



NEWS

University Heights Community Association
October 2022



Vermont St. Bridge Cleanup | Page 4



UH Garden Club Seed Swap | Page 9

NOMINATIONS FOR UHCA BOARD OFFICERS ARE IN AND READY TO VIEW ON PAGE 9!
Elections at October 6 meeting

NO RESTROOMS IN PARK (FOR NOW)

UHCA has been advised by the offices of Mayor Gloria and Councilmember Whitburn that the proposed comfort stations being discussed for Old Trolley Barn Park are not moving forward at this time.

Numerous surveys over the years have indicated strong opposition to the idea of adding restrooms to the park, most recently in April by UHCA (72% opposed) and in August by the City (84% opposed). Dozens of neighbors attended the September 14 Cookies with the Cops (see article below) and voiced their strong opposition to representatives from the Mayor's office and Councilmember Whitburn's office.

This issue has surfaced many times over more than 30 years since Old Trolley Barn Park was created. While the need for public restrooms is undisputed, the consensus of the UH community, as seen from the surveys and especially in the comments, is that this park is not the right location. As a neighborhood park, it was never designed to include a restroom, and, in fact, restrooms were specifically excluded in the design due to inputs from the community and SDPD. Many residents expressed concerns over how other existing park restrooms are maintained, and recent examples of newly built restrooms in Balboa Park being severely vandalized and requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs – and still being mostly unusable – were cited.

With the growing problems at the Vermont Street Bridge, large transit intersections at El Cajon Boulevard and Park, and the upcoming redevelopment of the Normal Street Education Center property, the question was raised at the Cookies with the Cops event to the Mayor's representative about locating restrooms at The HUB,

closer to bus lines, and even working with local businesses and developers to include these necessary facilities where they are needed the most.

Councilmember Whitburn said, "Public parks should have public restrooms, and several years ago, it was proposed that a restroom be added at Trolley Barn Park in University Heights. Recently, there have been inquiries about the status of that proposal. Unfortunately, restrooms in Balboa Park have become unusable at times due to vandalism, unsanitary practices, and people sleeping in them. Before the city opens new park restrooms, the city must be able to ensure they will remain operable, clean, and safe. The city is taking many steps to address homelessness and increase park

maintenance. It is typical and important for public parks to have restrooms, and the city should work toward adding them when it can be assured they will meet the standards that everyone deserves."

While not a definitive "no" to adding restrooms at the park in the future, Councilmember Whitburn and Mayor Gloria have listened to the community and expressed understanding for why there is strong opposition. Hopefully the funds that would have been used for restrooms can be allocated to addressing maintenance as well as the homelessness crisis that is affecting us all, including helping the unhoused with longer-term solutions like shelter, direct services, and supportive housing.

—Marc Johnson



NEXT UHCA MEETING

OCT. 6
6:45 PM

VIA ZOOM

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

CRIMEWATCH 6:45-7PM

2022 UHCA OFFICER ELECTIONS

CEDAR ST. DEVELOPMENT (NEXT TO SPROUTS) UPDATE

NEW UH GARDEN CLUB

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

LOOKING AHEAD

NOV. 3
6:45 PM

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

Cookies with the Cops



More than 64 UH residents joined SDPD Officers and representatives from Mayor Gloria's and Councilmember Whitburn's offices on Wednesday, September 14, at Old Trolley Barn Park for an open discussion about crime and safety issues in the community.

A number of Old Trolley Barn Park neighbors attended, with signs expressing their frustration over continued attempts to locate comfort stations (restrooms) in the park. The first 20 minutes of the meeting were spent on that topic.

Kohta Zeiser from Mayor Gloria's office addressed the crowd, stating, "We know from past health crises that public restrooms are needed, but at the same time, we also hear your concerns and have been reviewing the surveys. We are working with Councilmember Whitburn and are committed to coming back with our plans by next Monday."

Several residents brought up recent thefts, especially bicycle thefts, and Officer David Surwillo advised everyone to take photographs of their bikes, including serial numbers, to help police in identifying stolen bikes and advised people to file the appropriate police reports when there is an incident. "We're using big data analytics, and when the statistics show increases in property crimes, that helps the department allocate resources—beat cops—to areas trending upwards," Officer Michael Hayes added.

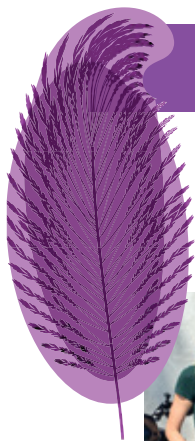
Surwillo also reminded residents to take a common sense approach to home safety: "We know with the heat lately folks are leaving windows and doors open. Just make sure you lock up, especially your lower levels, when you leave. Don't leave extra keys around, and if you have doorbell or other cameras, that footage can be really helpful to our officers and detectives if you do have an incident."

Homelessness was another topic covered, with residents expressing frustration about the lack of resources being deployed, especially not seeing a PATH field worker assigned to UH, as was promised at the last Cookies event in March. Zeiser from the Mayor's office responded, "We're definitely listening to this. The City contracts with a number of agencies, and we will be following up on how they are responding. This is why it is so important for Get It Done reports to be filed so that we have a way to track performance."

Andy and Mary Lange from the Vermont Street Bridge area offered thanks to the Mayor's office, Councilmember Whitburn's office, and especially the SDPD for helping to improve the situation at the bridge (as reported in UHNews, September 2022). While not completely under control, Lange told the representatives that the numbers of encampments and issues surrounding them were reduced. Zeiser responded, "I'm happy that we were able to help coordinate a response, and we will be working to remove the fencing under the bridge shortly."

UHCA thanks the representatives from the City and SDPD for engaging at the event, listening and talking directly with the community, and for their responsiveness. Thanks to Stu McGraw, Marc Johnson, and Sol Schumer for helping set up the event, and special thanks to ZoneWatch Zone 4 coordinator Heather Wilcox for her tireless efforts and to BFD for the amazing cookies.

—Nan McGraw, with photographs by Roxanne Govari, Marc Johnson, Bill Ellig



Plume: Lauren Doucette

Sometimes a new volunteer comes into the organization and fits in like a missing puzzle piece to complete the picture. That describes Lauren Doucette to a tee! Lauren began volunteering with UHCA helping us set up the amazing ticket/check-in system for our Block Party event, and she has continued to help make events run more smoothly. This month, after she created and held the wonderfully received seed exchange event, UHCA officially chartered the Garden Club with Lauren as the lead.



Lauren's story is what we hope many of our volunteers experience: fitting in, making an immediate impact, and influencing and/or leading their passion projects.

UHCA proudly awards a plume to Lauren for all that she has done, and all that she will do to help make UHCA and UH better! — UHCA News Team

UH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

New UHHS Plaque

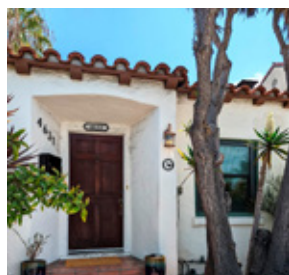
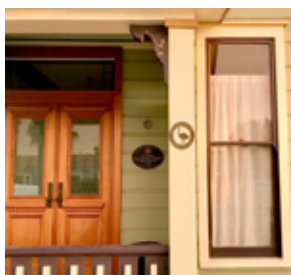
The University Heights Historical Society is pleased to offer our new 7-inch diameter, bronze color house plaque made from 14-gauge steel, sanded smooth and coated with a durable UV powder coat to endure the elements for many years to come.

The plaque features our beloved community icon, the ostrich, and comes

with 2 screws for attaching to wood or stucco, and a white plastic backing to make the lettering more visible.

Join your friends and neighbors in proudly displaying the plaque on the front of your house or business. Free installation is also available from long-time UH resident, Renee Gregorio.

Order yours today at www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/online-store! — Kristin Harms



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

Life is finally starting to feel "back to normal" (if we can remember what "normal" was!) after a long two-and-a-half years since things began to shut down due to the pandemic. For me, that means going to the office on a somewhat regular basis, and getting back into the air traveling again. Maybe with a few more precautions, so maybe more of a "new normal."

UHCA started doing outdoor events again earlier this year, and every time it's been really gratifying to see folks in person who are thrilled to actually *be* in-person again. Hopefully you've joined us for Cookies with the Cops, our Block Party/25th Anniversary celebration, a beautification event, the seed-swap, yard sales, or the first-ever Neighborhood Mixer.

The last in-person UHCA monthly community meeting was in March 2020. While Zoom has allowed us to maintain a connection every 1st Thursday, we're working hard to get back to in-person meetings- please have patience with us as we get things finalized, and for one (hopefully) last month, we will continue on Zoom October 6.

We have a lot going on as we start the fall season! The Neighborhood Mixers and an upcoming business roundtable are just two new initiatives that UHCA has taken on, thanks to the tireless efforts of our new and

energetic board members and committee chairs. A new Garden Club just formed, and people are super excited (we have a lot of gardeners!). I personally love seeing new volunteers find ways to engage and lead in areas they are passionate about, whether it's community safety, networking, gardening, or business strategy. We are all bigger and better together, and that's why we volunteer with an organization like UHCA, which helps individuals amplify their voice and activate their ideas and passions!

UHCA, and our neighborhood, are fortunate that we have such a diverse and talented group of people willing to give their time and energy to our various initiatives, events, and activities. I'm grateful watching our organization not only come back from the pandemic, but begin to grow again. The most recent discussion about restrooms in the park really demonstrated to me the power of UHCA: neighbors banding together to make their voices heard.

We are all UHCA, and I thank each of you for making us stronger together.

Marc



FIRST TIME EVENT!

UHCA Community Mixer a Huge Hit!

The first ever UH Community Mixer was held on Wednesday 9/22 at Park & Rec, and it was a hit! With over 75 people enjoying happy-hour priced drinks and pizza provided by Pemberley Realty, attendees were able to meet and get to know each other in a relaxed, fun environment. We welcomed 6 new members at the event and sold a bunch of cool UHCA merch as well! Stay tuned for details about the next one - a holiday themed mixer at the end of November!

—Angela Jackson-Llamas, Lisa Getz, and the UHCA Events Team



A huge **THANK YOU** to our sponsors, Park & Rec for the awesome venue and to Pemberley Realty for the pizzas!





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MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS GOLDEN OSTRICH
Mary Anne Stevens Realtor, Urban Coast Properties

Thank You!

GOLDEN OSTRICH
Nicole Lemaire, Kristie Edgmond & Michael Bloomberg, Raul & Melynda Cabato

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.



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



Yearly Membership

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

Donor

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

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

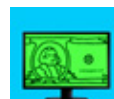
Referred by _____

- NEW RENEWAL

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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ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Email Susan Holts at 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 for details.



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UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

September 1 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The September 1 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via Zoom, with 41 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhcd.org/attend-a-meeting.

Crime Watch

Nan McGraw opened the Crime Watch portion with Officer Michael Hayes. There are reports of noisy automobiles in Mission Valley Mall, these are not a street take-over, just a car show. Pam Isaacs from Zone 2 shared that they continue to have car break-ins. Officer Hayes reminded folks to not leave valuables in vehicles. The fence along Golden Gate is still in need of repair. Deborah Welsch-Morrison from Zone 3 shared that the Vermont Street Bridge looks great and thanked Jennifer Bishop and the Beautification Team for all the hard work. Marc Johnson concluded that the police were amazingly responsive to a break-in call in his building. If you want information on a particular incident, please let Office Hayes know in advance. Thank you SDPD.



Announcements

Marc Johnson opened the General Meeting, welcoming us back from our summer break. He hoped we enjoyed the Concerts in Trolley Barn Park which are put on by Ernie Bonn and the UHDC. Stu McGraw and attendees were thanked for representing and leading a UH contingent in the SD Pride Parade. Marc thanked our local Business Members, many of whom are small businesses, for their support. Please support them in return. Volunteers are always needed for Beautification, Events, Web Helpers and the UHCA News. Please let us know how you can assist us at volunteers@uhcd.org.

Events

There will be a Cookies with the Cops on September 14 at the Old Trolley Barn Park from 6pm to 7pm. Angela Jackson-Llamas shared there will be a Neighborhood Mixer at Park & Rec on September 21 at 6pm with happy hour drink specials and pizza provided by Pemberley Realty. Angela's hoping this will become a regular event. The UH Arts Open & Taste will be happening on November 13 – hosted by the UHDC. More info at uharts.org. Stu McGraw shared the next UH Community Yard Sale will be on December 3. You can register for free at uhyardsale@gmail.com.

Officer Nominations

October is Election month for the UHCA Officers. Nominations are now being accepted. Our nominations updated as of this issue going to press: President – Marc Johnson, Vice President – Lisa Getz, Secretary – Angela Jackson-Llamas, Treasurer – Brent Orlesky. A description of each Officer position is on Page 11 of the September 2022 UHCA News.

Library Updates

Rachel Esguerra shared that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. New card designs include a Commemorative Pride Card and an Odi the Coyote Card. Sparkles the Clown will be there on September 10th. The library needs community support for upgrades needed at our local branch. The Friends of the Library need Board Members; more info at friendsofuhlibrary.org. Susan Holts asked about book donations. People can leave a voicemail at (619) 542-1724 or email info@friendsofuhlibrary.org.

Updates from Elected Officials

Benny Cartwright from Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's Office let us know that Stephen Whitburn will share the results of the restrooms in the Old Trolley Barn Park survey at the October meeting. The dog park plans are moving forward. Benny and Stephen helped with cleaning the Vermont Street Bridge. Benny asked Nan to forward him the information about the broken fence on Golden Gate. There is a survey out regarding the City's 2024 Fiscal Budget. The survey and other information can be found at sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3.

Abbey Reuter from Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's Office shared that they have launched their Experience the Outdoors Series. An effort to promote our regional parks. More info at sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/participate/OutdoorExperiencesforAll. The County has declared a Local Public Health Emergency regarding Monkeypox. Currently cases remain low. More education and medical support is needed. Nathan's office is also focused on our Behavioral Health concerns. A recent survey shows that thousands of vacancies need to be filled. (tinyurl.com/BHReportSD).

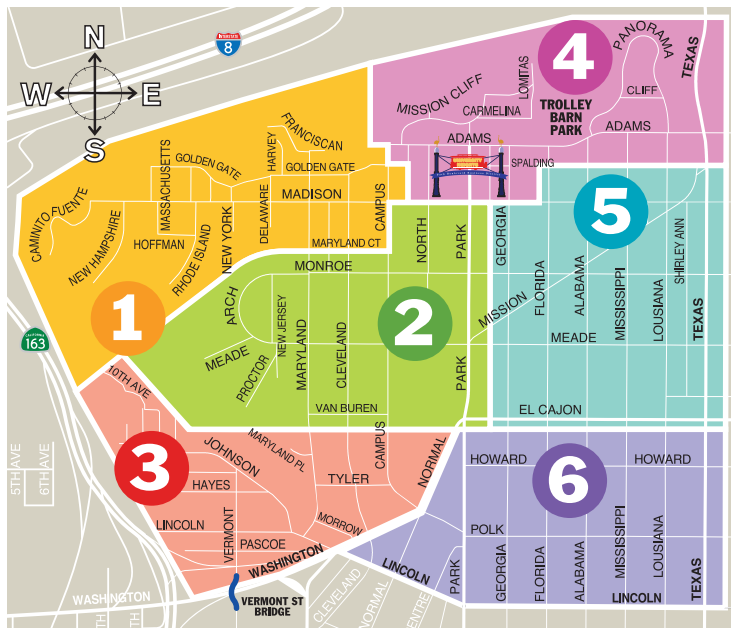
Stopher Vallejo from Senator Toni Atkins' Office shared that all of the Senator's Bills are being sent to the Governor for signing. Such as: Expanding Reproductive Health Services, Support for Navy and Marine Families, Enhancing the San Diego River Conservatory and Climate Changes. The state is also taking action in regards to Monkeypox. More information at sd39.senate.ca.gov.

Featured Speaker

Derek Lam, Recycling Specialist II of the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department joined our meeting to discuss new organic waste recycling rules – Bill 1383. Derek shared that the Bill is a statewide mandate to target the reduction of organic waste in our landfills. Currently, almost 40% of landfill trash is organic waste. These mandates are due to an increase in drought conditions, hotter temperatures and earlier fire seasons. Organic waste in landfills produces methane – a harmful greenhouse gas. Composting organic waste eliminates the production of methane. Green waste bins and kitchen trash bins for organic materials will be available from the City once the program launches. New trucks, drivers and administrative offices will be needed. There are a number of recommended 'best practices' for residents to follow. More information is available at sandiego.gov/organicwasterecycling.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

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 uhcd.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@uhcd.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@uhcd.org.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical	9 1 1	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/	National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	9 8 8
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	2 1 1 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	UHDC 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	9 1 1
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	If all else fails, email BCartwright@sandiego.gov at Council member Stephen Whitburn's office.	
Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468		

Download this app for reporting non-emergency issues, like potholes, graffiti, code violations, over-watering, 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.

Nature in the Neighborhood

The Crows of October

Among the many natural cycles that we in the suburban environment are poised to observe, one that is widespread and diverse involves the social and geographic shifts exhibited by birds as they transition from the warm months of nesting to the cold of winter. Perhaps most notable are the cyclic appearances and disappearances to and from any given area by migratory species. However, some non-migratory species undergo changes equally notable, and few more so than the huge gatherings of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) after the nesting season.



Following the dispersed nesting of pairs during spring and early summer, communal gatherings actually begin as early as August, with loose aggregations of crows seen flying steadily overhead in evenings and early mornings as they move to or from communal roosts. As fall progresses, the numbers increase to hundreds or thousands moving overhead above our neighborhoods.

At first glance the numbers may not seem high, as the birds tend to straggle broadly across the sky alone or in small clusters, but if an observer extrapolates the number visible in a quick glance by the hours over which the birds pass, the quantities become quite enormous. At times the crows make themselves even more conspicuous by cawing as they pass above. Occasionally a small group will settle *en route* in neighborhood trees or on wires during the early morning hours and call incessantly, much to the irritation of humans trying to sleep.

The other side of the story occurs at the communal roost sites, which typically occupy dense groups of suburban or rural trees somewhat separated from human habitations, but often within earshot. Biologists have explained the non-breeding roosting phenomenon, practiced by many bird species throughout the world, in terms of collective advantage to individuals in locating food supplies while flocking during daily forays. Obviously, many mouths can make short work of a limited food supply, but studies of several roosting species have shown that older, more experienced birds that are better at finding food may subject themselves to this potential competition during the day, but they reap the advantage of sheltering in the middle of large aggregations for greater warmth on cold nights. Crows tend to select new night roosts every year or few years, perhaps in response to human attempts to displace them.

The trade-offs of dense night-roosting are many and complex. I have walked through abandoned (off-season) crow roost sites and found large accumulations of excrement and the carcasses of the few birds that perished for one reason or another. Considering these phenomena in the context of behavioral evolution, one might surmise that birds would not continue to roost communally if it were not to their collective advantage over time.

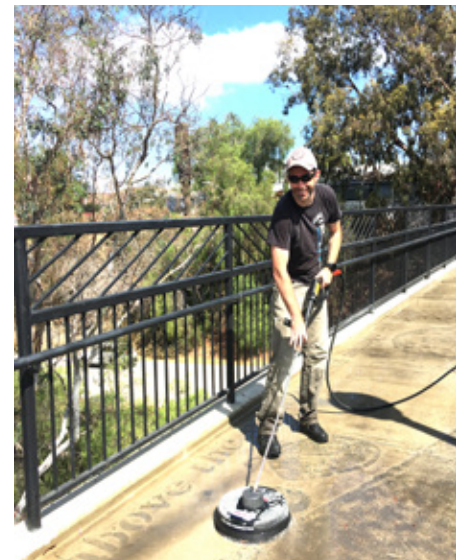
— John Lovio

UH BEAUTIFICATION

Vermont Street Bridge Cleanup a Huge Success!



(L-R Front) Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, Benny Cartwright, Debbie Chaddock. (L-R back) Gregg Storwick, Deborah Morrison.



Gregg Storwick manned the powerwasher most of the morning.

On the morning of Sunday, August 28, a record 18 volunteers converged on the Vermont Street Bridge to power wash, dust, scrub, and remove trash and debris from the footpath of the bridge and under the structure. The effort was led by the Beautification Team (B-Team) as one of its many community projects that help improve the look and feel of our neighborhood.

The Vermont Street Bridge is an iconic structure that connects University Heights to Hillcrest. It was built in 1994 replacing an unstable wooden bridge that had been compromised by termites. It has received acclaim for its design and has been the backdrop for countless photoshoots. The steel and blue plexiglass panels feature quotes from Pythagoras, Dr. Seuss, and other notable literary figures extolling a good walk.

The B-team would like to thank the following volunteers for being a part of this cleanup effort: Sol Schumer, Frank Santana, Mary Ann Stevens, Deborah Morrison,

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn and his staff member Benny Cartwright, Jennifer Bishop, T. O'Rourke, Dacil Ward, Rob MacDonald, Debbie Chaddock, Pat Ryan, Kristine Axelson, Matt Axelson, Gregg Storwick, Jeremiah Allen, Mary Barger, and Brent Orlesky.

Our next cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 22 from 9-11 am. We will gather at Trolley Barn Park, and volunteers will go out into the community to pick up trash and remove graffiti. To sign up to volunteer for this event, please reach out to B-Team leader Jennifer Bishop at beautification@uhsd.org.

— Jennifer Bishop



Pat Ryan and Dacil Ward hand scrubbed the entire bridge!

Pet of the Month Ruprict

Two Men & A Bird

If you often stroll past Trolley Barn Park, you may have noticed a beautiful red-tailed gray parrot hanging out in a tree. The parrot is named Ruprict (after the Steve Martin character in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"). He is a Congo African Gray parrot, and he belongs to Scott and Xzavier.



Ruprict at home

Scott was 19 and living in Utah when he got Ruprict as a Christmas gift. Scott has always been fond of birds and had a cockatiel at the time. He wanted a talking bird, and his research led him to a pet store with three African Gray Parrot eggs about to hatch. When Ruprict finally hatched, Scott was there. Ruprict staggered over to Scott, and Scott knew Ruprict was destined to be his bird.

Parrots survive best in a climate that doesn't get too hot or too cold, so in 2005 Scott and Ruprict relocated to San Diego. While Scott knew that parrots were smart birds, he was not quite prepared for just how accomplished Ruprict would become. Ruprict not only understands and can mimic words and sounds, but also does so at the appropriate time. When a dog or cat walks by, Ruprict will bark or meow.

When he sees a big truck, he will mimic the "beep beep" sound of the truck backing up. When the phone rings, Ruprict responds with, "Hello." If he sees someone he recognizes, he will whistle. For fun, Ruprict mimics the sound of a text alert and the smoke detector. Ruprict is especially adept at mimicking a door knock. Sometimes he can mimic an entire conversation! At some point in the day, Ruprict practices his repertoire repeating his entire collection of words and sounds. During his "verbal" calisthenics, Ruprict is always trying to learn new words and sounds.

In 2010, Scott met Xzavier during Pride and they have been together ever since.

Xzavier also had a fondness for birds, and when he started dating Scott, Xzavier knew he had to win over Ruprict. Xzavier started bonding with Ruprict by playing music and singing and dancing along. Ruprict warmed up to Xzavier and began to bob his head in time to the music. The three of them have lived together in a small apartment in University Heights for the past 7 years.



Scott, Ruprict, and Xzavier at Twiggs

When both Scott and Xzavier are gone from the house, they leave the TV on to a bird channel on YouTube. However, Ruprict does not like being alone very much. He likes a lot of attention and loves being outside observing his surroundings. He likes to perch himself on Scott's or Xzavier's hand or shoulder while they walk around. He accompanies his humans to the store,

to Cheers (he especially enjoys karaoke night), Lancers, Twiggs, and various other bird-friendly establishments in the area. His favorite place is Trolley Barn Park, where he will sit on a tree branch while his humans work out. Ruprict has made many friends in the neighborhood, who call him by his name and often will stop to "chat" with him.

Ruprict is now 20 years old and in the prime of his life. (African parrots live to 60-years-old!) Soon the three of them will be moving to a bigger apartment, but one that is still walking distance to Ruprict's happy place, Trolley Barn Park.

Scott and Xzavier want anyone who is considering adopting a parrot to be aware of a local parrot rescue organization, "Parrot Education and Adoption Center" (peac.org). This organization is dedicated to the rescue and care of parrots and has foster and adoption programs.

— Jane Gilbert (including photography)

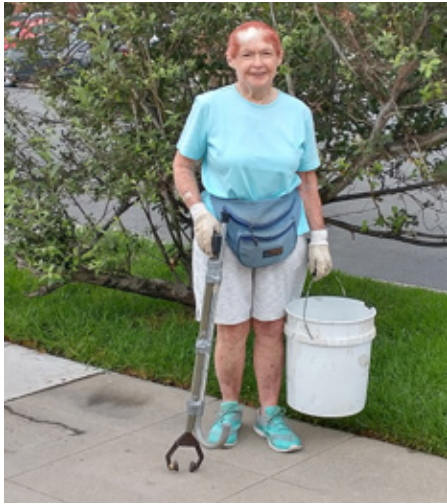
Do you know a pet we should feature? We'd love to highlight all of our furry (and not so furry) UH neighbors! Send info & photo to uhcanews@uhsd.org!

SUSTAINABLE UH

Neighborhood Allstar: MaryLou Ruane

One of the best aspects of our neighborhood is its walkability—our nice wide streets with relatively low traffic make getting those “steps” in every day a pleasure. Not so pleasant are the plastic food wrappers, to-go containers, liquor bottles, cigarette butts, and dog waste bags that litter our sidewalks, easements, gutters, and streets. While many of us will reach down to pick up and dispose of an occasional stray plastic bag or bottle as we walk, very few of us make a regular habit of traversing neighborhood streets collecting litter and debris in order to keep our streets and sidewalks clean.

But MaryLou Ruane does.



You’ve likely seen MaryLou in the morning as she quickly moves through one of her three favorite routes covering a total of about 20 blocks, her white 5-gallon bucket and “reacher grabber” tool in tow. She removes gobs of garbage during her 1-hour litter collection walks, and our neighborhood is more livable because of her efforts.

MaryLou and her husband Fred retired in May of 1994, and MaryLou soon started feeling “a little useless” after decades of productive employment with SD Unified. She started taking regular walks and “just could not pass by the litter” she saw. “So, I got a bucket and picker-upper to take with me, and that began the project,” she says.

MaryLou has noticed that much of our neighborhood’s litter comes from garbage trucks – either flying out of the trucks as they move through the streets or escaping capture as the mechanized arms pick up bins and shake their contents into the trucks. On the other hand, fast-food-related debris like napkins, cups, and straws come from passing cars, MaryLou says. And it is painfully clear to her that items like “cigarette butts, used Kleenex, masks, little liquor bottles, plastic gloves, and bags of dog poop thrown in gutters, bushes, and yards come from people walking in the neighborhood.”

While she does not pick up the cigarettes, MaryLou and Fred have placed "BUTT CANS" in areas heavily littered with cigarette butts, which has helped.

Most people know how toxic cigarette butts are and how they harm wildlife. Like cigarettes, the other litter strewn about our streets adds to the pollution burden affecting neighborhood wildlife and aquatic life when the toxins are washed into storm drains and eventually the San Diego River and downstream to the bay and ocean.

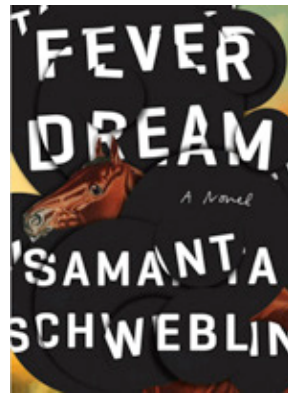
So, thank you to MaryLou Ruane for caring so much about our neighborhood and quality of life here that she is willing to literally “walk the walk.”

MaryLou, you’re an Allstar! (And also, Happy Birthday!)

—Judith Annicchiarico

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Fever Dream



“We’re looking for worms, something very much like worms, and the exact moment when they touch your body for the first time.”

It seems like the kind of task you’re given in a dream. Something nonsensical, but grounded in just enough logic that you convince yourself that, not only is it a sound goal, it’s imperative. It’s life or death.

Fever Dream (originally *Distancia de Rescate*) is a 2014 psychological horror novel from Argentinian author Samantha Schweblin. Throughout the novel, the shadow of dangerously unregulated farming practices weighs heavily over all, but none more so than the unsuspecting families of a rural countryside. Schweblin takes inspiration from the soybean farms

of Argentina, a top producer of genetically engineered crops grown to resist pesticides. However, this wanton chemical use has led to water supplies being contaminated by agricultural runoff.

Schweblin utilizes the concept of an unseen and unstoppable contaminant as the source of her horror, as our main character, Amanda, lies immobile and infected. She recounts everything to a young child, David, who understands the worms and the true nature of her infection better than Amanda does. Every action, every thought, every justification is laid out and coldly dissected by the child, who seems to randomly declare things vitally important or completely meaningless. David’s intense vigilance and constant barrage of questions, coupled with the unbroken stream-of-consciousness style of writing, feel oppressive, leaving both Amanda and the audience struggling to feel safe when so much is kept hidden from them. The interrogation feels cyclical, yet ever marching forward as it spirals down, spirals around, spirals back to our beginning. But we have to go again.

After all... “This could have to do with the worms.”

—J. Llamas

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Selling Your Home? You Have More Leverage Than You Think!



Matt "Axe" Axelson

The real estate market is shifting. In the past few months, we’ve gone from chaotic open houses to hoping people show up. Buyers’ agents have gone from frantically writing offers “over list price” to offering ‘at list’ and sometimes below. It sounds like it might be harder to sell your home under these conditions, but these are actually great signs that we’re moving into a healthier market. If you’re thinking of selling your home, here are a few very important things to consider:

1. Utilize Your Leverage!

As I write this, there are only 26 properties on the market across all of 92116. In University Heights, sellers still have leverage...but with higher interest rates, the buyer pool has diminished greatly (pushing many first-time buyers out of the running). When planning to sell, make sure you have a deep understanding of what’s happening in your pocket of San Diego and not just county, state, or country-wide headlines that don’t directly apply to you.

2. You’re Selling More Than a Home - You’re Selling a Lifestyle

What is your absolute favorite thing about your home? Is it the physical structure? Is it the garden you planted with help from the community seed swap? Or, is it how you can walk to summer concerts in the park or trivia night at Park & Rec on Tuesdays? Maybe it’s even the sense of community and relationships you share with your neighbors. If you’re thinking of selling, make sure you’re working with an agent who thinks of your property as a brand and showcases the history and liveliness of our community.

3. The Golden Rule

What do you look for when searching for a new home? Treat buyers as if you were one! Don’t leave deferred maintenance for the next owner; you’re only hurting your profits. Turn-key properties move quickly (and for top dollar)...those with a laundry list of to-do’s do not. Need to update one of your bathrooms? Do it! When buyers are touring your property, they don’t want to be thinking about the stack of future projects waiting for them as soon as they purchase your home. The little things count.

4. Stand Out (Like an Ostrich!)

Prior to listing your home, analyze your competition. What are some attributes your home features that others in the neighborhood don’t? Elevate your curb appeal by brightening up the front yard with colorful flowers and vegetation (might I suggest Eden on Park Blvd?). Pro Tip: Get a general inspection prior to listing your home. This arms buyers with more confidence when making an offer. As a seller, you’re also increasing your odds for a smooth escrow...and who doesn’t want that?

— Matt “Axe” Axelson is a real estate agent in University Heights (matt@agentsofarch.com)

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BCartwright@sandiego.gov

October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Nov. News Articles Due
	Breast Cancer Awareness Month 	San Diego Zoo/Park Kids Free All Month 				
2 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm International Day of Non-Violence 	3 Child Health Day World Habitat Day	4 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6 pm uptownplannersd.org Yom Kippur Begins	5 UHDCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm World Teachers' Day	6 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	7 World Smile Day	8 UH Library: Miss Helene's Storytime with Arts & Crafts, 10:30 am
9 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day World Mental Health Day	11 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm UH Library: Miss Helene's Storytime 6 pm	12 	13 World Sight Day	14 National Dessert Day	15 White Cane Safety Day UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm
16 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm UH Library Book Sale 12-3 pm	17 Ellen Browning Scripps Day International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty	18 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org UH Library: Literature Comes To Life-Children's Interactive Program 6 pm	19 No UH Library Task Force Meeting Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	20	21 	22 UHCA Beautification Fall Cleanup - Trolley Barn Park 9-11am Make a Difference Day
23 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	24 Diwali United Nations Day 	25 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Nov. News Out	26 National Pumpkin Day 	27	28 National First Responders Day	29
30 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm National Speak Up For Service Day	31 Halloween 					

IN DEVELOPMENT

Winslow University Heights Update

Winslow, a 379-apartment home community with approximately 17,000 square feet of retail, is well into construction along Park and Meade. Quatterra (formerly LMC) broke ground in December 2020 and reports the project is on track for a Summer 2023 grand opening. Winslow will be Quatterra's fourth San Diego community after having built Luma, Shift, and Marisol in Little Italy, East Village, and Carlsbad, respectively.



Winslow will include a variety of studios, one-bed-rooms, and two-bedrooms and offer residents a modern pool deck, 24-hour fitness center, fireside lounge with professional kitchen, and co-working lounge with private conference rooms and a collaborative workspace.

[Editor's Note: It has been reported elsewhere and the San Diego Development Services Department shows a "14,980 square foot CVS Pharmacy currently under construction" on their OpenDSD website.]

More information can be found at www.liveatwinslow.com



-Dan Ferguson, Sr. Vice President, Quatterra/Lennar Corporation

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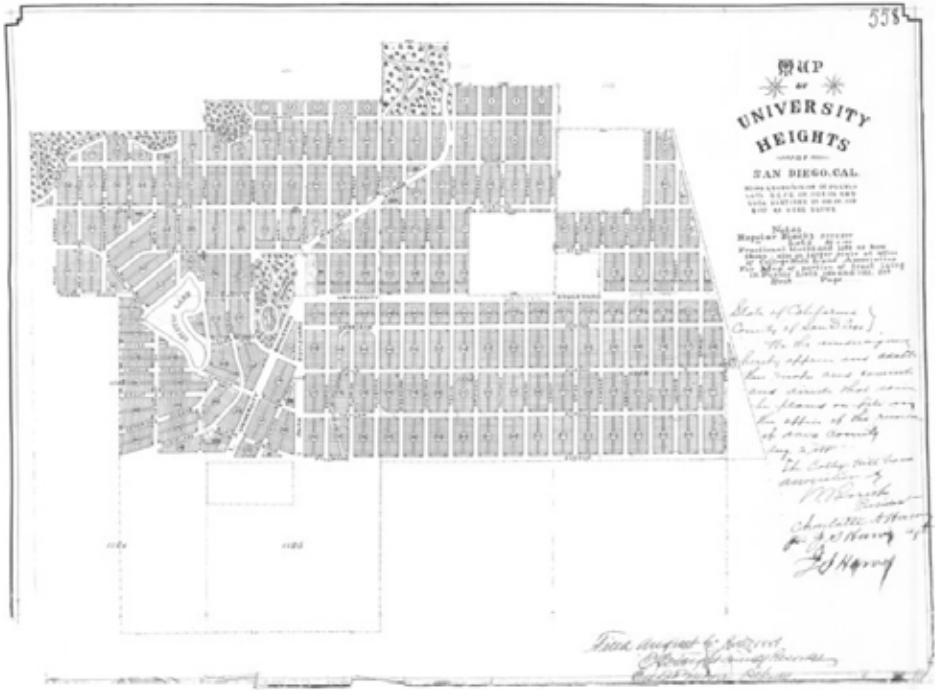
for more information please visit UHarts.org or for taste of UH information contact (619) 297-3166

A Brief History of Planning in San Diego

[This is the third part of a four-part series, "NEIGHBORHOODS IN TRANSITION: WHO DECIDES OUR FUTURE?" focusing on how community planning works in San Diego. The full series is available online at www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/blog/neighborhoods-in-transition.—eds.]

Urban Planning Begins in the Early 1900s

Planning in San Diego didn't start until the early 1900s. Before then, speculators and developers created their own plan for land they bought. A good example is University Heights, which was planned and subdivided by the College Hill Land Association in 1888.



University Heights Subdivision Map 558, filed August 6, 1888

Urban planning in the City of San Diego began in 1903, when George Marston, founder of Marston's Department Store, convinced the Chamber of Commerce to form a civic improvement committee. The committee hired John Nolen, a nationally recognized landscape architect, to give some direction to the unmanaged growth of San Diego. He created "[San Diego: A Comprehensive Plan for its Improvement](#)," a 109-page study on the future of San Diego.

Nolen's recommendations were submitted in March 1908 and included grouping public buildings, developing the waterfront into a recreational and transportation center, providing scattered playgrounds and wide boulevards and avenues, and setting aside public beaches and regional parks.

"These recommendations may appear to present a heavy task for a city the size of San Diego," Nolen said in the report's conclusion. "Yet, after careful consideration and a comparison with the programs and achievements of other cities, I believe the proposed undertakings are all of a reasonable nature."

The city later hired Nolen again to prepare a "[City Plan for San Diego](#)" that was approved on March 8, 1926.

San Diego's First General Plan Adopted in 1967

In the 1950s, the city approved a Municipal Code change to add a zoning provision. This ordinance served the city until the [first General Plan](#) was adopted and ratified by the voters in 1967.

In 1974, with a grant from the prominent San Diego Marston family, planning consultants Kevin Lynch and Donald Appleyard produced [Temporary Paradise?](#) This groundbreaking study focused upon the natural base of the City and region and recommended that new growth complement the regional landscape to preserve its precious natural resources and San Diego's high quality of life. [Temporary Paradise?](#) served as a major influence on the subsequent comprehensive update of the [Progress Guide and General Plan](#) adopted in 1979.

The [General Plan](#) was again updated in 2008 and approved by a unanimous vote of the City Council. In June 2015, the [Land Use and Community Planning Element](#) was amended to include a "City of Villages Strategy" to "focus growth into mixed-use activity centers that are pedestrian-friendly, centers of community, and linked to the regional transit system."

Community Plans Adopted for University Heights

University Heights is split down Park Boulevard between the Uptown and North Park Community Plan Areas. Several community plans were approved for North Park affecting University Heights east of Park Blvd., including the 1969 North Park Commercial Area Plan, the 1970 Park North-East Community Plan, and the 1986 [North Park Community Plan](#). The first Uptown Community Plan was approved in 1975 and updated in 1988, affecting the west side of University Heights.

In 2007, the [Mid-Cities Community Planned District \(MCCPD\)](#) was approved as part of the Municipal Code to further regulate land use in the Mid-City area, which included the area of University Heights east of Park Blvd. The MCCPD required residential buildings to include at least 5 architectural features from Contemporary, Spanish, or Bungalow styles.

Both the [North Park](#) and [Uptown](#) Community Plans were updated and approved in 2016 after several years of community input and collaboration with City planning staff to increase density in the older neighborhoods of North Park and Uptown while maintaining historic community character.



University Heights is split between North Park Planning Committee and Uptown Planners along Park Blvd.

However, the [Land Use Element](#) of the North Park Community Plan update approved by the City Council in 2016 dramatically increased the allowable height and density of buildings along El Cajon Blvd. It also allowed for density bonuses of 33% above the normal zoning limitations in the "Transit Oriented Enhancement Program Area" and density bonuses of 66% in the "Pedestrian-Oriented Development Enhancement Area."

The 2016 Uptown Community Plan update also suffered a similar fate. In a surprising and unexpected move on November 14, 2016, after eight hours of City Council deliberation, District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to maintain the densities of the current 1988 Uptown Community Plan, eliminate the Mid-City Communities Planned District (MCCPD), and replace the MCCPD with the City's new standardized zoning.

At their [meeting](#) on October 6, 2016, the Planning Commission maintained that the proposed 2016 Uptown Community Plan reduced the number of housing units in the Uptown area by 1,900 as compared to the 1988 Plan. However, Commissioner Hoffman felt that the 1,900 units were in areas related to airport safety considerations and would not impact the actual number of units.



Transit-Oriented and Pedestrian-Oriented Enhancement Program Areas, Land Use Element of the 2016 North Park Community Plan

These 2016 updates to the North Park and Uptown Community Plans essentially allowed developers to build projects with significantly increased densities and building heights in the North Park and Uptown areas with only ministerial review and "suggested" design guidelines.

An amendment to the Uptown Community Plan, called the [Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment](#), is currently in progress to increase the allowable number of units by at least 10,000 units within the Hillcrest area.

—Bill Ellig, Uptown Planners Board Member emeritus

Plan Ahead & Save the Date

UH Community Yard Sale

Saturday, December 3

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.

Email UHyardsale@gmail.com to register & be included on the map

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MARYANNESHOMES@GMAIL.COM | BREWER.ANASTASIA@GMAIL.COM

MEET THE UHCA EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER NOMINEES

Every two years, UHCA nominates and then elects Executive Officers to serve as leaders of our organization for the next two years. At our last virtual meeting on September 1, nominations for officers were opened, and the final slate of nominations is now being announced. One nomination was received for each office, with two nominees withdrawing and one additional one added after nominations opened.

At our October meeting the membership will be asked to vote for the nominees by acclamation as there are no contested positions. We want to thank these nominees for stepping up and look forward to electing our new leadership team at the next meeting.

For President:
Marc Johnson



Marc and his husband Jeffrey have been proud University Heights residents since 2012, moving here from Boston, originally from Chicago. They share their loft with two dogs, Carson and Maddox.

Marc is the Sr. Market Development Manager for HP's inkjet press division based in Rancho Bernardo and has worked in that industry for over 30 years. Jeffrey is an artist, primarily abstract acrylics, and has displayed his work at UH businesses and during the Taste of UH and Concerts in the Park events.

Since moving here, Marc has led their 6-unit HOA as President, and both Marc and Jeffrey have been active with the UH Park & Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group, which Marc has chaired

and where he led the 7+ year effort to get a dog park built. Marc has participated as a member of UHCA for nine years, been a board member for the past two years, was elected as Vice President in 2020, and stepped in to fill the role of President in 2021 when it was vacated.

"UH is such a gem of a neighborhood—the history, the walk/bikeability, the eclectic businesses – but most of all it's the people that make this a truly special community," Marc said of his motivation for being involved with UHCA. "I'm deeply invested in this neighborhood and want to see this community thrive for all of us. I believe an active association like UHCA is the best way to amplify our voices."

For Vice President:
Lisa Getz



My name is Lisa Getz. As a San Diego native, my roots run deep in the community. I've always had a passion for our city, particularly here in University Heights where I've owned my small business since 2004.

Eight years ago, I personally created an Instagram account named Universityheightssd to promote local small businesses in UH and showcase our wonderful neighborhood. Since its beginning, Universityheightssd has grown to over 11.7 thousand followers. Using my experience working with social media, I am currently managing and

growing the UHCA Instagram account.

Over the years, I've volunteered for many UH events. You may have met me recently at the 25th Anniversary Sign Celebration, Cookies with the Cops, or Party on Park. Currently, in an effort to increase funding for UHCA, I volunteered to take on promoting and selling UHCA-related merchandise. With the help of UHCA's amazing team of volunteers, merchandise sales reached record breaking numbers at this year's Summer Concerts, and sales continue to rise under my guidance.

Some of my prior volunteer experience includes being a Board member for ACES. ACES is a 501c3 formed to assist the El Cajon Animal Shelter to help pay for surgeries for adoptable injured animals coming into the shelter.

I am committed to making our neighborhood a great place to live, work, play, and stay. I will serve our community relentlessly.

For Treasurer
Brent Orlesky



My partner and I have been residents of University Heights for a number of years now. I am the current Treasurer since 2020. I was also Treasurer from 2002 to 2007.

I'm offering my services. With over 25 years of accounting experience, I will do

my best to keep UH's financial matters in good order, complying with different government agencies and filing all necessary returns.

I'm grateful to be living in this neighborhood. Our neighbors are also our friends. It's all of you that make University Heights what it is. Thank you, every one of you. I love calling UH home.

For Secretary
Angela Jackson-Llamas



My name is Angela Jackson-Llamas, and I'm excited to run for Secretary of the Board for UHCA.

I've lived in San Diego since 1980, moving here in first grade. Over the years I hosted more than one birthday party for my son (who is now 26) at Trolley Barn Park.

Last year my wife and I had the opportunity to purchase a beautiful home in University Heights, and we could not be more excited. We love this community and are happy to be a part of this great group of volunteers ensuring that it retains its character and beauty.

Professionally, I work for a local government agency, overseeing the development of affordable housing and homeless shelters on government-owned property. If elected, I'm looking forward to bringing my knowledge of the inner workings of government agencies, as well as real estate development, to the community conversations.

—Bios submitted by candidates

Seed Swap Smash!

The first University Heights Seed/Garden Swap event held on Saturday, August 27 on Maryland Street was a success! Twenty-five garden enthusiasts from University Heights gathered in the garden of Lauren and Chris Sera to swap seeds, tips and tricks, garden supplies, seedlings, plant cuttings, homesteading equipment, garden reference books, and more. Neighbors connected during the event on how best to protect garden beds against skunks and pill bugs, where to pick up the best soil amendments for their fruits and veggies, and which varieties do best in USDA hardiness zone 10A (where University Heights is located).

Special guests who attended the swap included Helene and Peggy from the University Heights Library who provided seeds from their summer seed initiative. They also shared information on the upcoming Master Gardeners of San Diego Plant Sale happening on September 24 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park and the January, 2023 orientation course for those considering becoming Master Gardeners themselves.

Sam from City Farmers Nursery educated



participants on his home-brewed CFN compost tea, as well as seed tape that allows gardeners to evenly distribute small seeds on a compostable sticky tape with the guidance of a measuring stick.

UHCA events committee member, Lisa Getz of Original Skin and Body, was present selling UHCA t-shirts and other merchandise, as was UHCA VP, Stu McGraw.

Enthusiasm about this garden event has led to our creating an official University Heights Garden Club, open to all individuals interested in gardening, homesteading, and the like. Future events will include Cocktails in the Garden, seminars/presentations on various garden related topics, additional seed/garden swaps, and possibly even an UH Garden Walk.

If you would like to get involved with this new club, please contact Lauren Doucette at gardenclub@uhsd.org.

—Lauren Doucette, including photographs

[Editor's note: Lauren will be the featured speaker at the October 6 Community meeting and will discuss "How to Get Started Growing Your Own Food."]

BIRNEY BUZZ

Birney Brings Back Past Traditions

The first month of school was a busy one at Birney Elementary for all its bees and their families. Parents and families were excited to return to campus for Back-to-School Family Friday on September 9th after two years of attending the event online. Clad in masks for the safety of the teachers and staff, hundreds of parents met their children's teachers and heard about classroom plans for the school year.

Mr. Patrick Delany, 3rd grade Birney teacher, says this important event "gives parents an opportunity to meet and have a dialogue with their child's teacher very early in the year. This meeting not only gives teachers the chance to describe classroom policies and schedules but also lets parents see the learning environment where their children will be spending so much time over the next nine months." He added that Birney "wouldn't be the school we are without the parents' support. Birney's built up such a strong relationship with the community under Ms. Amanda's [the school principal] leadership, so seeing [parents] back in the classroom after the last couple of years felt like a welcome reunion for all of us."

During Family Friday, the Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) and PTA also shared some of their plans for the school year. FOABE announced the launch of the Fall Fundraiser. As in years past, FOABE has partnered up with Boon Supply to offer a wonderful catalog of items such as totes, reusable food containers, water bottles, and more. Parents, grandparents, and other community members can make purchases to support FOABE, which funds Birney's "Specials," which include garden, art, and Spanish classes, field trips, and assemblies. Forty percent of all purchases go to Birney; donations can also be made directly to FOABE to support these programs.

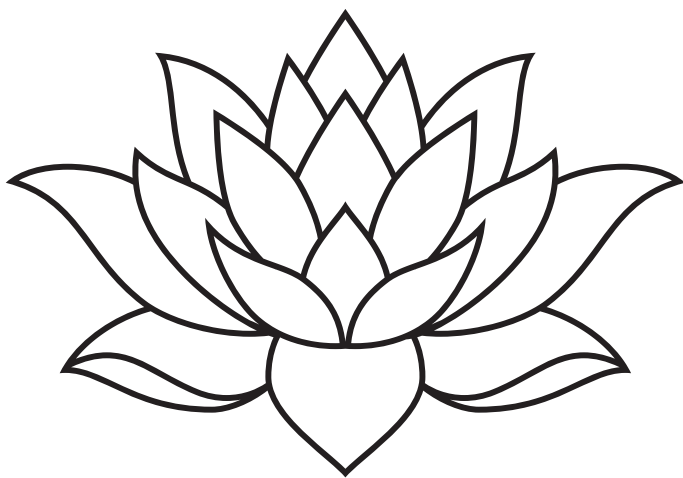


September also saw the return of students to Garden, Art, and Spanish "Specials." These classes are a highlight of many students' days at Birney. Ms. Mindy, the Garden teacher, creates a welcoming and stress-relieving environment that fosters collaboration and a connection between students and the food they put into their bodies. Olivia H, 2nd grader, said, "I like Garden because it's a really great program. Plus, you get to exercise when you do it and you get to do fun stuff, like try new foods."

In addition to teaching the garden classes, Ms. Mindy hosts a farm stand several times a year on select weekends to help raise money for the garden program. Produce and flowers are harvested from the school garden and then sold on a pay-what-you-want basis with the help of parent and student volunteers. Birney 4th grader, Neve D, who stopped by the last farm stand outside Twiggs Coffee on Park Blvd. to buy some produce, said, "I think it's cool because we grew the food in the garden. It's nice to know that other people can enjoy what we grew, too." You can follow @friendsofalicebirney on Instagram to find out when and where the next Birney farm stand will take place.

Other upcoming Birney events include parent organization-PTA and FOABE-meetings on September 22 and October 20 and a Halloween costume exchange in mid-October. As always, to get involved, please contact FOABE at info@friendsofalicebirney.org.

— Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and UH Community Member



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ROO NEWS

A New School Year with More Extracurriculars

Students of Roosevelt International Middle School (RMS) have been settling into the back-to-school routine over the final hot weeks of late summer. As these 6th-8th grade kids become immersed in the International Baccalaureate curriculum and accustomed to the occasional animal/tourist noises from their neighbors at the San Diego Zoo, they can also look forward to an unprecedented variety of extracurricular activities.

For the athletically inclined, San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) offers a new intramural sports program for middle schools. Last spring, it conducted a pilot version of this program, during which Roosevelt Girls Soccer took gold in the tournament, and the boys squad won silver! For fall, the district is offering basketball and track & field; then in winter, soccer and volleyball will be on the roster.

By the end of September, RMS will have rolled out its wildly popular After School Enrichment (ASE) program, which is funded by Friends of Roosevelt, the school foundation. The ASE program, which is run by volunteers and provided at no charge to families, offers a variety of clubs every week day, including Improv, Art, Sports, Strategic Games, Theater, Comic Book Club, and much more.

Budding musicians will have a number of opportunities to explore traditional and electronic music during the school day, as well as after school. Band and Orchestra are offered as after-school activities throughout the school year, and Director Elias-Kocivar



Girl's soccer team (top), Boy's soccer team (bottom) from spring semester



and the musicians are hoping to have more opportunities to perform live this year, as Covid restrictions become less severe.

If students crave adventures farther afield, they can participate in either the 6th Grade Camp, or the 8th Grade Field Trip. 6th graders all over San Diego get a chance to commune with nature at the Cuyamaca Outdoor School, and 8th graders can explore the trajectory of US History by visiting Washington D.C., New York City, and Boston.

We all are wishing these middle scholars the best as they embark on a year of educational and cultural opportunities. Please visit the Friends of Roosevelt website (friendsofroosevelt.org) to keep up with the latest news from Roosevelt International Middle School.

— Andy Hinds

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BETWEEN THE COVERS

Fall Events at the Library

Is it the fall season already? Indeed, it is, and the University Heights Branch Library staff has been busy preparing several fun and informative programs for the community to enjoy! Some dates are still “To Be Determined,” but here’s a sneak peek of what we have in the works:

The “In-N-Out Cover to Cover Reading Program” for children is returning again! It generally takes place from October – November. Miss Helene will present a morning Storytime with Arts & Crafts on Saturday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m. and an evening Storytime on Tuesday, October 11 at 6 p.m. The UH Library will host a “Literature Comes To Life” children’s interactive program where kids get to portray story characters on Tuesday, October 18 at 6 p.m. Stay tuned for details about a special “Lead Safety and Prevention” Storytime during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 23 – 29. Also in the works is a Sugar Skull Making Craft for Día De Los Muertos. Programs may be subject to change, so please contact library staff to confirm details.

Do you know about the 2022-2023 “One Book One San Diego” (OBOSD) reading selections for all ages? Selections were recently announced at the San Diego Festival of Books and include *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett (adult), *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen (teen), and *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom (kids). You can place a hold on these titles and pick them up when you come visit us at the library! San Diego Public Library will soon be offering OBOSD programs related to these book selections.

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library continues their monthly book sale on the lower level of the library on the third Saturday and Sunday of the month. Please show your support on October 15th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



ODI and Miss Helene

and during the famous \$5 bag sale on October 16th from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. The Friends of the University Heights Library also has a sale inside the library during regular business hours.

You can learn more about our programs by following our University Heights Branch Library’s Facebook page and online calendar of events for all the exciting happenings! Please also consider joining the Friends of the University Heights Library as they engage in library advocacy and help raise funds to support our library and programs.

www.facebook.com/universityheightslibrary
sandiego.librarymarket.com

www.friendsofuhlibrary.org
 — Helene Idels, Youth Services Librarian
 University Heights Branch Library
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 619-692-4912

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

It’s Your Turn

Every month we let you know about what our chapter is doing to support our library, and this month we are asking you to step up and support our library by supporting the Libraries and Parks for All Investment Act of 2024.

The Library and Parks Investment Act of 2024 is a community-led, citizens’ initiative to improve San Diego’s libraries and parks. The measure, if passed, will provide a permanently restricted revenue source for libraries and parks.

This measure will invest in our local libraries and parks, benefitting our entire community by providing funding for

- Rehabilitating and Modernizing Aging Facilities
- Enriching Arts, Library Materials, and Recreation Programming
- Educational Programs

- Improving Safety and Security at Libraries and Parks
- Expanded Access to Technology and Free Public Wi-Fi
- Constructing Libraries and Parks in the Communities that Need it Most (including our UH community!)
- Homeless Services

Our library needs your help. Please check out <https://librariesparks4all.com> for more information.

Thank you.

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

* The Friends of the San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FEIN: 95-3313747. Your tax-deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego.

IT’S YOUR BUSINESS

Fur, Fins & Feathers: Where the Past Saves the Present

Fur, Fins & Feathers is an upscale non-profit vintage store where all proceeds go towards small, local animal rescues. Located at 2545 El Cajon Blvd. (with the entrance on Hamilton Street), the store is large, bright, and airy – a delight from the moment you walk in. This is not your grandmother’s antique store filled with old, dusty and musty things. Rather, it is a wonderful collection of items from bygone eras in a modern setting. Organized by category – glassware, jewelry, trinkets, books, purses, furniture, clothing, etc. – the store’s natural flow invites customers to meander around and browse the many treasures on display.



Vintage clothing at Fur, Fins & Feathers

Fur, Fins & Feathers is the brainchild of Sundi Sage, the founder and CEO. Sundi’s area of expertise is antiques as she has been in the business for 27 years. She has owned antique stores throughout San Diego on Park Blvd., Adams Ave., and most recently on 30th Street. Just before the pandemic, Sundi had the idea to merge her two loves, antiques and animals. She came up with the idea of selling and consigning vintage items with all the proceeds

going to small, local animal rescue shelters. The store’s mission statement says it all: “Our mission focuses on the overall betterment of all animals. We will advance this cause through education, rescue, rehabilitation, pollution solutions, repurposing and kindness. All the while contributing to our animal friends’ health, wellness, and quality of life.”



Fur, Fins & Feathers storefront on El Cajon Blvd.

Fur, Fins & Feathers accepts donations as well as selling items on consignment. When customers buy that special something at the store, it is a win-win for everyone: customers take home a new prized possession, while knowing they are helping out animals in need. At the end of every year, the Board of Directors divvies up the proceeds (minus overhead expenses) to various local animal rescues.

In addition to running the store, Sundi participates in fundraising events throughout the year. The next event will be “Bunny Fest 2022” on September 18 at Liberty Station. As the name implies, the event is dedicated to supporting rabbit rescue.

It has been a bit challenging to get the word out to customers that Fur, Fins & Feathers remains open and full of great things. Sundi is hopeful, now that the pandemic is behind us, that more people will come to the store. There is free on-street parking and it’s open five days a week (closed on Mondays and Tuesdays).

Fur, Fins & Feathers
 2545 El Cajon Blvd.
 Wed- Sat 11-6, Sunday 12-6

—Jane Gilbert

October’s San Diego, Six AM

Morning
 throws a cool scarf
 over her shoulders.
 Olives and Sycamores
 take hands with Breeze
 to dance the dance
 of the four winds.
 Sun,
 leaving Flame and Burn
 to slumber a bit longer,
 smiles cooler -
 his lips now
 a warm stream

for Starling’s flight north -
 why even Sparrows
 and there pals,
 Robin and Wren
 tweet a tune
 from the first page
 of Autumn’s
 Songbook of Relief
 as we stroll
 through the rhythms
 of our University Heights autumn.

Jon Von Erb, 10/2022



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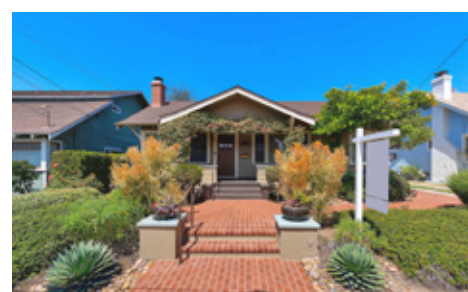
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