Dept.'s Homeless Outreach Team, and Marla Kingkade, the law enforcement liaison with PERT.

UHCA June 4 Meeting

San Diego Stage & Lighting at 2030 El Cajon Blvd. has been sold to H.G. Fenton Company, the San Diego-based developer of several high-end residential apartment complexes in Mission Valley. A Fenton representative will attend this meeting to present the company's plans for an upscale apartment building at this site.

Coming Soon: UH Events

- Community Cleanup for the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon - May 31
- 20-Year Celebration of the Vermont Street Bridge
- Ice Cream with the Cops
- Vertical Living Walls: Unveiling at two UH Bus Stops - Fall 2015
- Birney School Reunion
- Celebrate 25th Anniversary of the Trolley Barn Park - April 2016

Park to Become Protected Habitat

By AF Daie



Local biologist Dan Freed was about to swat a mosquito two years ago until he looked closely at the insect and gasped when he saw its silvery wings flecked with purple. Freed realized he was looking at the Balboa mosquito, long thought to be extinct. "I'd only seen artist renderings of these in textbooks," said Freed. "I couldn't believe I was seeing one in real life." That encounter led to a series of events that eventually had The Nature Conservancy purchasing Trolley Barn Park from the City of San Diego. Starting April 1st, work will begin on converting our local park into a large stagnant pond that will act as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The pond will be surrounded by a 12-foot high chain-link fence to prevent the general public from disturbing the mosquito's breeding grounds. "How lucky are we to have a wildlife conservation habitat in our own neighborhood?" enthused Freed.



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Mary Ann Stevens Realtor
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 Twiggs
 University Christian Church

The Darling House

By Bernie Horan, Photos by Charles Tianno



Recently, my friend Beth introduced me to one of our new neighbors, Charles Tiano. In 2010, he purchased one of the oldest homes in University Heights, the Darling House, which is the newly restored Victorian near the west end of Adams Ave. Charles was kind enough to give us a tour and some historical information about his new home. During our tour, he said, "every once in a while you walk into a place and say "oh my God, there is significant potential here!" Fortunately, he had the vision to see beyond the derelict condition and the talent to make the transition to its present house beautiful.

The original structure was built of redwood in 1887 and located on North Avenue. It was moved to its present location in 1912. In the deconstruction of the interior, he uncovered the redwood plank walls that had been left exposed. The Douglas fir flooring has been painted to modernize the look and unify the

flow. Charles stripped all the doors and exposed the true beauty of the wood as well as stencils indicating their origin. At some point in the past, a small addition was built on the back of the original home. Today that area is the kitchen and laundry. The centerpiece of the kitchen is a beautiful reproduction stove made by La Cornue, a French company. The upstairs master bedroom is spacious and features an adjoining bath. There is also an office and a media room on the second floor.



Charles has maintained the house's period exterior with a modern interior featuring elements of the original structure. It is very tastefully done and an asset to the whole community. He has plans for the yard and we can all watch progress on that portion of the remodel. Charles is rightfully proud of his work and I am sure he would be grateful if you say hello when you pass by and welcome him to UH.

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING - Part Three

By Cathryn Golden

CONGRATULATIONS!! Now that you have embraced your inner organizer and have been sorting through things, let's up the ante and look at some secrets that will make your vision even MORE successful...and SUSTAINABLE. First of all, know that "stuff" always has the "opportunity" to come into your space—if you let it. That's not such a bad thing, as long as your choice. And you DO have one! So organizing is not a one-time thing. It is a process of give and take, keep and toss. The important thing is that you have systems in place and that you monitor those systems from time to time to make sure they are working at peak capacity for your needs! As your life changes...adapt the system, and KEEP IT SIMPLE!!!!

Here's some creative and practical solutions for what you've decided to keep. The Three Ring Rule applies to ANY space where you have central work locations (desk, kitchen, workbench, etc.). From where you are standing or sitting, the things that are used MOST frequently are within arm's reach (first ring). Things that are used, but not quite as often, are in the same area, within a step or two (second ring). Things, such as back-up supplies or infrequently used items can be stored elsewhere, even in another room (third ring). This helps you stay incredibly functional and in the flow when performing tasks!

Beach Front Property. Similar to the Three Ring Rule, remember that there is a minimum amount of space that is convenient and reachable - so make the most of it by organizing the things that you use frequently in the most accessible space.

Hanger Heaven. A very simple way to guarantee closets will NEVER get over-crowded is to commit to matching hangers...a limited number!! Treat yourself—any kind will do. If you bring home something new, and there are no available hangers, guess what? Something's gotta go!!! (You might think about this BEFORE you buy.) This includes dry cleaning too - transfer the clothes to YOUR hangers.

Color My World. If there are numerous projects, schedules, activities or family-member possessions that need to be tracked, technology is fine. However, most people (especially children) are very visual and using color coding is a much simpler—and often more independent—way to identify things!

Loving the X - O. Here's how to easily keep track of big-store, multiple-item purchases, without having to keep everything in one place (3-ring rule)! Keep a marker by where ever you unload things. Take a moment to mark and "X" on all but the last item—the last one gets "O." That means you can store just one of everything in the beach front property space. "X" means there's an extra elsewhere; "O" means none are left—time to go on the shopping list!

I could go on, but my beach front property ran out! I hope these articles have been helpful, and that you have a whole new attitude about keeping the chaos on the other side of your front door!

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friends of the university heights library

By Philip J. Gill, President

This is the first in what will be a series of regular updates on the Friends of the University Heights Library (FoUHL). This month I want to discuss funding, where we get it and what we do with it.

There are two ways FoUHL raises money to support the programs and mission of the University Heights (UH) branch library. First is from you, our members, in the form of you annual memberships. As I write, we are in the midst of our 2015 renewal campaign, so if you receive a letter from us, please fill it out and return it promptly with your check. We greatly appreciate it!

Memberships start at \$5 for seniors and students and up, and this year Lifetime Memberships are only \$250. In addition, we are planning a spring membership campaign to recruit new members, so those of you who read the UHCA News but are not members, expect to hear from us soon!

The second way we raise funds is through used book sales. As you probably know, the UH branch accepts books donations either for circulation or resale. Proceeds from resale go to support the library's ongoing programs, such as chair yoga on Wednesday nights, or go toward the purchase new furniture and equipment, such as the new Children's Literacy Computer we helped fund last year.

To make donating easier, as of March 1, we've opened a book storage space where you, your friends, family and neighbors can donate used books to FoUHL. If you are interested in donating books, please feel free to contact me by email at FoUHL@gmx.com or philipjgill@gmail.com. Please include your phone number. We will arrange a drop off or a pickup of your donations. And, of course, you may continue to drop off books at the UH library.

In Case You Missed It

By Monica Lanctot

One of our best-attended affairs, our March meeting, focused on the current ongoing revitalization of El Cajon Blvd. Following the always-informative updates provided by our local political liaisons, the Lafayette Hotel's marketing manager, David Chan, provided an update on the great things happening at the hotel. Though the hotel will not be repeating its movie by the pool events, it will channel those funds and efforts into heating the pool and implementing several different music nights each month.

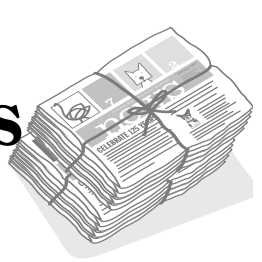
Also, representing growing El Cajon businesses was Habtamu, one of the owners of Awash Market & Ethiopian Restaurant. The popular market/restaurant is expanding and will be moving to 2104 El Cajon Blvd., the former Napa Auto Parts store, next to Boulevard Fitness. Habtamu is hoping to be in the new location in June. He also confirmed that there will be no change in the restaurant's liquor license status

and that the restaurant is working on developing a delivery service. Habtamu generously provided samples of the restaurant's delicious cuisine to all meeting attendees. Additional samples from Luigi's Pizza, also on El Cajon Blvd, were provided compliments of UHCA.

Bernie Miles, program manager for Episcopal Community Services' Friend to Friend, provided an overview of the services the organization makes available to homeless adults. Closing out the meeting, UHCA's Beautification Committee Chair, MaryBeth Chruden, provided information on the "Trash Angels" collection project adjacent to the Vermont Street Bridge, and UHCA member Jacklyn Lewicki updated attendees on her Vermont Street Bridge book.

Thanks to all presenters and attendees for participating in another great community meeting.

block walkers needed



Thanks to our newest blockwalkers: George & Bonnie Lamb, Leah Johns, Alice King, Cheryl & Christopher Cooke, Marty Rector and Gail Osborn. We appreciate all of you!

Blockwalkers are needed to cover several blocks and deliver the UHCA News in Zone 6, which is a vitally important neighborhood of University Heights (see Zone map, page 2.) Those blocks are: Florida, Georgia and Texas Streets between El Cajon Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. Also needed is Lincoln Avenue between Georgia and Texas Street. If you can help out UHCA News 10 times a year, you would be contributing to your community. Grab a pal and make it fun. Please contact Nan McGraw at (619) 260-0668 or nmcsan@aol.com.

Happening in the Heights

COMEDY

Twiggs (4590 Park Blvd - Park & Madison)
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org

Comedy Heights: Every Sat at 8 pm
Roar Theater Comedy: Fri, April 17, 7 - 9:30 pm
Celtic Ensemble: Every Sunday between 4 - 6 pm

Swedenborg Hall (1531 Tyler Ave.)
www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org

Comedy Show: SideStage Improv
Sat, April 4, 8-10 pm / Doors open at 7:30 pm
Tickets are \$5 at the door
mike@sidestageimprov.com

Lestat's on Adams (3343 Adams Ave.)
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com

Comedy Night Hosted by Rajan Dharni
Every Tuesday between 9-11pm

Across the Street at Mueller College (4607 Park Blvd.)
(619) 507-7223 / www.sidestageimprov.com

Contact John Ciccolella for details



MUSIC

Java Joe's (3536 Adams Ave.)
(619) 283-1151 / www.javajoessd.com

Open Mic Night: Every Sunday between 6:30 - 11 pm

Lestat's on Adams (3343 Adams Ave.)
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com

Open Mic Night: Every Monday between 6:30-11 pm

3rd Space (4610 Park Blvd.)
(619) 255-1151 / www.3rdspace.co

Across the Street at Mueller College (4607 Park Blvd.)
(619) 507-7223 / www.facebook.com/?sk=lf#!/acrossthestreet

Contact John Ciccolella for details

Hillcrest Farmers Market (3960 Normal St., at the DMV parking lot)
Various musicians; every Sunday between 10 am-1 pm

Nate's Garden Grill (3120 Euclid Ave.)
(619) 546-7700 / https://www.facebook.com/NatesGardenGrill/events

Various musicians; every Friday - Sunday

Swedenborg Hall (1531 Tyler Ave.)
(619) 296-5662 / www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org

Twiggs Green Room (4590 Park Blvd.)
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org

Lafayette Hotel (2223 El Cajon Blvd.)
(619) 296-2101 / www.lafayettehotelsd.com

Normandie Wilson: Cool, Classy Jazz Music with a Touch of Pop

Every Wednesday between 4 - 6 pm

THEATRE

Diversionary Theater (4427 Park Blvd.)
(619) 220-0097 / www.diversionary.org

The Facts Of Life: A parody of the vintage coming of age sitcom

April 2 - 19, Thurs, 7 pm; Fri, 8 pm; Sat, 8 pm; & Sun, 5 pm

OTHER

Laughter Yoga at Trolley Barn Park
For more information, contact Ginger at (619) 296-1860.

A free laughter class might just be for

you. Laughter reduces stress, worry and anxiety. It increases energy and productivity, relaxes muscles, reduces pain and changes moods. It improves health, prevents heart disease, boosts the immune system, improves breathing, releases endorphins and expands the brain. It develops and strengthens relationships and encourages group bonding. And the best reason of all for participating is that it exudes JOY!

Come join Ginger in a joyous adventure at the TBP (Trolley Barn Park east end of Adams between Florida and Alabama) 2-4 pm every Wednesday and Saturday.

APRIL 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 UHCDC Meeting 4452 Park Blvd. Suite 104, 6:30 pm | 2 UH Rec Council 5:30 pm UHCA mtg 6:45 pm Birney School Auditorium 4345 Campus Avenue Curbside recycling and yard waste collection | 3 GOOD FRIDAY 17th Anniversary of the UH sign | 4 FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 |
| 5 EASTER Easter Egg Hunt at Trolley Barn Park HILLCREST Farmers Market Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm | 6 24 Birthday of Trolley Barn Park | 7 Uptown Planners Meeting Joyce Beers Center Uptown Center 6 pm | 8 Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 Symphony at the UH Library | 9 | 10 uhca news Deadline for April Issue Articles & Advertising ROOSEVELT DANCE see Page 9 | 11 LAST DAY OF PASSOVER The Point Cleanup 1:30 - 3:30 pm Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 |
| 12 HILLCREST Farmers Market Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm | 13 | 14 Hillcrest Town Council Joyce Beers Center in Uptown Complex 6:30 pm Friends of Library UH Branch Library 6:30 pm | 15 Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 Library Task Force UH Library 6:30 pm INCOME TAXES DUE | 16 Curbside recycling and yard waste collection | 17 PREVIEW BOOK SALE FSDPL (members only) Book Sale 3-6 pm | 18 BOOK SALE FSDPL Book Sale 8 am - 3 pm Buchanan Canyon Cleanup 9 am Johnson between Lincoln & Hayes |
| 19 BOOK SALE FSDPL Book Sale noon - 4 pm HILLCREST Farmers Market Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm | 20 | 21 North Park Planning Committee North Park Christian Fellowship 2901 North Park Way 6:30 pm | 22 EARTH DAY Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 Toni Atkins "Public Office Hours" UH Library 6 pm | 23 | 24 MISSION HILLS GARAGE SALE see Page 9 | 25 Laughter Yoga TBP 2-4 |
| 26 PALM SUNDAY HILLCREST Farmers Market Lincoln & Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm | 27 | 28 | 29 UH Book Club & Salon UH Library 6:30 pm | 30 Curbside recycling and yard waste collection | Jazz Appreciation Month National Poetry Month National Volunteer Month | |

Taylor Swift planned for Summer in the Park

By AF Daie



Dan Freed, head of the annual Summer in the Park Concert Series in Trolley Barn Park, has big plans for this year's series. "I really want to make the series a huge event for our community," said Freed. Freed envisions a five-concert series with concerts by Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Kayne West, the New York Philharmonic and a one-night production of The Lion King by a national touring company. "I'm going to start contacting them in the next few days," said Freed. "I'm super excited! Best Summer in the Park ever!"

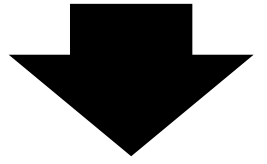


Graffiti Reporting

If you see graffiti on City of San Diego property, call the graffiti hotline at (619) 525-8522. This is a message machine to report the time and location of the graffiti. If you see graffiti on private property, please call Urban Corps at (858) 829-6884. This is a message line. Leave the same message of time and location of the graffiti on the private property. Urban Corps will take photos with their tracker cameras and remove the graffiti within 48 hours.

SDPD uses the cameras to track the graffiti vandalism around the city and county in order to find and prosecuted the vandals. The Graffiti Task Force officer for UH is Officer Sergio Zamora and he can be reached at szamora@pd.sandiego.gov.

SDG&E Forcing Down Property Values



By David and Erin MacKinnon

It typically starts with a flyer attached to your door, gate, or fence. SDG&E is going to trim trees on or around your property to keep them away from the power lines. The notice looks very official and says things like "It's the Law!" citing regulations from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and stating "SDG&E may provide an escort [security] to ensure proper exercise of its easement rights." It all sounds very intimidating and forceful, as I'm sure it is intended to be. But here's the catch—in San Diego's older neighborhoods, like University Heights, there are no easements on most parcels and the regulations cited require SDG&E to do something, not homeowners.

Most parcels in UH were set in the early 1900s, well before utility easements were standard. If you pull your title docs you'll likely notice there are no easements or encroachments. The one exception is the strip of land on the other side of the sidewalk. This strip and any vegetation are in the city's "right of way" and they are fair game for SDG&E or the city. This is very different than newer neighborhoods, where utility easements are standard and can encroach on property lines by 10 or 15 feet.

SDG&E is required to clear vegetation away from their high-voltage lines and maintain a few feet of clearance for safety. The lines they are concerned about are not the lines that connect your house to the grid, but rather the high-voltage lines at the top of the power poles that carry power in, out, and across the neighborhood. SDG&E has made a practice of removing trees or trimming well beyond the required clearance established by the CPUC

in order to avoid tree trimming more than once a year.

For UH homeowners, severe trimming or removal of older trees can dent curb appeal and property values. Worse, by essentially giving control over 10-plus feet of their property, homeowners are losing flexibility to do with their property what they desire, further damaging resale value. In addition, older trees add to the aesthetics and character of our neighborhood and provide energy-saving shade for our homes.

Many have asked about undergrounding the lines as a solution to save mature trees, improve neighborhood aesthetics, and prevent the frequency of outages. The date for undergrounding in UH has moved several times and currently ranges from 2021 to 2030. Even though ratepayers have been paying into an undergrounding fund, the city and SDG&E have an incredibly arcane and bureaucratic process that has slowed undergrounding to a crawl. SDG&E has also been openly hostile to the idea of complete undergrounding, even though ratepayers pick up the entire cost, because their union and engineers prefer to work on aboveground lines or boxes. The city, which controls the undergrounding master schedule and serves as the franchising agency, has the ability to accelerate this process but has not.

Our family has been dealing with SDG&E for many years. It started in 2011 when they trimmed palms inside our property line and not in the right-of-way so severely that we thought they would die. The next year they

Friends of Buchanan Canyon

By Jeannie Hine

In February, volunteer Alan and I hiked Buchanan Canyon to what changes are occurring. This time we noticed that the white plastic drip irrigation pipe going down to the bottom of the canyon had been relocated and is not visible from the top on the Johnson Ave. side now. Flowers have begun to bloom in beautiful colors. Unfortunately, the invasive wild radish plants are also growing rapidly—time to start pulling their roots out! Alan couldn't resist pulling a few on the way down the path. Thank you! The nasturtium leaves are huge and taking over again this year. I cannot wait to see the woven blanket of blooms that are on their way to covering the canyon once again this year. The last big show was quite an event to view.



Join us on the 3rd Saturday of the month for more excursions in our wonderful canyon. Meet at 9 am on the Johnson Ave. side, between Lincoln and Hayes Avenues, wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring drinking water.



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Neighbors Save Trees from SDG&E

In late January, a tree removal/trimming truck crew working for SDG&E cut down a tree on a private residence near the Trolley Barn Park. The tree was a healthy 50-year-old palm, perfectly maintained and not near any power lines. Two men from the crew knocked on our neighbor's door and told him that the tree had to be removed. They pressured him and he said "yes." After that one was down, they said another had to be cut too. He said "no." It was rumored that the Canary Palms, icons of the Mission Cliff Gardens at Park Blvd. and Adams Ave., were to be removed too.

Our hero, Jim Webb, saved the day. Jim was instrumental in mitigating the situation by contacting Molly Chase at Councilmember Gloria's office to get SDG&E to back off and quit intimidating our neighbors and unnecessarily removing beautiful, mature trees in University Heights.

Our other tree heroes are Erin and David MacKinnon, who not only saved their trees, but are lobbying for underground utilities too.

Celebrate New Life!



JOIN US
 Blossoming the Cross
 Easter Service
Sunday, April 5
11:00 am

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 SwedenborgianChurchSanDiego.org
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Between the Covers: What's Happening at the University Heights Library

By Kim Schmidt, Librarian



San Diego Symphony to Perform at the Library on April 8 at 6 pm

Good news! An ensemble from the San Diego Symphony Orchestra will be here to perform on April 8. The ensemble played for us last year and was very well received. The program was entertaining and educational and the children were particularly engaged! Please join us again for this special event.

Meet Toni Atkins, California State Assembly Speaker and Her Staff

The University Heights Library is honored to be one of the local venues for Public Office Hours for California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and her staff. Please feel free to drop in, say hello, ask questions and discuss your concerns. The "office" is open to the public at 6 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. April 1 is the date of your next opportunity to take advantage.

Become a Friend of the University Heights Library

If you enjoy the services and programs provided by the University Heights Branch Library, you need to know that our programming depends on the generosity of donations from the community. One of the best ways you can help support the library is to join the Friends of the University Heights Library (FoUHL). For a minimum donation of \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students and seniors), you can sign up for an annual Friends membership. Just stop by the branch and ask a staff member for a membership envelope. Help our library to be fabulous and make new friends by joining the Friends.

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Saturday, April 19, 8 am – 3 pm and Sunday, April 19, noon – 4 pm

Find great bargains on books, DVDs, music CDs and vintage vinyl at the Friends of the San Diego Public Library Book Sale. All proceeds from the sale go to support the Friends of the San Diego Public Library. Please join us.

Book Club and Salon

The University Heights Book Club and Salon meeting will be held at the library on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 pm. This month's book selection is "The Queen and I."

Regular Monthly Programs for Kids

Also on tap are the library's regular weekly/monthly programs for children, including

- * Arts and Crafts for Children – every Saturday at 10:30 am
- * Story Time for Children of All Ages – second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 am

All programs are free to the public. Please drop in!

Library Hours:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday closed | Thursday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm |
| Monday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm | Friday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm |
| Tuesday: 12:30 pm-8:00 pm | Saturday: 9:30 am-2:30 pm |
| Wednesday: 12:30 pm-8:00 pm | |

The University Heights Branch Library
4193 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
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MISSION HILLS COMMUNITY

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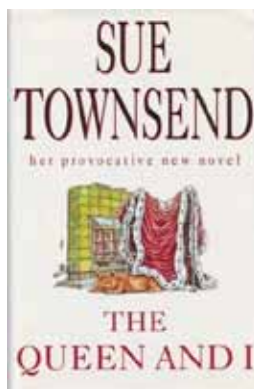
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UH Book Club & Salon: The Queen and I, A novel by Sue Townsend



The Queen and I, is the brilliantly funny novel by Sue Townsend, an English writer and humorist. It takes place in 1992 when a new Republic Government has attained power in Britain and orders Queen Elizabeth II and her family out of Buckingham Palace. They are forced to move into a two-bedroom semi in one of the worst council housing estates, referred to by the locals as "Hell Close," in the Midlands.

The royals are told to get on without any staff or amenities. In fact, they are placed on the dole and have to replace caviar with boiled eggs and their servants with a social worker. The Queen and her family learn what it means to be poor. But is their breeding sufficient to allow them to rise above their changed circumstances or deep down are they really just like everyone else?

Known as Britain's favorite comic author, Sue Townsend's literary works included novels, plays and journalism. She became most famous with her series of books about Adrian Mole, which she began in 1975. She has delightfully amused her readers while pricking the nation's conscience. Born in Leicester in 1946, she lived there until her death in 2014.

The Book Club is meeting on April 29 at 6:30 pm. The book will be available at the University Heights library's front desk at the end of March. New members are always welcome!

UH Book Club & Salon
Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 pm
UH Branch Library
4193 Park Boulevard



Birney Buzz

By Laura Dadmun,
Alice Birney Elementary School Parent

Dinner at The Lazy Dog on April 7 - Easy Way to Support Birney

Bring your dog and have a relaxing, delicious meal on April 7 at The Lazy Dog Restaurant, all while supporting your neighborhood school! A portion of the receipts from diners who mention Birney will go to support our specials programs. The Lazy Dog Restaurant is located in Mission Valley at 1202 Camino del Rio North, right near the Mission Valley Trader Joe's.

Come Out to U-31 on May 15 - Have a Great Time and Support Birney!

Join us on May 15 from 6 to 10 pm at U-31, a great local watering hole, for a fun evening of food, drinks and socializing while supporting Birney. U-31 is located at 3112 University Avenue in North Park. It has great food, including burgers, tacos, green bean fries, and a full bar. U-31 will give FORTY PERCENT of the receipts generated to Birney's Foundation, so come check it out!

Run for the Green

At press time, we didn't have the final numbers for our annual Run for the Green jog-a-thon fundraiser. But there is still time to donate and get your business logo on the banner we post on Park Blvd. If you own a business in the University Heights/Hillcrest/Normal Heights/North Park area and want publicity, please consider donating to our fundraiser. A \$100 donation will get your logo on our Park Blvd. banner, a \$300 donation will get your logo on our t-shirt and banner, and a \$1,000 donation will get you your own banner. Remember, the Rock 'n' Roll half-marathon goes right by our Park Blvd. fence and many thousands of people will see your banner! Please contact alicebirneyfriends@gmail.com for more information.

Read Across America Week

Over 100 people attended Birney's annual Bedtime Stories on Friday, February 27, as part of Read Across America week! The Birney Parent/Teachers Association (PTA) provided cookies and milk; students attended in their PJs with blankets while teachers and family members read them stories.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher and staff appreciation week is May 4 - 8. If you would like to help parents put on appreciation activities that week, or you would like to express your appreciation for Birney's teachers and staff, please contact our PTA at ptabirney@yahoo.com.

New Playground Equipment

Birney has new playground equipment! Three new sets of playground equipment and safer, softer surrounding ground material have been installed in the past two months. The students are super happy to have these new outlets for physical activity.

Fight for Five

The San Diego Education Association, our local teachers' union, is currently in contract negotiations with the San Diego United School District. Teachers are asking for support for their "Fight for Five" campaign, which highlights five priorities: pay and benefits to attract and keep the best and brightest; smaller class sizes; more counselors, nurses and special education support; more elementary student enrichment classes, and the important teacher preparation time that comes along with it; and adequate planning time so we can do our best teaching. If you support these priorities for the school district, please make your voice heard by contacting the board. (Editor's note: UHCA does not take a position on these negotiations.)

Birney is on Spring Break from March 30 until April 27

President's Corner

Continued from Page 2

included signage, banners and landscape improvements. Many residents are also interested in safety, with street lighting and speeding as concerns. We promise to continue working with the city on those matters. Noise was another problem, especially around the corner of Park and Madison. Meetings were held last year with residents and local businesses to develop solutions to this problem, and we've already started meeting with new business owners.

On an on-going basis, we're in contact with the SDPD officers who patrol our community, Mayor Falconer, Councilmember Gloria, Supervisor Roberts and other elected officials, all

of whom have direct or indirect impact on us. Relationships are everything in politics, business and community, and we have a strong network in place and will keep working to improve them.

Despite these activities, your help is still needed! Become a member by paying the modest dues (see the fees on page 2). Put a check in the mail today or bring cash or a check to our next meeting, and become active. Volunteers are always needed, so pick a project - gardening, politics, flags, fundraising, development, the newspaper or website assistance - and join in. We'll match your passion to a project!

PETS OF THE MONTH



Charley and Mooch BROTHERS OF DIFFERENT MOTHERS

Mooch & Charley moved to University Heights in August 2014. The boyz love their new neighborhood and all the wonderful scenery & smells they get to enjoy every day.

Both boyz were adopted so there is much we don't know about them. What we do know is that Charley (the black Scottie) was taken to the vet in Tijuana and never picked up again. He had some abandonment issues which seem to have resolved themselves thru lots of love and exercise. Charley is approximately 2-3 years old and is very eager and animated. He's always found tugging the end of his leash while on walks & chasing squirrels up nearby trees.

Mooch (the white Westie) prefers to stroll around the block slowly and enjoys sticking his nose into all the bushes.

He was found at the pound so not much is known about him. Fortunately it appears he was treated well and trained with treats (hence his name). One odd characteristic is that he growls and/or barks at large dogs with no provoking. Otherwise, he's very well behaved. He's assisted in rearing his younger "brother" Charley, who is now a very good boy.

The boyz wanted to say thanks so much for the shop owners who provide water for the pooches in the neighborhood. They especially appreciate that in the summer/fall months!

They also wanted to say, please check the pound and rescue agencies before buying pooches at a pet shop. They have many other "brothers & sisters" looking for their forever homes.



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BIGBLOCK
REALTY



SDG&E Forcing Down Property Values

Continued from Page 6

attempted to remove the palms entirely, going so far as to bring a stump grinder and, without notice, attempted to dismantle our gate to get the equipment inside of our fence. At that point we tried to work with SDG&E to supervise trimming and get prior notice before trimming commenced. Likewise, we suggested that if safety was paramount, as SDG&E implies, they could obtain greater clearances by simply moving the lines higher or over to the street side of the pole. SDG&E refused to work with us and a small legal letter-writing battle ensued. We met with the city, SDG&E public affairs, and various other officials to try and come to a mutually beneficial resolution but we were unsuccessful. At one meeting, an SDG&E employee threatened to "top" our palm trees so that they would die and would have to be removed anyway. At another meeting, an SDG&E public affairs person asserted that SDG&E had 10-foot easements around all of their lines, giving them virtually unfettered rights inside our property line. All of them were very surprised that we had pulled the title and parcel map and were not going to give them free reign over our property.

Last June, SDG&E came to our house unannounced around mid-morning with professional security and SDPD. Erin had just had our second daughter, then just two weeks old, and was forced to scramble to try and stop SDG&E from butchering or killing our trees. Unfortunately, SDG&E, using the same misleading information they post on their fliers, persuaded SDPD into believing they had the right to do whatever they wanted to vegetation on our property and our trees were trimmed severely again. We firmly believe that if we were not present, SDG&E would have topped and killed our trees to resolve the situation permanently. After that experience we filed an informal and then a formal complaint with the CPUC and we are currently scheduled to appear before an administrative judge in the coming weeks.

Without getting into the legal minutia, our argument rests on three main points, all of which are valid for other homeowners in UH. First, SDG&E is trimming well beyond the CPUC guidelines to avoid trimming more than once per year. Second, SDG&E's legal basis for trimming relates to the service lines that deliver power to our houses, and not the distribution lines that carry power across the neighborhood. And, third, neither SDG&E nor the CPUC has the right to impede our use of our private property without due process, in this case meaning a condemnation suit. There is ample national and state case law to support our third premise and we hope the CPUC will support our argument.

In the meantime, we want to make sure that UH homeowners are aware of their rights as property holders and understand that they do not need to submit to SDG&E's bullying tactics. We have spoken to many of our neighbors who felt pressured to comply with SDG&E only to later regret consenting to have a tree removed. Recently, SDG&E cut down a mature palm, estimated to be around 50 years old, from the front yard of a gentleman who lives near Trolley Barn Park. The mature palm was across the street from SDG&E's lines, no more a safety risk than any other palm in the city. We encourage neighbors who may have had similar experiences with SDG&E to report these incidents to local elected officials.

If the CPUC cannot help we hope the city will step in as the ultimate authority over the public right-of-way. For all involved it is important to realize that SDG&E is a private entity owned by Sempra Energy and is not a government authority, that the CPUC is meant to regulate utilities, not homeowners, and that all things being equal, neither a private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or otherwise, without due process.

Roosevelt Middle School International Baccalaureate Presents...

by Richard Harris



ROOSAPALOOZA

MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL PRESERVATIONISTS
CLASSIC JAZZ BAND

Performing Arts Adventure

Friday, May 22
7:00 - 8:45 pm in the Roosevelt Auditorium

Seating is limited. Tickets \$10 and \$5 Register at FriendsOfRoosevelt.org

and



COLORES DE PRIMAVERA

Danzarts Children's Academy & Roopark Hip Hop / Ballet Folklorico

Friday, April 10
6:00 and 8 pm
Roosevelt MS Theater

Get tickets online at www.danzarts.org
Tickets \$10 and \$5

Programs of Friends of Roosevelt Foundation

from your supervisor



It's Back! Annual Lawn Mower Exchange - A good deal that has reduced a great deal of air pollution

By Supervisor Ron Roberts

Yes, it is that time of year again! Each spring for the past 15 years, San Diego County residents have been lining up early on a Saturday morning to both help clean local air and trade-in their old, gas-powered lawn mowers for a new, zero-emission model.

This year's 16th annual Mowing Down Pollution mower exchange is set for Saturday, May 9, at Qualcomm Stadium. All county residents with proper identification and a qualifying gasoline mower can participate.

The price of the 650 available new mowers, which retail for about \$400 each, will be \$99.99, thanks to a special bulk purchase agreement and funding from air

pollution fines. Importantly, this will be the last year such a large number of mowers are available. Next year that number will be reduced by several hundred although we do expect to add some new "rechargeable" gardening equipment to the 2016 exchange.

The mower exchange process is simple. The event is first-come, first-served. Traditionally, most residents line up an hour or two before the 8 am start time. Gates open at 4:30 am.

Once in line, a place card is distributed to each person with a mower to exchange. When the customer reaches the front of the line, proof of San Diego County residency is checked and their mower is then inspected to make sure it is in operable condition. Broken mowers or those missing pieces will be turned away. This is an important detail that arises each year. Public funds can only be used to replace mowers that actually work and contribute to local air pollution.

The exchange will be taking place in the stadium's North West quadrant, with plenty of signage, and a giant lawnmower balloon, to direct attendees.

This year's lawnmower is a Black & Decker CM1936, 36-volt, cordless rechargeable model with a two-year factory warranty. For more information about this event, please call the San Diego Air Pollution Control District at (858) 586-2600 or my office at (619) 531-5544.

I look forward to seeing you there, helping us Mow Down Pollution!

County Supervisor Ron Roberts represents University Heights as part of his Fourth Supervisorial District. You can follow him on Facebook at Supervisor Ron Roberts, on Twitter at @RonRobertsSD and at www.RonRoberts.com.

from your councilmember



The Solution for Park Space: Creativity

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Parks and open space are necessary for a high quality of life. They are also challenging to add to already developed urban neighborhoods like University Heights. As the population has grown and properties have been redeveloped from single family homes to multi-unit buildings, our local park acreage has not grown proportionally.

University Heights is, of course, home to the Trolley Barn Park. As many of you know, it took the dedicated work of the community to transform the location where streetcars were housed when not in use to its current uses as recreation and relaxation space and the location of great events like the annual summer concerts and the community Easter Egg Hunt. Trolley Barn, like so many of San Diego's parks, holds tremendous meaning for many neighbors. I even officiated a wedding there.

While available land to build new parks has been lacking, creativity to address the shortage has not. In January 2011, University Heights welcomed the opening of the joint-use field at Birney Elementary School. The school's field is a shared public park during non-school hours. Through a partnership between the school district and the city, with input from community members, improvements to the space included a 1.6 acre irrigated turf, multipurpose field, a 0.25-acre perimeter walkway, fencing and an accessible pathway into the field from the neighborhood.

I would be surprised if I don't see a "parklet" or two in University Heights in the next couple of years too. As you may have seen in a couple of spots in North Park, parklets are built over a parking space or two as mini-park space. This concept has been used similarly in other major cities to add amenities, encourage public gathering and heighten

community character. As a relatively new idea to San Diego, parklet advocates have been unfortunately challenged to obtain approval for their projects.

I work every day to make this city great, so I love that we have neighbors focused on place-making opportunities that creatively add public spaces. To that end, I have been working with city staff to create a policy for parklets. These rules, which should be completed this spring, will provide clarity and consistency for the consideration of future parklets in all of our neighborhoods. I will be sure to keep you posted and look forward to University Heights' first parklet.

From enjoying your local Trolley Barn Park and Birney Elementary Field to visiting San Diego's crown jewel, Balboa Park, to examining the possibility of parklets, the people of University Heights should have plenty of park pride.

SDPD Letter of Agency (this can be saved till next month's issue)

A Letter of Agency is an authorization form allowing the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) to act as an agent for the owner of private property for purposes of enforcing laws against any person(s) found on the property without the owner's consent or without lawful purpose. This is an extremely useful tool for vacant properties and lots, businesses or any properties where public nuisance activities or crime problems—including transient activity, drug activity, prostitution, graffiti or general trespass—are occurring. The form must be renewed every six months to be effective. You may submit a form via email to your local police station; for University Heights, it's the Western Division.

Here's an example of how this works. You have a business on El Cajon Boulevard. While you are away from your business, perhaps activity such as littering, drinking, illegal lodging, urinating, etc., is occurring and having a negative impact on your property and your neighbors' property. If a Letter of Agency is on file, the neighbor can call SDPD to investigate and make arrests even though the owner is not present. It is suggested that the owner post notice stating no trespassing and that a Letter of Agency has been filed with SDPD. The notice should also state who manages the property, and who to call to report problems or concerns. To file online, go to: www.sandiego.gov/police/forms. These forms are also available at the UHCA monthly meetings.

from your speaker



Keeping Residential Care Facilities Safe for San Diegans

By Speaker Toni Atkins

Many of us have fond childhood memories of going over to grandma and grandpa's house. Grandparents are the ultimate caregivers - they give wise advice and hand out more cookies than mom would. Yet age has a way of reversing these roles: as older folks begin to require assistance with daily tasks such as shopping, driving, or walking, it is often the younger generation who become caretakers. And the elderly population is growing more rapidly than ever as Baby Boomers approach retirement age.

The U.S. Census reports that between the years 2000 and 2010, the number of Americans over the age of 65 grew by 3.3 million. Currently, approximately 13% of the American population is aged 65 years or older. Over the next 15 years, that number will jump to 18%.

It is time that we start seriously looking at how we care for our elderly population. In the past, caregivers typically emerged from the immediate family to dedicate an average of 20 hours per week of unpaid caregiving work. However, as the proportion of

elderly Americans continues to grow while birth rates wane, the number of potential caregivers per elderly American is lower than ever.

That is why residential care facilities have become a great resource for families caring for their aging loved ones. These institutions help to provide our seniors with full-time care by paid professionals. However, as care facilities become more impacted, we need to stay vigilant to ensure that the level of care provided to residents is exceptional.

Hazel's Army, a San Diego eldercare advocacy organization, is helping us to do just that. Hazel's Army was founded in memory of Hazel Mensching, who passed away in 2013 as a result of injuries sustained in an assisted living facility. Her grandson, Aaron Byzak, has dedicated his time to advocating for residential care facility reform to ensure that our loved ones receive proper care.

I was honored to accept an award on February 6 from Hazel's Army for my work last year on Assembly Bill 1523. This bill protects consumers by requiring all care facilities to maintain liability insurance covering injury to residents and guests in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$3 million dollars in total annual aggregate.

This bill, sponsored by the Consumer Advocates for RCFE Reform, goes into effect on July 1 this year. It will give elder residents in assisted-living facilities third-party liability protection that is similar to what's given to California's drivers and passengers.

There is no doubt that residential care facilities and skilled nursing facilities are invaluable resources to many families who need assistance to provide care for their loved ones. I'm proud to stand with Hazel's Army and with other local groups that are making sure our elderly friends and loved ones are getting the safe, quality care they deserve.

EASTER BASKET DRIVE

Donate an Easter Basket for the 12th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt



Councilmember Todd Gloria has partnered with the Imperial Court de San Diego to collect Pre-Filled Easter baskets for children ages 12 and younger. The baskets will be distributed at a free community event held at Trolley Barn Park on Easter Sunday. Please deliver the baskets and/or a monetary donation for baskets by April 1st at 12:00pm to Adriana Martinez in the Council District 3 office. This will allow time to deliver the baskets to the sponsoring organization before the event.

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Slip and Fall Awareness

By AF Daie

April is Slip and Fall Awareness Month. In support of this, random sections of sidewalks in University Heights will be spread with a near invisible layer of petroleum jelly causing oblivious passersby to slip and fall. "This will help everyone

realize that slip and fall accidents aren't just a problem for the elderly," said Dan Freed who's spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls can happen to anyone." The project is funded by a grant from Get Up! Rehabilitation Center, a privately owned, for profit rehabilitation facility owned by Freed.

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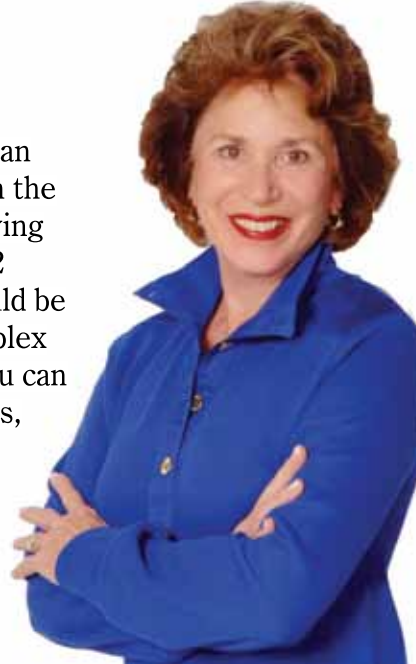
University Heights Townhome



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This lovely end unit is very private and has its' own front and back yard, and an atrium patio that is accessed from the family room. It has tree top views from the living room with a western exposure. On the main level, there is a formal living room, half bath, dining area, kitchen, and den. Two nice sized bedrooms and 2 bathrooms are on the second floor. Both bedrooms have an alcove which would be perfect for an office or nursery. In addition this is the only home in this complex with a 2 car garage with access off the alley. The location cannot be beat. You can walk to coffee houses and restaurants along Park Blvd and Trader Joes, Ralphs, Farmers Market and more restaurants across the Vermont St Bridge.



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