

**NEXT UHCA MEETING  
VIA ZOOM  
THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 3, 7:00 PM  
VISIT UHSD.ORG FOR DETAILS**



7



9



10

University Heights Community Association December 2020/January 2021

# NEWS

## CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3: MEET OUR NEW COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN

San Diego Council District 3 covers Old Town to Balboa Park, Downtown to Hillcrest, Mission Hills to University Heights. Stephen Whitburn recently won the seat currently held by outgoing Councilmember Chris Ward who is moving on to represent District 78 on the California State Assembly. The Council District 3 seat has been held by many San Diego – and California – political leaders, including incoming Mayor Elect Todd Gloria, State Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, and former State Senator Christine Kehoe.

Whitburn has big shoes to fill, but from the plans and remarks he's shared at community forums over the past year during the campaign, it's clear he also has some big ideas that he wants to lead forward. UHCA was happy to get a few minutes to check in with him and talk about his priorities coming into office.



Stephen Whitburn

**Do you have a "first 100 days" plan of things you want to tackle right away?**

Yes, I'll address the homelessness crisis right away. It's my #1 priority, and it takes on additional urgency as people who are unsheltered endure cold nights and the rainy season.

I'll start working on housing affordability. As new projects are proposed, I'll seek ways to include a significant number of units affordable to people with low and moderate incomes. Also, voters just approved creating an independent commission on police practices, and I'll ensure it is implemented properly so it has the confidence of the community.

**COVID cases are increasing county-wide just as we are going into the winter season, and many of our UH residents and businesses are hurting. What can they expect to see from the City in the coming months?**

You'll see a lot of engagement with businesses to help them stay open safely and keep workers employed. Activities that have moved outdoors will need rain canopies and heaters in many cases, and where permits are required, the city will need to be thorough and efficient.

I'll also be working to ensure University Heights and other District 3 neighborhoods get a fair share of any new federal or state relief funds.

University Heights has enjoyed good working relationships with our current Councilmember Chris Ward and his staff - Chris and his community representatives are both UH residents, and before him Todd Gloria and Toni Atkins were great advocates for our community's needs. **How can University Heights residents best connect with you and your office - will you be attending our monthly UHCA meetings, setting up "virtual" coffee talks?**

The more communication the better! My office will prioritize constituent services and neighborhood engagement, and we'll make ourselves easy to reach. I'll attend as many community meetings as possible, and so will my team. I've been involved in community groups myself for many years, so I know how important that communication is. And yes, we'll have community coffees so people can discuss or ask anything they'd like.

**With the holiday season here, do you have a message for your UH constituents?**

Needless to say, it's been a rough year. Thank goodness University Heights is a close-knit neighborhood with a long history of people helping each other. You can count on me to help out, too. I wish everyone an enjoyable holiday season. Together, we'll make 2021 a better year for San Diego and our neighborhoods.

**We look forward to working with Stephen and regularly checking back with him on his plans to lead District 3 in the years ahead.**



## Lights in the Heights Returns

Show your holiday spirit by lighting up your home or business for the holidays!

Judging on Monday, December 14

Winners will be announced Tuesday, December 15 on UHCA Facebook and Instagram channels

## COUNCIL GIVES PARKS PLAN TIME TO IMPROVE

On Monday, November 9, the City Council rejected, on a 5-4 vote (with outgoing Councilmember Chris Ward voting in favor) the proposed "Play Everywhere" updated Parks Master Plan. This plan, which has been discussed in this paper and at UHCA and UH Park Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG) meetings, would have allowed Development Impact Funds from projects built in one neighborhood to be shifted into a city-wide fund, and would have reset the goals for parks from 2.8 acres per 1,000 residents to a points-based system that would have awarded points for amenities like swings and benches (and signs, and potentially "commercial" elements).

Over 50 community organizations, planning groups, and parks advocates

voiced strong opposition to the plan as submitted, including UHCA and the UHPROSAG. Over 60 people spoke or submitted comments at the Council meeting, with a vast majority asking for a delay, especially with a new administration and councilmembers coming on board in one month.

While the groups opposing the plan cited many good ideas, including trying to establish equity in park funding for neighborhoods of concern, addition of more green and open spaces, and better access for people with disabilities, the overall funding mechanism and points scheme were viewed as too risky, subjective, and in need of improvement.

I spoke on behalf of our UH groups informing the Council that the plan did not have enough community input,

and that as a severely under-parked neighborhood, surrounded by more under-parked neighborhoods, we needed to have more emphasis put on establishing new park space as we will see a large increase in residents over the coming years with projects currently underway.

The plan will now go back to the City Parks staff to re-work it more closely with advisory groups and community associations. We look forward to working with the staff and our newly elected Councilmember Stephen Whitburn to help make our new Parks Master Plan benefit "America's finest city," and serve University Heights residents now and into the future.

—Marc Johnson, Chair UHPROSAG & Vice President, UHCA

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

**NO UHCA  
MEETING IN  
JANUARY 2021**

THE NEXT COMMUNITY  
MEETING WILL BE HELD  
ON FEBRUARY 7, 2021

VISIT UHSD.ORG  
FOR DETAILS

# 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**  
 Jairo Martinez, JMSA Business Corporation  
 Uyen Tran, UPT Marketing Consultants, LLC  
 Jean-Paul Masters, Clos Wine Shop  
 Jeffrey Fink & Matt Sieve, Madison on Park  
 Cindi Hill, Hill Compliance Advisors  
 Ashley Gill, Fibre the Venue and Salon

## GOLDEN OSTRICH

Megan Stanger, MaryBeth Chruden & Bill Smith, David & Susan Holts, Joseph Caperna & Jon Conway, Lari Sheehan, Cathleen Edwards, Sol Schumer, Steven Kolbert, Sharon Ritchie & David Morgan, Jennifer Colosimo, Karen & Ed Koijane

## HOUSEHOLD

Joshua Eckels, Beth Jaworski & Doug Grotjahn, Diane Brockman & Muriel Davis, Linda Burke, Judy Schroeder, Nan McGraw & Stuart McGraw, John Chan & Karen Rosen, Dan & Tami Mannix, Tyler Renner, Jennifer Bishop, David & Dawn Harrison, Barry & Cate Bell, Larry Seubert, Candace LiVolsi, Brian Geraghty, Ned Totah, Lee Schoenbart, Terry Hayes, Tina McGlathery & Justin McGlathery, Carmen Cooley Graham, Rebecca Estrada, Debra Fisher, Lorna Harris, Michele Morgan & Steve Winchell, Rod & Nancy Girvin, Russel Vorce

## 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.

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

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

## Yearly Membership

- \$25 Household
- \$75 Business Membership
- \$100 Golden Ostrich
- \$20 Add UHCA News Delivered Via USPS to your Membership

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

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Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the 5th of the month. Email submissions to uhcanews@uhsd.org. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.



## UHCA OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT** Christine Hernandez
- VICE PRESIDENT** Marc Johnson
- SECRETARY** Meghan Kight
- TREASURER** Brent Orlesky



**WEBSITE** uhsd.org



**FACEBOOK** @universityheightscommunityassociation



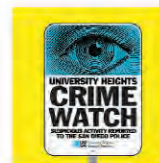
**INSTAGRAM** @uheightscommunitysd

## 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 Christopher Hutchinson** christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zyhylj** tamara@tamarazrealstate.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, please email UHCA President at president@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!

## UH PHONE BOOK

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



## 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.

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The November 5, 2020 UHCA Meeting began at 7:00pm via Zoom with 28 attendees. President Christine Hernandez welcomed the community, introduced the agenda, thanked all our business members, and announced our newest business member, Madison on Park. She then asked the neighbors what they loved about UH before making several announcements.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- UHCA Needs You! If you have time, please consider joining us.
- Pandemic Support: Anyone in need of support, please fill out the form on our website [www.tinyurl.com/UH-Pandemichelp](http://www.tinyurl.com/UH-Pandemichelp).
- Local Election Results and Voter Turnout: UH had a 75% voter turnout. Thank you, voters!
- Meetings are open to the public! Please consider getting involved. The neighboring organizations that we work with include Uptown Planners [uptownplanners.org](http://uptownplanners.org), North Park Planners [northparkplanning.org](http://northparkplanning.org), and UH Park & Rec Advisory [uhcdc.org/parks-recreation-council](http://uhcdc.org/parks-recreation-council).

## SAVE OUR TREES CAMPAIGN

In the spring Judith Annicchiarico & Nan McGraw did extensive research on the Evil Weevil attacks on Canary Island Palms. In the last 5 months we've had

to remove 5 Canary Island Palms, and we have 4 more that are in danger. This is bad for the city and property owners. The palms are symbolic and iconic in our neighborhood, and they are very expensive to remove. For more information, see article *Help Banish the Evil Palm Weevil from University Heights* on page 10.

## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Representative of District 3, Tyler Renner from Chris Ward's office, thanked our community and wanted to let us know our efforts do not go unnoticed.

The Roundabout at Meade and Alabama is a Hot Topic for UH residents. Tyler Renner took the issue and went to SANDAG. The roundabout is sandblasted with the lettering "North Park."

Tyler explained their office has worked with SANDAG on a number of different projects in District 3. A community outreach was conducted by SANDAG a couple of years ago that included North Park, Kensington, Normal Heights, City Heights and Hillcrest. University Heights was left out. During these meetings they came up with the design discussion. It was permitted through the City of San Diego, and the City did authorize their permits, and this was not caught during that process. Tyler

specified this was deemed NP because it is part of the NP community planning area. SANDAG did intend to have the lettering reflective of the community. So he understands the intention behind it.

Councilman Ward is a UH resident, and neighborhood identity is very important to him. We have options, and we are looking for input. We would like to know what people would prefer to see. Options:

- Remove North Park lettering & leave blank
- Remove the lettering & replace with University Heights
- Leave it alone
- Add some other element of UH to the roundabout

The recommendation of Councilman Ward's office is to remove NP and replace it with UH. During the meeting we took a survey, and 67% said replace NP with UH.

Next steps: This will go to the full planning board, and Councilman Ward's office will then write a memo to the mayor's office making that formal request. The mayor's office and SANDAG will determine timeline, cost, and where the resources would come from. The office of Chris Ward wants to make sure they are on record making that request.

## UPDATES:

**Council District 3 Chris Ward**  
[sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3](http://sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3)

This will be Tyler Renner's last meeting as a rep, but they are committed to a successful transition between offices. Before they leave office, they have a couple of things coming to the city council:

**Complete Communities Plan:** A new way to incentivize housing. There is a new fee structure and height ability that developers can work with by opting into this program. This plan is meant

to enhance density with smaller units on transit corridors and to update fee schedules for more park enhancements and shared resources with "communities of concern." More information: [www.sandiego.gov/complete-communities/housing-solutions](http://www.sandiego.gov/complete-communities/housing-solutions).

**78th CA Assembly Todd Gloria**  
[a78.asmdc.org](http://a78.asmdc.org)

Randy Wilde, Field Rep, stated that their last day in office will be 12/6. They are still focused on providing constituent services and preparing the transition for the next assemblymember. They are focused on helping folks who have issues with state agencies (EDD, DMV, franchise tax board, any state government issue), and invite constituents to please reach out to them.

**Covid 19:** Update on new cases, SD County and Statewide uptick in new cases. We have to make sure we stay vigilant, follow safety guidelines, and urge others to do the same. More information: [covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy](http://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy).

In addition to unemployment, people are struggling with making rent/mortgage payments. The state of CA implemented several new protections for renters, landlords, and homeowners. More information: <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/index.html>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

UHCA December 3rd  
Zoom Meeting @ 7:00pm, see [Uhsd.org](http://Uhsd.org)

Park, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Group, Thursday, December 3rd  
Zoom @ 5:30pm

Uptown Planners  
December 17th Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment Subcommittee  
[uptownplanners.org](http://uptownplanners.org)

Adjournment: 8:00pm

—Meghan Kight, UHCA Secretary

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ

What a year! 2020 has certainly changed the way many of us live, work, and play. On January 1, 2020 we rang in the new year as we usually do, excited and hopeful for the transition into a new decade. Little did we know all of our lives would be flipped upside down. At a global scale, we watched the world shut its doors. We watched the world brace itself for an invisible danger that threatened our health, our families, our businesses, our schools, our entire way of life. 2020 disrupted everything we know.

We also saw an awakening happen. While we have been in quarantine, some of us began to listen to the silence. It started to teach us about what matters. In the silence, we paid attention to how our society has broken parts. In the silence, we began to speak and even shout about where we are broken. The world protested. The 'Call to Action' was felt, and many took to the streets in the middle of a pandemic. Here in San Diego, we witnessed passion fill our streets, calling out the injustices that have been staring at us for centuries. Still, many continued to go about their lives oblivious to the suffering, and the cries for justice often fell on deaf ears.

As if 2020 wasn't heavy enough, our Presidential Election confirmed that Americans have a lot of work to do to unite us. It is up to us, not just our leaders, to listen and care about people and the world outside of ourselves. Showing empathy without ego is how we can embrace one another.

In all of this, there was light. People's

basic humanity emerged. Communities banded together to help each other, providing essential supplies to people in need and checking in on our neighbors, friends, and loved ones using video technology. We supported our local businesses and supported our essential workers with anything we had to give. We connected in ways we never thought would be possible. We showed our love for each other in creative ways, and for that I am hopeful for us as we aim to be better neighbors.

No matter how this year will finish for us, we have to be mindful and grateful. If you are reading this, please take a moment to reflect and honor the lives taken by the global pandemic and by civil violence. UHCA remembers those who have lost their lives and extends our condolences to neighbors who lost loved ones. Let's take another moment to reflect on our gratitude to the essential workers and services who never shut their doors.

This President's Corner and UHCA Newspaper edition is dedicated to the lost souls of 2020 and to the essential workers who took care of us during this year:

- Healthcare Workers
- Emergency Service Workers
- Farm Workers
- Food Service Workers & Food Vendors
- Energy and Technology Workers
- Distribution Center Workers
- Transportation Workers
- Public Utility Workers



## Give your home the protection it deserves.

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

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

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# DECEMBER 2020

Note: Dates & times subject to change due to COVID-19.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	<b>1</b> Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5 pm	<b>2</b> UHCDC Meeting: (on Zoom) 619-297-3166	<b>3</b> UH REC COUNCIL 5:30 pm (on Zoom uhsd.org) <b>UHCA MEETING</b> 7:00 pm (on Zoom uhsd.org) Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> HANUKKAH BEGINS 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMONT ST. BRIDGE	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>14</b> Judging for Lights in the Heights	<b>15</b> Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> MERRY Christmas	<b>26</b> HAPPY Kwanzaa
<b>27</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection		

# JANUARY 2021

Note: Dates & times subject to change due to COVID-19.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	<b>1</b> 2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> UHCDC MEETING (on Zoom) 619-297-3166	<b>7</b> UH REC COUNCIL 5:30 pm (on Zoom uhsd.org) <b>NO UHCA MEETING</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>18</b> I HAVE A DREAM HAPPY MLK DAY	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> JANUARY 20, 2021 INAUGURATION DAY	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Board of Ed Public Mtg 4100 Normal Street; 5pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection		
<b>31</b> HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET 9 am - 2 pm	<p><b>Wear a Mask!</b> The scientific evidence is clear: not only does a mask help you keep from unknowingly spreading COVID-19, but masks also help keep you safe as well.</p>					

## EXPLORING THE CAVE OF WONDERS

The Cave of Wonders occupies the first floor of a small building on El Cajon Blvd, across from the Lafayette Hotel. Out front stand a couple towering, potted cacti, a table piled with seashells, and a few gumball machines full of little polished rocks and bouncy balls. Merchandise fills the windows: macramé, stained glass, large mineral specimens, a rock tumbler, and a stalactite clock hanging from the ceiling, among other things.

I stop there with my son about once a week on one of our late afternoon walks. He likes to play the free Pac-Man arcade game that stands near the entrance, and to get his hands on some of the items on his mental want-

list: the wooden boat, the grabber arm, and the miniature ship's wheel.

Dozens of bins of different stones and minerals line the shelves, and there are several glass cases full of jewelry, statues, and large geodes. Prehistoric cave paintings from around the world are recreated on the ceiling. Most are familiar to me: images of hunters chasing game, wild horses running, and elongated stick figures that seem to witness a rising spirit. On a recent visit, I was struck by one I had never seen before: a painting that the French archaeologist Henri Lhote called the "Great Martian God" because it looks like nothing so much as an alien in a spacesuit.

Scott (Scotty) Chatfield opened the Cave of Wonders in early 2014, and he passed in July 2018. Scotty was slight and youthfully middle-aged, with sandy-blond hair and goatee, usually wearing cat-eye glasses and an old t-shirt. When I first met him, he was so gregarious and at-ease as he explained the mineralogical and metaphysical qualities of a malachite obelisk that I forgot we didn't know each other. He spoke of his objects fondly, more dozent than salesman. It was clear that The Cave of Wonders was his little kingdom, a place he had made in his own image. After Scott's passing, the shop was taken over by Scotty's mentee Jackie Sterling, a store employee and gemologist-in-training. Jackie told me she sees her job as "bringing cool rocks to the masses."

I don't feel like I buy much from the Cave, but when I look around my house I see purchases from there everywhere (a ring carved from a piece

of carnelian, a ceramic pin with a leering, pagan sun, an old kaleidoscope, a small serpentine orb). The right object seems to appear in the store if I look thoroughly, something I've never noticed or that's just arrived. The looking is the important thing, and the feeling of community among the patrons.

This place seems to exist slightly outside the bounds of a regular, capitalist enterprise, to have a mission and an existence beyond selling stuff. It is an oasis for a certain kind of person. Scroll quickly through their online reviews and you will see an unusual amount of enthusiasm, with words like "amazing", "magical", "sacred" and "energy" in abundance.

And a whole lot of love for Scotty.

— Ian Young

# PARKLETS: HELPING PARK BLVD BUSINESSES THRIVE DURING THE PANDEMIC

San Diego small businesses have been forced to adapt because of Covid-19, and one of the most noticeable adaptations is the parklet. The City of San Diego eased restrictions on businesses that wanted to extend outdoors, which has resulted in increased business for some University Heights restaurants.

“It’s allowed me to put 20 more people in seats,” said Tony Loiacono, owner of Parkhouse Eatery.

Loiacono says dealing with the city to get approval was a simple process. Because of the pandemic, San Diego has waived many fees as businesses invest money to build structures on the street.

“I submitted an application for the parklet. I was there at two-o’clock on a Wednesday, and by Thursday morning I got the approval,” said Loiacono.

Underneath the iconic University Heights sign, the parklet outside of Madison on Park is both functional and stylish.

“Our reputation is a designed, focused place. Beautiful cocktails, beautiful dining room, it has to extend out to the street,” said Matthew Sieve, owner of Madison On Park. Sieve realizes Covid restrictions could last well into 2021, and he wanted to build an outdoor structure that would help business and bring street appeal to the neighborhood.

“From a business standpoint, it made a lot of sense. Plus we could hire back a lot of our employees,” said Sieve.

Madison’s parklet success has also helped neighboring businesses such as Park & Rec that used the same contractor to build a small parklet. It’s a sign of cooperation that University Heights businesses have shown during the pandemic.

The parklets are not a complete solution to the neighborhood’s economic challenges. At Parkhouse Eatery, the restaurant is still not able to accommodate as many customers as they did before the pandemic. But having the extra outdoor space does help owners like Loiacono maintain a healthier environment.

“It makes me feel better about having a busy Saturday, Sunday brunch because I know people are outside, my staff is safe, my guests are safe,” said Loiacono.

Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, businesses will have to reapply for permits if they want to make their parklets permanent. Sieve and Loiacono indicated they would be in favor of making the parklets permanent. If other businesses follow suit, it could mean the outdoor concept will be a larger part of San Diego’s future street landscape.

—Ramon Galindo



Parkhouse Eatery parklet



Madison on Park parklet

# TRAFFIC CIRCLES ARE IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The outcry from University Heights residents started while the crews were sandblasting “NORTH PARK” on the two newly completed traffic circles along Meade Avenue at Louisiana Street and at Alabama Street. From social media posts, to phone calls and emails to UHCA, UHCD, and city Councilmember Ward’s office, our neighbors let it be known they were not happy.

UHCA board members and friends dug into how this happened and enlisted the help of Councilmember Ward’s office. What we discovered was that public input on the aesthetic designs was sought in 2018 and 2019 with surveys and presentations in Hillcrest, Normal Heights, North Park, Kensington, City Heights ... but not University Heights. The proposals were shown at the North Park Planning Committee, where the mistake was not caught, and the city wasn’t informed about the naming decision until after it was already done.

Tyler Renner, Councilmember Ward’s community representative and UH resident, worked with UHCA and SANDAG (who constructed the circles under the Keep San Diego Moving bikeways project) to try to rectify it. Tyler and representatives from SANDAG were on-hand at the November UHCA Monthly Meeting and presented several ideas on how to “fix” the issue – from sandblasting/erasing any neighborhood identification, to replacing North Park with University Heights, to adding

University Heights to the existing identification. The overwhelming choice by meeting attendees was to replace North Park with University Heights, and Tyler took those recommendations forward.

At the November 10th North Park Planning Committee meeting, at which UHCA President Christine Hernandez provided our input, Tyler presented the issue and proposed solution. The Public Facility & Traffic subcommittee unanimously passed a resolution “to replace the name with University Heights, as long as the cost is covered from the SANDAG budget.”

We will keep our neighbors updated on the progress as this error is corrected in the coming months. Thanks to everyone who helped put on the pressure to ensure our neighborhood is properly recognized!

—UHCA Board



The roundabout at Meade and Alabama

SCHOOL NEWS



# BIRNEY BUZZ

## THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A quality education is one of the greatest gifts we can give future generations. Birney's Big Give, our annual one-day donation drive, will be held on December 15, 2020. Please join us at [friendsofalicebirney.org](http://friendsofalicebirney.org) on the 15th to donate, and follow our live updates on the progress of our fundraiser! All donations will support Birney's award-winning International Baccalaureate (IB) program and specials classes, including Spanish, arts, and gardening.

Our outstanding staff and fantastic IB curriculum are what differentiate Birney from other schools, and having such a high-achieving neighborhood elementary school, in turn, makes our University Heights community an even more desirable place to live! Birney's IB program and specials have contributed to increased enrollment and higher average test scores for Birney students in recent years. Despite the challenges this year with distance learning, and despite having to fundraise without any large events, we are committed to raising the required funds to keep these quality, impactful programs in place.

Students continue to enjoy specials classes every week with live, virtual interaction with their teachers. At supply pick-up, students were given soil, seeds, and small pots to have hands-on gardening experiences from home. We are proud to share

that despite overwhelming obstacles, Birney has had a 97% attendance record this fall! Parents continue to be very involved, and we've had amazing family engagement at our monthly "Family Fridays."

Birney transitioned from year-round to a traditional school calendar this year, so our winter break will be shorter than it has been in the past and will run from December 19 through January 3.

The San Diego Unified School District hopes to begin in-person learning in January but will make a decision based on COVID-19 conditions. Students would be assigned to am or pm cohorts and would attend school in-person Monday through Thursday, with live virtual instruction on Fridays. In preparation for re-opening, the District has purchased desk shields, air filtration devices, sanitizing stations, social distancing signs and floor markers, and PPE.

We are so grateful to our amazing University Heights community for your ongoing support of our students! If you would like to join Kairoa as a "Queen Bee" Sponsor for the 2020-2021 school year or would like to donate goods or services, please contact us at [info@friendsofalicebirney.org](mailto:info@friendsofalicebirney.org). Friends of Alice Birney Elementary is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 27-2414127.

—Erin MacKinnon

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

## ANDY'S PLUMBING

Hello neighbors, my name is Andy Simon, and I am the owner of Andy's Plumbing. You have probably seen my bright red truck around the neighborhood with the company name on the sides. I have been helping people with their plumbing repairs and fixes for over eight years.



Andy Simon

When I was young, my grandfather would drag me kicking and screaming to his apartment building in Hillcrest where I would help him turn over the units and tinker on different maintenance issues. As you can imagine, I didn't always enjoy this. At that time, I was not the greatest helper, but he instilled in me valuable skills. Now, when I am at work and successfully complete a job, I appreciate his teachings and feel a little closer to him. He's 87 now.

When I first arrive at the home of a customer, I'm aware that it can be a stressful situation for the owner or resident. This line of work is often messy. When I am on the job, I strive to cover my tracks and the equipment and be as neat as possible. I know everyone's home is a sacred space, and I respect that. It's a privilege when customers trust me and when they call me back for other repairs. I get great satisfaction from helping people.

My wife and I have lived in University Heights for 13 years, and we have a daughter and a son. I hope that in the future, my whole family will be involved in some capacity of the business. During the pandemic, my wife has been very busy with the kids and has still found time to take up soap making. So, in addition to getting a plumbing repair done in your home, you might get a handcrafted soap.

If you would like more information about my services, please visit [andysplumbingsandiego.com](http://andysplumbingsandiego.com). And I very much look forward to assisting you with your plumbing needs. I am here to help!

# ROO NEWS

## ROOSEVELT FAMILIES ADAPT TO DISTANCE LEARNING



Roosevelt International Middle School's first quarter just ended, and, all things considered, it's been a bright spot in this accursed (too strong a word? I think not) era! Although instruction is fully online, the wonderful teachers of Roosevelt have brought their expertise and passion to bear, connecting with their students even as they lean on powerful teaching software to keep them engaged.

Through a mixture of Zoom meetings and app-based activities, many of the academic classes differ only slightly from their in-person versions. But how on earth are PE and Music teachers supposed to conduct their classes from a distance? At Roosevelt, these classes offer a welcome change of pace during days of intensive studying, keeping the students active and creative. Distance learning PE classes typically include video-based workouts, exercise challenges, and "Kahoot" competitions testing health knowledge. In the music program, students not only share their performances on band orchestra instruments, but also compose music in programs like BandLab.

While in-person activities are few and far between, Roosevelt's legendary After School Enrichment program continues apace, albeit on a slightly limited scale and an online format. Friends of Roosevelt, the school foundation, in coordination with teachers, administrators, community partners, and volunteers, has managed to put together a robust array of enrichment opportunities like the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club, Strategic Games Club, and Girls in Science, a program conducted with the San Diego Zoo.

Some of the few times families and teachers have been able to fleetingly interact face-to-face this year have been when families pick up their students' books at the beginning of each quarter. At the latest book pickup, one student, Alexis R., took the opportunity to show the Roosevelt spirit of community action by adding a food-drive to the procedure. Roosevelt families contributed twenty bags of canned and dry goods to

the effort, which Principal Steinberger and Vice Principal Reyes dropped off at the Cortez Hill Family Center. Way to go, Alexis and Roosevelt!

So, when will in-person school return? Roosevelt is in the same boat as every other SD Unified school: January 25th is the target date for the Phase 2 reopening. But we are at the mercy of the pandemic for the time being, so for now, Rough Riders will hunker down, keep learning, and wear their Roosevelt-branded face coverings when they leave the house.

Visit the RooFriend's website calendar for updates: <https://friendsofroosevelt.org/calendar/>, and follow Principal Steinberger on Twitter for all the latest breaking news! <https://twitter.com/PrincipalRIMS>.

—Andy Hinds, parent of students at RMS and a Friends of Roosevelt Foundation board member

**Note from a student volunteer: Helping People Makes Me Happy**

"There are many people who don't have food or access to food, and since Thanksgiving is coming up, I wanted to make a food drive. Many people are unlucky, and I have so much to give, so why not give it to someone who needs it. I came up with making a food drive because I was talking with my stepmom, and she was bringing up different ideas for my community project, and one of the ideas was helping people who are hungry. I didn't know at first where I was going to suggest where to bring the cans to, but when I researched it I found The Alpha Project, and they look like they help a lot of people. So, after the cans were collected, I thought there weren't going to be that many cans, but there were a lot. Doing this has now made me realize how much I have, and it made me really happy that I got to help people."

—Alexis R., Student



Principal Steinberger delivering Roosevelt Middle School food donations to the Cortez Hill Family Center

ON THE BOULEVARDS

# A NEW YEAR BRINGS A NEW RED FOX

To begin this story, one has to go back nearly 400 years to the Southern County of Surrey, England, where The Red Fox began its life as a popular pub and steakhouse. Known for its deep, dark and medieval ambience, The Red Fox was furnished in rich, dark wood, arched paneling, and finely carved mantels and bar tops dating back to 1642. Its popularity, reputation, and style remained strong over the centuries until 1926.

Then, actress and mistress to William Randolph Hearst, Marion Davies, had the establishment's furnishings shipped across the Atlantic to the U.S. She loved the peaceful tranquility, magic, and mystique the wood offered and so had it installed in her beachfront home in Santa Monica, creating a relaxing environment for her and her Hollywood counterparts to escape the grind and stresses from studio demands.

After Davies' death in 1961, the wood was dismantled and moved into storage until it was sold at auction and split between actor Robert Wagner and The Red Fox's original owner, Frank Harris.

Harris sold The Red Fox and its interior furnishings, and after a few years they landed in the hands of John Demos, who, for over 50 years, operated the famous Red Fox (on a continually renewing 5-year lease) within the confines of The Lafayette Hotel. When the hotel's management decided not to renew Demos's lease in 2019, Demos retired, and his son Jim took over all operations and management. Assisted by the loyal staff, Jim Demos continued to stay open, operating month-to-month in The Lafayette Hotel.

This past March, when the county and much of the nation was shut-



The Red Fox's signature stained-glass

down due to Covid-19, Demos was not alone in the small-business struggle and decided it was the perfect opportunity to end his residency with Lafayette and move across the street. For Jim, this seemed like the perfect time to start over; however, Lafayette claimed ownership to the 400-year-old historic wood. So Jim went to the El Cajon Board, fought the good fight, and was eventually granted rights to the wood, which now (for the third time) is resting in storage, awaiting its rebirth at Red Fox's new location. Jim says he hopes to have it all reinstalled soon, recreating that magical, medieval look that the Red Fox's patrons are so familiar with and love. The signature stained-glass door that attracted so many will also be incorporated into the interior of the Red Fox's new location.

Demos is striving for a January 2021 opening and hopes to re-hire all of his employees and piano players, who have helped make The Red Fox what it has been for years until very recently: a pub, steakhouse, and piano bar, filled with history dating back four centuries to that little town in the Southern County of Surrey, England.

The new Red Fox is located at 2200 El Cajon Blvd. For menu, hours and more details visit [redfoxsd.com](http://redfoxsd.com) or follow them on Facebook.

-John Hensley



Jim Demos

LIBRARY NEWS

# THE UH BRANCH LIBRARY BETWEEN THE COVERS

We hope that everyone is enjoying the holiday season, and we would like to thank everyone for their continued support as the University Heights Library facility remains closed to the public. The staff and I have been assisting at the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library, and it has been a great reunion to see and chat with many of our customers again during their pickups and other reopening services.

Though the University Heights Library facility remains closed, library staff is available to assist with telephone inquiries at 619-692-4912. The book drop is open for anyone who needs to return checked-out materials. Please check the website page ([sandiegolibrary.org](http://sandiegolibrary.org)) for updated information regarding the status of City services.

**Programs & Resources:** San Diego Public Library's Facebook page, SDPL Virtual Hub, offers a variety of online programs including featured guests, story time sessions, book talks, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects, and more. In addition, Library NEXT is a series of workshops designed for elementary, middle, and high school students. This collaboration between the San Diego Public Library, UCSD



Extension, and Sally Ride Science provides a variety of workshops on topics including robotics, circuits, STEAM subjects, SAT prep courses, and many more. For more information, please visit [www.sandiego.gov/librarnext](http://www.sandiego.gov/librarnext). Please check our Facebook page or give us a call for any further questions.

Thank you from everyone at the University Heights Library.

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

# THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND!

As we come to the end of the year, we are saddened that our branch library is still closed due to COVID-19, but hopeful that 2021 will be a better year and that our branch will be able to open again.

Although The Friends of UH Library committee has not been able to hold in-person meetings this year, we have remained active behind the scenes, providing financial and other support to our branch.

We will hold our 2021 Friends of UH Library (virtual\*) Annual Meeting on January 12, 2021 at 6:00pm and hope you will attend to learn about what we've been doing and about our plans going forward.

We will also be holding elections for Board members. Please consider run-

ning for office. Board positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer to be on our Nominating Committee, to run for election, or to nominate someone else to run, please contact us at [friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com).

Our library is a vital part of our community, and you can help keep it that way.

Thank you for your support.

-Isabel Schechter, Board Secretary, Friends of the University Heights Library

\*The Zoom link for the Annual Meeting will be available on the UHCA Facebook page.

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VOICES OF UH  
PERSPECTIVES, INSIGHTS, AND REFLECTIONS FROM AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## FACING NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE

Each of us has a sense of how well we deal with change. If you've lived in University Heights long enough to come to love it, you may soon find yourself asking how you will feel about significant changes in the built environment that are planned or possible.

While the long-term effects of the pandemic are unknown, it's a safe bet that the tech-driven West Coast urban economies will continue to attract the country's best and brightest. We might also expect something like SB 50 will become state law, changing the baseline zoning in single-family areas to allow four or even 10 units where previously only one was allowed. We know the school district wants to build as many as 600 affordable units on the Ed Center site. Lennar, the nation's largest homebuilder, is set to begin construction of 500 market-rate units across the street.

Many come here for high paying jobs and access to the "opportunity ladder," making housing costs high. Those from the 30% of Americans with college degrees come anyway because their

income growth can outpace the cost of housing. Those without degrees cannot come, or they struggle to stay. This is especially true of the most desirable areas, such as University Heights.

An important academic and political argument is going on over whether a dramatic increase in stock will make housing more affordable or whether it will mainly benefit the top 30% of earners, leaving the rest out of the market or forcing them out of their neighborhoods by gentrification. If you are one of the 25% who own here in UH or the 75% who rent, will you object to zoning changes that aggravate traffic problems or alter the "community character?"

What's fair is ultimately a negotiation, but a good outcome requires an open mind and the ability to accept change. So, let's take a collective deep breath and prepare to consider new possibilities. We just might be surprised by the outcome.

— William Smith

## DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered what the many different flags flying from the house on Madison Avenue between Delaware and Maryland represent? Some of the flags are easily recognizable, such as the Black Lives Matter flag, but many others are less well known.

Meet Sheldon and Natalia. They have lived at their home on Madison Avenue for the past 12 years. Two years ago, they decided to start flying flags that have special meaning to them. Both native Californians, the first flag they purchased and displayed proudly was our state flag.

Some of the other flags you might see flying from their house include:

- The American Indian Movement Flag. This flag has four separate colors representing the four directions with a Native American in the middle and the two-fingered peace symbol.
- The United Farm Workers Flag. This red, white and black flag with an Aztec eagle was first displayed in Fresno in 1962.
- The Aboriginal Flag. for the indigenous people of Australia. This flag has two colors, black and red, representing the Aboriginal people and the earth, with a yellow circle in the center representing the sun.

When asked how they decide which flag to fly on any particular day, Sheldon and Natalia responded: it is nuanced combination of current events and their mood for the day.

— Jane Gilbert



The United Farm Workers Flag

## ACHIEVING BALANCE DURING THE TIME OF COVID

In normal times, life is filled with uncertainty, and many things remain outside of our control. It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought our level of uncertainty to a whole new level when it comes to our employment, relationships, finances, and physical and mental health.

Yet, despite this uncertainty, I've been so inspired by how our neighbors are not only adapting to the "new normal" but are using it as an opportunity to reprioritize, refocus, and evolve. Recently, I caught up with UH residents Tracy and Sarah Dana who shared how they are balancing life demands and why they knew they had "to fully break down to breakthrough."

**Quarantine has allowed people to experiment with new habits and new lifestyles. What have you been up to?**

In the beginning of COVID we really had to reimagine what was possible while staying safe. It really forced us to slow down, get creative, and use resources we had. We found ourselves dusting off our bikes and pulling out fitness equipment; anything we had lying around the garage that would help relieve our pent-up energy. We got our hands dirty in our garden and had fun identifying all the different creatures amongst our veggies and flowers. All except for the five-foot gopher snake that made himself at home here for a week or so.

**How has quarantine forced you to slow down?**

Pre-COVID we have had this notion that we lived a slow lifestyle. This quarantine redefined 'slowing down' for us. Right before the pandemic hit the U.S., we had just gotten back from a trek across Australia and New Zealand. The majority of our time spent traveling was in a campervan. When we learned that our daughter Dailey's school was adjusting to an online schedule into the foreseeable future, we agreed it was time for our next campervan trek. We couldn't change that school was online but we could change where our daughter learned from.

**With social distancing and stay-at-home orders, how have you learned to cope and balance your life?**

Truth be told the stay at home order wasn't the obstacle. It was our mindset. Everyone copes in so many different ways. Each member of our family had to come to their own terms regarding this massive shift in the lack of everyday connectedness. The quarantine left so many people yearning for their everyday routines, familiar outings, or simply just standing closer than six feet from those you love and adore. For us we knew we had to fully break down to breakthrough. We've learned it's spending time with those who make you laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger and live just a little bit better.

**What has it been like to parent during COVID?**

Parenting during COVID has opened up yet another level of appreciation for our daughter's teachers, coaches, her friends and their families. In the beginning of COVID we wanted to try and recreate what she had before the quarantine at home. We were only kidding ourselves; nothing was the same. We threw the rule book out the window. We had to evolve and do the best with what was laid out ahead.

**Many of us say we want to maintain our new habits, post pandemic. Do you think you will?**

It will be an interesting when the pandemic is over and we have the ability to either go back to the rapid pace or continue with what we have learned. We hope we will sustain it but only time will tell. There is one thing that we are certain of when this pandemic is over. We will hug our friends just a little bit longer.

**Follow the Dana Girls on Instagram @twahine**

— Meghan Kight, UHCA Secretary



The Dana girls

## WE'RE BACK!

We're FINALLY back! And boy have we missed being in UH. After almost two years our home remodel is done - well almost - we hope. Despite being a stressful experience, in the end it was all well worth the wait.

We had been living in our sweet Spanish 1000 sq.ft. circa 1930 house with a beautiful secluded garden for 30 years. It was extremely difficult to watch the garden being decimated and interior details being brought to rubble, but the time had come for some long overdue TLC.

The best part was waking up the first morning being back, looking at each other, and saying "we're home." Since our return we have been warmly welcomed back by so many of you as you walk by. Your encouragement and genuine neighborly support during the renovation affirms just how wonderful UH is as a community.

We love UH for so many reasons, but the biggest and best reason is all of you. It's good to be back home!

Peace and Love,

— Bridget MacConnel



# HOLIDAY DRINKS OPTIONS: LIGHTEN UP!

The “low intervention” wines available at Clos Wine Shop provide some easier-on-the-palate (and easier on the environment!) options for holiday quaffs than the usual berry bomb or leathery, tannic cab or spicy, floral Riesling or chardonnay. The following recommendations by Clos proprietors Paul and Juerie Masters are easy to sip with turkey for one, two, or four as we hunker down for a physically distant but socially responsible and—we hope—relaxing holiday season.

**Scribe Nouveau of Pinot Noir Carneros 2020** – candy and flowers on the nose, slightly (and pleasantly) effervescent and low in acid and tannins due to the carbonic maceration technique used by the winemakers. A subtle but charming addition to a holiday table. \$20.00 at Clos.

**Zinke Gruner Veltliner Edna Valley 2019** – for those who appreciate a bit of minerality and even a little “funk,” this white offers a bit more acid and spice than the Nouveau of Pinot Noir. \$24 at Clos.

**Domaine du Facteur Vouvray Extra Brut 2017** – you can’t go wrong with a sparkling wine, which pairs with anything you’re eating over the holidays, from turkey to Thai takeout. This chenin blanc sparkler features medium acid and refreshing green fruit notes. \$28 at Clos.

A spiced honey pear sipper made with **Vinca Minor "Buddy Buddy" Nouveau of Pear/Sauvignon Blanc Mendocino 2020** (\$20 at Clos) might be the easy-sipping holiday cocktail for you!

Add all the following ingredients to a cocktail shaker filled half way with ice, then shake and strain over ice into a rocks or other cocktail glass. Add a slice of pear to increase the festive glamour!

### Spiced Honey Pear Sipper

- 4 oz. “Buddy Buddy” Nouveau of Pear / Sauvignon Blanc
- 1 oz. spiced honey simple syrup (1 cup each water and honey, brought to a low boil with a few cloves, a cinnamon stick, a pinch of nutmeg, and an optional ½ t of powdered ginger, then allowed to cool completely)
- ½ oz. freshly squeezed lemon juice (optional)

Whichever you choose, supporting biodynamic and organic wine production while also supporting a local UH business should provide an abundance of warm, peaceful feelings this holiday season.

Cheers!

Clos Wine Shop is located at 4521 Park Blvd. #102. 619-915-6846.

— Eds.



Low intervention wines at Clos Wine Shop



Spiced Honey Pear Sipper

Love a lightened up cocktail instead?



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# HELP BANISH THE EVIL PALM WEEVIL FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The University Heights Historical Society and University Heights Community Association need the community's help to eradicate the deadly South American Palm Weevil, a destructive pest that is killing Canary Island Palms throughout San Diego, including here in UH. Several palms have already been removed from our neighborhood because of the weevil.

As Judith Annicchiarico and Nan McGraw noted in a recent edition of the UHCA News, "the weevil lays its eggs in the crown of the tree, and once hatched, the larvae feast on the palm's soft tissue, crippling growth and eventually killing the tree." Professionally applied insecticide treatments can provide some protection against the weevil, typically an application of insecticide to the crown and injection into the soil.

The City Forester has promised to preventively treat the historically-designated palms in the 4700 block of Park Blvd. as well as selected palm trees on public property in University Heights. The UH Historical Society has created a map of Canary Island Palms in University Heights as a resource to the City Forester as he develops a treatment plan.

**We need your help adding Canary Island Palms to the map**, especially east of Park Blvd. and in the area around Lincoln Street. Please take photos with your smart phone (so it's geo-tagged with the address) and email them to [uhhs@att.net](mailto:uhhs@att.net). See map at [arcg.is/0DuDv00](http://arcg.is/0DuDv00).

For palms trees on private property, UH resident and tree advocate, Judy Schroeder, has negotiated a special price for UH residents with **Aguilar Plant Care**. The company will provide preventive treatment for \$100 to \$150 per tree (depending on size) plus a trip fee of \$225. Download the flyer from Aguilar Plant Care by visiting [www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/s/SAPW-Flyer-APC2020.pdf](http://www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/s/SAPW-Flyer-APC2020.pdf).

Preventive treatment of Canary Island Palms is recommended three times per year to prevent weevil infestation,

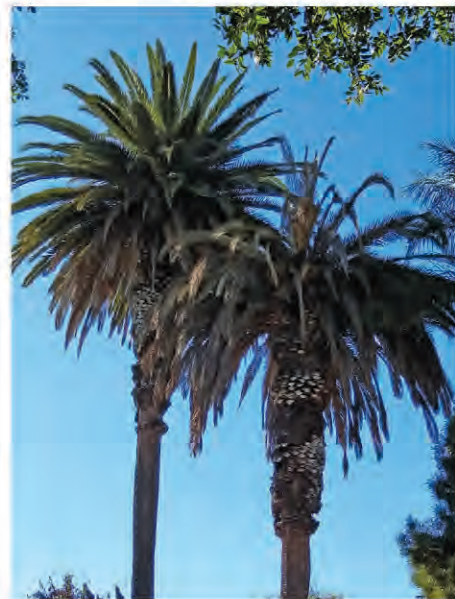
and is much more cost-effective than removing a mature Canary Date Palm, which can cost anywhere from \$1,800-\$10,000.

Neighbors with trees on their private property are encouraged to coordinate treatment to share the cost of the trip fee. Please contact Aguilar Plant Care at (760) 294-2727 or [info@apcphc.com](mailto:info@apcphc.com) to schedule treatment. You may also complete the form at the bottom of this post, which will be emailed directly to Aguilar Plant Care, who will coordinate treatment with surrounding neighbors to minimize the trip fee.

**In order to eradicate this pest and save our iconic Canary Island Palms, we need everyone's help:**

- If you have Canary Island Palms on your private property, please have them preventively treated three times per year by a certified arborist. If there are dead or dying palms on your property, please have them removed.
- If you see dead or dying Canary Island Palms on public property, please report them via the City's Get It Done website at [www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done](http://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done).
- If you see Canary Island Palms in UH that are not on our map, please take photos with your smart phone and email to [uhhs@att.net](mailto:uhhs@att.net).

— Kristin Harms



Canary Palm infested by the Palm Weevil

## UH HISTORY NOTES

# HISTORY OF THE MISSION AVENUE ISLANDS

We take the cobbled traffic islands along Mission Ave. for granted today, but they weren't part of the original streetscape, and their addition has helped keep drivers (and pedestrians) a bit safer for decades. The story of their addition and continual upkeep demonstrates once again how it takes a community to make our neighborhood the best it can be.

The islands at Florida and Alabama Streets were originally installed around 88 years ago by the city to control traffic flow, and the one at Louisiana was installed in 1987. In their original configuration, these islands became eyesores of broken blacktop and weeds.

In 1989, with the help of an architect friend, Mary Lou Ruane began the struggle to create open, well-designed and clean, maintenance-free islands. Councilman John Hartley helped by mobilizing the city departments that would be involved: Engineering Development and Park and Recreation. The Greater North Park Community Planning group, the University Heights Community Association, and the University Heights Community Development Corp. are some of the advisory groups who supported the effort by viewing plans and making suggestions. Our then future councilmember, Christine Kehoe, also supported Mary Lou's design and provided funding for the project.

The final design was accepted and was the first unique hardscape project approved in the entire city! The city's approval came with the understanding that the project included no maintenance, no water, and no obstructed visibility. The accepted design came with rolled curbing to discourage street parking and weed growth, river rock indigenous to the community, tinted concrete, and continuation of the simple historical look of just palm trees in a beautiful setting of river rock. The islands became the only open spot in the area that would maintain an open space/ open view corridor in this complicated intersection of several cross streets—namely one-way Mission and

two-way Florida/Monroe. The San Diego Union Tribune ran a color picture of the islands in May 30, 2007.

One problem arose when plantings were added in March, 1995 without knowledge or approval of the city. As a result, the UH Community Development Corp. had to assume the cost of maintenance since the city requires that improvements beyond the approved design which are placed in the city right of way must have maintenance attached. As the plants grew, the UH CDC had to hire a paid maintenance man to water and trim the plants and to remove trash, which, at various times, included broken bottles, a huge tent, metal poles, broken beach chairs, and numerous syringes. The total cost grew to about \$15,000. At that point, the Community Association voted to return the islands to their approved design and received a grant and some private donations to accomplish this goal in May, 2006.

Another unforeseen development arose as people began to park boats, RVs, barbeque equipment, and cars, for weeks at a time, around the islands. Since rolled curbing did not completely do the job of fending off these vehicles and equipment as intended, more meetings took place on how to keep the area open while still helping the coffee shop and other businesses with customer parking on Alabama. With the help of the city and the North Park Planning Facilities Committee, we came up with the approval of red curbing on the Florida/ Mission/ Monroe island, but not on the Alabama island. These special open spots have remained in our community ever since.

From then to now, Fred Ruane has voluntarily maintained the islands. He rakes the palm tree fruits, sprays the weeds, and blows dirt off the rocks. And when fronds drop, he gathers them up and hooks them onto his bumper, then drags them home and cuts them up for his trash can. For this service, Fred was awarded the first Plume from UHCA.

— MaryLou Ruane

## PET OF THE MONTH

# ZIGGY AND ITTY



Ziggy and Itty

As we all know in UH, our canyons are teeming with wildlife: coyotes, foxes, rabbits, possums, raccoons, and many others. For the most part, we leave those critters alone to live and thrive as best they can on their own. A recent trend,

however, is installing video cameras to peek into the lives of our non-human neighbors. While peacefully sleeping, we get the chance to capture on camera what our wonderful wildlife is up to.

That brings us to this happy story. One month ago, a neighbor named Jenny, who lives on the canyon on Rhode Island, noticed that her wildlife motion cam captured a group of cats drinking from her water feeder. There were 4 of them: Mama cat and her three kittens. They kept coming back every night, so Jenny started leaving some cat food out in the early morning for Mama.

Unfortunately, she also noticed that Wylie the coyote, who frequents the same watering hole, was also coming around. Concerned, Jenny contacted Susy and Dave, another neighbor couple, who helped set up traps for the cat family using humane "Havaheart" brand traps.

Days went by, but unfortunately, Jenny did not see the family. Meanwhile, a block over, Dennis on Massachusetts Street noticed that there were two kittens in

his backyard. Dennis put out food for them and waited for the opportunity to coax them to him. One quickly came around, but the other one was lightning fast! The group of neighbors assembled a caring team—Dennis, Miles, Penny, and Shirley—to capture the remaining kitten who had successfully run each time Dennis approached. The light was fading fast, and it appeared the group would be unsuccessful in capturing Itty Bitty, but they did not give up. Armed with headlamps, they continued to work through the night, tearing through Dennis's plants in the backyard, until Shirley spotted Itty Bitty and slithered under a shrub to grab the small baby kitten!

A happy ending resulted from the neighborhood team working together to rescue the stranded kitties, providing them warmth and love and eventually finding them a loving home together. They are now named Ziggy and Itty, and they live happily in Coronado with Susan and Jim.

During these trying and stressful times, University Heights once again comes through, demonstrating love and kindness for our furry friends!

Update: Mama cat is still around!

— Susy Holts

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POLITICAL NEWS

FROM YOUR CITY ATTORNEY

**TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Protecting our families during a health crisis requires keeping track of a lot of numbers.

You may be following the frequency of COVID outbreaks, the total cases in your zip code, the county unemployment rate, border wait times, or maybe the entire dashboard of statistics that determine whether schools and businesses are open or closed.

All of these numbers come to bear on the one measurement we don't talk about enough: the level of our anxiety.

Nearly 50 percent of Americans say the ongoing pandemic is harming their mental health. As your City Attorney, I see every day how that impacts our community – through domestic violence, threats of suicide, and dangerous behavior that requires intervention.

This rise corresponds with warnings from health experts that pandemic-induced stressors – such as job loss, food insecurity, fear, and isolation – can exacerbate mental health issues and increase incidents of substance abuse, depression, and suicidal ideation.

My Office has seen a recent spike in the number of mental health-related Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), which may be attributable to pandemic-induced stress. GVROs are used to remove firearms from

a person who threatens violence or poses a serious risk of harm to themselves or others.

Stress and uncertainty can also contribute to escalating household tensions. For anyone sheltering in place with an abusive partner or family member, risks heighten with isolation. I urge you to reflect on how you and your family members are feeling, and to seek help when needed.

Don't hesitate – it's an act of caring for yourself and others: San Diego Access and Crisis Line (888) 724-7240.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, contact our Family Justice Center: (619) 533-6000 8:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m. M-F or the 24-hour hotline (888) 385-4657.

— *Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney*



**SUPPORT THE KATE SESSIONS COMMITMENT! PLANT A YARD TREE!**

Trees are an affordable, highly visible way to cool neighborhoods and take local climate action. They provide much needed shade, give wildlife a habitat, clean the air, reduce erosion, retain storm water, and enhance the look of our community, among many other benefits.

This is the right time of year to plant a tree in your yard. Are you interested but don't know where to start? The Kate Sessions Commitment program, designed to increase the county's tree canopy coverage one community at a time, wants to help!

This campaign provides a low-cost option for people living in our community who want a new yard tree. You can go online at [www.katesessionstrees.org](http://www.katesessionstrees.org), pre-order 5-gallon trees, then purchase and pick them up from Walter Andersen nursery near Old Town.

The Kate Sessions Commitment site

takes the guesswork out of how to choose a tree by listing a variety of tree types hand-selected by Kate's Tree Team for optimal health and viability in San Diego County.

Trees come in small, medium, and large sizes with descriptions and photos identifying each tree type. The purchase price for trees is between \$25 and \$60, and there are 11 tree species from which to choose.

Pre-ordered trees will be ready for purchase and pick-up in December and January at Walter Andersen Nursery in San Diego, and you will be notified by email when your tree is ready to be picked up.

If you have questions about becoming part of the Kate Sessions Commitment, please contact Anne Fege at [afege@aol.com](mailto:afege@aol.com).

— *Jennifer Bishop*

This holiday season, consider donating a tree to someone who will grow the tree but can't afford to buy it at [www.katestrees.org/donate](http://www.katestrees.org/donate).

San Diego's most underserved neighborhoods often have few trees, as historically few parks were designated, housing lots were smaller, front yards were filled in to provide off-street parking, and street trees were not planted or not replaced if they died. You can also can gift a tree to someone you know by preordering at [www.katestrees.org/pre-order-trees](http://www.katestrees.org/pre-order-trees).

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