TWO UH LANDMARKS CLOSE THEIR DOORS
By Philip J. Gill

Two University Heights (UH) landmarks have closed for their doors in the last few months.

At the end of April, the Mueller College of Holistic Studies quietly closed its doors after 40 years. Though Mueller's main campus was in Mission Valley, the school, started in UH in 1976 by Bill Mueller, has maintained the Mueller Community Wellness Center at 4607 Park Blvd., at the corner of Madison Heights. In the heart of 'the village' in University Heights, the school, started in UH in 1946 to celebrity clientele. Since then it has gone through many changes, the latest of which has brought us Hope (no pun intended).

Currently, the Mission Valley campus is closed and is reported to be up for sale, while the Park Blvd. location remains open but is no longer the Mueller Wellness Center. Its facilities continue to operate as an event space and yoga studio. The future of the space and whether and when the building will come up for sale is not known at this time.

According to former students, the school lost its accreditation and was therefore forced to close, while comments on social media report that the school had been struggling for some time. This site, at the corner of Park and Madison Ave., is reported to be for sale.

This closing follows by just 10 weeks the closing of the Swedenborgian Church and Hall in UH at 4144 Campos Ave. at Tyler Ave. On Sunday, February 7th, Reverend Johnathan Mitchell held the last service. Also closed was the parish hall, which has served as a community center, theater, performance venue, and voting hall. The church and hall will apparently be put up for sale.

According to Reverend Mitchell, the congregation is in the final stages of completing the legal paperwork to dissolve the non-profit church corporation that owns the property. Once that is done, the property will be transferred to the national denomination, which will put the church and hall up for sale. Chris Kluth, Senior Regional Planner for SANDAG, will present San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, which the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted in October 2015. The plan builds upon the growth patterns included in the 2050 Regional Growth Forecast and includes a variety of transportation projects and infrastructure investments planned between now and 2050. Chris will also speak about SANDAG’s Regional Bikeway Early Action Program Implementation, as well as specific bike projects included in University Heights.

SANDAG: Biking & transportation plans

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Looking Ahead:
UHCA is dark in July and August. Enjoy the “Summer in the Park” series (inserted in this paper) and a possible “Movie in the TBP”, date and time to be announced in the July/August UHCA News.

UHCA changed the meeting date from September 1 to September 8. Included in that meeting will be the nomination of UHCA officers, Fire Season Safety, and a Remember 9/11 pictorial display.

JUNE 2 MEETING:

Chris Kluth, Senior Regional Planner for SANDAG, will present San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, which the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted in October 2015. The plan builds upon the growth patterns included in the 2050 Regional Growth Forecast and includes a variety of transportation projects and infrastructure investments planned between now and 2050. Chris will also speak about SANDAG’s Regional Bikeway Early Action Program Implementation, as well as specific bike projects included in University Heights.

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HOPE 46,
an Unexpected Surprise
By Andrea Bacal

Who knew? Inside the historic Lafayette Hotel that we have all passed by hundreds of times on our way to or from somewhere else, is this unpretentious, fabulous little restaurant, Hope 46. Designed in a grand colonial style by former car dealer and developer Larry Imig, the hotel was built in 1946 on Cajon Boulevard and opened its doors in 1946 to celebrity clientele. Since then it has gone through many changes, the latest of which has brought us Hope (no pun intended).

Several UH friends and I had dinner at Hope a few weeks ago, and were delighted with the variety and quality of the menu. The Brussels sprouts were the second best I have had, the first being at Slaters 50/50. They were crispy and tasty with just the right amounts of balsamic vinegar, shaved parmesan and applewood bacon. The Lamb Lollipops - lamb chops to the rest of us - were also delicious. The only starter that was disappointing was the Black Mussels. They were tough and bland, and even the broth left behind was not worth dipping bread into or tipping the bowl and drizzling it up.

The flat iron steak was very good and came medium rare, just as ordered. Without a doubt the star of the meal was the Lafayette Burger. I am always hunting for the best burger around, and this is one that I would order again . . . and again. The combination of tastes on the burger was perfect - the pork belly, the creamy goat cheese, the poblano chile, the spectacular tomato jam and mustard aioli all played together in the most exciting ways. For those of you who missed National Hamburger Day on May 28, please celebrate it belatedly with the Lafayette Burger! (Cont. on page 3)
So what makes me happy? I love people – talking to people and hearing their stories. One of the main reasons I signed up to be president of the University Heights Community Association was to be more connected to the people in the neighborhood. At times I wish I wasn’t so connected to a couple of people, but overall it’s been a great thing.

I grew up on a farm and I love gardening – not plowing the back 40 and watching an early frost wipe out half your annual income. But I love landscaping and working in our yards at our homes, and making them both beautiful. We recently put in a new and much larger patio in the backyard of our home and I’ve spent a lot of time landscaping around it. It just looks great and makes me very happy. It also makes me wonder why we took so long to get it done. Now I’m starting to work on our front and side yards.

I hate working out. But I love being able to move without shuffling around bent over from a bad back, so I work out. I love that many people actually think I won a Pulitzer Prize for this column and didn’t realize that was an April Fool’s joke.

I love that I’ve about reached the 350 word limit for this column for yet another month. I hope this column got you to thinking about what brings you happiness. And I hope you work on doing something each day or at least each week that makes you happy. Life’s short. Don’t defer being happy!

Join UHCA today and be part of the team! The success of the University Heights Community Association is largely dependent upon the volunteer efforts of area residents.

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning: Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker: Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising: Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership: Help exceed goals for 2016 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.
- Program & Events: Plan and oversee various events and general meetings.

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 uhcanews@yahoo.com. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

Opinions expressed in articles of the UHCA News are those of their authors and do not reflect those of the newspaper or the University Heights Community Association (UHCA).
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A SPORTS KITE IS?
By Alice Koppel

Cass and Carol Pittman, residents of Madison Avenue Villas since 2012, have recently returned from the World Sports Kite Championships in Bercel-sur-Mer on the northwest coast of France.

A Sports Kite looks like a large paper kite, but it’s made of rip-stop nylon, and measures about eight feet from tip to tip. What makes it vastly different from the kite you flew as a kid is the way it’s flown: Each kite is controlled on two or four lines, each of which is about 130 feet long. It’s precision flying, often choreographed to music, some with two other people so that four kites are flying in unison.

This is a competitive sport, with local, regional, national, and international competitions that are judged on technical skill and the originality of routines set to music. When asked how they got interested in this, they said one year they went to a family reunion in Pacific Beach, Washington, and, coincidentally, there was a kite festival there at the same time. The Pittmans came home with their first six kites. Today, they own about 500, some of them collector’s items prized for their artistic value. They have special kites for different kinds of competitions, different kinds of wind conditions and different kinds of choreographed routines.

They have competed successfully in regional meets, held on one coast or the other and in the central U.S. In all, they have entered about 25 competitions. They have won the United States National Sports Kite Championship nine times. With the idea of eventually competing for the world title, last year they formed a four-person team, a couple from Yorba Linda. To qualify for the World Championship competition, you must enter as a team of at least three kite flyers. So these four sports kite flyers were invited to represent the U.S. at the world meet. They were judged by five judges from around the world, competed with 14 teams from that many countries, and placed eighth, first in the central U.S. In all, they have entered about 25 competitions.

They explained that the best place to fly their kites is at the beach; they need almost a football field length, so, no, they can’t fly it in our neighborhood. They practice four or five times each week, and when they were preparing for the international competition, they drove to L.A. to practice with their partners three full days each week.

Their involvement even effected where they live. They moved to San Diego from Seattle so they could fly their kites at our lovely beaches, and we’re so glad they did.

Congratulations to the Pittmans!

WORLD’S BEST ROASTED LEG OF LAMB
By Andrea Bacal

To celebrate the beginning of backyard grilling season in San Diego, I am sharing this recipe that came with a frozen daiquiri mix product booklet maybe 30 years ago. The booklet is gone, and the product is hard to find, but this is what we remembered the recipe to be. It has continued to be the best lamb in the world.

Leg of lamb, fat on, butterflied (if you are nervous about butterflying it, ask the butcher to do it for you when you buy it)

For the rest of the recipe, you will need:

1. Combine above ingredients (except lamb). Chop roughly then puree in blender.
2. Marinate the lamb in closed zip-lock bag and marinade in fridge for one-two hours. Take out and leave at room temperature for 20 minutes before grilling.
3. Prepare grill: For charcoal grill, stack 2 layers of briquettes on 1 side of grill, nothing on the other side.
4. When coals are very hot and ash, place lamb right over briquettes for four minutes, flip and grill for four more minutes. Have spray bottle of water ready to douse flare-ups.
5. Move lamb to cooler side of grill, close top, and roast for 35-45 more minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 130 degrees (for med rare).
6. Remove, tent loosely with foil and leave 10 minutes.
7. Carve and serve with mint jelly (food editor’s note: YUK!) for traditionalists or mint/cilantro green sauce for the less traditional (editor’s note: YUM)

SAUCE
Puree the following, season and chill:
1 bunch of cilantro leaves
1 small cup of mint leaves
1 teaspoon of honey
6 cloves of garlic
1 seeded jalapeno
½ cup of fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon of curry
1 teaspoon of ginger
1 teaspoon of kosher salt

Note from Elsie Bauer: What you are shooting for is “creamy, flavorful char on the outside, pink and tender on the inside.” Many recipes call for trimming off the excess fat from the lamb roast. I did that once to a prime rib roast and have never forgiven myself. Later I learned from my dear mother that “excess fat” was anything more than an inch thick in her book. The fat is needed to make the lamb tender and tasty. Trim if you must, but leave some on.

CONTINUED FROM COVER LANDMARKS

In the meantime, Mitchell says a small group of Swedeborgians and friends continue to meet regularly in private houses. The Swedenborgian Church and Hall was designed Louis Gill (1865-1949) in 1927 and is a U.S. architectural landmark. Gill, one of the foremost SD architects of his time, was the nephew and one-time employee and partner of his uncle Irving Gill (1850-1910). Louis Gill was one of the four architects to design the SD County Administration Building on the city’s bay front and the original buildings of the San Diego Zoo. He also designed the St. James-the-Sea church in La Jolla, the Mission Hills Congregational Church, the Sacred Heart Church in Coronado and the Dr. Harry Wegeforth residence in Bankers Hill, now the Junior League of San Diego.

Despite the reputation of its architect and the historical importance of the church and hall to the community of University Heights, the Swedenborgian property on is not a designated architectural or historical site. That means that should a new buyer wish to do so, there is little that can be done to keep the building from being torn down. However, if there is a proposed project for a property in the city that is over 45 years old-as is the Swedenborgian church-then it may be required to go through the “Potential Historic” review per San Diego Municipal Code Section.

CONTINUED FROM COVER HOPE 46

The bar was filled with a mixed crowd, some of whom were there for a wedding that was scheduled for the following day while others were neighborhood folks kicking back on a Friday night and enjoying the selection of local craft beers on tap. Altogether the place has a very retro laid-back feel that is perfect for a relaxed lunch or dinner. If you open for breakfast at 7 am, and have added a weekend brunch that looks good. If you go for breakfast or brunch, please let us know what you think.

Hope 46 Restaurant
The Lafayette Hotel
2222 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 780-0555

www.lafayettehotelnsd.com
Sunday through Thursday, 7 am - 9 pm
Friday and Saturday, 7 am - 10 pm

For 1 leg of lamb:
6 cloves of garlic
1 seeded jalapeno
½ cup of fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon of curry
1 teaspoon of ginger
1 teaspoon of kosher salt

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5. Move lamb to cooler side of grill, close top, and roast for 35-45 more minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 130 degrees (for med rare).
6. Remove, tent loosely with foil and leave 10 minutes.
7. Carve and serve with mint jelly (food editor’s note: YUK!) for traditionalists or mint/cilantro green sauce for the less traditional (editor’s note: YUM)

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**Happening in the Heights**

**COMEDY**

**TWIGGS**
4590 Park Blvd (at Madison)  
(619) 296-0616 / www.twiggs.org
- Comedy Heights: Every Saturday 8 pm
- Celtic Ensemble: Every Sunday 4–6 pm

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

**LESTAT’S ON ADAMS**
3343 Adams Ave.  
(619) 282-0437 / www.lestats.com
- Finest City Improv  
Thursdays-Sundays 7-11pm

**LAFAYETTE HOTEL**
Celebrating 70 years  
2223 El Cajon Blvd. (619) 296-2101  
www.lafayettehotelsd.com
- Industry Mondays: 12–5 pm ($5 cover)  
- Live Music Thursdays: 5–7:30 pm

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

**TWIGGS GREEN ROOM**
4590 Park Blvd.  
(619) 296-0616  
www.twiggs.org
- Industry Mondays: 12–5 pm ($5 cover)
- Live Music Thursdays: 5–7:30 pm

**THEATRE**
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE  
4427 Park Blvd.  
(619) 220-0097 / www.diversionary.org

**MUSIC**

**PARK & REC**
4612 Park Blvd.  
(619) 795-9700 / www.parkandrecsd.com

**3RD SPACE**
4610 Park Blvd.  
(619) 255-1151 / www.3rdspace.co
- Co-Working & Club For The Creative
- Check out The Underground Jazz Session

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

**3RD SPACE**
4610 Park Blvd.  
(619) 255-1151 / www.3rdspace.co
- Co-Working & Club For The Creative
- Check out The Underground Jazz Session

**JUNE 2016**

**SUNDAY**  
29  
Hillcrest Farmers Market  
Lincoln & Cleveland  
9 am–2 pm

**MONDAY**  
30  
**TUESDAY**  
31  
**WEDNESDAY**  
1  
UHDC Meeting  
4612 Park Blvd. #104  
6:30 pm

**THURSDAY**  
2  
UH REC COUNCIL  
Birney School Lib.  
5:30 pm
  
UHCA MEETING  
Birney School Auditorium  
6:45 pm

**FRIDAY**  
3  
**SATURDAY**  
4  
The Point Cleanup  
1:30-3:30 pm (Golden Gate between Rhode Island & Delaware Sts)

5  
Hillcrest Farmers Market  
Lincoln & Cleveland  
9 am–2 pm

6  
**HAPPY FLAG DAY**  
**HAPPY FATHER’S DAY**  
**SUMMER BEGINS**

12  
Hillcrest Farmers Market  
Lincoln & Cleveland  
9 am–2 pm

13  
**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE**
Noon - 4 pm  
UH Library

14  
Hillcrest Town Council  
Joyce Beers Center  
Uptown Complex  
6:30 pm
  
Friends of UH Library  
Meeting  
6:30 pm

15  
**PREVIEW BOOK SALE**
(University only)  
Friends of the Library  
3-6 pm

16  
**CARDBOARD RECYCLING & YARD WASTE COLLECTION**
11 am - 4 pm

17  
**CARDBOARD RECYCLING & YARD WASTE COLLECTION**
11 am - 4 pm

18  
**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE**
Noon - 4 pm  
UH Library

19  
Friends of the Library Book Sale  
Noon - 4 pm  
UH Library

21  
North Park Planning Committee  
North Park Christian Fellowship  
2811 North Park Way  
6:30 pm

22  
Library Task Force  
UH Lib.  
6:30-7:30 pm

23  
**CARDBOARD RECYCLING & YARD WASTE COLLECTION**
11 am - 4 pm

24  
**CARDBOARD RECYCLING & YARD WASTE COLLECTION**
11 am - 4 pm

26  
Hillcrest Farmers Market  
Lincoln & Cleveland  
9 am–2 pm

27  
**uhca news**  
Comes out

28  
**uhca news**  
Comes out

29  
UH Book Club & Salon  
6:30 pm UH Library

30  
**uhca news**  
Comes out

31  
**uhca news**  
Comes out
Our May meeting started with an update from Officer David Sarwill of the San Diego Police Department (SDPD). Homeless people in the canyons and at Trolley Barn Park was discussed. Officer Sarwill reminded people to call if they see anything illegal or suspicious. The non-emergency number is (619) 531-2000. And, of course, 911 if the matter is urgent.

Representatives from offices of our local elected officials gave updates. Adriana Martinez, representative from Councilmember Todd Gloria’s office, encouraged constituents to make phone calls and personal appearances at the upcoming Council Budget Hearings held on May 9 to request funds for the library ahead of its upcoming 50th anniversary celebration at that location. As it happened, funds were approved and the painting will be completed in time for the party, which is scheduled for October 27.

Carolyn Barr from the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon announced that very little of the event will occur within the UH boundaries this year. MaryBeth Christen from our Beautification Committee announced a major cleanup on Washington on June 5 from 9 – 11 am. Please volunteer that day and help keep UH beautiful.

Code compliance staff is knocking on doors to make sure fire hazards, particularly in the canyons, are removed. Jill Briggs Campbell has a new subcommittee under the Beautification Committee named Friends of the Trolley Barn Park. She hopes to organize and announce via internet monthly cleanups, movie nights this August, and food trucks. The group has a new Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Trolley-Barn-Park. Our main speaker was Jeffrey Harding, a UH resident and blockwalker, discussed the importance of recycling. Jeffrey presented some amazing statistics, which encouraged all to think about what they are throwing out instead of recycling. The City of San Diego has a Zero Waste Plan to achieve by 2080. Since 2005, the city has collected and recycled a whopping 1.9 million pounds of refuse at a cost of $815 million. In a city’s Waste Composition Study, it was determined that 80% of our waste can be recycled.

His business has 18 drop-off sites for electronic waste. Electronic waste is of particular interest since it usually contains contaminants, such as lead and mercury. Fortunately, in 2002, CRTs were declared illegal. Each one had 2.63 pounds of lead to give you an idea of the magnitude of that waste problem. In 2012, an estimated 4,186 tons of electronic waste was illegally disposed of in our landfills. Seventy tons of fluorescent lightbulbs, which contain mercury, were also disposed of illegally in our landfills. For more information, check out Jeffrey’s website at www.recyclesandiego.org.
Increasing Transportation Choices
By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Transportation in the City of San Diego has evolved significantly over the past few years. As our great city continues to grow and we welcome more neighbors in to our communities, it is imperative that a number of transportation options be made available to get people around the city efficiently. Providing these choices not only helps get people where they are going, but also helps preserve our environment. That is why increasing the percentage of people who walk, bike, and ride transit is a central goal of San Diego’s adopted Climate Action Plan.

Throughout my term, expanding the number of mobility options in San Diego has been at the forefront of my priorities. As Transportation Committee Chair for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and Chair Pro Tem for the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Board of Directors, I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in adding more transit lines and increasing frequencies, creating a network of safer bike lanes, and investing in pedestrian infrastructure, like new crosswalks and sidewalks.

The city also collaborates with car-share, bike-share, and transportation network companies, like Uber and Lyft, which add several new last-mile options for connecting people to their final destination. Together, these options demonstrate the holistic approach being taken to provide San Diegans with a number of choices for how to get where they are going to make walking, biking, or taking public transit more accessible, reliable, and safe.

San Diego is a world class city that will only be further enhanced with increased investments in public transit, road repair, and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. For University Heights especially, the completion of the Rapid 215 project along El Cajon Boulevard and Park Boulevard offers a much-needed public transit option, linking the College Area with Downtown and the many vibrant neighborhoods in between. COIN, funded in October is 2014, the full Rapid 215 project launched 6,796 weekday boardings in April, making it the fourth highest ridership route in the entire system.

Providing transportation alternatives is crucially important as density grows and car dependency becomes increasingly difficult to accommodate, both from an environmental and practical sense. As we move to finish the community plan update in Uptown and plan for new growth throughout the city, I urge everyone to take stock of the progress that you have witnessed in the past few years, and to make your transportation priorities heard.

Clearly, it is going to take more than just reshuffling existing revenue to fund the unmet needs of today and those we foresee arising tomorrow.

Fortunately, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has spent the last several years digging in on this very issue. Confronting the tremendous gap in funding for needed projects affects not just UH and the City of San Diego, but our entire region.

To address this shortfall, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved placing before voters in November a half-cent sales tax. The $18 billion raised over 40 years would help us leverage state and federal dollars as well as increase local revenue. This revenue would be leveraged with more than $10 billion from other federal, state, and other sources.

The measure contains lots of good news for UH. For starters, the City of San Diego would receive $1.8 billion in unencumbered funds for transit and infrastructure improvements, with $269 million available immediately. This revenue must be used for appropriate new projects, which could include roads, sidewalks, and public transit enhancements.

The overall measure also contains an additional $540 million for active transportation projects throughout our region, including bikeways and trails. It includes $7.5 billion for new transit infrastructure.

In addition, the measure would generate $1.12 billion to make transit more inviting through projects such as a mobile app for bus and trolley riders, and tighter security over customer data. It includes $10 million for new buses and an additional $50 million for maintenance yards to care for the equipment. Voters will have many important choices on the November ballot. This will be most crucial to our economy and ability to keep moving to, and from, our neighborhoods.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts, who is serving in 2016 as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, 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.

COIN Program Boosts SD Affordable Housing
By Toni G. Atkins, Speaker Emeritus of the District 78 State Assembly

There’s a little-known program in California that I’d like to call attention to because it does a lot of good work.

It’s called COIN, for the California Organized Investment Network, and it offers 25 percent tax credits to insurance companies and others that invest money in affordable-housing projects.

CDFIs help revitalize communities that are not typically served by traditional financial institutions (CDFI). CDFIs help revitalize communities that are not typically served by traditional financial institutions (CDFI).

COIN provided a $3 million tax credit in exchange for a $15 million contribution in Enterprise Community Investment Inc., a CDFI.

Other projects COIN has helped include:• A 62-unit downtown supportive- and affordable-housing project.
• A 41-unit downtown affordable-housing building that will also provide mental health services to special needs residents.
• A three-unit affordable-housing building in Chula Vista.
• A nonprofit theater in Escondido –the program benefits non-housing projects as well.

Since its inception in 1996, COIN has facilitated more than $285 million in community-development investments through $57 million in tax credits.

One thing that COIN does every few years is what’s known as a data call-that is when insurance companies report their CDFI investments to the Department of Insurance. That’s how the state tracks the success of the program.

COIN’s taxcredit and data-call functions are due to expire this year. My bill, AB 2728, extends those functions through the year 2022.

AB 2728 received bipartisan support as it was passed unanimously by the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee and the Assembly Insurance Committee.

There’s no good reason not to extend this program. It’s a beyond-sensible way to leverage corporate investment in communities that are calling out for revitalization, more affordable housing and modernized infrastructure.

Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins represents District 78 in State Assembly.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS DESERVES A MOBILE FUTURE
November Ballot Measure Would Pay for Much-Needed Transportation Infrastructure
By Supervisor Ron Roberts

Mobility is a big part of the quality of the life that University Heights (UH) residents have come to enjoy, and expect. Certainly it was part of my introduction to UH many years ago. Back then we worked together to get the Vermont Street Bridge built, providing reliable pedestrian and bicycle access to a brand new grocery store, restaurants, and more.

Today we find ourselves on the cusp of two phenomena. Much of the existing infrastructure has aged to the end of its lifecycle, just as our desire to walk and to bike are increasing. At the same time, development policies are successfully encouraging greater density, putting more pressure on the sidewalks, streets, and buses we use today.

Clearly, it is going to take more than just reshuffling existing revenue to fund the unmet needs of today and those we foresee arising tomorrow.

Fortunately, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has spent the last several years digging in on this very issue. Confronting the tremendous gap in funding for needed projects affects not just UH and the City of San Diego, but our entire region.

To address this shortfall, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved placing before voters in November a half-cent sales tax. The $18 billion raised over 40 years would help us leverage state and federal dollars as well as increase local revenue. This revenue would be leveraged with more than $10 billion from other federal, state, and other sources.

The measure contains lots of good news for UH. For starters, the City of San Diego would receive $1.8 billion in unencumbered funds for transit and infrastructure improvements, with $269 million available immediately. This revenue must be used for appropriate new projects, which could include roads, sidewalks, and public transit enhancements.

The overall measure also contains an additional $540 million for active transportation projects throughout our region, including bikeways and trails. It includes $7.5 billion for new transit infrastructure.

In addition, the measure would generate $1.12 billion to make transit more inviting through projects such as a mobile app for bus and trolley riders, and tighter security over customer data. It includes $10 million for new buses and an additional $50 million for maintenance yards to care for the equipment. Voters will have many important choices on the November ballot. This will be most crucial to our economy and ability to keep moving to, and from, our neighborhoods.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts, who is serving in 2016 as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, 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.

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AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN
Speeding Vehicles on Maryland and Madison

By Erin MacKinnon

Speed studies conducted on Maryland Street in University Heights (UH) have clocked vehicles traveling up to 70 mph on that street—that’s 45 mph over the posted speed limit! Over 200 vehicles in the 24-hour study were driving more than 40 mph along Maryland. Similar studies have shown cars regularly travel 35-40 mph on Madison Avenue, a 25 mph zone, as well.

Our beautiful neighborhood offers the ideal setting to take a stroll with family, walk the dog or ride a bike. But vehicle speeds pick up quickly along our hilly, wide-open streets. The absence of stop signs and crosswalks compound an already dangerous scenario for pedestrians. As a parent of two active toddlers, I am very concerned about safety along Madison Avenue, where we live, and throughout UH. Every day we visit with our neighbors who are out walking their dogs or playing with their kids (there are 11 young children within a block of our house) and I know that safety on our residential streets is critical to all of us.

A 2014 speed study of Maryland Street was initiated at the request of Ernie Bonn of the University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC). That speed study showed hundreds of vehicles going 10-plus miles over the posted speed limit. Based on the results of that study, Maryland Street was found to qualify for a V-Calm sign, a sign which illuminates to show drivers their speed and/or flash “Slow Down.”

Unfortunately, the signs cost approximately $10,000 and though Maryland Street has been approved for some time, it was not selected to be funded for fiscal years 2016 or 2017 and will have to compete again for funding for fiscal year 2018. Given these facts, unless funded by an outside entity, it is unlikely that the signs will be installed for many years.

I have been in touch with the appropriate city departments regarding the issue of speeding on Madison Avenue for several years. I requested that the city consider additional stop signs, crosswalks, speed bumps and/or additional speed limit signs. Last January, the city’s Traffic Engineering Department indicated that Madison Avenue had “more than adequate signage” and I was advised that our best course of action was to contact the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) for periodic enforcement. The SDPD, in turn, indicated that an engineering solution, such as additional stop signs, might be helpful. Meanwhile, nothing has happened.

At the beginning of this year, I requested another speed study for Madison Avenue and also asked the city to consider additional stop signs and crosswalks at specific intersections along Madison to improve pedestrian safety. The city’s Traffic Engineering Department found that the intersections did not qualify for stop signs or crosswalks. However, based on the speed study, the city is now considering implementation of a few limited traffic-calming measures on Madison.

The city will install additional speed limit signs along Madison and will evaluate possibly creating a buffer between the road and bike lane, which could create a narrowing effect in the road; this strategy has been proven to have traffic-calming effects. Madison Avenue has also been placed on the unfunded list for two V-Calm signs. But, based on the status of the similarly unfunded Maryland Street V-Calm signs, I am not optimistic that they will be installed anytime soon.

As a community, we need to decide how we want to address this issue. Some combination of pushing for traffic calming solutions through the city and reminding neighbors and guests to drive slowly and carefully in our neighborhood would be a step in the right direction. Depending on city priorities, fundraising to cover the cost of speed calming improvements may also be an option. We need to do something before a tragic accident scars our community. Let’s keep our neighborhood pedestrian-, bike-, dog-, and family-friendly!
**GARDENS WITHOUT THE HASSLE**

By Peg Harvey and Bill Sweeney

"No weeds, no water, and no maintenance."

These were the design criteria we gave to Laura and Greg Eubanks of Design for Serenity when they began our landscape redesign in April 2016. Our front garden had been professionally designed back in 2003 in a Mediterranean scheme, but the recent drought caused us to rethink our use of water and consider plants that "drink responsibly." We also wanted to spend more time enjoying our garden and less time maintaining it.

The redesign features low and slow growing succulents artfully arranged amongst ribbons of different colored stones. Watching Laura install these plants was like watching a fine artist weaving a tapestry. The water-wise plants are arranged in small groups of compatible colors ranging from greens, reds, and yellows to blue-gray to light purples.

The golden colored stones placed over a water-barrier cloth form the background for showy succulents, including aeoniums, finger-like crassula, and super-un-thirsty agave attenuatas. The redesign features low and slow growing succulents artfully arranged amongst ribbons of different colored stones. Watching Laura install these plants was like watching a fine artist weaving a tapestry. The water-wise plants are arranged in small groups of compatible colors ranging from greens, reds, and yellows to blue-gray to light purples.

The golden colored stones placed over a water-barrier cloth form the background for showy succulents, including aeoniums, finger-like crassula, and super-un-thirsty agave attenuatas. Our small water element—an old pump purchased from a sale at the Hotel Del Coronado—had been in disrepair and sounded like an elephant farting! Greg got it working again and sounding more like a trickle from a Zen stream.

We disabled our installed irrigation system because the succulents will only need monthly hand watering to wash away the dust that inhibits photosynthesis. Yearly pruning will keep them from running amok and on their best succulent behavior. Stroll by 4528 Rhode Island Street and you will probably find us outside enjoying our garden—not maintaining it.

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**ROO NEWS from Roosevelt Middle School**

By Laura Dadawon

Roosevelt Middle School's Production of "Grease"

Come see Roosevelt Middle School's production of the musical "Grease." Four performances will be held in the Roosevelt Auditorium and admission is free. Show times are June 15 at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm, and June 16 and 17 at 6:30 pm.

Eighth Grade Promotion Party

Roosevelt is wrapping up the school year, and a big part of that is our Eighth Grade Promotion. A party for all our graduating eighth graders will be held in our lovely garden in early June, while the formal graduation ceremony will be held at the San Diego Zoo's Wedgworth Bowl on June 21, our last day of instruction. Families will be able to enjoy the zoo afterwards. If you or your business can help with donations, monetary or in-kind, please contact Michelle Livermore at mlivermore@sd.sdusd.edu.

Roosevelt After School Clubs Were Amazing This Year!

Roosevelt Middle School had a notable year for our after-school enrichment program. In addition to 12 dedicated Roosevelt teachers who lead a wide variety of after-school clubs, we have also had the privilege of working with many community partners to provide an awesome selection of additional enrichment programs for our students. We would like to thank and acknowledge our staff club leaders, the San Diego Museum of Art, the Museum of Photographic Arts, the San Diego Youth Gaelic Athletic Association, Flamenco with Roots, the San Diego State University (SDSU) School of Journalism and Media Studies, Youth Tennis, San Diego, the San Diego Zoo, San Diego Junior Theatre, and the YMCA PrimeTime program. Thanks so much to all these generous organizations and teachers for your commitment to education for sharing your time, knowledge and resources with Roosevelt students.

Parking at Roosevelt for the Zoo and Balboa Park Events

If you are looking for stress-free parking for the zoo or any Balboa Park event this summer, make sure to check out Roosevelt! We will be having Parking Fundraisers on campus during several events this summer. All the funds from these Parking Fundraisers go to support the school and such events as Sixth Grade Camp, field trips, clubs, and other extracurricular activities.

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**Birney Buzz**

By Kim Schultz

Enrollment is open at Birney Elementary for the 2016-17 school year! Families living within Birney’s enrollment boundaries simply need to come to the Birney Main Office to enroll your child for the 2016-17 school year. Families who requested Birney through the San Diego Unified School District’s (SDUSD) School Choice Program will be notified throughout June if there are openings available. To determine if Birney is your neighborhood school, go to: www.sandiegounified.org/schoolfinder.

We are also pleased to announce that in an effort to incorporate more STEM-oriented project-based learning, Alice Birney Elementary has been selected to implement Project Lead The Way at every grade level in the coming school year. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the nation’s leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. STEM stands for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, which works to support STEM programs for teachers and students.

Through world-class, activity, project and problem-based curriculum, a high-quality teacher professional development model, and an active network of educators and corporate partners, PLTW helps students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy.

PLTW courses are aligned with Common Core State Standards for Math, English Language Arts as well as Next Generation Science Standards and other national and state standards. Courses and units are designed to complement math and science courses the school. In some instances, they are used as the core curriculum. PLTW courses provide an opportunity for students to apply the subject to solve problems and understand the lessons in action.

PLTW Launch Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like and think they are good at math and science. PLTW Launch addresses kindergarten through fifth grade students and is designed to capture their interest in and spark a life-long passion for math and science.

Through a series of topic-based modules, students engage in design problems that encourage collaboration, analysis, problem solving, and computational thinking. They use touch technology, robotics, and everyday materials to explore such topics as energy, light and sound, motion and stability, and gravity. Students apply the design process to sketch, build and reflect on a new paintbrush design or use VEX IQ robotics components to develop an animal rescue device.

We are very excited that Birney students who experience this program will leave kindergarten through fifth grade students and is designed to capture their interest in and spark a life-long passion for math and science.

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Annual Rock ‘n’ Roll Clean UH Up Event
By MaryBeth Chruden

Mark your calendars! Our annual spring Rock ‘n’ Roll cleanup is Sunday, June 5, 9 - 11 am along Washington St. and at the entrance to Hwy. 163. Our focus this year will be the medians along Washington Street that are full of weeds thanks to our unusual amount of rain this winter!

We need a big volunteer turnout to conquer all those medians, so please give an hour of your time to keep this area looking nice until winter. If you prefer, you can pick-up trash or work in the landscaping to the right of the freeway entrance.

Meet us behind the bougainvillea on Pascoe St. to sign in and get supplies. We have water, sunscreen, snacks, trash pickers, some gloves, and tools. If you have a broom, dustpan, weed digger, or shovel, please bring them.

Dress appropriately with hats, long sleeves to block the sun, and gloves to avoid injury. Come for the fun, camaraderie, and the satisfaction of helping your community. Plus, we will raffle off gift cards to local businesses, so it’s sure to be a fun and rewarding time! Please join us to keep University Heights clean and beautiful. If you have any questions, please contact MaryBeth at mb552@aol.com.
Between the Covers: What’s Happening at the University Heights Library
By Kim Schmidt, Librarian

FOR UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS STORY TIME FOR BABIES & TODDLERS
On Friday mornings starting at 10:30 am, the University Heights (UH) Library alive with the sound of gurgles, burbles, squeals and the sound of little feet trotting about. It’s story time for babies and toddlers. This popular program focuses on reading and play skills needed to effectively introduce your children to the pleasures and benefits of reading. The program is offered for parents and caregivers as much as it is for the children. Story Time is conducted by Midori Wong, an employee of the San Diego Unified School District, who generously volunteers her time as reignigning queen of the tiny ones. Please join us for this free program. Attention expectant mothers and fathers: You are welcome to join us. It’s never too early to start reading to your child!

SENIOR MOBILE TECH LAB – TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 12:30 – 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 and other devices. 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. The program is free.

PLEASE NOTE! DUE TO THE POPULARITY OF THIS PROGRAM, THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE CLASS MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE BY CALLING (619) 471-2713. THIS IS THE NUMBER FOR THE AGENCY THAT PROVIDES THE TUTORS, NOT THE LIBRARY.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM PERFORMANCES
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SUMMER READING PROGRAM PERFORMANCES
Once again, we are partnering with California State Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins to collect socks for homeless veterans. The socks will be distributed during the America Stand Down in Balboa Park. Please bring new (preferably white) socks for men, women and children to the library. There will be a collection box just inside the front door. Last year’s sock drive was a big success and we count on your generosity to make this year’s drive even better.

MEET TONI ATKINS, CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER EMERITUS AND HER STAFF!
The UH Library is honored to be one of the local venues for Public Office Hours for Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins and her staff. Feel free to drop in, say hello, ask questions, and discuss your concerns. The “office” is open to the public and the next session will be on Wednesday, June 1, at 4 pm.

SDPL IS GOING GREENER!
Starting July 1, the library will no longer be sending paper notices to patrons. If you wish to continue to receive notices from the library, please contact your local branch or central library and have a staff member add a valid email address to your patron record if you are not currently receiving this service. Also on this date, the RESTOCK fee for unclaimed holds will be eliminated.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – SATURDAY, JUNE 18
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.

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 Babies, Toddlers, and Younger Children every Friday at 10:30 am.
All programs are free to the public. Please drop in!

The Book Club & Salon: The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared
By Alice Ozma
The author, Alice Ozma, is named for two literary characters, “Alice” from Lewis Carol and “Ozma” from L. Frank Baum. She is the daughter of a Philadelphia-area elementary school librarian, and her book is a memoir that tells the story of how she and her father made a promise to read aloud together for 100 consecutive nights as Ozma was growing up. Then it stretched to 1,000 nights, from L. Frank Baum and Dickens to J.K. Rowling and Shakespeare, with Alice’s father reading to her every night without fail, over a remarkable period of eight years until the day she entered college. Reading with her father offered a comforting continuity in the midst of her mother’s leaving the family and her older sister’s absence as a foreign exchange student.

Ozma weaves a series of vignettes, often humorous, about the words they shared and the spaces in between. Her memoir illustrates the value of reading, or more specifically, of being read to, and how it functions not only as an important part of intellectual and creative development, but also as a way to forge and nurture relationships.

There is no better argument for the benefits of reading to a child, and the back of the book has a wonderful partial list of the books they shared.

Join the Book Club & Salon discussion on Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 pm. The book will be available at the University Heights branch library’s front desk during May and June. New members are always welcome!

UH Book Club & Salon
Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 pm
UH Branch Library
4153 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)
(619) 692-4912

LIBRARY HOURS
Monday 9:30 am–6 pm
Tuesday 11:30 am–8 pm
Wednesday 11:30 am–8 pm
Thursday 9:30 am–6 pm
Friday 9:30 am–6 pm
Saturday 9:30 am–6 pm
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10 News University Heights Community Association | 6.2016 www.uhad.org
THE FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

By Philip J. Gill, President of the Friends of the UH Library

I have good news for all University Heights (UH) residents, not just members of the Friends of the University Heights Library! The exterior of the University Heights branch library will be painted in time for its 50th anniversary ceremony this fall on October 29.

At the City Council's 2017 budget hearing on the library on Monday, May 9, outgoing District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria announced that his office had received word over the weekend from the relevant maintenance staff that the library would be painted in time for its 50th anniversary! Our thanks go out to Councilmember Todd Gloria and especially to Adriana Martinez, the representative to UH.

The repainting is an important major step in the ongoing renovation of the UH branch that the current board has been planning and working toward for the last two years. While we plan to one day see a new UH branch library take its home in the Teachers’ Annex of the old Normal School at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Normal Streets, we still have a vital, active branch that needs maintenance, love, and care. Indeed, we may be one of the smallest branches in square footage, but we are one of the busiest in numbers of patrons served every year.

The good news for the city’s branch libraries gets better. At the same hearing, several city council members spoke about increasing overall spending on our libraries to four percent of the city’s budget, an increase of some $28 million over the years past! We can only hope that’s true, because although we have a great, spanking new central library downtown, our branches remain the ‘front lines’ of the library system for most city residents. However, be warned, increasing funding beyond that, and even maintaining that level in future years, will be extremely challenging. Councilmember Gloria warned. So it’s important that city resident from UH and beyond make our voice heard that these important resources need to be maintained an improved.

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 UH Library. For a minimum donation of $10 ($5 for students and seniors), you can sign up for an annual membership. Just stop into the branch and ask a staff member for a membership envelope. Help our library to be fabulous, make new friends. Join the Friends of the UH Library.

My new dog is a character! His name is Shadow, and he has the funniest personality. Shadow is new around this neighborhood — we adopted him four months ago — but he acts like it has been his home forever. He fits right in in our family and we love him very much. Shadow loves going for walks in the morning. Every time my mom says “walk,” he goes nuts. I personally love to train dogs, especially Shadow. He understands what I say and does the right trick. He is very intelligent and can accomplish anything he puts his mind to. My favorite trick that I taught him is “paw,” where he puts his paw on my hand.

When our dog is excited, he is REALLY excited and he makes the loudest shriek I’ve ever heard. It doesn’t matter how long we are gone for, 30 minutes or five hours, when we come home we get the same reaction, which we call the Shadow special. That is where he shields, spins around, jumps on us and runs around everywhere. It’s so funny! It is the best welcome home treat we could ever ask for.

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