



NEWS

University Heights Community Association
Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022



Birney School Cleanup | Page 4

2020 LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS WINNER



Lights in the Heights 2021 | Page 4

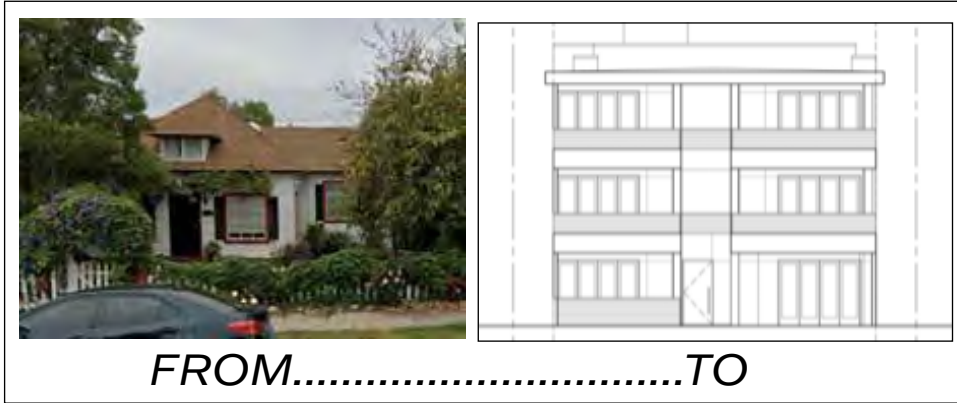


Park Blvd. Development | Page 10

Is This the Future of University Heights?

This charming Victorian home at 4350 Cleveland is 2,000 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and built in 1905, according to the 2015 Uptown Historic Resources Survey Report. According to Zillow, the sale of the property is pending as of 10/2/21 at \$1,695,000.

As part of the sale, the previous owner obtained permits to build a 12 micro-unit complex with three stories, a roof top common area, and NO PARKING! There will be two 410-square-foot studio units, six 598-square-foot 1 bedroom units, and four 800-square-foot 2 bedroom units. Just one of the units will be designated affordable.



This infill project is part of the City's effort to increase the supply of housing stock, thereby theoretically reducing the cost of housing. This market-based approach has yet to reduce the cost of housing in other rapidly growing areas such as North Park, Downtown, and Hillcrest.

The project at 4350 Cleveland Avenue was approved in an area of Cleveland Avenue zoned for half the number of units because it is a micro unit project and is located within a "Transit Priority Area" or TPA. A TPA is defined as any area located within one half mile of a major transit stop, which includes almost all of Uptown as well as University Heights. Developers may apply to build micro unit projects in a Transit Priority Area with a 100% Density Bonus and no parking.

Since 4350 Cleveland is within one half mile of a major transit stop, and the 12 units average about 600 square feet each, the original owner applied for a permit to build a structure with twice the number of units as would have normally been possible. The owner then put the property up for sale along with the permits.

Projects like this can be built almost anywhere in University Heights except for those areas zoned for single family homes. If the project meets zoning and other municipal code requirements, it is approved by City staff, without public review. Such projects are considered "ministerial" and are therefore not subject to review by Uptown Planners or North Park Planning Committee.

However, if the project is over 45 years old and considered potentially historic, the project is subject to further review and requirements. Unfortunately, the property at 4350 Cleveland Avenue had been modified by previous owners to the point it was no longer considered historic.

The best way to protect our community against more unattractive, unaffordable infill projects is to monitor and weigh in on building permits for potentially historic properties. For more information, please see Kristin Harm's article on being a Preservation Steward on page 4, and the detailed instructions at www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/blog/be-a-preservation-steward

- Bill Ellig; Former member of Uptown Planners; Member of CCUH

Property Owners Along Canyon Seek Answers

On November 8, 29 UH residents attended a grassroots-organized meeting with San Diego Police Western Division Community Relations Officer David Surwilo, Council District 3 Community Representative Marcela Miranda-Caballero, and Assistant City Attorney John Hemmerling.

Local residents Erika Hiramatsu and Michael Cheswick organized the meeting, which was hosted at Grains Café on Adams Avenue, to bring up issues relating to the recent fire in the canyon behind Old Trolley Barn Park and crimes being committed by area homeless persons. The recent discussion at the UHCA November 2 meeting about police procedures addressing homeless persons also sparked additional questions.

The recent fire was started by a homeless camp, according to Hemmerling, and according to Officer Surwilo, "the investigation showed that it was not arson, but an accident. Unfortunately,

with how dry and overgrown the vegetation is there, it didn't take much for the fire to take hold and spread quickly."



Start of the Sept. 4 canyon fire from Panorama Drive - Photograph by SDFD via Twitter

Officer Surwilo explained how the police have dealt previously with reported encampments in the canyon areas. When an encampment was reported, officers attempted to make contact, offer services, and inform trespassers that the camp was illegal and would be removed in 72 hours. "Even if we didn't make contact but posted the 72 hour notice, if they moved even 50 feet away, that started the process over again," Surwilo informed the group.

CANYON continued on page 3

PROGRESS UPDATE: UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PRIORITIES

As reported in the June issue of the UHCA News, the Community Coalition of University Heights submitted over a dozen University Heights priorities to San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn for inclusion in the FY 21-22 District 3 budget.

The good news is that a few high-priority items were included in the FY 21-22 budget, including homelessness and housing, community-oriented policing, street maintenance, and code compliance.

However, most of the items requested by the CCUH were either not included in the FY 21-22 budget or we are still waiting for a response from Mr. Whitburn's office. These include, among other issues, improvement and expansion of the UH Branch Library, traffic calming measures, parking improvements, sidewalk repairs, improvements at Trolley Barn Park and Birney Joint Use Field, preventive maintenance of Canary Island Palms, and maintenance of the Vermont Street Bridge.

A complete summary of our initial request for each priority, which items were addressed in the FY 21-22 District 3 budget, and which are still outstanding is available on the CCUH blog page: www.cc-uh.org/blog/update-on-progress-with-uh-priorities.

Council President Pro Tem Whitburn will be asked to address these outstanding items at the December UHCA meeting.

BUDGET PRIORITIES continued on page 14

Redistricting City Council - Almost Done

This year's redistricting process has been very active, with community groups and individual citizens weighing in on various ways to divide the city into nine roughly equal council districts.

Most of the controversy and action has been happening along the coast and in northern San Diego County, where communities that were split in previous redistricting activities were seeking to correct past mistakes, while residents of other districts were vying to prevent the same fate from happening to their communities. The Commission has also been considering the need to not only keep "communities of interest" together and respect natural boundaries, but also to look at the racial and ethnic demographics to ensure that the entire process was fair.

Early on, University Heights groups banded together under the Community Coalition of University Heights to make sure our community was represented in a single Council District. CCUH was successful in that effort, and as of publication,

"University Heights will be entirely within Council District 3."

However, that district will be expanded to include not only Downtown, but Mission Valley, as well as the historic neighborhoods Old Town, Mission Hills, REDISTRICTING continued on page 7

NEXT UHCA MEETING

DEC. 2
6:45 PM



STATE ASSEMBLY REP CHRIS WARD
CITY COUNCIL REP STEPHEN WHITBURN
UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING

LOOKING AHEAD

FEB. 3
6:45 PM

IN PERSON AT BIRNEY AUDITORIUM*
*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA IF ANY CHANGES ARE MADE

FEATURED SPEAKER: STEPHEN RUSSELL
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE SAN DIEGO HOUSING FEDERATION
UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING



UHCA is continuing our tradition of sponsoring the Birney Giving Tree to help support families in need this upcoming holiday season.

Collection boxes have been placed around UH businesses where you can drop off gift cards by

December 2:

Blonde & Co, 2125 Adams Ave
Tu-F 10-8, Sa 10-5; by appointment

Meraki Cafe, 1735 Adams Ave
M-F 7-5, Sa-Su 7:30-5

Cecilia's Fine Jewelry, 4669 Park Blvd
M-F 10-5, Sa 10-3

Eden University Heights, 4636 Park Blvd
Th-M 11-5

Fibre the Venue and Salon, 4521 Park Blvd
Tu-Su 10-5

Clos Wine Shop, 4521 Park Blvd
M 1-7, Tu-Sa 12-8, Su 12-6

Mystic Mocha, 2105 Mission Ave
Daily 7-2

University Heights Library, 4193 Park Blvd
M-Tu 11:30-8, W-Sa 9:30-6

bfd, 4075 Park Blvd #101
Daily 10-6

After December 3, Birney staff will distribute the gift cards to student families based on need.

Get your cards ready, and enjoy the special warm feeling of helping our neighbors! A special thank you to the volunteers & business partners for their help this year.



MEMBERSHIP

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



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS GOLDEN OSTRICH

Lennar Multifamily Housing, Hill Compliance Advisors, Park & Rec, Steve Huemmer & Angela Garner

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Sharon Ritchie & David Morgan, Jessica Colosimo & Case Iest, Lari Sheehan, Ed & Karen Kojane, Steven Kolbert, Scott Kovacic, Linda Hotchkiss & Bridget MacConnel, David & Susan Holts, Peter & Patti Roehrs, MaryBeth Chruden & Bill Smith Jr.

HOUSEHOLD

Kathryn Tench, Terry Hayes, Jennifer Bishop, Russel Vorce, Tina & Justin McGlathery, Rebecca Estrada, Cate & Barry Bell, Craig & Peggy Bentley, Jocelyn Brennan, David & Dawn Harrison, Nancy Lents, Don Ashley & Steven Nugent, Karen Rohrbaugh & Janis Legzdins, Ned Totah, Devashuni, Jennifer Vanden Eynden, Patricia Howland & Patrick Howland, William & Patricia Wild, Joan Foster & Susan Virgilio, Marie DeSanti, Hans & Heidi Baumgartner, Danielle Llamas & Angela Llamas, Maureen Markey & Peter Rose, Lia Andrusson, Margie Ohl & Kathleen Maloney, Lee Schoenbart, Mark & Kitty Brlej, Mike & Carol Shear, Sol Schumer, Brian Geraghty, Andrew & Mary Lange, Michael R. Galarneau, Jeffrey Johnston, Larry Seubert



JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.

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



OUR MISSION

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

Yearly Membership

- () Feather - give what you can \$ _____
- () \$36 Plume (Household)
- () \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- () \$75 Business Plume
- () \$150 Business Golden Ostrich

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



UHCA NEWS

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Nan McGraw, Jane Gilbert, Brent Orlesky, Sol Schumer, Jennifer Bishop, Bill and Patty Wild, Roxanne Govari, Dave Flietner, Vaychan Hallman, Mario Barahona, Bren Breithaupt, Robin Love, MaryBeth Chruden, Toni Atkins, Chris Ward, Rachel Bowdon, Andy Hinds, Marc Johnson, Bill Ellig, Kristin Harms, and Judith Annicchiarico

GRAPHIC LAYOUT Patty Howland

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS Paul Farris, Marc Johnson, Patty Howland

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Susan Holts 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 Brent Orlesky, secretary@uhsd.org

TREASURER Brent Orlesky, treasurer@uhsd.org



WEBSITE uhsd.org

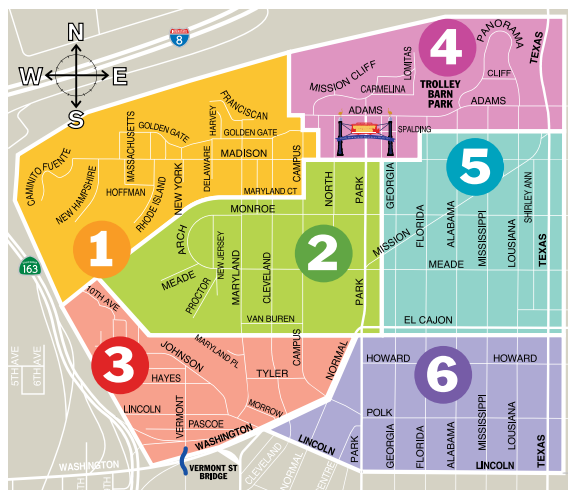


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INSTAGRAM [@universityheights_sdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



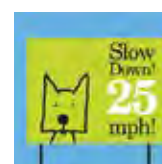
Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at uhsd.org or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.

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



CRIME WATCH SIGNS

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



SLOW DOWN SIGNS

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

UH PHONE BOOK

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



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.

UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

November 4 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

UHCA President Marc Johnson opened the “Crime Watch” segment at 6:45. Officer David Surwilo described how PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) has a total of 5 days to respond to homelessness complaints submitted via the Get It Done app. After that, the SDPD will be notified. Officer Surwilo indicated that only a small percentage of complaints is currently being responded to by PATH. He said that things are looking good in our neighborhood, and we’re reminded to stay vigilant. He also noted that residents with doorcam / video footage of suspicious activity may email the videos to him, and he will in turn share them with relevant detectives who might be working cases in the area.



Marc Johnson shared that Christine Hernandez (President) and Meg Kight (Secretary) have both had to step down from their positions. Marc thanked them both for all their hard work on behalf of the Community Association and wished them well. Meg continues to support our Social Media efforts.

Sol Schumer announced the kick off of the annual Birney Giving Tree. Residents are asked to donate gift cards from local vendors and stores. Grocery gift cards are especially needed. The donations are distributed to families in need through the Alice Birney Elementary School. There are a number of drop off locations throughout the neighborhood. More info at: www.uhsd.org/givingtree. Thank you for supporting this important event.

Sol announced a Birney Fall Cleanup on Saturday, November 13. Also, the Vermont Street Bridge decorating will take place on Sunday, November 28, and anyone who wants to help can show up at the bridge (planned for 9:00-11:00 a.m.).

Sol also reported that our annual Lights in the Heights contest will be held again this Holiday Season. Judging will take place on December 19th at 5:30pm. Thank you to all who light up our neighborhood.

UH Library Branch Manager, Rachel Esguerra, shared that the library will be hosting a Birney Giving Tree box, and they invite us to drop by. The new Adult Services, Programs & Outreach librarian, Helene Idels, described some of the work she is doing, as did the new Youth Services librarian, Tracy Stegeman, who described a new program called “Concept Kits” (tote bags filled with books and other items related to a single topic that can be checked out), as well as the Children’s Support Collection of books, shelved together for ease of access, regarding challenges kids and parents face such as handling emotions, divorce, death of a pet, etc. These new projects were funded by support from the Friends of the UH Library. You can help support our local branch by joining the Friends. More info at: www.friendsofuhlibrary.org.

Our featured speaker, Hanan Scrapper, Regional Director of PATH San Diego (part of the statewide organization) shared that PATH’s focus is to provide services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Having affordable housing available continues to be a challenge. We were later joined by Brian Gruters, Associate Director of Outreach. Brian reminded us to approach homelessness with empathy. If you need to report a homeless encampment/situation, please use the Get It Done app or call 211.

The Community Association is working to return to in-person meetings on February 2, 2022. We will keep you informed through the monthly newspaper and our website: www.uhsd.org.

- Brent Orlesky

PRESIDENT’S CORNER MARC JOHNSON

Greetings and Happy Holiday Season!

I live in a mixed-use building with four residential condominiums and two businesses. When the “lock-downs” started during the pandemic, one of our neighbors decided that we needed to band together and initiated a “Friday Happy Hour” in our shared courtyard. We all, socially distanced, started talking about what was going on in our lives, how we were coping, and generally got to know each other a whole lot better. Granted, the wine and occasional shots may have helped the conversation flow more freely, but that feeling of being in this together, looking out for each other, sharing ideas and hopes, became an anticipated bright spot every week.

That tradition has continued for well over a year. We’ve wished friends bon voyage and welcomed new ones as people have moved, and even welcomed a new baby to our community. Our four-legged furry residents have also become a part of the weekly party too! We’ve planned building repairs, helped each other out as we tented for termites, shared cooking ideas (and tasty results) as well as workout tips, and shared career and money advice. The pandemic helped us form bonds and become a thriving community.

I view UHCA as a way to extend that sense of community beyond our building and to

University Heights at large. Volunteering with UHCA and our partner organizations has become a bright spot in my life. I’ve met some truly amazing, caring, kind, and interesting people. I’ve developed friendships that I cherish, and hopefully have been able to make some meaningful contributions towards making University Heights an even better place.

That’s my wish for all of my neighbors – to find ways to make University Heights more *your* community. Meet new friends, find ways to express your passions and learn new things. Find new friends you may never have met otherwise, and in the process also help make University Heights an even better place. Volunteer at whatever level you can, attend meetings (we’re back in person starting in February!), become a blockwalker, write an article, get involved in advocacy, join a Zone Watch, help at a cleanup event ... get involved and be more connected. For those who are already part of UHCA – thank you, neighbor, for helping make our neighborhood special.

Here’s to a bright, more connected, and amazing 2022 for University Heights.

Marc



CANYON *continued from front page*

Now, with the new contract that the City of San Diego has signed with the non-profit organization PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), when a report of a homeless encampment is made via phone to 211 or via the Get It Done app, it is automatically referred to PATH. They then have 48 hours to establish contact and update the report before SDPD is allowed to then proceed to make contact, offer services, and issue citations for any laws broken. If PATH is not able to establish contact with the person(s) to provide services, they may extend the period of time another 72 hours and have the option to extend that period indefinitely if they are able to make contact and are attempting to build a rapport with the person(s).

PATH presented at the November UHCA meeting and explained their goal of getting the unhoused into housing – which they do through outreach, connecting homeless persons to services, and even building and operating supportive housing. They have made progress to date in San Diego, with hundreds of “positive exits” (off the street and into housing) to their credit. However, according to Get It Done reports over the last several weeks since the new contract and policies were implemented, very few encampment reports have been closed.

Questions were raised by meeting attendees about PATH having enough outreach staff and why policies were changed before PATH was apparently ready. Councilman Whitburn’s representative, Ms. Caballero, took the questions as an action item for the Councilman to address at the UHCA December 2 meeting. Caballero also noted that a new Director of Homeless Strategies and Solutions was brought on board Whitburn’s team a few months ago, and she would be working to identify cases that are not being addressed and asked members of the group to let her know of issues as they happen so that she can bring them to the attention of the Councilman and new Homeless director.

Attendees raised a number of questions regarding how to handle various situations, as a number of people have experienced trespassing, thefts and vandalism, and have witnessed public drinking/drug-taking. Officer Surwilo made a clear distinction: “if it’s a crime

in progress, call 911, especially if there is danger. If it’s not life-threatening, call the non-emergency number 619-531-2000.”

The speakers explained the homeless problem is obviously getting worse. Between housing costs, lack of adequate mental health and rehabilitation services, and changes in how certain crimes are categorized, more people have been left in a bad situation with little help being offered.

One important thing that property owners can do to help police with enforcement activities is to have a Letter of Agency on file so that officers are able to go onto private property without an owner’s presence when a crime is suspected. Letters of Agency can be filed out online, and once filed are attached to the address in the dispatch system. For those who would like to file a Letter of Agency, UHCA has provided a shortcut to the City’s form at www.tinyurl.com/SD-LetterAgency. Letters of Agency are valid for one year and must be re-filed annually. One suggestion was to set a reminder to do it at daylight savings time change.

Officer Surwilo also reminded residents that, due to the increasing number of bike thefts, everyone should have clear pictures of their bikes (including serial numbers usually found on the underside) on hand should they be needed for police investigations.

On a related note, Heather Wilcox volunteered as the new Zone 4 coordinator, which an elated Nan McGraw explained is a key link between residents, police, and the broader UH community. “Our Zone Watch program has been lauded by many other neighborhoods because having neighbors look out for neighbors has proven to be an effective way to help identify problems and help our police partners resolve them.”

The homeless issue has been building for many years, and will not be solved quickly, but new resources and attention are being focused on the problem. Councilmember Whitburn and State Assembly Representative Ward will be at the December 2 UHCA Community Meeting, and it is anticipated that a lot of questions, and hopefully more information and answers, will be coming from them.

- Stu McGraw & Marc Johnson

UHCA Announces new Zone 4 Watch Coordinator, Heather Wilcox

Heather has graciously agreed to take on the zone coordinator role after Christopher Hutchinson retired. His years of organizing and pulling together the neighborhoods within Zone 4 made a significant difference in lowering the crime stats. Thank you, Christopher, for your hard work. Welcome and thank you Heather!

Heather grew up in the Philadelphia, PA area. She has lived in San Diego for 14 years. The last 3 years in University Heights. She’s worked as a program and project manager for the past 25 years and volunteers with the San Diego Food Bank.

Be sure to sign up to be on Heather’s Zone Watch list if you live within the boundaries of Zone 4. Email: zone4watchuhca@gmail.com

- Nan Mc Graw

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Nature in the Neighborhood

Toyon AKA California Holly



Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

As the Christmas holiday approaches, one of our most festive native plants puts on its seasonal show. Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) brightens up our canyons (and gardens) with its clusters of dangling red berries set against its dark green leaves just as the holidays approach (provided there's decent rainfall, like this year).



Toyon is also known as California Holly, reflecting its natural range from Ensenada to Humboldt County and the foothills of the northern Sierra Nevadas. Although it's not related to English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) – it's actually in the Rose family – the serrated leaf edges (think steak knife) justify its common name and are a good way to distinguish this plant from other native evergreen shrubs when its fruit or small white flowers aren't visible.

Let's take a walk around the neighborhood and get to know this wonderful native plant. You can glimpse toyon's red berries growing near the streambed in Buchanan Canyon (off Johnson St.), but you don't need to slither down the slope to get a good look at the species. Instead, go around the corner to Maryland St. and you'll see several toyon growing in the parking strip. The space is a little tight for the species, which can grow to 20 feet tall and almost as wide, but the plants seem to be doing fine. You can see a great specimen that

has a bit more room to spread in a native garden on New Jersey St.

To see more toyon in their natural setting, head over to the UH Open Space northeast of Golden Gate Dr. and New York St. Look about halfway down the slope and you'll spot those red berries. If you look to your left, you may spot another bright patch in the chaparral – this is a toyon, but what you're seeing are the leaves dying from a fire blight, a bacterial disease that scorches the leaves from the tip downward.

If you head over to the Point, you can get a better look at this diseased plant as well as a couple of younger toyon that have been planted along the west side at the start of the short trail. By now your ID skills should be good enough that you can recognize toyon, even without the red berries.

There's a story that the Hollywood got its name from the toyon growing in the hills to the north. This may be apocryphal, but it is true that so many people regularly headed into the hills to collect the red berries at Christmastime that a state law was passed (and is still on the books) prohibiting the collection of the fruit without the owner's permission. So look, but don't cut! Happy Holidays.

- David Flietner is proprietor of Design With Natives.

Help Make UH Shine Bright with Lights in the Heights This Year!

If you want to be in the running for the Lights in the Heights awards this holiday season, make sure you have your house/yard/block/business decorations up in time for this year's contest. And the photos look much better when garage doors are closed and vehicles are not parked in the driveway. Our expert team of judges will be driving through the neighborhood on Sunday evening, December 19, starting at 5:30pm on the lookout for outstanding holiday decorations.

- Mary Beth Chruden

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Birney Elementary School Clean Up Event is a Huge Success!



On Saturday, November 13, at 9 am, 28 members of our community showed up to volunteer at the Birney Elementary Fall Clean up, coordinated by the UHCA Beautification Team. The volunteers included our Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, who worked alongside volunteers for a solid two hours as they pulled out stubborn weeds, trimmed bushes, weed whacked, picked up trash, raked and swept. The tremendous effort took place all along the Meade Avenue section of the school.

We are so thankful to everyone who showed up and gave their time and energy to this event. Because of their hard work, the Meade Avenue section of the school has been beautified and transformed. We also thank EDCO for their kind donation and delivery of the three dumpsters that were an essential component of the event

Thanks to our amazing volunteers!

and Councilmember Whitburn's office for securing the landfill pass.

The Beautification Team is always looking for volunteers to serve on the committee and volunteer to help keep our community beautiful. If you are interested in becoming part of our committee or would like to be notified of future clean up events, please email Jennifer Bishop at beautification@uhsd.org.

-Jennifer Bishop, Chair
UHCA Beautification Team

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEW ONLINE GUIDE FOR RESEARCHING YOUR HOME'S HISTORY



Founded in 1888, University Heights is one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods. And chances are, you live in an older home with a story to tell. Perhaps you have wondered who built the house or who has lived there before you. You might even be interested in having your home historically designated. But where do you start?

The University Heights Historical Society has compiled an online guide to help you get started. As an owner of an older home, you have many resources available to you for researching its history. And many of those resources are now available online.

If you are really motivated, you might consider having your home historically designated, as there are several potential benefits including:

- Eligibility for significant property tax reductions through the Mills Act
- Potential tax credits of 20% to 25% through the California State Historic Tax Credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for rehabilitation of a certified historic structure or a qualified residence
- Potential tax benefits for historic preservation easements
- City of San Diego development incentives for the preservation of designated historic resources
- Use of the more lenient California Historical Building Code for all local, state, and federal historically-designated sites
- Potential increase in property values, as documented by many studies

Whatever your goal, get started today by checking our online research guide at www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/research-your-home.

- Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society

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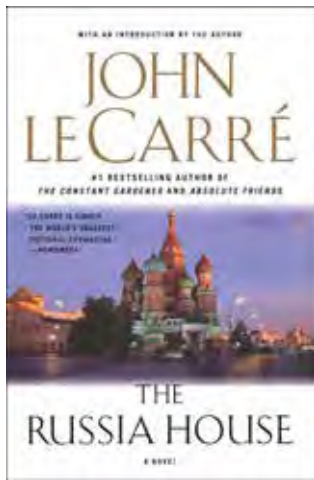
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COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE BECAUSE WE CARE





WHAT ARE YOU READING?



The film, *The Russia House* (free on YouTube) pulled at my curiosity to read the book by John Le Carré. I needed to figure out the nuances left out of the movie. The book was written in 1988 when the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev was beginning Perestroika and Glasnost (openness). The eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union was in its infancy. It's a good reminder of that period.

The intrigue of the book and movie centers around a manuscript that a Russian scientist (Klaus Maria Brandauer in the movie) wants published in the West. He would be considered a traitor to the USSR to reveal the secret that the Soviet Union's capability for waging nuclear war was nil. The manuscript which was destined for Bartholomew "Barley" Scott-Blair, a British publisher who's a bit boozy (Sean Connery in the movie) ends in the hands of M16 (British Intelligence) and the CIA. From there, the plot thickens - a beautiful

Russian woman, Katya, (Michelle Pfeiffer in the movie) risks her life to have the manuscript published. Barley is employed as a spy by M16 and the CIA to make contact with the Russian scientist through Katya and to find out how true the manuscript is. British agent Ned (James Fox) gives Barley fundamental training as a spy.

The movie captured me. How can you miss with actors such as Sean Connery (be still, my heart), Michelle Pfeiffer (beautiful and talented), Roy Scheider, John Mahoney, J. T. Walsh, Klaus Marie Brandauer, James Fox and more distinguished actors? The musical score by Jerry Goldsmith, accompanied by jazz great Branford Marsalis on sax, is one of the most beautiful and haunting soundtracks I've heard. Goldsmith's other scores include *Chinatown*, *Total Recall*, *Alien*, *Patton*, *Star-Trek*, *Basic Instinct*, *Rambo*-the list goes on. The *Russia House* score outdoes them all, I believe. It was filmed on location in the Soviet Union, the second American motion picture to do so before its dissolution in 1991. The cinematography is stunningly beautiful of Leningrad (now back to St. Petersburg) and Moscow.

Redemption, intrigue, romance, hope-all wrapped up in a tight spy novel and movie. No violence, no overt sexuality, some dicey language, and good history lesson. They don't make them like that anymore. RIP: Sean Connery, Roy Scheider (*Jaws*), John Mahoney (*Frasier's* dad), J.T. Walsh and James Fox.

- Nan McGraw



DOG PARK PROGRESS

At the November 4 UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG) meeting, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation and San Diego Unified School District representatives presented their proposal for the long-awaited temporary off-leash dog park planned for the Education Center site at Park Blvd. and Normal Street. The meeting and this issue were covered by local Fox 5 on their November 4 evening news www.tinyurl.com/DogParkFox5Story.

City Parks Designer, Shannon Scoggins, explained that the site has a number of requirements, including buffer zones in front of the historic Annex 1 building that do not allow fencing to obscure the front façade, and another buffer zone closer to the parking lot and main office where SDUSD employees requested space for breaks/lunches.

These requirements mean that a dog park can be approximately 10,000 square feet in size. The proposal included space divided into "large dog" and "small dog" areas separated by fencing, with a common entrance and buffer zone to ensure dogs can't escape a single open gate. The schedule is for plans to be completed in Winter 2022, construction start in Spring 2022, and the dog park opening in Summer 2022.

Other details from the public Q&A and comments after the presentation:

- The park will be open from morning to dusk and locked at other times
- The existing grass turf, which is irrigated, will be utilized
- There is no additional lighting planned
- Chain link fencing will be used

Marc Johnson, chair of UHPROSAG, noted that a community survey was conducted in early 2019 and indicated that 44% felt that a separate large/small area was not important, 35% felt it was important, and 21% were in the middle. He also noted that 47% of respondents preferred natural grass, and 41% preferred use of salt-resistant "dog park grass" for turf.

Community feedback and a formal vote and recommendation from UHPROSAG will take place at the December 2 meeting (by Zoom, link at www.uhdsd.org/links). Public comments are also encouraged at the UH Dog Park group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UHDogPark> or by taking the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/uhdogpark>.

- UHCA News Editors

FROM STATE SENATOR PRESIDENT PRO TEM ATKINS



A Thanksgiving Message from our State Senator, Toni Atkins

It's November, and in our house that means a couple things. First, the witch's hat goes back into the attic for another year, along with the memories of so many adorable kids celebrating Halloween while having fun and being safe.

Our first milestone in November is the start of Native American Heritage Month. It's an important time for us to remember that so much of the Native experience has been erased or replaced by happy myths that don't match reality. COVID-19 shined a spotlight on the realities and disparities regarding Native communities' access to health care, recent news stories have highlighted the tragic and shameful cases of murdered and missing Indigenous women that have gone unsolved and ignored for far too long, and the horrific discoveries of children's bodies at former Native American boarding school locations in the U.S. and Canada cry out for further investigation—and for justice.

I do have to say how pleased I am as we honor Native American culture and contributions this month, that this Thanksgiving, for the first time, America's public lands are being overseen by a Native American—Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th generation New Mexican.

Of the many, many things I am thankful for this month, the veterans we honor on

November 11 are top of the list. Coming from a military family and representing a district with a long and proud history in the defense of our nation, I am committed to ensuring our veterans get the respect they deserve and receive the services and benefits they have earned—especially having a safe, decent place to call home. See my website (link below) for list of the gains the Legislature was able to make for veterans this year—a righteous cause I will always keep on the front burner.

Speaking of burners, do you have a favorite stove burner you'll be warming up this Thanksgiving? A Twitter poll shows the front right is people's favorite with 54% of the vote, while front left is a strong contender with 36.5%. The back burners, well, they weren't all that popular, with 4.7% each. When we do our Thanksgiving cooking this month, let's all be sure to thank the more than 5,000 farms in our region that produce a wide range of commodities from fruits, vegetables, and nuts to beef, pork, and poultry. According to the latest annual crop report, the bounty produced by our farmers resulted in a \$1.8 billion economic impact in our region.

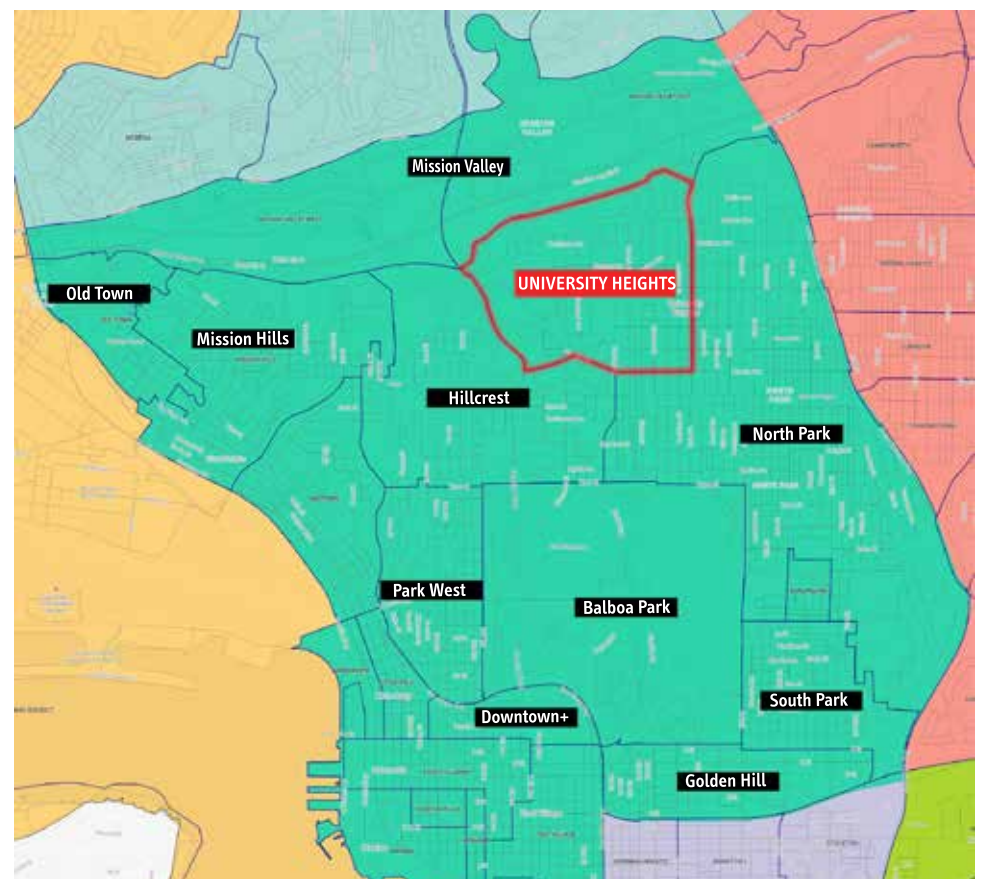
As we move closer to the start of the next legislative session in January, my colleagues and I will continue working to help ensure more families can gather safely for all their celebrations, so more veterans and all Californians will be able to have a home for the holidays, and so our society can focus less on myths about Native Americans bringing pies to Thanksgiving and more on the work that must be done to bring missing and murdered women and children home to their families. Though that work is never easy, it is one of the things I am most thankful for this month and every other month—and I am grateful to you all for that privilege.

Jennifer and I wish you all the best this Thanksgiving.

- California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins represents UH as part of State Senate District 39. Additional information, news, and contact information can be located at <https://sd39.senate.ca.gov/>

REDISTRICTING *continued from front page 3*


Hillcrest, Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, and Little Italy, along with University Heights.



The Independent Redistricting Commission will hold public hearings over the next few weeks, ahead of their final deadline of December 15, and you can attend them via Zoom links on their website: www.sandiego.gov/redistricting-commission. While some minor modifications and tweaks are expected, the current map that the commission has approved is likely close to what the final version will look like.

- Marc Johnson

December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Holidays at the Hotel Del Coronado Through Jan. 2 		Happy Holidays! 	1 UHDCDC 6:00 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6:30 pm	2 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm Via Zoom www.uhcd.org/attend-a-meeting Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	3 Birney Giving Tree Event Ends 	4 Birney Giving Tree Event Ends 	
5 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	6 Hanukkah Ends 	7 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners 6 pm Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 	10 San Diego Zoo Jungle Bells Begins Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge 27th Anniversary	11 	
12 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	13 	14 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm	15 Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm No UH Library Task Force Meeting	16 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	17 Birney Elementary School Last Day of Classes Before Winter Break	18	
19 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Judging of Lights in the Heights	20	21 North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org Winter Begins	22 	23 	24 	25 Christmas Day	
26 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Kwanzaa Begins Fireworks at Sea World begin through Dec. 31	27 	28	29 	30 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	31 New Year's Eve	1 Happy New Year 	

January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	3 Feb News Articles Due	4 No Uptown Planners Meeting	5 UHDCDC 6:00 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm	6 No UH Park & Rec Meeting No UHCA Meeting	7 	8 11th Annual Brew Fest-Liberty Station
9 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	10	11 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm, hillcresttc.org	12 UHCA 38th Anniversary	13 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	14 Big Salsa Fest SD Marriott-Mission Valley - 14-17 	15
16 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	17 MLK DAY I HAVE A DREAM	18 North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org	19 Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm No UH Library Task Force Meeting	20	21	22
23 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	24	25 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org UHCA News out	26	27 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	28	29
30 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	31		January is a great time to go to Cabrillo National Monument and explore the tide pools. Check out the San Diego Tide Pool Chart for low tide times. www.tinyurl.com/SDTide			

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 Bahia Mexican & Seafood 1985 El Cajon Blvd. 619-542-0540 2 Bahn Thai 4646 Park Blvd. 619-299-6363 42 Basilico La Pizzeria 4207 Park Blvd. 619-546-9288 45 bfd (Big Front Door) 4075 Park Blvd. 619-255-4100 4 Cheers Bar 1839 Adams Ave. 619-298-3269 19 Clos Wine Shop 4521 Park Blvd. 619-915-6846 6 De Nada Cafe 2123 Adams Ave. 619-269-6612 34 Domino's Pizza 1925 El Cajon Blvd. 619-294-4570 8 El Zarape 4642 Park Blvd. 619-692-1652 30 Flavors of East Africa 2322 El Cajon Blvd. 619-955-8778 28 Gilly's Bar and Cocktails 2306 El Cajon Blvd. 619-298-6008 7 Grains Vegetarian 2201 Adams Ave. 619-296-5999 44 Great Maple 1451 Washington St. 619-255-2282 38 Hope 46 at Lafayette 2223 El Cajon Blvd. 619-780-0358 16 Kairoa Brewing Co. 4601 Park Blvd. 619-295-1355 27 Knotty Girl Pizza 2302 El Cajon Blvd. OPENING 2022 21 Lestat's on Park 4496 Park Blvd. 619-501-6638 36 Live Wire Bar 2103 El Cajon Blvd. 619-291-7450 32 Loving Hut Vegetarian 1905 El Cajon Blvd. 619-683-9490 13 Madison on Park 4622 Park Blvd. 619-296-6566 41 Mama's Bakery & Deli 4237 Alabama St. 619-688-0717 24 Marisco La Reyna 4404 Texas St. 619-622-4276 40 McDonald's 2345 El Cajon Blvd. 619-299-3078 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Meraki Café 1735 Adams Ave. 619-269-9618 10 Muzita Abyssinian 4651 Park Blvd. 619-546-7900 20 Mystic Mocha 2105 Mission Ave. 619-688-0858 11 NEW VENUE COMING SOON 4628 Park Blvd. OPENING 2022 18 Parkhouse Eatery 4574 Park Blvd. 619-295-7275 15 Park & Rec 4612 Park Blvd. 619-795-9700 37 Pizzeria Luigi 2121 El Cajon Blvd. 619-294-9417 9 Plumeria Vegetarian 4661 Park Blvd. 619-269-9989 29 Pomegranate 2312 El Cajon Blvd. 619-298-4007 23 Pop Pie Co. 4404 Park Blvd. 619-501-4440 43 Rare Society 4130 Park Blvd. 619-501-6404 26 Red Fox Steak House 2200 El Cajon Blvd. OPENING 2022 12 Red House Pizza 4615 Park Blvd. 619-546-7430 39 Serpentine Cider 2311 El Cajon Blvd. 619-323-2057 5 Soichi Sushi 2121 Adams Ave. 619-677-2220 22 Stella Jean's Ice Cream 4404 Park Blvd. 619-501-8252 33 Subway 1915 El Cajon Blvd. 619-501-0624 25 Tap Room Beer Co 2000 El Cajon Blvd. 619-539-7738 3 The Lancers Bar 4671 Park Blvd. 619-298-5382 17 Twigg's Bakery & Coffeehouse 4590 Park Blvd. 619-296-0616 14 Yipao Coffee 4601 Park Blvd. 619-734-6844 31 Wing Stop 1901 El Cajon Blvd. 619-297-9464 |
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KIDS' CORNER

University Heights Holiday Scavenger Hunt

It's that time of year when our neighborhood transforms into a festive wonderland of twinkly lights and holiday cheer! From classic decorations that always delight to massive displays that rival the North Pole, UH knows how to celebrate the season like no other.



Grab some hot chocolate and take your kids on a stroll around the neighborhood to see how many of the following decorations you can spot.



- Santa Claus
- Candle
- Snowman
- Rudolph
- Angel
- Jingle Bells
- Reindeer
- Jumbo Ornaments
- The Grinch
- Snowflakes
- Train
- Ice Skates
- Mittens
- Penguin



- Christmas Tree
- Menorah
- Elf
- Wreath
- Candy Cane
- Present
- Sleigh
- Gingerbread Man
- "Snow"
- Star
- Stocking
- Bells
- Decorated Palm Tree
- Bonus: Decorated Ostrich



Next, have your child draw a picture of their favorite decoration below, take a photo, and send along to uhcanews@uhsd.org for the chance to be featured on UHCA's social channels!



IN DEVELOPMENT



More Density Ahead for South Park Boulevard

The recent forced closure of Frock You, after the owner’s lease was not renewed, has left another vacant storefront ready to be cleared away for a housing development along Park Boulevard between Polk and Howard, adjacent to Sprouts.

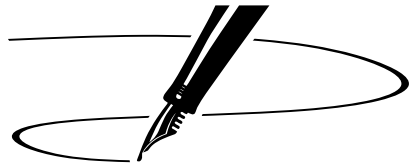
In February 2020, the original developer, Streamline Development Group, was closing the deal on half of the property shown above, and presented preliminary plans to the North Park Planning Committee. They showed a project with 96 total units in a mix of 1-bedroom, some 2-bedroom, and studios units, total height of 85 feet, an internal courtyard, communal balconies, and an equal mix of affordable and market-rate units. There would have been less than one parking space per unit because of the project’s proximity to transit, 28-56 spaces, and some ground floor spaces for commercial use. Unfortunately, the developer’s investor pulled out as the pandemic lock-downs were starting, and the property was sold. San Diego county property records indicate that this parcel, as well as the adjacent parcel, were purchased by a Chicago-based entity.

Searches on San Diego’s Open Development Services Division records for these parcels show project applications in 2021 for a new mixed-use development consisting of 194 residential units and 150 interior parking spaces located at the ground, P1 and P2 parking levels. The applications also indicate the project will be 7-stories in total, with 6 levels of “micro-units over a ground level with common areas.”

It is expected that this project, like other recent large developments, will not require Community Planning Group approval, as it meets the city’s expedited approval requirements. Updates will be reported here as we get them.

- Marc Johnson

CALL FOR WRITERS!



UHCA News is always looking for content that matters to UH residents. We strive to cover local UH news, and our best “reporters” are our neighbors. So if you have news to share, or an item that would be of interest to your UH neighbors, we want to help you share it to the community in these pages. You can pitch ideas, articles, or topics to the UHCA News team by sending them to uhcanews@uhsd.org. Be sure to check out our Editorial Guidelines at www.uhsd.org/submissions.



On behalf of the team that produces UHCA News and the UHCA Board of Directors, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

We look forward to 2022 with hope, optimism, and a genuine sense of thanks for our amazing community.

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BIRNEY BUZZ *I am thankful for*

Birney Bees Buzzing on 2021

As 2021 comes to a close and we all reflect on the changes this year has brought us, we asked the Birney community what they are most grateful for this year, and here is how they responded:

I'm most grateful for...

My family and my kitty Peppercorn. - Sidney Y., 1st grader

My family, my friends, and that school reopened. - Benjamin G., 4th grader

My teacher because she does very exciting stuff with us and she helps us. - Anabel C., 2nd Grade

The physical presence this year brings to Birney. Being the parents and the only real social life to an only child during a pandemic was something we'll never forget. You just know how much kids benefit from playing with their peers. I was worried how our kiddo would acclimate to in-person interactions again, but those school gates opened, and we all couldn't help but feel optimism wash over us. It was just like riding a bike. All of the familiar faces (students, teachers, faculty and parents) were there. My kid walked right back into this warm Birney community with confidence. I relish hearing about her school day. - Lisa N., Parent

I give thanks for my awesome Birney teacher.

I give thanks for my classmates at Birney. I give thanks for my mom and dad.

- Paul R., 2nd grader

That I am with my friends and teachers at school every day, and we are all safe. I'm happy to have specials every week. I'm grateful for Birney! - Jandie W., 1st grader

To have a house. - Bennett C., 1st grade

My sweet family and my friends. - Harper S., TK

That my daughter loves school again! After a tough pandemic year, she is excited to go to Birney every day to see her teachers and friends. Her teacher, Mr. Delany, has done a wonderful job of building community in his classroom and making each student feel valued and cared for. - Sarah L., Parent

My family, they helped me have a fun year. - Jude G., 1st grader

That a lot more people are getting help they need. Some problems that were not fairly addressed in the past got attention by doctors, activists, and other people who believed in causes strongly and took action. - Noah H., 3rd grader

Having a sister I can play, travel, and explore with and teach what I've learned. - Sadie M., 3rd grader

In-person learning. I like seeing my friends and being off of Zoom. Mostly, I'm so glad that we get to do specials, and we get all of our specials each time we have specials! - Westley V., 4th grader

Our family growing stronger through the trials and tribulations of this pandemic. - Josh, Parent

That I can go to school and see friends even though COVID is still around. - Henry G., 4th grader

My mom, my dad, and my dog Rose. - Clare B., 4th grader

I am thankful I can breathe clean air.

I am thankful that I am intelligent.

I am thankful that I have friends at Birney.

- Jaime R., 4th grader

My family, friends, teachers and books!

- Moira M., 1st grader

My cat. The fact that we get to go to school. I'm getting a COVID-19 vaccine shot.

- Thomas & Madeline S., 5th and 3rd grader

My grandparents, for being alive and healthy. - Olivia H., 1st grader

The cheer, smiles, running towards loved ones and warm embraces at pick up after school! Even watching the interactions of parents with students not yet at Birney, has me smiling! There's so much connection, conversation, and confidence building. After work, pick up time at dismissal has consistently made me happier and more optimistic than I was upon arrival. And that's all because of the interactions between guardians and students that I get to see, that bring so much joy after a school day away. - Anonymous

Birney's Big Give, a one-day online fundraising drive, is coming up on December 9th. Please consider showing your support for Birney by making a financial donation. Contact us at info@friendsofalicebirney.org for more details.

- Vaychan Hallman, a proud Birney Parent

NOTORIOUS, THE RESIDENT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COYOTE

Circling the neighborhood for the past two months, the lame coyote with the bum hind left leg, dubbed "Notorious" for emerging from the shadows in the early morning hours or late at night, is best left alone. Recently, numerous posts on NextDoor had neighbors hatching a Disneyesque plan to trap, rehabilitate, and release Notorious back to its clan in the canyon. The plot, "Operation Save Notorious," was gently discouraged by experts as completely unrealistic.

According to Christine Barton, San Diego Humane Society Director of Operations and Wildlife Rehabilitation and Marcel from Project Wildlife, the coyote has survived this injury and is adapting. Coyotes are omnivores with many food sources available for consumption, and there is an abundance of squirrels, birds, rats, skunks, and possums available. Hunting easier prey and learning to scavenge for other foods are part of the survival plan. Notorious is mobile, cannot be chased down, and is not holed up in one spot to be trapped. Plus, there are specific regulations



regarding such actions, and if it were caught, the probability for rehabilitation and release are slim.

Our best course of action is to learn to live with Notorious and follow the prescribed protocol: Do not feed it. If you do come in contact with it near your home, try "coyote hazing" by creating a ruckus, yelling and throwing something in its direction, generally making it aware it is not welcome. Create as much commotion as possible to scare it off. Also, keep your dogs leashed and your cats and small pets indoors, and when they are outdoors, do not leave them unattended.

We need to adapt and live with Notorious. Therefore, let Notorious be, let nature take its course, and let events develop and conclude naturally, as they would without outside intervention.

- Robin Love

ROO NEWS

A Remarkably Normal Semester at Roosevelt Middle School



Perhaps the most notable aspect of the first semester of 2021-2022 at Roosevelt International Middle School is that, in most ways, it feels like a normal (if that adjective can even be applied to middle school) term. Kids are in school, in person, all day, for five days a week, interacting with their teachers and peers, and creating a culture that is incomprehensible to anyone over the age of 20. Just as nature intended.

Not only are they back to in-person school, but they are also engaged in after-school activities. "7th period" classes extend the school day for some students and include Band, Orchestra, and Digital Music Production. In addition to the extra classes, 17 different clubs were offered this fall, ranging from Hip Hop/Latin Dance to Gardening, and including clubs focused on social issues like Gender/Sexuality Alliance and No Place for Hate. Almost 200 students are taking part in these free clubs, which are organized and funded by the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation.

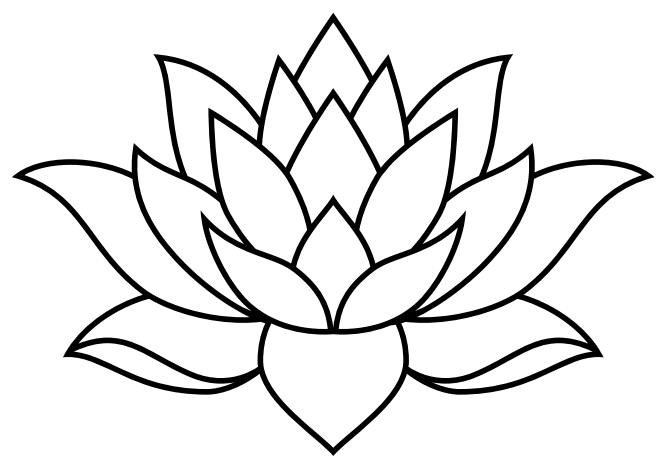
Of course, there are some reminders that the COVID-19 pandemic is still a thing. Everyone on campus is still required to wear masks, lunch is eaten outside, students are COVID-tested regularly, contact tracing is in effect, and parents are generally not allowed on campus. While there have been a few positive tests among students, no outbreaks have occurred at school, for which we can thank the aforementioned precautions. These tweens and teens are extremely resilient, and the pandemic seems to have become background noise to them, rather than a looming threat.

At the end of October, students and staff participated in Red Ribbon Spirit Week, an extraordinarily normal tradition in San Diego schools that combines drug abuse prevention messaging with daily sartorial themes like Sports/Teams Apparel, Pajama Day, Hat Day, and, on Friday, the Halloween masquerade. On top of all this, the Associated Student Body organized a costume pageant after school on Friday. One could hardly notice the protective masks amid the whimsical and outlandish Halloween regalia.

- Andy Hinds



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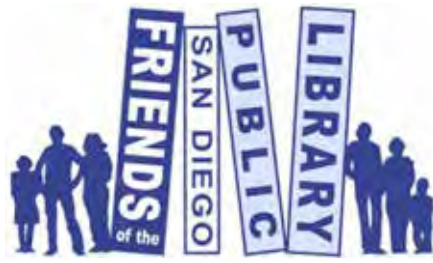
BETWEEN THE COVERS

A Gift for Everyone

The holidays are upon us. Are you excited to give, or are you stressed and anxious? It's been a tough couple of years, so what can we do as University Heights neighbors to make a difference for everyone this season, while also being smart about our own finances and family's needs?

There is a gift every neighbor in University Heights can give and receive this season, whether you're young or old, rich or homeless, unemployed or over-worked. This gift can change lives. Best of all, the gift is free to all. What gift is this, you ask? It is our University Heights Public Library. Good things come in small packages, they say. Our small (but mighty!) library has full access to 5.3 million books, e-books, and audio-visual materials, including 265,295 resources in 25 languages other than English. Whether you or your family need entertainment, escape, inspiration, or information to empower and elevate your life, come visit. It's all there.

Dear neighbors, my name is Bren Breithaupt, Treasurer of the Friends



of the University Heights Library (friendsofuhlibrary.org). I'd like to ask you to give an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation to support our library's community programs and updates of library resources, books, A/V materials, tech equipment, and software. You can donate by dropping off a check made out to "Friends of the University Heights Library" into the box by the checkout counter or mailing in it to the branch at 4193 Park Blvd, San Diego CA 92103.

Thank you very much!

- Bren Breithaupt
Treasurer of the Friends of the University Heights Library

The Friends of San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FEIN: 95-3313747. Tax deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego and used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.

A CRAFTY LIBRARIAN

Greetings to the community of University Heights. my name is Mario Barahona, and I am your friendly neighborhood Library Assistant. I became a member of this wonderful branch in January of 2019 as a half-time Library Assistant III. Prior to promoting, I was a Library Assistant II working in the Teen IDEA Lab in the Malcolm X Library for two years. I had the fortunate chance to learn new software and equipment that goes into a Maker Space Lab, and have thus brought that experience and knowledge to the University Heights Library.



I made a presentation for the Friends of the Library for the University Heights branch about the usefulness of creating a mini maker space with the use of Silhouette Studio and the Cameo Cutter. I explained how we can create fun computer-friendly programs that introduce new technology in a non-threatening way. Learning new tech can be scary, if not intimidating, so my programs are intended to introduce new tech in a fun and friendly way that encourages participation regardless of age or computer know-how.

I have also been able to use my creative skills in decorating the children's area with fun art installations along with creating fun interactive programs for the community. My latest creation was making a fun Holiday craft that's easy to build and can be made into a wearable hat. We distributed more than fifty "bat hat" crafts for the month of October, and we are gearing up to make more crafts for the rest of the upcoming holidays. I have been fortunate to work in such a wonderful community and look forward to upcoming programs and crafts that I can share with you.



As the name in my work title suggests, I and the rest of the University Heights staff are always happy to assist you. We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday and New Year!



All City Libraries are CLOSED on Friday, December 24 (Christmas Day - City Observed); Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day); Friday, December 31 (New Year's Day - City Observed); Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day) and Monday, January 17 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Book drops will remain open for your convenience.

- Mario Barahona, Library Assistant III, University Heights Branch Library, San Diego Public Library
619-692-4912 - www.sandiego.gov



UH Branch Hours
Monday-Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

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!

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
Jayme Anderson, 619-531-5525
jayme.anderson@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

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
Marcela Miranda-Caballero
IMCaballero@sandiego.gov

With a Whiff of Thanks

(A look forward to your University Heights Thanksgiving)

the scent of stewing
tickles my nose awake
cranberries freshly picked in the mist
of yesterday's morning
mingle with Aunt Sally's
southern orange rinds
now bubbling up red fantasies
that spice my morning with clove
dreams of turkeys
those long-necked rainbows on the run
peck their way into my appetite
insights my imaginary chase for their fan tails
through clouds

their soft feathers
smooth caress
once pursuit is won

a swift spring to the floor
makes patty-cake-feet drumroll to the kitchen
a peek through the door
delivers the meaning of thankfulness
overhearing quibbles from mom and auntie
while they chop and stir
their way to sharing love



Jon Von Erb

11/2015

SAN DIEGO REALTY

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

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

A Personal Jeweler with Tons of Personality



Cecilia is the owner of Cecilia's Fine Jewelry in the heart of University Heights. She has owned and operated the business since January of 2015. Cecilia came to the jewelry business by happenstance. Over 30 years ago, she was a single mom looking for a good job to support herself and her daughter. While browsing through the Penny Saver (remember those?), she answered a want ad for a Spanish speaker at a jewelry supply store in downtown San Diego. Cecilia applied and got the job. From there, she was offered jobs at various fine jewelry stores and moved up from secretary to sales person. It didn't take long for Cecilia to make a name for herself in the industry. Her magnetic personality, coupled with her positive attitude and willingness to work hard brought her to finally open her own jewelry store right here in University Heights.

Despite living in the South Bay area, when it was time for Cecilia to branch out on her own, she and her husband drove by an empty space near the corner of Adams Ave. and Park Blvd, and she immediately knew it was the place for her to open her very own store. In addition to being the owner, Cecilia is the premiere sales person, and does all of the buying and bookkeeping. She buys her jewelry from only the most reputable suppliers all over the world.

Cecilia was able to survive the pandemic despite having to completely shut down for 4 months. Cecilia's Fine Jewelry store is open six days a week and is bright and airy, inviting customers to come in and browse. Beautiful pieces of jewelry are displayed in glass cases...from engagement rings and wedding bands, to hoop earrings and vintage bracelets... there is something for everyone. In addition to the jewelry on site, Cecilia prides herself in working one-on-one with customers to design and create unique pieces of jewelry that are a perfect fit. Cecilia also does jewelry and watch repair (some on site and some sent out). Popular items right now are anything made with rose gold, as well as green sapphire stones in engagement rings.

So, start your holiday shopping early and stop by Cecilia's Fine Jewelry. Cecilia will greet you with a warm smile and assist you in finding a special gift for your loved ones or for yourself.

And while you are there, be sure to check out an art exhibition featuring abstract acrylic works by local emerging artist, Jeffrey Taylor, on December 4th from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and his artwork will continue to brighten the walls after the event.

-Jane Gilbert



Mystic Mocha's Key to Success Is No Mystery

A UH favorite, Mystic Mocha is super busy these days keeping folks in the neighborhood well fed and well caffeinated. Happy customers fill the ample seating out front mid-mornings, while the enticing aroma of chilaquiles beckons passersby.

Savory breakfast burritos stuffed with veggies, soyrizo, chicken, or bacon, plus cheese, potatoes, etc. are a customer favorite, and chef/owner Izzy loves to get creative with open-faced sandwiches on fluffy focaccia. The egg & bacon sando is a favorite of his. Beer, wine, and now mimosas (Yay!) are available to enjoy with your brunch or lunch.

Izzy's reincarnation of Mystic Mocha has been very well received by the neighborhood for a few reasons, not the least of which is the pleasure he takes in sourcing unique, high quality offerings, from a rotating list of excellent local beers to gluten-free doughnuts. He happily considers recommendations from his customers and has implemented many of them, including the aforementioned gf doughnuts, as well as vegan options and an horchata / Mexican hot chocolate latte on the November menu in honor of his grandmother.

For the holidays, Izzy is hoping to host a fun neighborhood crafting event, perhaps a "decorate-your-own-gingerbread-house" get-together (similar to the pumpkin carving event he hosted in October). He also plans to do art pop-up shows to support local artists at some point. Make sure to follow the café on Instagram @mysticmochacafe and/or check the café's windows for announcements.

December will bring a few new beverage offerings, including eggnog, peppermint,



and gingerbread lattes. And Izzy looks forward to hiring an additional chef and to opening up in the early evenings on weekends as soon as that's feasible. His customers look forward to that, too!



One final note: Oliver the dog, a daily customer, wanted to make sure you know that Mystic Mocha gets five stars from him because of the tasty biscuits and loads of love.

Hey, Oliver, when you're right, you're right!

Mystic Mocha Café, 2105 Mission Blvd.
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(kitchen closes at 1:30 p.m.)
@MysticMochaCafe
-Judith Annicchiarico

Pet of the Month Heidi



For those of you who have walked in or live in our beautiful west end neighborhood, you may recognize the Dog of the Month. Her name is Heidi, and she is a 10-year-old Miniature Schnauzer. Heidi's routine is at least two walks a day up and down New Hampshire St. with an occasional foray down and back up Madison around sunset.

If you notice and approach her, what is left of Heidi's tail will invariably start to wag, and then if you were to bend over, she will stand up on two legs and give you her seal of approval with a quick sniff kiss on your nose. After that, she will always recognize you and try to say hello when she sees you again.

Heidi is especially good with children and will happily allow petting. She is, however, standoffish with other dogs and will mount a vociferous outburst (and sounding twice as large than she is) if they appear in front of her house, to the point of considerable embarrassment for her parents. Inexplicably, when meeting the same dog(s) out and around the neighborhood, she is well behaved.

Heidi is the nexus of our residential and extended family, greeting everyone present in the house in the morning, and then reminding those who will pay attention to her that she is ready for her walk and breakfast. Similarly, she has no problem reminding her parents when her evening walk and treat are due, followed by snuggling on the bed in the evening. She loves to be brushed and then turned over on her back for a tummy rub.

She is obedient, loyal, smart, funny and friendly. Her lifelong ambition appears to be to catch one of the squirrels that go to considerable length to tease her from the branches in the trees behind our house. We have been lucky having Heidi with us, since she brightens our days and gives us comfort at night. Most importantly, she provides the opportunity for us to care for her, and for our family and friends (and neighbors) to receive unconditional love.
- Bill and Patty Wild

BUDGET PRIORITIES *continued from front page*

Here are the responses CCUH has received from the Councilmember's office to date:

Homelessness & Housing

CCUH Recommendation: Fund short-term and long-term solutions to prevent homelessness, and quickly create a path to safe and affordable housing and services for people who experience homelessness in our community. The CCUH is particularly interested in implementation of immediate outreach efforts to outreach efforts to connect homeless individuals with housing and services.

City response: The Homelessness Strategies Department is a newly created department dedicated to the centralization of homelessness-related programs and initiatives. The establishment of the department will help the City expand and improve programs and services available for individuals experiencing homelessness, and support oversight over state grant funds. The programs part of the department include: bridge shelter operations; positions that coordinate homeless programs and services; addition of 3.00 FTE positions, homeless shelters and services programs; homelessness response center; and transfers to the San Diego Housing Commission. This new department will oversee citywide homelessness programs and acquire additional programmatic funding.

Community Oriented Policing

CCUH recommendation: Reallocate Police Department funding and reassign services currently being conducted by law enforcement. We agree with Council President Whitburn's recommendation that public safety services can and should be diversified through community mental health and social work organizations and non-law enforcement, trauma-informed first responders.

City response: The new Commission on Police Practices (CPP) – created due to the passage of Measure B– is funded in the FY 2022 Proposed Budget and includes 6.33 FTE positions and \$1.1 million in expenditures. The 6.33 FTE positions reflect fractional FTEs which are prorated based on the anticipated start dates for a staff.

Street Maintenance

CCUH recommendation: Continue funding for resurfacing, slurry sealing and paving streets with additional focus on complete streets elements, particularly pedestrian and bicycle safety projects.

City response: Street Condition Assessment - \$700,000 (One-Time). A majority of Councilmembers support the addition of funding for a new Street Condition Assessment. This assessment has not been done since 2016, and it is recommended that a new condition assessment of pavement be conducted once every four to five years. Adding \$700,000 would allow

the department to procure a contractor to conduct the assessment, which should be completed in early FY 2023.

Additional Streets were funded to be slurry sealed many miles are within District 3. We can email a long list of streets but it is many pages long and not grouped by neighborhood.

Code Compliance

CCUH recommendation: Fully fund Code Compliance Department to enforce City, State and Federal land use, zoning, neighborhood ordinances and public nuisance concerns.

City response: Addition of 1.00 Code Compliance Officer to support the Water Quality Improvement Plan to address human waste-related bacteria source identification field investigations. 0.25 Addition of 0.25 Code Compliance Supervisor for ongoing support of code compliance activities. Addition of 8.00 permanent Code Compliance Officers to support Clean SD program.

The following topics and recommendations have not been responded to as of today:

Expanded UH Branch Library

Parks and Recreation (beyond dog park that has been funded)

Sidewalks (which sidewalks and when)

Tree Planting and Maintenance (increased funding for tree planting, preventative maintenance, infestation control)

Streets-Traffic and Safety (funding for traffic study and traffic calming measures)

Parking (expedite funding for angled-parking, support of UH parking district goals to increase parking)

Focused Plan Amendment

The following items have not been budgeted as of today:

El Cajon Boulevard Traffic Reorganization (evaluate & implement plan for Park Blvd./El Cajon Blvd./Normal St. intersection)

The full chart of priorities, requests, and responses are available at www.cc-uh.org/blog/update-on-progress-with-uh-priorities.

–Kristin Harms, CCUH



Publisher's note: Council President Pro Tem Whitburn's monthly column was not received by the time we went to press. Although District 3 is about to become even larger, UHCA News hopes Mr. Whitburn's office will continue to prioritize communications with communities who wish to be actively engaged and informed partners in city government.

FROM STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER WARD



I am excited to update you on some of the recent work passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Newsom. California's legislative session concluded in September, and as Majority Whip I was proud to work to ensure critical legislation made it off the Assembly floor and onto Governor Newsom's desk.

Our efforts ensured more action on affordable housing and resolving homelessness, climate change, education, criminal justice, and other challenges facing our state. That includes:

- A \$12 billion dollar investment focusing on behavioral health housing and solutions to encampments
- \$5.8 billion dollars to create more than 42,000 new housing units for those experiencing homelessness
- \$10.3 billion dollars in housing funding to spur more affordable homes.
- A \$15 billion dollar Climate Package, the largest investment in state history, to bolster wildfire resilience, tackle the drought emergency while building long-term water security, and strategic investments across the board to protect communities from extreme heat, sea level rise and other climate risks.

For our small businesses, California took action early in the pandemic to enable restaurants to expand outdoor operations in areas such as sidewalks and parking lots. We recently passed legislation to allow these businesses to receive a one-year grace period after the end of the emergency to apply for permanent expansion. After announcing the extended relief in June, Governor Newsom urged local governments to facilitate outdoor dining through local zoning and programs that support and promote expanded open-air, take-out and delivery options. Additionally, with \$4 billion in support, California created the largest Small Business Relief Grant program in the nation, and \$6.2 billion dollars in tax relief for small businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans and license renewal fee waivers.

Working together, the San Diego delegation was able to secure another round of budget allocations for our community. On top of the June announcements, I pushed for and received:

- \$50 million dollars to support the San Diego Pure Water project, created to bring our region a reliable, drought proof supply of drinking water.
- \$2 million dollars for electrical, ADA, and other building upgrades to Balboa Park's Casa Del Prado (bringing the total to \$5.7 million).
- \$750,000 dollars to the City of San Diego for the design, construction, or replacement of playground structures at JFK Park, Robb Field, and Mission Trails Regional Trail.
- \$500,000 for park improvements in Imperial Beach.

These are just a few of the budget wins we were able to secure.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I am proud to report that Governor Newsom signed all six of the bills I authored that made it to his desk so far – no vetoes! These include important improvements for housing discrimination, civil rights, habitat preservation, victim protections, higher education options, and children of military

servicemembers. I have other bills that will resume debate when the legislature reconvenes in January. A summary of the signed bills is included below:

AB 218 - Enables transgender Californians to update their marriage certificates and birth certificates of their children to accurately reflect their legal name and gender, while protecting their privacy. (Sponsor: Equality California)

AB 223 - Makes it unlawful to take dudleya from its natural habitat on land owned by the state or local government or on property that is not one's own. Our native plants have recently been targeted as high commodity for poaching and overseas illicit trade; this law gives wardens stronger tools to prevent poaching by making unlawful to sell or possess with the intent to sell any dudleya illegally taken from its natural habitat and establishes higher penalties for illegal taking. (Sponsor: California Native Plant Society)

AB 302 – Helps taxi drivers lower their annual permitting costs by consolidating permitting activity across the county to one agency – the Metropolitan Transit System – instead of multiple permits across all the cities they wish to operate.

AB 340 - Updates California law to permit California's students with ScholarShare and other 529 savings accounts to utilize these funds to pay student loan debt and expenses related to qualified apprenticeship programs. (Sponsor: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma)

AB 491 - Eliminates discrimination in the planning and design of mixed-income multifamily structures and developments, ensuring the residents of affordable housing units have the same access to common entrances, areas, and amenities as the occupants of market-rate units.

AB 514 – Protects victims of “revenge pornography” by exempting the requirement of a bond in order to have a restraining order in effect to stop distribution of sensitive images, and extends effect of an order to include others informed that material s

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 53 - Urges the California State Board of Education to establish and manage a Purple Star Schools Award Program to acknowledge public schools that demonstrate excellence in best practice procedures to facilitate the integration and academic success of school-age students of military servicemembers.

DISTRICT SURVEY & SERVICES

As I prepare for the 2022 legislative year beginning in January, I am out across the district meeting with constituents and community groups. I also want to hear directly from you! **Please take a moment to identify your priorities for legislation and provide helpful feedback today:** asmcd.org/lm-survey

My District office is ready to assist you with contacting state agencies to deal with specific issues or to obtain information on public services such as:

- Veterans benefits and programs
- Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Professional conduct or licensing complaints
- Consumer complaints
- Reports issued by the Legislature and state agencies
- State Capitol tours

For questions regarding our survey or for assistance with any state-related issues or resources, **contact my team during regular business hours, Monday-Friday at (619) 645-3090. To reach someone by email, contact my team via email at Assemblymember.Ward@assembly.ca.gov.**

- Chris Ward, State Assemblymember, District 78



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LET'S TALK TODAY.



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1708136

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

PEMBERLEY REALTY

This year, Roxanne and Pemberley Realty celebrate 22 years of serving the community! We have loved serving University Heights residents with their real estate needs as well as with community events. We have enjoyed sponsoring events like Summer in the Park concerts, Taste of University Heights, and Caroling in the Heights. We have also shared Halloween, Christmas, and New Years. We have been able to share many happy hours virtually and in our office space. We cannot wait to resume all of our fun events in 2022.



Roxanne Govari of Pemberley Realty

The pandemic affected our health, our social fabric, as well as our real estate market. The real estate market in particular had a very unpredictable reaction to the pandemic. We were faced with an unprecedented demand for housing, unlike we have ever seen. I have gone back to my experience of the housing crash of 2006, and I do find similarities to today's real estate market. Like 2006, houses are in demand and prices are up. However, today's real estate market is very different from what we saw in the days of the crash. Some say there is a crash happening as the prices have gone up so much. Some ask, with such a shortage of inventory persisting, how could a crash come about? These are both valid opinions.

The reality of the real estate market is that it is hard to predict what will happen in the future. What I have experienced in my 22 years of servicing my clients and the community is that the slowdown in real estate is usually short-lived and temporary. It is best to time the market against your personal situation, rather than outside factors. If it is time to sell, then it will be the best decision to do so because the flow of energy that is released out of that sale can create other opportunities. The same is true when it is time to buy. If the purchase of a property will result in a lifestyle change that will help you be

happier and healthier, then that decision will lead to more productivity and personal success.

Whatever 2022 will have in store for us, the best way to approach it is to assess your personal circumstances, plan accordingly, and make sure to implement those plans. After all, New Years Resolutions are most powerful when they are set as goals in the beginning of the year, so that they can continue to inspire us all year long. We hope 2022 is full of good decisions, health, and happiness for you all.

Please join us in the new year as we will resume our monthly happy hours with a twist: watch for our Food Truck Fridays, and come visit us when you start that resolution in 2022! Let's have great food and talk about real estate!

Happy Holidays from our Pemberley Realty Team!



SUSTAINABLE UH

Resolved!

It can be disheartening (to say the least) to hear lip-service paid by city leaders regarding "new and improved" Climate Action Plans that are never fully acted upon, while global leaders seem to flail around instead of doing what climate scientists know we need to do...

And yet, it's that time of year to enjoy the holiday season and to make resolutions for an even better year ahead. In that spirit, following are some actions neighbors and friends in UH plan to take to make the season brighter for us all:

Stop the wrapping paper madness and waste by adding homemade flair to gently used gift bags and by wrapping gifts in beautiful, reusable fabric à la the Japanese gift-wrapping method called Furoshiki (nymag.com/strategist/article/furoshiki-gift-wrapping-ideas.html).



Furoshiki Wrapping Cloth - Credit: Japan Objects

Eliminate disposable product containers by shopping for food at the Mighty Bin in North Park, once it opens in January, and by purchasing only products we can carry in our own reusable bags from other stores (themightybin.com).

Raise funds to buy a new electric leaf blower for our gardeners (crowd source or word of mouth between neighbors who employ the same landscape maintenance people). California's ban on sales of gas-powered landscaping equipment like lawn mowers and leaf

blowers isn't set to start until 2024, but the pollution those 2-stroke engines generate isn't doing anyone in the neighborhood any good. Full powered electric leaf blowers and backup batteries are expensive—beyond the budgets of some of our gardeners—so why not crowd fund a solution now instead of waiting? Pedestrians and cyclists currently breathing in leaf blower exhaust will thank us! (egopowerplus.com/commercial)

Commit to riding public transit twice a month. That isn't much, but doing so would help. Riding the trolley to UTC or La Jolla Village Square to catch a movie or eat some dumplings seems like a fun way to be part of the solution. Walking to Whole Foods or Ralphs / Trader Joe's and then catching the bus back home would combine a daily walk with eliminating the CO2 and other noxious emissions generated by all those short car trips to do errands. Plus, there are a lot of interesting things to see that you miss when driving (www.sdmts.com).

Grow food! Those of us who may have given up due to marauding squirrels digging out the roots of our potted plants and garden beds can get back to growing our own herbs, tomatoes, greens, etc., and avoid daily shopping trips and the bags involved. Squirrel-proofing is the key (www.farmersalmanac.com/keep-squirrels-out-garden).

And, of course, those of us who still don't have a green waste bin can find places to **drop off our Christmas trees** at wastefreesd.org or www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/events/christmas.

Why not make an after-New Year's day of it with neighbors—borrow or rent a truck and get those trees to the recyclers. Then come home and drink a New Year's toast to better days ahead!

-Judith Annicchiarico

Ode to the Most Cunning Ballerina of the Night

poised for the hunt
delicate yet fierce
she scouts her realm

she gleams perfection
ready in taut attention
contoured for fleet

svelte and lean
sly and ready for her jete'
she's ready in concert

she commands her stage
stepping with care
a symphony complete

with night's approach
left behind, her mate
for she is the hunt

she flees the den
sitter of the clan
it is she who provides

under grey of cloud
a prey is struck
for dawn's delight

curtain of darkness
to the howl of success
gives her the earned crown

to the breast of the heroine
respect of the pack
she's ballerina of the night
'Prima Coyote Absoluta'

Jon Von Erb 9/2021

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rosemaryleonard@cox.net
Conveniently located in University Heights

An Awesome Halloween on Maryland Street

Our amazing neighbors on Maryland Street pulled it off. Thanks to their tireless and creative efforts, University Heights was once again the talk of the town for an amazing Spook-tacular display. Scores of folks enjoyed the performances, decorations, and the feeling of things starting to get a little back to “normal.”

photo credits: Susan Blackwell



Historic Spalding Place!

Multiple offers and in Escrow in 5 Days!



1831 Spalding Place \$725,000
 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom 981 Sq Ft

Classic Craftsman in the *Spalding Place Historic District* with Mills Act status for great property tax savings! Super cute home with wood floors in the living and dining areas, fireplace façade, beautiful built-ins in the dining room, remodeled kitchen with granite counters and remodeled bath. Nice outdoor space with deck plus the detached building can be used for a workshop, office, art room or many other choices. Superb location and just steps to Park Blvd restaurants and Trolley Barn Park!



Mary Anne Stevens (619) 871-0635
 Maryanneshomes@gmail.com
 Cal RE #01034232

Anastasia Brewer (619) 992-1912
 Brewer.anastasia@gmail.com
 Cal RE #00894212

MARY ANNE STEVENS | ANASTASIA BREWER

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