

NEWS

University Heights Community Association May 2022

It's time to Celebrate

25th Anniversary



Join UH for a block party to celebrate 25 years of our iconic Sign Park Blvd. between Madison & Adams Food, music, raffle, and neighbors! Details on Page 9

www.uhsd.org/Sign25

THE UNSHELTERED NEED A HOME

Oscar (as we're identifying him, for his privacy) is a 60-something-year-old man who lives on the streets here in University Heights. He is a native San Diegan who grew up in the Clairemont area.

About 8 years ago, under the weight of a real estate fraud, Oscar lost his home. Since then, he has managed to survive by working various odd jobs but mostly through the generosity of others. Yet despite his odd jobs and support from others, he is unable to afford a place to live.

Oscar has tried many times to find a small apartment to live in, only to be repeatedly pushed out of the market by someone who is able to pay more.

He is intelligent, educated, and articulate. His background is in health and physical education. Oscar is neither mentally ill nor a drug addict. He does not commit crimes despite living on the streets. In fact, you may see Oscar cleaning up trash along Park Boulevard – a point of pride that he's giving back to the community in some small way.

Oscar has stayed in various shelters throughout the county but has found them woefully lacking in what he, and others similarly situated, need. The traditional model for homeless shelters was developed in the 1980s. It is dorm-style living, with shared bathrooms and showers. The meals, while relatively inexpensive to provide, are high in simple carbohydrates and low on fruits and vegetables. There is a curfew that does not allow for exceptions if someone works or goes to school at night. Moreover, these shelters are only a temporary fix. The maximum stay is 90 days. In many cases, there is no guarantee that if you get a bed on one night it will be available the following day. Oscar told us, "If I have to be out at 7:30am, how do I try to land a job that will get me to the point I can make rent, if I don't know where I'm going to have to sleep that night? A lot of times I end up having to find a nook or doorway."



Homeless person (not Oscar) sleeping in doorway

Oscar needs the things that will make it possible for him to get training and a job. As the world has moved to remote work, he and others like him need laptops, phones, and affordable access to the internet. The same things also are necessary for him to continue taking community college courses and searching for a job. Oscar and other unsheltered people need realistic vocational training and assistance finding jobs commensurate with their experience and training. More than anything, he needs a place to call his own.

Oscar believes local government can solve a good portion of the homeless crisis.

"If they would just spend the huge amount of money they are spending smarter - where it is needed, on the people who need it, and not on more programs and overhead - we would see a reduction in homelessness."

"A shelter is not a home," he says. "But if the city or county would actually build affordable housing, it would help me and many others get off the street. Whether converting older apartment buildings into apartments for homeless people instead of razing them to the ground or remodeling them into places that cost thousands of dollars to live in."

The San Diego Housing Federation shared at the February UHCA monthly meeting that renters in San Diego County need to earn \$36.62 per hour — 2.8 times the City of San Diego minimum wage — to afford the average monthly asking rent of \$1,904. More than 83% of low-income households are paying more than half of their income on housing, when they can find it. The production of low income housing has been woefully inadequate, with over 142,950 San Diego residents without access to an affordable home. Making the leap from homeless to being able to afford rent, plus all of the other expenses like deposits, utilities, clothes to go to work, is not insignificant. Additional help and supportive services are needed to make that first step off the streets possible.

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Money Alone Is Not the Solution

Deborah Morrison and Katharine Cline have a passion for their neighborhood and compassion for their neighbors without homes. These two women are committed to making a difference in our community by figuring out a way to get our unsheltered neighbors off the streets and into real homes, not warehouses.

Deborah and Katharine met each other by chance at a local Italian restaurant during the pandemic. After talking to one another as the months of the pandemic dragged on, they realized they both had a lot of similar viewpoints, particularly, regarding the homeless situation in our neighborhood. They both felt that while millions of dollars were being funneled to various homeless projects, the problem was getting worse. They vowed to stop complaining about the situation and instead, work toward finding solutions to the problem.

Deborah has owned her home near the Vermont Street bridge in University Heights for six years. She is retired and spends her time volunteering for local public service organizations. After a fire accidentally broke out in the homeless encampment under the

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Twiggs Owners Bid a Fond Farewell



Before it was Twiggs, in the 1990s

After 25 years of owning Twiggs in the heart of University Heights, Bernie and I have sold Twiggs to Adrian and Delia Arancibia. They're customers of over 20 years who love Twiggs and want to continue what we've built. At this point in our lives, Adrian and Delia have far more energy and enthusiasm than we have. We're excited to see where they take Twiggs.

When we opened Twiggs 25 years ago, our mission statement was to be the best cake bakery in San Diego and to be a community center for our neighborhood in a world increasingly disconnected from itself. I'm very proud of what our bakery grew to be. And I know Twiggs has a special place in many people's hearts for the community they found there – whether neighbors, members of the recovery community, or striving singer-songwriters.

Over the past 25 years we've done more than 2000 wedding cakes and more than 10,000 birthday cakes. We've employed over 500 people in four different locations. Twiggs has been many things to us. It's been exciting, scary, gratifying, frustrating, fun, drudgery, challenging, thankless, and incredibly rewarding. In short, it's been life. And it's been our life for the past 25 years.

NEXT UHCA MEETING

MAY 5
6:45 PM

VIA zoom

FEATURED SPEAKER
ROBYN GRAND, WORDS ALIVE

Reading is the foundation of life success. Learn what Words Alive is doing to combat illiteracy in San Diego and how you can get involved. The presentation may even inspire you to hit those reading goals of your own.

UHSd.org/Attend-A-Meeting



Bernie and I couldn't have done it without each other, and we couldn't have done it without the support of so many people over the years. Whether you worked for us, were a regular customer, or purchased a cup of coffee, a bacon egg & cheese biscuit, a birthday cake or a wedding cake – thank you.

Twenty years from now when I'm an old man, one morning I'll sit down with my cup of coffee and look back on our time with Twiggs. I'll smile and think "Wow, that really happened." Thank you for helping make it happen. And thank you for your future support as Twiggs continues to live on beyond us.

— Dan Stringfield

GOLDEN PLUME

Bernie and Dan: You and the incredible business you have built have been a central part of our community and the UHCA for the past 25 years. UHCA owes you a tremendous debt of gratitude for the many years of sponsorship and goodies at events, and especially to you Bernie for guiding UHCA's growth as our longest-serving President for eight years. Your contributions and efforts to improve the quality of life in University Heights are a powerful legacy, and we will be forever thankful for the energy, kindness, spirit, and activism that you have brought to our community. The Officers and Board of UHCA bestow upon you our highest honor, the Golden Plume, with all of our deepest appreciation. We wish you both much happiness and joy in your next chapter.

INTRODUCING NEW OWNERS OF TWIGGS

As Dan Stringfield says in his letter to UH, our beloved Twiggs has been sold. But the good news is that the new owner, Adrian Arancibia, intends to keep it just as it is. Thanks to the savvy business sense and phenomenal baking skills of Bernie and Dan, Twiggs has been the premiere community hub in UH for decades. Bernie and Dan are proud of what they have built, and when it came time for them to sell, they wanted to be sure their "baby" would continue to thrive. They found the perfect buyer in Adrian.

Adrian lived in UH from the 1990s through the 2000s and was a frequent patron of Twiggs on Park Blvd. Twiggs was where Adrian worked on his dissertation for his PhD in literature at UCSD and where he enjoyed a sense of community. He valued having a place to hang out and meet others in the neighborhood.

When Adrian, now a professor of English literature and creative writing at Miramar College, and his wife, the principal at Chula Vista Elementary School, had children they moved to Bonita where they could afford a bigger home. But through the years, they missed having a bigger community anchor, a "third space" (after home

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARC JOHNSON

When we see a homeless person at the park, in a doorway or alley, or sleeping in a car, it's clear that our neighborhood has a problem- along with much of San Diego and our state, has a problem. We're all aware of the many causes, from sky-high housing costs to reduced mental health care, addiction, the pandemic, and yes, in some cases, individual choice. Our current situation isn't new, is getting worse, and feels like it's at a crisis point.

It may feel a little selfish admitting that homelessness has a direct effect on our quality of life, sense of security, and in some cases, safety. But it is troubling and difficult to go to the store and walk past so much pain and suffering. It's uncomfortable when approached for money or food. And it's dangerous when our parks, sidewalks, and alleys are littered with trash, food, needles, and even human waste. Our community recently experienced a fire that could have taken out several blocks of homes because people in an encampment were using open flames in a canyon.

The failure of this most basic safety net (if there is one) is our failure as a society. We can complain about the effects of homelessness, but until we collectively find and implement a solution, we share in that failure. Endless threads on Facebook, Nextdoor, etc., blame "the system," the closing of mental health institutions, lax laws, failed leadership, while others remind us that we are talking about human beings and need to exercise compassion. I don't purport to be anything other than a pragmatist - we have a problem, it affects many people, people are in pain, a lot of money is being spent, and we deserve to see an improvement.

This issue of UHCA News has a first-person interview with one of our homeless neighbors. He's a kind, smart, conversational guy who fell on hard times and is "stuck." I've seen people walk past him without even seeing him, but as I began conversing with him, I learned more about his story. And about him as a fellow human.

Imagine you've gone through your last dollar and have to move out of your home, you've lost your job, don't have family to turn to for help, can't afford your car anymore, and you are at rock bottom with only what you can carry to call your own. The hill to climb to get back to a safe and productive life is more like a mountain: apartment deposit, food, medicine, clothing, toiletries, transportation, utilities, the list goes on. And if you can only find a part time job, add healthcare as another significant expense. Getting "off the street" has a significant cost, one that most folks in this situation cannot afford. Oscar is one of those people that could get his life back on track, working and a productive tax-paying member of society, with some help getting him into an affordable home.

There are many other homeless people who face more daunting problems from mental and other health issues, PTSD, addiction issues, family/relationship trouble, and the list goes on. They will take a lot more resources, care, and time. We need to focus our efforts on the "quick" fixes like helping Oscar, which will free up resources that can then focus on the more intensive cases. And, we also have to acknowledge that some people are not willing to accept help and will require other solutions. Hopefully some of the changes being discussed in Sacramento, like Care Courts, create solutions for some of the truly desperate cases that we see in our neighborhood.

In this issue we also interview two amazing neighbors who have made the decision to tackle this monumental problem with grass-roots gusto. They are trying to create a core group of passionate and compassionate neighbors and business owners to educate themselves, identify solutions, and then engage with local organizations and elected officials to put those solutions to work. But perhaps more importantly, they have gotten to know their homeless neighbors as fellow human beings.

At the recent Cookies with the Cops event in March, we talked with SDDP and PATH, who are supposed to be working in partnership to help address the number of homeless in our neighborhood. But there still isn't a PATH outreach worker assigned to UH.

What can we do as a community? We can start by treating our homeless neighbors with dignity, compassion, and respect. We can also demand that our elected officials and government show results after years of promises. We must hold them accountable for the programs and contracts they sign, development deals they approve—ultimately with our votes. We can also donate what we can, where it makes the most difference. In the meantime, we need to communicate problems to PATH (619-810-8600) and SDDP (619-531-2000), and with each other via UHCA's ZoneWatch. We may not solve the enormous problem at once, but we may help individuals one at a time, which eventually will be the solution.

Marc



Unsheltered Need a Home *continued from front page*

The unsheltered need a home that is more than an industrial shell to house them, and they need it to be affordable compared to their income. When they earn income, they become economic contributors to the community, so the housing they need and deserve ultimately supports the entire community.

The City's Community Action Plan on Homelessness established a goal in 2020 of reducing homelessness by 50% by 2023. The San Diego Housing Commission contracted with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) starting in November 2020 to implement a Coordinated Street Outreach Program to work towards that goal with a \$1.45 million contract through June 2021. That contract was extended and expanded to \$2.5 million for the following year starting July 2021.

Oscar has talked with people from PATH. "They have come over to me while I'm on the bench, and ask what I need. I tell them I need an apartment so I can get back on my feet and work. They tell me to go to Father Joe's."

This is not how this problem is going to get solved, and in Oscar's case, PATH is not offering a hand-up to help support him into a permanent housing situation. If we can't help a healthy, non-drug using, intelligent, and capable person like Oscar, then what are our tax dollars actually doing for our homeless neighbors and our neighborhoods that are seeing increasing numbers of homeless on the streets?

Oscar is a kind gentleman who rescued a feral cat 5 years ago and named him Winston. Oscar trained Winston to be a friendly neighborhood cat. Like Oscar, the cat is a survivor.

— Jane Gilbert & Marc Johnson

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

BUSINESS GOLDEN OSTRICH
Big Front Door

GOLDEN OSTRICH

Marc Johnson & Jeffrey Taylor, Mary Jo Barr & Jane Gilbert, Mariana Venegas & Robert Della Valle, Joseph Caperna & Pat Conway, Katrina Dickson

Thank You!

HOUSEHOLD

Carlos & Edward Turner Cortez, Amy Waterman, Angela Chelik & Joe Nafziger, Jacqueline Glynn, Ed & Judy Ross, Daniel & Tami Mannix, Judy & Weston Riffle

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



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.



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



Yearly Membership

- () Feather - give what you can \$ _____
- () \$36 Plume (Household)
- () \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- () \$100 Business Plume

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Referred by _____

- NEW
- RENEWAL

Donor

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

Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker** Help deliver *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.

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



JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT UHSd.org.

UHCA NEWS

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Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the first of the month. Please see www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.



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UHCA MEETING NOTES IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

April 7 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The April 7 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via zoom. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting.

Crime Watch

There was a home invasion in the 4500 block of Arizona Street. Residents were zip-tied and pistol whipped. Summer's Liquor store on Park Boulevard was robbed at gun point. The medical building near Trolley Barn Park wants a blinking light crosswalk installed to navigate Adams Avenue. Homelessness and what to do about it remains a concern.



Announcements

UHCA President Marc Johnson opened the meeting – Happy Earth Day Month everyone! As events begin again, life is returning to a more normal pulse. The motto for April is “Renewal.” We continue to welcome volunteers who step forward. Thank you as well to our business members for their ongoing support.

Beautification

Sol Schumer reports that a clean-up along Park Boulevard from Meade to Adams occurred. Graffiti was cleaned up and stickers were removed. It was a great turnout.

Events

Stu McGraw reports that Cookies with the Cops had a record number of residents show up. Representatives from the SDPD, PATH, and the Park Rangers were in attendance. Big Front Door supplied the treats. The 25th Anniversary of the UH Sign Celebration will be held on April 30. Tickets were offered to UH members and residents first. The UH Community Yard Sale is coming on June 4.

Community News

The survey regarding the Comfort Station/Restrooms proposed for Trolley Barn Park has had 218 responses so far. Over 70% are against it. UHCAN asks that you sign-up to be part of a community voice on upcoming municipal matters. Concerts in the Park are returning July 8. UHCA is a sponsor. Kristin Harms reports that the webinar on historically designating your home went well. A 56-page package is available. More webinars are planned for May. For more information visit www.uhhs-uhcdc.org.

Library Updates

Rachel Esguerra reports that Kim Schmidt, former UH Branch Manager, passed away. National Library Week is going well. Book sales have returned. Nominate a book for One Book – One San Diego. The 7th annual How-To Festival and Spring into STEAM are in May. Visit www.sandiegolibrary.org for more info. Come meet Odi the Coyote at the Sign

Celebration. Isabel Schechter thanks Councilmember Whitburn for his office's support. Please join The Friends of the UH Library at www.friendsofuhlibrary.org.

Updates from Elected Officials

Christopher Gris reports that there are a number of bills that Assemblyman Christopher Ward is working on. More information can be found at a78.asmdc.org under the “Legislation” drop-down menu. Look for the 2022 Legislation Bill Package link. Governor Newsom released his budget proposal for the upcoming year. It includes tax relief for small businesses.

Abbey Reuter shared that Chair Nathan Fletcher held his 2022 State of California Address. Many topics were discussed. His office is encouraging affordable housing development. Funding is being supplied for Homeless Support Sites. A new Mental Health Hotline is available at 888-724-7240.

Featured Speakers

Nikki Mirasola opened the Speaker portion of the meeting. News Fatigue has become a serious issue. In a recent survey, two-thirds of people feel the Global Pandemic has changed their lives permanently. Many are attempting to deal with increased stress through unhealthy coping mechanisms. The Wellness Panel of speakers included Angela Balistreri, Dianna Rocha, Mackenzie Watts, and Emily Zorn. Healthy coping mechanisms were discussed, including physical movement and exercise, mindfulness awareness, ergonomics, preventative care, and a proper diet.

— Brent Orlesky, UHCA Treasurer & Interim Secretary

Ever wonder why UH is such a clean and beautiful neighborhood?

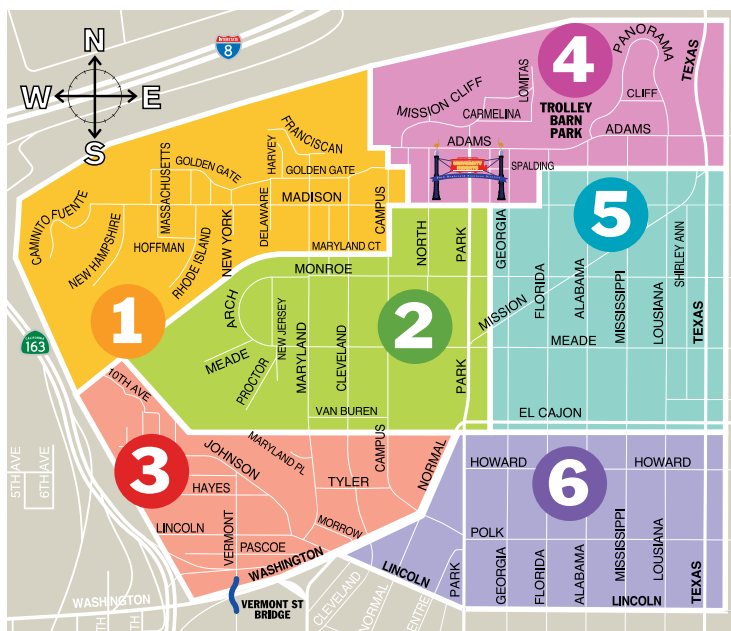
The volunteers of the UHCA Beautification Team are the angels who help keep it that way.

Join this amazing group and give back a few hours to the community you love - and that loves you back!



visit www.uhsd.org/Volunteer or email volunteer@uhsd.org

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at uhsd.org or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.



- 1 Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Heather Wilcox zone4watchuhca@gmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zhylij tamara@tamarazrealestate.com
- 6 Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com



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.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical	911
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.	619-531-2000
SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency Street lights, potholes, etc. Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments	619-527-7500
Alert San Diego Reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies requiring evacuations	www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/
2-1-1 San Diego Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.	211 or 858-300-1211
Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Alice Birney Elementary Office	619-497-3500
Animals / Non-Emergency	619-767-2675
Brush and Weed Abatement	619-533-4444
Code Violations	619-236-5500
COVID-19 City of San Diego Daily Updates	www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus
Crime Stoppers Tip Line	888-580-TIPS (8477)
Department of Environmental Health Public Health/Rats/Rodents	858-694-2888
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E	800-411-7343
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes	619-515-3525
Narcotics Suspicious drug house / anonymous	619-531-2468



Download this app for reporting non-emergency issues, like potholes, graffiti, code violations, overwatering, sidewalk problems, etc. to the City of San Diego <https://getitdone.force.com>

PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@epath.org	619-810-8600
Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support	619-692-4945
SD County Mental Health Access & Crisis Line	888-724-7240
SDPD Community Relations Officers: David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov	619-692-4858
SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street	619-692-4800
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service	800-252-4613
Stonewall Citizens Patrol	info@stonewallcitizens.org
Suicide Prevention	888-724-7240
UHCDC University Heights Community Development Corporation	619-297-3166
University Heights Public Library 4193 Park Blvd	619-692-4912
UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com	619-260-0668
Graffiti: In Progress Emergency: Report Online: Graffiti Hotline:	911 https://getitdone.force.com 619-527-7500
SD Vector Control mosquitoes / ticks / rats Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov	858-694-2888

If all else fails, email
BCartwright@sandiego.gov at Council member Stephen Whitburn's office.



DISASTER CONTACTS

In case of a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. When the power is out, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.

Nature in the Neighborhood

Wildflowers



Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*)

Wildflowers – native plants that grow from seeds or bulbs and flower, seed, and die (or die back) in one year – are getting harder to find. A century ago, wildflower fields could still be found near Pasadena; by the 1940s, the Inland Empire was the place, and since the 1970s, it takes a trip to the desert. So, seeing wildflowers in our own neighborhood is a treat. Let's take a tour to see these remnants of California's past. Look, don't pick, so others can enjoy them and the flowers can reproduce.

Start at the native garden at 4480 Cleveland Ave. Look for two members of the Daisy Family. The smaller yellow flowers are Goldfields (*Lasthenia sp.*), which, as its name implies, can carpet the ground. If you detect a sweet aroma, imagine how an acre of these would smell! The larger daisy is Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*) – note the white tips at the end of the petals ("ray flowers"). I often found these two growing in open patches when surveying for the endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, which needs these nectar sources to survive.



Grand Phacelia (*Phacelia grandiflora*)

Two native bulbs are growing in the yard. Wild Onion (*Allium haemochiton*) has balls of tiny white flowers and erect linear leaves (they do taste like onion). Blue-Eyed Grass has purple flowers with a yellow center. It's not actually a grass, but a member of the Iris family. Finally, look for the deep blue flowers of Grand Phacelia (*Phacelia grandiflora*), the showiest of this diverse genus of small shrubs and wildflowers.

On the way to The Point you'll pass a bed with California Poppies (*Eschscholtzia californica*), the ubiquitous (but delightful) exception to the rule about wildflowers being scarce. As you walk through the Open Space Park, you'll see lots of yellow and orange flowers – these are all invasive weeds, and why wildflowers are in decline. Rancher's Fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii*) is the exception – it is indeed weedy, but it's a native. It's related to Phacelias: both have flowers that emerge as a "fiddlehead" unrolls. Look for it around the Olive in the center.



California Poppies (*Eschscholtzia californica*)

End your tour by stepping into the wild just beyond the fence on the trail. Take the path left and continue about 20 feet. To your left, look for the delicate purple flowers of Nuttall's Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum nuttallianum*). The crust of mosses and lichens indicate ground that



Rancher's Fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii*)

hasn't been disturbed for a while – let's keep it that way. To your right, you may see Wild Hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) flowers at the tip of long, narrow stems – another native bulb.

There's a time lag from my writing this to you reading it, so I encourage you to check these out soon. Since before the pandemic, I've wanted to show off the native plants in our neighborhood. With Covid apparently in retreat, I'll finally be leading a walking tour at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 14. It starts and ends at American Market (Cleveland &

Meade), covers less than one mile, and should take about an hour. If you've read this far, you're invited!

— Dave Flietner

UHCA BEAUTIFICATION

PARK BOULEVARD CLEAN UP A BIG SUCCESS!

On the morning of Saturday, March 12, 13 volunteers descended on Park Boulevard between Meade Avenue and Adams Avenue armed with Goof Off, Goo Gone, rags, and purpose. Over the last two years during the pandemic, graffiti and stickers have proliferated along this stretch of Park Blvd. The sticker problem was particularly bad, covering signage poles and the signs themselves, electrical boxes, and other areas.

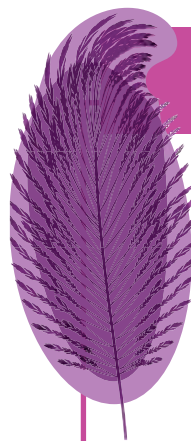
For two hours, the volunteers scraped and scrubbed, removing hundreds of stickers as well as graffiti. A total of 32 volunteer hours supported this event, from coordination to the cleanup itself. The non-profit and charitable giving coalition organization, Independent

Sector, has assigned a value of \$28.54 per hour of volunteer time, which translates to \$913.28 of donated hours to this clean-up effort!

As the leader of the Beautification Team, I would like to thank everyone that showed up to give their time and energy to making our community a better place to live for us all. The success of our cleanup events depends on volunteers, and we are so grateful to have so many people that care about University Heights and demonstrate it time and time again.

The Beautification Team recruits volunteers on an ongoing basis to serve on our team to coordinate beautification projects and participate in our beautification efforts. If you would like to be on our team or to be added to our list of volunteers and notified about future projects, please email me at beautification@uhsd.org.

— Jennifer Bishop



MAY PLUME

This month UHCA thanks and honors Andy Lange, Robert Dowell, Dawn Sassi, and John Ross. For more than five years, these four individuals have volunteered countless hours collecting thousands of pounds of trash during their weekly cleanups of Washington Street. Together, they beautify our community from Campus Avenue to 9th Avenue, including the medians, both sides of the 163 on-ramp off Washington down to the metered ramp signal, the Washington Avenue exit off 163, and the small canyon the exit wraps around. Every week they also clean up and around numerous encampments, perform weed abatement along Washington Street, trim trees and bushes to help deter new encampments, and return shopping carts left abandoned. And they clean up leaves and trash along the entire length of Vermont Street Bridge. Andy, Robert, Dawn, and John, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication to keeping our neighborhood a safe and pleasant place to live.



24th Annual Summer in the Park Concerts Return in July!

Trolley Barn Park concert fans who can hardly wait for the official start of summer will be pleased to see Summer in the Park banners go up in early June on the Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue ornamental streetlights. Thoughts of Mrs. Frostie's ice cream delights will add to the anticipation of our cherished summer tradition.

The first concert on July 8 will feature Billy Lee and The GulfCoasters featuring sounds of Gumbo Jazz and Vintage Swing; July 15 will bring back It's Never 2L8, a classic rock, pop, and dance band; on July 22, a new band called Plow debuts, playing American Heritage and Folk Music; and July 29, let's roll out the trumpets for our perennial Queen of Boogie Woogie and Swing, Sue Palmer and Her Motel Swing Orchestra.

Primarily sponsored by the University Heights Community Development Corp. with the financial support of its many Co-Sponsors and community donors, and our UH Recreation Council, the 24th Annual Free Concert Series will be four fun-filled Friday evenings for families, individuals, and visitors. Contact the UH CDC office at 619-297-3166 or email uhcdc@netzero.net for more information.

— Ernie Bonn, University Heights Community Development Corporation



Save the Date

UH Community Yard Sale

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Time to clean out the garage, closet, or storage space? Looking to pick up a few items? Be part of the University Heights Yard Sale.

Email UHyardsale@gmail.com by May 15 to register & be included on the map

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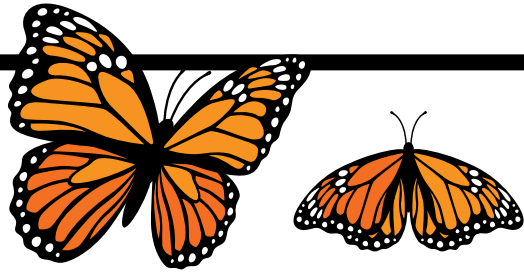
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SUSTAINABLE UH

Miraculous Monarchs



When the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, Monarch butterflies are a welcome harbinger of Springtime. Their bold orange wings, veined in black with white polka dotted edges, are instantly recognizable.

Last year while walking my dog along Madison Avenue, I spied a tiny caterpillar scooting across the sidewalk towards the street. Concerned for the caterpillar's well-being, I knew my neighbors Jill Kruse and Renee Gregorio would know exactly what to do since they have an official "Monarch Waystation." They carefully ferried the fuzzy caterpillar to a safe place in their yard where it eventually metamorphosed into a Monarch butterfly! It turns out that wasn't the only caterpillar they hatched. Jill and Renee released an astonishing 116 butterflies that were under their care.



Jill Kruse with her Waystation sign

I began to notice other gardens in the neighborhood with similar landscaping and learned of more Monarch butterfly benefactors, such as Mark and Katherine (she goes by Kitty) Brlej on Louisiana street. Their interest in creating a habitat started around the beginning of the pandemic when they had more time at home to devote to the garden. Kitty calls it a silver lining experience because they became truly enamored with Monarchs and felt a responsibility to help them flourish.



Monarch Caterpillar

Here are some suggestions if you'd like to create a Monarch waystation of your very own:

- You don't need a big garden; milkweed plants don't have to take up a lot of room. Even a few plants can help.
- Plant native milkweed only. It's easy to grow from seeds or plants. Two species to try are narrow leaf and showy leaf.
- If you have tropical milkweed, be sure to cut it back in the fall and winter. (Many gardeners are unaware that the tropical variety may negatively affect breeding and migration patterns and is prone to parasites that kill caterpillars and adult Monarchs)
- You can spot Monarch eggs by carefully looking at the underside of milkweed leaves.
- You'll know when they've hatched by the holes they've eaten in the milkweed.

- Caterpillars, like reptiles, shed their outer skin as they grow. They do this five times before they reach maturity. Each time they shed their outer skin is called an "instar."
- Once fully-grown, caterpillars will seek out a place to attach and start the process of metamorphosis. Sometimes they will find a leaf or a stem, but they are also known to attach themselves beneath overhangs or birdbaths.
- Be sure to plant your waystation in a place where caterpillars won't be tempted to cross a sidewalk or driveway.
- Alongside native milkweed, plant native wildflowers so adult Monarchs can feed on the nectar and fuel up for their migration.
- Avoid pesticides of all kinds - including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

Monarch populations have drastically reduced over the last 20 years. Two major causes are the increased use of a new type of pesticide called neonicotinoids and the destruction of native habitat. By creating a safe haven, you can do your part in making sure many more generations of miraculous monarchs will continue their amazing journeys.

If you're interested in planting a waystation or already have one, you can visit monarchwatch.org for information and to have your habitat certified as an official Monarch Waystation. According to the site, as of March, 2022, there are 37,716 Monarch Waystation habitats registered across the country. Ten of them are located right here in 92116! Whether you're certified or not, just providing a place for nature to thrive is a gift of its own. For more ways to help Monarchs, two good resources are xerces.org (invertebrate conservation) and edf.org (the Environmental Defense Fund).

Fascinating Facts about Monarchs:

- It's said that these regal winged insects got their common name in honor of another kind of monarch, the 17th century king of England, Scotland, and Wales, William the III, also known as the Prince of Orange.
- The color orange is a warning sign to predators to beware that they may be eating something poisonous.
- The easiest way to tell a female monarch from a male is by looking for two small dark spots on the hind wings; only males have the spots.
- Monarch butterflies can flap their wings up to 12 times a second.
- Monarchs are considered to be the only butterfly that truly migrates.
- Their incredibly accurate internal "GPS" guides them to their migration destination over thousands of miles, often to a specific tree where previous generations spent the winter.

—Thalia Driessen



Kitty and her caterpillar crossing

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

For your Monarch Waystation & More: Eden



Spring's arrival inspires new life, growth, and beauty. As a plant nursery and garden center, Eden San Diego is invested in stewarding the season through their selection of interior and exterior plants, seeds, and gardening supplies. They are a one-stop shop that meets the gardening needs of University Heights without its residents having to leave their neighborhood.

Native plants are a key element in creating a sustainable ecosystem as they tend to need less supplemental water, less fertilizer, and less maintenance due to their



unique suitability to their environment. They serve as an important food source for local pollinators and attract birds and other wildlife, offering the double benefit of biodiversity and beauty.

Imagine a garden of milkweed, sage, and poppies infused with the sound of bees, the energy of hummingbirds, and the color of Monarch butterflies. California native plants are a sustainable way to make this image a reality in your outdoor space. Increased interest in sustainability has led many of us to consider how we can become better stewards of the natural environment. Planting natives is a practical step in that direction and a fun way to leverage eco-consciousness into action.

Eden, located at 4636 Park Blvd, is open Thursday through Monday from 11 am to 5 pm and offers a variety of houseplants, pots, cacti, succulents, and gift shop items.

—Thalia Driessen



Bianca Moscia, an Eden team member, holding a native milkweed plant



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May 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm May Day June News Articles Due	2	3 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Uptown Planners Meeting 6 pm uptownplannersd.org	4 UHDCDC 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm	5 UH Park & Rec Meeting 5:30 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Meeting 6:45pm Via Zoom www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting Cinco de Mayo Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	6  NATIONAL NURSES DAY	7
8 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm  Happy Mother's Day	9 Friends of the UH Library Meeting 6 pm	10 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org Hillcrest Town Council 6:30 pm	11 	12 	13	14 World Migratory Bird Day Empire Builder: John Spreckles webinar 12pm www.uhhs-uhcdc.org
15 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Total Lunar Eclipse	16	17 North Park Planning Committee Meeting 6:30 pm northparkplanning.org	18 International Museum Day	19  Bike to Work Day Endangered Species Day  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	20	21 Armed Forces Day Historic Streetcars of University Heights webinar 12pm www.uhhs-uhcdc.org
22 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	23 World Turtle Day 	24 SDUSD Board Meeting 5 pm, sandiegounified.org June UHCA News Out	25 	26	27 	28
29 Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	30  Memorial Day	31	Remember! Thursday June 2 6:45pm UHCA Meeting www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting	National Barbecue Month		

THANKS FOR 25 YEARS!

- Dan & Bernie

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BIRNEY BUZZ

Steps Closer for the Birney Community

Pre-pandemic, our annual jog-a-thon fundraiser in March, known as the “Run for the Green,” was a festive celebration for the Birney community to come together and cheer on our 500+ students running all at the same time. With bubbles, snacks, music, and cheerleaders, it was always a popular and successful fundraiser. But in 2020, as mentioned in last month’s “Birney Buzz,” it had to be a remote event for the students to commit to do on their own, and in 2021, the event was moved to late in the school year. The kids who opted to return to school ran with just their class. It was what we needed to do to be safe, but much harder to get everyone excited about. Since we rely on this event to fund a third of the annual costs to support the International Baccalaureate Program including Arts, Spanish, Library, and Garden, the Friends of Alice Birney Elementary board was nervous about meeting the goal and had started coming up with back-up plans for other fundraisers.

This year, most of the classes ran with one other class from their grade level, and parents were invited to come cheer on their students, the first time in two years that parents were invited on campus during school. Students ran for up to 45 minutes with music blasting from speakers. Parents and other family members were able to watch the short ceremony where Coach Lord handed out medals to runners who met their grade goal. Not quite pre-pandemic, but definitely so much better than we were over the past two years. Equally important, the Birney



community, including their friends and families, delivered us \$8K above our goal!

Thomas S., the student who raised the most money for the school, was awarded the honor of being Principal for the Day. Thomas told me, “This year I helped raise [Run for the Green] money by reaching out to family and friends, and by selling flowers, cookies, and lemonade. I believe it is important to raise money for our amazing school because it supports our Spanish, PE, Art, and Garden programs, giving students of all grades fun ways to learn about different topics. Another part of Birney that makes it unique is the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which provides students with a global outlook on many different subjects that you would not typically find in other schools.

“But the most important reason why Birney is great is the kind teachers and staff who work hard at the school to help students excel in their learning. This is why so many students worked hard to raise money for Birney. Since this is my last year at Birney, I am glad I could contribute my fullest in order to give back to our truly amazing school,” Thomas added.

In accordance with district guidelines, Birney recently removed mask requirements indoors. However, teachers, students, and their parents are encouraged to do what they feel comfortable with, which will be different for everyone.

The Friends of Alice Birney Elementary will be hosting our first outdoor movie fundraiser in May, and our Birney farmstand occurs on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month at Twiggs on Park. We welcome new sponsors and donors for all Birney events, so please contact us at info@friendsofalicebirney.org if you would like more information. Please visit us at friendsofalicebirney.org for more information on all our events!

— Vaychan Hallman, Proud Birney Parent and Friends of Alice Birney Elementary (FOABE) Board Member



ROO NEWS

Roosevelt International Middle School Presents “High School Musical Jr.”

With loosened COVID restrictions, theater kids are starting to have more opportunities to tread the boards this spring, and the Roosevelt Theater Company has been hard at work preparing for opening day of “High School Musical Jr.”

A sneak preview of the show for Roosevelt families and families of elementary schools that feed into Roosevelt will be held on May 10 as part of the school’s International Baccalaureate (IB) Fest, followed by a performance during the school day on May 13, and finally a friends-and-family production on May 14. All performances will be in-person at the Roosevelt Auditorium.



In addition to starring, students create and build the sets and comprise the stage and tech crew. Pauline Treviño, a parent volunteer, directs the show, supervises the kids, and handles the logistics.

I asked Ms. Treviño about the history of staging this show, and she explained that it went all the way back to spring of 2020, when the student body responded to a survey asking to rank a selection of shows that were available to perform. “High School Musical, Jr.” was the winner. The club had gotten through an audition workshop, the auditions themselves, and two weeks of rehearsals before COVID-19 put the kibosh on their plans.

While many of the original cast members have moved on to high school (and presumably high school musicals), a handful of veterans of the ill-fated 2020 version will be returning this year in a triumphant culmination of their middle school years and, we hope, a farewell to a bleak era for kids and adults alike.

For more information about all things Roosevelt, visit the Friends of Roosevelt (aka RooFriends) website at www.roofriends.org.

— Andy Hinds



Students rehearsing High School Musical Jr.

The production is an adaptation of the musical-based-on-a-TV movie-about-a-musical (don’t think about it too much), and will star 22 students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. These young performers have been rehearsing as part of the After School Enrichment program, the free after school clubs provided by the school foundation, Friends of Roosevelt.



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BETWEEN THE COVERS

MEET ODI THE COYOTE

Have you met the library's fabulous mascot, ODI the Coyote? ODI's name derives from the library's mission statement to be THE place for Opportunity, Discovery, and Inspiration. Some of you may have seen on our Facebook page many of our youngest readers ages 0-5 years old who have signed up to get their very first library card, as well as a copy of the library's original published book, "Odi's Library Day." We have copies of the book for check out, as well, so come take a look. No matter your age, you can even get a library card with one of our newest designs featuring ODI or the beautiful Torrey Pines coastline!

With your new library card, you



can experience Discover & Go, a program provided by the library that offers family day passes to several of San Diego's biggest attractions, including the New Children's Museum, the Museum of Us, The San Diego Museum of Art, the Children's Discovery Museum, and Skateworld! Passes can be reserved online, in-person, or over the phone with a valid library card. Reserve passes today and discover what San Diego has to offer!

Have you seen us around the neighborhood? We've been going out into the community! Youth Services Librarian, Helene Idels, joined a recent UH cleanup, and ace Library Assistant III, Jeff Garthaus, attended Cookies with the Cops. I recently "tabled" at the Hillcrest Farmer's Market with my good friend from the Mission Hills Branch. We also had a blast with our Friends of the UH Library at the UH sign anniversary! To join the UH Friends and help support and advocate for your local library, visit www.friendsofuhlibrary.org.

All City Libraries are CLOSED Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day. — Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, 619-692-4912, www.sandiego.gov



L - R: Malik Thornton, CD3 Community Engagement Assistant; Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager; Ryan Darsey, CD3 Director of Community Engagement

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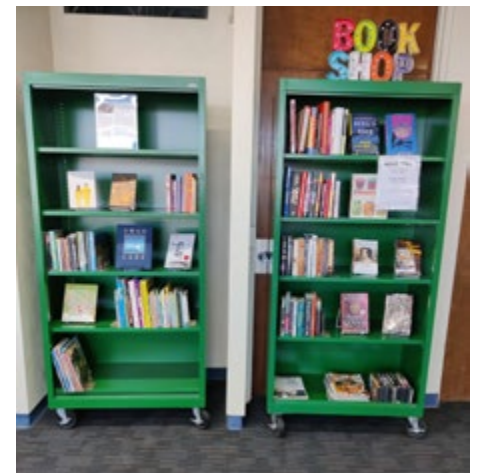
FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

Book Sales and Bookshelves

By now you probably know that the Friends of San Diego Public Library book sale is back. Although that book sale is (tentatively) held only once per month, you can still get good reads at great prices all month long at our very own UH branch book sale shelves. In fact, we have just expanded from one to two bookshelves to keep up with demand! Check out the green Book Sale bookshelves and choose from a variety of books and magazines. We are always getting in new items, so stop by regularly. Donations from the book sales go to support the UH library.

Membership

We are able to provide financial support to our branch because of membership dues and donations. Please join us in helping our library continue to be a great resource for our community by joining or renewing your membership to the Friends of the University Heights Library. You can download a membership form on our website or pick up a form at the branch. The Friends of the San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt



Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FEIN: 95-3313747. Your tax-deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego.

For more info, check out our website www.friendsofuhlibrary.org or contact us at info@friendsofuhlibrary.org. You can also subscribe to our newsletter for all the latest info.

Thank you for supporting our library.

— Isabel Schechter, President
Friends of the University Heights Library

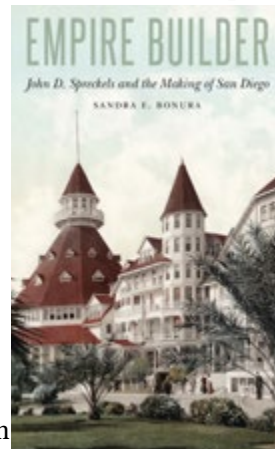
Donations to The Friends of the San Diego Public Library are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and are used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.

UHHS NEWS

Celebrate National Preservation Month!

In honor of National Preservation Month, the University Heights Historical Society will host two free webinars about key people and innovations that significantly influenced the early development of University Heights and all of San Diego. The UHHS is also offering its new *Guide to Researching and Historically Designating Your Property* for owners interested in historically designating their properties.

Free Webinar on May 14: Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego



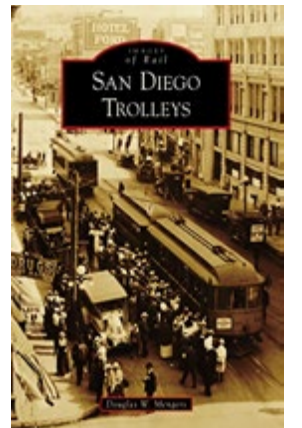
Join us as we look behind the scenes through a colorful slide show at the pioneering legacy of John Spreckels with historian Dr. Sandra Bonura. She authored the newly released biography, *Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego*. After "discovering" the bankrupt village of San Diego, in 1887, he left everything behind to follow his heart. His moves were so decisive and sweeping that within a few years, he virtually controlled the majority of all San Diego's industry. He was at the forefront of innovation, and at the top of the 20th century, one in fifteen San Diegans worked for a Spreckels-owned company. After this presentation, you will wonder why this empire builder is all but forgotten today in San Diego. To register, please visit www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/events.

Free Webinar on May 21: Historic Streetcars of University Heights

Historian and archaeologist Doug Mengers will present about San

Diego's own cable car system and the Pavilion at the Bluffs, forerunner to Mission Cliff Gardens. See historic photos of the San Diego Electric Railway, one of John D.

Spreckels's largest projects. And find out what happened to the trolleys and what still lies buried under our streets. Mr. Mengers is a San Diego-based historian and archaeologist specializing in the history of the early San Diego trolley suburbs. He has worked on dozens of projects related to San Diego's early streetcars and is the author of *Images of Rail: San Diego Trolleys*. To register, please visit www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/events.



New! Guide to Researching and Historically Designating Your Property

The University Heights Historical Society is pleased to offer our new *Guide to Researching and Historically Designating Your Property*, available for download from our online store for \$10. This digital guide consists of a one-hour recorded webinar and the 63-page slide deck presented on March 31 by Senior Archaeologist/Historian Doug Mengers with PanGIS, Inc. Mr. Mengers walks through the process of researching the history of your property, preparing a report to nominate it locally for historic designation, and completing a Mills Act application to reduce property taxes on designated properties. For more information or to purchase, please visit www.uhhs-uhcdc.org/online-store.

—Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society



25 Electrifying Years!

We're Having a Block Party

Celebrate UH Sign's 25th Anniversary on April 30th

Nothing symbolizes our community's sense of spirit and bond as much as the neon "University Heights" sign in the 4600 block of Park Blvd. Come out and join your friends and neighbors on Saturday, April 30th from 5-8 pm to celebrate the UH sign's 25th anniversary.

Many of our neighborhood businesses will offer complimentary samples of food and drinks to anyone wearing anniversary wristbands, which are available at www.uhsd.org/Sign25 or a limited number may be available at the event.

Scan with your phone's camera to reserve your wristband!



Thanks to our awesome local businesses for participating!

Saturday April 30 - 5-8pm

Live Music • Food & Drink Samples

Wristbands available at www.uhsd.org/Sign25



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University Heights has Spoken

72% against adding restrooms to Old Trolley Barn Park

Clear message to City: find an alternative

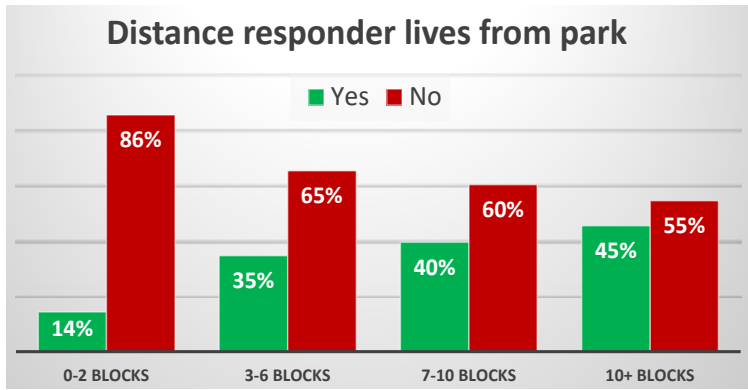
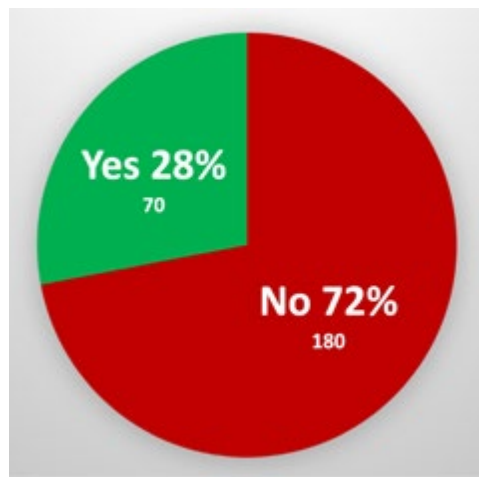
As reported in the March *UHCA News*, the City again started exploring adding a restroom in Old Trolley Barn Park. Councilmember Whitburn contacted UHCA leadership and UHCA agreed to produce an online survey to provide a clear "Voice of UH" response to this idea.

The UH Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Group (UPROSAG) had an open forum in September 2019 where dozens of neighbors came out in strong opposition, and the group formally voted to oppose this idea.

As of press time, there were 250 responses to the survey, representing 359 park users, and the results are clear. The majority of responders

were against the proposal regardless of distance from the park.

Of the 250 responders, nearly 70% visit the park at least once per week, nearly 90% walk to the park, 96% feel safe at the park,



and the age ranges were balanced with the majority (55%) in the 31-55 age group.

We have presented these results to Councilmember Whitburn, the City Park & Recreation staff, and Mayor Gloria's office, along with an open invitation for them to attend any of our upcoming UHCA Monthly Meetings to hear directly from our community members.

The UHCA and UHPROSAG groups, along with the other UH organizations (UH Community Development Corp. and UH Historical Society), are all on record against this endeavor, and are certain that we are speaking for University Heights, as backed by this survey. The costs to build and maintain are massive (by city estimates up to \$2 million dollars to build, and \$100,000 per year to maintain, on top of the \$500,000 already budgeted for design and community outreach); existing restrooms in parks today are in horrible, filthy, dangerous conditions; and our community doesn't want it by a significant margin.



There is an opportunity to find a win/win in this situation and satisfy everyone while meeting a need and preserving the original park design and intention.

We implore Councilmember Whitburn, Mayor Gloria, and City staff to explore a public/private partnership with the future business that is currently under construction across from the park. We believe there must be a way to incentivize a new business (and help drive foot traffic), while saving the city an astronomical amount of money that could be better used towards other more urgent needs – homeless outreach, housing? This would be a better outcome all around, not just for park neighbors and community residents, but for all park goers (especially those who "need to go!").

— UHCA Board of Directors

Survey was created by UHCA and conducted online from February 13 to April 15, 2022 and in print in the UHCA News April edition.

University Heights Voices

Many respondents to our survey provided well thought-out points, and UHCA News is happy to feature select comments here (to protect privacy, we are not including names unless explicitly agreed to). To ensure that comments are presented fairly, comments both for and against have been included in approximately the same percentage as responses. The full survey results including all comments are at www.uhsd.org/blog/restroomsurveyresult2022 with a link to the original article.

Voices in Favor



"This shouldn't even be a debate, support the installation of public restrooms in OTBP and hold the City accountable for its maintenance. Furthermore, take initiative in maintaining it the same way we show pride in all of the other aspects of our unique and diverse neighborhood. Finally, make a contribution to the efforts to eradicate homelessness in our community instead of punishing everyone for the sake of bigotry." - J. Jenkins

"It is difficult to spend a significant amount of time at the park without a restroom. I used to work out with my personal trainer at this park but finding ourselves unable to use the restroom for 2 hours was a challenge. Try having a picnic? I am a UH resident, but live near the Vermont St. Bridge. My walk to and from the park is about 20-25 minutes. It makes no sense to not have restrooms here, and the people who live near the park who are opposed should think of those who live in the neighborhood but don't live so close."

"If my son has to use the restroom we have to go run and search for a place or leave. My pregnant mama friends also have no place to go. We love this park and would go more often if there were restrooms. There is such a large community of regulars at the park, I don't foresee it being taken over by transients."

"It seems a lot of the rhetoric around not installing a bathroom at Trolley Barn is anti-homeless and that's very shameful. I'm embarrassed that my neighborhood is terrified to give all people access to the human right of a safe, clean place to take care of a necessary bodily function. This elitist, privileged mindset only strengthens the stigma around houseless individuals who need our support now more than ever."

"I go to this park so often but I always wished there's a restroom so I can stay longer, my house is 15min walking distance so it'd be convenient to have restroom there. Plus there's a lot of kids that goes there daily and kids can't hold it for so long as adults. I think every park should have restroom. The hours preference is from 7am to 7pm if not 24hrs."

"I walk a lot and there are very few places to using restrooms in our surrounding neighborhoods that aren't private businesses. I know they will be vandalized, and it costs money to maintain them but we shouldn't let a few people ruin it for the rest of us. Also, I am concerned about homeless people using them but there should be facilities for homeless people to use. It is the kind thing to do and would reduce public urination and defecation."

Voices Against



"Any positives of adding prohibitively expensive public restrooms are far outweighed by the negatives and probable unintended consequences." - Jim Z.

"If we could have accountability for the cleanliness of the park I would be more willing to see a restroom put in, but I don't trust that to happen to the level I want to see given what I have seen at other parks in the area."

"Nobody, who is using the park with their family, would ever go into, or let their children go into a public park bathroom. They are unpredictable and there is a high likelihood that you, or your child, will be exposed to a number of undesirable things. These things include: people on/actively using drugs, needles, human waste, prostitution, people sleeping in the stalls and storing their belongings in the stalls. This park was built as a small neighborhood park. We have lived close to this park for over 20 years, I have two children that grew up going to this park, it has NEVER been a problem to not have a bathroom. On the contrary, we have seen some outrageous things go on here. These problems will only be compounded if there is a 'comfort station' available for people to use for drugs/sex work."

"I like that trolley barn park is for our neighborhood and feels safe. I think this money could be used for other projects."

"I have been an owner/resident for 18 years adjacent to TBP. I find it utterly ridiculous to complete this survey on a subject that comes up just about every time a new politician is elected

representing our community. We all know that this park was intentionally planned & built without restrooms after neighborhood input at meetings, yet here we go again! I have visited every community park with restrooms in a 5-mile radius of TBP & they are disgusting and not maintained, not to mention the transient drug dealers that conduct their business inside & around. If I were a parent with a child, I certainly would not take them inside a new restroom in TBP. Locals know there are no restrooms in the park. Others out of area do not. So, I would suggest some signage posted that there are NO PUBLIC RESTROOMS. The costs for design & build are insanely expensive! I could have a 2,000+ sq. ft house or commercial office built for the same amount. This is a BIG waste of time, citizens tax dollars all for a structure that was purposely not built in 1986. Put the money to better use maintaining/cleaning the existing bathrooms in larger parks and recreational facilities."

"While having restrooms at Trolley Barn Park would be a convenient amenity, the hard truth is that it will a) become a magnet for the homeless and drug abusers and, b) will require daily maintenance that will be very expensive. This idea has been revisited on multiple occasions throughout the years and each time it gets shot down because the bathrooms will ultimately be unsafe, unsanitary and nearly impossible to maintain unless they are cleaned multiple times a day and locked at night. Let's spend our funds on more meaningful projects like expanding our existing library, planting trees, improving existing parks and adding additional, much needed park space including a dog park." - Jennifer Bishop (UHCA Beautification Lead)

"Old Trolley Barn Park has served the needs of the local community for 30 years without 'comfort stations'. It has always been designated a neighborhood park. 'Comfort stations' create hangouts for the homeless and frequently become targets for graffiti 'artists'. I like the possibility of public/private partnerships with neighboring businesses. That could be a win win for all parties."

"The condition of the restrooms in Balboa Park are a good example of what

you can expect to happen to restrooms in OTBP. Very expensive to try and maintain and despite the effort of maintenance crews, they are filthy and littered with trash, drug paraphernalia, graffiti, etc."

"A lovely little park was created by the school for skateboarders 38th-Park de la cruz. There is often a police presence (because of the homeless?), the toilets are disgusting if you can get past the drug users and couples copulating long enough to utilize them. The City of San Deigo needs to take care of the homeless, clear out the encampments, provide mental health services, housing, job training – all core problems to be solved before public toilets and before calling itself the finest city."

"This will be a great place for homeless people to hang out, also a great place for illegal drug use, it will be a graffiti magnet, it will be too expensive to build at millions of dollars for a toilet when all you have to do is go across the street and use one of the restrooms at one of the many businesses. Not to mention routine maintenance and cleaning that has to occur everyday or they will be filthy. A simpler approach would be to go to the bathroom before you go to the park, it's that simple. PortaPotties during special events are sufficient."

"It seems to me that the City's decision making process is working in some sort of tone deaf vacuum unaware of our community problems and needs? And it's painful to see such a wasteful use of our limited City resources. There is a Cafe being built across the street from the Park. At the time, I called Chris Ward's office and suggested that the City should work with them and come up with a "deal" so they would let the Park visitors use their accessible bathroom as needed. I even spoke directly with the cafe builder and asked if the owner would be open to that. He said YES. They want people to come to their cafe right next to the park! There is even a crosswalk in place already across Adams Avenue. And the bathroom would be monitored by the Cafe staff. Sounds like a WIN WIN situation to me. I'm still hopeful this option may be pursued!" - Ed Ruegg

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT COAST QUINTET

Since 2014, the local and talented Left Coast Quintet has entertained at hundreds of San Diego events, and you might have seen this group of musicians over the past few years doing “open rehearsals” at Trolley Barn Park.

The Left Coast Quintet, or LCQ for short, was founded by UH resident Dan Weiss, who is the group’s bassoonist and artistic director. The musicians in the group include Erica Gamble on flute/piccolo, April Leslie on Clarinet, Jenny Shippee on Oboe/English horn, and RB Anthony on French horn. Each of the LCQ musicians has been performing for over 25 years in symphonies and stage productions.

LCQ is a “classical-ish” musical group, and while small wind ensembles are not as commonly known in the world as string quartets, wind quintets have been around since the 1700s when they were used in the courts of Vienna to bring a new voice



LCQ at Coronado Library

to chamber music. LCQ does not just stick to Baroque and classical music; their library is full of jazz and swing, blues, pop covers, European influences and jigs, samba and flamenco, waltzes, and more. But the group primarily loves performing film music: everything from Disney favorites Beauty and the Beast or Aladdin, to Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Harry Potter, and more.

You can find LCQ at a number of San Diego events, including Art Walk, Little Italy Christmas Celebration, Mission Hills Garden Walk, December Nights, and similar public celebrations. The group is also available to be hired for private events like weddings, holiday parties, galas, and memorial services, and can be sized between the full quintet of five musicians, a trio, or a small duet, depending on the needs and space.

Keep up with the LCQ to find out all the fun performances and what they are up to:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/leftcoastquintet

Instagram: www.instagram.com/leftcoastquintet

Website: www.leftcoastquintet.com



LCQ at Hilton Bayfront

Introducing New Owners of Twiggs *continued from front page*

and work) where people could gather and meet their fellow neighbors while sipping coffee and eating delicious pastries. Adrian thought about opening a coffee shop in the South Bay area. His friend and fellow professor at Miramar College suggested he talk to her husband, Ruben Sandoval, about joining him in this venture. Ruben, who has an MBA, had been working in corporate America for over 15 years. He always had an interest in the science of coffee and was contemplating changing careers and opening a coffee shop. Ruben and his wife live in Hillcrest and were as fond of Twiggs as Adrian was.

In order to make their dream a reality, Adrian sought the advice of the one person he considered the guru of coffee shops, Bernie Horan from Twiggs. Adrian and Bernie met many times and talked a lot about the business. During one of these conversations, Bernie said he and Dan were selling Twiggs and perhaps Adrian would be interested in buying it.

Flattered, humbled, and honored by Bernie’s offer, Adrian felt like he had been given the keys to a beautiful ’57 Chevy! He began the slow, arduous process of securing a loan and buying Twiggs. After 11 long months, the deal was done. And on April 1, Adrian became the new owner of Twiggs. Adrian named Ruben to be his operational manager of both Twiggs shops, the one on Park Blvd. and the one on Adams Avenue.

As the cliché goes, if it ain’t broke don’t fix it. Adrian and Ruben are keeping all the same staff and coffee suppliers. Bernie and Dan have been showing Adrian and Ruben the ropes and will continue to do so for the next few months. As mentors, Bernie and Dan are committed to helping Adrian and Ruben smoothly transition to running Twiggs like a well-oiled coffee machine.

In addition to being a college professor and new business owner, Adrian is also a poet. He envisions Twiggs being a hub for the local art community. Adrian would like to see Twiggs on Adams Avenue hosting live music and podcasts. He wants Twiggs on Park Blvd. to become a central hub for the visual arts and poetry readings.

Adrian knows that the UH community loves Twiggs and wants it to continue as the premiere business anchor in UH. A place where people can gather and make new friends, a home away from home. Adrian and Ruben are dedicated to keeping the legacy of Twiggs alive for generations to come.

— Jane Gilbert



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Pet of the Month Casey



Hi Everyone- My name is Casey, I'm 11 years young and I live with Dick King in Madison Avenue Villas. Dick adopted me from the Humane Society 6 years ago and we've been besties ever since!

We like to take walks, nap, and watch TV. We also like a good steak! I also live with my cat sister Evie – I don't like her too much and I bark at her throughout the day to let her know who's boss (Evie is a lot bigger than me so I don't get too close!).

Hope to see you around!!

—as told to Susy Holts by Casey



Money Not the Solution *continued from front page*

Vermont Street bridge, as a member of the UH Beautification Team, Deborah worked to get the city and county to contribute money to clean out the canyon. She also volunteers weekly at the Neil Good Day Center (part of Father Joe's Villages). And she is currently reaching out to people who administer PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) in San Diego.

It is through these experiences that Deborah has come to understand the homeless people in our community are not getting the help they need, despite the amount of money being spent on the effort. She believes there are multiple issues that cause a person to live on the streets, but her focus is on those who require the most help – the mentally ill and the addicts.

Deborah's friend Katharine lives on the other side of the Vermont Street bridge in Marston Hills, where she has lived since 1993. She walks her dog early in the morning and hands out apples and oranges to her homeless "neighbors." She would like to see the local business community get more involved in helping those who sleep on the streets.



Katharine Cline and Deborah Morrison

Both women feel there is a need for more communication and coordination between the local charities and organizations that are dedicated to helping the homeless. There are many resources available – some that work and some that don't. Deborah and Katharine would like to assist in coordinating the efforts of all those who work and volunteer so that their efforts are maximized to solve this crisis.

There is a need for more communication and coordination between the local charities and organizations that are dedicated to helping the homeless.

They would also like our local governmental leaders to be more accountable regarding the homeless crisis. Despite the millions of dollars that the Regional Task Force grants to local organizations, there is no accountability for how the money is being used, they say. A lot of money dedicated to helping the homeless population seems not to be making a difference in the lives of the homeless or their housed neighbors. Deborah and Katharine believe that money is only part of the answer, not the entire answer to helping solve the homeless crisis in our neighborhood and city. Money must be used effectively to really help.

Deborah and Katharine want to start small and focus on helping those who are homeless in our neighborhood. They believe we need to rethink how we tackle the homeless situation, starting with educating ourselves about who the homeless really are and what they really need. Listening to them instead of telling them we know what is best for them is a start. Then we can proceed to holding current organizations accountable.

— Jane Gilbert



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