

# NEWS

University Heights Community Association June 2022



Winged Predators Among Us | Page 4



History Uncovered | Page 8



Clark Cabaret | Page 9

## PARK BOULEVARD RECONFIGURATION:

### Poor Planning, Poor Communication, or Both?



Rendering of current plan, Park Blvd from Adams to Meade eliminating center/turn lane, adding barricaded cycle track, and removing nearly 40% of parking.

In late March, the City of San Diego resurfaced Park Blvd. from Adams all the way through UH with a new “top coat” or slurry seal. A number of businesses posted on Nextdoor and Facebook about “no parking” tags being posted on their doors for days when work wasn’t being done and how it disrupted their businesses, expressing frustration with the lack of communication from the city.

The following week, when re-striping was expected, a news story aired on KPBS (reported by UH resident and KPBS reporter Andrew Bowen) about how Park Blvd. was being reconfigured with bike lanes. The Community Coalition of University Heights (which UHCA is a part of) reached out to Councilmember Whitburn’s office to find out what was going on, as no plans had been shared with the community via public postings or UHCA meetings. The councilmember’s staff responded that they didn’t know about these new city plans either and would investigate.

UHCA President Marc Johnson (who is also a property owner along 4600 Park Blvd.) reached out to the Mayor’s district 3 liaison and the City’s transportation department project manager to find out more details. Over the next several weeks, with little information coming back, more speculation was brewing in the community as business owners were seeing chalk markings being made to the un-striped street that didn’t make sense and as more people were posting on social media about ensuing safety issues, including people not stopping at intersections and near accidents.

The University Heights Parking District, the organization responsible for parking meters and improving parking options, was not approached for input about this plan. Ernie Bonn with the UHCDC board, which provides oversight to the district, said “they are removing parking spaces and haven’t discussed this at all with our City-contracted parking district!”

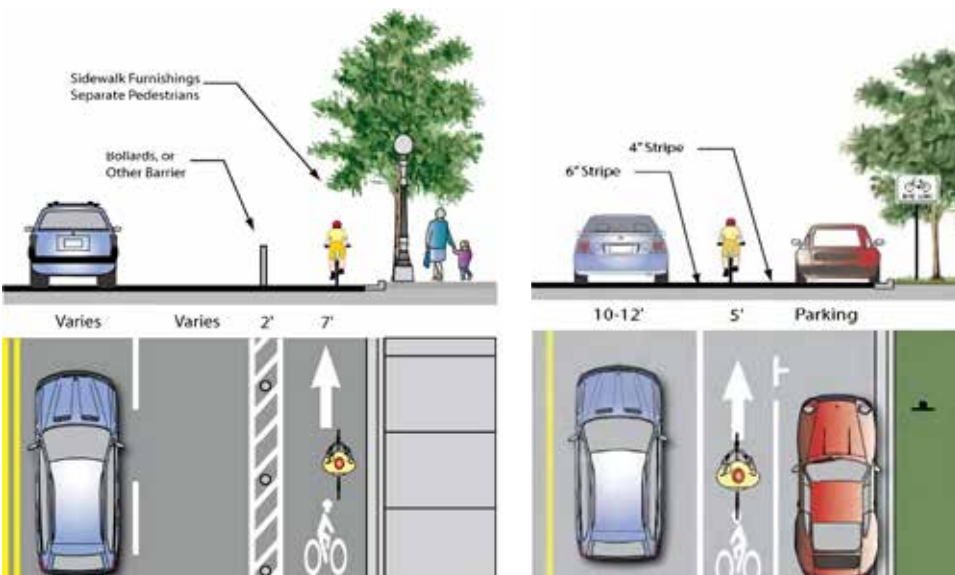
Carmen Cooley, owner and curator of the J. A. Cooley Museum along 4200 Park Blvd., tenaciously worked through the city’s maze to find someone who could tell her what was going on and received preliminary plans only for her block, which she shared with our organizations. This was the first clue on what was to come.

“When I finally saw the plans that they sent me, I was shocked. Removal of parking, removal of turning lanes, bike lanes with barriers – this looked like 30th Street all over again,” Cooley said. “I begged the Mayor and anyone else to come out here and see how this would impact not just my business, but all businesses on my block, and be a complete nightmare for everyone, but all I heard back was crickets.” Cooley started a petition drive to demand better communication and seeking a dialogue with the city to implement a compromise solution, and at press time has over 1,000 signatures.

As news reports aired on multiple TV stations and public pressure surfaced, representatives from the Mayor’s office and Transportation department stated that they would discuss the plans with the community at the May 5th UHCA Community Meeting. In a preliminary discussion with Johnson, the Mayor’s liaison stated that the bike lanes along Park “have been in the community plans for years, and as we resurface streets, we take advantage of that to implement adding bike lanes where indicated.”

### What The Community Plans Show

UH is divided along Park Blvd., with Uptown Planners responsible for west of Park, and North Park Planning Committee responsible for east of Park (with the street divided as well). CCUH member Bill Ellig researched the relevant community plans (Uptown Community Plan November 2019 and North Park Community Plan, 2016) and found



Cycle Track Bike Lane - what is being proposed

Class II Bike Lane - what is in the community plan

Park Boulevard Reconfiguration continued on Page 10

## University Heights Had a Block Party!

### UH Comes out to Celebrate Together



On Saturday, April 30, UHCA shut down the 4600 block of Park Boulevard for the 25th Anniversary Sign Celebration. In April of 1997 our iconic sign was unveiled and illuminated for the first time. Now, 25 electrifying years later, the community came together once again to celebrate. *And what a party it was!*



Attendees were able to purchase a wristband which allowed them access to food samples, beverage samples, discounts and more. Pemberley Realty provided live music. Kevin Whaley, the sign’s designer, had a superb historic display showing how the sign was created, as did Nan McGraw and Ernie Bonn, our neighborhood matriarchs who were instrumental in making the sign happen.



The UH Library and Odi the Coyote, along with the Friends of Alice Birney Elementary, hosted games; and Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry sponsored face painting for the kids. Tasty bites were served by Parkhouse Eatery, Twiggs, Kairoa, Red House Pizza, El Zarape and Plumeria. Yipao, Summer’s Market and Serpentine Cider offered yummy drink tasters. Even local politicians made an appearance. It’s estimated that well over 1,000 people attended. Hosting an occasion where we could reconnect with friends and neighbors was long overdue. Every attendee we spoke to shared their delight.

NEXT UHCA MEETING  
**JUNE 2**  
**6:45 PM**

VIA ZOOM

**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
**ROBYN GRAND, WORDS ALIVE**

Reading is the foundation of life success. Learn what Words Alive is doing to combat illiteracy in San Diego and how you can get involved. The presentation may even inspire you to hit those reading goals of your own.

[UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING](http://UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING)

### SUMMER BREAK

**No UHCA meetings in July or August**

Look for summer activities in the July/August issue of UHCA News.

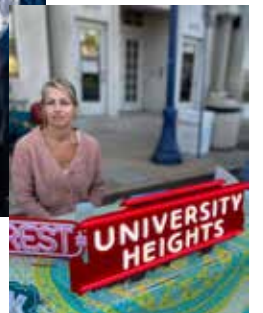
The next UHCA meeting after June will be on **September 1**. Watch your email, [www.uhsd.org](http://www.uhsd.org), and social media for details.



We are blessed to live in such an extraordinary community. People love living, working, dining, shopping and playing here. Thank you to everyone who supported and attended this event. What a wonderful success. It’s all of you who make University Heights San Diego’s best neighborhood.

A special Thank You goes out to all of the volunteers who made this event possible. UHCA is a non-profit 501(c)3 which relies on the contributions of our residents and businesses. We are grateful for you all. *Special thanks to Bill Ellig, Brian McClean, Susan Blackwell for sharing your photos!*

— Brent Orlesky





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

I normally use this space to talk about how awesome our community is, or about special events coming up. This month, however, I'm going to weigh in on a very hot topic that is happening right now, one that has the potential to dramatically reshape things in UH.

In this issue we have a recap and some viewpoints about the reconfiguration of Park Blvd. I want to address this issue from a few different perspectives: I'm a property owner along Park Blvd. on an HOA board that includes 2 businesses and 4 residences, I'm an enthusiastic cyclist, and I'm an advocate for UH residents and businesses as your UHCA President.

I'm going to be blunt: this street reconfiguration has been an absolute failure of communication and planning from the beginning. The community organizations that have existed for decades were not informed, the parking district that has implemented so many great projects that have increased parking in UH over the years (with more on the books if they get funding) was left completely out of the loop, and even our City Councilmember and his staff were caught by surprise. We only found out about this plan through a news story, and finally (over a month later) from City staff members who finally presented the plan that they were already implementing.

This is not how things should be. We have Community Planning Groups, community associations and other entities who focus on this stuff. We have plans – available online! – that detail what the city should be spending our tax dollars on. These plans have gone through public notification and debate

through elected bodies. Yet they are changed without any input, dialogue, or exploration of any compromise – they are enacted by fiat. By unelected city staff members, according to their plans, interpretations, and desires.

As a resident and property owner between Adams and Madison, I can personally attest to how crazy this block can be in the evenings, sometimes with over a dozen ride-share and meal delivery drivers holding on the street. Add to that a lot of pedestrian traffic crossing the street (many times in the middle), plus regular car and bus traffic, and don't forget this is also an ambulance and fire truck route—and this block sees a lot of near misses. Adding to the safety issues on this block, the street lights that are funded by the UH Maintenance Assessment District (that we pay added taxes for) have been inoperative for over three years, leaving this stretch of Park very dark, but that's another point of failure that needs to be addressed by the city at another time. During the daytime hours, the center lane is used by USPS, UPS, FedEx, Amazon, and other delivery services. I have not heard yet how those vital services will be accommodated in the city's plan.

My building has parking for residents, which is great, but businesses don't. A hair salon is not a place someone is likely to visit on a bike. I don't know many people who will put a helmet on their freshly styled hair. Neither is a healthcare clinic where many patients are being treated for injuries (and many of them drive with handicap placards on their cars). I also worry about deliveries via our 10-foot alley, which is shared by people living along North and Park. One delivery truck (or garbage truck) can block someone in, and if that is the only place for trucks after Park Blvd. loses

the center lane, it will be a problem for dozens of people.

As a cyclist, I avoid Park Blvd. except to cross it. I use Cleveland and Maryland when I need to go south into Hillcrest. I can also use those streets to connect with the Georgia-Meade bikeway to get to Kensington and beyond, and I can also connect to University to get to Mission Hills, and to Balboa Park, Downtown, and beyond via 4th and 5th. Speaking of 4th and 5th, they have wonderful protected bike lanes, until you encounter a large object or person in the lane. Because of the way those streets are laid out, cyclists are "trapped" and can't swerve out of the way. On 5th especially, a cyclist needs to stop and pick up their bike, get out of the lane to get around the obstacle, and then get back on their way.

I love biking. I love the many trails and bike lanes in our city. I love being able to get from our neighborhood to the waterfront, Mission Bay, PB, Balboa Park, the River – it's easy and safe. But I can't use my bike to run errands most of the time. There are very few places where I can lock it up and not worry about it being stolen, and carrying groceries back from Trader Joe's or Sprouts isn't practical. I also had an accident last summer because I was not on one of the roads with a dedicated bike lane, and as I moved out of the way of cars, I fell and broke my shoulder (and

will be getting surgery on it soon). So I understand the dangers cyclists face and how painful recovery can be. We need safe ways for cyclists to get around. That's why I'm extra careful about where I bike and the routes I take.

Finally, as your UHCA President, there has to be a compromise that our community and city can reach here. We should be able to find a way to offer cyclists a safe way to get around UH, provide our businesses with precious parking spaces to help ensure their success, and help move more people off of 100% reliance on cars.

As our neighborhood gets more dense, we have to address mobility in a practical, thoughtful, and inclusive way. That means our City leaders- elected and staff – must listen, explore, adapt, and be flexible. They need to observe, gather data, and implement solutions for all of us. We as residents and business owners also need to listen, adapt, and be flexible. There is no other way to move forward, but that starts with an open and transparent flow of ideas and consensus building – something I have seen precious little of lately.



**Andy's Plumbing** Blaine Gross  
At Your Service  
License # 1001958

Installation, Service & Repair

andysplumbingsandiego.com • 619.606.7134

## MEMBERSHIP

### NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

**BUSINESS GOLDEN OSTRICH**  
Pemberley Realty, Lotus Accounting & Tax Service

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP**  
Mystic Mocha, Shangri La Vintage

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**  
John Sandbower & Craig James, Phyllis Charlton & Randi Dropkin, Debra Fisher, William & Patricia Wild, Greg & Marcia Sorini

*Thank You!*

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

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



### OUR MISSION

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights.



### Yearly Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

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@uhsd.org](mailto:membership@uhsd.org)



**JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT [UHSd.org](http://UHSd.org).**

## UHCA NEWS

**EDITORIAL TEAM** Susan Holts, Nan McGraw, Judith Annicchiarico, Thalia Driessen, Marc Johnson (Publisher)

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Jane Gilbert, Randi Seigall, Brent Orlesky, Sol Schumer, John Lovio, Judith Annicchiarico, Jon Von Erb, Vaychan Hallman, Rachel Esguerra, Isabel Schechter, Kristin Harms, Thalia Driessen, Andy Hinds, Marc Johnson

**GRAPHIC LAYOUT** Patty Howland

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS** Paul Farris, Marc Johnson, Patty Howland, Jane Gilbert, Thalia Driessen

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Email Susan Holts at [ads@uhsd.org](mailto:ads@uhsd.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.uhsd.org/submissions](http://www.uhsd.org/submissions) for details.



## UHCA OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Marc Johnson, [president@uhsd.org](mailto:president@uhsd.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT** Stu McGraw, [vp@uhsd.org](mailto:vp@uhsd.org)

**SECRETARY (ACTING)** Brent Orlesky, [secretary@uhsd.org](mailto:secretary@uhsd.org)

**TREASURER** Brent Orlesky, [treasurer@uhsd.org](mailto:treasurer@uhsd.org)

**WEBSITE** [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org)

**FACEBOOK** [@universityheightscommunityassociation](https://www.facebook.com/universityheightscommunityassociation)

**INSTAGRAM** [@universityheights\\_sdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity)



# UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## May 5 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The May 5 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via Zoom, with 97 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at [www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting](http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting).

### Crime Watch

Both Nan McGraw and Officer Michael Hayes shared that property crimes have decreased. Pam Isaacs and Mary Anne Stevens shared that catalytic converter thefts are occurring and not being reported. The SDPD is preparing for the Memorial Day Weekend. Officer Hayes encourages people to attend our meetings and email him if they have questions. Articulate the situation clearly when calling 911.



### Announcements

Happy Cinco de Mayo! Robyn Grand from Words Alive, who was scheduled to speak tonight, will join us in June. Tonight's discussion will focus on the Park Boulevard Reconfiguration. Marc believes we're all looking for the same answers. We're reminded that we need volunteers. Our business members were featured and thanked for their continued support.

### Beautification

Sol Schumer shared that the Beautification Team will be performing maintenance on the trees along Meade Avenue near Birney Elementary on May 21. Volunteers to help with clean-ups and maintenance around our neighborhood are welcomed.

### Events

Stu McGraw thanked everyone for attending an amazing block party, the 25th Anniversary Sign Celebration. Special thanks to Ernie Bonn who acquired the funding for the sign to be built and to Kevin Whaley for his iconic design. The businesses that participated and supported the event were thanked. Additional thanks to all the volunteers whose hard work led to its success. The UH Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 4. Register at [UHyardsale@gmail.com](mailto:UHyardsale@gmail.com).

### Library Updates

Rachel Esquerra was thanked for the Library's participation in the Sign Celebration. Odi the Coyote was there, much to everyone's delight. Rachel shared that the Library will be a mail ballot drop off location until Tuesday, June 7. Check their website for some exciting upcoming events. Book sales downstairs have resumed.

### Updates from Elected Officials

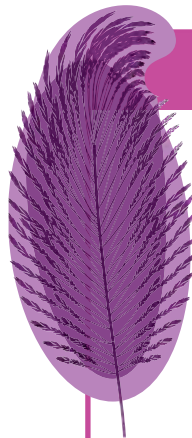
Malik Thornton from Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's Office shared that the City Council Budget Committee is in session. Councilmember Whitburn is aware of UH's budget priorities. He is also aware of our survey results regarding restrooms in Trolley Barn Park. His office is grateful for our feedback.

Christopher (Stopher) Vallejo from Senator Pro Tem Toni Atkin's office shared that during the national discourse around the Supreme Court, the Senator has issued statements related to a woman's right to choose. This issue will be going to a vote. She is also working on the current issue of rising gas prices. The use of surplus tax dollars is being discussed. Two legislative priorities for her are the California Dream For All Program (for first time home owners) and AB2343 (regarding in-custody deaths in our County jails and fair treatment for those in our legal system).

### Featured Speakers

This evening's discussion was regarding the Park Boulevard Reconfiguration from University Avenue to Adams Avenue. Randy Wilde, City of San Diego Senior Policy Advisor, opened the discussion. Park Boulevard was identified as a high priority project in the 2013 Bicycle Master Plan. As streets are resurfaced, the plan will be implemented. He does admit that communication with communities needs to improve. Multimodal safety, Emission Zero, and Climate Shift goals are a priority. Everett Hauser, Program Manager, Traffic Engineering Division, continued the discussion. There will be three (3) classes of bike lanes: painted lines, shared lanes, and separated bikeways. A lot of information and data was shared including street usage, preferred routes, multimodal needs, the effect on parking, transit priorities, etc. A Q&A session followed. Are the bike lanes going ahead no matter what? Does bicycle ridership increase? Does transit usage increase? Will diagonal parking be eliminated? Is there concern about the impact on businesses? How will deliveries occur? What about street cleaning? Why wasn't our Parking District contacted? Plus many other questions were asked, discussed, and answered.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary



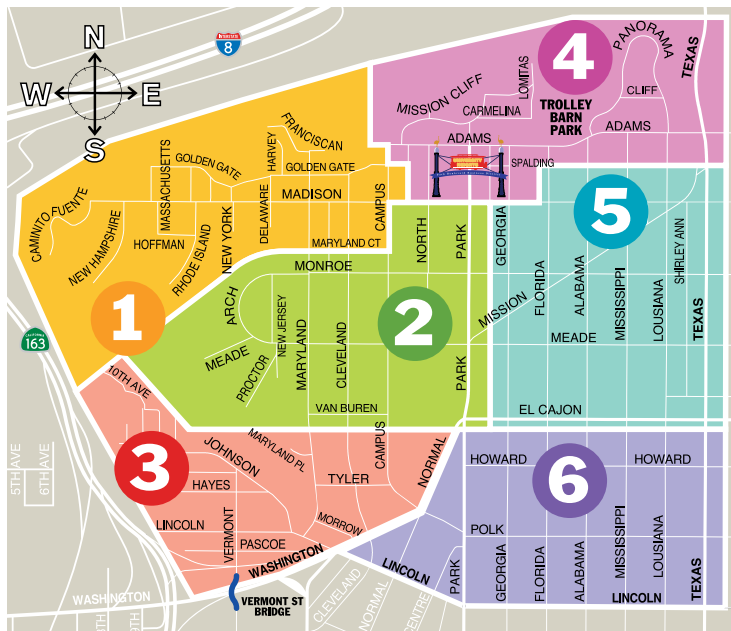
## JUNE PLUME

It takes a great deal of effort to put together an event like our Block Party. From getting neighborhood businesses on board to organizing volunteers, making sure we have merchandise ready, have permits in place with the city, insurance, event sign-ups, publicity, signage..., not to mention the physical work like setting up tables and barricades, managing garbage, and the list goes on.

The UHCA Events Team, including Brent, Lisa, Stu, Lauren, and the amazing group of volunteers, pulled together, worked with the rest of our UHCA board members, and brought this event, our "first after the pandemic," to brilliant life. You all have earned our deepest thanks and recognition, symbolized by this Plume.

An extra handful of plumes goes to our Treasurer, Brent, for managing the myriad details and making sure nothing fell through the cracks, all with a smile and genuine kindness. Brent, you are the heart and soul of UHCA, and we are so lucky to have you here!

## 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](http://uhsd.org) or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.

- 1 Nan McGraw [nmcsan@aol.com](mailto:nmcsan@aol.com)
- 2 Pam Isaacs [pamisaacs1@gmail.com](mailto:pamisaacs1@gmail.com)
- 3 Mary Lange [mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com)
- 4 Heather Wilcox [zone4watchuhca@gmail.com](mailto:zone4watchuhca@gmail.com)
- 5 Tamara Zyhylij [tamara@tamarazrealestate.com](mailto:tamara@tamarazrealestate.com)
- 6 Nan McGraw [nmcsan@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:signs@uhsd.org).

## UH PHONE BOOK

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



# Nature in the Neighborhood

## Winged Predators Among Us



No ecosystem is complete without its predators. These come in many forms and scales, and from several origins. Most minute creatures live under threat of being eaten by predatory insects, spiders, lizards, or small birds; whereas these small hunters may, in turn, become food for larger predators, which are typically either mammals or larger birds. “Top predators” are defined generally as those that live primarily or exclusively on the flesh of other creatures, but are rarely, if ever, eaten themselves. The popular conception of these carnivorous creatures includes “lions and tigers and bears (oh my!)” but also includes the “raptors” or birds of prey.



In keeping with our running theme of nature in the human environment of coastal San Diego County, I will focus on the species of diurnal raptors that lives closer to us than many humans may realize. The mammalian predators, as well as the nocturnal raptors (i.e., owls), are deserving of separate articles of their own.

San Diego County is home to more than a dozen species of diurnal raptors, but

three—the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)—occur year-round and nest in the complex urban-wildland interface of developed mesas and wild canyons with peripheral plantings of Eucalyptus and other exotic and native trees. Although adept at hiding their relatively large nests in secluded parts of the interface, these birds hunt widely by day so are not difficult to see or hear by the diligent observer. The red-tail is more prone to extended soaring (I am watching one out my window as I write this), hunting more from the wing than the other two, so is perhaps the most conspicuous of the three. This species typically hunts ground-dwelling prey, probably subsisting largely on ground squirrels in our area. Mostly silent, the red-tail will occasionally announce its presence with a loud, strident “keearrrgh,” especially if a human observer comes too close to the nest.



The red-shoulder is closely related to the red-tail, but is actually intermediate in behavior between its cousin and the Cooper’s Hawk, hunting more often from a concealed perch and moving adeptly through dense tree foliage to surprise its prey, which is typically ground-dwelling (rodents, lizards, etc.). Early in the nesting season (early spring) the red-shoulder hawk often reveals its presence with incessant, piercing “kier, kier, kier...” calls from concealment or on the wing.

The Cooper’s Hawk is the most secretive of the three. Its body design of relatively short wings and long tail assist it in stealthy and dynamic flights through dense vegetation to secure its prey, which typically consists of other birds, distinguishing it ecologically from the other two species. This hunting strategy



requires it to be the master of the surprise attack. Also largely silent, it communicates with its kin with occasional rapid, high-pitched “kek! kek! kek! kek!” calls.

With so many predators about, even the urban environment is no safe place for small animals.

— John Lovio.

Local hawk photographs courtesy of Dave Holtz



### SUSTAINABLE UH

## Leaning Into an Imperfect Solution

[This column covers strategies supporting environmental sustainability in UH. I usually report on interesting ideas that people can implement to help make a difference. This month, I am reflecting on a current and somewhat contentious topic. The information and facts are accurate, but the conclusions are my own -JA]



Business owners along Park Boulevard have good reasons to be concerned about the city’s planned elimination of more than 80 street parking spaces and the center turn lane on key stretches of this important commercial thoroughfare to make room for new protected bike lanes. Many residents share those concerns since quality of life in our neighborhood depends in part on our local businesses flourishing and continuing to offer unique opportunities for dining and shopping. Lack of available parking hurts businesses in car-centric So Cal, even here in walkable UH.

It doesn’t help matters when the city makes plans to remove street parking without consulting residents. While Mayor Gloria’s representatives at the May 5 UHCA Community Meeting apologized for poor communication, they were unwilling to concede that the planned extension of the Georgia-Meade bikeway, one block away from Park, in addition to other less-traveled and easy-to-ride streets, makes the new protected lanes seem like a redundant, wastefully expensive amenity.

They also would not concede that the city’s give-away to developers (no parking spaces required if you build within a mile of transit!) means we end up with even fewer parking spaces for residents and visitors. “We want [residents of these new buildings] to not be forced to own a car,” is what we were told, but of course more affordable units, where transit riders are more likely to live, aren’t even required to be in the same buildings as the more expensive units along transit routes.

And then there is the problem of whether the new lanes will actually be used. Bike Coalition representatives say protected lanes are needed to increase rider safety, while some other cyclists avoid these lanes on major thoroughfares, preferring to share the same lanes that car drivers use or to ride on less trafficked streets.

What we really need is valid data, rather than anecdotes, which the city could produce by working with disinterested area university transportation and statistics experts. Or perhaps they could publicize studies that have already been completed, such as the 13-year study of a dozen major US cities, which found that “protected, separated bike facilities” were one of the “biggest factors associated with lower fatalities and lower injuries for all road users,” including car drivers. That study, published in the June, 2019 Journal of Transportation and Health <https://tinyurl.com/IOTHJune19>, suggests we should have more of such protected lanes around San Diego rather than fewer.

The reality is that we’re in the midst of a climate crisis, as one Campus Ave. neighbor noted in the May 5 meeting Zoom chat. We as a society have to do so much more than we’re now doing to decrease carbon emissions. Whether we like it or not, encouraging more people to ride bicycles is a solution we can implement immediately. Electric cars for all who want them and public transit so convenient and pleasant that people give up their CO2-spewing personal vehicles isn’t happening any time soon. What we do have now are bicycles and people willing to ride them instead of driving, when they feel safe enough to do so.

It would be great if city leadership would always come up with the most logical, ethical solutions to benefit everyone equally and would manage those solutions brilliantly. Until that magical era arrives, here’s hoping that the new protected bike lanes encourage thousands more to ride instead of drive. And here’s hoping that cyclists ride safely in their new lanes, stopping at red lights and stop signs, signaling when they plan to turn or change lanes.

Those of us still driving our gas-powered cars should thank them for their service and take care to share the road. And cyclists who aren’t already doing so should ride to Park Blvd. for shopping and dining whenever possible. We are all in this together, after all.

— Judith Annicchiarico

# FIBRE

THE VENUE AND SALON

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



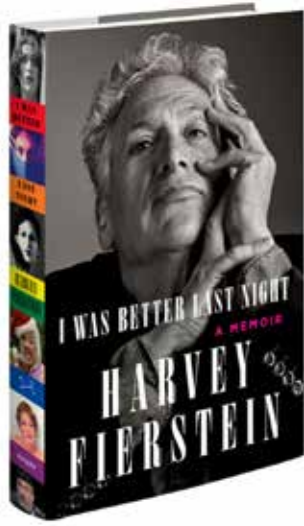
WHAT ARE YOU READING?

# “I Was Better Last Night: A Memoir” by Harvey Fierstein

I first “discovered” Harvey Fierstein when I saw the movie “Torch Song Trilogy” back in the late 80s, and it was love at first sight. As an actor, he’s amazing – but as a writer, he’s transcendent. As a playwright, producer, or actor (sometimes as all of them) he’s been involved in stage and screen projects including Torch Song Trilogy, Hairspray, La Cage aux Folles, Casa Valentina, Bella Bella, Gently Down the Stream, A Catered Affair, Mrs. Doubtfire, The Good Wife, and Cheers, among many other creative endeavors.

This long-awaited memoir does not disappoint. Whether or not you are a theater buff who gets every New York theater world reference, Harvey does a magnificent job taking the reader from his humble beginnings in Bensonhurst, New York, all the way to the heights and lights of Broadway, Hollywood, and the West End. Lots of behind-the-scenes details, inside-his-head moments, struggles, and colorful social commentary take the reader to the exact time and place where things happened, with all the messiness, comedy, and creativity in full view.

Harvey doesn’t hold back – he is, after all, a gay icon who began his performing



career in 1971 in Andy Warhol’s Pork at the experimental La MaMa theater, so there is a little bit of unapologetic and frank “adult” content and some profanity, but it helps paint a very colorful picture of the dramatic social change happening at the time.

Harvey has a very distinctive voice, literally and figuratively, so I was extra thrilled that he narrated his audiobook (available on Audible), and I listened, absolutely glued to that gravelly voice speaking to me as if we were in his living room. His storytelling was chronologically sectioned into 59 chapters, making for an easy and quick read/listen, which felt almost conversational, full of funny one-liners and quips. I’m going back to watch Torch Song again with a deeper understanding and appreciation.

— Marc Johnson

NEW IN UH

# Shangri La Vintage

On Saturday April 30, local residents gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the University Heights sign. That same evening Shangri La Vintage opened its doors on the corner of Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue. For many years the previous shop was recognizable by the neon “Psychic Readings” sign. But now, instead of a reading about the future, visitors will experience a blast from the past – in fashion!



Monica Acevedo of Shangri La

Shangri La Vintage’s owner, Monica Acevedo, hails originally from Houston, Texas but went to SDSU for college and taught in the San Diego Unified School District. She developed her eye for identifying and pricing quality clothing while working at Buffalo Exchange and then selling vintage clothing on Etsy as well as farmer’s markets and fairs.

In 2021 Monica opened her first brick and mortar location on El Cajon Blvd., which was a great “starter” store, but with little visibility from the street and very sparse walk-by traffic. She considered shuttering her doors completely when she got a call from Cecilia of Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry on Park Blvd., who wanted to know if Shangri La would like to buy some costume jewelry. When Monica explained she may be closing, Cecilia told her about the vacancy that had just opened up across the street and provided contact information for the building owner. Monica knew it would be the perfect location, and the rest is history.

Shangri La Vintage features clothing from the 50’s through the 90’s. You’ll also

find accessories, jewelry, shoes, select housewares, curated vintage menswear and one rack of new / modern clothes. Future plans include offering retro-inspired gifts.

Monica first heard the name Shangri La associated with the music producer of the Beastie Boys, Rick Rubin, and his recording studio of the same name. When she looked further into the meaning she learned the name referred to a utopian paradise and thought this would be the perfect name for her store, a place where you’ll be greeted by a multitude of colors and patterns when you step through the door. When you visit, be sure to say “hi” to the two shop dogs, Murphy and Tutti.



Shangri La Vintage is located at 4676 Park Blvd. For more information, call (619) 977-7500 and follow @shangri.la.vintage on Instagram.

— Thalia Driessen



**STU McGRAW**  
SAN DIEGO REALTY

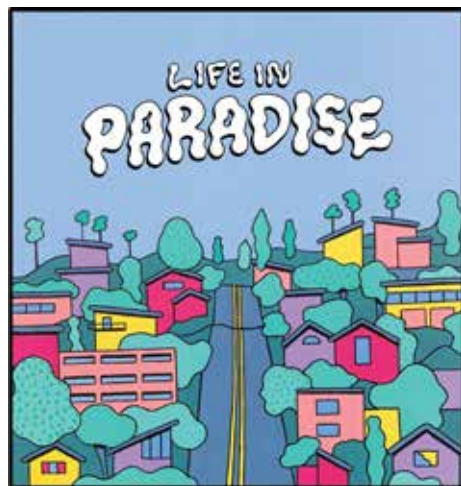
(619) 793-7795  
SOLD@STUMCGRAW.COM  
WoodsRealEstateServices.com  
CA DRE #02014601



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Grace Johnson

“Life in Paradise” is the name of the first solo art show by Grace Johnson. Her eye-catching flyers were distributed around the neighborhood announcing the opening of her show on Saturday, April 30 at her garage turned pop-up gallery space located in the alley between Cleveland and Maryland streets. On display were



a variety of bold and colorful paintings which she described in her artist’s statement: “This work is a reflection of living in San Diego, my paradise, the last 4 years. Growing up in the Midwest I was surrounded by a very flat landscape. Since moving out west I’ve been in awe of the layers of hills and valleys in the landscape and seeing them from elevated viewpoints. These pieces are inspired by various neighborhoods in San Diego. The scenes are more of an abstract representation



Grace Johnson

than an exact depiction. I love clean lines and modern architecture and have created contrast in the works with organic and fluid shapes representing vibrant foliage.”

Johnson has been drawing and admiring art her entire life. Her dad owned a graphic design firm and gallery in Indianapolis, and she was trained in graphic design and received a degree in visual communication design from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. She’s been a freelance brand designer and marketing consultant the last 4 years, but her goal is to do art and large-scale murals full time.

Johnson’s medium is mostly acrylic paint on canvas, but some works are done with marker or drawn digitally on an iPad using the Procreate app. Her work has been

influenced by both landscape painters and graphic artists including the late, great Keith Haring, Steven Harrington, Aaron Kai, and local SD artist Hanna Gundrum, to name a few.

Johnson moved to University Heights just last December. She’s a renter and lived previously in downtown and Ocean Beach. She says she loves this neighborhood and that “it feels a bit like a small town within a large urban city.”

Building connections within the community is important to Johnson. She’s grateful for her neighbor Jerry DeLane who runs @scrapreclaimed and

to Michael Carini (@acrylcalchemy) who saw her flyer in the neighborhood and posted it to his Instagram audience of 20K.

Reflecting on her show, Johnson said, “It was so incredible! I am so grateful that my UH neighbors were receptive to my flyers and showed up to support. I even sold a few of the smaller paintings and a handful of giclée prints.”

For more information about Grace Johnson, visit her website at [gracejohnsondesign.com](http://gracejohnsondesign.com) or follow @gracejohnsondzn on Instagram.

— Thalia Driessen



**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JEWELER**

CUSTOM DESIGN  
JEWELRY & WATCH REPAIR  
ESTATE JEWELRY  
AND APPRAISALS

4669 PARK BLVD  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116

CALL 619 297-7300  
FOR APPOINTMENT





# June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <b>UHCDC</b> 6 pm <a href="http://uhcdc.org">uhcdc.org</a> <b>UHCA Beautification Meeting</b> 6 pm <b>July News Articles Due</b>	2 <b>UH Park &amp; Rec Meeting</b> 5:30 pm <a href="http://uhcdc.org">uhcdc.org</a> <b>UHCA Meeting</b> 6:45 pm Via Zoom <a href="http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting">www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting</a>	3  <b>Curbside Recycling &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b>	4  <b>UH Community Yard Sale</b> 7 am
5 <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm <b>World Environment Day</b>	6 <b>D-Day</b>	7 <b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> <b>Uptown Planners Meeting</b> 6 pm <a href="http://uptownplannersd.org">uptownplannersd.org</a> <b>Election Day</b> Last day to mail or drop off ballots	8 <b>World Oceans Day</b> 	9	10	11
12 <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm	13 	14 <b>Friends of the UH Library Meeting</b> 6 pm <b>Hillcrest Town Council</b> 6:30 pm <b>Flag Day</b>	15 <b>International Museum Day</b>	16  <b>Curbside Recycling &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b>	17	18
19 <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm <b>Father's Day</b> <b>Juneteenth</b> <b>Nighttime Zoo Opens</b>	20  <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b>	21 <b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> <b>North Park Planning Committee Meeting</b> 6:30 pm <a href="http://northparkplanning.org">northparkplanning.org</a> <b>Summer Begins</b>	22 	23	24	25
26 <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm	27	28 <b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> <b>July/August UHCA News Out</b>	29	30  <b>Curbside Recycling &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b>		

## DIVERSIONARY THEATRE

OPEN SIX NIGHTS A WEEK!




COME TO THE CABARET OLD CHUM!

THEATRE ■ HAPPY HOURS ■ LIVE MUSIC


4545 PARK BLVD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
(619) 220-0097 | WWW.DIVERSIONARY.ORG

# PARK HOUSE



AMERICAN ETHNIC GRUB

EAT LOCAL  
THINK GLOBAL



4574 PARK BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116 [PARKHOUSESD.COM](http://PARKHOUSESD.COM) (619) 295-7275



# BIRNEY BUZZ

## Getting Back to What We Took for Granted

Our beloved Coach Lord brought back running club, and kids get to burn that excess energy off before the first bell. Running is now a social activity that more and more kids do not want to miss. Spring also marks the time for standardized testing for the upper grades, and the fact that we are focused on it means us getting back to normal. Birney staff are also busy planning end-of-year activities. There will be dance performances for parents to attend and promotions for our kindergartners and fifth graders. Students will have “field day,” a day when the fourth and fifth graders get to supervise the younger classes doing wellness activities. These are things we used to take for granted and they are HUGE good things!!



Students at the UH Sign Celebration

At the end of April, the FOABE hosted a childcare fundraiser for parents for the first time in two years. Several families also participated at the University Heights Sign block party, selling sunflowers from our garden, doing bee crafts, and more importantly, having fun with the community!

The FOABE will be hosting Pride parking in July, and our Birney farmstand occurs on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month at Twiggs on Park. We welcome new sponsors and donors for all Birney events, so please contact us at [info@friendsofalicebirney.org](mailto:info@friendsofalicebirney.org) if you would like more information. Please visit us at [friendsofalicebirney.org](http://friendsofalicebirney.org) for more information on all our events!

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



Students at the UH Sign Celebration



**We Fix Your Computer!**  
We come to you or you come to us for the lowest rates  
Call Robert at  
**858-449-1749**

# ROO NEWS

## Roosevelt Middle School Ends School Year with Surge of In-Person Activities

After more than two years of extremely limited in-person events outside of the classroom, the Roosevelt International Middle School community is taking advantage of every opportunity to celebrate, play, work, and learn.

In April, all three school musical groups gave a rousing spring concert in the auditorium. It was rapturously received by an audience (mostly parents), many of whom had never had the chance to see them perform live. The first school dance in two years also took place in April, bringing sixth, seventh, and eighth graders together on the basketball court for extended hi-jinks and a small amount of actual dancing, according to witnesses. As San Diego Unified School District started re-introducing school sports, Roosevelt held tryouts for its soccer team, which is just the first installment in a program that will soon include basketball, volleyball, flag-football, and track.

In May, Roosevelt showcased its International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum and culture by having the first in-person IB Fest since COVID Times started. IB Fest invites families from the “feeder” elementary schools—potential future Roughriders—to learn about the school from teachers, administrators, and current parents and students. Attendees were also treated to performances and demonstrations from the Band, Orchestra,

and Jazz Band, as well as participants in the After School Enrichment clubs. Coming up in June, Roosevelt will say goodbye to its graduating eighth graders with a “semi-formal” dance in the Zoo Garden and a promotion ceremony at the Balboa Park Organ Pavilion. And when the school year is through, Roosevelt will host several academic, sports, and specialty day-camps through the district’s “Level Up” summer enrichment program.


In fundraising news, Friends of Roosevelt Foundation (aka RooFriends) are looking forward to resuming car-parking fundraisers on the “dirt field” on campus this summer and beyond. Since Roosevelt is located next to the zoo, charging people to park on busy days has traditionally been the foundation’s main vehicle for raising money. However, between COVID and bureaucratic hurdles (“spike strips” might be more apt), the foundation had been unable to raise money off of this valuable, if dusty, patch of real estate for two years. Having surmounted these obstacles, RooFriends looks forward to raising money during big weekends like Earth Day, Memorial Day, Pride, and the most wonderful time of the year, December Nights. So if you find yourself circling North Park and Hillcrest looking for parking during these times, please consider taking advantage of Roosevelt’s VIP parking, knowing that you are helping fund after school enrichment, teacher grants, the music program, and much more!

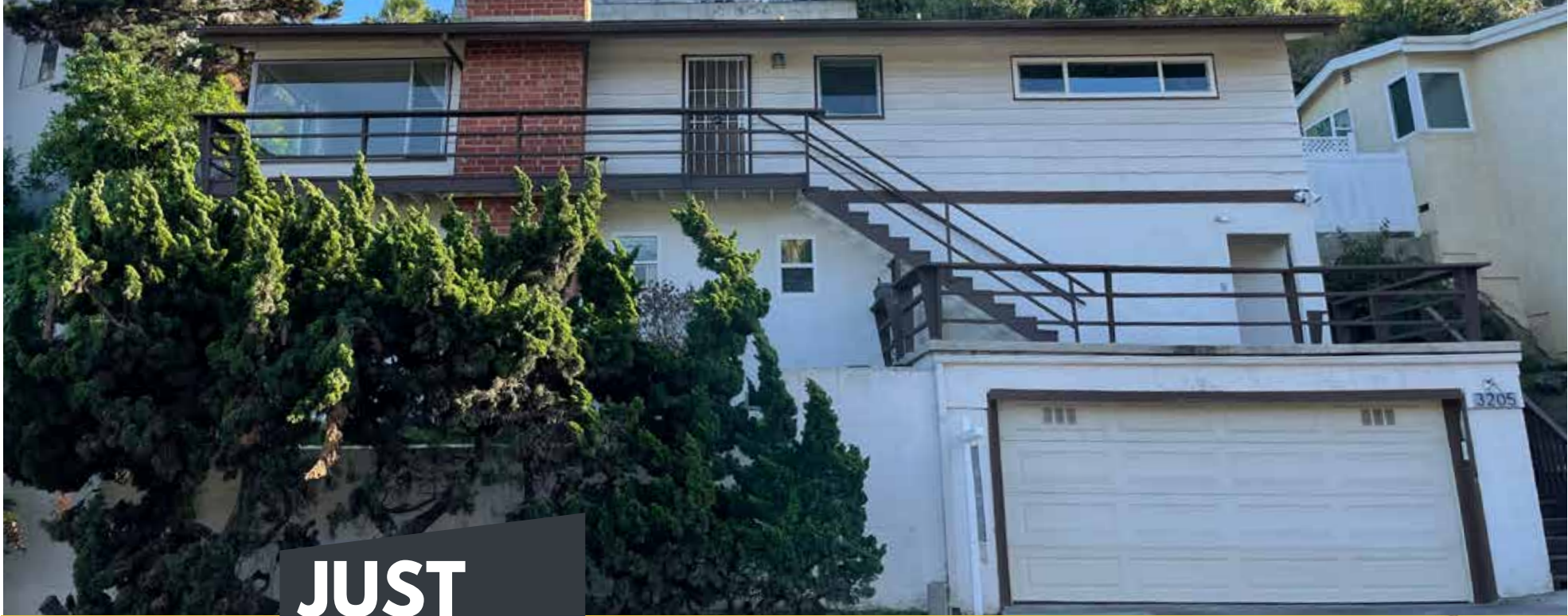
For more information about all things Roosevelt, visit the Friends of Roosevelt (aka RooFriends) website at [www.roofriends.org](http://www.roofriends.org).  
— Andy Hinds

Who you work with matters! Choose Local!

**Pemberley Realty** has presence in the Heart of University Heights!

Come visit us today!







**JUST LISTED!**  
**3205 Talbot St.**  
STUNNING HOME WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS

**ROXANNE GOVARI**  
(619) 778-0577  
[roxanne@pemberleyrealty.com](mailto:roxanne@pemberleyrealty.com)  
[www.pemberleyrealty.com](http://www.pemberleyrealty.com), DRE# 01319244  
North Park | 4645 Park Blvd.  
Del Mar | 1237 Camino Del Mar Ste D





## BETWEEN THE COVERS

## JUNE AT THE LIBRARY

Wow, is it Summer already? Spend some of these sunny days at your friendly neighborhood library. Our Youth Services Librarian, Helene Idels, has started up storytimes again! Storytime takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. Past themes have been “Welcoming Spring” and “Storybook Adventures.” What will the Steampunk Librarian have in store on June 23?

The UH Library is presenting a June “Learning Fun” program in collaboration with “Do Your Homework @the Library”! DYH@L helps bring educational, interactive, and engaging out-of-school-time programs to our communities. Save the date for Saturday, June 18, and stay tuned for more information as we finalize the details.

June also kicks off the Summer

Reading Program, and this year it’s going longer than ever, all the way through August. Get all of your reading needs done through the library by checking out books and eBooks; audiobooks count too! In fact, some of your ten hours can be earned by completing designated activities such as going for a nature walk or telling a spooky campfire story to your friends and family to coincide with this year’s theme of “Read Beyond the Beaten Path”! Many of our prizes for SRP and other programs are thanks to our wonderful Friends of the UH Library. To join the UH Friends and help support and advocate for your local library, visit [www.friendsofuhlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofuhlibrary.org).

— Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager,  
University Heights Library,  
619-692-4912, [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

## UHHS NEWS

## History Uncovered on Park Boulevard



Historic Sign Uncovered at 4628 Park Blvd. in University Heights

A little bit of University Heights history was uncovered in early April when an old hand-painted sign for “Johnston’s Variety Department Store” was revealed under the former Small Bar sign at 4628 Park Blvd.

The University Heights Historical Society did some digging and found out that Alex and Mary Johnston established and operated the Johnston’s Variety Department Store for 16 years from 1924 until Mr. Johnston’s death in 1940.

Alexander Johnston and Mary Suzzanah Sandford were both born in 1865 in Dane, Wisconsin and married in 1900 in Weber, Utah. They moved to San Diego in approximately 1920, residing downtown at 1556 2nd Avenue in a beautiful historic apartment building that still stands today. Alex worked as a bookkeeper and business secretary for the YMCA, and Mary worked as a stenographer for a law firm.

The Johnstons moved to University Heights in 1924 and opened their first store at 4652 Park Blvd. then moved it in 1926 to 4628 Park Blvd. Johnston’s Variety Department Store was typical of the small, family-owned, independent businesses of that era. Things began to change with the advent of large department stores in the mid 1800’s and early 1900’s, as noted by Alex Johnston in the San Diego Union on September 10, 1928:

“Statistics show that the jobber [wholesaler, distributor] is decreasing in number. As the little merchant will be unable to buy directly from the manufacturer, it looks like he, too, will fade from the picture in a few years, and only the big chain stores will be able to get the goods.”

Mary Johnston was a member of the San Diego Business and Professional

Women’s Club, San Diego’s first organization for women in business founded in 1917. Mary was quoted in the San Diego Union on more than one occasion. On June 2, 1935, she spoke of the passing of John Davidson, the Superintendent of Mission Cliff Gardens, which was established in 1898 in University Heights by John D. Spreckels:

*“The items in the local papers recently relating to the passing of John Davidson stressed mainly his career as nurseryman and custodian of the Mission Cliff Gardens. But to his many friends and neighbors, and the tourists from out of town who visited the garden, he was known and loved as a rare personality. The group of retired men who for years gathered afternoons at the spot had set aside for them for their horseshoe, card and checker games, were constant recipients of his courtesy and consideration, and their love was evidenced by a beautiful floral piece for his funeral. One man was heard to remark that he followed Mr. Davidson about his work as he deemed it a rare privilege to be in the company of such a man. His constant and untiring devotion to and care of his invalid wife for years, and the sterling qualities of his life as he lived it, his uncomplaining patience, gentleness, and tolerance were a constant example to his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren as they grew up and will ever remain with them a blessed memory and a valuable and priceless heritage.”*

Alex passed away in 1940 at age 75, and Mary passed away in 1946 at age 81. We are grateful to the Johnstons for their contributions to our community, and to the small businesses today in University Heights who continue this tradition.

— Kristin Harms, University Heights  
Historical Society

## FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

## YOU + TBR = SRP

Are you wondering what YOU + TBR = SRP means? YOU is, you know, you. TBR is your “To Be Read” list. And SRP is the library’s ever-popular “Summer Reading Program.”

This year’s SRP begins June 1 and goes through August 31. The Friends of UH Library is happy to have been able to support the library by purchasing books for all your SRP and year-round needs. Books we’ve bought include our new kids’ topic-focused bag kits, popular new releases, and books about current event issues.

You don’t have to check books out of the library to participate in the SRP, though. You can read books you already own or books that you buy. And what better place to buy books than at the green Friends of UH Library book sale shelves located inside our branch? The selection is frequently updated, so check back often.

Membership: Your tax-deductible membership dues and donations help us provide financial support to our branch and may be matched by the City of San Diego. To become a member, download a membership form on our website or pick one up at the branch.

For more info: Please join us for our upcoming general meeting on June 14 at 6:00pm. Check our website or email us for the Zoom link. You can also subscribe to our newsletter for the latest info.

Thank you for your support.

— Isabel Schechter, President  
Friends of the University Heights Library  
Email: [info@friendsofUHlibrary.org](mailto:info@friendsofUHlibrary.org)  
Website: [www.friendsofuhlibrary.org](http://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.

Law Office of  
Rosemary Leonard

ESTATE PLANNING ♦ ELDER LAW  
PROBATE ♦ WILLS ♦ TRUSTS  
MEDICAL PLANNING



619-295-8705

[rosemaryleonard@cox.net](mailto:rosemaryleonard@cox.net)

Conveniently located in University Heights

OUR  
REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. PRESIDENT

**JOE BIDEN**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
202-456-1111 / 202-456-2461 fax  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

U.S. SENATOR

**DIANNE FEINSTEIN**

750 B Street, Suite 1030  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-231-9712 / 619-231-1108 fax  
<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov>

U.S. SENATOR

**ALEX PADILLA**

600 B Street, Suite 2240  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-239-3884 / 202-228-3863 fax  
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov>

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN

**SARA JACOBS, DISTRICT 53**

2700 Adams Avenue, Suite 102  
San Diego, CA 92116  
619-280-5353 / 619-280-5311 fax  
David Vance [david.vance@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.vance@mail.house.gov)

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

**GAVIN NEWSOM**

State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-2841 / 916-558-3160 fax  
<https://www.gov.ca.gov>

STATE SENATOR  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

**TONI ATKINS, DISTRICT 39**

1350 Front Street, Suite 4061  
San Diego CA 92101  
619-645-3133/619-645-3144 fax  
Stopher Vallejo  
[christopher.vallejo@sen.ca.gov](mailto:christopher.vallejo@sen.ca.gov)

STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**CHRIS WARD, DISTRICT 78**

1350 Front Street, Room 6054  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-645-3090 / 619-645-3094 fax  
Christopher Gris, 619-645-3090  
[Christopher.Gris@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christopher.Gris@asm.ca.gov)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERVISOR

**NATHAN FLETCHER, DISTRICT 4**

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-531-5544 / 619-531-6262 fax  
[nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Abbey Reuter, 619-531-4936  
[Abbey.Reuter@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Abbey.Reuter@sdcounty.ca.gov)

SAN DIEGO MAYOR

**TODD GLORIA**

202 C Street, 11th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-236-6330 / 619-236-7228 fax  
[MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov)

SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

**STEPHEN WHITBURN, DISTRICT 3**

202 C Street, 10th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-236-6633 / 619-595-1481 fax  
[stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov](mailto:stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov)  
Benny Cartwright (interim district rep.)  
[BCartwright@sandiego.gov](mailto:BCartwright@sandiego.gov)



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

# CLARK CABARET @ DIVERSIONARY

Matt Morrow has been the executive artistic director of The Diversionary Theater for the past 7 years. He came to San Diego after 20 years in the theater business in New York City. As executive artistic director, he has enjoyed seeing Diversionary's budget expand as donations increased. The new funds allowed Matt to shepherd the theater through a large remodel.



Matt Morrow at the bar in the Clark Cabaret

The project began in June, 2020 and took almost a year and half to complete. Part of Matt's vision for Diversionary Theater

was to create a space on the ground floor that resembled iconic gay bars of the past. This vision became a reality when Clark Cabaret opened in October, 2021.

With assistance from Lambda Archives and the local community, Matt collected many vintage photos depicting the history of the LGBTQ movement through the years, which were embedded on the bar and on the wall. The Cabaret includes a small stage with shiny red tiles on the walls and a red floor.

The Clark Cabaret offers free, live entertainment 6 nights a week, closed on Tuesdays. When a play is being performed at Diversionary Theater, the Cabaret bar is open before and after the show. Various types of entertainment take the stage at the Cabaret, including live music, poetry readings, stand-up comedy, improv, drag shows, burlesque, and open-mic. The bar serves a wide variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Happy Hour is every night the bar is open from 5-7 pm. No food is served, but patrons are welcome to bring in whatever food they want. There is no cover charge to enter and enjoy the entertainment.

The Diversionary Theater is the third oldest LGBTQ theater in the country. It seats 102 patrons and puts on four new shows a year on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as Sunday matinees. In keeping with the theater's mission to develop and produce new work, they are currently showing the world premiere of a new musical entitled "Eighty-Sixed," which runs through mid-



April West playing trombone with her foot



Sue Palmer and Liz Ajuzie

June. This musical is set in New York City in 1986 at the height of the AIDS epidemic and features a cast of twelve and a four-piece pop rock band in an uplifting show celebrating the LGBTQ community.

You can check out the entertainment for the Cabaret, as well as upcoming shows in the theater at [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org). The night I was there, Sue Palmer and her Motel Swing Orchestra were playing. You can see them again on July 29 at the Summer in the Park concerts. —Jane Gilbert



Sharon Shufelt on drums and April West on trombone



Celebrate with a handcrafted Twiggs cake for weddings, birthdays or any occasion!

**Twiggs University Heights**  
4590 Park Blvd • 619 295 0616

**Twiggs Adams Avenue**  
2804 Adams Ave • 619 296 4077

[www.twiggs.org](http://www.twiggs.org)

## Pet of the Month Olive



It all began in Dec. 2021. I was looking to adopt an emotional support dog but had absolutely no luck. I found out about an organization called Pokie & Friends. They have a Facebook page and are dedicated to finding loving homes for rescue dogs and puppies. I connected with Nancy, the founder, who was an angel in disguise.

Nancy had rescued a pregnant multi-poo who ended up having 5 puppies. I was hoping to adopt one of the females. After a few visits and donating home cooked food and bags of kibble, I hadn't decided which of the puppies to adopt. On Dec. 13, I brought a good friend to meet the pups so we could have siblings that would be able to see each other after adoption.

Suddenly a little tiny black ball of love came running across the room eagerly waiting to be swept up to give me kisses and cuteness. She had such a big personality for such a little thing. I learned that an affiliate of Nancy's who lives in Tijuana spotted a wayward dog with two pups on the street and worked with Nancy to rescue them all so they could have a better life.

After that visit I couldn't stop thinking and worrying about who the little black puppy would go to. Nancy convinced me to foster her, and after the first cuddle in my neck the next morning, I was smitten. At just a few months old, Olive's personality list had already developed: brave, daring, crazy, spunky, bold, bossy. Most of all, such a good girl!

Happily, all of the other puppies were adopted, and Olive got her forever home in the Siegall household. Since then, Olive has been charming neighbors, children, and doggos alike. Wherever we go people want to come up to meet her. It blows my mind. She can't let anyone walk by without giving them a tail wag, hug, and kisses. It's always a pleasure to know she is bringing people joy! —Randi Siegall, Olive's momma



**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](mailto:uhcanews@uhsd.org)!**



**Park Blvd. Reconfiguration from Front Page**

proposed bike lanes described as “Class II” along Park Blvd. north of El Cajon Blvd. “Class II lanes are what we have on Cleveland, Maryland, and Madison, separated from the traffic lane. The new plans coming from the city are Cycle Tracks, which people may recognize from 30th Street, a bike lane separated by a buffer zone with physical barriers,” says Ellig.

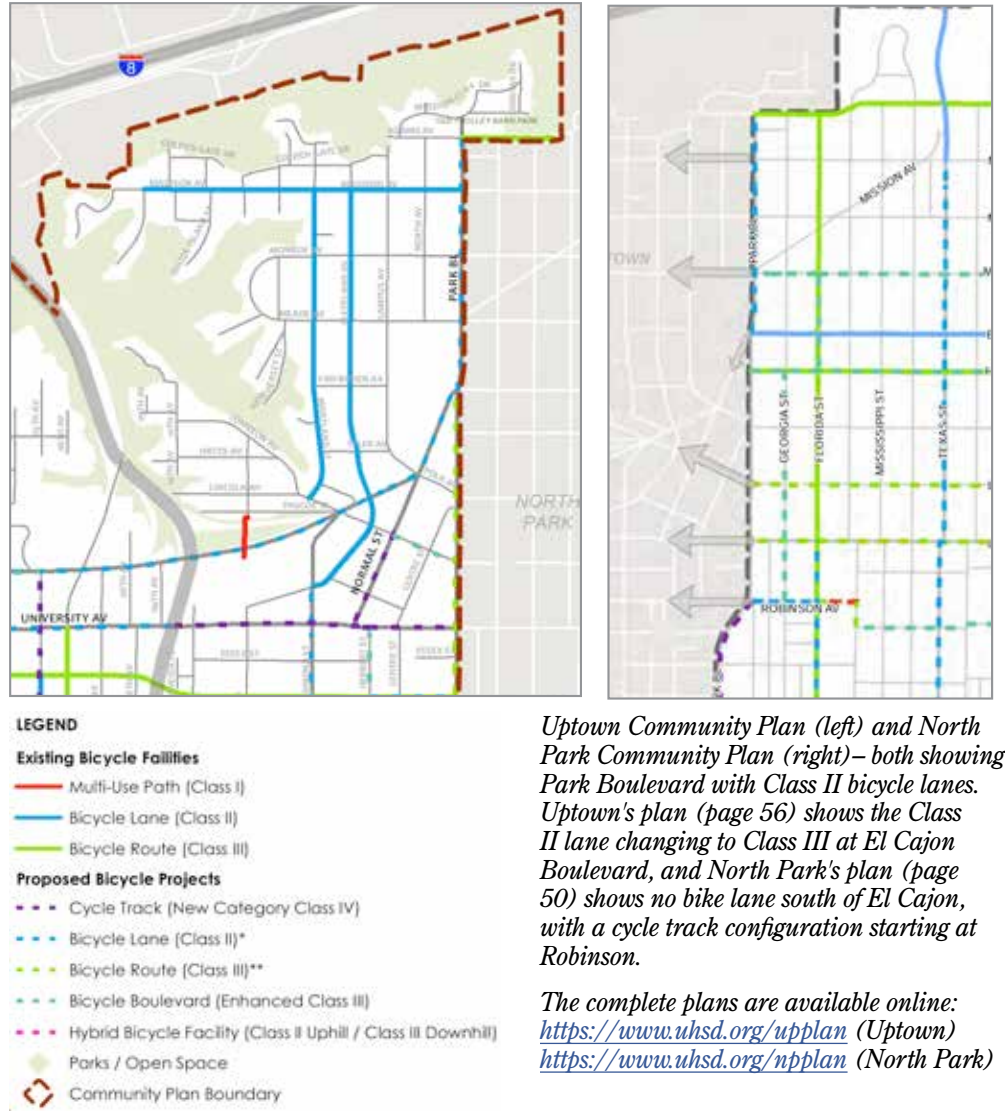
Johnson also researched both the city and SANDAG plans, and discovered that the “San Diego Bicycle Master Plan, December 2013” also showed a Class II lane, and the SANDAG Regional Bike Plan showed only the Park Boulevard Bikeway starting at Robinson and continuing south.

Ahead of the May 5 UHCA meeting, the city publicized their attendance on social media. Bicycle advocacy groups Bike SD and Bike Coalition San Diego County then sent activation emails and social media posts to encourage their members to “attend the virtual meeting and let the city know that you support these cycle tracks!”

UHCA was copied on over a dozen emails from cycling enthusiasts, most of which were copy/paste from a template, including statements encouraging this project due to safety concerns, better access to businesses, and how this project would make the business district more vibrant. Several messages, however, went further, and Johnson engaged with a few of them one to one in order to better understand their perspectives, especially why they felt a Cycle Track was needed on Park Blvd. when there were several alternative Class II bike lanes a few blocks over.

**City Reveals Project and Takes Questions**

At the May 5 meeting, Randy Wilde and Everett Hauser presented the City’s plan and took questions for an hour. They showed how Park Blvd. would be reconfigured to 2 traffic lanes (removing the center/turn lane) with two Cycle Track lanes added from Adams to Meade. At Center Street, shared lanes would be introduced. The reconfiguration would result in changes to parking – a net reduction of 23 spaces from Adams to Monroe in “The Village” business district (-38%), and an overall reduction from Adams to University of 88 parking spaces or 35%.



*Uptown Community Plan (left) and North Park Community Plan (right)– both showing Park Boulevard with Class II bicycle lanes. Uptown’s plan (page 56) shows the Class II lane changing to Class III at El Cajon Boulevard, and North Park’s plan (page 50) shows no bike lane south of El Cajon, with a cycle track configuration starting at Robinson.*

*The complete plans are available online: <https://www.uhsd.org/upplan> (Uptown) <https://www.uhsd.org/npplan> (North Park)*

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



**6 to 8 pm Friday Evenings  
Adams Avenue & Florida Street**

*Come out this summer for fun and free entertainment right in your own neighborhood! Bring a picnic dinner or try mobile vendor Mrs. Frostie for ice cream treats, or visit any of our University Heights restaurants for a bite before or after ‘Summer in the Park’!*

**Please, no alcoholic beverages, no glass containers, and no off-leash dogs!**

**Become a Sponsor!**

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**

University Heights Community Development Corp. [a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit] and in partnership with San Diego Park & Recreation Department UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group

**CO-SPONSORS**

- Ross Lopez & Mark Ballam
- Mary Anne Stevens
- Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air
- Roxanne Govari & the Pemberley Realty Team
- Park & Rec - The BLVD
- Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center
- Kairoa Brewing Company
- Red House Pizza
- LMC- a Lennar Company
- Stu McGraw - Real Estate
- University Heights Community Association (UHCA)

**Watch for the Special Band Line-up insert in the July Issue of the ‘UHCA News’!**



When asked about how this plan doesn’t line up with the community and city plans that did not show Park Blvd. as having a cycle tracks, Hauser stated, “the plans you are referring to are done at the planning level, and they indicate that facilities can be changed at the project level.”

Several attendees questioned why the bike lanes were needed on Park Blvd. when wide, less-traveled lanes already exist within a few blocks on Cleveland, Maryland, Georgia, and Florida, with the city representatives responding that the goal is to have bike lanes available to take people directly to their destinations, not out of the way.

Additional questions were raised about how delivery trucks, Uber/Lyft/DoorDash deliveries would work without having the turn/center lane available for drivers to go around (and buses and ambulances to pass), how bicycle parking/storage would work in an area with a high bicycle theft problem already, what safety and traffic data was used to build this plan, and pedestrian safety concerns.

Many of the questions were comments in favor of the project, with attendees expressing the need both for better cyclist safety and how this project will be a positive impact on reducing car emissions. A neighboring North Park resident who lost her husband in a tragic accident along Camino del Rio South last year recounted how protected bike lanes might have prevented her husband’s death.

Several business owners raised concerns about parking, which is already a very difficult proposition in the high-traffic areas, and several residents expressed frustration at how this project was done with little to no communication by the city. Wilde offered apologies for the poor communication, and said that the city was listening to concerns; however, this is the plan that the city will be moving forward with.

As UHCA News goes to press, the striping has not yet begun, and there is no indication that any changes to the new plan are being discussed.

*-Community Coalition of University Heights (UHCDC, UHCA, UHHS)*

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A SPONSOR FOR ‘SUMMER IN THE PARK’**

*I have enclosed (check one):*

- Friends Level \$25 - \$49
- Buster Level (support-a-potty) \$50 - \$99
- Patron Level \$100 - \$499
- Sound Crew Level per event - \$500
- Band Sponsor per event - \$750
- Stage Level per event - \$950
- All Events Co-Sponsor \$1,500 - \$2,500

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_

*Make payable / mail to:*  
 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



*Visit our website at [www.uhcdc.org](http://www.uhcdc.org) for links to the bands appearing at ‘Summer in the Park’ 2022!*



HISTORY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



L to R: New Historic Markers at Adams and Park, Adams and North, Mission Cliff Drive. Photo courtesy of University Heights Historical Society

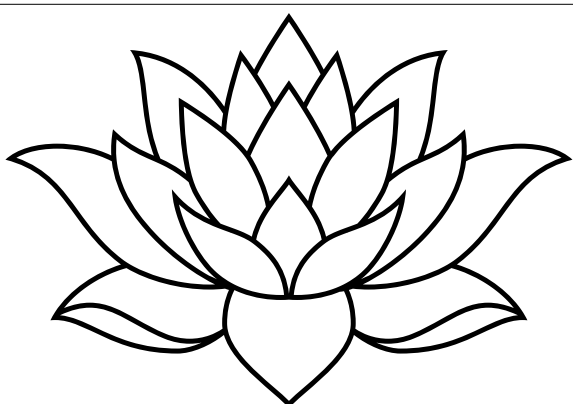
Three new historic markers were installed on May 18th by the University Heights Historical Society with a grant from the County of San Diego, and in partnership with the City of San Diego, the University Heights Community Development Corporation, and the University Heights Maintenance Assessment District.

The markers commemorate the early history of University Heights including Mission Cliff Gardens, Bentley Ostrich Farm, San Diego Electric Railway, the 700-foot cobblestone wall that marks the southern boundary of the former gardens, and the lily pond that once stood at the center of the gardens.

After nomination for historic designation in 1997 by the University Heights Historical Society, these landmarks were historically-designated by the City of San Diego Historical Site Board collectively as Landmark No. 346.

The markers, fabricated from cast aluminum, may be viewed at their new homes at Adams Avenue and Park Blvd., Adams Avenue and North Avenue, and Mission Cliff Drive.

For more information about the early history of University Heights, visit [www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/history](http://www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/history) -Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society



LOTUS

ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

Jessica Demirdjian, MAcc

619 846-7738

LotusTaxSD.com LotusTaxSD@gmail.com

Dad's Day at Old Trolley Barn Park

June calls to us this Father's Day,  
it's time for fun in the park.  
Time to play where Ostriches roamed,  
let us picnic 'til it gets dark.

Bakers among us, make some treats;  
stoke up the grill for a hot dog.  
It's time for ball or Frisbee fun,  
whether we've got sun or fog.

You know by noon, it's shady time,  
under trees, mighty big and grand,  
where friends and neighbors all gather  
to hammock or to get tanned.

Let's honor dad for all he does,  
how he makes life safe and sweet,  
guards us and protects us well -  
let us surprise him with a treat.

For he's the only dad we'll have,  
a very special kinda guy,  
the one, ya know, who loves us  
when we're happy or have to cry.

So hear June's call on Father's Day,  
treat Dad to a day in the park;  
let Old Trolley Barn be the happy spot -  
hit the barbecue with a lighter's spark.



Jon Von Erb, Your University Heights Poet 6/2022

VOICES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a cyclist and bike commuter who rides on Park Boulevard on a nearly daily basis. I am writing to voice my opposition to separated cycle tracks on Park Boulevard.

I feel much less safe riding in the "cycle trap" for a couple main reasons. First, bicycles are much less visible to drivers and we are easily ignored when separated from traffic on a side track. On the similar 30th street cycle track, I have had many close calls with cars "right hooking" me by turning across my lane in the cycle track at intersections. In my opinion from years of riding experience, it is safer to ride with traffic using either the sharrows or a class 2 bike lane where I am visible to drivers and won't be hit by turning vehicles that don't see me. This is also the opinion of many of my fellow cyclists and commuters that I have had this conversation with.

Secondly, a separated cycle track creates new hazards that are difficult to avoid. It essentially becomes an extension of the sidewalk, filled by pedestrians and other hazards and debris such as parked electric scooters and trash. For example, pedestrians walking to their Uber cross the 30th Street cycle track without looking, which has also created a lot of close calls for me. Cars also use the cycle track as an additional parking and passenger loading space by pulling into it where there is space. On the 30th street cycle track, parked cars inside the cycle track make it impassable. These hazards cannot be easily avoided because of the bollards trapping the cyclist inside the track. For these reasons, I have actively avoided riding on 30th Street since the installation of similar cycle tracks. If the Park Boulevard cycle tracks are installed, I will also avoid riding on Park Boulevard, or take the full lane with traffic if I must ride there.

From a community relations perspective, I also acknowledge that parking is already difficult in my neighborhood next to Park Boulevard and along Park Boulevard. Cycle tracks would remove too much parking and create more animosity between cyclists, drivers, and local businesses.

— Tom McCarthy

I'm writing to encourage you to support the proposed cycle tracks on Park Boulevard in University Heights. As a resident of San Diego/ County/University Heights, I rely on safe bicycle infrastructure to get around the city and access the places I need to go to meet my daily needs.

Currently, I feel unsafe riding on Park Boulevard through University Heights. Without a dedicated bike facility, I am regularly close-passed by drivers and squeezed against the parked cars on the sides of the road, putting me at risk of being hit with the door of someone getting out of their parked car. Because of these unsafe conditions, I am much less likely to ride on this road and visit the local businesses than I otherwise would be.

Building a separated cycletrack on this section of Park Boulevard would not only make me feel safe, but would make me feel more comfortable bringing friends and family who are new to riding bicycles to this area. Moreover, a cycle track would slow traffic down and make this street more comfortable for everyone, whether they choose to bike, walk, drive, or take transit. Although I've always loved University Heights, I've always believed

that the business district could become much more vibrant if it dedicated more space to bikes and pedestrians and people riding bikes, and less to cars.

The Park Boulevard Cycle Tracks will make all road users safer, and will make University Heights into an even more beautiful and vibrant community. I encourage you to support the expedited implementation of this bike facility.

— "Daniel" (sent via anonymous email account, copy/pasted from the SD Bike Coalition email)

The reconfiguration of Park Blvd is a sad example of a city government run amok, not listening to citizens, and implementing changes without communication or transparency.

My family has owned one of the oldest businesses (and a community landmark, Frank the Trainman) for 80 years - 25 years as the non-profit JA Cooley Museum. We were blindsided when we saw people from the transportation department marking the street in front of our building on the 4200 block of Park Blvd. This led to weeks of the City ignoring our calls and refusing to share the details of the new street design, forcing me to reach out to local news media. It was not until they started airing this story that we finally got information on what was being done to our Community.

Once we saw the plan, we reached out to other businesses, property owners and local residents - no one had a clue about the City's plans. After we started posting about this on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, and with the coverage from the news media, we heard from nearly a thousand voters who were frustrated with the City's lack of communication and transparency.

We brought in a civil engineer who has worked with the City previously and he pointed out numerous flaws with the current plan that will likely cause damage to our property due to the poor drainage infrastructure, have numerous safety issues for pedestrians and motorists alike, and have potential ADA compliance problems which could cost the City if litigation is brought.

In numerous meetings with UH, North Park, and Hillcrest community groups, a common question has been raised: "where are the data, reports, and environmental and business impact studies?"

The City has so far refused to share any of this information, despite it being public. In fact, the current plans do not look at all like what is in the Community Plans for both North Park and Uptown - plans that were adopted by boards that were elected by residents and business owners in this community.

We are not against bike lanes - what we demand is that the City be transparent and look at a compromise that serves cyclists, businesses, and actually helps make our community safer and better. We do not want to see past mistakes like what recently happened in Mira Mesa and Rancho Penasquitos be repeated here. We ask that our City represent the 1,410,000 residents that you are elected to work on behalf of, and not cater to the minority special interest groups and lobbyists that are backing this plan.

— Carmen Cooley Graham,  
JA Cooley Museum

UHCA News welcomes perspectives from readers. Our Editorial guidelines are available on our website at [www.uhca.org/submissions](http://www.uhca.org/submissions).

The newspaper's editorial team reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.





**YARD SALE**

# UH Community Yard Sale

## Saturday, June 4, 2022

Time to clean out the garage, closet, or storage space? Looking to pick up a few items? Be part of the University Heights Yard Sale.

Maps will be available at 7 AM on Saturday June, 4th at 4416 Park Blvd in University Heights and will be posted on University Heights social media.



**Give your home the protection it deserves.**

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

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that's worth protecting. I'm here to help.  
**LET'S TALK TODAY.**



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL  
 State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL  
 State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

1708136



University Heights Resident

- Purchases
- Refinances
- FHA and VA

**Mortgages Made Simple.**

Call Michael McGee.

619-564-8828



www.MichaelMcGeeLoans.net | Michael.McGee@MichaelMcGeeLoans.net

Equal Housing Lender, Lic. by the California Bureau of Real Estate | BRE Broker Lic. #01318790, NMLS #243318 | C2 BRE #01821025, NMLS #135622

Loan approval is not guaranteed and is subject to verification of specific information that is requested at time of application. Specified rates may not be available for all borrowers. Rates subject to change.



4495 New Jersey St | San Diego, CA 92116



\$1,450,000 | 2 BD + Office | 2 BA | 1,317 SQFT



MARYANNESHOMES@GMAIL.COM

BREWER.ANASTASIA@GMAIL.COM

## Beautiful Spanish Home in University Heights

First time on the market in decades! This beautiful Spanish home is in a prime University Heights location on the corner of Monroe and New Jersey. This home features hardwood floors in the living and dining area, skylights, recessed lighting, custom kitchen with center island/breakfast bar, lots of cabinetry and a 5 burner gas cook top. There is a spacious hall bath with glass tiles, roomy linen closet and skylight. The Master Bedroom Suite has a spacious 11x9 walk-in closet and gorgeous spa like bath! Large office and 2nd Bedroom have French doors that lead to the outdoor backyard that is an entertainers delight with fountains, greenery and a lovely ambiance.



**MARY ANNE STEVENS**

(619) 871-0635

CALRE #01034232

**ANASTASIA BREWER**

(619) 992-1912

CALRE #00894212

*Don't make a move without us!*