Is This the Future of University Heights?

This charming Victorian home at 4350 Cleveland is 2,000 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and built in 1905, according to the 2015 Uptown Historic Resources Survey Report. According to Zillow, the sale of the property is pending as of 10/2/21 at $51,670,000.

As part of the sale, the previous owner obtained permits to build a 12 micro-unit complex with three stories, a roof top common area, and NO PARKING! There will be two 410-square-foot studio units, six 568-square-foot 1-bedroom units, and four 800-square-foot 2-bedroom units. Just one of the units will be designated affordable.

PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG CANYON SEEK ANSWERS

On November 8, 29 UH residents attended a grassroots-organized meeting with San Diego Police Western Division Community Relations Officer David Surwilo, Council District 3 Community Representative Marcela Miranda-Caballero, and Assistant City Attorney John Hemmerling.

Local residents Erika Hiramatsu and Michael Cheswick organized the meeting, which was hosted at Grains Café on Adams Avenue, to bring up issues relating to the recent fire in the canyon behind Old Town/Birney Barn Park and crimes being committed by area homeless persons. The recent discussion at the UHCA November 2 meeting about policies procedures addressing homeless persons also sparked additional questions.

The recent fire was started by a homeless camp, according to Hemmerling, and according to Officer Surwilo, “the investigation showed that it was not arson, but an accident. Unfortunately, with how dry and overgrown the vegetation is there, it didn’t take much for the fire to take hold and spread quickly.”

PROGRESS UPDATE: UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PRIORITIES

As reported in the June issue of the UHCA News, the Community Coalition of University Heights submitted over a dozen University Heights priorities to San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn for inclusion in the FY 21-22 District 3 budget.

The good news is that a few high-priority items were included in the FY 21-22 budget, including homelessness and housing, community-oriented policing, street maintenance, and code compliance.

However, most of the items requested by the CCUH were either not included in the FY 21-22 budget or we are still waiting for a response from Mr. Whitburn’s office. These include, among other issues, improvement and expansion of the UH Branch Library, traffic calming measures, parking improvements, sidewalk repairs, improvements at Trolley Barn Park and Birney Joint Use Field, preventative maintenance of Canary Island Palms, and maintenance of the Vermont Street Bridge.

A complete summary of our initial request for each priority, which items were addressed in the FY 21-22 District 3 budget, and which are still outstanding is available on the CCUH blog page: www.cuhah.org/blog/update-on-progress-with-cuhh-priorities.

Council President Pro Tem Whitburn will be asked to address these remaining items at the December UHCA meeting.

BUDGET PRIORITIES continued on page 14

Restricting City Council – Almost Done

This year’s restricting process has been very active, with community groups and individual citizens weighing in on various ways to divide the city into nine roughly equal council districts.

Most of the controversy and action has been happening along the coast and in northern San Diego County, where communities that were split in previous redistricting activities are seeking to correct past mistakes, while residents of other districts were vying to prevent the same fate from happening to their communities. The Commission has also been considering the need to not only keep “communities of interest” together and respect natural boundaries, but also to look at the racial and ethnic demographics to ensure that the entire process was fair.

Early on, University Heights groups banded together under the Community Coalition of University Heights to make sure our community was represented in a single Council District. CCUH was successful in that effort, and as of publication, “University Heights will be entirely within Council District 3.”

However, that district will be expanded to include not only Downtown, but Mission Valley, as well as the historic neighborhoods Old Town, Mission Hills, REDISTRICTING continued on page 3
JOIN TODAY AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE! OUR SUCCESS IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEER EFFORTS TO SERVE RESIDENTS LIKE YOU.

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

Yearly Membership

- Feather – give what you can $___
- $250 Business Plume (Household)
- $120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- $875 Business Plume
- $1,500 Business Golden Ostrich

Donor

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

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning
- Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwatcher
- Help deliver UHCA News to neighborhood residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising
- Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership
- Help meet record goals for membership and meeting attendance.
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch
- Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.
- UHCA News
- Write articles, take photos, or sell ads; these are just a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity, and energy to the UHCA News.
- Program & Events
- Plan and oversee various events and general meetings.

A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org.

Please read the rest of this newsletter for details on how you can help make a difference.

HEALTH TIPS

- 2-1-1 San Diego for non-emergency help and resources.
- San Diego’s University Heights Life and the sense of community in University Heights is dedicated to improving the quality of life and the community in San Diego’s University Heights.

SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH continues to be a problem. Suggested time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN! Please email signs@uhsd.org.

CRIME WATCH SIGNS

UHCA installed 60 new signs in 2016. If you know of an old sign that needs replacing or a new sign, please use the form to set up a meeting.

Phone Number

- 619-531-2468
- 619-692-4912
- 619-297-3166
- 562-521-3000
- 619-451-4000
- 619-692-4800
- 800-252-4613
- 888-724-7240
- 911

SOS

https://sandiego.gov/services/. Download this app for reporting non-emergency issues like potholes, graffiti, etc.

Disaster Contacts

In case of a major disaster, have two sets of contact information. When the power is out, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.
Greetings and Happy Holiday Season!

I live in a mixed-use building with four residential condominiums and two businesses. When the “lock-downs” started during the pandemic, one of our neighbors decided that we needed to band together and initiated a “Friday Happy Hour” in our shared courtyard. We all, socially distanced, started talking about what was going on in our lives, how we were coping, and generally to know each other a little better. Gradually, the wine and occasional snacks have helped the conversation flow more freely, but that feeling of being in this together, looking out for each other, sharing ideas and hopes, became an anticipated bright spot every week.

That tradition has continued for well over a year. We’ve wished friends bon voyage, and welcomed new ones as people have moved, and even welcomed a new baby to our community. Our four-legged furry residents have become a part of the weekly party too! We’ve planned building repairs, helped each other out as we tended for termites, shared cooking ideas, repairs, helped each other out as we planned building repairs, helped each other out as we worked on our pets, and shared care and money advice. The pandemic helped us form bonds and become a stronger community.

I view UHCA as a way to extend that sense of community beyond our building and to University Heights at large. Volunteering with UHCA and our partner organizations has become a bright spot in my life. I’ve met some truly amazing, caring, kind, and interesting people. I’ve developed friendships that I cherish, and hopefully have been able to make some meaningful contributions towards making University Heights an even better place.

That’s my wish for all of my neighbors – to find ways to make University Heights more our community. Meet new friends, find ways to express your passions and learn new things. Find new friends you may never have met otherwise, and in the process also help make University Heights an even better place. Volunteer at whatever level you can, attend meetings (we’re back in person starting in February?), become a blockwatcher, write an article, get involved in advocacy, join a Zone Watch, help at a cleanup event. Get involved and be more connected.

For those who are already part of UHCA – thank you, neighbor, for helping make our neighborhood special.

Here’s to a bright, more connected, and amazing 2022 for University Heights.
Nature in the Neighborhood

Toyon AKA California Holly

As the Christmas holiday approaches, one of our most festive native plants puts on its seasonal show. Toyon (Hetromeles arbutifolia) brightens up our canyons (and gardens) with its clusters of dangling red berries set against its dark green leaves just as the holidays approach (provided there’s decent rainfall, like this year).

Toyon is also known as California Holly, reflecting its natural range from Ensenada to Humboldt County and the foothills of the northern Sierra Nevadas. Although it’s not related to English Holly (Ilex aquifolium) – it’s actually in the Rose family – the serrated leaf edges (think steak knife) justify its common name and are a good way to distinguish this plant from other native evergreen shrubs when its fruit or small white flowers aren’t visible.

Let’s take a walk around the neighborhood and get to know this wonderful native plant. You can glimpse toyon’s red berries growing near the streambed in Buchanan Canyon (off Johnson St.), but you don’t need to slither down the slope to get a good look at the species. Instead, go around the corner to Maryland St. and you’ll see several toyons growing in the parking strip. The space is a little tight for the species, which can grow to 20 feet tall and almost as wide, but the plants seem to be doing fine. You can see a great specimen that has a bit more room to spread in a native garden on New Jersey St.

To see more toyons in their natural setting, head over to the UH Open Space northeast of Golden Gate Dr. and New York St. Look about halfway down the slope and you’ll spot those red berries. If you look to your left, you may spot another bright patch in the chaparral – this is a toyon, but what you’re seeing are the leaves dying from a fire blight, a bacterial disease that scorches the leaves from the tip downward.

If you head over to the Point, you can get a better look at this diseased plant as well as a couple of younger toyon that have been planted along the west side at the start of the short trail. By now your ID skills should be good enough that you can recognize toyon, even without the red berries.

There’s a story that the Hollywood got its name from the toyons growing in the hills to the north. This may be apocryphal, but it is true that so many people regularly headed into the hills to collect the red berries at Christmastime that a state law was passed (and is still on the books) prohibiting the collection of the fruit without the owner’s permission. So look, but don’t cut! Happy Holidays.

- David Flieetner is proprietor of Design With Natives.

Help Make UH Shine Bright with Lights in the Heights This Year!

If you want to be in the running for the Lights in the Heights awards this holiday season, make sure you have your house/yard/block/business decorations up in time for this year’s contest. And the photos look much better when garage doors are closed and vehicles are not parked in the driveway. Our expert team of judges will be driving through the neighborhood on Sunday evening, December 19, starting at 5:30pm on the lookout for outstanding holiday decorations.

- Mary Beth Chrunen

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Birney Elementary School Clean Up Event Is a Huge Success!

On Saturday, November 13, at 9 am, 28 members of our community showed up to volunteer at the Birney Elementary Fall Clean up, coordinated by the UHCA Beautification Team. The volunteers included our Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, who worked alongside volunteers for a solid two hours as they pulled out stubborn weeds, trimmed bushes, weed-whacked, picked up trash, raked and swept. The tremendous effort took place all along the Meade Avenue section of the school.

We are so thankful to everyone who showed up and gave their time and energy to this event. Because of their hard work, the Meade Avenue section of the school has been beautified and transformed. We also thank RECO for their kind donation and delivery of the three dumpsters that were an essential component of the event and Councilmember Whitburn’s office for securing the landfill pass.

The Beautification Team is always looking for volunteers to serve on the committee and volunteer to help keep our community beautiful. If you are interested in becoming part of our committee or would like to be notified of future clean up events, please email Jennifer Bishop at bbeautiful@uhca.org.

Thanks to our amazing volunteers!

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEW ONLINE GUIDE FOR RESEARCHING YOUR HOME’S HISTORY

Founded in 1888, University Heights is one of San Diego’s oldest neighborhoods. And chances are, you live in an older home with a story to tell. Perhaps you have wondered who built the house or who has lived there before you. You might even be interested in having your home historically designated. But where do you start?

The University Heights Historical Society has compiled an online guide to help you get started. As an owner of an older home, you have many resources available to you for researching its history. And many of those resources are now available online.

If you are really motivated, you might consider having your home historically designated, as there are several potential benefits including:

- Eligibility for significant property tax reductions through the Mills Act
- Potential tax credits of 20% to 25% through the California State Historic Tax Credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for rehabilitation of a certified historic structure or a qualified residence
- Potential tax benefits for historic preservation easements
- City of San Diego development incentives for the preservation of designated historic resources
- Use of the more lenient California Historical Building Code for all local, state, and federal historically-designated sites
- Potential increase in property values, as documented by many studies

Whatever your goal, get started today by checking our online research guide at www.uhsd.org and visit www.uhsd.org/research-your-home.

- Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society
There's no place like home for the holidays!

LET US HELP YOU FIND YOUR FOREVER HOME TODAY

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ROXANNE@PEMBERLEYREALTY.COM
PEMBERLEYREALTY.COM
DRE# 0139244
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE BECAUSE WE CARE
The film, The Russia House (free on YouTube) pilled at my curiosity to read the book by John Le Carre. I needed to figure out the nuances left out of the mov- ie. The book was written in 1988 when the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev was beginning Perestroika and Glasnost (openness). The eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union was in its infancy. It's a good reminder of that period.

The intrigue of the book and movie centers around a manuscript that a Russian scientist (Klaus Maria Brandauer he still, my heart) is destined for Bartholomew “Barley” Scott-Blair, a British publisher who’s a bit buzzed (Sean Connery in the movie) ends in the hands of MI6 (British Intelligence) and the CIA. From there, the plot thickens - a beautiful Russian woman, Katya, (Michelle Pfeiffer in the movie) risks her life to have the manuscript published. Barley is employed as a spy by MI6 and the CIA to make contact with the Russian scientist through Katya and to find out how true the manuscript is. British agent Ned James Fox) gives Barley fundamental training as a spy.

The movie captured how can you miss with actors such as Sean Connery (be still, my heart), Michelle Pfeiffer (beautiful and talented) , Roy Scheider, John Mahoney, J. T. Walsh, Klaus Maria Brandauer, James Fox and more distin- guished actors? The musical score by Jer- ry Goldsmith, accompanied by jazz great Branford Marsalis, is one of the most beautiful and haunting soundtracks I’ve heard. Goldsmith’s other scores include Chinatown, Total Recall, Alien, Patton, Star Trek, Basic Instinct, Ram- bo the list goes on. The Russia House score outsiders them all, I believe. It was filmed on location in the Soviet Union, the second American motion picture to do so before its dissolution in 1991. The cinematography is stunningly beautiful of Leningrad (now back to St. Peters- burg) and Moscow.

Redemption, intrigue, romance, hope all wrapped up in a tight spy novel and mov- ie. No violence, no overt sexuality, some dicey language, and good history lesson. They don’t make them like that anymore. RIP: Sean Connery, Roy Scheider (Jaws), John Mahoney (Frasier’s dad), J.T. Walsh, and James Fox. - Nan McGraw

DOG PARK PROGRESS

At the November 4 UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (UHPROSAG) meeting, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation and San Diego Unified School District representatives presented their proposal for the long-awaited temporary off-leash dog park planned for the Education Center site at Park Blvd. and Normal Street. The meeting and this issue were covered by local Fox 5 on their November 4 evening news www.fox5.com/DogParkFox5Story.

City Parks Designer, Shannon Scoggins, explained that the site has a number of requirements, including buffer zones in front of the historic Annex A building that do not allow fencing to obscure the front facade, and another buffer zone closer to the parking lot and main office where SDUSD employees requested space for breaks/ lunches. These requirements mean that a dog park can be approximately 10,000 square feet in size. The proposal included space divided into “large dog” and “small dog” areas separated by fencing, with a common entrance and buffer zone to ensure dogs can’t escape a single open gate. The schedule is for plans to be completed in Winter 2022, construction start in Spring 2022, and the dog park opening in Summer 2022.

Other details from the public Q&A and comments after the presentation:

• The park will be open from morning to dusk and locked at other times
• The existing grass turf, which is irrigated, will be utilized
• There is no additional lighting planned
• Chain link fencing will be used

Marc Johnson, chair of UHPROSAG, noted that a community survey was conducted in early 2019 and indicated 44% that a separate large/small area was not important, 33% felt it was important, and 23% were in the middle. He also noted that 47% of respondents preferred natural grass, and 41% preferred use of salt-resistant “dog park grass” for turf.

Community feedback and a formal vote and recommendation from UHPROSAG will take place at the December 2 meeting (by Zoom, link at www.uhsd.org/links). Public comments are also encouraged at the UH Dog Park group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/UHDogPark or by taking the survey at https://tinyurl.com/uhdogpark.
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<td><strong>Holidays at the Hotel Del Coronado Through Jan 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm</strong> <strong>Hanukkah Ends</strong> <strong>Friends of the UH Library Meeting</strong> <strong>6 pm</strong> <strong>No UH Library Task Force Meeting</strong> <strong>8 pm</strong> <strong>No UH Library Task Force Meeting</strong> <strong>8 pm</strong> <strong>UHCA 38th Anniversary</strong> <strong>UH Park &amp; Rec Meeting 6:30 pm via Zoom</strong> <strong>UHCA Meeting 6:30 pm via Zoom <a href="http://www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting">www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting</a></strong> <strong>Birney Giving Tree Event Ends</strong></td>
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January is a great time to go to Cabrillo National Monument and explore the tide pools. Check out the San Diego Tide Pool Chart for low tide times. [www.tinyurl.com/SDTide](http://www.tinyurl.com/SDTide)
University Heights Holiday Scavenger Hunt

It's that time of year when our neighborhood transforms into a festive wonderland of twinkly lights and holiday cheer! From classic decorations that always delight to massive displays that rival the North Pole, UH knows how to celebrate the season like no other.

Grab some hot chocolate and take your kids on a stroll around the neighborhood to see how many of the following decorations you can spot.

☐ Santa Claus  ☐ Christmas Tree
☐ Candle  ☐ Menorah
☐ Snowman  ☐ Elf
☐ Rudolph  ☐ Wreath
☐ Angel  ☐ Candy Cane
☐ Jingle Bells  ☐ Present
☐ Reindeer  ☐ Sleigh
☐ Jumbo Ornaments  ☐ Gingerbread Man
☐ The Grinch  ☐ “Snow”
☐ Snowflakes  ☐ Star
☐ Train  ☐ Stocking
☐ Ice Skates  ☐ Bells
☐ Mittens  ☐ Decorated Palm Tree
☐ Penguin  ☐ Bonus: Decorated Ostrich

Next, have your child draw a picture of their favorite decoration below, take a photo, and send along to uhcanews@uhsd.org for the chance to be featured on UHCA's social channels!
More Density Ahead for South Park Boulevard

The recent forced closure of Frock Yes, after the owner’s lease was not renewed, has left another vacant storefront ready to be cleared away for a housing development along Park Boulevard between Polk and Howard, adjacent to Sprouts.

In February 2020, the original developer, Streamline Development Group, was closing on half of the property shown above, and presented preliminary plans to the North Park Planning Committee. They showed a project with 96 total units in a mix of 1-bedroom, some 2-bedroom, and studios units, total height of 85 feet, an internal courtyard, communal balconies, and an equal mix of affordable and market-rate units. There would have been less than one parking space per unit because of the project’s proximity to transit, 28-56 spaces, and some ground floor spaces for commercial use.

Unfortunately, the developer’s investor pulled out as the pandemic lockdowns were starting, and the property was sold. San Diego county property records indicate that this parcel, as well as the adjacent parcel, were purchased by a Chicago-based entity.

Searches on San Diego’s Open Development Services Division records for these parcels show project applications in 2021 for a new mixed-use development consisting of 194 residential units and 150 interior parking spaces located at the ground, P1 and P2 parking levels. The applications also indicate the project will be 7-stories in total, with 6 levels of “micro-units over a ground level with common areas.”

It is expected that this project, like other recent large developments, will not require Community Planning Group approval, as it meets the city’s expedited approval requirements. Updates will be reported here as we get them.

- Marc Johnson

IN DEVELOPMENT

On behalf of the team that produces UHCA News and the UHCA Board of Directors, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to 2022 with hope, optimism, and a genuine sense of thanks for our amazing community.

CALL FOR WRITERS!

UHCA News is always looking for content that matters to UH residents. We strive to cover local UH news, and our best “reporters” are our neighbors. So if you have news to share, or an item that would be of interest to your UH neighbors, we want to help you share it to the community in these pages. You can pitch ideas, articles, or topics to the UHCA News team by sending them to uhcanews@uhsd.org. Be sure to check out our Editorial Guidelines at www.uhsd.org/submissions.
Birney Bees Buzzing on 2021

As 2021 comes to a close and we all reflect on the changes this year has brought us, we asked the Birney community what they are most grateful for this year, and here is how they responded:

I'm most grateful for…

My family and my kitty Peppercorn. - Selney Y., 1st grader

My family, my friends, and that school reopened. - Benjamin G., 4th grader

My teacher because she does very exciting stuff with us and she helps us. - Anabel C., 2nd Grade

The physical presence this year brings to Birney. Being the parents and the only real social life to an only child during a pandemic was something we'll never forget. You just know how much kids benefit from playing with their peers. I was worried how our kids would acclimate to in-person interactions again, but those school gates opened, and we all couldn't help but feel optimism wash over us. It was just like riding a bike. All of the familiar faces (students, teachers, faculty and parents) were there. My kid walked right back into that warm Birney community with confidence. I relish hearing about her school day. - Lisa N., Parent

I give thanks for my awesome Birney teacher. I give thanks for my classmates at Birney. I give thanks for my mom and dad. - Paul R., 2nd grader

That I am with my friends and teachers at school every day, and we are all safe. I'm happy to have specials every week. I'm grateful for Birney! - Jazelle W., 1st grader

To have a house. - Bennett C., 1st grade

My sweet family and my friends. - Harper S., TK

That my daughter loves school again! After the tough pandemic year, she is excited to go to school every day to see her teachers and friends. Her teacher, Mrs. Delany, has done a wonderful job of building community in her classroom and making each student feel seen and valued. I'm grateful for Birney! - Sadie M., 3rd grader

In-person learning. I like seeing my friends and being off of Zoom. Mostly, I'm glad that we get to do specials, and we get all of our specials each time we have specials! - Wesley L., 4th grader

Our family growing stronger through the trials and tribulations of this pandemic. - Josh, Parent

That I can go to school and see friends even though COVID is here. - Henry G., 4th grader

My mom, my dad, and my dog Rose. - Claire B., 4th grader

I am thankful I can breathe clean air. I am thankful that I am intelligent. I am thankful that I have friends at Birney - Jaime R., 4th grader

My family, friends, teachers and books! - Mia M., 1st grader

My cat. The fact that we get to go to school. I'm getting a COVID-19 vaccine shot. - Thomas & Madeline S., 5th and 3rd graders

My grandparents, for being alive and healthy. - Olivia H., 1st grader

The cheer, smiles, running towards loved ones and warm embraces at pick up after school! Even watching the interactions of parents with students not yet at Birney, has me smiling! There's so much connection, conversation, and confidence building. After work, pick up time at dismissal has consistently made me happier and more optimistic than I was upon arrival. And that's all because of the interactions between guardians and students that I get to see, that bring so much joy after a school day away. - Anonymous

Birney's Big Give, a one-day online fundraising drive, is coming up on December 9th. Please consider showing your support for Birney by making a financial donation. Contact us at info@friendsofalicebirney.org for more details.

- Vaychan Hallman, a proud Birney Parent

Birney Buzz

That a lot more people are getting help they need. Some problems that were not fairly addressed in the past got attention by doctors, activists, and other people who believed in causes strongly and took action. - Noah H., 3rd grader

Having a sister I can play, travel, and explore with and teach what I’ve learned. - Sadie M., 3rd grader

In-person learning. I like seeing my friends and being off of Zoom. Mostly, I'm glad that we get to do specials, and we get all of our specials each time we have specials! - Wesley L., 4th grader

A Roo News Story

A Remarkably Normal Semester at Roosevelt Middle School

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the first semester of 2021-2022 at Roosevelt International Middle School is that, in most ways, it feels like a normal (ifadjective even be applied to middle school) term. Kids are in school, in person, all day, for five days a week, interacting with their teachers and peers, and creating a culture that is incomprehensible to anyone over the age of 20. Just as nature intended.

Not only are they back in person school, but they are also engaged in after-school activities. “3h period” classes extend the school day for some students and include Band, Orchestra, and Digital Music Production. In addition to the extra classes, 17 different clubs were offered this fall, ranging from Hip Hop/Latin Dance to Gardening, and including clubs focused on social issues like Gender/Sexuality Alliance and No Place for Hate. Almost 200 students are taking part in these free clubs, which are organized and funded by the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation.

Of course, there are some reminders that the COVID-19 pandemic is still a thing. Everyone on campus is still required to wear masks, lunch is eaten outside, students are COVID-tested regularly, contact tracing is in effect, and parents are generally not allowed on campus. While there have been a few positive tests among students, no outbreaks have occurred at school, for which we can thank the aforementioned precautions. These tweeks and tees are extremely resilient, and the pandemic seems to have become background noise to them, rather than a looming threat.

At the end of October, students and staff participated in Red Ribbon Spirit Week, an extraordinarily normal tradition in San Diego schools that combines drug abuse prevention messaging with daily sartorial themes like Sports/Teams Apparel, Pajama Day, Hat Day, and, on Friday, the Halloween masquerade. On top of all this, the Associated Student Body organized a costume pageant after school on Friday. One could hardly notice the protective masks amid the whimsical and outlandish Halloween regalia.

– Andy Hinds

NOTORIOUS, THE RESIDENT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COYOTE

Circling the neighborhood for the past two months, the lynam coyote with the bun hind left leg, dubbed “Notorious” for emerging from the shadows in the early morning hours or late at night, is best left alone. Recently, numerous posts on NextDoor had neighbors hatching a Disneysesque plan to trap, rehabilitate, and release Notorious back to its clan in the canyon. The plot, “Operation Save Notorious,” was gently discouraged by experts as completely unrealistic.

According to Christine Barton, San Diego’s Humane Society Director of Operations and Wildlife Rehabilitation and Marcel from Project Wildlife, the coyote has survived this injury and is adapting. Coyotes are omnivores with many food sources available for consumption, and there is an abundance of squirrels, birds, rats, skunks, and possums available. Hunting easier prey and learning to scavenge for other foods are part of the survival plan. Notorious is mobile, cannot be chased down, and is not held up in one spot to be trapped. Plus, there are specific regulations regarding such actions, and if it were caught, the probability of rehabilitation and release are slim.

Our best course of action is to learn to live with Notorious and follow the prescribed protocol: Do not feed it. If you do come in contact with it near your home, try “coyote hazing” by creating a ruckus, yelling and throwing something in its direction, generally making it aware it is not welcome. Create as much commotion as possible to scare it off. Also, keep your dogs leashed and your cats and small pets indoors, and when they are outdoors, do not leave them unattended.

We need to adapt and live with Notorious. Therefore, let Notorious be, let nature take its course, and let events develop and conclude naturally, as they would without outside intervention.

– Robin Love

LUCKY ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

Jessica Demirdjian, MAcc

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LotusTaxSD@gmail.com
A Gift for Everyone

The holidays are upon us. Are you excited to give, or are you stressed and anxious? It’s been a tough couple of years, so what can we do as University Heights neighbors to make a difference for everyone this season, while also being smart about our own finances and family’s needs?

There is a gift every neighbor in University Heights can give and receive this season, whether you’re young or old, rich or homeless, employed or over-worked. This gift can change lives. Best of all, the gift is free to all. What gift is this, you ask? It is our University Heights Public Library. Good things come in small packages, they say. Our small (but mighty!) library has full access to 5.3 million books, e-books, and audiovisual materials, including 205,295 resources in 25 languages other than English. Whether you or your family need entertainment, escape, inspiration, or information to empower and elevate your life, come visit. It’s all there.

Dear neighbors, my name is Bren Breithaupt, Treasurer of the Friends of the University Heights Library (Friendsofuhlibrary.org). I’d like to ask you to give an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation to support our library’s community programs and updates of library resources, books, A/V materials, tech equipment, and software. You can donate by dropping off a check made out to “Friends of the University Heights Library” into the box by the checkout counter or mailing it to the branch at 4193 Park Blvd, San Diego CA 92103. Thank you very much!

– Bren Breithaupt
Treasurer of the Friends of the University Heights Library

The Friends of San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FBN: NC-2213747. Tax deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego and used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.

I made a presentation for the Friends of the Library for the University Heights branch about the usefulness of creating a mini maker space with the use of Silhouette Studio and the Cameo Cutter. I explained how we can create fun computer-friendly programs that introduce new technology in a non-threatening way. Learning new tech can be scary, if not intimidating, so my programs are intended to introduce new tech in a fun and friendly way that encourages participation regardless of age or computer know-how.

I have also been able to use my creative skills in decorating the children’s area with fun art installations along with creating fun interactive programs for the community. My latest creation was making a fun Holiday craft that’s easy to build and can be made into a wearable hat. We distributed more than fifty “bat hat” crafts for the month of October, and we are gearing up to make more crafts for the rest of the upcoming holidays. I have been fortunate to work in such a wonderful community and look forward to upcoming programs and crafts that I can share with you.

As the name in my work title suggests, I and the rest of the University Heights staff are always happy to assist you. We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday and New Year!

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All City Libraries are CLOSED on Friday, December 24 (Christmas Day) – City Closed; Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day); Friday, December 31 (New Year’s Day – City Closed); Saturday, January 1 (New Year’s Day) and Monday, January 17 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Book drops will remain open for your convenience.

Mario Barahona, Library Assistant III, University Heights Branch Library, San Diego Public Library 619-526-4812 www.sandiego.gov

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With a Whiff of Thanks

(A look forward to your University Heights Thanksgiving)

the scent of stirring
sticks my nose awake
berries freshly picked in the mist
the scent of morning
mingle with Aunt Sally’s
now bubbling up red fantasies
browns my morning with clove

dreams of turkeys
those long necked rainbows on the run
peek their way into my appetites
insights my imaginary chase for their fan tails through clouds

their soft feathers
smooth caresses
once pursuit is won

a swift spring to the floor
makes patty-cake-feet drumroll to the kitchen

a peek through the door
delivers the meaning of thankfulness
hearing quibbles from mom and auntie

overhearing their way to sharing love

Jon von Erb 11/2015

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Dedicated Ad

STU McGraw
San Diego Public Library
(619) 793-7795
Sdccoulibrarians.com
WoodsideRealEstateServices.com
CA Department Of Motor Vehicles
A Personal Jeweler with Tons of Personality

Cecilia is the owner of Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry in the heart of University Heights. She has owned and operated the business since January of 2015. Cecilia came to the jewelry business by happenstance. Over 30 years ago, she was a single mom looking for a good job to support herself and her daughter. While browsing through the Penny Saver (remember those?), she answered a want ad for a Spanish speaker at a jewelry supply store in downtown San Diego. Cecilia applied and got the job. From there, she was offered jobs at various fine jewelry stores and moved up from secretary to sales person. It didn’t take long for Cecilia to make a name for herself in the industry. Her magnetic personality, coupled with her positive attitude and willingness to work hard brought her to finally open her own jewelry store right here in University Heights.

Despite living in the South Bay area, when it was time for Cecilia to branch out on her own, she and her husband drove by an empty space near the corner of Adams Ave. and Park Blvd. and immediately knew it was the place for her to open her very own store. In addition to being the owner, Cecilia is the premiere sales person, and does all of the buying and bookkeeping. She buys her jewelry from only the most reputable suppliers all over the world. Cecilia was able to survive the pandemic despite having to completely shut down for 4 months. Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry store is open six days a week and is bright and airy, inviting customers to come in and browse. Beautiful pieces of jewelry are displayed in glass cases...from engagement rings and wedding bands, to hoop earrings and vintage necklaces...there is something for everyone. In addition to the jewelry on site, Cecilia prides herself in working one-on-one with customers to design and create unique pieces of jewelry that are a perfect fit. Cecilia also does jewelry and watch repair (some on site and some sent out). Popular items right now are anything made with rose gold, as well as green sapphire stones in engagement rings.

So, start your holiday shopping early and stop by Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry. Cecilia will greet you with a warm smile and assist you in finding a special gift for your loved ones or for yourself. And while you are there, be sure to check out an art exhibition featuring abstract acrylic works by local emerging artist, Jeffrey Taylor, on December 4th from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and his artwork will continue to brighten the walls after the event.

- Jane Gilbert

Mystic Mocha’s Key to Success Is No Mystery

A UH favorite, Mystic Mocha is super busy these days keeping folks in the neighborhood well fed and well caffeinated. Happy customers fill the ample seating out front mid-mornings, while the enticing aroma of chilaquiles beckons passersby.

Savory breakfast burritos stuffed with veggies, soymino, chicken, or bacon, plus cheese, potatoes, etc. are a customer favorite, and chef/owner Izzy loves to get creative with open-faced sandwiches on fluffly focacia. The egg & bacon sando is a favorite of his. Beer, wine, and now mimosa’s ( Yay!) are available to enjoy with your brunch or lunch.

Izzy’s reincarnation of Mystic Mocha has been very well received by the neighborhood for a few reasons, not the least of which is the pleasure he takes in sourcing unique, high quality offerings, from a rotating list of excellent local beers to gluten-free doughnuts. He happily considers recommendations from his customers and has implemented many of them, including the aforementioned gf doughnuts, as well as vegan options and an horchata / Mexican hot chocolate late on the November menu in honor of his grandmother.

For the holidays, Izzy is hoping to host a fun neighborhood crafting event, perhaps a “decorate-your-own-gingerbread-house” get-together (similar to the pumpkin carving event he hosted in October). He also plans to do art pop-up shows to support local artists at some point. Make sure to follow the café on Instagram @ mysticmochacafe and/or check the café’s windows for announcements.

December will bring a few new beverage offerings, including egggyog, peppermint, and gingerbread lattes. And Izzy looks forward to hiring an additional chef and to opening up in the early evenings on weekends as soon as that’s feasible. His customers look forward to that, too!

Pet of the Month Heidi

Heidi is especially good with children and will happily allow petting. She is, however, standoffish with other dogs and will mount a vociferous outburst (and sounding twice as large than she is) if they appear in front of her house to the point of considerable embarrassment for her parents. Inexplicably, when meeting the same dog(s) out and around the neighborhood, she is well behaved. Heidi is the nexus of our residential and extended family, greeting everyone present in the house in the morning, and then reminding those who will pay attention to her that she is ready for her walk and breakfast. Similarly, she has no problem reminding her parents when her evening walk and treat are due, followed by snuggling on the bed in the evening.

She loves to be brushed and then turned over on her back for a tuna rub. She is obedient, loyal, smart, funny and friendly. Her lifelong ambition appears to be to catch one of the squirrels that go to considerable length to tease her from the branches in the trees behind our house. We have been lucky having Heidi with us, since she brightens our days and gives us comfort at night. Most importantly, she provides the opportunity for us to care for her; and for our family and friends (and neighbors) to receive unconditional love.

- Bill and Patty Wild
BUDGET PRIORITIES continued from front page

Here are the responses CCUH has received from the Commissions office to date:

Homelessness & Housing

CCUH Recommendation: Fund short- and long-term solutions to prevent homelessness, and quickly create a path to safe and affordable housing and services for people who experience homelessness in our community. The CCUH is particularly interested in implementing immediate outreach efforts to outreach eligible, connect homeless individuals with housing and services.

City response: The Homelessness Strategies Department is a newly created department dedicated to the centralization of homelessness-related programs and initiatives. The establishment of the department will help the City expand and improve programs and services available for individuals experiencing homelessness, and provide oversight over new state and federal funds. The programs part of the department include: bridge shelter operations; positions that coordinate homeless programs and services; additional street outreach programs; homeless response center; and transfers to the San Diego Housing Commission. This new department will oversee citywide homelessness programs and acquire additional programmatic funding.

Community Oriented Policing

CCUH recommendation: Reallocation of Police Department funding and reassignment of street-level officers currently being consumed by legal enforcement. We agree with Council President Whitburn’s recommendation that public safety services can be diversified through community mental health and social work organizations and non-law enforcement trauma informed first responders.

City response: The new Commission on Police Practices (CPP) — created due to the passage of Measure H — is funded in the FY 2022 Proposed Budget and includes 3.33 FTE positions and $1.1 million in expenditures. The 0.53 FTE positions reflect fractional FTEs which are prorated based on the anticipated start dates for a staff.

Street Maintenance

CCUH recommendation: Continue funding for resurfacing, slurry sealing and paving streets with 0.30 FTE positions and $1.1 million in expenditures. The 0.30 FTE positions reflect fractional FTEs which are prorated based on the anticipated start dates for a staff.

City response: Street Condition Assessment (SCA). The Councilmember support the addition of funding for a new Street Condition Assessment. This assessment has not been done since 2016, and it is recommended that a new condition assessment of pavement be conducted once every five to ten years. Adding $700,000 would allow the department to procure a contractor to conduct the assessment, which should be completed in early FY 2023.

Additional Streets were funded to be slurry sealed; many miles are within District 3. We can email a Google Doc list of streets but it is many pages long and not grouped by neighborhood.

Code Compliance

CCUH recommendation: Fully fund Code Compliance Department to enforce City, State, and Federal laws with added focus on complete tree planting, sidewalk maintenance, neighborhood ordinances and public nuisance concerns.

City response: Addition of 1.00 Code Compliance Officer to support the Water Quality Improvement Plan to address human waste-related bacteria source identification field investigations. 0.25 Addition of 0.25 Code Compliance Supervisor for ongoing support of code compliance activities. Addition of 8.00 permanent Code Compliance Officers to support Clean SD program.

The following topics and recommendations have not been expanded to as of today:

Expanded UH Branch Library

Parks and Recreation (beyond dog park that has been funded)

Tree Planting and Maintenance

Sidewalks (which sidewalks and when)

Parking (expedite funding for angled parking, support of UH parking district goals to increase parking)

Focused Plan Amendment

The following items have not been budgeted as of today:

El Cajon Boulevard Traffic Reorganization

Park Ridge Park - Replacement of playground structures

State Capitol tours

Consumer complaints

Professional conduct or licensing

Legislative Update

I am excited to update you on some of the bills I worked passed to the legislature and signed by Governor Newsom. California’s legislative session concluded in September, and California Majority Whip Chris Ward and I worked to ensure critical legislation made it off the Assembly floor and onto Governor Newsom’s desk.

Our efforts ensured more action on affordable housing, homelessness, climate change, education, criminal justice, and other challenges facing our state. That includes:

- A $12 billion dollar investment focusing on behavioral health housing and solutions to encampments
- $5.8 billion dollars to create more than 42,000 new housing units for those experiencing homelessness
- $10.3 billion dollars in housing funding to support more affordable homes
- A $15 billion dollar Climate Package, the largest investment in state history, to bolster wildlife resilience, tackle the drought emergency while building on-term water security, and strategic investments aimed to protect communities from extreme heat, sea level rise and other climate risks.

For our small businesses, California took action early in the pandemic to enable restaurants to expand outdoor operations in areas such as sidewalks and parking lots. We recently passed legislation to allow these businesses to receive a one-year grace period after the end of the emergency to apply for permanent expansion. After announcing the extended relief in June, Governor Newsom urged local governments to facilitate outdoor dining through local zoning and programs that support and promote expanded outdoor air, take-out and delivery options. Additionally, with $5 billion in support, California created the largest Small Business Relief Grant program in the nation, and $6.2 billion dollars in state relief for small businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans and Insurance and Revenue waiver.

Working together, the San Diego delegation was able to secure another round of budget allocations for our community. On top of the June announcements, I pushed for and received:

- $5 million dollars to support the San Diego Pure Water project, created to bring our region a reliable, drought-proof supply of drinking water.
- $2 million dollars for electrical, ADA, and other building upgrades to Balboa Park’s Casa Del Prado (bringing the total to $57.5 million).
- $750,000 dollars to the City of San Diego for the design, construction, or replacement of playground structures at JFK Park, Robb Field, and Mission Trails Regional Trail.
- $500,000 for park improvements in Imperial Beach.

These are just a few of the budget wins we were able to secure.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I am proud to report that Governor Newsom signed all six of the bills I authored and helped to delay it to his desk – so far – no vetoes! These include important improvements for housing discrimination, civil rights, habitat protection, victim’s rights, higher education options, and children of military servicemembers. I have other bills that will resume debate when the legislature reconvenes in January. A summary of the signals that is included below:

AB 218 - Enables transgender Californians to update their marriage certificates and birth certificates of their children to accurately reflect their legal name and gender, while protecting their privacy. (Sponsor: Equality California)

AB 223 - Makes it unlawful to take children from their natural habitat on land owned by the state or local government or on property that is not one’s own. Our native plants and wildlife are recent high commodity for poaching and overseas black trade; this law gives watershed stronger tools to prevent poaching by making unlawful to sell or possess with the intent to sell any dudleya illegally taken from its natural habitat and establishes higher penalties for individuals. (Sponsor: California Native Plant Society)

AB 302 – Helps taxi drivers lower their annual permitting costs by consolidating permitting activity across the county’s one agency – the Metropolitan Transit System – instead of multiple permits across all the cities they wish to operate.

AB 340 - Updates California law to permit California’s students with ScholarShare and other 529 savings accounts to utilize these funds to pay student loan debt and expenses related to qualified graduate programs. (Sponsor: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma)

AB 491 - Eliminates discrimination in the planning and design of mixed-income multifamily structures and developments, ensuring the residents of affordable housing developments have the same access to common entrances, areas, and amenities as the occupants of market-rate units.

AB 514 – Protects victims of “reverse pornography” by exempting the requirement of a bond in order to have a restraining order in effect to stop distribution of sensitive images, and extends effect of an order to include others informed that material is transmitted.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 59 - Urges the California State Board of Education to establish an Endowment and manage a Purple Star Schools Award Program to acknowledge public schools that demonstrate excellence in the standards, practices, and procedures to facilitate the integration and academic success of school-age students of military service members.

DISTRICT SURVEY & SERVICES

As I prepare for the 2022 legislative year beginning in January, I am out across the district meeting with constituents and community groups. I also want to hear directly from you! Please take a moment to identify your priorities for legislation and provide helpful feedback today:

My District office is ready to assist you with contacting state agencies to deal with specific issues or to obtain information on public services such as:

- Veterans benefits and programs
- Workers’ Compensation claims
- Professional conduct or licensing complaints
- Consumer complaints
- Reports issued by the Legislature and state agencies
- Estate & Capital lawsuits

For questions regarding our survey or for assistance with any state-related issues or resources, contact my team during regular business hours, Monday–Friday at (619) 645-3090. To reach someone by email, contact my team via email at Assemblymember.Ward@assembly.ca.gov.

Chris Ward, State Assemblymember, District 78
PEMBERLEY REALTY

This year, Roxanne and Pemberley Realty celebrate 22 years of serving the community! We have loved serving University Heights residents with their real estate needs as well as with community events. We have enjoyed sponsoring events like Summer in the Park concerts, Taste of University Heights, and Caroling in the Heights. We have also shared Halloween, Christmas, and New Years. We have been able to share many happy hours virtually and in our office space. We cannot wait to resume all of our fun events in 2022.

The pandemic affected our health, our social fabric, as well as our real estate market. The real estate market in particular had a very unpredictable reaction to the pandemic. We were faced with an unprecedented demand for housing, unlike what we have ever seen. I have gone back to my experience of the housing crash of 2006, and I do find similarities to today’s real estate market. Like 2006, houses are in demand and prices are up. However, today’s real estate market is very different from what we saw in the days of the crash. Some say there is a crash happening as the prices have gone up so much. Some ask, with such a shortage of inventory persisting, how could a crash come about? These are both valid opinions.

The reality of the real estate market is that it is hard to predict what will happen in the future. What I have experienced in my 22 years of servicing my clients and the community is that the slowdown in real estate is usually short lived and temporary. It is best to time the market against your personal situation, rather than outside factors. If it is time to sell, then it will be the best decision to do so because the flow of energy that is released out of that sale can create other opportunities. The New Year is a time to review the past and plan for the future. Whatever 2022 will have in store for us, the best way to approach it is to assess your personal circumstances, plan accordingly, and make sure to implement those plans. After all, New Year’s Resolutions are most powerful when they are set as goals in the beginning of the year, so that they can continue to inspire us all year long. We hope 2022 is full of good decisions, health, and happiness for you all.

Please join us in the new year as we will resume our monthly happy hours with a twist: watch for our Food Truck Fridays, and come visit us when you start that New Year’s resolution in 2022! Let’s have great food and talk about real estate! Happy Holidays from our Pemberley Realty Team!

SUSTAINABLE UH

Resolved!

It can be disheartening (to say the least) to hear lip-service paid by city leaders regarding “new and improved” Climate Action Plans that are never fully acted upon, while global leaders seem to flail around instead of doing what climate scientists know we need to do…

And yet, it’s that time of year to enjoy the holiday season and to make resolutions for an even better year ahead. In that spirit, following are some actions neighbors and friends in UH plan to take to make the season brighter for us all:

Stop the wrapping paper madness

and waste by adding homemade flair to gently used gift bags and by wrapping gifts in beautiful, reusable fabric like the Japanese gift-wrapping method called Furoshiki (fymag.com/strategist/article/furoshiki-gift-wrapping-ideas.html).

Eliminate disposable product containers by shopping for food at the Mighty Bin in North Park, once it opens in January, and by purchasing only products we can carry in our own reusable bags from other stores (thesnigelnbin.com).

Raising funds to buy a new electric leaf blower for our gardeners (crowd source the budget of some of our gardeners—why not crowd fund a solution now instead of waiting? Pedestrians and cyclists currently breathing in leaf blower exhaust will thank us!)

Grow Food! Those of us who may have given up due to marauding squirrels digging out the roots of our potted plants and garden beds can get back to growing our own herbs, tomatoes, greens, etc., and avoid daily shopping trips and the bags involved. Squirrel-proofing is the key (www.farmersalmanac.com/keep-squirrels-out-garden).

And, of course, those of us who still don’t have a green waste bin can find places to drop off our Christmas trees at wasterecord.org or www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/events/christmas.

Why not make an after-New Year’s day of it with neighbors—borrow or rent a truck and get those trees to the recyclers. Then come home and drink a New Year’s toast to better days ahead!

- Judith Annicchiarico
An Awesome Halloween on Maryland Street

Our amazing neighbors on Maryland Street pulled it off. Thanks to their tireless and creative efforts, University Heights was once again the talk of the town for an amazing Spooktacular display. Scores of folks enjoyed the performances, decorations, and the feeling of things starting to get a little back to “normal.”

photo credits: Susan Blackwell

Historic Spalding Place!

Multiple offers and in Escrow in 5 Days!

1831 Spalding Place $725,000
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom 981 Sq Ft
Classic Craftsman in the Spalding Place Historic District with Mills Act status for great property tax savings! Super cute home with wood floors in the living and dining areas, fireplace façade, beautiful built-ins in the dining room, remodeled kitchen with granite counters and remodeled bath. Nice outdoor space with deck plus the detached building can be used for a workshop, office, art room or many other choices. Superb location and just steps to Park Blvd restaurants and Trolley Barn Park!

MARY ANNE STEVENS | ANASTASIA BREWER
Don’t make a move without us!

Call us to get your property SOLD too!

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