MEET OUR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Barbara Bry

Barbara Bry is President Pro Tem of the San Diego City Council representing the 1st District. She serves as Chair of the Council’s Budget and Government Efficiency Committee and as Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods.

As a member of the City Council, she has advocated for transparency and accountability in City government, taking the lead on issues ranging from Short-term vacation rentals and dockless scooters to management of the City’s real estate assets and irregularities in Water Department billings. She was the first elected official to endorse the SDSU West initiative approved by voters in 2018. She has been outspoken in her opposition to rent control and City-mandated project labor agreements for private-sector projects. She believes that public works project labor agreements should allow for both union and non-union contractor participation.

Prior to serving in office, Barbara was a high-tech entrepreneur and community leader. She worked her way through college and grad school, earning a Master’s Degree in Business from Harvard University. Barbara was on the founding team of several local high-tech companies which have created hundreds of local jobs. Barbara taught entrepreneurship at UCSD and founded Athena San Diego, an organization that supports the advancement of women in the tech and life science sectors. As a business journalist, she has also spotlighted the vibrant small business community that supports our City’s economy and was honored as Small Business Journalist of the Year for San Diego and Imperial Counties by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Barbara has lived in San Diego for almost 40 years. She is married to Neil Senturia, raised her two daughters here, and is a proud grandmother. She served as President of the Board of the Children’s Museum of San Diego, as Vice Chair of the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation, and on the board of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

Todd Gloria

In December 2016, Todd Gloria was sworn in as the California State Assemblymember for the 78th Assembly District, making him only the second person of Filipino heritage ever elected to the California State Assembly. A native San Diegan, Todd’s lifelong career in public service was inspired by a lesson his parents—a hotel maid and a gardener—taught him at a young age: if you truly care about something, then you should leave it better than you found it. That lesson continues to

Recently, there has been a lot of news about a new “West End” Community Benefit Investment District (or CBID) proposed by New City America. This CBID would function as a Maintenance Assessment District (or MAD). The UHCA board has compiled a list of questions and answers to help our community better understand what’s happening.

What is a MAD?
The city provides a set of basic services to property owners and public areas. If the property owners in an area want more services (e.g., additional trash cans/more frequent pickup, landscaping, sidewalk cleaning, additional street sweeping), they can form a MAD, which will add a special assessment to their property taxes to pay for the added services.

How is a MAD started?
Property owners or developers form a group to work with the city to create a proposal, and then the proposal is sent to property owners as a “ballot” to vote on. Votes are weighted by each property’s size, and the results are sent to the City Council to approve the formation of the MAD.

Isn’t there already a UH MAD?
Yes, University Heights has a MAD. Operated by the University Heights Community Development Corp., a nonprofit community organization, the UH MAD provides additional street and sidewalk cleanup, trash barrels, maintenance of the University Heights sign, banners, and the decorative street lighting. The UH Mad covers Adams Ave. from North Ave. to Alabama Ave., and Park Blvd. from Adams Ave. to Meade Ave. Other MADs cover El Cajon Blvd. and Adams Ave., and a new one is in the process of being developed for the eastern part of University Ave.

UHCA RECOMMENDS AGAINST “WEST END” MAD PROPOSAL

The proposed West End MAD would affect all of the UH properties shown in red.

LOOKING AHEAD

UHCA MEETING

NOV 5

7:00 PM

DETAILS TBA IN NOVEMBER UHCA NEWS
**JOIN TODAY AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE! OUR SUCCESS IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FROM AREA RESIDENTS LIKE YOU.**

**Business Name**

**Name**

**Yearly Membership**

- $50 Household
- $75 Business Membership
- $100 Golden Ostrich
- $250 Adopt UHCA Alves Delivered Via USPS to your Membership

**Donor**

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

**UHCA NEWS**

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

- Nan McGraw, Rachel Bowdon, Judith Annichiarco

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

- Marc Johnson, Peter Rose, Judith Annichiarco, Erin McKinnon, Andy Hinds, Elaine Sinsuan, Maureen Markley, Franz Kopp, John Hensley, Mary Beth Chruden, Rod Girvin, Bob Smith, Andy Cameron

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- Luisa Davila

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS**

- Paul Farris, Rachel Bowdon, David Holts, John Hensley, Rod Girvin, Andy Cameron, Pause Creative Collective, Bree Steffen (Page 1 color photo)

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**

- Susan Holts susan@susanholts.com

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

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH**

**UH PHONE BOOK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.</td>
<td>619-692-4945</td>
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<tr>
<td>SD City Services non-emergency, street lights, pot holes, etc.</td>
<td>619-577-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD City Services non-emergency, streets in UH continue to be Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH continues to be a problem. Sharing time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!</td>
<td>619-577-500</td>
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**HOUSEHOLD**

- Erin McDougall, Kelsey Brown, Christopher Jessen, Meghann Knigt, Thomas Stempel, Paul Sandho, Shane Doner, Jacqueline Young, Christine Hernandez & Jen Fong, Tori & Kesler Randall, Leslie Clark, Ron T. Oliver & Brent Orlesky, Alice Blackshear, Joan Foster & Susan Virgilio, Linda Boisvert, Daniel Huntley & Jennifer Griffiths

**UHCA OFFICERS**

**INTERIM PRESIDENT**

- Christine Hernandez

**VICE PRESIDENT**

- Maureen Markery

**SECRETARY**

- Peter Rose

**TREASURER**

- Stuart McGraw

**WEBSITE**

- uhsd.org

**FACEBOOK**

- universityheightscommunityassociation

**INSTAGRAM**

- uheightscommunitysd

**CRIME WATCH SIGNS**

- UHCA installed 4 new signs in 2016. If you know of an old sign that needs replacing or a location needing a sign, email please UHCA President at president@uhsd.org

**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**

- Speding on neighborhood streets in UH continues to be a problem. Sharing time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

**DISASTER CONTACTS**

- In case of a major disaster, there will be two volunteer contact hands. When the phone is out, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Sept. 3, 2020, University Heights Community Association Meeting began at 7 pm via Zoom, with 31 attendees. Interim President, Christine Hernandez, welcomed the community and introduced herself. She initially joined UHCA a year and a half ago as a member of the social media team, and she joined the Board several months ago. After the retirement of several Board members, the Board appointed her as Interim President until we have regular officer elections in October. Christine thanked the retired Board members for their many years of hard work on behalf of UHCA, with a special thank you to Nan McGraw, a co-founder of UHCA nearly 40 years ago.

Christine then reviewed UHCA’s activities using PowerPoint slides to illustrate the many opportunities for volunteerism, such as fundraising, beautification, UHCA News, membership, and zone watch. She then introduced the members of the Board who were in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
As noted in last month’s news, the deadline for Nominations for Executive Board Officers was Friday, September 4, 2020.

Election of UHCA Executive Board Officers will take place at the October 1, 2020, UHCA monthly meeting via Zoom.

Miller Salzman from California Senator and President Pro Tem Toni Atkins’ office reported on COVID funding support and the census, to which only 2/3 of California residents have responded.

Board member Marc Johnson summarized recent community news and updates:

PLAY EVERYWHERE PARKS INITIATIVE

UH suffers from a severe shortage of parks. As noted in last month’s newspaper, the City is considering new rules on park development, with a points system based on amenities rather than acreage, and city-wide distribution of DIP funds rather than local. View the master plan at www.sandiego.gov/complete-communities/parks-master-plan, and lobby Councilmember Chris Ward at ward@sandiego.gov.

NEW CITY AMERICA/WEST END UPDATE

A private, for-profit corporation, New City America, is attempting to establish a new maintenance assessment district to collect taxes and provide services in several neighborhoods in the city, including a part of UH. All of the local non-profit community organizations are opposed to this project. Stay tuned via social media at @unheightscommunity and @universityheightscommunityassociation (Facebook).

EVIL WEEVIL

Neighborhood Canary palm trees infested with a destructive weevil are being taken down. Use the city’s Get It Done app to report problem trees and learn more about the weevil problem at www.uhsd.org.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS


Oct. 1, 2020: Election of UHCA Executive Board Officers and Forum with Mayoral candidates Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry.

Adjournment: 7:41 pm

—Peter Rose, UHCA Secretary

PLUMES

Regular readers recognize the Plume award as the University Heights Community Association’s way of publicly recognizing volunteers who go above and beyond in service to University Heights. Readers may not know that Nan McGraw has been the Queen of Plumes, always keeping in mind who deserves the honor and either writing the Plume herself or finding the best person to write it. So, I was honored when Nan asked me to write a Plume for our fabulous Communications Team.

In February 2019, I placed an ad in this paper seeking “two newspaper Media Mavens” to take over our social media. To my surprise and delight, four skilled and personable women replied and jumped right in to help us: Christine Hernandez, Meghan Kight, Rachel Bowdon, and Uyen Tran. We either were incredibly lucky, or the stars were aligned. These amazing women immediately bonded into a supportive team and integrated well with the Board members who worked with them. They brought a wealth of experience in information technology, marketing, and planning that improved the Association’s digital marketing by launching a new website, posting the latest neighborhood and Association news on social media, and most recently, joining the UHCA News team.

They have modernized our social media presence, improved communications with the community, and raised our information technology capabilities. We could not be happier with how they have infused UHCA with new energy, commitment, and expertise. Voted onto the Association Board a few months ago, they are just what the Board needs to move the organization to a higher level of effectiveness, inclusiveness, and expertise in serving UH residents. A bushelful of Ostrich Plumes to Christine, Meghan, Rachel, and Uyen, our Communications Team.

—MaryBeth Chruden

UNDERGROUNDING OF POWERLINES CONTINUES FOR SOME AREAS OF UH

Some UH streets are already enjoying a less obstructed view of the sky thanks to neighborhood powerlines being buried. SDG&EE will continue this process through 2022 as it completes undergrounding for the block of streets approved in the city’s most recent 5-year plan. The rest of our community will wait for years—perhaps decades—for undergrounding to reach our streets.

The “block” (section) of UH approved in the 2018 5-year plan includes the area between Florida and Campus (going East to West), and Adams and Meade/Mission (going North to South). In some cases, only one side of those boundary streets will have its powerlines undergrounded. Undergrounding has already been completed along stretches of Adams, Park, and Meade. Specific information about individual streets and addresses can be found online at www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding/undergroundingsitemap.

The city has selected areas for undergrounding based in large part on homeowner participation in online surveys. When the most recent 5-year plan was being developed, many residents of the UH streets surrounding Park Blvd. voiced their desires for undergrounding, and the city took notice. Planners also consider proximity to transportation thoroughfares, schools, and parks, all of which pushed the block of streets around Park Blvd. to the top of the list for our neighborhood.

In the past, wealthy neighborhoods with connections to City Hall took precedence, and communities like La Jolla have already benefited from powerline undergrounding. Now, the city is more likely to consider “equity” issues and to make sure that less wealthy neighborhoods receive this service as well. Normal Heights, for example, is next in line for undergrounding to be completed by 2022.

To have a chance at making it onto the next 5-year plan (2023-2028), UH residents should maintain an active relationship with our City Council representative’s office, and make sure to speak up, loud and clear, when the next 5-year-plan survey comes around in 2022.

—Judith Annichiarico, Editorial Board
MEET THE UHCA EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER NOMINEES

Every two years, UHCA nominates and then elects Executive Officers to serve as leaders of our organization for the next two years. At our last virtual meeting, nominations for officers were opened, and we are happy to announce the nominations. One nomination was received for each office, so at our October meeting the membership will be asked to vote for the nominees by acclamation as there are no contested positions. We want to thank everyone who participated and look forward to electing our new leadership team at the next meeting.

President Nominee
Christine Hernandez

Christine is a native San Diegan and has lived in University Heights for 10 years. While Christine has spent most of her life in San Diego, she lived in Hawaii during her high school years. Los Angeles in her college years, and England during her young adult years. No matter where Christine has traveled, University Heights is the place she calls Home.

Christine and her partner Jen purchased their townhome in 2015 and love taking morning walks to Twigs for their ritual Saturday coffee dates. Jen is also a local San Diegan, a local artist, and an instructional designer by trade. Some of Jen’s art can be found in local businesses in Normal Heights, Hillcrest, and Barrio Logan. Christine and Jen live with their three-year-old cat named Juno who loves meowing at birds and squirrels.

Christine is a Senior Project Manager for a Los Angeles-based consulting firm, 120VC. In her 13-year career in software project management, she has consulted for Fortune 500 companies such as Nike, eBay, and T-Mobile. Christine has also served as President on her HOA Board of a 10-unit complex. In January, she started her own consulting practice, Adaptive Root Consulting, where she consults local small businesses in areas of operational efficiency and strategic planning.

With a desire to share her talent with her community, Christine answered a UHCA Newspaper ad for social media volunteers. She teamed up with a group of wonderful volunteers to help launch the new UHCA website and create a larger social media presence.

In Christine’s message to the community at the September 3rd UHCA meeting, she shared these words: “Serving this community brings me so much joy. I am so grateful to have this opportunity. I love University Heights and am dedicated to maintaining its beauty, charm, and warm neighborhood hospitality.”

Vice President Nominee
Marc Johnson

Marc is the Global Director of Product Marketing for San Diego-based Memjet, an inkjet printing systems company. Jeffrey is an artist, primarily of abstract acrylics, and has displayed his work at UH businesses and during the Taste of UH and Concerts in the Park.

Since moving here, Marc has become active with their 6-unit HOA and serves as President, and both Marc and Jeffrey have been active with the UH Park & Recreation and Open Space Advisory Group, with Marc recently being elected as chair.

Marc sums up how they found University Heights: “We knew we would eventually move to California, and I was fortunate that my career led us to San Diego. After a couple of house-hunting trips all around the Uptown area, we fell in love with University Heights. It was close enough to the hustle and bustle of downtown, Hillcrest, and North Park, but smaller and with more of a community feel. Our love of this neighborhood has only grown deeper as we have built friendships and become more involved with helping to make this gem of a neighborhood even better.”

Treasurer Nominee
Brent Orlesky

My name is Brent Orlesky, and my partner Ron Oliver and I have been residents of University Heights for a number of years now. Maybe you’ve seen me around the neighborhood. I try to help out in our community by volunteering for different events and tasks.

When we first moved here in 2002, I became the Treasurer of this Community Association for almost 5 years. I’m offering my services once again. With over 25 years of accounting experience, I will do my best to keep UHCA’s financial matters in good order – complying with different government agencies and filing all necessary returns.

These are unknown times ahead of us. Your Board members are doing well in managing the “new normal.” Thank you for your continued support of your community.

Secretary Nominee
Meghan Kight

Hi, I’m Meghan Kight! My husband and I bought our home in UH in July 2016. Little did we know this neighborhood would be the best hidden gem in San Diego. We’ve been married for 12 years, we’re originally from New Jersey, and we have a fur baby named Cooper. My background is in branding, storytelling, product development, visual merchandising sales and social media.

I joined UHCA because it’s my community, and I am proud of it! Everyone deserves a happy, healthy and thriving community, and we are the ones to provide that for ourselves and the future generation. Plus, being a part of the organization is one of the best ways to network and build relationships.

So far, being involved with UHCA has led me to new friends that I might not have met otherwise. If you’ve been waiting to get involved with our community, stop waiting. Now’s the time to dive in and make a difference! We’d love to have you.
No doubt everyone in UH fully respects Maryland Street residents’ decision to forego their crowd-pleasing Halloween extravaganza this year. Enticing a crowd to show up on Oct. 31 would be irresponsible at best and likely a code violation. But as we put this issue of the paper to bed, the San Diego County health authorities have not yet issued guidance for parents to follow when planning for All Hallows Eve. For those who hope to see the adorable neighbor kids in their costume finery yet avoid spreading COVID-19, we offer a few suggestions gathered from UH residents and various other experts.

(Note: if the CDC, state, or local health authorities issue any orders or suggestions that differ from ours, please do follow what the authorities recommend! Thanks! – Eds.)

• Keep it super local and low-key. Coordinate with the parents on your block and make sure everyone knows which hour or two to make the rounds. Families can make sure to avoid grouping up with others on the sidewalk and/or letting kids walk up to people’s doors.

• Decorate your regular anti-COVID mask with fabric-safe markers to give yourself a friendly or scary Jack-o-lantern look! Set up a table near the sidewalk where you can leave small treat bags to make it easy for little ones to grab a bag and keep walking.

• Alternatively, hang sealed treat bags from a tree or fence accessible from the sidewalk. Use Halloween-themed bags and orange and black ribbon to make them even more festive.

• If you want to be able to greet the costumed cuties, sit outside on your porch or on a lawn chair in the driveway, anywhere that’s at least 10 feet from the goodie table while also giving you a good view of the diminutive Disney princesses and assorted superheroes so you can wish them a happy Halloween from a safe distance.

• Those who intend to play it entirely safe and avoid trick-or-treaters altogether, but who don’t want to disappoint the little ones, can always put some goodie bags together and drop them off on their neighbors’ porches earlier in the day – call or text first, though, so they know where the loot is coming from!

• Staying home with your kids and playing games, having a “treat hunt” around your home or yard, watching Halloween-themed movies, or carving Jack-o-lanterns for your own fireplace mantel could also be great ways to enjoy the holiday and make lasting family memories.

And don’t forget to check out the full moon!

San Diego Unified School District leaders have their hands full with the pandemic, but that has not stopped planning for the future of the Ed Center property.

Anticipating a future meeting with the wider community, the district formed a small task force to confirm their understanding of the emerging consensus and to get feedback on design ideas. From the start, the district promised to leave behind a “treasured neighborhood amenity” while addressing the urgent need for moderate-income teacher and workforce housing. The latest conceptual site designs thus provide for a community center, a dog park, green space, as well as historic preservation.

To pay for it all, the district anticipated putting a bond issue before the public in the spring of 2021. Unfortunately, research revealed that despite strong support, passing a tax measure during a time of such financial stress was not likely. An alternative is a ground lease to a private developer, but that would mean a lot of market rate housing with only a small amount of affordable housing.

The task force agreed it might be best to postpone a bond measure until 2022, leaving the property substantially unchanged for at least the next two years. The task force asked if asphalt might be torn up and replaced by a temporary dog park. While the suggestion was well received, the problem is paying for it. The city needs to step up.

The Ed Center site is uniquely situated for affordable teacher housing. The district owns the property outright and does not need to make a profit, making a one-of-a-kind “teachers’ village” within the realm of possibility. In exchange for a significant increase in density, the community might reasonably insist on great design in addition to the treasured neighborhood amenities the district is offering. –Bill Smith, Ed Center Property Task Force Member

Hello! My name is Monsieur (Sir), age 11, and this young lady next to me is Mademoiselle (Maddie), age 3. Although she is technically my niece by lineage, she is also my bestie. We are French Bulldogs. We live with our parents, Franz and Megan Kopp, who have lived in UH for 12 years.

I was doing just fine for many years, but my parents thought that getting a puppy would keep me young at heart. It didn’t take long for Maddie and me to get along. I found out that she loves all of the things that I love: sleeping, eating bananas and strawberries (and anything else), playing with our tennis balls, going on road trips in the car, hanging out at breweries and coffee shops, flying to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit our families, eating bananas and strawberries (and anything else), playing with our tennis balls and rubber anders, and, most importantly, sleeping.

When you see us out and about in the UH neighborhood, please say hello. We love the attention. Please ignore our load noises and drool. We invite you to follow us on Instagram (#monsieurrocks, #mademoisellerocks, and #sirandmaddierock).

–Franz Kopp

Montessori and Mademoiselle

PETs of the MONTH
Who is New City America?

New City America is a for-profit company that helps developers and neighborhoods create and manage assessment districts. New City previously attempted to create new districts in University Heights and Kensington but failed. New City helped form and currently manages the Little Italy Business Improvement District and has worked on a number of projects around the country.

How much do MADs cost?

The UH MAD 2021 budget assesses 138 parcels at $8.88 per linear foot for a total income of $47,991. New City America’s proposal for 2022 is a $10 per linear foot assessment over a much larger area, for a total income of $664,075. In addition, New City America proposes spending $399,000 over the first three years in “Administration/Management” fees (to themselves) and spending the same amount on “District Identity and Placemaking.”

Why is the UHCA against this new MAD?

UHCA, in cooperation with our other community-based non-profit organizations, believes that creation of a new MAD by a for-profit enterprise who will collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative fees, is not in the best interest of our community. We also believe that now is not the time to increase the tax burden on our community’s businesses, homeowners, and renters.

What happens next?

Nothing has been approved by the City Council, but UHCA, in partnership with the other community organizations including Community Coalition of UH, UH Historical Society, UH Community Development Corp., El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Assoc., Hillcrest Business Assoc., and Adams Avenue Business Assoc., will be closely watching this and will keep our community updated.

Where can I learn more?

UHCA has posted links about this issue on our website at www.uhsd.org/blog/westend

-Nora Johnson, UHCA Board Member

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS UPDATE

One of the most-visited sites in University Heights is the trash can at the north entrance to the Vermont Street Bridge. It is used 24 hours a day by people crossing the bridge to deposit trash and waste and, in turn, plays a key role in keeping the bridge clean. Many people assume that it is maintained by the city, but that is not the case. The trash can was installed years ago by the University Heights Community Association to combat the accumulation of trash and debris on the bridge. For the past five years, the Trash Angels who empty the trash can and keep the bridge clean have been organized and supported by MaryBeth Chruden. MaryBeth has maintained the Trash Angel schedule and has ensured that replacement bags and equipment such as trash pickers are available at all times to the volunteers. When problems have arisen, she has always been quick to address the issue. We are truly grateful to her for keeping this vital service operating smoothly and effectively.

After years of being the number one Trash Angel, MaryBeth has resigned from the position. I am happy to announce that Robert Dowell has volunteered to replace her. Robert is a longtime volunteer who has worked on Beautification Team projects and other community initiatives. In addition, Robert is part of the dedicated group of volunteers who work every Monday morning on the bridge and along Washington Street and the 163 on-ramp. MaryBeth will be missed, but we are fortunate to have found a worthy replacement in Robert. So, when you cross the bridge and see someone in a bright yellow volunteer shirt deep into the trash can, say hello. You will have met an angel.

-Nora Johnson, UHCA Beautification
MEET OUR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

motivate Todd to improve the San Diego region and the State of California every single day.

Todd began his public service career working for the County of San Diego’s Health & Human Services Agency. He went on to join the office of U.S. Congresswoman Susan Davis serving as a community representative and eventually as her district director. Todd was appointed as a San Diego Housing Commissioner from 2005 to 2008. He also served as a member of the Mid-City Prostitution Impact Panel during this time.

As a City Councilmember, Todd is credited for bringing thousands of affordable housing units to the City of San Diego as well as helping to reallocate the City’s limited homelessness service funds towards results-oriented programs. During his two full terms on the City Council, Todd was selected by his peers to serve as City Council President for two terms and served as the City’s Interim Mayor from August 2013 to March 2014.

Todd’s service as the City’s Interim Mayor is credited for restoring the public’s trust in city government. He strengthened the City’s organizational structure and developed a groundbreaking, legally-enforceable Climate Action Plan.

Since being elected to the Assembly in 2016, Todd has continued his advocacy for increased infrastructure investment and pragmatic, innovative solutions to housing and homelessness. He has served in Assembly leadership, including the Majority Whip position he holds today. Todd also serves as the vice chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus.

Known as one of the most accessible elected officials in San Diego, Todd remains in close contact with neighbors throughout his District and credits San Diegans for keeping him focused on the issues that matter most in their communities.

Todd is a graduate of the University of San Diego and an enrolled member of the Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. He lives in the neighborhood of Mission Hills.

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY UPDATE

We realize the ongoing closure of many City library branches has been difficult, but please be patient, and stay safe until the branches can reopen again. Although many library branches, including the UH branch, remain closed, the library system has institutionalized a plan for phased reopening of the branches. In the meantime, electronic resources are still available, and books can be checked out and dropped off via contactless pickup and drop boxes at select library branches. For details, see the SDPL website, www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

Work on the Library Master Plan continues despite the pandemic, and opportunities will be available for community members to provide their thoughts on what’s needed for a reimagined UH library. We will update you when we have details about the exact timing and information on opportunities to provide input.

The monthly Friends of the San Diego Library book sales usually held at the University Heights branch library remain on hold until further notice. Donations of books will not be accepted at the library. This policy will likely remain in effect until the Friends are allowed back in the UH Library building, which will be when the branch reopens to the public.

Each year, “One Book, One San Diego” features literary works for adults, young adults, children, and Spanish-language readers. As part of SDPL’s programming related to One Book, One San Diego (www.sandiego.gov/public-library/onebook), the Friends of San Diego Public Library is sponsoring prizes for the My SD Poster Contest. See the website for details; www.sandiego.gov/public-library/onebook/1abbb.

Programs:

The “One Book, One San Diego” program, now in its 14th year, is a “community read” in collaboration with KPBS and over 80 libraries throughout San Diego, with titles for all ages. The featured title, available in English and Spanish, is They Called Us Enemy (Nos Llamaron Enemigo) by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott and Harmony Becker. Accomplished actor, activist and author, George Takei, describes in this graphic memoir the experiences of his years spent in Japanese American internment camps during World War II.

Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind by Cynthia Grady, and illustrated by Amiko Hirao, is the selection for children. The book focuses on Japanese American children’s letters to their librarian, Clara Breed, in which they describe books they’re reading and their lives while imprisoned in internment camps during World War II.

We keep informed of your reading experiences. Visit www.kpbs.org/onebook/ for more information.

The University Heights Library is available to assist with telephone inquiries. Please check the website (www.sandiegolibrary.org) for updated information regarding the status of City services. Call us during the week, Monday-Friday from 9:30am-5:30pm, at 619-692-4912. The book drop is open during the week for anyone who needs to return checked-out materials. Contactless Pickup Service operates on weekdays in select locations, including the nearby Mission Hills/Hilcrest-Knox Branch Library, from 10:30am-5:30pm.

The monthly Friends of the San Diego Library Book Sale usually held at the University Heights branch library remains on hold until further notice. Thank you for your patience and support.

---Elaine Sinsuan, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov
Our Birney community came together to set students up for a successful distance learning experience this fall. Teachers spent much of the summer preparing for online instruction, including attending 15 hours of training at the start of the school year. Hundreds of parents joined our principal and staff at a series of virtual “Community Think Tank” meetings, an online Kindergarten orientation, and a virtual Parent Organization Meeting before the school year began.

Special attention has been given to ensuring students have necessities for successful learning from home. Students picked up school supplies and have access to Chromebook computers for home use this year. “Grab and Go” meals are available for pickup in front of Birney every Monday through Friday from 12:30pm, excluding holidays.

This fall, students will receive daily live class instruction through video conferencing and will continue to enjoy “Specials” classes, including Art, Spanish, and Gardening. Our IB curriculum and Specials Classes are funded through donations to Friends of Alice Birney Elementary, our parent-led nonprofit that organizes fundraising efforts such as the pop-up farm stands at Twiggs on Park Blvd. Follow us @ FriendsofBirney on Instagram to find out when Ms. Mindy will be heading back to Twiggs with more delicious Birney garden produce!

You can also visit www.linktr.ee/friendsofbirney for details on a variety of other unique opportunities to support the school, including our “Give a Latte” campaign, Farm Fresh to You partnership, and the Birney Fall Fundraiser through Boon Supply. Forty percent of purchases made through the Birney’s Boon Supply site will go back to the school, so you can get your holiday shopping done early while also providing essential support to our students. We are proud to be able to continue funding the programs that make our school unique and we appreciate the backing of our wonderful University Heights community!

Thank you to our dedicated teachers and principal, involved families, and engaged community for providing stability, encouragement, and support to our students this fall!

— Erin MacKinnon, Proud Parent of two Birney Bees and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member.

Roosevelt International Baccalaureate Middle School kicked off the 2020-2021 academic year with a pair of Welcome Days, along with many veteran Rough Riders, when it’s safe to open campuses.

The first few days of school, over 95 percent of the enrolled students connected with their teachers. While technical issues are inevitable, it seems most students have retained the online navigation and communication skills they developed in the final months of last year.

In response to the unique circumstances of this school year, Friends of Roosevelt, the foundation supporting educational and enrichment opportunities at Roosevelt, has already sprung into action, launching a fundraiser to pay for much-needed educational software that will support its most vulnerable students. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.gofundme.com/foabesupport.

Middle school is tricky in the best of times, but community support can make the ride a little less rough.

Visit the RooFriend’s website calendar for updates: www.friendsofroosevelt.org/calendar/, and follow Principal Steinberger on Twitter for all the latest breaking news! www.twitter.com/PrincipalRIMS

— Andy Hinds, parent of students at Roosevelt and a board member of this school year, Friends of Roosevelt, the foundation supporting educational and enrichment opportunities at Roosevelt, has already sprung into action, launching a fundraiser to pay for much-needed educational software that will support its most vulnerable students. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.gofundme.com/foabesupport.

Faculty and staff greeted families and handed out supplies for the 2020-2021 school year.
On a hike outside Joshua Tree, deep in the Mojave, cider maker and desert biologist, Sean Harris, and his business partner, Lish, were doing some work on tortoises while brainstorming ideas for the name of their new cidery. They’d tossed around the idea of “Serpentine Cider,” but nothing had been set in stone.

And this is when it happened. In the early cold morning. In the middle of nowhere. Three hours from civilization and any hospital for that matter. It was here when Sean’s foot stepped on something squishy. He jumped back to see that his boot print had marked the head of a Sidewinder rattlesnake. The cold morning temperatures gave some comfort to Sean, as he knew rattlesnakes don’t usually have the energy to strike in the cold. Nonetheless, this rattler was not happy, and after about ten minutes of yelling, cussing and screaming, Sean said to Lish, “Well, I guess Serpentine Cider it is.” It was then (after a close call) his new cidery had a name behind the face that houses his passion, cider!

Serpentine Cider is truly the opposite of your run-of-the-mill, mass-produced and ridiculously sweetened cider you’d find in stores. For those who say, “Well, I don’t like Cider,” you’ll hear Sean reply, “Serpentine Cider creates cider for people who don’t like cider.”

Harris is proud that his cider has zero artificial ingredients, extremely low sugars, and is made from a variety of fresh fruits, florals, and herbs.

For his dry apple cider, Sean’s apples are pressed into juice and shipped from Hood River, Oregon and Wenatchee, Washington to his cidery in Miramar. This is where he houses one 1,000-gallon and two 500-gallon stainless fermenters. He then adds the yeast that turns the sugars from the apples into alcohol, which (after he’s finished) leaves zero sugar residuals and keeps a 13-ounce glass down to around 160 calories with a 7-8% alcohol by volume. He kegs it (to rest) for a couple weeks, then adds it to the 15 other ciders he has on tap at his two locations.

It was awesome meeting Sean and seeing his place here in UH. Not only has he crafted a variety of delicious ciders, but he’s made a comfortable outdoor setting with passion fruit vines, space heaters, lighting, and his handmade barstools and tables. Want cider to go? Sean has you covered with his 32-ounce Crowler that he’ll press on the spot. While you wait, check out his cool hats and tees. I went with army green—super comfy.

Due to Covid 19, all seating is outside, and hours (Wed-Sun) fluctuate. Serpentine Cider is located at 2311 El Cajon Blvd. and 8665 Miralani Dr. #100 in Miramar.

“No rattlesnakes or tortoises were harmed during Sean’s mishap in the Mojave.”

—John Hensley
A tree-lined street is a beautiful thing to behold. The aesthetics alone make street trees desirable, not to mention their positive effect on property values. More important than real estate cachet, though, is the role trees play in fighting the ravaging effects of climate change.

San Diego’s Climate Action Plan relies heavily on growing our Urban Forest canopy to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gasses. And planting a tree is something anyone can do. Our city provides them for free! All you have to do is ask!

UH resident Jennifer Bishop has been so pleased with the Hong Kong Orchid tree she obtained four years ago through the Free Tree SD program that she posted a poll on Nextdoor this past March to find out how many residents would like to have a tree planted on the pavement in front of their homes. More than 130 of our neighbors said they would love a tree.

Jennifer is partnering with a program called the “Kate Sessions Commitment,” which was organized to promote significant growth of the county’s tree canopy. The group’s mission is based on the extraordinary work of the well-known horticulturalist and landscape architect in the early 1900s. A century later, the goal of the new program bearing Sessions’ name is “planting 100 trees in communities around San Diego County each year in the 2020s.”

The city of San Diego has made it clear that a successful Urban Forestry program and climate change mitigation depend on engaged citizens as well as private sector investments.

Planting a free tree in front of our own homes, expensive a bit of effort to water and care for it, or even helping our neighbors plant a tree in front of their homes, may be the least we can do to make our neighborhood and planet a bit more livable.

Visit www.sandiego.gov/form/requests/reektree-sd to sign up for a free tree. Questions or comments about tree planting can be directed to Jennifer Bishop at Jenniferlabishop@gmail.com.

--Judith Annicchiarico, Editorial Board

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**COMMITTING TO 100 TREES**

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SUPERVISOR FLETCHER PUSHES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PRIORITIZE COVID-19 RESPONSE & RELIEF ALONG WITH EQUITY IN BUDGET

In August, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors passed a $8.5 billion budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, who represents the University Heights community, pushed his colleagues to prioritize the County’s response to COVID-19 and relief for people who have been impacted by the pandemic. These amendments included $38,770,000 of new funding proposals by Supervisor Fletcher.

“We made this budget better by working with the community to drive significant changes reflecting our values and their needs to ensure more equity, opportunity and fairness, particularly for those impacted by COVID-19,” he said.

A significant portion of San Diegoans experiencing homelessness in the County have untreated mental health and substance use conditions. The City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission put together an application for available State Project Homekey funding to secure motels that can be converted into permanent supportive housing—helping find a permanent home for some of those most difficult to house.

As part of this budget, Supervisor Fletcher received the unanimous support of his colleagues to direct $3.4 million to fund on-site behavioral health and care coordination to San Diegans who experienced homelessness at the new permanent supportive housing projects proposed by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission.

San Diego County’s existing housing crisis has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. The County needed to do more to make sure that people can stay in their homes. The Board passed a proposal by Supervisors Fletcher and Greg Cox to make $25 million for rental assistance and legal assistance to help individuals and families stay in their homes. Income eligible applicants throughout the County are eligible to apply as long as their own grant do not have emergency COVID-19 rental assistance funds available.

Other budget amendments proposed by Supervisor Fletcher and adopted include:

• $2.5 for staff to develop a plan to make sure information being disseminated from the County to San Diegans is culturally competent and translated into multiple threshold languages.

• $2.0 million to make sure students are able to learn during the school year.

• $1.0 million for culturally competent and translated into multiple threshold languages. The funds will be used to purchase and distribute academic materials, learning materials, and culturally relevant resources.

• $620,000 for a pilot program to waive fees for residential wind projects.

This budget includes $40 million to fund on-site behavioral health and care coordination to San Diegans who experienced homelessness at the new permanent supportive housing projects proposed by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission.

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When my Office has a chance to track down missing children and bring them home.

In these complex and frightening cases, the abuser takes the child to exert power and control over their partner, often a custodial parent tormented with the thought of never seeing the children again.

In two recent cases, the FJC worked with local, state, and federal authorities to track down missing children and bring them home.

In the first case, a woman came to the FJC to seek help after being abused by her husband for years. While there, she learned that her estranged husband had abducted their young children and may have been planning to take them to another country.

Through a massive coordinated effort with police and others, the children were found safe and reunited with their mother.

In the second case, a woman contacted the FJC for help with a restraining order for the virus. The approved budget includes $2.0 million for income replacement stipend for workers who get COVID-19 and are not otherwise eligible for sick pay or other benefits to stay home.

$620,000 for a pilot program to waive fees for residential wind projects.

$550,000 for air quality monitors, purifiers, and data analysis for our AB617 environmental justice communities.

$500,000 to create a green streets master plan for public and private infrastructure projects in unincorporated areas.

$200,000 for a weatherization program to help homeowners reduce energy costs of households in unincorporated areas.

“Even though all of our budget amendments were adopted,” Supervisor Fletcher said, “I know we have a long way to go in ensuring a county government that truly serves our community and I am committed to the ongoing work.”

To learn more, visit www.SupervisorNathanFletcher.com.

WHEN A CHILD IS ABducted BY A PARENT, FEAR AND TRAUMA Linger

Child abduction is one of the scariest byproducts of troubled relationships, inflicting unnecessary trauma on youngsters and often imperiling their lives.

When my Office has a chance to track down missing children and bring them home, we make it our highest priority.

As a safe place for domestic violence victims, the San Diego Family Justice Center (FJC) works with parents whose children are abducted. In these complex and frightening cases, the abuser takes the child to exert power and control over their partner, often a custodial parent tormented with the thought of never seeing the children again.

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