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## RESTROOMS IN OLD TROLLEY BARN PARK?

We need your input (again)!



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, Voice of San Diego, 11/1/2021

Councilmember Whitburn advised UHCA leadership in early February that Mayor Gloria and his staff were proceeding with initial engineering plans and gathering community outreach regarding the installation of “comfort stations” (restrooms) in Old Trolley Barn Park.

Mr. Whitburn indicated that he isn't taking a position on the idea yet, stating, “We need to have a clear voice from the community – people that use the park and live near the park – to guide any decision of this magnitude.”

The engineering and outreach cost is budgeted at \$500,000, and building a comfort station was estimated to cost a minimum of \$1.5 million in 2019. That number has likely increased substantially since then.

UHCA News asked for input in the November 2019 issue, and published community responses in the following December/January issue (both are available at [www.uhsd.org/newspaper](http://www.uhsd.org/newspaper)). The overwhelming input from those comments was 3 to 1 against adding restrooms. This was not a scientific poll, but other avenues of public outreach in the past also generated a strong degree of opposition to the idea.

The UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group, our community's voice to the City Park & Recreation department, unanimously rejected this idea after hearing comments from residents who attended the September 5, 2019 meeting.

UH residents attending a meeting with then-Councilmember Ward on September 14, 2019, presented a visual report of the conditions of various city park restrooms littered with needles and blood, and in sub-standard and filthy conditions, and expressed their opposition.

A common concern raised in the past was about ongoing maintenance. Poor conditions in existing restrooms were documented by The San Diego Union-Tribune in May 2019 ([tinyurl.com/UTrestrooms](http://tinyurl.com/UTrestrooms)) and an internal report commissioned by the City Parks & Recreation department ([tinyurl.com/PRrestrooms](http://tinyurl.com/PRrestrooms)). Based on the numbers in the city-commissioned report, it is estimated that operation of a comfort station (cleanings, materials, repairs) could approach \$100,000 annually.

“City maintenance crews work diligently to make sure comfort stations are clean and stocked each morning,” Tim Graham, a spokesman for the department, told the San Diego Union-Tribune in the May 2019 article. “Unfortunately, comfort stations are often a primary target for vandalism, graffiti and theft, which results in an unpleasant and uninviting experience for those patrons who wish to use the facility. City crews do their best, but are often having to play catch up as it relates to cleaning and restocking a vandalized comfort station.”

RESTROOMS continued on page 3

## IS NORTH PARK GETTING A NEW LIBRARY?

NP Planning Committee to review options at March meeting



North Park Branch, SDPL

North Park Planning Committee's Urban Design Project Review Subcommittee met recently to discuss a path forward for a new, expanded North Park Branch Library. Various designs from other cities showing libraries incorporated into private development projects were presented, and a motion originally scheduled for the February 15 NPPC meeting was delayed to the March 15 meeting to request that the City and NPPC work together to solicit proposals to build a new joint-use library facility, combined with other uses like senior or affordable housing.

The North Park branch was remodeled in 1987 to its current 8,000 square feet size but it remains one of the smaller libraries in the system, well under the NPPC standard 15,000 square foot size guideline.



Chicago, IL branch library mixed use project: 16,000 sq ft library and 44 units of affordable senior apartments



Cornelius, OR library mixed use project: 13,650 sq ft library with café, courtyard, 2,900 sq ft YMCA branch, and 45 affordable apartments intended for seniors

The UH branch library, in contrast, is **much** smaller at 3,749 square feet, one of the smallest branches in the system, and has been the subject of much community discussion to expand it for over a decade. Councilmember Whitburn included a request for the FY23 City budget to include funds to begin exploration of how to expand, remodel, rebuild, or move the UH branch library.

UHCA News produced a special section about our library and community needs in the July-August 2021 edition ([www.uhsd.org/newspaper](http://www.uhsd.org/newspaper)), where results from a community survey done in May 2021 were shared. Facilities (and size) were a recurring issue that people wanted addressed as we look to the future. With two large developments happening within a few blocks of the library, and more to come, the current UH branch library is challenged to meet the current needs of our community, much less the rapid expansion that is happening in the southern part of UH along Park Blvd.


Because we are divided between two planning groups, NPCC east of Park Blvd. and Uptown Planners west of Park Blvd., neither planning group has taken up the UH branch library as a focus. The time to address our community's library needs is now, and either or both planning groups need to seriously look at our growth, density, and help us move forward with a library branch that will meet the needs of our community. We believe that the same approach of a private/public partnership makes a great deal of sense and implore the planning groups and city to work together. UH CDC and the other UH groups including UH Historical Society and UHCA are ready to work together with the City to move forward.

— Ernestine Bonn, Board Treasurer, UH CDC and member Community Coalition of UH


## Cookies

### WITH THE COPS

**MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022**  
5PM TO 6PM • NEW YORK AND MADISON



Come and meet our community relations officers. Ask questions directly and join the conversation. Meet fellow neighbors who share the same concerns. Be a part of making a difference.



NEXT UHCA MEETING

# MAR. 3

## 6:45 PM

**FEATURED SPEAKER: ROB NIKOLEWSKI**  
**NET METERING 3.0: WHAT IS IT AND HOW WILL THE IMPENDING VOTE AFFECT HOMEOWNERS WHO EITHER HAVE OR ARE CONSIDERING ROOFTOP SOLAR?**

Join us as Emmy award-winning Rob Nikolewski, energy reporter for The San Diego Union-Tribune, breaks down California's solar incentive program(s), the core issues up for debate in the current proposal, the key players, and how a vote for or against may impact California residents, and ultimately, the environment.



Rob holds master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University and public administration from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and prior to joining the U-T staff in February 2016 covered politics and energy in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

[UHSd.org/attend-a-meeting](http://UHSd.org/attend-a-meeting)

LOOKING AHEAD

# APRIL 7

## 6:45 PM

\*CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES

**FEATURED SPEAKER TBD**  
**WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEXT ISSUE**  
[UHSd.org/attend-a-meeting](http://UHSd.org/attend-a-meeting)



In April 1997, the University Heights sign was dedicated and illuminated for the first time, and for 25 years has lit up our community, proudly identifying UH and harkening back to our roots with the iconic trolley car and ostriches.

Mark your calendar for **April 30, 2022 at 5pm** where UHCA and local businesses will host a celebration of the sign *and* our community!



## UH Cleanup: March 12

A Beautification Team cleanup of Park Boulevard, between Meade Ave. and Adams Ave. is happening **Saturday, March 12, 9-11 am**, to remove graffiti and stickers that have accumulated over the past year.

Meet at Park Blvd. and Meade Ave. near the Birney joint-use field. People are welcome to come for all or part of this event.



# IN MEMORIAM HAL SADLER

Hal Sadler, prominent modernist architect in San Diego, passed away in January. Our library was inspired by Hal's design. Almost 6 years ago we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our library where Hal was our guest of honor.

— Nan McGraw



# SKATE 8 ROLLERSKATE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

All Ages - 4:30-7:30 PM  
North Park Recreation Center's  
Tennis Courts

Music - Oval Style Skate Setup  
Lights - Dance - Fun

Monthly registration offered only \$25

Registration opens online February 12  
WWW.SDRECCONNECT.COM

First Session: March 2, 2022

North park recreation center will now offer an outdoor skating rink event every Wednesday. Bring your skates and groove with us as you find your flow skating with fellow skate friends from the community.

WWW.SDRECCONNECT.COM  
Active Net Codes

MARCH  
99361  
APRIL  
99365

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

The days are getting longer, my roses are exploding with new blooms, and that amazing feeling of spring awakening is all around us. What I wasn't expecting was turning on the air conditioner in mid-February! Such is life in San Diego, with sometimes unpredictable, but (almost) always near-perfect weather.

Spring is one of my favorite times here. Maybe a little more so now as the pandemic is finally starting to level off. As mask mandates expire and people begin to get back to "normal," or whatever that will be now, UHCA is planning events again in the coming months, for the first time in two years.

In addition to the Celebrate UH 25th anniversary of our iconic UH sign, the Events team led by Stu McGraw is working on another community-wide yard sale, we're also working out how we will start holding meetings again in-person (stay tuned to our social media channels and website [www.uhsd.org](http://www.uhsd.org) for updates), and the Beautification Team led by Jennifer Bishop continues their tireless efforts to keep UH looking great.

Spring is also the time of year when important issues affecting our community come up for discussion and action.

We have a lot happening in UH - from the debate on bathrooms in Old Trolley Barn Park again, to our neighbors in North Park exploring a replacement library (and UH wondering when we will see improvements to our tiny but mighty branch). The City budget process for next year is underway, including some good things that came from

feedback from the UH community, and the contentious issue of our neighbors in Hillcrest forming a MAD along Park Blvd. south of El Cajon Blvd. will be presented to property owners via a special mail-in ballot in the coming months. The future of the Education Center is also going to come up again as the school district completes their plans to move their headquarters.

Our history as a community organization by and for UH guides us as we face these new (and old) issues and challenges. UHCA is doing more than just watching these issues - we are actively engaged with our elected officials and other community groups, making sure that the UH community's voice is heard loudly and clearly.

This month we need everyone to respond to the Old Trolley Barn Park restroom survey at [www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey](http://www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey). And if you didn't already respond to the library survey that the Community Coalition of UH did last year, you can still provide your views at [www.uhsd.org/librarisurvey](http://www.uhsd.org/librarisurvey).

You can help ensure that UHCA is advocating for what we want in our neighborhood by being an active member, speaking up at community meetings, and responding to surveys. Your voice, amplified with the voices of your neighbors, collectively help us guide and hold accountable our City leaders, which ultimately will make UH a better place for all, together.



## Save the Date

# UH Community Yard Sale

### Saturday, June 4, 2022

Time to clean out the garage, closet, or storage space? Looking to pick up a few items? Be part of the University Heights Yard Sale.

Email [UHyardsale@gmail.com](mailto:UHyardsale@gmail.com) by May 15 to register & be included on the map

## MEMBERSHIP

### NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

**BUSINESS GOLDEN OSTRICH**  
Electric Tiger Tattoo

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**  
William Carleton, Bobbi Jones

Thank You!

### GIFT

Diane Brockman & Muriel Davis, Paul Farris

### HOUSEHOLD

Diane Brockman & Muriel Davis, Paul Farris, Cathleen Edwards, Guido & Tara Hamacher, Herbert (Jim) Seagram, Silvia Ward, Ryan Holborn, Pamela Isaacs, Jon Von Erb & Gary Williams

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



### 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.



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

NEW  RENEWAL

### Donor

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

### Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

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

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



JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT [UHSd.org](http://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](http://www.uhsd.org/submissions) for details.



**WEBSITE** [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org)

**FACEBOOK** [@universityheightscommunityassociation](https://www.facebook.com/universityheightscommunityassociation)

**INSTAGRAM** [@universityheights\\_sdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights_sdcommunity)

## UHCA OFFICERS

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# UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## February 3 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The February 3 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 7 pm via Zoom, with 35 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at [www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting](http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting).

**Crime Watch:** Officer Michael Hayes and UH resident Andy Lange, who had an article in the February, 2022 UHCA News regarding the difficulty of accessing assistance with removing canyon encampments, discussed homelessness and the danger of fire in our canyons.



**Announcements:** UHCA President Marc Johnson opened the meeting by welcoming us to 2022 and thanking all our volunteers. He thanked Jane Gilbert and welcomed Thalia Driessen to the UHCA News and Nikki Mirasola to the Programs Team. Marc noted that the Birney Giving Tree raised \$1,365 in gift cards distributed to 26 families and that the traffic circles along Meade have been corrected. Marc welcomed residents to join UHCAN's email list at [www.cc-uh.org](http://www.cc-uh.org).

**Events:** Stu McGraw reported that the Birney Bee Hunt was a success and Cookies with the Cops will be held on March 14. Please Save the Date for our UH Community Yard Sale on June 4.

**Library Updates:** UH branch library manager, Rachel Esguerra, shared that the My First Library Card program has launched for children 5 years old and under. Cute ODI gifts are available. Additionally, a 50% off pass to a list of museums is available for free. Isabel Schechter asks residents to join The Friends of the UH Library. National Library Week is April 3-9.

### Updates from Elected Officials:

Benny Cartwright from Stephen Whitburn's office shared that their top 4 priorities are homelessness, pedestrian and mobility safety, infrastructure, and crime. Funding has been requested for a number of UH items. Pop-up tours resume in March.

Abbey Reuter, Nathan Fletcher's new rep, reported they are working to increase COVID testing capacities, and funds have been allocated for Community Gardens. Additionally, the SD County Sheriff has retired, and Fletcher's office has released a "3-year Impact Report" detailing the effects of Mr. Fletcher's Supervisorial work since 2019.

Christopher Gris from Chris Ward's office shared new legislation Ward has introduced, including laws regarding gun and ammo sales restrictions, the ability to sue gun manufacturers, and expedited teacher credentialing processes for partners of Armed Forces members.

Stopher Vallejo from Toni Atkins office reminded us that the CA Mortgage Relief Program is still ongoing. The District's Woman of the Year nominations are being collected. Toni continues to work on the homeless situation. Her office will provide help.

### Featured Speaker

Stephen Russell, CEO of the San Diego Housing Authority, spoke on Affordable Housing. Their vision is for all San Diegans to have access to safe and stable places we can afford to call home. He shared a lot of information including the County's AMI (Area Median Income), the definition of being "rent burdened," the need for wage increases to keep pace with housing costs, and more. Mr. Russell welcomed residents to join their mailing list and give your support.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Secretary & Treasurer

### RESTROOMS *continued from front page*

Old Trolley Barn Park was conceived and developed as a "neighborhood park," smaller in scale and with fewer amenities than a "community park" like North Park Community Park. When it was originally designed, restrooms were rejected by the community and weren't normally included as amenities in neighborhood parks. The San Diego Reader reported on the opening of Old Trolley Barn Park in the April 4 1991 edition:

The finished product, one of the first new inner-city parks to be built in many years, lacks the traditional tennis courts, softball diamonds, and basketball courts. University Heights residents told the city parks department they didn't want those; instead, they got a huge expanse of grass accented with picnic benches and concrete chess and checkers tables. Police wanted a park that didn't attract transients or give drug dealers a place to hide, so there are no bunker-like restrooms or thick groves of trees.

As previously published, there are arguments both for and against adding a restroom, and UHCA wants to help the City gain a clear view of what UH residents think about this issue. We also want the city to explore all possible options, including public/private partnerships with neighboring businesses (including new ones currently being built).

UHCA, as part of the Community Coalition of University Heights, has developed a survey which will be open through April, and we encourage every UH resident to let UHCA and the city know where you stand on this issue:

[www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey](http://www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey)

The survey includes comment areas, and select comments may be edited and used when the results are reported back. We will also have open discussion at upcoming meetings where people can voice their thoughts, and we expect the city will host additional "listening sessions" as well.

It is important that UH residents let our elected officials know what they want in Old Trolley Barn Park. More than 31 years ago, what would have been an unwanted development project became the park that that is a jewel in UH today, and that happened thanks to community activists and neighbors who stood up and fought for what wanted.

UHCA was born from those efforts, and we continue with that same mission of making sure that UH voices are heard by our City leadership.

— Marc Johnson, President UHCA

*Cecilia's*  
FINE JEWELRY

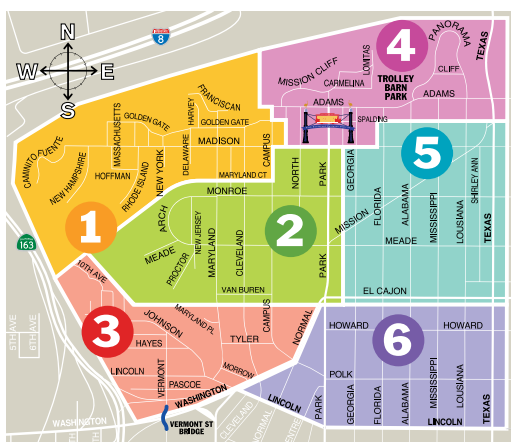
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FOR APPOINTMENT

## 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](http://uhsd.org) or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.

- 1 **Nan McGraw** [nmcsan@aol.com](mailto:nmcsan@aol.com)
- 2 **Pam Isaacs** [pamisaacs1@gmail.com](mailto:pamisaacs1@gmail.com)
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- 6 **Nan McGraw** [nmcsan@aol.com](mailto:nmcsan@aol.com)



### CRIME WATCH SIGNS

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

## UH PHONE BOOK

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

<https://getitdone.force.com>



### 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.



# Nature in the Neighborhood

## Subtle Winter Beauty



Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

When I was younger, I liked sweet white wines (ah, Annie Green Springs!); now I prefer a nice dry red. My tastes have changed from the obvious to the subtle. Native plants are similar: rather than big, showy flowers selected to appeal to the human eye, native flowers have evolved to appeal to pollinators whose point of view is quite different. This month we'll take a close look at five native plants that are putting on a subtle winter show of white (to pink) flowers at the University Heights Point.

The first to flower this year, and the first you'll encounter, is Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), a large evergreen shrub, with thick, leathery leaves. The tiny 5-petaled flowers aren't much as individuals, but all together they put on a fine show. You'll pass several Lemonade Berries before you get to our next species, where the trail proper starts.



Wart-stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*)

Wart-stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) is similar to Lemonade Berry – an evergreen shrub with small, 5-petaled flowers. Look closely and you notice the petals are more separated, the filaments (little stalks) are longer, and the ovary (center) is darker, among other fine distinctions.

Next is Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*), a smaller shrub with soft, aromatic leaves, about six feet off the trail. These flowers form whorls around the upright flower stalks. They also have five petals, but the two on top and the three below have been fused into two "lips," a fact which gives the entire (Mint) family its old Latin name, Labiatae.



Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)

Right next to the Black Sage, you'll find a plant where the white to pink petals have completely fused to form tiny, hanging bells. Mission Manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*) is another evergreen shrub with thick leaves. It's closely related to true manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos spp.*); they both have these bell-like flowers and shedding bark, but the bark of true manzanitas is a deep red.



Mission Manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*)

At the fence, you'll find Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*). These petals are more separated and don't have a hint of pink. This plant is a vine that grows each year from a large tuber and festoons its flowers over the branches of woody shrubs. In this way, it grabs sunlight before other plants leaf out and reproduces faster. If the flowers are already spent, you'll see the start of the plant's spiny green fruits, aka "porcupine eggs."



Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*)

It may not be a coincidence that plants that flower at the same time share the same color (you'll see a wave of yellows next). The theory is that if pollinators are drawn to a certain color, plants may co-evolve to pump up the stimulus and "share the wealth." This could be true of Lemonade Berry and Wart-stem Ceanothus, whose small flowers may attract generalists like beetles and flies, but is less likely for Mission Manzanita and Black Sage, whose distinctive flower shapes are clearly aimed at attracting specialized pollinators.

You'll probably notice another plant in the area with tons of white flowers – the ever popular, but very invasive Jade Plant (*Crassula ovata*). Or, as I like to think of it, Ripple.

— David Flietner is proprietor of Design With Natives.



### Crossword (page 9) solution:

1 Ostrich, 2 Soichi, 3 Winslow, 4 Whitburn, 5 Madison, 6 Twiggs, 7 Sadler, 8 Diversionsary, 9 Kaitra, 10 Atkins, 11 Buchanan, 12 Jacobs, 13 Mystic, 4 Eucalyptus, 15 Bee, 16 Eden, 17 Hebbard, 18 Sprouts, 19 Pomegranite, 20 BFD, 21 Parkhouse, 22 Cecilia, 23 Serano, 24 Trolley, 25 Lancers, 26 Fibre, 27 Plumera, 28 Roosevelt

## UHCA BEAUTIFICATION

### A BUSY SPRING AHEAD

The Beautification Team met via Zoom on Wednesday, February 2, and anticipates a busy spring ahead. The following projects and topics were addressed at the meeting:

**A mini-cleanup** of Park Boulevard from Meade Avenue to Adams is being organized for early March to address the graffiti and multitude of stickers that have proliferated over the last six months. All volunteers will be provided with the necessary supplies to remove the graffiti and stickers.

**An Adopt-a-Tree program** is being created to help revive and make thrive the trees planted alongside Birney Elementary on Meade Avenue and Campus Drive. Additional trees throughout the neighborhood that need care are being identified. Our goal is to launch the adopt-a-tree initiative in the spring.

**The canyon by the 163 freeway** entrance as it comes up from Mission Valley continues to be a major issue, as reported by Andy Lange in the February issue the UHCA News. Citizens are encouraged to submit requests for trash mitigation on the Get It Done app.

The Canary Palm weevil is taking more and more trees. As those trees die, they present a major hazard. Members of the Beautification Team regularly report the dying trees on Get It Done app with the goal of having them removed with immediacy. Members of our community are also asked to report the blighted trees on the Get It Done app.

**Individuals "tagging" our community** continues to be an issue. The sooner such graffiti is painted over, the less likely a building or construction site is likely to be tagged in the future. Please report this graffiti promptly on the Get It Done app and by emailing our local police contact, Officer Dan Stanley, at [dstanleyjr@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:dstanleyjr@pd.sandiego.gov).

Keeping our community a great place to live is a team effort. If you would like to volunteer with the "B-Team" on a one-time basis or regularly, please contact team leader Jennifer Bishop [beautification@uhsd.org](mailto:beautification@uhsd.org) to be added to our volunteer contact list. If you are already on the list, stay tuned because you will be contacted shortly as our spring project schedule gets underway!

— Jennifer Bishop



Events are coming back this year! We need help with manning tables, selling UHCA merchandise, and helping with set-up and tear-down. Help your community, meet your neighbors, and have a great time doing it! Reach out to us at [www.uhsd.org/volunteer](http://www.uhsd.org/volunteer) or email [events@uhsd.org](mailto:events@uhsd.org). We look forward to seeing you in person soon!

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ZONE WATCH

## Reporting Homeless Issues via Get It Done

We receive a high volume of emails, phone calls, and reports to dispatch regarding homeless people in need. The city has added a new web link to information regarding the Homeless Outreach Feature on the Get It Done app, explaining how to report homeless issues, including camps, and how these reports are handled by the providers of homeless services. Below is the link to the web page and the information for your reading and review.

<https://getitdone.force.com/TSWNewReport?type=Encampment>

Have you ever noticed a community member in need or a person experiencing homelessness in your neighborhood? Get It Done now offers an updated feature designed to better align with the City's new, more comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness in San Diego.

When you submit a new "Homeless Outreach / Encampment" report on the app or website, you will be prompted to answer a few questions. One of these questions asks whether people are actively located at the reported site.

If people are present, outreach specialists will be dispatched to identify, engage, and connect individuals with supportive services within 48 hours of when your report was submitted. Responding outreach specialists include staff from Alpha Project, Father Joe's Villages, PATH, Downtown San Diego Partnership, and other local service providers that are part of the City of San Diego's Coordinated Street Outreach Program. If outreach specialists are unable to engage with the individuals onsite within 48 hours, a team from the Neighborhood Policing Division (NPD) - which includes officers with the San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team - may respond to the report.

If people are not present at the site, the report is sent to NPD and may be routed to the City's Environmental Services Department to be assessed for abatement, depending on where the encampment is located and what has been left behind. They may also respond to a report to remove any trash or debris after outreach specialists and/or NPD have had the opportunity to offer services to anyone present at the reported site.

The Get It Done team will continue to monitor feedback from users, residents, people experiencing homelessness, service providers, and City employees to identify any adjustments that may need to be made to improve the "Homeless Outreach / Encampment" report type.

***As a reminder, Get It Done is only for Non-Emergency reports. In an emergency, please always dial 9-1-1. If you are experiencing homelessness, please call 2-1-1 or visit 211sandiego.org to access resources.***

All requests for assistance for homeless issues, including reporting people in need and camps, should be made to the city through the Get It Done app/website. The app should not be used when witnessing criminal behavior and acts, which should be reported to dispatch, as noted in the above information, via the Non-Emergency line or 911.

— Officer David Surwilo  
San Diego Police Department  
Community Relations Officer, Western Division

## From Mankind's Beginning - Mother Nature Nurtures Still

from the rooted recesses of all beginnings  
her shadow reins supreme within our souls  
despite mankind's narrow understandings  
her depth lingers - yet elusive to modern vision  
she is ever present - here as usher - our template

she speaks to us with the scent of the rose  
prick of the thorn - wave of palms - silence of hope  
is she not the breeze that recollects that which  
has been lost in minds unwitting - primal forgetfulness  
our urge to propagate - to grow - impulse to prune

does not her wind teach us to dance her  
subtle melodies bless us with the gift of music  
and what of our will to press onward - endure  
does she not offer, in survivals everyplace,  
strength of power examples - our intention's volition

has she not taught us to grief loss - bless blissfulness  
what directs spirits in times of need or actions taken  
did she not encourage us to swim - crawl - breathe  
she is our storm - the rain that rivers through our lives  
back to our beginning as she guides us into death

Jon Von Erb 7/2021

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# March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</b>	 <b>MARDI GRAS</b>	<b>1</b> SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> Uptown Planners Board Elections 6 pm <a href="http://uptownplannerssd.org">uptownplannerssd.org</a> April News Articles Due	<b>2</b> UHDCDC 6 pm <a href="http://uhcdc.org">uhcdc.org</a> UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm Ash Wednesday	<b>3</b> UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm <a href="http://uhcdc.org">uhcdc.org</a> UHCA Meeting 6:45 pm Via Zoom <a href="http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting">www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting</a>		<b>5</b> 
<b>6</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm International Women's Day	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Beautification Graffiti Cleanup 9 am
<b>13</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Daylight Saving Time Begins 	<b>14</b> Cookies with the Cops  5 pm - 6 pm New York and Madison 	<b>15</b> North Park Planning Committee Board Elections 7:00 pm <a href="http://northparkplanning.org">northparkplanning.org</a>	<b>16</b> No UH Library Task Force Meeting	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day  	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> 
<b>20</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Spring Begins 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, <a href="http://sandiegounified.org">sandiegounified.org</a> World Water Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> April UHCA News Out  	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 		



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# BIRNEY BUZZ

## And Just Like That, Halfway Through the Year

Last year, during this time, we were still doing distance learning, not knowing when our kids were heading back to campus and the school year seemed to drag. Although not quite the pre-pandemic “normal”, this year seems to be flying by. Like the rest of the country, there are COVID cases affecting Birney unfortunately, but the safety protocols are being followed and the school is staying open.

At Birney, the kindergarten classes traditionally mark the 100th day of school by collecting 100 of any items and creating a big project with these items. I remember working on the project with my oldest when he was a kindergartener, gathering 100 goldfish crackers to create an ocean collage, frustrated at his lack of focus and then sadly skipping it with my youngest last year, due to distance learning. So, this year, I welcome the sight of tired, but proud parents of the kindergarteners, bringing their artwork in and carrying on the tradition.

This year, the Birney students also continued their annual tradition of participating in the Great Kindness Challenge, which is part of a global initiative by Kids For Peace, to encourage kids to do as many acts of kindness as they can in one week. The acts are fairly simple, like smiling at 25 people or helping your teacher with a needed task. Birney created a kindness wall so students could put up encouraging messages for other students. You can find out more about the challenge at [thegreatkindnesschallenge.com](http://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com).

Along with the old traditions, we created something new this year. The 1st Birney



*Birney Bees gathered at the school*

Hive Hunt took place on January 29th and was an on-foot scavenger hunt around University Heights and required teams to solve riddles, do video and photo challenges and interact with participating sponsors. We had 73 teams vying for three \$100 grand prizes and a raffle for an Eco Boats rental. While the ultimate goal was to raise money for the IB program, raising over \$4,500, the end result was a fun, community-building event for Birney families and the University Heights community, which was much needed during this time. With the success of this one, we know this will become an annual tradition.

The 15th annual Run for the Green jog-a-thon fundraiser is scheduled to take place from March 14 to 18th. Our Birney farmstand occurs on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month at Twiggs on Park. We welcome new sponsors and donors for all Birney events, so please contact us at [info@friendsofalicebirney.org](mailto:info@friendsofalicebirney.org) if you would like more information. Please visit us at [friendsofalicebirney.org](http://friendsofalicebirney.org) for more information on all our events!

— Vaychan Hallman, Proud Birney parent and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member



*Birney Bees at the 1st Annual Hive Hunt, a scavenger hunt fundraiser around University Heights*

## Bee Season?

Did you notice a swarm of Birney Elementary families dressed in BEE-autiful outfits buzzing about the neighborhood on Saturday January 29th? It was all fun and games at The Friends of Alice Birney Elementary Foundation’s first annual (socially-distanced) Birney “Hive Hunt” Scavenger Hunt race and fundraiser around University Heights.



Over 70 teams (around 280 children and adults) solved riddles, performed challenges, and raced on foot to various locations to earn points. The Community Association in partnership with Original Skin & Body Care offered bean bag toss, ring toss, and ostrich stickers for the kids. Pop Pie Co., Stella Jean’s Ice Cream, Park & Rec, Yipao Coffee, Fibre the Venue & Salon, Diversionary Theatre, Twiggs Bakery & Coffeehouse, Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry, Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer Real Estate,

Kairoa Brewing Company, Mission Hills Nursery, Promethean One, Kumon Math & Reading Center Kearny Mesa, and John Mark Music Instruction all sponsored and supported the event.

The Hive Hunt wrapped up with families enjoying treats from some amazing food trucks: The Pizza Boys, Gelu Italian Ice, Toco Tamales, and more! UHCA was excited to support this event that raised \$4,500 for the school. Congratulations, Birney Bees, on a successful Hunt! We’ll be watching for you next year!

— Brent Orlesky

# ROO NEWS

## Reflections on Fall Semester, Covid Year 3, at Roosevelt

The period between winter break and spring break is traditionally a grind for teachers, administrators, and students alike. After the winter holidays, reality sets in, with the reward of the next respite vanishingly distant. Add to that bleakness the stress of a pandemic that teases us with promises of its departure only to rush back toward us in new and chaotic ways, and you have the context for the current moment in schools across the country.

It’s been a rough couple of years for teachers, school administrators, students, and parents everywhere. But as a parent of two students at Roosevelt International Middle School, I have only become increasingly impressed at the way our school community has come together during this troubled and troublesome time. It would be perfectly reasonable for all the stakeholders to succumb to gloom and malaise under these conditions. Or worse, the bickering and vitriol we see in videos of school board meetings, political rallies, or even grocery stores and airplanes. A lot of grownups seem to have lost their minds. The kids, for the most part, seem to be handling things with considerably more maturity.

When I hear horror stories from friends in real life and online about how their schools and school districts are blowing it, I almost feel bad telling them how

well Roosevelt has been handling the stress to its system. Even during the national wildfire of the Omicron variant, there were relatively few cases among students, and no outbreaks requiring school closure or even causing high numbers of absences. The administration has been transparent about challenges (Covid related and not) it faces, and has inspired families to rally to help overcome them.

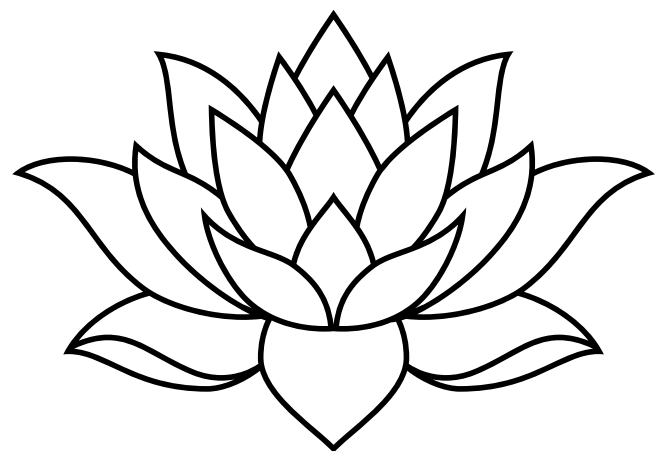
My own experiences as a parent volunteer helping to run the After School Enrichment clubs has introduced me to other families who have displayed patience and grace at every turn, even in situations that could easily have been contentious. In a recent Zoom school community meeting, Principal Steinberger confirmed that this attitude is widespread, explaining how thankful he is that Roosevelt parents and guardians have reacted to every new curveball with kindness and equanimity.

I’m not sure how to account for the remarkable esprit de corps among this wildly diverse group, many of whom have never met one another face to face. It might be the inspiring way the administration and teachers have stayed cool and effective under tremendous stress. It may be the fact that the students, despite what anyone may say about “kids these days,” have proven to be resilient troupers who complain far less than we did back in my day. In any case, all the Roosevelt parents I know consider themselves lucky to be part of this community.

— Andy Hinds

**Want to help make UH better?**

UHCA is the voice of University Heights, and we need more neighbors to join us to help promote, beautify, lobby for, organize, and protect our special neighborhood. Have you considered how your talents, passion, drive, and energy could help make a difference in our community? We have open volunteer, board, and committee leadership positions. You can have fun meeting - and working with - neighbors and friends, while helping make a real difference. Contact us at [volunteer@uhsd.org](mailto:volunteer@uhsd.org) and let's make good things happen in UH... together!



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FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

# A Pot of Books at the End of the Rainbow

It's hard to believe that we are already in the third month of 2022. March in University Heights is a beautiful time as days are lengthening and warming and we spend more time outside enjoying the beauty of our neighborhood.

March is also a splendid month to explore the pot of gold filled with stories of fantasy and mystery at the University Heights Library to celebrate Irish heritage and St. Patrick's Day. The Irish are known for having good stories, and our library rests wonderfully at the end of the rainbow for reading.

And while you are there, March is Women's History Month and a fantastic time to pick up a book about the amazing and vital roles of women in American history and beyond. This year's theme, "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope," is not only a tribute to the work of caregivers and frontline workers during the pandemic, but recognizes the ways women have provided healing and hope throughout history. UH Library will have plenty of recommendations on incredible women for you and your family.

It's never too early to save a date. Next month, "Connect with Your Library" during National Library Week, April 3-9. Be sure to connect with the amazing and helpful staff at UH Library as the week gets closer for events and recommendations. We look forward to



connecting with you!

Finally, if you have not yet joined or renewed your Friends of UH Library membership, you can download a membership form at <https://www.friendsofuhlibrary.org/become-a-member>, or please contact us at [friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com) and we will be happy to send you a form.

Thank you for your support.

—John Hyatt, Board Member,  
Friends of the University Heights Library

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

BETWEEN THE COVERS

# SPRING AT THE LIBRARY

With spring comes new beginnings, and the University Heights Branch Library is no exception. If you know a young person (0-5 years) who has never had a library card before, now is the time to encourage them to participate in SDPL's My First Library Card program. Not only is this a great photo opportunity (see our Facebook page), but it is also a way to promote early literacy for the benefit of tomorrow's movers and shakers.

Also new at "UH" are our fresh faces: Jeff Garthaus (me), and Martin Kessler, who is on loan from the Central Library, downtown. We hope he stays with us, though, as he is quite friendly and knowledgeable. It is fashionable to regard both people and books as having equal importance within the library space, so stop by and say, "Hi!" My areas of expertise are music and motorcycling, while Martin's intellectual scope is completely unlimited. If we can't answer your questions, we will certainly point you in the right direction.

We are expanding our New Books section, and those of you who are on long waiting lists should consider dropping by to browse our "Leased Books" collection. You might not have to wait any longer, as Leased Books are popular books that cannot be placed on hold, and they can be checked out right on the spot. Take a step to the right and pick up one of our book sale items. Perhaps you will find a title that has been out of print for decades, and it will cost you next to nothing!

Don't forget that the library will be closed on Thursday, March 31st, in observance of César Chávez Day, but we will be open on Friday. As always, the UH staff strives to live up to our motto, "Small, but mighty." Thank you for your continued support.

—Jeff Garthaus  
University Heights Branch, San Diego Library  
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**UH Branch Hours**

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UHCAN is a way for UH residents and business owners to receive updates on issues that need input, from City budget matters, development, policy, or other matters that can be influenced by hearing directly from constituents.

Once you sign-up, you will receive action alerts when items come up for City Council or department hearings or are open for public comments.

UHCAN is made possible by the Community Coalition of University Heights, which is UHCA, UH Community Development Corp., and UH Historical Society.

## OUR REPRESENTATIVES

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Benny Cartwright (interim district rep.)  
[BCartwright@sandiego.gov](mailto:BCartwright@sandiego.gov)

# Pet of the Month Max



This is Max! He's an eleven-year-old Yorkshire Terrier weighing in at six pounds of pure cuteness. He's very friendly with everyone he meets but shy around most dogs until he gets to know them. You'll recognize Max by his big ears and frosted face. He may be a senior dog, but he still has a spring in his step!

He joined our family as a wee pup of just four months. Both of his parents were show dogs, but Max had bowed legs so he wasn't considered qualified to be shown. My Mom, Angela, searched far and wide for a Yorkie with an abundance of charm and personality that would make her laugh. In her eyes he was absolute perfection. He gave her six years of joy until she passed away in 2016.

Shortly thereafter, Max and my Dad, Gerry, moved to a senior community in La Mesa. For the next few years, they enjoyed each other's company and even participated in a holiday costume contest where they won "Best in Show" wearing matching Referee and Rufferee striped

shirts, beating out 30 other contestants.

In the fall of 2020, my Dad moved to a new community where no pets were allowed. That's how Max came to live with me in University Heights. I work from home, and Max has added so much value to my life. We especially love to go on numerous walks per day. He gets so happy when we go out that I can't mention the word "walk" or he starts panting and racing around the house in anticipation.

His favorite place to explore is along the canyon edge near Golden Gate Drive overlooking Mission Valley. Our walks could also be called "smell adventures." They go something like this: Five steps, stop and smell intently for about 2 minutes, repeat. Max goes on full alert when we see white-tailed bunnies. Yorkies were originally bred to catch mice and rats in England's industrial mills and coal mines, so those natural instincts to chase are still ingrained in him.

Because he is conveniently small in size, Max enjoys going on road trips. His most recent one was to visit his buddy, Huxley (an Australian Shepherd), who lives in Laguna Beach.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but Max proves that wrong. He just learned to fetch. It took a little time and lots of salmon jerky treats from Sprouts, but he will now fetch his favorite toys, a mini tennis ball and a stuffed banana.

Max is our BFFF (Best Furry Friend Forever) and he'd like to say to anyone reading, "I can't wait to see you around the neighborhood!"

—Thalia Driessen



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

MARCH UH CROSSWORD

# PARKING CHANGE

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, I received a Notice of Parking Change to my street, the 4300 block of Mississippi Street between El Cajon Blvd. and Meade Avenue. The notice, which contained serious errors, claimed that the City of San Diego was proposing the addition of 17 parking spaces on the east side of the street by changing that side to head-in parking, departing from the present parallel parking configuration. A dated Google satellite photo of the street was included with the proposed spots designated.

This document was more of a poll than an actual notice, any negative response being requested within 60 days of the February 1st dated notice.

I contacted the City's Senior Traffic Engineer per information on the notice and spelled out what I felt were flaws in the plan and the notice itself listed briefly as follows:

1. Only -7 spots will be gained, not 17. This is, intentional or not, a severe misrepresentation.
2. The Google photo does not reflect a privately owned restaurant with no onsite parking required at permitting, that will be opening on the ECB corner soon.
3. A small parking lot had been removed to put that restaurant in.
4. Businesses along the 2100 block of ECB, including Boulevard Fitness, create parking congestion in the neighborhood 7 days a week as far away as Meade Avenue.
5. Our street, and likely others, will become that much more narrow and unsafe.
6. Construction in the area has consistently avoided or ignored resident concerns about parking problems due to overcrowding.

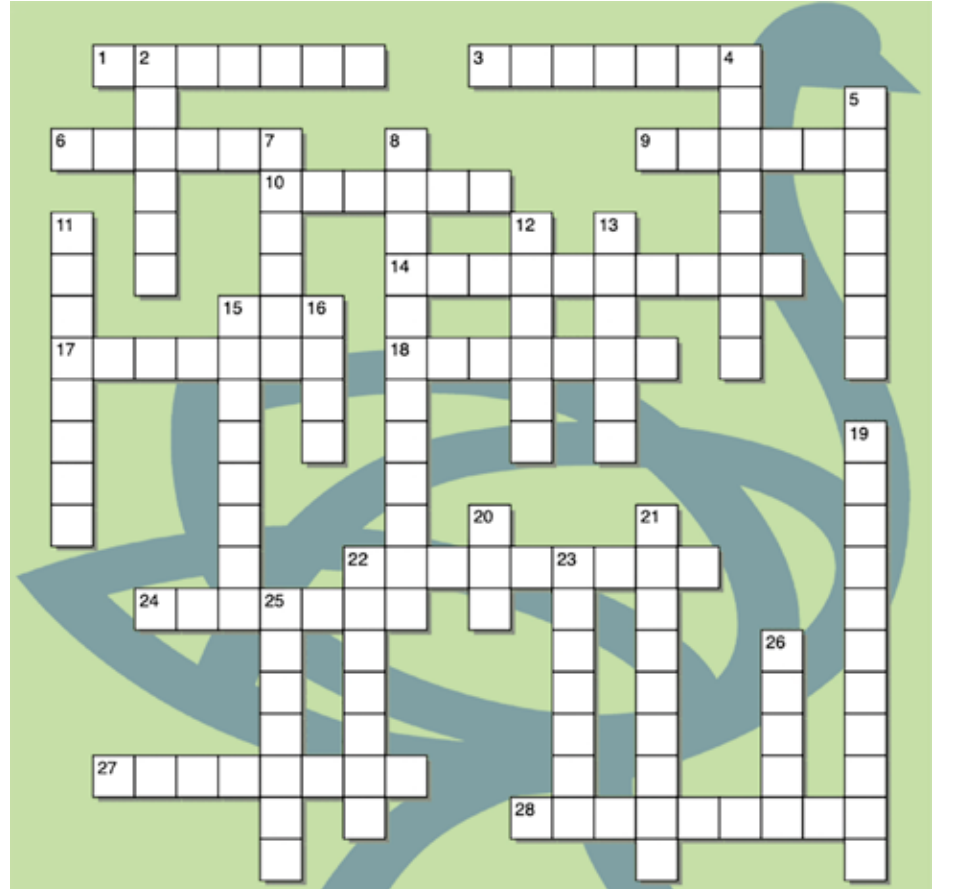
Some additional concerns that I have:

1. Head-in parking promotes left turns across traffic that diagonal parking does not.
2. My street is being proposed as a public parking lot due to previous lack of concern over community building and zoning objections.
3. If people are being dazzled by the convenient math of the notice I received, how many other notices on how many other streets are being misinformed in the same way to perhaps get a favorable response - or lack of response - as this poll is set up.
4. A short term rental with illegal garage conversion next door impacts parking. Although reported, it remains, to my knowledge, an illegal yet operational business and contributes to the overall parking situation, as do other short-term rentals in the area with no controls on numbers of guests and cars.

I believe this situation impacts University Heights as a community.

- Thomas Burke, Mississippi Street

UHCA News is proud to provide neighbors with the opportunity to share their perspectives on issues that affect our community. Our editorial guidelines are available on our website at [www.uhsd.org/submissions](http://www.uhsd.org/submissions).



hint: answers for clues with \* can be found in this issue, and all answers are on page 4

**Across**

1. Raised in UH for feathers in the 1800s \*
3. Name of development at Park/Meade
6. Coffeehouse \*
9. Brewery \*
10. State Senator \*
14. Type of tree in Old Trolley Barn Park
15. Alice Birney Elementary School student \*
17. Original architect of Mission Cliff Park
18. Grocery store \*
22. Architectural house type found around UH
24. How people got around in early 1900s \*
27. Vegetarian Thai
28. Middle school \*

**Down**

2. Michelin star restaurant

**4. City Councilmember \***

5. Restaurant on Park Blvd. \*
7. Architect who inspired UH library building \*
8. Theater in UH \*
11. Canyon in UH
12. Congressional representative for UH \*
13. Mocha
15. New pizzeria on Park Blvd. \*
16. Place to buy plants
19. Georgian restaurant
20. Sandwich shop on Park Blvd.
21. American Ethnic Grub \*
22. Fine Jewelry on Park Blvd. \*
23. Joint-use field named after (Willie...)
25. Dive bar
26. Salon on Park Blvd. \*

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# COMMUNITY ELECTION

## Our future University Heights & Hillcrest

### How much is too much?



# Massive project: two blocks

## Uptown For All

Uptown Planners is the local Community Planning Group which serves in an advisory role to the city. Members have objected to programs for massive upzoning.

- They don't agree with:**
- "More density"
  - "More high-rises"
  - "Take out the parking"
  - "Close traffic lanes."

The photo shows a massive project under construction. Two blocks of homes were torn down. No plans were made to ease the added traffic or provide new park space. It's a mega-project with no public facilities: What kind of neighborhood will that be?

The city is planning massive upzoning programs which don't include good urban planning. Here are three programs which would ruin many of our neighborhoods:

**NAVWAR.** A new city on a sliver of land. It's shocking: Buildings over 30 stories tall, on a piece of land hardly larger than several football fields. The density would be higher than Manhattan!

**COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT for HILLCREST & UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** This program aims to upzone Hillcrest and University Heights to add 10,000 to 15,000 units to the community plan. But Uptown already has very high density zoning, enough for 50-75 yrs. They want to close the traffic lanes on University Avenue and remove all the parking. **Really!**

**SENATE BILL 10.** The new law aims to override existing zoning-- to allow 4 to 10 apartment units on any lot. Who wants to see homes torn down and replaced by expensive new projects?

**WHAT TO DO: VOTE** for your community. You live in Uptown if you're in Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Middletown or University Heights (west of Park Blvd)

**UPCOMING ELECTION:**

Fortunately, three excellent people have come forward, endorsed by Mission Hills Heritage.



MATTHEW BROWN



TONY SILVIA



PATTY DUCEY-BROOKS

**ELECTION DAYS—BRING YOUR ID and this notice**  
**Feb. 24, 3:00-6:00 pm at Joyce Beers Center. 3900 Vermont**  
**Feb. 28, 3:00-6:00 pm at Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library. 215 W Washington**  
**Mar. 1, 4:00-7:30 pm at Joyce Beers Center, 3900 Vermont**

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**THRIVING BUSINESSES**



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FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN



**Community Conversation Tour with University Heights and Hillcrest for Thursday, March 10 at 6 pm on Zoom. Please visit [www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3](http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3) for a link to attend.**

- facilities
- Evaluate and study the feasibility of a traffic reorganization project at the intersection of El Cajon Blvd, Park Blvd, and Normal Street
  - Circuit repair and lighting rehabilitation along the Vermont Street Bridge
  - University Heights Water Tower seismic retrofit

There are of course numerous other projects and funding priorities listed that will benefit the entire district and City. You can check out my full budget memo here: [bit.ly/D3BudgetMemo](https://bit.ly/D3BudgetMemo).

The Mayor's office will present a budget to the City Council over the upcoming months that will be voted on in June. We look forward to your continued participation in the process as the budget passes through its various stages. Visit [bit.ly/FY23BudgetProcess](https://bit.ly/FY23BudgetProcess) for more information on the City's budget process, including key dates.

In other news, I wanted to express my deep gratitude to Marcela Miranda-Caballero who has served on my team as a policy advisor as well as your community representative for University Heights. She has done a phenomenal job serving the community and keeping me apprised on the issues that are most important to you in University Heights over the last several months. Marcela has recently moved on to a new opportunity, so please join me in expressing our thanks to her for all that she has done for District 3.

Until we are able to fully onboard a new representative to serve your community, please reach out to our Director of Communications & Community Representative Benny Cartwright with any University Heights needs. Benny is well-versed in University Heights issues, being one of your neighbors, and previously serving as the representative for the neighborhood in our first few months in office. Benny can be reached at [bcartwright@sandiego.gov](mailto:bcartwright@sandiego.gov). We look forward to introducing you to your new Community Representative soon.

Finally, I am planning a Community Conversation Tour over the next couple of months and look forward to connecting with as many constituents as possible. We have scheduled our Conversation with University Heights and Hillcrest for Thursday, March 10 at 6 pm on Zoom. Please email [stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov](mailto:stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov) to RSVP. I hope to see you there!

— Stephen Whitburn,  
City Councilmember, District 3

Hello, University Heights!

As always, we continue to be busy at City Hall, and I wanted to update you on one particularly important topic: the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. The annual budget guides the resources our City will put into providing services and infrastructure and it is important to have input from our constituents throughout the process.

The first step in developing the budget is for each councilmember to create and submit an annual memorandum outlining the priorities of their district. It was very important for me to take our constituents' priorities into consideration when developing my Budget Memo, and I am grateful to the hundreds of constituents who participated in our Budget Priorities Survey that was open from mid-December through early January. From this survey, we learned that the following are the top 4 priorities of those who took the survey:

- Homelessness Solutions
- Pedestrian and Mobility Safety
- Infrastructure – Streets, Sidewalks and Stormwater
- Crime and Police Response Times

With these overarching themes we were able to identify a number of projects throughout the district that we hope to see funded. While not all of the items that we have submitted for consideration will end up in the final budget, I am hopeful that many of the City's most pressing needs are budgeted. Below, I have listed a few notable items directly related to University Heights that were included our FY23 Budget Priorities Memo:

- Upgrades and beautification to the Washington Street median from the Vermont Street Bridge to Cleveland Street
- Madison, Meade and Cleveland Avenue pedestrian improvements
- Improving the Pascoe Street Alley between 9th and 10th Avenue at Johnson Avenue
- Upgraded University Heights Library

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

# Fibre, the Venue and Salon

Ashley Gill is a 5th generation native of San Diego whose keen sense of style is surpassed only by her business savvy. Barely out of high school, she became an apprentice for a hair stylist, graduating from the program after two years. She discovered she had a passion and talent for hair color and opened her first salon in Bankers Hill. When Ashley became pregnant with her first child, she wanted to move closer to her family in Coronado. She built her own successful salon on the "island" and then an even bigger salon and remained in Coronado for 15 years.



Ashley Gill in front of her Fibre Salon



Interior of Fibre Salon

About four years ago, while driving down Park Blvd in University Heights, Ashley saw a building available for lease that looked like the perfect location for her to open a new salon. She sold her Coronado salon and worked on transforming the building on Park Blvd. from an apartment to a commercial space. In 2018, she opened "Fibre." Ashley chose the name based on her work teaching stylists around the world about hair color. Particularly in Europe, each individual hair fiber is treated like a canvas upon which the colorist can create.



Interior of Fibre Salon

With her new salon, Ashley wanted to create a different concept in the hair salon industry. She envisioned a venue where each stylist has their own business name, logo, and products, but everyone works in a shared space. They each enjoy pride of ownership but still have the benefits of working around other stylists. Ashley may be the owner and creator of the salon, but the other seven stylists who work under the same roof are treated as equals when it comes time to make decisions for the entire salon.

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the hair salon was forced to close. Not working and being deprived of the personal interaction with her clients was emotionally draining on Ashley. Thankfully, her business survived. The sense of isolation Ashley felt while her business was closed reminded her how important family and community are to her. She joined the University Heights Association Board and became more involved connecting residents with our local businesses. She has also encouraged businesses to interact within the community.

Fibre is adjacent to Clos Wine Bar. The two businesses share a charming outdoor deck with comfy chairs. Clients can grab a glass of wine before, during, or after their hair treatments. Fibre and Clos share a sense of community with each other and with UH.

Ashley loves the close-knit feeling in University Heights. She knows the residents care about the community and want to keep the businesses going. When you become a client of Ashley's, you also become her friend.

— Jane Gilbert

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UH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## FREE WEBINARS ON RESEARCHING AND DESIGNATING YOUR HISTORIC HOME

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

The University Heights Historical Society will help you get started with two free webinars in March about how to research and submit a nomination to historically designate your home, presented by historic preservation experts Amie Hayes and Doug Mengers.

Starting on Thursday, March 24, from 6 to 7 pm, Amie Hayes, Senior Historic Resources Specialist with Save Our Heritage Organisation, will present Historic Designation: Facts, Process, and Benefits.



Amie Hayes

Doug Mengers

Now is an excellent time to think about historically designating your home, not only because of Mills Act property tax benefits, but because of new state tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic structures.

The following Thursday, Doug Mengers, Senior Archaeologist/Historian with PanGIS, Inc., will present Historic Designation: Research and Report Preparation on March 31, from 6 to 7 pm. While researching and preparing a nomination report for historically designating your home may be seem a little daunting, Doug will walk you through the process and provide tips for success. Register for these free webinars at [www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/events](http://www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/events).

— Kristin Harms, UHHS



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Ringling the Bell for Bicyclists

Every Wednesday night around 8:00 p.m. when a group of bicyclists goes whizzing by Marie and Steve's house on Lincoln Avenue, the couple stand on their porch and enthusiastically wave their cowbells to acknowledge the riders. Ringing cowbells for bicycle racers is a tradition practiced throughout the world. It is a noisy and fun way for spectators to acknowledge the riders and cheer them on, since the bells are loud enough for the riders to hear as they whiz, encouraging them to keep on pedaling.



Marie and Steve have lived in their house on Lincoln for over 30 years, next door to the home that Marie's family lived in since 1923, almost 100 years ago. Marie's grandmother bought the house next door to where Marie lives now for \$6,000 and raised her family in it. Marie's mother left home to go to college in LA where she met Marie's dad and raised her family. Eventually, Marie's mother returned to the house on Lincoln to live. When the house next door to her grandmother's came up for sale in 1989, Marie knew she had to have it. She wanted to return to University Heights and raise her children next door to their grandparents. Eventually her grandmother's house was sold. Now Marie

and Steve still live next door to her family's former house and have great neighbors.

Later in life, Marie started running marathons and began collecting Rock-n-Roll marathon cowbells. Together, she and Steve were avid bicyclists. About 4 or 5 years ago, Marie noticed that every Wednesday evening around 8:00 p.m., a large group of cyclists would ride down the hill on Maryland Street, turn right on Lincoln, and ride over the Vermont Street bridge into Hillcrest. As a bicycle enthusiast familiar with the tradition, Marie dug out her old Rock-n-Roll marathon cowbells. She and her husband soon started standing on their front porch, ringing the cowbells every Wednesday night as the riders flew by their house. The riders acknowledge the bells by shouting and hollering and popping wheelies.

Despite missing a few Wednesdays during the early stages of the pandemic, Marie estimates there are now sometimes as many as 60 riders going past her house. Ringing the cowbells for the riders is something Marie and Steve look forward to and have even recruited some of their neighbors to join in the fun. It has become a loud and boisterous event where the riders enjoy the cowbells as much as Marie and Steve enjoy ringing them.

So, if you are anywhere in the vicinity of Lincoln and Maryland on a Wednesday night, grab a cowbell and ring it loudly in support of the riders.

— Jane Gilbert

SUSTAINABLE UH

## Neighborhood Allstars

A lot of folks in our neighborhood are working hard to keep this place (and this planet) we call home as livable as possible. One such family, Courtney Summers-Day, Aaron Day, and their daughter Ava, are great role models for the rest of us who might be overwhelmed by thoughts of what we should be doing vs. what we feel we have time for and can afford to do.

The Summers-Day home, with electric cars plugged into a solar-power system, and flowers, fruit trees, and vegetable plants adorning the front and side yards, appears expertly planned to work with nature instead of against it. But Courtney and Aaron have taken their environmentally-sustainable steps one at a time, learning as they go.

The family was renting their house before the owners decided to sell, and luckily, Courtney and Aaron were in a position to buy it. Before escrow closed, Courtney had learned everything she could about the best solar power solution for her house and had signed a contract starting the long process of SDGE approvals and eventual installation of 16 solar panels. She and Aaron had one electric car at the time, which the solar system easily powered. Since acquiring their second electric car, they've found they will need to add to their solar system to cover their new and perhaps future electric needs. Adjustments along the way are all part of the process.

With car emissions a thing of the past, the family's next project was a garden. Like many of us, Courtney and Aaron used some of their pandemic-related extra time at home to plan and execute a garden. In their case, it's a raised-bed garden on the side of the house, in an underutilized stretch of driveway that now supports the family's tomatoes, herbs, and ornamental plants as they experiment to see what they can grow. Courtney enjoys learning gardening methods from Carlsbad-based Epic Gardening's YouTube channel, among other online sources of information. And she has learned that metal raised garden bed frames that sit flush with the ground are both more economical and more effective than the wooden raised beds on legs that she started with. She finds seeds and shade cloth online and has found that the most expensive part of gardening is purchasing soil for the raised beds.

As part of the evolving process of developing her garden, Courtney installed a simple-to-use drip watering system to keep her plants alive. She and Aaron have also experimented with various methods for keeping their veggies safe from the marauding squirrels, skunks, possums, and other critters many in UH are familiar with. They've found that a portable dog-gate system wrapped around garden beds helps. And chicken wire blocking access to plants is absolutely necessary.

Because she knew that methane from decomposing plant material and food

waste sent to the dump makes up a huge part of California's greenhouse gas emissions, Courtney was also very enthusiastic to try composting as part of her foray into gardening. She likes the tumbler-style composter she acquired because it's critter-proof, but she says it's been a challenge to get the balance between "greens" and "browns" just right, so she'll need to start the process fresh to work out the balance. And that's okay! Learning, experimentation, trial and error are all part of the process.

Courtney says she's naturally frugal—wasting resources seems simply wrong. She donates to charities any items she can no longer use, and she shops at thrift stores for clothes and other goods. One of the family's most recent additions to their sustainability practices is working to eliminate as much food waste as possible by planning meals and checking their fridge and cabinets before they shop for groceries, and by making sure to factor leftovers into their meal plans. They've thrown out much less spoiled food since making these changes to the way they approach shopping for food and cooking meals.



One sustainability practice they're still working on is eliminating plastics, especially plastic bags. They've tried the silicone zipper-lock bags that are meant to replace plastic ones, but the silicone ones can't be cleaned very effectively. The family's solution for now is to avoid baggies whenever possible, and to store food in washable containers. Courtney is also still searching for a better grocery bag solution after learning that the energy and materials used to make reusable cloth bags render them far less sustainable than they might appear to be.

But the point is that taking care of our environment isn't an all-or-nothing proposition. The goal is doing as much as we can without wearing ourselves out or driving ourselves crazy (or going into debt). The Summers-Day family's approach, which they've implemented one step at a time, as they were able to, seems like a great model for others to follow. It's about spending the time and resources that they're able to spend in ways that support themselves and the environment we all share.

For those of us still figuring out what more we can do, "Waste not want not" may be a great place to start.

— Judith Annicchiarico

*If you know any neighborhood Environmental Allstars whose sustainability practices would be good to spotlight here, please let us know via email: [uhcanews@uhsd.org](mailto:uhcanews@uhsd.org) with "Attrn: Sustainable UH" in the subject line.*



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NEW IN UH

# Basilico La Pizzeria: A Labor of Love

Giancarlo & Mario, two bright and energetic men from southern Italy, joined forces with Vincenzo, a stalwart in the local Italian restaurant scene, to open up Basilico La Pizzeria on Park Blvd. in November of 2021. What is now Basilico La Pizzeria used to be Bruno's Pizzeria. It was difficult to open a new business during the pandemic, but the partners were committed to their vision and completely revamped the restaurant. Basilico La Pizzeria now offers a casual dining experience, authentic southern Italian food, and neighborly company.



When you walk through Basilico's door, you can't miss "Vince" the wood-fired pizza oven sitting smack in the middle of the restaurant. This impressive oven was built in Italy, shipped to San Diego, and fondly named after the restaurant's 3rd partner, Vincenzo.

Vittorio, the head chef at Basilico, makes a wide variety of homemade pizzas and has daily specials (with vegetarian and vegan options). But there is more on the menu than just pizza; Vittorio cooks up traditional southern Italian dishes such as gnocchi, ravioli, pasta, and lasagna. Everything is homemade on site with

ingredients imported from Italy, including the tomato sauce, mozzarella, flour, and extra-virgin olive oil. The desserts are all homemade too and equally delicious.

All the food at Basilico is authentically southern Italian, as is everyone who works at the restaurant. Like "Vince" the oven, they are all from Italy, and they treat each other as family. The waiters, the chefs, and even Giancarlo and Mario (on-site managers) will sit with you at your table and talk about anything and everything, from food, to visiting Italy, to family, to soccer...it is a warm and friendly place.

Recognizing the need for more outdoor dining than just the tables out front on the sidewalk, Giancarlo and Mario envisioned a "secret garden" in the back of the



Secret Garden back patio



Vittorio (head chef) & Giancarlo (owner)

restaurant. They converted the big empty lot stretching all the way to the alley behind the restaurant into a large dining space with plenty of tables, heaters, and outdoor lighting. In the middle of the new patio stands an island-type bar that opens up on all four sides. The back patio has a very fun vibe and can be rented out for parties.

You can order take-out through one of the standard delivery apps, but it is a much more fulfilling dining experience to come into the restaurant. Once you sit down, you will be treated like family as your server recommends the best food to suit your tastes and will happily talk with you about the neighborhood, your family, or their family back home in Italy.

— Jane Gilbert



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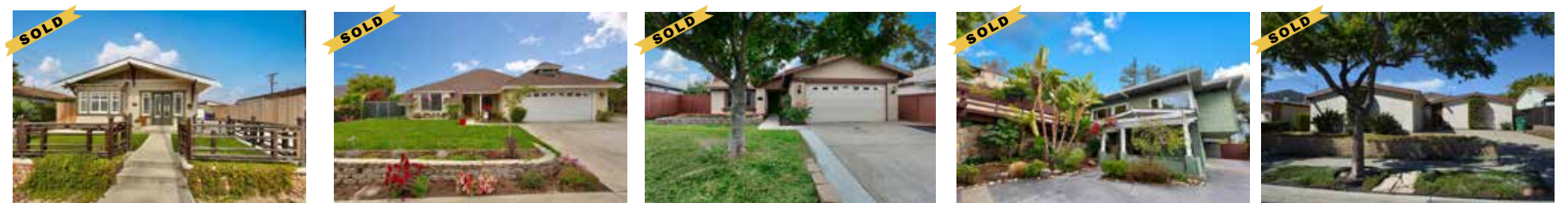
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