Earth Fair 2022

Is Here! Please Help If You Can

On Monday, March 14, UHCA held its first “Cookies with the Cops” event in over two years. Over 50 people gathered at Madison Avenue and New York Street to have a conversation with the SDPD, represented by Community Relations Officer David Surwillo, our Councilmember’s office, represented by Benny Cartwright, and San Diego Rangers, represented by Michael Cassidy. Brian Gruters from PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) was also on hand to talk about the agency’s efforts to help the homeless people in our community.

Officer Surwillo reviewed the procedures for reporting encampments using the GetDiDone app, and questions from the group about how to prevent fires in the canyons were top of mind. Ranger Cassidy explained how the mix of private and public properties can make canyon clean-ups more challenging and indicated that volunteer canyon clean-ups will be happening again (watch UH News and social media for more details).

As the topic of homelessness was being discussed, a well-known homeless man who frequents the canyons walked by, and the group was able to witness first-hand how Brian from PATH made an initial contact to engage and begin to provide help. After that encounter, Brian explained to the group how PATH works and how they are trying to move past merely sheltering people temporarily, and getting them into more permanent (and if needed, supportive) housing. Both Officer Surwillo and Brian talked about how the SDPD and PATH are now working better together, and Brian let the group know that one of PATH’s goals will be to have more coverage in the UH area.

There is no easy solution to the homeless issue—in our neighborhood, in San Diego, or in California—but having an open line of dialogue with the SDPD and the city’s new partner, PATH, is a first step. UHCA’s Neighborhood Watch is a great way for our community to make sure that problems are being addressed, followed-up on, and where needed, escalated.

On Sunday, April 24, Earth Fair will once again fill Balboa Park with exhibits, activities, and opportunities to support our earth’s environment for ourselves and future generations. This year’s fair will be the 31st one (after being cancelled the last two years) and offers a great opportunity to get out and learn something new about sustainability practices, Zero Waste solutions, and the newest electric cars on the market while also enjoying art, fun kids’ activities, music, food, and—let us forget—beer gardens.

With their small grant from the City of San Diego, EarthWorks has their work cut out for them as they mount this year’s fair. Besides the city’s smaller grant, exhibitor fees plus money from sponsors and donations will fund the event, and with this year’s rising costs, EarthWorks could use any additional donations folks are able to offer.

They also need volunteers—lots of them. If you’re up to helping out with visitor services, safety and security, set-up and break-down, or even directing parade participants where and when to line up, among many other jobs, please do sign up as soon as possible. Volunteer trainings will take place Saturday, April 16 and Friday, April 22. Check the list of volunteer opportunities on the EarthFair website, and pitch in to help stage this great event: EFVo.org.

San Diegans are rightly proud of our “largest free annual environmental fair in the world.” While the psychological pressure of worrying about climate change’s effects can lead some of us to deny and even despair, as San Diego EarthWorks CEO Carolyn Chase puts it, the great thing about Earth Day and Earth Fair is that they remind us “there is something we can do about it.”

Plus there’s a parade! And you can participate in that, too! This year’s theme is “Together We Will.” Sign up at earthparade.org. Check [https://www.earthfairweb.org/ EarthFair.html](https://www.earthfairweb.org/EarthFair.html) for additional details. See you there!

— Judith Annichiarico

COOKIES WITH THE COPS

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— Judith Annichiarico
My household has been trying to do our part to be better for our planet. We installed solar panels in 2016 (we actually convinced owners of 3 of the 6 units in our building to do it), we’ve avid recyclers and try to minimize single use plastics, we installed water-conserving appliances and fixtures, we’re moving forward with an all-electric car, and I’ve been trying to use my bike more for trips around town.

In my “day job,” I work with printers around the world, and I’m inspired by how my industry has worked to ensure that forests are more sustainable (for every tree used to make paper, four are planted). Recycling is not only the norm, but now reusability is a driving force: ink containers are now made with plastics recycled from other returnable containers.

While this all feels good as we celebrate Earth Day 2022 (and it should!), there is so much more we can and need to do immediately to help reduce our waste, carbon footprint, and water consumption. Hopefully the articles in this issue will give you some ideas about what you and your family can do. Or perhaps you have already been inspired by our guest speaker at the March Community Meeting (replay available at www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting) to make the move to solar. Regardless of where we take our inspiration, every single thing that every individual does collectively adds up and makes a difference, both immediately and for future generations.

UHCA has been incredibly busy planning (finally!) events. I just came back from our “Cookies with the Cops,” and it was an amazing gathering of 54 people having a conversation about what we can do to help with the homeless situation in our neighborhood. One of the things I love so much about UH is how people care about this neighborhood, and more importantly, are willing to step up and be a part of the solution. I’m honored to be a part of an organization that helps people organize to do that.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, clean-ups, celebrations, and more in the coming weeks and months, especially at the 25th anniversary of our beloved UH sign at the end of this month. It feels so good to see our community come back together again, live and in person!

## UHCA News

### APRIL UH CROSSWORD

Across
1. Buy Nothing Motto “Give, Ask, Give, Ask…”
2. Bakery & Coffeehouse in UH
3. Parkhouse restaurant
4. SD County Commissioner for UH
5. Authentic, classic
6. UH based State Farm agent
7. Park in SD
8. Bakery & Coffeehouse in UH
9. East-West bike-friendly street
10. CEO of San Diego Earth Day
11. UH Sign designer
12. UH Accounting & Tax Services firm
13. Help create UHCA and Trolley Barn Park
14. Place for books
15. Former bowling alley in Mission Valley
16. Neighboring community
17. Real estate on Park Blvd.
18. State Senator for UH
19. UHCA Team that cleans up UH
20. Another term for restroom, * station
22. Panels
23. CA State Assembly member for UH
24. Type of palm tree found in UH
25. State Senator for UH
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27. UHCA meeting on first * of the Month
28. Company that built the UH trolley sign

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### Yearly Membership

( ) $75 Business Plume
( ) $120 Golden Ostrich (Household)

### Make a Difference!
JOIN TODAY AND HELP MAKE UH BETTER?

**Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
**Blockwalking** 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.
**Program & Events** Plan and oversee the 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

### Want to help make UH better? Join a UHCA Committee!

- **Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- **Blockwalking** 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 the various events and general meetings.

### HouseHold

- Thalia Diessen, John (Brian) Ross, Mike & Nikki Mirasola, Robert Dowell, John & Gulshan Satterberg

### UHCA News Mailed

- Peter & Gail Volkert

### Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

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

### Our Mission

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego’s University Heights.
Benny Cartwright, with Ryan Darsey, from Stephen Whitburn’s office shared that they are looking forward to results from the Trolley Barn Park survey. The Community Conversation series is launching. The library postcards are being received in Mr. Whitburn’s office.

Abby Renter from Nathan Fletcher’s office stated that about $4 million in funding was appropriated for a Micro Business Grant Program. They’re still in the process of hiring, and applications for an interim sheriff are being accepted.

**Featured Speaker**

Nikki Mirasola, our new Program Chair, introduced Rob Nikolewski, energy reporter for the SD Union-Tribune on the topic of Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0. It is a process in which a rooftop solar system generates more energy than the residence or business consumes. The excess energy is sent back to the grid and customers receive a credit on their bill. The proposal will decrease how much of a credit people receive, create a grid participation charge on all residential solar systems, establish a $600 million equity fund to support clean energy, and provide a 10 year payback for adding a battery system to your solar system. This proposal has generated a lot of controversy and passion.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

**UH PHONE BOOK**

**CRIME WATCH SIGNS**

UHCA installed 60 new signs in 2016. If you know of an old sign that needs replacing or a location needing a sign, email signs@uhsd.org.

**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH continues to be a problem. Shaving time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Please email signs@uhsd.org.

**DISASTER CONTACTS**

In case of a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy.

When the power is out, cellphones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.

**March 3 UHCA Community Meeting Summary**

The March 3 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via zoom, with 31 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at [www.uhsd.org/meetings](http://www.uhsd.org/meetings).

**Crime Watch:** Benny Cartwright opened the Crime Watch portion. Officer Michael Hayes shared that the city is currently doing a homeless count, including 4 points of contact, from an initial field interview to being taken into custody, booked, and released. Services are offered at each stage. Police are again first contact when using the GetItDone app. Groups like PATH are called to support.

The Neighborhood Policing Division is currently 3200 complaints behind on encampments.

**Announcements:** UHCA President Marc Johnson opened the meeting – Happy Spring! New volunteers were welcomed including Lauren Doucette with the Events Team. Thank you to all our current hardworking volunteers. Thank you to all our business members.

We’re looking for people to help in many areas.

**Beautification:** Sol Schumacher announced the planned graffiti clean-up along Park Boulevard in March. Birney Elementary is requesting that residents adopt a tree along Campus or Meade. Watering, weeding and general upkeep would be appreciated. Graffiti and vandalism continues on the Vermont Street Bridge and area.

**Events:** Stu McGraw reports that the 25th Anniversary Sign Celebration will be held on April 30. Tickets are $20 each. The UH Community Yard Sale is on June 4. Cookies with the Cops are being provided by Sheep Riley from Big Front Door.

**Library Updates**: Jeff Garthaus shared that book sales have returned. The annual Spring into STEAM challenge will be happening March, April and May for kids aged 9 through 12. The Discover & Go program is also operating. Go to www.sandiegolibrary.org. Kristin Harms shared that free Historic Webinars would be hosted on March 24th and 31st. For more information email uhsdhis@gmail.com. Matthew Brown, newly elected, introduced himself.

**Elections Happened in March. Sign up for UH-CAN at www.cc-uh.org.**

**Trolley Barn Park** is available at www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey. North Park Planning Events:

“Cookies with the Cops” are being provided by Sheep Riley from Big Front Door. April 30. Tickets are $20 each. The UH Community Yard Sale is on June 4. Cookies for a good cause will be provided by Stu McGraw.

**Code Violations**

Nan McGraw opened the Crime Watch Conversation series. The library postcards are being received in Mr. Whitburn’s office. Matthew Brown, newly elected, introduced himself.

**Zone Watch Coordinators** manage email lists of participants wishing to support clean energy, and provide a 10 year payback for adding a battery system to your solar system. This proposal has generated a lot of controversy and passion.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary
Nature in the Neighborhood

Anna versus Allen

Nature can be quite dynamic, particularly in response to obvious human conversions of the natural landscape. Other forces, such as climate change, can be more subtle in effect, but in any case the ensuing adjustments by native species to such changes may be complex, delayed, and difficult to predict.

Such is the case of two species of hummingbird that share the coastal lowlands of southern California: the Anna’s (Calypte anna) and the Allen’s (Selasphorus sasin). The species’ names are arbitrary, after historical figures.

These humming species are easily distinguished by plumage, even without binoculars: Anna’s males have rosy-red, iridescent throats, shiny green backs, and whitish undersides. Females are similar, but lack the showy throat plumage. Allen’s males have iridescent rusty-orange throats and show much rufous-rust, as well as shiny green, on the sides and back. Correspondingly, females have rusty backs and sides, but lack the brilliant throat plumage (Anna’s never shows rufous or orange in its plumage).

Anna’s is California’s common and widespread hummingbird, primarily adapted to native chaparral and woodlands, nesting in late winter and spring, and persisting at temperate latitudes throughout winter due to reliance on a few native, winter-blooming plants. Naturalists a century ago recognized that advancing human development and introduction of additional exotic, winter-blooming plants was already resulting in enhancement of this species’ ability to maintain year-round populations at these moderately high latitudes.

The Allen’s hummingbird, also native, was historically restricted almost entirely to the extreme northwestern corner of our county. However, within one decade the Allen’s hummingbird had expanded its breeding range southward and established year-round residence.

This highly migratory species originally spent its winters in the sub-tropics south of the border. The venerable 2004 San Diego County Bird Atlas described Allen’s hummingbird as a transient migrant species that had just barely established breeding in the extreme northwestern corner of our county. However, within one decade the Allen’s hummingbird had expanded its breeding range southward and established year-round residence.

Its range expansion is also attributable to the inviting variety of exotic blooming plants introduced by humans, but why has it taken so many decades to respond?

Most intriguing about this case are the dynamics between the two species. In recent years, birders have noted gradual local increases in the numbers of Allen’s, and it has been suggested that they are displacing Anna’s. Ecologists refer to this phenomenon as the “competitive exclusion”; detailed study would be required to determine whether the term applies to this story.

In my wanderings through the heart of University Heights, I do find more Allen’s than Anna’s, regardless of season. However, my 12-year winter bird study in semi-native Balboa Park shows Anna’s to be more abundant, but Allen’s slowly increasing in numbers. It is likely that an equilibrium has not yet been reached, and the question therefore is whether there is ecological space for both species.

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—— John Lewis

UHCA Beautification

Adopting Trees, Reporting Graffiti, And Cleaning Up!

Our March 12 cleanup along Park Boulevard was a great success! We had 12 volunteers who worked along both sides of the street and collectively removed hundreds of stickers from a variety of surfaces, along with graffiti. The following people gave their time and energy to keep UH clean: Helene Blech, Ruben Licheri, Brenna Rheinhart, Eric Rheinhart, Raveh Abedi, Michelle Abedi, Josh Eckely, Rob Kaczorowski, Amy Kaczorowski, Sol Schamer, MaryBeth Chrubil.

A total of 30 volunteer hours supported this event, from coordination to the cleanup itself. The Independent Sector has assigned a value of $28.94 per hour of volunteer time, which translates to $865.20 of contributed labor! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for this effort. Your work really made a big difference along Park Boulevard.

The Beautification Team has also created an Adopt-A-Tree program to help the struggling trees planted alongside Birney Elementary thrive. Trees are available for adoption along both Meade Avenue and Campus Avenue. In adopting a tree, you will commit to weeding around the base of the tree as needed and watering it twice a month. The B-Team will fortify the trees as required. When you adopt a tree, you will be able to name your tree and have your name featured as an adopter on your tree!

Individuals that choose to adopt will commit to doing so in three-, six-, or twelve-month periods. To adopt your tree, please contact B-Team Leader Jennifer Bishop at email address noted below.

Additionally, there has been a major uptick in vandalism throughout University Heights, which is a major blight on our neighborhood. If you are out and about in our community and see buildings tagged with graffiti, please report it as soon as possible on the City of San Diego Get It Done app, available to download for free. If you see a construction site tagged, report it to the site manager and ask that it be covered over as soon as possible. It has been proven that the faster graffiti is removed, the less likely the culprit is to return to do it again. If you would like to volunteer as part of the University Heights graffiti removal team and help remove graffiti on lamp posts, sidewalks, and other, smaller areas, please contact B-Team leader Jennifer Bishop. You will be given all the supplies required to help keep our community free of graffiti.

—— Jennifer Bishop

www.uhsd.org
An Opportunity to Make a Real Difference: Plant Trees and Save the Ones We Have

This month our UH Beautification Team is calling for volunteers to adopt the street trees planted around Birney Elementary on Meade and Campus Avenues. Helping those trees to grow tall and strong will be a boon to the neighborhood, contributing to children’s pleasant walks to school for years to come. Once mature, the trees will shade the street and sidewalk, contribute oxygen to our air, and even sequester carbon emissions.

A flourishing urban forest tree canopy is a well-researched, proven solution to so many environmental woes, from air pollution to heat islands to greenhouse-gas proliferation. Acknowledging trees’ importance, our city’s leaders have enacted policies and programs designed to plant, preserve, and protect our trees, all of which has been a great start.

Unfortunately, according to Carolyn Chase, CEO of San Diego Earth Day and TreeWatch San Diego, city-provided street trees live an average of seven years and then die due to neglect and sometimes incorrect planting. So those trees never have a chance to grow large enough to contribute to the much-needed tree canopy for which they were intended. Additionally, for one reason or another, mature trees are cut down in places where they should have been maintained.

Removing infested trees is crucial to slowing the weevil’s progress, but the city has made it clear that we won’t be getting any (previously promised) help removing dead and dying palms, particularly those on private property. City Urban Forester Brian Widener and our local Park & Rec area manager have not returned our calls regarding this issue.

We can thank climate change for the South American palm weevil’s arrival, and the pest is clearly here to stay for the foreseeable future. The expense of regular professional pesticide treatments required to keep Canary Islands Date Palms weevil-free, not to mention the toxic burden on the environment of the neonicotinoid poisons involved, suggests that property owners should consider other types of trees for landscaping and should have infested trees on their properties removed as quickly as possible. Reputable plant nurseries and arborists should be able to guide us toward trees that have a fighting chance to survive and thrive in our new warmer and drier “normal.”

— Judith Annicchiarico

PALM WEEVIL UPDATE: TIME TO ADAPT

In June 2020 we first reported on the South American palm weevil’s attack on our county’s ornamental palms, including many Canary Islands Date Palms here in UH. Approximately 20,000 ornamental palms have been killed by the weevil in San Diego County since 2014. Removing infested trees is crucial to slowing the weevil’s progress, but the city has made it clear that we won’t be getting any (previously promised) help removing dead and dying palms, particularly those on private property. City Urban Forester Brian Widener and our local Park & Rec area manager have not returned our calls regarding this issue.

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— Judith Annicchiarico

To encourage more public transit ridership, the MTS is establishing a new spur that will take people from the HUB in Hillcrest all the way to the Green Line in Mission Valley. The new trolley line will commence at the HUB and cross Washington Street via the Vermont Street bridge, then wind through University Heights along restored tracks on Lincoln and Maryland where passengers will transfer to a new zip-line over I-8 into Mission Valley, terminating at a zip-to-trolley connection station at the old Macy’s store. Helmets are recommended for the zip-line portion of the ride. Construction will begin immediately, with service expected to launch in time for the holiday shopping season in 2030.

— The UH Transit Fool

Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Bridge

Give. Ask. Gratitude: The Buy Nothing Project

The concept behind the Buy Nothing Project began in the Pacific Northwest when two friends brought their children to the beach. As they looked up and down the shore they noticed a proliferation of plastics washed up and strewn along the sand. Over time they collected and investigated the origins of these plastics and found they were from local neighborhoods. In an effort to curtail the vast amount of waste polluting the environment, they envisioned a way to encourage communities to buy less and share more.

That was in 2013. Today there are over 5 million members in more than 7,000 communities around the world participating in “Buy Nothing” groups. There are two ways to participate in the Buy Nothing Project. The first is via a recently released smartphone app, and the other, as noted in our June 2021 Sustainable UH column, is via a private group on Facebook called “Buy Nothing Hillcrest/University Heights, San Diego, CA,” which formed in 2016 and boasts 2.7K members. To join, you must live in one of the associated zip codes and must not be a member of another Buy Nothing group. Their motto is “Give. Ask. Gratitude.”

Diann Nephew, who lives in University Heights, is the current and sole administrator of the Buy Nothing group. Their motto is “Give. Ask. Gratitude.”

Diann Nephew, who lives in University Heights, is the current and sole administrator of the local group. She has generously given of her time to manage it for many years. She says the best thing about moderating is interacting with all the wonderful people who live in her neighborhood and the surrounding area. The most challenging thing about moderating is keeping up with all of the posts. Of course, there are always reminders about guidelines to be given, but that comes with the territory. She feels blessed to be a part of it all.

The group has grown so large that Diann thinks it’s probably time to have two separate groups for Hillcrest and University Heights. She’s found members who want to help, and she hopes to have more admins very soon! To learn more about your local Buy Nothing group, visit Facebook and search in groups for “Buy Nothing.”

— Thalia Driessen

EarthFair 2022

Sunday, April 24 Balboa Park 10AM – 5PM

Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Bridge

Sustainable UH

EarthFair 2022

Sunday, April 24 Balboa Park 10AM – 5PM

Together We Can

Exhibit • Volunteer • Sponsor • Attend

www.EarthDayWeb.org
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<td>UH Park &amp; Rec Meeting</td>
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<td>SDUSD Board Meeting</td>
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<td>North Park Planning Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Friends of the UH Library Task Force Meeting</td>
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<td>SDUSD Board Meeting</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.upa.org">www.upa.org</a></td>
<td>May UHCA News Out</td>
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<td>Arbor Day</td>
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<td>National Hairstylist Appreciation Day</td>
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**BIRNEY BUZZ**

**The Meaning of Running at Birney**

How many miles would you run to rule your school? In March, the students at Alice Birney Elementary School participated in a school-wide fitness-focused fundraiser, where the grand prize is getting to run the school itself. Known as the “Run for the Green,” kids run as far as they can, while raking in the “green” (slang for money) from friends, family, and neighborhood sponsors. The money they raise is used to pay for “Specials,” the classes that are not fully funded by the San Diego Unified School District: Art, Spanish, Library, and Garden.

The student who contributes the most green to Birney is awarded the honorary title of “Principal For A Day.” On that special day, they get to make the best executive decisions – longer lunch, longer recess, more Art, Spanish, Library, and Garden learning. Our own children tried to run at least a mile a day during the fundraiser. My husband, who took up running during the pandemic, also started running a mile a day during the fundraiser. My husband couldn’t do it, the charge of running with our son fell on me.

The furthest I’d run for at least a decade was about 1/4 mile. At first, I said I’m not a runner and try to avoid running at all costs. But later, I gave in. I was inspired by the transformation of the garden. Mike moved the garden to the back of the school and turned it into a succulent garden. Mike and Wendell’s home is situated on the corner of Madison and Rhode Island, and every square inch of the front yard is overflowing with a remarkable array of succulents.

Sometimes it’s the little things that create a true sense of community. This month’s Plume goes to Mike and Wendell Perkins for the many gifts they offer from their magnificent and unique garden.

Mike and Wendell’s home is situated on the corner of Madison and Rhode Island, and every square inch of the front yard is overflowing with a remarkable array of succulents. If you’re passing by you may spot some potted clippings of these spectacular succulents neatly arranged under an inconspicuous “FREE” sign. Over the last few years, the couple has gifted hundreds of these plants to their neighbors. Overall, the garden didn’t look as beautiful as it does now. Mike moved the garden into Madison in 1987 and Wendell in 2016. After they married in 2017, the transformation of the garden began. The first thing to go were some spiky palm trees that were growing into the walkway.

Over the years a thoughtful neighbor named Angie (who turns 99 this May) gave away so many plants? They thought it would be a neighborly thing to do and good for the environment! What they like most about living in University Heights is that “The people are great! Their kindness is contagious. So let’s make that the next pandemic!”

**ROO NEWS**

**Roosevelt Middle School Music Field Trip**

After almost two years of schooling in pandemic-induced isolation, students at Roosevelt International Middle School finally enjoyed a “field trip” that was not conducted over Zoom or other digital formats. We hope this is a harbinger of more interactions between students and the broader community as Covid case numbers in San Diego drop.

On February 24, the Roosevelt Music Boosters welcomed double bass virtuoso Xavier Foley, who performed and took questions during an “on-campus field trip” for music students during the school day. Mr. Foley is a La Jolla Music Society “Discovery Series” artist and the rare performer who plays the double bass as a solo instrument. The performance was arranged by RMS Music Community Outreach representative Sanyia Harris, a volunteer from the neighborhood who uses her connections in the music world to provide unique musical opportunities to RMS students.

In normal times, Ms. Treviño explained, RMS band, orchestra, and jazz band students would participate in competitions at other schools, attend workshops with professional musicians, and go to San Diego Symphony performances. They were typically able to participate in two to three events per semester. She hopes they will be returning to such activities soon.

Watch local news coverage of this remarkable performance at https://tinyurl.com/RooMusicCBS.

— Andy Hinds

**Succulent garden**

**PLUME**

Mike & Wendell Perkins

Sometimes it’s the little things that create a true sense of community. This month’s Plume goes to Mike and Wendell Perkins for the many gifts they offer from their magnificent and unique garden.

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Over the years a thoughtful neighbor named Angie (who turns 99 this May) periodically gifted them succulents from her garden. She was very generous with her plants, and they love carrying on the tradition she began.
Kim Schmidt, born January 27, 1951, passed away March 7, 2022. Kim retired in 2017 after working at the library for over 16 years. He enjoyed traveling, his cats, books, computers, his “bestie,” Barb, and everything silly. During his time at the University Heights Library from May 2012 until December 2016, he filled our branch with many toys, costumes, props, puppets, and shenanigans. He helped us celebrate the UH Branch’s 100th Anniversary in 2014 and the current library building’s 50th anniversary in 2016.

Kim also helped usher in a new era of the UH Friends of the Library with a new group of Friends and hosted community events like a meeting of UHCA Cookies with Cops, UH Friends of the Library holiday parties, and Story Time with Chopper the Dog. In 2016, he even organized a ceremony marking the library’s installation of the first public gender-neutral restroom facilities in San Diego.

Kim and Chopper the Biker Dog

Benny Cartwright (interim district rep.)
stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov
619-236-6633 / 619-595-1481 fax
San Diego, CA 92101
600 B Street, Suite 2240
NATHAN FLETCHER, DISTRICT 4
christopher.gris@asm.ca.gov
Christopher Gris, 619-645-3090
619-645-3090 / 619-645-3094 fax
San Diego CA 92101
1350 Front Street, Suite 4061
TONI ATKINS, DISTRICT 39
STATE SENATOR
STATE CONGRESSWOMAN
SARA JACOBS, DISTRICT 53
2700 Adams Avenue, Suite 102
San Diego, CA 92116
619-280-5353 / 619-280-5311 fax
nathan.fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov
Abbey Reuter, 619-531-4936
619-531-5544 / 619-531-6262 fax
San Diego, CA 92101
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
TODD GLORIA
SAN DIEGO MAYOR
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego CA 92101
619-236-6330 / 619-236-7228 fax
MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov

Kim as a child

My mom helped Kim do his genealogy, and he was somewhat surprised to learn that he had Jewish ancestors. He embraced this news and told some of our regulars who then invited him for Passover. My mom helped Kim do his genealogy, and he was somewhat surprised to learn that he had Jewish ancestors. He embraced this news and told some of our regulars who then invited him for Passover.

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Kim and Chopper the Biker Dog

Friends of the UH Library

Celebrating Poetry and the Benefits Libraries Provide

We often hear how April showers bring May flowers. But this month, April showers us with words thanks to National Poetry Month, School Library Month, and National Library Week.

National Library Week (NLW) takes place April 3-9 celebrating with the theme of “Connect with Your Library.” This theme promotes Libraries as places to connect to information and ideas with technology, media, programs, and classes – in addition to books. It also emphasizes how Libraries, such as our own University Heights Library, connect communities to each other. Stop by our library to check out the recommendations and programs for NLW.

School Library Month provides opportunities for school librarians to share the essential role of libraries in transforming learning. As a child, I borrowed many books from my school library and bookmobiles (which are celebrated on April 7 with National Library outreach Day). School librarians always encouraged me to read, which opened up worlds of adventure and excitement.

What We Wouldn’t Give

How we wish to be the power in spring’s tiny buds; vigorous new life awaiting blossom on rose stems. Cut spikes recently healed from the prune; royal, ruby-red emerges from the fading rain!

If we could be the mighty re-emerging green, our strength feeding nature’s urge to grow, the wild force, creation’s will to survive, we’d be content to declare, we met the task!

We’d want to be the drive behind this forthcoming birth! Wanna be the wiggle in the sparrow’s womb; listening to the invite of spring whispers; feel the fervor of welcome from the earth!

And we’d love to sense winter’s melting force, the departure of traveling chill, the feeling of its farewell!! We ponder earth’s intent, souls who welcome warmth. What if we were nature and beheld the force of earth?

Jon Von Erl
Your University Heights Poet
4/2022

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NEW IN UH

The Mighty Bin Opening Soon

The Mighty Bin zero-waste grocery store is set to open this month, and we’re very excited to check out what’s in those bins! Owner Isabelle DeMillan plans to offer much of the same food you would find in a conventional grocery store, but from local and sustainable sources, and with no disposable packaging.

The store will offer a wide variety of foods from well-stocked and regularly cleaned gravity dispensers and bins. Single-use bin scoops will be washed and restocked throughout the day. Foodstuffs will include spices, herbs, flours, and sweeteners for baking and cooking, plus kitchen staples like locally produced cheeses, eggs, bread, and milk, as well as coffee and other must-haves. Vegan snacks and ingredients will be plentiful, and you’ll also find cleaning and personal care items.

The store will even offer ready-made meals in reusable containers, including vegan meals from a popular local plant-based food provider. Shoppers will be able to grab a meal from the refrigerator case and bring back the container later for a deposit refund.

The Mighty Bin is also partnering with The Compost Group to bring an organic waste drop off site to the store. Those of us who don’t yet have green waste bins should strongly consider signing up for that service!

Isabelle’s academic research taught her that people will behave sustainably if they can do so easily, with minimum upheaval to their usual routine. To get people to reduce their packaging waste, she knows, we need convenient, pleasant alternatives to the way we acquire goods. The Mighty Bin is just up the street (at the southeast corner of Utah and El Cajon Blvd.) with easy parking out front and along Utah Street. Shoppers can bring their own, lend, and/or borrow clean containers in which to carry away their groceries and cleaning supplies, and the store sells branded refillable containers as well.

Convenient and close by? Check! Pleasant shopping experience? Check! Sounds like a great opportunity to do the right thing, and we can’t wait for that Grand Opening!

Sign up for The Mighty Bin newsletter to learn more: https://themightybin.com.

The Mighty Bin
2855 El Cajon Blvd, Ste. 4
Hours (once the store opens): Tues – Sun, 11am – 7pm
Closed Mondays
— Judith Annicchiarico
Hi University Heights Neighbors!

One of the most important parts of my job as your City Councilmember is listening to you. Whether that be during the public comment section of City Council meetings, through community forums, e-mail, or phone communication with our office, or saying hello around town, I take the thoughts, opinions, and concerns of my constituents and neighbors seriously.

My office is in the midst of our 2022 Community Conversation Tour, and we were pleased to host a forum for Hillcrest and University Heights on March 10. It was nice to be able to virtually meet with a couple dozen residents from both neighborhoods and answer their questions and hear their concerns.

One issue that I know is of great importance to the University Heights community is the proposed restrooms/comfort station at Old Trolley Barn Park. I am waiting to weigh in on this issue until ample amount of information is brought to me. As I mentioned in a previous edition of this newspaper, my FY23 Budget Priorities Memo included increased funding for a variety of infrastructure projects, including repairing sidewalks, improving unpaved alleyways, and resurfacing streets throughout the district.

All of the concerns raised by community members are important, and I certainly take them into consideration. Please don’t hesitate to continue to share your thoughts and concerns with our office, and also let us know if we can be of assistance. Our office can be reached at stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov or 619-236-6633.

If you would like to participate in one of our upcoming Community Conversation Tour forums, please feel free! Even though they are each focused on different D3 neighborhoods, all residents are welcome to any of them. Visit my.d3.sandiego.gov or RSVP to the ultra-wealthy to every average Joe.

 Lotus Accounting & Tax Services
You haven’t filed taxes for the last few years and feel like you’re alone. You have all your documents on hand but feel afraid of Uncle Sam punching you in the gut. You probably already know stalling makes your situation worse.

People who are beating themselves up for “procrastinating” or who feel intimidated by the Tax process need professional help, and Lotus Accounting & Tax Services is here to help, guide, and protect them by bringing comfort to the often uncomfortable world of taxes.

Lotus Accounting & Tax Services clients range from tech companies that service millions of dollars of unnecessary taxes. I have extensive experience in IRS Representation, tax preparation, accounting and bookkeeping services. I am pleased to provide the UH community with free tax consultations and to help relieve the stress of tax season.

— Jessica Domijan | Lotus Accounting & Tax Services

We Fix Your Computer! Come to us for the lowest rates
Call Robert at 858-449-1749

Lotus Accounting & Tax Services

4565 Cleveland Ave #8 | San Diego, CA 92116
$525,000 | 2 BD | 2 BA | 813 SQFT

Upper end unit in a Fabulous University Heights location! Spacious living area, fireplace, outdoor balcony off the dining area, large MSR with mirrored wardrobe doors, and 2nd BR with walk in closet and outdoor balcony with weather/dryer hookups in the closet. Needs a buyer’s personal touch to make it their own. Garage in the alley plus parking space in front of the garage. Walk to area shops, restaurants, coffee shops and Trolley Barn Park.

4747 Hamilton St #2 | San Diego, CA 92116
$415,000 | 1 BD | 1 BA | 548 SQFT

Spacious living in prime location North of Adams! Beautiful lower unit with freshly painted interior, upgraded flooring, dual pane windows and patio area. Well planned kitchen with light wood cabinets, granite counters, gas range, stainless appliances and in-unit stacked washer/dryer. Roomy MSR, full wall closet with mirrored wardrobe doors. Garden style complex with pool and BBQ.
Jon Von Erb, University Heights Poet

What better way to celebrate National Poetry Month this April than recognizing one of our neighborhood’s most prolific poets, Jon Von Erb. Jon writes poetry everyday in the “poetry cave” on the 2nd floor of his home that he shares with his husband of 45 years. Jon finds inspiration for his poems from his surroundings. It he gets stuck, he just looks outside his window. In our neighborhood, John sees so much beauty.

Jon’s love for poetry stems from his artistic background. His mother was a contralto singer in the NYC opera, and his father was an actor on the vaudeville stage. His parents met while performing “On the Town,” and Jon grew up performing on stage. At the age of 3, after seeing the Bal desole ballet perform Swan Lake, he knew he wanted to dance. By 13, he was a professional dancer, performing with several ballet companies, as well as on Broadway. Eventually, he became a choreographer and traveled throughout Europe.

Jon’s dance career went on to include opening New Orleans’ first multi-racial, multi-ethnic studio with the goal of making dance accessible to people from all backgrounds, and later, opening another school in Alaska where he taught ballet and afro-contemporary dance styles for the University of Anchorage.

By 1989, after moving to San Francisco, Jon suffered a back injury in an accident and gravitated towards holistic healing. Eventually earning his massage therapy license and focusing his practice on patients suffering from AIDs, he created “grief massage therapy” during which his patients would talk about what they were going through while Jon listened and performed hands-on massage. At the end of each session, Jon composed a poem for the patient. The poems would incorporate the patient’s feelings during the session. These poems helped his patients better understand their grief and helped them move forward.

After almost 20 years in San Francisco, Jon and his newly retired husband moved to Palm Springs, but they eventually realized they couldn’t escape the brutal Southern California desert summers, so they decided to move to San Diego. They found the perfect house and neighborhood in University Heights.

Jon’s poetry can be found all around University Heights. In addition to contributing poems to our UH newspaper, Jon has a poetry box at Twiggs and a poetry box on the palm tree in front of his home on the corner of Mission and Mississippi. The poems are free for anyone who wants to keep them. Jon tries to replenish both boxes every day. He wants to share his love of poetry with the community. He also believes in mentoring others. Jon spends a lot of his time on various poetry websites and Zoom meetings talking about all things related to writing poetry. To Jon, poetry is a way to help others in their daily lives and to inspire people to remain hopeful and helpful as they live their lives.

— Jane Gilbert

ON THE BOULEVARDS

La Loupe Vintage

Last year La Loupe Vintage quietly celebrated 10 years in business on Park Blvd. They specialize in the 70’s, but they carry resale clothing from the late 60’s until now. They also carry a small assortment of curated modern designers, accessories, skincare, and gifts. The owner, Brandi Munoz, sees her storefront as a way to introduce a wider audience to the environmentally friendly world of second-hand shopping.

Brandi had her first “Ah Ha moment” at the age of nine when she discovered her passion for expressing herself through vintage style. This discovery developed into a ferocious desire to hunt and seek out unique clothes which would later turn into a side hustle selling on eBay in the early 2000’s.

For many years Brandi worked in the corporate retail world at big-name companies like the Gap and The Body Shop, where she learned critical skills for running a successful business, like team management, operations, and training. Her husband was a touring musician, and her career required a lot of travel. She realized she wanted to find a way to be closer to home. So, she took the leap of faith to open her own business. In 2011 Brandi found the available storefront in University Heights and fell in love with the neighborhood. So much so that she and her family ended up moving nearby.

La Loupe is the French word for “the magnifying glass.” Brandi encountered the name on the cover of a French pulp novel at a beach market. It became the name for an

As Spring Begins to Call Us

Iris, and a line of Dahlia break through sparks of rain, and we smile; for happier weather is on its way, to push those chilly clouds away.

Warm winds rock our swinging treehouses, ‘Wake up, hummingbirds’, to swoop and dash about umbrellas, still asleep atop their treehouses, ‘Wake up, hummingbirds’, to build a nest within our garden’s poles.

And when the tree-tops sway to the rhythms of fresh rebirth, we feel joyful energy wafting up both legs, begging us to join in a vernal dance.

But when the finches start to chirp and fireflies begin to buzz, we know it’s time to give thanks to winter’s chill, for its harsh visit makes April shine.

And deep inside we hear the call to build a nest within our garden’s but so our honeys can ‘Fred and Ginger’ down the path - build a crib of our own.

— Jon Von Erb

Your University Heights Poet 4/2022
Our Iconic Sign

Many San Diego neighborhoods have erected large signs to identify themselves, including North Park, Hillcrest, Kensington, Normal Heights, El Cajon Boulevard, Gaslamp, Little Italy. Even cities like Chula Vista, Carlsbad, Encinitas, and Imperial Beach have them. Not surprisingly, many UH residents feel strongly that the iconic University Heights sign at Park and Madison is one of the best signs in San Diego, if not the best.

The history of the UH sign is told in the archives of the University Heights Historical Society:

“The plans for a UH sign came together in 1994, when the various community groups and associations in UH banded together and lobbied to obtain community development block grant funding. Council District 3 councilmembers Ron Roberts and Christine Kehoe were instrumental in obtaining the initial funds, and the University Heights Community Development Corporation embarked on bringing the idea to life.

The UHCDC sponsored a community wide contest to find an aesthetic design to use as a concept from which the final sign design would be adapted. Over twenty contest entrants presented their designs at the September University Heights Community Association (UHCA) meeting. Each sign design entry was unique and creative and the winning design was chosen after a long and intense judging process. Kevin Whaley’s winning concept drawing was unveiled at the UHCA meeting. Kevin’s design contained strong symbols of University Heights’ history – cobblestone pillars, ostriches and a cable car.

The City of San Diego put the sign construction project out to bid and the Young Electric Sign Company (YESCO) was awarded the contract in 1996. Although work on the overhead portion of the sign had begun at the YESCO facility in Ontario, California, University Heights locals saw the first “signs” of the new landmark in January of 1997 when holes were dug in the sidewalk for the cobblestone posts. The highlight of the construction was on Sunday, March 2, 1997, when the sign components arrived on trucks, were raised into the air by large cranes, and assembled on site. The ostriches were then lifted to their places on top of the blue pillars and the cobblestones cemented to the base of the posts.

The University Heights sign was ready to be lighted, and festivities were scheduled on April 3rd hosted by the UHCA and the UHCDC celebration. It was a glorious event! The enthusiasm of over 500 residents was electric, and undampened by the early rain shower to witness this historic event. The rain miraculously stopped when Mayor Golding pulled the switch accompanied by Supervisor Ron Roberts, and Councilmembers Christine Kehoe and Byron Wear.”

Our community sign is maintained by the UHCDC as part of the University Heights Maintenance Assessment District, and has been lighting the way to the Park Boulevard Business District for 25 electrifying years. Perhaps one of the most photographed of all the San Diego neighborhood signs, images of the sign can be found in travel books, on magazine covers, and in thousands of Instagram and Facebook posts.

The UHCA is hosting a celebration of our sign on Saturday April 30 from 5-8pm, with participating neighborhood businesses offering food and drink samples along with live music. More information on buying a wristband to attend the festivities can be found at www.uhsd.org/Sign25.

— UHCA Events Team

Installation of the UH sign
EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Denny Stone, longtime University Heights resident, is the owner of So Cal Vintage Trailer, a business that buys, restores, and recreates iconic vintage trailers. When the cabin Denny built in Julian burned down in 2003, he bought a vintage trailer, completely gutted it, and rebuilt it. He intended to keep it for himself, but a friend wanted to buy it. Denny wound up selling the trailer and then fixing up another one. He ended up selling that one too. With a degree in marketing and a talent for building, Denny decided to leave his job in the tech world and devote his time to pursuing something that he enjoyed. He opened up Southern California Vintage Trailer in 2008.

Denny grew up in a family of builders. As a child, he had an interest in art and design—the same skills he uses now to recreate vintage trailers. Denny enjoys scouring the country to find the perfect vintage trailers. He reimagines them, then renovates them to create a brand “new” trailer. Denny specializes in Airstream trailers and other “aircraft style,” aluminum-riveted trailers, such as Curtis Wright and Spartan.

At So Cal Vintage Trailer, everything is done on site. The business is located 10 minutes away in Barrio Logan. Denny has one main designer and five people to help with the build out of the trailers. He uses one contractor for all of the upholstery work.

To create the perfect new trailer for his customers, Denny starts the design process with a story board so the client can experience the materials that they will be walking, sitting, and sleeping on. This part of the process allows for adjustments and refinements before beginning the actual building and construction. It takes about 6-12 months from start to finish to complete a restoration of a vintage trailer.

Denny is at the top of an exclusive industry. There are only about five to ten vintage trailer restoration businesses in the entire country. Denny’s motto is “There is a craft to building and restoring trailers, and there’s an art to getting it absolutely right.” At So Cal Vintage Trailer, Denny always gets it right.

— Jane Gilbert
We hope that you enjoy reading about our neighborhood’s history and how Old Trolley Barn Park came to be.

It was the grit and determination of neighbors banding together that reversed the course of a major development and eventually won enough people over to help create our neighborhood’s jewel, Old Trolley Barn Park, which now celebrates 31 years of bringing joy to us all.

Convincing the city to create Old Trolley Barn Park was only the beginning. Reclaiming our neighborhood’s identity with organizations, signage, and ultimately our iconic University Heights Trolley sign (which will celebrate 25 years this year!), were other important events in our history that helped lay a foundation for our neighborhood so that it not only had its own identity, but was improved, and has thrived over the last nearly four decades.
Pets of the Month

Vivien & Toast

Chances are that if you've ever visited the Meraki café on Adams near the corner of Park Blvd., you’ve seen Allen and his dog sitting outside at the table by the front door.

But let’s start at the beginning. In 2006 Allen moved to University Heights. He didn’t have a dog, but realized the importance of the bond of friendship that could form between humans and canines after getting to know a couple of Aussie Shepherds. His first dog was Emmy, a smart and feisty wire terrier, who he adopted in 2008 from the Humane Society. They were together for five years.

Time went by and somewhere in Imperial Beach a flea-bitten malnourished female stray dog came to a stranger’s door. She needed a home, and Allen decided to meet the dog. He hesitated at first, but after a few minutes he perked right up as if to say, “You finally got it!” She was a sweet, mellow black lab and border collie mix. Over the years that they were together, they visited Meraki hundreds of times, and Vivien became known as the unofficial greeter of the café.

In October of last year, Vivien passed away. Allen decided he wanted to adopt another dog and reached out to an organization called AmazingDogcs.org that rescues dogs from both sides of the US-Mexican border. Allen got a call that they found the perfect dog. On December 23rd, as a Christmas present to himself, he adopted the adorable and playful terrier, who he named “Toast.” Why? She resembles Emmy, so he took her to the vet and scanned for a microchip. The phone number was in Nevada, and the woman who answered said she was no longer able to keep the dog, whose name was Vivien. The first time Allen called her Vivien, her eyes widened and she perked right up as to say, “You finally got it!”

IN DEVELOPMENT

Scottish Rite Building

Last year a number of UH residents reached out to UHNews about the proposed sale and redeveloped of the Scottish Rite Center at the bottom of Texas Street at Camino del Rio South (and within view of UH homes along the canyon). The proposed project, a 125,000 sq. foot Home Depot, was approved 8-1 by the city council in May 2021, but was halted by a lawsuit filed on behalf of neighboring Local 335 of the United Food and Commercial Workers on the grounds that increased traffic and other effects were not fully analyzed. On March 22, that lawsuit was dismissed. Pending any appeals, this was the last barrier to the project proceeding.

The previous EIR analysis completed in 2015 anticipated that “retail” stores like Home Depot would be developed south of I8, and a new “big box district” could grow in that area. The council approval of the project would allow Camino Del Rio South to remain as a two-lane road, but the developer would be required to add a turning lane near the new store.

UH residents have expressed concerns around traffic backing up along Texas Street and increased pollution from added car and truck traffic. Historic preservationists have also objected to the demolition of the Scottish Rite Center building (formerly the Bowlero bowling alley), which is planned to be demolished and replaced with a smaller 2-story building without event space. Proponents cite the area as prime retail development space that will bring needed stores to the area, and Home Depot has agreed to incorporate some of the original building’s design, called “Google architecture.”

— Marc Johnson

FYI... HOME DEPOT JUST DOWN THE HILL

Restroom Survey Still Open

In last month’s UH News (https://www.uhsd.org/blog/restrooms-2022), we reported on the city considering adding a restroom at Old Trolley Barn Park. A survey was launched online (www.uhsd.org/restroomsurvey), and we encourage everyone to make their voice heard. If you can’t take the survey online, a shortened version is printed here that you can fill in and mail.

Put an X through your answer:

1. What Zip code do you reside in? [92103] 92104 92116 Other

2. How far do you live from Old Trolley Barn Park (blocks)? 0-2 3-6 7-10 >10

3. Would you like to see a permanent comfort station (restrooms) constructed at Old Trolley Barn Park? Yes No

Thanks for taking the time to let us know your thoughts! To ensure we don’t count multiple responses, please print your email or address below. You won’t be contacted nor will your identity be shared.

Name:

Email (or phone):
Parkhouse Eatery
The Parkhouse Eatery is a local icon in University Heights, easily identified by the grand clock that sits outside the restaurant. The structure was built in 1931 and was originally a house. Later it became a thrill store. In 1986, the building expanded and it became a restaurant.

Tony Loiacona bought his partner’s share and became the sole owner of Parkhouse Eatery in 2008. Born in El Paso, Texas and moving to Austin in his early 20s, Tony enjoyed the food and beverage industry and began working with a friend catering food on movie sets. After deciding he wanted to become a chef, in 1998, he moved to San Diego where he earned his degree in culinary arts and began working at Rock Bottom Brewery. He was very good at his job and quickly moved into management. Just as quickly, he decided he wanted to leave behind “corporate America” and branch out on his own, so he bought a small diner in Bird Rock, and then, with his business partner, the Parkhouse Eatery.

The Parkhouse has a warm familial feel, both in the physical structure and in the people who work there. The head chef, Gil, has been cooking at the Parkhouse since 1997. Gil’s son started helping out in the kitchen and is now a floor manager. Many of the employees have been working at the Parkhouse for 15 years, a testament to how Tony runs his business. He wants everyone, the customers and the staff, to feel a part of the community. And he wants the food to be top-notch, priced fairly, and satisfying. Tony has created a fine-dining experience in a warm and comfortable setting. A few of the items on the menu have been there since before Tony took the helm, including the popular cedar shingle salmon and panko-crusted porkchop. And while the famous “Parkhouse Benedict” is still on the brunch menu, Tony has added many more items to reflect his own culinary tastes (from his Southwest roots and his Italian heritage).

The Parkhouse survived the pandemic and built out a charming “parklet” on Park Blvd. Unfortunately, the city has recently informed Tony that the roof and lights need to be removed in order to comply with the new code: a frustration, but Tony is a nimble businessman and plans to keep the “parklet” with large umbrellas and solar lighting. After finally acquiring a full liquor license, Tony also plans to build an attractive bar area where people can sit and enjoy a drink, with or without a meal. He is hoping the dinner crowd will be enticed to come in for a meal by his reintroduced wine-pairing set menu.

Because people really enjoy the Parkhouse brunch (there is a reason people stand in line on the weekends just to get in), Tony merged the breakfast and lunch menu during the week, giving customers the chance to enjoy their breakfast foods later in the day.

Tony is proud of his restaurant. He respects and appreciates the close-knit crew who work there. He loves being a part of the UH community and values his many regular customers. You can see Tony at The Parkhouse most days/nights (except Tuesday when he plays golf), interacting with the staff and the diners, bussing tables when it is busy, enjoying the people and the cheerful atmosphere. Tony’s charm is reflected in his restaurant. The Parkhouse is inviting, warm, and a great place to have fun and eat well.

— Jane Gilbert

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