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Happy 133rd Birthday, UH! | Page 8



Red Fox Reopening | Page 11

Parks, Parks, and More Parks!

This has been a very busy summer for parks, citywide, and especially in University Heights.

On August 3, the City Council adopted, by an 8-1 vote (CD3 Councilmember Whitburn voted in favor), the new Parks Master Plan, the first update in 65 years. With one million more residents and significant changes to our communities and housing density, this much needed update provides funding and resources to older, more densely-populated areas.

The UH Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG) supports that goal, especially because our neighborhood is severely underparked and has advocated for many years for increased investments, with a long list of deferred capital improvement projects for our two parks (Old Trolley Barn Park and the Birney School Joint Use Field) and open space (UH Point, along Golden Gate), as well as a long-needed dog park.



distributed. While the new plan was adopted, there were some changes made to emphasize park size and to have regular reports to the City Council on how funds are used.

What now? Local groups like UHPROSAG will continue to be our community's voice to the Park and Recreation Department and will continue to advocate for more, and better, parks for our growing community, as well as take up issues with our current parks. We meet every 1st Thursday at 5:30pm (by Zoom for now; see calendar for details). UHPROSAG welcomes UH residents to join us in our efforts.

Vandalism at Old Trolley Barn Park: We've had an increase in vandalism at the park over the last few months. In addition to graffiti, a slide and one of the spring riders were damaged to the point



of having to be replaced. We also lost one of the new Cassia trees to vandalism. It appears that the damage happens over the weekends, so if you see anything happening, please report it to SD Police (non-emergency) at 619-531-2000, and if you see any damage, please report it on the Get-it-Done app, or at www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done.



And now for More Parks! As reported in the July/August edition, our multi-year advocacy for a dog park was rewarded with an appropriation in this year's city budget. Thanks to the generosity of the San Diego Unified School District and efforts of Council President Pro Tem Whitburn and Mayor Gloria, funding was approved and the initial planning by the City's Parks & Recreation Department for an off-leash dog

park at the SDUSD Education Center site has begun. UHPROSAG has established a working group to help provide feedback for the planning phase and to help bring this long awaited park to life. If you're interested in helping, please contact us help@uhdogpark.org and/or join the Facebook group [@UHDogPark](https://www.facebook.com/UHDogPark).
- Marc Johnson, UHPROSAG Chair

UPTOWN PLANNERS

UPTOWN FOR ALL Wins Election

The July 6th Uptown Planners election witnessed the highest turnout in history, with over one thousand votes cast. The slate of candidates known as Uptown For All won all eight seats with a 30% margin of victory, proving that the message of Uptown For All was supported by a solid majority of those who voted in the election.

Uptown For All's stated goal was to restore balance to Uptown Planners, so that multiple viewpoints can be considered. The newly elected Uptown For All board members promise to consider the needs of people of all ages and backgrounds, renters and homeowners, businesses and families, locals and visitors.

The eight new board members have pledged support for bicycle and pedestrian safety, more parks, more housing, traffic improvements, and adequate parking to serve local businesses. They also advocate for responsible growth while preserving neighborhood character.

Meet the eight new members who joined the board at the August 3 meeting:

Stu McGraw, Uptown Planners Vice Chair and Public Facilities Subcommittee Chair, is a lifelong UHCA volunteer and the only Uptown Planners board member representing University Heights.

Mary McKenzie, Uptown Planners Secretary, serves on the Hillcrest Town Council and supports responsible growth, more green space, and accessibility and safety for our disabled neighbors.

NEXT UHCA MEETING

SEPT. 2
7:00 PM
GUEST CODY HOOVEN
COO OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER

September Topic: Cody Hooven from San Diego Community Power, a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, will discuss what a CCA is and how it can affect our electricity rates.

Learn more at sdcommunitypower.org
Hooven was previously with the City of San Diego as their Chief Sustainability Officer and led the formation of San Diego Community Power.

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

LOOKING AHEAD

OCT. 7
7:00 PM
GUEST CARIE CHOUINARD
CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM) MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

Mary Brown, Uptown Planners Treasurer, is a CPA and longtime resident of Mission Hills.

She is committed to historic preservation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Helen Rowe Allen, business owner, lawyer, and educator, believes in sensible growth, safe streets, more senior/community centers, and better solutions for homelessness.

Mat Wahlstrom, business owner, member of the Hillcrest Business Association, founder of Rescue Hillcrest, is dedicated to smart growth and affordable housing.

Christopher Cole, real estate developer, aims to balance development with historic preservation and the need for transit, parks, and infrastructure.

Roy Dahl, a mathematician who designs and evaluates vehicle routing systems, believes that new development should have the infrastructure to support it.

Lu Rehling, a retired university professor, supports transit, cycling, and historic preservation. Lu strives to balance the interests of residents and businesses while maintaining community character.

Uptown Planners is a community-elected board which serves in an advisory role to the City of San Diego, making recommendations on development projects and zoning in the six neighborhoods of Uptown: University Heights (West of Park Blvd), Hillcrest, Bankers Hill/Park West, Five Points/Middletown, Mission Hills. and the Medical Center.

Board and committee meetings welcome participation by all, taking suggestions for the agenda from residents, business owners, project applicants, and City staff who seek advice from the board as part of the City's community planning and permitting process. Meetings are typically scheduled the 1st Tuesday of the month (except in January and July).

- Stu McGraw



Previously, San Diego collected fees from developers for each new housing unit built, and those fees stayed within the community. University Heights is divided into two community planning groups: East of Park Boulevard is in North Park, and West of Park Boulevard is in Uptown. In the previous system, each housing unit built would have generated \$9,876 in fees for Park & Recreation in Uptown, \$5,468 in North Park.

City officials claimed that the old system resulted in inequities in the parks system, which is clear. In the last 10 years, wealthier communities North of I-8 received 80% of all developer park fees, while communities South of I-8 received less, and have grown increasingly parks deficient.

Under the new Parks Master Plan, monies collected for parks will now go into a city-wide fund that will be allocated by City Council with priority given to underparked communities as well as "communities of concern" as defined by the city's climate equity index scores.

The new parks plan also changes the city's standard for parks. Previously, 2.8 acres per 1,000 residents was the goal, but dense communities like those in Uptown and North Park fall far short of that target. A new points system will now be used, scoring parks on areas like activities, amenities, accessibility, as well as size.

UHPROSAG joined with the Park and Recreation Coalition (PARC) asking the council to take more public input and reconsider the complicated points system, as well as to add increased transparency regarding how parks are scored and how developer fees are

MEMBERSHIP

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



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS

Scott Schechter
Cashew Later Sauce Co.

GIFT

Sheila E. Moss

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Lillian Perry, Milt & Judy Cross, Theresa Friederich & Wayne Takasugi, Louisa Campagna

HOUSEHOLD

Anne Feingold, Christine Honeycutt, Herb Kulman, Bill Ellig, Debra Pacecca, Colin & Ann McNeilly, Kharissa Shaw, Sarah Lane, Janet Tait & John Rogers, Carl Latkowski, Maurice Nelson & Cody Silva, Blair Alexander & Dan Belair, Mark Bertone, John Kelleher & Mary Barger, Rolf & Layla Hains, James & Lynne Manner, Meredith Harward, Alicia Winquist, Bradley Whitehead & Lemuel Salao, Peter & Gail Volkert, Bill Winans, Judy & Weston Riffle, Valerie Berg

To all new and renewing members, we have been updating our database. If we inadvertently missed your name, please accept our apologies and let us know at uhcanews@uhca.org.

OUR MISSION

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights.

JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.

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



Yearly Membership

- () Feather - give what you can \$ _____
- () \$36 Plume (Household)
- () \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- () \$75 Business Plume
- () \$150 Business Golden Ostrich

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Referred by _____

- NEW
- RENEWAL

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 *UHCA News* to neighborhood residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising** Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership** Help meet record goals for 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 the *UHCA News*.
- Program & Events** Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org



UHCA NEWS

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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS Paul Farris, Marc Johnson, Patty Howland

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Susan Holts ads@uhsd.org

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 first of the month. Please see www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.



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INSTAGRAM [@universityheights_sdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity)

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
- 2 Pam Isaacs
- 3 Mary Lange
- 4 Christopher Hutchinson
- 5 Tamara Zyhyliji
- 6 Nan McGraw

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CRIME WATCH SIGNS

UHCA installed 60 new signs in 2016. If you know of an old sign that needs replacing or a location needing a sign, email signs@uhsd.org.



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH continues to be a problem. Shaving time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN! please email signs@uhsd.org.

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: Emergency & Non-Emergency 619-527-7500

Fallen trees, flooding, clogged storm drains, street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments

Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/

2-1-1 San Diego 211 or 858-300-1211

Free Resources: COVID-19, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc. 858-495-7856

Abandoned Vehicles 619-497-3500

Alice Birney Elementary Office 619-767-2675

Animals / Non-Emergency 619-533-4444

Brush and Weed Abatement 619-236-5500

Code Violations www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates www.cdph.ca.gov

COVID-19 California Daily Updates www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 County of San Diego Daily Updates www.cdc.gov

COVID-19 National Daily Updates 888-580-TIPS (8477)

Crime Stoppers Tip Line 858-694-2888

Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents 800-411-7343

Downed Power Lines / SDG&E 619-515-3525

Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes 619-531-2468

Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous

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:

Officer Michael Hayes mhayes@pd.sandiego.gov 619-692-4800

Officer David Survilo dsurvilo@pd.sandiego.gov 619-692-4858

SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800

Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service 800-252-4613

Stonewall Citizens Patrol Volunteer neighborhood watch patrol group operating in Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights. info@stonewallcitizens.org 619-320-8219

Suicide Prevention 888-724-7240

UHDC University Heights Community Development Corporation 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

SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats 858-694-2888

Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov

Get It Done Download the City of San Diego app for reporting non-emergency issues like potholes, graffiti, etc. Include photos when possible. <https://getitdone.force.com>

If all else fails, email IMCaballero@sandiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.



DISASTER CONTACTS

In case of a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. When the power is out, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ

Hello, Neighbors! I trust you all are enjoying a beautiful summer in and around the neighborhood.

Over the summer months, UHCA volunteers have taken a small but well-deserved break. As volunteers of UHCA come back to operations, the viability of holding in-person meetings has been reviewed, including reaching out to Birney Elementary School to check on the availability of their auditorium.

Unfortunately, with the rise in COVID-Delta cases and the increased requirements to keep people safe indoors, we are unable to return to in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. Watch the newspaper and website/social media for changes as the situation improves. In the meantime, don't forget to join us on September 2nd via Zoom.

As summer starts to wind down and we begin to look at fall & winter, we hope to gain some momentum in our work. We haven't fully recovered from the challenges over the last year and are working with a small group of volunteers just to keep the paper going and beautification activities happening for you all.



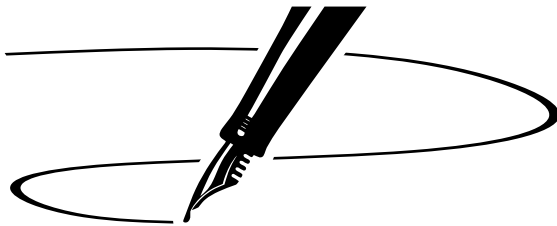
We are seeking volunteers who would like to lead areas in Events, Technology, and Newspaper Distribution. Volunteering for your community is a great way to get involved, connect with your neighbors, and participate in neighborhood topics.

Kindest Gratitude to all active UHCA volunteers for the hard work you do!

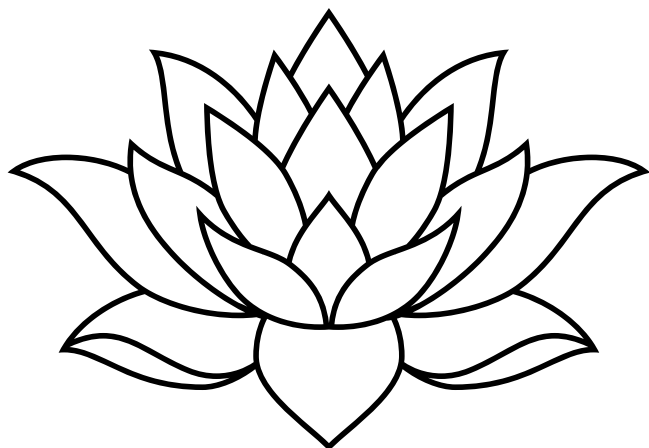
Happy September!

- Christine Hernandez, UHCA President

CALL FOR WRITERS!



UHCA News is always looking for content that matters to UH residents. We strive to cover local UH news, and our best "reporters" are our neighbors. So if you have news to share, or an item that would be of interest to your UH neighbors, we want to help you share it to the community in these pages. You can pitch ideas, articles, or topics to the UHCA News team by sending them to uhcanews@uhsd.org. Be sure to check out our Editorial Guidelines at www.uhsd.org/submissions.



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ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

Jessica Demirdjian, MAcc
619 846-7738

LotusTaxSD.com
LotusTaxSD@gmail.com

IN DEVELOPMENT

One Mississippi. Rising six stories above El Cajon Boulevard at Mississippi just west of the Lafayette Hotel, this development will feature 61 multi-family LIHTC (low-income housing tax credit) units plus ground-level retail. Developed by Trestle Build, who specializes in "affordable urbanism," this development will feature below-market rate apartments created as "offsets" from, and in partnership with, other developments in the area. The project is well underway with an estimated completion/opening in 2022.



Outdoor Dining. The City of San Diego approved "Temporary Outdoor Business Operations" in July 2020 and extended the program in May through 2022. Public surveys have shown that San Diegans are spending significantly more time outdoors, and permanent outdoor dining leads the list of changes residents want to see in public spaces.

Restaurants in UH that have built outdoor experiences ("parklets" or "streetaries") have proven to be wildly popular, including Madison, Parkhouse Eatery, Rare Society,

Rusticucina, Pop Pie, and Muzita Abyssinian Bistro. These are in addition to the existing "social curb" sidewalk seating or private patios at Bahn Thai, Kairoa, Yipao, El Zarape, Plumeria, Mystic Mocha, Twiggs, Lestats, Meraki, De Nada Kitchen & Market, Grains, and Tap Room.

Beginning in August, City Code Enforcement has been reaching out to restaurants to ensure their outdoor operations are in compliance with fire and safety codes, while a more permanent and comprehensive "Spaces as Places" program is defined by the City Planning Department and approved by the City Council in the fall.

Updates on developments previously reported on around the neighborhood:



Winslow – Park @ El Cajon Boulevard. Construction continues with excavation mostly complete and concrete poured. This 379-residential-unit, mixed-use retail complex is scheduled for completion in late 2022. (See UHCA News, April 2021 for details).



Tucci – Park @ Meade. Since our last update, the building has been "unwrapped," and we can now see the final shape taking place! According to the developer, the 5-residential unit, office, and restaurant mixed-use development is scheduled for a late 2021 completion. (See UHCA News, May 2021 for details).



Diversionary Theater – Park Boulevard. Major construction has continued throughout the summer across the entire complex. The new cabaret, offices, stage, and support facilities will be ready for Diversionary's 2021-2022 season, their 36th. "Homecoming" will open on September 23rd. (See UHCA News, April 2021 for details).



1939 Adams Avenue – Across from Trolley Barn Park. This long-awaited project has been in the works for over a decade, and new owner & developer Thomas Sutrinso has been pushing forward with this two-residential unit + retail and coffee concept mixed use development, with a late 2021/early 2022 scheduled completion. (See UHCA News, June 2021 for details).

In Development reports on new development projects in UH. If you have a project you'd like us to report on, please reach out to uhcanews@uhsd.org.

LGBTQ+ Historical Context Survey

As part of a comprehensive effort to preserve the history of the Hillcrest neighborhood and celebrate its unique cultural identity, the City of San Diego is asking the public to help identify significant buildings, sites and structures that memorialize contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Building upon the 2016 Citywide LGBTQ Historic Context Statement, the Hillcrest LGBTQ+ Historic Context Statement identifies historical themes, such as "Social Life" and "LGBTQ+ Business and Commerce," and the buildings, structures and sites that reflect those themes. Planners are asking the public to review the document, comment on the themes and assist with the identification of people, events and places that may have been missed. Members of the public are encouraged to share their recommendations through an online survey which you can find at bit.ly/HillcrestLGBTQsurvey or by submitting written comments to the City of San Diego at 9485 Aero Drive, M.S. 413, San Diego, CA 92123.

The survey will be open until Sept. 7, 2021, and the Context Statement is on track to be completed later this year. The City Council is expected to hear the Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment in 2022.

Nature in the Neighborhood

Prickly Pears and Cactus Wrens



Mission Fig Invasion



Coastal Prickly Pear Flower



Cochineal

Head over to the Open Space Park at the north end of Delaware Avenue for a tale of two cacti. Enter through the gap in the fence and you'll see a cactus patch. The plants in the front are covered in spines—this is Coastal Prickly-Pear (*Opuntia littoralis*). In the back are a couple with long, narrow pads with few or no spines—this is the Indian Fig (aka Mission) Prickly-Pear (*O. ficus-indica*). Both species bear edible fruits (*tunas*) and pads (*nopales*), and therein lies the tale.

The ancestor of the Mission Prickly-Pear originated in central Mexico, where the Aztecs and others valued those delicious nopales. Removing the spines before cooking is a hassle (<https://honest-food.net/how-to-clean-nopales>), so they picked cactus pads with fewer spines to grow, not eat. Propagating these is remarkably easy: just break off the pad, bury the lower third, and wait a decade. Repeat for a few centuries, and voila! No spines!

While examining the Mission Prickly-Pear, you may also see some ugly white stuff growing on its pads, which are tiny parasitic scale insects called cochineal. The Aztecs used dried cochineal to make a great crimson dye. Pinch a bit and see for yourself—just watch out for those “glochids” (spines)!

The other cactus, Coastal Prickly-Pear, grows only in southern California from the coast to the mountains (i.e., Laguna, San Bernardino, San Gabriel). Typically, it flowers from May to June, but blooms started late this drought year, so you may still be able to see some showy yellow flowers, their pollen-covered stamens crawling with bees (native and honey).

Besides hosting pollinators, this species provides a home for the rare San Diego Cactus Wren. It seems those spines come in handy for protection.

Now walk down the little dirt point to the lowest Eucalyptus.

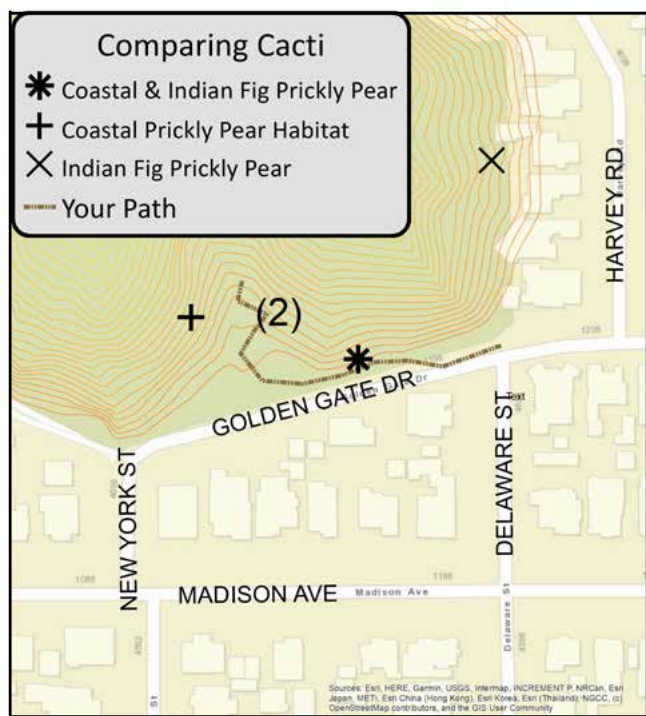
Look to your left. You can see patches of Coastal Prickly Pears growing among native shrubs. This is what habitat for the Cactus Wren looks like, if there were a couple acres just like this (sans Jade plants) to support a nesting pair. Cactus and bird used to occur all along the coast, but growing cities wiped the birds out.

A Cactus Wren was spotted in Buchanan Canyon back in 2006, but this lone male likely never found a mate. A breeding pair was spotted in Navajo Canyon in 2012 and may still be there, but in general, most of the 300 pair that survive in the County are found further east around Fallbrook, San Pasqual, Lake Jennings, and the Sweetwater/Otay area.

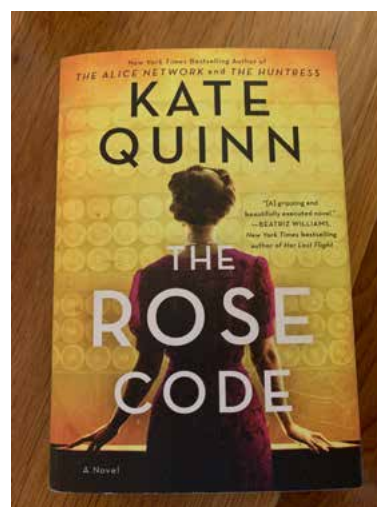
Back to the Aztecs... They propagated and traded their tasty, dye-supplying cactus far and wide, so that Columbus picked some up in the West Indies in 1493 and took them back to Spain with him. It's been spreading ever since (including via Spanish missionaries, hence the name “Mission Prickly-Pear”). It's now an invasive species in Africa (another name is “Barbary Fig”), Australia, and into our local canyons. Look across the canyon to your right. You can't miss the lighter Indian Fig Prickly Pears cascading down the steep slope—you're looking at habitat invasion in progress.

If you'd like to learn more about Prickly Pears and Cactus Wrens, please join us at the cacti at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 25.

- John Lovio, Wildlife Biologist-Ecologist, and Dave Flietner



WHAT ARE YOU READING?



“The Rose Code” by Kate Quinn

A good friend gave me this book. It quickly captured my attention, as I love to read historical fiction. I suggested it to my Book Club, and it's our next read.

Set in 1940s England during World War II, the novel follows the life of three young women from completely different backgrounds. They are each learning to

navigate the changes brought on by the war while still living the normal aspects of daily life. They are dealing with love and loss and the complexity of friendships, family, and life.

The novel tells the story of the important tasks that women took on as codebreakers for the English government and just how valuable their work was for turning the tide of the war. The setting of the story is Bletchley Park, a country manor that was turned into a top-secret home for the codebreakers during the war. It has just recently been designated a museum.

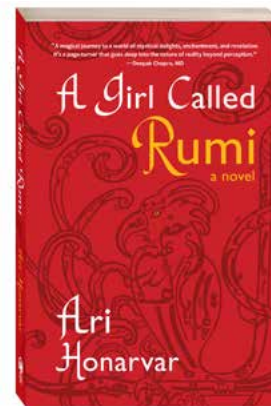
The three heroines working alongside other codebreakers bring this portion of history to life. The characters leap off the pages to immerse the reader into a great story and a seldom-told aspect of history. The author intertwines real life characters of that era with actual events alongside the main heroines. She did in-depth research that tells a compelling and historically accurate story.

I would highly recommend this book.
- Susy Holts

UH Author's Novel to Be Published this Month

I've lived in University Heights for nine years, spending much of my free time gardening and writing my novel, “A Girl Called Rumi” (forthcoming Sep 21). The book goes back and forth between San Diego and Shiraz, Iran (where I was born and raised), and weaves a tale of survival, redemption, and the power of storytelling. I spent many mornings at Twiggs, Mystic Mocha, and Lestat's, drafting and revising the manuscript.

The protagonist, Kimia, is a successful San Diego-based spiritual advisor whose Iranian childhood continues to haunt her. Her world unravels when she collides with a mysterious giant bird in her mother's Old Town garage and begins reliving her experience as a nine-year-old girl in war-torn Iran. Kimia remembers her friendship with a mystical storyteller who led her through the mythic Seven Valleys of Love and introduced her to the legendary creature, The Simorgh.



Ari Honarvar

Grappling with her unresolved past, Kimia agrees to accompany her ailing mother back to Iran, only to arrive in the midst of the Green Uprising in the streets. Against the backdrop of the election protests, Kimia begins to untangle the secrets of the night that broke her mother and produced a dangerous enemy. As past and present collide, she must choose between running away again or completing her unfinished journey through the Valley of Death to save her brother.

The book's release date coincides with the 41st anniversary of the Iran-Iraq War, and the launch is scheduled on Sep 22, 7 p.m. at Mysterious Galaxy. On September 24th., Powell's, the largest bookstore in the world, is hosting a Zoom conversation with me and Ashleigh Renard, the author of Swing. There are several exciting announcements in the works too. To find out more, join the mailing list, and to preorder the novel, please go to: rumiwithaview.com

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SAN DIEGO, CA 92116

CALL 619 297-7300
FOR APPOINTMENT

UHCA BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

STATE FARM

All It Takes Is One Good Neighbor

My name is Dorian Brewer and I am a State Farm agent. Recently, I was selected to represent State Farm in the One Good Neighbor campaign, and I thought it might be a good idea to share that interview with my University Heights neighbors as a way to “get to know me a little better.”

A little about where I came from...

I grew up on a grain farm in North Dakota the youngest of six siblings. I was a really active kid who enjoyed sports, exploring, building tree forts, reading and running anywhere I went. All throughout my childhood and adolescence I was a good student but somehow felt different than the people around me including my family. I made decisions to please others and to “fit in.” It took many years to finally figure out who I was as a person, to accept myself and to be happy.

Because of my experiences it’s been very important for me to be a role model. My platform as an agent is the LGBTQ community. Most of my team identify with the LGBTQ community. I make it a point to support local LGBTQ businesses and help promote them through my social media. I helped start my own charity three years ago to help the members of the LGBTQ community living a sober life build connections to rebuild their lives and be successful.

My passion is to be actively involved and support my community. A connected community is a strong community that understands and accepts each other for who they are as people.

What makes you feel empowered as a LGBTQ person?

Connection makes me feel empowered. When we are all connected as a community and supporting each other we can do anything. As they say, power in numbers.

There have been so many positive changes in my lifetime. National media exposure, gay characters on television, equal rights in the workplace in many States and the right to marry who we choose.

What adversities have you experienced as an LGBTQ person?

Fortunately I haven’t experienced many adversities thanks to the LGBTQ pioneers who came before me and forged a path to better rights and showing the Pride of our community. I’ve experienced some hate speech, even with my agency before I opened my doors but for the most part I lived in my own fear of what others would think of me if they knew I was gay. Would they think I’m not professional? Would they think I’m not a good person? I realized after getting older that I can’t control what people think and I need to live my life for myself.

Why is allyship important to the LGBTQ community?

We need our allies! I see allies as a bridge to understanding. You may not have an LGBTQ family member or friend but maybe your friend or co-worker does and they can share their experience. We all know how real it becomes when we know someone or are directly affected by someone else’s experience. Knowledge is power and knowledge can lead to understanding and acceptance.

What should you do if you don't have someone to talk to?

If you don’t feel you can talk to family or friends then contact a school counselor, join a support group or contact an LGBTQ organization for help and guidance.

What does being a good neighbor mean to you?

For me, a good neighbor is someone who is there for you and watches out for you. They help you move, take you to the airport at 5 a.m., watching your kids and care about your well-being. It’s a friendly smile and a morning hello.

What can one person do to help make a bigger impact?

Be an example by being a role model! Live your life the way you’d like others to live. You cannot control people but you can inspire them. Take action and get involved. Volunteer at your local LGBTQ support centers. See all the great work they do and talk about it with friends, family and neighbors.

Volunteer your time or donate money to local LGBTQ non-profits. Exercise your right to vote.

Tell us about an accepting adult who made an impact on your life as a young person.

My sister Burdella, or as she likes to be called Della, has always been someone I have looked up to and counted on to guide me through life. We lost our mom when I was only two years old and my sister was 15. She became the mother figure for me. A great example of a strong, independent woman who always tries to find the positive in every situation. My sister has worked hard for everything she has and has shown me that you can do whatever you want to do as long as you put your mind to it and keep moving forward. I don’t know where I would be or what direction my life would have taken without her influence and acceptance of who I am as an individual.

She was the one who showed me what it was like to be loved and give love in return. What it meant to carry yourself as a well-manned individual who works hard



and cares for others. She has unknowingly guided me simply by being an example of what it means to be a good person who is compassionate, kind, caring, loving and willing to listen to others and try and find the best in everyone.

She loved me when I didn’t love myself, took me in when I had nowhere to go, was a shining light when I was lost in the dark and inspired me to pick myself up and live life like I mean it.

What does acceptance mean to you?

Acceptance means being at peace with myself and content. Acceptance is loving myself. Acceptance is being a friend and loving someone even if we disagree. Acceptance creates a better world.

See Dorian's story at the State Farm Insurance - One Good Neighbor Social Media Campaign links:

- <https://bit.ly/DorianBrewerFB>
- <https://bit.ly/DorianBrewerIG>
- <https://bit.ly/DorianBrewerTweet>
- <https://bit.ly/DorianBrewerYT>



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COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWS

Our SDPD Community Relations Officer, David Surwilo, tells us there has been a disturbing surge of violent crimes in our city. San Diego has seen a 129% increase in gang-related shootings since January 1. Luckily, University Heights has not been touched by this. Our location helps keep us relatively safe, and our Neighborhood Watches and UHCA Zone Watch programs keep us connected and proactive.

I intended to have Neighborhood Watch gatherings and UHCA's Cookies with The Cops meetings by now, but these plans have been interrupted by the virus. My street was scheduled to gather three times this summer, but each time thwarted. So, I'm conducting our Neighborhood Watch via phone and email correspondence. I encourage you to do the same.

UHCA's Zone Watch Coordinator for Zone 4, Christopher Hutchinson, has retired from that position. Thank you, Christopher, for your years of dedicated service. If there is someone in Zone 4 who would like to take on that task, please let me know: Nan McGraw (619) 260-0668.

Additionally, if someone in Zone 6 would like to be Zone Coordinator, I would appreciate it. There is always more activity in Zone 6—the density and proximity to freeway access and busy streets such as Park and El Cajon Boulevards contribute to the zone's vulnerability. Recent crime stats for Zone 6 are included here.

Thank you to our Zone Watch Coordinators: Tamara Zyhylij (Zone 5), Pam Isaacs (Zone 2), Mary Lange (Zone 3), Nan McGraw (Zones 1 and 6). You keep us informed about crime within those Zones. Your dedication is very much appreciated.

I know helicopter noise is an issue. I will attempt to find answers for next month's issue.

Thanks for keeping UH safe. Please see Zone 6 Crime Stats and additional public safety news to the right.

– Nan McGraw

Homeless Issues and Concerns:

The Community Relations Officer for the Neighborhood Policing Division who handles all homeless-related matters for the city is Officer John Luellen. Please contact Officer Luellen for assistance with questions regarding homeless, encampments, and support for homeless individuals needing assistance: JLuellen@pd.sandiego.gov.

Get It Done:

If you need assistance with transient- or homeless-related issues, please use San Diego's "Get it Done" app. The app can be downloaded at the app store on your phone and is free of charge. You may also use the San Diego city's public website to report issues via the Get it Done link. The city is requesting citizens use these two methods for all issues so that you, the reporting party, and the city can track the initial report and the timeliness of the problem being rectified: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done.

Links and email addresses are not meant to replace the use of SDPD dispatch if you need a police response to your location.

ZONE 6 CRIME STATS JUNE/JULY/AUG 2021

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| VEHICLE BREAK IN/THEFT | 4000 Mississippi | 5-Jul | 2:30 PM |
| | 4000 Mississippi | 14-Jul | 6:00 PM |
| | 4200 Georgia | 25-Jun | 10:20 PM |
| | 4100 Florida | 8-Aug | 11:00 PM |
| | 4200 Georgia | 8-Aug | 3:25 PM |
| ASSAULT | 4000 Texas | 3-Jul | 11:25 PM |
| VANDALISM | 2200 El Cajon Blvd. | 28-Jun | 4:51 PM |
| | 2200 El Cajon Blvd. | 28-Jul | 6:17 PM |
| | 4100 Park Blvd. | 13-Jul | 10:00 PM |
| | 4000 Georgia | 29-Jun | 7:00 PM |
| COMMERCIAL BURGLARY | 4200 Park Blvd. | 12-Jul | 3:15 AM |
| | 1800 El Cajon Blvd. | 28-Jun | 4:51 PM |
| | 2200 El Cajon Blvd. | 15-Jun | 12:01 AM |
| | 2200 El Cajon Blvd. | 6-Aug | 10:00 PM |
| SEX CRIMES | 2000 El Cajon Blvd. | 7-Jun | 6:00 PM |
| RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY | 4200 Alabama | 20-Jul | 1:30 PM |
| | 4000 Texas | 7-Aug | 4:50 PM |
| | 4000 Park Blvd. | 7-Aug | 4:20 PM |
| VEHICLE THEFT | 4100 Normal | 29-Jul | 9:34 AM |
| | 4100 Normal | 18-Jul | 1:00 PM |
| | 2200 El Cajon Blvd. | 7-Aug | 6:00 PM |
| | 4000 Texas | 7-Aug | 4:55 PM |
| | 4300 Alabama | 9-Aug | 8:30 PM |
| PETTY THEFT | 4100 Park Blvd. | 29-Jul | 12:29 PM |
| | 4000 Park Blvd. | 29-Jul | 5:20 PM |
| THREATEN CRIME | 1900 El Cajon Blvd. | 10-Aug | 7:15 PM |
| DRUGS/ALC VIOLATION | 4100 Park Blvd. | 8-Aug | 10:36 AM |
| | 4000 Texas | 14-Aug | 10:30 AM |
| | 2100 El Cajon Blvd. | 14-Aug | 12:35 AM |

Buyer Sales in University Heights & Hillcrest!



4545 Rhode Island St. \$1,087,500
 2+ Bedrooms 1½ Bathrooms 1,038 Sq Ft

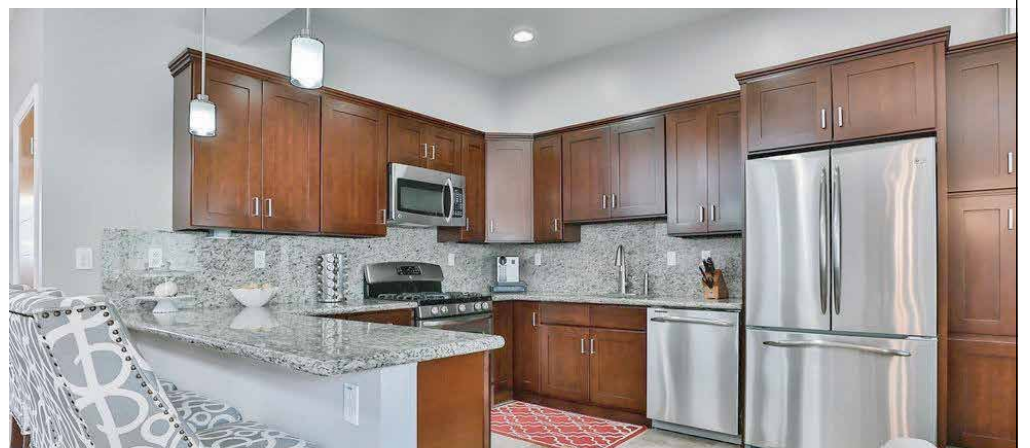
Turn of the Century Craftsman on almost 1/3 Acre Canyon view lot! Amazing potential. And we can't wait to see how our buyers improve this home and property!

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4046 Centre St. #4 \$725,000
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Urban loft townhome in the heart of Hillcrest! Newer construction with all modern finishes and cool vibe throughout! Happy first time homebuyers!

Mary Anne Stevens
 Maryanneshomes@gmail.com
 Cal RE #01034232

Anastasia Brewer
 Brewer.anastasia@gmail.com
 Cal RE #00894212



SAN DIEGO COUNTY IS READY TO RESPOND TO WILDFIRES, ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE

San Diego County Residents Should Sign Up for Alert San Diego to Receive Updates on Wildfires.

The County has invested more than \$575 Million since 2003 to Expand its Wildfire Response Capacity

San Diego County is prepared far and ready to respond to wildfires. Board of Supervisors Chair, Nathan Fletcher, along with Supervisor Joel Anderson, CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire Protection District, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, San Diego Fire-Rescue and other regional partners, laid out their plans for responding quickly to wildfires, highlighting recent investments in wildfire prevention and urging residents to proactively protect their homes.

"We are ready to respond to wildfires," said Chair Fletcher, who also serves as President of the San Diego County Fire Protection District. "Our County, together with our partners across the region, have the training, equipment and experience in fire prevention, protection and suppression; the duties they perform under very difficult circumstances are heroic."

Chair Fletcher is also Chair of the Unified Disaster Council and says investments in fire prevention and response are paramount to the County's core responsibilities to its citizens.

"Over the years, our region has invested heavily in resources to support wildfire preparedness, but the increased fire danger from drought and climate change require us to do more," Chair Fletcher continued. "Going forward, I will continue to work with my colleagues and regional leaders to explore more options to increase protections for our region."

Since 2003, the County has put \$575 million into its response capacity. This past week the Board of Supervisors invested more than \$2.5 million in roadside vegetation management. Other recent investments include:

- In the most recent budget, increased staffing and funding to convert three remote fire stations in the San Diego County Fire Protection District from 2 firefighters to 3 firefighters, ensuring all County of San Diego fire teams meet the staffing threshold.
- Wildfire Analyst (Research Data Specialist II) position staffed in San Diego (new for 2021); assists with fire risk forecasting for wildland fires in San Diego County.
- One California National Guard crew and one California Conservation Corps crew staffed up for wildland fire response.
- Continued County investment in fire risk reduction, public education, Residential Knox Box program.
- 10 defensible space inspectors in San Diego County, inspecting residential clearance and educating the public on defensible space requirements.

- New this year: Firefighter hand crews staffed by firefighters from CAL FIRE, the California National Guard, and the California Conservation Corps, all stationed in San Diego County. Firefighter hand crews cut lines around fires, creating a perimeter that keeps a fire from spreading.

During the fire season in San Diego County there are 13 aircraft available from five different agencies, and for extended firefights there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense that makes 30 military aircraft available, too. For the ground attack there are 18 Engines from the U.S. Forest Service; 27 Engines from CAL FIRE / San Diego County Fire Protection District; 3 Water Tenders from U.S. Forest Service; 4 CAL FIRE Bulldozers, and 12 hand crews. When surge capacity is needed, San Diego County Fire has an additional 23 Fire Engines and 10 water tenders.

Fire preparedness and response in San Diego County is about more than funding and equipment. It also requires regional collaboration among many entities, and leading the charge are the brave first responders from CAL FIRE / San Diego County Fire Protection District.

"San Diego County has the potential for devastating wildfires any time of year. Our firefighters train and prepare every day to protect our local communities, but we need help from everyone to be successful," said Tony Mecham, Chief, CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire Protection District. "Preparing your property for wildfire and making an emergency plan before a fire occurs is a crucial step for everyone living in the County."

In 2020, California experienced six of the largest and most destructive wildfires in state history, with over four-million acres burned. The Valley Fire that burned southeast of Alpine in 2020 destroyed 30 homes and forced over 1,400 residents from their homes. This year, firefighters in California have already responded to more than 4,600 wildfires, which have burned more than 73,500 acres on state and federal lands. Due to continued dry conditions and temperatures well above normal for this time of year, the 2021 wildfire season could be as catastrophic and devastating as last year.

To defend against wildfire risk, renters and homeowners in San Diego County should:

- Know their neighborhood's wildfire risk,
- Clear 100 feet of defensive space around their home,
- Use fire resistant landscaping,
- Create a family evacuation plan and be prepared to evacuate within 15 minutes,
- Register for Alert San Diego to get updates to your phone,
- Follow emergency information social media channels, including @ReadySanDiego and @CALFIRESanDiego, and
- Monitor emergency information websites, including SDCountyEmergency.com, SDCountyFire.org, and SanDiegoReady.org

CITY OF SAN DIEGO GET IT DONE TIMEFRAMES

SDPD Community Relations Officer David Surwilo recently shared this handy overview from the city's Get It Done website www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done, where residents can report issues to the city. The table lists common issues and estimated resolution timeframes. The length of time it takes to resolve an issue may vary. Timeframes below are estimates, subject to change.

| Problem Type | Estimated Timeframe | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 72-Hour Parking Reports | 25 days | The time it takes to resolve this type of problem can take longer, due to the code enforcement process. |
| Curb Painting | 25 days | |
| Dead Animals | 2-4 days | |
| Graffiti Removal | Public: 20 days Commercial (Code Enforcement): 50 days Private/Residential: 30 days | Graffiti response time can vary based on what type of property graffiti is located on (public, commercial, etc.). |
| Illegal Dumping | 3.8 days | Depending on the type and location of illegal dumping, this type of report may take less than a week or up to 6 months to resolve, if code enforcement actions are involved. |
| Missed Collections | 48-72 hours after being reported | Missed trash/recycling container pickups need to be reported to the Environmental Services Department no later than 5 p.m. on the following day after the missed collection in order to get return service. If container was tagged, please refer to the information left by the driver on the tag and correct the issue. |
| Potholes | 15 days | |
| Sidewalks | As soon as possible to mitigate damage with asphalt patching. 30 days for asphalt ramping; multiple years for concrete replacement. | Sidewalk uplifts are temporarily ramped or patched as soon as possible following reports to City crews. Sidewalk repairs involving concrete work take longer. Often, repairs are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. |
| Street Light Out | 130 days | Simple repairs, such as a burned out light, take less time to complete. Other problems can be more complex, such as an underground wiring problem, which can take more time to resolve. |
| Traffic Signals | 1 day Timing: 5 days | Reports related to traffic signal maintenance are completed within the same day. More involved reports related to traffic signal timing may take more time to resolve. |
| Traffic Sign Maintenance | 21 days | |
| Tree Maintenance (Non-Emergency) | 6 months | Emergency tree work is immediately dispatched for service. Other reports of tree maintenance are addressed as soon as possible, depending on the severity of the issue and may take up to a year to address. |
| Tree Trimming | Palms – Every two years Shade trees – Every 20 years | The City currently schedules trimming for palm trees every two years and every 20 years for other trees in the public right-of-way. |
| Street Resurfacing | Contingent on funding and other project schedules | Street resurfacing is planned through the City's pavement management system and completed based on available funding and in coordination with other projects planned for the City right-of-way. |

“THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! YOU GOT IT DONE!!!”

That message was a neighbor's response to the city's clearing out of a homeless encampment in Zone One below The Point. The camp was a safety concern for quite a few months. Neighbors used the city's Get It Done reporting service (www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done) to raise the issue and now, thanks to Benny Cartwright of Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office, SDPD Officer John Luellen from Neighborhood Policing, and the Get It Done staff, it's been done and we are grateful.

-Nan McGraw

BIRNEY BUZZ

Welcome Back, Bees!

For the first time, Birney students, teachers, and staff got to enjoy the full summer off after moving to the traditional academic calendar just last year. Teachers will be hearing about more than their share of summertime adventures!

Parents and students alike are anxiously marking their calendars for Friday, August 27, lovingly known as the “reveal” party, when they find out which teachers and classmates they will have for the 2021-22 school year. Teachers will perform initial assessments with incoming T-K and kindergarteners the week before school starts, and parents should look out for an email from Ms. Amanda regarding scheduling.

After starting off last year online, everyone, except maybe our newest bees, can appreciate even more the excitement, nervousness, and change that comes with this new school year. School starts up on August 30, in person, 5 days a week. Birney will continue to follow the COVID-19 protocols that have been outlined by the San Diego Unified School District. After-school programs will be available this fall. (Families opting to continue with distance learning will be able to do so via the SDUSD Virtual Academy.)



The Birney Fall fundraiser, an online/catalog event, provides anyone who is interested a chance to jump-start their holiday shopping and support the school at the same time. The fundraiser begins on September 10 and is expected to last a few weeks. In addition, we will continue to hold our monthly Farm Stand with Ms. Mindy, our garden teacher, alternating locations between Twiggs Bakery and Birney. All funds raised support our award-winning International Baccalaureate program which includes Art, Spanish, and Garden.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the 2021-22 school year or would like to donate goods or services, please contact us at: info@friendsofalicebirney.org. Friends of Alice Birney Elementary is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 27-2414127.

Welcome new bees, and welcome back to our returning bees!!

– Erin MacKinnon, Proud Parent of two Birney Bees and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member



San Diego College of Arts and Letters

Happy 133rd Birthday, University Heights!

There are many reasons to love University Heights, including its convenient location, strong sense of community, and significant history. At 133 years old, University Heights is one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods and home to the former Mission Cliff Gardens, Bentley's Ostrich Farm, San Diego Silk Mill, Adams Avenue Carbarn, the first reservoir for the city's municipal water system, and the San Diego Normal School, forerunner to San Diego State University.

The history of University Heights began in 1885, after completion of the Santa Fe transcontinental railroad, which spurred San Diego's first period of large-scale urbanization. In 1887, a large tract of land overlooking Mission Valley was subdivided by the College Hill Land Association, a syndicate of businessmen owning land in the proposed subdivision. The syndicate promised prospective buyers that a branch college of the University of Southern California would be located in University Heights.

On August 6, 1888, Subdivision Map #558 was filed with the San Diego County Recorder, delineating the University Heights subdivision. However, the proposed San Diego College of the Arts was never built, as the real estate boom suddenly burst in 1889.

Almost ten years later, in 1898, the site of the aborted college was donated to the State of California to build a “Normal School,” a state-sponsored teacher-training college. The Normal School operated on Normal Street in University Heights for over thirty years. In 1925, the Normal School was granted college status and, in 1931, was relocated to its present site on Montezuma Mesa.

Also in 1898, John D. Spreckels, son of famous “Sugar King” Claus Spreckels, purchased Mission Cliff Gardens in University Heights from the San Diego Cable Railway and developed it into a botanical garden, which encompassed some 38 acres at its height in 1914. In 1904, Spreckels invited Harvey Bentley to relocate his ostrich farm

from Coronado to Mission Cliff Gardens, across the street from Sam Hilton's San Diego Silk Mill.

University Heights did not really start to develop until 1907, when the San Diego Electric Railway was extended east on Adams Avenue past Park Blvd. In 1913, a massive trolley car barn was built on the property adjoining the ostrich farm and was used to store and perform minor service on several hundred trolley cars.

In 1910, the City of San Diego announced the proposed Panama-California Exposition to be held in Balboa Park in 1915. This announcement caused a large-scale increase in home, hotel, and apartment construction in University Heights, as well as construction of a street-car line along Park Blvd. to Balboa Park.

Due to the popularity of Balboa Park after the 1915 Panama-California International Exposition, and the development of Mission Beach by Spreckels in the 1920s, the popularity of Mission Cliff Gardens declined. Mission Cliff Gardens was closed in 1930 after the death of Spreckels in 1926. In 1942, the property was developed by the Spreckels interests to provide critically needed wartime housing.

Several vestiges of Mission Cliff Gardens survive and have been historically designated through the efforts of the University Heights Historical Society. These include the former entrance to Mission Cliff Gardens on Adams Avenue at the end of North Avenue, the cobblestone wall that runs along Adams Avenue from Park Boulevard west to its dead end, the cobblestone wall surrounding the former lily pond on Mission Cliff Drive at North Court, built by John Davidson and his workers, and the former entrance to the Ostrich Farm at Park and Adams.

If you would like to support preservation and education about our significant history in University Heights, please join the University Heights Historical Society and receive a free copy of one of our self-guided walking tours: Historic Churches in University Heights, Historic Normal School Site, or Valle Vista Terrace Historic District.

For more information about our community's early history, please visit UHHS at

<https://www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/history>.

– Kristin Harms, UHHS President

Ode to the Jacaranda Tree

many thanks

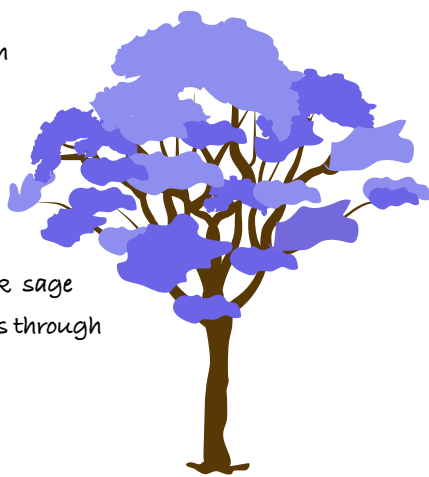
Australia sharing your royal purple San Diego
loves your flowering gift grace in late summer's blue sky
dressed in tints and hues

your knotty trunks outstretched arms feathered fingers
gorged with lacy charm curly lavender
how you wind-dance in the day's breath

silent trumpets waiting to spiral
colored rain avenues of carpet one longs
to run through

purple rains that tumble around cacti rock sage
as if to give thanks to the sun he who shines through
your glory until the stars lady moon
welcome your shade of mystic maroon

– Jon Von Erb 7/2021





University Heights Resident

- Purchases
- Refinances
- FHA and VA



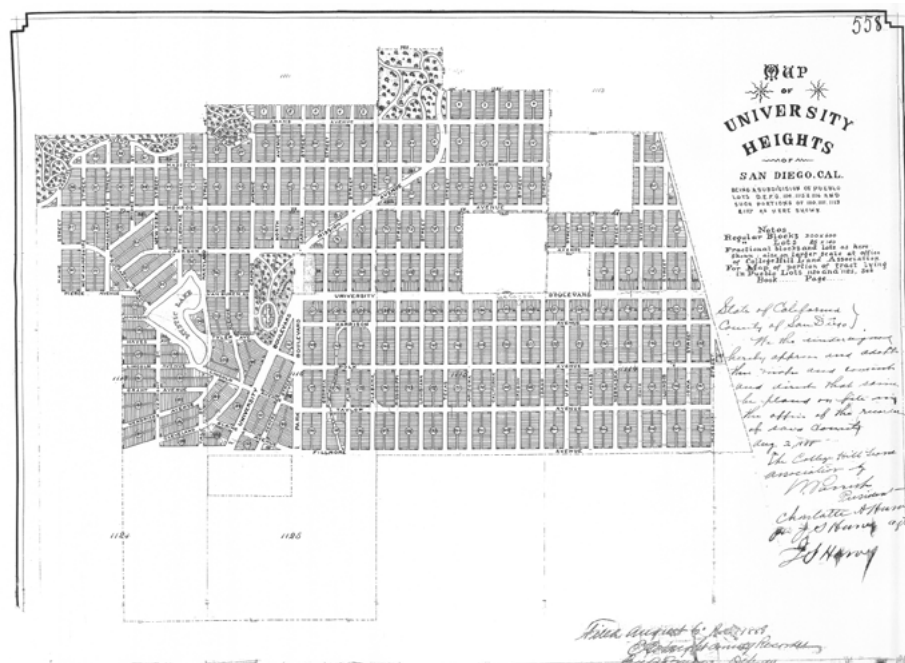
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Original Subdivision Map

BETWEEN THE COVERS

SEPTEMBER AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

After a whopping year and a half, your friendly neighborhood library has FINALLY reopened its doors! We can't say it enough: WE'VE MISSED YOU!! We hope you've missed us too and look forward to reconnecting and getting to know three new staff members who have joined our ranks since the closure began in 2020.

You've already "met" Tracie Moreland and me in past UHCA articles, and now you will have a chance to meet our new Youth Services Librarian, Tracy Stegeman, who is joining us from the Art & Music Section at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common. We're so very excited to work with Tracy and to benefit from the great experience she brings to the UH Library! Welcome, Tracy!

While we're glad and relieved to finally reopen, we will still be at a limited 50% capacity, which means no more than twenty folks inside at a time, which includes the staff and guard. Being one of the smallest branches in the system, yet one of the busiest, has been a challenge, to say the least. With all of the new residents coming into this community in the next few years, UH needs and deserves a new and modern library—a place with large, open spaces for collaboration and information gathering, plus quiet spaces for studying and contemplation

Also, how great would it be to have an innovative maker space where adults and kids alike can learn new skills through technology? These goals are not at all impossible, and now that the



Tracy Stegeman, Youth Services Librarian

Library Master Plan is finally being updated, we can be on our way to a beautiful, state-of-the-art space. The next time we have a major closure like we just went through, it better be because we're building our new library.

You can visit <https://supportmylibrary.org/master-plan/> to keep up to date on the planning process and to find out how you can help.

Until then, we will happily do everything we can to serve our wonderful and vivacious community in our small but very mighty library! Please do not hesitate to contact us, or better yet, visit us, with all of your library needs. Please also consider joining or volunteering with the Friends of the UH Library, as they provide us with much needed funding support and advocacy.

All City libraries will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 6.

– Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager, University Heights Branch Library, San Diego Public Library
619-692-4912 - UHStaff@sandiego.gov



Library Hours
UH Branch Hours Have Changed
Monday-Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

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Marcela Miranda-Caballero
IMCaballero@sandiego.gov

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Get Carded!

The University Heights Library has been open for less than one month, but we have already had visitors pick up holds, check out materials, use the computers and internet, get reference help, and hang out and read stories in our kids' area.

We are glad to have our library once again be a great resource for our community and are ready to celebrate with an Open House on September 18. You don't want to miss it! And because September is Library Card Sign-Up month, we encourage everyone to sign up and get a library card at the event.

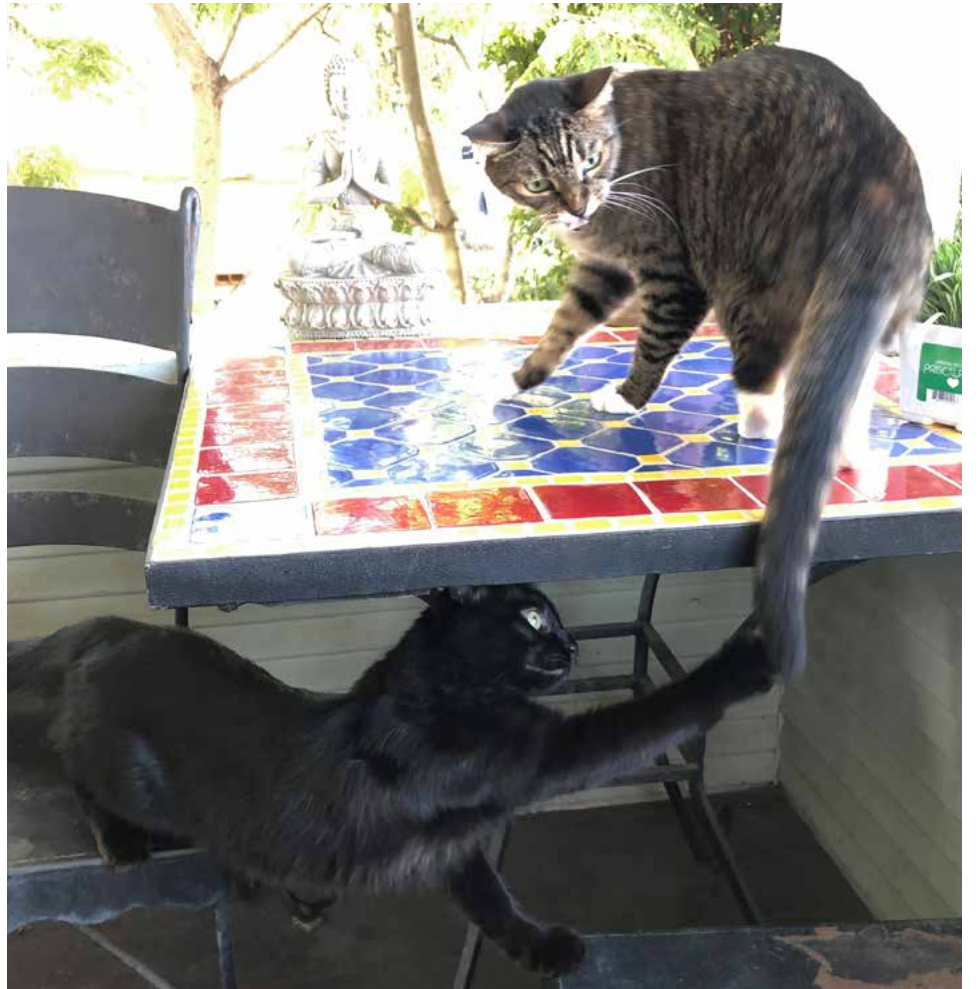
We will also be hosting a "Get Carded" event for adults where, in addition to having fun and socializing with other UH

Library supporters, you can sign up for a library card.

Please check out our new website (www.friendsofuhlibrary.org) for details about these fun events. You can also subscribe to our newsletter for all the latest info and to find information about joining or renewing your membership in the Friends of University Heights Library. You can also contact us at our new email address (info@friendsofuhlibrary.org).

Thanks for your support of the UH library.
– Isabel Schechter, Secretary
Friends of 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.



Pets of the Month Gracie and Slick

Gracie and Slick are my two kitties I adopted from the Humane Society. Gracie is 13 and was adopted from the Gaines St. Humane Society, and Slick (the black one) was adopted this past August, 2020 from the Oceanside Humane Society.

Gracie had a previous partner, George, who sadly passed away from kidney failure during our Covid year. Gracie was so distraught to lose her best friend that we had to get another cat ASAP. At the time there were no male kittens available, so we made the trek to Oceanside to get Slick, sight unseen. We just told them we wanted a male kitten. We didn't care what he looked like. After a day or two of

settling in, Gracie let Slick know that she was the top cat in the household. They are now best friends and enjoy communal naps, treats, and bird watching from the porch on Campus Ave. They are indoor kitties but love to hang out on window sills and on the porch.

I couldn't have made it through this Covid year working from home without their love and support. Slick has doubled in size and is our big house panther. My husband Barry and I love them both to bits.

– Diane Ray



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FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM WHITBURN



Hello, University Heights!

The District 3 staff has taken over this month's column, as we wanted to share with you some of the things our office can help you with, and to give you some tips on accessing City of San Diego services.

Since opening our office last December upon the swearing in of Council President Pro Stephen Whitburn, our entire team has worked hard every single day to answer the dozens of inquiries that come through our office each week. These have ranged from issues related to homelessness, parks, street maintenance, and trees, and so much more. We do our best to work with our constituents to get their needs addressed by the appropriate City department. Much of the time, we are successful in resolving whatever concern was brought to our attention, or at least in providing more information on the status of a particular issue.

We are lucky to have a very hardworking team of City staff who we reach out to when we need to get something done for a constituent, and they are always very responsive and helpful. With that, our office relies on City staff to give us the answers we need related to constituent concerns, and we appreciate your patience as we await resolution or information from staff who all have a heavy workload serving the many needs our City has.

Speaking of "getting things done," we can't emphasize enough the importance of using the City's Get It Done (GID) app ([or online version](#)) to report the dozens of different issues it can address. Some of the most common uses for GID include reporting potholes, graffiti, and trash collection issues. Beyond these things, the app can also be used to report street light and traffic signal issues; street and sidewalk issues, such as damaged curbs and guardrails, faded striping, and tree maintenance; a variety of stormwater issues including flooded streets, illegal discharge, and storm drains; parking, bicycle, and shared mobility device issues; encampments; illegal dumping; and much more.

The app is an easy way to get your issues reported in a timely manner and routed to the appropriate City department. While we have seen many successes with the GID app, we realize that not all issues may be solved to your satisfaction. In that case, you can certainly contact our office, and we will do our best to escalate the issue to the appropriate department and at least get an answer or update on the status of your report.

Whenever contacting our office to get assistance with an issue, when appropriate, please first make a report to the GID app and wait the amount of time the app says is needed to resolve that particular issue. If you do not get a response in the stated amount of time, or the response is not what you were expecting, please do reach out to our office and include the GID report number. Having the report number helps us pinpoint the exact issue with City staff who can determine what, if any, action has already been taken.

—Staff of City Council District 3
Council Member, Stephen Whitburn

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

The Vermont Street Bridge is an iconic landmark in University Heights. Hundreds of people cross it every day resulting in the rapid accumulation of dirt, trash, debris, and droppings from trees in the canyon. In addition, some people feel the need to deface the bridge with graffiti. Since the city does not maintain the bridge, the University Heights Community Association Beautification Team, along with community volunteers, fulfills this need.

The trash can at the entrance to the bridge is emptied and the area around it kept

clean by the Trash Angels. Volunteers pick up trash and remove graffiti on a routine basis. Despite these efforts, a major cleanup of the bridge is necessary every few months. Most recently, a seven-person team removed graffiti, polished the decorative panels, and power washed the entire bridge and its railings. Thank you to these dedicated volunteers who are keeping our bridge clean and attractive for all who use it.

—Rod Girvin, UHCA Beautification Team Leader beautification@uhsd.org



Rod has been the Beautification team's chair for almost 4 years, recently coming out of his "retirement" when no one else was able to take over the leadership. Rather than have the team fade away, he has resurrected in-person meetings, generated the agendas, and contacted all the members to encourage their on-going participation. Additionally, he met with the new UHCA president to fill her in on all of the many activities the team has handled routinely over the years.

Recently, Rod also designed a UH map to highlight areas where graffiti is a real problem. This map was shared at a recent team meeting resulting in volunteers committing to removing graffiti in specific areas on a regular basis. Prior to this, Rod was basically the only graffiti warrior. The map has enabled others to commit to volunteering in this ongoing effort.

Rod also has recently resurrected the initiative to plant trees in parkways throughout UH. As head of a sub-committee from the team, he has energized this effort again after a two-year hiatus caused primarily by COVID. The hope is to have many new trees planted in UH parkways prior to the end of 2021.

Additionally, thanks to Rod's leadership and personal participation, the Vermont Street Bridge was recently power-washed with the help of several team members. Rod has been essential in making sure this arduous task is accomplished several times a year.

Rod has also provided articles about the team's work for the newspaper each month.

Maintaining this team and executing meaningful beautification projects is important to Rod, but is no easy task, especially since half his time is spent at his vacation home in Big Bear Lake. Despite his limited availability, Rod is very willing to contribute his time and energy to keeping University Heights a beautiful neighborhood.

"I'm so glad he returned to lead the B Team," says MaryBeth Chrudden. Kristie Edmond adds that Rod is "a great motivator and always willing to do more than his fair share, encouraging others to help out. He does a lot on his own without asking for thanks or praise—a wonderful asset in our community."

And according to Jennifer Bishop, "Rod is the best kind of leader because he isn't afraid to get his hands dirty alongside everyone else and demonstrates he's completely committed to our community. As a member of the beautification committee, I've always felt, heard, supported and encouraged. I appreciate his service and dedication to making University Heights a beautiful community in which to live."

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ON THE BOULEVARD

Red Fox Restaurant Re-Opening this Month

After months of delays with construction, permits, inspections...and COVID, the University Heights institution, The Red Fox, is finally re-opening this month.



Owner Jim Demos tells us to keep an eye on Facebook and Instagram for the details, but he's shooting for soon after Labor Day.

It's been a long haul, but we fully expect that it will be worth the wait. The restaurant's vibe is the same, and there will be outside patio dining, too. The new location at the northeast corner of Mississippi and El Cajon Boulevard is diagonally across from the former location.

For folks who don't know the incredible history of this venerable UH institution, The Red Fox Room was an old inn in Surrey, England, dating from around 1560. The three original rooms, slightly different in design, have been combined to form a spacious "tap room." The bar, back bar, and the trim around the doors



with the interesting small carved figures come from Charles of London. The Tudor paneling and the fireplace with its finely carved mantel bear the date of 1642. The three arched panels tell the biblical story of Rebecca and Isaac as found in Genesis, Chapters 24 and 27.



The room was dismantled in 1926 and shipped to the United States for the silent film cinema actress, Marion Davies, who was at the height of her career popularity. Beach homes were a must for the movie colony of those halcyon days, so when Miss Davies decided the song of the surf was a requirement for relaxation from studio demands, these rooms were dismantled, shipped across the Atlantic

Ocean in sections, and then completely rebuilt as her "Ocean House." During the 1950's, this property was sold and Miss Davies' "Ocean House" was converted into a hotel.

Some time later, the Red Fox Room was again dismantled and placed in Storage. It is from this source that the Red Fox found a long-term home in the Lafayette Hotel from 1959-2018.



Don't worry, though! Everything was brought across the street to the new location, from the historical wood paneling, to the stained glass, fireplace, and other classic décor.

So stay tuned to Red Fox social media. That juicy steak and the piano bar await, all in a very historical and familiar setting!

-Nan McGraw and Marc Johnson

Trash or Recycle Bin Replacement Lids & Wheels Available

Sometimes our City-issued trash, recycle, and yard waste bins sustain damage to their lids and wheels caused by the collection trucks. If you want to fix your bin yourself, you can pick up replacement lids with hinge pins and/or wheels/axles for free at the City's Environmental Services Operations Station at 8353 Miramar Place, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment or paperwork is required.



-Sol Schumer

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September 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| |  <p>The University Heights Arts Association and UHDC have sadly decided to cancel this year's UH Arts Open/Taste of UH, planned for this November, due to the resurgence of COVID cases.</p> | | 1 UHCDC 6:00 pm, uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6:30 pm, uhdsd.org Oct. news submissions due | 2 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm, uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm, uhdsd.org | 3 | 4 Julian Grape Stomp Meghini Winery 11 am-6 pm  |
| 5 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm | 6 Labor Day Rosh Hashanah Begins Nighttime Zoo Ends  | 7 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners 6 pm, uptownplannerssd.org | 8 | 9  | 10  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection | 11 Patriot Day |
| 12 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Grandparents' Day | 13  | 14 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm, hillcresttc.org Mexico Independence Day - Old Town | 15 No UH Library Task Force Meeting Yom Kippur Begins  | 16 | 17 Constitution Day  | 18 Adams Avenue Street Fair CANCELLED |
| 19 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm | 20  | 21 North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org International Day of Peace | 22 Autumn Begins  World Rhino Day | 23  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection | 24 | 25  |
| 26 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm National Pancake Day | 27  | 28 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org National Neighbor Day Oct. News Out | 29 National Coffee Day  | 30 |  | |



Roxanne Govari



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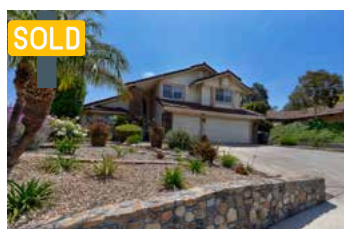


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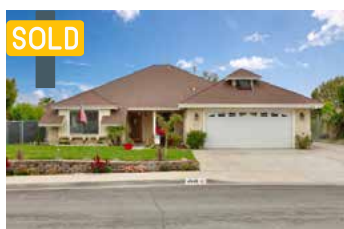
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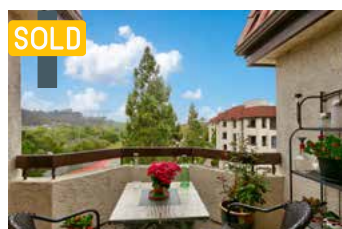
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