

Next UHCA Meeting
Sept. 7

OLD TROLLEY BARN PARK ROUNDABOUT
6:45 pm at 4345 Campus Ave.
www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting

No meetings
in July or
August.
Have a good
Summer.



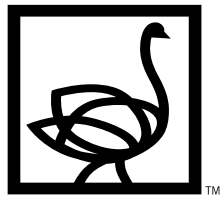
Neighbor
Interviews:
Cuts for
Vets
SEE PAGE 6



It's Your
Business:
Cookie
Plug
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UHCA
Community
Meeting
Summary
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NEWS

University
Heights
Community
Association
July/Aug. 2023



JOIN
UH
PRIDE
SEE PAGE 11



**SUMMER
CONCERTS
IN THE
PARK
SCHEDULE**

SEE PAGES 7-10

TROLLEY BARN PARK SAFER PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Old Trolley Barn Park (OTBP) is a miracle and the jewel of University Heights. It's a unique and precious public space used every day by people in the community. But it's time to address the growing need for pedestrian improvements leading to an increasingly busy neighborhood park.

How can we safely cross Adams Ave to get to the park? The park is adjacent to three intersections along Adams Ave; Georgia St, Florida St and Alabama St/Panorama Dr. The only marked crosswalk is at Florida and there are no stop signs on Adams between Park Blvd and Louisiana St (0.8 mile).



Trolley Barn Park Cross Streets

The California Vehicle Code treats every intersection as a crosswalk. Unless there's a sign saying not to cross the street there, drivers must stop for pedestrians at intersections, whether the crosswalk is marked or not. Statistics show that pedestrians at intersections where there are no stop controls or traffic signals are more likely to be struck by a vehicle while in a marked or painted crosswalk than in an unmarked crosswalk. The reason is that marked crosswalks may give pedestrians a false sense of security, believing that motorists will yield to them.

At both ends of OTBP are 25 mph speed limit signs. The City admits that speed limit signs don't slow traffic, don't decrease accidents nor increase safety. The Radar Speed Sign at the east corner of OTBP may sometimes calm traffic down to 25 mph but 15 mph would be a much safer speed along the park.

Roundabouts reduce vehicle speeds and improve traffic flow in a way that has proven safety benefits for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. Roundabouts that replaced traditional intersections saw a 37% reduction in overall collisions, 75% reduction in injury collisions, 40% reduction in pedestrian collisions and 90% reduction in overall fatalities, according to CalTrans.

The intersection at Alabama/Panorama meets more than one of the qualifying criteria according to City of San Diego Traffic Calming Guidelines: 1. Handling Irregular Approach Geometry; an intersection with approaches that meet the intersection at irregular angles may be a candidate for a roundabout. 2. Pedestrian Accommodation; all roundabouts include all-way crosswalks and crossing distances and are generally shorter than a signalized intersection by providing a "pedestrian refuge". This intersection has the widest distance across Adams Ave. and the worst visibility, so is the best location for a roundabout.

Roundabouts help reduce emissions, minimizing fuel usage by allowing vehicles to move through intersections without stopping. According to it's Climate Action Plan, the City aims to build 20 more roundabouts by 2035, bringing the total to 35 roundabouts throughout the city, costing from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per installation.



Roundabout on Meade Ave

Are you interested in learning more about this idea? It's the topic of the September UHCA Community Meeting at Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium on Thursday Sept 7th at 6:45 pm. Thanks for sharing your perspective and support.

— Stu McGraw, stumcgraw@uhsd.org

Happy 4th of July!

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence from Britain, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The Fourth of July this year is on a Tuesday. Why not spend it here in University Heights? The Trolley Barn Park is a great picnic place to relax and enjoy the day. Order takeout from one of our fabulous restaurants. And, be sure to display your flags.

Speaking of flags - Would you like to see American flags back on Park Boulevard for national holidays? Perhaps we can do that

again on Veterans Day November 11. Lions Club no longer supplies them so we need to purchase our own. Let us know what you think by sending an email to flags@uhsd.org .



UH Off-Leash Dog Park Opening Soon

A temporary off-leash dog park is scheduled to open by the end of June 2023 in University Heights, located at the west end of El Cajon Blvd and Normal St, thanks to community activism and participation by neighbors like you!

It is a single 10,000 sq ft pen surrounded by a 4 foot high chain-link fence, open everyday from dawn to dusk, using the existing grass on the site as its turf. Lighting was not included as part of that installation, so the dog park will be closed after dusk.

The dog park was implemented through a partnership agreement between the San Diego Unified School District (property

owner) and the City of San Diego's Park and Recreation Department (who funded it and is responsible for its maintenance), with encouragement from the UH Park and Recreation Council.

The School District plans to move its offices from that property to Kearny Mesa in about three years. At that time, the existing property will be redeveloped. There is a possibility of a permanent off-leash dog park replacing the temporary one on that property when that occurs.

This is being implemented partly as a means to migrate dogs and their related residue from the Birney Elementary School's Willie Serrano Joint Use Field, used by the students and others since it opened in 2011.

Off-leash dogs are not permitted on that field, but some people have disregarded that, jeopardizing the health and well being of the students and others using that facility.

Please take your dogs to the new off-leash dog park, just a short walk down Park Blvd, and leave the school's field for sports and recreation, out of respect for the school and other neighborhood activities using it.

Having a local off-leash dog park has been requested for many years. Now that it is here, your dogs will have a better option, as will dog owners.



MEMBERSHIP

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



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

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



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

GIFT
Alexandra Webber and David Shirk

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Grant Wilson & Kenneth Griffins, Martin Montesano, Wally & Ruth Matranga

HOUSEHOLD

Alexandra Webber and David Shirk, Bill Winans, Bruce Gardner & Penny Letson, J.D. Abercrombie, James Lew, Lynn Wheat



SCANT TO JOIN

OUR MISSION

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1984, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights.

Yearly Membership

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

Name _____

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Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Referred by _____

- NEW
- RENEWAL

Donor

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

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker** Help deliver *UHCA News* to neighborhood residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising** Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership** Help meet record goals for membership and meeting attendance.
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch** Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.
- UHCA News** Write articles, take photos, or sell ads; these are just a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity, and energy to the *UHCA News*.
- Program & Events** Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

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

Please send any related inquiries to info@uhhd.org



UHCA NEWS

EDITORIAL TEAM Nan McGraw, Stu McGraw

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GRAPHIC LAYOUT Patty Howland

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS Paul Farris, Patty Howland, Jennifer Bishop, Jane Gilbert, Lisa Getz

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Email Stu McGraw at ads@uhhd.org

Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the first of the month. Please see www.uhhd.org/submissions for details.

UHCA BOARD



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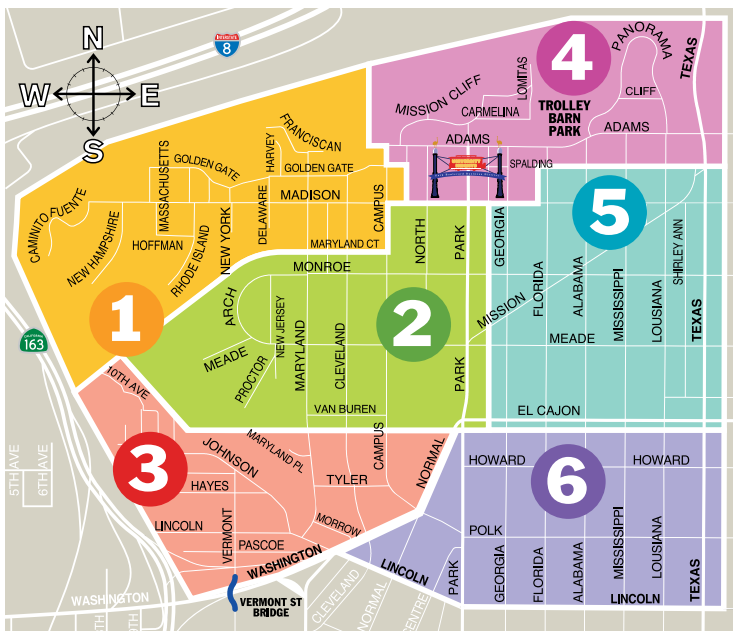


FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityHeightsCommunityAssociation>



INSTAGRAM https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity/

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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



- 1 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs** pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange** mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
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- 5 Tamara Zyhylij** tamara@tamarazrealestate.com
- 6 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com



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



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



File a Police Report Online with SDPD
tinyurl.com/SDPD-OnlineReport

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical 9 1 1

Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. 619-531-2000

SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency 619-527-7500
Street lights, potholes, etc.
Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments

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

2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc. 2 1 1 or 858-300-1211

Alice Birney Elementary Office 619-497-3500

Brush and Weed Abatement 619-533-4444

Code Violations 619-236-5500

County Dept. of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents 858-694-2888

Downed Power Lines / SDG&E 800-411-7343

Domestic Violence Hotline 888-385-4657 (24/7)

Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes 619-515-3525

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 5am-3pm M-F 619-446-1010

Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous 619-531-2468

PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@epath.org 619-810-8600

Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) 619-692-4945
Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support

National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 9 8 8

SDPD Community Relations Officers:
David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov
Michael Hayes mhayes@pd.sandiego.gov

SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800

Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service 888-992-4778

UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation 619-297-3166

University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd 619-692-4912

UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com 619-260-0668

Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: 9 1 1
Report Online: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done
Graffiti Hotline: 619-527-7500

SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats 858-694-2888
Online: vector@sdcountry.ca.gov

If all else fails, email Malik Thornton ThorntonM@sandiego.gov at Council member Stephen Whitburn's office.



Download this app for reporting non-emergency issues, like abandoned vehicles, street repairs, potholes, graffiti, code violations, over-watering, sidewalk problems, etc. to the City of San Diego www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done



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

UHCA MEETING NOTES Community Meeting Summary

UHCA's June 1, 2023 Crime Watch segment began with a report from Police Community Relations Officer David Surwilo reminding people to lock their doors and windows when leaving home, to avoid thefts.

He also provided information on the proposed 500 Automated License Plate Readers/ Smart Streetlights security cameras, which will be located on street light poles at high-traffic intersections to help solve major crimes. The cameras will not be monitored live nor use facial recognition, and their recordings will be discarded after 15 days. A PDF file summary of that program is available here tinyurl.com/SDPDSmartStreetlights. A map of the camera locations can be found here tinyurl.com/CrimeCameras.



Stu McGraw, Janessa Goldbeck, Amy Reichert, Monica Montgomery Steppe, Lisa Getz, Nan McGraw

The main meeting presentation, attended by over 100 people, featured the three County Supervisor District 4 candidates vying for the 3-1/2 years' remaining term of Nathan Fletcher's vacated seat. They spoke about their qualifications for office and answered the following questions submitted by the UHCA board:

1. How would you address the homeless problem in San Diego?
2. What is your position on SB 10?
3. Mental illness and drug addiction are big problems. How would you address these?
4. What is your answer to affordable housing in San Diego?

The candidates with links to their websites are:

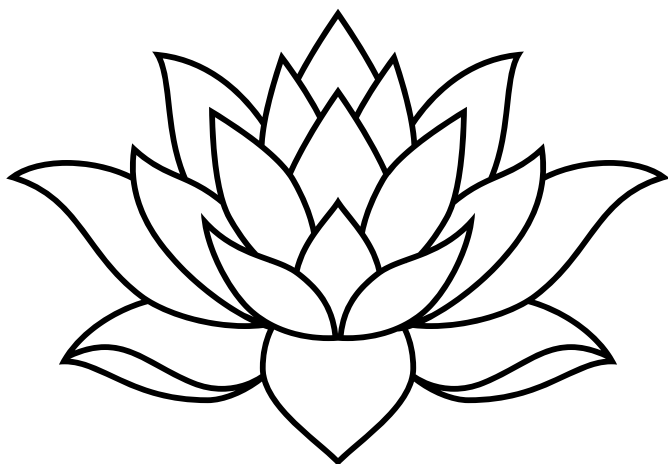
Amy Reichert, amyforsandiego.com

Janessa Goldbeck, janessagoldbeck.com

Monica Montgomery Steppe, monica4sandiego.com

A special primary election for voters in that district will be held on August 15, 2023. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then a special general runoff election will be held on November 7, 2023. The latest the new Supervisor will take their seat is December 5, 2023.

Please do your part, by voting to fill this vacant seat.



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SUSTAINABLE UH

Green Bin (Mostly) Successful Rollout

A different green waste collection truck pulled up today, one whose violent pinching arms dug into my green bin's plastic sides and permanently torqued its lid, which now no longer closes correctly. Ugh. This was not the same truck or gentle process I've observed in weeks past.



Snafus aside, UH residents have already embraced using our new green bins, which is excellent. Diverting methane-producing organic waste from landfills is critically important if we're going to have a chance of reducing the destructive power of climate change.

As with any new city service or process, there will be kinks (see above). And many of us are still experimenting with the best way to handle using this new tool, particularly regarding how to store kitchen waste until bin pick-up day.

Some folks are finding the city-provided kitchen pail works just fine kept out on the kitchen counter (washed out with soap and water each week, contents sprinkled with baking soda occasionally), while others have moved the pail outside, making sure to keep it out of direct sun. Many neighbors are lining their kitchen pails with brown paper bags or newspaper, which can be rolled up and dumped straight into the green bin on collection day. Still others have purchased kitchen waste pails with activated charcoal filters to keep odors at bay.

Beyond the pail, many of us have moved our kitchen waste collection into the refrigerator or freezer. Adding food scraps to a small paper bag inside a used plastic produce bag kept in the freezer, for instance, then tossing the paper bag and its contents into the bin on pick-up day, is easy and all but eliminates the "ick factor" of green waste disposal.

One important caveat: although you can find "fully compostable" green trash bags that claim to be certified for green waste disposal, those bags are not allowed in San Diego's green bins. Kelly Terry, with the City of San Diego, says that "at the Miramar Greenery facility, compostable and biodegradable bags do not consistently break down, are difficult to sift out, and result in contamination that decreases the quality of compost." The facility's goal is that "the finished compost should be free of contamination and of good quality for use on soils." Since people will be using the compost to grow food, it's important that we add only legitimate green waste to our bins.

Environmental Services is still rolling out green bins to other neighborhoods, so they haven't yet started collecting data on how often or effectively the bins are used, nor have they started issuing code violation notices for putting green waste into regular trash bins or using "compostable" plastic liners in green bins, but they will at some point. For now, we've got a bit of time to hone our green waste process and make it a part of everyday life.

A few last tips shared by UH neighbors (and verified by Kelly Terry):

- It's okay (and probably inevitable) if some of the organic waste in your green bin is "moldy." That mold will break down when it's "cooked" with the other compost at Miramar.
- It's fine to share a green bin with a consenting neighbor.
- It's a great idea to upgrade or downgrade your green bin size (with 3 sizes to choose from) to fit your household's needs. Delivery of a new bin is no longer free of charge but can still be done. Call Environmental Services at 858-694-7000 for assistance.
- Multi-family properties have more green bin usage when an owner, manager, or responsible resident (AKA EcoHero!) takes the lead on keeping the bin clean.
- It's not okay to keep tossing organic waste into the black bin – that stuff must go green!

No city service is perfect, but UH residents care about our environment, and we're willing to do what it takes to make a difference.

Now, onto Get It Done...

—Judith Annicchiarico

Lambda Archives Art & History Event

Show off your UH PRIDE! UHCA is teaming up with Lambda Archives to bring our neighborhood a night of art and history on July 11th at 6:30 pm. Meet us at Diversionary Theatre's Clark Cabaret, 4545 Park Blvd for a presentation about our community's history and a social arts & crafts event! Free for all ages.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Cookie Plug Opens in UH

If you have a craving for delicious gourmet cookies with a twist of hip hop culture, visit the newly opened Cookie Plug at 1945 El Cajon Blvd. Owners Steve and Michelle, partners in business and in life, celebrated the Grand Opening of the University Heights location on June 10th, with over fifty diehard fans waiting for the doors to open and hundreds of cookie connoisseurs visiting throughout the day.



Steve and Michelle of Cookie Plug

Fresh out of the oven and made with the highest quality ingredients, their "phatties" cookies are 4 inches in diameter and 1 inch thick. Cookie Plug features a limited edition flavor every month, while serving up a dozen regular classics: Bam Bam (Fruity Cereal), Chocolate XTC (Triple Chocolate), Cookie Cream (Cookies and Cream), Crunch Nugget (Chocolate Peanut Butter), Firecracker (S'mores), Mac Daddyy (White Chocolate Macadamia), Nutty OG (Chocolate Chip and walnuts), OG (Chocolate Chip), Pink Elephant (Strawberry Cheesecake), Pixie Junkie (Sugar cookie), Purple Haze (Purple Velvet) and Snooperdoodle (Snickerdoodle). Plug Poppers contain a smaller sample of each of those 12 flavors.

Keto versions are available in Kitt (Chocolate Chip), Bart (Peanut Butter Chocolate) and Black Magic (Chocolate).

They also offer "iced" ice cream sandwiches using two cookies with ice cream in between them, and a Purple drink containing lemon sugar water.

Hours: Sun-Thu Noon-10pm, Fri & Sat Noon-11pm. Delivery is an option.

Order ahead by phoning the shop at 619-310-5095 or going to <https://cookieplug.com/order>.

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

July 2023

Create Optimism Month
National Blueberries Month
National Ice Cream Month

NIGHTTIME ZOO CONTINUES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4TH

1
 UH Library: "Where's Odi?" Contest, All of July
 Canada Day
 No News Articles Due

2
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm
 I Forgot Day



4
 Independence Day

5
 UH Library: Toddler Storytime
 10 am
 UH CDC
 6 pm uhcdc.org



7
 Trolley Barn Park Concert: Chris Clarke & Friends
 6 pm

8

9
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm
 UHCA Beautification Birney Tree Care Project
 8-10 am

10

11
 SDUSD Board Meeting
 5 pm sandiegounified.org
 UH Library: Kamishibai Storytime
 6 pm
 Hillcrest Town Council Meeting
 6:30 pm
 Lambda Archives: Art & History,
 6:30 pm

12
 National Simplicity Day

13



14
 Trolley Barn Park Concert: Chickenbone Slim & The Biscuits
 6 pm
 Bastille Day

15
 Pride Parade
 10am
 UH Library Book Sale
 9am-3pm
 UH Library: Dance to EvOLvE
 3pm

16
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm
 UH Library Book Sale
 12-3 pm

17
 UH Library: Find Your Voice Workshop & Performance
 5-6:30 pm

18
 North Park Planning Committee
 6:30 pm
 Nelson Mandela Day



20
 Comic Con, through July 23
 National Moon Day

21
 UH Library: Comic Book Craft All Day
 Trolley Barn Park Concert: San Diego Funk All Stars
 6 pm



23
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm

24
 National Amelia Earhart Day

25
 SDUSD Board Meeting
 5 pm sandiegounified.org
 National Merry-Go-Round Day

26

27
 Ashura Begins



28
 Trolley Barn Park Concert: Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra
 6 pm

29
 UH Library: Ruth & Emilia "Stronger Together"
 3 pm
 UH Garden Club: Integrated Pest Management
 5 pm

30
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm

31
 National Avocado Day

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

August 2023

1
 Uptown Planners Meeting
 6 pm uptownplannersd.org
 Sept News Articles Due

2
 UH CDC
 6 pm uhcdc.org

3
 National Watermelon Day



4
 National Coast Guard Day



6
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm
 Hiroshima Memorial Day

7
 National Lighthouse Day



8
 Hillcrest Town Council Meeting
 6:30 pm

9
 UH Library: Toddler Storytime
 10am
 Book Lovers Day



11

12
 UHCA Beautification Birney Tree Care Project
 8-10am
 UH Library: ToshWerks - Quill Pen Craft
 3pm
 World Elephant Day

13
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm

14
 National Creamsicle Day

15
 UH Library: Children's Storytime & Crafts
 3pm
 North Park Planning Committee
 6:30 pm

16
 National Tell a Joke Day

17
 National Thrift Shop Day

18

19
 UH Library Book Sale
 9am-3pm
 UH Garden Club: Canning Seminar
 4pm
 World Humanitarian Day
 World Orangutan Day

20
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm
 UH Library Book Sale
 12-3 pm
 America's Finest City Half Marathon

21
 First Day of School
 National Senior Citizens Day

22
 Be An Angel Day



24
 National Waffle Day



25

26
 UH Library: Sparkles the Clown Magic & Bubbles Show
 3pm
 Women's Equality Day

27
 Hillcrest Farmers Market
 9 am - 2 pm

28
 Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day

29
 International Day Against Nuclear Tests
 Sept. News Out

30
 National Toasted Marshmallow Day

31
 National Trail Mix Day

Children's Eye Health & Safety Month
National Immunization Awareness Month

BEAUTIFICATION

Second Annual Park Boulevard Clean Up - Another Great Turnout!

On Sunday, May 21, from 8:30 - 11:30 am, 10 volunteers gave their time and energy to cleaning up Park Boulevard and adjoining streets. Volunteers spent the morning scraping off stickers, removing graffiti, and picking up trash all along Park Boulevard and adjoining streets.

Volunteers whacked the weeds on the Meade Avenue side of Birney Elementary School which have been thriving thanks to the rain. The trees along the school also got some attention and had shoots pruned and new collars placed where collars had broken.

The following volunteers attended the event: Alissa Mathias, Dacia Andrade, Debbie Chaddock, Elisabeth Fidler, Jennifer Bishop, Katie McCoy, Lynne Russo, Sol Schumer, T O'Rourke, and Tee Gross.

Additional thanks go out to the ongoing care of those trees and landscape improvements by Frank Santana and Mary Barger, with help by MaryBeth Chrudden.



Tee Gross going after the graffiti!

The Beautification Team offers a warm welcome to our newest volunteers, Dacia and Katie! Tee Gross went through two cans of graffiti remover! We now have 150 active volunteers which has resulted in outstanding turnout at all events.



Dacia Andrade, Debbie Chaddock and Katie McCoy

During the summer, the B-Team will be doing some mini events focused on the parkway adjacent to Birney Elementary School along Meade Ave on Sunday July 9 and Saturday August 12 from 8-10 am. If you are interested in helping with the Beautification events, send an email to beautification@uhsd.org.

—Jennifer Bishop



Longtime volunteer T O'Rourke.

Pet of the Month August



Bordeaux

Bordeaux

Bordeaux aka Bordie is our 3 year old Springer Spaniel. He's such a great companion always willing to give snuggles and needs all the attention always! He's always by my side and loves hunting lizards in the garden and napping in the sun. He loves hiking and exploring new trails and is a total water dog! His personality is sweet but he is too smart for his own good. He knows what he wants and when and will bring you his leash when he's ready to walk the neighborhood. He's my best friend and such a great companion.

—Brittney Rawlins

Do you know a pet we should feature? We'd love to highlight all of our furry (and not so furry) UH neighbors! Send info & photo to news@uhsd.org!

NEIGHBOR INTERVIEW

"Cuts for Vets" - New Looks for Old Soldiers

Louise Heath is a professional hair stylist who moved to San Diego from Bellingham, Washington 8 years ago. During the pandemic, she and her husband moved from Hillcrest to University Heights in order to live in a quieter and less hectic neighborhood. Louise has her own booth at Chroma Salon in Mission Hills where she specializes in "blonding" – dying hair platinum blonde – think: Marilyn Monroe!

In November of 2021, Louise saw a local news segment on TV about "Zephyr" - a permanent residential facility run by PATH for previously homeless Veterans in the Grantville neighborhood.

Hearing the mayor state that "no man in uniform should have to sleep on the streets" touched Louise's heart. Her brother had served in the US Army and did a tour in Iraq and Louise knew many of her parent's friends who were Vietnam Veterans.

Louise was raised in a family that believes in helping others, so feels she was born to serve others. She was looking for a way to give back to the community. San Diego's many military families and veterans gave Louise the perfect way to help out. She contacted Zephyr about giving free haircuts to the veterans. The people at Zephyr eagerly accepted Louise's generous offer. "Cuts for Vets" was born.

Initially, Louise thought it would not be a regularly scheduled event, but due to the positive response, she now goes to Zephyr every other month on a Monday to offer up her services for free. Through Facebook and Instagram, Louise solicits donations from local salons for both products and for other hair stylists to come and help out. Her husband, Chris Kolb, accompanies her and does anything needed – carrying supplies, sweeping up hair, and serenading everyone with his guitar.

Louise knows giving someone a hair wash and cut (and possibly, a shave) makes a person feel good about themselves. Louise gets as much as she gives. She enjoys the conversations she has with the veterans. She listens to their stories about their service, their sacrifices and their victories. She hopes that in some small way, she is helping to restore some of their personal dignity. Mostly, the veterans who come for the free haircut are men who reside at Zephyr. However, there are a few women who show up, as well as veterans from other local facilities who have heard about the services Louise is providing.

Louise plans to keep Cuts for Vets going, and she is hopeful that the idea will expand to include other PATH facilities throughout the county, particularly those with a predominantly female clientele. She would love for more of her colleagues to participate. More stylists would mean more cuts for more vets at more locations.

If you are interested in helping out this worthy cause, you can find "Cuts for Vets" on Instagram or you can VenMo Louise directly at: @Louise-Heath.

—Jane Gilbert



Louise Cutting Vet's Hair

Pet of the Month July

White Claw

My name is White Claw. My mom says it's my Indian name, but it's also her favorite drink. I am a former Street cat from Anaheim. Chris and Louise, my parents adopted me two years ago and now my life is so much more fun! My favorite thing is lounging around the house and playing with my toys. When my dad plays his guitar I love music so much I sing along.

You've probably seen me around the neighborhood in my pink stroller.

Everyone at Cheers Bar knows my name. Sometimes we go to Lancers just so I can watch people play pool. Summer's Liquor is really cool too, because the nice lady working there always gives me yummy treats.

When my mom and dad hang out at Trolley Barn park I go along to watch all the dogs play. Any day I get to be out and about is a good day for me, because I make so many people smile. If you see us out be sure to say hi! I love making new friends!

— Louise Heath



White Ckaw

University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) *Presents...*

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

SUMMER IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES IS BACK! The University Heights Community Development Corp. (UHCDC) is ready to observe its 25th Annual Event in the Old Trolley Barn Park at Adams Avenue and Florida Street. The event will open on Friday evening July 7th to set the stage for the sounds of great music that will soon have us getting into the swing of the event, either sitting relaxing to the music, performing dance steps in front of the stage or enjoying socializing with family and friends. Let's celebrate in this great neighborhood park for another four Fridays of fun, ice cream, and a choice selection of bands and vendors.

The four free Friday evening concerts in our own Trolley Barn Park will present one former band from last year, two new groups, and our local perennial favorite. The fun starts on Friday July 7th with Chris Clarke & Friends and ends on July 28th with Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. In between there will be Chickenbone Slim & the Biscuits and the San Diego Funk All Stars. We'll be treated to a great medley of musical styles featuring Bluegrass/Folk, Classic Rock, Funk & Disco, and Boogie Woogie & Swing.

The concert series is just one of the many ways the UH CDC has helped to make UH such a great place to live. For example: Design and installation of an Orchid Award UH Street Sign and gateway ID signs; kiosk at Trolley Barn Park; art gate at Birney Playing Field; banners along Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue; University Heights Historical Society historic designations, historic markers, and three historic districts; Historical Resources Board awards for the San Diego Unified School District Historic Survey; UH Maintenance Assessment District, which includes the UH Street Sign, the commercial district and succulent garden; UH Recreation Council 27 years of oversight of Trolley Barn Park, Birney Playing Field and UH Point Open Space; bike racks in the park; 200+ parking spaces through its UH Community Parking District.

Concerts are the result of the hard work of the all-volunteer UH CDC board in partnership with the UH Recreation Council, and the City's Park & Recreation Department. Included in the success of the event are the All-events Co-Sponsors: Anderson Plumbing Heating & Air, BLVD Apartments/H.G.

our **25th** Year Celebrating...



Friday Evenings – 6 to 8 pm
Trolley Barn Park
in University Heights
Adams Avenue & Florida Street
2023 Band Line-up

July 7

Chris Clarke & Friends
American Roots: Bluegrass/Folk

July 14

Chickenbone Slim & The Biscuits
Classic Rock/Pop/Dance

July 21

San Diego Funk All Stars
R&B, Funk, & Disco

July 28

Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra
Boogie Woogie & Swing

Visit our website at www.uhcdc.org for links to bands appearing at Summer in the Park 2023!

Fenton Company, Quatterra Multifamily/Lennar Corp., Melissa Tucci Broker/Realtor®, Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam, Park & Rec, Roxanne Govari and Her Pemberley Realty Team, Mary Anne Stevens/Anastasia Brewer Realtors®, Stu McGraw Real Estate; Band Sponsors CA State Senator Toni Atkins and CA State Assemblymember Chris Ward; UHCA for this insert; and Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center who is our Event Promoter. Special thanks to the many individual donors from within and outside our community who are another important part of the event sponsor levels.

There are many others who participate with a booth during the concerts. We welcome nonprofits as well as other organizations. All of the neighbors nearby who join the celebration and graciously assist our visitors are stakeholders in the success of the series.

With our concerts growing in popularity each year it is important to remember some of summertime's friendly Friday evening facts (your visiting friends will need to know all this before they come over, too). First, parking is at a premium on a regular Friday night in the Heights and tougher still during concert season. Walk, take the bus or ride a bike and remember to be courteous to the neighbors. Don't block driveways, red curbs, bus lanes or other restricted areas, and deposit your trash in park containers before you go home.

Second, make your picnic planning easy, pick up a pizza at our local pizzerias, order take out for your picnic dinner or eat beforehand at one of our great UH restaurants for a short walk back to the park. And remember at every concert there will be ice cream treats from Mrs. Frostie.

As a few last reminders – the park will have three porta potties (handicap & standard) for your comfort. Also, there is never, ever, any glass allowed in the park – if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. Citywide park restrictions also apply to alcoholic beverages and smoking. Please keep your dogs on a short leash so they don't snack on other people or their food. We try to have plenty of trash containers around so that you can help us in keeping the park tidy.

Now turn the page for information on all the bands. And remember to donate to next year's Summer in the Park concerts when Josie in her orange vest comes around or when you stop by the UH CDC booth to say thanks.


 UNIVERSITY
HEIGHTS

University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC)



july | **Chris Clarke & Friends**
7 | *American Roots: Bluegrass/Folk*

CHRIS CLARKE & FRIENDS Chris is a life-long student, performer and teacher of traditional, southern Appalachian heritage music. Born and raised in Virginia, Chris has been playing old-time, country blues, bluegrass and folk music since the late 1980s. His style is rooted firmly in tradition, his interpretation is authentic and he has the ability to connect with the audience with colorful stories (some even true). He has shared the stage with Dr. Ralph Stanley, sang with Mike Seeger and performs regularly at festivals and venues around his home in Southern California. Performers: Doug Walker, Bass and Vocals; Jason Weiss, Banjo and Vocals; Chris Clarke, Guitar, Mandolin and Vocals; Nat Copeland on Fiddle.

chrisclarkemusic.com

Sponsored by: Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air
CA State Assemblymember Chris Ward - Stu McGraw, Realtor®
Community Appreciation Night



july | **Chickenbone Slim & The**
14 | **Biscuits** *Classic Rock/Pop/Dance*

CHICKENBONE SLIM & THE BISCUITS Chickenbone Slim is an original Blues/Americana touring artist based in San Diego, CA. Signed in 2021 to Vizztone Records, Chickenbone is garnering national and international attention with his unique roots sound. Mixing blues with west coast swing, rockabilly and roots rock and inspired by local roots artists The Paladins, Candye Cane and dedicated to blues legend Tomcat Courtney, Chickenbone's 4th all-original album, "Serve It To Me Hot" showcases Chickenbone's songwriting and the wide range of the band's talent, and is a solid artistic updating of roots music for the 21st century.

The band has delighted UH residents at a number of recent events, and we're thrilled to welcome them back.

chickenboneslim.com

Sponsored by: Roxanne Govari & the Pemberley Realty Team
University Heights Community Association – BLVD/H.G. Fenton Company
Community Appreciation Night

Summer In The Park 2023 Entertainment Lineup



SAN DIEGO FUNK ALL STARS is a professional powerhouse event band based in San Diego. Their sole purpose is to get people dancing! If that's what you're looking for, they bring top-flight performing musicians and play irresistibly joyous dance music for young and old. They feature a three-piece horn section, three singers and an ultra-tight rhythm section, covering R&B, funk & disco to make an event high energy. Their music is from KC & The Sunshine Band, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, silk Sonic, Lizzo, Dua Lipa, Bruno Mars, Beyonce, Sam & Dave, and more. So we booked the San Diego Funk All Stars to raise the energy and to fill the dance space in front of the stage on July 21st.

sandiegofunkallstars.com

july 21 | **San Diego Funk All Stars**
R&B, Funk, & Disco

Sponsored by: **Mary Anne & Anastasia Brewer, Realtors®**
Quarterra, a Lennar Company – Park & Rec
Community Appreciation Night



SUE PALMER & HER MOTEL SWING ORCHESTRA for the 25th Annual Event, will be closing the summer concert series in 'swingin' style on Friday evening July 28th. Sue & her group are one of a kind, and that is why we bring her back year after year to our Trolley Barn Park Concerts. Sue Palmer is the Queen of Boogie Woogie, and she reigns rightfully at our Summer in the Park event while seated in front of her keyboard. Anyone who has been to one of her shows, including our past concerts, knows that the fun starts when Sue and her irrepressible sidekick musicians turn up the power. The lineup includes Sue Palmer, piano; April West, trombone; Sharon Shufelt, drums, vocals; Steve Wilcox, guitar; Johnny Viau, sax; Peter Harrison, bass; and Liz Ajuzie, lead vocals. So be ready to jump up to practice your swing and jitterbug moves when you head to Sue's concert on July 28th. Be sure to visit her website to check out her December 2021 new album release "Movin' Along, winner for best local recording by the San Diego Music Awards committee this year. The title track speaks to the path of Sue's band as they recover from one of history's biggest disasters. suepalmer.com

july 28 | **Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra**
Boogie Woogie & Swing

Sponsored by: **Ross Lopez and Mark Ballam**
State Senator Toni Atkins - Melissa Tucci Realtor®/Broker
Community Appreciation Night

University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC)



University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC)

The UHCDC in partnership with the UH Recreation Council initiated 'Summer in the Park' twenty-five summers ago in an effort to bring neighbors, businesses, families, friends & visitors together in a community friendly atmosphere. Since that time the outpouring of support from every section of our community has been fantastic. These efforts have worked so well that this participatory style of community development has been applied to all of its programs. The UHCDC events and projects illustrate how the all-volunteer board of the UHCDC, a non-profit, public benefit 501(c) (3) organization, works continuously to better the University Heights neighborhood.

'Summer in the Park' All-Events Co-Sponsors

Queen Bee's Art and Cultural Center Many thanks to Alma Rodriguez and her Queen Bee's team for joining our concert series as a Co-Sponsor and Event Promoter. The Center is a multi-purpose venue centrally located in North Park. Its mission is to support local musicians and artists by opening its space to a wide variety of concerts and events. The Center also donates 18% of its profits to helping homeless youth in San Diego through various charitable organizations. Queen Bee's is located at 3925 Ohio Street, San Diego, 92104. Information 619-255-5147 or www.queenbeessd.com.

Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer Mary Anne is a long time University Heights resident and booster in her role as a Co-Sponsor of the concerts for many years as well as providing free shuttles for the Arts Open/Taste of UH event each fall. Mary Anne supports our community with her time and money in many ways. She has served as president, vice-president and treasurer of the UHCA and still assists in its events. Mary Anne is a well known established Realtor® associated with Coldwell Banker, and her expertise is hard to beat. She can be reached at 619-871-0635, maryanneshomes@gmail.com or visit her website www.maryanneshomes.com.

Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam We are pleased that University Heights residents Mark Ballam and Ross Lopez again are lending their support both as Co-Sponsors to this year's concerts and to assist in setting up and taking down the events. Ross Lopez is a long time homeowner and property owner in UH. He is an active UHCDC board member. Mark J. Ballam serves as a managing director for the Center for International Business Education and Research at San Diego State University. He is a native of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and has lived in San Diego with his married partner, Ross Lopez, since 2005.

Roxanne Govari & Her Pemberley Realty Team Roxanne started her career in real estate with Coldwell Banker in 2000. In 2008 she wanted to be closer to where she lives and established Pemberley Realty in University Heights at 4637 Park Boulevard next to her family's Soltan Banoo restaurant, which has since closed. However, this has now been turned into additional office space, and Roxanne continues to feature a monthly get together to bring clients and friends to enjoy good food and conversation. She also assists in fundraising for the local Diversionary Theatre. Roxanne publishes a monthly e-newsletter and often features an online video. Roxanne is one of our longest Co-sponsors, and in so doing shows us that she and her team are "committed to excellence because we care." Contact information: 619-778-0577 or roxanne@pemberleyrealty.com or www.pemberleyrealty.com.

Park & Rec A seventh year return to our list of Co-Sponsors is the neighborhood food and entertainment venue "Park & Rec". Located in the former Bourbon Street establishment at 4612 Park Boulevard and having undergone an expensive remodel, co-owners John Pani and Andy Zlotnik, are appealing to a broader demographic from the neighborhoods in which they are located. They do not cater to any age, but the experience they have been aiming for is one of a neighborhood place. Pani also owns Hotel Vyvant in Little Italy & Waypoint Public in North Park. Park & Rec is firmly settled in University Heights as part of our community and currently expanded into the former Small Bar now renamed Johnston's. Contact Park & Rec at 619-795-9700 or visit parkandrecsd.com

BLVD/H. G. Fenton Company returns again for a seventh year as a Co-Sponsor. Seven years ago the Company joined our concert series because of their development of a mixed-use 165-apartment complex in the 2000 block of El Cajon Blvd. between Florida and Alabama Streets. H.G. Fenton Company, a family-owned San Diego real estate company, has proudly entered its second century of service providing quality working and living experiences through responsible development and management practices. The Company creates lifestyle opportunities where employees flourish, residents live well, and businesses succeed for over 1,100 businesses, and across 14 apartment communities totaling over 3,300 homes in San Diego County. Visit online at www.hgfenton.com.

Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air is celebrating 45 years of wowing clients! Since 1978, Mary Jean Anderson and her family have been serving San Diego homeowners with plumbing, drains, heating & air conditioning maintenance, repairs and new installation services. We thank Team Anderson for supporting these concerts for the past eight years - three years as a Band Sponsor and now five years as a Co-Sponsor! The company slogan is 'Nobody wows clients like we do!' and the entire team is dedicated to 100% Client Satisfaction every day! To learn more go to AndersonPHA.com.

Quarterra Multifamily, a subsidiary of Lennar Corporation and a vertically integrated multifamily apartment builder, developer, and asset manager announced start of leasing at its newest community, Winslow, located in San Diego's University Heights neighborhood. The project, situated at 4353 Park Blvd., is a 7-story, mixed-use 379-home apartment building offering a commuter-friendly location with convenient access to San Diego's

professional hubs and universities. Winslow is Quarterra's third San Diego community, joining Luma and Shift. Visit Quarterra.com.

Melissa Tucci is a new 2023 addition this year to our All-Events Co-Sponsors. Melissa is a Real Estate Broker with Coldwell Banker and the Official Real Estate of the San Diego Padres and is ranked Top 1% Nationwide and #1 in the State of California. Owner of the recently constructed building on Park Blvd and Monroe Ave, Melissa states it is to be completed this summer. Visit www.melissatucci.com

Stu McGraw is president of University Heights Community Association and chair of Uptown Planners. Stu is a realtor with Woods Real Estate Services and is a lifelong resident and volunteer in University Heights. Learn more at stumcgraw.com.

Special Thanks...

San Diego Park & Recreation Department The San Diego City's Park & Recreation Department works in partnership through the local UH Recreation Council & Open Space Advisory Group in providing oversight to Trolley Barn Park, UH Point Open Space, Buchanan Canyon Open Space, and Birney Joint Use Turf Field at the corner of Park Boulevard and Meade Avenue.

University Heights Recreation Council & Open Space Advisory Group The UH Rec Council is an advisory committee to the San Diego Park & Recreation Department with specific jurisdiction over Trolley Barn Park, UH Point Open Space, Buchanan Canyon Open Space, and Birney Joint Use Turf Playing Field. In 1996 it received a charter from the City through a grassroots effort by UH community members. The UH Rec Council is currently back to meeting again at Birney Elementary library the first Thursday of each month (except in January, July and August) at 5:30 pm. Community members are welcome to attend. It successfully worked with the SD Unified School District to implement a Temporary Dog Park on that site. Contact information: 619-297-3166.

Band sponsor CA Senator Toni Atkins is the first woman to serve as President pro Tempore of the State Senate and the first person in nearly 150 years to have served as both pro Tem and Speaker of the Assembly. Toni has been a constant presence in San Diego representing us for eight years as City Councilmember for District 3 and also as Acting Mayor in 2005. Toni Atkins is a coalition builder who believes that sound government policies can affect people's lives in positive ways. In addition to being a leading advocate for affordable housing, she is a tireless champion for women, the LGBTQ community, military veterans, and people experiencing homelessness.

Band Sponsor Christopher Ward, CA State Assemblymember Ward was elected in 2020 to serve in the 78th Assembly District and is the Speaker Pro Tempore. Prior to this, he served one term on the San Diego City Council focusing his efforts on housing, economic development, homelessness, and the environment. Before becoming an elected official, Ward was the Chief of Staff to Senator Marty Block. Ward has long been a community volunteer, serving on the San Diego Community College District's Citizens Oversight Committee, as a board member of the San Diego LGBT Center and as a board member of the Uptown Planners. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at John Hopkins University and a Masters in Public Policy and Urban Planning at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He and his partner reside in University Heights with their two children.

Friends of 'Summer in the Park' Thanks to The Salerno Family for their generous donation to this year's concerts.

Media Sponsors Adams Avenue BIA, Pemberley Realty e-newsletter, Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, Next Door, Facebook, Instagram, uhcdc.org, and the UHCA News in June edition and a 4-page concert insert in July/August edition; UHCDC Concert Poster in the Trolley Barn Park kiosk & event flyer..

Local Groups & Businesses Represented Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air, Roxanne Govari of Pemberley Realty, Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer, UHCA, UHCDC, Melissa Tucci Broker/Realtor, UH Historical Society, Stu McGraw Real Estate, Cecilia's Fine Jewelry, Jeffrey Taylor Artist.

Exhibitors

UHCA – T-shirts, caps, coffee mugs
UHDC – Tote bags, T-shirts, Brochures
UHHS – UH Historic Tour Brochures
Cecilia's Fine Jewelry
Jeffrey Taylor – Artwork

Refreshments

Mrs. Frostie – Ice Cream in a variety of flavors and toppings, sundaes, cones and cups

Contributors: Ernie Bonn, Marc Johnson

These people, groups, businesses and volunteers help to make the Annual Summer in the Park Concert Series the great success that it is!

Community Appreciation Nights are held July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, and July 28th. Voluntary audience donations will be solicited by UHCDC on these dates (look for Josie in the orange vest!). Donations will be used to initiate next year's 'Summer in the Park' Concert Series.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A SPONSOR FOR 'SUMMER IN THE PARK'

I have enclosed (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Friends Level	\$25 - \$49	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Buster Level (support-a-potty)	\$50 - \$99	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Level	\$100 - \$499	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Band Sponsor	per event - \$500	Phone _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Crew Level	per event - \$750	email _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Stage Level	per event - \$950	Make payable / mail to:
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Co-Sponsor	\$1,500 - \$2,500	UHCDC - PO Box 3115 - San Diego, CA 92163 - (619) 297-3166

All sponsorship levels are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. All donations go to support 'Summer in the Park,' which is another example of the University Heights Community Development Corp. (UHCDC) and its partners working for the benefit of our community

FROM STATE SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS



2023-24 State Budget
 Though Gov. Newsom's revised budget proposal signaled that times are tough, California remains strong. The Governor's budget proposal reflected many of the Senate's "Protect Our Progress" key values, avoiding ongoing cuts to core programs, preserving our primary Rainy Day Fund, and expanding responsible borrowing – including a new Climate Bond – to avoid cuts to climate and infrastructure projects. We remain committed to preserving transit, broadband, and other infrastructure investments, and addressing our long-term child care and homelessness needs.

Nonprofit of the Year: Goodwill Industries of San Diego County
 Goodwill Industries of San Diego County was selected as our 2023 Nonprofit of the Year for the 39th Senate District. Since 1930, they have provided employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. Specifically, Goodwill San Diego provides resources for people whose job options are limited due to lack of work experience, criminal past, lack of shelter, prior history of drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness and residents or community members with developmental, intellectual, emotional, and physical disabilities.

In 2022, Goodwill San Diego, which operates 28 retail stores throughout the county, employed nearly 1,600 individuals, over half of whom were people with disabilities or other barriers to employment, and assisted 5,330 San Diego County community members. Through the collection of donated items, Goodwill San Diego diverted over 65 million pounds of materials from landfills, and almost 6 million pounds of electronics were recycled.

For more information on Goodwill Industries of San Diego County visit their website at sdgoodwill.org.

– Toni G. Atkins (D-39)
 Senate President pro Tempore

The California legislative calendar requires that all bills for a year be finalized and passed out of both houses by June 2nd, and to pass the annual state budget by June 15. The legislature is on summer recess from mid-July to mid-August.

Updates on My Bills

SB 385, which would expand training for physicians assistants to allow them to perform first trimester abortions under their scope of practice, was approved by the Senate by a 28-8 vote.

SB 487, which would strengthen protections for California healthcare providers who offer abortion care services and gender-affirming care, was approved by the Senate by a 31-8 vote.

SB 447, which would end California's travel ban to states that have adopted discriminatory anti-LGBTQ+ laws and replace it with the BRIDGE Project, a donation-driven fund that could be used to create non-partisan, inclusive messaging, discourage discrimination, and help members of the LGBTQ+ community feel less isolated, was approved by the Senate by a 31-8 vote.

SB 450 would make SB 9, the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act, more accessible for homeowners who wish to use it, was approved by the Senate by a 30-7 vote.

SB 519, which would promote safety in county detention facilities and ensure more transparent oversight of the Sheriff's Departments that oversees them, was approved by the Senate by a 32-0 vote.



Celebrate love and unity with UHCA at the July 15th Pride Parade! Bring your friends and family and meet your neighbors as we march in honor of the diversity and inclusivity of University Heights. Everyone is welcome to join in support of the LGBTQ+ community, whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or ally, your presence and support make a difference as we walk to the beat of acceptance.

Wear a hat because this 1.5 mile runway is hot in the summer. The parade starts at Normal Street and University Avenue, turning west on University to 6th Avenue, then south on 6th Avenue to Balboa Drive and Quince Street. The parade officially ends at Quince Street and Balboa Drive. There is free parking at the Old Naval Hospital on Park Boulevard and President's Way and free Pride Shuttle to the Parade.

Participants joining the UHCA contingent may not display logos or trademarks or otherwise promote or distribute materials from third party businesses or organizations. Parade participants may not throw any item into the crowds. Please be mindful of the environmental impact

of the materials you bring. San Diego Pride discourages plastic beads and other small plastic swag items as these plastic products have been shown to cause serious harm to marine ecosystems and have clogged San Diego street drains. San Diego Pride discourages paper fans and paper product informational / promotional items as these paper items have been traditionally thrown on the ground along the parade route and end up in the landfill. The City of San Diego and San Diego Pride parade regulations prohibit the following being used in the parade: bubbles of any type, bubble machines/wands, open flames, fire breathing, squirt guns, super soakers, water cannons and confetti guns. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/PrideTks> so we can give you updates on exact meetup time and location as the event draws near.



FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Cannabis and Driving: Myth vs. Reality

For nearly a decade, a specialized team of prosecutors in my office has focused on drivers whose judgment and skills are impaired by drugs.

Despite the team's efforts, the use of one drug – cannabis – continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Once permitted only for medicinal purposes, cannabis is now approved for recreational use by California adults. Cannabis dispensaries are allowed under our City's Municipal Code and are part of our civic landscape, and more are coming.

Unfortunately, there seem to be a lot of misconceptions floating around about the relationship between cannabis consumption and driving. By dispelling some of these myths, we can prevent avoidable accidents and deaths.

Myth: Driving on cannabis makes you a more attentive and focused driver.

Reality: Drugs alter our perception, including our understanding of our abilities and performance. Believing that cannabis makes you a better driver is no different than believing alcohol makes you a better swimmer. Cannabis affects your fine motor skills, memory, depth perception, and coordination. It slows reaction times, which can be disastrous on the road.

Myth: Driving while under the influence of cannabis is far safer than driving while drunk or on other drugs.

Reality: This isn't a contest to see which driver is less impaired. Anything that affects your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle puts lives in danger and can lead to your arrest and conviction.

Myth: If you drive under the influence of cannabis, you can't be convicted of driving under the influence, because there is no equivalent to the Blood Alcohol Content scale used in drunk driving cases that measures unsafe levels of cannabis in the human body.

Reality: Impaired driving is observable and can be documented in many ways. Testimony from victims and witnesses has great impact on juries. Dashboard videos and body-worn camera footage is also very persuasive evidence.

Here are some additional facts about cannabis and driving that highlight the risks:



- Drivers with even a small amount of THC – cannabis's active ingredient – in their systems tend to drive slower than usual. Instead of being more cautious, drivers with THC in their systems are more likely to cause accidents.
- The effect of cannabis is strongest during the first 30 minutes after consumption. People who drive immediately after using cannabis increase their risk of getting into a crash by 25 to 30 percent.
- Drivers testing positive for marijuana increased by 48 percent from 2007 to 2014. Of seriously injured drivers admitted to hospital trauma centers, more than one out of four tested positive for marijuana.
- Combining marijuana with alcohol and/or other drugs (including prescription drugs) greatly amplifies impairment.

Before you get behind the wheel – or allow a family member or friend to drive – remember that the test of your suitability to drive isn't whether you feel high. Having cannabis in your system impacts your reaction time, your depth perception, and your coordination. The wrong decision can lead to accidents, criminal charges, loss of a driver license, and even jail time.

My office has prosecuted 393 cases of driving under the influence of cannabis since 2018, with more defendants in the pipeline. Most plead guilty, and the rest we take to trial. I suspect that every one of them regrets not calling a rideshare service, or asking a friend for a lift, instead of taking a chance with their lives and the lives of others.

– Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME?

UHCA Memberships fund our programs like ZoneWatch, Beautification, UH News, meetings, social media, and more! Renew when you get your reminder email or go to our membership page at www.uhsd.org/membership.



Dorian E Brewer, Agent
 Insurance Lic#: 0144860
 2313 El Cajon Blvd
 San Diego, CA 92104
 Bus: 619-831-8172

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1708136

BIRNEY BUZZ

Birney Bees Look Back on the Past and Forward to the Future

Birney ended the school year with the return of a beloved tradition and a promoting class of 5th graders who look fondly on their years at Birney.

Students were excited for the return of Passport to Adventure, which was on hiatus since 2019. Many students had their first chance to experience this global celebration, which captures the heart of the IB experience. Each grade level represented a different country, created projects related to their studies of the country, and parent volunteers brought it all together to create booths with food, drinks, and activities.

The 2023 5th grade class celebrated their promotion with a ceremony on June 13th. As these students made their move to middle school, they reflected on their experiences at Birney and their futures.

Ryan S summed up what he'll miss about the unique experience students have at Birney: "What I will miss the most about being a Birney Bee are all the special events we get to do throughout the year."



Soon-to-be 6th graders Hazel M, Benny M, Miles B, Henry G, Zane J, and Gage M in the Birney garden.



Principal Ms. Amanda chats with a family at Passport to Adventure next to the 2nd graders' France booth.

Miles B and Benny M both said that "Running Club" would be what they would miss the most. Similarly, Henry G said, "I'll miss Run for the Green."

Many students said they would miss the people the most. Benny M will miss "my friends in the younger grades." Zane J said he'd miss "my friends and teachers I had throughout my life [at] Birney." Several students mentioned teachers, including special thanks from Miles B and Henry G to Mr. Marking and recognition for Mr. O'Malley from Anne K and Gage M.

Students' favorite memories of their time at Birney included experiences such as "being with my friends in student council" by Hazel M and Westley V fondly recalled "planting my tomato in Garden." Gage M said his favorite memory was: "Going to the Birney movie night and winning 1st place in the bake-off for my cookies."

While summer was a top contender for what 5th graders most looked forward to, other students were gearing up for future endeavors. Anne K said, "I am excited to move on to middle school at Roosevelt, and I am excited to continue the music program."

And with that, as we all look forward to the summer, don't forget that if you are in need of parking for the San Diego Pride Parade on July 15th, FOABE is hosting a fundraiser in the Birney parking lot starting at 7am. Happy Pride!

— Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and UH Community Member

Changing San Diego

Bernie and I owned Twiggs for 25 years before selling it last year and semi-retiring. Now we'll be leaving San Diego all together to move to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. We're leaving a city of 1.4 million people for a town of 10,000. Bernie has lived in University Heights for 43 years and I for 26. So much has changed in both the neighborhood and San Diego as a whole that it feels like we're leaving a different place than the one we moved to.

The business district of University Heights today is unrecognizable to what it was 25 years ago. Twiggs was really at the forefront of its gentrification. When we took over Twiggs in 1997, there was not a single restaurant on Park Blvd. El Zarape was an African American barbershop and Park House Eatery was a thrift shop. The liquor stores still on the street were there then along with Lancer's and Cheers. What's now Park and Rec was a gay bar called Bourbon Street. The bars accounted for what movement there was at night, but generally Park Blvd was very quiet, especially weeknights. The proliferation of thriving restaurants now and the fact that there's even one with a Michelin star was unthinkable 25 years ago.

But the bigger change has been an intangible one: the sense and pride of place that's developed around University Heights. I don't think half the people living here even realized this area was called University Heights until the street sign went up over 25 years ago; the area certainly didn't have it's own identity. But the development of the business district, the parent's involvement and investment in Birney Elementary, the development of Trolley Barn Park, community usage of it and the growth of an active community association and CDC have all contributed to this area creating it's own identity.

Life is change. University Heights has been an evolving neighborhood that we loved being at the center of for 25 years. We've loved our time in San Diego and we'll love our time in North Carolina. We'll always think of University Heights as the finest neighborhood in America's Finest City.

— Dan Stringfield



Bernie Horan & Dan Stringfield, May 1997

ROO NEWS

Roosevelt Middle School Celebrates Eighth Grade Promotion



Roosevelt eighth grade promotion ceremony at Observatory North Park theater.

Roosevelt International Middle School's most recent crop of eighth graders may have had a rough start due to a certain global pandemic, but during their final semester they enjoyed the perks of upperclassmen status culminating in a flurry of field trips, a magical night of dancing, and a promotion ceremony in one of Uptown's most beloved historic venues.

The pandemic cast a pall over all of our lives for a couple years, but imagine most of your first year of middle school happening from the screen of a laptop and then transitioning to a limited in-person situation fraught with apprehension and constrained by protocols to defend against an ever-looming threat. It really wasn't until their third and final year at Roosevelt that they were afforded something close to the baseline middle school experience, which some would say is no picnic under the best circumstances. Against that backdrop, the last two weeks of school for the class of '23 involved a heroic effort of staff, parent volunteers, and the students themselves to create a celebration worthy of their struggle.

On the Friday before the promotion ceremony, parents and staff decked out Roosevelt's campus in lights and tinsel to create (or at least approximate) a glittering fairyland that embodied the "Midsummer Night's Dream" theme for the eighth grade dance. The event was a tremendous success, featuring at least one Cha-Cha Slide, a Payaso de Rodeo, several awkward slow dances, and countless wacky hijinks.

The following Monday was the big day: the promotion ceremony at Observatory North Park, one of San Diego's foremost live music venues and venerated historic buildings. Befitting the international ethos of this International Baccalaureate school, guests were welcomed in just a few of the languages spoken by its students: Spanish, French, Italian, Swahili, Igbo,

Amharic, and American Sign Language. Two students sang a stirring rendition of One Direction's "History" to a standing room only crowd, and the Associated Student Body President made opening remarks. Principal Bernard Steinberger, whose tenure at Roosevelt also coincided with the start of Covidtimes, cited the International Baccalaureate Learner Profiles, encouraging students to be "open-minded risk-takers, who inquire to look deeper, and communicate with your principals intact, reflect on your success and failures, and strive to maintain a balance in your lives." SDUSD Area Superintendent Mitzi Merino made closing remarks, and, just like that, the students officially moved into the next phase of their education and lives.



Students and families celebrate in the North Park Mini Park after Roosevelt's eighth grade promotion ceremony

But before any phase-shifting, donuts. Also shave ice, photo booths, and plenty of hugs from friends and families as they congratulated these rising freshmen in a raucous celebration at the North Park Mini Park behind the theater. Here's to unlimited success for these kids in high-school and beyond!

For more information about Roosevelt International Middle School, visit roofriends.org.

— Andy Hinds

SEASON'S COLORS BRIGHTEN OUR DAY

bright leaves of color lend Autumn it's flair fun piles to play in memories to be made and a chill in the air bids Winter hello all dressed in mist meals in the house	and oh how Spring sings a whole new song rejuvenation's jubilation dots the hills with flowers brings the marine layer to town but the best time of all is when Summer's warmth puts a spring in our step happy spirit we adore out-of-door concerts for all	 Autumn's for lovers Winter's for cocoa Spring gives us life but Summer's for us all — Jon Von Erb, Your University Heights Poet
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BETWEEN THE COVERS

UH Library Summer Happenings



Happy Summer to the University Heights Community from your friendly Youth Services Librarian, Miss Helene, at the University Heights Branch Library. We are happy to continue providing fun family-friendly programs for all ages and for all to enjoy! While I love presenting various themed storytime & craft programs, I will be sharing the spotlight this summer.

By now, you probably already know about the library-wide 2023 "Find Your Voice"-themed Summer Reading Program. Be sure to visit the branch during July and August for entertaining presentations that include music and dancing as well as a magic quill pen workshop and a magical clown!

We will conclude with a wrap-up in September with a lively storytime where children perform as the characters in the story! These programs are generously sponsored by the Friends of the University Heights Branch Library.

And if that isn't enough ... Throughout the month of July we will be featuring our annual library-wide "Where's Odi?" contest – visit any or all 36 library branch locations to find a miniature figure of the hidden library mascot, Odi the Coyote, and receive a free specially designed button at each branch. Find all 36 Odi's and get an entry into a prize drawing! Odi represents the library motto of Opportunity, Discovery, and Inspiration.

July is also when San Diego celebrates LGBTQIA+ Pride and when SDPL features a specially designed library card commemorating pride (limited supplies available at all branch locations).

We also want to remind you about the free seed packets available for pick up during library hours. Seed varieties include fruit, vegetables, herbs, and wildflowers. Create your own backyard or windowsill garden!

You can learn further details about library programs by following the University Heights Branch Library's Facebook page (@universityheightslibrary) and the SDPL online calendar of events. Please see this UHCA newspaper's calendar page to make note of our July and August programs.

We look forward to the library helping you "find your voice" this summer and beyond!

—Helene Idels, Library Assistant II
University Heights Branch Library
San Diego Public Library
www.sandiego.gov

619-692-4912
UH Branch Hours
Monday-Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday
(Select branches now open on Sundays)

Bike Anywhere Day - Recap

Bike Anywhere Day (formerly known as Bike To Work Day) was held county-wide in San Diego this year on Thursday, May 18th. For more than 30 years, SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) has organized and hosted this event to promote commuting via bike, when thousands of cyclists and non-cyclists take to the streets on their bicycles to get to work, school, or just around their neighborhoods via bike rather than by car. SANDAG partners with local businesses and organizations to host pit stops all around the county that give out Bike Anywhere Day T-shirts, snacks, drinks, bike maps, safety tips, and more.

This year, the University Heights pit stop was hosted at the University Heights Library Branch on Park Blvd. The pit stop saw 115 cyclists this year, up from 65 cyclists who stopped at the UH



pit stop last year. Peggy Goings, University Heights Librarian wasn't sure what to expect, being first time pit stop hosts this year, but stated that she and her fellow librarians "had an absolute blast and were thrilled with the turnout."

"This was a great example of how our community can come together to promote a cleaner environment," said SANDAG and San Diego Supervisor Chairwoman Nora Vargas. "It shows our commitment as a county in promoting active ways of transportation and moves us closer to cleaner air and healthier and stronger communities in San Diego County."

Thanks to the University Heights Branch Library, UHCA and everyone who participated in Bike Anywhere Day.



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Planning Commission Delays SB 10 Decision

The San Diego City Planning Commission met on June 1 to review the **Housing Action Package 2.0**, a collection of over 50 zoning changes promoted by Mayor Todd Gloria. That includes California Senate Bill 10 (SB 10), which cities and counties have the option to implement. No other city in the state has chosen to adopt it. The Planning Commission received 850 letters in opposition to SB 10.

After a presentation by the Planning Department, there were presentations by Geoff Hueter and Danna Givot from **Neighbors for a Better San Diego**. They described the serious problems with SB 10. These include:

- * Up to 10 units on any lot would be excessive density, incompatible with existing neighborhoods.
- * Minimal setbacks, only 4-5 ft. Mostly without parking.
- * Would allow near-complete coverage on a lot, cutting down the trees to fit large buildings.
- * If adopted, it would last forever, with no ability to modify the zoning later.

Givot's presentation included this example of three-story apartments surrounding a house.



About 65 other speakers objected to SB 10, and spoke in favor of preserving historic districts.

Chair William Hofman expressed his disapproval of SB 10. He said it's "fatally flawed" for two reasons:

- * There is no plan to provide the public facilities needed by increased density.
- * It would be unwise to adopt a plan which is irreversible - cannot be changed.

The other commissioners agreed that the proposed changes needed more study, and should be brought back at a later date. Planning Director Heidi Vonblum tried repeatedly to get the plan approved at the hearing, but the commissioners were firm about the need for more work. A new hearing was scheduled for August 3, 2023.

—Tom Mullaney

Proposed Homeless Actions in Process

On May 2nd UH resident Lynn Wheat and I attended the City Council Meeting where public comments were voiced to the committee on the Mayor and Councilmember Whitburn's Unauthorized Camping Ordinance.

I was able to speak for 2 minutes in which I stated that although I am in favor of the ordinance 'in theory' my concern is with our understaffed police enforcing the ordinance. According to Police Chief Nisleit (Voice of San Diego March 15th & 16th articles) we are suffering from unprecedented staffing shortages which City Budget Analysts stated that the city will need to use overtime to plug shortages for the next 4-5 years and given the significant amount of attrition over the last 2 years it is predicted to take years before staffing levels recover.

Clearly, we all can see that the Mayor's October order to enforce unhoused residents to take their tents down during the day has been stymied. In light of these statistics and the fact that staffing shortages have prevented officers from focusing on quality-of-life crimes, what is "The Plan" to address and enforce this ordinance?

Several members of the UH Community along with residents from Mission Hills and Marston Hills/Hillcrest met at my home on May 10th to further the Homeless Solution conversation we started at our February UHCA meeting. Malik Thornton of Councilmember Whitburn's office also attended to shed some light on the ordinance and what is being done to implement it.

What we learned is that "The Plan" is in process of being created by the mayor's office and once finalized he will share that with us.

For those not familiar with the ordinance, amendments and additions to the San Diego Municipal Code will prohibit tent encampments at locations considered to be high risk of public health and safety, regardless of shelter bed availability, including:

- Within 2 blocks of K-12 schools
- Within 2 blocks of a homeless shelter
- Along trolley tracks and transportation hubs
- Parks
- Canyons
- And waterways like the San Diego River

It also prohibits tent camping anywhere on public property, if shelter beds are available.

In the meantime, two initiatives are being worked on to provide Safe Sleeping Sites with wrap around services to help people address the issues that caused their homelessness along with showers, restrooms, food etc. The first site scheduled to open in July will be located at City Maintenance Yard at 20th and B Streets and by September Lot "O" south of the Naval Medical Center on the edge of Balboa Park. From what I've read these two sites should be able to accommodate up to 500 people.

We ended our meeting discussing some of the ideas we can implement in our neighborhood to address solutions and we plan on attending the June Council Meeting where final comments on this ordinance will be heard before the full Council votes.

Stay tuned for more!

—Deborah Welsch-Morrison

Recently Sold Homes in University Heights



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UH GARDEN CLUB

UH Bike Tune-Up Clinic - Recap

The University Heights Bike Tune-Up Clinic held on Saturday, April 29th at Old Trolley Barn Park was a success! Event hosts, Chris Sera and Lauren Doucette partnered with Bikes Del Pueblo, a local non-profit based in City Heights that provides free bike maintenance assistance to the community, Trek Bicycles - La Mesa, and WD-40 Bikes to bring free bike maintenance and bike education to University Heights. Volunteer technicians worked to troubleshoot and repair over 60 University Heights' neighbors bicycles in preparation for Bike to Work Day, to be held on May 18th.



Zeb Brown, Events and Content Development Manager for WD-40 Bikes provided attendees with a lubrication and chain repair station and stated, "the event went really well. It was great seeing old friends and new faces gather to spread knowledge that contributes to making cycling in University Heights easier and more accessible through bike maintenance."

Local coffee roasting company, Coffee Cycle provided free coffee to participants and University Heights Community Association provided free bike helmets to kids. SANDAG provided free bike route maps and information on May's city-wide Bike Month. Lynt Clothing was also in attendance and sold cute bicycle clothing and activewear.

Doug Hoffman, a volunteer with Bikes del Pueblo remarked that he "had a great time seeing all of the bike enthusiasts who came out to get their bikes ready for SANDAG's Ride Anywhere Day. It was satisfying to see all of the kids and adults who came out!".

—Lauren Doucette

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COYOTE STORY

Here I am sitting at a red traffic signal northbound on Park Blvd, at that crazy intersection where the west end of El Cajon Blvd and Normal St intersect, the latter of which heads southwest to become Washington St.

So I see a coyote trotting from El Cajon Blvd toward Washington St. This was at 8:30 pm and no other traffic coming through - unusual!

Well, the only traffic was a coyote and he did have the green light! This was a strange scene even though coyotes run around our neighborhood.

A few weeks before, a mother coyote with her young one trailing behind jaywalked right in front of my car, then headed up a hill between houses through a cactus garden. This was 3 blocks away on Mission Ave (in the hilly block) at 10:30 pm (past baby coyote's bedtime).

—Naida Hindert

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UH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAPPY 135TH BIRTHDAY, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS!

There are many reasons to love University Heights including its convenient location, strong sense of community, and significant history. At 135 years old, University Heights is one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods and home to the former Mission Cliff Gardens, Bentley's Ostrich Farm, San Diego Silk Mill, Adams Avenue Car barn, the first reservoir for the city's municipal water system, and the San Diego Normal School, forerunner to San Diego State University.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

For more information about our community's early history, see uhhs-uhcdc.org/history.
— Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society



CALLING ALL UH VETERANS

UHCA looks forward to honoring our local veterans once again this coming Veterans Day in November. It's been too long since our last tribute. We've lost some brave souls the last few years but we still have Vietnam vets and many others who have served our country. UHCA would like to honor you this coming November. Please contact me with name, branch of service, years of service and deployments to: Nan McGraw, nmcgsan@aol.com or 619-260-0668.

Mystic Canyon Cleanup Recap

Mystic Canyon under the Vermont St. Footbridge is a City Park that is widely overlooked. At the June 4th Canyon Cleanup, an estimated 800 gallons of waste was collected by a tenacious team of urban canyoners, ranging in age from 8 to 80 years young. Waste Management removed the collection the very next day. Active camps were not approached out of safety and respect for all. It is estimated that a minimum of 1000 gallons of trash and

debris remain at the west end of the park near the freeway, posing a real fire danger that cannot be seen from the roads.

There's been several creative ideas aiming to turn this park space from a liability to an asset, such as dog park or a transit hub, but at the very least we can help the City keep our canyons clean. In order to realize a new vision for the space, much less the basic and crucial task of maintaining Mystic Canyon, the next step is to build public support for improving pedestrian access to our forgotten park.

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