If you took a walk around our Point in March and April, you were treated to a stunning spring bloom. There were dozens of plant species profusely flowering. The native shrubs grew tremendously during the winter and were fully leafed out in subly beautiful shades from dark green to grey-green to blue-green.

Here are excerpts from Senior Park Ranger Levi Dean’s April report: “At the Point we installed erosion control netting and seeded with native seeds to address erosion on the hillside caused by recent rain events. We have also removed non-native plants and planted approximately 150 native plants along the trail.” Among the native plants selected for the restoration project are two species of Monkey Flower, two species of Dudleya and two species of native California sunflowers. The dominant shrub along the edges of the east side of the canyon is the very fragrant, needle-leaved Artemesia Californica, known as coastal sage though it is in the sunflower family.

“The blue cones were placed on the new plants to protect them from the elements (ground squirrels and extreme sun exposure). This work was completed by ranger staff, a contracted Alpha Project crew, as well as volunteers who attended our monthly volunteer events at the Point held every 1st Saturday of the month from 1:30-3:30pm.

This quarter we had only 6 volunteers attend our events, so spreading the word to help us increase our volunteer numbers would be helpful. At Golden Gate and Cleveland St. we worked with Environmental Services and SDPD to address homeless encampments below the storm water outfall drain. We have also installed temporary fencing and signage to deter people from entering the drainage. So far our efforts seem to be working and we plan to monitor the area closely throughout the summer months.”

Please join us on the next first Saturday of the month and help clean up trash, assist with watering and enjoy the beautiful breeze that blows up from the west. We meet at the corner of Golden Gate and Rhode Island St. To contact Ranger Levi with questions: Levi Dean Senior Park Ranger, Open Space Canyons Program, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, ldean@sandiego.gov. Phone: 619-235-5292 — Terry Weiner

University Heights Community Association June 2019

NEWS

A NATIVE PLANT TREASURE IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

COOKIES WITH THE COPS: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

BICYCLES FOR BIRNEY KIDS

For the third consecutive year University Heights has been recognized as a bike friendly community and awarded the iCommute Go by BIKE Mini-Grant. As a result, University Heights Community Association (UHCA) was excited to host our very own red carpet movie premiere, ET at the Trolley Barn Park on May 18. Again, UHCA, thanks to Bikes for Kids, donated four bicycles to eligible students at Alice Birney Elementary who, through an art contest, were the lucky winners. — Tommy Cope & Greg Sorini

Winners: Westley Grade 1, Journey Koob Grade 2, Miko Polk Grade 2, Naol Grade 3
Join, Renew, or Donate
ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.

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**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**
David Holts, Beth Miller, Deborah Morrison, Kesler Randall, Terry Weiner

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 5th of the month. Email submissions to uhca@uhsd.org. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

**HOUSEHOLD**

*Indicates extra donation

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**
Walter & Ruth Matranga

**BUSINESS**
Kim Hellmund; Envirosun, 4670 Park Boulevard

**CLIP & RETURN TO:** UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

** clip & return to: UHCA PO BOX 33032San Diego, CA 92163**

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

**NEW/RENEWING MEMBERS**

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**
Walter & Ruth Matranga

**BUSINESS**
Kim Hellmund

**YEARLY MEMBERSHIP**

$75 Household
$45 Membership & mailed UHCA News
$75 Business Membership
$100 Golden Ostrich

**DONOR**

$ ______ Donation for Keeping up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME ON A UHCA COMMITTEE!**

- **Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- **Blockwalker** Help deliver newsletters to UH residents and businesses.
- **Marketing & Merchandising** Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- **Business** Help meet record goals for 2019 membership and meeting attendance.
- **Neighborhood/Zone Watch** Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.

**University Heights Community Association**

A 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

**Yearly Membership**

- [ ] 95% Household
- [ ] 45% Membership & mailed UHCA News
- [ ] 95% Business Membership
- [ ] 100% Golden Ostrich

**Donor**

$ ______ Donation for Keeping up the Good Work
(Donate as a member or non-member)

**NEW MEMBERSHIP**

- [ ] New
- [ ] Renewal

**City/State Zip**

**Address**

**Name**

**Phone**

**Email**

**Clip & Return to:** UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

**UHCA NEWS**

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**ART DIRECTOR** Felicia Crossley, O Design

**PHOTOS** David Holts, Beth Miller, Deborah Morrison, Kesler Randall, Terry Weiner

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Susan Holts; Susan@Susanholts.com

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**NEW MEMBERSHIP**

- [ ] New
- [ ] Renewal

**City/State Zip**

**Address**

**Name**

**Phone**

**Email**

**Clip & Return to:** UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

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**VICE PRESIDENT** Maureen Markay

**SECRETARY** Kurt Hermaness  uhsd@uhsd.org

**TREASURER** Stuart McGraw

**WEBSITE** uhsd.org

**FACEBOOK** universityheightscommunityassociation

**INSTAGRAM** UniversityHeightsSD

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH**

**CRIME WATCH SIGNS**

**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**

**PARKING SIGNS**

**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 out, you can use your cell phone to call out of state contacts on speed dial. When the power is off, you can plug into a phone jack that you can use for calls.

**Youth Center Details**
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 out, you can use your cell phone to call out of state contacts on speed dial. When the power is off, you can plug into a phone jack that you can use for calls.

**ZONE WATCH CONTACTS**

**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**

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

**PHONE BOOK**

**CLIP & RETURN TO:** UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

- **Emergency** Police • Fire • Medical
  - [ ] 911
- **Non-Emergency** Suspicious Activity, Homelss Outreach Team, etc. - [ ] 619-527-7500
- **City Services non-emergency** street lights, pot holes, etc. - [ ] 619-527-7500
- **City Services emergency** - [ ] 619-527-7500
- **Street Sign** - Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments
- **Storm Damage** - [ ] 619-527-7500
- **Alert San Diego** - [ ] 9-1-1
- **911** - [ ] 9-1-1
- **2-1-1 San Diego** - [ ] 911 (in San Diego only)

**Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at uhsd.org or contact your zone’s coordinator, or Nan McGraw.**
We are fortunate to have lived in University Heights since the early 1980’s and have fully enjoyed all the benefits of this great neighborhood. We love the friendly neighbors and the convenience of being able to walk to shops and restaurants nearby. And the central location is stellar.

Over the years our yard has gone through a few renovations. We converted our back yard to water wise plantings several years ago. We removed all of our lawn and converted the area by planting natives and other drought resistant plants in the space. Drip and micro-spray irrigation is supplied to those plants where required. Our water bill is a fraction of what it was previously. Yet the back yard area is beautiful and much more interesting with all the varieties of plants that we’ve incorporated into it.

We also added some fruit producing trees into the garden over the years which includes citrus, apple, apricot, loquat, pineapple guava, avocado, fig and peach. We also enjoy our vegetable garden with many varieties of tasty veggies that we use in the kitchen. We have a cutting garden with a bounty of blooming plants that provide flower bouquets that we enjoy in the house.

Many of these trees and smaller plants provide a fabulous wildlife habitat attracting butterflies and birds. Our selection of plants provide food and habitat for these visitors including milkweed for butterflies, different sages for the hummingbirds and many small birds that come to our garden just to name a few. We also have a variety of what we call ‘canyon critters’ that visit our yard routinely. These include skunks, opossums, raccoons, grey fox and an occasional coyote. We are always happy to share the space with our furry and winged neighbors that stop by during different times of the year.

Our garden provides us a quiet refuge where we can just sit and enjoy all this nature and like to call our little slice of heaven. Entertaining in the garden also provides us an opportunity to share the space with friends and family. All of the hard work that goes into the garden always pays off when we hear the ‘oohs and ahs’ from visitors. — David Holts

Brandon Torres, from Supervisor Na-than Fletcher’s office, announced “Understanding the proposed County of San Diego Budget” forum on May 21 is from 6:00-8:00 pm at Johnson Elementary School Auditorium, 1355 Kelton Road, San Diego, 92114. A Coffee with Supervisor Fletcher May 18 is from 9:00 am-10:30 am at Communal Coffee, 2335 University Avenue, San Diego, 92104.

Supervisor Fletcher will be our guest speaker at the June 6 UHCA meeting. Javier Gomez, from State Assembly-member Todd Gloria’s office, introduced himself as our new representa-tive from Gloria’s office. He announced several bills introduced by Gloria: one is the bill prohibiting Gun Shows at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Elaine Sinsuan, Branch Manager of Uni-versity Heights Library, announced the many programs offered to adults and children at the library. See her article on page 9.

Our guest speaker was Louise Batchelor, owner of EnviroGreen, Electronic Recycling Services. She and her staff from 10 upcycle 70% of products they receive. Their warehouse at 9596 Chesapeke Drive San Diego, 92123 will accept anything that plugs in or is battery operated. They sold 5000 refurbished computers last year. Louise stressed the importance of proper recycling and the need to achieve zero waste by 2030. One thing that gums up the recycling process is plastic wrap such as Saran Wrap and grease (no greasy pizza boxes). EnviroGreen offers recycling for hard to recycle items through a program called TerraCycle, a free recycling program funded by brands such as Crayola-like products, Arm and Hammer products and more. Compostable trash bags are a good thing. Check out EnviroGreen at www.E-wastepickup.com. — Nan McGraw
Before Janice and Eric DuVall started the University Heights Community Association in 1983, community activists in the late 1970s and early 1980s were instrumental in preserving important areas of University Heights.

One of those preservationists, Mary Yee DeBrunner, was a longtime resident of Mission Cliff Drive, who was instrumental in saving our canyon slopes. As a member of Uptown Planners in the 1970s, for years she fought developers from encroaching into our canyons. Mary worked tirelessly to preserve the canyon near her home. The development on Fairmount Avenue had developers salivating at the possibilities. She succeeded in saving the canyon. Sadly, Mary passed away a year ago May. We are so grateful for her activism. — Nan McGraw

After two fires under UH’s historic Vermont Street Bridge in 2018 this community took action. When Caltrans completed cleanup of the dead brush and trees in their portion of the canyon under the bridge, we utilized the assistance and support of Councilmember Chris Ward and his representative Tyler Benner to get the City to do the brush abatement on their portion. In the end, the work done was insufficient to prevent future fires as we face another dangerous fire season.

Early this year University Heights Community Association Beautification Team volunteers began a petition campaign to the Mayor to bring more attention to this issue. Between volunteers posted on the bridge, canvassing our neighborhood and online signing we procured over 600 signatures!

On May 2nd and 6th your UHCA volunteers presented a powerful Power Point presentation to City Council during both the Transportation and Storm Water and the Fire Rescue Department budget hearings. Many thanks to the residents who attended those meetings to cede their time to MaryBeth Chruden so she could present our request to allocate funds for a thorough clean up.

It took a neighborhood of concerned citizens to accomplish this. Special thanks to MaryBeth for her excellent presentation skills and to Bill Smith for his input and knowledge of power point.

We will keep you posted on the results of our efforts and further steps needed to see this through. — Deborah Morrison

LeST WE FORGET: MARY DEBRUNNER

Mary Beth Chruden presenting at City Council Budget Hearing

Photo: Deborah Morrison
For three Saturday evening hours on April 13, Park Boulevard from Adams Avenue to Meade Avenue transformed into an excited sea of people weaving their way from Bahn Thai to Pop Pie, Co. Just about every business and restaurant on Park Boulevard participated in the event offering samples and discounts. Live music by Billy Watson & his International Silver String Submarine Band and Fast Heart Mart Trio whirled through the excited crowd of locals and visitors. The annual event, hosted by the University Heights Community Association gave anyone who purchased a $15 wristband access to more than 20 restaurants and shops. Each business offered bites to eat and drink. Park & Rec passed out a cucumber vodka cooler, Madison had massive ravioli, and Stella Jean’s Ice Cream offered a 15 percent discount on their scoops. The Original Pickle Store and Big Front Door from farther down Park made their way up to dole out samples. Long-time University Heights residents mingled with newcomers and those whose first time it was in the neighborhood. The event was part food festival, part restaurant walk, and part international food fair and it couldn’t have been more fitting way to show off our diverse community. So much has transformed along the three-block section of Park Boulevard in the past year and Party on Park offered the perfect way to let our community shine and to celebrate all it’s accomplished. A special thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to plan and execute a knock-out event. If you couldn’t make it this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s festival. — Justine Hall
UHCA began Coffee With The Cops 30 years ago when crime stats were high. Because of being proactive with Zone Watch, Neighborhood Watch and Next Door we now live in a safe community. This is your opportunity to meet with neighbors and SDPD Officers and discuss issues of concern to you. Please join us at one of the three locations to meet, greet and thank our police officers.

5:30pm: Mystic Mocha  
ALABAMA AT MISSION AVENUE

6:15pm: BFD & The Original Pickle Store  
PARK BLVD AT POLK AVENUE

7pm: The Point  
RHODE ISLAND AT GOLDEN GATE
University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHDCD) PRESENTS

Summer in the Park
6 to 8pm Friday Evenings
Adams Avenue & Florida Street
Come out this summer for fun and free entertainment right in your own neighborhood! Bring a picnic dinner or try mobile vendor Mrs. Frostie for ice cream treats, or visit any of our University Heights restaurants for a bite before or after ‘Summer in the Park’!

Please, no alcoholic beverages, no glass containers and no unleashed dogs!

Become a Sponsor!

PRIMARY SPONSOR
University Heights Community Development Corp., [a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit] and in partnership with San Diego Park & Rec Department and the UH Recreation Council San Diego County Enhancement Program

CO-Sponsors
Toni Atkins, CA State Senator Ross Lopez and Mark Ballam Roxanne Govar & the Pemberley Realty Team - Mary Anne Stevens Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center Park & Rec - H.G. Fenton Company Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air LMC – A Lennar Company Kairoa Brewing Company Red House Pizza

Watch For the Special Band Line-up Insert in the July Issue of the ‘UHCA News’!

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A SPONSOR FOR ‘SUMMER IN THE PARK’

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Name ________________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________ Email _______________________________
Make payable to: UHDCD P.O. Box 3115, San Diego, CA 92163 (619) 297-3166

Visit our website at www.uhdcde.org for links to bands appearing at ‘Summer in the Park’ 2019!
A century ago in University Heights, as the area experienced a population boom spurred by the 1915-1916 Panama Exposition and veterans returning from WWI, a father and son team of home builders who had recently arrived in San Diego, set to work developing small craftsman bungalow houses with "Colonial Revival influences" along the 4500 blocks of Texas and Louisiana Streets, bounded by Monroe Avenue on the south and Mission / Madison Avenues on the north.

The modest working-class homes in this development, built between 1924-1926 within convenient walking distance to the Adams Avenue streetcar line, now form one of the newest historic districts in San Diego, named for that father and son team of Master Builders, Martin V. and William Melhorn.

The Melhorn & Son Historic District was officially designated by San Diego's Historical Resources Board this past October after two informational workshops over the summer and two hearings in the fall. Fifty-two percent of the homeowners in the proposed district officially supported the designation via the HRB's online and mail-in poll, and no appeals were filed after the designation. Additionally, many homeowners in the new district have already applied for Mills Act property tax relief to assist them in restoring and maintaining the historically significant attributes of their properties.

Merging the 29 parcels on Louisiana and Texas streets into an expanded Shirley Ann Place Historic District had been considered, but because Shirley Ann Place was developed by William Melhorn alone, after his father passed away in 1925, and because the Spanish eclectic style on Shirley Ann Place is significantly different from the craftsman bungalows built by the father and son team, the HRB decided that Melhorn & Son should be a separately designated district, whose homes may now proudly bear brass plaques marking their place in San Diego's architectural history. — Judith Annicchiarico

Just in case the month of April passed you by, UHCA sponsored two wildly successful events: The Ostrich Nest Tag Sale in the Trolley Barn Park on Sunday, April 7, and the Party on Park that was held on Saturday evening, April 13 where else but Park Boulevard from Meade to Adams Avenue! Both were huge undertakings thanks to Julie Rubtchinsky, organizer extraordinaire for the Tag Sale, and Bernice Horan & Mary Anne Stevens for everything they did to make the Party on Park.

A huge thank you goes out to the many businesses that participated in the Party on Park, thank you for making it such a fun and tasty event.

The events were so successful that before the Tag Sale, Julie had turned away sellers. Likewise, Mary Anne and Bernie ran out of Party on Park tickets by 6:30 pm that evening. Both were so well-received that we promise to make them annual events. We give buckets of ostrich plumes to the organizers and the many volunteers who made these events another example of what makes University Heights a unique community!

It was another great year for the Ostrich Nest — now officially an annual event in our University Heights neighborhood. Thank you to all who participated and attended this 2019 UHCA community tag sale. It was a beautiful day and lots of people were out having fun selling and buying. This year’s additions were a hit — including the Yipao coffee tent and Island Mist ukulele group.

A very big thank you to our Ostrich Nest volunteers, without whom we would not be able to run this event. To MaryBeth Chruben, Bill Smith, Stu McGraw, Kristie Edgmond, Carol Neidenberg, Jeff Rubtchinsky, Josh Stager, Rod & Nancy Girvin and Peter & Patti Roehrs and Brent Orlesky - THANK YOU! — Julie Rubtchinsky

Many of you living near Madison Avenue and Maryland Street will fondly remember beloved Bev, who walked dogs daily around the neighborhood. Bev lived and raised her kids in University Heights since 1954. Sadly, Bev recently passed. A memorial mass is scheduled for Saturday June 8, 9:30 am, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1638 Folk Avenue.
THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIBRARY

PETS OF THE MONTH

CUPCAKE & KEA

Last July we adopted our little dog, Cupcake, the Chiweenie, as a companion for our senior dog, Carlos. She brought youthful energy to Carlos and put a spring in his step for a while. When he passed, we called the rescue group from whom we got Cupcake, and her best friend, Kea, was available. Kea came home with us a few days later.

The girls were ecstatic to be together again with Cupcake jumping on and licking Kea’s face. They are inseparable.

Both the girls were rescued by PAWS 4 Thought Animal Rescue, a foster-based 501c3 rescue that is always on the lookout for good fosters.

Cupcake was found in a field in Mexico. She was pregnant and later delivered nine healthy puppies while in foster care. All her puppies were adopted, but she remained. Kea is our miracle. She was found dying in a gutter in Tijuana, she was pregnant and had gone into labor, but one of the puppies was stuck and died in the birth canal. After an emergency c-section, she recovered and bonded with Cupcake at the foster home in Ramona. If it weren’t for PAWS 4 Thought, Kea surely would have died alone and in terrible pain. We are so grateful to them for saving Kea and Cupcake so they could become part of our family. — Sarah and Lillian

THE FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

BETWEEN SILK AND CYANIDE
A CODEMAKER’S WAR, 1941-1945
BY LEO MARKS

In 1942 twenty-two year old Leo Marks left his father’s famous bookshop, 84 Charing Cross Road, and went off to serve in the British armed services. The author, in this memoir, tells of his remarkable career as a cryptologist with British intelligence during World War II. Soon recognized as a cryptographer of genius, he became head of communications for the highly-secret Special Operations Executive (SOE) in London. The SOE was created in July 1940 with a mandate from Winston Churchill to infiltrate agents into European enemy-occupied territory to perform acts of sabotage and form secret armies.

Between Silk and Cyanide tells of Marks’s obsessive quest to improve the security of agents’ codes, and how his perseverance and innovative skills with silk led to his involvement in some of the war’s most dramatic and secret operations. By the end of this incredible tale, one of the last great World War II memoirs, one can understand why General Eisenhower credited the SOE, particularly its communications department, with shortening the war by three months. Utilizing his skills as a screenwriter, the author adds the same flair and vivid characterizations he employed in his famous screenplays.

For many years, the author was prevented from publishing his account by the British Official Secrets Act. Finally, in 1998, when Marks was in his 80’s, the book was published.

Join the Book Club & Salon discussion. The book will be available at the UH Library’s front desk during May and June. New members are always welcome! 

UH BOOK CLUB & SALON
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:30 pm
San Diego Public Library
University Heights Branch
4193 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)
619-692 4812
I SUPPORT PARKS

FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

San Diego has many, many neighbor-
hood, municipal, regional and state parks
for residents to enjoy. And like communi-
ties across California, we can always do
more to create new parks, improve exist-
ing parks and enhance access to parks for
families who’ve not benefited from them.

That’s why the Legislature passed SB 5 in
2017, legislation that placed Proposition
68 on the June 2018 statewide ballot. And
it’s why voters approved Prop. 68, mak-
ning it possible for nearly $1.3 billion to
be spent on park projects throughout the
state over the next few years.

Specifically, San Diego is well-positioned
to compete for some of the nearly $255
million that will be awarded later this year
to create new parks in disadvantaged
communities — another $395 million for
disadvantaged communities will go out
in future years. On top of that, the city
will be eligible for a per-capita portion of
$185 million to create and improve local
parks (community groups in University
Heights will contact their city officials
and let them know how park projects in
their neighborhood might benefit from
this funding).

Similarly, San Diego County will be eligi-
bale for a per-capita portion of $12.9 mil-
lion in our unincorporated areas. And our
area will also benefit from a per-capita
portion of $37 million to improve regional
park infrastructure.

That’s a lot of numbers, but the point is,
thanks to you — the voters — real money
will be coming home to the San Diego re-
gion to enhance our ability to enjoy parks
for recreation and relaxation, to spend
time with our families and friends, or to
catch a little alone time for private reflec-
tion or a good book.

As someone who loves to use parks to
walk the dogs, go for a hike with my
spouse, or experience museums and oth-
er cultural resources, I’m proud of all of
us for making this happen. — Tami G.
Akins, President Pro Tempore & State
Senator for California’s 39 District,
which includes University Heights

For over 100 years a huge trolley barn
on Adams Avenue a block east of Park
Boulevard dominated the University
Heights neighborhood. After it was de-
molished in 1980, plans were made to
build two five story apartment buildings
on the site with 75 units in each build-
ing. In response, community members
came together to form the University
Heights Community Association which
worked with the city to have the site
turned into a neighborhood park. As a
result of these efforts, Trolley Barn
Park was officially dedicated in 1991.

After nearly 30 years, this beloved park
has begun to show its age. As a result,
the UHCA Beautification Team, along
with supporting community volunteers,
has worked to address much-needed
deferred maintenance and upkeep. Last
spring the team sanded, primed, and
painted all of the park benches, cleaned
and repainted tables, and cleared the
weeds that had grown over the win-
ter. This made a huge dent in required
maintenance but still left much needed
painting of the metal railing on the east
end of the park and the many metal
light posts throughout the park.

On April 26 this overdue maintenance
was completed by volunteers from the
San Diego Carpenters Union Local 619.
Thank you to Councilman Chris Ward’s
office, particularly Tyler Benner, for
scheduling and coordinating this with
the union and to our Parks and Recre-
ation representative, Michelle Chicarel-
li, for her logistical support and partici-
pation. On the same day, Beautification
Team members trimmed bushes and
raked up debris that had accumulat-
ed during the winter. In the upcoming
weeks, new plants will be planted by the
team, and routine cleanups will contin-
ue. As a result of these ongoing efforts,
Trolley Barn Park is being restored to
its former glory.

The next major community mainte-
nance project will be the annual clean-
up of the 163 onramp and its immediate
vicinity from 9:00 to 11:00 am on Sun-
day, June 2, during the Rock and Roll
Marathon. New volunteers are always
welcome. Thank you to all of our cur-
cent dedicated volunteers who are de-
voting their time and energy to keeping
our park and entire community beauti-
ful. — Rod Girvin, UHCA Beautifica-
tion Team Leader rggirvin@cox.net

FROM YOUR STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

HOW PARKS CAN BE A COMMUNITY ASSET

This June brings an unusually green be-
ginning to our summer season, as we turn
our attention to the many recreational op-
portunities and beautiful outdoor spaces
San Diego offers. I too look forward to the
improving legislative recess, when I can
spend time connecting with constit-
uents and enjoying community activities
across the 78th Assembly District. It’s no
surprise that these events often take
place in parks and green spaces, which
are the heart of the community.

Thanks to past activism and the continu-
ing efforts of dedicated volunteers, Uni-
versity Heights’ Trolley Barn Park is a
wonderful example of how parks can be
precious community assets. My neigh-
bors in University Heights remind me
how much all of my constituents value
their parks. Parks provide countless ben-
efits. They drive economic prosperity and
urban vitality, connect communities and
neighbors, improve physical and men-
tal health, enhance youth education and
development, and provide many environ-
mental services. That’s why I am proud
to use my role on the State Assembly’s
Water, Parks, and Wildlife committee to
protect and enhance the green spaces in
our region as well as across the state.

Anyone who has listened to me speak
knows that my top priority is addressing
our housing affordability crisis. Protec-
ting our environment for current and
future generations is close behind. Parks
and green spaces are intimately connect-
d to both issues. The affordability, iva-
ability, and development prospects of fu-
ture housing all depend on the quality of
our civic infrastructure. Parks and green
spaces are a vital component of that infra-
structure. Parks are a necessary comple-
ment to new and existing housing, trans-
portation, and commercial development
and must be a significant component of
strategies to intelligently manage our re-
gion’s growth in the future.

The City of San Diego’s Parks Master
Plan process is an opportunity to enlist
community expertise to make that vision
a reality. I am committed to state actions
and partnerships with local jurisdictions
to elevate the role of parks in smart
growth and environmental justice strate-
gies. Every community deserves access
to safe, high-quality outdoor spaces.

— Todd Gloria, Assemblymember for
California’s 78th Assembly District,
which includes University Heights

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First of all, I would like to thank the UHCA staff for generously providing Roosevelt International Middle School a platform to share our school news regularly with University Heights readers. It is an extraordinary responsibility to educate a diverse student body of sixth through eighth graders. At this stage in their lives, students go through many changes—intellectually, physically and emotionally. Roosevelt staff and families work hard to build a stronger learning community, one committed to serving our students and preparing them for the demands of high school and beyond.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, Roosevelt offers students an engaging, rigorous world-class learning experience that stimulates minds and strengthens characters. While it’s important to focus on academics, we also help students develop the positive attitudes and characteristics to be successful lifelong learners. Students learn to take a proactive role in their educational journey to become global citizens with "international mindedness"—a key tenet of an IB education.

As our society becomes more globalized, students must acquire the knowledge and skills to successfully join the new workforce. Many of the things our students participate in—project-based learning, interdisciplinary units, student-led conferences, community projects—provide practice in critical thinking, team-building, research, communications and self-reflection. All these learning experiences add depth and meaning beyond test scores. By learning side-by-side with those from different backgrounds, our students gain an appreciation for differences of worldviews and realize the strength in diversity.

As our school community becomes more diverse, the IB program provides an opportunity to promote and instill an awareness of culture and cultural awareness. This becomes a powerful tool for our students in a world that is becoming more interdependent. By learning alongside those from different backgrounds, our students gain an appreciation for differences of worldviews and realize the strength in diversity.

The 2019-2020 school year promises to be an exciting one as we renew our 5-year IB accreditation and offer 7-period school days with block schedules. Seventh and eighth graders can explore interests by taking an elective like art, journalism, engineering/robotics, ASB, peer mentoring, guitar, choir, orchestra or band.

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to welcome new students joining us in the fall and congratulate our eighth graders on their promotion to high school.

— Christina Casillas, Ed.D., principal of Roosevelt International Middle School.
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