EVIL WEEVIL ATTACKS CANARY ISLAND PALMS

Have you noticed the droopy umbrella shape some palms in University Heights have taken on? A South American palm weevil is the culprit. This button-sized insect lays its eggs in the crown of the tree, and once hatched, the weevil larva feeds on the palm’s soft tissue, crippling growth and eventually killing the tree. The weevils, which can fly for miles, were first detected in the US in San Ysidro in 2011. The infestation has spread north to UH and beyond.

By the time you see a droopy tree, it is too late. The tree is already dead.

Mark Hoddle, an entomologist and Director of the UC Riverside Center for Invasive Species Research (CISR), says their recent survey of approximately 500 palms in Urban San Diego “puts palm mortality in and around infested areas at approximately 35%.” Losing our gorgeous ornamental palms in UH is a definite blow to the grace and beauty of our neighborhood.

Even more devastating, according to CISR, will be the weevil’s effects on the Coachella Valley date industry and the ornamental palm nurseries in Imperial Valley. So far the weevil has not reached these areas, but it is only a matter of time unless effective eradication measures are taken.

Systemic pesticide trials conducted by CISR are ongoing and have recently been expanded to include palms at Balboa Park. Hoddle says they are zeroing in on effective treatments, but that any treatment will require repeat applications each year going forward to minimize the risk to showpiece palms. Quarterly treatments can provide extra insurance against the beetle, as will palm drenching at the crown.

Hoddle recommends hiring a professional to treat palms with insecticides and to remove dead/dying palms. “The risks of do-it-yourself treatment include accidental poisoning, incorrect application rates and techniques, and accidental exposures to kids, pets, and wildlife.”

Rates of palm mortality are likely to continue increasing, according to Hoddle, and it’s possible that mortality of other palm species, in addition to the Canary Island Date Palm, will occur. CISR has “credible, documented reports of Brahea Edulis (Guadalupe Fan Palms) being killed by the weevil at Balboa Park.”

Our warming climate will continue to affect our environment in ways we may not realize until it’s too late. In this case, to keep trees healthy and to keep humans and non-human residents of the neighborhood safe, homeowners with Canary Island Date Palms should consider reaching out to local nurseries, such as Ed Upchurch, who might be able to help.

To help CISR monitor spread of the weevil, please report infested and dead palms via the CISR website: https://cisr.ucr.edu/invasive-species/palmarum-survey. — Judith Annicchiarico and Nan McGraw

Although our lives have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, UHCA continues to carry on. As it has for more than 35 years, we are concerned for all of our residents. We hope you are coping well.

We realize events and meetings have been canceled and our lives have been upturned. But UHCA continues to support our residents. We would like to know your creative ways of coping with this stay-at-home mandate. How are parents and caregivers coping? How do you remain positive? What have you been doing to keep busy? Have your neighbors reached out to you? Have you reached out to them? Have promised government or private financial resources been accessible to help if you lost your job? Let us know at: uhsd.org.

Q: What is a blockwalker?
A: Those special volunteers who deliver the UHCA NEWS ten times a year to 5000 homes and businesses in University Heights (exceptions: January and August). We need blockwalkers to cover several blocks or to be available as backups when regular blockwalkers are on vacation.

Q: Why would you want to do this?
A: Because...
It’s fun!
It’s an opportunity for painless exercise!
It’s a chance to meet your neighbors!
And it’s a way to actively serve your community.

The following routes are open if you wish to join this esteemed team of 65 volunteers:
4300-4400 Louisiana St.
El Cajon Blvd. from Texas St. to Park Blvd.

Do consider this opportunity to volunteer to help your community.
Please contact Nan McGraw at 619-260-0668 or nmcsan@aol.com.

A healthy Canary Island palm
MEMBERSHIP

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

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Donations

Christine Hernandez, Joan Foster

JOIN, RENEW, OR DONATE ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.

Yearly Membership

- $100 Household
- $50 Business Membership
- $25 Add UHCA News Delivered Via USPS to your Membership

Donor

- Donation for Keeping Up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

NAME

Business Name

Address

City/State

Zip

Phone

Email

Refer to By

- NEW
- RENEWAL

Referral

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Address

NEWS

Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes

619-515-3525

Downed Power Lines / SDG&E

619-767-2675

Animals / Non-Emergency

619-497-3500

Alice Birney Elementary Office

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Violations

Graffiti

UHCA News

Volume 30, Number 2

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Abandon
PRESIDENT’S CORNER
CAROL NEIDENBERG

It’s a strange time. Being at home for weeks that have somehow turned to months. At first, it was strange being confined and not seeing my work colleagues and neighbors. Doing less in the neighborhood, and having to cancel our fun spring activities—the Party on Park, the annual Tag Sale, and the first movie of the season—was disappointing and somewhat sad.

Like you, I hope this stay-at-home order doesn’t last through the summer. If it does, however, I’m willing to adhere to the guidelines if it keeps me healthy and helps my neighbors and friends stay healthy. I agree to wear face protection and keep my distance from others.

One good thing has come from being at home since mid-March. I now walk directly to the streets and sidewalks. With fewer cars on the streets, I find it easy to walk while still keeping my distance from others. In the meantime, I exchange hellos with neighbors I don’t know by name, but I now know what their faces look like with a mask on! Most people try to adhere to the guidelines knowing that right now is the time to come together, listen to the medical experts, and stay healthy.

We’ll do this together, University Heights!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Best of all, however, has been watching the young kids learning to ride their bikes and navigating the almost empty streets, and greeting neighbors as we shuttle between the streets and sidewalks. With fewer cars on the streets, I find it easy to walk while still keeping my distance from others. In the meantime, I exchange hellos with neighbors I don’t know by name, but I now know what their faces look like with a mask on! Most people try to adhere to the guidelines knowing that right now is the time to come together, listen to the medical experts, and stay healthy.

We’ll do this together, University Heights!

The May 7th UHCA meeting was hosted by City Councilmember Chris Ward’s office via Zoom, with approximately 35 attendees listening in, with the option of submitting questions in the chat room. Councilmember Ward, Bill Smith of UHCA, and Tyler Remer of Councilmember Ward’s office conducted the meeting. Bill presented previously submitted questions to Councilmember Ward, who then answered them, and Tyler presented the questions that were submitted during the meeting via the chat room. A sample of the questions and answers follows.

• Overview of the pandemic crisis?
It feels like it has been going on for a long time but it’s been only eight weeks. Statewide shutdown in effect. Local businesses are closed. Only 800 $10,000 small business grants have been awarded thus far of 10,000 applications received.

• Homestead situation?
Convention Center has become emergency shelter. No conventions in near future. Unsheltered homeless present a risk of virus transmission. Access to nurses, housing, and other help available. Additional 300 individuals off the streets. 1000 have been tested, with 3 testing positive although asymptomatic. 200 hotel rooms made available. Thus, much progress regarding homeless situation.

• Budget situation?
Hotel tax reduction dramatic: $100 million hole in budget for this year. Next year’s budget may lack $200 million. Proposal resubmitted: closed Sunday and Monday, Park & Rec: reduced to 45 hours. Pools closed in winter for 14 weeks. Graffiti abatement reduced.

• Ed Center redevelopment?
On hold for now. Focused on immediate direct services for students.

Meeting ended at 5:56 pm. UHCA still working to support the community with new website at uhsd.org, social media, and UHCA News. Complete meeting posted on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAJTu5CvpXA

TEACHER APPRECIATION DURING A PANDEMIC

Thank you to all those who help develop young minds. We gratefully offer a classroom full of plumes to those dedicated teachers who daily overcome obstacles to ensure our children and young adults don’t miss out on valuable education time while our nation observes stay-at-home orders.

By the time you read this, Teacher Appreciation Week, the first week in May, will have come and gone. When I was still a classroom teacher, Teacher Appreciation Week could mean anything from the staff lounge laden with goodies every day, to thank you notes written by your students and then framed, or the occasional bottle of wine from an especially thankful parent.

Teaching into, through, and beyond a pandemic has proven to be challenging, but teachers have persevered. I asked my teaching friends what it has been like and how they are doing. One colleague shared being emotionally exhausted and unable to sleep because of the stress of worrying about students, writing and teaching curriculum in a totally new way, and trying to develop ways to engage the disengaged students and those who have completely dropped out of “virtual school.” Understanding and appreciation from parents is heartwarming. During the time they can’t be together in person, video conferencing is important for some students who are lonely. She also stressed how important it is to be with your students and colleagues in order to teach with joy and how much she misses that.

A former principal shared that parents in his neighborhood, acting as surrogate teachers, have all expressed a deep respect for the difficult job teachers do, as the district’s children stud- ied at home. They are humbled by the task and can’t wait for their children to return to school.

We all have that one special teacher we remember, and now I think ALL teachers are special. So if you, like me, would like to take a moment to thank a teacher, you can fill out a certificate, using #PBsOthmarAward, which is named after Linus’ beloved Miss Othmar (from the Peanuts comic strip), whom he considered “a gem among gems!”

The memes and the words of appreciation during Teacher Appreciation Week are all great. But in the months ahead, public school teachers in this country are going to need your help in real, concrete ways. If you want to show your appreciation and respect for them, hold onto those thoughts and feelings, and when the time comes, stand up for public education and the people who work there.

—Marcia Sorini

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS TREE INITIATIVE

In February 2020, the University Heights Beautification committee formed a sub-group called the Tree Initiative, whose goal is to take advantage of the free tree program offered by the City of San Diego. To determine community interest in receiving a free tree, we posted a poll on Nextdoor, asking residents whether they would like a free tree planted in front of their home. As this issue of the newspaper goes to press, 106 residents have responded, with 83 percent stating they would like a tree.

Because the city’s free tree program is understaffed and currently has a year-long wait list, the Tree Initiative is looking for ways to obtain trees through the program without creating an additional burden on program staff. One idea is to plant strips of trees at all once along sections of University Heights where the desire for trees has been identified. Another is to have residents plant trees themselves with appropriate guidance so that they are not potentially interfering with water or underground power lines.

If you received a free tree over the last year, please make sure you water your tree weekly to ensure it becomes established and remove any debris from the arborist cap located near the trunk of your tree. Once your tree is established, it’s important to remove the supports so the tree can continue to grow.

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the Tree Initiative has not been able to move forward during March and April, but hopes to restart in the May/June timeframe. When it does restart, committee members will resume identifying areas in University Heights where trees can be planted and updating the tree map accordingly. In the meantime, residents who would like to volunteer with this program can reach out to me directly at jenniferlisabishop@gmail.com. —Jennifer Bishop

MEET MAMA PLUME

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—Marcia Sorini

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
J. A. COOLEY MUSEUM GRAND REOPENING JUNE 1
BE COOL AND GO TO COOLEY

Located just west of Park and El Cajon Boulevards is the 10,000 square foot Cooley Museum. It houses Frank the Trainman’s model train collections in addition to J. A. Cooley’s treasures: his vast collections of antique cars in mint condition and other antiques including toys dating from 1870. Look forward to more history of the Cooley Museum and Frank the Trainman in next month’s UHCA News.

New temporary hours are Monday and Friday, 12 noon to 4 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 6 pm.

PET OF THE MONTH

DAISY

Hi, I’m Daisy. I’m a ten-year-old German Shepherd/Husky mix. I have a pretty great life with my family on Maryland Street, but my story didn’t start out that way. When I was a puppy, my first owners were not nice people. They didn’t feed me much or take care of me. Then, when I was three or four months old, they tossed me out of a car in Mission Valley and drove away!

I was scared, but a nice lady picked me up and took me home. She wanted to keep me (I was pretty cute), but her two cats did not agree. While she was still figuring out what to do with me, she took me to breakfast at Big City Bagels, where I met a very nice family who happened to be there. It was love at first sight! Even though they weren’t looking for a puppy, they adopted me a few days later and none of us have ever regretted it.

Although I love Ed and Karen, I have to admit their son, Owen, is my favorite. He was four years old when we met, so we have grown up together. He is the best at playing and cuddling, although not as good about walking me or feeding me. That job falls mostly to Karen. We spend a lot of time together. She walks me a few times a day, and I am really good at catching treats the first responders, nurses, and essential workers are free on Mondays with an ID badge. The Jim Cooley Historic Foundation will donate $1 of every ticket sold to local charities in June. Frank the Trainman will also donate and offer discounts.

Admission to the Museum is $3 for adults and $2 for kids. Memberships are available starting at $20 a year. Because of COVID-19, reservations are suggested but not required. Call 619-296-3112.

—Nan McGraw

SUMMER IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES CANCELED

The University Heights Community Development Corp. (UHCDC) must cancel its annual concert series this year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is not clear at this time whether the restrictions on social gatherings will be lifted anytime this year. We depend on the San Diego City Parks & Recreation Department to permit the concerts in the Old Trolley Barn Park, and it is uncertain when the City will reopen parks for these types of events.

Many thanks to all our co-sponsors and individual donors who have been so great over the past 23 years, not only in making our concerts successful, but also in supporting us in showcasing University Heights as a great community in which to live!

—Ernie Bonn

As you can tell, I have a lot of hair and shed all the time. I can’t help it! I sleep in a crate in Owen’s room, which we both find comforting. My favorite daily routine is walking over to our friends’ house on Lincoln, where I get treats. If they aren’t home, I just lie on their porch and stare longingly at their door for a while. Fortunately, they are usually waiting for me. Then I go visit my best friend, Sheila, a few doors down.

I love people—especially my UH neighbors—so stop and give me a pat if you see me walking by!

—Karen Koijane

Daisy, photo taken by her ‘mom’ Karen Koijane

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—Karen Koijane

Daisy, photo taken by her ‘mom’ Karen Koijane
FOOD AND BEVERAGES

DINING IN UH

American Market 4395 Cleveland Ave. 296-8333
Bahia Mexican & Seafood 1985 El Cajon Blvd. 542-0540
Bahn Thai 4646 Park Blvd. 299-6383
bbf (big front door) 4075 Park Blvd. 259-4100
Cuca Bar 2123 Adams Ave. 269-8875
El Zarape 4642 Park Blvd. 692-1652
Flavors of East Africa 2322 El Cajon Blvd. 955-8778
Grains 2201 Adams Ave. 269-5899
Great Maple 1451 Washington St. 296-8268
Hope at Lafayette 2221 El Cajon Blvd. 780-0588
Kamio Brewing Company 4601 Park Blvd. 295-1355
Last Exit to Park 2213 Adams Ave. 501-6639
Loving Hut 1903 El Cajon Blvd. 683-9480
Madison 4622 Park Blvd. 296-0566
Mama’s Baklava & Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama St. 688-0717
Merkki Café 1739 Adams Ave. 269-9618
Mystic Mocha 2105 Mission Ave. 688-0654
The Original Pollo’s Food 4075 Park Blvd., # 101-B 841-1108
Park Boulevard Deli 4504 Park Blvd. 295-1362
Park House Eats 4574 Park Blvd. 295-7275
Pizzeria Bruno Napoletano 4207 Park Blvd. 260-1311
Rice Avisio 2121 El Cajon Blvd. 254-9417
Plumeria Vegetarian Cuisine 4660 Park Blvd. 269-9889
Pomodoro Restaurant 2311 El Cajon Blvd. 297-4007
Pop Pie Co. 4404 Park Blvd. 501-4440
Rare Society 4130 Park Blvd. 501-6404
Red Fox Steak House 2221 El Cajon Blvd. 259-1313
Red House Pizza 4815 Park Blvd. 546-7430
Small Bar 4628 Park Blvd. 296-799
Soichi 2121 Adams Ave. 677-2220
Sprouts Market & Deli 4175 Park Blvd. 291-8287
Stella Jean’s Ice Cream 4404 Park Blvd. 501-8252
Summer’s Market 4620 Park Blvd. 296-0504
Tweety’s Pizza 4580 Park Blvd. 296-0816
Twisted Taps (beers & cheeses) 2320 El Cajon Blvd. 542-9827
Wing Stop 1901 El Cajon Blvd. 297-9464

THE UH BRANCH LIBRARY

BETWEEN THE COVERS

We hope that everyone in the community is well and safe, and we wanted to let you know that we miss you very much here at the University Heights Library. If you would like to communicate with us, the San Diego Public Library’s phone lines for all locations are open from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays. You may also submit your question via the Library’s website or email directly to weblibrary@sandiego.gov with inquiries or questions about services or your account.

As of mid-May, the UH Library branch remains closed to the public until further notice. Updated information regarding the status of city services may be obtained at https://www.sandiego.gov/status, which includes information about the libraries, parks, and other departments.

Programs & Resources:
The library provides online resources such as digital magazines, tutoring, and more. The library offers online resources such as Online Book Clubs and a Virtual Storytime Collection that includes read-along presentations, book discussions, title recommendations, and much more available to all ages. A variety of online arts and crafts have been created utilizing materials that can be easily accessed from home.

This year’s Summer Reading Program for all ages, Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover, will take place from June 1st to August 31st. Register through the library’s website and earn reading incentives for reading either 10 books or for 10 hours, or by participating in activities. Incentives include a library tote bag, museum passes, and food coupons, depending on the age group.

Please check our Facebook page, or give us a call for any further questions. Thank you from everyone at the University Heights Library.

—Elaine Sinnam, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, weblibrary@sandiego.gov

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Support your local library during these tough times

By now you have probably heard that the Mayor’s proposed budget, which was recently released, includes drastic cuts in library funding and services for the next fiscal year; the full extent of these is not yet clear. Sign up to receive advocacy alerts from LibrariesTransformsSD at https://www.friendsofsdpl.org. The Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) is the umbrella organization of which all the branch Friends groups, including the Friends of the University Heights Library, are a part.

Updates will provide specific suggestions of ways that you can help to advocate for our libraries during these challenging times. Please share this information with anybody and everybody you know who cares about the library. And please support your Friends chapter during these very difficult times.

The FSDPL office, located in the downstairs area of the UH Library at 4193 Park Blvd., is temporarily closed until further notice because of the COVID-19 public health emergency, which has also necessitated the cancellation until further notice of the monthly book sales held at the UH branch and the closure of the book donation boxes outside the UH branch library. Please check the Friends’ website, weblibrary@sandiego.gov, for updated information about future book sales and other information.

In the meantime, please stay well, stay home, and read books. We appreciate your patience and support.
—Maureen Markey, President, Friends of the UH Library

BOOK CLUB MEETING VIA ZOOM

Along with six other women, I belong to a book club that meets monthly. In person in normal times, we have nice, leisurely meetings at alternating homes, always with lots of good conversation as well as good food and generous wine! But things are different in the coronavirus era. Last month, we met via Zoom for the first time, but probably not for the last. I asked each of the members their opinion of the book club meeting via Zoom. Responses were mixed, as I expected.

On the positive side, everyone was grateful for the technology that allowed us to meet at all. One member said she thinks technology is grand, especially when it can keep a busy bunch of women connected. Another enjoyed seeing everyone’s faces and hearing the comments, much as we would in our usual in-person meetings. All agreed that with the limited amount of time on Zoom, we had to be more organized in terms of taking turns and more efficient (that is, more concise and less wordy than we normally would be), but the virtual discussion was a better alternative than putting the book club on hold. Several observed that the fact we are a small group of just seven people makes it easier to have a meaningful discussion, with everyone connected. A few mentioned that scheduling our meetings, as that is the nature of a casual conversation, people occasionally talking over each other is more obvious in a remote setting. Of course, everyone missed sharing the food and wine, which is much better in person than remotely! We all admired the member who, apparently attempting to replicate our usual situation as nearly as possible, was prepared with snacks and a drink!

One summed up the universal feeling, “Being together wasn’t the same as actually being together,” but everyone seemed to prefer a remote meeting to none at all, so we plan to meet via Zoom for our next meeting and, presumably, for all of them until this pandemic has subsided. One member is busily loading good books and then talking about them, however we need to accomplish that with the limited amount of time on Zoom, we had to be more organized in terms of taking turns and more efficient (that is, more concise and less wordy than we normally would be), but the discussion was still somewhat fluid and definitely worth having, and the virtual discussion was a better alternative than putting the book club on hold. Several observed that the fact we are a small group of just seven people makes it easier to have a meaningful discussion on Zoom.

On the negative side, the 49-minute Zoom time limit was a problem for everyone, at least partly because we didn’t have enough time to chat and catch up and then discuss the book, which is our typical process. Several members suggested that scheduling at least two back-to-back, 40-minute Zoom sessions might better accommodate our style. Although people interrupted each other in an in-person social meeting, as that is the nature of a casual conversation, people occasionally talking over each other is more obvious in a remote setting. Of course, everyone missed sharing the food and wine, which is much better in person than remotely! We all admired the member who, apparently attempting to replicate our usual situation as nearly as possible, was prepared with snacks and a drink!

We hope to see you all in person in the near future!
—Maureen Markey

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5 News University Heights Community Association | 06.2020 www.uhsd.org
In 1983, UH residents Eric and Janice DuVall mobilized neighbors to lobby the city for a park, which eventually became our beloved Trolley Barn Park.

More than 200 people attended numerous meetings to make that happen. Needing a name, those original organizers created the University Heights Community Association.

At the time there was no actual sense or feeling among the residents of a community in University Heights. In fact, many people in University Heights actually thought they lived in North Park, Hillcrest, or Normal Heights. However, when University Heights was first established by the city on the 1888 parcel or plot map, our boundaries went all the way east to Boundary St. in North Park, south to where it is now, and west to Cabrillo Parkway (now 16th). Thus when UH was first created as a community, there was no Hillcrest, North Park, or Normal Heights! In the 1980s, although the property deed for the UH area had for more than 100 years legally described the area as University Heights, any sense of community identification—by the residents of UH was simply lacking. Therefore, in the mid-1980s, we, the newly formed University Heights Community Association, began the long struggle to establish that community identification—that sense of place in the minds and hearts of the residents of UH.

Chris Huddy, our beloved second UHCA president, was instrumental in early efforts to establish awareness of University Heights as a community in its own right. She literally put us on the map, by persuading the Thomas Brothers publications to include University Heights in their maps as a separate and distinct community, for the first time distinguishing us from our neighbors. This inclusion was crucial in that pre-GPS era when the comprehensive Thomas Brothers maps were the premier resource that nearly all residents of San Diego County relied on to find their way around.

Chris’ persistence also resulted in several signs at various locations indicating entry into the community of University Heights: at the Texas Street Bridge, at Washington Street at Lincoln, at El Cajon Boulevard at Texas, and at Park Boulevard at Lincoln. A few years later came the monument signs, those rock and concrete pillars similar to the old rock walls that define the entry to Mission Cliffs Gardens.

Ten years later, on April 3, 1997, the best trolley sign spanning Park at Madison, put us on the map definitively and permanently! We continue to fight to maintain our hard-earned identity and to improve our beloved community.

The visuals with this article, which come from our archives, demonstrate some of those early efforts to establish a distinct identity for the community of University Heights. A viable business district on Park Boulevard as the heart of UH was key, and we worked hard on that revitalization. Our efforts continue to this day. —Nan McGraw

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**Our UH History**

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS IDENTITY**

Creating a Sense of Place

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**PARK BOULEVARD THEN & NOW**

*Photos from the UHCA archives and Dave Holts*
If you even glanced through the May issue of UHCA News, you surely saw two wonderful collections of photos of sidewalk chalk drawings and uplifting messages that were done on sidewalks all over UH by a talented, clever, and kind-hearted individual(s). But, alas, our artist was anonymous, so we designated her (or him or them) the “Chalk Angel” of UH.

We would like to identify our Chalk Angel so we can show our appreciation! Please contact us if you know the identity of the Chalk Angel, or if you have any clues, or if you indeed are the Chalk Angel yourself. In our local version of *Where’s Waldo* or *Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?* or any other relevant puzzle, we need your help!

Thanks.

Contact us on Instagram @uheightscommunitysd or Facebook @UniversityHeightsCommunityAssociation.

If you aren’t on social media, contact us at uhsd.org or Nan Mcgraw at 619 260-0668.

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**WHERE IN THE WORLD OF UH IS OUR CHALK ANGEL? WHO ARE YOU?**

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**IT’S YOUR BUSINESS**

**WONDER WEAVERS**

Congratulations to Wonder Weavers, which celebrated 74 years in business in University Heights on May 7th! Stan Stafford, owner and weaver, learned this lost art from his mother who was a master at French weaving, a process of weaving threads horizontally and vertically to make flaws invisible by at least 90 percent. If you have a favorite sweater, suit, or upholstered piece that has a moth hole, tear, or burn hole, Wonder Weavers can make it look brand new.

Wonder Weavers is currently located on the corner of Meade Avenue and Texas Street (4394 Texas), but for years this family business was at 2222 El Cajon Boulevard. If you look carefully, you can still see the Wonder Weavers neon sign, one of the last of the original neon signs that defined El Cajon Boulevard back in the day. Who else remembers those days of cruising ECB in the 1950s to catch a glimpse of the Hoover High School boys! Sorry, I digress.

I recently took a sweater to Stan for an estimate and discovered it was full of moth holes and just not worth repairing. Those moths really had a field day, and the finer the fabric, the more they like it. I really loved that sweater, and I learned that I needed to protect my good clothes with plastic to prevent moth damage.

Stan is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm. He may be able to give you an estimate over the phone, (619) 298-5000. If you do go to his shop, you may well get a dose of nostalgia along with a close up of his meticulous work.

– Nan McGraw

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If you aren’t on social media, contact us at uhsd.org or Nan Mcgraw at 619 260-0668.
This month, we bring you updates on distance learning as well as an article written by one of Roosevelt’s very own 8th graders months before distance learning began.

Physical school buildings were shut down in mid-March because of safety concerns with COVID-19. Guided by the San Diego Unified School District, Roosevelt International Middle School has migrated to distance learning with great success. According to Princi- pal Bernard Steinberger, Roosevelt is proud of its staff, its students, and their families, with more than ninety percent of students engaged in formal online learning during the first official week.

All Roosevelt teachers provide instruc- tion to students in a variety of ways and many have added interactive online classroom sessions and other digital learning platforms to provide the best experience possible for students. Everyone misses daily personal contact with students and staff, and Mr. Steinberger acknowledges that everyone looks forward to the day when helping each child achieve their potential can be accomplished in person once again.

While managing Roosevelt’s excellent job transitioning to distance learn- ing, Mr. Steinberger and staff are also tackling the challenges of planning for a variety of options for next year with SDUSD’s help, even though no one knows when a normal school schedule can resume.

This year, Roosevelt offered electives to 7th and 8th graders while 6th grad- ers had more time in English language arts. Next year the school day will allow all students to take an elective, so a 6th grade would be able to take an elective like music. Thus through a variety of experiences, all students can grow as learners. If you have a prospec- tive 6th grader for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact Mr. Steinberger at steinberger@sandi.net with any enroll- ment questions.

Visit RooFriends’ website, www.friend- sofroosevelt.org, for the latest information on school events and our digital updates or to register for Roosevelt community meetings. Follow Mr. Stein- berger’s Twitter account for the latest news and opportunities to attend online school meetings: https://twitter.com/ PrincipalRIMS. Check out our Roo- sevelt FE Coaches’ Instagram feed @rooseveltfidlife for exercise inspiration and glimpses of a couple of our cute kiddos assisting!

~Jennifer Ayala, Parent of Students at Roosevelt and San Diego High School and a Board Member of the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation

The following article, written by a Roo- sevelt student during his Journalism elective class, focuses on a Roosevelt International Baccalaureate rite of pas- sage, the 8th grade community project. Typically, 8th graders present their find- ings in person to their peers, teachers, staff, and the greater community, which will not be possible this year.

Roosevelt Students Act to Help Local and Global Communities

The 8th grade community project at Roosevelt International Middle School encourages students to contribute to society by creating an action plan based on the United Nations Sustainable De- velopment Goals, which were set by the UN Member States in 2015. All the vari- ous UN Goals focus on the environment and helping local and global communi- ties. So Roosevelt 8th graders can cre- ate a project that both affects our envi- ronment positively and makes a strong positive impact on various communi- ties, including the Roosevelt school commu- nity, the overall San Diego community, and even international communities. For example, “Life Below Water” focus- es on raising awareness and helping un- derwater animals and plants by cleaning up water environments. “Life on Land” focuses on cleaning up environments of land animals and plants.

The 8th graders’ projects focus on dif- ferent Goals to help different communi- ties. One group focuses on Zero Hun- ger, which aims to get rid of hunger and poverty and to provide food for those who can’t afford it. Martha N’s group is “doing a food drive and will collect food from the school to donate to an organi- zation that will then give out the food to others.” Although they may not achieve zero hunger worldwide, they will help to reduce hunger in San Diego. Tanya G’s group, which focuses on Quality Education, tutors Ms. Allen’s and Mr. Moreno’s students to provide more ed- ucational support to help prevent these students from feeling excluded from their peers and encouraging them in their school work.

Roosevelt teachers help 8th graders with their projects by giving feedback every Tuesday during a special Adviso- ry period. Advisory teacher Coach Sand tells 8th graders that in order to succeed in their community projects, they need to plan their simple and easy to do. The projects do not need to be overwhel- ming if they are concise and focused. If a group plans beforehand what they need to do, it will be easier to implement and present the project to community mem- bers.

~Andres Tistoj Dela

Birney Buzz

Thank You (From a Distance)

This is teacher appreciation week, and as we round out our eighth week of Online and second week of distance learning, it’s hard to imagine a time when parents have collectively become more appreciative of teachers! We are grateful for what our teachers do on a typical school day to inspire, challenge, and support our children, and how appreciative our teachers have become. They have taken on the challenge of distance learning with determination and patience. While we can’t deliver thank you cards or baked goods, we want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to our incredible team of educators for supporting our students through these challenging times.

The abrupt shift to school at home has been a learning experience for teachers, parents, and students. Birney teachers have dedicated several weeks, including some of their spring break vacation, to learn virtual programs, coordinate with families about devices and schedules, and prepare online lesson plans for our new distance learning reality. Most importantly, our teachers have prioritized online safety and the emotional wellbeing of our children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite social distancing, Birney teachers have made a point to connect with students in a meaningful way, and to make their distance learning curriculum comfortable, impactful, and fun.

We would also like to recognize Birney parents who are supporting distance learning at home. Birney parents are involved, creative, and supportive. We consider this a time a positive family experience. I’ve seen families doing skits, outdoor art, hands-on STEM experiments, gardening, and exercising together. Student education during this time hasn’t just revolved around online programs, but has involved learning and experiencing new things side-by-side with parents and siblings. Our young Birney students have also shown resilience, curiosity, and open- mindedness in adjusting to their new school experience. We are very proud of our Birney Bees!

Unfortunately, just as we’ve had to make major adjustments to shift classroom learning to online platforms, we’ve also had to cancel or adjust several annual Birney events. Our spring Birney Night Out fundraiser and Passport to Adventure international festival have been cancelled. Our annual student Run for the Green jog-a-thon will be done from home with families. Students are encouraged to log one hour of walking or running between May 17th and May 22nd. Run for the Green is a fun wellness event that students look forward to each year, so we are glad the students will still be able to finish strong, albeit from a distance.

~Eric MacKinnon, Proud Parent of Two Birney Bees, and Secretary/ Out- reach on the Friends of Alice Birney El- ementary (FOABE) Board.
HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: BUNGALOW COURTS IN UH

We know there are a number of Bungalow Courts in University Heights. We would like to feature these in an upcoming issue of the UHCA News. But we need your help in identifying the Bungalow Courts in our neighborhood. We all have seen them, even if we did not know what they were called. Could you please let us know where these hidden gems are located? Keep an eye out for these charming architectural gems when you are out for your daily exercise on the streets of UH. Contact Nan McGraw at nmcsan@aol.com if you can help us. Please include a street address so we can get photos to accompany our article about Bungalow Courts, as well as any information you have about the particular Court.

So what exactly is a bungalow? Wikipedia notes that a bungalow is a small house or cottage, usually square in shape, that is either single-story or has a second story built into a sloping roof. It may be surrounded by wide verandas, but probably has fewer windows than other home styles. A bungalow’s distinction is its low profile. Originating in the Indian province of Bengal, the style and its numerous variations were soon found throughout the world.

Almost inevitably, this economical, practical type of house invaded North America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These small houses, some costing as little as $900, helped fulfill many Americans’ wishes for their own home, equipped with all the latest conveniences. The bungalow was practical, and it symbolized for many the best of the good life. On its own plot of land, with a garden, however small, and a car parked out front, a bungalow provided privacy and independence. To their builders and owners, bungalows meant living close to nature, but also with true style.

Central to the bungalow’s popularity was the idea that simplicity and artistry could harmonize in one affordable house. The mania for outdoor living, which also helped popularize the Bungalow Court. There was a sense that in the benign climate of Southern California, one would spend much time out of doors.

Bungalow courts in Southern California come in many architectural styles. The most common is Spanish, but there are many Craftsman courts, as well. In San Diego, we have examples of Egyptian, Mission Revival, Pueblo, Moorish Revival, Deco/Moderne, and 1950s modern. In Southern California, the bungalow often took the form of a small collection of miniature Arts & Crafts and Spanish cottages, each with their own small yard, central courtyard, and neighborly orientation. These collections, which became known as Bungalow Courts, are still cherished today. In San Diego and throughout Southern California, the majority of bungalow courts were built along streetcar lines, which may explain why UH has more of these cottages than many other neighborhoods. —Maureen Markey

(Sources: SOHO website: www.sohosandiego.org/tourbooklets/BungalowCourtTour.pdf and American Bungalow Magazine Online: www.americanbungalow.com/)
Like many other UH residents recently, I have taken to the streets for a daily run or walk, and I have been pleasantly surprised to see how many homes are powered by solar energy systems. This is actually a great time to take the plunge because a confluence of factors right now makes “going solar” very attractive: 1) The cost of materials continues to fall, and efficiency of the panels and other components has improved. 2) The economic side effects of the pandemic have caused some to postpone their projects, which, in turn, has shortened installation timeframes and has led to more competitive pricing for the fewer remaining projects. 3) New power company pricing schemes and rising costs per kilowatt-hour have increased energy costs and will likely continue to do so. 4) Very low interest rates for solar, home equity, and other types of loans have reduced the cost of financing a home solar system. 5) The current 26 percent federal residential solar energy investment tax credit will be reduced next year before disappearing altogether in 2022.

Although the prospect of switching to solar may seem daunting at first, many online resources are available to educate homeowners regarding all aspects of residential solar energy systems prior to seeking project proposals. Your fellow UH homeowners with solar systems are also great sources of lessons learned, advice, and referrals. Embarking on a solar energy project now will help minimize costs, maximize long-term savings, and help you contribute to meeting overall renewable energy goals. —Steven Kolbert

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO GO SOLAR

Examples of recent grass roots initiatives include: weed removal and installation of new plants along Park and Meade at Birney Elementary; weed abatement along the Washington Avenue median; graffiti removal; continued maintenance of areas such as the median at the intersection of Lincoln and Washington; and weed and trash removal along the 163 onramp. And, of course, the Trash Angels continue to empty the trash receptacle at the Vermont Street Bridge every week.

These neighbors have accomplished this while at all times maintaining social distancing. We are thankful for all of these dedicated volunteers who have continued to keep our neighborhood beautiful during these difficult times.

—Rod Girvin, UHCA Beautification Team Leader

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Paul Salas and owner of Pop Pi, Steve Torres, beautifying the landscaping

Paul Weiss working near Birney School field

A very cheerful and colorful garden
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN’S SAFETY ONLINE

As families across San Diego shelter in place to protect against coronavirus, children are spending more time online. As a mother of school-age children, I recognize the role of the Internet in providing entertainment and interaction. As your City Attorney, I want to protect all kids from the potential harm that can result from this unprecedented increase in online engagement.

Here are some tips for protecting your children online:

1. Educate yourself. Keep up on current technologies and know how your kids are using the Internet.

2. Educate your children. Explain that people might fake who they are online, and stress the importance of not engaging with strangers.

3. Establish open communication. Encourage children to tell you if someone online is making inappropriate comments or tries to humiliate or threaten them.

4. Set rules. Limit online time and platforms. Let your children know these rules are because you love them and want them to be safe.

5. Discuss risky behavior and unhealthy relationships. Talk about the dangers of online flirting. Contact should end immediately with anyone who pressures your child to keep a relationship secret, or asks questions that are too personal or sexually suggestive.

6. Talk about sexting and intimate photos. Warn teens to never share pictures or messages that they wouldn’t want their family, classmates, teachers, or future employers to see.

7. Monitor Internet use. Approve the apps your children use and know their account passwords. Review their Internet activity, and enable parental controls on all devices.

8. Report online predators. Take a screenshot and report it to the platform where the contact occurred, then block the offender and contact police. Keep calm and don’t blame your child. I know how hard it is to juggle work and parenting. We can get through these trying times together.

—San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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