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\$536 million to combat Wildfires | Page 10

## COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 BUDGET FORUM

Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn, his staff, and the City's Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) team hosted a District 3 community forum via Zoom on Thursday, May 6 at 6:00 pm. This well attended meeting featured a presentation by the IBA explaining the current budget proposal by Mayor Gloria and how the overall budget process works.

The budget process for the city begins with the Mayor delivering a 5-year outlook and proposed Fiscal Year 2022 (starting July 1) budget in April. Our Councilmember released a list of budget priorities for District 3 in January ([www.tinyurl.com/CD3Priorities](http://www.tinyurl.com/CD3Priorities)) ahead of the Mayor developing his budget proposal. That budget proposal and Councilmember priorities are evaluated by the IBA who then issues an independent evaluation. The City Council members then get community input from residents and participate in Budget Review Committee hearings. Revisions to the budget are made and a final budget is voted on and approved by the City Council in June.

This year will be a very challenging budget cycle. The city must have a balanced budget by law, and a large shortfall in revenues due to the pandemic is only partially offset by COVID-related funding from the federal government, with the proposed budget including \$141 million in relief funding.

The Mayor's initial \$4.3 billion budget proposes an increase of 13.4% above FY2021, and included a number of increases in spending, and some controversial decreases including a \$5.57 million reduction in budget to libraries that would require closure of all branches on Sundays and Mondays.

The City's 5-year Capital Infrastructure Program shows a need of \$6.9 billion yet will only be funded with \$3.9 billion.

During the CD3 Budget Forum, many District 3 residents raised questions about the increase in budgets for policing, reductions in library funding, need for more parks, and how the upcoming SDG&E franchise agreement is being handled. Kohta Zaiser from the Mayor's office made news at the forum by indicating that the next revised budget will reduce some of the library reductions, potentially reducing closures to one day versus two.

The Community Coalition of University Heights, which includes UHCA, University Heights Community Development Corporation, and University Heights Historical Society, has released a joint statement to Council President Pro Tem Whitburn (see following "Statement Issued" at right).

By the time this paper is distributed, the City Council will have already concluded their hearings, and the Mayor will have released his final revised budget. The City Council will file their final recommendations to the IBA by May 26. The IBA will release their final report on June 8, with a City Council vote on adoption required by June 15.

## Statement Issued to City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn on May 7, 2021



On behalf of the Community Coalition of University Heights, we are pleased to provide feedback on the Mayor's proposed budget and Council President Whitburn's memo of January 6, 2020 regarding District 3 budget priorities.

We support the following priorities outlined in the following memo, which are consistent with those expressed by University Heights residents in our *Quality of Life Survey* conducted in 2020. (See below).

### •Homelessness and Housing

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

### •Community Oriented Policing

The CCUH strongly supports the recommendation of a majority of Councilmembers to reallocate Police Department funding and reassign services currently being conducted by law enforcement. We agree with Council President Whitburn's recommendation that public safety services can and should be diversified through community mental health and social work organizations and non-law enforcement, trauma-informed first responders.

### •Tree Planting and Maintenance

Increase funding for tree planting, pruning and maintenance programs that safeguard and increase our urban forest canopy. The CCUH also recommends more funding for preventive maintenance

of trees at risk for infestation and disease, particularly our historic Canary Island Palms.

### •Clean San Diego

Continue funding of graffiti abatement, weed abatement, the addition of public trash receptacles, waste and litter removal, and sidewalk sanitation.

### •Code Compliance

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

### •San Diego Public Library

Maintain current funding of San Diego Public Library. The CCUH also recommends funding to update the 2004 feasibility study to evaluate adaptive reuse of the historic Teachers Training Annex 1 as a joint-use library with the San Diego Unified School District.

### •Vermont Street Bridge

Fund circuit repair and some lighting rehabilitation to improve safety and increase visibility.

### •University Heights Water Tower Seismic Retrofit and Reservoir Rehabilitation

Fund improvements to the safety and visual aesthetic of the Washington Street median from Vermont Street Bridge to Cleveland Street.

### •City Streets

Continue funding for resurfacing, slurry sealing and paving streets with additional focus on complete streets elements, particularly pedestrian and bicycle safety projects. As population continues to grow

— See Community Coalition Statement, page 8



NEXT UHCA MEETING  
**JUNE 3**  
**7 PM VIA ZOOM**  
**STEPHEN WHITBURN**  
SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
[UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING](http://UHSD.ORG/ATTEND-A-MEETING)



## Sneak Peek: July/August Special Section: The UH Library's Past, Present, and Future

According to the last "Performance Audit of the San Diego Public Library System" in 2016, the University Heights Branch of the San Diego Public Libraries 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 programs offered and program attendance. Yet 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 its 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.

Next month, UHCA News is publishing a special four-page section focused on our library—past, present, and future. We will publish a bit of its history, some ideas for the future, thoughts from our local Friends of the Library, and additional comments from around the community.

**See Related Library Community Voices piece on page 7**

If you would like to have your comments published, please send your view of what the library's future should look like and/or what the library means to you, to [library@uhsd.org](mailto:library@uhsd.org) (please include your name). We will publish as many as we can fit.

We will also be talking about the library in an upcoming community meeting. A thriving library is a major asset for the community, and that's our purpose in highlighting our community's future library needs: to help move the conversation to action, ensuring that University Heights has the library we need and deserve.

## UH QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS TOP PRIORITIES

During July-August, ahead of the 2020 Council District 3 elections, the Community Coalition of University Heights, including UHCA, conducted a survey in conjunction with a live candidate's forum. The online survey, completed by 81 people, identified these issues as the "top ten" issues facing University Heights Residents.

1. Implement real solutions to homelessness.
2. Add more truly affordable housing units, not more luxury units.
3. Limit building heights to 30 feet and implement design guidelines for new development.
4. Implement traffic calming measures on Madison, Meade, Cleveland, and Maryland.
5. Repair and maintain sidewalks.
6. Repair and maintain streets and alleys.
7. Add more parking.
8. Add a dog park.
9. Treat palm trees at risk for South American Palm Weevil and plant more street trees.
10. Improve preservation and protection of historic resources.

# MEMBERSHIP

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



## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

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

## GOLDEN OSTRICH

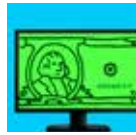
Megan Stanger, MaryBeth Chruden & Bill Smith, David & Susan Holts, Joseph Caperna & Jon Conway, Lari Sheehan, Cathleen Edwards, Sol Schumer, Steven Kolbert, Sharon Ritchie & David Morgan, Jennifer Colosimo, Karen & Ed Koijane

## HOUSEHOLD

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

## OUR MISSION

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



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

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



## Yearly Membership

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

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 NEW  RENEWAL

## Donor

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

## Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker** Help deliver UHCA News to neighborhood residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising** Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership** Help meet record goals for membership and meeting attendance.
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch** Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.
- UHCA News** Write articles, take photos, or sell ads; these are just a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity, and energy to the UHCA News.
- Program & Events** Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org



## UHCA OFFICERS

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

**WEBSITE** uhsd.org

**FACEBOOK** @universityheightscommunityassociation

**INSTAGRAM** @universityheights\_sdcommunity



## UHCA NEWS

**EDITORIAL TEAM** Katrina Serrano, Susan Holts, Marc Johnson, Nan McGraw, Judith Anniccharico

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Judith Anniccharico, Dave Flietner, Rod Girvin, Andy Hinds, Christine Hernandez, Susy Holts, Marc Johnson, Erin MacKinnon, Nan McGraw, Isabel Schechter, Katrina Serrano, Erin Wilson, Jon Von Erb.

**ART DIRECTOR** Paul Farris

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS** Paul Farris, Dave Flietner, Dave Holts, Marc Johnson, Cecilia Vargas Vazquez

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Susan Holts ads@uhsd.org

Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the first of the month. Please see www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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

- 1 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs** pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange** mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Christopher Hutchinson** christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zyhylij** tamara@tamarazrealstate.com
- 6 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com



## CRIME WATCH SIGNS

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



## SLOW DOWN SIGNS

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

## UH PHONE BOOK

<b>Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical</b>	911	<b>Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)</b>	619-692-4945
<b>Non-Emergency</b> 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	
<b>SD City Services: Emergency &amp; Non-Emergency</b> Fallen trees, flooding, clogged storm drains, street lights, pot holes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500	<b>SDPD Community Relations Officers:</b> Officer Michael Hayes mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov Officer David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov	619-692-4800 619-692-4858
<b>Alert San Diego</b> Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/		<b>SDPD Western Division</b> 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
<b>2-1-1 San Diego</b> Free Resources: COVID-19, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211	<b>Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service</b>	800-252-4613
<b>Abandoned Vehicles</b>	858-495-7856	<b>Stonewall Citizens Patrol</b> Volunteer neighborhood watch patrol group operating in Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights. info@stonewallcitizens.org	619-320-8219
<b>Alice Birney Elementary Office</b>	619-497-3500	<b>Suicide Prevention</b>	888-724-7240
<b>Animals / Non-Emergency</b>	619-767-2675	<b>UHDC</b> University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
<b>Brush and Weed Abatement</b>	619-533-4444	<b>University Heights Public Library</b> 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
<b>Code Violations</b>	619-236-5500	<b>UH Zone Watch Coordinator</b> Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
<b>COVID-19</b> City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus	<b>SD Vector Control</b> mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcountry.ca.gov	858-694-2888
<b>COVID-19</b> California Daily Updates	www.cdph.ca.gov	<b>Get It Done</b> Download the City of San Diego app for reporting non-emergency issues like potholes, graffiti, etc. Include photos when possible.	https://getitdone.force.com
<b>COVID-19</b> County of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus	<b>If all else fails, email</b> BCartwright@sandiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.	
<b>COVID-19</b> National Daily Updates	www.cdc.gov		
<b>Crime Stoppers Tip Line</b>	888-580-TIPS (8477)		
<b>Department of Environmental Health</b> Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888		
<b>Downed Power Lines / SDG&amp;E</b>	800-411-7343		
<b>Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes</b>	619-515-3525		
<b>Narcotics</b> 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



June is here, and that means Summer is kicking off! Is anyone else feeling that our little neighborhood is a bit more normal? Our businesses are seeing a steadier flow of customers, and even our long-standing institutions, like The Lancers, are finally able to reopen their doors after such a long wait. Vaccinations now widely available to the public are allowing folks to return to some normality.

UHCA is also planning how to get back to normal. We are a very small group of volunteers and have many tasks to complete in order to get back to in-person gatherings. We all must acknowledge that not everyone will be vaccinated, so we must continue to practice our regular COVID safety measures, like wearing masks when we are indoors or supporting our businesses.



UH Pride / Comic-Con street banners.

June is also LGBT Pride Month, celebrated annually to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots. Pride Month works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) Americans. Did you know that University Heights has a historic LGBT commemorative sculpture and plaque on Florida Street, near the corner of El Cajon



emerge commemorative sculpture located on Florida Street at El Cajon Boulevard.

Boulevard? The artwork recognizes that location as the place where early San Diego LGBT leaders Bernie Michels and Thom Carey held gatherings in the early 1970s, organizing to establish what we now know as The Center. When you're near there, take a look.

Since the sun is out, I decided to take a 2-week break from social media. I logged off and plan to enjoy some of my favorite places in San Diego. There are lots of articles out there that explain the benefits of "social media dieting." If you're like me, social media can be a real time suck. So while the sun is out, put the phone down, go enjoy what San Diego has to offer, and spend some offline time doing the things you've been wanting to do. You'll be thankful you did!

- Christine Hernandez,  
UHCA President



**SUSTAINABLE UH TRASH TALK**

Have you noticed more bulging blue and brown bins lining our streets on Thursdays over the past year? Apparently, we San Diegans have upped our garbage production quite a bit during the pandemic, and we were already producing more than a ton of garbage per capita each year. Yikes.

The Miramar landfill will fill up and close within seven to nine years, as will the Otay landfill, leaving one remaining "dump" for the whole region: the Sycamore landfill in east county. It seems likely that new landfills will have to be developed even though San Diego has adopted a "Zero Waste by 2040" goal.

Most of us here in UH are enthusiastic recyclers, and a good portion of residents also follow the "reduce" & "reuse" practices we've all heard about for years. Diverting every bit of refuse that we can from the landfill is a great goal if we want to help preserve open spaces and put off opening a new dump for as long as possible.

It turns out that, on average, over 70% of the "garbage" we send to the landfill is

composed of materials that can be reused or recycled, including organic materials—most of which can be composted—and recyclable metal, glass, and plastic. If we can get ourselves to spend the time it takes to sort out reusable items, to recycle everything that can be recycled, and even to compost, if possible, we'll definitely be part of the solution.

Avoiding "greenwashed" products and purchasing from legitimately sustainable companies may take some research, but it's a sustainability practice that is easy to embrace. The real key, though, is just buying less new stuff.

**UHCA MEETING NOTES**  
**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

**May 6 UHCA Community Meeting Summary**

Prior to the UHCA Community Meeting, Nan McGraw hosted Zone Watch, featuring guest speaker SDPD Community Relations Officer Michael Hayes. Officer Hayes offered a critical tip for avoiding becoming a victim of a car break-in: keep your car clean and remember to lock the doors. Car break-ins are often crimes of opportunity. Unlocked doors are a stroke of good luck for a thief. Your visible gym bag or phone cable can lead someone to believe there may be valuables inside your car.



UHCA President Christine Hernandez kicked off the Community Meeting by asking attendees what they would like to see UHCA accomplish by the end of the year. Responses included meeting in person, bringing more renters into UHCA meetings, holding movie night at the park, growing the membership, and starting a book club and gardening club. Christine shared that UHCA needs volunteers in order to support great programs like the ones suggested and noted a continued call for volunteers ([www.uhsd.org/volunteer](http://www.uhsd.org/volunteer)).

UH library Branch Manager Rachel Esguerra gave an update: unfortunately the branch is still closed, and there is no ETA for a re-opening, but staff is in the building, so give them a call or send an email with anything you need. They've got a new window display up, and they invite you to take a walk by. Rachel invited neighbors to contact Councilmember Whitburn regarding the proposed budget cuts for the library, which is already underfunded, noting that additional cuts would cause significant negative impacts including reduced hours.

Isabel Schechter, Secretary of the Friends of the UH Library, shared further details on the proposed city budget cuts: a 10% / \$5.57M reduction, which would result in closing libraries on Sundays and Mondays, among other negative impacts. She emphasized the importance of contacting the Mayor's office and Councilmember Whitburn to make your voice heard.

Next, guest speakers Jean-Huy Tran (Center on Policy Initiatives) and Carlos Sandoval (UH Resident) shared an informative overview of the proposed San Diego City Budget, walked us through year over year changes by category, and encouraged us to share our feedback with our elected officials and representatives.

Local Author Katherine Hon then shared the history of the Lafayette Hotel, which recently sold for \$25.8M to the San Diego-based CH Projects restaurant group (Born & Raised, Ironside Fish & Oyster, Raised by Wolves). The one-of-a-kind hotel, originally known as Imig Manor, opened on El Cajon Blvd. in 1946. It was designated as a historical resource in 1993 and went on the National Register in 2012. These designations will protect its unique exterior as well as the pool and other features.



The Lafayette Hotel  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The meeting wrapped up with Kohta Zaiser (District 3 Community Rep for Mayor Gloria) and Benny Cartwright (UH Rep. for Councilmember Whitburn) sharing more information on the city budget and encouraging residents to share their feedback and questions via emails/calls to the offices of the Mayor and Councilmember.



Shopping for items we need at thrift and consignment stores is an option that some people love for the financial savings and the basic thrill of the hunt. And other strategies to help us avoid adding junk to the landfill are plentiful in our area:

Have you checked out the **Earthwell Refill store in Kensington**, where you can bring your own bottles to fill up with personal care products and household cleaners? What a great alternative to buying plastic bottles of these products every month or so. <https://www.earthwellrefill.com/>.

The **Waste Free SD website** is an excellent resource for locating organizations and businesses that will reuse items you want to dispose of. Definitely check the site even if you can't imagine anyone wanting your used item. You might be surprised. <https://wastefreesd.org/>.

The **ifixit website** helps people repair items instead of throwing them away <https://www.ifixit.com/>.

Additionally, the **"Buy Nothing Project's private Facebook group"** for the Hillcrest / University Heights area boasts over 2000 members who can ask for items they need, offer items they want to get rid of, and donate items that people are asking for. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/756712751139733/>.

It's helpful to be reminded of how valuable our careful consideration of the "stuff" we acquire really is. And let's face it. We all know the drill: Reduce (and Refuse!), Repurpose, Donate, Repair, and Recycle. Last—and definitely the least sustainable—Dispose.

**I Love a Clean San Diego's Zero Waste Fair** will be held online on June 12 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The yearly event provides inspiring and useful information regarding low-waste living, sustainable fashion, food systems, environmental justice, and other topics. Read more about the fair and sign up at <https://cleansd.org/event/6th-annual-zero-waste-fair/>.  
-Judith Annicchiarico

# Nature in the Neighborhood



Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*)



Sugar Bush (*R. ovata*)



Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

Four native shrubs in the Cashew Family (*Anacardiaceae*) grow in our neighborhood. Their fruits provide food for birds (and in one case, humans) through the summer. Their typical habitats fall along a wet to dry continuum, as shown in their leaves.

Poison Oak likes moister locations, often growing along streambeds as a vine or a shrub. The basic rule “leaves (actually compound leaflets) of three, let it be” works pretty well, except in winter when naked stems are hard to see but still full of blister-making urushiol (as I learned the hard way). Be on the lookout if you hike Buchanan Canyon.

Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*), all over the slopes at the western end of Adams Ave., has thin leaves that are reddish when young and folded like a taco shell. Though it dies back after a frost (an indicator to settlers of where to plant avocados), this hardy species is one of the first to establish itself in barren environments and one of the last to hang on. A rugged survivor still grows at Meade & Maryland, where the sprawling shrub must predate the huge Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*) that towers over it. (Bonus: its dried-up flower stalks, called inflorescences, make great trees for your model railroad).

Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) lives up to its name during the summer, when its oblong fruits turn red and a bit slimy. Pop this in your mouth (unless you're allergic to cashews!) and suck on it – when ripe, it'll taste like a SweeTart. Spit out the seed further down the trail and you've accomplished what nature intended. The thick, evergreen leaves with serrated edges adapt it to survive in drier situations. Find it at the north end of Delaware St.

A block west is its cousin (they hybridize), Sugar Bush (*R. ovata*). It's almost identical except the leaves are rounder, a bit thicker, and have smooth edges. They generally grow further inland or on south-facing slopes compared to its more coastal, north-facing cousin. You can compare these shrubs side by side as you walk along The Point.

Two other Anacards grow here as well – the ubiquitous Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*; > 15 leaflets) and its cousin the Brazilian Pepper Tree (*S. terebinthifolius*; 7 leaflets). Both are drought tolerant and invasive pests with limited value to wildlife.

– Dave Flietner, Proprietor of Design With Natives  
Former President, California Native Plant Society – San Diego

## As Soldiers of Togetherness, we Win!

All events,  
great or small, joyful or of a crisis in nature,  
exhibit a purpose,  
as far as mankind is concerned it is how we,  
the human race,  
deal with what this life has dealt us  
that makes the difference.  
That we've been taken by surprise is a given;  
mankind's ingenuity  
opens our doors to inventiveness.

Facing Covid-19 presents a call for responsibility.  
After 4 months, we know the dangers,  
the risks to be taken or ignored,  
outcomes and the results of each choice  
we have been given.  
Acting NOW is the key that secures the lock  
on our preservation.

Everything,  
living or merely existing  
has a shelf life;  
eventually,  
all living organisms will die or disappear  
into the mist of nonexistence.  
As guardians of our keep as a people,  
each of us must delve deep into our conscience.  
When we do all we can to protect ourselves,  
the protection of others around us will be steadfast.  
No virus can live (exist) without a host  
- no vulnerable hosts = no existing virus;  
plain and simple.

Positive action and thought are our weapons,  
complacency must not enter this battlefield.  
We must render this crisis extinct.  
With unselfishness and fortitude  
as our shields  
we can, we will end this blight,  
but only,

ALL TOGETHER!!

– Jon Von Erb, 6/2020

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IN DEVELOPMENT



Early Concept Rendering

## 1939 Adams Avenue – It’s Finally Happening!

For nearly a decade, University Heights residents have been wondering what, and when, something will happen with the property across from Old Trolley Barn Park. After several starts and stops, that development is now moving ahead.

The property at the corner of Adams and Florida, formerly owned by the late Christian Chaffee, a fine art and antiques dealer and noted San Diego streetcar enthusiast, was planned as a mixed-use market/café/ice cream shop and residential units. Chris had strong ties to University Heights and brought one of the three historic streetcars that he purchased to the park for a 2012 launch of his initiative to bring streetcars back to San Diego’s central neighborhoods. While construction activity on the site was sporadic over the years, everything came to an unfortunate stop when Chris passed away in 2019.

In late 2019 the building was purchased by Thomas Sustrino, a partner in the nearby Coffee & Tea Collective. Sustrino

loved the location, especially its proximity to the park, and decided to build on Chaffee’s concept. He retained the existing designer, Dominic Ballerino, and the project (yet to be named) is once again moving forward. When completed, the project will feature space on the ground level for a coffee concept and a retail storefront, and two residential units upstairs.

“I really liked the concept that the previous owner started. It made sense for the neighborhood and with my vision of a family-friendly place, so I was happy that I could build on that original concept,” Sustrino said.

As is so often the case with developments, there have been delays and surprises, especially given how old the existing structure was. The new development team has powered through those issues and are working towards a late 2021/early 2022 completion.

## A Larger Bar is Coming

John Pani, the man behind Hotel Vyvant in Little Italy, the former Waypoint Public in North Park, and Park & Rec in University Heights, has inked a deal to buy the property where Small Bar recently closed.

In an exclusive “sneak peek” John shared with UHCA News that he’s excited to bring a new concept to University Heights.

“As a San Diego native, I have always appreciated what we have here. I believe that the pandemic has changed things in our industry. Coupled with our amazing weather, outdoor venues are more appreciated now.” Pani said.

“I’m looking forward to making this new concept – a casual, neighborhood, cool outdoor space.”

The former Small Bar, a long-time fixture in the neighborhood, was appropriately named with both the bar and kitchen packed into just 1,500 square feet. It was recently updated by former owner Karen Barnett but fell victim to the extended closures forced by the pandemic.



“We will keep this venue distinct from Park & Rec and I am designing it to complement all of the other amazing places in the neighborhood. I love University Heights and this area has become a destination – we have everything from bars, breweries, high-end dining, and takeout. I want this concept to feel like a pub with great drinks and food,” Pani added.

Pani and his partners will transform the property over the coming months. A large outdoor space in the back will be a big part of the final design. Pani is currently working on getting plans approved with the city and expects to begin work over the summer, with a hoped-for opening in 2022.

– Marc Johnson

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# June 2021



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Pride  
Month



NATIONAL  
SAFETY  
MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, sandiegounified.org</p> <p><b>Uptown Planners</b> 6:00 pm Via Zoom uptownplannerssd.org</p> <p><b>UHCDC</b> 6:00 pm uhcdc.org</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>UH Park &amp; Rec Meeting</b> 5:30 pm Via Zoom uhsd.org/ParkRec</p> <p><b>UHCA Meeting</b> 6:45 pm Via Zoom www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p> Curbside Recycling &amp; Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>World Environment Day</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm</p> <p><b>D-Day 77th Anniversary</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, sandiegounified.org</p> <p><b>Hillcrest Town Council</b> 6:30 pm, hillcresttc.org</p> <p><b>World Oceans Day</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>No UH Library Task Force</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p> <b>Nighttime Zoo opens</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p> <b>6th Annual Zero Waste Fair</b> 9:00 am - 1:00 pm www.cleansd.org</p>	
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm April 11th -18th</p>	<p></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>North Park Planning Committee</b> Via Zoom 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p> Curbside Recycling &amp; Yard Waste Collection</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Father's Day</b></p> <p><b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm</p> <p><b>Summer Begins</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>World Giraffe Day</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>SDUSD Board Meeting</b> 5 pm, sandiegounified.org</p> <p><b>July/Aug News out</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>			

## UHCA BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Scott Schechter, CFP® Financial Advisor



Scott Schechter is a Financial Advisor in University Heights working for Eagle Strategies LLC. Scott and his wife, Isabel, moved to San Diego from Chicago in 2014 and love how everyone in University Heights works hard to create and maintain a sense of community.

Scott decided to become a Financial Advisor 20 years ago when he had an “aha!” moment that changed the course of his life. He was sitting in his office in a skyscraper in Chicago, looking down on Michigan Avenue and watching people walk up and down the sidewalk, when he realized that even with all his financial knowledge, even if he did the best job possible for his institutional money management firm, the chances of being able to impact individual people’s lives from way up in his office were practically zero.

He started thinking about ways that he could make a difference and help people instead of just looking down from an office in the sky. Today, Scott is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®). He no longer sits at a desk looking down on Michigan Ave. and wishing he could help. Instead, he now sits across from families and business owners, shakes their hands, and looks them in the eyes as he works

with them on a variety of issues, including retirement planning, estate planning, tax analysis, insurance strategies, investment accounts, and charitable planning.

Scott has Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Economics from Northwestern University and an MBA in Finance from University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He was previously an International Investment Analyst at Driehaus Capital Management, LLC, where he supported institutional accounts with more than \$2 billion in assets. In addition, Scott has experience as a management consultant where he analyzed client and comparable financial statements and collaborated with clients on turnaround strategies and increasing shareholder wealth. Scott has also served on committees and boards for several non-profits and helped those organizations with strategic planning, developing policies and procedures, and investment policy.

When he is not working and volunteering, Scott is a competitive sailor and has crewed a variety of boats, include a National Championship winner. He and Isabel enjoy hiking and camping, especially in national parks, and are looking forward to planning their next trip soon. If you have a park trip suggestion, please share it!



### Rent and Utility Relief Resources

- **Apply for Relief:** Residents of UH who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for the City of San Diego’s COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program. This program helps to pay past-due, unpaid rent, and utilities for individuals and families with low income. For more details visit <https://covidassistance.sdhc.org>.

- **New County Ordinance:** On May 4, county supervisors passed a temporary ordinance capping rent increases at roughly 4 percent and adding new rules to make evictions more difficult. Under the new law—one of the strictest anti-eviction laws in the state—landlords can no longer evict tenants for “just cause” reasons and can only remove tenants if they are an imminent health or safety threat. It also blocks a homeowner from evicting a renter when a homeowner intends to move back into their own home, which is legal under current law. The new ordinance takes effect in early June and will last until sometime in August.

# Community Voices: How Do You Feel About Our Library?



Following are some responses to our questions, what do you value about our local library, and what changes would you like to see?

I used to use the computers but haven't needed to for years. The space across the street from the UH branch would be a better spot for our library. It would be nice to have book sales available every day.  
- Allen

Please offer more kid activities like Kensington and North Park  
-@brittchasing sunlight

The UH Library has been a place for my daughters to learn the value of curiosity. It has served as a place for them to explore news ideas and to develop a love of and a respect for learning. It has allowed us to borrow and also discover used books at the book sales rather than buy everything new that we read, which also helps the environment. Having a library we can walk to right in our neighborhood has been priceless.  
- @switzacupuncture

We like being able to order DVDs and books online and then walk over to the branch to pick up our items.  
- Stephanie and Mike



Barley

The local branch seems messy and crowded, so when I want something from the library, I go downtown for the interesting architecture or to Mission Valley since that branch is in a pleasant, tree-filled space. I appreciate those surroundings.  
- Oleg (and Barley)



Erin

I appreciate being able to order online and pick up books, but I'd like to be able to stay and read there, which I'm not comfortable doing since it's small and crowded. It would be great to have meeting space and events like music and classes.  
- Erin

It would be wonderful if the library had a large visible wall where current issues could be highlighted and supported.  
- @ninjapriestess



It would be wonderful if the library had a large visible wall where current issues could be highlighted and supported.  
- @ninjapriestess

What do libraries do that people can't get on a smart phone? The space that public libraries hold now would be better served as new public schools or shelters/medical/health centers for the impoverished or displaced.  
- @toekneeswanson

I just want the Friends of the Library monthly book sale to come back!  
- @whl7bean

I love that there is a library within walking distance of my apartment! Right now I often don't see university heights on the library app to transfer a book on hold, not sure why that is but I'd love for it to be an option!  
- Leandra

I'd love to see some beautiful reading nooks that include nature and natural light. Also would like to see more of a showcase of local artists.  
- @lia.nora

I use the Libby app, which allows me to download and read books for free from the San Diego County library, but the SDPL system does not work with Libby.  
- Sam

Love the library!! It would be so cool tho if the back wall of the library was glass and had a view of UH with chairs to read in. Or an outdoor view deck for reading.  
- @san\_diego\_historic\_real\_estate



Candace

I love that the library is so close and wish it were bigger, but inter-library loans provide the books we need. I love being able to order my books online and pick them up at the branch. It would be great if we could have more programs for kids the way they do at the Mission Hills and Mission Valley branches.  
- Candace



Nancy

I like being able to easily order online and pick up books. I also appreciate the convenience of being able to donate books at the Friends of the Library sales. I would be interested in getting involved with the book club, if they meet at the library.  
- Nancy



Jill

Free public libraries are one of the bases of a democracy, and I grew up in a family that taught me to value reading and libraries. So I use the library frequently and read a great deal. It would be nice to have lectures for adults and more space for patrons to sit and read.  
- Jill

It would be wonderful if the library had a large visible wall where current issues could be highlighted and supported.  
- @ninjapriestess



Marylou

It would be nice to have larger meeting spaces for community groups. It's important to make book donations convenient. Book sales are valuable for the community so that they can purchase books at an affordable price.  
- Marylou

## Statement issued to City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn on May 7, 2021

- continued from page 1

safety projects. As population continues to grow east of Park Blvd., west bound traffic through University Heights will also continue to increase, creating more hazards for bicyclists and pedestrians, including Birney School children. The CCUH therefore strongly recommends funding for a traffic study and implementation of traffic calming measures for:

1. Reducing pass-through traffic from neighborhoods east of Park Blvd.
2. Reducing pedestrian/bicycle-vehicle incidents at intersections identified in the 2019 online survey of University Heights residents, particularly along Madison Ave., Cleveland Ave., Maryland St., and Meade Ave.

### •El Cajon Boulevard

Evaluate and study the feasibility of a traffic reorganization project at the intersection of El Cajon Blvd, Park Blvd, and Normal Street to make this intersection safer for residents, drivers, pedestrians and cyclist. The CCUH recommends a traffic circle at this intersection.

### •Sidewalks

Fund sidewalk infrastructure, maintenance and repair.

### •Parks and Recreation

Fund facility improvements at Balboa Park, neighborhood parks and recreation centers. The CCUH also recommends:

1. Given the City's dire financial situation and other community priorities, we are adamantly opposed to funding a comfort station in Trolley Barn Park and would like to see this budget reallocated to other priorities described in this memo.
2. Fund the operation and maintenance of a temporary dog park on the San Diego Unified School District site at 4100 Normal Street.
3. Fund the following improvements from the "San Diego Parks and Recreation Department 2018 Unfunded Park Improvements List." At Birney Joint Use field, this includes ballfield lighting with security

lights for events, a new electronic marquee, and picnic tables and . At Trolley Barn Park, repair erosion and plant fire resistant landscaping under the bridge on the north slope and landscape areas, re-finish metal benches, light poles, railings on the bridge; and a permanent stage at least 32' x 16' (size of a Show Mobile) for concerts & other special events.

## In addition, the CCUH recommends funding of the following:

### •Parking

1. Support the University Heights Community Parking District in its management of on-street parking, increase in parking spaces through conversions, and traffic calming measures.
2. Fund the updating of the City's Community Parking District policy so that parking revenues can be spent on a wide variety of neighborhood amenities for residents, visitors and businesses.
3. Expedite implementation of conversions to angle parking by recognizing potential parking zones identified by the Community Parking Districts.

### •Focused Plan Amendment

1. Improve multimodal transportation along Normal Street and Washington Street with possible roundabouts at Park Blvd and El Cajon, and Campus Ave and Normal Street.

2. Evaluate the feasibility of extending the Normal Street Promenade north to El Cajon Blvd. as open and walkable space embracing history of the streetcar, labor, ethnic groups, and LGBTQ+.

### •Historic Preservation

1. Prepare and adopt a Multiple Property Listing for Bungalow and Apartment Courts.
2. Commemorate and interpret the historic trolley line (along Normal Street and Park Blvd.) and its significance to the historical development of Uptown through markers, signage and educational materials.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to an update after the budget is approved in June 2021.

# BIRNEY BUZZ



Birney staff and students quickly adjusted to the new health procedures including daily temperature checks and symptom checklist forms, social distancing, and masks.

Birney teachers have done a tremendous job keeping students engaged throughout months of online instruction and balancing all the challenges and demands of returning to school for the final two months of the school year. We appreciate their dedication, professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to our students. Despite the challenges this year, Birney teachers went above and beyond to connect with, and inspire, their students.

## School's Out for Summer!

June 15 will mark the end of a strange, challenging, and memorable school year! Birney students, teachers, administrators, parents, and volunteers have made the most of this unique time - but we also look forward to starting fresh in the new school year. Birney is now on a traditional schedule so students will be on summer break until Monday, August 30.

In April, Birney shifted to a hybrid model where families could opt to continue with distance learning or have students return to school for Monday through Thursday in-person instruction and Friday morning virtual classes and asynchronous work.

We would also like to thank all of the families, neighbors, and businesses who have supported our Birney Bees! Due to COVID we were unable to host many of our large fundraisers, but the support we received from our local community has meant a great deal and helped us maintain the unique programming that makes Birney so special. If you are able to support Birney through financial sponsorship or in-kind donations, please reach out to us at: info@friendsofalicebirney.org

Have a safe and fun summer break, and we'll see you in August!

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

# ROO NEWS



## Roosevelt Middle School Embraces Restorative Justice Practices

As schools around the country prepare to put this bizarre year of quarantines, masks, and social distancing in their rear view mirrors, many will reflect on the lessons offered by the total upending of norms and practices that may have gone previously unexamined due to institutional inertia. In addition to changes regarding technology, pedagogy, and logistics, some schools have taken this opportunity to revamp policies that affect the entire school culture and climate, such as replacing traditional notions of "discipline" with the equity-driven practices known as Restorative Justice.

Even before the pandemic struck, Roosevelt International Middle School was in a state of flux after the then-Principal moved on to another position in the San Diego Unified School District. After a series of temporary Principals through most of the 2019-2020 school year, Roosevelt finally snagged Bernard Steinberger, who brought eleven years of classroom teaching experience, five years as Assistant Principal at Canyon Crest Academy, and a seemingly bottomless well of dedication, empathy, and accessibility to the community.

While navigating the troubled waters of the 2020-2021 school year, Roosevelt took another hit: the long-time and beloved Vice Principal Karina Reyes retired. But some happy coincidences delivered just the right person for the moment. Ciria Brewer, who was already working with Roosevelt through the District's Youth

Advocacy program where part of her job was training administrators in Restorative Justice Practices, accepted the job offer with the ringing endorsement of the Search Committee. Before working in Youth Advocacy, Ms. Brewer was the Dean at Hoover High School for six years and worked for the District's Family and Community Engagement program.

To vastly oversimplify the complicated theory of Restorative Justice as it pertains to schools, it is an approach to community-building that focuses on student voice, social-emotional learning, and relationships—rather than punishment for infractions. It seeks to mitigate the pitfalls of traditional discipline policies that lead to racial inequity (i.e. far more suspensions and expulsions meted out to students of color), and have been connected to the "school-to-prison pipeline." Restorative Justice seeks to bring students together to talk about conflicts, rather than isolating students who are considered perpetrators.

Like most progressive educational practices, Restorative Justice is difficult to institute, and the results are not usually overwhelming and instantaneous. The San Diego Unified School District is moving toward Restorative Justice Practices districtwide—a laborious and lengthy process. But Roosevelt's transition promises to be much smoother than most, given Ms. Brewer's expertise and the school community's enthusiastic support.

- Andy Hinds



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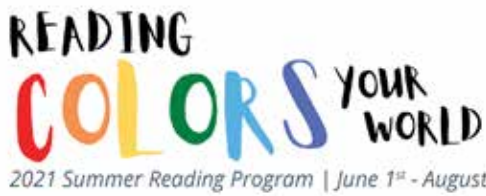


BETWEEN THE COVERS

# JUNE AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

Hello, my friends of the University Heights neighborhood and beyond! This is your friendly Library Assistant, Erin Wilson at the still very closed University Heights library. We still have no news of when we will reopen. I know you are waiting to see us, browse the shelves, use the computers and the copiers and so forth. We are also looking forward to seeing our long, lost library patrons. You are welcome to call us at 619-692-4912 Monday – Saturday between 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. with a sanitation/lunch break from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. or write to UHStaff@sandiego.gov. We'd love to hear from you!

June 1st marks the beginning of the Summer Reading Program! The theme this year is "Reading Colors Your World".



series called "A Date With Dewey"! Every episode brings you information on a different Dewey Decimal number of our choosing. There are FOUR episodes available to you through the Virtual Hub or our Facebook page. Like us at our page @universityheightslibrary. Check it out!

Mr. Mario, Miss Fran and I have also put in a lot of work on our front window displays. After April for National Poetry Month, May for Asian-Pacific American Month, who can tell what will be next? Swing by on your daily constitutional and marvel at the beauty!

Have a great month. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones and we hope to see you soon.



You can sign up online at <http://www.sandiegolibrary.org>. When you've completed the program, you can pick up your rewards at Mission Hills – Hillcrest/Knox Branch Library at 215 W Washington St.

While you're on the San Diego Public Library website, you should check out the Virtual Hub! Library staff has been working hard to inform, delight and sometimes amuse you. I, Erin Wilson, and Miss Bethany from University Heights have started our own video

Thanks for everything!

– Erin Wilson, Library Assistant, University Heights Branch Library, San Diego Public Library 619-692-4912, [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)



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.

# OUR REPRESENTATIVES

- U.S. PRESIDENT**  
**JOE BIDEN**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
202-456-1111 / 202-456-2461 fax  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov>
- U.S. SENATOR**  
**DIANNE FEINSTEIN**  
750 B Street, Suite 1030  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-231-9712 / 619-231-1108 fax  
<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov>
- U.S. SENATOR**  
**ALEX PADILLA**  
600 B Street, Suite 2240  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-239-3884 / 202-228-3863 fax  
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov>
- U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN**  
**SARA JACOBS, DISTRICT 53**  
2700 Adams Avenue, Suite 102  
San Diego, CA 92116  
619-280-5353 / 619-280-5311 fax  
David Vance [david.vance@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.vance@mail.house.gov)
- CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR**  
**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-2841 / 916-558-3160 fax  
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/>

- STATE SENATOR**  
**TONI ATKINS, DISTRICT 39**  
1350 Front Street, Suite 4061  
San Diego CA 92101  
619-645-3133/619-645-3144 fax
- STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER**  
**CHRIS WARD, DISTRICT 78**  
1350 Front Street, Room 6054  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-645-3090 / 619-645-3094 fax  
Christopher Gris, 619-645-3090  
[Christopher.Gris@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christopher.Gris@asm.ca.gov)
- SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERVISOR**  
**NATHAN FLETCHER, DISTRICT 4**  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-531-5544 / 619-531-6262 fax  
[nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Jayme Anderson, 619-531-5525  
[jayme.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:jayme.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- SAN DIEGO MAYOR**  
**TODD GLORIA**  
202 C Street, 11th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-236-6330 / 619-236-7228 fax  
[MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov)  
Kohta Zaiser, [ZaiserK@sandiego.gov](mailto:ZaiserK@sandiego.gov)
- SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCILMEMBER**  
**STEPHEN WHITBURN, DISTRICT 3**  
202 C Street, 10th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-236-6633 / 619-595-1481 fax  
[stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov](mailto:stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov)  
Benny Cartwright, [BCartwright@sandiego.gov](mailto:BCartwright@sandiego.gov)

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

# Looking Back, Looking Forward



By the time this issue of the UHCA News comes out, the Friends of University Heights Library will have elected a new Board of Directors for our chapter. While we are looking forward to what the incoming board will do to support our branch library, we first need to look back and thank our outgoing board members for the many years of service they have given to our chapter and our branch.

Over the years, our chapter has been able to support our library by supplying funding for:

- New books and electronic resources
- Programs for children and adults, including science, art, music programs and performances
- Our Silhouette Studio portable Maker Space equipment
- New banners for the front and side of the building
- Furniture and appliances for the staff breakroom

Our chapter continued to support the branch during the COVID pandemic and funded the purchase of eBooks to keep up with the incredible increase in demand. Most recently, we have made a major

investment in security cameras inside and outside the building to help keep our staff, patrons, and volunteers safe.

And now our outgoing board is working on facilitating a smooth transition to the incoming board so that the chapter will continue to support our library in these and other, new ways. We hope you will join us in thanking our outgoing board members for everything they've done to help make our library such a wonderful community resource and welcoming our incoming board.

As always, if you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, please contact us at [friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com) and we will be happy to send you a membership form.

Thank you for your support.

– Isabel Schechter, Secretary  
Friends of University Heights Library



# Pets of the Month Kody and Margot

Hi neighbors! Meet Kody and Margot, the White German Shepherds. Actually, Kody has a little bit of Husky in him, while Margot is 100% purebred. You might have seen them with their dads around the neighborhood on one of their three or four walks a day. Keeping active has helped them all stay healthy and sane, especially in this difficult past year.

Both beauties came from Southern California German Shepherd Rescue ([www.socalrescue.com](http://www.socalrescue.com)), a great rescue organization that really cares about dogs and does wonderful work. Kody was just a puppy, five or six months old, when he was surrendered by his previous owner. Luckily, right from the start he was well-adjusted, happy, and a complete goofball who loves to play. Margot was a

couple of years old when she was rescued on the streets of East LA, giving birth to a litter of beautiful puppies as soon as she got to the shelter. From what her dads can tell, Margot had a pretty traumatic start in life, and she's made a lot of adjustments over the years, but she's the sweetest girl and her dads love her to bits.

Both dogs are excellent bunny chasers, especially Margot, who, on more than one occasion, would have caught a bunny if her dads could run faster. She's not a puppy anymore, but she's fast as lightning still. Kody loves to play Frisbee in the back yard and generally turns any activity into a game. He's all play, all the time.

Kody and Margot look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

– Susy Holts

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UHCA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

It is hard to believe, but it has been a year and a half since the UHCA Beautification Team has had an in-person meeting. Nevertheless, volunteers have continued to work throughout our community during the pandemic on various beautification projects. Thank you to those many community members who have devoted their time to help keep University Heights beautiful.

As we are now emerging from the pandemic, it is time to return to normalcy in every way, including with the Beautification Team. Accordingly, our first meeting in 18 months will be held at the Lafayette Hotel at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, June 2. This will be a few days before the complete lifting of COVID restrictions by the state, so we will meet outside and socially distance. This meeting will focus on how we move forward to plan and execute team projects such as major cleanups, graffiti removal throughout the neighborhood, Vermont Street Bridge cleaning, trash collection, Trolley Barn Park maintenance and enhancement, maintenance of the Lincoln Street median, renewal of efforts to get the city to plant trees along our streets, recycling events, and many others.

If you are interested in joining the team or would just like to attend to learn what we do, please plan on attending this meeting. If there is anything that you feel the team should work on, you can let me know by email at [beautification@uhsd.org](mailto:beautification@uhsd.org). I will be certain to include it on the agenda.

- Rod Girvin,  
UHCA Beautification Team Leader



UHCA would like to say a big 'Thank You!' to Dan Weiss, who recently stepped down from the Beautification team lead role after helping to organize a number of cleanups during the pandemic. We'd also like to thank Rod Girvin for stepping into the role. Rod returns to the role after previously serving in it.

FROM YOUR STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

It continues to be the honor of a lifetime to represent our communities across the 78th Assembly District in our State Capitol. At this time, the California State Legislature has entered a particular busy time of year. I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the issues being discussed by the Legislature and my priorities as we debate, amend, and move hundreds of bills through the capitol.

On April 12th, I joined my colleagues in the Assembly in approving \$536 million to combat AND prevent future wildfires. In 2020, California battled several of the largest wildfires that the state has ever seen. Now, with this funding, California is in a strong position to take action ahead of this year's fire season. Main investments in this plan include support for vegetation management on public and private lands, "home hardening" or retrofitting for homes in wildfire-prone areas, workforce training, and an economic investment in the forestry sector.

In April, I voted in support of SB 93, a bill that requires a certain sector of hospitality employers to prioritize the working people in their industries that lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working Californians have lost their entire careers after decades of service. These individuals deserve assurances of employment and a fair chance to rebuild their lives.

This is just a portion of the California State Assembly's legislative work. To search all bills currently before the Legislature visit [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov) and to view my legislative package visit my website at <https://a78.asmdc.org/>.



For questions or for assistance with any state-related issues or resources, contact my District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday at (619) 645-3090. To reach someone by email, contact: [Assemblymember.Ward@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Ward@assembly.ca.gov).

Yours in service,  
Christopher M. Ward  
Assemblymember, 78th District

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# Stuart McGraw

**For Uptown Planners 2021** Stuart is a lifelong volunteer and resident of University Heights, and if elected, Stuart would be the only Uptown Planners board member representing University Heights. Stuart advocates for public amenities like a new dog park, urban forestry, pedestrian safety, etc. Most importantly, Stuart listens to his neighbors throughout UH and Uptown and will always put their interests first. **Vote July 6, 2021.** Learn more at [stumcgraw.com](http://stumcgraw.com)



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