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BREAKING NEWS: We (Almost) Have A Dog Park!

District 3 Councilmember Stephen Whitburn delivered the good news that the City Council has approved funding for an off-leash dog park located at the Ed Center property on Normal Street, on land that the San Diego Unified School District has offered for this purpose. The funding was included in the 2021-2022 San Diego City Budget, which was approved unanimously on June 14.

Councilmember Whitburn said, "This has been an issue going on for way too long, and between the school district and city we think we've found a solution for University Heights."

As reported, the Birney joint use field has experienced many issues with dogs being allowed to run off-leash illegally. The issues have grown so bad for the students and staff at Birney School that the joint use field was closed for community use. By establishing a fenced off-leash dog area nearby, the Birney field can once again be a joint use field for the community and a cleaner and safer field for the school.

The UH Park Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG), School District, and city have been working for several years to find a solution that meets the needs of the community, school, dog owners, and dogs! Now, thanks to the efforts of SDUSD Board President Richard Barrera, Councilmember Whitburn, and scores of University Heights community members who have been pressing for a fix to this problem for many years, a solution is now in sight – and budgeted for. -Marc Johnson



Photo by Jeff Durkin, Borrego Springs Library by RNT Architects

(Virtually) Tour the Borrego Springs Library!

As University Heights considers the future of its own library, learn about a wonderful example of a new, modern library in Borrego Springs (featured on page 9). The Community Coalition of University Heights is pleased to host a webinar on **Wednesday, August 18th** from 6 to 7 pm, presented by Branch Manager Cristin McVey and Charles Jarman, Principal Librarian for Capital Projects at San Diego County Library. <http://www.uhsd.org/borrego>

Revised Parks Master Plan Still Misses The Mark

Mayor Gloria launched a "Parks for All of Us" initiative on June 2 with the release of a revised Parks Master Plan. The 246-page revised plan stressed that "communities of concern" and "park deficient communities" would benefit. However, the revised plan doesn't address concerns raised by many of the city planning and recreation advisory groups, including the UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG), Uptown Planners, and North Park Planning Group, working together with the Parks and Recreation Coalition (PARC).

Last November, the original plan was voted down by the City Council after major concerns were raised about the plan: specifically that it would eliminate the 2.8 acres per 1,000 residents standard, move to a points-based system, and spread development impact funds city-wide, rather than in the neighborhoods most affected by the developments.

The revised plan, the first update to the Parks Master Plan in over 50 years, is on a fast-track to go before the Council in the next month. The new plan continues to utilize the untested points-based



University Heights, Where "The Center" Emerged for LGBTQ+ in San Diego

Near the corner of Florida St. and El Cajon Blvd., right next to the Tap Room Beer Company, you'll find an important part of San Diego LGBTQ history. A commemorative piece titled EMERGE rises up from the sidewalk representing a historical building that once stood in that location.

Where the large BLVD building stands now, a quaint saltbox building existed where, from 1971 - 1974, local LGBT activists developed services to support LGBT people in San Diego. In this small structure lived Bernie Michels and Thom Carey, who were part of a small group who helped organize supportive services which would eventually become San Diego LGBT Community Center, or "The Center."

system for determining how parks are planned, created, and managed. While point values for park acreage were increased in the revised plan, it still doesn't adequately address severely park deficient neighborhoods such as University Heights. In fact, the revised plan lists a goal of acquiring only 100 acres of net new parkland over the next 10 years across the entire city.

In addition to being untested, the points system is highly subjective, with different planners arriving at varying results. Other areas of concern remain, including identification of funding sources and how they will be prioritized and spent, clear definitions of "communities of concern" and "park deficient communities," and how the overall plan will be administered for equity and transparency.

PARC is continuing to take a lead role in advocating to improve the Parks Master Plan, with the full backing of community groups and recreation advisory groups, including UHPROSAG.

Needed improvements identified by PARC with UH support include:

- Retention of the 2.8 acres/1,000 resident standard. Even though it is unlikely that goal can be met in the short term, it is important to use as a measurement, especially in areas that are park deficient and, like University Heights, seeing dramatic increases in density.
- Improvement of the points system to ensure it is objective and measurable.
- Increase in partnership with local community planning and recreation advisory groups to determine needs of the local community.
- Transparency on how development impact funds will be used locally and city-wide, including local input and oversight, to address park inequities.

What can you do? Please contact Councilmember Whitburn at stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov to let him know that our neighborhood needs more park space to meet our increasing density, that amenities alone will not address our needs, and that our local community groups need to be meaningfully involved as partners in helping to improve our parks, which are a vital part of our community. -UHPROSAG



Bernie Michels-Thom Carey house, before (above) and after (right) demolition.

According to its website, the San Diego LGBT Center began as an answering machine service. "The answering machine was a twenty-four hour hotline — people who needed military or LGBT counseling could call the number, leave a message." Someone from this small group would

NO UHCA MEETING JULY/AUG.

NEXT UHCA MEETING

SEPT. 2 7:00 PM

GUEST CODY HOOVEN

COO OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER

Topic: Community Choice Aggregation. Hooven was previously with the City of San Diego as their Chief Sustainability Officer and led the formation of San Diego Community Power.

[UHS.D.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING](https://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting)



MAYOR TODD GLORIA DISTRICT THREE TOWN HALL Saturday June 26 10am

<https://sandiego.seamlessdocs.com/f/mayorcd3townhall>

Check out the Past, Present, and Future of the UH Library special section starting on page 7!

UPTOWN PLANNERS

BOARD ELECTIONS Wednesday July 6-6pm

<https://uptownplannersd.org>

call them back and help in any way they could. While this was a humble beginning, this group knew that more support was needed, so they "worked to open an organization that could provide for the community's particular education, health and social needs."

With such historical significance, why was this site torn down?

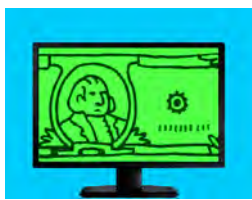


Fast forward to May 29, 2015 at 5 p.m., when this historically significant building was demolished by developer H.G. Fenton. Just days before the bulldozing, the

- "Emerge" continued page 15

MEMBERSHIP

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



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- () \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
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Business Name _____

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non-member)



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

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Tom Mullaney, Kristie Edgmond

HOUSEHOLD

Barbara Noyer, Gary Forbes, William Carleton, Kirsten Chandler,
Michelle Livermore, Elaine & Charles Davis, Joshua Olmstead, Bill Winans

We thank our new and renewing members who help support the mission and activities of UHCA throughout the year!

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.

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 first of the month. Please see www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.



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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
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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 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 if you need a new or replacement.

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 Fallen trees, flooding, clogged storm drains, street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	SDPD Community Relations Officers: Officer Michael Hayes mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov Officer David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov	619-692-4800 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 Volunteer neighborhood watch patrol group operating in Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights. info@stonewallcitizens.org	619-320-8219
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	SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcountry.ca.gov	858-694-2888
COVID-19 California Daily Updates	www.cdph.ca.gov	Get It Done Download the City of San Diego app for reporting non-emergency issues like potholes, graffiti, etc. Include photos when possible.	https://getitdone.force.com
COVID-19 County of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus	If all else fails, email BCartwright@sandiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.	
COVID-19 National Daily Updates	www.cdc.gov		
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)		
Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888		
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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ

Summer is here! What a long time waiting to feel some normalcy. Our wonderful city is shining bright, and people are out enjoying in-person events again. With 4th of July and Pride events happening this month, I am sure many of us can't wait to spend time with family and friends.

Please, if you are out and about enjoying our restaurants and businesses, give them your gratitude and kindness. It was an incredibly harsh year for the restaurants and small business. Getting back into full swing is not easy. Some places are still struggling to hire back employees and get back to a full staff. So if your food or drink is taking longer than expected, have some patience and understanding. Working in a restaurant is hard! Serving people, especially demanding people, is not fun. So be kind and grateful for their service.

All that said, UHCA is also hoping we can get back to in-person meetings and events. We are starting to make some plans and hope that by September we can at least return to holding our monthly meetings in person (*fingers crossed*). Encouraging volunteers to return to helping with in-person events is also a big task for us, so if you are interested, email



us at volunteer@uhsd.org or go to uhsd.org/volunteer.

Be safe as you head into the summer. If you plan to travel on a plane, or decide to staycation in a hotel and enjoy San Diego, do it by following the rules that businesses, airlines, hotels, and restaurants still have in place. Just because most of the city is open doesn't mean everyone is fully comfortable with the loose restrictions. Let's be kind neighbors and continue to do our part.

- Christine Hernandez,
UHCA President

TO BE AN ALLY IS TO...

1. Take on the struggle as your own.
2. Transfer the benefits of your privilege to those who lack it.
3. Amplify voices of the oppressed before your own.
4. Acknowledge that even though you feel pain, the conversation is not about you.
5. Stand up, even when you feel scared.
6. Own your mistakes and de-center yourself.
7. Understand that your education is up to you and no one else.



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UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

June 3 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

UHCA President Christine Hernandez kicked off the meeting by sharing that June marks both Pride month as well as Juneteenth. She shared that Pride month commemorates the Stonewall riots in support of LGBT rights which took place in June of 1969 in New York City, and Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. The name references June 19, 1865 when Texas became the final state in the U.S. issuing an order proclaiming freedom from slavery (two and a half years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation). She gave a shoutout to UH's black-owned businesses including Eden plant shop, Muzita Abyssinian Bistro, Flavors of East Africa restaurant, and McClean Photography. If we missed additional black-owned businesses in UH, please let us know!



Christine then shared information on how to be an ally. Tips included standing up when you see something that isn't right, taking on the struggle, and transferring the benefits of one's own privilege to those who lack it. She encouraged community members to look up more information on Pride month, Juneteenth, and allyship.

She continued with a big thanks to all our UHCA Business Members and encouraged neighbors to support our local businesses. She noted a continued call for volunteers for UHCA including newspaper distribution, membership and events coordinators, and beautification volunteers. If you are interested visit www.uhsd.org/volunteer.

Vice President Marc Johnson shared a shoutout to the UHCA Distribution and News teams for getting the paper out to the community this month. He shared that like the UHCA Community Meetings, the paper will also be on summer break, returning to doorsteps in September. As usual we are always looking for stories and ideas. You can view UHCA News submission guidelines at www.uhsd.org/submissions.

UH library Branch Manager Rachel Esguerra shared that the UH library is still closed and will be for a couple more months, but things are moving forward. In good news, it is likely that they will be able to hold outdoor book sales soon. She shared a reminder that library fines are coming back, please make sure your account is in good standing. The staff is available to take your questions – get in touch via phone at 619-692-4912, or by email at uhstaff@sandiego.gov. Rachel closed by thanking the outgoing Friends of the UH Library board.

Isabel Schechter, incoming President of the Friends of the UH Library, opened with a reminder that the library is here to serve the community and the Friends of the UH Library are here to serve the library. She thanked outgoing board members for their work and dedication over the years and welcomed new board members. She shared that based on the recent Library Master Plan Community Survey, they recognize that space, collection, and technology are primary community priorities. They will be working with Rachel on technology, especially around computers and IT. She also shared that the Friends of the UH Library has a new marketing team, and a new regular newsletter will be coming soon. Please feel free to get in touch at friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com.

Next up UHCA welcomed June's guest speaker, City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn. He shared that he would be spending Sunday, June 6th from 10am to noon in Trolley Barn Park and encouraged neighbors to stop by and chat.

Stephen shared updates including a focus on homelessness. He noted that San Diego currently has sufficient capacity in basic shelters and anyone who is interested can be sheltered. He shared that the city is trying to pivot away from law enforcement as the first line of contact and that non-profit agencies are helping with outreach to the unsheltered population. He added that non-profits are struggling to hire staff, and the city is funding a city college program for students to learn more about the skills and careers that can aid in the homeless crisis.

He went on to share that the city has increased the funding for people at risk of becoming unsheltered. Rental assistance is available to help those who have fallen behind with bills due to COVID-19. There is a lot of money being dedicated to the issue and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. These are individual solutions, and it all takes time.

Next, he shared updates specific to UH, including activity on city planning for a dog park. They are looking at the grassy area near Normal, Park, and El Cajon. Outdoor dining has been extended for another year. People have really enjoyed it and it has been good for business. We just need to make sure people are safe while sitting on the street and that parking for people is taken care of. The city wants to make outdoor dining permanent and will discuss more in the fall about how to do that.

In Q&A with attendees Stephen took the time to answer questions about outdoor dining and modifications to accommodate bicyclists, park needs, finding permanent housing vs. shelters in the neighborhoods, and affordable housing.

The meeting closed with updates from Kohta Zaiser (Todd Gloria's office), David Vance (Sara Jacobs' office), and new rep for Toni Atkins, Stopher Vallejo.

Nature in the Neighborhood | Songbird of the Palms



Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) Photo by Dennis Richards

Among the many migratory bird species that travel north from the tropics in spring to our latitudes for nesting, the Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) is one of the first to arrive, subtly announcing its presence in San Diego by the middle of March with high-pitched “Sweet!” calls from high in the trees. The male’s song, a disjointed series of sweet musical notes jumbled with sharp, sparky notes, is almost always delivered during the wee hours, and thus is heard only by the earliest human risers.

The male “Hoody” is a striking, brilliant orange-yellow on head and body, framed by a black back, wings, tail, and a black bib around its eyes and throat. The female is a more muted, uniform yellow. Despite its dazzling appearance, this species is more often heard than seen, as it spends most of its time high in trees. It is a slender bird with a fairly long, pointed bill, and resembles a winged dart as it shoots across the sky between tree tops.

The Hoody is perhaps the most urban of our summer birds, occurring primarily in developed city areas, from the coast to the foothills, certainly due to its strong preference for nesting in palm trees, which have been planted in large numbers in southern California cities for over a century. It occasionally nests in trees along streams in the wild country to the east and is resourceful in its foraging, often dropping down into native shrub vegetation in search of insects. Hoodies are also fond of nectar, employing their narrow bills in probing tubular garden flowers and sugar water feeders placed out for hummingbirds.

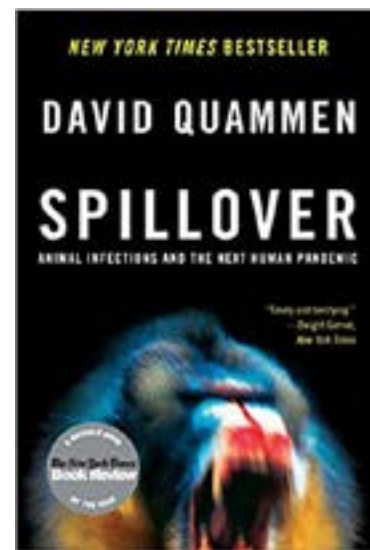
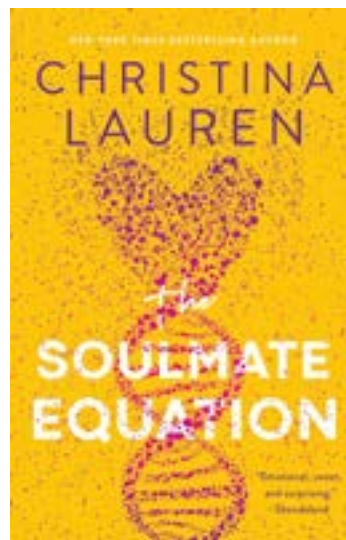
Through the 20th century, the hoody exhibited a gradual extension of its breeding range northward along the California coast, likely in response to ornamental tree and garden plantings. It may have been scarce in San Diego prior to European settlement.

Finding Hooded Orioles in University Heights can best be accomplished by walking along avenues of palm trees, such as Maryland or Cleveland Streets, with binoculars, listening for the calls and frequently looking up for flashes of yellow. With persistence, the observer will be rewarded with the view of a male perched on a wire or utility pole. Neighbors with hummingbird feeders will also likely attract these birds down into view. These beautiful visitors will remain in the neighborhood until they depart southward in early September.

- John Lovio, Wildlife Biologist-Ecologist

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Adult

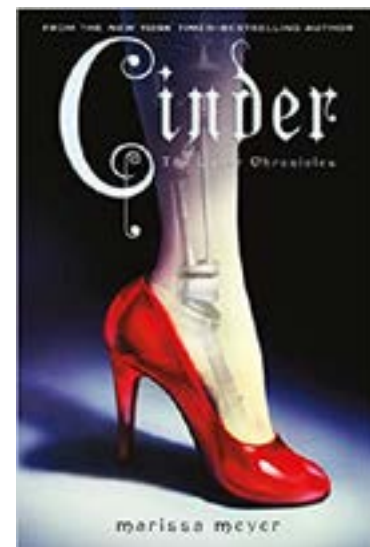


Fun, light summer reading with a UH connection: The best-selling new single-parent romance novel featuring a super-modern take on dating apps, *The Soulmate Equation*, takes place partly in UH! Local readers will get a kick out of scenes set along Park Blvd., including name drops of some favorite food and beverage purveyors we all know and love. By Christina Hobbs and Lauren Billings (aka Christina Lauren); published by Gallery Books.

A book that I read recently is “Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic.” It was written in 2012 and really gives insight into how our current pandemic could have started. The book covers all sorts of diseases that can affect humans and discusses why some are becoming more common as our population grows.

- Layla

Young Adult



The books I've been reading are “Warriors,” a series by Erin Hunter. They are about cats that live in clans. They hunt for food and live in camps. One common enemy they have are “two-legs,” also known as humans. Sometimes they fight over territory for hunting. The reason I like these books is because they are intense and have lots of action, and you can learn a lot about cats.

- Jonas (age 10)

The book I am recommending is called “Cinder” by Marissa Meyer and it is the first of a four-book series. It takes place in the future where there are cyborgs and a mysterious deadly disease. I would recommend this series because it hooks you and will keep you reading no matter what unexpected problem or information is found.

- Joaquin (age 12)

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UHCA BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Mary Anne Stevens, Realtor

Mary Anne Stevens is a local REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Realty, serving her beloved University Heights community and surrounding areas. Real Estate is an industry that evolves constantly, but the human connection behind it all is what keeps folks like Mary Anne embedded into the community for which she serves.

Mary Anne started her professional life in the airline industry as a Reservation Agent, eventually being promoted to a corporate position with United Airlines in Chicago, IL. She made her way west to San Diego when she accepted an executive position with Pacific Southwest Airlines. Upon her arrival to America's Finest City, she settled in Scripps Ranch before the allure of University Heights brought her south in 1984. In August of 1989, she took a leap of faith and started her Real Estate career.

As mentioned, Real Estate is a human-driven business. Home is what keeps us grounded, and Mary Anne understands

this in its truest sense. Outside of Real Estate, she volunteered with Voices for Children (VOC). This incredible organization helps transform the lives of abused children by providing them with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASAs ensure the safety of the children and help them navigate through turbulent times. Mary Anne is humbled and proud of her work helping those resilient kids.

In addition to her work with VOC, Mary Anne has immersed herself in the University Heights community over the years. She has chaired the Party on Park, an event that spotlights University Heights businesses and the wonderful people behind them. She has also held every position on the University Heights Community Association Board at least once, serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Her dedication to this uniquely wonderful community has brought joy and light to her life for the past 37 years.

Mary Anne's dedication to her community seamlessly intertwines with her career of helping people achieve their dreams of homeownership or cash in on their biggest investment. With the steady help of her assistant-turned-business partner, Anastasia Brewer, she has proudly served her community, helping anyone in need of



Anastasia Brewer and Mary Anne Stevens, Photo by Beth Miller

superior real estate service. Her decorated career includes International President's Premier and International President's Elite awards that recognize her placing in the top 1 and 2% of all Coldwell Banker® agents internationally.

As you meander through the idyllic streets of University Heights, you'll likely see

her For Sale signs professing her slogan "Don't Make a Move Without Me!" That's a lesson all UH residents should take to heart as Mary Anne has spent her life and career advocating for others. If you are looking to buy or sell, she will be your personal advocate in the home buying or selling process. CalRE# 01034232.

Stay Safe on Those Summer Joy Rides



We're lucky enough to live in a fairly bike-friendly neighborhood, which is great since cycling around your neighborhood with family or friends is one of the great joys of summer.

The San Diego Bike Coalition is hosting "Bike the BLVD" on July 4th, a kid- and family-friendly ride starting at 7:00 pm. The event is billed as a slow 6-mile ride with stops for drinks, music, and prizes. Participants are asked to meet at BLVD Court (at the corner of Alabama St. and El Cajon Blvd.) at 6:00 pm to prepare for the ride and to learn about safety lights—critical for nighttime riding—which will be available for purchase.

Cycling safely will help protect you and others on the road while you're Biking the BLVD on July 4th or just out enjoying a ride to explore everything our city's neighborhoods and parks have to offer this summer.

Besides lights and reflectors for riding after dark, cyclists are required to obey the California Vehicle Code, which includes stopping at red lights and stop signs, riding with the flow of traffic, and staying in the bike lane. If there is no bike lane, then you must stay as close to the curb or roadway as is practical.

Exceptions to this rule are important for cyclists and drivers to understand to avoid dangerous interactions. For instance, if there is a shared lane marking (a "sharrow"), the cyclist is permitted to ride in this area. These shared spaces help position cyclists so they don't get hit by car doors opening or vehicles passing too closely.

Additionally, cyclists may "take the lane" when making a left-hand turn or when reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe con-

ditions. And when passing other cyclists, those on bikes may pass on their left, but should alert the other cyclists by calling out, "On your left," as a courtesy.

Speaking of making turns, it's important to use proper hand signals to communicate your intentions to other cyclists and drivers. When turning left, fully extend your left arm out to the left side. When turning right, fully extend your right arm out to the right side or bend your left arm up at a right angle with your hand flat. Always check for traffic prior to proceeding with any change in direction. When slowing, extend your left arm out behind you with your hand open, and when stopping, extend your left arm out behind you while making a fist.

As noted, night riding requires reflectors and lights. Your front light must emit white light visible from a distance of 300 feet, and the rear of your bike requires a red reflector or red light visible from a distance of 500 feet. Your pedals and wheels also need reflectors to ensure visibility from every direction.

It's a good idea for everyone to wear a properly fitted helmet when you ride, and those under the age of 18 are required to do so. Make sure your helmet is level on top of your head and the chin strap is snug.

Following these rules can help you avoid a ticket and/or an injury!

Visit <https://sdbikecoalition.org/event/bike-the-blvd> to learn more about Bike the BLVD.

– Carol Morris, former cycling coach and a member of a cycling club in San Diego

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July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Canada Day UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org No UHCA Meeting No news articles due Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	2	3
4 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Independence Day	5 City Holiday (Independence Day Observed)	6 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners-Elections 6 pm	7 UHCDC 6:00 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	12	13 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm	14 Bastille Day	15 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	16	17 Pride Weekend
18 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Nelson Mandela Day	19	20 North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org	21 No UH Library Task Force Meeting	22	23	24
25 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	26	27 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org	28	29 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	30 International Day of Friendship	31

August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	2	3 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners 6:00 pm uptownplannerssd.org	4 UHCDC 6:00 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6:30 pm	5 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org No UHCA Meeting	6	7
8 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	9	10 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm, hillcresttc.org	11	12 World Elephant Day Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	13	14
15 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm America's Finest City Half Marathon	16	17 North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org	18 No UH Library Task Force Meeting	19 International Orangutan Day	20	21 National Senior Citizens' Day
22 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	23	24 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Sept. News out	25	26 Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	27	28
29 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	30	31				

University Heights Library: Past, Present, and Future

According to the most recent "Performance Audit of the San Diego Public Library System" (2016), the University Heights Branch of the San Diego Public Library is one of the smallest, has one of the lowest per capita ratios of space per resident, and is one of the lowest ranking in both number of programs offered, and in program attendance. Despite all of that, this mighty little branch has served our community for nearly 60 years providing books, computer time, reference assistance, and so much more. Despite its small size, the UH branch has consistently ranked among the highest in materials circulated. This is thanks in no small part to the amazing and dedicated staff, volunteers, Friends of the UH Library, and the community at large.

As our community grows over the next 3-5 years, with many hundreds of new housing units and thousands of new residents, our library will face ever-increasing demands from that growing population.

This special four-page section is focused on our library—past, present, and future. The UHCA board believes this is only the beginning of a community-wide conversation about what we need, want, and deserve in a public library that is funded by our tax dollars, grants, donations, and the time and energy from an army of tireless volunteers. This conversation will continue into UHCA Monthly Community Meetings in the Fall, with the City's Library Master Plan presentations and focus groups, in meetings with our councilmember and other elected officials, on social media, and in these pages.

The UHCA Board of Directors discussed the issues around the library at our April 25 board meeting and passed a resolution expressing our position that the library serving our community needs to be expanded, and that any and all avenues need to be explored. We are, as an organization, and in partnership with other community groups, pressing our elected officials to meet this urgent need.

The University Heights Community Association Board Resolution Regarding our Community's Library Needs, April 25, 2021:

1. The current UH branch library is undersized for our current and growing number of residents.
2. Increased density requires increased investment in infrastructure, and the Library is a critical piece of infrastructure for the community.
3. All opportunities for new/expanded library space need to be explored in an open manner with the entire community's input.
4. This matter must be prioritized and handled with urgency.



In this section, you will find the history of our library and how it came to be, along with commentary from some of the dedicated people in our community who have helped make it happen. We've included examples of amazing libraries neighboring communities enjoy, which include spaces for programs, exhibitions, and community events. These examples of libraries are inspirational and illustrate what can be accomplished. Additionally, we have submissions from neighbors who have shared their visions of "what could be," as well as preliminary results from a community-wide survey we launched with our partner organizations.

We look forward to engaging the UH community to move from ideas and conversation to real action, and ultimately, a library that will enrich our community and make it an even better place to live, learn, and work. 📖

- UHCA Editorial Team & Board of Directors

Origins of the University Heights Library

By Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society

This information was taken from an article by Librarian Leslie Simmons for the University Heights News, March 1999 issue; *Turning the Pages: San Diego Public Library History; 1882-1982* by Clara E. Breed, "Once Upon a Time" article from the San Diego Sun, and the dedication pamphlet for the April 18, 1966 library opening.

The first University Heights Branch Library opened in April 1914. It was a 20-foot by 30-foot wooden structure built of donated materials by carpenters and plumbers who donated their time. There is some question of its location - it was either at El Cajon Boulevard and Mississippi Street, or at its present site on Park Boulevard at Howard Avenue.



Spanish/Mission style library structure, 1926

A permanent Spanish/Mission style structure opened on March 29, 1926. Designed by Lincoln Rogers, it was described as having an atmosphere of restfulness and quiet dignity. These quotes are from a newspaper article about the "new" branch:

"The arrangement of book shelves, tables and window seat, the display of pictures and posters, as well as a liberal showing of one of California's chief glories, beautiful flowers, add to the general effect of good taste."

"Another distinction is the fact that this is the first branch library to be built in the library's building program."

"In the basement an auditorium with a dressing room and a conveniently appointed kitchen adjoining, is suitable for community use in the holding of club meetings and elections."

The present University Heights Branch Library was built in 1966 with 3,749 square feet. It was designed by the City of San Diego Engineering Department and constructed by the Edwin V. Harris Construction Company for a cost of \$118,000. The dedication was held on April 18, 1966. 📖



Present library site, 1966

Several ideas have been discussed over the years about what we can do to create a new library for University Heights. We have limited available land in our community, which limits where a new library could be located. Two of the ideas that have continued to come up are discussed here by UH residents. These aren't "proposals" – neither has been endorsed by UHCA or the city, and critical elements are still unknown, most importantly costs and feasibility. These ideas are presented here as "conversation starters." With greater community and city engagement, we hope these and other ideas are considered, robustly debated, and ultimately help to achieve a real solution for our needs.

A New Library for UH?

By William Smith,
Board Member, Uptown Planners

The departure of the San Diego Unified School District headquarters from the Ed Center property at 4100 Normal Street presents both a challenge and an opportunity for University Heights.

Some welcome the possibility of a significant amount of new, moderately priced teacher housing on the site, while others find that idea difficult to accept. Regardless of where you stand, I think we can all agree that the 11-acre site is well past its prime, and it is time for it to take its place once more as the jewel of University Heights.



From the start, the school district has promised to leave behind a treasured neighborhood amenity as this site is redeveloped with a significant amount of new housing. Based on input gathered over the last three years, it appears the community will accept a well-designed site with significant

greenspace, a dog park, and restoration of the historic Teachers Annex building as recompense. Now the real work begins. Exactly what should it look like, and how will it be paid for?

The amount of greenspace will depend on the amount of housing that is built and how high it can go. There is room for a dog park, but the city must find the budget to build and operate it. Restoring the Teachers Annex building will be expensive, so we need to get it right. Turning the building into a library seems like a no-brainer and completely appropriate for a site devoted to all things educational for more than a century, but the devil is in the details.

The Teachers Annex has a national historic designation which limits what can be done to it, so let's assume the exterior must remain the same but the interior can be configured to meet the needs of a meeting space, a community center, and/or a library. Clearly, the refurbished building must meet modern seismic, asbestos, access, and environmental standards. That means elevators, ramps, a complete rebuild of the interior, and strengthening of the exterior. While we don't know what that cost will be yet, it can only be assumed that it will be expensive.

It would be far less expensive to tear the existing building down and build an exact replica in the same or a better location on the site, or to build a modern, state-of-the-art library somewhere else on the property and figure out what to do with the Teachers Annex later. Both of these approaches are unlikely, so let's assume the existing building will be refurbished with money from a bond measure that includes Ed Center site improvements. The school district passed a resolution stating that they would do just that in July 2018. Such a bond measure might be brought to a vote as early as 2022.

In order to use bond measure funds, the district must continue to use the building for educational purposes, such as special educational events or teacher training programs. This they plan to do. However, the City of San Diego would need to find the money to "build out" a significant portion of the Teachers Annex space as a library and, of course, budget each year for its operation. The city is unlikely to do either, unless they own the building. Fortunately, the school district is open to exploring ways to do that. While the financial feasibility of this is yet to be calculated, one would hope that the sale of the existing library property would fund the bulk of the library build-out costs, and the existing operating budget would substantially cover operations in the new location.

Some time ago the California State Librarian is said to have toured the building and expressed the opinion that it is not suitable for a library, presumably due to the form factor of the space and the amount of money needed to make the building suitable. But the school district expects to pay for the rehabilitation of the building, and the library will presumably have a free hand to design the interior to meet its needs. When you factor in the value of saving a historic building, perhaps we can live with and maybe even rejoice in, having our own neighborhood library in a historic educational building within a safe and easy walking distance for the children from our community grammar school next door. I know I can. 📖



New York Public Library, Stapleton Branch, Staten Island. Example of blending new and existing construction together.



LocHal Library, Rillburn Netherlands. A former locomotive station "rebuilt" with a library inside the existing structure.



TRAINING BUILDING, SAN DIEGO NORMAL SCHOOL • 1909

Library Renovation / Expansion

By Paul Farris, UH Resident & Activist

Everywhere you look in our neighborhood, there is new construction underway, from small infill projects to multi-story mixed-use developments with big construction cranes. For the last several years, the city has been pushing high density along the transit corridor of El Cajon Boulevard and Park Boulevard and mid-high, pedestrian-oriented infill development on adjacent residential streets.

According to city planners, this increased density development will bring thousands of new residents into the area within the next few years. What is not happening are any visible changes or plans for upgrading or expanding our neighborhood library to accommodate a dramatic increase in patrons. Currently, the San Diego Public Library website lists 12 different projects planned or underway for various branch locations around the city. University Heights is not one of them. While our neighborhood is expected to absorb some of the highest new density in the city, the UH branch is not even mentioned. Built in 1966 with half the floor space dedicated to the now-defunct bookmobile program, it was never perfect and is long overdue for renovation.



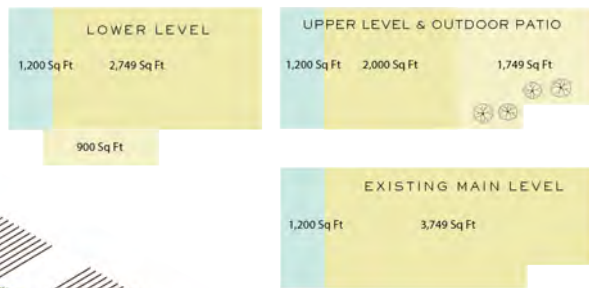
When speaking about the future of San Diego's libraries, Public Library Director Misty Jones has stated, "We're giving people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to use cutting-edge technologies — 3D printers, laser cutters, and mills — along with the space and support they need to build or invent. SDPL branch libraries offer job services, Veterans Resource Centers, free tax help, and adult literacy instruction. We are transforming into community hubs for innovation, learning and civic engagement."

The North Park Community Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2020, listed the UH library as moving across the street to the Teachers Annex, which is in the Uptown Planners jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the 214-page Uptown Community Plan from October 2019 devoted only a couple sentences to our library. UH is split between those two planning groups, with our library right on the boundary, which might explain why the library has been ignored. Serving two communities puts an even greater demand on the small facility and its role as a vital part of the community learning infrastructure.

As we prepare to eventually reopen California post-Covid, the shortcomings and need for updating our library only become more obvious. We do not have enough computers with free access to the internet. There is no dedicated space for teens, and no quiet study areas, meeting rooms, or space for library programs, community engagement, and social services, such as career or literacy assistance. The children's area is too small and too close to the entrance and quiet areas, making it difficult for programs and "storytime."

How can we adapt the space we have now? The lower level of the UH library was originally used to garage the Bookmobile program, which was stopped in 1979. The space was then given to the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, who moved there from the basement of the old Central Library. Relocating the FSDPL to another location, such as the old Mission Hills branch library, the old Serra Mesa Library, or Balboa Park, would put it in an area with increased foot traffic and sales potential for book sales. Any of these locations would better serve the FSDPL needs and allow for expanding the UH library immediately, doubling the usable floor space.

Remodeling the lower level would allow the UH Library to expand its services without moving, retain the existing footprint, and add over 11,000-square-feet of additional space. The lower level could provide 2,849-square-feet of flexible makerspace and event areas. Remodeling could include replacing the storage shed and outmoded aluminum awning in the bookmobile driveway and reconfiguring the space with an open accessible plan that adds new stairways, an ADA-compliant elevator, and glass walls extending three levels. These changes would allow visual and physical connectivity between the lower, main, and a new upper floor, as well as flooding the building with natural light.



Enclosing the carport along Howard Avenue would add another 900-square-feet of quiet study area and meeting rooms. A new upper floor would expand the book collection with 2,000-square-feet of space and a 1,749-square-foot pergola-covered outdoor reading area that would take advantage of the weather and overlook Park Boulevard with views to the west.

This open, sustainable design could include features to help meet 21st century standards for energy efficiency while establishing connections between inside and outside and the two fast-growing and diverse neighborhoods the UH library serves.

Our library should be a community hub providing free learning through print, digital, and live programs. It should also provide quiet study spaces, meeting rooms, a children's area, event areas, and makerspaces for creative collaboration. With some of the highest concentration of population density coming to University Heights, there is an underlying need and obligation for the city to deliver the necessary infrastructure, which includes a modern, efficient community library. 📖

What is a Modern Library?

Some amazing library branches exist in greater San Diego. The three described below, including two from neighboring communities, demonstrate what a modern library can be. We offer these descriptions as inspiration to help our community imagine possibilities for our own UH library.

San Diego County Library: Borrego Springs

This 14,000 square foot library was opened in 2019, located across from a park and amphitheater. It features a 2,135 square foot community room, large patio, 1,600 square foot children's area with separate 600 square foot teen area. The library features many technology amenities: high-tech conference rooms,



computers, printers, MakerBot 3D printer, public WiFi, and also features a Vet Connect station to help local veterans apply for and manage their benefits. The library is also a zero net-energy building and was built on pilings to ensure it would survive flash-floods.

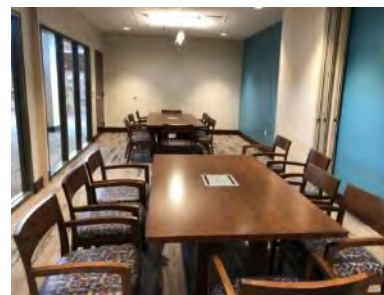
This library is part of the San Diego County Library system and was funded by the SCL, Friends of the SCL, and a private land donation. 📖



Photography courtesy of William Ellig and Jeff Durkin

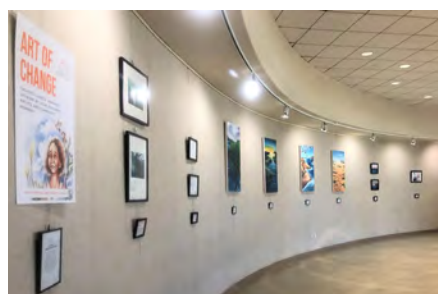
San Diego Public Library: Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library

The newest library in the SDPL system is in neighboring Hillcrest/Mission Hills. The new 15,000 square foot library opened in January 2019 and replaced a much smaller 5,000 square foot library built in 1961. It features modern amenities, including designated areas for teens and young children, a large community meeting space, study rooms, computer labs, drought-tolerant landscaping, an underground parking garage, and a design expected to achieve LEED Gold certification. The local Friends chapter helped raise funds to equip the computer labs and a MakerBot 3D printer. 📖



San Diego Public Library: Mission Valley Branch

Opened in 2002, the Mission Valley Branch is one of the largest in San Diego at 19,760 square feet. The award-winning design features public art displays, meeting rooms, an outdoor patio, children's garden, and terrace. The large spaces for children's activities are complemented by a large 104-person capacity meeting room and two 12-person study rooms, plus over 26 computers for public use. 📖



Libraries Need Friends



Isabel Schechter, President, Friends of the University Heights Library

Our organization is the community group that partners with the University Heights branch library to supply financial and volunteer support so that it may fulfill its literary, educational, technological, community, and cultural purposes.

We work hand in hand with our library staff to fulfill the day-to-day operating needs of the branch by supplying funding for those needs. Essentially, the Friends of the University Heights Library exists to supply the funds our branch needs to be an outstanding resource for the University Heights community.

We have purchased books, eBooks, and DVDs specifically for our branch collection, as well as supplied funding for a variety of programs for children and adults including Love is a Vegan Box of Chocolates and the Bayou Brothers playing at the holiday party. We bought makerspace equipment including a Silhouette Cameo cutting machine as well as the furniture, and homework station in the children's area.

Two of the most important equipment needs we have supplied funding for include the RFID machines for checking out materials, and security cameras for the inside of the branch as well as the exterior of the building. These things are not exciting and flashy, but they are necessary.

In addition, we have worked to improve the outside of the building by purchasing large, colorful banners for the front and side of the building to increase the branch's visibility. In collaboration with our community partner, UHCA, we worked with their Beautification Committee to turn the former unattractive landscape in front of the building into a lush, inviting garden that draws positive attention to our branch.

And of course, our branch runs on the hard work of the dedicated library staff. We have shown them our support and appreciation by purchasing breakroom furniture and equipment and providing financial support for educational opportunities and resources to help them do their jobs even better than they already do.

The best part of spending money to support our library is that thanks to the City

of San Diego's library matching fund program, the money we spend may be matched so that our branch receives even more funding! Pretty great, right?

Another way we support our branch is by being active advocates for our library. LibrariesTransformSD is a coalition of the San Diego Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, and the City of San Diego Board of Library Commissioners (www.librariestransformsd.org). The Friends of the University Heights Library is a chapter of the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, which is the official community partner of the San Diego Public Library. Together with our partners in the LibrariesTransformSD coalition, we engage in library advocacy efforts at the city level, especially related to budgetary issues.

The San Diego Public Library and San Diego Public Library Foundation are currently developing a new Library Master Plan. The plan is being built in collaboration with the Mayor and City Council, the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, and the City of San Diego Library Commission. It will provide a long-range vision and strategy for San Diego Public Library facility, technology, and program investments.

Our coalition recently conducted a Master Plan survey. Preliminary results from the survey show that communities across San Diego love their libraries, and that there are improvements that can be made. The Friends of the University Heights Library is here to help our branch with those improvements!

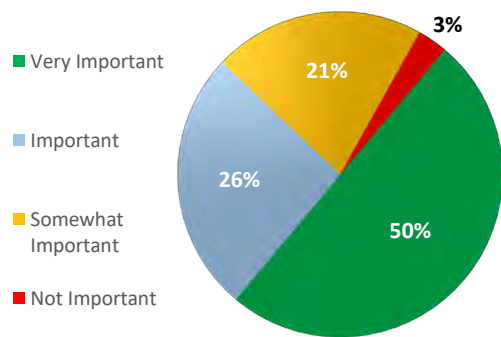
While we are excited about the Master Plan process, it will take time to analyze and present the data and propose solutions, and even more time to implement solutions. The University Heights library can't wait that long for solutions, and the Friends of University Heights Library is not going to wait to act until the Master Plan process is completed. We are going to keep working in partnership with our branch staff right now - not a year from now, not two years, not twenty years - to help make our branch a place you can turn to for books, programs, learning, entertainment, digital access, and much, much more!

We have already begun working with our UH Library Branch Manager, Rachel Esguerra, on supplying funding for the coming fiscal year's needs. We are excited to partner with her, and our branch staff, to supply the resources our library needs to serve the University Heights community. 📖

What Does UH Say?

As the City of San Diego updates its Library Master Plan, the Community Coalition of University Heights (CCUH) surveyed the University Heights community about its assessment of our branch library and priorities for the future. This survey was created using a template from the Library Research Service, an office of the Colorado State Library, which is a unit of the Colorado Department of Education. The survey was promoted in May on the University Heights and University Heights Community Association (UHCA) Facebook pages and via email to CCUH, UHCA, and UH Community Development Corporation email subscribers. Results from 131 respondents as of June 7th are shared here. If you haven't completed the survey, you still can at www.uhsd.org/librarysurvey.

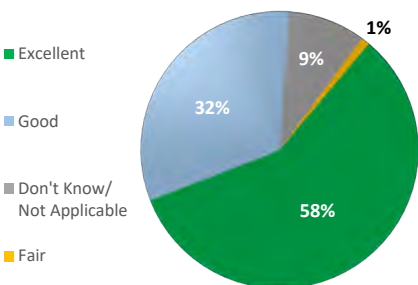
Importance of the UH Branch Library to You and Your Family



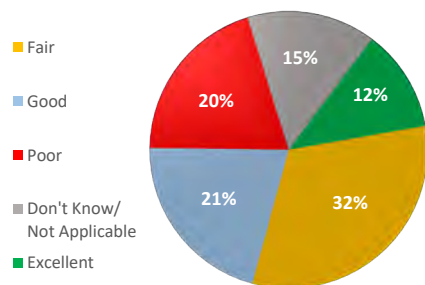
"A library is so important for our community!!"

"The library is an important part of the community and with the increased housing in the future, providing a place to get resources, learn and meet is critical. The UH library is in need and deserves to be upgraded to continue to be a bright spot in the community."

UH Branch Library Staff Excellent but Facility Inadequate



Customer Service



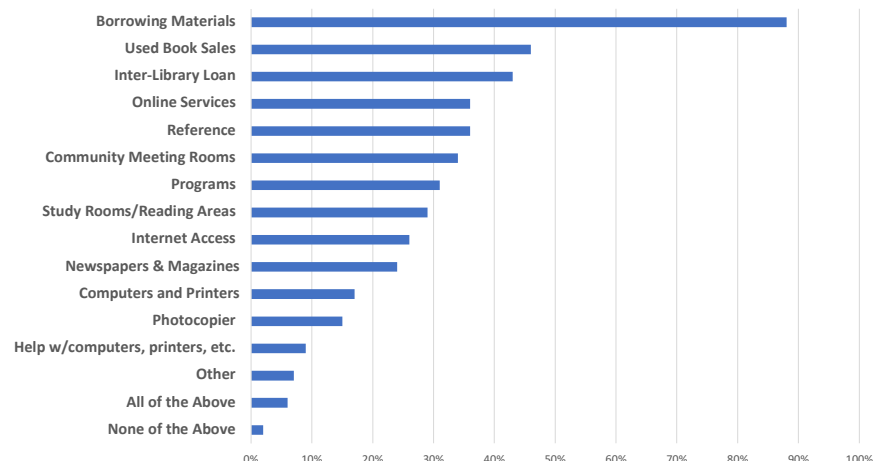
Facilities

Several respondents commented that library space is too small to meet the needs of our growing community but acknowledged that the staff do the best they can with the limited space.

"The current staff is amazing and does so much to serve us - but the building just doesn't have the space for programs or community events or a larger collection."

"We are a growing neighborhood and need a branch library that is sized for our needs and can offer the programs we should have. The current staff is amazing and does so much to serve us - but the building just doesn't have the space for programs or community events or a larger collection."

Materials. Collections Top the List of Valued Library Services



By far, the vast majority of respondents felt that "Borrowing Materials" was the single most important library service (88%). Other services were rated by less than half of respondents as important including "Used book sales" (46%), "Inter-Library Loans" (43%), "Reference" (36%), "Online Services" (36%), "Community Meeting Rooms" (34%) and "Programs" (31%).

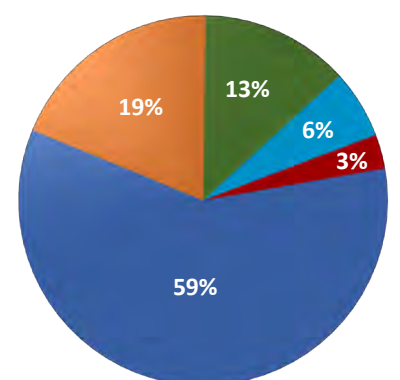
"The library should have ample room for meetings, get togethers, study group areas for children and adults, casual reading spots (couches, tables etc.), and be a one stop location for people to get information about community events, programs and services, educational opportunities, city programs, benefits, and other city services beyond those of the library."

Preferred Location for Larger Library

If money and location were no obstacle, the majority of respondents (59%) preferred that the historically-designated Teachers Training Annex 1 at 4100 Normal Street be adaptively reused as the University Heights

Branch Library. Only 19% would like to see the current library renovated and expanded, while 13% preferred selling the current library and building a new one elsewhere in University Heights.

- Sell current/ adaptively reuse Annex 1
- Renovate & expand current
- Sell current/ build new somewhere in UH
- Demolish current/ rebuild larger in place
- Keep current as-is



"Moving the library to the Teachers Training Annex would contribute to the already burgeoning University Heights cultural arts scene. Iconic, gorgeous, historical, and much larger than the existing library, said structure would become a focus for the community—not only for University Heights but for surrounding communities as well." 📖

University Heights Wildfire Preparedness

As summer heats up and California continues to experience one of the driest periods in state history, it's important that we all do our part to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Much of San Diego is considered to be in a "very high fire hazard severity zone," and a large swath of University Heights falls into this zone due to close canyon proximity. In fact, University Heights has the unlucky designation of being the site of the first 5-alarm fire in San Diego history. In September of 1957 there was a 5-alarm fire in Buchanan Canyon, impacting homes along the rims of Rhode Island, Hoffman, Arch, Proctor, and Maryland Streets, Maryland Place, Johnson Street, as well as 9th and 10th Avenues.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), "Approximately 95% of all wildfires in California are caused by human activity, and each year we see disasters that could be prevented."

Tips for Reducing Wildfire Risk:

- **Don't set off pyrotechnics** – Besides being high risk for starting a fire, consumer fireworks are illegal in the City and County of San Diego. They also cause distress to noise and light-sensitive pets.
- **Practice grilling and fire pit safety** – Grills and fire pits should be placed at least 3 feet away from your home and anything that can burn (such as shrubs or tree branches). Keep your grill clean by removing grease buildup, which can easily ignite. Use a metal screen over wood-burning fire pits to keep sparks and

embers from floating out. When grilling with charcoal, let coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

"Never leave your grill or fire pit unattended when hot coals or embers are present."

Make sure fires are completely extinguished before heading back inside.

- **Carefully dispose of smoking materials** – Douse cigarettes and cigar butts with water and place in a fire-proof container. Never toss burning cigarettes on the ground or out of a vehicle window.

- **Mow the lawn in the morning** – The California Wildland Fire Coordinating group recommends mowing your lawn early and waiting to mow another day if it's excessively windy or dry, as metal blades can easily spark a fire if they strike a rock. No gas-powered landscaping equipment should be used during hot, dry, or windy conditions.

- **Create and maintain 100 feet of defensible space around your home** – If you live within a mile of a natural area (like a canyon), remove any dead trees, brush, and vegetation. Do not store firewood or combustible materials in this area.

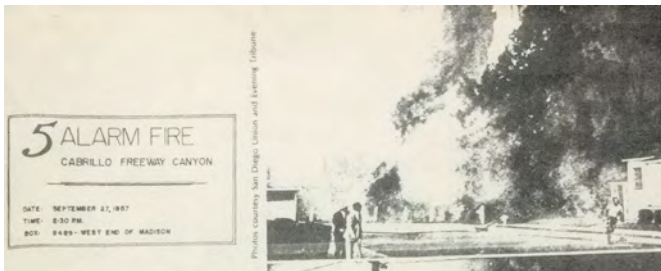
- **Use fire-resistant building materials to protect your home from wildfires.** From roofs and eaves to windows, walls, and fencing—look into fire-resistant materials. Roofs are the most vulnerable surface, and homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

- **Create a wildfire action plan and emergency supply kit.**

For more information and to download an action plan template, visit www.sandiego.gov/fire/safety.

Important: If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out, and call 911. In the event of a nearby wildfire, evacuate immediately when directed by public safety officials or when danger is perceived.

– Katrina Serrano & Nan McGraw



FIFTH ALARM FIRE
September 27, 1957 ... 2:25PM (tap out 7:36) ... CABRILLO FREEWAY CANYON ... \$100,000. damage.
For the first time in city history, 5 alarms were sounded for a single fire. Response to the 5 alarms brought into action 19 engines, 2 trucks and one rescue company under the direction of Deputy Chief A. C. Penrose (acting Fire Chief) and 3 battalion chiefs.



Seventy-two hose lines were laid with a total length of 30,450 feet. 112 men were on duty for the response including men from the Fire Prevention Bureau, Shops, Line Crew and others. In addition, 131 off-duty men responded to the fire while 78 responded as directed to place reserve apparatus in service. During the height of the fire, only 14 engines, 1 truck, 1 fire boat and 1 patrol boat remained to protect other areas of the city.

Although 20,250 GPM total capacity was available, the four- and six-inch water mains hampered firefighting operations. Responding companies logged over 78 hours of fire fighting exclusive of patrol activity.

Canyon area was 59.22 acres surrounded by 3.3 miles along the perimeter. Weather data included 75° temperature, 55% humidity and 9.5 MPH winds whipped to 40-50 MPH by the fire storm conditions within the canyons.



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A Tale of Two Communities

Why the Uptown Planners Election matters for University Heights

Tom Mullaney

University Heights is a proud community, with a rich history. I remember walking along Adams Avenue about 1990, when I met a retired woman who remembered the Ostrich Farm!

It's been disturbing to find that there are people from outside University Heights who don't care about the history. Neither do they care about park deficiencies, worsening traffic, loss of parking, and harm to the community character. Instead, they promote higher density and taller buildings.

Why is this The Tale of Two Communities? On the east side of Park Blvd, the North Park Planning Committee has promoted largescale projects, incompatible with the neighborhood.

Consider the photo above. Two blocks of houses and small apartments were torn down. In it's place is a massive building with 150 units. A few blocks away, a homeowner, in tears, called one of the resident leaders. Her sunlight and privacy were taken away by a 7-story building next to her house.

On the west side, residents and community leaders have been trying to hold the line. Stu McGraw, during his 4-year term, was a voice of reason. The existing Community Plan for



Massive project: two blocks

Uptown already has ample development allowed, enough for 55% more residents.

Yet a group called "Rise Up Town" wants more! They support a plan for high-density, high-rise projects, from University Heights to Mission Hills.

What can be done? **YOU CAN VOTE!** Uptown Planners has scheduled an election for June 30, July 5 & 6. Residents, property owners and business owners can vote and will have this choice:

Eight independent candidates have banded together to form "Uptown for All."

Here are their goals:

- Quality neighborhoods
- Thriving businesses
- Responsible development compatible with neighborhood character & historic preservation
- Affordable housing, transportation improvements, bicycle safety
- Adequate parking, open space & parks
- Neighborhoods that stay beautiful and welcoming even as they change

The eight independent candidates are:

- Helen Rowe Allen**
- Mary Brown**
- Christopher Cole**
- Roy Dahl**
- Stuart McGraw**
- Mary McKenzie**
- Lu Rehling**
- Mat Wahlstrom**

You can re-elect University Heights native Stu McGraw and allies who will fight for our neighborhood!

To get details about the election **which starts June 30:**



Connect to the website, provide your email. We'll send you updates.

www.UptownForAll.org

Tom Mullaney is a Mission Hills resident and member of Uptown Planners.

BIRNEY BUZZ

Crossing the Finish Line Together

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, Alice Birney Elementary encourages students to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. Birney's curriculum and special programs reinforce these important traits, preparing students to not just excel academically but also to become well-rounded, thoughtful, engaged community leaders.

In May, just weeks before the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Birney students participated in their much-loved Run for the Green (RFTG) jog-a-thon. The event is always a highlight for students and families and has come to represent our Bees: spirited, determined, and balanced.

In 2020, RFTG was postponed due to weather, and then students had to complete the run independently at home due to COVID. After a year of distance learning and returning to hybrid/in-person school, the run was a welcome return to semi-normalcy.

While typically hundreds of family members come on campus to support students for a one-afternoon event, RFTG this year was spread out over several days, with one class on the track at a time, students masked, and parents cheering from outside the school fence. But the spirit of the event was as strong as ever, and the IB traits that teachers emphasize in the classroom were also present out on the field. Students pushed themselves to go as far as possible and were seen encouraging their classmates to keep going.

RFTG represented so much more this year: joy and camaraderie in being together again with classmates, individual



perseverance and resilience when things get tough, and the critical importance of a supportive community.

RFTG reflects the school's emphasis on wellness and developing the whole child, but it is also one of our most important fundraisers of the year. Donations received during RFTG support our IB curriculum and specials classes in art, Spanish, and gardening.

The past year was an exceptionally difficult time to fundraise, yet our community raised \$49,400 during RFTG, nearly meeting our fundraising goal for the event. If you are able to support Birney through financial sponsorship or in-kind donations to help us cross the finish line with fundraising for the year, please reach out to us at info@friendsofalicebirney.org.

Birney is expected to begin the 2021-2022 school year with in-person classes 5 days a week. There will not be a hybrid option at Birney in the new school year because the San Diego Unified School District is creating a magnet school for families opting to continue with distance learning.

We thank you for your continued support of our amazing Birney Bees and look forward to our new school year beginning August 30!

- Erin MacKinnon, Proud Parent of two Birney Bees and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member

ROO NEWS

Roosevelt Middle School Looks Forward to 2021-2022 School Year

Getting back to in-person school during the waning days (we hope!) of the pandemic was a game-changer for the families and staff at Roosevelt International Middle School. Whereas many schools in the San Diego Unified School District and across the state were constrained by Covid protocols such that they needed to divide their student body into cohorts that attended school for two days per week, Roosevelt was able to accommodate all the students who chose to attend in person four days per week, approximating a normal(ish) school schedule.

Although physical distancing and many other measures such as masks, plexiglass dividers, open windows for ventilation, PPE on band instruments, etc. made it clear that this was an extraordinary situation, Roosevelt students still managed to engage in many of the physical and social activities that provide some of the most important experiences of middle school. For instance, students in Physical Education classes were able to play games like Volley Tennis and Jai Alai while continuing with the health education and wellness practices that became a bigger focus of the department over the past year. Special Education students got a chance to participate in the Roosevelt Special Olympics, where they were cheered on by the whole school as they competed in various activities including a kickball game against the faculty. Humanities teacher Hans Mosler spearheaded a quickly assembled club to paint a social justice-themed mural on a previously drab wall on campus, giving students a chance to use their passion and creativity to liven up their surroundings.



Next school year, Roosevelt is looking forward to carrying on many of its time-honored traditions, while enacting some exciting changes. The popular International Baccalaureate program will continue, as will the legendary After School Enrichment opportunities, including clubs like Girls in Science (in cooperation with the San Diego Zoo), Theater, Strategic Games, Gardening, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Improv (offered through Diverisary Theater), and possibly a Mural Club to bring more of those blank walls to life. The award-winning music program will include music classes as part of the core curriculum, as well as after-school Band and Orchestra.

Two new administrators, Principal Bernard Steinberger and Vice Principal Ciria Brewer, have ushered in a shift in philosophy that focuses on including student and family voices in making decisions that will shape school climate going forward. One of the most visible manifestations of this is that students are no longer required to wear uniforms to school. This decision was made after many meetings and surveys with students, parents, and staff. Less tangible but more impactful will be the dedication to Restorative Justice as a model for conflict resolution, to replace more traditional, "discipline"-based approaches to shaping school culture.

For more information about enrollment, please follow the "Enroll Now" link at: <http://www.roosevelt.sandiegounified.org>. For the most current information about goings-on in and around Roosevelt International Middle School, please visit www.friendsofroosevelt.org.

- Andy Hinds



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Plume



Benny Cartwright was named council representative serving University Heights for CD3 Councilmember & Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn soon after he was installed into office. Benny had some pretty big shoes to fill following fellow UH resident and previous local representative Tyler Renner. Benny not only stepped up, but RAN INTO his new job, actively working with local organizations like UHCA, the UH Park Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group, UH Community Development Corporation, and UH Historical Society,

in addition to all of the other neighborhoods he represented. Benny also took on volunteer duties with UHCA and has helped out as a UHCA News blockwalker. UH residents have reached out to Benny by email, text, social media - he seemed to be everywhere, and not only that, he responded - in what sometimes felt like real time. For his super-responsiveness, neighborhood pride, open and giving nature, and big smile, it is with deepest appreciation that we award Benny a Plume.



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BETWEEN THE COVERS

SUMMER AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

Happy New (fiscal) Year! July 1 begins a new fiscal year not just for the City of San Diego, but also for our UH Friends of the Library. Library staff are very excited to work with our new board of directors, and we look forward to all of the wonderful things we'll do for our small but mighty library!



Speaking of library staff, we have bittersweet news to share. Our amazing Youth Services Librarian (YSL), Bethany Koehn, got a much deserved promotion to the Collection Development team at the downtown San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common. CONGRATULATIONS! She has been with us in UH since 2018, and we are going to miss her very much.

From Bethany: "I would like to say a big thank you to the UH Community! It has been my pleasure to work here and connect with locals at the library and with the kids that attend storytime, virtually and in-person. It means a lot to me to know that the University Heights Library will continue to be treasured and supported in this wonderful, diverse community."

Our new YSL should be in place by the time we finally reopen, and you're probably wondering when that will be since it's been way over a year! Unfortunately, there are still major kinks to work out on the "admin side," so we don't have an answer yet. Just know that you are welcome to call, email us, or visit our friends down at the Mission Hills - Hillcrest/Knox Branch Library for partial in-person services in the

meantime. Hours are Monday - Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm with a sanitation break from 1 pm - 2 pm.

The Summer Reading Program is still going strong until August 31st. It is open to San Diego residents of all ages. Just complete a combination of 10 books, hours of reading, or activities to claim your prizes. Read a book and color your world! We're also celebrating Virtual Pride 2021 through July 18. Visit our website for more info, or our Pride Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SDPLpride.

All City of San Diego Libraries are closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

- Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager, University Heights Branch Library, San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912



UH facility is closed to the public. Staff are available by phone and e-mail Monday-Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 619-692-4912 /- UHStaff@sandiego.gov.

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FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Welcome to our New Board Members and Officers!

As the 2020-2021 fiscal year comes to a close, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board members Maureen Markey, Peter Rose, and MaryBeth Chruden for all their hard work over the past several years. Our chapter was able to support our library because of your dedication!

For 2021-2023, I will be moving from Secretary to President and am looking forward to working with our new board members:

Janet Tait (Vice President)

Janet has been a resident of University Heights since 2015. She has an MBA from UC Irvine and is a former department head at the UCSD Library and a Marketing Manager for a local telecommunications company.

Liz Flynn (Secretary)

Liz moved to University Heights about 20 years ago. Her first job was at her local public library in Virginia, and she now works as an English as a Second Language teacher. As a parent, she appreci-

ates the literacy events and children's programs that the library provides.

Bren Breithaupt (Treasurer)

Bren has been a resident of University Heights for 16 years. He has an MBA in Finance and Accounting and currently owns and runs "Bren Michelle Inc.," a digital marketing and productivity solutions agency.

John Hyatt (Director)

John is a US Navy veteran who transferred to San Diego in 1986. After leaving the Navy, he stayed in San Diego and began working for the Postal Service as a letter carrier. He has served on the board of the House of Ireland and Irish Congress of Southern California.

Charlemagne Qunitio (Director)

Charlemagne has called San Diego home since 1989. He is Chief Operating Officer of the Hult Prize Foundation and serves on the advisory board to the customer experience program at UC Irvine - Division of Continuing Education.

We're already hard at work for our library, so stay tuned for great things!

As always, thank you for your support.

- Isabel Schechter, Secretary
Friends of University Heights Library



Pets of the Month Pookie and Pokie

There is a Love Fest on Arch Street with Pookie and Pokie. The tortoise couple have been with us for over 15 years. They originally came by way of our neighbors Jerry and his daughter Sophie. We thank them for allowing our home to be theirs.

If you have walked by and have taken a look, you'll have seen them either eating, sunning themselves, or Pookie being chased by Pokie or hiding from him under the tortoise statue. He is persistent. If you have not guessed it, Pokie is the male, which means Pookie is always on

the run. However, Pookie is formidable and the larger of the two. Pokie can be identified by the extra notch on his back.

Over the last few years, they have been laying eggs during their cycle. We have not seen a hatchling in the enclosure, and when we incubated 10 of the eggs, we did not have any luck either. The next time they lay a clutch, we will be bringing the eggs to Pet Kingdom to help us incubate the babies.

-Richard Westberg



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FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM WHITBURN



Something I've always known about University Heights is that it is a neighborhood filled with incredibly active, engaged residents who care about their community. And this has become even more apparent during my first 6 months in office.

The community groups, committees, volunteers, special events, social media accounts, and even this beautiful newspaper show what a connected community this is, and I am proud to represent University Heights as part of District 3. In fact, in early June, as part of my District 3 Community Pop-Up Tour, a couple dozen of you met with me in Trolley Barn Park on a Sunday morning to discuss a variety of neighborhood issues, and it was by far the most well attended stop on the tour. It was a pleasure to meet with many of you in person and learn more about the variety of concerns neighbors have.



Some of the most common issues my staff and I continue to hear from University Heights include the need for a dog park, the desire for a more suitable library facility, concerns related to homelessness, and various quality of life issues including trees, parking, street repairs, and affordable housing. All of these issues are important to me and I look forward to working with the community to find ways to address many of these issues.

While we haven't come up with solutions for every issue that our communities are facing, there is some real progress that has been made and I'm excited for the future of our communities, including

University Heights. The City Council just passed the FY22 City Budget in mid-June, and while it's not perfect, a lot of hard work and care was put into it. Our city was faced with a challenging budget deficit when we started this process but efforts were made to ensure continuity of city services, ensuring that our city workforce is taken care of so they can continue to provide the best service possible, and making sure that the budget is equitable so that all San Diegans are able to enjoy and have access to the things that make our city so great.

I appreciate the hundreds of community members – many from University Heights – who participated in the budget process, either by participating in one of our virtual forums, calling into a City Council meeting or budget hearing, or e-mailing your concerns to my office. Every person's comments were taken into consideration and provided valuable insight into what our constituents' priorities for our great city are. Thank you!



Finally, our office will soon be seeing a bit of a transition among our Community Representative team, and I wanted to let you know that Benny Cartwright, who has done a great job serving University Heights over the last 6 months, will be moving to a new role in my office working on communications full time. Another community representative will be assigned to University Heights soon, and we will make sure that individual is introduced to all of you. As a University Heights resident, Benny has let me know how much he has enjoyed being able to serve his own neighborhood and get to know his neighbors better. Until we have the new representative in place, please continue to reach out to Benny with any issues we can provide assistance with at bcartwright@sandiego.gov or 619-510-6883.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and as things continue to open up, I am excited to meet many more of you in person when the opportunity arises!

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

The UHCA Beautification Team held its first in-person meeting since March 11, 2020, on June 2 at the Lafayette Hotel. Eleven community volunteers attended, and numerous others notified the team that they will be joining us in the future. Team members were gratified to once again be gathering together to discuss and plan projects and initiatives after the long interruption resulting from the pandemic.

The primary goal of this meeting was to review what had transpired over the previous 15 months and to identify how we proceed from here. Based on community input, the decision was made to immediately address the graffiti that has appeared over the past few months. Locations of graffiti have been mapped by a team member, and volunteers selected

individual sites for removal. From this point on, the team will routinely address this problem to prevent it from reaching the level that it has over the past few months.

Three new volunteers attended the June 2 meeting, and many others have expressed interest in participating in team projects. In addition, volunteers are working independently every week to help keep University Heights beautiful.

The next Beautification Team meeting will be at 6:30 on July 7 at the Lafayette Hotel. Please join us, or let us know if you are interested in volunteering for future projects.

–Rod Girvin, UHCA Beautification Team Leader beautification@uhsd.org

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"Emerge" continued from page 1

for State Historic Preservation status. The developer knew that many local organizations, including UHCA, were trying to save the property. Knowing these efforts would stall progress on the development plans, contractors for H.G. Fenton obtained a permit from the city to demolish the site.

Jay MacAskill, then-president of Save Our Heritage Organisation, said, "The building near the intersection of El Cajon Boulevard and Florida Street was scheduled for review by the state's Historic Resources Commission in August. According to emails, city staff notified developer H.G. Fenton the site could not be demolished until the building's historic status was decided.

But on Friday, the city granted Fenton a demolition permit anyway around 1:30 p.m. The demolition permit may have been issued in error, according to a second city document that was hand-delivered to the site hours later. By then it was too late."

According to an article from the SDLGBTN, "Charles Kaminiski of Lambda archives told SDGLN that no notice or announcement was given," before the demolition. When asked about any repercussions to the Fenton company or the city, Nicole Verdes, who is the current Board President at the Lambda Archives, shared this with us: "It should be noted that Fenton took the property from a previous developer. At the time of the initial approval for development, an historic analysis was done, but the recent events of the 1970s were not considered under the regulations of years (45 years) of determining historicity, so the presence of LGBTQ+ history was not considered or even realized. The city investigated what happened from their side, but I can't say if any repercussion happened at the city staff level."

It is worth noting that after the demolition of the saltbox building, leaders from the Lambda Archives and H.G. Fenton partnered together with a design team to create a commemorative piece in this location.

EMERGE

On July 23, 2020, the Lambda Archives unveiled the EMERGE commemorative piece as a marker of the historical site of San Diego LGBTQ+ history.

I emailed Lambda Archives Board President Verdes, asking how the commemorative piece came to life. She offered the following information:

What inspired the EMERGE plaque/monument?

"The designer, Diego Velasco of Citythinkers, presented a number of design concepts to a small working group: past president of Lambda Archives Maureen Steiner, Vice President of H. G. Fenton John LaRaia, myself, Board Member Emeritus of Lambda Chuck Kaminski, and Andy Spurlock (landscape architect for the project, I think) about how to commemorate what happened at the site. People meeting in 1972 and 1973 here and other places, discussing a center for LGBTQ+ folks."

What does the design represent? Why is "EMERGE" the word selected to represent the location?

"It represents peeling away the hiddenness and exposing your LGBTQ+ identity to yourself, the community, and to the public. Coming out of the closet and being visible. Like peeling something "underground" - your essence - and revealing or "emerging" your true self and identity. Not a wave, but a peeling of the sidewalk to expose truth. The ripple on the other side is the ripple effect of the peeling."

Is there anything else to this monument or story that you would like the University Heights community to know?

"As part of the demolition effect, the city engaged a consultant to create an LGBTQ+ Historic Context Statement, which is a report that looked at places of potential significance city wide that related to the LGBTQ+ community. The report, although well done, is not intended to be fully comprehensive or even complete. That 2016 report can be found at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/lgbtq_2016.pdf. This report can serve as a blueprint for sites so that, hopefully, any development or demolition proposed might first require understanding the potential of LGBTQ+ significance."

1-Year Anniversary

This July marks one year since the EMERGE sculpture was unveiled. If you have a chance, please go take a look at the place where San Diego LGBT activists emerged in history.

-Christine Hernandez

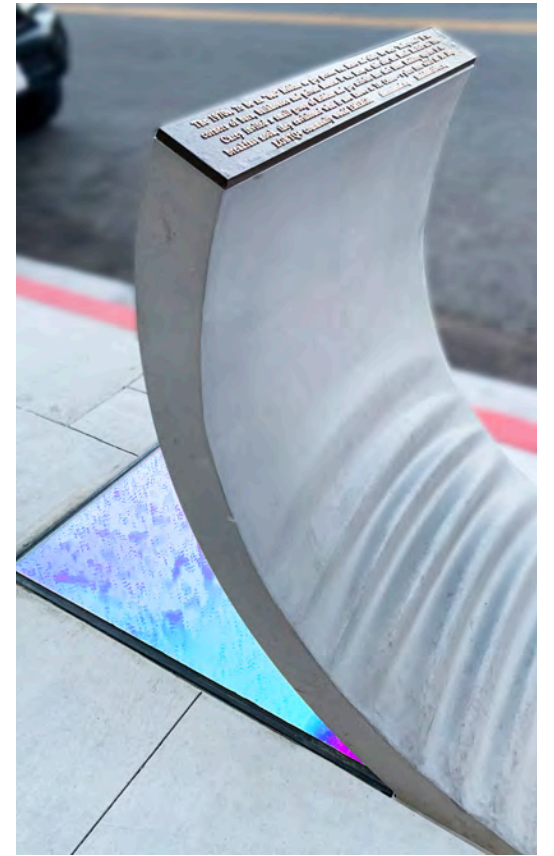


Photo Credit: Christine Hernandez

As Tomorrows Drift In

dawn smiles over her horizon
I lay in spring's early beams
her shadows adrift above
a blanket of warmth spreads cover

rebirth washes through senses
sparrows waltz in the mist
while a new day's expanse
invites a full awakening

I feel rooted in earth
welcome new existence as a gift
persistence sprouts all around me
branches recover shade from above

when beckoned by the moon
I will sleep
surrender to the rest we call night
urging an irenic bliss
wildlife succumbing to calm

together we welcome rejuvenation
in wait of the birth of tomorrows
taking joy in nature's
future realms

Jon Von Erb,
University Heights Poet

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FLAGS ON MADISON PHOTOS AROUND TOWN



We have a special resident in the neighborhood with an affinity for flags of different countries and states. Clay, who lives on Madison Avenue, generously shares his interest in flags with his neighbors.

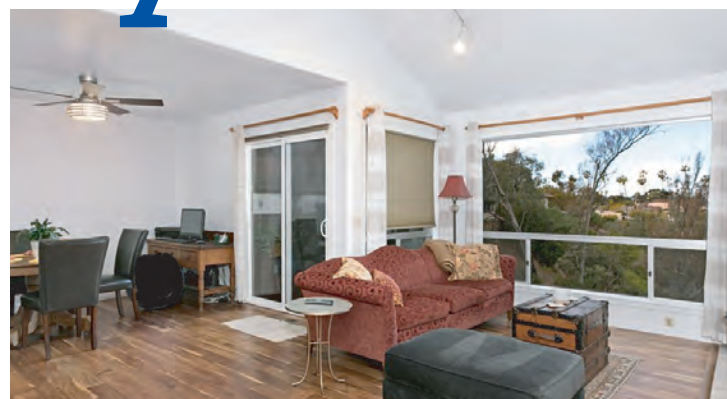
Each day Clay displays a different flag in front of his home. His choice of which flag to feature is based on the calendar and historical events. For instance, to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, he displayed the Mexican flag, and to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, he chose to display the flag of the State of Oklahoma. Clay keeps a list of upcoming events to use as a guide for his daily selection. A key element of Clay's display is the chalkboard sign on his front lawn, where he identifies each day's selected flag.

The next time you're walking or driving down Madison, be sure to check out the craftsman home with the bright flags flying. We thank you, Clay, for adding to our great neighborhood!

-Susy Holts, photos by Dave Holts



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Incredible, private, canyon view townhome! Feels like a treehouse in the woods. Gorgeous newer Acacia hardwood floors throughout, huge picture window in the LR with awesome canyon and sunset views and freshly painted interior. Flooded with light from 4 skylights, clerestory window and vaulted ceiling, fireplace, outdoor balcony, and updated kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Spacious bedrooms have canyon views plus the MBA has a walk-in closet, double sinks and oversized tub. 2 Car side by side garage is a huge bonus plus you can walk to Adams Ave shops, restaurants and Trolley Barn Park. One of a kind property in a well maintained small 4 unit complex.



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Anastasia Brewer
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