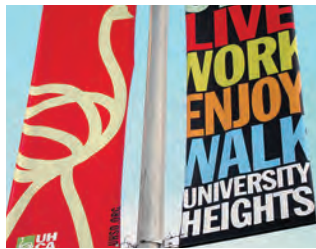


HELLO NEIGHBOR

This issue of UHCA News isn't a normal edition as we take a little extra time to work on our new look. Our March issue will be the next step, thanks to the tireless efforts of our enthusiastic and growing UHCA Newspaper team — So, while we've got your attention, we thought this would be a great chance to get reacquainted!



WE'VE SAID GOOD-BYE TO 2020 (for many, it was good riddance!), and now we look forward to 2021 with optimism and hope. Our world, country, state, city, and neighborhood have been through a lot in 2020. Many of our neighbors have been impacted by the ongoing pandemic's effects: unemployment, remote schooling, financial and housing struggles, health issues, and business disruptions, to name a few.

But through the struggles, we've seen neighbors stepping up to help each other. Whether helping out someone with their groceries or delivering food, cheering up walkers with positive messages on the sidewalks, or putting up signs encouraging our front-line workers, we've seen acts of kindness and generosity, big and small, and that's exactly what a community of neighbors does.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, A SENSE OF PLACE

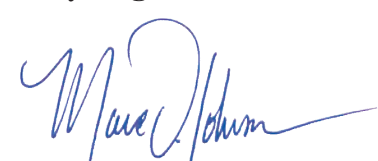
UHCA is your community organization. We help connect people, businesses, and our elected officials. We link volunteers with projects, and neighbors in need with those who can help. We are the voice of University Heights, a resource to help you keep up with what's happening in our neighborhood, a network of people who help keep an eye on the neighborhood through Zone Watch, a team of Trash Angels who help keep the neighborhood clean, and a group of tree-loving and passionate park proponents. We're business owners and tech workers, lawyers and artists, students and teachers, retirees, first responders, service workers, active military, veterans, homeowners and renters — all kinds of people who share one unifying identity: we are proud residents and stakeholders in this great place we call University Heights.

UHCA has been around for a long time — over 38 years! Founded by neighbors who wanted a say in how their neighborhood would be developed, those efforts led to the creation of Old Trolley Barn Park, and that was just the beginning. Through the years, UHCA spearheaded and partnered with other organizations on important projects. Together, we've helped revitalize our neighborhood by bringing projects to life, including the University Heights Neon Trolley Sign, the Vermont Street Bridge, and the Willie Serrano Field Joint Use Park at Birney School. The UHCA beautification team sponsors events like cleaning up and repainting at Old Trolley Barn Park and other locations around the neighborhood, holiday decorations at the Vermont Street Bridge, and planting at the Birney Joint Use field. We also help with and sponsor neighborhood events like Party on Park, the UHCA Annual Tag Sale, Lights in the Heights, Movie Nights in the Park. Our monthly meetings have been especially popular when important development or governmental issues are on the agenda. And one of the most important functions of all, the UHCA News, has connected and brought recognition to the University Heights Community.

While we've not been able to host our much-loved events in person over the past year, we have moved our meetings from the Birney Auditorium to Zoom teleconferencing. We've helped save some of our amazing Canary Palm trees from an invasive bug, hosted and co-hosted community forums with our new Mayor and councilmember, and helped ensure that our neighborhood is properly identified and known as University Heights.

With hope for a better year ahead,


Christine Hernandez,
UHCA President


Marc Johnson,
UHCA Vice President



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER...

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS

If you're a long-standing member of UHCA, THANK YOU for your support. If you're a new member, WELCOME! If you haven't joined yet, or you need to renew your membership, please take a look at our new membership options and join us in our mission to help make our community a better place for all. If you own a business, consider how we can work together to help both grow your business and make our neighborhood even more vibrant by becoming a business member. You can join or renew and contribute at your convenience via our website at: uhsd.org/membership.

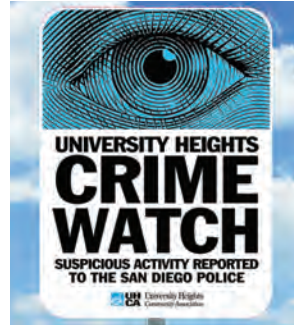


We exist as an organization of volunteers. Board members, officers, committee members, and individual volunteers make up UHCA. The diversity of people in our community is represented by the diversity of our members and leaders. If you have a passion, talent, or desire to help, we want to help enable and support your efforts to make University Heights a better place as a volunteer.

Right now, with the ongoing pandemic restricting in-person events and activities, we're focused on our newspaper, social media, monthly meetings, beautification, and planning for when we can restart live events.

We need volunteers who can help share their talents and abilities on our newspaper team editing, coordinating content, photography, graphic design, advertising sales; as well as help coordinating speakers and content for our monthly meetings. Please check out the specific needs on our website to see if there's a need you can help fill while having fun doing it, knowing you're helping to build relationships and a better community.

uhsd.org/volunteer-openings



NEWSPAPER REDESIGN

UHCA News has been a fixture in our neighborhood for over three decades. What started as a newsletter printed on a mimeograph has evolved into the full color paper that you see today.

The newspaper contains articles about what's going on in our neighborhood: land use and development, park happenings, school and library news, as well as updates from our elected representatives. It also contains some more light-hearted content – the beloved Pet of the Month, recipes, heartwarming stories about our neighbors, new businesses (and restaurants!), and more. With the support of community business advertisers, the paper has always been free, and with the hard work of our volunteer blockwalkers, it's delivered to all University Heights doorsteps too!

UHCA is committed to producing an awesome *UHCA News*, and this one month "break" we're taking while we retool and redesign will allow us to create a fresh, informative, easy to read, and hyper-focused newspaper. Next month, our March issue will be a first step on that journey, and we're going to be reaching out over the coming months to get your input on how we can make it even better. If you'd like to help in this effort, we're looking for volunteers to join the *UHCA News* team (see uhsd.org/volunteer-openings/ or you can reach our newspaper team at uhcanews@uhsd.org). You can also view our past issues on our website at: uhsd.org/newspaper.



NEWS SINCE DECEMBER



Birney Giving Tree

The Birney Giving Tree was a HUGE success this year thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community. A BIG thank you to our local businesses who participated as the drop off locations: Meraki Cafe, Eden, Grains Café, Cecilia's Fine Jewelry, Yipao Coffee, Madison on Park, Clos Wine Shop, and The UPS Store. Together we collected over \$1,870, almost doubling our goal of \$1,000! UHCA has awarded the Golden Ostrich to Meraki Café for being the #1 location collecting gift cards. Everyone who contributed demonstrated again why University Heights is such a special community!



Lights in the Heights

Nothing can stop University Heights residents from showing their holiday spirit- thank you neighbors! It was stiff competition this year. All of the homes, businesses, condo/apartment buildings with holiday lights brought so much merriment to end a hard year with love & joy. We thank all of you for SHINING bright this year.

Best Home/Building Per Zone:

- Zone 1 1036 Madison
- Zone 2 4365-63 New Jersey
- Zone 3 1211 Maryland Place
- Zone 4 1880 Mission Cliff
- Zone 5 1917 Madison
- Zone 6 1915 Polk

Best Business: Bahn Thai

Best Themed Award - 4144 Vermont "The Gremlin House," where the owners selected a theme for their holiday lights decoration and went all the way!

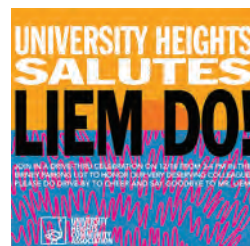
Best Santa Award - 4429 Campus had the best Santa display.

Best All-Around Award - 1211 Maryland Place was, by far, the most amazingly decorated home that stood out from the rest.

The "Traditional" Award - 4774 Panorama looked like it could have been decorated by Martha Stewart, with every bulb and decoration just so perfect.

The "Clark Griswold" - 818 Madison Ave awarded to the house that followed the motto "the more lights and decorations the merrier."

And a special award was created for the amazing collective efforts - our **"Best Block" award** went to the **Madison Avenue Villas**.



Liem Do

Alice Birney Elementary, IB World School celebrated Liem Do, who retired after 40 years of dedicated service. Liem wore many hats at Birney, including facilities manager, lunch supervisor, computer teacher, and he has been an active part of our community for many years, including working with the University Heights Park & Rec Advisory Group. His dedication to keeping Birney looking its best (and making sure the edible garden was well taken care of) will be remembered by many friends. Liem's Birney family and many neighbors turned out at his "drive-by" retirement party to celebrate his career and wish him well in his next chapter. UHCA salutes Liem and thanks him for everything he's done to help make our community better!



NEXT UHCA MEETING
FEB 4

VIA **zoom**

[UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING](https://UHSD.org/attend-a-meeting)

JOIN US ONLINE FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING
WHERE YOU'LL HEAR THE LATEST ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING
WITH THE ASSOCIATION, IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS
AND FRIENDS, AS WELL AS FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICEHOLDERS.

WEAR A MASK



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. sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus · uhsd.org



University Heights Community Association **NEWS** is published 10 times a year, with 5100 copies distributed to every residence in our community and in three kiosks. This newspaper is only possible because of the support of professionals and businesses who advertise to our informed and active community. Our supporter's advertisements will return in the refreshed *UHCA News* starting next month. Please reach out to our advertising team at ads@uhsd.org — we'd love to talk with you about how to reach our amazing neighborhood!