



Ringo H.W. Chiu / AP

Plan for Fire Safety

Fire safety is of paramount importance in California, a state prone to wildfires due to its arid climate and vast wildland-urban interface areas. To protect lives, property, and the environment, residents and businesses in California should follow a comprehensive fire safety checklist.

1. Defensible Space:

- Maintain a 100-foot defensible space around your home or business.
- Remove dead vegetation, dry leaves, and flammable debris.
- Trim trees and shrubs to create a firebreak.
- Store firewood and propane tanks away from structures.

2. Roof and Gutter Maintenance:

- Install fire-resistant roofing materials.
- Clean gutters and roofs regularly to prevent the buildup of leaves and debris.
- Use ember-resistant vents to keep sparks from entering your home.

3. Fire-Resistant Construction:

- Build or retrofit structures with fire-resistant materials and design.
- Use tempered glass windows and non-combustible siding.
- Seal gaps and openings to prevent ember intrusion.

4. Firebreaks and Fuel Management:

- Collaborate with neighbors to create a firebreak along property lines.
- Implement fuel management practices, such as controlled burns or grazing.

5. Emergency Access:

- Keep a clear path for emergency vehicles to access your property.
- Trim trees and bushes near driveways for unobstructed access.

6. Evacuation Plan:

- Develop a family or business evacuation plan.
- Assemble emergency kits with essentials like food, water, and important documents.
- Stay informed about local evacuation orders and alerts.

Cont'd on page 7

UH Library at the Normal St Property?

BY STUART MCGRAW

The newly published Library Master Plan recommends; "The UH Library should be replaced with a new library facility of at least 25,000 square feet. The existing facility cannot be expanded on the existing site. It should be relocated to a new site. It could be a good candidate for mixed-use development with uses such as housing."

Meanwhile, The San Diego Unified School District has begun Master Site Planning meetings about the development of the Normal Street property, focused on providing housing for teachers and district employees. The development team is reaching out to the community to learn more about the priorities and needs of UH. This is our golden opportunity, not only to keep a library in UH, but to build a new one.

Libraries are more than just repositories of books; they are community hubs, thriving educational centers, safe spaces and sources of inspiration for people of all ages. In order to cultivate a knowledge-driven society, it is crucial to invest in modern, accessible, and engaging libraries. One such opportunity presents itself with the redevelopment of the Normal Street property, an ideal location for a new library that caters to the needs and aspirations of our growing community. The 11 acre site is centrally located, safe and accessible, with plenty of land for both a library and a much-needed neighborhood park.

Please join us at the UHCA Community Meeting on Thursday November 2nd at 6:45 pm at the Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium at 4341 Campus Ave. Please share your ideas and if you have any questions or can't attend the meeting, please contact me at stumcgraw@uhsd.org

UH Desperately Needs a New Park

Urban parks play a pivotal role in the well-being of communities, offering a diverse array of benefits that extend far beyond just green spaces within cities. These vital urban oases serve as a sanctuary for residents, providing a multitude of advantages that significantly contribute to the overall quality of urban life.

First and foremost, urban parks promote physical and mental health. In a world marked by increasingly sedentary lifestyles, these green refuges offer a space for people to engage in physical activities such as jogging, cycling, or yoga. Regular exercise in parks helps combat obesity, reduce stress, and improve overall fitness, leading to healthier populations.

Furthermore, urban parks act as social hubs, fostering a sense of community and unity among city dwellers. Families, friends, and strangers come together to enjoy picnics, sports, or simply a pleasant stroll. Such interactions enhance social bonds, decrease social isolation, and contribute to a more harmonious urban environment.

Beyond the social and physical benefits, urban parks also have environmental significance. They serve as green lungs for cities, absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, and mitigating the urban heat island effect. Biodiversity thrives in these pockets of nature, providing habitats for various species, including birds and insects. Additionally, well-designed parks incorporate sustainable landscaping and water features, contributing to urban resilience against climate change.

Economically, urban parks can boost property values, attract tourists, and stimulate local businesses. A well-maintained park can become a landmark, drawing visitors and potential residents to an area. This influx of people can rejuvenate neighborhoods, create job opportunities, and

Cont'd on page 7

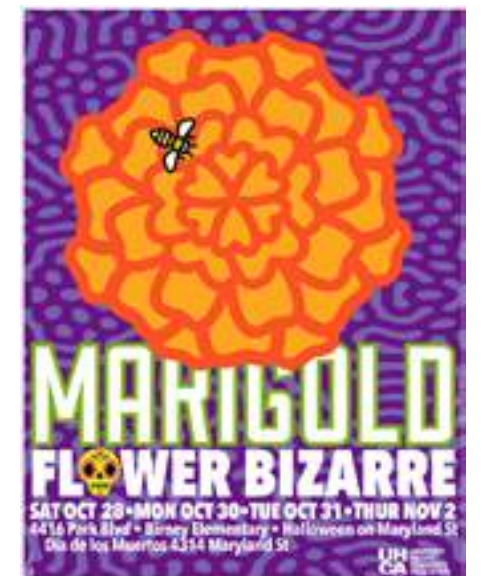
Next UHCA Meeting

Oct 5

Fire Safety Wildfire Preparedness & Brush Management

6:45pm 4345 Campus Ave.

Captain Alma Lowry
Community Resource Officer
of the City of San Diego
Fire-Rescue Department will
share simple steps you can take
to increase your home's chance
of surviving a wildfire. Plus
many other resources to help
prepare and protect your family
and home.



LOOKING AHEAD

UHCA October Meeting

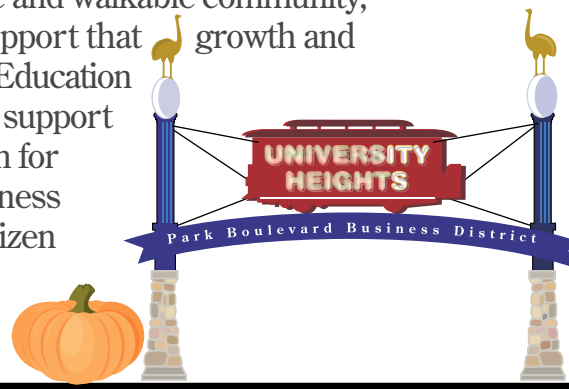
Nov 2

Redevelopment of the Board of Ed Property

Please join us for this
golden opportunity, to
discuss the future of
our library, and a new
park for UH.

OUR VISION

UH is a community, a village within the larger city of San Diego. We pride ourselves on our historic past with a vision for the future. The future will hold a new library, a safe and walkable community, thoughtful growth, infrastructure to support that growth and a stunning development of the Board of Education property including a substantial park to support future growth. Our village will be known for its friendly neighborhoods, unique business community, care for its canyons, and citizen involvement.



MEMBERSHIP

Yearly Membership

- () Feather - give what you can \$_____
() \$36 Plume (Household)
() \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
() \$100 Business Plume

Donor

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



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

OR RETURN WITH CHECK BY MAIL: UHCA PO BOX 33032 SAN DIEGO, CA 92163

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning • Blockwalker/Deliver Papers on your Block
• Marketing / Merchandising • UHCA News • Neighborhood/Zone Watch
• Program & Events • Membership • More info @uhsd.org/volunteer

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.

UHCA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Stuart McGraw
VICE PRESIDENT Lisa Getz
SECRETARY Nan McGraw
TREASURER Mark Brlej



WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK @universityheightscommunityassociation

INSTAGRAM @universityheights_sdcommunity

UHCA NEWS

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. Submission deadline is the first of the month. See www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

EDITORIAL TEAM Nan McGraw, Lisa Getz, Paul Farris

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Judith Annicchiarico, Ashlee Baker, Lisa Getz, Peggy Goings, Helene Idels, Pam Isaacs, Sherrill Joseph, Marc Johnson, Sarah Layne, Nan McGraw, Stu McGraw, Marc Johnson, Sarah Layne, Melinda Pajak, and Jon Von Erb.



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PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS Judith Annicchiarico, Lisa Getz, Paul Farris,

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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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.



CRIME WATCH SIGNS
There are 60 signs in UH. If you know of a location that could use a sign, or one needing replacing please email signs@uhsd.org.



SLOW DOWN SIGNS
Speeding in UH continues to be a problem. Slowing time off by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



FILE A POLICE REPORT ONLINE WITH SDPD
tinyurl.com/SDPD-Online-Report

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.
SD City Services Emergency & Non-Emergency
Alert San Diego
2-1-1 San Diego
Alice Birney Elementary Office
Brush and Weed Abatement
Code Violations
County Dept of Environmental Health
Crime Stoppers Tip Line
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E
Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes
Get-It-Done
Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 5am - 3pm M-F

Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous
People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) path@epath.org
Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)
National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
SDPD Community Relations Officers:
SDPD Western Division
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service
UHCDC
University Heights Community Development Corporation
University Heights Public Library
UH Zone Watch Coordinator
Graffiti in Progress Emergency
SD Vector Control

If all else fails, email Malik Thornton
ThorntonM@sanidiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.



DISASTER CONTACTS
In a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. Landlines may not work in power outages. Keep cell phones charged. Call 211 for updated info.

Happening in the Heights

Fitness, music, and adventure without leaving your zip code.

Madison Live Jazz

Tuesday Nite Jazz Series
Every Tuesday nite 6:45 pm

Sunday Nite Latin Jazz
with Irving Flores & Kaylee Daugherty
6 - 8 pm 4622 Park Blvd.
madisononpark.com



Gilbert Castellanos at Madison

Hsifang Temple

Fall Meditation Courses
Every Saturday, Sept 23 - Dec 9,
2-3 pm *20 Donation 4536 Park Blvd.

Serpentine Cider

2311 El Cajon Blvd
Trivia Tuesday
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Paint Your Pet!
Thu, Oct 20, 6-9 pm
\$67 per person. Includes a glass of cider all supplies, and instruction. Sign up & info: lovejoycreations.com



Park and Rec

Happy Hour Mon - Fri, 4-6pm
Live DJs and nightly events
4612 Park Blvd
@parkandrecsd

Diversionsary Theatre

On Stage:
DRAGON MAMA By Sara Porkalob
Directed by Andrew Russell
Sept 14 - Oct 8, 2023
Award-winning one woman adventure features ghosts, Filipino gangsters, and a dope '90s R&B soundtrack.
Diversionsary Theatre Clark Cabaret
Drinks and live entertainment.
Wed-Sat 5pm to close, Sun 12 - 7 pm.

Nightly Happy Hour
5 - 6:30 pm & 10pm to close.

Friday Karaoke Night
Sign ups start at 9pm. Singing starts around 9:15pm

Red Fox Steak House
2200 El Cajon Blvd
Live Piano Bar Nightly 4 - 10:30pm
Lunch 11am-4pm Dinner 4-10:30pm

Kairoa Brewing Co.

Sunday Summer Dog Adoptions
4601 Park Blvd
Sept. 24th
12-4 pm
kairoa.com



Marigold Flower Bizarre
Flower Sale to Benefit Alice Birney Elementary
Sat, Oct 28 1-3pm, 4416 Park Blvd
Oct 30 & 31, Birney Elementary
Tues Oct 31, 5 after pm
4314 Maryland Street
Nov 1, 4314 Maryland Street (Honor System)



The University Heights Fall Harvest Festival
October 21, 1-5 pm
Birney Elementary Joint use Field
Park Blvd & Meade Ave
universityheightsgardenclub.com
Register to Attend (FREE)

University Heights Halloween Candy Crawl
October 28, 1-3 pm
Free for kids and adults!
Starts at 4416 Park Blvd

Further Afield



'Sumo' at La Jolla Playhouse
Sept 26- Oct 22, 2023
2910 La Jolla Village Dr.
858-550-1010 info@ljp.org



Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert
San Diego Symphony
Oct 28 - 29, 2023
The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park
www.theshell.org

Haunted San Diego Ghost Tour

2415 San Diego Ave,
San Diego, CA 92110
619.255.6170
www.haunted-sandiego-tours.com



Send submissions for your event to: lisagetz@uhsd.org

Oct 2023

Calendar grid for October 2023 with event listings for each day. Includes events like Uptown Planners, Baby & Toddler Storytime, UHCA Meeting, Hillcrest Farmers Market, Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day, Friends of the UH Library Meeting, UHCDC Meeting, Pumpkin Carving, Hillcrest Farmers Market, North Park Planning Committee, Library Friends Book Sale, Signing Storytime with Signs at Play, North Park Planning Committee, Library Friends Book Sale, Hillcrest Farmers Market, Day of the Dead, and Hillcrest Farmers Market.



UHCA Summer Mixer

UH friends and neighbors got together to celebrate the end of summer with gusto!

Wednesday night was the perfect opportunity to forge new friendships and strengthen the bonds of our wonderful neighborhood. On September 20th over 125 University Heights friends and neighbors came out to mix and mingle again for the second annual "End of Summer Rooftop mixer 2023!"

The amazing team at the Big Front Door served super tasty bites sponsored by My Point Credit Union while Saxophone Music San Diego - by Kevin DelMastro set the cool vibe on the rooftop at Park and Polk.



Photo: Martin Montesano



Photo: Susan Blackwell



Photo: Martin Montesano

We want to thank each and every one of these local businesses for their generosity and support for donating raffle gifts for our guests.

- **Al Dente**
- **ArtForm**
- **Cecilia's Fine Jewelry**
- **Cookie Plug**
- **Gnarly Girl Pizza**
- **Holistic Harmony Antoinette / Mandy**
- **Lafayette Hotel**
- **Liber8fit**
- **Madison on Park**
- **Mudlily Clay**
- **Mystic Mocha**
- **Original Skin and Body Care**
- **Paleo Treats**
- **Serpentine Cider**
- **Shangi La Vintage**
- **Upgrade Chiropractor**

We look forward to seeing you at UHCA's next mixer! Date TBA.



Kevin DelMastro on Saxophone

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Think Globally, Sip Sustainably

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

For many of us, the fall season conjures visions of festive biergartens and harvest celebrations at local wineries. San Diegans enjoy an embarrassment of sustainable riches with all the great beer and wine produced here, providing excellent quaffs that haven't been shipped from hundreds or thousands of miles away (no offense, Norcal and Europe! Love ya!).

Besides proximity to the source of our beverages, packaging is key. The New York Times wine critic recently recommended



Field Recordings "BOXIE" Skin-Contact Central Coast



Lunaria Skin-Contact Pinot Grigio Terre di Chieti



Djuce Sustainable Canned Wines



Sandy GIOVESE VINO Rosso

Quadrum Red Blend Spain

lot of energy. An even better solution is one that our local breweries employ: the growler.

ten "really good" boxed wines ("The Pour" NYT 5/4/23), noting that glass wine bottle production and shipping have a much larger carbon footprint than boxed wines do. Plus, a wine box's internal "bag" keeps the wine inside fresher than a bottle does after opening. Boxed wines, not meant to be aged, are enjoyable immediately, and Clos Wine Shop on Park carries some fine options, including a few noted in the NYT review, like the 3-liter box of "Sandy GIOVESE" VINO Rosso from Italy for \$35. Note: Clos delivers!

Wine bottles haven't been recyclable here, which plays a large role in the beverage's environmental impact. That problem is slated to end next year when wine and distilled spirits will become part of the California Beverage Container Recycling Program, which should lead to manufacturers developing strategies for reusing glass bottles or their component materials to make new bottles. In reality, though, melting down glass bottles to make new ones takes a

Local beer enthusiasts already know that area breweries offer refillable glass growlers, or aluminum, single-use "crowlers" in some cases. Growlers are clearly the most environmentally sustainable packaging strategy for beverages. Unfortunately, most San Diego urban wineries have discontinued their growler programs because patrons weren't remembering to bring them back, or weren't washing out the large glass containers effectively.

Lucky for us, Negotiant Winery (1263 University Ave.) happily sells growlers and a great selection of wines on tap, "just like in Italy"! Note, also, that many local wineries producing wine from locally grown grapes do offer canned wines, and those cans can be recycled.

Whether sipping Julian apple cider or a locally produced beer or wine on tap (or from a growler or box in the fridge), we're fortunate to have some great options for enjoying the fall harvest sustainably.

Cheers!

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Arrest Made in University Heights Fatal Hit & Run

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

On June 10th, at 8:46 p.m., 47-year-old Joshua Gilliland, was crossing in a marked crosswalk at the three-way intersection of El Cajon Boulevard, Park Boulevard, and Normal Street in the University Heights neighborhood of San Diego. While crossing, a vehicle traveling eastbound on Normal Street, failed to stop at the red signal light and struck Gilliland as he was crossing. After the collision, the vehicle fled the scene. Joshua Gilliland sustained serious injuries and was transported to the hospital. On June 14th, Gilliland died from his injuries sustained in the collision.



After an extensive investigation, SDPD identified the suspect vehicle as a 2022 BMW and the driver as 37-year-old Brandon Allen Janik of San Diego. On September 5, 2023, at 9:27 a.m., Brandon Janik was contacted and arrested at 3800 7th Avenue in San Diego. Janik was booked into County Jail for numerous charges including murder, gross vehicular manslaughter, felony hit and run and felony DUI.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call the San Diego Police Department at 619-531-2000, or the anonymous Crime Stoppers tip line at 888-580-8477.



FRANK SANTANA

This month a big, fluffy University Heights plume goes to Frank Santana for his ongoing commitment and dedication to care for and beautify Meade Ave between Park Blvd and Campus Ave along the Birney Elementary School campus. Two years ago, Frank initially volunteered to start watering the trees along the parkway. This led to an annual project coordinated by the UHCA Beautification Team pulling together volunteers to weed, mulch, and fertilize the trees along with putting protective collars on each one. As a result, the trees have truly started to thrive for the first time since they were planted.

In May, Frank spearheaded three mini events on June 17, July 9 and August 12 which took his solo efforts to beautify the Meade Avenue parkways to a broader group of dedicated community volunteers. As a result, the weeds are gone, decorative stones have been added, the trees got another dose of fertilizer and mulch and new decorative plants have been added to attract bees, butterflies and birds. Thank you, Frank. University Heights appreciates you!



Long-Awaited Neighborhood Dog Park Opens

BY MARC JOHNSON

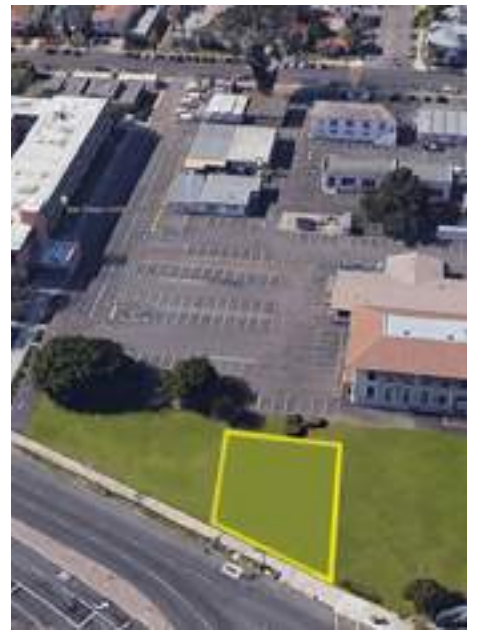
the official ribbon-cutting for the new University Heights Off-Leash Dog Park was held on Saturday August 19. Mayor Goria, Councilmember Whitburn, City Park & Rec Director Andy Field, SDUSD Superintendent Jackson and Board President Basso were on hand to thank the community for helping drive this project to completion.

While not as large as originally expected, the off-leash area was immediately put to the test by a dozen UH dogs who came out for the opening, and it appears they approved. In the first few weeks that it has been opened, residents are seeing a steady increase in usage and a decrease in the number of dogs at the Birney Joint Use Field.

The off-leash dog park has been in the works for many years, with efforts led by the UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group who worked with both the City and SDUSD to come up with a solution to the problems resulting from dogs being allowed off-leash illegally at the Birney Joint Use Field.

With a new off-leash area now officially open from dawn-to-dusk daily, San Diego Humane Society Animal Control officers will be increasing their enforcement of the city's leash laws at Birney Joint Use Field (and all other parks), which can include fines of up to \$300 for each violation.

the new off-leash area, one block south of Birney Elementary, at Park and El Cajon, is an interim solution. when the SDUSD moves to their new headquarters in Kearny Mesa and the site is redeveloped, a larger dog park is expected to be part of that redevelopment plan.



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WoodsRealEstateServices.com
CA DRE #02014601

UH Desperately Needs a New Park

from page 1
increase the economic vitality of the city.

In conclusion, urban parks are more than just green spaces; they are essential components of thriving, healthy cities. Their significance spans physical health, mental well-being, community cohesion, environmental stewardship, and economic growth. As urbanization continues to shape our world, prioritizing the creation and preservation of urban parks should remain a fundamental goal for cities striving to provide a high quality of life for their residents.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF AMERICA'S CITIES AND THEIR RESIDENTS. — City Parks Alliance

As cities become more densely populated and concern about the impact of climate change increases, planners, elected officials, and community advocates are using parks to help address critical urban infrastructure and public health issues. Parks are recognized as powerful tools for urban communities and local economies.

- Parks encourage active lifestyles and reduce health costs.
- They strengthen local economies and create job opportunities.
- They make cities more resilient.
- Parks increase community engagement and reduce crime.
- Parks help clean the air and improve public health.
- Neighborhood parks are a tool for cities to achieve their equity goals.

In Case You Missed It

The September UHCA meeting began with a surprise visit from Captain Shawn Takeuchi accompanied by our own, SDPD Community Relations Officer David Surwilo. Captain Shawn was our community relations officer 20 years ago. As Captain, he is head of Neighborhood Policing for the city of San Diego, overseeing the homeless population. He spoke of the many challenges involved with Neighborhood Policing. One important point both Shawn and David emphasized was to report homeless in our Trolley Barn Park through Get It Done. Once a reply with a tracking number is received, please forward to Officer Surwilo (dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov) so it can be expedited. We need to keep our park safe for kids, for everyone.

Next, we welcomed Amanda-Hammond, Birney's principal. This is her last year before retirement. Her amazing leadership is to be commended.

Rachel Esquerra, our UH Librarian encouraged everyone to use the library. An open house and many children's activities are scheduled. Check the calendar in the UHCA News.

Pam Isaacs reported on the Friends of the UH Library: many activities coming up including "Get Carded" at Kairoa Brewing Co. on September 21 from 6-8 pm. Keep in touch with the many activities and join: www.friendsofuhlibrary.org/become-a-member.

Malik Thornton from Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office encouraged people to use the new dog park at the Board of Ed property rather than the Birney field. Also he welcomes Get it Done reports forwarded to him at: ThorntonM@sandiego.gov.

Steve Oechel, chair of North Park Planning Group and Stu McGraw, chair of Uptown Planners conducted a workshop with various maps indicating traffic and pedestrian problem areas in UH. People gathered at each aerial photo to discuss and give suggestions for improvement. Results will be forwarded to the city as Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) needing study and solutions. Safety for pedestrians is critical for this walkable community. More on this subject in Stu McGraw's article in this news.

Fire Safety from Page 1

- 7. Fire-Resistant Landscaping:**
 - Choose fire-resistant plants and maintain a safe distance between them.
 - Use gravel or non-combustible mulch in landscaping.
 - Keep lawns well-watered and mowed.
- 8. Firebreaks and Fuel Management:**
 - Collaborate with neighbors to create a firebreak along property lines.
 - Implement fuel management practices, such as controlled burns or grazing.
- 9. Emergency Access:**
 - Ensure there is a clear path for emergency vehicles to access your property.
 - Trim trees and bushes near driveways for unobstructed access.
- 10. Fire-Resistant Landscaping:**
 - Choose fire-resistant plants and maintain a safe distance between them.
 - Use gravel or non-combustible mulch in landscaping.
 - Keep lawns well-watered and mowed.
- 11. Fire Safety Equipment:**
 - Install and regularly maintain smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
 - Equip your home or business with a fire sprinkler system.
 - Have a readily accessible hose and water source for firefighting.
- 12. Stay Informed:**
 - Sign up for emergency alerts and notifications from local authorities.
 - Stay updated on current fire conditions and forecasts.

By diligently following this fire safety checklist, Californians can reduce the risk of wildfires affecting their homes and communities while also promoting the safety and resilience of the state as a whole.



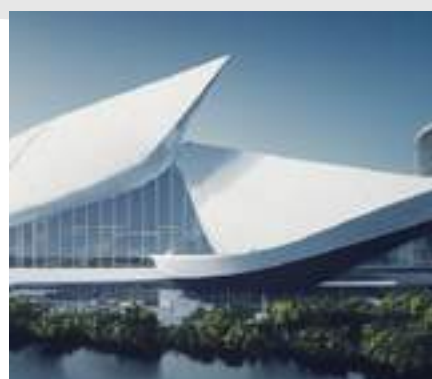
The \$18 million dollar Normal Street Promenade / Linear Park project is being jointly funded by the city and SANDAG, and will include walking paths, shade structures with seating, children's play area, and public gathering space with seating.

Pedestrian Promenade / Bridge above Washington St. Safety connecting University Heights to Hillcrest Normal Street Linear Park

Iconic New Library at the crest of El Cajon Blvd. Incorporating Annex Building as UH Community Center



Pedestrian / Cyclist Bridge over Washington Street



Milwaukee Art Museum / Santiago Calatrava



Retrofit Teachers Annex as Community Center

New Womens Walk Group

BY ASHLEE BAKER

Introducing University Heights Women's Walk Group—an initiative revitalizing our community with wellness, connections, and vibrancy.

Nestled amidst tree-lined streets, University Heights radiates unity. As we stroll, each step echoes shared care defining our community. Our mission is to unite a diverse group of women through wellness and connections. Regardless of life phase, walks offer respite, fresh air, and meaningful bonds.

Beyond walks, we embrace life's joys. Some events cater to adults, emphasizing laughter and shared experiences. All ages enrich our walks, perspectives intertwined together.



Partnering with local neighborhood establishments, we foster gathering, engagement, and celebration.

Join our journey. Walks, conversations, shared experiences, and goals—all await in University Heights.

Stay updated on Instagram: @universityheightswomenswalk or email: UHwomenswalkclub@yahoo.com

Let's walk, connect, celebrate University Heights together!



BIRNEY BUZZ

Birney Bees & Garden Club Unite for Fall Festival

BY SARAH LAYNE



Birney Elementary has an exciting name update in the works for its parent organizations. The Birney Beekeeper Alliance—whose membership is made up of the school's foundation (FOABE) and PTA—hopes that the name change will reflect the cooperative spirit under which families, staff, and community members come together to create an incredible neighborhood school. While it is not official until it is voted on at the September parent organization meeting, parent leadership is hopeful the name will help align the two organizations to the benefit of students and families.

Lauren explains that the fall event was inspired by the Garden Club's Pumpkin Grow Along. More than 50 seed packets were distributed to the community, including Birney families, to enable home gardeners to grow their own pumpkins. Lauren says, "The Garden Club wanted to host a Fall Harvest Festival to celebrate the end of the pumpkin growing season and to see who grew the largest pumpkin in UH. The Birney Beekeeper Alliance similarly wanted to bring back a tradition that they had back in 2012-2015 of hosting a Harvest Festival for the school and thus the University Heights Fall Harvest Festival was reincarnated!"

Attendees will be able to enjoy live music, a pie baking contest, arts & crafts, and games and activities—such as sack races, a flower crown making station, and hay bale rides. There will also be food trucks and a farmstand, hosted by University Heights Garden Club members.

Lauren sums up the intention of the festival: "Our hope is to bring a little fall fun to our neighborhood, share the joy of growing food in your own backyard, and bring neighbors together."

The event is free and attendees are encouraged to register so that the organizers can plan for food, vendors, and activities. Please visit: www.universityheightsgardenclub.com and click on the events page for the registration link.

In one such venture of cooperation, the Birney Beekeeper Alliance and the University Heights Garden Club are excited to share their first joint event, The University Heights Fall Harvest Festival. The festival will take place on Saturday, October 21st from 1-5 p.m. at the Alice Birney Joint-Use Field on the corner of Park and Meade Avenue.

Earlier this year, the Garden Club successfully organized a Garden Gala to raise money for much needed garden supplies at the Birney Garden, which is run by Miss Mindy. Through the organization of that event, the Garden Club's founder, Lauren Doucette, and the leadership of the Birney Beekeeper Alliance were introduced and the seeds for a fall festival were planted.

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BETWEEN THE COVERS

OCTOBER AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

Youth Services Librarian, Miss Helene



As the Youth Services Librarian for the University Heights Branch Library, I would like to share information about a few of our special children's book collections that you might not know about. A recent addition is VoxBooks, which are "books that talk" so children can read and listen at the same time! Another recent addition is the Concept Kits collection – these are "books in a bag" on subjects such as potty training, new siblings, healthy eating, transportation, and more that can be checked out as a themed set. Also available in the children's area of the library are Internet computers and an AWE computer station programmed with engaging learning games. And we continually have fun coloring sheets and craft kits for kiddos to enjoy! We have a featured section of shelving to highlight newly acquired books, including a robust book collection for teens, which includes fiction, graphic novels, and non-fiction. Another special feature is the yearly One Book One San Diego selection of books. The recently announced titles include Iveliz Explains it All by Andrea Beatriz Arango for teens and Nigel and the Moon by Antwan Eady for children. Both are also available in Spanish. In addition to our book collections, we continue to offer monthly programs. Along with our

regularly scheduled events, the October calendar will include signing storytimes and a pumpkin carving craft. Be sure to look at the calendar page to make note of the dates and times for all programs. You can also acquire further details about library programs by following the University Heights Branch Library's Facebook page (@universityheightslibrary) and the SDPL online calendar of events (sandiego.librarymarket.com). As always, we look forward to welcoming community members of all ages to the library!

-Helene Idels, Youth Services Librarian University Heights Library San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912



Monday - Tuesday 11:30 am - 8 pm
Wednesday - Saturday 9:30 am - 6 pm
619-692-4912 / UHStaff@sandiego.gov

BETWEEN THE COVERS

BY PEGGY GOINGS

Welcome to fall, the best time of year, you all. As some of my favorite things are pie, nature hikes, books, campfires, good horror movies, spice-scented air, and the color orange, I live for this. I'm Peggy Goings, the University Heights Branch Library's newly appointed full-time Library Assistant 3. Since first being hired by the City of San Diego in 2016, I have worked half-time, including the last 4 years here in University Heights. As I love the neighborhood, this branch, and the vitality of its reading public, I am absolutely thrilled for the opportunity.

One of the things I get to do in my role is handpick 10 new books to order each month, courtesy of the Friends of the University Heights Library. The idea with leased books is that they are a browsing collection of fresh, non-holdable, first come first served titles, akin to what you would find entering a bookstore. Leased books are shelved in the new books section, are distinguished by their red sticker, and are eligible for one 30-day checkout period. To make my order, I use a hybrid model of selecting popular bestsellers along with quirkier, lesser-known titles. Along with seeing which books are trending in the San Diego Public Library, I consult reviews of upcoming releases in Library Journal and The New York Times Book Review, paying particular attention to queer writers and themes, cookbooks, biographies, gardening books, true crime, smaller presses, and



emerging writers. Some of my favorite recent titles include Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma by Claire Dederer, a red-hot reexamination of the link between artistic genius and monstrosity; a new biography, Jessica Lange: An Adventurer's Heart by Anthony Uzarowski; and just for fun, the cookbook 50 Pies, 50 States: An Immigrant's Love Letter to the United States Through Pie by Stacey Mei Yan Fong.

Lastly, please consider the 2023 One Book One San Diego selections (www.kpbs.org/onebook) for your next read, including Heather McGhee's The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together. Hope you enjoy the best October has to offer and that we'll see you soon at the Library.

-Peggy Goings, Library Assistant III University Heights Branch Library San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

A WONDERFUL SUMMER NOW IT'S OCTOBER!

BY PAM ISAACS

Isaw Sparkles the clown recently at our UH Library and was absolutely delighted! Sparkles has visited the UH Library for many years and has built a dedicated following. Her program, Magic & Bubbles, was the final event of our library's Summer Reading Program.

In June, the Summer Reading and events program, supported by the Friends of the University Heights Branch Library, presented percussionist Chazz Ross and his 26 African Djembe drums. Chazz led a session of rhythms, jungle songs and silly songs with a surprise ending! In July, another Friends-sponsored event was Dance to Evolve. Kids and families could move to exciting music and play lively dance games. Ruth and Emilia presented Stronger Together. Emilia with her alien friend, Ruth, discovered that they are indeed Stronger Together.

In August kids made their very own Harry Potter themed paper quill pen with invisible ink.

In September all enjoyed the Rainbow Fish program. Kids acted out stories while wearing beautiful costumes provided.



We are fortunate that children and families in our neighborhood can join the Summer Reading Program and participate in these exciting events, made possible by the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library Foundation.

Did you come to our library's Open House on September 16? It was amazing!

Or, perhaps you stopped by Kairoa for the Library's "Get Carded" event on the 21st. If you got or renewed your library card at those events - GREAT. If not, come on, do it now. Did you join the Friends of the University Heights Library? If not, do it now, we need your support. The FOL sponsors these events, buys furniture, books and other items for our beloved branch.

We would love to have you as a member of the Friends of the University Heights Library. To join go to www.friends-of-uh-library.org/become-a-member.

October Meeting Friends of the UH Library
October 10, 6 pm via Zoom link at: <https://06web.zoom.us/j/5100631733>

Harvest Fair
October 21, 1-5 pm, Birney School Field UH Library 4193 Park Blvd.

Boo! Spooky Books for Halloween

Jacaranda Street: Gravestone Image, Book 5, by Sherrill Joseph, bestselling and multiple award-winning author. The Botanic Hill detectives visit the crumbling gravesite of Lenore Valentine Kirby in their town's ancient cemetery. Her gravestone, replete with an intriguing image and cryptic clues, hints at a connection with horror writer Edgar Allan Poe. The squad travels to nearby Ravenswood, her family's rural, ancestral home, where the sleuths explore the enormous Victorian house's secret staircases and hidden passages, and meet the pet raven, Rex Nevermore. Their mission? To help restore Mr. Poe's reputation, damaged by a real-life enemy, and reveal to the world—a priceless treasure.



The Witch's Cat by Sonica Ellis Preschool - 2



Road Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories Ages 8-12



Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury Ages 14 and up

The Skull by Jon Klassen Ages 4 and up



Tips for Being a Good Member of the Community

BY MELINDA PAJAK

In our country right now, opposing views are distancing us from each other, but there is a way to reconnect and remember that there are good people in this world and that is through our local community.

Here are some tips for how you can get more involved in the University Heights community. We'd love to see you around:

1. Watch this newspaper for UH Community Association events and/or follow UHCA on Instagram. They host a monthly meeting at Birney Elementary at 6:45pm on the first Thursday of every month (except in July and August). Meet your neighbors and find out what is going on.
2. Shop and eat local. There are so many fine restaurants, coffee shops, and stores in and around UH, make them a part of your life and strike up a conversation with the other locals sipping a cup of joe.
3. Welcome a new neighbor. Someone moving into the neighborhood? Take over some homemade cookies or a treat from the local bakery and introduce yourself.
4. Host a block party, garage sale, neighborhood get together, or board game night. You might find you have a lot in common with those living nearby.
5. Attend the local Hillcrest Farmer's Market on Sundays to buy local produce, talk to the vendors, and enjoy the atmosphere. Wave to your neighbors who are also probably there.
6. Join the Facebook Group: Buy Nothing Hillcrest/University Heights to donate gently used items to others in the community and see what is up there that you may like. And in the process, you might meet a new neighbor or two.
7. Visit our cute University Heights Library at 4193 Park Blvd. and get your library card. Check our their calendar as they often have local events and even host a book club.
8. Attend the Halloween on Maryland event this October 31. This is fantastic local event that is popular for many San Diego residents not just those living in UH. You'll see the community come together for a fun and scary event. Or there is Caroling in the Heights where a group sings Christmas carols throughout UH and neighbors come together to share in the experience.
9. Volunteer for a local organization whether it be Feeding San Diego (a local charity and food bank), San Diego Rescue Mission (helping the homeless), or joining the Parent-Teacher Association for your child's school. Volunteering is a fabulous way to connect, give back to our community, and even make a new friend. University Heights is a very special community with many active and engaged citizens who come out and support it in various

Pet of the Month Ziggy



Bonjour! I'm Ziggy Zane Stardust, a tuxedo cat and 3 yo. Pisces. My nicknames include ZigZig, Zigzy, and Pooter Dooter Tooter Scooter, to name a few.

Life is a blast for me, whether it's running in my exercise wheel, accompanying my moms to the farmers market, or going on walks. I also serve as an emotional support kitty for both of my mammas.

Chin, butt, and belly scratches are my weakness and snacks make me purr with delight. Dogs are pretty cool in my book and I even have a few of them as friends, namely Jojo and Minnie. I have a knack for fashion and love to rock anything that's stylish. I have everything from fancy dresses to punk rock vests and berets. I mean, after all, I am cultured and have a certain je ne sais quoi!

I am part of the University Heights/Hillcrest communities, where I can be seen walking with my humans in tow. Feel free to stop by and say hi. You can also follow me on IG @ Ziggy.the.tuxedo.

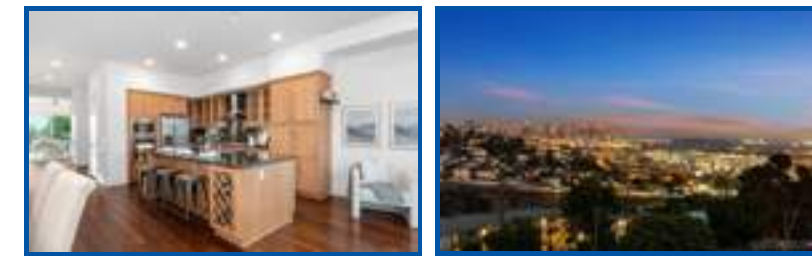
I AM THANKFUL FOR...

I dwell delighted even if my life may seem dark or gloomy to observers who seek out the dark and gloomy in others. Sorry for them am I, for I have faith and trust within my soul riding within a happy spirit. Strength is a searchlight that illuminates my path with joy and content one that protects from such mele. Perhaps those unfortunates lurk in the shadows of doubts, theirs and that of others. I stride within my own enchanted forest under foliage which is green and lush. I hear the lone Owl call, hear the Meadow Lark sing in woods of where both life and death coexist in peace. I don't live with a fear of life or death for they show their signs openly and are accepted as the way of the world around me.

-Jon Von Erb



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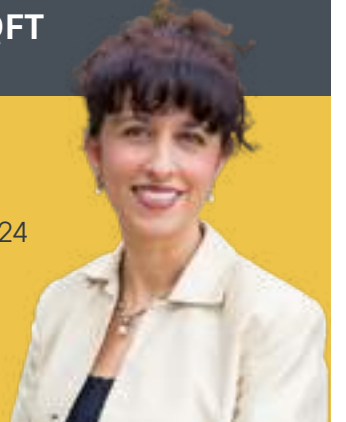
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