City's growth plan for UH brought out a record number of residents to the Birney Auditorium on October 1.

Get involved and make a difference! Seven seats on the Uptown Planners are up for grabs at the March 2016 meeting. Most importantly, the three UH residents who currently are on the board are terming out, so we need replacements to represent our community.

Uptown Planners is the official advisory board (community planning group) to the City of San Diego regarding land use, development and discretionary projects in Uptown, which includes five distinct neighborhoods: Bankers Hill/Park West, Five Points/Middletown, Mission Hills, Hillcrest, and the portion of UH west of Park Blvd. (East of Park Blvd. is under North Park Planning.)

Meetings provide an organized forum for dialogue on these issues, and topics may originate from the city, residents or business owners, or from applicants with projects seeking input from the board and the community as part of the permitting process.

Board members are elected to four-year terms each March. To qualify to run for a board seat, complete an application form and provide it to the secretary or chair before the election. Board members must either reside or own a business within the boundaries of Uptown and provide proof of his or her address within the boundaries of Uptown. Also, candidates must have attended at least three meetings of Uptown Planners in the year prior to the March election meeting to qualify for election. Attendance is verified by reference to the meeting sign-in sheets.

For more information, check out http://uptownplanners.org/

Note: While identifying one’s self by signing in is not required per The Brown Act, it is necessary in order to establish the attendance requirement for any person who is interested in serving on the board.
Life can change in an instant. We've all been reminded of that recently with the shootings in Oregon and Charleston, the fires in the west and the massive flooding in South Carolina. You can spend your whole life building something to have it taken away in a day. Or someone you love can be gone in the blink of an eye. There's a Buddhist saying that you can't fully embrace life until you fully embrace death. There's tremendous truth in that.

I turned 60 this year and at this age, everyone’s had significant loses in their life. I've lost both parents, a brother in a car accident and had to close a business back in the 90s. But it's the losses that make you truly appreciate what you have. My brother’s death when I was 21 in particular had a huge impact on me. His death informs the relationships I have now as does the loss of my parents. I've come to understand how important it is to embrace what and who you have while you have them.

Like most Americans, I spend my fair share of time thinking about what I don't or can’t have primarily due to financial restraints. But in this month of Thanksgiving, I make a special point of taking time to be grateful for who and what I do have. I'm grateful for my husband, Dan, and the fact that he can actually legally be my husband. I'm grateful for our two dogs, Charlie and Hazel, who are wonderful companions. I’m grateful for our business and how well it’s doing now. I'm grateful for my family and how we all seem to grow more comfortable with each other with each passing year. Finally (well, not finally, but I am limited to 350 words for this column – perhaps you're grateful for that), I’m grateful for this community which has embraced me, my husband and our business and made it home.

I hope you'll take a few moments this month to sit down and reflect on what you have to be grateful for. Life is a wonderful gift. Open it and be thankful.

Bernie Horan  president@uhsd.org or (619) 301-0835

President: Bernie Horan  berniehoran@uhsd.org
Vice President: Christopher Hutchinson
Secretary: Monica Lancot and Mary Anne Stevens
Treasurer: Peter Rose
UHCA Website: www.uhsd.org
facebook.com/universityheightscommunityassociation

to this email: uhcaofficers@uhsd.org. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

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 8th of the month. Email submissions to uhcaofficers@uhsd.org. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

The bold street names on this map define the boundaries of 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. For questions or for more info contact either your zone’s coordinator or Christopher Hutchinson.

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**Membership Form**

**Yearly Membership**
- 45% Household
- 45% Membership & mailed UHCA News
- 3% Brainstorm Membership
- 1% Golden Ostrich

**Donor**
$___________ Donation for Keeping up the Good Work (Donate as a number or non-member)

**Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee**
- Beautification & Planning: Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwatch: Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- Membership: Help exceed 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.
- Program & Events: Plan and oversee various events and general meetings.
Shaky Foundation for City's Aggressive UH Growth Plans
By Kristin Harms

Growth is inevitable in University Heights—the question is how much will UH grow and where will new housing be built?

If the City of San Diego’s proposed Community Plan Updates for North Park and Uptown are approved, the number of housing units in UH could increase by up to 100% by 2050. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), on the other hand, projects only a 30% increase in housing units in UH by 2050. In fact, SANDAG reduced their population and housing projections for all of San Diego in 2013 “due to increased domestic migration out of the region.”

Since the city relies on SANDAG for housing and population projections for the General Plan and Community Plan updates, what explains the difference between SANDAG’s projections and the city’s aggressive growth plans for UH? The Bonita Density Plan or Incentive Zoning Program introduced by the city in the June 2013 draft of the Community Plan Update provides an explanation. This program would allow developers to “provide public infrastructure and amenities such as parks, plazas, additional public parking within business districts (in exchange) for increased residential density or additional building height.”

While this may sound good in theory, it would undoubtedly be entirely different in practice. As shown in the map below, the city has proposed “density bonuses” for six areas in UH, comprising approximately 167 acres. If the Density Bonus Plan is approved, housing units could increase up to 8,700 units in these areas from 2010 to 2050. And if a developer provides affordable housing in these areas, they could receive an additional density bonus of 35%.

In a mature, built-out neighborhood like UH, it is difficult to imagine what “amenities” could possibly compensate for such a significant increase in density and the resulting traffic, parking, and public safety problems. Furthermore, the city has not provided any rational basis for allowing such inflated growth through the Density Bonus Plan.

The city has until December 1 to provide comments to the city on the proposed Community Plan updates for North Park and Uptown. UH is split between the two planning boards; west of Park Blvd. is Uptown Planners, east of Park Blvd. is North Park.

For more detailed information regarding the city’s plans and the more moderate plans for growth the community has proposed, please visit https://clh2050.wordpress.com for a recording of the presentation given by myself and Bill Ely—both community planning activists—at the October 1 UHCA meeting.

Ending Problems at UH Point
By Nan McGraw

Our wonderful open space at University Heights Point has been invaded. Evidently, the word is out to druggies, prostitutes and others that this quiet, tranquil spot is a good place to smoke crack. Wrong!

The neighbors have sprung to action and, with the help of University Heights Community Association (UHCA) Zone Watch’s Christopher Hutchinson, Councilmember Todd Gloria’s office and the San Diego Police Department’s (SDPD) Western Division, this is changing. With the help of our community representative from Councilmember Gloria’s office, there is a move to add a curfew and restrict drinking. These changes need to be endorsed by the UH Recreation Council and Uptown Planners. The UHCA Board has approved the changes and believe recommendations will be forthcoming from Uptown Planners and UH Recreation Council.

UHCA thanks Christopher, Councilmember Gloria’s office, the SDPD Western Division and the neighbors for spearheading this effort to keep our beautiful point what it should be: a safe place for neighbors to walk, reflect and enjoy the view Mission Valley and the surrounding open space.

Living Well: Are You Achieving Your Fitness Goals?
By Brian White

Are you hitting that snooze button 2-3 times each morning and missing your workout? Have you ever justified ordering the Eggs Benedict instead of the egg white omelet and grapefruit?

We have all done similar things, of course, and it is a failure to sacrifice in the short-term for our long-term goals.

It is really all about instant gratification and taking the easier way out. You do this too many decision points and it becomes much too easy to succumb to temptation. The worst aspect of this type of decision-making is that it becomes so easy and effortless that you may not even be aware that you are doing it.

Analyze your decisions throughout the day and see if you are hindering your long-term goals. You can easily become so habituated to instant gratification that you can forget it is a conscious choice.

The good news is that if this sounds like you — you can change it. Recognizing a weakness is the first step to eliminating it. You can forget it is a conscious choice. Recognizing a weakness is the first step to eliminating it.

You need to think about what you really want. Are you willing to sacrifice your health for temporary satisfaction? I hope not.

At the end of the day, the most important thing to ask yourself, “Did I make the necessary sacrifices to move towards my long-term goals?” I hope more often than not the answer to that question is yes and then you fall asleep soundly.

Don’t know where to start? This weekend do five laps around Trolley Barn Park and after you complete each lap, do 10 push ups on a bench or ground, 10 squats and a quad stretch. That will be 50 push ups, 50 squats and 5 laps — that’s a start!

Brian White owns a personal training gym, has boot camps in Balboa Park and consults with companies around San Diego with their wellness programs.
COMEDY

TWIGGS
4590 Park Blvd (Park & Madison)
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org
- Comedy Heights: Every Sat, 8 pm
- Roar Theater Comedy: Fri, Nov 20: 8 pm
- Celtic Ensemble: Every Sun 4-6 pm

SWEDENBORG HALL
1531 Tyler Ave.
www.swedenborgianchurchsandiego.org
- Side Stage Improve Class
  Tues, Nov 3: 6:30 - 9 pm
  More Info: mike@sidestageimprov.com

LESTAT’S ON ADAMS
3343 Adams Ave.
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com
- Comedy Night: Hosted by Rajan Dharni
  Every Tuesday 9-11pm

ACROSS THE STREET
AT MUELLER COLLEGE
4607 Park Blvd. (619) 507-7223
www.sidestageimprov.com
- Contact John Ciccolella for details

MUSIC

LESTAT’S ON ADAMS:
3343 Adams Ave.
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com
- Open Mic Night:
  Every Mon 6:30–11 pm

3RD SPACE
4610 Park Blvd. (619) 255-1151
www.3rdspace.co
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  More Info: mike@sidestageimprov.com

THEATER

DIVERSIONARY THEATER
4427 Park Blvd. (619) 220-0097
www.diversionary.org
- BRIGHT HALF LIGHT:
  Vicky & Erica’s relationship is revealed
  through snapshot scenes ricocheting
  back and forth over a 40-year period.
  — Every Thurs In Nov at 7 pm
  — Every Fri & Sat In Nov at 8 pm
  — Every Sun In Nov at 2 pm

THANKSGIVING

HAPPENING IN THE HEIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2015

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THANKSGIVING

HAPPENING IN THE HEIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2015
The Giving Tree

By Monica Lanctot

University Heights is filled with kind, generous citizens who are happy to help those in need. The University Heights Community Association (UHCA) is asking that members of the UH community consider funneling that generous spirit into our holiday Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree was created to help the children and families of our local Alice Birney Elementary School during the holiday season. The Giving Tree is filled with ornaments priced from $5-$25 from stores such as Target, Toys-R-Us, Ralphs and Trader Joe’s, and allow a family to buy gifts or necessities for the holidays.

We will be featuring the holiday Giving Tree at our November and December UHCA meetings, where you will be able to contribute in any of the following ways:

- Select an ornament (or two or three) with a gift amount and store brand, then purchase the matching gift cards to bring to our December UHCA meeting.
- Purchase a gift card (or two or three) in any amount the next time you find yourself out shopping, and bring the gift cards to the November or December UHCA meetings.
- Donate cash, and a member of the UHCA Board will be happy to purchase the gift card (or two or three) of your choice and add it to The Giving Tree.

We are also happy to take your cash or gift card donations at anytime before our final meeting of 2015. For more information on where to drop off donations, please contact Monica Lanctot at webmaster@uhsd.org.
Norbert the Dragon Photo Contest Winner

By Andy Cameron

Norbert the Dragon has very good taste when it comes to photographs, especially photos of him. He enjoyed all the submissions, but, after diligent dragon deliberation, Norbert is pleased to announce the winner.

Ben and Briquette Erpelding snapped this photo on Halloween 2012. This was the first time little June Erpelding had met a real dragon, and Norbert fell in love with the little pirate on the spot. Congratulations to Ben, Briquette and June!

Halloween is a Saturday night this year, so expect big crowds and big surprises. Keep safe and have a great time.

KEEP UH TIDY

Fall Mini Clean Up: Sat, Nov 14, 9-11 am

By MaryBeth Chruden

It was a tough call, Big Clean Up or Mini? There is always more to clean up than we can get to. This fall it will be a “mini” version. That means there won’t be flyers, snacks and raffle items to simplify organizing. But we’ll be ready for your help. The more the merrier and the more organizing. But we’ll be ready for your flyers, snacks and raffle items to simplify version. That means there won’t be tools or email MaryBeth Chruden, organizer and she’ll make sure we have things to do. If you can work the medians, please bring a shovel, broom, and dustpan if you can. We’ll have water, trash bags and trash pickers if trash is what bugs you. If there is something else you are itching to take care of, bring the appropriate tool or email MaryBeth Chruden, organizer and she’ll make sure we have it available: MB552@aol.com. Meet us at Lincoln and Washington behind the bougainvillea on Pascoe. Look for updates at www.facebook.com/UniversityHeightsCommunityAssociation

Between the Covers:

What’s Happening at the University Heights Library

By Kim Schmidt, Librarian

November Library Programs

The second Senior Mobile Tech Lab is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. If you are 60 years or older, join us for one-on-one tutoring in the use of your smartphone, tablet, laptop, electronic reader or other device. Tutors will be on hand with laptops for the public to use. Patrons are also encouraged to bring their own devices to the session. Learn how to send and receive email, surf the Internet, use Facebook and other social networks and more. Funded by the County of San Diego Health & Human Services, the program is free.

Interested in starting a Community Garden?

On Wednesday, November 18, 6 pm experts from the San Diego Community Garden Network and the Golden Hill Community Garden will be on hand to share their experiences and answer questions. This program is free and all are welcome.

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 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 5 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. The next session will be on November 4.

Become a Friend of the University Heights Library

If you enjoy the services and programs provided by the UH 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. For a minimum donation of $10 (5$ for students and seniors) you can sign up for an annual Friends membership. Join us for one-on-one tutoring in the use of your smartphone, tablet, laptop, electronic reader or other device. Tutors will be on hand with laptops for the public to use. Patrons are also encouraged to bring their own devices to the session. Learn how to send and receive email, surf the Internet, use Facebook and other social networks and more. Funded by the County of San Diego Health & Human Services, the program is free.

What’s Happening at the University Heights Library

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Saturday, November 21 (8 am – 3 pm) and Sunday, November 22 (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 for the book sale go to support the Friends of the San Diego Public Library. Please join us.

Book Club and Salon

The UH Book Club and Salon monthly meeting will be held at the library on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 pm. This month’s book selection is The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

Regular Monthly Programs for Kids

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

• Arts and Crafts for Children with Ms. Kira—every Saturday at 10:30 am
• Story Time for Children of All Ages—second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 am
• Story Time for Babies, Toddlers, and Younger Children every Friday at 10:30 am.

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

The University Heights Branch Library
4193 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-692-4012

PLEASE NOTE: The library will be closed on November 11 in honor of Veterans’ Day and on November 26, Thanksgiving Day.

We Fix Your Computer!

We come to you or you come to us for the lowest rates
Call Robert at 858-449-1749
November Book Club & Salon:

The Shadow of the Wind
By Carlos Ruiz Zafon
(Translated by Lucia Graves)

International bestseller The Shadow of the Wind by the Spanish novelist Carlos Ruiz Zafon was selected for the 2015 One Book, One San Diego as the winner out of 450 nominations of 290 different titles. For those not familiar with this contest, over the last nine years, KPBS and the San Diego Public Library accept nominations for one book that the whole community can read and discuss for one year. The winning book is then highlighted at San Diego events and promoted at colleges and book clubs throughout the region.

The Shadow of the Wind opens in 1945 in Barcelona after the Spanish Civil War and concerns Daniel, a 10-year-old boy who sets out to protect a mysterious book with his life. It is a story that includes the elements of mystery, fantasy and love.

His bookseller father takes Daniel, who is grieving over his mother’s death, to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. The Cemetery is a secret place where a huge collection of books that have been forgotten or are no longer considered relevant is kept. Each book awaits someone to choose it, make it part of his or her life and thereby renew its own lost life. Daniel picks out a novel titled The Shadow of the Wind by an obscure Spanish writer. From that day, Daniel embarks on a search to find out more about the book, its mysterious author and his life story: The choice will melodramatically shape the child’s life.

The Book Club is meeting one week early on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 pm. The book will be available at the UH Library’s front desk during October. New members are always welcome!

UH Book Club & Salon
Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 pm
UH Branch Library
4103 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)
619-692-4912

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS FRIENDS OF LIBRARY PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

By Philip J. Gill

Now that it’s November our thoughts are turning to Thanksgiving and the end of the year holidays. We have a lot to be thankful for this year. We had our most successful book sale ever, and our membership continues to grow, reaching about 120, the most our branch’s Friends have ever had.

But me, I’m thinking about next year already, and our January annual meeting. We invite all Friends’ members to attend and, more importantly, to get involved in our organization. This year’s annual meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 pm at the UH library.

We also urge you to get involved. We support our local branch library, the oldest branch in the City of San Diego’s library system, in a number of ways that improve the type and quality of services to our community. We collect book donations all year round, not just for the August sale. We man the check-in desk on Friday preview nights for the monthly sale by our parent organization. And we help create and promote our local library programs.

These can’t be done without your involvement. So as part of your New Years’ resolutions, make one to get involved in the Friends next year!

Philip J. Gill is president of the Friends of the University Heights Library (FoUHL) and can be reached at Friends@UHLibrary@gmail.com.

Vermont St. Bridge Trash Angel Program

By Mary Beth Chruden

The Trash Angel Program has worked out beautifully. Four volunteers working in two-month shifts have removed the trash weekly from the cement receptacle at the Vermont St. end of the footbridge. The program is being extended the program even as we continue to brainstorm future alternatives. We are also discussing putting out a blue bin for recycling and asking the city to install the new trash and recycling bins we have seen elsewhere, and empty them too!

If your time is limited but you want to help your neighborhood, join the Trash Angel crew. It will take only about 10 minutes per week. To volunteer or to get more information, contact me at MB552@aol.com.
Alice Birney Elementary, an IB World School, continues to prove to University Heights (UH) residents why there is no need to go elsewhere for a stellar neighborhood education. On the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), taken in the spring of 2015 by students in grades 3-11, of all the elementary schools in the San Diego High School Cluster, Birney came in second only to Grant K-8 in both Mathematics and Literacy, and even then by a slight difference of two-to-four points. “I am very proud of our results,” said Principal Amanda Hammond-Williams, “and they are even more impressive when you consider that Birney is so much more diverse than Grant in every way.” In literacy, 62% of Birney’s students met or exceeded the new Common Core standards; in mathematics, 52% of students were at or above grade level.

The Birney community would also like to thank everyone for their well-wishes for Coach Carol Lord. Our beloved PE teacher was the victim of a hit-and-run on September 17 while riding her bike; she suffered a severe compound fracture and dislocation of her ankle. Carol’s recovery will be long but she is already focused on raising awareness for road sharing. By the time this goes to print, Coach Lord will have already participated in the San Diego Triathlon Challenge to raise funds for the Challenger Athletes Foundation. Birney would like to thank Banker Medical for providing Carol with medical equipment for her recovery.

Birney PTA will be hosting a number of events open to the public this month. First up will be the University Heights Urban Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 7, from 12 pm to 4 pm on the Willie Serrano Field at Park Blvd and Meade Ave, free to the public with arts and crafts, games for kids, live music, food vendors, and the highlight: our pumpkin trebuchet, a medieval catapult that launches leftover Halloween pumpkins into the award-winning Birney garden to become compost. This is a fun, family event right co-hosted with the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) and we would love to see the entire community turn out.

Birney also invites the community to enjoy a meal out and support Birney this month. First will be a Birney Family Day on Tuesday, November 10, at the Corner Bakery in Mission Valley. Present the flyer from the BirneyPTA.com website when making your eat-in or take-out purchase and a portion of the proceeds will go back to Birney.

Birney is honored to be hosting a PTA Family Reading Experience on November 6th, Powered by Kindle. This is a national program that is designed to help children become better readers and foster a love of literature through a set of fun, educational games and activities that engage the whole family. The program empowers schools with resources to host PTA Family Reading Experience events as well as features resources families can use at home to support their children’s learning.

As part of the program, the Birney PTA was awarded a classroom of Kindle e-readers for family engagement and literacy efforts. E-readers are a powerful tool to engage children in reading by making it more interactive and making it possible for children to have a large collection of books in the palms of their hands. Birney PTA was one of only 50 PTAs across the country selected to receive Kindle e-readers from National PTA and Amazon.com.

Research shows that engaging children and their families in reading increases the amount of learning children take away from a book. Research also shows that when families read together, children do better in school and beyond. Family engagement and early literacy skills are two critical factors that determine children’s success.

Our dedication to literacy will wrap this month from November 16-20 with the Scholastic Book Fair. This event is open to the public and is a great opportunity to pick up books for holiday giving. Please visit birneypa.com for Book Fair hours.

Never in a million years would I have thought I’d ever have pulled pork for breakfast. But I did - this morning at Twiggs on Adams Avenue. It was moist, falling apart delicious pulled pork on one of their signature biscuits with scrambled egg and cheese. Anything on those light, fluffy biscuits would be wonderful, but this unusual breakfast was particularly good, and needless-to-say, filling. And I must mention that they had me at Café Calabria. They serve and sell this locally roasted coffee, which in my opinion, is the best roast in San Diego!

On weekends, there are breakfast specials, and we have tried several of them. We had the French Toast made from ciabatta bread which was excellent! The bacon was served crisp, as requested, and the Kielbasa Scramble was moist and seasoned perfectly by the sausage. I was pretty shocked to find that they make everything that was in the pastry case, except the bagels. I took several things home, and was not disappointed by anything. My husband is a reluctant dessert eater, and even he was licking his lips!

My first experience with Twiggs was a cake I ordered for a birthday luncheon for a quilt-making friend. I sent them a photo of one of her quilts, and it graced the top of the cake. She was so surprised and kept on asking how we did it. But the most memorable part of the dessert was the cake itself. There were eight women at the lunch, and to a person, we all thought it was the best cake we had ever eaten. It was a dark rich chocolate cake with chocolate butter cream and fresh raspberries between the layers, and no exaggeration, I have never tasted cake like that before! The café is low key and very friendly. The woman behind the counter called just about everyone by name as they came in, and there were several tables of “regulars” around the room, laughing, talking and having a good time. For dog lovers, there is a charming dog friendly patio.

I understand that starting November 1, they will be making both pumpkin and chocolate pecan pie, and I know I will be in line.

Twiggs Adams Avenue
(Bakery Location)
2804 Adams Avenue (corner of Ithaca)
San Diego, CA 92116
(619) 296-4077

Twiggs University Heights
4380 Park Boulevard (corner of Madison)
San Diego, CA 92116
(619) 296-0016

Restaurant Review: TWIGGS
By Andrea Bacal

Birney Buzz
By Kim Schultz
The City of San Diego Water Department has proposed substantial increases in water rates over the next few years, but don’t think there is nothing you can do about it. If you looked closely at your last bill, there is a way to protest the increases. I did not look closely enough to realize that if a simple majority of people send in the form from their water/sewer bill opposing the hikes, apparently the rates “won’t go up”—at least for now!

I just ignored the insert thinking “yeah, right.” My mistake!

This is just off the top of my head, but I suggest we do some outreach in the community for those opposed to the rate hike. Obviously, at some point, we may have to revisit water as a long term critical resource and we may need to have a better supply, but it seems to me this proposed rate hike is a knee-jerk reaction to the latest drought and our great efforts at conservation.

Selling water/sewer services by how much you use makes the city considerable money. The successful conservation by our neighbors hurt the city because revenue dropped. Obviously, there is a problem with water and supply, but in my opinion, it is a bit rash to move to increase rates based on the scare we got because of the latest drought. While we probably need to look at better solutions for the long term, I don’t think that means we necessarily have to do a rate hike now. Just because rates go up does not mean the city will use that money wisely.

I argue, that we need more information before raising rates. Making decisions about ensuring our water supply remains adequate and how to pay for it even in dry years may take little bit of time. I think the city is trying to use the drought scare to take advantage of us in terms of rates.

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How to Protest Water Rate Increases

By Beth Jaworski

The past 25 years, University Heights Community Association (UHCA) Plume recipients have been an individual or a group that has made a difference to our community, the best neighborhood in San Diego! This month, we are recognizing the unsung heroes of University Heights - our neighbors and service professionals. We give you bundles of ostrich feathers surrounded by drought-tolerant agaves!

To the many individuals who make living in University Heights special, starting with those who deliver our mail, pick up trash, maintain law and order and protect us, we thank you. A special shout-out goes to the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Western Division officers, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department firefighters, and the Stonewall Citizens Patrol volunteers.

Also, we’d like to recognize our neighbors who help make living in UH so special. When we’re on vacation, neighbors help us by looking after our thirsty plants, taking out trash and recyclables, feeding and caring for our pets, driving a sick neighbor to the hospital or doctor’s office, picking up neighbors at the airport (sorry Uber) and stopping during a walk either to admire a new puppy or commiserate about the unusual weather.

UH is one of the great communities in Central San Diego, proud of its unique history, deep canyons, historic and modern architecture, the Trolley Barn Park and much more. We’re centrally located with fairly temperate weather, convenient to public transportation and freeways, as well as markets, the UH Library, and the eclectic restaurants and coffee houses. This month our Plume goes to the many wait people, the barristas, bartenders, cashiers and librarians who work and live in University Heights.

Described more than a century ago as the “Junior Yosemite,” University Heights isn’t what it was in 1888, but today it is our home.

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How to Protest Water Rate Increases

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The City of San Diego Water Department has proposed substantial increases in water rates over the next few years, but don’t think there is nothing you can do about it. If you looked closely at your last bill, there is a way to protest the increases. I did not look closely enough to realize that if a simple majority of people send in the form from their water/sewer bill opposing the hikes, apparently the rates “won’t go up”—at least for now!

I just ignored the insert thinking “yeah, right.” My mistake!

This is just off the top of my head, but I suggest we do some outreach in the community for those opposed to the rate hike. Obviously, at some point, we may have to revisit water as a long term critical resource and we may need to have a better supply, but it seems to me this proposed rate hike is a knee-jerk reaction to the latest drought and our great efforts at conservation.

Selling water/sewer services by how much you use makes the city considerable money. The successful conservation by our neighbors hurt the city because revenue dropped. Obviously, there is a problem with water and supply, but in my opinion, it is a bit rash to move to increase rates based on the scare we got because of the latest drought. While we probably need to look at better solutions for the long term, I don’t think that means we necessarily have to do a rate hike now. Just because rates go up does not mean the city will use that money wisely.

I argue, that we need more information before raising rates. Making decisions about ensuring our water supply remains adequate and how to pay for it even in dry years may take little bit of time. I think the city is trying to use the drought scare to take advantage of us in terms of rates.
I'm thankful for active and engaged neighbors who ask questions and share their concerns. You have set my agenda since I moved into your doors during my initial run for office in 2008. We should be thankful for what we've accomplished together.

In 2008, the city faced a deficit of almost $200 million. With the help of city employees and thanks to reforms and great fiscal discipline, I'm thankful that the city's reserves are full and it has paid its pension bill in full and on time for the last 11 years. Continued responsible budgeting will ensure San Diegans are safeguarded should an emergency arise.

The topic that continues to generate the most complaints is the condition of our roads. When I came into office, the City of San Diego spent about $20 million annually on road repairs. I'm thankful that the city is budgeted to pave 94 miles of streets, shurry seal another 210 miles, and replace four additional miles of concrete streets in our current fiscal year.

I'm thankful that more than $68 million was dedicated to assist our most vulnerable neighbors get permanently off the streets. While homelessness continues to impact our neighborhoods, I'm grateful that our new interim housing facility connected 281 people with permanent housing and 467 people with stable income opportunities, and Connections Housing has placed more than 750 people into permanent housing and 340 people secured employment.

This year we are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park. I'm thankful we've marking this milestone by investing more than $63 million to make sure Balboa Park remains San Diego's crown jewel for at least 100 more years. I'm thankful regional leaders are embracing our passion for expanding transportation options throughout San Diego County. Seventy-five percent of regional transportation funds will be spent on transit and active transportation projects in the next five years.

As I enter my final year as your city council member, rest assured I will not slow down. I will work hard through my last day representing UH on the City Council, and I know our to-do list includes addressing our infrastructure deficit, implementing our aggressive Climate Action Plan, and making more progress ending the cycle of homelessness too many continue to experience. As we continue on this path, I thank you for your continued partnership for the good of our neighborhoods.

Thankful for Family and ‘Live Well’

By Supervisor Ron Roberts

Fall is here and we are nearing that distinctly American national holiday of Thanksgiving, a time to be extra thankful for the health and well being of our families and friends.

As a county supervisor for 20 years, the health and wellness of our community has been my top priority. Today I am very thankful for our “Live Well, San Diego!” initiative. Adopted by the Board of Supervisors, this comprehensive program is designed to advance our region’s the health, safety and well-being.

Our 10 year plan for improving wellness was spurred by the fact that three behaviors—poor nutrition, lack of exercise and tobacco use—lead to four chronic diseases—heart disease and stroke, cancer, Type 2 diabetes and lung disease—which in turn account for more than half the deaths of San Diego County residents.

Live Well San Diego includes three components: building better health, living safely and thriving.

FREE TREES BEAUTIFY UH

By Dan Weiss

One of the best indicators of a livable, walkable and happy neighborhood is an abundance of street trees. Beyond providing shade for pedestrians and parked vehicles, trees raise the property values of surrounding homes and provide a visually calming effect that can slow passing traffic. Trees help build a human-scale place and an environment friendly for people on foot. University Heights (UH) has a great number of street trees, but there are many blocks and houses that have a parkway area that could use more.

Urban Corps San Diego has a solution that UH residents and businesses should take full advantage of. It will come to your property for an evaluation, do survey work and deliver and plant FREE street trees for your property. While the City of San Diego is responsible for the tree upkeep, your only responsibility is to water it. Urban Corps has approximately 12 different tree types for you to choose from, all of which are low water consumption.

To apply for this program, please visit: http://urbancorps.sld.com/Watering.pdf.

From there, fill out the form and send it to Urban Corps. They will contact you shortly regarding your tree selection and how many can fit in your parkway.
Jim Ricker Dies, Co-Founder of Friends of University Heights Point Open Space Group
By Terry Weiner

Long-time University Heights (UH) resident Jim Ricker, died suddenly on October 2, 2015. Jim took an active interest in neighborhood issues, particularly in the protection of the UH neighborhood character including the native plant life and the open space at University Heights Point. Jim became involved with the San Diego Canyonlands Group and around 1997-98, he co-founded the Friends of University Heights Point. Since that time, Jim continued to help organize and participate in the monthly trash clean ups and wildflower monitoring at the Point. In 2013, Jim received an award from the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) for his dedicated work in protecting and enhancing our neighborhood open space.

Jim was a poetic soul. He was a brilliant, witty and humorous poet and essayist. Jim completed his Bachelors of Arts in 2004 and his Master of Arts in 2009 at SDSU. In the late 1990s, Jim served on the Board of Directors of the Desert Protective Council and edited the organization’s newsletter for two years. He has been teaching English as a Second Language at Converse Language School in downtown San Diego. He leaves his brother, Tom Ricker, and his sister-in-law Wendy Ricker, many aunts and cousins and a broad circle of friends, colleagues, and students who will miss him terribly.
4662 Maryland Street  $879,000
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms  1,652 Square Feet

Classic Craftsman home with features rarely seen. Period details throughout with current day amenities for modern living. Views to the north and Mission Valley from the huge deck over the garage. Dramatic living room with beautiful wood floors, wood/beamed vaulted ceiling, custom lighting, rebuilt fireplace with cabinets on either side, built-in bookshelves, plate shelves around the entire room and window seat with storage inside. Formal dining room with built-in hutch, Craftsman chandelier and a wall of French doors leading to the backyard. The kitchen has lots of cabinets, separate area for washer and dryer, tiled floors and counter tops and newer Stainless steel appliances. The master bath has a large walk in-shower, 2 pedestal sinks, science lighting, 2 skylights and a separate commode. The hall bath is also beautifully designed with tiled floors and walls, period pedestal sink and has French doors leading to the side deck. The adjacent BR has a skylight, recessed lighting and also a French door leading to the outside deck. The backyard is so peaceful and relaxing with brick patio, wood deck, water feature and an upper tier yard with artificial turf. An upper view deck over the garage is great for entertaining and has a fabulous valley view! The garage has a very large workshop and a temperature controlled wine room!

Mary Anne Stevens
Don’t make a move without me!

Helping University Heights businesses and residents achieve financial success

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