The San Diego mayor’s committee to find a home for the new Chargers stadium has settled on the Board of Education property in University Heights as their top choice. “The central location and proximity to downtown is ideal,” said committee head, Dan Freed. While there’s enough property to build the new state of the art 100,000 seat capacity stadium, there’s no room for parking. To solve that, a multi-level parking structure will be built in the canyon surrounded by Highway 163 below and Johnson, Maryland and Meade Streets above. Automobile access to the parking will be through new exits built on 163 and I-8. Fans will exit the parking structure on Maryland Street for the easy 2 block walk to the stadium. To combat the anticipated noise from drunk, rowdy fans walking through the neighborhood, each homeowner along the main walking route will be given a yard sign stating, “Quiet! It’s Our Neighborhood!” These signs have proven to be 100% ineffective in other areas,” said Freed.

**Canyon Wildlife**

Photos and article by David Holts

It’s springtime and San Diego’s canyon lands, including our canyons here in University Heights, are blooming with native plants and wildlife. San Diego’s canyon complex allows wildlife to easily move from the coast to the Lagunas and University Heights, are blooming with native plants and wildlife. San Diego’s canyon complex allows wildlife to easily move from the coast to the Lagunas and surrounding communities. The Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, an affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States, and Project Wildlife, which recently merged with the SD Humane Society and the SD SPCA, provide care and resources to local wildlife populations and communities.

San Diego County is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States, and also is among the county’s with the greatest number of endangered species in the country. With the spring birthing season upon us, now is the perfect time to focus on living in harmony with our neighbors, whether they have two legs, four legs or wings.

The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center is an oasis in Ramona where orphaned and injured wildlife are treated and cared for, with the goal of releasing them back into the wild. The center also has nearly 40 permanent, full-time sanctuary residents rescued from the exotic pet trade and other acts of cruelty. The 13-acre facility provides medical and rehabilitative care for native predatory species of wild mammals and birds. A fully equipped medical center, trained staff and volunteers have been trained to meet special needs of ill, injured, or orphaned wildlife. The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center is a second chance. In addition to Project Wildlife and other facilities, the Frost Plan includes bike lanes and also discusses how to deal with the predatory animals that live in our canyons, particularly coyotes.

The mission of Project Wildlife is to improve the quality of life for local wildlife and communities such as University Heights can serve as the primary resource for animal rehabilitation and conservation education. Since 1972, Project Wildlife’s dedicated staff and volunteers have given injured, orphaned, and sick wild animals a second chance. In addition to Project Wildlife’s Triage Centers in Metro SD and Carlsbad, they offer more than 70 satellite care sites manned by volunteer rehabilitators who work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide pre-release care. The group has trained at least 10 animal-specific teams to care for rabbits, raccoons, and others. The Project Wildlife dealer will discuss the common issues surrounding urban native wildlife populations and how we can live in harmony with them.

This meeting will offer the perfect opportunity to have your questions answered regarding how to keep your pets safe, what are the proper forms of cruelty-free pest control, what to do when you discover an injured animal, and more. It will provide actionable takeaways to help all UH residents compassionately co-exist with our beautiful surroundings and native residents, so you don’t want to miss it!

**Bike Master Plan**

By Beth Janowski

San Diego has a “Bike Master Plan" included in its citywide mobility plan.

In presentations to local community groups, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has outlined its proposal to implement the Uptown section of its bike plan through Hillcrest along University Ave. The SANDAG plan calls for Class 1, five-foot wide bike lanes with a three-foot buffer that would separate cyclists from auto traffic but which would also require removing up to 91 parking spaces.

As an alternative to SANDAG’s plan, architect Jim Frost offered a proposal dubbed Transforming Hillcrest. Frost’s plan relies on decreasing traffic lanes on University Avenue through Hillcrest and committing space on the north side of that street between 1st Ave. and Normal St. to parking and pedestrian use. The Frost Plan includes bike lanes comparable to the SANDAG plan.

To the advantage of Hillcrest businesses, Frost’s plan would replace today’s parallel street parking with angled parking, adding 51 parking spaces and transforming the north side of University Avenue into a more pedestrian friendly zone.

While Frost’s plan and its added parking could be a boon to businesses and their patrons in central Hillcrest, surrounding neighborhoods – University Heights residents, in particular – voiced their concerns about where the traffic diverted from University Ave. would go. While a traffic study of the Transforming Hillcrest proposal has not been conducted to determine its impact on surrounding areas, many speculate that traffic pushed from off University Ave. in central Hillcrest would be shuttled over to Washington and other streets, such as Robinson Ave, with unknown consequences.

The community praised the vision and creativity of the Frost Plan; however, it urged the city to conduct a formal analysis of how that plan might affect surrounding areas. In particular, the traffic impacts to University Heights, Washington Ave. and the residential areas of Hillcrest need to be identified, considered and weighed against any benefits to central Hillcrest.
Projects and our local branch library. Where does the money go? Well, a variety of funds. Currently, we have unfunded projects. Despite these funds, our main source of revenue is membership advertising revenue. But your support is needed, well. University Heights Community Association (UHCA) raises all its own funds to cover our programs. Our main source of revenue is membership subscriptions, followed donations, city and county grants for specific projects and advertising revenue. Despite these funds, we struggle to fund all the suggested projects. Currently, we have unhundred projects that must be put on hold for lack of funds. Where does the money go? Well, a variety of places. That’s the website and donations to various Barney Elementary projects and our local branch library improvements. We help maintain the Vermont St. Bridge, pay for the “Caroling in the Heights” and support the UHCA Beautification Committee that cleans the 163 on-ramp and other neighborhood areas. In addition, we produce and sell affordable merchandise such as hats, t-shirts, pullovers and mugs. UHCA was formed to stop the building of condos at what is now the Trolley Barn Park. Thank goodness there were involved community members back then. Imagine that space not as open land for community use but as private condo. I am grateful that others cared enough to make that park happen. They invested time and money to fight for something to benefit the entire community. Other projects followed over the years: the joint-use field at the corner of Meade and Park with that wonderful gate; the beautiful sign stretching over Park Blvd, with the bright red trolley atop and colorful lighting to brighten the night sky; and the Vermont St. Bridge, a community landmark that was torn down yet replaced because of the actions of UHCA. With your help and generosity, we organized and funded the successful UH125 anniversary celebration two summers ago. Most recently, we addressed the needs of our furry friends by placing poop stations in several locations, with more to come and placed banners along Washington St and Park Blvd (thanks to a county Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant) to beautify the streetscape and promote the community. The vintage photos and modern ostrich logo reflect our colorful past and future.

University Heights Map
Boundaries and Zone Watch

The bold outer boundaries on this map define the community of University Heights. Every block and apartment/condo should have an established Neighborhood Watch. A Zone is a neighborhood within University Heights as defined by the 6 Zones on this map. The blocks within each Zone are linked together via a Zone Watch Coordinator, who manages an email list of participants wishing to receive crime watch information. Please contact your Zone Coordinator for more information.

**ZONE COORDINATOR**

- **Pam Isaacs**: pamisaics1@gmail.com
- **Susan Fosselman**: susan.fosselman@microsoft.com
- **Christopher Hutchinson**: christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
- **Tamara Zhyblyj**: tamara@tamarazhomes.com
- **Nan McGraw**: nanmcgraw@aol.com

**UHCA OFFICERS**

- **President**: Bernie Horan, president@uhsd.org or (619) 301-0835
- **Vice President**: Christopher Hutchinson
- **Secretary/Mary Jane**: Lanctot, Marcy Zoikowski, A.C., & Constance Bothol

**THANKS TO UH BUSINESSES**

ELE Collective (new owners of Bourbon St. and Lei Lounge) and H.G. Fenton Co.

**THANK YOU RENEWALS**


**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Kenneth Graiffs & Grant Wilson, Dennis Smith & Linda Johnson, Jeffrey Harding, Jeff & Julie Rubchinsky, Suzanne Fitpatrick, Russell Wouller, Jacklyn Lewicki, Marce Zoikowski, A.C., & Constance Bothol

**KEEP UH BEAUTIFUL**

- Plant trees or flowers
- Beautify the streetscape and promote our furry friends by placing poop stations in several locations
- Be part of the neighborhood Reinvestment Grant to beautify the streetscape and promote the community
- Join the 163 on-ramp and other neighborhood areas
- Join the Trolley Barn Park

**Volunteer your time on any of the following committees and tax forces:**

- **Beautification and Planning** • Keep UH beautiful.
- **Blockwatch** • Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- **Marketing and Merchandising** • Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- **Membership** • Help meet record goals for 2015 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 our paper.
- **Programs & Events** • Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

Are you, your family members, or neighbors celebrating an award, recognition, house historic designation, anniversary, etc. or anything else that’s special? If so, let us know about it so we may include it in the UHCA News. Email us (uhcanews@yahoo.com) with details and your contact info.

For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

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**UHCA NEWS AD RATES**

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**Place your ad today!** Call Susan Holts at: (619) 250-3950. **Effective: 05.21.15 (May Issue)**

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**Effective: 05.01.15 (May Issue)**

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**
Canyon Wildlife

Continued from Page 1

fruit trees. Coyotes, abundant in our neighborhood, are out often scouting for that may include small rodents and any cats or small dogs left outside at night. Pets should never be left outside after dark. Hardly a week goes by without a new sign posted describing a missing pet.

Feeding our wildlife sounds like fun but is not good idea and can lead to problems. Coyotes and raccoons are both predators and scavengers and they can be aggressive. Be sure to collect any outdoor pet dishes each evening so as to not attract the wildlife. Never feed or approach these animals. Though they generally shy away from people, they have been reported to attack.

If you are experiencing particular problem animals, do not try to eradicate them with poisons. Poisons accumulate in the food chain and can do harm or kill other birds and mammals. As an example, one single poisoned rat or squirrel could potentially kill a nest of baby hawks if the mother brings it in as food. It is always best to seek the guidance of professionals who know the safest methods to remove problem pests. There are also several wildlife protection agencies and private companies that have the resources and knowledge to deal with any pest. Some of these are listed below:

• California Department of Fish and Wildlife: (858) 467-4201 (info licensing, rules and regs concerning local wildlife)
• City of San Diego Environmental Services: (858) 694-7000 (dead animal removal)
• San Diego Humane Society: (619) 255-7012
• wildliferhab@fundforanimals.org

Looking Ahead:

May 7 Meeting
Join us at the May 7th meeting and learn about some local solutions to the complex problem of homelessness. Speakers that evening will include Dr. Dave Folsom, medical director of St Vincent de Paul Family Health Center and UCSD clinical professor, Lt. Debra Farrar, supervisor of the SD Police Dept’s Homeless Outreach Team, and Marla Kingkade, the law enforcement liaison with PERT.

San Diego Stage & Lighting at 2030 El Cajon Blvd. has been sold to H.G. Fenton Company, the San Diego-based developer of several high-end residential apartment complexes in Mission Valley. A Fenton representative will attend this meeting to present the company’s plans for an upscale apartment building at this site.

Coming Soon: UH Events

• Community Cleanup for the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon - May 31
• 20-Year Celebration of the Vermont Street Bridge
• Ice Cream with the Cops
• Vertical Living Walls: Unveiling at Street Bridge
• Ice Cream with the Cops
• Barney School Reunion
• Celebrate 25th Anniversary of the Trolley Barn Park - April 2016

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Mission Hills Garage Sale
Pemberly Realty
Renaissance Funds
Eagle Strategies
Susan Holts Realtor
Swedenborgian Church
Tweiggs
University Christian Church
CONGRATULATIONS!! Now that you have embraced your inner organizer and have been sorting through things, let’s up the ante and look at some secrets that will make your vision even MORE successful…and SUSTAINABLE. First of all, know that “stuff” always has the “opportunity” to come into your space—if you let it. That’s not such a bad thing, as long as you’re in control. And if you DO have one! So organizing is not a one-time thing. It is a process of give and take, keep and toss. The important thing is that you have systems in place and that you monitor those systems from time to time to make sure they are working in peak capacity for your needs. As your life changes…adapt the system, and KEEP IT SIMPLE!!!!

Here’s some creative and practical solutions for what you’ve decided to keep. The Three Ring Rule applies to ANY space where you have central work locations (desk, kitchen, workbench, etc.). From where you are standing or sitting, the things that are used MOST frequently are within arm’s reach (first ring). Things that are used, but not quite as often, are in the same area, within a step or two (second ring). Things, such as back-up supplies or infrequently used items can be stored elsewhere, even in another room (third ring). This helps you stay incredibly functional and in the flow when performing tasks!

Beach Front Property. Similar to the Three Ring Rule, remember that there is a minimum amount of space that is convenient and reachable—so make the most of it by organizing the things that you use frequently in the most accessible space.

Hanger Heaven. A very simple way to guarantee closets will NEVER get over-crowded is to commit to matching hangers...a limited number!! Treat yourself—any kind will do. If you have home include something new, and there are no available hangers, guess what? Something’s gotta go!! (You might think about this BEFORE you buy) This includes dry cleaning too, transfer the clothes to YOUR hangers.

Color My World. If there are numerous projects, schedules, activities or family member possessions that need to be tracked, technology is fine. However, most people (especially children) are very visual and using color coding is a much simpler—and often more independent—way to identify things!

Loving the X - 0. Here’s how to easily keep track of big-store, multiple-item purchases, without having to keep everything in one place (3-ring rule)! Keep a marker by where ever you put something. Take a moment to mark and “X” on all but the last item—the last one gets “O.” That means you can store just one of everything in the beach front property space. “X” means there’s another elsewhere; “O” means none are left—time to go on the shopping list!

I could go on, but my beach front property ran out! I hope these articles have been helpful, and that you have a whole new attitude about keeping the chaos on the other side of your front door!
**Happening in the Heights**

**COMEDY**

Twiggs (4596 Park Blvd - Park & Madison)  
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org

Comedy Heights: Every Sat at 8 pm  
Rear Theater Comedy: Fri, April 17, 7 - 9:30 pm  
Celtic Ensemble: Every Sunday between 4 - 6 pm

Swedenborg Hall (1531 Tyler Ave.)  
www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org

Comedy Show: SideStage Improv  
Sat, April 4, 8-10 pm / Doors open at 7:30 pm  
Tickets are $5 at the door  
mike@sidestageimprov.com

**MUSIC**

Java Joe’s (3580 Adams Ave.)  
(619) 283-1511 / www.javaejeesud.com

Open Mic Night: Every Sunday between 6:30 - 11 pm

Lestå’s on Adams (3343 Adams Ave.)  
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com

Open Mic Night: Every Monday between 6:30-11 pm  
3rd Space (4610 Park Blvd.)  
(619) 255-1151 / www.3rdspace.co

Across the Street at Mueller College  
www.lessontaste.com

Contact John Ciccolella for details

**THEATRE**

Swedenborg Hall (1531 Tyler Ave.)  
(619) 296-5662 / www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org

Twiggs Green Room (4590 Park Blvd.)  
(619) 286-0616 / www.twiggs.org

Lafayette Hotel (2223 El Cajon Blvd.)  
(619) 296-2101 / www.lafayettehotel.com

Normandie Wilson: Cool, Classy Jazz  
Music with a Touch of Pop  
Every Wednesday between 4 - 6 pm

**OTHER**

Laughter Yoga at Trolley Barn Park  
For more information, contact Ginger at (619) 296-1860.  
A free laughter class might just be for you. Laughter reduces stress, worry and anxiety. It increases energy and productivity, relaxes muscles, reduces pain and changes moods. It improves health, prevents heart disease, boosts the immune system, improves breathing, releases endorphins and expands the brain. It develops and strengthens relationships and encourages group bonding. And the best reason of all for participating is that it exudes JOY!

Come join Ginger in a joyous adventure at the TBP (Trolley Barn Park east end of Adams between Florida and Alabama) 2-4 pm every Wednesday and Saturday.

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**APRIL 2015**

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<tr>
<td><strong>5 EASTER</strong> Easter Egg Hunt at Trolley Barn Park</td>
<td><strong>7 UHCDC Meeting</strong> 4592 Park Blvd. Suite 104, 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>8 UHCDC Meeting</strong> Joyce Beers Center Uptown Center 6 pm</td>
<td><strong>13 HILLCREST Farmers Market</strong> Lincoln &amp; Cleveland 9 am - 2 pm</td>
<td><strong>15 UH Rec Council</strong> 5:30 pm UHCA mtg 6:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>16 Income Taxes DUE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>19 BOOK SALE</strong> FSPL Book Sale 9 am Johnson between Lincoln &amp; Hayes</td>
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<td><strong>22 Earth Day</strong> Laughter Yoga TBP 2 - 4</td>
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<td><strong>19 BOOK SALE</strong> FSPL Book Sale noon - 4 pm</td>
<td><strong>20 North Park Planning Committee</strong> North Park Christian Fellowship 200 North Park Way 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>21 MISSION HILLS Garage Sale</strong> see Page 9</td>
<td><strong>22 MISSION HILLS Garage Sale</strong> see Page 9</td>
<td><strong>23 Jazz Appreciation Month</strong> National Poetry Month</td>
<td><strong>24 UH Book Club &amp; Salon</strong> UH Library 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>25 Laughter Yoga</strong> TBP 2 - 4</td>
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Taylor Swift planned for Summer in the Park
By AF Daie

Our other tree heroes are Erin and David MacKinnon, who reached at szamora@pd.sandiego.gov. Councilmember Gloria’s office to get SDG&E to back off and in mitigating the situation by contacting Molly Chase at in the right-of-way so severely that we trimmed palms inside our property line and for many years. It started in 2011 when they accelerated this process but has not. SDG&E has also undergrounding to a crawl. SDG&E has also and bureaucratic process that has slowed paying into an undergrounding fund, the city, and SDG&E have an incredibly arcane, and bureaucratic process that has slowed undergrounding to a crawl, SDG&E has also and been openly hostile to the idea of complete undergrounding, even though ratepayers pick up the entire cost, because their union and engineers prefer to work on aboveground lines or boxes. The city, which controls the undergrounding master schedule and serves as the franchising agency, has the ability to accelerate this process but has not. Our family has been dealing with SDG&E for many years. It started in 2011 when they trimmed palms inside our property line and not in the right-of-way so severely that we thought they would die. The next year they Neighbors Save Trees from SDG&E
In late January, a tree removal/trimming truck crew working for SDG&E cut down a tree on a private residence near the Trolley Barn Park. The tree was a healthy 50-year-old palm, perfectly maintained and not near any power lines. Two men from the crew knocked on our neighbor’s door and told him that the tree had to be removed. They pressured him and he said “yes.” After that one was down, they said another had to be cut too. He said “no.” It was rumored that the Canary Palms, icons of the neighborhood. SDG&E has made a practice of from their high-voltage lines and maintain a This strip and any vegetation are in the city’s “right of way” and they are fair game for SDG&E or the city. This is very different than newer neighborhoods, where utility easements are standard and can encroach on property lines by 10 or 15 feet. SDG&E is required to clear vegetation away from their high-voltage lines and maintain a few feet of clearance for safety. The lines they are concerned about are not the lines that connect your house to the grid, but rather the high-voltage lines at the top of the power poles that carry power in, out, and across the neighborhood. SDG&E has made a practice of removing trees or trimming well beyond the required clearance established by the CPUC in order to avoid tree trimming more than once a year. For UH homeowners, severe trimming or removal of older trees can dent curb appeal and property values. Worse, by essentially giving control over 10 plus feet of their property, homeowners are losing flexibility to do with their property what they desire, further damaging resale value. In addition, older trees add to the aesthetics and character of our neighborhood and provide energy-saving shade for our homes. Many have asked about undergrounding the lines as a solution to save mature trees, improve neighborhood aesthetics, and prevent the frequency of outages. The date for undergrounding in UH has moved several times and currently ranges from 2021 to 2030. Even though ratepayers have been paying into an undergrounding fund, the city and SDG&E have an incredibly arcane, and bureaucratic process that has slowed undergrounding to a crawl, SDG&E has also and been openly hostile to the idea of complete undergrounding, even though ratepayers pick up the entire cost, because their union and engineers prefer to work on aboveground lines or boxes. The city, which controls the undergrounding master schedule and serves as the franchising agency, has the ability to accelerate this process but has not. Our family has been dealing with SDG&E for many years. It started in 2011 when they trimmed palms inside our property line and not in the right-of-way so severely that we thought they would die. The next year they
Between the Covers: What’s Happening at the University Heights Library

By Kim Schmidt, Librarian

San Diego Symphony to Perform at the Library on April 8 at 6 pm

Good news! An ensemble from the San Diego Symphony Orchestra will be here to perform on April 8. The ensemble played for us last year and was very well received. The program was entertaining and educational and the children were particularly engaged! Please join us again for this special event.

Meet Toni Atkins, California State Assembly Speaker and Her Staff

The University Heights Library is honored to be one of the local venues for Public Office Hours for California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and her staff. Please feel free to drop in, say hello, ask questions and discuss your concerns. The “office” is open to the public at 6 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. April 1 is the date of your next opportunity to take advantage.

Become a Friend of the University Heights Library

If you enjoy the services and programs provided by the University Heights Branch Library, you need to know that our programming depends on the generosity of donations from the community. One of the best ways you can help support the library is to join the Friends of the University Heights Library (FoUHL). For a minimum donation of $10.00 ($5.00 for students and seniors), you can sign up for an annual membership. Friends membership will last one year. Just stop by the branch and ask a staff member for a membership envelope. Help our library to be fabulous and make new friends by joining the Friends.

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Saturday, April 19, 8 am – 3 pm and Sunday, April 19, noon – 4 pm

Find great bargains on books, DVDs, music CDs and vintage vinyl at the Friends of the San Diego Public Library Book Sale. All proceeds from the sale go to support the Friends of the San Diego Public Library. Please join us.

Book Club and Salon

The University Heights Book Club and Salon meeting will be held at the library on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 pm. This month’s book selection is “The Queen and I.”

Regular Monthly Programs for Kids

Also on tap are the library’s regular weekly/monthly programs for children, including:

* Arts and Crafts for Children – every Saturday at 10:30 am
* Story Time for Children of All Ages – second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 am

All programs are free to the public. Please drop in!

Library Hours:

Sunday closed
Monday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Tuesday: 12:30 pm-8:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:30 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Friday: 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am-2:30 pm

The University Heights Branch Library
4193 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 692-4912

UH Book Club & Salon: The Queen and I, A novel by Sue Townsend

The Queen and I, is the brilliantly funny novel by Sue Townsend, an English writer and humorist. It takes place in 1992 when a new Republic Government has attained power in Britain and orders Queen Elizabeth II and her family out of Buckingham Palace. They are forced to move into a two-bedroom semi in one of the worst council housing estates, referred to by the locals as “Hell Close,” in the Midlands.

The royals are told to get on without any staff or amenities. In fact, they are placed on the dole and have to replace caviar with boiled eggs and their servants with a social worker. The Queen and her family learn what it means to be poor. But is their breeding sufficient to allow them to rise above their changed circumstances or deep down are they really just like everyone else?

Known as Britain’s favorite comic author, Sue Townsend’s literary works included novels, plays and journalism. She became most famous with her series of books about Adrian Mole, which she began in 1975. She has delightfully amused her readers while pricking the nation’s conscience. Born in Leicester in 1946, she lived there until her death in 2014.

The Book Club is meeting on April 29 at 6:30 pm. The book will be available at the University Heights’ library’s front desk at the end of March. New members are always welcome!

UH Book Club & Salon
Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 pm
UH Branch Library
4193 Park Boulevard
**President’s Corner**

Continued from Page 2

included signage, banners and landscape improvements. Many residents are also interested in safety, with street lighting and speeding as concerns. We promise to continue working with the city on those matters. Noise was another problem, especially around the corner of Park and Madison. Meetings were held last year with residents and local businesses to develop solutions to this problem, and we’ve already started meeting with new business owners.

On an on-going basis, we’re in contact with the SDPD officers who patrol our community, Mayor Faulconer, Councilmember Gloria, Supervisor Roberts and other elected officials, all of whom have direct or indirect impact on us. Relationships are everything in politics, business and community, and we have a strong network in place and will keep working to improve them.

Despite these activities, your help is still needed! Become a member by paying the modest dues (see the fees on page 2). Put a check in the mail today or bring cash or a check to our next meeting, and become active. Volunteers are always needed, so pick a project - gardening, politics, flags, fundraising, development, the newspaper or website assistance - and join in. We’ll match your passion to a project!

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**Birney Buzz**

By Laura Dadam, Alice Birney Elementary School Parent

**Dinner at The Lazy Dog on April 7 - Easy Way to Support Birney!**

Bring your dog and have a relaxing, delicious meal on April 7 at The Lazy Dog Restaurant, all while supporting your neighborhood school! A portion of the receipts from dinners who mention Birney will go to support our special programs. The Lazy Dog Restaurant is located in Mission Valley at 1202 Camino del Rio North, right near the Mission Valley Trader Joe’s.

**Come Out to U-31 on May 15 - Have a Great Time and Support Birney!**

Join us on May 15 from 6 to 10 pm at U-31, a great local watering hole, for a fun evening of food, drinks and socializing while supporting Birney. U-31 is located at 3112 University Avenue in North Park. It has great food, including burgers, tacos, green bean fries, and a full bar. U-31 will give FORTY PERCENT of the receipts generated to Birney’s Foundation, so come check it out!

**Run for the Green**

At press time, we didn’t have the final numbers for our annual Run for the Green jog-a-thon fundraiser. But there is still time to donate and get your business logo on the banner we post on Park Blvd. If you own a business in the University Heights/ Hillcrest/Normal Heights/North Park area and want publicity, please consider donating to our fundraiser. A $100 donation will get your logo on our Park Blvd. banner, a $500 donation will get your logo on our t-shirt and banner, and a $1,000 donation will get you your own banner. Remember, the Rock ’n’ Roll half-marathon goes right by our Park Blvd. fence and many thousands of people will see your banner! Please contact alicebirneyfriends@gmail.com for more information.

**Read Across America Week**

Over 100 people attended Birney’s annual Bedtime Stories on Friday, February 27, as part of Read Across America week! The Birney Parent/Teachers Association (PTA) provided cookies and milk; students attended in their PJs with blankets while teachers and family members read them stories.

**Teacher Appreciation Week**

Teacher and staff appreciation week is May 4 - 8. If you would like to help parents put on appreciation activities that week, or you would like to express your appreciation for Birney’s teachers and staff, please contact our PTA at ptabirney@yahoo.com.

**New Playground Equipment**

Birney has new playground equipment! Three new sets of playground equipment and safer, softer surrounding ground material have been installed in the past two months. Birney’s teachers and staff, please contact our PTA at ptabirney@yahoo.com.

**Fight for Five**

The San Diego Education Association, our local teachers’ union, is currently in contract negotiations with the San Diego United School District. Teachers are asking for support for their “Fight for Five” campaign, which highlights five priorities: pay and benefits to attract and keep the best and brightest; smaller class sizes; more counselors, nurses and special education support; more elementary student enrichment classes, and the important teacher preparation time that comes along with it; and adequate planning time so we can do our best teaching. If you support these priorities for the school and district, please contact us.

Mooch & Charley moved to University Heights in August 2014. The boyz love their new neighborhood and all the wonderful scenery & smells they get to enjoy every day.

Both boyz were adopted so there is much we don’t know about them. What we do know is that Charley (the black Scottie) was taken to the vet in Tijuana and never picked up again. He had some abandonment issues which seem to have resolved themselves thru lots of love and exercise. Charley is approximately 2-3 years old and is very eager and animated. He’s always found tugging the end of his leash while on walks & chasing squirrels up nearby trees.

Mooch (the white Westie) prefers to stroll around the block slowly and enjoys sticking his nose into all the bushes. He was found at the pound so not much is known about him. Fortunately it appears he was treated well and trained with treats (hence his name). One odd characteristic is that he growsl and/or barks at large dogs with no provoking. Otherwise, he’s very well behaved. He’s assisted in raising his younger “brother” Charley, who is now a very good boy.

The boyz wanted to say thanks so much for the shop owners who provide water for the pooches in the neighborhood. They especially appreciate that in the summer/fall months!

They also wanted to say, please check the pound and rescue agencies before buying pooches at a pet shop. They have many other “brothers & sisters” looking for their forever homes.

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**BIG BLOCK REALTY**
SDG&E Forcing Down Property Values

Continued from Page 6

attempted to remove the palms entirely, going so far as to bring a stump grinder and, without notice, attempted to dismantle our gate to get the equipment inside of our fence. At that point we tried to work with SDG&E to supervise trimming and get prior notice before trimming commenced. Likewise, we suggested that if safety was paramount, as SDG&E implies, they could obtain greater clearances by simply moving the lines higher or over to the street side of the pole, SDG&E refused to work with us and a small legal letter-writing battle ensued. We met with the city, SDG&E public affairs, and various other officials to try and come to a mutually beneficial resolution but we were unsuccessful. At one meeting, an SDG&E employee threatened to “top” our palm trees so that they would die and would have to be removed anyway. At another meeting, an SDG&E public affairs person asserted that SDG&E had 10-foot easements around all of their lines, giving them virtually unfettered rights inside our property line. All of them were very surprised that we had pulled the title and parcel map and were not going to give them free reign over our property.

Last June, SDG&E came to our house unannounced around mid-morning with professional security and SDFO. Erin had just had our second daughter, then just two weeks old, and was forced to scramble to try and stop SDG&E from butchering or killing our trees. Unfortunately, SDG&E, using the same misleading information they post on their fliers, persuaded SDFO into believing they had the right to do whatever they wanted to vegetation on our property and our trees were trimmed severely again. We firmly believe that if we were not present, SDG&E would have topped and killed our trees to resolve the situation permanently. After this experience we filed an informal and then a formal complaint with the CPUC and we are currently scheduled to appear before an administrative judge in the coming weeks.

Without getting into the legal minutia, our argument rests on three main points, all of which are valid for other homeowners in UH. First, SDG&E is trimming well beyond the CPUC guidelines to avoid trimming more than once per year. Second, SDG&E's legal basis for trimming relates to the service lines that deliver power to our houses, and not the distribution lines that carry power across the neighborhood. And, third, neither SDG&E nor the CPUC has the right to impede our use of our private property without due process, in this case meaning a condemnation suit. There is ample national and state case law to support our third premise and we hope the CPUC will support our argument.

In the meantime, we want to make sure that UH homeowners are aware of their rights as property holders and understand that they do not need to submit to SDG&E’s bullying tactics. We have spoken to many of our neighbors who felt pressured to comply with SDG&E only to later regret consenting to have a tree removed. Recently, SDG&E cut down a mature palm, estimated to be around 30 years old, from the front yard of a gentleman who lives near Trolley Barn Park. The mature palm was across the street from SDG&E’s lines, no more a safety risk than any other palm in the city. We encourage neighbors who may have had similar experiences with SDG&E to report these incidents to local elected officials.

If the CPUC cannot help we hope the city can and that all things being equal, neither a public authority, that the CPUC is entity owned by Sempra Energy and is not a government authority, that the CPUC is meant to regulate utilities, not homeowners, and that all things being equal, neither a public company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or private company nor the government can deprive an individual of property, use or.
By Supervisor Ron Roberts

It’s Back! Annual Lawn Mower Exchange - A good deal that has reduced a great deal of air pollution

Yes, it is that time of year again! Each spring for the past 15 years, San Diego County residents have been lining up early on a Saturday morning to help clean local air and trade-in their old, gas-powered lawn mowers for a new, zero-emission model. Thanks to the distribution of 7,612 rechargeable mowers since its inception, the program is removing more than 76,000 pounds (38 tons) of air pollutants each year.

This year’s 16th annual Mowing Down Pollution mower exchange is set for Saturday, May 9, at Qualcomm Stadium. All county residents with proper identification and a qualifying gasoline mower can participate.

The price of the 600 available new mowers, which retail for about $400 each, will be $99.99, thanks to a special bulk purchase agreement and funding from air pollution fines. Importantly, this will be the last year such a large number of mowers are available. Next year that number will be reduced by several hundred although we do expect to add some new “rechargeable” gardening equipment to the 2016 exchange.

The mower exchange process is simple. The event is first-come, first-served. Traditionally, residents line up an hour or two before the 8 am start time. Gates open at 4:30 am.

Once in line, a place card is distributed to each person with a mower to exchange. When a customer reaches the front of the line, proof of San Diego County residency is checked and their mower is then inspected to make sure it meets our operable condition. Broken mowers or those missing pieces will be turned away. This is an important deterrent to avoid abuse.

Public works can only be used to replace mowers that actually work and contribute to local air pollution.

The exchange will be taking place in the stadium’s North West quadrant, with plenty of signage and a great lawn mower ballon, to direct attendees.

This year’s lawn mower is a Black & Decker CM1008, 36-volt, cordless rechargeable model with a two-year factory warranty. For more information about this event, please call the San Diego Air Pollution Control District at (619) 586-2000 or my office at (858) 586-1000.

I look forward to seeing you there, helping us Mow Down Pollution!

County Supervisor Ron Roberts represents University Heights as part of his Fourth Supervisorial District. You can follow him on Facebook at Supervisor Ron Roberts, on Twitter at @RonRobertsSD and at www.RonRoberts.com.

The baskets will be distributed at a free community event held at Trolley Park. Councilmember Todd Gloria has partnered with the Imperial Court de San Diego, through its UHCA monthly meetings.

The EASTER BASKET DRIVE is an effort to collect Pre-Filled Easter baskets for children ages 12 and younger.

The baskets will be distributed at a free community event held at Trolley Barn Park on Easter Sunday. Please deliver the baskets and a monetary donation for baskets by April 1 at 12:00pm to Adriana Martinez in the Trolley Barn Park and Birney Elementary School’s front office.

For more information about this event, contact Adriana Martinez at 619-533-6870.

The Solution for Park Space: Creativity

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Parks and open space are necessary for a high quality of life. They are also challenging to add to already developed urban neighborhoods like University Heights. As the population has grown, and properties have been redeveloped from single family homes to multi-unit buildings, our local park acreage has not grown proportionally.

University Heights is, of course, home to the Trolley Barn Park. As many of you know, it took the dedicated work of the community to transform the location where streetcars were housed when not in use to its current uses as recreation and relaxation space and the location of great events like the annual summer concerts and the community Easter Egg Hunt. Trolley Barn, like so many of San Diego’s parks, holds tremendous meaning for many neighbors. I even officiated a wedding there.

While available land to build new parks has been lacking, creativity to address the shortage has not. In January 2011, University Heights welcomed the opening of the joint-one field at Birney Elementary School. The school’s field is a shared public park during non-school hours. Through a partnership between the school district and the city, input from community members, improvements to the space included a 1.6 acre irrigated turf, multipurpose field, 0.25-acre perimeter walkway, fencing and an accessible pathway into the field from the neighborhood.

I would be surprised if I don’t see a “parklet” or two in University Heights in the next couple of years. "Slip and falls can happen to everyone," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls are a problem for the elderly," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls can happen to everyone," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls can happen to everyone," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls can happen to everyone," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort. "Slip and falls can happen to everyone," said Dan Freed who’s spear heading our local awareness effort.

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This lovely end unit is very private and has its’ own front and back yard, and an atrium patio that is accessed from the family room. It has tree top views from the living room with a western exposure. On the main level, there is a formal living room, half bath, dining area, kitchen, and den. Two nice sized bedrooms and 2 bathrooms are on the second floor. Both bedrooms have an alcove which would be perfect for an office or nursery. In addition this is the only home in this complex with a 2 car garage with access off the alley. The location cannot be beat. You can walk to coffee houses and restaurants along Park Blvd and Trader Joes, Ralphs, Farmers Market and more restaurants across the Vermont St Bridge.