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Summer in the Park Concerts | Page 7-10



Legendary Sue Palmer | Page 11

PARK BOULEVARD RECONFIGURED



Newly reconfigured 4600 block of Park Boulevard at 7am Sunday, June 19. Photo by Marc Johnson.

After over 1,500 signatures on a petition were submitted by UH business owner Carmen Cooley-Graham, dozens of letters from property owners, affected businesses, and residents, hundreds of social media posts, and scores of attendees who made their voices heard at the last UHCA meeting, the city of San Diego has moved forward with their plans to reconfigure Park Boulevard throughout University Heights.

As reported last month in UH News, businesses and residents expressed strong opposition to how this major reconfiguration was rolled out without community involvement and asked that the City come back to the community to discuss options or alternatives and try to find a workable compromise. Those pleas were largely ignored, and in many cases left unanswered by the Mayor's office and Transportation Department. Councilmember Whitburn and his office, to their credit, have been responsive – albeit with an answer most constituents weren't happy with. As the Mayor's representative Randy Wilde said very clearly during the May 5 UHCA monthly meeting, "this isn't something we're going to walk back from, we're moving forward."

The re-striping began on June 13 and as this issue was going to press, the re-striping was less than 50% completed along Park Boulevard through University Heights. It is expected to be completed over the coming weeks.

While a number of community residents have expressed excitement for the bike lanes, many more have expressed frustration with the loss of parking, confusing mix of lane changes, reverse-angled parking, and the loss of the center turning lane. As they did after the Mira Mesa/Golden Coast Drive and 30th Street bike lane reconfigurations, City spokespeople expressed regret for not providing better education and community outreach.

At the June 21 North Park Planning Committee meeting, over a dozen community and NPPC board members expressed frustration about the process and to the City for not coming back to the community to discuss significant changes of the long-standing plans before implementing them. NPPC chair Kate Callen and Uptown Planners chair Mat Wahlstrom announced a joint meeting to discuss this project, and how to improve the process with City and community. Information will be announced on social media, www.uhsd.org, www.uptownplannersd.org, and www.northparkplanning.org. —Marc Johnson



Protesters talking to media at Park and Madison.

Does UH want a restroom in Old Trolley Barn Park (again)?

Despite an overwhelming response to UHCA's survey earlier this year showing 72% of respondents do not want to see restrooms installed in Old Trolley Barn Park, members attending the June UHCA meeting were informed by Councilmember Whitburn's representative, Benny Cartwright, that the Mayor's staff will be conducting their own outreach and survey "in the coming months" to determine the voice of our community and ultimately shape the City's final decision on whether or not to construct the facilities.

In 2019, \$500,000 was budgeted and allocated by the City for "engineering and community outreach," and UHCA was advised that the Mayor's staff was

proceeding with the initial engineering plans and outreach.

Stay tuned to UH News and our UHCA social media channels, as we will immediately push out news about the survey information when the Mayor's staff makes it available. It is important that the City hear (again) UH voices on this issue. UHCA believes that the survey conducted between February and May of 2022 was statistically significant, with 250 responses, or about 3% of the approximately 7,490 households in UH responding. The UHCA survey requested the responders' zip code, as well as their self-reported "distance to the park," as we

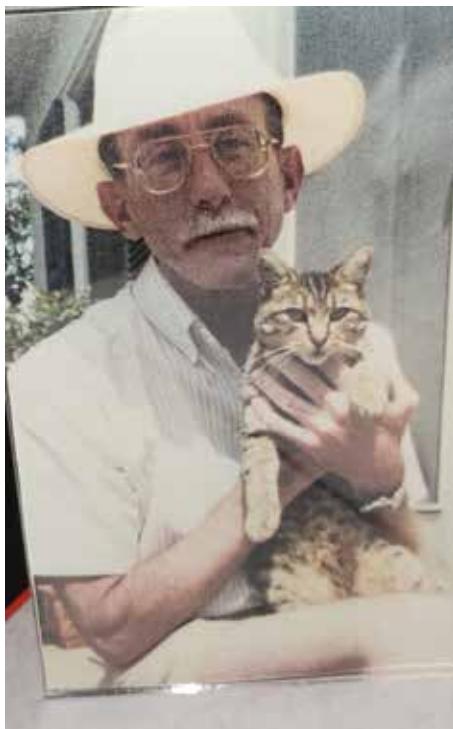
TBP restroom continued on pg 15

Pride Month Focus: Lambda Archives



Inside one of the rooms at Lambda Archives.

In the heart of University Heights lies an LGBTQ+ treasure: Lambda Archives. In 1987, working out of his apartment in Golden Hill, Robert "Jess" Jessop created the "Lesbian and Gay Archives" in order to preserve and document the history of the gay community in San Diego. Mr. Jessop was an early activist in San Diego's LGBTQ+ community. He fought to obtain city permits for the first Pride Parade in San Diego in 1974. A nurse by trade, when the AIDS epidemic started ravaging the gay community, Mr. Jessop sprang into action, collecting everything that reflected the history of LGBTQ+ people in our city. Sadly, Mr. Jessop died from AIDS-related complications in 1990.



Lambda Archives founder, Robert "Jess" Jessop with his cat.

Before his passing, Mr. Jessop's collection outgrew his apartment. He eventually moved his collection into a space in the building where Diversionary Theater is located on Park Blvd. The Lambda Archives was housed on the second floor until it outgrew that space and was moved to its current location on the ground floor (behind the Clark Cabaret). The downstairs space was renovated to include temperature-controlled storage rooms in order to protect the archived materials from further deterioration.

SUMMER BREAK

No UHCA meetings in July or August

The next UHCA meeting will be on **September 1**. Watch your email, www.uhsd.org, and social media.



Poster from San Diego Pride 1992.

Lambda Archives' mission statement is to collect, preserve, and share the local LGBTQ+ history of San Diego. The organization is made up mostly of volunteers and relies primarily on donations. However, over the years the organization has received numerous grants from state and local offices including from the California State Library. All of this money allowed Lambda to hire a full-time archivist, as well as a few part-time employees.

Current Board President, Nicole Verdes, has been a volunteer at Lambda Archives since 2015. She discovered the organization when she was writing her graduate thesis at Cal State San Marcos.



Nicole Verdes at front door of Lambda Archives.

Fascinated by the Archives' collection of materials, Verdes immediately started volunteering her time doing anything that was needed. Her background in finance led her to become Board Treasurer in 2017. A year later, she became the President.

Verdes is quick to point out that while there are many young people who volunteer at Lambda, it is the elder members of the LGBTQ+ community that Lambda Archives cherishes. The seniors are the ones who have collected and saved so many treasures from the past and donated them to Lambda. They are also the ones who can assist in identifying people in some of the older, vintage photographs that Lambda possesses.

Lambda Archives has been "closed" during the pandemic but open by appointment (admission is free). The pandemic downtime afforded them the opportunity to continue archiving and digitizing and renovating. They have a current exhibit entitled, "We Will Not Rest in Peace" that is on display in the front room. The exhibit represents the intersection of AIDS/HIV, Covid-19, and police brutality and their impacts on the LGBTQ+ community. It is a powerful message and an exhibit worth seeing. Verdes is hopeful that Lambda Archives will be completely open to the general public in time for July's Pride month.

—Jane Gilbert

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

June has been designated as a time to recognize our LGBTQIA community members—and allies—for their contributions and to celebrate their accomplishments in bringing about more fairness and equality for all. PRIDE month actually spills over into July here in San Diego, culminating with SD PRIDE weekend starting on July 15.

In such close proximity to Hillcrest, San Diego's historical "epicenter" of the LGBTQIA community, UH has a sizable community of its own, and an even greater number of amazing allies. UH has always been a welcoming and diverse neighborhood, one of the many reasons my husband and I chose this as our home when we moved to San Diego in 2012. For the first time, UHCA will be marching in the July 16 San Diego PRIDE parade (details on page 11), so please join your neighbors for a fun-filled day of celebration!

Last month, we spent a good deal of time and space talking about the Park Boulevard reconfiguration. As reported in this issue, the new protected bike lanes are here (mostly). Even though UH residents, by a pretty wide margin based on responses we received, were opposed, we never had the chance to see the plan or add input from the various contingencies, including businesses, residents, and cyclists. The changes were enacted in seeming "stealth mode," with City representatives responding only after the plan was discovered and publicized. In the meantime, the major thoroughfare going through our neighborhood was left in an incredibly unsafe manner without any lane markings—including at the already dangerous Park/El Cajon/Normal intersection—for nearly three months.

The mantra we've heard from the City and our councilmember is that this was done for safety, yet a review of SDPD records show (2) bicycles involved in traffic collisions since 2015, as far back as the online records go, and they were in the 3900 and 4100 blocks. Even worse, the plans that do exist, which have been shown and talked about in open forum with elected bodies, are not being followed. They are being modified in the field without further dialog.

That is not how our city planning should work. The whole goal of a healthy and robust city planning process is to have the voices of the community engaged in the process from the beginning and to base decisions on data. Ideas can be refined, and made better, only through transparency and open dialog. Without that, communities lose trust in the process **and in their elected officials**. I'm thrilled that our own Bill Ellig has composed an excellent explanation of how city planning works, the history of it in San Diego, and how it affects each of us, and we will be including his article in parts over the next few issues, starting with this issue.

Another public safety concern has come up again this year: adding "comfort stations" to Old Trolley Barn Park. For decades, this idea has come and gone, despite the park being lobbied for and built with the understanding and commitment that restrooms were not going to be included. UHCA has provided the City with survey results showing that our community is overwhelmingly opposed to park restrooms, but the idea continues to be pressed forward with \$500,000 taxpayer dollars spent on it so far. Even with an innovative compromise solution proposed, there has been **no response whatsoever from the Mayor's office**, while our Councilmember and the Parks & Recreation Director have at least

thanked us for the data and efforts.

Many of you in my age bracket will remember the old adage, "You can't fight City Hall." That has certainly been the case with the Park Blvd. reconfiguration: despite a large and vocal opposition to this flawed plan, the City has refused to discuss any of the issues affecting specific areas, nor has it been open to discussing any kind of change or compromise. I don't think many of us **want to fight** City Hall. I certainly don't. I want our community and City to **work together** in partnership for the

betterment of all. It is my deepest hope that the Mayor and his staff have learned from mistakes of the past and will work with the constituents they represent, rather than against us.



Marc



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



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.



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Yearly Membership

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

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

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

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

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



JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT UHSd.org.




UHCA NEWS

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UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

June 2 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The June 2 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via Zoom, with 27 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting.

Crime Watch

Officer David Surwilo shared that the SDPD is preparing for the summer. Police staffing is still an issue. One of UH's problem homeless people was recently arrested. David added that the majority of homeless today are due to drug law changes. Users and addicts commit crimes for money to get their fix. If it looks like a crime is in progress, call 911. Describe the scenario to the best of your ability. There are systems in place to offer help to those who need it. Officer Surwilo reminded us to use the Get It Done app to report homeless encampments.



Announcements

Marc Johnson shared that the Community Association has been focusing on the Park Boulevard Reconfiguration. Many UH residents are not aware of the city's plans. People are getting involved and speaking out. We are looking for volunteers for Beautification, Events, Website (with SquareSpace experience), and the UH News needs articles/stories. An experienced Lead Editor to help out is also needed.

Events

Stu McGraw shared that the UH Yard Sale will be taking place on Saturday June 4. Maps can be picked up in person and are available online. The Concerts in Trolley Barn Park begin July 8 from 6pm to 8pm for four consecutive Fridays in July. The Community Association will be marching in the Pride Parade on July 16, 2022. If you are interested in helping out with any of our upcoming events, please email us at events@uhsd.org.

Library Updates

Rachel Esguerra announced that the Summer Reading Program has begun and is open to readers of all ages. In-person programs have also begun, including ventriloquists, puppets, and clowns. We are reminded that the UH Library is an official ballot drop-off location. The UH Friends of the Library will be joining the UH Yard Sale. Book sales are ongoing at the library. Donations made to the library through the Library Foundation of SD will be matched by the city.

Updates from Elected Officials

Abbey Reuter from Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's Office shared that the Budget Process is underway. Public hearings are scheduled throughout June. You can reach out to their office for more information. The county has \$10million designated for

homeless issues. A Mental Health Crisis Line has been established at 888-724-7240. Don't forget to vote.

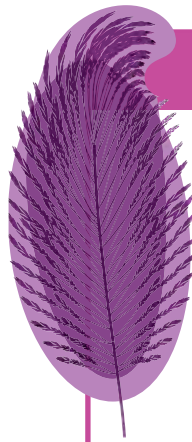
Benny Cartwright from Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's Office shared that the City Council is on Administrative Leave right now. The striping of Park Boulevard is scheduled to be completed in June. The impact on parking will also be addressed. Stephen Whitburn's Office continues to push for better communication. The Mayor's Office will be taking its own survey regarding restrooms in Trolley Barn Park. No action will be taken before the Mayor's survey is completed. We are encouraged to make our comments known to their office.

Featured Speaker

Robyn Grand, the Community Engagement Manager from Words Alive, joined the meeting. Words Alive is a children's literacy organization. Opportunities for life success are available by connecting children, teens, and families to the power of reading. Classroom programs such as Family Literacy Programs, Read Aloud Programs, and Adolescent Book Groups support Pre-K to 12th grade. Over 35,000 books have been distributed since March 2020, the start of the pandemic. Volunteers lead story times, craft projects, group discussions, activities, and creative writing sessions. To adjust to the pandemic, Words Alive created learning kits including basic school supplies, books, program instructions, and tie-in craft activities. Over 11,000 kits have been distributed. If you would like to donate supplies or help out in other ways, their website is www.wordsalive.org.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

JULY/AUG. PLUME

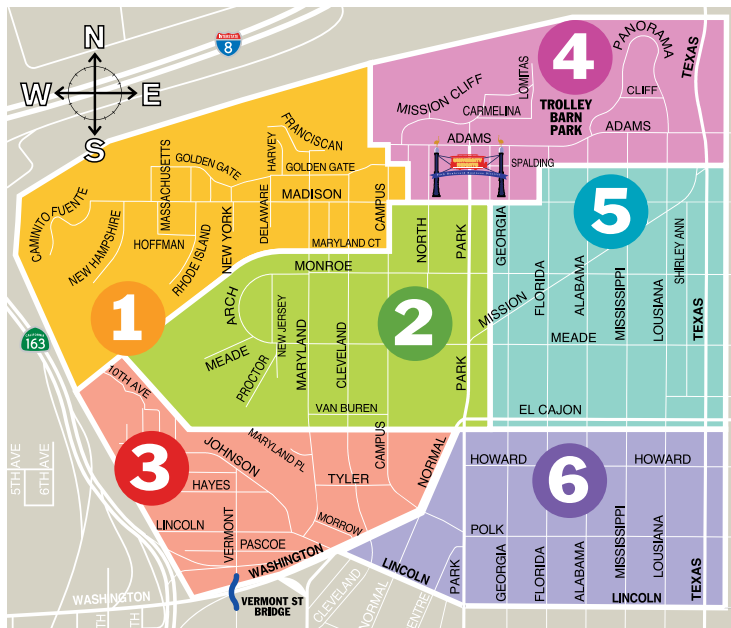


Every community should be so lucky to have an "energizer bunny" like Cecilia Vargas Vazquez. From her shop, **Cecilia's Fine Jewelry**, at the corner of Park and Adams, Cecilia has been a stalwart contributor to University Heights. From actively participating in every Taste of UH or Party on Park event to supporting our Summer in the Park concerts and the most recent Block Party, she always has her door open with treats and wine, and usually a special event like face painting for the kids. Cecilia is also a loyal advertiser and contributor to this paper and is active with our business outreach team.

For all of the help you've provided to our community, the countless jewelry cleanings and watch batteries replacements, the amazing engagement rings you've recreated, and for doing it all with the brightest and warmest smile, we thank you, Cecilia, with a Plume of appreciation!

— UHCA News Team

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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

- 1 Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Heather Wilcox zone4watchuhca@gmail.com
- 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@uhsd.org.



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

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

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical	911	PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@epath.org	619-810-8600
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.	619-531-2000	Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)	619-692-4945
SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency Street lights, potholes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support	
Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations	www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/	SD County Mental Health Access & Crisis Line	888-724-7240
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211	SDPD Community Relations Officers: David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov	619-692-4858
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856	SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Alice Birney Elementary Office	619-497-3500	Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
Animals / Non-Emergency	619-767-2675	Stonewall Citizens Patrol	info@stonewallcitizens.org
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444	UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
Code Violations	619-236-5500	University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus	UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)	Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: Report Online: https://getitdone.force.com	911
Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888	Graffiti Hotline:	619-527-7500
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E	800-411-7343	SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov	858-694-2888
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes	619-515-3525		
Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468		

Download this app for reporting non-emergency issues, like potholes, graffiti, code violations, overwatering, sidewalk problems, etc. to the City of San Diego <https://getitdone.force.com>



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.

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

Nature in the Neighborhood

Water-Loving Willows

Unlike most native plants that shut down in the summer, willows (*Salix sp.*) flourish near streams where the soil stays moist through the summer and continue growing. These trees are famously the original source of the active ingredient in aspirin, salicylic acid. Chewing on the stems or making a tea from the leaves provided Native Americans relief from headaches, cramps, muscle pains, etc. The straight, flexible branches were (are?) also used to make arrows, basketry, dream catchers, furniture, and even shelter. I've made use of willow branches myself, and you can see the results in the neighborhood.



Willow leaf

About a decade ago I was involved with a volunteer group who sought to restore native vegetation in Buchanan Canyon (the canyon that extends from Maryland Avenue down to the SR 163). One of the easiest and most successful projects we did was planting Arroyo Willow (*S. lasiolepis*) in hopes of creating habitat for the endangered Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). We first went down to Mission Valley during the willow's dormant season (late fall) and cut some branches (about an inch in diameter; avoid vertical "water sprouts") from mature willows growing along the San Diego River. One branch can yield several 18"



Buchanan Canyon

cuttings; we cut the part closest to the main stem at an angle to indicate which end goes down. After leaving them to sit in a bucket of water for a week or so, we simply stuck them in the ground (as deep as possible but with at least a couple of buds showing). No money spent, no holes dug, no watering needed.

Today, you can view the resulting grove of 40- to 50-foot trees from the canyon overlook on Lincoln Street. (Our unsuccessful efforts to eradicate the invasive giant cane (*Arundo donax*) are also evident by the large plants beneath the willows). But that's not the end of the story.

About two years ago, I noticed a young willow (knee-high at the time) in the parking strip along Cleveland Avenue. Now it is about 20 feet tall and has had to be trimmed back so pedestrians can use the sidewalk. The tiny willow seeds are attached to feather-like



structures that allow them to disperse long distances on the wind, and I'm convinced that this tree is the offspring of the willows we planted in Buchanan Canyon. Thousands of seeds have likely blown through our neighborhood, but this one was lucky enough to find a wet spot (perhaps due to a water pipe) where it could thrive. As if to confirm my hypothesis, today I located another clump of young willows (about five feet tall) in a parking strip on Maryland Street, even closer to their "parents" in the canyon.

Check out these trees now and keep coming back to see how fast they grow. And if you have a low, wet spot in your yard (and plenty of room), you might even take a cutting yourself and try your luck.

— Dave Flietner is proprietor of Design With Natives.

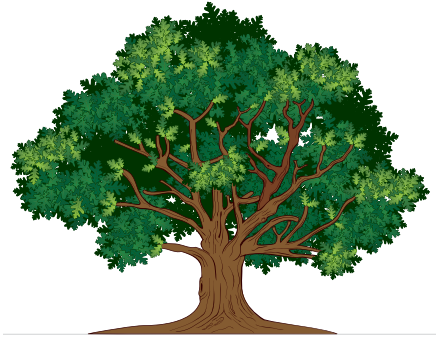


Wonderful Willows

UH BEAUTIFICATION

Healthy Trees, Healthy Community

If you have walked past Birney Elementary School over the last few weeks, you likely noticed that the trees along both Meade and Campus Avenues have received some tender loving care. On the morning of Saturday, May 21, members of the Beautification Team (B-Team), along with a group of dedicated community volunteers, worked side by side to weed, fertilize, water, mulch, and attach protective collars around each tree to help them grow and thrive. Together, we gave 35 volunteer hours valued at \$1,048.



The B-Team would like to thank Sol Schumer, MaryBeth Chruden, Sheila Moss, Paul Sanbo, Jeannie Hine, Dan Weiss, Guido Hamacher, Frank Santana, Brent Orlesky, and Phyllis Charlton for all their hard work. We also thank Guido, Frank, and Phyllis for their ongoing work in watering the trees on a regular basis.

If you would like to become a member of our B-Team and help plan and coordinate beautification projects or be added to our list of volunteers and notified about upcoming projects, please contact B-Team leader Jennifer Bishop at beautification@uhsd.org.

Why we support trees: Healthy trees are an essential part of our community. One tree provides a day's worth of oxygen for a family of four. Properly placed trees in urban areas like San Diego can save the city millions in stormwater management, air purification, and energy conservation. A single tree can absorb one ton of carbon over its lifespan, equivalent to erasing 11,000 miles of car emissions. A single mature tree has the same cooling power as 15 room-size air conditioners and can save a home up to 30 percent on its energy consumption. Trees provide habitat for birds and other wildlife and stress relief for human beings.

Please consider planting a tree today to benefit our community in the months and years to come.

— Jennifer Bishop



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SUSTAINABLE UH

Now You're Cooking With... Electricity!

We often associate cars with Greenhouse Gas emissions in California, but our homes and other buildings actually produce a quarter of those climate-change-related GHGs in our state. Natural gas, along with carbon-based electricity, is the culprit.

Last year California enacted new regulations to phase out natural gas as a power source for homes and other buildings. Starting next January, most new buildings, including older homes that receive extensive upgrades, will be required to include at least one heat pump to heat space or water, which will lead to buildings running solely on electricity since builders will likely not install gas along with electric heat pump systems.

The shift to "carbon free" electricity as a power source for our homes is a critical step in meeting our state's climate goals and can help residents save money, as well, if they switch to heat pump technology to warm their homes in the winter and cool them in the summer. There are even state-supported sources of loans to pay for upgrades. Check out "Go Green Financing" for details (gogreenfinancing.com).

The switch to electric appliances will also help residents stay healthier, since research has determined that gas stoves, particularly older ones in under-ventilated kitchens, are linked to serious diseases such as asthma.

Residents with poorly-ventilated kitchens and/or older gas stoves should actually fix those issues as soon as possible by improving ventilation and making sure the fittings connecting gas lines to stoves are tight and effective. If possible, we really should switch to electricity for cooking.

The good news is that those who can afford induction ranges and cooktops are finding even more precise heat control than they did with gas-burning stoves. Traditional electric ranges and cooktops are an affordable, perfectly workable alternative. Those of us with older appliances who can't afford upgrades or who rent might consider purchasing a portable electric or induction countertop burner.

Indoor air quality absolutely affects our personal health and quality of life. Moving as quickly as we can away from burning fossil fuels matters even more for us all.

—Judith Annicchiarico



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Padres' Organist and Multi-Talented Musician, Bobby Cressey

Bobby Cressey has lived on Cleveland Avenue in University Heights for the past 12 years and has worked as a musician his entire adult life. Since 2010, he has been the organist for the Padres at Petco Park. Bobby was born in Carlsbad and spent his early years in North County. When he was 10, his father's employer transferred the family to Edinburgh, Scotland, where the family lived for the next four years. Despite the culture shock of being an American kid in a foreign land, Bobby found the experience transformative. It was in Edinburgh that he started formal piano lessons, and his love for music was launched.



Bobby at his home in UH playing his baby grand piano in his living room.

When Bobby was 14, his father was transferred again, this time to Los Angeles, where Bobby's love for playing the piano was energized. He started playing in church (his mother was the choir director) and he jammed frequently with his guitar-playing friends in the garage. While in high school, he worked at a local music store and discovered jazz. Bobby eventually gravitated away from his classical training, drawn towards the improvisational nature of playing jazz.

Bobby returned to San Diego when he enrolled at UCSD as a structural engineering major. His passion for playing music remained strong, and he drove back and forth to L.A. to play various gigs. Bobby realized that in order to make a career out of music, he had to become even more versatile. He had to learn all styles: from classical to jazz, from rock & roll to reggae, and from country to swing.

When he was 24, his father suddenly passed away, and Bobby moved back to L.A. to be with his mother. He soon reintegrated into the local music scene, playing gigs with different bands, both live and in studio. In 2008, he was part of a cover band at the House of Blues where he played with many famous musicians who dropped in to jam with the band.

In 2010, Bobby had a decision to make: should he pursue a career as a touring musician or should he marry his girlfriend of two years and move into her house on Cleveland Avenue in San Diego? Bobby chose love and music. He came back to San Diego and continued his musical journey with his bride. He resumed playing at a local church, and when the bass player in the church band told him about a job opening as an organist for the Padres at Petco Park, Bobby thought he would be perfect for the job since he loves baseball and music.

Bobby attended Fan Fest in January of 2010, approached the Padres President, and boldly gave him his business card. Bobby called the Padres many times over the next few months but received no return call. He sent in an audition tape, as well as a video tape, but still no response from the Padres. Finally, right before the baseball season started, he received a call informing him there would be open auditions that week. Bobby arrived at Petco with his portable keyboard, plugged in, and played all of the songs he thought would be appropriate for baseball. One week later, the Padres called and offered him the job.

Initially, the Padres only wanted an organist for Throwback Thursday afternoon games. But over the years, the Padres wanted Bobby to play at all of the afternoon games, as well as some special event night games. Bobby attributes his success at playing the organ at



Bobby in the backyard of his home in UH - his urban oasis filled with mostly native plants, flowers, and fruit trees.

baseball games to his ability to stop a song on a dime. The game is the focus; Bobby is the enrichment. His baseball sense and musical talent are in perfect sync. As a result of his success playing for the Padres, Bobby was offered the job as the organist for the San Diego Gulls ice hockey team and the San Diego Sockers men's soccer team in 2017.

While Bobby enjoys playing the organ at sporting events, most of his time is spent as the keyboard player with one of San Diego's best cover bands, "The Mighty Untouchables."

The band is comprised of seven core members (including three different singers) who are all serious musicians. They can play any musical style, but they focus mainly on pop music. The band plays all over San Diego County, including at the local casinos, and are a popular band for weddings and corporate events.

Bobby doesn't just play music; he is also a composer. He was proud to release a CD of all original songs entitled "Cali Native" five years ago. And in 2021, during the pandemic, he released a CD of mellow background piano music called "Dumosa, Signs of Life."

Bobby usually is home during the weekdays taking care of his two young kids while his wife works as a speech therapist for San Diego Unified. He has a small piano that he uses to teach both of his kids the joys and wonder of music. While his 1-year-old son likes to bang on the piano keys, his 3-year-old daughter prefers banging on the drum kit in the garage. Bobby is happy that he can pass on his love of music to his children.

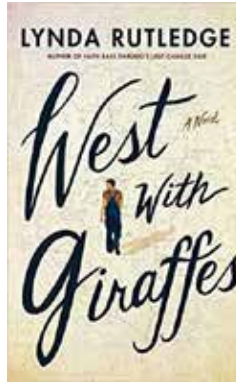
—Jane Gilbert

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

West with Giraffes

I was telling Susy Holts and some other friends about my dad, who was one of the few veterinarians in San Diego in 1940's. Occasionally he was called upon to treat animals at the San Diego Zoo. Then Suzy told me about a book she read titled West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.

The story is a fun adventure based on San Diego Zoo director Belle Benchley, the first female zoo director in the world, who paid for two young Ugandan giraffes and one rhinoceros to be shipped from Africa in 1938, an expensive endeavor for that time. Giraffes were difficult to capture and transport, but Benchley was a determined woman and quite the fundraiser. The giraffes miraculously survived a 52-day,



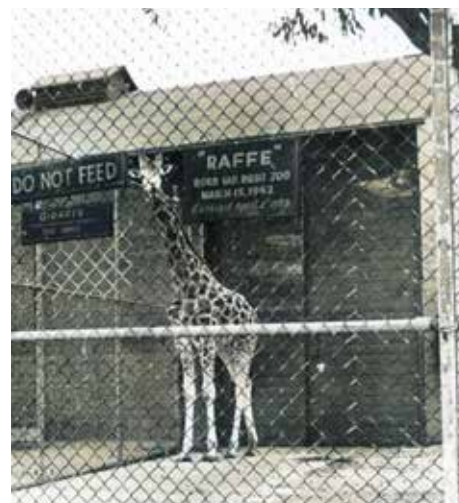
Pictured here, probably 1943, my veterinarian dad, Stuart Dingwall (holding me), with my grandfather Archibald Dingwall on the left. No giraffes, but I remember visiting Patches and Lofty as a lucky kid growing up in San Diego.

3200-mile journey and a devastating hurricane before arriving in New York. Only one injury occurred: the female "Girl" had a severely injured rear ankle.

Benchley's head keeper, Charley Smith, was charged with transporting these magnificent creatures from the east coast to San Diego to be the zoo's first giraffes. It was a rare sight to those who witnessed two giraffes being trucked on country roads for 12 days from New York to San Diego. The USA had just survived a depression, and the war in Europe was on everyone's mind. The giraffes' travels and arrival lifted the spirits of citizens, and for the first time in 22 years the Zoo turned a profit. "Patches" and "Lofty" lived at the San Diego Zoo for 30 years and had 7 offspring.

Enjoy this romp of a story based on real-life Belle Benchley and Charlie Smith. You will fall in love with these giraffes and the adventures of the fictional "Old Man" and "Woody."

— Nan Dingwall McGraw



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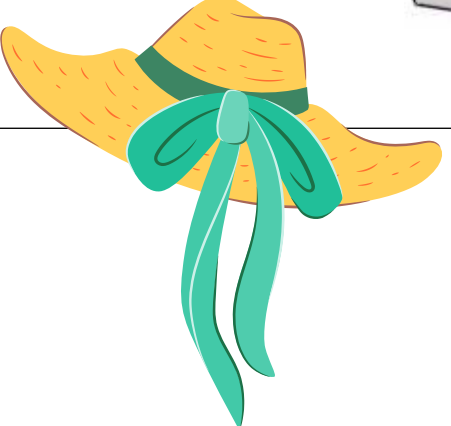

THE VENUE AND SALON

4521 PARK BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116
619-247-7086

July 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p><i>Happy Summer! No UHCA meetings in July or August, and the next issue of UHCA News will be distributed at the end of August. See you in September!</i></p>	<p>Nighttime Zoo continues through September 5th</p> 	<p>1  2 Canada Day No News Articles Due</p>		
<p>3 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p> 	<p>5 No SDUSD Board Meeting sandiegounified.org No Uptown Planners Meeting uptownplannersd.org</p>	<p>6 UHCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>7 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org</p>	<p>8 Trolley Barn Park Concert: Billy Lee & the Gulf Coasters 6 pm</p> 	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org No Friends of the UH Library Meeting Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14 Bastille Day</p> 	<p>15 Trolley Barn Park Concert: It's Never 2L8 6 pm</p> 	<p>16 Pride Weekend UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm UH Library: Dance to EvOLvE 1:30 pm</p>
<p>17 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Pride Weekend UH Library Book Sale 12-3 pm National Ice Cream Day</p>	<p>18 Nelson Mandela Day</p>	<p>19 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org</p>	<p>20 No UH Library Task Force Meeting</p>	<p>21 Comic Con UH Library: Kamishibai Storytime 4 pm</p>	<p>22 Comic Con Trolley Barn Park Concert: Plow 6 pm</p> 	<p>23 Comic Con</p>
<p>24 Comic Con Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28 UH Library: Jack and the Beanstalk Puppets 4 pm</p> 	<p>29 Trolley Barn Park Concert: Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra 6 pm Muharram Begins</p>	<p>30 International Day of Friendship</p>

August 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>31 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>1 Sept. News Articles Due</p>	<p>2 No SDUSD Board Meeting sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6 pm uptownplannersd.org</p>	<p>3 UHCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>4 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org No UHCA Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> 
<p>7 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Ashura Begins</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9 No SDUSD Board Meeting No Friends of the UH Library Meeting Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm Book Lovers Day</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> 	<p>12 World Elephant Day</p>	<p>13 UH Library: Oceans of Possibilities 10:30 am</p>
<p>14 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org</p>	<p>17 No UH Library Task Force Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 World Orangutan Day</p>	<p>20 UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm</p> 
<p>21 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm UH Library Book Sale 12-3 pm America's Finest City Half Marathon National Senior Citizens Day</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23 No SDUSD Board Meeting sandiegounified.org Sept. UHCA News Out</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 UH Library: Storytime with Miss Helene 4 pm</p> 	<p>26 Women's Equality Day</p> 	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>29 First Day of School</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>			

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



SUMMER IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES IS BACK! The University Heights Community Development Corp. (UHCDC) is ready to observe its 24th Annual Event in the Old Trolley Barn Park at Adams Avenue and Florida Street. Billy Lee & The Gulf Coasters will open the event on Friday evening July 8th 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 vendor

The four free Friday evening concerts in our own Trolley Barn Park will present one former band with its New Orleans type Jazz, one new group, another former group, and our local perennial favorite. The fun starts on Friday July 8th with Billy Lee & the Gulf Coasters and ending on July 29th with Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. In between there will be It's Never 2L8 and Plow. We'll be treated to a great medley of musical styles featuring Gumbo Jazz, Classic Rock, Bluegrass/Folk, and that keyboard magic of Boogie Woogie & Swing to cap it all off

The concert series is just one of the many ways the UHCDC 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 Library Task Force; UH Recreation Council 26 years of oversight of Trolley Barn Park, Birney Playing Field and UH Point Open Space; bike racks in the park; and over 150 + parking spaces.

Concerts are the result of the hard work of the all-volunteer UHCDC 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. Fenton Company, Red House Pizza, Kairoa Brewing Company,



24th ANNUAL – 2022

Friday Evenings – 6 to 8 pm
Trolley Barn Park
in University Heights
Adams Avenue & Florida Street

2022 Band Line-up

July 8
The Gulf Coasters
Gumbo Jazz, Vintage Swing

July 15
It's Never 2L8
Classic Rock, Pop & Dance

July 22
Plow
American Roots: Bluegrass/Folk

July 29
Sue Palmer and Her Motel Swing Orchestra
Boogie Woogie & Swing

Visit our website at www.uhcdc.org for links to bands appearing at Summer in the Park 2022!

LMC-A Lennar Company, Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam, Park & Rec, Roxanne Govari and Her Pemberley Realty Team, Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer with Coldwell Banker, Stu McGraw-Real Estate, UHCA for its UHCA News Graphics, Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center that is also 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 comes around or when you stop by the UHCDC booth to say thanks.


**UNIVERSITY
HEIGHTS**

University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC)



**july
8** | **Billy Lee & The Gulf Coasters**
Gumbo Jazz & Vintage Swing

BILLY LEE & THE GULFCOASTERS have appeared several times at our concerts as The Swamp Critters. Their reappearance this time will introduce us to Gumbo Jazz and Vintage Swing. Group leader Billy Lee was raised in the Cajun Triangle, and although he plays traditional Cajun and Zydeco music sung in Cajun French, he also writes original songs with a blend of Gulf Coast, doo-wop, and Texas Swing. He has also written a song about University Heights. His association with UH goes back many years to when he was employed by the SD Unified School District, working out of the Teachers Training Building making training videos for school employees. Band members include Billy Lee, accordion, vocals; Sandra Stram, fiddle, vocals; Just retired SDUSD music teacher Taylor Smith, bass; Chairman of The International Jazz Academy @ Grossmont College Chris Klich, clarinet, sax, flute; Music Degree USCD Mike Mesessa, drums (longtime drummer at Lawrence Welk theater).

Do visit their website! www.theswampcritters.com

**Sponsored by: Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air
Red House Pizza – Kairoa Brewing Company
Stu McGraw Real Estate
Community Appreciation Night**



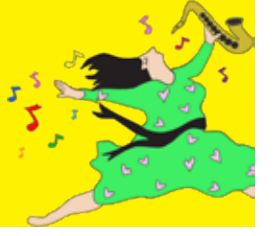
**july
15** | **It's Never 2L8**
Classic Rock, Pop & Dance

IT'S NEVER 2L8 is returning by popular demand after the band's performances at both our 2018 and 2019 concert series. It is a four piece female led, classic rock, pop and dance band based in Coronado, California. Their setlist of timeless, uber-popular, upbeat dance tunes, and the incomparable vocalizations of lead singer Deanna Haala, is guaranteed to get you up on your feet! IT'S NEVER 2L8 is a rare combination of four accomplished singers who, in addition to each singing lead on various tunes, also add in sparkling harmonies on others. They have had multiple bookings at top venues such as Humphry's, Coyote Bar & Grill, Belly Up, Coronado Concert in the Park series, San Diego County Fair, and numerous other top quality clubs and gatherings. Dance, sing, clap your hands, and join us in the park on July 15th and we think you'll agree, that regardless of your age or your musical tastes, IT'S NEVER 2L8 to rock and roll!

www.itsnever2l8rocks.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 2022 Entertainment Lineup



PLOW features American Roots music, borrowing its ingredients from American Heritage Music, while adding its own spices, and putting the whole pot on a rolling boil. Plow is the result of six men finding common musical ground, connecting the listener to America’s past and present. Band members include Doug Walker, bass; Jason Weiss, banjo; Chris Clarke, mandolin & vocals; Mark Markowitz, drums; Dane Terry, harmonica & vocals; Alex Watts, guitar. Thanks to Mary Anne Stevens for recommending the band, and on a side note – Alex Watts is a resident of UH.

www.chrisclarkemusic.com

july 22 | **Plow**
American Roots: Bluegrass/Folk

**Sponsored by: Mary Anne & Anastasia Brewer with Coldwell Banker
LMC-A Lennar Company – Park & Rec
Community Appreciation Night**



SUE PALMER & HER MOTEL SWING ORCHESTRA for the 24th Annual Event, will be closing the summer concert series in ‘swingin’ style on Friday evening July 29th. 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 29th. 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. www.suepalmer.com

july 29 | **Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra**
Boogie Woogie & Swing

**Sponsored by: Ross Lopez and Mark Ballam
State Assemblymember Christopher Ward
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-four 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.

Stu McGraw is a lifelong University Heights resident and volunteer. Stu practices residential real estate with Woods Real Estate Services. Stu is also Vice Chair of Uptown Planners and Vice President of University Heights Community Association. www.stumcgraw.com

Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer with Coldwell Banker 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 serves on its board. 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. Anastasia Brewer has been working with Mary Anne for over 30 years and has enjoyed all of the University Heights connections with Birney, neighbors and establishments. This is her 2nd year co-sponsoring along with Mary Anne.

Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam We are very thankful that 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 sixth 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 and Waypoint Public in North Park. Park & Rec has comfortably settled in University Heights as part of our community and currently are expanding into the former Small Bar. Contact Park & Rec at (619) 795-9700.

BLVD/H. G. Fenton Company returns again for a sixth year as a Co-Sponsor. Six 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.

Red House Pizza & Kairoa Brewing Company are joint Co-Sponsors for a third year in addition to sharing a joint venture to combine the founding principles of Red House Pizza in providing fresh ingredients with a creative flair. Kairoa is driven by a love of food and beer. Its name is a tribute to the former owners' shared New Zealand heritage. Kairoa has for the past 3 years offered a full service restaurant with shareable plates to enjoy with friends and family. The former Mueller College building has now been replaced by a modern structure featuring downstairs as well as upstairs roof dining. Both restaurants are under new ownership. Both establishments are now under new ownership.

Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air has been a Co-Sponsor now for four years after three years as a Band Sponsor. Since 1978, Mary Jean Anderson and her family have been serving San Diego with plumbing, heating & air conditioning maintenance and new installation services. The company slogan is 'Nobody WOWs clients like we do!' and the entire team at Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air is dedicated to this! Thanks again to this long established company for its seventh year of support! Call (619) 449-7646.

LMC - Lennar Multifamily Communities, a segment of the Lennar Company, is a nationwide developer of high-quality multifamily rental properties. LMC is in the process of completing construction of an 8-story, mixed-use 375-unit apartment building in University Heights on the site formerly occupied by the Fellowship Christian Church at Meade and Park Blvd. The development will extend to El Cajon Blvd. replacing the Lusti Motors parking lot. Lennar Corporation, founded in 1954, is one of the nation's leading builders of quality homes for all generations. www.livelm.com

San Diego 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 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 having Zoom meetings and hopes in September to again meet at Birney Elementary library the first Thursday of each month 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 Christopher Ward, California State Assemblymember was elected in 2020 to serve in the 78th Assembly District and is the Assistant Majority Leader. Prior to this, he served one term on the San Diego City Council. He and his partner reside in University Heights with their two children.

Friends of 'Summer in the Park' The following individuals have donated to this year's concerts and because of their strong support and appreciation, the UHCDC is hereby recognizing them as community sponsors of the event: Patti & Bill Wild.

Media Sponsors Adams Avenue BIA, Pemberley Realty e-newsletter, Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, Next Door, uhcdc.org, and UHCA News: Event flyer in June edition and a 4-page concert insert in July/August edition.

Local Groups & Businesses Represented Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air, Roxanne Govari of Pemberley Realty, Carmen Cooley-JA Cooley Museum, Mary Anne Stevens/Anastasia Brewer, UHCA, UHCDC, Stu McGraw Real Estate, Cecilia's Fine Jewelry, UH Historical Society, Jeffrey Taylor Art.

Exhibitors

- UHCA - T-shirts, caps, coffee mugs
- UHCDC - Tote bags, T-shirts, Brochures
- UHHS - UH Historic Tour Brochures
- JA Cooley Museum - Petition
- Jeffrey Taylor - Artwork

Refreshments

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

Contributor: Ernie Bonn

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 8th, July 15th, July 22nd, and July 29th. 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"/> Sound Crew Level	per event - \$500	Phone _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Band Sponsor	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

SUE PALMER, SAN DIEGO ICON

When you listen to Sue Palmer playing the piano, you can't help but smile, tap your feet, and nod your head in time with the beat. Sue's music is all about having fun and feeling good.

Born and raised in Ocean Beach, Sue grew up in a musical family. Sue's mom, Dorothy ("Dot"), grew up in the Texas panhandle during the Depression and was the drummer in a local band. Dot's sister, Arlene, was an alto saxophone player who toured the country with an all-female swing band. Dot's other sister, Tresse, was a piano player who lived with Sue and her family until Sue was 16 years old. Aunt Tresse took Sue under her wing and had a profound influence on Sue and her music. In Sue's family, they didn't sit around Walk With Us watching TV for entertainment. Instead, everyone was required to participate in musical performances, with Sue's mom taking the lead.



Sue Palmer at the keyboard

Sue started piano lessons at age 7. She rode her bicycle with her best friend down to the local piano teacher off of Sunset Cliffs Blvd. At age 10, Sue went to the Baptist Church with her best friend and heard boogie-woogie music for the first time. Sue was immediately attracted to the rhythm of this musical style and told her piano teacher that boogie-woogie was the style she wanted to learn. "St. Louis Blues," one of the first boogie-woogie songs Sue learned, became the most-played family song. When her piano teacher died, Sue began learning music by ear. She gravitated to the greats of the time: Little Richard, Ray Charles, and Elvis.



Sue graduated Point Loma High and attended college at San Diego State University as a political science major. She would play the piano for her fellow students in the lobby of her dorm. Upon graduation in 1969, Sue got involved in the civil rights and women's rights movements and wound up going back to SDSU in order to take Women's Studies classes. It was at this point in her life that Sue started playing piano with other female musicians and formed a band. Her first band, "Ms. B. Haven," included two women who are still with Sue: Sharon Shufelt (on drums) and April West (on bass then, and on trombone now).

Sue was part of a growing community of female bands in San Diego playing at local clubs and parties around town. To keep up with the times, the band played mostly rock & roll. But Sue longed to get back to her boogie-woogie/swing style roots, so she started a new band in the early 1980s that included men and women: "Tobacco Road." The new band attracted a large following in San Diego, playing swing/jazz music of the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's with regular gigs at Croce's downtown and The Belly Up in Solana Beach. During this time, Sue also played piano for "Hot Flashes," an improvisational comedy group created by Kathy Najimy (best known for her roles in the movies Sister Act and Hocus Pocus).



Sue Palmer and Jacob

In 1991, Sue's career path changed when she met the larger-than-life singer, Candye Kane. Sue left Tobacco Road and started touring the world with Candye Kane and her band, "The Swinging Armadillos." Sue met many world-famous musicians touring with Kane. And, more importantly, was making a decent living as a touring musician, as well as profiting from the sale the band's CDs.

Sue stayed with Candye Kane through the 1990s, but by 2000, Sue was tired of the touring lifestyle and returned to San Diego. A lot changed in Sue's life in the early 2000s. In 2001, her girlfriend gave birth to Jacob. Sue had never planned on raising a child, but with Jacob, Sue embraced the role of being a second mom. Then in 2002, Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer. She fought the cancer battle and is proud to be a 20-year survivor. Around this same time, she started her next band, "Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra," comprised of Sue on piano, Sharon Shufelt on drums/vocals, April West on trombone/vocals, Steve Wilcox on guitar, Pete Harrison on bass, Johnny Viau on tenor sax, and Deeja Marie on lead vocals. This band has been together (currently with a new lead singer, Liz Ajuzie) for the past 20+ years playing all over San Diego and at various jazz/swing festivals throughout the country. Through the years, the band has developed a large following of swing dancers. These "Swing Cats" enjoy dancing to live music with different partners and can be seen at most of the band's gigs throughout San Diego County. They add to the feel-good, festive atmosphere that Sue's piano playing brings to her audience.

If you want to catch Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra in our neighborhood this summer, they will be playing at the Clark Cabaret downstairs at the Diversionary Theater on July 1. And as the most popular band at the University Heights Concerts in the Park, they will be closing out the summer concert series at Trolley Barn Park on July 29. Both events are free. The only requirement is that you bring your smile and dancing shoes!

—Jane Gilbert



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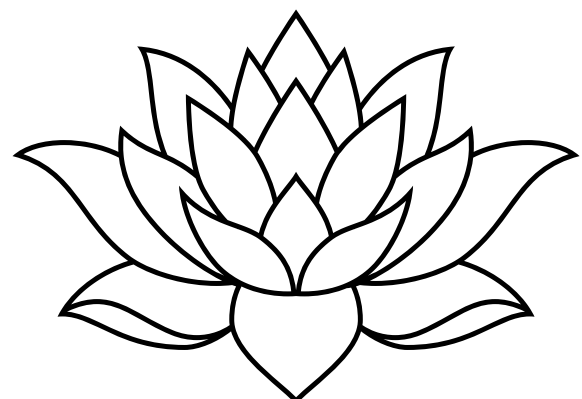
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BIRNEY BUZZ

The Buzz from our 5th Graders

As this article goes to publication, the Birney staff and families are preparing for year-end activities, including fifth grade promotion. These children were just third graders when the pandemic started, and now they are moving on to middle school. As they prepare to leave Birney, we asked them: **What is your favorite Birney memory, and what is the one thing you learned at Birney that has stuck with you?**

Here are the responses we received:

When I first got to Birney, the Garden seemed so big, but as I moved through each grade, it became so much more familiar and then it didn't feel so big anymore... One of the most valuable learning experiences was during fourth grade when we studied the Pilgrims and Native Americans. I liked seeing the story from both their perspectives. - Erin Z.

I really liked Run for the Green and how we did the fundraiser, which helped the school Specials program... How to communicate was one very important thing I learned at Birney and how to ask questions when you need something. - Dailey D.

The thing I will remember the most are the awesome teachers and Ms Bee... The thing that has stuck with me the most is the golden rule: treat others the way you want to BEE treated. - Nigel S.

Going on a limo ride to Mariposa to get ice cream! And having great teachers and friends... Treat people the way you want to be treated. - Ava G.

I'll never forget in kindergarten when Mrs. Walker made it look like a leprechaun had visited our classroom. She put tiny footprints and left gold coins and necklaces for us. It was magical... In 2nd grade, I had Ms. R, and she always said, "Try your best and forget the rest." This saying has always stuck with me and still motivates me today. - Emily D.

Growing food with Ms. Mindy and making food with her is one of my favorite memories. Also, making friends... Aside from all the regular school learning, having specials was so helpful in my learning. Through running club with Coach Lord, I learned to push myself to achieve my time goals. - Penny L.



My favorite memory is of the Birney Star Wars themed May 4th celebration when I got to bother the older kids... Learning about atoms and molecules was something that stuck with me this year and that I hope to keep learning about in the future. - Thomas S.

I will most remember how to be a risk-taker, because when I got bullied I learned how to stand up for myself... Something I have learned is everything. Something I haven't learned is also everything. This means I learned everything I know, but I still have loads more to learn. - Olivia E.

We also wanted to publish a poem by a group of 5th graders that was shared by Pina E. at our one and only Family Friday this year. The theme of the day was a celebration of reading and commemorating the Grand Opening of Birney's Think Big Reading Room.

A book is

Impressive, as well as expressive

A square with four corners that may bring fun horrors.

A world full of history as well as a mystery.

It brings us together, like birds of a feather.

To read is to open your mind to things that you will soon find.

But to find you must be, and to be you must See.

When you see. You will open your eyes to a world of surprise.

Like a fish on a hook, you'll get caught in a... book.

This poem was authored by Pina E., Avery D., Jonas H., and Dailey D. and inspired by Ms. Mindy, Olivia B. and Penny L.

We wish our 5th grade class well in their endeavors!!

— Vaychan Hallman, Proud Birney Parent and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member



Special Thanks

Our first Birney movie night fundraiser was a huge success, and we thank UHCA and Brent Orlesky for showing up at the last minute with a special treat of popcorn!



On June 4th with close to 50 UH households participating another hugely successful community Yard Sale was held. It was great to see everyone roaming the streets reconnecting and finding all kinds of treasures during the annual event promoted by your University Heights Community Association.

We'd like to thank all our friends and neighbors for coming out early on a beautiful Saturday morning to support our close knit neighborhood with a special thank you from UHCA to Thalia Dreissen, who kindly donated a printer to our UH events committee.



With Pride We Strive

(A Pride Celebration Poem For All Humanity)

What are we united in and willing/happy to accept, with tolerance being an uncomfortable term, in the twenty-thousandth plus of our existence? Deep down our need to accept, begs to demand freedom, understanding and love in our world so Jackson Pollockesque filled? Did color ever really blind, ask for prejudice, seek hate? Quite the contrary when we are all of a single painter's palette.

Could not the realization of our individual preferences of sex, creed and race be examples of the nouveau beauty paramount in all understanding? No two sides of any face show exactly the same expression. Needs and wants play out our sameness in all human persona. Are not the hues, tints glowing between each human rainbow color a tribute to the uniqueness of every person?

And what of uncommon blends, mixed uniquenesses? Black-Asian exotic, smooth with a hint of intrigue. Caucasian-Black, Hispanic-Euro, Indian-Latin, all human works of mixology's modern art? Shouldn't all be allowed to exhibit and own their individual pride of being?

What are we happily willing to accept, understand and respect if not the diversity of our unique, color-collage society? Our sexual differences should be secured in the open arms of appreciation by all fellow human beings.

What is the first thing we share when we see a rainbow, but exclaim? "Look everyone, a rainbow, how stunningly beautiful." Let us raise our voices - celebrate all the colors of humanity!

Jon Von Erb
Your University Heights Poet
6/2022

BETWEEN THE COVERS

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

Your friendly neighborhood library reopened a year ago on July 31. Have you visited us yet to see what's new? We did tons of cleanup and rearranging inside and even got some new goodies and staff to boot! Come check us out when you get a chance. We'd love to see you!



directly support the library for materials and programming.

Also happening in July, the library will be rocking out at PRIDE and offering the latest Pride card design. Prefer to be outdoors? Ask staff how to get on the list for a California State Library Parks Pass! In partnership with the First Partner's Office and the California State Library, State Parks is providing FREE vehicle day-use entry to over 200 participating state park units operated by State Parks to library-card holders.

We also encourage you to join the UH Friends, one of the best ways to help support and advocate for your local library. Please visit www.friendsofuhlibrary.org for more info!

All City libraries will be CLOSED on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day and Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

— Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov

Miss Helene, our Youth Services Librarian, is super excited (and so are we!) about our upcoming kids' programs to celebrate Summer Reading! On Saturday, July 16, get your groove on with Dance to EvOLvE at 1:30 pm. On Thursday, July 28, we're hosting Noteworthy Puppets at 4 pm. On Saturday, August 13, join ventriloquist Marc Griffiths's Oceans of Possibilities at 10:30 am. Finally, we'll be wrapping up summer fun with the wonderful Sparkles the Clown on Saturday, September 10 at 10:30 am. Come one, come all!

Are you a lucky enough to hold a Comic-Con badge? Come check out the library's booth where you can sign up for a library card and purchase some fun things from the Library Shop and also score free swag! Can't make it to Comic-Con? Well, you're in luck because the Library Shop is located on the first floor of the main library downtown. All purchases

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Happy New Year!

Don't worry, you're not in a time warp. It's just the end of the Friends of University Heights Library fiscal year and the start of the new one. Now that the 2021-2022 fiscal year is over, here's a look back at some of the things the Friends funded for our library during the year:

- Regular and summer programming
- Popular books through the San Diego Public Library leased books program
- Kids' special topic tote bags and book kits
- New furniture for the kids' area
- New lounge chairs in the adult area
- Plexi-glass screens for the front desk and check-out
- Security cameras inside and outside the building

We were able to do all this through membership dues and donations. We are already working with our great library staff on their wish list for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and we need your support to continue to fund our branch's needs.

If you are not a member of the Friends of UH Library, please join today.

You can pick up a membership form at the branch or on our website at www.friendsofuhlibrary.org. Every membership counts, whether it's a \$5 Student membership or a \$250 Lifetime membership. And because of the City of San Diego's Matching Funds program, membership dues and donations provide even more support to our branch.

We also need volunteers to keep our work going. We have several officers on our Board of Directors whose terms are up this fall. Please consider joining the UH Friends as a general volunteer or Board member. For information, please contact us at info@friendsofuhlibrary.org.

Please help us continue to provide funding to help our branch continue to be a great resource for the community.

Thank you for your support.

— Isabel Schechter, President Friends of the University Heights Library
Email: info@friendsofuhlibrary.org
Website: www.friendsofuhlibrary.org

Donations to The Friends of the San Diego Public Library are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and are used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.



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NEIGHBORHOODS IN TRANSITION: WHO DECIDES OUR FUTURE?

If you live in Normal Heights, North Park, or University Heights, you may be wondering why and how so many tall, dense buildings are being constructed in our neighborhoods with minimal public review.



1925 Craftsman Bungalow at 4222 Georgia Street being torn down will be replaced by the Georgia Modern which features 5 stories, 31 units, and 2 parking spaces

While some community members applaud these efforts to increase the supply of housing for any income level, others are concerned about the proliferation of housing in their neighborhoods without parking, design review, or community knowledge or input. Further, many of these projects are not targeted to very low, low, or moderate-income households.

This article provides a brief overview of how land use planning has been handled in San Diego and a description of recent State and local changes that are dramatically shifting how and where development can occur in our neighborhoods.

For example, both the “Georgia Modern” building below and “The Winslow” project at right have been permitted by the City without review by the North Park Planning Group. The Winslow project is already under construction.

All of this construction is part of a statewide and local effort to increase the supply of housing, particularly for very low, low, and moderate-income households.

However, in the City’s and State’s rush to dramatically increase the supply of housing in a short period of time, changes to Municipal Code have been implemented which circumvent adopted Community Plans and bypass the usual channels of community input.



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This article provides a brief overview of how land use planning has been handled in San Diego and a description of recent State and local changes that are dramatically shifting how and where development can occur in our neighborhoods.

Who Decides the Future of Our Older Neighborhoods?

Like many communities across California and the nation, San Diego has experienced a significant shortage of affordable housing over the last decade, which is only projected to worsen over the next decade.

Starting in 2019, the City of San Diego has attempted to remedy this shortage by implementing a series of piecemeal Municipal Code changes that often conflict with approved Community Plans, and that bypass the robust review and input of the Community Planning Groups.

Neighborhoods continued from previous page

Pets of the Month Charlie and Jojo



Charlie (left) and JoJo (right)

I am Charlie, an 11 lb. 4-year-old terrier/chihuahua mix, rescued from Tijuana by Second Chance Dog Rescue here in San Diego. Mom says I am very sweet and obsessed with chasing squirrels. I am the organizer of our daily activities. I let Mom know when it’s time for a walk or time to eat. I have my owner well trained to give us 3 walks a day.

My companion JoJo and I live with our mom here in UH. She moved here in October, 2018 and adopted me in March of 2020. I was great company because that was right when the pandemic started. Everything was closed, and people were staying home, but thankfully Mom had me to keep her company. Around August, 2020, Mom decided that I should have a companion, and that’s when JoJo came to live with us.

JoJo is a 7 lb, 3-year-old papillon/

chihuahua rescue from the Long Beach Animal Shelter. She was so terrified in the shelter that she wouldn’t walk and had to be carried everywhere. It took her just a couple of hours in our home to feel safe and start playing with me. Now she is a bundle of energy, and she likes to run around like crazy.

We hope to see and meet you while we are on our daily walks! — Charlie



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 uhcanews@uhsd.org!

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Neighborhoods continued from previous page



The Winslow University Heights, 4353 Park Blvd., 7 stories, 379 units, a CVS and other retail, 500 parking spaces.

Instead of a thoughtful, comprehensive plan of action based on data and community input, these code changes depend on developers to build affordable housing in the right locations. This market-based approach has already resulted in the haphazard development of unattractive, unaffordable housing in our neighborhoods that is eroding the quality of life and sense of place for existing and future residents and corroding public trust in local government to do the right thing.

In my opinion, the community plans for both North Park and Uptown need to be updated to include specific targets and possible locations for more affordable housing units, and these plans should be subjected to the thoughtful review and recommendations of the Community Planning Groups. Residents deserve the opportunity to shape the future of their neighborhoods, not to have it dictated by developers and City staff.

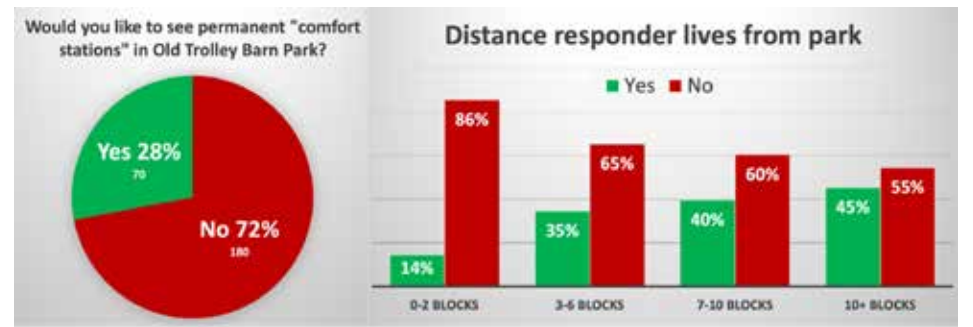
To paraphrase John Nolan, landscape architect and founding member of the American Planning Institute, in 1908, “when superb natural advantages and human enterprise are added to a sound public policy **and a comprehensive plan of action** (emphasis added), who can doubt the outcome?”

– Bill Ellig, UH Resident, Uptown Planners Board Member Emeritus

This is the first of a four part series on planning. Future parts will cover how planning works in San Diego, the history of Community Planning Groups, and how San Diego is addressing the housing crisis. The full series is available online now at www.cc-uh.org/blog/neighborhoods-in-transition.

TBP restroom continued from front page

believed it was important to gauge the level of acceptance for restrooms in the park in the context of how far people lived from the park, and to ensure that the local community members most affected were the ones being surveyed, versus previous methods where that pertinent data was not captured, i.e., at the Summer in the Park concerts where many attendees are not local.



The UHCA Board of Directors continues to “implore Councilmember Whitburn, Mayor Gloria, and City staff to explore a public/private partnership with the future business that is currently under construction across from the park. We believe there must be a way to incentivize a new business (and help drive foot traffic), while saving the City an astronomical amount of money that could be better used towards other more urgent needs, such as homeless outreach and housing. This would be a better outcome all around, not just for park neighbors and community residents, but for all park goers (especially those who “need to go!”).

— UHCA Board of Directors



If you have ideas for stories, a knack for editing, and want to get more involved with keeping our community better informed, we have a great way for you to exercise those creative muscles! UH News is looking for writers and editors and needs a few extra hands! This is a great way to volunteer and work with an awesome, fun, creative team.

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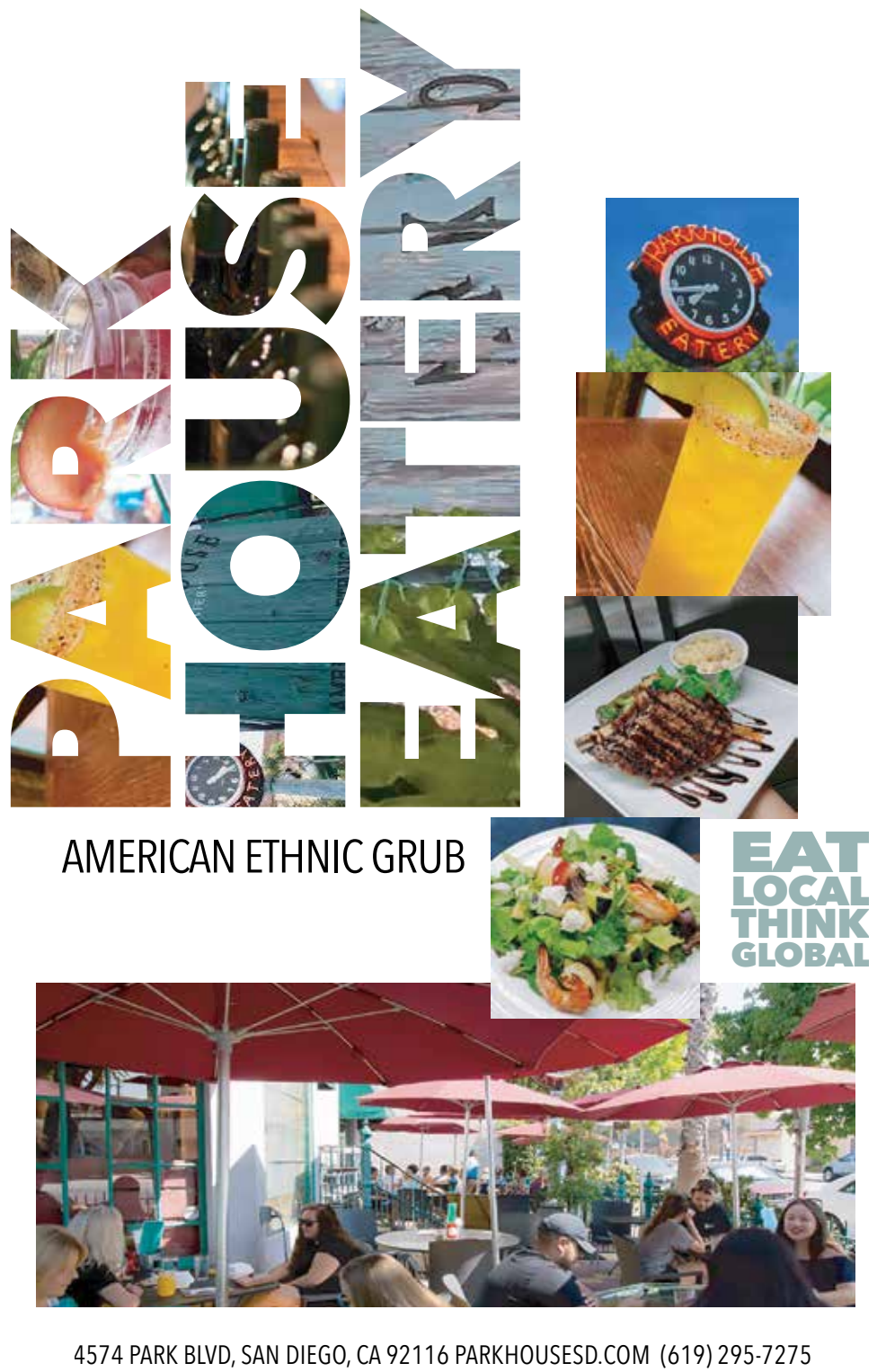
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