

NEWS

University Heights Community Association
September 2022



UH represented at SD Pride | Page 9

STAY TUNED!

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR UHCA BOARD OFFICERS ARE COMING UP. HAVE A NOMINATION? SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS. WWW.UHSD.ORG

VERMONT STREET BRIDGE TROUBLES CONTINUE

Over the spring and summer, problems with trash, drug paraphernalia, and homeless encampments on, under, and near the Vermont Street Bridge reached a tipping point for many neighbors of the beloved pedestrian bridge that traverses Washington Street and the 163 entrance ramp.

John Ross, a UHCA Beautification Team member and part of UH ZoneWatch, filed numerous Get it Done reports, hounded the San Diego Police Department (SDPD), and begged Mayor Gloria's and Councilmember Whitburn's offices for help.



Make-shift "room" created by homeless people under bridge, photo by CBS8 News

A "make-shift 'room'" was constructed under the north side of the bridge out of scrap plywood and was used by homeless people as an encampment. After weeks of nothing being done, a fire broke out on June 11 and spread to the hillside, scorching eucalyptus trees as well as the fence and plants of neighboring homes," Ross told his fellow ZoneWatch team members.

Neighbor and fellow UHCA volunteer Jayson Coleman implored SDPD and others in the community: "I am frustrated. I see a lot of crime in the alley (Pascoe) behind my house, and I call the non-emergency line WEEKLY to no avail. Stolen packages, crack users, stolen motorcycles, drunks, vagrancy, and graffiti have all been caught on my 5 cameras."

Coleman believes that the issues he's seeing stem from problems on the bridge and in the neighboring canyon. "Vermont Street Bridge has been less than poetically beautiful these last few years. It has been a stage for vagrancy, theft, intimidation, and less than sanitary conditions. It is my belief that if the bridge is taken care of, making it impossible for people to congregate and or live under the bridge, it would deter much of the crime and vagrancy in our neighborhood. At least it would free my time up from returning stolen packages,

reporting the crimes, and checking in with neighbors who have been vandalized, stolen from, and feel unsafe on the bridge."

With little progress being made from efforts to get the City involved, neighbors were able to get attention from CBS8 who came out and filmed a report that aired on July 13 (tinyurl.com/CBS8bridge). More than 15 UH neighbors joined Jayson to tell their story, and after airing the piece, UHCA Beautification Team volunteers worked on clearing out trash and some of the burned-out areas in the canyon. Unfortunately, the area that was cleared out now has a new encampment, and trash in the gully has grown.

Coleman asks us to "Please keep vigilant. Make sure you introduce yourself to your neighbors and talk about the issues. If anything odd happens, reporting is the only way to document the problem. We are the eyes and ears of our neighborhood, and it will remain OUR neighborhood only to the degree we ourselves get involved."



One person passed out, another sitting on bridge, with large cart blocking traffic

Unfortunately, as soon as one problem was addressed, more followed.

UHCA Beautification Volunteer Andy Lange has been submitting numerous Get It Done reports with no results, and ultimately contacted the Mayor's office with a list of frustrations from neighbors that he and his wife Mary collected:

10th Ave.: I was assaulted on the bridge by a homeless person for being gay. A police report was filed, and my assailant was found, but the officer involved recommended I not file charges because "... the person is not of sound mind and the case will go nowhere..." I don't feel safe crossing the bridge alone.

Vermont St. bridge continued on page 8

Summer in the Park Recap

It was Deja Vu all over again—many comments about "just like old times," as though time hadn't stopped for the concert series. It was our Field of Dreams. Put on a show and they will come. And they did: neighbors, families, friends, and visitors came to relax, enjoy the music, and forget about the world at large. And that is why the University Heights Community Development Corp. resumed its Summer in The Trolley Barn Park event for the 24th year! We didn't want the pandemic to shut the event again as it did in 2020 and 2021. Enjoy the photos, and you will see why this event won't go away—it is celebrating COMMUNITY, and what better place than in our neighborhood park that we made happen!

—Ernie Bonn, Concert Event Coordinator



NEXT UHCA MEETING

SEPT. 1

VIA ZOOM

ZONE WATCH STARTS AT

6:45 PM

REGULAR MEETING STARTS AT

7:00 PM

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

LOOKING AHEAD

OCT. 6

6:45 PM

2022 UHCA OFFICER ELECTIONS

WE'RE HOPING TO BE LIVE AND IN-PERSON AGAIN AT THE BIRNEY AUDITORIUM!!!!

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

School Bond Measure in November Will Fund Safety, Health, Repairs, and More

On July 26, the SDUSD Board of Education voted to place a \$3.2 billion General Obligation Bond Measure on the November general election ballot. The "San Diego Student Safety, Health, and School Repair Measure," if approved by 55% of voters in November, will immediately fund \$296 million towards school security, and student health and safety.

"This won't result in a tax increase for taxpayers," SDUSD District D board member Richard Barerra said. "The previous bond measure passed in 2012 is retired, and this new bond measure will replace it."

The recent spate of school shootings around the country has caused great concern among educators and parents alike, and the immediate impact of hardening school security is part of a multi-prong approach to help keep schools safe. According to Barerra, "It's about multiple elements—technological and physical—to try to guard against situations."

While previous bond measures have covered some security upgrades, more are needed, and faster. Some of the improvements this bond measure will fund include emergency communications systems, fencing, secure single-entry points to campuses, lighting, security cameras, and automatic door locks. The remainder of the bond measure will fund:

- Universal Transitional Kindergarten School Facilities
- Major Repairs, Renovation, and Modernization of School Facilities
- Classroom Technology and STEAM facilities to Improve Student Academic Achievement
- School Accessibility and Code Compliance Upgrades
- Energy Efficiency and Sustainability
- Quality Neighborhood Schools
- Visual and Performing Arts Education Facilities
- College, Career, and Technical Educational Facilities
- Specific Charter School Projects

Stay tuned, and more importantly, stay involved in this process. We will continue to update the community as this bond measure progresses.

—Community Coalition of University Heights



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

What a summer! I hope you've been enjoying it with your family and friends. It's been a busy season here in UH. We kicked it off with the UH Block Party/25th Anniversary celebration for the UH Sign, had a group marching in the SD Pride parade, and enjoyed 4 weeks of Summer in the Park concerts. In between these events, there have been teams of volunteers conducting ongoing cleanups, keeping a watchful eye in the neighborhood, and maintaining new trees.

We've also been working behind the scenes at UHCA expanding the board with new members, welcoming a bunch of new volunteers working on the UH News and events teams, and increasing our reach with other community associations as we try to navigate the vast range of changes that San Diego is going through.

In this issue, we're continuing with Bill Ellig's informative primer on community planning with Part 2. With so much change happening at the city planning level—including the new Parks Master Plan implementation, new Complete Communities initiatives, and changes to how the community planning groups work with the City—it's important for citizens (also known as voters!) to understand how these changes impact our neighborhood, businesses, and properties.

I'm thrilled that our own Carmen Cooley-Graham was elected to the North Park Planning Committee in July. Carmen is a business owner and a passionate voice for UH

on the NPPC and will act as our liaison to that group. She joins our UHCA Vice President Stu McGraw who is the liaison to Uptown Planners, and together they will help ensure that UH voices are heard in both of the planning groups that influence and advise the City on development, land use, and overall planning for our community.

Working with the two planning groups and the coalition of University Heights Community Development Corporation and University Heights Historical Society has been an important way for UHCA to ensure that our voice is heard by our elected officials. And that voice is more important than ever, with major projects changing our community and more on the way. With critical decisions coming up on the redevelopment of the Normal Street Education Center and the potential installation of restrooms in Old Trolley Barn Park, it's important that we continue to gather community input and reflect what our residents and businesses want back to the City. Your participation in surveys, community meetings, and UHCA events is an important part of that connection and communication.

Thanks for being UHCA—for your commitment, volunteering, and participation. You are what makes UH a stronger community, and I'm proud to be a part of it!

Marc



DIVERSIONARY
THEATRE

CLARK CABARET



COME TO THE CABARET OLD CHUM!
...and enjoy a cocktail, eclectic performances, and a big dose of community love!

Most events are FREE and have open seating!
For more information visit:
www.diversionary.org/cabaret

PIANO BAR | DRAG | SING-ALONGS
HAPPY HOURS | LIVE MUSIC | COMEDY

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



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

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

HOUSEHOLD

Randall Mann & Sarah Luth, Jeanne Hall & Karen Watts, Herb Kulman, Robert McClure, Debra Pacecca, Colin & Ann McNeilly, Gregory Fletcher, Allison Helm, Thomas & Carmen Harrison, Blair Alexander & Dan Belair, Carl Latkowski, Susan Villareal, Meredith Harward & Emmi Harward, Michelle Livermore, Bradley Whitehead & Lemuel Salao, Mark Bertone, Anne Feingold

Thank You!

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Kharissa Shaw, Sharon Ritchie & David Morgan, Douglas S. McPherson & Ron Comparato

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

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



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

UHCA NEWS

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Jane Gilbert, NanMcGraw, Brent Orlesky, Sol Schumer, Ernie Bonn, Jennifer Bishop, John Lovio, Judith Annicchiarico, Jon Von Erb, Vaychan Hallman, Isabel V., Sarah Layne, Lisa Venditelli Karmel, Isabel Schechter, Rachel Esguerra, Ben Cartwright, Bill Ellig, 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

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.



UHCA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Marc Johnson, president@uhsd.org

VICE PRESIDENT Stu McGraw, vp@uhsd.org

SECRETARY (ACTING) Brent Orlesky, secretary@uhsd.org

TREASURER Brent Orlesky, treasurer@uhsd.org

 **WEBSITE** uhsd.org

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

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

How Land Use Planning Is Organized in the City of San Diego

[This is the second 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.]

Land use planning in the City of San Diego is guided by the General Plan, the Community Plan, and the Municipal Code, which specifies zoning details. It is important to note that if there are conflicts between the General Plan, Community Plans, and Municipal Code, the Municipal Code takes precedence.

The San Diego General Plan

The planning process begins with the **General Plan** of the City of San Diego. According to the City's website, "The City's General Plan is its constitution for development. It is comprised of 10 elements that provide a comprehensive slate of citywide policies and further the City of Villages smart growth strategy for growth and development."

General Plan elements include Land Use and Community Planning, Mobility, Urban Design, Economic Prosperity, Public Facilities, Noise, and Historic Preservation.

Community Plans

The City is comprised of **52 Community Plan Areas** that divide up the city. Each area has its own Community Plan with a set of elements similar to the General Plan but more specific to its plan area.



City of San Diego Community Plan Area Map

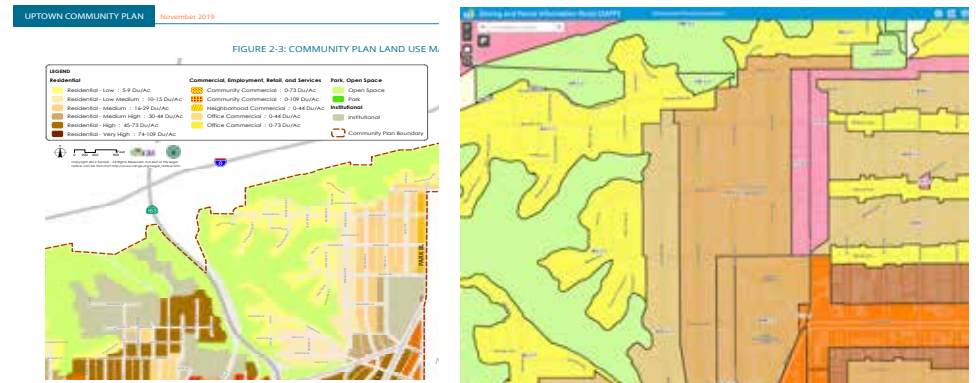
The **Community Plan Land Use Element** identifies the location of residential, commercial, and mixed-use areas and also defines how many residential units that can be built on an acre of land. As a reference, the typical lot size in University Heights is about 50 feet x 150 feet or .17 acre. Examples of Community Plan Land Use categories include the following:

- Residential-Low (single family homes): 5-9 dwelling units per Acre (DU/AC)
- Residential-Medium: 16-29 DU/AC
- Residential-Very High: 74-109 DU/AC

In addition, the **Community Plan Urban Design Element** "guides future development to ensure that the physical attributes that make Uptown unique will be retained and enhanced by design that responds to the community's particular context—its physical setting, market strengths, cultural and social amenities, and historical assets while acknowledging the potential for positive growth and change."

Municipal Code Zones

Underlying the Community Plans are the Zones defined in the San Diego Municipal Code, which "help ensure that land uses within the City are properly located and that adequate space is provided for each type of development identified. Base zones are intended to regulate uses; to minimize the adverse impacts of these uses; to regulate the zone density and intensity; to regulate the size of buildings; and to classify, regulate, and address the relationships of uses of land and buildings." The Municipal Code further specifies the height, density, setbacks, and other details of construction in each zone.

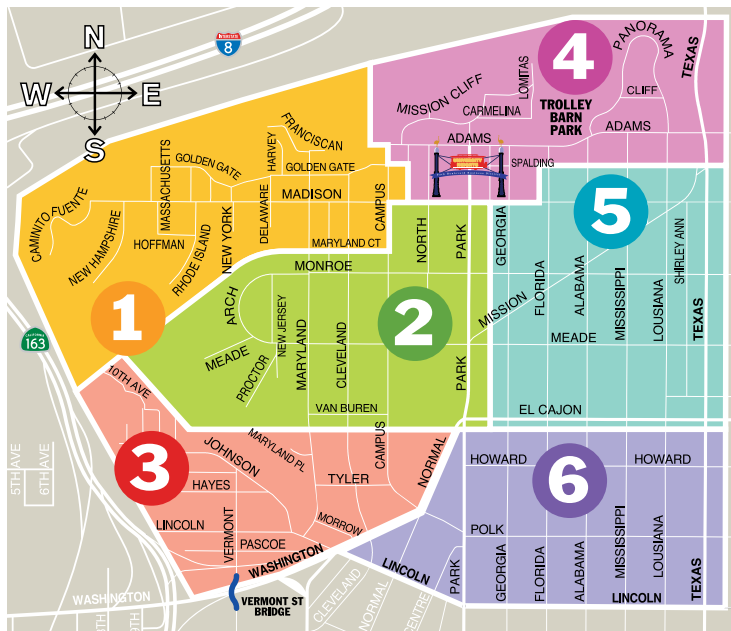


At left is detail from the Land Use Map from the 2016 Uptown community Plan. At right is the Zoning Map for the same area.

For example, the Residential-Medium Land Use category defined in the Community Plan is translated into the associated Base Zone RM-2-5 in the Municipal Code. This zone allows up to 29 units per acre, requires a setback from the property line of at least 15 feet, and sets a maximum height of 40 feet. There are many other specifications as well.

Planning continued on page 8

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 www.uhds.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 Zhylij 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@uhds.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@uhds.org.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical	911	PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@epath.org	619-810-8600
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.	619-531-2000	Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)	619-692-4945
SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency Street lights, potholes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support	
Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations	www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/	SD County Mental Health Access & Crisis Line	888-724-7240
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211	National Suicide Prevention Hotline (NEW)	998
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856	SDPD Community Relations Officers:	619-692-4858
Alice Birney Elementary Office	619-497-3500	SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Animals / Non-Emergency	619-767-2675	Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444	Stonewall Citizens Patrol	info@stonewallcitizens.org
Code Violations	619-236-5500	UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus	University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)	UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888	Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: Report Online: https://getitdone.force.com	619-527-7500
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E	800-411-7343	Graffiti Hotline:	619-527-7500
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes	619-515-3525	SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov	858-694-2888
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.

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

Nature in the Neighborhood

Plants with a Thirst for Wetlands

As summer winds down, so do most native plants, saving precious water for core functions only. Plants growing near streams where the soil stays moist through the summer are the exception to this rule. This month, we'll visit some species (in addition to last issue's willows) that normally grow along rivers, streams, and lagoons but have found a home in our neighborhood where we can see them up close, without getting our feet wet.



Western Sycamore



From Park Blvd, head west on Monroe Street (to 1639), where you'll find a Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) bursting out from the parking strip. In nature, these graceful trees grow up to 100 feet tall in wide canyon bottoms, such as San Clemente Canyon, just south of SR52. This tree may be a hybrid between our native sycamore and its horticultural cousin, London Plane Tree (*Platanus X hispanica*), which grows erect and can form stately rows, unlike our sprawling native Sycamore.

Our specimen has the deeper lobes, long central "finger," and smooth (not toothed) leaf edges of a Western Sycamore, but the leaves are somewhat hairy below, like a London Plane.

Look for a native rush (*Juncus sp.*) growing nearby in the parking strip. Remember, "rushes [the stems] are round, but sedges have edges." These grass-like plants grow in all kinds of wet places and are hard to tell apart, but note that these flowers or seeds (both are tiny and brown) grow along the stem, not just near the tip.

Behind you, inside the fence and along the alley is a California Rose (*Rosa californica*), perhaps with the rose hips still hanging near the top (please don't pick!). It forms dense thickets beneath willows and other streamside trees, along with other native vines such as Wild Grape (*Vitis californica*) and Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). There's grape growing in this yard too, but the fruit is too big to be from our native species (also don't pick!!).



California Rose

Continue around the corner to (1420) Campus Street, where you'll find a tall, trimmed-up Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) towering over the upland natives. The species name – salicifolia – means "willow-like leaves," and these are narrow and pointed like a willow but are a bit sticky on the bottom and a bit jagged on the edges. Like willows, mulefat has wind- (and water-) dispersed seeds, but unlike the hanging catkins of a willow, these form balls of fluff. Like Coyote Brush (*B. pilularis*), its tall upland cousin growing behind it, it has separate male and female flowers, but they're all tiny and white.



Mulefat



Yerba Mansa

Under that Coyote Brush, you'll see a great home-made fountain overflowing with Yerba Mansa (*Anemopsis californica*). Yerba Mansa means "tame herb," reflecting its use externally on sores and cuts and internally for coughing and kidney problems; it was drunk as a blood purifier. This is the sole representative of the Lizard's Tail Family (*Saururaceae*) in California, and it is truly unique with its broad, red-tinged leaves and erect cones of white, magnolia-like flowers that evolved back when beetles and the like were the only pollinators around. You'll also see another small rush (*Juncus sp.*) growing in the fountain.

If you haven't seen it yet, you might take a detour on Cleveland Street to compare the leaves of the Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) with the Mulefat you just examined.

Finish your wetland walk on Maryland with another rush – the distinctive Southwestern Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*), with its tiny seeds/flowers clustered near the sharp-pointed (acute) stem tips. Jam your palm down on a stem and you'll remember this species! Our largest local rush can be found growing in large patches in San Diego's lagoons and estuaries, such as in Pensaquitos Lagoon off Carmel Valley Road.



Spiny Rush

— Dave Flietner is proprietor of Design With Natives.

UH BEAUTIFICATION

Call for Volunteers!

HELP CLEAN THE BRIDGE!

Please give your time and volunteer with the Beautification Team (B-Team) on Sunday, August 28 from 9-11 a.m. to help power wash and clean up the Vermont Street Bridge. The bridge needs tender loving care requiring at least 12 volunteers to assist with this effort. Volunteers will help operate the power washer, sweep, pick up trash, and clear the bridge of graffiti. All cleanup tools will be provided. Volunteers should wear sunscreen and sturdy, comfortable shoes and bring plenty of water. If you have an hour or two to spare on Aug. 28, please contact B-Team leader Jennifer Bishop at beautification@uhsd.org to sign up!

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, October 22, from 9-11 a.m., the B-Team will be conducting Operation Clean Up and will be picking up trash and removing unsightly graffiti and stickers from all over our wonderful neighborhood. We will meet at Trolley Barn Park, and all cleanup tools will be provided, so please mark this date on your calendar and contact B-Team leader Jennifer Bishop at beautification@uhsd.org to sign up!

— Jennifer Bishop

SUSTAINABLE UH

Let's Keep Fighting the Good Fight

Recent federal legislation and SD City Council's updated Climate Action Plan have given environmentalists reason to feel hopeful lately. It's exciting to think that our city can actually help make a dent in climate change and that there really can be cleaner air in our future.

Rebates on electric cars continue—for those who can find a qualifying car to purchase. And there will be new grants and rebates available within the coming years to assist San Diego homeowners switch away from natural gas to electric appliances. University Heights residents—even those who could really use the help—won't find as much financial assistance as folks in less advantaged communities will receive (such as the \$10 million in solar power system funding recently earmarked for homeowners living in many of San Diego's communities of concern), but the end goal of reducing methane and CO2 emissions will benefit everyone in the city.

It's great to celebrate the environment's recent legislative wins, but we probably shouldn't breathe a collective sigh of relief and go back to business as usual. A lot of GHGs will be pumped into the atmosphere before those "Net Zero" deadlines roll around over the next 10-25 years. SDG&E's parent company, Sempra, is still fracking its heart out to reach more natural gas, leaking methane into the atmosphere at catastrophic levels. And they've just artificially lowered their electricity rates ahead of customers receiving mailers comparing SDGE rates to those of the clean-energy community power companies, ostensibly to get residents to leave San Diego Community Power and return to buying fossil fueled electricity from SDGE. After the "choice" window ends, SDGE rates are planned to increase next year ([voice of San Diego tinyurl.com/7p3v5v](http://voiceofsan-diego.tinyurl.com/7p3v5v)).

That's just one example among many of how the recent "Net Zero sometime in the future" news is just a starting point. Our individual choices to stay with SD Community Power, consume less stuff in general, produce less garbage, use public transit or our bikes instead of cars, etc., are also all helpful. Really, the most important thing we can do is to use our power as citizens and consumers to cause large-scale change now. We have a lot of choices about what we buy or whether we buy anything at all and about whom we elect to public office. Let's make our voices heard and keep fighting the good fight.

What ideas do you have for advancing real, large-scale change as soon as possible? Should we try to get an influencer to go viral with a "show us your bus pass" TikTok campaign? Team up with a local news weather guy to start an all-electric-stove cooking show? Lobby the city to start taking gas appliances in exchange for Home Depot gift cards?

Let's build on the momentum of recent government commitments and get something done!

Send your ideas to Sustainable@uhsd.org and we'll publish them in an upcoming edition.

—Judith Annicchiarico

Law Office of Rosemary Leonard

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

619-295-8705

rosemaryleonard@cox.net

Conveniently located in University Heights

ZONE WATCH

Cookies with the Cops

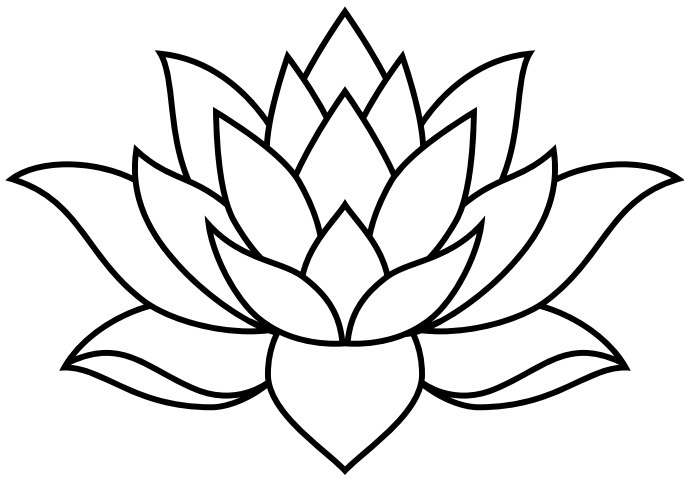
We started Zone Watch about 25 years ago because it does “take a village” to stop crime and quality of life decline. Such is the case with the Vermont Street Bridge. You may be aware of the problems: homelessness, open drug use, loitering and sleeping on, under, and near the bridge.

C'mon, people! Where are PATH and other moneyed resources to help these unfortunate souls? Neighbors who live near the bridge are fed up. The rest of us should be, too. People are afraid to cross the bridge for fear of being accosted.

To bring attention to these and other issues, University Heights Community Association will sponsor a “Cookies with the Cops” Wednesday, September 14, from 6-7 pm at Old Trolley Barn Park. We invite you to join us to thank the people who take responsibility to care for our community- from the Vermont Street Bridge and surrounding area, our parks and open spaces, and our streets.

Our police officers have taken a serious hit recently. A diminished work force and anti-police sentiment hamper their morale and their ability to respond to us. Please join UHCA to thank them for their service to University Heights.

—Nan McGraw



LOTUS ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

Jessica Demirdjian, MAcc
619 846-7738

LotusTaxSD.com
 LotusTaxSD@gmail.com

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Spy x Family



Spy x Family is a “manga” series. Manga are Japanese comic books/graphic novels. Often there is also an anime (Japanese animated series) of the manga book series,

though that is not always the case. Since manga are Japanese, all of the books and comics are written and read from right to left, even the English versions, which are read from back to front, with the characters’ speech balloons arranged from right to left.

The plot of *Spy x Family* follows a character named Twilight, who is a spy

and needs to build a “family” to carry out his next mission. Little does he know that the child he adopts is a telepath, and the woman he marries is an assassin.

There are nine volumes in the *Spy x Family* series so far. I have finished Volume 5 (the 5th book). Each book is organized in chapters which usually mark a shift in setting.

My favorite thing about *Spy x Family* is its comedy that comes from the confusion of having a spy, assassin, and telepath in the same household. I also really like the way that characters’ emotions are displayed/represented by their facial expressions, which makes the story come to life.

I have not watched the anime of *Spy x Family* on Hulu yet, but I am planning on watching it once I read the rest of the manga.

I would recommend *Spy x Family* to someone who hasn’t read manga yet because it is a lot less overwhelming than other manga series in the number of books it contains as well as its content.

—Isabel V. (age 15)

EDITORIAL

Restrooms at Old Trolley Barn Park, Again, and Again



At our June UHCA community meeting, Benny Cartwright with Councilmember Whitburn’s office let attendees know that the Mayor’s office would be conducting a survey to gain community input about adding a “comfort station” in Old Trolley Barn Park. The Mayor’s office quietly launched that survey on August 6 with a cut-off of midnight August 22.

Rolling out another survey about such an important issue to our community—one that has been surveyed numerous times in the past—is frustrating to many residents (as seen in the comments on the City’s survey). Starting and concluding the survey in a narrow window of time when people are on vacation, when UHCA is unable to help promote participation through this newspaper and our upcoming September community meeting, is even more troubling.

Not capturing important data from people responding flies in the face of the “data-driven approach” that the city purports to be using to make this major decision. The City’s survey doesn’t ask about respondents’ distance from the park, mode of travel, or number of children.

The CCUH survey, which was delivered to the Mayor, Park & Recreation Director, and Councilmember Whitburn in April showed 72% of respondents against this idea. As this issue goes to press (August 19), 84% of registered respondents to the City’s survey are against it.

We implore our elected officials to listen to the community—your constituents and voters—before making such a dramatic change that a wide majority of directly affected University Heights residents are against. This is not our opinion, this is the well documented voice of the community.

—UHCA Board

September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
					1 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm Oct. News Articles Due	2	3 
4 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm 	5 Labor Day Nighttime Zoo Ends	6 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6 pm uptownplannersd.org	7 UHDCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm	8 International Literacy Day 	9 California Admission Day 	10 UH Library: Sparkles the Clown Presents a Whimsical Magic & Bubbles Show! 10:30 am	
11 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Grandparents Day Patriot Day	12 	13 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm	14 Cookies with the Cops 	15 Make A Hat Day 	16	17 Constitution Day UH Library Book Sale 9 am-3 pm	
18 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm UH Library Book Sale 12-3 pm	19 International Talk Like A Pirate Day 	20 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org	21 International Day of Peace No UH Library Task Force Meeting	22 Autumn Begins World Rhino Day UH Library: Kamishibai Storytime 4 pm 	23 	24 National Punctuation Day	
25 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Rosh Hashanah Begins 	26 National Pancake Day	27 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Oct News Out	28 National Neighbor Day	29 National Coffee Day 	30 		

First Time on the Market in Decades!

Fabulous north facing canyon location at west end of Madison Ave in University Heights. Amazing city, mountain and ocean views! The main house is a 2BR 1BA plus a 460 sqft studio over the garage w/access from main house and separate entrance, if desired. Bright and spacious living room with full wall of windows with north view, plus fireplace. Beautiful, newly refinished hardwood floors. Formal dining room with beamed ceilings. Large open kitchen with lots of cabinetry. Outdoor patio and gazebo are perfect for entertaining and soaking up the views!



718 Madison Ave | San Diego, CA 92116
 3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1,766 ESF
Listed at \$1,450,000



MARY ANNE STEVENS | **ANASTASIA BREWER**
 (619) 871-0635 | (619) 992-1912
 CALRE #01034232 | CALRE #00894212

Don't make a move without us!

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

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Park Boulevard, Two Months Later

It's now been two months since the reconfiguration of Park Boulevard from Adams to University (except from Meade to El Cajon Boulevard). It seems like now would be a good time to take a look at the situation and see where things stand now.

4600 Block (Madison to Adams)

I reviewed traffic (captured by video) on 5 days between Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 17 to measure bicycle traffic on this specific block. I measured full days for Saturday and Sunday, and broke down weekdays into morning commute (6am-10am), daytime (10am-4pm), evening commute (4pm-7pm), and evening (7pm-9pm).

Date	Weather	Southbound			Northbound			Total Bicycles (all lanes both directions)	% Bicycles in Traffic Lane	% Bicycles (South+North) Total *
		in bicycle lane	on sidewalk	in traffic lane	in bicycle lane	on sidewalk	in traffic lane			
Saturday, July 9, 2022	75/Sunny	63	1	24	57	2	8	154	21%	2.55%
Monday, July 11, 2022	70/Pt.Cloudy	46	1	14	59	2	10	129	19%	2.14%
	6a-10a	7		2			3	12	42%	
	10a-4p	23		7	23		2	55	16%	
	4p-7p	12	1	4	26	2	2	44	14%	
Wednesday, July 13, 2022	7p-9p	4		1	10		3	18	22%	
	70/M.Sunny	60		24	60	3	12	156	23%	2.58%
	6a-10a	14		5	6	1	1	26	23%	
	10a-4p	19		8	20	2	4	56	21%	
Friday, July 15, 2022	4p-7p	21		6	26		7	61	21%	
	7p-9p	6		5	8		19	19	26%	
	71/Sunny	46		34	53		11	144	31%	2.38%
	6a-10a	11		9	6			26	35%	
Sunday, July 17, 2022	10a-4p	18		10	18		2	48	25%	
	4p-7p	6		7	25		7	45	31%	
	7p-9p	11		8	4		2	25	40%	
	75/Sunny	76		40	78		18	214	27%	3.50%

* Based on SD Traffic ADT data, 3,097 SB, 2,800 NB cars per day

The good news is that daily bicycle use is averaging over 150 trips in total, in both directions. Supporting what a number of cyclists have mentioned in several media interviews, nearly a quarter of cyclists on average choose to travel in the vehicle traffic lanes. Overall, based on San Diego Traffic ADT data from 2019, the bicycle trips on this section account for approximately 2.6% of all traffic across the 5 days measured.

Project 34 – Washington Street: University Avenue to Normal Street; Normal Street: Washington Street to Park Boulevard; and Park Boulevard: El Cajon Boulevard to Madison Avenue



The San Diego Bike Master Plan (image above) from 2013 shows that Park was planned with Class II (buffered) bike lanes only to Madison, with two vehicular lanes southbound and one northbound. The City ignored their published plan and extended class IV (separated with barrier) lanes all the way to Adams and eliminated the 2nd southbound lane. As many community members expressed in forums and interviews before this project was completed, the extended class IV lanes have resulted in an unsafe and chaotic situation on this block between Adams and Madison.



Parking problems around restaurants & bars - photos by Marc Johnson

With 6 restaurants, 3 bars, 3 retailers, a convenience store, hair salon, skincare spa, and healthcare provider on this block, parking has always been an issue. With the removal of 12 parking spaces (46%) it has become much worse. Since the change, cars and delivery trucks are frequently parked in the no-parking zones and blocking bike lanes.

Ernie Bonn, with the UH Parking District, has been working with the City to expand parking on Adams and along other nearby side streets. "By changing from angled to perpendicular parking on Adams from Park to Mission Cliff, we can gain the 12 parking spaces lost on Park," Bonn said. "Property owners have just been mailed notices to vote on increasing parking on segments of Polk, Lincoln, Monroe, Meade and West Adams. This can result in 35 additional spaces north of Meade and 13 spaces south of El Cajon Blvd."

The City is also in the process of restoring one of the lost ADA/handicapped spaces on this block, and is looking at data provided by the UH Parking District and UHCA to determine whether to change some spaces to 15-minute loading zones on this block.

Madison to Meade

Ashley Gill, owner of Fibre The Salon (and a UHCA board member) said, "I have friends who are cyclists who have told me they don't like the way they feel trapped and less safe in the bike lanes and prefer to ride in the traffic lanes." She also added, "and of course our clients are not cycling to the salon, so I'm looking forward to seeing some additional parking on the side streets to make up for the 28 spaces we lost."

Meade to El Cajon

The Winslow project is still under construction with planned completion sometime this winter, and this section of Park was left alone both for the resurfacing and restriping. The Winslow will have 379 residential units, a CVS, and 542 parking spots (62 for retail) with entry/exit points on Park and on Meade. The additional traffic, especially at that intersection, and overall configuration will need to be addressed as the project comes online.

El Cajon to Lincoln

This section, along with the remainder of the block to University, has generated numerous complaints at both North Park Planning Committee meetings and on social media, with parking access changing block-by-block from "floating" (bike lane between car and curb) to curbside, to parallel, diagonal head-in, and diagonal reverse-in.



Photo by Roberto Martire

Carmen Cooley-Graham, Director of the J.A. Cooley Museum, has been vocal about the City not working with the community on implementing a better plan. "We reached out to the Mayor's office, City Attorney, and Councilmember dozens of times, our petition has over 1,700 signatures, and we feel like nobody is listening," Cooley-Graham said. "I want to support this city, but we need better planning and implementation. Several of the businesses that are affected are discussing a lawsuit."

Many UH residents have expressed support for safer cycling, and a growing number are making use of the new bicycle lanes. It's hoped that with some additional reconfiguration of parking in the commercial zone on the 4600 block, increased parking along side streets,

a safer and consistent implementation, and increased education and enforcement of parking regulations, that some of the problems can be addressed. -Marc Johnson

SAN DIEGO REALTY

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

FIBRE

THE VENUE AND SALON

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

NEIGHBORHOOD MIXER

Wednesday
September 21 • 6pm

Meet your neighbors, enjoy happy hour pricing and free pizza, and learn about what's going on in UH!

University Heights
Community Association

@

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
PARK & REC

Thanks to Pemberley Realty for the Pizza and to Park and Rec for the space and specials!

Vermont St. bridge cont. from front page

Hayes Ave.: Today at 10:30, there was a woman laying across the bridge, and her junk was piled at her feet, so it was not possible to get by. She was still there at 12:30, and still laying across the walking bridge. Plus, there are three people sitting with their carts and other stuff at the end of the bridge by Ralph's. It was difficult to get by.

Lincoln Ave.: In the early mornings (6-6:30), when going for a walk, if I see people sleeping on the bridge, I do not feel safe. Sometimes there have been up to 4 people. On July 27, around noon, there were 3 guys doing drugs on the bridge.



Trash in gully under bridge, and down hill falling onto 163 entrance

Lincoln Ave.: I'm afraid to walk across the bridge between 6:00-7:00 a.m., so I no longer make it part of my daily walk. Last week, I saw several of the homeless fighting over who's turn it was to "work"/panhandle the median along Washington Ave.

Vermont St.: I have never felt unsafe crossing the bridge over the past 6 years; however, of late, I've taken to carrying pepper spray out of caution. Somewhere around 7/22, there were 2 younger men sitting on the sidewalk at the end of Vermont on the UH side. There was trash strewn all around them including drug paraphernalia, and by their behavior they appeared to be quite high on something. I tried calling the non-emergency line but after 30 minutes gave up and hung up.

10th St.: I had an experience on Father's Day, around 12 noon. I was out for a walk with my five year old son and there was a group of probably four homeless guys camped out on the bridge and were blocking 2/3 of the bridge. If I didn't have my kid with me I probably would have told them to move along.

Johnson Ave.: In April, Aaron and I went to change the Vermont Street trash can and could not because there was a homeless man in his 20s yelling, swinging his arms around, and acting aggressively. Prior that incident, there was another homeless man raging out loud and trying to climb up the siding of the bridge.

Lange added, "During my weekly UH volunteer cleanup of the bridge - picking up trash and using a leaf-blower, I've seen several homeless people on the bridge for three out of the past four weeks. Even

though they were sprawled out, they weren't completely blocking anyone's ability to get through. Recently, I've also noticed more feces on the bridge. I don't know if it's human or animal."

The problems have been growing and have gotten the attention of not just CBS8, but also the San Diego Reader, which ran a long-form story from a former UH resident, Ian Anderson, who lived next to the bridge. The problems got so bad he and his family eventually left for the suburbs. His story is at tinyurl.com/SDRarticle.

Kohta Zeiser with Mayor Gloria's office replied to Lange, "Moving forward, this will continue to be an area of focus for our Homeless Strategies and Solutions.



Department, Environmental Services Department, SDPD's Neighborhood Policing Division, CalTrans, and all of the other agencies that work in this space... We will continue to prioritize the Vermont St. Bridge and the surrounding neighborhood and canyon, and politely request that you continue to advocate and make our offices aware of the issues you observe."

Lange responded to Zeiser, "Would you tell me what that means in real-life, non-political-speak terms? What changes/outreach/enforcement should we expect, and not expect, to see in the coming days, weeks, and months? During my weekly cleanup of the bridge this morning, I encountered more feces and the remnants of what appears to be some type of plastic container that had been set on fire, which I cleared away. Additionally, the enclosed fence space on the north side abutment that neighbors have been advocating to have removed since long before the fire is still an attraction for shelter. I witnessed two homeless-appearing men come out from under the bridge."

Due to the growing number of problems here and in other parts of our neighborhood, UHCA will be hosting a Cookies with the Cops on September 14, 6pm at Old Trolley Barn Park (see announcement on page 5). Come to meet your neighbors, hear from and talk with SDPD, elected representatives, and UHCA leadership about how we can work together to find solutions to this and other serious, long-running problems in our community.

—Marc Johnson, with thanks to Nan McGraw, Andy and Mary Lange, Jayson Coleman, and John Ross for their stories, interviews, and photos... and more importantly, for their care & action.

Our Community Feel

(Nestled by the Bay of San Diego)

Ever noticed at the start of any event, a University Heights event, the first folks you see are the ones you see again and again? Pheromones? Expressions? Energy Connection? We are amazed! So it is with University Heights folk, so pleased to recognize. When at the park, walking down Park Boulevard, at coffee cafes, smiles evoking smiles, waves of recognition, that spark of belonging, it resides in University Heights, warmed by the sun, cooled by the Marine Layer, togetherness abounds here, a constant life-force. Our blood courses through the veins of true community; diversity shaking hands everywhere - love of children - like minds - love of dogs - respect for artists - John the sculptor - shaping strength - Portia the school-teacher mom - shaping our youth - Poet Jon giving back from retirement - Ryan the organizer - setting order! With opinions - always, discussions - forever, agreements flourish. Summer - camaraderie fun times, Autumn - our season of relax, winter, family celebrations abound - Spring, rebirth as always before. Our University Heights, with the hum of harmony, like nowhere else!

Jon Von Erb
9/2022

Planning continued from page 3

Overview of the City of San Diego Construction Permit Process

The City of San Diego Development Services Department (DSD) requires a permit for projects such as new construction, additions, remodeling, or repairs to electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems.

DSD will evaluate the project to see if it conforms to zoning and other applicable Municipal Code regulations. If it does, the project will be approved "ministerially" without any public input.

As opposed to "Ministerial Review," some projects are subject to "Discretionary Review," which requires "a decision-maker to exercise judgment and deliberation." Common reasons for discretionary review include proposals that

- Deviate from zoning requirements. For example, a proposed building may exceed the height or density limits prescribed by zoning;
- Involve historical or potentially historic resources. Proposals that include structures over 45 years old are subject to Potential Historical Resource Review;
- Modify a previously conforming use;
- Are located in environmentally sensitive lands;
- Are located in the Coastal Zone.



Historically-Designated Home, 4407 Georgia Street

Discretionary approvals are granted at the discretion of a City decision-maker and may require a public hearing by a Community Planning Group, the Historical Resources Board, Planning Commission, and/or the City Council. These are public meetings where the community may provide input on proposed projects.

The City Council is elected by the voters. The Planning Commission and the Historical Resources Board are nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Community Planning Group members are elected by residents, business owners, or their representative in the Community Planning Area. It is important to understand that Community Planning Groups are only an advisory board to the City. They do not decide; they just recommend.

Ultimately, the City makes the determination to grant or deny a construction permit.

—Bill Ellig, Uptown Planners Board Member emeritus

NEW IN UH

AN ECLIPSE AND A FELINE EPIPHANY

How Nicole and Chris went from the corporate world to sole proprietors of “Whiskers & Wine: Cat Lounge & Cocktails”

Back in August of 2017, while celebrating Chris’ 40th birthday and witnessing the total solar eclipse in Charleston, South Carolina, Nicole and Chris were curious about a business with lines outside the door. This business was “Pounce Cat Café,” a place where people went to have a drink or coffee and hang out with cats. The concept resonated loudly for the cat-loving couple.



Nicole worked as a Director of Human Resources for a large corporation in Orange County. Chris had his own practice as a consumer law attorney in San Diego.

Inspired by the cat café in Charleston and wanting to start their own business together, the couple began looking for places in San Diego where they could realize their dream of opening up their own cat café. In 2018, they found 2856 Adams Avenue.

They quickly began working with an architect and contractor to transform the building into their dream. They started the permitting process in 2019. Unfortunately, once the pandemic hit, the work came to a halt. However, they remained committed to their business model.

Eventually, work resumed on the cat café, and Nicole and Chris got lucky and won the liquor license lottery. They built a small kitchen to make quick, healthy meals that can be easily made to order: think flatbreads, salads, and paninis. The full liquor license also sparked a name change, from “Whiskers and Wine” to the more elaborate “Whiskers & Wine: Cat Lounge & Cocktails.”

Nicole and Chris also partnered with “Saving One Life San Diego,” a never-kill animal rescue and sanctuary dedicated to cats. The idea is that “Saving One Life” will provide a supply of adoptable cats to live at “Whiskers and Wine.” The cats will have cage-free reign of the place, with comfy beds and water stations scattered throughout the café. The cats’ litterboxes will be tucked away in a cats’ only zone, aka “the cat cave,” where they can take a break from the lounge if they like. There is also a cat wall for the cats to climb up to the second floor without interfering with people on the stairway. People can bring their food and drinks upstairs to hang out on the “catio,” a covered patio enclosed with mesh screens to keep the cats safe while allowing them to experience the outside. Those who love cats but whose allergies do not, can watch the cats cavort about from behind a glass wall, while still enjoying a drink or snack.



“Whiskers and Wine” is planned to open just as this issue of UHCA News goes to press. The staff has been hired, and the first group of cats arrived mid-August so Nicole and Chris could observe how they responded to the environment and acclimated to the surroundings.

The café’s hours will be afternoons and evenings every day except Monday. While walk-ins are allowed, it is encouraged that people reserve their time slot online. Check the website for details: www.whiskersandwinebar.com. To limit the number of people in the café at any one time to avoid stressing the cats, there will be a 1 hour and 15-minute time limit per person per visit. Once everything is up and running, the café will offer special events such as local artist mixers, cat yoga, and special tastings.

Nicole and Chris hope their customers enjoy the food and drink, and their time with the cats. They also hope some of their customers will leave with more than a full stomach and a smile. Customers who come to the café and fall in love with a kitty can fill out an online application via their partner, “Saving One Life,” and begin the adoption process for their favorite cat.

—Jane Gilbert

UHCA Shows our Pride at SD Pride Parade



UH has a sizeable LGBTQIA population, thanks to our welcoming and inclusive community's openness and diversity. UH is home to the third-oldest LGBTQIA theater, Diversionary, Clark's Cabaret, San Diego Lambda Archives, and popular neighborhood bar, Cheers.

For the first time, UHCA participated in SD Pride's Annual Pride Parade, which ran from the edge of UH through Hillcrest and Bankers Hill to Balboa Park.

Special thanks to UHCA allies Vice President Stu McGraw for helping organize and new board member Roxanne Govari for photographing, as well as to our colorful and enthusiastic neighbors, LGBTQIA and allies alike, for showing San Diego that UH is a neighborhood filled with pride for all!



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



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

email uhcanews@uhsd.org!

BIRNEY BUZZ

Birney Welcomes Back its Bees for the New School Year

Our Birney Bees returned to campus on August 29 after a summer filled with fun, adventure, and a bit of fundraising. The Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE), Birney's parent-led fundraising organization, was able to run a successful Pride parking event on July 16. Community members donated funds to park next to Birney during the San Diego Pride parade while parent and student volunteers collected donations and directed cars. According to Fran Daly, FOABE president, "Pride parking went very smoothly and FOABE was able to raise \$6,506 for the Birney IB program!" The school's "specials" classes, which include art, gardening, and Spanish, depend upon these fundraising efforts; FOABE thanks all those who contributed and volunteered.

Another tradition continued this summer was the Big Reveal, where students have the opportunity to find out who their teacher is for the new school year. Students also played on the playground, and parents socialized and met one another. The PTA provided pizza and soft beverages.

Many students excitedly anticipate who their teacher will be each year, so the Big Reveal is a big deal around Birney. Olivia P, 2nd grader, said, "I am really looking forward to finding out who my teacher is and meeting her. I am really, really, really looking forward to meeting new friends." Anabel CF, shared her hopes for her 3rd



grade teacher: "I hope my teacher is funny, smart, and kind." Students were also eager to reunite with each other; Ilana CF, 3rd grader said, "I'm looking forward to being with my classmates again. I miss them."

This year marked the most "normal" start to a school year for students since 2020. Due to the pandemic, during much of last school year, students were clustered by class, even at recess and lunch, in order to reduce exposure to COVID, but this school year students will have a bit more freedom. Jackson L said he was looking forward to "being in 4th grade and school being more normal. In 4th grade I am hoping I can play in the field or wherever I pick." Parents are also being welcomed back onto campus for school events, such as Family Fridays, which are a large part of what helps to build the Birney community.

In the first fall fundraiser, FOABE is partnering with Boon Supply to provide a catalog of great items for Birney families to purchase and sell. Additionally, six items of Birney spirit wear have been added to the fundraiser this year for all fans of Birney Elementary. The fundraiser will run September 9 - October 7. If you would like to get involved in the Birney community by volunteering or making a donation, please contact FOABE at info@friendsofalicebirney.org.

— Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and UH Community Member

FROM DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMEMBER WHITBURN



Greetings Neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer and have had some time to enjoy the many things that make University Heights and San Diego so great - especially at this time of the year.

Last month, I was at the final concert of the University Heights Community Development Corporation's Summer in the Park Concert Series and what a wonderful evening that was! It was nice to see hundreds of neighbors out enjoying a beautiful evening in Old Trolley Barn Park with a great performance by the incredible Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. Due to the pandemic, these concerts had not been held since 2019 so I was very glad to see the return of the series this summer - and it was a success! Thank you to the many neighbors who took time to speak with me and discuss issues of interest to you while we were at the concert.

Speaking of Trolley Barn Park, I appreciate the hundreds of community members who have shared their thoughts with me about whether or not the city should install a public restroom in the park. One thing is clear - the neighborhood loves its park and community members have a variety of perspectives on what the park should include. The City recently conducted a resident survey on the matter, and I look forward to reviewing that input along

with the results of a University Heights Community Association survey and all of the other feedback we have received. Thank you to everyone who has weighed in, and I will be sure to provide you with an update soon.

Over the summer, my office also heard from many residents about safety concerns on and surrounding the Vermont Street Bridge. Residents shared that many felt unsafe crossing the bridge, especially at night, and felt that accessibility is often blocked when unhoused individuals sleep on the bridge or create encampments. Often, trash, debris, and human waste have been left on the bridge, and this extends to the canyons and areas immediately surrounding it. Our office has been hard at work escalating every single concern that has been shared with us, while coordinating with the Mayor's office to find solutions to the challenges this important pedestrian corridor has been experiencing.

I am pleased to report that a number of efforts are underway to increase safety on and around the bridge for all. CalTrans and the City coordinated efforts on Monday, Aug. 8 to clean up the areas surrounding the bridge under each entity's jurisdiction, and plans are in the works to have regular cleanup efforts in this area. We know that there have been issues here for years, and we encourage residents to continue reporting things they see to the City's Get It Done app, and forwarding those case numbers to Benny Cartwright in our office (bcartwright@sandiego.gov) for items that don't seem to be handled in a proper amount of time.

I appreciate all of the active University Heights neighbors who contribute so much of their time and resources to make this one of the best neighborhoods in town! I look forward to seeing you around town in the upcoming weeks and months!

— Stephen Whitburn, City Councilmember, District 3

Pet of the Month Norma



Last year we lost our beloved Beagle, Stella, at 12 years of age. It took me almost a year to even consider having another dog. When I began thinking about it I searched Pet Finder for Beagle mixes. And that was it! One of the pictures that came up was of Norma, a Beagle/Shepard mix. We adopted her through the Baja Animal Sanctuary.

Having never adopted a dog before, I decided to check with my vet, Dr. Lewis at Harmony Animal Hospital, who had not only heard of the organization and the wonderful work they did, but had also donated to them. After some advice from the amazing vet tech, Darrell, I decided to arrange the meet and greet. The Baja group has runs for all the dogs by similar size and age, so Norma was already socialized. They have events at local pet stores around SD county and bring the dogs up by appointment. You foster the dog for 2 weeks, and after that, they make the adoption final. They even stress that if for any reason you can't keep the dog, they'd rather you return the dog to them. Their staff was very conscientious and warm.

Norma is very social and loving. She greets everyone in the neighborhood, pets and people alike. Norma loves the beach, walks, her toys, and her bone. Her best buds are Ginger and Cal. We are thankful for Cal's tireless energy! Being the same age, they wear each other out. A quick study in her dog training classes, Norma is about to graduate to the next level. Six months old and already 34 pounds, she is an avid bird watcher and curious pup. She is also a comedian, which I suspect is the Beagle in her. I feel very lucky to have adopted her.

— Lisa Venditelli Karmel



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!

TWIGGS

BAKERY • COFFEEHOUSE

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

BETWEEN THE COVERS

SEPTEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

Hope you had a wonderful summer and were able to dive into some lively reading and outdoor activities in the Summer Reading Program, Read Beyond the Beaten Path. Did you participate in the popular Where's Odi? scavenger hunt and collect your custom button featuring Odi in our own University Heights neighborhood? Stop in and let us know if you particularly enjoyed a beach read this summer.



Hope to see you in September for one of the library special events. Sparkles the Clown will bring her Magic & Bubbles Show on Saturday, September 10 at 10:30am. On Thursday, September 22 at 4pm, our popular Kamishibai Storytime resumes. September is also Banned Book Month, a great time to check out our displays and take home a controversial classic.

All City libraries will be CLOSED on Monday, September 5 for Labor Day. — Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov

If you didn't get to all the reading you had planned, the longer autumn nights may entice you to crack open the latest thriller or true crime offering from the University Heights Library. Peruse our new and leased collections to find what's current in everything from mysteries to memoirs, queer fiction to graphic novels, cookbooks to celebrity biographies. We are always ordering fresh titles.



Have a Great Walk, Meet Your Neighbors!

UHCA News always needs extra hands to help distribute our paper monthly to every door in the community. It's a few hour commitment and you're helping keep your neighbors up to date!

email blockwalker@uhsd.org

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Sink or Swim Time – Please Help!

We hope you had a good summer and are now refreshed and ready to get back to your usual routine. At the Friends of University Heights Library, we are working on our plans for the 2022-2023 year, including holding elections for open Board of Directors positions.

We have several officers on our Board of Directors whose terms are up this fall. For several years now, we have struggled to find enough board members. If we do not have enough board members, we will be forced to close our Friends group.

Please consider joining the UH Friends as a Board member.

The UH Friends provides much needed financial support to our library branch. If the UH Friends is forced to close, our branch would not be able to offer the

programs, events, materials, equipment, and even furniture that the UH Friends provides funding for.

We need your support to continue to provide the help our branch needs to continue to be a great resource for the community. For information about becoming a board member, please contact us at info@friendsofuhlibrary.org.

Thank you for your support.

— 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.

SEPTEMBER PLUME



Sometimes you don't know how much you love something until you don't have it. University Heights experienced that over the last two years when the pandemic forced the cancellation of the much loved Summer in the Park concerts, produced by the UHDCD. This annual neighborhood get-together takes a lot of hands to make it happen, a lot of sponsors and participating vendors to help pay for it, and it's all orchestrated by one dedicated powerhouse



of a lady... **Ernie Bonn.**

Ernie puts the talent together, rounds up the sponsorships, encourages businesses to participate with tabletops... she coordinates the permits, electrical, clean-up... and manages to do it with her trademark smile and wit.



For the concerts, and so much more that she has done and continues to do to help make UH a better place, Ernie has our eternal gratitude and a (virtual) cluster of gold-dipped plumes!

— UHCA News Team



NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR UHCA EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

1. UHCA BOARD OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

President: The President is the principal officer.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Preside over all meetings of UHCA and the Executive Board
- Send thank you letters to all speakers and guests of UHCA as appropriate
- Undertake any other duties agreed upon by UHCA and the Executive Board

Vice President: Duties include but are not limited to:

- In the absence of the President, carry out all of the duties and responsibilities of the President
- Oversee membership outreach as needed, at the direction of the board
- Email reminders to political reps and UHCA email list
- Undertake any other duties agreed upon by UHCA and the Executive Board

Secretary: Duties include but are not limited to:

- Record and maintain minutes of the monthly community meetings of UHCA
- Record, maintain, and distribute to the Executive Board minutes of the Executive Board meetings including attendance records
- Maintain an archive of monthly financial reports as prepared by the Treasurer
- Summarize for the newspaper the minutes of the monthly meetings of UHCA
- Undertake any other duties agreed upon by UHCA and the Executive Board

Treasurer: Duties include but are not limited to:

- Receiving all monies to be deposited into a bank in the name of UHCA
- Disburse all funds approved by the Executive Board
- Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements
- Make available a financial report at each regular Executive Board meeting
- Undertake any other duties agreed upon by UHCA and the Executive Board

2. TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE

Mail: Send a letter to PO Box 33032
San Diego, CA 92163

Email: nominations@uhsd.org

Zoom: Attend the Sept. 1st virtual community meeting, to nominate via Zoom

Website: Complete the form at uhsd.org.

3. ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY SEPT. 4TH

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

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

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

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
Abbey Reuter, 619-531-4936
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
ZaiserK@sandiego.gov (District 3 liaison)

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
Benny Cartwright (interim district rep.)
BCartwright@sandiego.gov



AMERICAN ETHNIC GRUB



**EAT
LOCAL
THINK
GLOBAL**



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

Cecilia's
FINE JEWELRY

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



**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



**HAPPINESS IS
EATING TACOS
IN YOUR DREAM
HOME.**

**I CAN GET YOU BOTH
SO LET'S TACO BOUT IT!**



DRE# 01319244

ROXANNE GOVARI
619.778.0577



*Check your
home value
here!*

**Your Neighborhood
Real Estate Specialist!**
www.pemberleyrealty.com

