

**NEXT UHCA MEETING
VIA ZOOM
THURS., OCTOBER 1, 6:30 PM
VISIT UHSD.ORG FOR DETAILS**

**ELECTION OF UHCA
EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS
MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM**



5



6



9

University Heights Community Association October 2020

NEWS

MEET OUR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

UHCA has invited the two Mayoral Candidates to our October 1 Zoom meeting to participate in a Virtual Town Hall forum.

We have compiled questions from UHCA members and will pose them to each candidate, with topics ranging from density, to homelessness, parks, affordable housing, environmental issues, and more. This will be a great opportunity to hear from the candidates regarding how they plan to address the needs of our community as mayor. We're looking forward to an information-packed hour with them! *—Marc Johnson*

UHCA News asked each candidate for a biography of 400 words or less. The following information comes directly from the two campaigns.

BARBARA BRY is President Pro Tem of the San Diego City Council representing the 1st District. She serves as Chair of the Council's Budget and Government Efficiency Committee and as Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods.

As a member of the City Council, she has advocated for transparency and

accountability in City government, taking the lead on issues ranging from Short-term vacation rentals and dockless scooters to management of the City's real estate assets and irregularities in Water Department billings. She was the first elected official to endorse the SDSU West initiative approved by voters in 2018. She has been outspoken in her opposition to rent control and City-mandated project labor agreements for private-sector projects. She believes that public works project labor agreements should allow for both union and non-union contractor participation.

Prior to serving in office, Barbara was a high-tech entrepreneur and community leader. She worked her way through college and grad school, earning a Master's Degree in Business from Harvard University. Barbara was on the founding team of several local high-tech companies which have created hundreds of local jobs.

Barbara taught entrepreneurship at UCSD and founded Athena San Diego, an organization that supports the advancement of women in the tech and life science sectors. As a business

journalist, she has also spotlighted the vibrant small business community that supports our City's economy and was honored as Small Business Journalist of the Year for San Diego and Imperial Counties by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Barbara has lived in San Diego for almost 40 years. She is married to Neil Senturia, raised her two daughters here, and is a proud grandmother. She served as President of the Board of the Children's Museum of San Diego, as Vice Chair of the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation, and on the board of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

TODD GLORIA: In December 2016, Todd Gloria was sworn in as the California State Assemblymember for the 78th Assembly District, making him only the second person of Filipino heritage ever elected to the California State Assembly. A native San Diegan, Todd's lifelong career in public service was inspired by a lesson his parents—a hotel maid and a gardener—taught him at a young age: if you truly care about something, then you should leave it better than you found it. That lesson continues to



Barbara Bry



Todd Gloria

continued on page 4

UHCA RECOMMENDS AGAINST "WEST END" MAD PROPOSAL

Recently, there has been a lot of news about a new "West End" Community Benefit Investment District (or CBID) proposed by New City America. This CBID would function as a Maintenance Assessment District (or MAD). The UHCA board has compiled a list of questions and answers to help our community better understand what's happening.

What is a MAD?

The city provides a set of basic services to property owners and public areas. If the property owners in an area want more services (e.g., additional trash cans/more frequent pickup, landscaping, sidewalk cleaning, additional street sweeping), they can form a MAD, which will add a special assessment to their property taxes to pay for the added services.

How is a MAD started?

Property owners or developers form a group to work with the city to create a proposal, and then the proposal is sent to property owners as a "ballot" to vote on. Votes are weighted by each

property's size, and the results are sent to the City Council to approve the formation of the MAD.

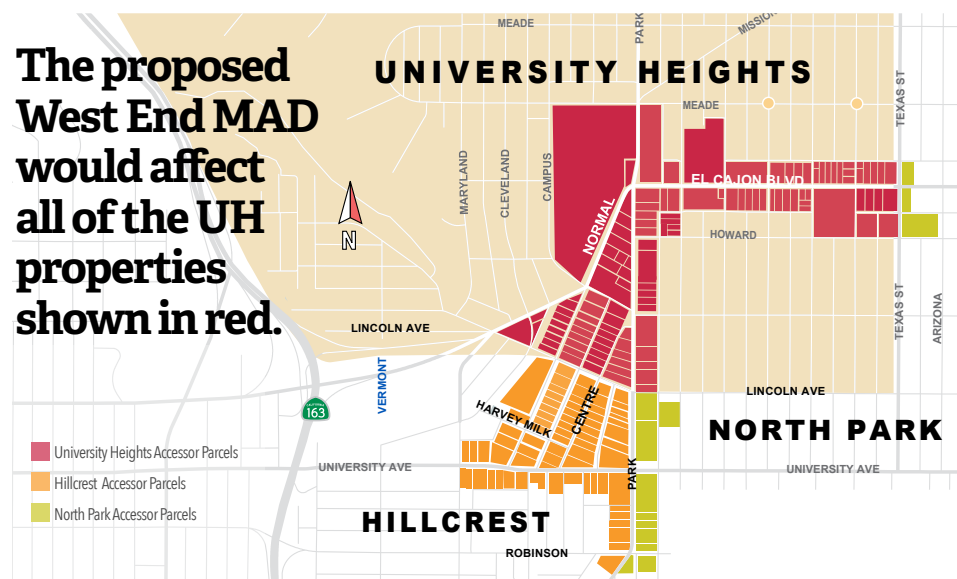
Isn't there already a UH MAD?

Yes, University Heights has a MAD. Operated by the University Heights Community Development Corp., a non-profit community organization, the UH MAD provides additional street and sidewalk

cleanup, trash barrels, maintenance of the University Heights sign, banners, and the decorative street lighting. The UH Mad covers Adams Ave. from North Ave. to Alabama Ave., and Park Blvd. from Adams Ave. to Meade Ave. Other MADs cover El Cajon Blvd. and Adams Ave., and a new one is in the process of being developed for the eastern part of University Ave.

continued on page 4

The proposed West End MAD would affect all of the UH properties shown in red.



The proposed West End MAD would affect all of the properties shown in yellow.

ENJOY HALLOWEEN SAFELY

Check out tips and tricks on how to safely enjoy the festivities this year on page 5.

Also, read Norbert the Dragon's important message on page 6.

LOOKING AHEAD UHCA MEETING

NOV 5 7:00 PM

DETAILS TBA IN NOVEMBER UHCA NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

GOLDEN OSTRICH
Sheila Moss, William & Patricia Wild, Grant Wilson & Kenneth Griffiths

BUSINESS

Uyen Tran Olson: UPT Marketing Consultants, LLC, Napatr Chayodom: Grains Café

HOUSEHOLD

Erin McDougall, Kelsey Brown, Christopher Issel, Meghan Kight, Thomas Stempel, Paul Sandbo, Shane Doner, Jacqueline Glynn, Christine Hernandez & Jen Fong, Tori & Kesler Randall, Lesley Clark, Ron T. Oliver & Brent Orlesky, Alice Blackshear, Joan Foster & Susan Virgilio, Linda Boisvert, Daniel Huntley & Jennifer Malloch, Kelsey Graham, Terri & Peter Otto

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.

Yearly Membership

- *\$25 Household
- *\$75 Business Membership
- *\$100 Golden Ostrich
- *\$20 Add UHCA News Delivered Via USPS to your Membership

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 Business Name _____
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 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

EDITORIAL BOARD Nan McGraw, Rachel Bowdon, Judith Annicchiarico

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Marc Johnson, Peter Rose, Judith Annicchiarico, Erin McKinnon, Andy Hinds, Elaine Sinsuan, Maureen Markey, Franz Kopp, John Hensley, MaryBeth Chruden, Rod Girvin, Bill Smith, Andy Cameron

ART DIRECTOR Luisa Davila

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS Paul Farris, Rachel Bowdon, David Holts, John Hensley, Rod Girvin, Andy Cameron, Pause Creative Collective, Bree Steffen (Page 1 cider photo)

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Susan Holts susan@susanholts.com

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

INTERIM PRESIDENT Christine Hernandez

VICE PRESIDENT Maureen Markey

SECRETARY Peter Rose

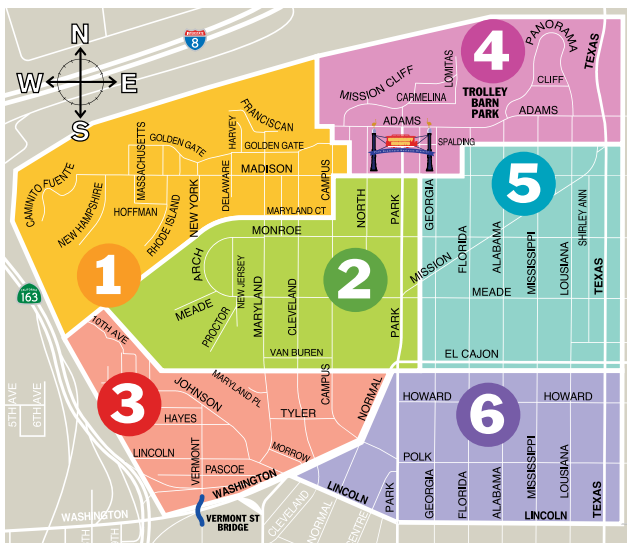
TREASURER Stuart McGraw

WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK /universityheightscommunityassociation

INSTAGRAM /uheightscommunitysd

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@tamarazrealestate.com
- 6 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com



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, please email UHCA President at president@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!

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical	911	Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. Online: non-emergency problems: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done	619-531-2000	Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support	619-692-4945
SD City Services non-emergency: street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	SDPD Community Relations Officers: David Surwilo (dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov)	619-692-4858
SD City Services emergency Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/		Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: COVID-19, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211	Stonewall Citizens Patrol	sredmond@stonewallcitizens.org
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856	Suicide Prevention	888-724-7240
Alice Birney Elementary Office	619-497-3500	UHDCD University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
Animals / Non-Emergency	619-767-2675	University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444	UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
Code Violations	619-236-5500	Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: Report Online: apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/ email photos: Graffiti Hotline:	911 cericson@pd.sandiego.gov 619-527-7500
COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus	SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov	858-694-2888
COVID-19 California Daily Updates	www.cdph.ca.gov	https://getitdone.force.com Download this app for reporting non-emergency problems in the city like potholes, graffiti, etc.	
COVID-19 County of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus	If all else fails, email TRenner@sandiego.gov at Councilmember Chris Ward's office.	
COVID-19 National Daily Updates	www.cdc.gov		
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		



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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Sept. 3, 2020, University Heights Community Association Meeting began at 7 pm via Zoom, with 31 attendees. Interim President, Christine Hernandez, welcomed the community and introduced herself. She initially joined UHCA a year and a half ago as a member of the social media team, and she joined the Board several months ago. After the retirement of several Board members, the Board appointed her as Interim President until we have regular officer elections in October. Christine thanked the retired Board members for their many years of hard work on behalf of UHCA, with a special thank you to Nan McGraw, a co-founder of UHCA nearly 40 years ago.

Christine then reviewed UHCA's activities using PowerPoint slides to illustrate the many opportunities for volunteerism, such as fundraising, beautification, UHCA News, membership, and Zone watch. She then introduced the members of the Board who were in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As noted in last month's news, the deadline for Nominations for Executive Board Officers was Friday, September 4, 2020.

Election of UHCA Executive Board Officers will take place at the October 1, 2020, UHCA monthly meeting via Zoom.

Miller Salzman from California Senator and President Pro Tem Toni Atkins' office reported on COVID funding support and the census, to which only 2/3 of California residents have responded.

Board member Marc Johnson summarized recent community news and updates:

PLAY EVERYWHERE PARKS INITIATIVE

UH suffers from a severe shortage of parks. As noted in last month's newspaper, the City is considering new rules on park development, with a points system based on amenities rather than acreage, and city-wide distribution of DIF funds rather than local. View the master plan at www.sandiego.gov/complete-communities/parks-master-plan, and lobby Councilmember Chris Ward at ward@sandiego.gov.

NEW CITY AMERICA/WEST END UPDATE

A private, for-profit corporation, New City America, is attempting to establish a new maintenance assessment district to collect taxes and provide services in several neighborhoods in the city, including a part of UH. All of the local non-profit community organizations are opposed to this project. Stay tuned via social media at @uheightscommunitysd (Instagram) and @universityheightscommunityassociation (Facebook).

EVIL WEEVIL

Neighborhood Canary palm trees infested with a destructive weevil are being taken down. Use the city's Get It Done app to report problem to report problem trees and learn more about the weevil problem at www.uhsd.org.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 22, 2020: Forum with Third District City Council candidates Toni Duran and Stephen Whitburn.

Oct. 1, 2020: Election of UHCA Executive Board Officers and Forum with Mayoral candidates Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry.

Adjournment: 7:41 pm
—Peter Rose, UHCA Secretary

PLUMES

Regular readers recognize the Plume award as the University Heights Community Association's way of publicly recognizing volunteers who go above and beyond to serve University Heights. Readers may not know that Nan McGraw has been the Queen of Plumes, always keeping in mind who deserves the honor and either writing the Plume herself or finding the best person to write it. So, I was honored when Nan asked me to write a Plume for our fabulous Communications Team.

the Board members who worked with them. They brought a wealth of experience in information technology, marketing, and planning that improved the Association's digital marketing by launching a new website, posting the latest neighborhood and Association news on social media, and most recently, joining the UHCA News team.

They have modernized our social media presence, improved communications with the community, and raised our information technology capabilities. We could not be happier with how they have infused UHCA with new energy, commitment, and expertise. Voted onto the Association Board a few months ago, they are just what the Board needs to move the organization to a higher level of effectiveness, inclusiveness, and expertise in serving UH residents. A bushful of Ostrich Plumes to Christine, Meghan, Rachel, and Uyen, our Communications Team!

—MaryBeth Chruden

In February 2019, I placed an ad in this paper to recruit a much needed "Social Media Maven" to take over our social media. To my surprise and delight, four skilled and personable women replied and jumped right in to help us: Christine Hernandez, Meghan Kight, Rachel Bowdon, and Uyen Tran. We either were incredibly lucky, or the stars were aligned. These amazing women immediately bonded into a supportive team and integrated well with

UNDERGROUNDING OF POWERLINES CONTINUES FOR SOME AREAS OF UH

Some UH streets are already enjoying a less obstructed view of the sky thanks to neighborhood powerlines being buried underground. SDG&E will continue this process through 2022 as it completes undergrounding for the block of streets approved in the city's most recent 5-year plan. The rest of our community will wait for years—perhaps decades—for undergrounding to reach our streets.



The "block" (section) of UH approved in the 2018 5-year plan includes the area between Florida and Campus (going East to West), and Adams and Meade/Mission (going North to South). In some cases, only one side of those boundary streets will have its powerlines undergrounded. Undergrounding has already been completed along stretches of Adams, Park, and Meade. Specific information about individual streets and addresses can be found online at www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding/undergroundinginfomap.

The city has selected areas for undergrounding based in large part on homeowner participation in online surveys. When the most recent 5-year plan was being developed, many residents of the UH streets surrounding Park Blvd. voiced their desires for undergrounding, and the city took notice. Planners also consider proximity to transportation thoroughfares, schools, and parks, all of which pushed the block of streets around Park Blvd. to the top of the list for our neighborhood.

In the past, wealthy neighborhoods with connections to City Hall took precedence, and communities like La Jolla have already benefited from powerline undergrounding. Now, the city is more likely to consider "equity" issues and to make sure that less wealthy neighborhoods receive this service as well. Normal Heights, for example, is next in line for undergrounding to be completed by 2022.

To have a chance at making it onto the next 5-year plan (2023-2028), UH residents should maintain an active relationship with our City Council representative's office, and make sure to speak up, loud and clear, when the next 5-year-plan survey comes around in 2022.

—Judith Annicchiarico, Editorial Board



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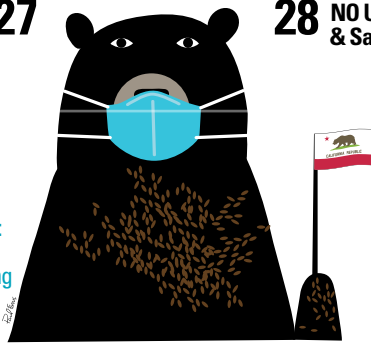
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OCTOBER 2020

 Note: Dates & times subject to change due to COVID-19.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 UH REC COUNCIL 5:30 pm (on Zoom uhsd.org) UHCA MEETING 6:45 pm (on Zoom uhsd.org)	2	4 TBP Canyon Restoration Event Trolley Barn Park 9 am Volunteers Appreciated!
4 HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	5 Nov. News Articles Due	6 Uptown Planners: TBA (uptownplanners.org)	7 UHCDC Meeting: (on Zoom) 619-297-3166	8  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	9	10
11 HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm Grandparents Day	12	13 Town Council: TBA (hillcresttc.org) Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5 pm	14	15	16	17
18 HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	19	20 November News Out Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5 pm	21 No Library Task Force	22  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	23	24
25 HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	26	27	28 NO UH Book Club & Salon contact Ernie: 619-297-3166	29	30	31 FULL MOON 

Wear a Mask!
The scientific evidence is clear: not only does a mask help you keep from unknowingly spreading COVID-19, but masks also help keep you safe as well.



MEET THE UHCA EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER NOMINEES

Every two years, UHCA nominates and then elects Executive Officers to serve as leaders of our organization for the next two years. At our last virtual meeting, nominations for officers were opened, and we are happy to announce the nominations. One nomination was received for each office, so at our October meeting the membership will be asked to vote for the nominees by acclamation as there are no contested positions. We want to thank everyone who participated and look forward to electing our new leadership team at the next meeting.

President Nominee Christine Hernandez



Christine is a native San Diegan and has lived in University Heights for 10 years. While Christine has spent most her life in San Diego, she lived in Hawaii during her high school years, Los Angeles in her college years, and England during her young adult years. No matter where Christine has traveled, University Heights is the place she calls Home.

Christine and her partner Jen purchased their townhome in 2015 and love taking morning walks to Twiggs for their ritual Saturday coffee dates. Jen is also a local San Diegan, a local artist, and an instructional designer by trade. Some of Jen's art can be found in local businesses in Normal Heights, Hillcrest, and Barrio Logan. Christine and Jen live with their three-year-old cat named Juno who loves meowing at birds and squirrels.

Christine is a Senior Project Manager for a Los Angeles-based consulting firm, 120VC. In her 13-year career in software

project management, she has consulted for Fortune 500 companies such as Nike, eBay, and T-Mobile. Christine has also served as President on her HOA Board of a 10-unit complex. In January, she started her own consulting practice, Adaptive Root Consulting, where she consults local small businesses in areas of operational efficiency and strategic planning.

With a desire to share her talent with her community, Christine answered a UHCA Newspaper ad for social media volunteers. She teamed up with a group of wonderful volunteers to help launch the new UHCA website and create a larger social media presence.

In Christine's message to the community at the September 3rd UHCA meeting, she shared these words: "Serving this community brings me so much joy. I am so grateful to have this opportunity. I love University Heights and am dedicated to maintaining its beauty, charm, and warm neighborhood hospitality."

Vice President Nominee Marc Johnson



Marc and his husband Jeffrey have been proud University Heights residents since 2012, moving here from Boston, originally from Chicago. They share their loft with two dogs, Carson and Maddox.

Marc is the Global Director of Product Marketing for San Diego-based Memjet, an inkjet printing systems company.

Jeffrey is an artist, primarily of abstract acrylics, and has displayed his work at UH businesses and during the Taste of UH and Concerts in the Park.

Since moving here, Marc has become active with their 6-unit HOA and serves as President, and both Marc and Jeffrey have been active with the UH Park & Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group, with Marc recently being elected as chair.

Marc sums up how they found University Heights: "We knew we would eventually move to California, and I was fortunate that my career led us to San Diego. After a couple of house-hunting trips all around the Uptown area, we fell in love with University Heights. It was close enough to the hustle and bustle of downtown, Hillcrest, and North Park, but smaller and with more of a community feel. Our love of this neighborhood has only grown deeper as we have built friendships and become more involved with helping to make this gem of a neighborhood even better."

Treasurer Nominee Brent Orlesky



My name is Brent Orlesky, and my partner Ron Oliver and I have been residents of University Heights for a number of years now. Maybe you've seen me around the neighborhood. I try to help out in our community by volunteering for different events and tasks.

When we first moved here in 2002, I became the Treasurer of this

Community Association for almost 5 years. I'm offering my services once again. With over 25 years of accounting experience, I will do my best to keep UHCA's financial matters in good order – complying with different government agencies and filing all necessary returns.

These are unknown times ahead of us. Your Board members are doing well in managing the "new normal." Thank you for your continued support of your community.

Secretary Nominee Meghan Kight



Hi, I'm Meghan Kight! My husband and I bought our home in UH in July 2016. Little did we know this neighborhood would be the best hidden gem in San Diego. We've been married for 12 years, we're originally from New Jersey, and we have a fur baby named Cooper. My background is in branding, storytelling, product development, visual merchandising sales and social media.

I joined UHCA because it's my community, and I am proud of it! Everyone deserves a happy, healthy and thriving community, and we are the ones to provide that for ourselves and the future generation. Plus, being a part of the organization is one of the best ways to network and build relationships.

So far, being involved with UHCA has led me to new friends that I might not have met otherwise. If you've been waiting to get involved with our community, stop waiting. Now's the time to dive in and make a difference! We'd love to have you.

ENJOY HALLOWEEN SAFELY



No doubt everyone in UH fully respects Maryland Street residents' decision to forego their crowd-pleasing Halloween extravaganza this year. Enticing a crowd to show up on Oct. 31 would be irresponsible at best and likely a code violation.

But as we put this issue of the paper to bed, the San Diego County health authorities have not yet issued guidance for parents to follow when planning for All Hallows Eve. For those who hope to see the adorable neighbor kids in their costume finery while avoiding spreading COVID-19, we offer a few suggestions gathered from UH residents and various other experts.

(Note: if the CDC, state, or local health authorities issue any orders or suggestions that differ from ours, please do follow what the authorities recommend! Thanks! – Eds.)

- Keep it super local and low-key. Coordinate with the parents on your block and make sure everyone knows which hour or two to make the rounds. Families can make sure to avoid grouping up with others on the sidewalk and/or letting kids walk up to people's doors.
- Decorate your regular anti-COVID mask with fabric-safe markers to give yourself a friendly or scary Jack-o-lantern smile!
- Set up a table near the sidewalk where you can leave small treat bags to make it easy for little ones to grab a bag and keep walking.
- Alternatively, hang sealed treat bags from a tree or fence accessible from the sidewalk. Use Halloween-themed bags and orange and black ribbon to make them even more festive.

- If you want to be able to greet the costumed cuties, sit outside on your porch or on a lawn chair in the driveway, anywhere that's at least 10 feet from the goodie table while also giving you a good view of the diminutive Disney princesses and assorted superheroes so you can wish them a happy Halloween from a safe distance.
- Those who intend to play it entirely safe and avoid trick-or-treaters altogether, but who don't want to disappoint the little ones, can always put some goodie bags together and drop them off on their neighbors' porches earlier in the day – call or text first, though, so they know where the loot is coming from!
- Staying home with your kids and playing games, having a "treat hunt" around your home or yard, watching Halloween-themed movies, or carving Jack-o-lanterns for your own fireplace mantel could also be great ways to enjoy the holiday and make lasting family memories.

And don't forget to check out the full moon!



ED CENTER PROPERTY UPDATE

San Diego Unified School District leaders have their hands full with the pandemic, but that has not stopped planning for the future of the Ed Center property.

Anticipating a future meeting with the wider community, the district formed a small task force to confirm their understanding of the emerging consensus and to get feedback on design ideas. From the start, the district promised to leave behind a "treasured neighborhood amenity" while addressing the urgent need for moderate-income teacher and workforce housing. The latest conceptual site designs thus provide for a community center, a dog park, green space, as well as historic preservation.

To pay for it all, the district anticipated putting a bond issue before the public in the spring of 2021. Unfortunately, research revealed that despite strong support, passing a tax measure during a time of such financial stress was not likely. An alternative is a ground lease

to a private developer, but that would mean a lot of market rate housing with only a small amount of affordable housing.

The task force agreed it might be best to postpone a bond measure until 2022, leaving the property substantially unchanged for at least the next two years. The task force asked if asphalt might be torn up and replaced by a temporary dog park. While the suggestion was well received, the problem is paying for it. The city needs to step up.

The Ed Center site is uniquely situated for affordable teacher housing. The district owns the property outright and does not need to make a profit, making a one-of-a-kind "teachers' village" within the realm of possibility. In exchange for a significant increase in density, the community might reasonably insist on great design in addition to the treasured neighborhood amenities the district is offering. *–Bill Smith, Ed Center Property Task Force Member*

PETS OF THE MONTH

MONSIEUR AND MADEMOISELLE

Hello! My name is Monsieur (Sir), age 11, and this young lady next to me is Mademoiselle (Maddie), age 3. Although she is technically my niece by lineage, she is also my bestie. We are French Bulldogs. We live with our parents, Franz and Megan Kopp, who have lived in UH for 12 years.

I was doing just fine for many years, but my parents thought that getting a puppy would keep me young at heart. It didn't take long for Maddie and me to get along. I found out that she loves all of the things that I love: going for "walks" in our red stroller, going on road trips in the car, hanging out at breweries and coffee shops, flying to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit our families, eating bananas and strawberries (and anything else), playing with our tennis balls and rubber antlers, and, most importantly, sleeping.

We sleep a lot! I like to rest my head on my parents' foot or leg to support my big head while sleeping because it allows me to breathe a lot better. When a

human isn't available, Maddie allows me to rest my head on her backside. She looks out for me, and I look out for her.



Sir and Maddie

Although we are both Frenchies, there is one big difference between us. Ever since I was a puppy, I have preferred a more relaxed (or lazy) way of life. But mom and dad call Maddie a whirling dervish because she has way too much energy.

When you see us out and about in the UH neighborhood, please say hello. We love the attention. Please ignore our load noises and drool. We invite you to follow us on Instagram (#monsieurrocks, #mademoisellerocks, and #sirandmaddierock).

–Franz Kopp

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UHCA RECOMMENDS AGAINST "WEST END" MAD PROPOSAL

continued from page 1

Who is New City America?

New City America is a for-profit company that helps developers and neighborhoods create and manage assessment districts. New City previously attempted to create new districts in University Heights and Kensington but failed. New City helped form and currently manages the Little Italy Business Improvement District and has worked on a number of projects around the country.

How much do MADs cost?

The UH MAD 2021 budget assesses 138 parcels at \$8.88 per linear foot for a total income of \$47,991. New City America's proposal for 2021 is a \$10 per linear foot assessment over a much larger area, for a total income of \$664,075. In addition, New City America proposes spending \$399,000 over the first three years in "Administration/Management" fees (to themselves) and spending the same amount on "District Identity and Placemaking."

I don't own property. I pay rent. Do I have a say in this?

No, not directly. To have a say in this decision, you would need to talk to the person or company that you pay rent to and convince them to vote for or against the MAD formation.

Why is the UHCA against this new MAD?

UHCA, in cooperation with our other community-based non-profit organizations, believes that creation of a new MAD by a for-profit enterprise who will collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative fees, is not in the best interest of our community. We also believe that now is not the time to increase the tax burden on our community's businesses, homeowners, and renters.

What happens next?

Nothing has been approved by the City Council, but UHCA, in partnership with the other community organizations including Community Coalition of UH, UH Historical Society, UH Community Development Corp., El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Assoc., Hillcrest Business Assoc., and Adams Avenue Business Assoc., will be closely watching this and will keep our community updated.

Where can I learn more?

UHCA has posted links about this issue on our website at www.uhsd.org/blog/westend
-Marc Johnson, UHCA Board Member

NORBERT THE DRAGON WILL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



After conferring with Frank Skinnotra, Jack Skellington, The Grim Reaper, and other Halloween participants, Norbert the Dragon is saddened to announce that Trick-or-Treat on Maryland Street 2020 will be cancelled due to concerns over the spread of Covid-19. Neighbors with such Halloween favorites as The Lab, Vincent, HalloweenTown, The Bates Motel, and The Normal School Cemetery will not be handing out candy and will avoid opening the door for Trick-or-Treaters.

Halloween on Maryland Street has always been an unrestricted celebration of every resident's individual expression, and Norbert wants to emphasize that he does not wish to impede anyone's planned home celebration. Dragons, however, are known for their careful deliberation and good judgment, as well as a fiery punishment for those who disagree with them. With that in mind, Norbert the Dragon hopes that his good friends up and down Maryland Street,

as well as the fine citizens of University Heights, will choose to be safe this year and discourage Trick-or-Treating in the neighborhood.

Halloween fun can still be had online. Norbert the Dragon is asking University Heights to dress up and share Halloween spirit in costume on your favorite social media app using hashtag #TrickOrTreatUH. Frank Skinnotra and the Gabbing Gourds are planning a special one-night-only surprise you won't want to miss. Details at www.frankskinnotra.com. Trick-or-Treat on Maryland Street videos can be seen on YouTube, and you can always visit Norbert the Dragon on Facebook.
-Andy Cameron



BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS UPDATE

One of the most-visited sites in University Heights is the trash can at the north entrance to the Vermont Street Bridge. It is used 24 hours a day by people crossing the bridge to deposit trash and waste and, in turn, plays a key role in keeping the bridge clean. Many people assume that it is maintained by the city, but that is not the case.

The trash can was installed years ago by the University Heights Community Association to combat the accumulation of trash and debris on the bridge. For the past five years, the Trash Angels who empty the trash each week have been organized and supported by MaryBeth Chrudden. MaryBeth has maintained the Trash Angel schedule and has ensured that replacement bags and equipment such as trash pickers have at all times been available to the volunteers. When problems have arisen, she has always been quick to address the issue. We are truly grateful to her for keeping this vital service operating smoothly and effectively.

After years of being the number one Trash Angel, MaryBeth has resigned from the position. I am happy to announce that Robert Dowell has volunteered to replace

her. Robert is a longtime volunteer who has worked on Beautification Team projects and other community initiatives. In addition, Robert is part of the dedicated group of volunteers who work every Monday morning on the bridge and along Washington Street and the 163 on-ramp. MaryBeth will be missed, but we are fortunate to have found a worthy replacement in Robert. So, when you cross the bridge and see someone in a bright yellow volunteer shirt deep into the trash can, say hello. You will have met an angel.

-Rod Girvin, UHCA Beautification



Robert Dowell, volunteer



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LIBRARY NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY UPDATE



We realize the ongoing closure of many City library branches has been difficult, but please be patient, and stay safe until we can see you again. Although many library branches, including the UH branch, remain closed, the library system has instituted a plan for phased reopening of the branches. In the meantime, electronic resources are still available, and books can be checked out and dropped off via contactless pickup and drop boxes at select library branches. For details, see the SDPL website, www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

Work on the **Library Master Plan** continues despite the pandemic, and opportunities will be available for community members to provide their thoughts on what's needed for a reimagined UH library. We will update you when we have details about the exact timing and information on opportunities to provide input.

The monthly Friends of the San Diego Library book sales usually held at the University Heights branch library remain on hold until further notice. Donations of books will not be accepted at the library. This policy will likely remain in effect until the

Friends are allowed back in the UH Library building, which will be when the branch reopens to the public.

Each year, **"One Book, One San Diego"** features literary works for adults, young adults, children, and Spanish language readers. As part of SDPL's programming related to One Book, One San Diego (www.sandiego.gov/public-library/onebook), the Friends of San Diego Public Library is sponsoring prizes for the My SD Poster Contest. See the website for details: www.sandiego.gov/public-library/onebook#tabbb.

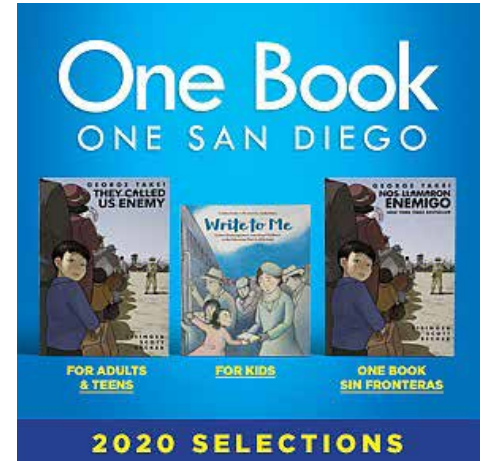
We look forward to celebrating our libraries' reopening with you once it is safe to do so. Thank you for your support of our libraries.

—Maureen Markey, President, 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.

THE UH BRANCH LIBRARY BETWEEN THE COVERS

The "One Book, One San Diego" program, now in its 14th year, is a "community read" in collaboration with KPBS and over 80 libraries throughout San Diego, with titles for all ages. The featured title, available in English and Spanish, is *They Called Us Enemy* (Nos Llamaron Enemigo) by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott and Harmony Becker. Accomplished actor, activist and author, George Takei, describes in this graphic memoir the experiences of his years spent in Japanese American internment camps during World War II.



Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind by Cynthia Grady, and illustrated by Amiko Hirao, is the selection for children. The book focuses on Japanese American children's letters to their librarian, Clara Breed, in which they describe books they're reading and their lives while imprisoned in internment camps during World War II.



Keep us informed of your reading experiences. Visit www.kpbs.org/one-book/ for more information.

The University Heights Library is available to assist with telephone inquiries. Please check the website (www.sandiegolibrary.org) for updated information regarding the status of City services. Call us during the week, Monday-Friday from 9:30am-5:30pm, at 619-692-4912. The book drop is open during the week for anyone who needs to return checked-out materials. Contactless Pickup Service operates on weekdays in select locations, including the nearby Mission Hills/Hillcrest-Knox Branch Library, from 10:30am-5:30pm.

PROGRAMS:

San Diego Public Library's Facebook page, SDPL Virtual Hub, has a variety of online programs including featured guests, story time sessions, book talks, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects and more. Please check our Facebook page, or give us a call for any questions. Thank you from everyone at the University Heights Library.

—Elaine Sinsuan, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov.

MEET OUR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

continued from page 1

motivate Todd to improve the San Diego region and the State of California every single day.

Todd began his public service career working for the County of San Diego's Health & Human Services Agency. He went on to join the office of U.S. Congresswoman Susan Davis serving as a community representative and eventually as her district director. Todd was appointed as a San Diego Housing Commissioner from 2005 to 2008. He also served as a member of the Mid-City Prostitution Impact Panel during this time.

As a City Councilmember, Todd is credited with bringing thousands of affordable housing units to the City of San Diego as well as helping to reallocate the City's limited homelessness service funds towards results-oriented programs. During his two full terms on the City Council, Todd was selected by his peers to serve as City Council President for two terms and served as the City's Interim Mayor from August 2013 to March 2014.

Todd's service as the City's Interim

Mayor is credited for restoring the public's trust in city government. He strengthened the City's organizational structure and developed a groundbreaking, legally-enforceable Climate Action Plan.

Since being elected to the Assembly in 2016, Todd has continued his advocacy for increased infrastructure investment and pragmatic, innovative solutions to housing and homelessness. He has served in Assembly leadership, including the Majority Whip position he holds today. Todd also serves as the vice chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus.

Known as one of the most accessible elected officials in San Diego, Todd remains in close contact with neighbors throughout his District and credits San Diegans for keeping him focused on the issues that matter most in their communities.

Todd is a graduate of the University of San Diego and an enrolled member of the Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. He lives in the neighborhood of Mission Hills.



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SCHOOL NEWS

BIRNEY BUZZ

BACKING OUR BEES



Our Birney community came together to set students up for a successful distance learning experience this fall. Teachers spent much of the summer preparing for online instruction, including attending 15 hours of training at the start of the school year. Hundreds of parents joined our principal and staff at a series of virtual "Community Think Tank" meetings, an online Kindergarten orientation, and a virtual Parent Organization Meeting before the school year began.

Special attention has been given to ensuring students have necessities for successful learning from home. Students picked up school supplies and have access to Chromebook computers for home use this year. "Grab and Go" meals are available for pickup in front of Birney every

Monday through Friday from 12-2pm, excluding holidays.

This fall, students will receive daily live class instruction through video conferencing and will continue to enjoy "Specials" classes, including Art, Spanish, and Gardening. Our IB curriculum and Specials Classes are funded through donations to Friends of Alice Birney Elementary, our parent-led nonprofit that organizes fundraising efforts such as the pop-up farm stands at Twiggs on Park Blvd. Follow us @FriendsofBirney on Instagram to find out when Ms. Mindy will be heading back to Twiggs with more delicious Birney garden produce!

You can also visit www.linktr.ee/friendsofbirney for details on a variety of other unique opportunities

to support the school, including our "Give a Latte" campaign, Farm Fresh to You partnership, and the Birney Fall Fundraiser through Boon Supply. Forty percent of purchases made through the Birney's Boon Supply site will go back to the school, so you can get your holiday shopping done early while also providing essential support to our students. We are proud to be able to continue funding the programs that make our school unique and we

appreciate the backing of our wonderful University Heights community!

Thank you to our dedicated teachers and principal, involved families, and engaged community for providing stability, encouragement, and support to our students this fall!

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



The pop-up farm stand at Twiggs on Park Blvd.

ROO NEWS

KICKING OFF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL YEAR



Roosevelt International Baccalaureate Middle School kicked off the 2020-2021 academic year with a pair of Welcome Days in preparation for School in the Time of Coronavirus. It was a rare opportunity for some (masked) face-to-face interaction between families and staff, as students and their guardians drove through campus to pick up textbooks, materials, and the Chromebook laptops that will be their portal to education until it is safe for school to resume in person.

Along with many veteran Rough Rider faculty and staff at Welcome Days, Roosevelt's new principal, Bernard

Steinberger, greeted families at the drive-through reception. Mr. Steinberger was previously principal at Canyon Crest Academy and was chosen through a rigorous candidate search last year.

According to Mr. Steinberger, the San Diego Unified School District continues to monitor health and safety in our communities, and will decide, in consultation with state and local authorities, when it's safe to open campuses. Once that decision has been made, families will receive at least two week's notice before changes go into effect. Meanwhile, Roosevelt, along with all

the schools in the District, will be conducting instruction exclusively online. Within the first few days of school, over 95 percent of the enrolled students connected with their teachers. While technical issues are inevitable, it seems most students have retained the online navigation and communication skills they developed in the final months of last year.

In response to the unique circumstances of this school year, Friends of Roosevelt, the foundation supporting educational and enrichment opportunities at Roosevelt, has already sprung into action, launching a fundraiser to pay for much-needed educational software that will support its most vulnerable students. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.gofundme.com/f/support-roosevelt-online-learning/donate.

port-roosevelt-online-learning/donate.

Middle school is tricky in the best of times, but community support can make the ride a little less rough.

Visit the RooFriend's website calendar for updates: www.friendsofroosevelt.org/calendar/, and follow Principal Steinberger on Twitter for all the latest breaking news! [www.twitter.com/PrincipalRIMS](https://twitter.com/PrincipalRIMS) -*Andy Hinds, parent of students at Roosevelt and a board member*



Faculty and staff greet families and hand out supplies for the 2020-2021 school year.



Have you seen the new ostrich mural on Howard across the street from the UH Library? We love the positive message it sends during these difficult times.

ON THE BOULEVARDS

CIDER FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE CIDER!

On a hike outside Joshua Tree, deep in the Mojave, cider maker and desert biologist, Sean Harris, and his business partner, Lish, were doing some work on tortoises while brainstorming ideas for the name of their new cidery. They'd tossed around the idea of "Serpentine Cider," but nothing had been set in stone.

And this is when it happened. In the early cold morning. In the middle of

nowhere. Three hours from civilization and any hospital for that matter. It was here when Sean's foot stepped on something squishy. He jumped back to see that his boot print had marked the head of a Sidewinder rattlesnake. The cold morning temperatures gave some comfort to Sean, as he knew rattlesnakes don't usually have the energy to strike in the cold. Nonetheless, this rattler was not happy, and after about ten minutes of yelling, cussing and screaming, Sean said to Lish, "Well, I guess Serpentine Cider it is." It was then (after a close call) his new cidery had a name behind the face that houses his passion, cider!

Serpentine Cider is truly the opposite of your run-of-the-mill, mass-produced and ridiculously sweetened cider you'd find in stores. For those who say, "Well, I don't like Cider," you'll hear Sean reply, "Serpentine Cider creates cider for people who don't like cider."

Harris is proud that his cider has zero artificial ingredients, extremely low sugars, and is made from a variety of fresh fruits, florals, and herbs.

For his dry apple cider, Sean's apples are pressed into juice and shipped from Hood River, Oregon and Wenatchee, Washington to his cidery in Miramar. This is where he

houses one 1,000-gallon and two 500-gallon stainless fermenters. He then adds the yeast that turns the sugars from the apples into alcohol, which (after he's finished) leaves zero sugar residuals and keeps a 13-ounce glass down to around 160 calories with a 7-8% alcohol by volume. He kegs it (to rest) for a couple weeks, then adds it to the 15 other ciders he has on tap at his two locations.

It was awesome meeting Sean and seeing his place here in UH. Not only has he crafted a variety of delicious ciders, but he's made a comfortable outdoor setting with passion fruit vines, space heaters, lighting, and his handmade barstools and tables. Want cider to go? Sean has you covered with his 32-ounce Crowler that he'll press on the spot. While you wait, check out his cool hats and tees. I went with army green-super comfy.

Due to Covid 19, all seating is outside, and hours (Wed-Sun) fluctuate. Serpentine Cider is located at 2311 El Cajon Blvd. and 8665 Miralani Dr. #100 in Miramar.

*No rattlesnakes or tortoises were harmed during Sean's mishap in the Mojave.

-John Hensley



Sean Harris



Serpentine Cider's outdoor patio

"Harris is proud that his cider has zero artificial ingredients, extremely low sugars, and is made from a variety of fresh fruits, florals, and herbs."

TWIGGS

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2	Bahn Thai	TD	4646 Park Blvd.	619-299-6363
3	BFD (Big Front Door)	TD	4075 Park Blvd.	619-255-4100
4	Cheers Bar	X	1839 Adams Ave.	619-298-3269
5	Clos Wine	O	4521 Park Blvd.	619-915-6846
6	Cueva Bar Cafe	ATD	2123 Adams Ave.	619-269-6612
7	Domino's Pizza	TD	1925 El Cajon Blvd.	619-294-4570
8	El Zarape	T	4642 Park Blvd.	619-692-1652
9	Flavors of East Africa	ATD	2322 El Cajon Blvd.	619-955-8778
10	Gilly's Bar & Cocktails	O	2306 El Cajon Blvd.	619-298-6008
11	Grains Cafe	ATD	2201 Adams Ave.	619-296-5999
12	Great Maple	AT	1451 Washington St.	619-255-2282
13	HOPE 46 @ Lafayette	AT	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	619-780-0358
14	Kairoa Brewing Co.	ATD	4601 Park Blvd.	619-295-1355
15	Kiko's Seafood Truck	T	4404 Texas St.	619-341-7397
16	Lestat's on Park	AT	4496 Park Blvd.	619-501-6638
17	Live Wire Bar	O	2103 El Cajon Blvd.	619-291-7450
18	Loving Hut	TD	1905 Park Blvd.	619-683-9490
19	Madison on Park	ATD	4622 Park Blvd.	619-296-6566
20	Mama's Bakery & Deli	TD	4237 Alabama St.	619-688-0717
21	McDonald's	T	2345 El Cajon Blvd.	619-299-3078
22	Meraki Café	ATD	1735 Adams Ave.	619-269-9618
23	Muzita Abyssinian	ATD	4651 Park Blvd.	619-546-7900
24	Mystic Mocha	X	2105 Mission Ave.	619-688-0858
25	Parkhouse Eatery	ATD	4574 Park Blvd.	619-295-7275
26	Park & Rec	O	4612 Park Blvd.	619-795-9700
27	Pizzeria Bruno	ATD	4207 Park Blvd.	619-260-1311
28	Pizzeria Luigi	ATD	2121 El Cajon Blvd.	619-294-9417
29	Plumeria Vegetarian	TD	4661 Park Blvd.	619-269-9989
30	Pomegranate	ATD	2312 El Cajon Blvd.	619-298-4007
31	Pop Pie Co	TD	4404 Park Blvd.	619-501-4440
32	Rare Society	X	4130 Park Blvd.	619-501-6404
33	Red Fox Steak House	X	OPENING FALL 2020	619-297-1313
34	Red House Pizza	ATD	4615 Park Blvd.	619-546-7430
35	Serpentine Cider	TO	2311 El Cajon Blvd.	619-323-2057
36	Small Bar & Grill	AT	4628 Park Blvd.	619-795-7998
37	Soichi Sushi	ATD	2121 Adams Ave.	619-677-2220
38	Stella Jean's Ice Cream	TD	4404 Park Blvd.	619-298-8252
39	Subway	TD	1915 El Cajon Blvd.	619-295-0624
40	Tacos La Mezcla*	ATD	2104 El Cajon Blvd.	619.889.1337
41	Tap Room Beer Co.	ATD	2000 El Cajon Blvd.	619-539-7738
42	The Lancer's Bar	X	4671 Park Blvd.	619-298-5382
43	Twiggs Coffeehouse	TD	4590 Park Blvd.	619-296-0616
44	Twisted Taps*	ATD	2302 El Cajon Blvd.	619-889-1337
45	Yipao Coffee	ATD	4601 Park Blvd.	619-734-6844
46	Wing Stop	TD	1901 El Cajon Blvd.	619-297-9464

*Tacos La Mezcla and Twisted Taps are partnering at 2104 and 2302 El Cajon Blvd.

SERVICES

- A Dine in
- T Takeout
- D Delivery
- O Dine in with outside food allowed
- X Closed for now



COMMITTING TO 100 TREES

A tree-lined street is a beautiful thing to behold. The aesthetics alone make street trees desirable, not to mention their positive effect on property values. More important than real estate curb appeal, though, is the role trees play in cleaning our air and fighting the ravaging effects of climate change.

San Diego's Climate Action Plan relies heavily on growing our Urban Forest canopy to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gasses. And planting a tree is something anyone can do. Our city provides them for free! All you have to do is ask!



UH resident Jennifer Bishop has been so pleased with the Hong Kong Orchid tree she obtained four years ago through the Free Tree SD program that she posted a poll on Nextdoor this past March to find out how many residents would like to have a tree planted on the parkway in front of their homes. More than 130 of our neighbors said they would love a tree.

Jennifer is partnering with a program called the "Kate Sessions Commitment," which was organized to promote significant growth of the

county's tree canopy. The group's mission is based on the extraordinary work of the well-known horticulturalist and landscape architect in the early 1900s. A century later, the goal of the new program bearing Sessions' name is "planting 100 trees in communities around San Diego County each year in the 2020s."

The city of San Diego has made it clear that a successful Urban Forestry program and climate change mitigation depend on engaged citizens as well as private sector investments.

Planting a free tree in front of our own homes, expending a bit of effort to water and care for it, or even helping our neighbors plant a tree in front of their homes, may be the least we can do to make our neighborhood and planet a bit more livable.

Visit www.sandiego.gov/form/request-free-tree-sd to sign up for a free tree. Questions or comments about tree planting can be directed to Jennifer Bishop at Jenniferlisabishop@gmail.com.

—Judith Annicchiarico, Editorial Board



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UH CA
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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POLITICAL NEWS

FROM YOUR CITY ATTORNEY

SUPERVISOR FLETCHER PUSHES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PRIORITIZE COVID-19 RESPONSE & RELIEF ALONG WITH EQUITY IN BUDGET

Board Supports Supervisor Fletcher's Nearly \$40 Million in Budget Changes

In August, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors passed a \$6.5 billion budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, who represents the University Heights community, pushed his colleagues to prioritize the County's response to COVID-19 and relief for people who have been impacted by the virus. The approved budget included \$38,770,000 of new funding proposals by Supervisor Fletcher.

"We made this budget better by working with the community to drive significant changes reflecting our values and

their needs to ensure more equity, opportunity and fairness, particularly for those impacted by COVID-19," he said.

A significant portion of San Diegans experiencing homelessness in the County have untreated mental health and substance use conditions. The City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission put together an application for available State Project Home-Key funding to secure motels that can be converted into permanent supportive housing—helping find a permanent home for some of those most difficult to house.

As part of this budget, Supervisor Fletcher received the unanimous sup-

port of his colleagues to direct \$5.4 million to fund on-site behavioral health and care coordination to San Diegans who experienced homelessness at the new permanent supportive housing projects proposed by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission.

San Diego County's existing housing crisis has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. The County needed to do more to make sure that people can stay in their homes. The Board passed a proposal by Supervisors Fletcher and Greg Cox to make \$25 million for rental assistance and legal assistance to help individuals and families stay in their homes. Income eligible applicants throughout the County are eligible to apply as long as their own cities do not have emergency COVID-19 rental assistance funds available. Other budget amendments proposed by Supervisor Fletcher and adopted include:

- \$2 million for income replacement stipend for workers who get COVID-19 and are not otherwise eligible for sick pay or other benefits to stay home.
- \$620,000 for a pilot program to waive fees for residential wind projects, EV charging systems, energy storage and upgrades.
- \$550,000 for air quality monitors, purifiers, and data analysis for our AB617 environmental justice communities.
- \$500,000 to create a green streets master plan for public and private infrastructure projects in unincorporated areas.
- \$200,000 for a weatherization program to help homeowners reduce energy costs of households in unincorporated areas.

- \$2.5 for staff to develop a plan to make sure information being disseminated from the County to San Diegans is culturally competent and translated into multiple threshold languages.

- \$2.0 million to make sure students from low-income families have access to the Internet for distancing learning during the school year.

"Even though all of our budget amendments were adopted," Supervisor Fletcher said, "I know we have a long way to go in ensuring a county government that truly serves our community and I am committed to the ongoing work."

To learn more, visit www.Supervisor-NathanFletcher.com.



Supervisor Nathan Fletcher joins with community on August 25, 2020 to outline proposed changes to the County budget.

WHEN A CHILD IS ABDUCTED BY A PARENT, FEAR AND TRAUMA LINGER

Child abduction is one of the scariest byproducts of troubled relationships, inflicting unnecessary trauma on youngsters and often imperiling their lives.

When my Office has a chance to track down missing children and bring them home, we make it our highest priority.

As a safe place for domestic violence victims, the San Diego Family Justice Center (FJC) works with parents whose children are abducted. In these complex and frightening cases, the abuser takes the child to exert power and control over their partner, often a custodial parent tormented with the thought of never seeing the children again.

In two recent cases, the FJC worked with local, state, and federal authorities to track down missing children and bring them home.

In the first case, a woman came to the FJC to seek help after being abused by her husband for years. While there, she learned that her estranged husband had abducted their young children, and may have been planning to take them to another country.

Through a massive coordinated effort with police and others, the children were found safe and reunited with their mother.

In the second case, a woman contacted the FJC for help with a restraining order. Shortly afterward, her child was

abducted. Again, we worked with a network of agencies in a weeks-long effort to locate and bring the child home.

During the terrifying time when a child is missing, the FJC helps the custodial parent navigate the confusing maze of law enforcement agencies. We also offer financial and legal aid, a safe place to live, and counseling to help the family overcome lingering fear and trauma from the abduction.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please call (619) 533-6000 during business hours, or (888) 385-4657 after hours. We are ready to listen and help.

—San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott



OUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111/202-456-2461 fax
president@whitehouse.gov

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR
GAVIN NEWSOM

State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-2841/916-558-3160 fax
governor@governor.ca.gov

U.S. SENATOR
DIANNE FEINSTEIN

750 B Street, Suite 1030
San Diego, CA 92101
619-231-9712/619-231-1108 fax
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

U.S. SENATOR
KAMALA HARRIS

600 B Street, Suite 2240
San Diego, CA 92101
619-239-3884/202-228-3863 fax
senator@harris.senate.gov

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN
SUSAN DAVIS, DISTRICT 53

2700 Adams Avenue, Suite 102
San Diego, CA 92116
619-280-5353/619-280-5311 fax
Emilie.Hill@mail.house.gov

STATE SENATOR
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
TONI ATKINS, DISTRICT 39

1350 Front Street, Suite 4061
San Diego, CA 92101
619-645-3133/619-645-3144 fax
chevelle.tate@sen.ca.gov

STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER
TODD GLORIA, DISTRICT 78

1350 Front Street, Room 6054
San Diego, CA 92101
619-645-3090/619-645-3094 fax
randy.wilde@asm.ca.gov

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERVISOR
NATHAN FLETCHER, FOURTH DISTRICT

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101
619-531-5544/ 619-531-6262 fax
Nick Zinter 619-371-1241
Nicholas.zinter@sdcounty.ca.gov

SAN DIEGO MAYOR
KEVIN FAULCONER

202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
619-236-6330/619-236-7228 fax
kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov

SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCILMEMBER
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Eagle Strategies, LLC
 1048 Johnson Avenue
 San Diego, CA 92103
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