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Earth Fair 2022 Is Here! Please Help If You Can



On Sunday, April 24, Earth Fair will once again fill Balboa Park with exhibits, activities, and opportunities to support our earth's environment for ourselves and future generations. This year's fair will be the 31st one (after being cancelled the last two years) and offers a great opportunity to get out and learn something new about sustainability practices, Zero Waste solutions, and the newest electric cars on the market while also enjoying art, fun kids' activities, music, food, and—lest we forget—beer gardens.

With their small grant from the City of San Diego cut in half this year, and logistics costs way up, San Diego EarthWorks has their work cut out for them as they mount this year's fair. Besides the city's smaller grant, exhibitor fees plus money from sponsors and donations will fund the event, and with this year's rising costs, EarthWorks could use any additional donations folks are able to offer.

They also need volunteers—lots of them. If you're up to helping out with visitor services, safety and security, set-up and break-down, or even directing parade participants where and when to line up, among many other jobs, please do sign up as soon as possible. Volunteer trainings will take place Saturday, April 16 and Friday, April 22. Check the list of volunteer opportunities on the EarthFair website, and pitch in to help stage this great event: EFVol.org.

San Diegans are rightly proud of our "largest free annual environmental fair in the world." While the psychological pressure of worrying about climate change's effects can lead some of us to denial and even despair, as San Diego EarthWorks CEO Carolyn Chase puts it, the great thing about Earth Day and Earth Fair is that they remind us "there is something we can do about it."

Plus there's a parade! And you can participate in that, too! This year's theme is "Together We Will." Sign up at earthparade.org.

Check <http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html> for additional details. See you there!

—Judith Annicchiarico

COOKIES WITH THE COPS

On Monday, March 14, UHCA held its first "Cookies with the Cops" event in over two years. Over 50 people gathered at Madison Avenue and New York Street to have a conversation with the SDPD, represented by Community Relations Officer David Surwillo, our Councilmember's office, represented by Benny Cartwright, and San Diego Rangers, represented by Michael Cassidy. Brian Gruters from PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) was also on hand to talk about the agency's efforts to help the homeless people in our community.

Officer Surwillo reviewed the procedures for reporting encampments using the GetItDone app, and questions from the group about how to prevent fires in the canyons were top of mind. Ranger Cassidy explained how the mix of private and public properties can make canyon clean-ups more challenging and indicated that volunteer canyon clean-ups will be happening again (watch UH News and social media for more details).

As the topic of homelessness was being discussed, a well-known homeless man who frequents the canyons walked by, and the group was able to witness first-hand how Brian from PATH made an initial contact to engage and begin to provide help. After that encounter, Brian explained to the group how PATH works and how they are trying to move past merely sheltering people temporarily, and getting them into more permanent (and if needed, supportive) housing. Both Officer Surwillo and Brian talked about how the SDPD and PATH are now working better together, and Brian let the group know that one of PATH's goals will be to have more coverage in the UH area.



More than 50 neighbors came to Cookies with the Cops at Madison Avenue and New York Street

There is no easy solution to the homeless issue – in our neighborhood, in San Diego, or in California – but having an open line of dialog with the SDPD and the city's new partner, PATH, is a first step. UHCA's Neighborhood Watch is a great way for our community to make sure that problems are being addressed, followed-up, and where needed, escalated.



Officer Surwillo taking questions



Benny Cartwright from Councilmember Whitburn's office

If you haven't attended the sessions at 6:45pm on the 1st Thursday, just before the monthly UHCA community meeting, please consider joint. These meetings are a great way to hear what's happening directly from the SDPD and your ZoneWatch captains, and ask questions that are important to you about neighborhood safety.

— Marc Johnson

NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

To grow community spirit and our coffers while appealing to the younger demographic to get involved, UHCA has entered the cryptocurrency game with our newest venture: OstriCoin™!

We're pleased to announce that OstriCoin will be the world's first "green" cryptocurrency: miners will be required to install sufficient solar panels and back-up batteries to power

their servers without pulling electricity from the grid (requiring installation and commandeering of rooftop solar arrays on every house in UH, Hillcrest, and North Park—details to follow soon!),



NEXT UHCA MEETING

APRIL 7
6:45 PM

HOW TO FIGHT PANDEMIC NEWS FATIGUE

COVID. War. Political turmoil. Climate change. It's fair to say there's been a lot going on the past few years, and staying "in the know" can lead to not only fatigue, but a myriad of health issues.



Join our panel of health and wellness experts who will share their insights on how to maintain a healthy mind and body during stressful times.

ANGELA BALISTRERI - OWNER & TRAINER, LIBER8FIT

MACKENZIE WATTS - CERTIFIED MINDSET COACH

DR. DIANNA ROCHA - BOARD CERTIFIED LICENSED CHIROPRACTOR

EMILY ZORN - REGISTERED DIETITIAN

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY 5
6:45 PM

*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

FEATURED SPEAKER
ROBYN GRAND, WORDS ALIVE

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

UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING



In April 1997, the University Heights sign was dedicated and illuminated for the first time, and for 25 years has lit up our community, proudly identifying UH and harkening back to our roots with the iconic trolley car and ostriches.

Join the community on **April 30, 2022 at 5pm** where UHCA and local businesses will host a celebration of the sign and our community!

Details can be found on **Page 12**.

and the heat they generate will be required to be used to heat water in lieu of traditional tankless systems.

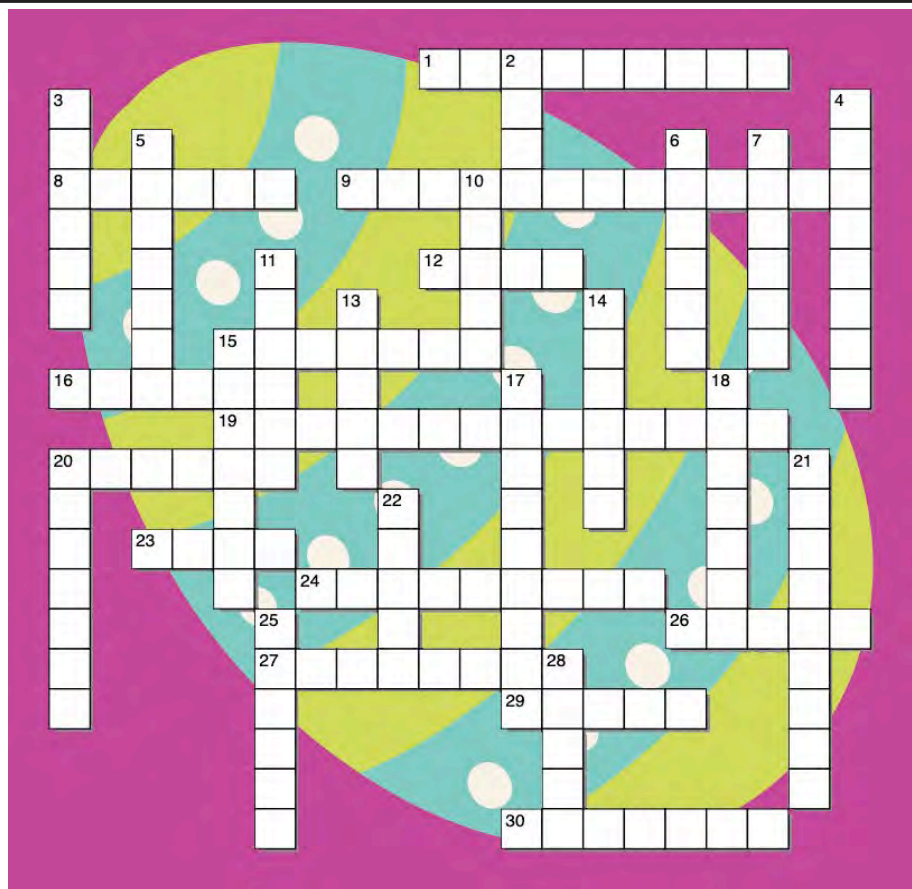
To learn more about this crypto multilevel marketing scheme investment opportunity, please attend our investor meeting to be held April 1 in the Old Trolley Barn Park bunker beneath what may soon be our million-dollar-per-stall restroom facilities.

NFT's of refreshments will be served.

— The UH Motley Fool



APRIL UH CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Buy Nothing Motto "Give, Ask, ..."
- 8. Bakery & Coffeehouse in UH
- 9. International *, type of school
- 12. Organization assisting the homeless
- 15. Vintage store on Park Blvd.
- 16. What's attacking palms in UH
- 19. UHCA Team that cleans up UH
- 20. Type of palm tree found in UH
- 23. CA State Assembly member for UH
- 24. Neighboring community
- 26. Visiting musician at Roosevelt School
- 27. UHCA meeting on first * of the Month
- 29. East-West bike-friendly street
- 30. Result of organic waste

Down

- 2. Hummingbird with rosy-red throats

- 3. Parkhouse restaurant
- 4. SD County Commissioner for UH
- 5. Authentic, classic
- 6. UH based State Farm agent
- 7. Park in SD
- 10. CEO of San Diego Earth Day
- 11. UH Sign designer
- 13. UH Accounting & Tax Services firm
- 14. Helped create UHCA and Trolley Barn Park
- 15. Place for books
- 17. Brand of trailer
- 18. Former bowling alley in Mission Valley
- 20. Another term for restroom, * station
- 21. Real estate on Park Blvd.
- 22. Panels
- 25. State Senator for UH
- 28. Company that built the UH trolley sign

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

My household has been trying to do our part to be better for our planet. We installed solar panels in 2016 (we actually convinced owners of 5 of the 6 units in our building to do it), we're avid recyclers and try to minimize single use plastics, we installed water-conserving appliances and fixtures, we're moving forward with an all-electric car, and I've been trying to use my bike more for trips around town.

In my "day job," I work with printers around the world, and I'm inspired by how my industry has worked to ensure that forests are more sustainable (for every tree used to make paper, four are planted). Recycling is not only the norm, but now reusability is a driving force: ink containers are now made with plastics recycled from other returned containers.

While this all feels good as we celebrate Earth Day 2022 (and it should!), there is so much more we can and need to do immediately to help reduce our waste, carbon footprint, and water consumption. Hopefully the articles in this issue will give you some ideas about what you and your family can do. Or perhaps you have already been inspired by our guest speaker at the March Community Meeting (replay available at www.uhsd.org.

[org/attend-a-meeting](http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting)) to make the move to solar. Regardless of where we take our inspiration, every single thing that every individual does collectively adds up and makes a difference, both immediately and for future generations.

UHCA has been incredibly busy planning (finally!) events. I just came back from our "Cookies with the Cops," and it was an amazing gathering of 54 people having a conversation about what we can do to help with the homeless situation in our neighborhood. One of the things I love so much about UH is how people care about this neighborhood, and more importantly, are willing to step up and be a part of the solution. I'm honored to be a part of an organization that helps people organize to do that.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, clean-ups, celebrations, and more in the coming weeks and months. Especially at the 25th anniversary of our beloved UH sign at the end of this month. It feels so good to see our community come back together again, live and in person!



Marc

Want to help make UH better? UHCA is the voice of University Heights, and we need more neighbors to join us to help promote, beautify, lobby for, organize, and protect our special neighborhood. Have you considered how your talents, passion, drive, and energy could help make a difference in our community? We have open volunteer, board, and committee leadership positions. You can have fun meeting - and working with - neighbors and friends, while helping make a real difference. Contact us at volunteer@uhsd.org and let's make good things happen in UH... together!

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS PLUME

Left Coast Music

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Lee & Tonia Bates

Thank You!

HOUSEHOLD

Thalia Driessen, John (Brian) Ross, Mike & Nikki Mirasola, Robert Dowell, John & Gulhan Satterberg

UHCA NEWS MAILED

Peter & Gail Volkert

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)
- \$75 Business Plume
- \$150 Business Golden Ostrich

Donor

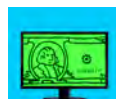
\$ _____ Donation for Keeping Up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

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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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.



WEBSITE uhsd.org

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

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

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TREASURER Brent Orlesky, treasurer@uhsd.org

UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

March 3 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The March 3 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via zoom, with 31 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting.

Crime Watch: Nan McGraw opened the Crime Watch portion. Officer Michael Hayes shared that the city is currently doing a homeless count, including 4 points of contact, from an initial field interview to being taken into custody, booked, and released. Services are offered at each stage. Police are again first contact when using the GetItDone app. Groups like PATH are called to support. The Neighborhood Policing Division is currently 3200 complaints behind on encampments.



Announcements: UHCA President Marc Johnson opened the meeting – Happy Spring! New volunteers were welcomed including Lauren Doucette with the Events Team. Thank you to all our current hardworking volunteers. Thank you to all our business members. We're looking for people to help in many areas.

Beautification: Sol Schumer announced the planned graffiti clean-up along Park Boulevard in March. Birney Elementary is requesting that residents adopt a tree along Campus or Meade. Watering, weeding and general upkeep would be appreciated. Graffiti and vandalism continue on the Vermont Street Bridge and area.

Events: Stu McGraw reports that the 25th Anniversary Sign Celebration will be held on April 30. Tickets are \$20 each. The UH Community Yard Sale is on June 4. Cookies for "Cookies with the Cops" are being provided by Sheep Riley from Big Front Door.

Community News: A survey regarding the Comfort Station/Restrooms planned for Trolley Barn Park is available at www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey. North Park Planning elections happened in March. Sign up for UH-CAN at www.cc-uh.org. Kristin Harms shared that free Historic Webinars would be hosted on March 24th and 31st. For more info: www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/events. Uptown Planners held their elections. Tom Mullaney, current Chair, welcomed the new Board Members. Thank you Tom for all your hard work on UH's behalf. Matthew Brown, newly elected, introduced himself.

Library Updates: Jeff Garthaus shared that book sales have returned. The annual Spring into STEAM challenge will be happening March, April, and May for kids aged 9 through 12. The Discover & Go program is also operating. Go to www.sandiegolibrary.org for more info. Isabel Schechter asks us to join The Friends of the UH Library at www.friendsofuhlibrary.org. Postcards are available to send to your elected officials asking for their support of library services. National Library Week is April 3-9.

Updates from Elected Officials:

Benny Cartwright, with Ryan Darsey, from Stephen Whitburn's office shared that they

are looking forward to results from the Trolley Barn Park survey. The Community Conversation series is launching. The library postcards are being received in Mr. Whitburn's office.

Abbey Reuter from Nathan Fletcher's office stated that about \$4 million in funding was appropriated for a Micro Business Grant Program. They're still in the process of hiring, and applications for an interim sheriff are being accepted.

Featured Speaker

Nikki Mirasola, our new Program Chair, introduced Rob Nikolewski, energy reporter for the SD Union-Tribune on the topic of Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0. It is a process in which a rooftop solar system generates more energy than the residence or business consumes. The excess energy is sent back to the grid and customers receive a credit on their bill. The proposal will decrease how much of a credit people receive, create a grid participation charge on all residential solar systems, establish a \$600 million equity fund to support clean energy, and provide a 10 year payback for adding a battery system to your solar system. This proposal has generated a lot of controversy and passion.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

Cecilia's
FINE JEWELRY

**YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
JEWELER**

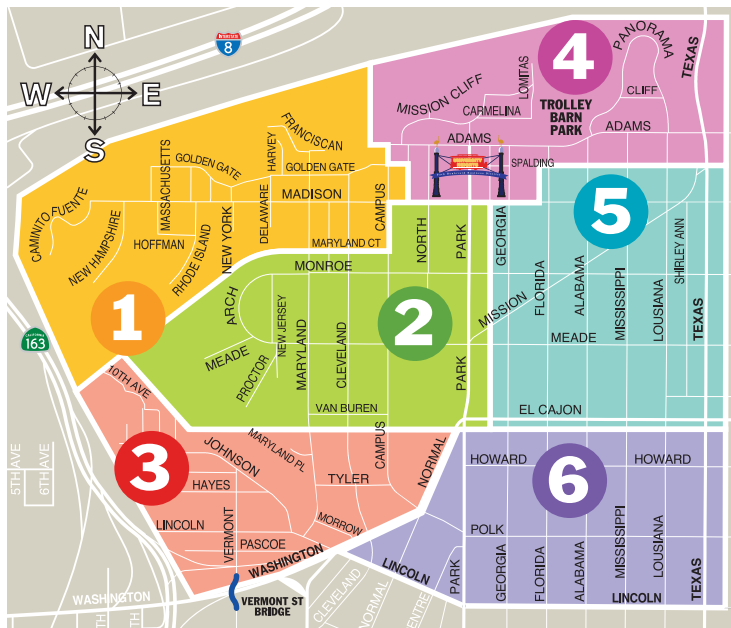
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FOR APPOINTMENT**



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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



- 1** Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com
- 2** Pam Isaacs pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3** Mary Lange mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4** Heather Wilcox zone4watchuhca@gmail.com
- 5** Tamara Zyhylj tamara@tamarazrealestate.com
- 6** Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com



CRIME WATCH SIGNS

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



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

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

UH PHONE BOOK

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

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

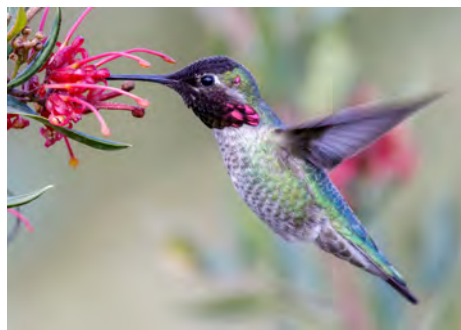


DISASTER CONTACTS

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

Nature in the Neighborhood

Anna versus Allen

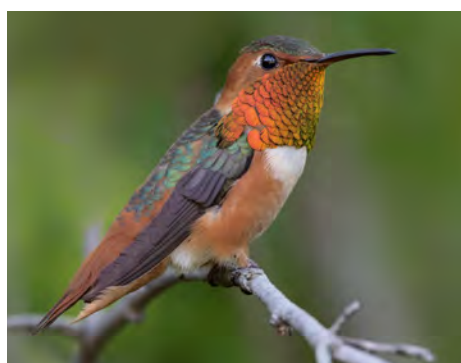


Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

Nature can be quite dynamic, particularly in response to obvious human conversions of the natural landscape. Other forces, such as climate change, can be more subtle in effect, but in any case the ensuing adjustments by native species to such changes may be complex, delayed, and difficult to predict.

Such is the case of two species of hummingbird that share the coastal lowlands of southern California: the Anna's (*Calypte anna*) and the Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*). The species' names are arbitrary, after historical figures.

These hummer species are easily distinguished by plumage, even without binoculars: Anna's males have rosy-red, iridescent throats, shiny green backs, and whitish undersides. Females are similar, but lack the showy throat plumage. Allen's males have iridescent rusty-orange throats and show much rufous-rust, as well as shiny green, on the sides and back. Correspondingly, females have rusty backs and sides, but lack the brilliant throat plumage (Anna's never shows rufous or orange in its plumage).



Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)

Anna's is California's common and widespread hummingbird, primordially adapted to native chaparral and woodlands, nesting in late winter and spring, and persisting at temperate latitudes throughout winter due to reliance on a few native, winter-blooming plants. Naturalists a century ago recognized that advancing human development and introduction of additional

exotic, winter-blooming plants was already resulting in enhancement of this species' ability to maintain year-round populations at these moderately high latitudes.

The Allen's hummingbird, also native, was historically restricted almost entirely to the immediate California coast north of San Diego County, but only in spring and summer. This highly migratory species originally spent its winters in the sub-tropics south of the border. The venerable 2004 San Diego County Bird Atlas described Allen's hummingbird as a transient migrant species that had just barely established breeding in the extreme northwestern corner of our county. However, within one decade the Allen's hummingbird had expanded its breeding range southward and established year-round residence. Its range expansion is also attributable to the inviting variety of exotic blooming plants introduced by humans, but why has it taken so many decades to respond?

Most intriguing about this case are the dynamics between the two species. In recent years, birders have noted gradual local increases in the numbers of Allen's, and it has been suggested that they are displacing Anna's. Ecologists refer to this phenomenon as "competitive exclusion"; detailed study would be required to determine whether the term applies to this story.

In my wanderings through the heart of University Heights, I do find more Allen's than Anna's, regardless of season. However, my 12-year winter bird study in semi-native Balboa Park shows Anna's to be more abundant, but Allen's slowly increasing in numbers. It is likely that an equilibrium has not yet been reached, and the question therefore is whether there is ecological space for both species.

—John Lovio

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UHCA BEAUTIFICATION

ADOPTING TREES, REPORTING GRAFFITI, AND CLEANING UP!

Our March 12 cleanup along Park Boulevard was a great success! We had 12 volunteers who worked all along both sides of the street and collectively removed hundreds of stickers from a variety of surfaces, along with graffiti. The following people gave their time and energy to keep UH clean: Helene Idels, Ruben Lickei, Brenna Rheinart, Eric Rheinart, Raveh Abedi, Michelle Abedi, Josh Eckely, Rob Kaczorowski, Amy Kaczorowski, Sol Schumer, MaryBeth Chruden.



A total of 30 volunteer hours supported this event, from coordination to the cleanup itself. The Independent Sector has assigned a value of \$28.54 per hour of volunteer time, which translates to \$856.20 of contributed labor! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for this effort. Your work really made a big difference along Park Boulevard.

The Beautification Team has also created an Adopt-A-Tree program to help the struggling trees planted alongside Birney Elementary thrive. Trees are available for adoption along both Meade Avenue and Campus Avenue. In adopting a tree, you will commit to weeding around the base of

the tree as needed and watering it twice a month. The B-Team will fertilize the trees as required. When you adopt a tree, you will be able to name your tree and have your name featured as an adopter on your tree! Individuals that choose to adopt will commit to doing so in three-, six-, or twelve-month periods. To adopt your tree, please contact B-Team Leader Jennifer Bishop at email address noted below.

Additionally, there has been a major uptick in vandalism throughout University Heights, which is a major blight on our neighborhood. If you are out and about in our community and see buildings tagged with graffiti, please report it as soon as possible on the City of San Diego Get It Done app, available to download for free. If you see a construction site tagged, report it to the site manager and ask that it be covered over as soon as possible. It has been proven that the faster graffiti is removed, the less likely the culprit is to return to do it again. If you would like to volunteer as part of the University Heights graffiti removal team and help remove graffiti on lampposts, signage, and other, smaller areas, please contact B-Team leader, Jennifer Bishop. You will be given all the supplies required to help keep our community free of graffiti.

—Jennifer Bishop beautification@uhsd.org

AMERICAN ETHNIC GRUB

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THINK
GLOBAL



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SUSTAINABLE UH

An Opportunity to Make a Real Difference: Plant Trees and Save the Ones We Have

This month our UH Beautification Team is calling for volunteers to adopt the street trees planted around Birney Elementary on Meade and Campus Avenues. Helping those trees to grow tall and strong will be a boon to the neighborhood, contributing to children's pleasant walks to school for years to come. Once mature, the trees will shade the street and sidewalk, contribute oxygen to our air, and even sequester carbon emissions.

A flourishing urban forest tree canopy is a well-researched, proven solution to so many environmental woes, from air pollution to heat islands to greenhouse gas proliferation. Acknowledging trees' importance, our city's leaders have enacted policies and programs designed to plant, preserve, and protect our trees, all of which has been a great start.

Unfortunately, according to Carolyn Chase, CEO of San Diego Earth Day and TreeWatch San Diego, city-provided street trees live an average of seven years and then die due to neglect and sometimes incorrect planting. So those

trees never have a chance to grow large enough to contribute to the much needed tree canopy for which they were intended. Additionally, for one reason or another, mature trees are cut down in places where they should have been maintained. And many of the Climate Action Plan-related programs the city has promoted, such as the free street tree program, are actually backlogged or, in some cases, entirely inactive. It will take citizens' pressure to get these programs reinstated and fully functional.

TreeWatch San Diego, a "neighborhood-based, citizen-science volunteer program," is attempting to solve these issues from a variety of angles. Their two neighborhood-level programs, Tree Ambassadors and TreeWatchers, encourage groups and organizations to acquire and plant "free trees" and to learn about and protect the established trees in their areas. Details about these programs and other actions you can take to help trees—and by extension, ourselves—can be found at TreeWatchSD.org.

To be clear, adopting a tree is not just a sweet gesture or something cute to post to social media. One tree's survival will not make or break us, but the existence and health of the urban tree canopy absolutely has real consequences for our health and wellbeing, and for the wildlife who share our world.

— Judith Annicchiarico

PALM WEEVIL UPDATE: TIME TO ADAPT



In June 2020 we first reported on the South American palm weevil's attack on our county's ornamental palms, including many Canary Islands Date Palms here in UH. Approximately 20,000 ornamental palms have been killed by the weevil in San Diego County since 2014.

Removing infested trees is crucial to slowing the weevil's progress, but the city has made it clear that we won't be getting any (previously promised) help removing dead and dying palms, particularly those on private property. City Urban Forester Brian Widener and our local Park & Rec area manager have not returned our calls regarding this issue.

We can thank climate change for the South American palm weevil's arrival,

and the pest is clearly here to stay for the foreseeable future. The expense of regular professional pesticide treatments required to keep Canary Islands Date Palms weevil-free, not to mention the toxic burden on the environment of the neonicotinoid poisons involved, suggests that property owners should consider other types of trees for landscaping and should have infested trees on their properties removed as quickly as possible. Reputable plant nurseries and arborists should be able to guide us toward trees that have a fighting chance to survive and thrive in our new warmer and drier "normal."

— Judith Annicchiarico

EARTHFAIR 2022

Sunday, April 24 Balboa Park 10AM – 5PM



TOGETHER WE CAN
 Exhibit • Volunteer • Sponsor • Attend
WWW.EARTHDAYWEB.ORG

Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Bridge

To encourage more public transit ridership, the MTS is establishing a new spur that will take people from the HUB in Hillcrest all the way to the Green Line in Mission Valley. The new trolley line will commence at the HUB and cross Washington Street via the Vermont Street bridge, then wind through University Heights along restored tracks on Lincoln and Maryland where passengers will transfer to a new zip-line over I-8 into Mission Valley, terminating at a zip-to-trolley connection station at the old Macy's store. Helmets are recommended for the zip-line portion of the ride. Construction will begin immediately, with service expected to launch in time for the holiday shopping season in 2030.



— The UH Transit Fool



Give. Ask. Gratitude: The Buy Nothing Project

The concept behind the Buy Nothing Project began in the Pacific Northwest when two friends brought their children to the beach. As they looked up and down the shore they noticed a proliferation of plastics washed up and strewn along the sand. Over time they collected and investigated the origins of these plastics and found they were from local neighborhoods. In an effort to curtail the vast amount of waste polluting the environment, they envisioned a way to encourage communities to buy less and share more.

That was in 2013. Today there are over 5 million members in more than 7,000 communities around the world participating in "Buy Nothing" groups.

There are two ways to participate in the Buy Nothing Project. The first is via a recently released smartphone app, and the other, as noted in our June 2021 Sustainable UH column, is via a private group on Facebook called "Buy Nothing Hillcrest/University Heights, San Diego, CA," which formed in 2016 and boasts 2.7K members. To join, you

must live in one of the associated zip codes and must not be a member of another Buy Nothing group. Their motto is "Give. Ask. Gratitude."

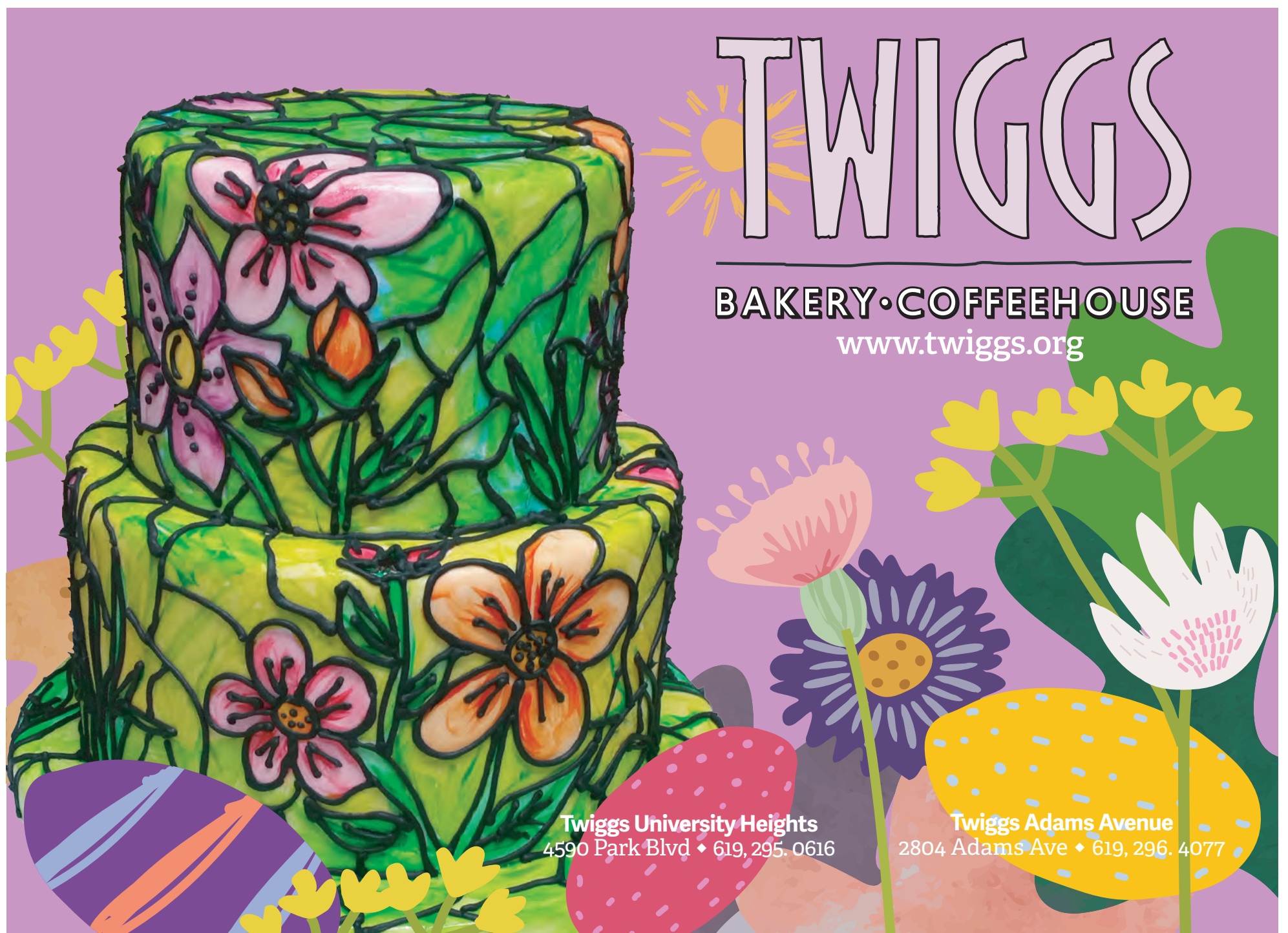
Diann Nephew, who lives in University Heights, is the current and sole administrator of the local group. She has generously given of her time to manage it for many years. She says the best thing about moderating is interacting with all the wonderful people who live in her neighborhood and the surrounding area. The most challenging thing about moderating is keeping up with all of the posts. Of course, there are always reminders about guidelines to be given, but that comes with the territory. She feels blessed to be a part of it all!

The group has grown so large that Diann thinks it's probably time to have two separate groups for Hillcrest and University Heights. She's found members who want to help, and she hopes to have more admins very soon! To learn more about your local Buy Nothing group, visit Facebook and search in groups for "Buy Nothing."

— Thalia Driessen

April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>National Garden Month National Poetry Month National Library Week 3-9 National Public Health Week 4-10</p>		<p>1 April Fools' Day May News Articles Due</p> 	<p>2 Ramadan Begins World Autism Awareness Day</p> 	
<p>3 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>National PET DAY</p>	<p>5 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6 pm uptownplannersd.org</p>	<p>6 UHDCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>7 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm Via Zoom www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting World Health Day Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p>8 National Zoo Lovers Day</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Palm Sunday</p>		<p>12 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm National Library Workers' Day</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 National Gardening Day</p> 	<p>15 Good Friday Passover Begins</p>	<p>16 National Orchid Day</p> 
<p>17 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Easter</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org</p>	<p>20 Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm No UH Library Task Force Meeting</p>	<p>21 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p>22 EARTH DAY make every day earth day save our planet 22 APRIL</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org May UHCA News Out</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Arbor Day</p> 	<p>30 UH Trolley Sign 25th Anniversary 5 pm National Hairstylist Appreciation Day</p>



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Twiggs Adams Avenue
 2804 Adams Ave • 619, 296. 4077

BIRNEY BUZZ

The Meaning of Running at Birney

How many miles would you run to rule your school? In March, the students at Alice Birney Elementary School participated in a school-wide fitness-focused fundraiser, where the grand prize is getting to run the school itself.

Known as the “Run for the Green,” kids run as far as they can, while raking in the “green” (slang for money) from friends, family, and neighborhood sponsors. The money they raise is used to pay for “Specials,” the classes that are not fully funded by the San Diego Unified School District: Art, Spanish, Library, and Garden.

The student who contributes the most green to Birney is awarded the honorary title of “Principal For A Day.” On that special day, they get to make the best executive decisions – longer lunch, longer recess, more Art, Spanish, Library, and Garden learning.



The author's daughter on the Madison Street Mile

Our own children tried to run at least a mile a day during the fundraiser. My husband, who took up running during the pandemic, also started running with our son. However, one day, when my husband couldn't do it, the charge of running with our son fell on me.

I'm not a runner and try to avoid running at all costs. At first, I said I could not do it. But later, I gave in. I ran from the corner of Madison and Maryland, westward, to the end of Madison and back. That's 1.04 miles, and the furthest I'd run for at least a decade. While we ran, my son coached



The author's son prepping for the lemonade stand fundraiser

me on how to breathe and stretch out my stride (coaching he'd learned from his dad).

I cannot express in words my deep gratitude for all that Birney has given to our children, and I think I will run again. In addition to the running, our children also put on a lemonade stand to raise money for the event.

Our community is truly blessed to have such an amazing neighborhood school. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, Birney puts a strong emphasis on kindness and learning from different perspectives. With this in mind, Birney recently welcomed just over a dozen new students from Afghanistan. We are so excited to meet them and introduce them to our Run for the Green tradition.

I want to invite my fellow UH neighbors to take this opportunity to please donate \$5.00 to Alice Birney, and maybe run the Madison Street Mile, in recognition of all of the elementary school students, faculty, and staff in our community. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, UH!

The 15th annual Run for the Green jog-a-thon fundraiser took place from March 14 to 18. Our Birney farmstand occurs on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month at Twiggs on Park. We welcome new sponsors and donors for all Birney events, so please contact us at info@friendsofalicebirney.org if you would like more information. Please visit us at friendsofalicebirney.org for more information on all our events!

— Alexandra Webber,
Proud Birney Parent and now Runner

ROO NEWS

Roosevelt Middle School Music Field Trip

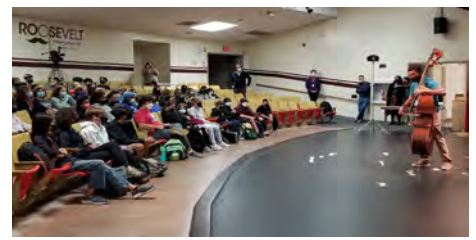
After almost two years of schooling in pandemic-induced isolation, students at Roosevelt International Middle School finally enjoyed a “field trip” that was not conducted over Zoom or other digital formats. We hope this is a harbinger of more interactions between students and the broader community as Covid case numbers in San Diego drop.



Visiting musician Xavier Foley performs for music students at Roosevelt International Middle School



On February 24, the Roosevelt Music Boosters welcomed double bass virtuoso Xavier Foley, who performed and took questions during an “on-campus field trip” for music students during the school day. Mr. Foley is a La Jolla Music Society “Discovery Series” artist and the rare performer who plays the double bass as a solo instrument. The performance was arranged by RMS Music Community Outreach representative, Sonya Harris, a volunteer from the neighborhood who uses her connections in the music world to provide unique musical opportunities to RMS students.



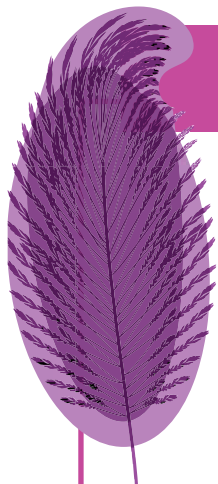
In normal times, Ms. Treviño explained, RMS band, orchestra, and jazz band students would participate in competitions at other schools, attend workshops with professional musicians, and go to San Diego Symphony performances. They were typically able to participate in two to three events per semester. She hopes they will be returning to such activities soon.



I asked Pauline Treviño, president of the Music Boosters, what her organization does and what kind of activities it had arranged in pre-pandemic times. “The RMS Music Boosters are music education enthusiasts who support

The culture of parent and community involvement at RMS allows groups like the Music Boosters to bring opportunities to students that would not otherwise be available. For more information about Roosevelt International Middle School and its volunteer-run foundation, Friends of Roosevelt, please visit www.roofriends.org.

Watch local news coverage of this remarkable performance at <https://tinyurl.com/RooMusicCBS>.
— Andy Hinds



PLUME

Mike & Wendell Perkins



Sometimes it's the little things that create a true sense of community. This month's Plume goes to Mike and Wendell Perkins for the many gifts they offer from their magnificent and unique garden.

Mike and Wendell's home is situated on the corner of Madison and Rhode Island, and every square inch of the front yard is overflowing with a remarkable array of succulents.

If you're passing by you may spot some potted clippings of these spectacular succulents neatly arranged under an inconspicuous “FREE” sign. Over the last few years, the couple has gifted hundreds of these plants to their neighbors.

The garden didn't always look as beautiful as it does now. Mike moved into the house in 1997 and Wendell in 2016. After they married in 2017, the transformation of the garden began. The first things to go were some spiky palm trees that were growing into the walkway.

Over the years a thoughtful neighbor named Angie (who turns 99 this May) periodically gifted them succulents from her garden. She was very generous with her plants, and they love carrying on the tradition she began!



Succulent garden

About 3 years ago Wendell redesigned the landscaping, and that's when the garden really started to grow. He has a degree in fine arts and has had many aquariums over the years, and you may be able to see those influences in some parts of the garden.

Over time the garden has evolved depending on whether certain plants thrive or not. And why do they give away so many plants? They thought it would be a neighborly thing to do and good for the environment! What they like most about living in University Heights is that “The people are great! Their kindness is contagious. So let's make that the next pandemic!”

Congratulations on your Plume! We thank you for spreading the plant love!

BETWEEN THE COVERS

PASSING OF RETIRED UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIBRARIAN KIM SCHMIDT

Kim Schmidt, born January 27, 1951, passed away March 7, 2022. Kim retired in 2017 after working at the library for over 18 years. He enjoyed traveling, his cats, books, computers, his "bestie," Barb, and everything silly. During his time at the University Heights library from May 2012 until December 2016, he filled our branch with many toys, costumes, props, puppets, and shenanigans. He helped us celebrate the UH Branch's 100th Anniversary in 2014 and the current library building's 50th anniversary in 2016.



Kim and Chopper the Biker Dog

Kim also helped usher in a new era of the UH Friends of the Library with a new group of Friends and hosted community events like a meeting of UHCA Cookies with Cops, UH Friends of the Library holiday parties, and Story Time with Chopper the Dog. In 2016, he even organized a ceremony marking the library's installation of the first public gender-neutral restroom facilities in San Diego!

My mom helped Kim do his genealogy, and he was somewhat surprised to learn that he had Jewish ancestors. He embraced this news and told some of our regulars who then invited him for Passover.



Erin Wilson, Todd Gloria, and Kim in 2014

I'm sure there are many more stories I'll remember. The picture of Todd Gloria with Kim and me was taken at our 100th anniversary in 2014.

—Erin Wilson, Library Assistant II UH Branch Library



Kim as a child

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

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TODD GLORIA

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MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov

SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Celebrating Poetry and the Benefits Libraries Provide

We often hear how April showers bringing May flowers. But this month, April showers us with words thanks to National Poetry Month, School Library Month, and National Library Week.

National Library Week (NLW) takes place April 3-9 celebrating with the theme of "Connect with Your Library." This theme promotes libraries as places to connect to information and ideas with technology, media, programs, and classes – in addition to books. It also emphasizes how libraries, such as our own University Heights Library, connect communities to each other. Stop by our library to check out the recommendations and programs for NLW.

School Library Month provides opportunities for school librarians to share the essential role of libraries in transforming learning. As a child, I borrowed many books from my school library and bookmobiles (which are celebrated on April 7 with National Library outreach Day). School librarians always encouraged me to read, which opened up worlds of adventure and excitement.



Check out a book of poems from a classic or modern poet as part of Poetry Month to intrigue and inspire your imagination. Have you ever written a poem? Why not give it a try and encourage others to write a poem during the month of April. We look forward to hearing them.

For information about Friends of UH Library membership, please contact us at info@friendsofuhlibrary.org.

—John Hyatt, Board Member, Friends of the University Heights Library

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

What We Wouldn't Give

How we wish to be the power in spring's tiny buds;
vigorous new life awaiting blossom on rose stems.
Cut spires recently healed from the prune;
royal, ruby-red emerges from the fading rain!



If we could be the mighty re-emerging green,
our strength feeding nature's urge to grow,
the wild force, creation's will to survive,
we'd be content to declare, we met the task!



We'd want to be the drive behind this forthcoming birth!

Wanna be the wiggle in the sparrow's womb;
listening to the invite of spring whispers;
feel the fervor of welcome from the earth!

And we'd love to sense winter's melting force,
the departure of traveling chill, the feeling of its farewell!
We ponder earth's intent, souls who welcome warmth.
What if we were nature and beheld the force of earth?



Jon Von Erb
Your University Heights Poet
4/2022

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NEW IN UH

The Mighty Bin Opening Soon

The Mighty Bin zero-waste grocery store is set to open this month, and we're very excited to check out what's in those bins! Owner Isabelle DeMillan plans to offer much of the same food you would find in a conventional grocery store, but from local and sustainable sources, and with no disposable packaging.

The store will offer a wide variety of foods from well-stocked and regularly cleaned gravity dispensers and bins. Single-use bin scoops will be washed and restocked throughout the day. Foodstuffs will include spices, herbs, flours, and sweeteners for baking and cooking, plus kitchen staples like locally produced cheeses, eggs, bread, and milk, as well as coffee and other must-haves. Vegan snacks and ingredients will be plentiful, and you'll also find cleaning and personal care items.

The store will even offer ready-made meals in reusable containers, including vegan meals from a popular local plant-based food provider. Shoppers will be able to grab a meal from the refrigerator case and bring back the container later for a deposit refund.

The Mighty Bin is also partnering with The Compost Group to bring an organic waste drop off site to the store. Those of us who don't yet have green waste bins should strongly consider signing up for that service!

Isabelle's academic research taught her that people will behave sustainably if they can do so easily, with minimum upheaval to their usual routine. To



get people to reduce their packaging waste, she knows, we need convenient, pleasant alternatives to the way we acquire goods. The Mighty Bin is just up the street (at the southeast corner of Utah and El Cajon Blvd.) with easy parking out front and along Utah Street. Shoppers can bring their own, lend, and/or borrow clean containers in which to carry away their groceries and cleaning supplies, and the store sells branded refillable containers as well.

Convenient and close by? Check! Pleasant shopping experience? Check! Sounds like a great opportunity to do the right thing, and we can't wait for that Grand Opening!

Sign up for The Mighty Bin newsletter to learn more: <https://themightybin.com>.

The Mighty Bin
2855 El Cajon Blvd, Ste. 4
Hours (once the store opens):
Tues – Sun, 11am – 7pm
Closed Mondays

— Judith Annicchiarico

Join the Friends of the University Heights Library and connect with our library

4193 PARK BLVD
(619) 692-4912

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2022

Monday, April 4
State of America's Libraries Report Released
Includes Top 10 Banned Books of 2021

Tuesday, April 5
National Library Workers Day
Thank our library staff for the vital services they provide

Wednesday, April 6
National Library Outreach Day
Celebrate our dedicated library staff who provide service in person and virtually

Thursday, April 7
Take Action for Libraries Day
Contact your elected officials and ask them to support libraries

For more information: friendsofuhlibrary.org

it's time to Celebrate

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

25th ANNIVERSARY

25 Electrifying Years!

We're Having a Block Party

Celebrate UH Sign's 25th Anniversary on April 30th

Nothing personifies our community's sense of spirit and bond as much as the neon "University Heights" sign in the 4600 block of Park Blvd. Come out and join your friends and neighbors on Saturday, April 30th from 5-8 pm to celebrate the UH sign's 25th anniversary.

Many of our neighborhood businesses will offer complimentary samples of food and drinks to anyone wearing anniversary wristbands, which are available at www.uhsd.org/Sign25, by mail (UHCA, PO Box 33032, San Diego CA 92163), or a limited number may be available at the event.

Scan with your phone's camera to reserve your wristband!



Thanks to our awesome local businesses for participating!

Saturday April 30 - 5-8pm
Live Music • Food & Drink Samples
Wristbands available at www.uhsd.org/Sign25



FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN



Hi University Heights Neighbors!

One of the most important parts of my job as your City Councilmember is listening to you. Whether that be during the public comment section of City Council meetings, through community forums, e-mail, or phone communication with our office, or saying hello around town, I take the thoughts, opinions, and concerns of my constituents and neighbors seriously.

My office is in the midst of our 2022 Community Conversation Tour, and we were pleased to host a forum for Hillcrest and University Heights on March 10. It was nice to be able to virtually meet with a couple dozen residents from both neighborhoods and answer their questions and hear their concerns.

One issue that I know is of great importance to the University Heights community is the proposed restrooms/comfort station at Old Trolley Barn Park. I am well aware that there are opinions on both sides of this issue, with many community members in support of building this amenity at the park, and many others opposed to the idea. As I mentioned during the forum, I am waiting to weigh in on this issue until ample amount of time is given to hear from the community. The University Heights Community

Association has posted a Restroom Survey, and I encourage all who have opinions on the matter to take it: www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey. Other opportunities to weigh in include emailing my office at stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov or leaving us a voicemail sharing your perspective at 619-236-6633.

Other issues that community members addressed during the forum include sidewalk repairs, homelessness, public safety, trees, and parking. These issues are all being addressed in a variety of ways, including advocating for additional funding. As I shared in a previous edition of this newspaper, my FY23 Budget Priorities Memo included increased funding for a variety of infrastructure projects, including repairing sidewalks, improving unpaved alleyways, and resurfacing streets throughout the district.

All of the concerns raised by community members are important, and I certainly take them into consideration. Please don't hesitate to continue to share your thoughts and concerns with our office, and also let us know if we can be of assistance. Our office can be reached at stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov or 619-236-6633.

If you would like to participate in one of our upcoming Community Conversation Tour forums, please feel free! Even though they are each focused on different D3 neighborhoods, all residents are welcome to any of them. Visit bit.ly/D3-CCT for more information or to RSVP.

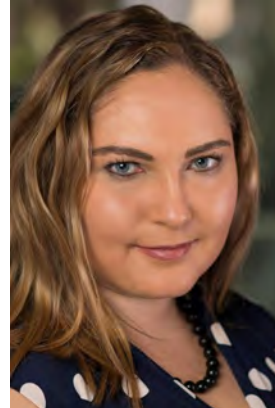
This month's update was brief, but I wanted to be sure to give a re-cap of our recent forum and thank everyone for participating. I look forward to seeing you around town this spring!!

— Stephen Whitburn,
City Councilmember, District 3

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Lotus Accounting & Tax Services

You haven't filed taxes for the last few years and feel like you're alone. You have all your documents on hand but feel afraid of Uncle Sam punching you in the gut. You probably already know stalling makes your situation worse.



Jessica Demirdjian,
Lotus Accounting & Tax Services

People who are beating themselves up for "procrastinating" or who feel intimidated by the Tax process need professional help, and Lotus Accounting & Tax Services is here to help, guide, and protect them by bringing comfort to the often uncomfortable world of taxes.

Lotus Accounting & Tax Services clients range from tech companies that service the ultra-wealthy to every average Joes.

Lotus has been able to reduce taxable events and save clients from frivolous taxation, and we continue to "go to bat" for clients so that they keep most of their hard-earned dollars. Because clients are so satisfied with the results we provide, they never leave.

Who we are: In January 2020, I started Lotus Accounting & Tax Services, providing reasonably priced services for San Diego residents and business owners. While working full-time at the County of San Diego, I completed graduate school at the University of San Diego, earning two master's degrees in accountancy and taxation. In addition, for the past seven years, I have also volunteered with the IRS VITA Program and have worked at other tax firms.

My extensive experience has made me a "Master in Taxes," saving clients millions of dollars of unnecessary taxes. I have extensive experience in IRS Representation, tax preparation, accounting and bookkeeping services. I am pleased to provide the UH community with free tax consultations and to help relieve the stress of tax season.

— Jessica Demirdjian,
Lotus Accounting & Tax Services
Contact us today for your free consultation
619-846-7738



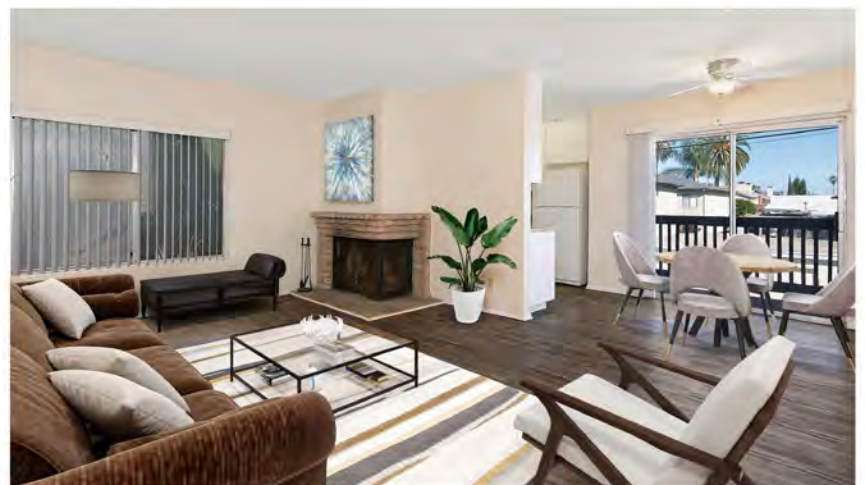
We Fix Your Computer!
We come to you or you come to us for the lowest rates
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Multiple Offers & Now In Escrow



4747 Hamilton St #2 | San Diego, CA 92116
\$415,000 | 1 BD | 1 BA | 548 SQFT

Spacious living in prime location North of Adams! Beautiful lower unit with freshly painted interior, upgraded flooring, dual paned windows and patio area. Well planned kitchen with light wood cabinets, granite counters, gas range, stainless appliances and in unit stacked washer/dryer. Roomy MBR, full wall closet with mirrored wardrobe doors. Garden style complex with pool and BBQ.



4565 Cleveland Ave #8 | San Diego, CA 92116
\$525,000 | 2 BD | 2 BA | 813 SQFT

Upper end unit in a Fabulous University Heights location! Spacious living area, fireplace, outdoor balcony off the dining area, large MBR with mirrored wardrobe doors, and 2nd BR with walk-in closet and outdoor balcony with washer/dryer hookups in the closet. Needs a buyer's personal touch to make it their own! Garage in the alley plus parking space in front of the garage. Walk to area shops, restaurants, coffee shops and Trolley Barn Park!



MARY ANNE STEVENS | **ANASTASIA BREWER**
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CALRE #01034232 | CALRE #00894212

Don't make a move without us!



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

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

JON VON ERB, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS POET

What better way to celebrate National Poetry Month this April than recognizing one of our neighborhood's most prolific poets, Jon Von Erb. Jon writes poetry



Jon Von Erb

every day in the "poetry cave" on the 2nd floor of his home that he shares with his husband of 45 years. Jon finds inspiration for his poems from his

surroundings. If he gets stuck, he just looks outside his window. In our neighborhood, John sees so much beauty.

Jon's love for poetry stems from his artistic background. His mother was a contralto singer in the NYC opera, and his father was an actor on the vaudeville stage. His parents met while performing "On the Town," and Jon grew up performing on stage. At the age of 3, after seeing the Bolshoi ballet perform Swan Lake, he knew he wanted to dance. By 13, he was a professional dancer, performing with several ballet companies, as well as on Broadway. Eventually, he became a choreographer and traveled throughout Europe.

Jon's dance career went on to include opening New Orleans' first multi-racial, multi-ethnic studio with the goal of making dance accessible to people from all backgrounds, and later, opening another school in Alaska where he taught

ballet and afro-contemporary dance styles for the University of Anchorage.

By 1989, after moving to San Francisco, Jon suffered a back injury in an accident and gravitated towards holistic healing, eventually earning his massage therapy license and focusing his practice on patients suffering from AIDS. He created "grief massage" therapy during which his patients would talk about what they were going through while Jon listened and performed hands-on massage. At the end of each session, Jon composed a poem for the patient. The poems would incorporate the patient's feelings during the session. These poems helped his patients better understand their grief and helped them move forward.

After almost 20 years in San Francisco, Jon and his newly-retired husband moved to Palm Springs, but they eventually realized they couldn't escape the brutal Southern California desert summers, so they decided to move to San Diego. They found the perfect house and neighborhood in University Heights.

Jon's poetry can be found all around University Heights. In addition to contributing poems to our UH newspaper, Jon has a poetry box at Twiggs and a poetry box on the palm tree in front of his home on the corner of Mission and Mississippi. The poems are free for anyone who wants to keep them. Jon tries to replenish both boxes every day. He wants to share his love of poetry with the community. He also believes in mentoring others. Jon spends a lot of his time on various poetry web sites and Zoom meetings talking about all things related to writing poetry. To Jon, poetry is a way to help others in their daily lives and to inspire people to remain hopeful and helpful as they live their lives.

— Jane Gilbert

ON THE BOULEVARDS

La Loupe Vintage

Last year La Loupe Vintage quietly celebrated 10 years in business on Park Blvd. They specialize in the 70's, but they carry resale clothing from the late 60's until now. They also carry a small assortment of curated modern designers, accessories, skincare, and gifts. The owner, Brandi Munoz, sees her storefront as a way to introduce a wider audience to the environmentally friendly world of second-hand shopping.

Brandi had her first "Aha! moment" at the age of nine when she discovered her passion for expressing herself through vintage style. This discovery developed into a ferocious desire to hunt and seek out unique clothes which would later turn into a side hustle selling on EBay in the early 2000's.

For many years Brandi worked in the corporate retail world at big-name companies like the Gap and The Body Shop, where she learned critical skills for running a successful business, like team management, operations, and training. Her husband was a touring musician, and her career required a lot of travel. She realized she wanted

to find a way to be closer to home.

So, she took the leap of faith to open her own business. In



La Loupe interior

2011 Brandi found the available storefront in University Heights and fell in love with the neighborhood. So much so that she and her family ended up moving nearby.

La Loupe is the French word for "the magnifying glass." Brandi encountered the name on the cover of a French pulp novel at a flea-market. It became the name for an



Brandi Munoz and La Loupe

Etsy account where she and a friend sold their finds, and later for her new business endeavor. It's a fitting name considering it takes considerable work and investigation to source original vintage clothing in great condition.

While there are many smart phone apps and ways to buy vintage online, Brandi sees the importance of having a brick and mortar store. Part of the fun is when clientele come in and discover their perfect fit!

An important lesson she's learned as a business owner is "you have to get comfortable with risk." Her risk-taking has paid off and she now has a second larger location on Adams, a space at Sea Hive Station in Point Loma and employs an awesome team of eight. But she says that the store on Park Blvd. will always have special sentimental value since it was her first location.

Celebrating individuality is one of the core values of the company. Pay La Loupe Vintage a visit, you're sure to find your own unique and special treasure! La Loupe is located at 4646 Park Blvd. Hours and more information can be found on the website at laloupevintage.com.

— Thalia Driessen

AS SPRING BEGINS TO CALL US

Iris, and a line of Dahlia break through sprinkles of rain, and we smile;

for happier weather is on its way, to push those chilly clouds away.

Warm winds rock our swinging treehouses, 'Wake up, hummingbirds',

to swoop and dash about umbrellas, still asleep atop their poles.

The flutter of wings whistle up the Buttercups to play with the Jonquils, and we

giggle like a school kids; tummy wobbling like a row of yellow ducklings.

And when the tree-tops sway to the rhythms of fresh rebirth, we feel joyful

energy waltzing up both legs, begging us to join in a vernal dance.

But when the finches start to chirp and fireflies begin to buzz, we know it's time

to give thanks to winter's chill, for its harsh visit makes April shine better.

And deep inside we hear the call to build a nest within our garden's hut

so our honeys can 'Fred and Ginger' down the path - build a crib of our own.

Jon Von Erb
Your University Heights Poet
4/2022



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Our Iconic Sign

Many San Diego neighborhoods have erected large signs to identify themselves, including North Park, Hillcrest, Kensington, Normal Heights, El Cajon Boulevard, Gaslamp, Little Italy. Even cities like Chula Vista, Carlsbad, Encinitas, and Imperial Beach have them. Not surprisingly, many UH residents feel strongly that the iconic University Heights sign at Park and Madison is one of the best signs in San Diego, if not the best.

The history of the UH sign is told in the archives of the University Heights Historical Society:

“The plans for a UH sign came together in 1994, when the various community groups and associations in UH banded together and lobbied to obtain community development block grant funding. Council District 3 councilmembers Ron Roberts and Christine Kehoe were instrumental in obtaining the initial funds, and the University Heights Community Development Corporation embarked on bringing the idea to life.

The UHDC sponsored a community wide contest to find an aesthetic design to use as a concept from which the final sign design would be adapted. Over twenty contest entrants presented their designs at the September University Heights Community Association (UHCA) meeting. Each sign design entry was unique and creative and the winning design was chosen after a long and intense judging process. Kevin Whaley’s winning concept drawing was unveiled at the UHCA meeting. Kevin’s design contained strong symbols of University Heights’ history – cobblestone pillars, ostriches and a cable car.

The City of San Diego put the sign construction project out to bid and the Young Electric Sign Company (YESCO) was awarded the contract in 1996. Although work on the overhead portion

of the sign had begun at the YESCO facility in Ontario, California, University Heights locals saw the first “signs” of the new landmark in January of 1997 when holes were dug in the sidewalk for the cobblestone posts. The highlight of the construction was on Sunday, March 2, 1997, when the sign components arrived on trucks, were raised into the air by large cranes, and assembled on site. The ostriches were then lifted to their places on top of the blue pillars and the cobblestones cemented to the base of the posts.

The University Heights sign was ready to be lighted, and festivities were scheduled on April 3rd hosted by the UHCA and the UHDC celebration. It was a glorious event! The enthusiasm of over 500 residents was electric, and undampened by the early rain shower to witness this historic event. The rain miraculously stopped when Mayor Golding pulled the switch accompanied by Supervisor Ron Roberts, and Councilmembers Christine Kehoe and Byron Wear.”

Our community sign is maintained by the UHDC as part of the University Heights Maintenance Assessment District, and has been lighting the way to the Park Boulevard Business District for 25 electrifying years. Perhaps one of the most photographed of all the San Diego neighborhood signs, images of the sign can be found in travel books, on magazine covers, and in thousands of Instagram and Facebook posts.

The UHCA is hosting a celebration of our sign on Saturday April 30 from 5-8pm, with participating neighborhood businesses offering food and drink samples along with live music. More information on buying a wristband to attend the festivities can be found at www.uhsd.org/Sign25.

— UHCA Events Team



Official lighting ceremony on April 3, 1997



Ernie Bonn, UHDC



Kevin Whaley, UH resident and design contest winner

Installation of the UH sign



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Denny Stone, longtime University Heights resident, is the owner of So Cal Vintage Trailer, a business that buys, restores, and recreates iconic vintage trailers. When the cabin Denny built in Julian burned down in 2003, he bought a vintage trailer, completely gutted it, and rebuilt it. He intended to keep it for himself, but a friend wanted to buy it. Denny wound up selling the trailer and then fixing up another one. He ended up selling that one too. With a degree in marketing and a talent for building, Denny decided to leave his job in the tech world and devote his time to pursuing something that he enjoyed. He opened up Southern California Vintage Trailer in 2008.



So Cal vintage trailer



Trailers on the lot of So Cal Vintage Trailer

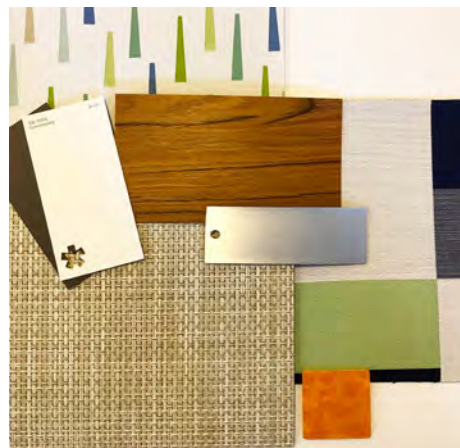
Denny grew up in a family of builders. As a child, he had an interest in art and design—the same skills he uses now to recreate vintage trailers. Denny enjoys scouring the country to find the perfect vintage trailers. He reimagines them, then renovates them to create a brand “new” trailer. Denny specializes in Airstream trailers and other “aircraft style,” aluminum-riveted trailers, such as Curtis Wright and Spartan.



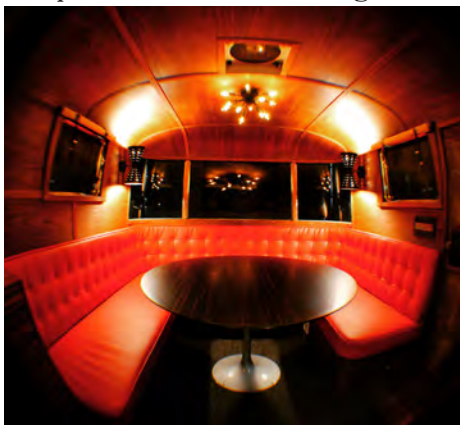
Trailer and interior view

At So Cal Vintage Trailer, everything is done on site. The business is located 10 minutes away in Barrio Logan. Denny has one main designer and five people to help with the build out of the trailers. He uses one contractor for all of the upholstery work.

To create the perfect new trailer for his customers, Denny starts the design process with a story board so the client can experience the materials that they will be walking, sitting, and sleeping on. This part of the process allows for adjustments and refinements before beginning the actual building and construction. It takes about 6-12 months from start to finish to complete a restoration of a vintage trailer.



Sample photo board used with customers to create their trailer



Interior of trailer

Denny is at the top of an exclusive industry. There are only about five to ten vintage trailer restoration businesses in the entire country. Denny’s motto is “There is a craft to building and restoring trailers, and there’s an art to getting it absolutely right.” At So Cal Vintage Trailer, Denny always gets it right.

— Jane Gklbert

YOU TOO CAN BE A POET

You too can be a poet,
 Although you may not know it.
 If you've got some phonetic fabric,
 Take some time and sew it.
 If you have a verbal visual,
 Put paint to canvas and show it.
 Don't procrastinate, or you may blow it!
 Fertilize your poetic plant and grow it.
 If you've got poetic grass then mow it.
 If you have a poetic boat, just row it.
 Cole Porter used a rhyming dictionary
 to write his clever lyrics.
 You've got a smartphone
 to create poetic atmospherics!
 Now is the perfect time
 so pick your subject AND RHYME!

© Copyright 2022 – Gerald J. Driessen

Save the Date
UH Community Yard Sale
Saturday, June 4, 2022

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

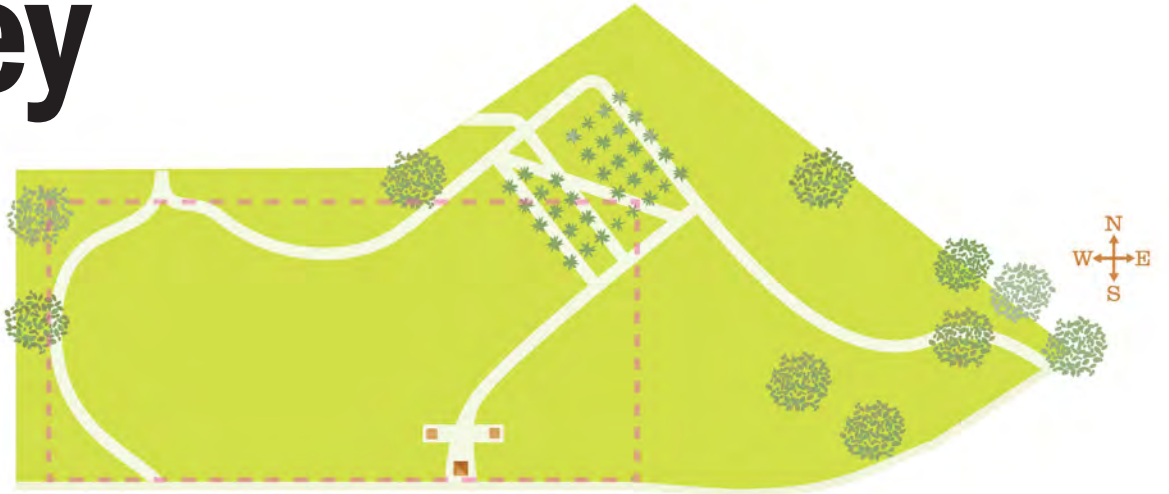
Email UHyardsale@gmail.com by May 15 to register & be included on the map

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



A busy bee with cherry tree on Monroe Ave.

The Old Trolley Barn Park Turns 31



1913
The red brick trolley car barn built for the cost of \$145,000 at 1924 Adams Avenue containing over one and a half miles of track inside to service the city's fleet of approximately 100 street cars.



1949
The last trolley rides into the car barn, and the massive building is sold to the San Diego Paper Box Company. Buses and automobiles had displaced the trolley. By 1952 most of the trolleys stored in the car barn had been sold for salvage.



1979
96 condominiums proposed by developer Heritage Park Investors.

1980
The Trolley Barn torn down after failed efforts to historically designate the 67-year-old building.



Route 1 Streetcar #134 with Motorman and Conductor, circa 1915.



We hope that you enjoy reading about our neighborhood's history and how Old Trolley Barn Park came to be.

It was the grit and determination of neighbors banding together that reversed the course of a major development and eventually won enough people over to help create our neighborhood's jewel, Old Trolley Barn Park, which now celebrates 31 years of bringing joy to us all.

Convincing the city to create Old Trolley Barn Park was only the beginning. Reclaiming our neighborhood's identity with organizations, signage, and ultimately our iconic University Heights Trolley sign (which will celebrate 25 years this year!), were other important events in our history that helped lay a foundation for our neighborhood so that it not only had its own identity, but was improved, and has thrived over the last nearly four decades.

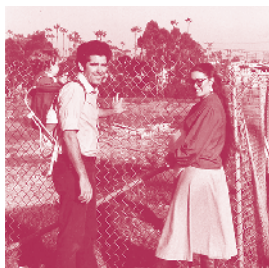
December 1983
Heritage Park Investors abandon condo plans and instead intend to build 136 apartments.

January 1984
Apartment project jumps from 136 to 150 units with two five-story, 75-unit towers.

February 1985
City Council allocates \$2.2 million for the purchase of the site for a community park.

April 1984
City Council approves motion to consider purchase of Trolley Barn site for a park.

October 1998
The car barn site designated as Historic Landmark #369 by the City of San Diego Historical Site Board.



Neighbors, Janice and Eric DuVall, spearhead efforts to lobby the city to purchase the property for a park. They felt the project did not conform to the Uptown Community Plan and would have a negative impact on schools, sewers, traffic and parking.



Nearly 200 people attended the first meeting of the University Heights Community Association, UHCA. The purpose: to persuade the City Council to purchase the site for a neighborhood park.



1989-1990
Despite a recommendation from the City Manager to eliminate park funding, City Councilmembers Ron Roberts and Gloria McColl are successful in sustaining construction funding in the 1989-1990 budget. Ground-breaking for the new park took place on May 10th, 1990.



April 1991
Old Trolley Barn Park completed. Hundreds of people, including neighbors and local dignitaries, attend the park dedication.



1999
Trolley Day Celebration commemorates the 50th anniversary of the last trolley ride into the car barn. A historical marker is unveiled designating the Adams Avenue Trolley Car Barn site.



April 2016
Trolley Barn Park 25th Celebration commemorates the Park's 25th anniversary. Janice and Eric DuVall attend, along with San Diego dignitaries Senator Toni Atkins, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, City Councilmember Todd Gloria and hundreds of UH neighbors and families.



Pets of the Month Vivien & Toast



Toast

Chances are that if you've ever visited the Meraki café on Adams near the corner of Park Blvd., you've seen Allen and his dog sitting outside at the table by the front door.

But let's start at the beginning. In 2006 Allen moved to University Heights. He didn't have a dog, but realized the importance of the bond of friendship that could form between humans and canines after getting to know a couple of Aussie Shepherds. His first dog was Emmy, a smart and feisty wire fox terrier, who he adopted in 2008 from the Humane Society. They were together for five years.

Time went by and somewhere in Imperial Beach a flea-bitten malnourished female stray dog came to a stranger's door. She needed a home, and after a call from a mutual friend, Allen decided to meet the dog. He hesitated at first, but after a few minutes he knew it was meant to be. She had no collar, so he took her to the vet and

scanned for a microchip. The phone number was in Nevada, and the woman who answered said she was no longer able to keep the dog, whose name was Vivien. The first time Allen called her Vivien, her eyes widened and she perked right up as if to say, "You finally got it!" She was a sweet, mellow black lab and border collie mix. Over the years that they were together, they visited Meraki hundreds of times, and Vivien became known as the unofficial greeter of the café.



Vivien

In October of last year, Vivien passed away. Allen decided he wanted to adopt another dog and reached out to an organization called Amazingdogs.org that rescues dogs from both sides of the US-Mexican border.

Allen got a call that they found the perfect dog. On December 23rd, as a Christmas present to himself, he adopted the adorable and playful former Tijuana street mutt who he named "Toast." Why? She resembles the delicious buttered toasted Ciabatta bread at Meraki! And so their story begins.

—As told to Thalia Driessen by Allen

IN DEVELOPMENT

FYI... HOME DEPOT JUST DOWN THE HILL



Scottish Rite Building

Last year a number of UH residents reached out to UHNews about the proposed sale and redevelopment of the Scottish Rite Center at the bottom of Texas Street at Camino del Rio South (and within view of UH homes along the canyon). The proposed project, a 125,000 sq. foot Home Depot, was approved 8-1 by the city council in May 2021, but was halted by a lawsuit filed on behalf of neighboring Local 135 of the United Food and Commercial Workers on the grounds that increased traffic and other effects were not fully analyzed. On March 22, that lawsuit was dismissed. Pending any appeals, this was the last barrier to the project proceeding.

The previous EIR analysis completed in 2019 anticipated that "regional retail" stores like Home Depot would be developed south of I-8, and a new "big

box district" could grow in that area. The council approval of the project would allow Camino Del Rio South to remain as a two-lane road, but the developer would be required to add a turning lane near the new store.

UH residents have expressed concerns around traffic backing up along Texas Street and increased pollution from added car and truck traffic. Historic preservationists have also objected to the demolition of the Scottish Rite Center building (formerly the Bowlero bowling alley), which is planned to be demolished and replaced with a smaller 2-story building without event space. Proponents cite the area as prime retail development space that will bring needed stores to the area, and Home Depot has agreed to incorporate some of the original building's design, called "Google architecture."

— Marc Johnson

Restroom Survey Still Open

In last month's UH News (<https://www.uhsd.org/blog/restrooms-2022>), we reported on the city considering adding a restroom at Old Trolley Barn Park. A survey was launched online (www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey), and we encourage everyone to make their voice heard. If you can't take the survey online, a shortened version is printed here that you can fill in and mail.



Old Trolley Barn Park Restroom Survey



UHCA is surveying UH to provide our City with a clear voice of the community. Your voice matters, so please fill & return this survey. **If you prefer, you can take this survey online at <https://www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey> or scan the QR code above for more info.**

Put an <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> through your answer:				
1. What Zip code do you reside in?	92103	92104	92116	Other
2. How far do you live from Old Trolley Barn Park (blocks)?	0-2	3-6	7-10	>10
3. Would you like to see a permanent comfort station (restrooms) constructed at Old Trolley Barn Park?	Yes		No	

Please feel free to let us know why you selected YES or NO. If you would like your comment shared, please sign it with your first name and last initial and we may include it in presentations or UHCA News. Otherwise, it will be treated as "anonymous."

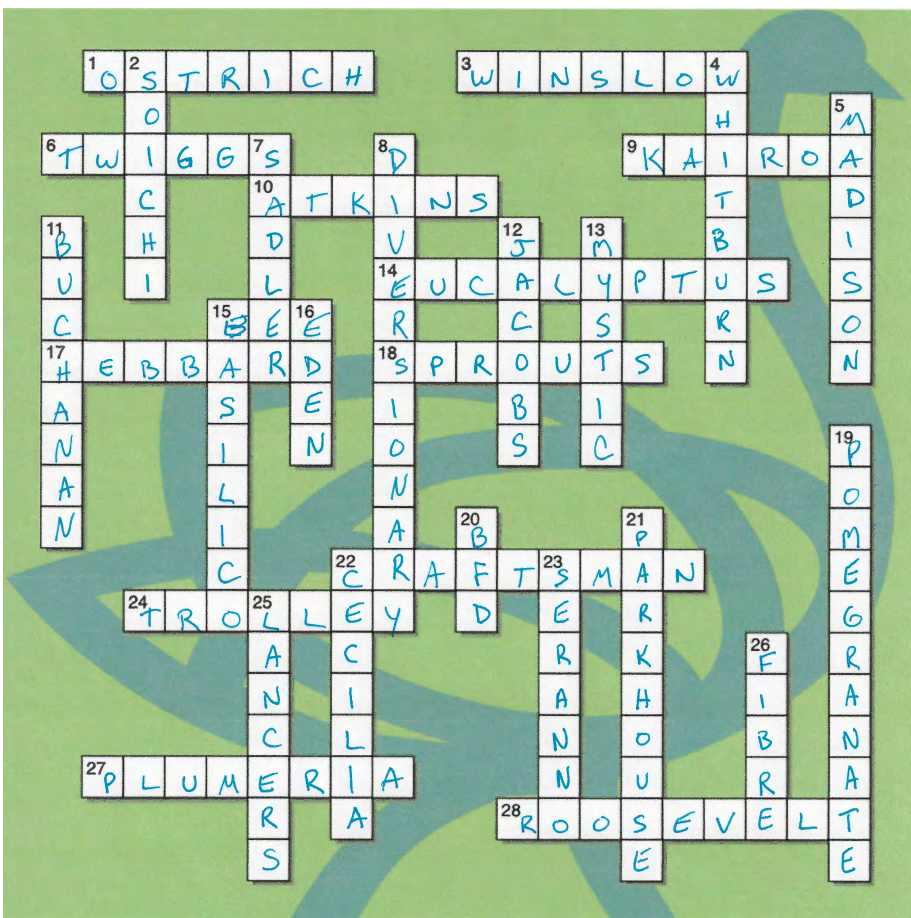


Please mail by 4/15/22 to:
UHCA Restroom Survey
PO Box 33032
San Diego, CA 92163

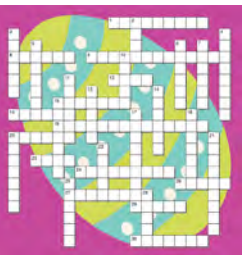
Thanks for taking the time to let us know your thoughts! To ensure we don't count multiple responses, please print your email or address below. You won't be contacted nor will your identify be shared.

Name:	
Email (or phone):	

MARCH UH CROSSWORD SOLUTION



April Crossword (page 2) solution:



Across: 1 Gratitude, 8 Twigs, 9 Bacalaurate, 12 Path, 15 Laloupe, 16 Weevil, 19 Beautification, 20 Canary, 23 Ward, 24 Hillcrest, 26 Foley, 27 Thursday, 29 Meade, 30 Compost Down: 2 Anna, 3 Eatery, 4 Fletcher, 5 Vintage, 6 Brewer, 7 Balboa, 10 Chase, 11 Whaley, 13 Lotus, 14 Duvall, 15 Library, 17 Airstream, 18 Bowlero, 20 Comfort, 21 Pemberton, 22 Solar, 25 Atkins, 28 Yesco

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Parkhouse Eatery

The Parkhouse Eatery is a local icon in University Heights, easily identified by the grand clock that sits outside the restaurant. The structure was built in 1931 and was originally a house. Later it became a thrift store. In 1986, the building expanded and it became a restaurant.

Tony Loiacona bought his partner's share and became the sole owner of Parkhouse Eatery in 2008. Born in El Paso, Texas and moving to Austin in his early 20s, Tony enjoyed the food and beverage industry and began working with a friend catering food on movie sets. After deciding he wanted to become a chef, in 1998, he moved to San Diego where he earned his degree in culinary arts and began working at Rock Bottom Brewery. He was very good at his job and quickly moved into management. Just as quickly, he decided he wanted to leave behind "corporate America" and branch out on his own, so he bought a small diner in Bird Rock, and then, with his business partner, the Parkhouse Eatery.



Gil and Tony

son started helping out in the kitchen and is now a floor manager. Many of the employees have been working at the Parkhouse for 15 years, a testament to how Tony runs his business. He wants everyone, the customers and the staff, to feel a part of the community. And he wants the food to be top-notch, priced fairly, and satisfying. Tony has created a fine-dining experience in a warm and comfortable setting. A few of the items on the menu have been there since before Tony took the helm, including the popular cedar shingle salmon and panko-crusted porkchop. And while the famous "Parkhouse Benedict" is still on the brunch menu, Tony

has added many more items to reflect his own culinary tastes (from his Southwest roots and his Italian heritage).

The Parkhouse survived the pandemic and built out a charming "parklet" on Park Blvd. Unfortunately, the city has recently informed Tony that the roof and lights need to be removed in order to comply with the new code: a frustration, but Tony is a nimble businessman and plans to keep the "parklet" with large umbrellas and solar lighting. After finally acquiring a full liquor license, Tony also plans to build an attractive bar area where people can sit and enjoy a drink, with or without a meal. He is hoping the dinner crowd will be enticed to come in for a meal by his reintroduced wine-pairing set menu.

Because people really enjoy the Parkhouse brunch (there is a reason people stand in line on the weekends just to get in), Tony merged the breakfast and lunch menu during the week, giving customers the chance to enjoy their breakfast foods later in the day.

Tony is proud of his restaurant. He respects and appreciates the close-knit crew who work there. He loves being a part of the UH community and values his many regular customers. You can see Tony at The Parkhouse most days/nights (except Tuesday when he plays golf), interacting with the staff and the diners, bussing tables when it is busy, enjoying the people and the cheerful atmosphere. Tony's charm is reflected in his restaurant. The Parkhouse is inviting, warm, and a great place to have fun and eat well.

— Jane Gilbert



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