FOR SPRING
FRESHEN UP

UHCA member Dawn Harrison, decorative hardware.

STREET SEEN
COME CELEBRATE UH 130

We all know that University Heights (UH) is one of San Diego’s oldest communities, but many may not know that San Diego’s “first streetcar suburb” is 130 years old this year, having been founded in 1888!

Well, we’re certainly not going to let a birthday go by without a party to celebrate. And where else does the UH community gather to celebrate other than on Park Boulevard? In the 4600 block of Park (the block with the UH street sign) and adjacent areas, the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) and the Park Boulevard merchants are hosting UH 130, an evening celebration offering food and music to all comers.

 Participating establishments as of this writing include: Ban Thai Restaurant (4646 Park); Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry (4590 Park); Coffeehouse (4590 Park). Each establishment will offer special tastes, drinks, samples, or discounts to anyone who purchases a ticket celebrating UH’s 130th anniversary.

Besides food, Bill Watson and his International Silver String Submarine Band will perform live music on the front patio at Park ‘n Rec from 5pm to 9pm.

To participate, stop at Twiggs at the corner of Park and Madison on the day of the event and purchase your hand stamp for $10 per person. Children under 12 years of age are free.

Then stroll the boulevard from Park House Eatery to the corner of Adams, sample food and treats from our local businesses, and enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors in the very heart of our wonderful community.

The topic for our next meeting is: Gardening in all its glory! It’s that time of year when we start to look forward to flowers and fresh fruits and vegetables from our gardens. Bill Tall, owner of City Farmers Nursery, will be our guest speaker for May. Come join us in May for an interesting and lively discussion on an annual, but perennially popular, topic. That pun is intended!

PUTTING THE “UNIVERSITY” IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The potential exchange or sale of the Education Center site by the San Diego Unified School District has been in the news a lot lately and is generating considerable interest and concern in the community. Not only is the 130-year old Ed Center site the birthplace of University Heights, it is also the forerunner of San Diego State University. Learn more about the history of this significant site at the next UHCA meeting on April 5. Our featured speaker will be Kristin Harms, long-time UH resident and former Chair of the UH Historical Society. Kristin will discuss the early history of University Heights, including the Ed Center site.

Founded in 1888, University Heights is one of San Diego’s oldest and most livable communities with a fascinating early history shaped by education, transportation, water, and the 1915 Panama-California International Exposition (the latter also gave us Balboa Park).

Wondering why the ostrich is the UH mascot or where Trolley Barn Park got its name? To find out, join us at the meeting on April 5! —Kristin Harms

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Bill Smith who was elected to the board of Uptown Planners. Bill represents University Heights and is also a board member of UHCA. And congratulations to Tom Sullivan and Bob Daniels, representing Mission Hills, who were reelected to the board.
Join Today and Help Make a Difference! Our Success is Largeley Dependent on Volunteer Efforts from Area Residents Like You.

New/Renewing Members

Golden Ostrich
Kelly Kaldenberg
Mary Anne Stevens

Business
Chuck Mitchell, Bear Hair, Mark Kastner, Circle of Living; Stephen Riley, BFD (Big Front Door).

Many thanks to all our members for your dues and donations, which go directly to programs and events that make UH the wonderful community it is. We greatly appreciate your support.

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 meet record goals for 2018 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 a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity and energy to our paper.
- Program & Events: Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

University Heights Community Association

UHCA Officers

President
Carol Neidenberg
president@uhsd.org or (619) 549-3996

Vice President
Maureen Markey

Secretary
Kurt Hermansen

Treasurer
Stuart McGraw

Website
uhsd.org

Facebook
/universityheightscommunityassociation

Instagram
@UniversityHeightsSD

University Heights Boundaries and Zone Watch

UH Zone Watch Coordinator

Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.

Help meet record goals for 2018 membership and meeting attendance.

Membership

Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.

Marketing & Merchandising

Blockwalker

Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.

Beautification & Planning

Keep UH beautiful.

Membership

Help meet record goals for 2018 membership and meeting attendance.

Program & Events

Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.

New Crime Watch Signs

Be on the lookout for the new signs that are now up. If you know of an old dilapidated sign that should be given priority, please email UHCA Secretary Kurt Hermansen at: khflh@labaskurtusa.com

Slow Down Signs

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH is a chronic problem. Sharing time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. Set your alarm clock 15 minutes ahead and slow down.

Disaster Contacts

In case of a major disaster such as an earthquake or fire, have two out of state contacts on speed dial. When the power is off cordless phones won’t work. Have a basic phone you can plug into a phone jack that you can use for calls.

UH Phone Book

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical

911
619-531-3300

Police
SDPD Community Relations Officers: Direct home security check, upkeep of home-bound, patrolling business districts, home-and-security support

619-531-4686
619-531-4821
619-531-4880

SDPD Western Division: 5275 Garnet Street
858-694-6313

5275 Garnet Street

911
619-531-3300

Fire

562-1591

Cardiac Arrest

188-581-1591 (BFD)

3-1-1 San Diego

211 or 858-550-1211

Non-Emergency

(619) 692-4945

Street Lights, Pot Holes, etc.

619-531-7500

Online: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done

Graffiti: In Progress Emergency

Report Online: apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/) email photos: cericson@pd.sandiego.gov

SDPD Crime Watch

on-street neighborhood watches

858-694-2888

Away from Home

858-694-6422

Cordless Phones

858-694-6923

Fire

858-694-2888

Ricardo Pinon (rpinon@pd.sandiego.gov)

5215 Gaines Street

911
619-531-3300

5215 Gaines Street

188-581-1591 (BFD)

858-694-6923

5215 Gaines Street

911
619-531-3300

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5215 Gaines Street
“If not us, then who? If not now, then when?” – John E. Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives

I was recently reminded of the power of these two sentences. They refer to taking responsibility and not standing by and letting others roll up their sleeves. This is what we are asking of you, kind readers, to help the community by being involved.

Why is this so important now? One key principle in a democracy is citizen participation, respect, and patience. Officials are elected to represent those governed, which includes listening to the voices of the citizens. For those of you who attended the March UHCA meeting, for example, you might remember Richard Barrera asking the audience about volunteering at Birney Elementary. Stay a wonderer for a second...

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The March 1 UHCA meeting opened at 6:45 pm with the Crime Watch portion. Sheriff's community liaison Officer Ricardo Hershman announced the swearing in of the new Police Chief David Nisleil February 27.

UHCA President Carol Neidenberg began the very well attended and packed meeting announcements about the upcoming board elections at Uptown Planners and the Greater North Park Planning Committee. University Heights is split between two planning boards (Uptown Planners west of Park Boulevard and Greater North Park Planning Committee east of Park Boulevard). It is important to have representatives on both planning boards.

UH has been awarded a grant for Movies in the Trolley Barn Park. More info will be available soon.

Mary Anne Stevens announced the University Heights 130th Anniversary Party to be held April 28 on Park Boulevard from 5-8 pm. The cost will be $10.

The next day, April 29, will be the First Annual UH Tag Sale held in the Trolley Barn Park. More info will be available soon.

Bill Smith and Bill Ellig talked about the future of the Education Center property. On April 1, 1957, the BBC reported that Switzerland had a humpper crop of spaghetti due to an unusually mild winter. The television news casters gave a full description of the harvest, complete with pictures of people picking spaghetti from trees. The reporter relayed stories of massive spaghetti plantations in Italy, battles to control dreaded spaghetti weevils and instructions for growing spaghetti trees at home. It was, of course, an April Fools joke. TV trivia enthusiasts consider this to be the first April Fools joke broad- cast on television. Many viewers were actually taken in by the hoax, because in 1957 spaghetti was still thought of by many British people as some kind of exotic foreign food. April Fools Day, in one form or another, is one of our oldest holidays. The ancient Celts and Romans had a spring holiday for playing practical jokes. –Adapted from an article in the SDUT. See if you can recognize the several April Fools jokes

The School Board wants to swap this land with an adequate facility. One by one, unpaid citizens stood up, representing the UHCA Board of Directors, the Beautification Team, the blockwalkers, the UHCA News authors and photographers, and the event and library volunteers. It was gratifying to see how many participate and give their time to better UH.

Although we all don’t agree with potential plans, including increased density. I believe most of us want a similar outcome; and that, is to improve our community and leave it in better shape for our children and their children. So to the SD Unified School District Trustees and other decision makers, I say the time to listen is now. Your decision will significantly impact UH. Working together, we can build the future and help this 130-year-old neighborhood thrive.

Our guest speaker was Richard Barrera, representative for District D (which includes University Heights) on the San Diego Unified School Board. He stated that the existing buildings housing the Department of Education are not adequate and outdated; that there is no money to rehab the existing buildings which were built in 1951; and that the only way the district can raise money is through a bond measure.

The School Board wants to swap land for a new home better suited to its needs. The swap would not include Birney School. Mr. Barrera's criteria for an acceptable swap: Birney School will not be touched; the Teachers Annex could be saved for community needs; discussions about the future of the Schools Training Annex will involve the community; and the district must be served with an adequate facility.

A lively question and answer session followed Mr. Barrera’s presentation. Carol closed the meeting with a rousing call to action, for their interest and support in bringing the community together and soliciting community feedback on community priorities for the Education Center site.

Both speakers ended with a call for a coalition of all interested UH organizations and individuals to participate in a discussion of the future of the Ed Center site, should it become available for development.

To stay updated on news about the Ed Center site, please follow the UHCA News, the UCHA website at uhcd.org, and a website created by Kristin Harms and me at edcentersite.com. Please visit edcentersite.com to view a video clip of Mr. Barrera discussing his core values.

“...recognize the several April Fools jokes...” – Bill Ellig, University Heights Resident, Member of Uptown Planners.

The UHCA survey about the future use of the Ed Center property. Priorities are: 1) a park; 2) a library; 3) a playground and 4) dog park. Surveys are still being collected so please submit one. Please check as many potential uses of the property as you wish to indicate your preference. To submit your entry, please do one of the following: tear out the survey and return it to UHCA at the next community meeting on April 5, or email your response to stumcgraw@gmail.com. Additional copies of the survey will be available at the UHCA meeting on April 5.

Q: What use would you like to see on the Ed Center property?
   ( ) (A) Residential (apartments, condos, etc.)
   ( ) (B) Commercial/ retail
   ( ) (C) Mixed use (residential and retail)
   ( ) (D) Institutional (for example, library, community center, etc.)
   ( ) (E) Park (playground, gardens, dog park, etc.)
   ( ) (F) Other (fill in the blank)

Thank you for your participation and your interest in keeping our neighborhood the best in San Diego.

On April 1, 1957, the BBC reported that Switzerland had a humpback crop of spaghetti due to an unusually mild winter. The television news casters gave a full description of the harvest, complete with pictures of people picking spaghetti from trees. The reporter relayed stories of massive spaghetti plantations in Italy, battles to control dreaded spaghetti weevils and instructions for growing spaghetti trees at home. It was, of course, an April Fools joke. TV trivia enthusiasts consider this to be the first April Fools joke broadcast on television. Many viewers were actually taken in by the hoax, because in 1957 spaghetti was still thought of by many British people as some kind of exotic foreign food. April Fools Day, in one form or another, is one of our oldest holidays. The ancient Celts and Romans had a spring holiday for playing practical jokes. –Adapted from an article in the SDUT. See if you can recognize the several April Fools jokes.
HANNA’S GOURMET FRESH FROM AROUND THE WORLD

On Easter morning, when I break my fast, I’ll be heading straight away to Hanna’s Gourmet for breakfast. I’ve been deprived of my fast, I’ll be heading straight away to Hanna’s Gourmet for breakfast. I’ve been deprived of

Hanna has monthly, themed family-style dinners. I hear they are delicious and fun. I am sorry to have missed March’s Italian-themed dinner, but I’m eager to see what’s in store for April. The themed dinners feature a fixed-price menu, with two seatings, at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, for $40 per person.

Hanna’s is tucked in between Idaho and Utah Streets. For a comfortable atmosphere and delicious food, check out Hanna’s Gourmet. – Nan McGraw

Hanna’s Gourmet
2864 Adams Avenue
San Diego 92116
619-280-5600

Hours: Wednesday-Friday: 11 am-2:30 pm. Reopen 5 pm-9:30 pm. Saturday: 8 am-9:30 pm. Sunday: 8 am-3 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

are fresh and prepared with exquisite care.

On Easter morning, when I break my fast, I’ll be heading straight away to Hanna’s Gourmet for breakfast. I’ve been deprived of my last meal there, breakfast, in early February. I chose the Eggs a La Carte since my last breakfast. I’ve been deprived of

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Have you ever ventured into Park Blvd. Artworks and Borrrelli Design & Cabinetry on Park Blvd., near Meade Avenue? Mike Borrrelli, CKD, CID, an expert in cabinetry for decades, has for years run his UH design studio that can offer exceptional help with kitchen and bath, home theater, and home office design and installation. He and his team have racked up dozens of design awards over the years. Stop in and you’ll find a display of design ideas plus full working kitchens showcasing Miele, Blue Star, and Jenn-Air appliances. You can test cook on these with your own pots and pans, by appointment. Occasionally chefs come by and cook up a feast on site.

Upstairs in Borrrelli’s building, find one of San Diego’s premier interior designers, Jim Walters, ASID, J.F. Walters Design Associates, who also has his own collection of furniture designs. From a new dining room or office design training to assist you. Their office design and installation. He and his team have racked up dozens of design awards over the years. Stop in and you’ll find a display of design ideas plus full working kitchens showcasing Miele, Blue Star, and Jenn-Air appliances. You can test cook on these with your own pots and pans, by appointment. Occasionally chefs come by and cook up a feast on site.

Across the street at Torreon Imports, on University Ave. near 10th St. has a window in your wall, is space enhancing, as is the old Parisian trick of mirroring a whole wall. Torreon Imports offers an endless variety and options for anything in mirrors. Speaking of Paris, interiors like the Parisian-style downtown creperie, Minou, by Café Chloe’s owners, are an inspiration.

Local foodies cheer bfd and Sheep Riley, our favorite deli/sandwich guru, for making a good deal with architect Jonathan Segal to move over to his new building, Park and Polk, and anchor that sleek building for the gastronomic benefit of all. "The Unknown Shopper Hardware," for custom mixed paints, fixtures and hardware, tools, and almost anything else to give your house a facelift.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
130 ANNIVERSARY
EVENING FESTIVAL
APRIL 28 5-8PM

Join us for this fun-filled event celebrating one of San Diego’s oldest urban havens featuring unique food & drink samplings with the purchase of a $10 wristband. Children under 12 Free.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Billy Watson & his International Silver String Submarine Band
Participating Merchants: Bahn Thai • Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry • El Zarape Madison • Muzita Abyssinian Bistro • Meraki Café • Park & Rec Parkhouse Eatery • Plumeria • Red House Pizza • Small Bar Soltan Banoo • Twiggs Coffee House • More Info at UHSD.ORG

Hosted by the University Heights Community Association
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD
TAG SALE

The First Annual “Ostrich Nest”

Sunday, April 29th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Trolley Barn Park

Make some money and help improve Trolley Barn Park! Clean out your closets and gather up all those great items that you no longer use. Register for a space to sell your stuff at this year’s community tag sale. Don’t miss this great opportunity to sell your treasures or shop for new ones...or both!

Registration & more details at: [www.uhsd.org](http://www.uhsd.org) (Click “Events”)

Pre-Registration required • Open to all San Diego residents • Fee is $25 ($20 for UHCA members) • Registration fees go toward improving Trolley Barn Park • Spaces are limited, so sign up soon!
Happy April! National Library Week is April 8-14, and we hope you’ll join us to celebrate by visiting the UH Library. This is the 60th anniversary of the national celebration that was started by the American Library Association as a way to encourage reading and public support for libraries. If you value your local branch library (and we hope you do), consider joining the Friends of the University Heights Library in April. This all-volunteer group helps support the University Heights Library through membership dues, book sales, and charitable contributions. Annual membership is $25.00 for families, $10 for individuals, and $20 for a family. Lifetime memberships are available for a one-time contribution of $250. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the Library soon.

The UH Library gets crafty every Saturday at 10:30 am with an Arts & Crafts time for kids of all ages, and our toddler storytime takes place the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 11 am. Special programs this month include Move It, presented by the Living Coast Discovery Center on Wednesday, April 18, at 4:30 pm. Kids will learn about animals that call San Diego home through fun dance moves and up-close animal encounters. No registration is required. And on Wednesday April 25 at 4:30 pm we’ll be hosting Discover the Cosmos, geared toward kids aged 9-12. Registration is required for this program that teaches kids why our solar system is unique, along with fascinating facts about our neighboring planets. To register, contact the branch at 619-692-4912 or go online to sandiego.gov/stem. Discover the Cosmos is part of the San Diego Public Library’s Spring into Steam science-focused workshop series, which occurs during the months of March, April, and May at all 36 branch libraries in the city. For other workshop offerings, dates, and locations, see sandiego.gov/stem.

Our April book club discussion is The Aviator’s Wife by Melanie Benjamin. Novelist Melanie Benjamin has a talent for picking intriguing women in history and making them unforgettable; for example, she wrote the biographies of Tom Thumb, and Alice I Have Been. Her focus in this 2013 novel is on Anne Morrow Lindbergh who, despite her own major achievements, is viewed merely as Charles Lindbergh’s wife. A naïve and romantic, Anne Morrow Lindbergh is thrilled when Lindbergh proposes marriage shortly after his famous transatlantic flight. Initially enthralled to serve as the impressive and attractive young aviator’s crew, she soon discovers a dark side to her husband’s ambitions and wishes to break free of his rigid expectations for her.

The author’s unsympathetic portrait of Charles may surprise readers anticipating more of a love story. However, Anne’s life story provides a wealth of material to hold the reader’s interest, including her pioneering days as an aviatrix, her despair after the kidnapping and murder of her infant son, and the controversy surrounding Charles’ unpopular political views during the buildup to WWII. Benjamin’s prima- 

ry emphasis is on Anne’s growth from helplessness into the author of the feminist classic Gift from the Sea.

THE FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY
1,000 BOOKS AND BEYOND!

Do you remember the last book you read? Do you remember the first book you ever read? How about a special book your parents used to read to you?

Research shows that the more young children hear books read to them, the better their speech and language development. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to share 1,000 books with their little ones before they begin school and to receive rewards for books read.

1,000 books may seem like a lot of books, but if families read just one book each night, you will have read 1,000 books together in less than three years. Families can create an account for their children in Beanstack, at https://www.sandiego.gov/1000books, and log each book they read to their children. The program (and the learning) never ends, and the rewards are many, including:

- Registration: Bookmark
- First 25 books: Lanyard with plastic library card holder
- Every 10 books: Small Stripe
- Every 100 books: Smart Stripe & Certifi cate of Completion
- Every 250 books: Digital badge
- Every 500 books: Smart Stripe
- And on Wednesday April 25 at 4:30 pm we’ll be hosting Discover the Cosmos, geared toward kids aged 9-12. Registration is required for this program that teaches kids why our solar system is unique, along with fascinating facts about our neighboring planets. To register, contact the branch at 619-692-4912 or go online to sandiego.gov/stem. Discover the Cosmos is part of the San Diego Public Library’s Spring into Steam science-focused work- shop series, which occurs during the months of March, April, and May at all 36 branch libraries in the city. For other workshop offerings, dates, and locations, see sandiego.gov/stem.

THE AVIATOR’S WIFE
BY MELANIE BENJAMIN

Novelist Melanie Benjamin has a talent for picking intriguing women in history and making them unforgettable; for example, she wrote the biographies of Tom Thumb, and Alice I Have Been. Her focus in this 2013 novel is on Anne Morrow Lindbergh who, despite her own major achievements, is viewed merely as Charles Lindbergh’s wife. A naïve and romantic, Anne Morrow Lindbergh is thrilled when Lindbergh proposes marriage shortly after his famous transatlantic flight. Initially enthralled to serve as the impressive and attractive young aviator’s crew, she soon discovers a dark side to her husband’s ambitions and wishes to break free of his rigid expectations for her.

The author’s unsympathetic portrait of Charles may surprise readers anticipating more of a love story. However, Anne’s life story provides a wealth of material to hold the reader’s interest, including her pioneering days as an aviatrix, her despair after the kidnapping and murder of her infant son, and the controversy surrounding Charles’ unpopular political views during the buildup to WWII. Benjamin’s prima- 

ry emphasis is on Anne’s growth from helplessness into the author of the feminist classic Gift from the Sea.

An area resident has filed a lawsuit in district court su- ing the community associa- tion for unspecified damages for pain and suffering from the lights in the Heights holiday lighting contest. Martha Barrall organized her neighbors on Montana Street to fill their yards with deflated blow-up ostriches in holiday ghar- reen. Custor’s Last Stand, a nod to one of the most famous historical landmarks in Montana. But the Lights in the Heights judg- ing panel awarded the Best Street prize to the residents of South Da- kota Street, who apparently had beautiful light displays in their side yards. Dan Freed, chair of the panel, defended their choice. “If you could have seen those side yards, they were just beautiful!” Bardell was not mollified by Freed’s assurances; hence the lawsuit. The Best Street was not the only controversial choice the panel made. Best individual house was awarded to 1541 Hawai- i which had a single light on its porch. While other homes recked of crass commercialism, 1541 Hawaii’s single light reminded us of the ‘reason for the season’ – the light of hope born on Christmas Day,” said Freed. The owners of the house on Hawai- i were surprised when they won as they actually hadn’t decorated at all. The single light was their porch light which they kept lit all night for security reasons.

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Andy Simons
8 News | University Heights Community Association | 04.2018
March was buzzing with activities at Birney Elementary. The Mother Language Day celebration was a huge success, ending in students, parents, and community members reading stories out loud.

On March 9th, we hosted our annual Bedtime Stories event as part of the NEA’s Read Across America celebration. Students came in their pajamas with blankets and pillows to have Birney staff, parents, and community members read stories out loud.

On March 10th, Birney held its annual fun run. Although the final numbers are not in, The Friends of Alice Birney would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in this wonderful event that helps us thrive as a school and a community.

So far, our International Baccalaureate (IB) program has helped double our enrollment, achieve excellent test scores, and attract students and families from outside our district. But severe budget cuts threaten Birney’s ability to offer classes that are integral to our IB accreditation. With your help, we’ll achieve our goal of raising $130,000 to support the IB program this year. Contact us at alicebirneyfriends@gmail.com or visit our website at Friends of Alice Birney.org for more information. – Ari Honarvar

Mother Language Day at Birney

Earth Day Parking

If you are planning to attend the Earth Day Fair on Sunday, April 22, you will keep your carbon footprint smaller if you don’t drive around looking for parking. Instead, park at Roosevelt! The school will open its gates off of Zoo Drive to overflow drivers at 11 am and will close at 10 pm. We will request a $20 tax-deductible donation to support after-school clubs and sports, which are not supported by public finding.

~Laura Dadmun

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN

It would be great if the City of San Diego and Caltrans had unlimited resources to keep all our communities free of trash and debris on their own, but we know that’s not possible. It then becomes our responsibility to alert the appropriate agency about areas that need attention. That’s where the city’s Get It Done website (https://getitdone.force.com/TSWNewReport), or Caltrans Customer Service Request (https://csr.dot.ca.gov/) come in. Both websites offer the user an online page to report problems with potholes, dead animals, graffiti, illegal dumping, and homeless encampments, to name just a few.

Both websites allow you to use Google maps to pinpoint an area of concern and even upload images of the problem. The Caltrans website requests the highway and direction of travel, and an optional cross street to pinpoint the location. Both are user-friendly, offer plenty of space to describe the problem, and take just a few minutes to complete. Caltrans will follow up with an email with details of your report and then notify you after the work has been completed.

Although UHCA’s Beautification Team works continually to keep our neighborhoods clean, some situations may be too ambitious or hazardous for our volunteers to handle or may require specialized equipment. When that happens, file a report. I’ve found the typical turnaround is about two weeks from the time a report is filed until the work is done. But that quick resolution isn’t always the case, so be patient, but also persistent. Have your neighbors file a report too. A greater number of people reporting an issue results in a higher position on the priority list and a more timely resolution.

The only question is the proper entity with jurisdiction over a particular area. Some canyons in UH are managed by both the city and Caltrans, depending on how close the problem is to the freeway or on/off ramps. For example, Camelot Canyon, below the Vermont St. Bridge, bordered by Washington St. and the 163 onramp, is under the jurisdiction of both agencies. If you wanted to report the unsanitary accumulation of trash caused by the homeless living in this canyon, you would need to file on both sites. Responsibility begins 150 feet west of the bridge. If you’re unsure, file a report with both agencies. Be aware that if a part of a canyon is privately owned, it is then up to the property owner to handle the situation.

So, whether you are traveling through our community by foot, on a bike, or in a vehicle, if you notice something that needs to be addressed, take a moment and contact the appropriate agency. In the meantime, if you’d like residents, or volunteers working tirelessly to keep UH clean, contact volunteer@uhsd.org.

~Andrea Lange

SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY TO BECOME PRISON

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is set to take over the School Board property in University Heights. The Department has been looking for some time for a spot to build a new maximum security prison to replace its Pelican Bay facility, notorious for housing the “worst of the worst” prisoners. The current Pelican Bay facility is old and requires such major renovations that the department concluded it would be less expensive to build a new facility elsewhere. Normally prisons are built in remote locations; however, this has made it a challenge to staff the facilities. “The central San Diego location the school board property offers is just ideal for us being able to recruit and retain the best possible staff,” said Dan Freed, head of the Department. Although having a maximum security prison next door might alarm some residents, Freed was confident the prison will not pose a threat to anyone in the neighborhood. “The prison will be surrounded by a 16-foot high, new, thick wall with armed sentries. This will be the safest neighborhood in the city,” said Freed. Construction on the prison could begin April 1.

HUGE MISSION HILLS COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE!

Saturday April 7th
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

On sale of day, maps and addresses of homes are available at Coldwell Banker at 1621 West Lewis St. • 619-800-1103.

80+ homes participating!
Hello, University Heights, and congratulations on your community’s 130th anniversary in April! University Heights is one of San Diego’s most distinctive and inviting neighborhoods. With your amazing restaurants and bars, cultural and recreational icons like Diversionary Theatre and Trolley Barn Park, and your essential small businesses and friendly residents, you have much to be proud of. I know that I am proud to have represented you for so many years, as a member of the City Council, the state Assembly, and now the state Senate.

It is because of communities like University Heights that I am honored to continue to represent San Diego as the 48th President pro Tem of the California Senate. I am mindful that I am breaking the glass ceiling as the first woman in this leadership position, and the first openly LGBTQ person. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to LGBTQ-friendly San Diego City Council District 3 communities like University Heights for helping me become the representative I am today.

This year will be a busy one, and I believe that by empowering my colleagues to aggressively pursue their legislative goals and by leading the Senate with inclusiveness in mind, I can do my part to help move California forward.

Having a San Diegan as leader of the Senate – for just the second time, and the first time in nearly forty years – will be big for our city, and I am humbled to have been trusted with that responsibility. Please keep in touch with my office, at 619-645-3133. My staff and I are here to serve you should you need assistance with any state matter.

--Toni G. Atkins, State Senator for California’s 39th District, which includes University Heights

Congratulations on 130 years, University Heights! For the last decade, it has been my honor to represent this community, first as your City Councilmember and now as your Assemblymember.

Every week, I travel to Sacramento to be your voice in our State Capitol and I know a primary concern not only for University Heights, but for our entire city continues to be homelessness. Like you, I believe we must do more to get folks off the street and into sustainable and supportive housing. With the State projecting a $6.1 billion budget surplus, I believe there is no better time for us to make a significant dent in this problem and help local jurisdictions invest in more homelessness services.

So, at the beginning of February, I joined several of my colleagues to request that $1 billion of the budget surplus go toward housing and homelessness. I’m proud to report our request was not only supported, but increased. The Assembly’s Budget Chair, Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), introduced AB 3171, legislation I’m co-authoring, which would make a one-time investment of $1.5 billion for homelessness services at the local level. Cities would be able to receive these dollars on a matching funds basis for efforts such as permanent supportive housing, emergency shelters, navigation centers, and rental assistance. Because these funds will be matched, AB 3171 represents a potential $3 billion total investment in homelessness services statewide.

This is a substantial step forward that would not have been possible without your support and feedback – not only now but over the last 10 years. So, I want to say thank you. Here’s to the next 130 years!

– Todd Gloria, Assemblymember for California’s 78th Assembly District, which includes University Heights
NEW CALIFORNIA LAW FURTHER PROTECTS TENANTS

The Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) protects every person in the United States from discrimination, regardless of immigration status. The FHA prohibits discrimination based on national origin and other protected classes in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings. National origin discrimination occurs when a person is treated differently in housing because of where they came from (ancestry, birthplace, culture, or language). Sometimes procedures to screen potential and existing tenants for citizenship and immigration status may violate the FHA’s prohibition on national origin discrimination if this procedure is not applied to all potential renters.

Effective January 1, 2018, California offered additional protections to immigrant tenants and moved to strengthen state law protections. AB 291, or the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act, prevents landlords from reporting or threatening to report tenants to immigration authorities.

Tenants must disclose private information to their landlords during the application process: social security numbers, workplace information, and the names of their family members. Although the majority of landlords are law abiding, some landlords use their knowledge of a tenant’s undocumented status to avoid their legal obligations. Throughout California, landlords have threatened to call immigration authorities when a tenant complained about much-needed repairs. A tenant’s undocumented status has also been used as leverage when a landlord wants to evict tenants and their families. This law prevents landlords from disclosing a tenant’s immigration status and prohibits landlords from threatening or making threats to report tenants to immigration authorities.

For more information, please contact The Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc., at (844) 449-3500 or www.lassd.org. – Branden Butler, Fair Housing Attorney, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
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