









University	
Heights	
Community	
Association	
September 202	23

Walkable City Becomes a eath

University Heights is getting taller, more dense, and its streets unquestionably more dangerous.

BY PAUL FARRIS

El Cajon Blvd is arguably one of the most dangerous streets in the city. A combination of wide lanes, faster speed limits, lack of crosswalks, and poor lighting all contribute to the increased risk for pedestrians and cyclists.

In 2020, the city launched a \$1.5 million, two-year project, to upgrade 281 of the more than 1,500 intersections in the city with upgraded crosswalks, timers, lead pedestrian intervals, and blank-out signs. Lead pedestrian intervals give walkers a roughly five-second head start over cars when entering an intersection on a green light/walk sign, increasing pedestrian visibility and boosting safety during a crucial period when many crashes happen. Blank-out signs aggressively alert drivers that they can't turn right into a pedestrian crosswalk even when the light is green. Several blank-out signs have been installed at busy intersections in Hillcrest and Mission Hills. None of these signs have been installed in University Heights.

Renters also impacted by spike in extreme density

BY GAIL OLSON

I've lived in University Heights-as a renter-for 37 years. A Pacific Beach transplant, I was loathe to move anywhere "east of the I-5," certain at the time that I'd be trading my carefree beach town culture for a sterile and boring inland landscape. Boy, was I wrong. I quickly fell in love with University Heights. And it has since become my home-even though I'm not a homeowner. My heart is here, and my roots go deep.

And, really, what's not to love about University Heights? Its deep sense of neighborhood cohesion and community. Its unique urban, yet family-and-pet-friendly, vibe. The comforting architectural beauty of its historical craftsman homes. Its green spaces. Balboa Park and downtown's vibrant arts-and-culture scene just a short drive away. And in recent decades, the growth of eclectic mom-and-pop restaurants, coffee houses, and shops within walking distance along Park Blvd.

But University Heights has been changing recently—along with other neighborhoods across San Diego. You see these changes everywhere. Big ones. High-rise apartment and condo buildings popping up in rapid succession along El Cajon and Park Blvd. Increased traffic combined with significantly decreased street parking. Trees and landscaping are being ripped out. Tenants are being evicted from low-income rentals to make way for luxury apartment buildings. There is a noticeable shift in our beloved neighborhood aesthetic...and in its very essence and quality of life. And affordable housing is not becoming more available.

Vote in the Uptown Planners Election

Sat, Sept 2, 12 – 2pm Mission Hills/Hillcrest Library

Tue, Sept 5, 4 – 7pm Joyce Beers Community Center

The Uptown Planners serve in an advisory role to the City of San Diego on land-use and development issues in Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, Medical Center Complex, Middletown, Mission Hills, and University Heights.

Find everything you need to know at: UptownPlannersSD.org

housing shortage have got to exist. What about shifting more short-term rentals (like Air BnB housing) into long-term rentals? Why not limit high-rise development to transit corridors? And why can't office buildings-emptied by the shift to remote work during the pandemic-be converted to affordable housing units? A neighbor recently asked me why I care so much about this issue - given that I'm a renter and not a homeowner. I mean, I don't own solar panels that will be blocked by a high-rise going up next door to me. Why should I care if the value of the home I rent plummets? I don't own it, so it's no loss to me, right?

Next UHCA Meeting Sept7 **Pedestrian Safety** Infrastructure Improvements Workshop

6:45pm 4345 Campus Avenue

Would you like to see more crosswalks, crosswalk signals, stop signs and traffic calming measures in UH?

Help identify dangerous intersections and areas of excessive speeding.

Your input will be collected and presented to the City.

UHCA is listening to the community and we need your feedback.



Join your UH neighbors for our second annual UHCA End-of-Sumer Mixer. Hosted this year on the rooftop of Park and Polk, 4075 Park Blvd. Enjoy the breathtaking 360 degree views while listenng to music, with free appetizers, and happy hour priced drink specials from BFD.

- Meet your neighbors, make new friends, and hear community news.
- This is a free event, but we are asking for a donation of \$5 or more at the door. Your gift helps to support UHCA events for the community.





Blank-Out Sign

El Cajon Blvd, Park Blvd, and Normal Street meet at an intersection that is confusing at best for locals, and a serious hazard for drivers unfamiliar with the area. Contributing factors include cars turning left from center lanes into oncoming traffic, drivers attempting to turn into the dedicated bus lane on Park Blvd, and making illegal right turns on red from Park Blvd onto El Cajon Blvd. This intersection is especially dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. In the very spot where Josh Gilliland was killed by a hit-and-run driver in June of this year there was an *cont'd on page 11*

Problem is, these high-rise, multiple-unit complexes are starting to creep deeper into the heart of our quiet, residential neighborhoods-including UH.

I'm not against increasing housing. We have to. But other solutions for the

Wrong. Renters are being impacted as much if not more than homeowners by a loss of street parking, spikes in traffic congestion, evictions, higher rents, and the destruction of our quality of life. Extreme density will exacerbate these problems, not solve them.

At some point, possibly soon, my landlords will likely sell their University Heights rental properties and retire. When that happens, I'm fairly certain there won't be an affordable rental alternative for me in University Heights no matter how much the housing supply increases. But I don't know if I'll want to stay anyway, not if the "build anything, anywhere" movement continues to have its way in the neighborhood.

Wildfire Preparedness & Brush Management

San Diego Fire-Rescue Dept. will share simple steps you can take to increase your, and your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Plus many other resources to help prepare and protect your family and home.

www.uhsd.org

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 a 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.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

MEMBERSHIP

Yearly Membership

() Feather-give what you can \$_

() \$36 Plume (Household)

() \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)

City/State

RENEWAL

() \$100 Business Plume

Donor

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

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

GIFT DONORS Mary Lou & Fred Ruane

GOLDEN OSTRICH Melinda A. Rodwell, Paul Farris

HOUSEHOLD

Randall Mann & Sara Luth, Bill Winans, Ann & Colin McNeilly, Elaine Bisconti, Edith A Jacobsen & Genene Johnson, Brad Whitehead & Lemuel Salao, Thomas Harrison, Russell Elrod, Keith Langhorn & Jeff Gerit, Janis Legzdins & Karen Rohrbauch, Douglas Grotjann & Beth Jaworski, Susan Vilareal, Debbie Chaddock & Tiffany Monticino, Michael & Wendell Perkins, Mary Lou & Fred Ruane, Russell Sperling & Gus Pagsanjan.

FEATHER Marie Desanti



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.

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

UHCA OFFICERS

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

WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK @universityheightscommunityassociation

O INSTAGRAM @universityheights_sdcommunity

UHCA NEWS

Name_

Address

Phone _

Referred by_

□ NEW

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.

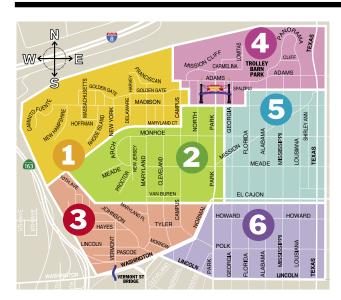
Business Name _____

EDITORIAL TEAM Nan McGraw, Lisa Getz, Paul Farris



Zip

Email_



- 🚺 Nan McGraw
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- **3** Mary Lange
- 5 Tamara Zyhylij
- Nan McGraw



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 ubsd.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. Shaving time off by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



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

nmcsan@aol.com

- **4** Heather Wilcox zone4watchuhca@gmail.com





See www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical

Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. Online: non-emergency problems: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done

SD City Services Emergency & Non-Emergency

Street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments

Alert San Diego

Reverse 911 mobile phone evacuation emergency notifications

2-1-1 San Diego

Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc. **Alice Birney Elementary Office Brush and Weed Abatement Code Violations** County Dept of Environmental Health Public Health / Rats / Rodents **Crime Stoppers Tip Line Downed Power Lines / SDG&E Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7 Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes** Get-It-Done Download this City of San Diego app for reporting all non-emergency

problems: abandoned vehicles, code violations, graffiti, over watering, potholes, and dangerous sidewalk issues. Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 5am - 3pm M - F

911 619-531-2000

619-527-7500

readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/

211 or 858-300-1211 619-497-3500 619-533-4444 619-236-5500 858-694-2888 888-580-TIPS (8477) 800-411-7343 888-385-4657 619-515-3525 sandiego.gov/get-it-done

Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous 619-531-2468 People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) path@epath.org 619-810-8600 **Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol** (RSVP) 619-692-4945 Vacation home / welfare of home-bound check / Homeland Security support **National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** 988 **SDPD Community Relations Officers:** Officer Michael Hayes mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov Officer David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov **SDPD Western Division** 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800 **Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service** 800-252-4613 619-297-3166 **UHCDC** University Heights Community Development Corporation University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd 619-692-4912 UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com 619-260-0668 Graffiti In Progress Emergency: 911 Report Online: sandiego.gov/get-it-done. Graffiti Hotline: 619-527-7500 **SD Vector Control** mosquitoes/ticks/rats 858-694-2888 Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov **DISASTER CONTACTS** If all else fails, email Malik Thornton

ThorntonM@sandiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.



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

619-446-1010

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

Hsifang Temple

Fall Meditation Courses Every Saturday, Sept 23 - Dec 9, 2-3 pm ^{\$}20 Donation 4536 Park Blvd.

Under the Moon Meet and Connect with University Heights Family Sat, Sept 30, 7–8 pm RSVP @ hsifangtemple.org



Photo: LoveJoyCreations **Serpentine Cider** 2311 El Cajon Blvd **Trivia Tuesday** 6:30–8:30 pm **Paint Your Pet!** Thu, Sept 21, 6–9 pm \$67 per person. Includes a glass of cider all supplies, and instruction. Sign up & info: lovejoycreations.com



Diversionary 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.

Diversionary Theatre Clark Cabaret Drinks and live entertainment. Wed- Sat 5pm to close, Sun 12 – 7pm.

Nightly Happy Hour 5 – 6:30 pm & 10 pm 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 – 10:30 pm Lunch 11am-4pm Dinner 4-10:30 pm

Kairoa Brewing Co. Sunday Summer Dog Adoptions 4601 Park Blvd Sept. 24th 12-4 pm

Liber8fit

Muscles & Mimosas Class Sat, Sept 2, 9:30 am. 45 min workout includes one drink ticket The TapRoom 2000 El Cajon Blvd \$10 for members & Blvd residents \$25 for others.

Local Comedy Show Fri, Sept 5, 7pm 1825 El Cajon Blvd

\$5 entry donation KettleBell Fundamentals 101 Sat, Sept 23, 10am

\$15 for non members all welcome. Limited spots.

Full Moon Hike Fri, Sept 29, 8pm Starts at Cowels Mt. Backside Barkers way. FREE event.



Chicken Pie Shop San Diego Legend Celebrates 85th Anniversary Daily 10 am-8 pm Closed Monday 2633 El Cajon Blvd, 92104

Cecilia's Fine Jewelry Pop up Sip and shop

4601 Park Blvd Sat Sept 23 11-4 pm



Park and Rec

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

Further Afield



Centro Cultural de La Raza Tianguis de la Raza Artisan Market Sun, Sept 16, 12-5pm. 2004 Park Blvd, Balboa Park 92101



Keith Haring: Art is for Everybody through Oct 8, 2023 The Broad Museum 221 S. Grand Ave, LA, CA 90012 thebroad.org

Jean-Michel Basquiat: King Pleasure

the Grand LA through October 15, 2023. Mon, Wed–Fri 11am–6:30pm; Sat, Sun 10am–6:30pm 100 S Grand Ave, LA, CA 90012 kingpleasure.basquiat.com/

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



NEW IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The New Lafayette After its 31 Million Redo

BY BRODERICK SMYLIE

The El Cajon Boulevard thoroughfare in University Heights has seen massive changes in the last few years, including new housing, taprooms, and rapid bus transit. CH Projects purchased the Lafayette Hotel in 2021 for \$25.8 million and just reopened after a nine-month closure.

If you've been to the group's restaurants and bars, including Raised by Wolves, Craft & Commerce, and nearby Polite Provisions, you know that design is key to their properties' aesthetics. With one step through the completely reimagined lobby at the Lafayette, you'll see a lobby bar where you can grab coffee and pastries and luxuriate in the well-appointed space with loads of seating. Records are stacked in a booth next to the front door and walking forward, I heard Afrobeat music thumping from the sound system.

Walking toward the rear, the ornate Lobby Bar is located to the right of the new Beginner's Diner, which is open 24/7 and has retro charm with breakfast (biscuits and gravy and corned beef hash), small plates (think pickled beets and deviled eggs), and milkshakes with or without booze. You can opt for dinner or in the diner or make reservations for Quixote, the Oaxaca-inspired restaurant that replaced the old Red Fox Steakhouse. The crab and corn doughnut is an early fave, along with the tetela with duck carnitas. Chef Jose Cepeda's food has racked up popular reviews, so it's best to make reservations on OpenTable before heading to the restaurant.

The Pool Bar will be a popular locals' hangout with craft cocktails without the sting of hotel bar prices. There's a variety of cocktails to choose from, and an airy fan overhead keeps bar patrons cool outdoors while they enjoy great views of the pool the Lafayette is known for.

For an evening nightcap with some fun, check out the Gutter, which includes pool tables, shuffleboard, and a two-lane bowling alley. As you can imagine, there are plenty of elevated cocktails to be had in this area as well.

This fall will see the arrival of the upscale dining room, Le Horse, a spa, live music venue, Lulu's Jungle Room, and jazz supper club The Mississippi Room. You can keep tabs with the hotel at their website at: **lafayettehotelsd.com** or on Instagram **@thelafayette**.







The 300,000-gallon Weissmuller Pool oozes Old Hollywood glamour with leopard print chaise lounges shaded by striped sun umbrellas.





1940s Americana-style Beginner's Diner. Open 24/7 located off the skylight-roofed circular Lobby Bar.





The Lobby lounge with exotic animal print velvet upholstery in homage to Tarzan actor, Johnny Weissmuller, who designed the Lafayette pool.

The hotel's 139 lavish rooms have hosted such celebrities as Katharine Hepburn, Ava Gardner, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, and Lana Turner.







Amenities Abound In New UH Rentals

Choosing the perfect rental significantly impacts your life. Recently, in UH, new options are becoming available. Amenities offered by apartment buildings can substantially enhance your lifestyle, regardless of whether you're a young professional, a small family, or a retiree. Key amenities to consider in an apartment building include:



One Mississippi

C	At-A-Glance Comparison of Six New UH Buildings	Secure Parking	Pool / Spa	Outdoor Space	Fitness Center	Pet Friendly	Business Area	SOCI
								Winslow
								The Blvd
								The Park
								4135 Pa
								One Mississi
								2060 El Cajon

Winslow swimming pool and fitness Center



Fitness Center: A well-equipped facility that saves time and money on gym memberships, promoting an active lifestyle.

Swimming Pool: An excellent recreational area for all ages, providing a refreshing escape during hot days.

Outdoor Spaces: Well-maintained gardens, courtyards, or rooftop terraces create a pleasant retreat and foster community spirit.

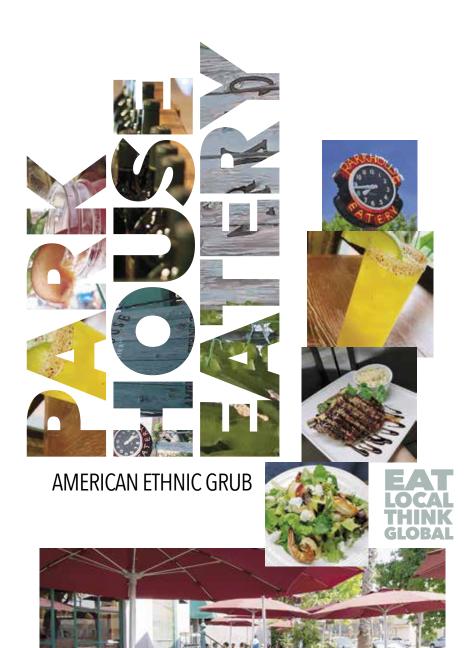
Pet-Friendly Facilities: Amenities like dog parks or pet spas cater to pet owners, offering convenience and social opportunities.

Secure Parking: Especially crucial in urban areas, ensuring residents' vehicle safety and daily convenience.

Community Events & Activities: Apartments organizing gatherings promote socializing and a sense of community.

The recently completed "Winslow" on Park and "BLVD" on El Cajon both offer these amenities plus many more, including USB outlets in kitchens and bedrooms. Welcome to 2023! Prioritizing these amenities can greatly enhance apartment living, promoting an active, social, and comfortable lifestyle.

w	375 Units 4353 Park	\$2,400 - \$5,550
vd	165 units 2020 El Cajo	^{\$} 3,625 - ^{\$} 4,250 n
rk	47 Units 4075 Park	\$3,695 - \$3,995
Park	190 Units 4135 Park Bl	\$1,100 - \$2,900 vd
sippi	61 Units 4234 Mississ	^{\$} 1,066 - ^{\$} 1,750 sippi
n	125 Units 2060 El Cajo	\$2,700 - \$5,000 n





4574 PARK BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116 PARKHOUSESD.COM (619) 295-7275





The Mid-Autumn festival is a long-honored tradition celebrated around the world, when family and friends get together to spend an evening bonding, much like Thanksgiving here in the US. One of the traditions is to enjoy round mooncakes and tea, which complement the harvest moon in the night sky. Mooncakes represent the fullness and roundness of the full moon which symbolizes completeness and togetherness. The Hsi Fang Temple invites everyone to come together to meet and connect with our University Heights family, enjoying the night with relaxing music, mooncakes, meditation and sending prayers of wholesomeness to our loved ones.

Adams Avenue Street Fair

The 41st annual Adams Avenue Street Fair, presented by U.S. Bank, features 75 musical acts on seven stages and is scheduled for 10 am–10 pm Sat, Sept 23, and 10 am–6 pm Sun, Sept 24, 2023.

Southern California's largest free two-day festival is in San Diego's Normal Heights neighborhood. Adams Avenue businesses are proud sponsors of this event that has expanded to 10 blocks. In addition to the fantastic music schedule, it features carnival rides, beer gardens, beer tastings, festival foods, and 300 exhibitors with unique offerings.

Craft Beer Taste. On Saturday from noon



4416 Park Blvd SD, CA 92116 619-295-7313 @@originalskinandbodycare



Hsi Fang Temple Saturday, September 30, 7 to 8pm

4536 Park Blvd. Please RSVP online: hsifangtemple.org For more info: (619)-298-2800 to 4 p.m., beer connoisseurs can enjoy the Craft Beer Taste in its new, spacious location on Mansfield Street in front of Normal Heights United Church. Sample unlimited 2-ounce tastes from 20 breweries. Pre-sale tickets are \$25 per person.

Beer Gardens. Three beer gardens are open throughout the two-day run of the event. Enjoy full-pour servings from some of San Diego's best craft beers. VIP beer pre-sale tickets are available for \$19 (four pints of beer).

Cannabis Row. This year's street fair offers a new 21+ attraction called Cannabis Row, located at the newly refurbished Adams Avenue Theater. Learn more about the legal cannabis industry. A \$5 pre-sale admission is required. Tickets will not be available at the event. More info at:

www.adamsavenuebusiness.com/ adams-avenue-street-fair/



Kent Johnson and Liz Abbott Making Music Together for Over 30 years

BY JANE GILBERT

In September of 2001, Kent Johnson and Liz Abbott (along with Ellen and Lyle Duplessie) launched the first issue of the Troubadour - a free newspaper to provide a voice for the local music scene comprised of bluegrass, alternative country, Americana, roots, folk, blues, gospel, and jazz that was overlooked by mainstream media. Their story started in University Heights ten years before the idea for the Troubadour came together.

Liz Abbott has lived in University Heights since the 1980s. Kent Johnson lived in O.B. and East County until he moved in with Liz in 1990. They married in 1991 and have rented the same house on New Jersey Street ever since. They both love living in UH because it is easy to walk around, the people are friendly, and there is a strong sense of community.

Kent is a self-taught musician. He joined the Navy after being drafted in the late 1960s. Stationed on the USS Kitty Hawk for 3 years, he started a small band with a drummer and a bass player. Kent was the lead singer. During his time aboard the Kitty Hawk, one of the Navy's Admirals came on board with his 20-piece band. Kent took the opportunity to audition for lead singer with the Admiral's band. He got the job. For the remainder of his Navy career, Kent and the band played at various ports of call throughout the world.

After leaving the Navy, Kent knew he wanted to be a professional musician. In 1971, he moved to Ocean Beach and started a band with a female flautist (Maxxine Sherman) called Fanny, Nook & Cranny. Their first gig was at a gay bar in Mission Beach. The band was popular and played at many venues in San Diego. Expanding his talents, in the 1980s, Kent hooked up with local singer/comedian/ performer Jose Sinatra and created an alter ego, "Phil Harmonic" backing up Jose with guitar and vocals.

Kent Johnson and Liz Abbott.



Fanny, Nook & Cranny original duo, Kent Johnson and Maxxine Sherman, circa 1970s.



The idea for the Troubadour was hatched while Kent was at Java Joe's in Ocean Beach listening to live music. It was there that he met Ellen and Lyle Duplessie and their son, Derek, a musician. The Duplessies wanted to produce a newspaper dedicated to the San Diego music scene. Kent loved the idea. Kent recruited his wife, Liz, to join the effort. Liz had experience as an editor, with production layout, and publishing a newspaper. They agreed that the focus of the paper should fill the void that existed in San Diego for acoustic musicians. Liz came up with the Troubadour logo and did the ground work to get the newspaper started.

In 2004, both of the Duplessies passed away. Liz and Kent kept their promise to them to keep the *Troubadour* going. It became Liz's full-time job. The newspaper was financed by advertisers, but free to its readers. Every issue includes a dedication to Ellen and Lyle Duplessie, "whose vision inspired the creation of the newspaper." The print circulation reached 7500 issues which were delivered to various locations throughout the county every month. However, once the pandemic hit, Liz moved the newspaper to online only. In April of 2020, "The Quarantine issue" became the last printed issue of the Troubadour.

Kent and Liz are very proud of the Troubadour. Liz still dedicates most of her time producing the paper online every month. In 2021, the Troubadour (and Liz) received much-deserved recognition when it was awarded the Industry Award from the SDMAs (San Diego Music Awards). In 2022, the Troubadour was awarded first place by the press club in the entertainment media category.

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

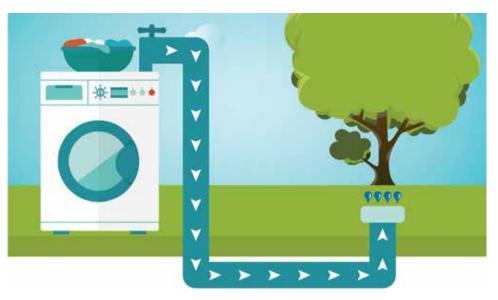
Recycling Our Water

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

This year's bounty of precipitation may well have provoked some rain barrel envy in those of us with a place to install a barrel or two who haven't yet done so. And for good reason. Our reservoirs are nicely filled for now, but we can count on drought conditions to return, along with more difficult water sourcing challenges ahead for our local water authorities. Now is a great time to evaluate our water recycling options.

While waiting for sink, tub, and shower faucet water to heat up, some of our most





eco-conscious neighbors make a regular habit of capturing the cooler water in a bucket for use on their potted flowers, vegetable gardens, and landscape plants. Some neighbors have taken their water wisdom a step further and installed "graywater" systems, which reuse water from bathtubs, sinks, and washing machines to irrigate landscapes. As irrigation water becomes more scarce and expensive, the rest of us might consider following our neighbors' lead and installing graywater systems ourselves.

Legally, graywater can be used on landscaping as long as it stays there (no sidewalk or street runoff, and also no "ponding" allowed). Even on our own properties, the law says we can use only water from bathroom sinks, showers or tubs, and washing machines. Water from kitchen sinks. dishwashers, and toilets is not allowed due to chemical and bacterial content.

Whether we rent or own, we don't need a permit to install a system that recycles wa-



ter from a single washing machine onto our own properties. Laundry-to-landscape graywater kits can be purchased online or at big box hardware stores. Renters and owners alike might even consider over-the-toilet systems, such as the Sink Twice[®], which require no plumbing.

Larger systems that recycle sink and shower or tub water in addition to washing machine water do require permits here in San Diego. Read more about San Diego's graywater regulations on the City's website:

www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/ gray_water_systems.pdf.

More ideas for reusing and saving water are available at saveour water.com. And check out potential rain gutter and rain barrel rebates for San Diegans at: www.bewaterwise.com.

www.waterwisesupply.com www.sinktwice.com



In 1989, while playing at a Christmas party at UCSD, Kent met Liz Abbott. Liz was the publications coordinator and hired the band for the party. Kent was smitten and asked Liz out after the gig. She accepted. It was the first of many dates. Their mutual love of music kept them together. Liz was a singer and played piano and guitar. They started singing together doing cover songs. Their favorite band to cover was The Byrds which morphed into a tribute band called Foul Play. They also enjoyed harmonizing on Everly Brothers songs. It was a perfect union. They played at small venues and street fairs up until 2010.

Kent and Liz are still passionate about music and now that the pandemic is over, they enjoy seeing both the younger musicians, as well as the old-timers, play throughout San Diego. The Troubadour is still dedicated to its mission statement: "to entertain, educate, and bring together players, writers, and lovers of the alternative country, Americana, roots, folk, blues, gospel, jazz, and bluegrass music forms." You can read the current, as well as past issues, of the *Troubadour* online at: www.sandiegotroubadour.com.

Sink Twice[®] Original (left) and Sink Bigger[®] available at www.sinktwice.com.



(619) 793-7795 SOLD@STUMCGRAW.COM WoodsRealEstateServices.com CA DRE #02014601





Keeping up with Solutions to Homelessness

BY DEBORAH WELSCH-MORRISON

The City's enforcement of its Unauthorized Camping Ordinance began on Monday, July 31. The Neighborhood Policing Division stated that the first step is for outreach workers to provide shelter options and education, followed by progressive enforcement including citation and potential arrest in sensitive areas such as schools and parks where encampments have been reported.

Bridget Naso, Policy Advisor in the Office of Councilmember Whitburn, stated that people are being transported to the new Safe Sleeping site by outreach workers.

Onsite services include security, 3 meals per day, portable showers (twice per week), and bathrooms with transportation to laundry and showers on the days that showers are not otherwise available. Several agencies provide additional services: healthcare, DMV, veteran services, art therapy, and veterinary services.

Current capacity at this first site is 136. As of July 27, 66 tents with cots have been set up with 80 people availing themselves of the safe camping option. There are 14 shade structures with additional tarps available to provide further shade. In spite of this, many news outlets have reported issues from heat and improper shading.

The Fire Marshall provides a 180-day permit for these sites, so although you may have heard that this site is due to close in December, I am hopeful that City leadership will ensure the site is successfully run and that after 180 days the permit will be renewed without the necessity for closure.

The next safe camping site is expected to open by the end of this year; it will be in the O Lot in Balboa Park and have a capacity of 400 tents. Into 2024, the Homeless Strategies and Solutions Department will be implementing a comprehensive shelter plan that includes several additional shelter (congregate and non-congregate) options. The City also gave funding to the San Diego Housing Commission for rental subsidies to keep 300 people or families in their homes.

Next year is an election year for our City Council and Mayor, so please keep your eyes on this issue. Your votes count!

Search continues for driver in Fatal Pedestrian Hit-and-Run

BY BENNY CARTWRIGHT

Josh Gilliland, beloved member of the local LGBTQ community, died at the age of 47 on Wednesday, June 14 after being struck by a hit-and-run driver on Saturday, June 10. Gilliland was walking to work at Cheers in University Heights when he was hit near the southeast corner of El Cajon and Park Boulevards around 8:45 pm.

Gilliland walked this route to work for over 20 years, said his longtime friend Scott Moore. Coworkers became concerned when Gilliland didn't show up for his bartending shift at 9 pm.

According to police, Gilliland was standing near the bus lane, east of the crosswalk on El Cajon, when he was hit. He was found unconscious at the scene and suffered from a laceration to the back of the head, right shoulder fracture, scattered brain bleeds, and minor abrasions. For days following the incident. Gilliland remained in critical condition in the hospital. He died on June 14 at 5:35 pm.

The following day, loved ones organized a vigil to "finish Josh's walk" and draw attention to the intersection that many describe as dangerous. Over 100 people joined with signs and candles honoring Gilliland. From the southeast corner of Park and El Cajon, the group walked north, taking Gilliland's route, and ended at Cheers.

At the bar, community members remembered Gilliland as "a loving, friendly, generous ray of light" with a "gentle soul and unforgettable sense of humor."

"Josh was and will live on in others as a ray of pure light, happiness, kindness, goodness, and joy," said Sean Murray, a Cheers patron who knew Gilliland.





As of August 1, the hit-and-run driver is still at large.

Witnesses described the vehicle as a dark-colored Honda Civic or BMW 3 Series that was traveling north on Park, turning right on El Cajon, where it struck Gilliland near the intersection. Anyone with additional information should contact Crime Stoppers at 888-580-TIPS.

LGBTQ San Diego News reached out to the City of San Diego for information about additional safety measures for this intersection. For years, community members have stated it is dangerous with many drivers speed through the turns and ignoring the "No Turn on Red" signs. We will publish additional information as we receive it.



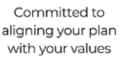


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Tattoos and Taxidermy

BY ROXANA BECERRIL



Sitting on the corner of Park Boulevard, Pixley's Oddities is a striking addition to University Heights, providing a space for tattoo artists and eclectic taxidermy finds.

"We're a safe space that does tattoos and shares the art form of taxidermy," said owner Simone Pixley Weinstein. "It is open to everyone that comes in and we want to make sure they feel seen and heard."

Weinstein opened the 1,200 square-foot shop in 2021 to combine the two art forms she's passionate about.

Pixley's Oddities can't be missed: the black exterior with hot pink lettering attracts loyal customers looking to get inked by Weinstein's collective of more than 10 local tattoo artists. Appointments are required and can be made online.

Taxidermy enthusiasts can also find an assortment of taxidermied animals including bunny rabbits, rats, raccoons



and chipmunks. Weinstein says her taxidermied animals were not harmed for the purpose of taxidermy and had already died by other means.

Taxidermy classes are held at the shop regularly and taught by Weinstein. The next Bunny Mount class includes all supplies and will be held on August 12. Tickets are \$200 and participants ages 12-16 need an adult to join them.

A graduate of Whittier College who holds an education in studio art, Weinstein says she witnessed a lot of gatekeeping of art forms.

She strives to do the opposite at Pixley's Oddities, providing a space that is friendly, unique, and welcoming for "queers, femme (or people who identify as female) and nonbinary humans."

Customers who visit the tattoo shop get a Pixley's Passport, a free stamp card that gives customers 10 percent off their purchase after their third visit.

Visit pixleysoddities.com and follow @pixleysoddities on Instagram.



BIRNEY BUZZ

New Leadership for Birney Parent Organizations by Sarah Layne





Top: New PTA President David Shirk (right) with son Thomas, daughter Madeline, wife Alexandra, and dog Mako. Bottom: FOABE President Hannah Going (2nd from left) with her daughters Reece and Riley and husband Brett at the 2023 Birney Hive Hunt. Photo courtesy of Hannah Going.

irney Elementary started the 2023-2024 school year on August 21st with new leadership for the parent organizations. Hannah Going is now President of the Friends of Alice Birney

Elementary (FOABE) which is the fundraising organization that supports the school, and David Shirk is President of the Birney PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Hannah is taking over for Fran Daly, who was President of FOABE for the previous two years and David is taking the reins from Mark Wang.

Hannah has lived in University Heights since 2010 and is the parent of two Birney Bees, a Kindergartener and a 3rd grader. She began her involvement in FOABE during the 2021-2022 school year when a friend from FOABE asked for help on a fundraiser; she then became a member-atlarge last school year. has been involved as a member and volunteer, along with his wife Alexandra, since his oldest child started at Birney.

David states that the importance of the PTA lies in "keeping parents informed and engaged on the things that affect their child's education" and as PTA President, he will focus on "finding more and better ways to support our amazing Alice Birney students, teachers, and staff."

Both Hannah and David emphasize the importance of parent involvement. David says, "This is a really critical and transitional year for Alice Birney Elementary. Over the past three years, we've all been reeling from the effects of the pandemic, with both PTA and FOABE operating on a skeleton crew. Lately, we've been really trying to figure out how to have both organizations work in a smarter and more integrated manner toward our shared goals. Ultimately, getting parents involved is the key. As the saying goes, many hands make light work!" Hannah adds: "There are many ways to help our school, and opportunities to just dip a toe in the water, or jump all in. We encourage everyone to attend our monthly parent organization meetings to learn about events, and bring new ideas to discuss. Our school community can be made stronger with more participation!"

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Twiggs University Heights 4590 Park Blvd • 619 295 0616 Twiggs Adams Avenue 2804 Adams Ave • 619 296 4077 WWW.twiggs.org Hannah describes the importance of FOABE: "FOABE was founded to address the state and district structural funding problems that threaten our school's ability to continue exciting IB programs and concomitant growth in student achievement. In addition to providing funding to maintain our IB World School classification, FOABE funds beloved electives, known as "Specials"...providing all Birney students with Spanish, art, music, garden, and dance classes."

David is the parent of one former Birney Bee, now a 7th grader at Roosevelt, and a current Birney 5th grader. He served as the PTA Treasurer last school year and To learn more about our Birney parent organizations, please contact FOABE and the PTA at info@friendsofalicebirney.org and info@birneypta.com

Sarah Layne is a proud Birney parent and University Heights Community Member.

BETWEEN THE COVERS

SEPTEMBER AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

Youth Services Librarian, Miss Helene

The fall season is upon us, and the University Heights Library has several cozy programs to welcome the changing seasons. Our resident Youth Services Librarian, Miss Helene, fosters early literacy skills by continuing to offer an early morning playful Baby & Toddler Storytime on the first Wednesday of the month. We will wrap up the Summer Reading Program presentations with the ever-popular Literature Comes to Life, where children (and adults!) get to perform as the characters in the stories. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the University Heights Library. We are also happy to welcome Write Out Loud again for a lively Kamishibai Folktale Storytime for all to enjoy. Later in the month, Miss Helene will offer an all-ages interactive children's storytime and craft with a back-to-school/ fall season theme. The final program of the month will be a special Library NExT: Art of GIS & Mapmaking hands-on workshop for students in the 3rd-5th grades. This program requires reservations through the library's website. We'd like to remind everyone that Friday, September 15 is the last day to pick up your prizes for this year's summer reading program challenge while supplies last. Please see

te calendar page

the calendar page to make note of the dates and times for these September programs. You can learn further details about library programs by following the University Heights Library's Facebook page (@universityheightslibrary) and the SDPL online calendar of events (sandiego.librarymarket.com). As always, we look forward to welcoming community members 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.

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS AND SEPTEMBER EVENTS by pam isaacs



n July 1, the Friends of the University Heights Library installed a new Board. It includes Bren Breithaupt, president;

Pam Isaacs, vice president; Laura Camarillo, secretary; and Vivienne Esrig, treasurer.

What do the Friends do? In recent years, we purchased lounge chairs and children's furniture and funded children's programs, leased books, and security cameras.

Another important role for the Friends is to raise awareness of what our local branch needs and advocate before City Council, which employees cannot do. Did you know that our Library is the smallest in the city? Not fair, right? As new rental units come to Park Blvd, there is increased need for more space. See below for how to join the Friends. We need you!

Upcoming events include a University Heights Library Open House on Saturday, September 16, 4 - 6pm and "Get Carded!" on Thursday, September 21, 6 - 8pm at one of our very favorite neighborhood locations, Kairoa. Come say "hello" to Friends and library staff and get your library card. Friends will supply appetizers for those who arrive early.



Get Carded! at Kairoa Brewing, 202

A successful ongoing source of revenue for the Friends has been the For Sale bookshelves near the New Books section. Volunteer James Breithaupt has been tirelessly maintaining these shelves. I found some good titles there myself. Be sure to check it out.

We would love to have you as a member of the Friends of the University Heights Library. Not only will you support the library by helping to fund books, summer materials, and programs for children and adults, but you will also gain access to exclusive discounts that we will send in our monthly newsletter. To join the Friends, go to www.friendsofuhlibrary. org/become-a-member.

September Meeting

Friends of the UH Library September 12, 6 pm via Zoom link at: www.friendsofuhlibrary.org

Open House September 16, 4-6 pm UH Library 4193 Park Blvd.

Get Carded! September 21, 6-8 pm Kairoa Brewing Company 4601 Park Blvd





Hey there, it's your hard-working friend Erin Wilson from the University Heights Library. Last month marked my twenythird year working at this lovely branch of the San Diego Public Library system! Some of you have grown up here and are now raising your own kids in the Children's Section. It's fun to see that happen, especially when I can just pack up and go home to my kitties. in the Catbus from the Hayao Miyazaki

FIBRE THE VENUE AND SALON

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Speaking of kitties, did you know that my cats were part of my display for the Central Library's aCATemy Awards programs that happened in March 2023? First of all, all of my displays are to the left of the books that are on hold at the University Heights Library. Some of them are informative, some of them are fun, and some of them are what I like to call funformative. Actually, I made that up. I have never used that word before today. So, I tried to put every cat under the sun in my aCATemy Awards display, including my own cats. This is a picture of them movie "My Neighbor Totoro."

The aCATemy Awards programs at Central began as a collaboration between San Diego Public Library and San Diego Humane Society but became larger as more non-profits became involved: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Helen Woodward Animal Center, San Diego Cat Fanciers, and more! But back to MY cats...

Allowing only one cat per household to be entered, they chose my kitty Lucy for Miss June 2024 in the library staff aCATemy Award calendar.

You can view the whole calendar on the library's aCATemy Awards site here:

www.sandiego.gov/ public-library/acatemyawards

– Erin Wilson, Library Assistant II University Heights Branch Library San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov

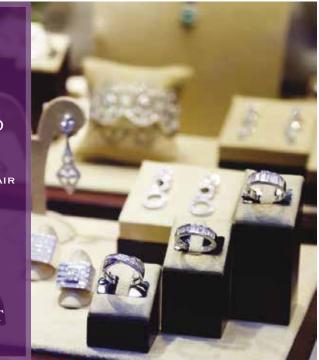


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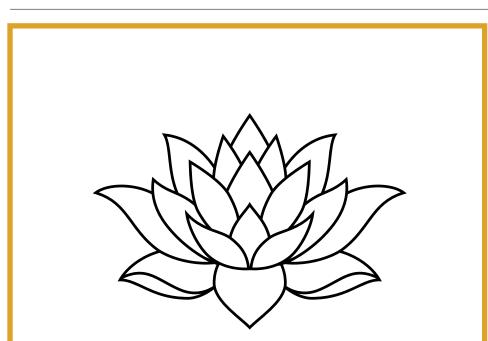
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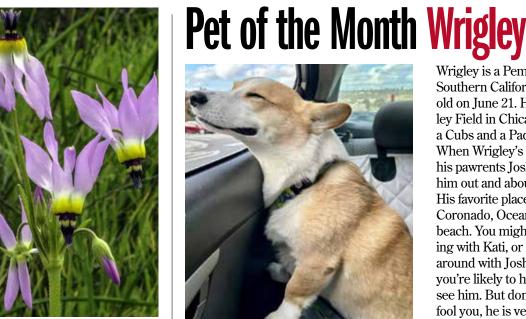
BY WAYNE TYSON

Right where I'm sitting, Pronghorn Antelope used to roam, and a great number of wildflowers used to bloom. Steelhead trout used to spawn in the San Diego River and perhaps others. But subsequent invaders, alien humans and their alien animals and plants, have supplanted much of that wonderful life in a mere three hundred years, and the rate of destruction continues to increase.

With enough education in ecology to know better, I drowned the last magnificent native California holly tree on my lot by irrigating some chosen alien plants nearby. My predecessors had sense enough to save the tree because of its beauty, but they let the rest of the native landscaping go . . . I've learned something from the mistakes I've made in the last fifty years . . .

By the time this little innocent-looking alien plant has done its dirty work, it will be too firmly ensconced to eradicate. Unlike that pesky yellow-flowered sorrel that pops up every spring and requires wetter conditions, this thing can grow in the gravel shoulder of I-5, where I first found it fifty years ago. Yes, the flowers are kinda pretty, but they don't last, and plenty of native geophytes are a lot prettier, such as blue dicks, blue-eyed grass, golden stars, and countless other wild flowering plants.





Dodecatheon meadia Photo: Rob O'Keefe (shooting star)



Calling all UH Veterans And Active-duty Military

UHCA looks forward to honoring local veterans and active-duty military folks at our November 1, 2023 meeting. It has been too long since our last tribute. We've lost a few of our brave souls, but in their honor, we wish to know who you are, your branch of service, years of service, if you are still active, and your deployments. Please respond to Nan McGraw, nmcsan@aol.com or 619-260-0668.

The Dream, The Moment, Us Again

in the arms of sleep a dream set upon you, my love as the curve of a sunsetting horizon beckoned, Come off to the likes of heaven you flew quite alone in peace leaves of a calm wind sang to you as did a passing gull a strange yet captivating flower called your name the musical language of the moment thrilled you warm was the moment, that flower called by your name dazzled, these surprises held your breath at bay you awoke holding the flower in your lips soft like the arms of a child taken by wonder it held you Am I in heaven, on a desert plain?, you silently asked her fragrance took you to remember me and our love together we sang once again the melody of us being one again my love, again - one by death the other still here - Ion Von Erb

Wrigley is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi from Southern California. He turned four years old on June 21. He's named after Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois (he's both a Cubs and a Padres fan, don't worry). When Wrigley's not snuggling up with his pawrents Josh and Kati, you can find him out and about exploring San Diego! His favorite place is the beach, most often Coronado, Ocean Beach, or Del Mar dog beach. You might see him paddle-boarding with Kati, or in his backpack riding around with Josh. A herding dog at heart, you're likely to hear Wrigley before you see him. But don't let those short legs fool you, he is very fast and loves to hike!

UH Historical Society Receives Save Our Heritage Organisation Award

BY KRISTIN HARMS

On July 27, the University Heights Historical Society was awarded the Keeper of the Flame Award by Save Our Heritage Organisation for the three 7-foot-tall historical markers at the former site of Mission Cliffs Gardens and the Bentley Ostrich Farm. Kristin Harms of the University Heights Historical Society conceived and managed this project with the assistance of Ernestine Bonn, treasurer with the University Heights Community Development Corporation, and Dr. Sandra Bonura, author of several published books including "Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego."



Ernestine Bonn, Kristin Harms, and Dr. Sandra Bonura.



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continued from page 1

underground pedestrian walkway since sealed off. Perhaps the city should look into a more modern version of this type of pedestrian walkway as part of the plan to update and improve this intersection.



Corner of El Cajon & Park Blvd with stairs to underground pedestrian walkway circa 1939.

The number of pedestrian and cyclist deaths has increased in the past three years despite the City of San Diego's pledge to wipe out traffic deaths citywide by 2025 as part of its Vision Zero plan, which was implemented back in 2015.

are finished. And so will the number of accidents unless safety issues are addressed.

Although University Heights has seen an explosion of construction and density in the last two years, there is little, if any evidence of improvements to road and infrastructure. Developers paid \$1.8B to San Diego communities in 2022. \$25,446,370 in revenue in Uptown, and \$23,162,670 in DIFF fees collected in North Park.



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Vision Zero is part of a larger concept that traffic fatalities, whether you're in a car or on a bike or on foot, are preventable by addressing flaws in road design and making intersections safer. Since 2015, the City has invested \$203 million dollars in Vision Zero projects with nearly \$29 million in Fiscal Year 2023 alone.

In 2022, the number of traffic deaths on city streets and sidewalks was 69, the highest in nine years, surpassing the previous eight-year high of 67 set in 2021. So far the 2023 statistics are just as bad. From January through April 24, there have been 23 traffic-related deaths, nine of which were pedestrians.

The El Cajon Blvd corridor between Park Blvd and Texas Street is dark with one traffic light (at Florida St) and no additional crosswalks. The number of pedestrians is going to spike as more apartment buildings Above and below: Camelback Road Pedestrian Underpass, Phoenix, AZ







Illuminated handrail Pedestrian bridge, Jeffersonville, IN



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