

NEXT UHCA MEETING DECEMBER 6

ALICE BIRNEY ELEMENTARY
AUDITORIUM / 4345 CAMPUS AVENUE
6:45 pm CRIME WATCH, 7:00 pm MEETING

HOLIDAY DESSERT POTLUCK & AWARDS



6

8

10

University Heights Community Association December 2018 / January 2019

NEWS

UH YEAR-END DEVELOPMENT ROUNDUP

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT COMES TO UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS IN 2018 THE PRICE (AND VALUE) OF VIGILANCE

2018 witnessed strong interest in redevelopment of several prominent University Heights properties. Our community was ready for it.

The San Diego Unified School District began with a proposal to swap its Ed Center site for a new headquarters, but ended by deciding not to move forward. Rather, they chose to fold the future of the Ed Center property into a larger bond measure. As you read this, the results are in. Measure YY passed, so the district will need to decide whether to refresh its current campus or purchase an alternate site and sell or lease the current location. If the former, we will have an opportunity to influence the district in a way that should result in a major improvement to

the community. If the latter, we may find ourselves with a new neighbor from the public sector, or even a private developer. No matter the outcome, UHCA intends to offer a forum and a voice for the community to engage the government or private players involved.

UHCA's ability to amplify the community's voice also came in handy when the DMV announced plans to upgrade its 60-year-old Normal Street facility without providing for mixed-use, transit-friendly development, public access, or public parking at this important site. Because our community is known to be organized, active, and aware (thanks to UHCA News and our monthly meetings), our elected representatives did not need

to be prompted to get to work to ensure a better outcome. Although not officially on hold, the DMV project has now shifted into "slow motion" while its leadership investigates new designs and locations. UHCA, Uptown Planners, our elected representatives, and community members worked together like a well-oiled machine to achieve a good result. Working together successfully helped us learn to work together better. We improved our lines of communication, built trust, and established credibility that is now a valuable intangible asset that will serve us well.

Another example is the Lennar project along Park Boulevard. Lennar, one of the largest home builders in America, was not obligated to seek local approvals because their project conforms to current zoning regulations. Yet, they came to our November meeting to answer our questions and hear our concerns.

A strong turnout of 120 well-informed, articulate, and courteous neighbors impressed Lennar, making it likely that other developers or public officials will share their plans and get our input. Only time will tell how many of our suggestions will find their way onto Lennar's drawing board, but at the very least, UH residents who participated in the discussion went away with a better understanding of the process that shapes their immediate urban environment and a greater ability to influence its future.

Another opportunity for UH residents to influence what happens to their neighborhood emerged late in 2018. An organization called New City America began the process of creating a Community Benefit District to benefit commercial property owners and businesses on Park Boulevard. However, residents also should be concerned, because if successful, the new district has the potential to impact neighborhood identity; e.g., by marketing a name like "West End" rather than University Heights.

By the time you read this, New City America may have decided not to include Park Boulevard north of Meade, which may be good or bad, depending on your point of view. Either way, you can be sure that UHCA will do its best to give the community a voice and a forum to influence the result. So, stay tuned and stay informed. And if you can, consider becoming an UHCA member (\$25 at uhsd.org). More members give us a louder voice, which tends to make people who want to do business in our community show up at our meetings and respond to our concerns. — *William Smith*

LOOKING AHEAD:

**NO UHCA MEETING
IN JANUARY.**

**NEXT UHCA MEETING WILL BE
FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

Topic will be announced on
ourwebsite in the next few weeks.

DESSERT POTLUCK AND AWARDS CEREMONY AT DECEMBER 6 UHCA MEETING

Following the Crime Watch portion of the meeting on December 6, we will have brief announcements followed by UHCA Awards of the Year and our annual dessert potluck.

As in previous years, we're pleased to honor our Blockwalkers, the 67 invaluable volunteers who deliver more than 4800 newspapers 10 times a year throughout University Heights. Help us recognize these special neighbors: JD Abercrombie, Carol Baras, Karen Boyd & Dennis Richards, Ernie Bonn, Mark Brlej, Paula Cameron, Louisa Compagna, Priscilla & Terry Dickson, Tom & Barbara & Joey Dowdy, Randi Dropkin & Phyllis Charlton, Michele Dunne, Jim Eagan, John & Jean Earl, Paul Eisenkramer, Kristie Edgmond, Erin Favley, Elisabeth Fidler, Liz Dunn Flynn, Joan Foster, Lisa Getz, John Hensley, Naida Hindert, Susan & David Holts, Christopher Hutchinson, Beth Jaworski, Gene Johnson, John Jorgensen, Nancy Keys, Dick King, Mark Koopman, Monica Lanctot & Adam Graham, Erin

MacKinnon, Randall Mann & Sarah Luth, Pepe Martinez, Sheila Moss, Sharon Nelson, Matt Norton, Barbara Noyer, John O'Connor, Gale Osborn, Laurie Parker, Colette Pisacano, Jean Rannells, Sheila & Tom Riis, Karen Rosen & John Chan, Brian Ross, Paul Sandbo, Tim Sanders, Dawn Sassi, Scott Schechter, Kelly Shaw, Josh Stager, Mary Anne Stevens, Theresa Friederich & Wayne Takasugi, Patrick Tresse, Ron Widmer, Jennifer Williamson, Jim Webb, and Richard Wood.

Lastly, we'll be bestowing the Plume of the Year on **Brent Orlesky**. Don't forget to consider participating in our annual Birney Giving Tree that helps students at Alice Birney Elementary School make this time of the year just that much more special.

We will conclude with our traditional annual dessert potluck. Please bring a dessert to share with your neighbors.



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

CAROLING IN THE HEIGHTS

7 DEC 2018
CHAMBER BRAVURA
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED A CAPPELLA YOUTH CHOIR
25 CAROLERS · 1 TROLLEY · 5 STOPS

5PM: 4075 PARK / BFD & THE UPS STORE - TREATS: BFD
5:40: 4635 PARK - TREATS: CECILIA'S JEWELRY & PEMBERLEY
6:15: 2105 MISSION AVE - TREATS: MYSTIC MOCHA
6:50: VERMONT ST BRIDGE / UH SIDE - TREATS: TWIGGS
7:30: THE PT / GOLDEN GATE & RHODE ISL - TREATS: TWIGGS

MEMBERSHIP

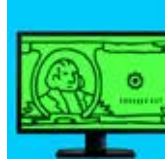
JOIN TODAY AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
OUR SUCCESS IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FROM AREA RESIDENTS LIKE YOU.



NEW/RENEWING MEMBERS

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Steven Kolbert, Peter & Patti Roehrs, Sharon Ritchie, Mariana Venegas & Robert Della Valle, Nancy Jackson, Brian Lexmond & Greg Holzschuher, Nan McGraw, Theresa Friedrich & Wayne Takasugi, Jennifer Colosimo, Patricia Ryan & Lloyd Alexander



BUSINESS

Cindi Hill, **Hill Compliance Advisors**; Mark Kastner, **Circle of Living**; Jeremy Dahl, **Bex Brands**

HOUSEHOLD

Karen Rosen & John Chan, Ronald Shaheen & Kurt Hermansen, Elizabeth Deig, Jody Darr, Heidi & Hans Baumgartner, Judy Schroeder, Jennifer Williamson, Daniel Weiss, Colleen Sevier, Larry Seubert, Peggy & Craig Bentley, Lee & Toni Bates, Jennifer Vanden Eynden, Angela Chelik, Marc Johnson, Cynthia Richardson, Christine O'Connor & Stuart McGraw, Karen Boyd & Dennis Richards, Mark Taylor, Cathleen Edwards, Daniel & Diann Nephew*, Mykl Parsons, Deborah Morrison, Lia Andrusson, Patricia Higgins, Michael Ann Meyer & Cait Casey, Carol Shear, Mary Jo Barr & Jane Gilbert, Christine Hernandez & Jen Fong, Mary & Andy Lange, Lee Sherwood, Curtis Braver & Rahim Panjwani

* Indicates new and renewing members who have made a donation in excess of the cost of membership. Thank you for your generous support of the work UHCA does to ensure that our wonderful community remains wonderful!

JOIN, RENEW OR DONATE ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.



Clip & Return to: UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

Yearly Membership

- \$25 Household
- \$45 Membership & mailed UHCA News
- \$75 Business Membership
- \$100 Golden Ostrich

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Referred by _____

- 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. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

Donor

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

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- 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 2018 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.



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

UHCA NEWS

EDITORIAL BOARD Maureen Markey, Phyllis Kessel, Nan McGraw

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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 5th of the month. Email submissions to uhcanews@yahoo.com. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

UHCA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Carol Neidenberg
 president@uhsd.org or (619) 549-3996

VICE PRESIDENT Maureen Markey

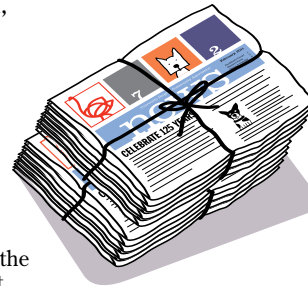
SECRETARY Kurt Hermansen

TREASURER Stuart McGraw

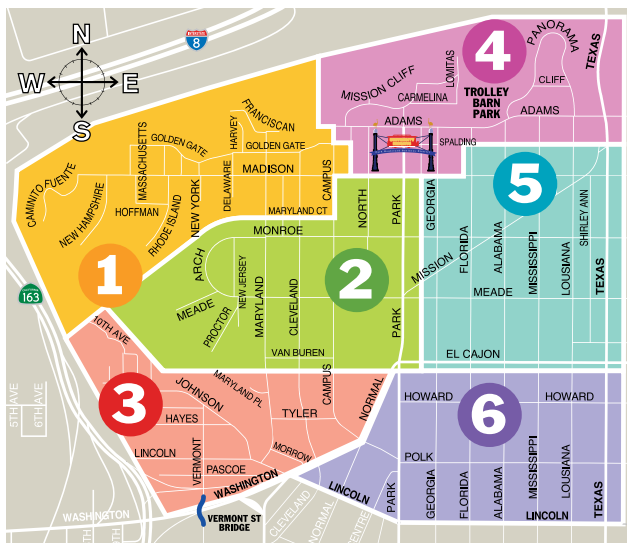
WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK /universityheightscommunityassociation

INSTAGRAM /UniversityHeightsSD



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at uhsd.org or contact your zone's coordinator, or Nan McGraw.

- 1 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs** pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange** mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Christopher Hutchinson** christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zyhlyj** tamara@tamarazhomes.com
- 6 Mark Koopman** mkzw6@yahoo.com



NEW CRIME WATCH SIGNS

Be on the lookout for the new signs that are now up. If you know of an old dilapidated sign that should be given priority, please email UHCA Secretary Kurt Hermansen at: kdh@habeaskurtus.com.



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH is a chronic problem. Shaving time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. Set your alarm clock 15 minutes ahead and slow down.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical 911
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. 619-531-2000
 Online: non-emergency problems: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done
SD City Services non-emergency: street lights, pot holes, etc. 619-527-7500
 Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments
SD City Services emergency 619-527-7500
 Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments
 Storm damage: fallen trees, flooding, clogged storm drains
Alert San Diego reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies
 Requiring evacuations www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/
2-1-1 San Diego
 Free Community Resources Cal Fresh, Medi-Care, Covered California, etc. 211 or 858-300-1211
Abandoned Vehicles 858-495-7856
Alice Birney Elementary Office 619-497-3500
Animals / Non-Emergency 619-767-2675
Brush and Weed Abatement 619-533-4444
Code Violations 619-236-5500
Crime Stoppers Tip Line 888-580-TIPS (8477)
Department of Environmental Health public health/rats/rodents 858-694-2888
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E 800-411-7343
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes 619-515-3525
Narcotics suspicious drug house / anonymous 619-531-2468
Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) 619-692-4945
 Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support

SDPD Community Relations Officers:
 David Surwilo (dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov) 619-692-4858
 Ricardo Pinon (rpinon@pd.sandiego.gov) 619-692-4821
SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service 800-252-4613
Suicide Prevention—National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
 For immediate confidential, suicide crisis counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call toll-free, San Diego County Access & Crisis Line, 1-888-724-7240. Other resources: Lifeline Chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat, 1-800-273-TALK (8255). #BeThe1To at www.bethe1to.com; Website: up2sd.org; call local hotline at 888-724-7240 for live chat, 4-10 pm weekdays
UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corp 619-297-3166
University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd 619-692-4912
UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com 619-260-0668
Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: 911
 Report Online: apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/ email photos: cericson@pd.sandiego.gov
 Graffiti Hotline: 619-257-7500
SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats 858-694-2888
 Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov
Https://getitdone.force.com/ Download and use this app if you see a non-emergency problem in the city like potholes, graffiti, etc..
If all else fails, email TRenner@sandiego.gov at Councilmember Chris Ward's office.

DISASTER CONTACTS

In case of a major disaster such as an earthquake or fire, have two out of state contacts on speed dial. When the power is off cordless phones won't work. Have a basic phone you can plug into a phone jack that you can use for calls.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAROL NEIDENBERG

Another year has passed and 2018 is in our rear-view mirror. Once again, your involvement — whether it be joining the community association, renewing your membership, or volunteering your time — is what makes University Heights a unique and wonderful community to live and work in. You are the reason.

Committees - UHCA wants to recognize our committee members who are the backbone of our success. The Beautification Committee for the clean-ups and efforts to make Trolley Barn Park more usable and enjoyable for everyone. Hats off to our UHCA newspaper team: ten times a year, cajoling, writing, editing, and designing papers that are delivered by 62 blockwalkers who deliver more than 4,800 papers to residences and businesses. Marketing and Program Committees — for great merchandise, handsome street pole banners, and interesting speakers at our meetings.

Events - There were the perennial Cookies with the Cops and Caroling in the Heights. Three family friendly **Movies in the Trolley Barn Park** were initially funded by a Bike to Work SANDAG grant and then supplemented by a County of San Diego grant, thanks to support from Supervisor Ron Roberts' office. If you weren't able to catch a movie, you missed the kids lining up for the

face painting and popcorn for all. Next year, join us. Also, we held our first, now annual, fantastic **Tag Sale** event. Look for the second one in 2019.

Birney School Support - Your donations enabled UHCA to contribute to the school. This included the Giving Tree holiday gift cards for students and their families, and six bicycles, thanks to a generous local foundation. We had a fun art contest with the theme of an ostrich riding a bike in the park. The response was overwhelming and the kids submitted wonderful creative drawings. It was hard to choose the winners.

Zone Watch - Through Councilmember Ward's intervention, funding for new Neighborhood Watch Signs was allocated and new signs appeared with the "big eye." We still have a few extra ones so let us know if you think your block needs one.

Watch for more great events and advocacy in 2019. To do so, we need your continued help and participation. If you're not a member of UHCA now, please join. If you are a member, please renew your membership and consider joining at the Ostrich Level.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season!

CAROLING IN THE HEIGHTS

EVENING OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

The University Heights Community Association is very excited to introduce a new format and group to our annual Caroling in the Heights. **Chamber Bravura** is an internationally acclaimed, San Diego based a cappella youth choir. The leader of this group, Katherine Girvin, is district-wide principal of the Borrego Springs Unified School District and daughter of Rod and Nancy Girvin who reside in University Heights.

This world- renowned group is composed of vocalists from various middle and high schools from around San Diego County. The kids range in age from 11 to 18 years old. They have performed at the Vatican, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center multiple times and have won competitions around the globe. On an international level, they have toured across Italy, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Wales, and the Czech Republic. They also represented the United States at the Australian International Music Festival in Sydney, Australia, in 2017. We are indeed fortunate to feature this talented group of young people to our community.

The San Diego Trolley Company will be transporting the

25 carolers from one point to the next. Here is the schedule:

- 5 -5:30 pm, at BFD/UPS, 4075 Park Blvd (refreshments from BFD)**
- 5:40-6:10 pm, at Pemberley Realty courtyard, 4635 Park Blvd (refreshments from Cecilia's Fine Jewelry and Pemberley)**
- 6:15-6:45 pm, at Mystic Mocha, 2105 Mission Ave (refreshments from Mystic Mocha)**
- 6:50-7:20 pm, at Vermont St Bridge (UH side) (refreshments from Twiggs)**
- 7:30-8 pm, at The Point (Golden Gate and Rhode Island) (refreshments from Twiggs)**



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The November 1, 2018, UHCA general meeting opened to a standing-room only crowd. Nan McGraw and Bill Smith conducted the meeting, which started with Crime Watch at 6:45 pm.

Todd and Senator Toni Atkins want improvements to the proposed plan for the new DMV facility, so the DMV is going back to the drawing board.

- a. Officer David Surwilo reminded everyone: If you see something, say something.
- b. You can file police reports online or submit a work order using the Get It Done app, for iPhone and Android, which is great for reporting homeless encampments, potholes, graffiti, streetlights, or anything non-emergency, and you can track the response.
- c. Crimemapping.com is a much better source than Nextdoor for gauging verified crime statistics.

North Park Planning Committee meets 3rd Tuesday of the month. Elections every spring. www.northparkplanning.org.

Zack Bundschaft, rep for Congress Member Susan Davis, gave an update.

FEATURED PRESENTATION
Bill Smith introduced the featured presentation at 7:15 pm, the Lennar Housing project proposed for El Cajon and Park Blvd. Lennar is a large public company, which agreed to provide us information about the new apartment building they will be constructing. More than 120 neighbors were present to hear from Lennar about their project planned for Park Boulevard between Meade and El Cajon.

No deviations from zoning requirements are planned. Design details are still under development, but the building will be a high-density complex with 20,000 square feet of retail and 379 residential units. One half of the street frontage will be retail, mostly on El Cajon. Thirty units will be affordable housing, with an affordable one-bedroom unit going for about \$974 per month. The project is privately funded, with no taxpayer subsidy.

Although there will be 486 residential and 71 retail parking spaces (557 total, one per bedroom), none will be visible from the street. Garage entrances will be on Park and on Meade. The sidewalks will be widened but the streets will not be narrowed. The alley in back will be widened by about 6 feet. There will be five courtyards, some facing the street and some inside. The largest open space will be on the corner of El Cajon and Park. Three eucalyptus trees will be saved, if possible. Lusti Motors will remain, moving their lot to the Georgia side of the business.

Lennar expects to pay the \$2.68 million (\$7,000 per unit) in Development Impact (DIF) Fees to the North Park community. It is up to University Heights to ensure those funds benefit the University Heights community near the impacted area. Councilmember Ward has prioritized the roundabout at El Cajon and Park Boulevards. This is also an opportunity to advocate for improvements to the Highway 163 approach. Construction should start June 2019 and take about 30 months. — *Kurt Hermansen, UHCA Secretary, and Bill Smith, Board Member, Uptown Planners*

REPORTS

Marcia and Greg Sorini and Brent Orlesky set up the UHCA Giving Tree, our holiday fundraising program for most-at-need kids at Birney Elementary School. We will collect gift certificates at the December UHCA meeting and present the proceeds to Birney.

Rod Girvin encouraged volunteers to help with the UHCA November 10 Fall Cleanup, which will take place at Birney Elementary School, with participation from Birney parents. Meet at Meade and Park at 9:00 am.

Tyler Renner, rep for City Councilmember Chris Ward.

- d. Chris' polystyrene foam ban passed the first level.
- e. Chris' #1 policy priority is the homelessness problem.
- f. Scooter regulations will go into effect at the end of November. Helmets are not required.
- g. Chris does support adding housing that includes 10% affordable housing.




Nick Serrano, Assemblymember Todd Gloria's Communications Director, reported that the California Legislature's term is over, and Todd has completed his first term.

- h. Todd sent 15 bills to Governor Brown this past year, 13 of which became law. Of the 12 bills Todd sent in his first year, 11 were signed.
- i. The DMV facility on Normal treet will be replaced. Both

UHCA NEEDS TECH VOLUNTEERS!

UHCA is looking for a web designer/developer who has the time and desire to help our organization serve the community with a more usable and informative website. Experience with Wix would be useful but not essential. Also, if you a Salesforce power user or developer (or know one), we need help fine tuning and migrating membership data to the Non-Profit Success Pack (NPSP), as well as implementing the Volunteer Management module. Contact Bill Smith at wsmithjr@msn.com if you're interested.

DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 The Point Clean Up 1:30 - 3:30 pm Golden Gate btwn RI & Del
2 Hanukkah begins at sundown  Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	3	4 Uptown Planners Meeting Joyce Beers Center Uptown Complex, 6 pm Board of Ed Meeting Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm	5 UHCDC Meeting 4452 Park Blvd. Suite, 104 6:30 pm	6 UH Rec Council Meeting Alice Birney Library, 5:30 pm UHCA Meeting Alice Birney Auditorium, 6:45 pm  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Caroling in the Heights	8
9 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	10	11 Hillcrest Town Council Joyce Beers Center, 6 pm Friends of the Library, UH Chapter <i>No Meeting in December</i> Board of Ed Meeting Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm	12	13	14 Preview Book Sale (Friends members only) UH Library, 3 - 6 pm 	15 Book Sale (open to the public), UH Library, 8 - 3 pm
16 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Bag O' Books sale (open to the public) UH Library, 12 noon-4pm	17	18 North Park Planning Committee <i>No Meeting in December</i>	19 UH Library Task Force Meeting UH Branch Library, 6:30 pm	20  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	21 Winter begins 	22
23 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Merry Christmas 	26  Kwanzaa begins No UH Book Club & Salon Boxing Day	27	28	29
30 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	31 New Year's Eve 					

JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year's Day	2 UHCDC Meeting <i>No Meeting in January</i>	3 UH Rec Council Meeting <i>No Meeting in January</i> NO UHCA MEETING	4  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	5 UHCA News Deadline for February issue. The Point Clean Up 1:30 - 3:30 pm Golden Gate btwn RI & Del
6 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	7	8 Hillcrest Town Council Joyce Beers Center, 6 pm Friends of the Library, UH Chapter UH Branch Library, 6 pm Board of Ed Meeting Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm	9	10	11	12
13 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	14	15 North Park Planning Committee North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way, 6:30 pm	16 UH Library Task Force Meeting UH Branch Library, 6:30 pm	17  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	18 Preview Book Sale (Friends members only) UH Library, 3 - 6 pm 	19 Book Sale (open to the public), UH Library, 8 - 3 pm
20 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Bag O' Books sale (open to the public) UH Library, 12 noon-4pm	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 	22 Board of Ed Meeting Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm	23	24	25	26
27 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	28	29 February UHCA News out	30 UH Book Club & Salon UH Library, 6:30 pm	31		
				 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection		

OPINION

WILL UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BE REBRANDED AS "WEST END/PARK BLVD"?

New City America Inc (NCA) will soon be petitioning University Heights property owners to vote for a new "West End/Park Blvd Maintenance Assessment District" (MAD) which levies additional property tax in exchange for a little extra helping of services that the city already provides: street sweeping, policing, power-washing sidewalks, etc. MADs are most commonly administered by groups of local volunteers, but it's become big business for consultants like NCA, supported by big developers moving into UH and North Park.

Community organizing is going corporate and local volunteers can't compete. The Little Italy Association of San Diego, managed by NCA, has 29 Board Members; and annual revenue exceeded \$2.5 million in FY15, mostly from property taxes. Little Italy is almost at a "saturation point," but NCA has dozens of MADs across the country following the business model. Neighbors in Kensington refused the option in 2005 when faced with a plan that included the

replacement of Kensington's historic neon sign.

In October, property owners on El Cajon Blvd west of Texas and Park Blvd from Adams to Robinson were contacted by NCA's "The West End/Park Blvd CBD Steering Committee" with a letter and a survey wherein the words "University Heights" cannot be found.

Many UHCA board members already concede the likelihood of giving up some identity, autonomy, and oversight. Is an ostrich head in the sand? UHCA is volunteer led, supported by you and your neighbors who made UH what it is, including the rescue of Trolley Barn Park from a large development. If you want to live in "University Heights," instead of West End, I urge you to get involved! (stumcgrow@gmail.com).

Sleepy University Heights is in for a wake-up call: Welcome to North Park, you're at the West End. — *Stuart McGraw*

THANK YOU FROM THE UH OSTRICH STRIDERS

To our UH neighbors, friends and family—Thank you, thank you!

Together we raised \$3943 for the American Cancer Society's 2018 Making Strides event, a spectacular success for our tiny team in its first year participating. Lucky for us there is still time for YOU to make a bigger impact. Fundraising for 2018 continues through December 31. And that's right through holiday gift giving time. What better way to hon-

or those you love than by donating to a very worthy cause? You know you want to. Share the love here: <http://main.ac-sevents.org/goto/UHOstrichStriders>.

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement. It is very much appreciated. We look forward to having you join the team next year.

—*Melissa Leitch, Team Leader, UH Ostrich Striders*

FLORAL NOTES

Florabella, our neighborhood florist, was a slightly tattered building, a hardly noticeable presence on the street, but inside there was always a spirited welcome from Jen, Sarah, and the rest. A haven of dewy loveliness and fragrance, they offered friendly hellos and lots of fresh flowers for a last minute gift or your own house. I feasted on buckets of lilacs in spring, peonies in summer, waxy tulips, voluptuous lilies, and violet blue anemones, always accompanied by that damp, green, slightly chilly abundance. An invitation into the inner sanctum of the refrigerated case to choose was heaven.

When Florabella had to vacate that Madison Avenue building, a large fan group of us were sad but hopeful for their speedy return in a new location. As of my latest bulletin from Sarah, "We are still unsure what the future holds. We are in a "delivery only" site and we miss all our friends in University Heights." Do come home soon. In the meantime, you still can order delivered bouquets for the holidays. — *Phyllis Kessel*

FLORABELLA
619-574-7673
info@florabella.com

TROLLEY BARN PARK REPORT

The park looks beautiful and we are so lucky, yet a closer look reveals dead trees, sick trees, trip hazards, and a homeless occupation.

Longtime UH resident and Certified Arborist, Ed Upchurch, owner of Ed Upchurch Tree Service on Cleveland Ave., identified a severe case of psyllids on the eucalyptus trees at the west end of the park. Ed estimates the trees have been infested for up to five years and should be treated with a systemic injection and spray. The eucalyptus drop contaminated leaves and block sunlight, thus infecting and killing the trees below.

The west boundary of the park was planted with Sweet Hakea trees (resembling 8 foot pine trees) in order to hide the fences of the neighboring properties. Seven of these trees were removed in recent months. There are only a few left and most of the fence is exposed.

Tyler Renner of Councilmember Ward's office organized an audit of the park and its natural assets. Matt, a City of San Diego Horticulturist, recommended the

introduction of native shrubs and trees that are drought tolerant, some with large canopies to mitigate radiation, increase capacity for carbon sequestration, and are attractive to birds, butterflies, etc. Matt is impressed by the local advocates of the park and I, among others, am impressed with his ideas.

Michelle Chicarelli (City of San Diego Park and Rec Department, Area Manager II) is pursuing solutions to the trip hazards along the walkway caused by tree roots and removal of tree stumps. The homeless element at the benches east of the playground can be mitigated by lifting the tree canopy as high as possible with respect to the health of the tree. This will remove visual barriers and maximize light and air circulation. It's important that the police can see through the park as they pass by.

What are your ideas for Trolley Barn Park? Are you a guardian for children using the playground? Do you use the field? Contact stumcgrow@gmail.com or 619 793 7795 with your ideas.

— *Stuart McGraw*

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FOOD AND BEVERAGES

RESTAURANT REVIEW STELLA JEAN'S ICE CREAM

My friends and I have long said all Park Blvd needed was a good ice cream shop. Then it would have just about everything you could ever want within a few convenient blocks. Our prayers were answered by Stella Jean's Ice Cream. Steven Torres and Gan Suebsarakham opened the shop next to its sister company, Pop Pie Co. Stella Jean's is all about making really good ice cream and creating a space to support the community.

With that philosophy in mind, many of the flavors are made with ingredients sourced from local farmers markets, served up by the friendliest staff who will let you sample every flavor- because it really is hard to choose just one. My personal favorites included the salty caramel corn (just as amazing and sweet-salty as it sounds) and mint chocolate chunk: a chocolate ice cream base infused with real mint leaves. They also serve up dairy free options like matcha pistachio and mango.

As someone who drinks coffee as if my life depended on it (and believe me, sometimes it does), I couldn't resist the cold-brew coffee flavor, and nothing compares to Stella Jean's take. Imagine the best coffee you've had, multiply by 100, and then we'll be in the ballpark of Stella Jean's. It's not your typical coffee-flavored ice cream; it's much richer with a nutty creaminess that made me want to buy their entire supply. Luckily they do have pints of ice cream for purchase along with kid size, single, double, and triple scoop options. The interior of the brick and mortar is bright and well designed, and while it doesn't offer ample seating, I doubt anyone would leave their ice cream alone long enough to even sit down. — *Justine Hall*

STELLA JEAN'S ICE CREAM

4404 Park Boulevard
University Heights
619 501-8252
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 12 noon-10 pm. Friday, 12 noon-11 pm. Saturday, 11 am-10 pm.



Photos: Harrison Photographic

RECIPE COCKTAILS ANYONE?

If you are looking for a special New Year's Eve Cocktail, or anytime cocktail, look no further than Collins & Coupe for the right mix of things. It's located at 2876 El Cajon Boulevard and if you're interested in unique cocktail ware and supplies, it is a must. This is a good time of year to check it out, as well as a great place to do your holiday shopping. They also have gift certificates for the cocktail enthusiast on your list!

Owner Gary McIntire holds occasional published and private classes focusing on specialty drinks. For info on classes, get on the email list: collinsandcoupe@gmail.com. Here Gary and his wife Logan are toasting the New Year with his specialty cocktail. You can't help but have a festive holiday party with this drink. It's a variation of the classic French 75 cocktail, which is named after a WW I gun. The

syrops listed can be found at Collins & Coupe.

Raspberry Pepper 75

- 1/2 oz Fresh Squeezed Lemon Juice
- 1/2 oz Small Hand Foods Raspberry Gum Syrup
- 1/2 oz Blank Slate Black Pepper Syrup
- 1 1/2 oz Old Harbor San Miguel Gin
- Top with a splash of Champagne

Add all ingredients except champagne to a shaker filled with ice. Shake for 30 seconds and strain into a glass, saving room to top off with champagne. Finish with the bubbles, add a lemon peel for garnish, and cheers!

For a delicious non-alcoholic beverage, just leave out the gin and sparkling wine, combine the other ingredients in a tall glass with ice and soda water, give it a good stir, and enjoy! — *Nan McGraw*



Photo: Paul Farris

COLLINS & COUPE

2876 El Cajon Boulevard
University Heights
619 727-4971
Hours: Mon. & Thurs., 11 am-7 pm. Tues. & Wed., by appt. Fri., 11 am-8 pm. Sat., 10 am-8 pm. Sun., 10 am-7 pm.

EATING OUT IN UH



American Market	4395 Cleveland Ave.	296-8333
Bahia Mexican & Seafood	1985 El Cajon Blvd.	542-0540
Bahn Thai	4646 Park Blvd.	296-6363
bfd (big front door)	4135 Park Blvd.	255-4100
Circa Restaurant	2121 Adams Ave.	296-9152
Cueva Bar	2123 Adams Ave.	269-6612
El Zarape	4642 Park Blvd.	692-1652
Flavors of East Africa	2322 El Cajon Blvd.	955-8778
Grains	2201 Adams Ave.	269-5999
Great Maple	1451 Washington St.	296-8268
Hope at Lafayette	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	780-0358
Hundred Proof	4130 Park Blvd.	501-6404
Lestat's on Park	4496 Park Blvd.	501-6638
Loving Hut	1905 El Cajon Blvd.	683-9490
Madison	4622 Park Blvd.	296-6566
Mama's Bakery & Lebanese Deli	4237 Alabama St.	688-0717
Meraki Café	1735 Adams Ave.	269-9618
Muzita Abyssinian Bistro	4651 Park Blvd.	546-7900
Mystic Mocha	2105 Mission Ave.	688-0858
Park Boulevard Deli	4504 Park Blvd.	295-1362
Park House Eatery	4574 Park Blvd.	295-7275
Pizzeria Bruno Napoletano	4207 Park Blvd.	260-1311
Pizzeria Luigi	2121 El Cajon Blvd.	294-9417
Plumeria Vegetarian Cuisine	4661 Park Blvd.	269-9989
Pomegranate Restaurant	2312 El Cajon Blvd.	297-4007
Pop Pie Co.	4404 Park Blvd.	501-4440
Red Fox Steak House	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	297-1313
Red House Pizza	4615 Park Blvd.	546-7430
Small Bar	4628 Park Blvd.	795-7998
Soltan Banoo	4645 Park Blvd.	298-2801
Sprouts Market & Deli	4175 Park Blvd.	291-8287
Stella Jean's Ice Cream	4404 Park Blvd.	501-8252
Summer's Market	4602 Park Blvd.	296-0504
Twiggs	4590 Park Blvd.	296-0616
Twisted Taps (brews & chews)	2302 El Cajon Blvd.	542-9927
Wing Stop	1901 El Cajon Blvd.	297-9464



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LIBRARY NEWS

THE FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY #GIVINGTUESDAY

Thank you for being a part of the University Heights Library community this year. As 2018 comes to a close, the Friends of the University Heights Library is able to look back at the support we provided to our branch library and be proud of what we have achieved, including purchasing new books and equipment, sponsoring children's programs, improving the facilities, and providing hundreds of volunteer hours to our branch.

We were able to support our branch through membership dues, book sales, and charitable contributions.

This year, we encourage you to support the library by making a charitable donation. You can make a donation any day of the year, or you can participate in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. #GivingTuesday is celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (after Black Friday and Cyber Monday) and kicks off the charitable season, when

many people focus on their holiday and end-of-year charitable giving.

The University Heights Branch Library needs your support. Please join or renew your membership and make a donation to help us continue to support our library. Also, please spread the word and tell your friends and family to do the same. And remember to use the hashtag #GivingTuesday on all your social media to encourage everyone you know to participate.

Thank you for your support. — *Vickie Church and Maureen Markey, Co-Presidents, Friends of the University Heights Library*

The Friends of San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FEIN: 95-3313747. Tax deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego and used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.

UH BOOK CLUB AND SALON **MARCH** BY JOHN LEWIS

Additional Contributors: Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell

The author is the current U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th district and an American hero noted for his role in the Civil Rights Movement. His graphic trilogy entitled *March* is Lewis' first-hand account of his lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. *March, Book One*, was selected in 2018 as the finalist for One Book, One San Diego.



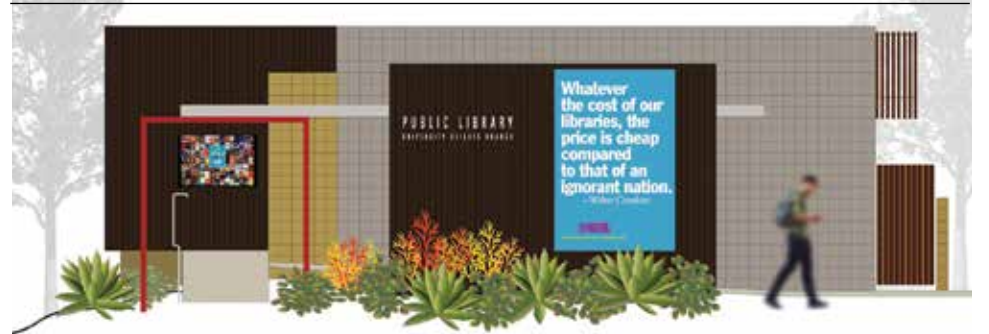
Book One covers Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, their struggle to destroy segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, and finally, to their arrival on the steps of City Hall. The author's amazing journey from a sharecropper's farm, a segregated school, beatings from state troopers, and eventually his path to the halls of Congress never deterred him from his commitment to justice and nonviolence.

Join the Book Club and Salon discussion. New members are always welcome! The book will be available at the UH Library's front desk during December and January.

UH Book Club & Salon
Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 6:30 pm
San Diego Public Library
University Heights Branch
4193 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)
619-692-4912

Lewis was encouraged to write a graphic memoir about his time in the movement to inspire young people. Drawn by artist Nate Powell, the *March* trilogy became an instant hit, occupying #1, 2, and 3 on the New York Times Bestseller List, and has since entered the curriculum in America's largest school systems and universities. The words and images of *March* bring to life the story of John Lewis, the courage of those involved, and the power of nonviolence — illustrating to new generations their fundamental importance in achieving changes.

THE UH BRANCH LIBRARY BETWEEN THE COVERS



The holiday season is upon us once again and your local library is here to help. Drop by to pick up a holiday book for yourself or the kids. Need music for your party or an audiobook for your trip? Take a look at our music and audiobook collections. Grab a film for movie night or ask about our great collection of ebooks and audiobooks. While you're visiting, join us for one of our upcoming programs:

- **Pajama Story Time:** Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
- **Morning Story Time:** Thursdays @ 11:00 am
- **Arts & Crafts:** Saturdays all day
- **Story Time with Caroline & Penelope:** Saturdays, December 1 and 8, 2018. Caroline and Penelope will be vacationing during January! They'll be back in February.
- **The Key to Healthy Eating:** Tuesday, December 4th @ 1:00 pm, REGISTRATION REQUIRED. What you eat impacts the way your body functions. Eating poorly or well can make a big difference in both your physical and mental health. Attend this free workshop to learn about topics including balanced diets, types of fat, and daily recommendations for fruits and vegetables. Presented by Sharp HealthCare. To register, visit sharp.com/citywellness or call 1-800-827-4277.
- **Star Book Workshop:** Wednesday, December 5th @ 4:30 pm, REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Get ready for the holidays! Join Yvonne of Envisionit for this fun workshop to create a six-section book that fans out into a star. Program is for 7 years and up and requires adult supervision. Register at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/star-book-workshop> or call 619-692-4912. Sponsored by the Friends of the University Heights Library.
- **San Diego History Center:** Community Quilt Project: Wednesday, December 12th @ 4:30 pm. Join the University

Heights Library and the San Diego History Center for a celebration of LGBTQ+ history month! Learn about the significance and impact of LGBTQ+ history and create a square for our community quilt in support and remembrance of victims of AIDS, violence, and bullying.

- **Deep Sea Exploration:** Wednesday, January 16th @ 4:30 pm. Catch a glimpse of the mysteries of Earth's largest habitat! Presented by World Below the Waves. Discover the creatures who call the deepest and darkest parts of our oceans home. All ages welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the University Heights Library.

As always, please check our Facebook page, online calendar, or give us a call at 619-692-4912 for any program related questions and updates.

Please note the following holiday closings for all San Diego Public Library locations:

- Tuesday, December 25, for Christmas
- Tuesday, January 1, for New Years Day
- Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

From everyone at the University Heights Branch Library, we wish you a safe and memorable holiday season and a happy new year! — *Laura Yee, Children's Librarian, University Heights Branch Library, (619) 692-4912, sandiego.gov.*

Library Hours

Monday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Tuesday	11:30 am – 8 pm
Wednesday	11:30 am – 8 pm
Thursday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Friday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Saturday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Sunday	Closed

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EARTHWELL MINDING THE PLANET

The Opriskos family moved to University Heights from Takoma Park, Maryland, a community that was a progressive, environmentally active community. They were recycling and heating their East Coast house with a corn stove and composting in a curbside co-op. On the move, Katrina, Chris, and their two children discovered a refill shop while looking for a place to live in San Diego; and when they settled in our neighborhood, they decided to open their own eco-conscious location nearby.

Here's the concept. Instead of throwing away your plastic bottles after one use, you can refill them again and again at their shop with natural, non-toxic goods. Their botanical products for house and home include everything from toothpaste and shampoo to laundry detergent. Household cleaners are free of harmful chemicals, shampoo and conditioner are free of sulfates and parabens.

Although they encourage you to bring your own containers, they also have some for sale as well as some that have

been donated for free. With a philosophy that a vibrant local economy benefits everyone, they carry products from local vendors like candles, deodorants, and facial wash.

A few years ago, while living in Spain, Katrina became interested in the power of plants after watching the older women harvest what we might call weeds. This inspired her to include in her offerings such natural ingredients as aloe vera, saw palmetto, turmeric, plantains, jojoba oil, lemon, borage, and mustard seed.

Recent news about the horrendous plastic trash that has accumulated in our oceans makes this chance to recycle our plastic bottles seem like a good idea. — *Phyllis Kessel*

EARTHWELL

4114 Adams Avenue
Kensington
619-888-1190

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 11 am-7 pm
and the first Monday of each month
www.earthwellrefill.com



Photo Courtesy Earthwell Refill



Photo: Dawn Harrison

SCHOOL NEWS

ROO NEWS MUSIC FOR LIFE



Music students typically choose their instrument sometime during elementary school. For Imani Ojutomori, the right moment came when she joined the Roosevelt International Middle School orchestra last year. After meeting all members of the string family, the cello piqued her interest. "I found the cello's sonorous tones the most pleasing," says Imani, now in eighth grade. At Roosevelt, students can take orchestra or band as an elective, taught by Nathan Elias Kocivar, a professional jazz musician. "I hope to inspire students to become lifelong musicians," says Kocivar. "If I can get students to work hard and enjoy playing an instrument, they will be playing music for the rest of their lives."

Through San Diego Symphony field trips and Mr. Kocivar's guidance, Imani quickly gained a deeper appreciation for making music. "Taking on a new instrument is a daunting task, but the orchestra put me at ease by leaving me plenty of room to explore and play on my own," she says.

Imani is also passionate about math, her favorite school subject. She plans to work as a research scientist some day and make an impact on the environmental, biochemical, or pharmaceutical field. In her free time, she likes to run, draw, and write science fiction.

Would Imani continue playing the cello beyond Roosevelt? "Definitely, because I've barely scratched the surface of what music has to offer, and playing an instrument is too enjoyable for me to stop."

Come see Imani and other music students perform at the free Winter Concert on December 13, 2018, at 6:30 pm, at Roosevelt's Auditorium. Students are hoping to participate in a Disneyland music festival this year. Please help make this Christmas wish come true. Visit www.friendsofroosevelt.org/ contribute and donate to the music program. — *Jennifer Ayala, parent of students at Roosevelt and Birney and a board member of the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation*

BIRNEY BUZZ



As Birney gears up for the winter holidays and the New Year, the Friends of Alice Birney Elementary will host the **Big Give** online fundraising event on Thursday, December 13, from 7 am to 7 pm. Our goal is to raise \$23,000 to fund Spanish, Art, and Garden. Show your holiday spirit by supporting your neighborhood school with one last tax-deductible contribution before the end of the year. We also offer many great sponsorship opportunities for local businesses. To learn more about what our International Baccalaureate students are up to, how close we are to meeting our fundraising goals, and how you can sponsor your world-class neighborhood school, check out www.friendsofalicebirney.org

We would like to extend our thanks to the **University Heights Community Association** for the special donation of several bicycles to Birney. We plan to use them for a special opportunity drawing during the largest fundraiser of the year, our annual jogathon, **Run for the Green**, and our summer **Passport to Adventure** celebration. Stay tuned for more details.

When students return to school in January, we'll celebrate **Great Kindness Challenge** for two weeks. Students, teachers, and staff will focus on performing acts of kindness, which highlights one of our important International Baccalaureate learner profile attributes. — *Ari Honarvar*

BIKES FOR BIRNEY

Our Birney Bees have been working hard this fall to get good grades, attend school every day, arrive on time, and show their IB (International Baccalaureate) Learner attitudes and personality traits by being knowledgeable, principled, reflective, balanced, open-minded, courageous, and caring inquirers, thinkers, and communicators. Thanks to our community partners, the University Heights Community Association (UHCA), this season they can win a brand new, shiny bicycle

for their efforts. All students at each grade level who have managed the trifecta of school good news – perfect attendance, excellent grades, and excellent citizenship – will have their names entered in a drawing for a bicycle, and the names will be drawn at the closing assemblies the week before school gets out for Winter Break. Well done, Birney Bees, and thanks to UHCA for always supporting our school in so many ways. — *Amanda Hammond-Williams, Principal, Birney Elementary School*

UH BEAUTIFICATION

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION TEAM REPORT FALL CLEANUP A SUCCESS

On November 10, more than 25 volunteers from the University Heights Community Association Beautification Team and the community took advantage of the lovely fall day to conduct a cleanup along Park Boulevard and Meade Avenue adjacent to the Birney Elementary Joint Use Field and along Campus in front of the school. By the end of the morning, enough trash, weeds, tree and shrubbery trimmings, and sundry debris had been collected to fill a large dumpster. In addition, new plants were planted at the entrance to the playing field at Park and Meade, making this highly visible corner clean and attractive to the visitors and residents who pass daily through this major entrance to our community. At the same time that this work was taking place, 30 Birney kids, parents, and volunteers were doing a cleanup on

the school campus with Beautification Team support. Trees and bushes were trimmed, planters were cleared of dead leaves, and the sidewalks swept.

Thank you to all of the energetic and enthusiastic volunteers whose efforts made this cleanup a success. Thanks also to Twiggs for providing coffee and to the following businesses which contributed gift certificates for the raffle prizes for the volunteers: Twiggs, Cueva Bar, Pop Pie, and Anderson's Nursery. Thank you also to Councilmember Chris Ward's office for contributing the dumpsters and to the NASSCO Cleanup and Restoration Committee for the use of their trash bags, gloves, and tools. It is this sort of community-wide effort that makes University Heights such a wonderful place to work and live. — Rod Girvin



At the fall cleanup at Alice Birney, Dan Weiss is holding ladder; Richard Yesh is up in tree.

CAMELOT CANYON UPDATE ANOTHER FIRE UNDER THE VERMONT ST. BRIDGE

In the early morning on Sunday, October 28, another fire broke out in the canyon under the Vermont St. Bridge (aka Camelot Canyon). Fortunately, this fire was quickly contained and wasn't as threatening as the fire in March. At about the same time, a third fire was reported behind Ralphs. Scant details were available at the time this article was written, but there is no reason to believe either fire was arson.

As reported in last month's UHCA newspaper, prior to this second fire, the city did send a crew in to clean up their jurisdictional area of the canyon. But, as the photos show, a tremendous amount of dead brush, palm fronds, and cut limbs remain as highly combustible material to fuel a third and possibly life-threatening fire. Camps are both built and abandoned frequently under the trees on the city side, leaving piles of clothing and trash behind.

While it may be inevitable the homeless will continue to call the canyon home, it's irresponsible of the city to allow the fire hazard to continue. To make sure the canyon brush management is completed, the UHCA Beautification Team is considering several

further steps: 1) a petition signed by as many residents as possible, 2) a gathering with as many residents as possible to present the petition at a City Council meeting, and 3) media involvement. To help with this effort, email MaryBeth Chruden at mb552@aol.com.

We ask all residents of UH to continue to put pressure on our elected officials to take this matter seriously and get the canyon cleaned up before another fire erupts. You can contact any or all of the following:

- Office of the Mayor: John Ly, Senior Community Representative: jly@sandiego.gov
- Councilmember Chris Ward: Aide: Tyler Renner 619 236-6633, trenner@sandiego.gov
- Senator Toni Atkins: Aide: Toni Duran 619 645-3133, toniduran@asm.ca.gov
- Assemblymember Todd Gloria: Aide: Nick Serrano 619 645-3090, nickserrano@asm.ca.gov

You can also submit a report on the city's Get It Done website: sandiego.gov/get-it-done or download the app. — Andy Lange and MaryBeth Chruden




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TAG SALE

POLITICAL NEWS

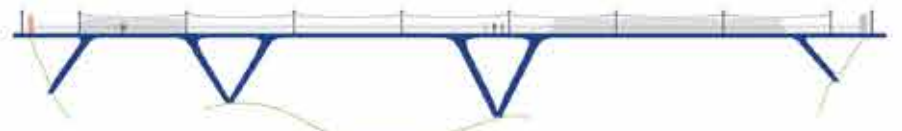
IN PLACE OF THE USUAL REPORT FROM RON ROBERTS, OUR COUNTY SUPERVISOR WHO IS RETIRING IN JANUARY, WE OFFER THE FOLOWING TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISOR ROBERTS FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

OUR TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS

After a 20-year career in architecture, Ron Roberts ran for and became our City Councilmember in 1988. Then six years later, he became a member of the County Board of Supervisors representing District 4. Now termed out, we humbly acknowledge his long public service career. Among the many examples of his unwavering support for University Heights are:

- The Trolley Barn Park acquisition was already in process and the design had been approved. Then, in 1989 the City Manager recommended that funding for the park's construction be eliminated. At the time, University Heights was divided into two City Council districts. Our champions were District 3 Councilmember Gloria McColl, who in 1985 influenced the rest of the Council to purchase the land for the park, and newly elected District 2 Councilmember Ron Roberts. They fought for us and were able to successfully sustain the construction funding in the FY90 budget. The Trolley Barn Park officially opened April 6, 1991.
- Hoffman Canyon was bulldozed by water utilities into a 57' wide road so that the city could repair broken and deteriorating sewer pipes. It looked like a freeway was being built through Buchanan and Hoffman Canyons as workers removed the vegetation. Thanks to Ron, the city mitigated the barrenness by planting new vegetation and trees. We remain grateful for his foresight.
- After the wooden bridge that linked University Heights with Hillcrest was taken down in 1979, we were assured the bridge would be rebuilt. In 1988, the funding for the construction was in jeopardy. Councilmember Ron Roberts and his colleagues came to the rescue. The ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Vermont Street Bridge was December 10, 1994.
- With Ron's support, beautification of Park Boulevard, including trees, new lighting, sidewalks, and undergrounding utilities, happened. Today, this area reflects his concern for improving the few blocks that are the backbone of the "business district" of UH.
- In 1994, after serving two terms as a Councilmember, Ron won the seat for San Diego County Supervisor, Fourth District. As Supervisor, he has not forgotten us. He continues to assist University Heights residents and businesses with grant funding for Movies in the Park, Concerts in the Park, banners on Park Blvd and Washington, and much more.

These are just a few of the many examples of what Ron Roberts was able to achieve for our community. Think of what he has done that has impacted the entire County of San Diego. It's an impressive list of accomplishments, projects, and support. After three decades of being a champion for University Heights, Ron, we salute you, we thank you, and we will certainly miss you.



Photos from top: Trolley Barn Park Ground-Breaking Ceremony, 1989. Park Blvd Mid-City Redevelopment Ceremony, 1987. Vermont Street Bridge Reopening Dedication, 1994. UH125 Anniversary Celebration, 2014. UH Trolley Sign Anniversary, 2016.



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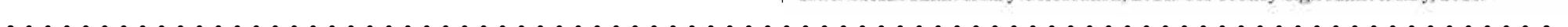
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FROM YOUR COUNCILMEMBER

For the last several months, my office has been working with members of the University Heights community and representatives from the San Diego Unified School District to find a solution for issues at Birney Joint-Use Park.



The City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District partnered to designate the Willie Serrano Field at Birney Elementary as a joint-use park after school hours. This is one of dozens of joint-use spaces around the city that allow our community to share limited space for neighborhood recreational opportunities. These spaces are for all community members—families, individuals, Birney students and parents, and residents with dogs.

The City of San Diego's Animal Services are now contracted through the Humane Society. Signage with their updated enforcement policies have been placed at the park. This includes their enforcement number (619) 243-3466. Their officers are on-duty from 8 am to 6 pm. After those hours, Police Non-Emergency can be contacted at (619) 531-2000.

However, we know there have been issues with community members using this field as a de-facto, off-leash dog park. Unfortunately, there have been a number of individuals that are not being respectful of current regulations.

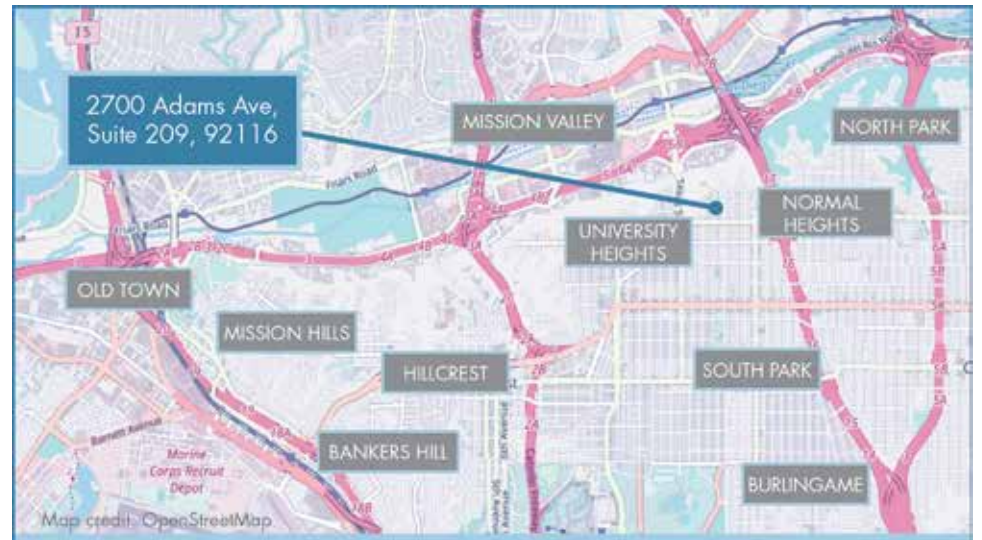
The Humane Society scheduled 16 after-hours patrols of Birney Joint-Use Field just last month. This was in addition to the routine patrols during their normal operating hours, which includes weekends. Officers were in the park conducting enforcement activity between 5:30 and 8:30 pm a few times a week at the beginning of November. This type of enforcement will continue, so please be mindful of the rules and regulation of the park.

Currently, dogs are allowed at the park, like any City park, but they are not allowed to be off-leash. We know that after work hours, there are large numbers of dogs off-leash. This presents problems for other residents who want to use the park. Additionally, faculty at Birney Elementary and parents have reported continued issues with dog waste being found during school hours and holes being dug on the field.

The University Heights Recreation Council, which is the community advisory group for Park and Recreation spaces, will be discussing Birney Joint-Use Park at their meeting on Thursday, December 6, at 5:30 pm in the Birney library. The aim is to discuss ways to share this valued space.

As a dog owner myself, I know it is important to have a space for our pets to exercise; and there are no other available dog parks in our immediate neighborhood. I am committed to finding new opportunities for public parks and exploring options for future dog park sites. However, in the meantime there will be additional enforcement for off-leash dogs.

If you need any more information on this important issue, please contact Tyler Renner, my community liaison for University Heights, at 619-236-6633 or trenner@sandiego.gov. — *Councilmember Chris Ward, San Diego City Council, District 3*



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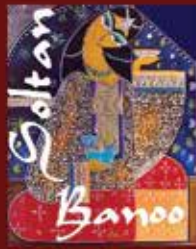


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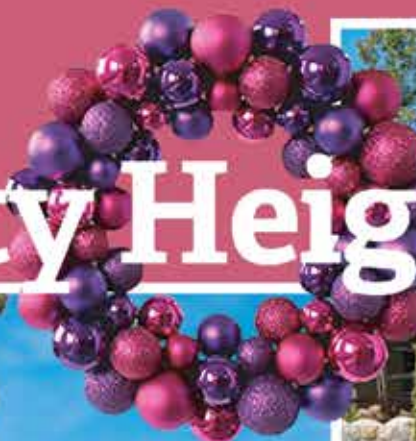
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