University Heights Had a Block Party!  
UH Comes out to Celebrate Together

On Saturday, April 30, UHCA shut down the 4600 block of Park Boulevard for the 25th Anniversary Signs Celebration. In April of 1997 our iconic sign was unveiled and illuminated for the first time. Now, 25 electricity years later, the community came together once again. And what a party it was!

Attendees were able to purchase a wristband which allowed them access to food samples, beverage samples, discounts and more. Pemberley Realty provided live music. Kevin Whaley, the sign’s designer, had a superb historic display showing how the sign was created, as did Nan McGraw and Ernie Bonn, our neighborhood matriarchs who were instrumental in making the sign happen.

The UH Library and Olé the Coyote, along with the Friends of Alice Birney Elementary, hosted games; and Cecilia’s Elementary, hosted games; and Cecilia’s

What The Community Plans Show
UH is divided along Park Blvd, with Uptown Planners responsible for west of Park, and North Park Planning Committee responsible for east of Park (with the street divided as well). CCUH member Bill Ellig researched the relevant community plans (Uptown Community Plan November 2019 and North Park Community Plan, 2016) and found

Rendering of current plan, Park Blvd from Adams to Morse eliminating center/burn lane, adding barricaded cycle track, and removing nearly 40% of parking.

In late March, the City of San Diego resurfaced Park Blvd. from Adams all the way through UH with a new “top coat” or slurry seal. A number of businesses posted on Nextdoor and Facebook about “no parking” tags being posted on their doors for days when work wasn’t being done and how it disrupted their businesses, expressing frustration with the lack of communication from the city.

The following week, when re-stripping was expected, a news story aired on KPBS (reported by UH resident and KPBS reporter Andrew Bowen) about how Park Blvd. was being reconfigured with bike lanes. The Community Coalition of University Heights (which UHCA is a part of) reached out to Councilmember Whitburn’s office to find out what was going on, as no plans had been shared with the community via public postings or UHCA meetings. The councilmember’s staff responded that they didn’t know about these new city plans either and would investigate.

UHCA President Marc Johnson (who is also a property owner along 4600 Park Blvd.) reached out to the Mayor’s district 3 liaison and the City’s transportation department project manager to find out more details. Over the next several weeks, with little information coming back, more speculation was brewing in the community as business owners were seeing chalk markings being made on the un-striped street that didn’t make sense and as more people were posting on social media about ongoing safety issues, including people not stopping at intersections and near accidents.

The University Heights Parking District, the organization responsible for parking meters and improving parking options, was not approached for input about this plan. Ernie Bonn with the UHDCD board, which provides oversight to the district, said “they are removing parking spaces and haven’t discussed this at all with our City contracted parking district!”

Carmen Cooley, owner and curator of the J.A. Cooley Museum along 4200 Park Blvd., tenaciously worked through the city’s maze to find someone who could tell her what was going on and received preliminary plans only for her block, which she shared with our organizations. This was the first clue on what was to come.

“When I finally saw the plans that they sent me, I was shocked. Removal of parking, removal of turning lanes, bike lanes with barriers – this looked like 30th Street all over again,” Cooley said. “I begged the Mayor and anyone else to come out here and see how this would impact not just my business, but all businesses on my block, and be a complete nightmare for everyone, but all I heard back was crickets.” Cooley started a petition drive to demand better communication and seeking a dialogue with the city to implement a compromise solution, and at press time has over 1,000 signatures.

As news reports aired on multiple TV stations and public pressure surfaced, representatives from the Mayor’s office and Transportation department stated that they would discuss the plans with the community at the May 5th UHCA Community Meeting. In a preliminary discussion with Johnson, the Mayor’s liaison stated that the bike lanes along Park “have been in the community plans for years, and as we resurface streets, we take advantage of that to implement adding bike lanes where indicated.”

For more information, visit uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting.
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Marc Johnson

I normally use this space to talk about how awesome our community is, or about special events coming up. This month, however, I’m going to weigh in on a very hot topic that is happening right now, one that has the potential to dramatically reshape things in UH.

In this issue we have a recap and some viewpoints on the reconfiguration of Park Blvd. I want to address this issue from a few different perspectives: I’m a property owner along Park Blvd., on an HOA board that includes businesses and 4 residences, I’m an enthusiastic cyclist, and I’m an advocate for UH residents and businesses as your UHCA President. I’m going to be blunt: this street reconfiguration has been an absolute failure of communication and planning from the beginning. The community organizations that have existed for decades were not informed, the parking district that has implemented so many great projects that have increased parking in UH over the years (with more on the books if they get funding) was left completely out of the loop, and even our City Councilmember and his staff were caught by surprise. We only found out about this plan through a news story and, finally (over a month later) from City staff members, according to their plans, that they were already implementing.

This is not how things should be. We have Community Planning Groups, community associations and other entities who focus on this stuff. We have City/State/Zip. Please see www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

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.

Michael Duggan, President

Thank You!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make this work possible. We appreciate the support of our members, donors, advertisers, and sponsors. We are proud to promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.

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

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Website uhsd.org
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Instagram universityheights_sdcommunity

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May 5 UHCA Community Meeting Summary

The May 5 UHCA Community Meeting was held at 6:45pm via Zoom, with 97 attendees. The full meeting is available for replay at www.uhsd.org/attendameting.

Crime Watch

Both Nan McGraw and Officer Michael Hayes shared that property crime has decreased. Pam Isaacs and Mary Anne Stevens shared that catalytic converter thefts are occurring and not being reported. The SDPD is preparing for the Memorial Day Weekend. Officer Hayes encourages people to attend our meetings and email him if they have questions. Articulate the situation clearly when calling 911.

Announcements

Happy Cinco de Mayo! Robyn Grand from Words Alive, who was scheduled to speak tonight, will join us in June. Tonight’s discussion will focus on the Park Boulevard Reconfiguration. Marc believes we’ll all be looking for the same answers. We’re reminded that we need volunteers. Our business members were featured and thanked for their continued support.

Beautification

Sol Schummer shared that the Beautification Team will be performing maintenance on the trees along Merle Avenue near Birney Elementary on May 21. Volunteers to help with clean-ups and maintenance around our neighborhood are welcomed.

Events

Stu McGraw thanked everyone for attending an amazing block party, the 25th Anniversary Events. Our business members were featured and thanked for their continued support.

Marc believes we’re all looking for the same answers. We’re reminded that we need volunteers. Our business members were featured and thanked for their continued support.

JUNE PLUME

It takes a great deal of effort to put together an event like our Black Friday. From getting neighborhood volunteers on board to recruiting volunteers, making sure we have merchandise ready, have permits in place with the city and insurance, event signage, public safety, signage... to not mention the physical work like setting up tables and barricades, managing garbage, and the list goes on.

The UHCA Events Team, including Brent, Lisa, Sue, Lauren, and the amazing group of volunteers, pulled together, worked with the rest of our UHCA board members, and brought this event, our “first after the pandemic,” to brilliant life. You all have earned our deepest thanks and recognition, symbolized by this Plume.

An extra handful of plans goes to our Treasurer, Brent, for managing the myriad details and making sure nothing fell through the cracks, all with a smile and genuine kindness. Brent, you are the heart and soul of our UHCA board members, and brought this event, our “first after the pandemic,” to brilliant life. You all have earned our deepest thanks and recognition, symbolized by this Plume.

For more information, visit the UHCA website or contact your zone’s coordinator or Nan McGraw.

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.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical
Non-Emergency Suspects Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc.
SD City Services: Emergency & Non-Emergency
SD County Mental Health Access & Crisis Line
SDPD Community Relations Officers:
SDPD Western Division 1251 Gares Street
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service
Stonewall Citizens Patrol
UHCCD University Heights Community Development Corporation
University Heights Public Library
UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw mcncan@gmail.com
UHCA News University Heights Community Association | June 2022

PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) path@deapth.org 819-310-8000
Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) guardianship security check, volunteers of home bound, patrolling/business districts, homeland security support.
911 819-692-4945
SD County Mental Health Access & Crisis Line 888-724-7240
SDPD Community Relations Officers: 858-504-3480
SDPD Western Division 7251 Gares Street 619-692-4800
Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service 619-692-4912
Stonewall Citizens Patrol 619-250-0680
UHCCD University Heights Community Development Corporation 619-297-3166
University Heights Public Library 619-692-4912
UH Zone Watch Coordinator Nan McGraw mcncan@gmail.com
USHCA 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.

JUNE PLUME

This evening’s discussion was regarding the Park Boulevard Reconfiguration from University Avenue to Adams Avenue. Randy Wilde, City of San Diego Senior Police Advisor, opened the discussion. Park Boulevard was identified as a high priority project in the 2013 Bicycle Master Plan. As streets are resurfaced, the plan will be implemented. He does admit that communication with communities needs to improve. Multimodal safety, Emission Zero, and Climate Shift goals are a priority. Everrett Haver, Program Manager, Traffic Engineering Division, continued the discussion. There will be three (3) classes of bike lanes: painted lines, shared lanes, and separated bikeways. A lot of information and data was shared including street usage, preferred routes, multimodal needs, the effect on parking, transit priorities, etc. A Q&A session followed.

PD Sheriffs Tip Line 858-504-3480
Deportation Health Plan / Rodents 858-598-7534
Downed Power Lines / SDG&E 858-611-2343
Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes 819-515-3252
Narcotics Suspected drug house / anonymous 819-531-2488
CDOT City of San Diego Daily Updates 619-810-8600
DRUGS: Call 911

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

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 in 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, landline phones may not work. Make sure your cell phone is charged. Call 211 for updated information.
Nature in the Neighborhood

Winged Predators Among Us

No ecosystem is complete without its predators. These come in many forms and scales, and from several origins. Most minute creatures live under threat of being eaten by predatory insects, spiders, lizards, or small birds; whereas these small hunters may, in turn, become food for larger predators, which are typically either mammals or larger birds. “Top predators” are defined generally as those that live primarily or exclusively on the flesh of other creatures, but are rarely, if ever, eaten themselves. The popular conception of these carnivorous creatures includes “lions and tigers and bears (oh my)” but also includes the “raptors” or birds of prey.

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In keeping with our running theme of nature in the human environment of coastal San Diego County, I will focus on the species of diurnal raptors that lives closer to us than many humans may realize. The mammal-sized predators, as well as the nocturnal raptors (i.e., owls), are deserving of separate articles of their own.

San Diego County is home to more than a dozen species of diurnal raptors, but three—the Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus), and Cooper’s Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)—occur year-round and nest in the complex urban-wildland interface of developed mesas and wild canyons with peripheral plantings of Eucalyptus and other exotic and native trees. Although adept at hiding their relatively large nests in secluded parts of the interface, these birds hunt widely by day so are not difficult to see or hear by the diligent observer. The red-tail is more prone to extended soaring (I am watching one out my window as I write this), hunting more from the wing than the other two, so is perhaps the most conspicuous of the three.

This species typically hunts ground-dwelling prey, probably subsisting largely on ground squirrels in our area. Mostly silent, the red-tail will occasionally announce its presence with a loud, strident “keearrrgh,” especially if a human observer comes too close to the nest.

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The red-shoul-dered hawk is closely related to the red-tail, but is actually intermediate in behavior between its cousin and the Cooper’s Hawk, hunting more often from a concealed perch and moving adeptly through dense tree foliage to surprise its prey, which is typically ground-dwelling (rodents, lizards, etc.). Early in the nesting season (early spring) the red-shoulder hawk often reveals its presence with incessant, piercing “kier, kier, kier...” calls from concealment or on the wing.

The Cooper’s Hawk is the most secretive of the three. Its body design of relatively short wings and long tail assist it in stealthy and dynamic flights through dense vegetation to secure its prey, which typically consists of other birds, distinguishing it ecologically from the other two species. This hunting strategy requires it to be the master of the surprise attack. Also largely silent, it communicates with its kin with occasional rapid, high-pitched “keh! keh! keh! keh!” calls.

With so many predators about, even the urban environment is no safe place for small animals.

— John Lorio
Local hawk photographs courtesy of Dave Holtz

SUSTAINABLE UH

Leaning Into an Imperfect Solution

This column covers strategies supporting environmental sustainability in UIH. I usually report on interesting ideas that people can implement to help make a difference. This month, I am reflecting on a current and somewhat contentious topic. The information and facts are accurate, but the conclusions are my own — RA!

Business owners along Park Boulevard have good reasons to be concerned about the city’s planned elimination of more than 80 street parking spaces and the center turn lane on key stretches of this important commercial thoroughfare to make room for new protected bike lanes. Many residents share those concerns since quality of life in our neighborhood depends in part on our local businesses flourishing and continuing to offer unique opportunities for dining and shopping. Lack of available parking hurts businesses in car-centric So Cal, even here in walkable UIH.

It doesn’t help matters when the city makes plans to remove street parking without consulting residents. While Mayor Gloria’s representatives at the May 5 UIH Community Meeting apologized for poor communication, they were unwilling to concede that the planned extension of the Georgia-McCleary bikeway, one block away from Park, in addition to other less-traveled and easy-to-drive streets, makes the new protected lanes seem like a redundant, wastefully expensive amenity.

They also wouldn’t concede that the city’s give-away to developers (no parking spaces required if you build within a mile of transit!) means we end up with even fewer parking spaces for residents and visitors. “We want [residents of these new buildings] to not be forced to own a car,” is what we were told, but of course more affordable units, where transit riders are more likely to live, aren’t even required to be in the same buildings as the more expensive units along transit routes.

And then there is the problem of whether the new lanes will actually be used. Bike Coalition representatives say protected lanes are needed to increase rider safety, while some other cyclists avoid these lanes on major thoroughfares, preferring to share the same lanes that car drivers use or to ride on less trafficked streets.

What we really need is valid data, rather than anecdotes, which the city could produce by working with disinterested area university transportation and statistics experts. Or perhaps they could publicize studies that have already been completed, such as the 13-year study of a dozen major US cities, which found that “protected, separated bike facilities” were one of the “biggest factors associated with lower fatalities and lower injuries for all road users,” including car drivers. That study, published in the June, 2019 Journal of Transportation and Health, https://tinyurl.com/JOTHJune19, suggests we should have more of such protected lanes around San Diego rather than fewer.

The reality is that we’re in the midst of a climate crisis, as one Campus Ave. neighbor noted in the May 5 meeting Zoom chat. We as a society have to do so much more than we’re now doing to decrease carbon emissions. Whether we like it or not, encouraging more people to ride bicycles is a solution we can implement immediately. Electric cars for all who want them and public transit so convenient and pleasant that people give up their CO2-spewing personal vehicles isn’t happening any time soon. What we do have now are bicycles and people willing to ride them instead of driving, when they feel safe enough to do so.

It would be great if city leadership would always come up with the most logical, ethical solutions to benefit everyone equally and would manage those solutions brilliantly. Until that magical era arrives, here’s hoping that the new protected bike lanes encourage thousands more to ride instead of drive. And here’s hoping that cyclists ride safely in their new lanes, stopping at red lights and stop signs, signaling when they plan to turn or change lanes.

Those of us still driving our gas-powered cars should thank them for their service and take care to share the road. And cyclists who aren’t already doing so should ride to Park Blvd. for shopping and dining whenever possible. We are all in this together, after all.

— Judith Annicchiarico

The information and facts are accurate, but the conclusions are my own — RA!

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**I Was Better Last Night: A Memoir**

by Harvey Fierstein

I first “discovered” Harvey Fierstein when I saw the movie “Torch Song Trilogy” back in the late 80s, and it was love at first sight. As an actor, he’s amazing – as but a writer, he’s transcendent. As a playwright, producer, or actor (sometimes as all of them) he’s been involved in stage and screen projects including Torch Song Trilogy, Hair, Grey, La Cage aux Folles, Casa Valentina, Bella Bella, Gently Down the Stream, A Catered Affair, Mrs. Doubtfire, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and many other creative endeavors.

This long-awaited memoir does not disappoint. Whether or not you are a theater buff who gets every New York theater world reference, Harvey does a magnificent job taking the reader from his humble beginnings in Bensonhurst, New York, all the way to the heights and lights of Broadway, Hollywood, and the West End. Lots of behind-the-scenes details, inside-his-head moments, struggles, and colorful social commentary take the reader to the exact time and place where things happened, with all the messiness, comedy, and creativity in full view.

Harvey doesn’t hold back – he is, after all, a gay icon who began his performing career in 1971 in Andy Warhol’s Park at the experimental La MaMa theater; so there is a little bit of unapologetic and frank “adult” content and some profanity, but it helps paint a very colorful picture of the dramatic social change happening at the time.

Harvey has a very distinctive voice, literally and figuratively, so I was extra thrilled that he narrated his audiobook (available on Audible), and I listened, absolutely glued to that gravelly voice speaking to me as if we were in his living room. His storytelling was chronologically sectioned into 59 chapters, making for an easy and quick read/listen, which felt almost conversational, full of funny one-liners and quips. I’m going back to watch Torch Song again with a deeper understanding and appreciation.

— Marc Johnson

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**Grace Johnson**

“Life in Paradise” is the name of the first solo art show by Grace Johnson. Her eye-catching flyers were distributed around the neighborhood announcing the opening of her show on Saturday, April 30 at her garage turned pop-up gallery space located in the alley between Cleveland and Maryland streets. On display were a variety of bold and colorful paintings which she described in her artist’s statement: “This work is a reflection of living in San Diego, my paradise, the last 4 years. Growing up in the Midwest I was surrounded by a very flat landscape. Since moving out west I’ve been in awe of the layers of hills and valleys in the landscape and seeing them from elevated viewpoints. These pieces are inspired by various neighborhoods in San Diego. The scenes are more of an abstract representation than an exact depiction. I love clean lines and modern architecture and have created contrast in the works with organic and fluid shapes representing vibrant foliage.”

Johnson has been drawing and admiring art her entire life. Her dad owned a graphic design firm and gallery in Indianapolis, and she was trained in graphic design and received a degree in visual communication design from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. She’s been a freelance brand designer and marketing consultant the last 4 years, but her goal is to do art and large-scale murals full time.

Johnson’s medium is mostly acrylic paint on canvas, but some works are done with marker or drawn digitally on an iPad using the Procreate app. Her work has been influenced by both landscape painters and graphic artists including the late, great Keith Haring, Steven Harrington, Aaron Kai, and local SD artist Hanna Guandr, to name a few.

Johnson moved to University Heights just last December. She’s a reader and lived previously in downtown and Ocean Beach. She says she loves this neighborhood and that “it feels a bit like a small town within a large urban city.” Building connections within the community is important to Johnson. She’s grateful for her neighbor Jerry DeLane who runs @scrapreclaimed and was recognizable to Michael Carisi (@aerykilichem) who saw her flyer in the neighborhood and posted it to his Instagram audience of 20k. Reflecting on her show, Johnson said, “It was so incredible! I am so grateful that my UH neighbors were receptive to my flyers and showed up to support. I even soli a few of the smaller paintings and a handful of greeting cards.”

For more information about Grace Johnson, visit her website at gracejohnsondesign.com or follow @gracejohnsondzn on Instagram.

— Thalia Driessen

**Shangri La Vintage**

On Saturday April 30, local residents gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the University Heights sign. That same evening Shangri La Vintage opened its doors on the corner of Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue. For many years the previous shop was recognizable by the neon “Psychic Readings” sign. But now, instead of a reading about the future, visitors will experience a blast from the past – in fashion!

Shangri La’s owner, Monica Avedeo, hails originally from Houston, Texas but went to SDSU for college and taught in the San Diego Unified School District. She developed her eye for identifying and pricing quality clothing while working at Buffalo Exchange and then selling vintage clothing on Etsy as well as farmer’s markets and fairs.

In 2021 Monica opened her first brick and mortar location on El Cajon Blvd., which was a great “starter” store, but with little visibility from the street and very sparse walk-by traffic. She considered shuttering her doors completely when she got a call from Cecilia of Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry on Park Blvd., who wanted to know if Shangri La would like to buy some costume jewelry. When Monica explained she may be closing, Cecilia told her about the vacancy that had just opened up across the street and provided contact information for the building owner. Monica knew it would be the perfect location, and the rest is history. Shangri La Vintage features clothing from the 50’s through the 90’s. You’ll also find accessories, jewelry, shoes, select housewares, curated vintage menswear and one rack of new / modern clothes. Future plans include offering retro-inspired gifts.

Monica first heard the name Shangri La associated with the music producer of the Beastie Boys, Rick Rubin, and her recording studio of the same name. When she looked further into the meaning she learned the name referred to a utopian paradise and thought this would be the perfect name for her store, a place where you’ll be greeted by a multitude of colors and patterns when you step through the door. When you visit, be sure to say “hi” to the two shop dogs, Murphy and Tutti.

Shangri La Vintage is located at 4676 Park Blvd. For more information, call 629 977-7500 and follow @shangri.la_vintage on Instagram.

— Thalia Driessen
## June 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1    | UHDC  
6pm [uhdc.org](https://uhdc.org)  
UHCA Beautification  
Meeting  
6pm  
July News Articles Due |
| 2    | UH Park & Rec Meeting  
3:30 pm [uhcdc.org](https://uhcdc.org)  
UHCA Meeting  
6:45 pm [uhhsd.org](http://uhhsd.org)  
Attend a Meeting  
www.uhsd.org/attend-a-meeting |
| 3    | UH Community  
Yard Sale  
7:00 pm |
| 4    | EAT LOCAL  
THINK GLOBAL  
AMERICAN ETHNIC GRUB  
4574 PARK BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116  
PARKHOUSESD.COM  
(619) 295-7275 |
| 5    | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm  
World Environment Day |
| 6    | D-Day  
Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm |
| 7    | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
Uptown Planners Meeting  
6 pm [ uptownplannerssd.org](http://uptownplannerssd.org)  
Election Day  
Submit to mail or drop off ballots |
| 8    | World Oceans Day  
Hillcrest Town Council  
6:30 pm  
Flag Day |
| 9    | International  
Museum Day  
U.S. Bank Hall  
7:00 pm  
Father's Day  
Juneteenth  
Nighttime Zoo Opens |
| 10   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
North Park Planning  
Committee Meeting  
6:30 pm [northparkplanning.org](http://northparkplanning.org)  
Summer Begins |
| 11   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 12   | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm |
| 13   | Friends of the  
UH Library Meeting  
6 pm  
Hillcrest Town Council  
6:30 pm  
Flag Day |
| 14   | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm  
World Oceans Day  
Hillcrest Town Council  
6:30 pm  
Flag Day |
| 15   | International  
Museum Day  
U.S. Bank Hall  
7:00 pm  
Father's Day  
Juneteenth  
Nighttime Zoo Opens |
| 16   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
North Park Planning  
Committee Meeting  
6:30 pm [northparkplanning.org](http://northparkplanning.org)  
Summer Begins |
| 17   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
North Park Planning  
Committee Meeting  
6:30 pm [northparkplanning.org](http://northparkplanning.org)  
Summer Begins |
| 18   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 19   | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm |
| 20   | Father's Day  
Juneteenth  
Nighttime Zoo Opens |
| 21   | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm |
| 22   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
North Park Planning  
Committee Meeting  
6:30 pm [northparkplanning.org](http://northparkplanning.org)  
Summer Begins |
| 23   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 24   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 25   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 26   | Hillcrest  
Farmers Market  
9 am - 2 pm |
| 27   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
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UHCA News Out |
| 29   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
| 30   | SDUSD Board Meeting  
3 pm [sandiegounified.org](https://sandiegounified.org)  
July/August  
UHCA News Out |
BIRNEY BUZZ

Getting Back to What We Took for Granted

Our beloved Coach Lord brought back running club, and kids get to burn that excess energy off before the first bell. Running is now a social activity that more and more kids do not want to miss. Spring also marks the time for standardized testing for the upper grades, and the fact that we are focused on it means we getting back to normal. Birney staff are also busy planning end-of-year activities. There will be dance performances for parents to attend and promotions for our kindergartners and fifth graders. Students will have “field day,” a day when the fourth and fifth graders get to supervise the younger classes doing wellness activities. These are things we used to take for granted and they are HUGE good things!!

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Roosevelt Middle School Ends School Year with Surge of In-Person Activities

At the end of April, the FOABE hosted a childcare fundraiser for parents for the first time in two years. Several families also participated at the University Heights Sign block party, selling sunflowers from our garden, doing bee crafts, and more importantly, having fun with the community.

The FOABE will be hosting Pride parking in July, and our Birney farmstand occurs on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month at Twitchs on Park. We welcome new sponsors and donors for all Birney events, so please contact us at info@friendsalicebirney.org if you would like more information. Please visit us at friendsalicebirney.org for more information on all our events!

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

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SURGE of In-Person Activities

After more than two years of extremely limited in-person events outside of the classroom, the Roosevelt International Middle School community is taking advantage of every opportunity to celebrate, play, work, and learn.

In April, all three school musical groups gave a rousing spring concert in the auditorium. It was rapturously received by an audience (mostly parents), many of whom had never had the chance to see them perform live. The first school dance in two years also took place in April, bringing sixth, seventh, and eighth graders together on the basketball court for extended hi-jinks and a small amount of actual dancing, according to witnesses.

As San Diego Unified School District started re-introducing school sports, Roosevelt held tryouts for its soccer team, which is just the first installment in a program that will soon include basketball, volleyball, flag-football, and track.

In May, Roosevelt showcased its International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum and culture by having the first in-person IB Fest since COVID Times started. IB Fest invites families from the “feeder” elementary schools—potential future Roughriders—to learn about the school from teachers, administrators, and current parents and students. Attendees were also treated to performances and demonstrations from the Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band, as well as participants in the After School Enrichment clubs.

Coming up in June, Roosevelt will say goodbye to its graduating eighth graders with a “semi-formal” dance in the Zoo Garden and a promotion ceremony at the Balboa Park Organ Pavilion. And when the school year is through, Roosevelt will host several academic, sports, and specialty day-camps through the district’s “Level Up” summer enrichment program.

In fundraising news, Friends of Roosevelt Foundation (aka RooFriends) are looking forward to resuming car-parking fundraisers on the “dirt field” on campus this summer and beyond. Since Roosevelt is located next to the zoo, charging people to park on busy days has traditionally been the foundation’s main vehicle for raising money. However, between COVID and bureaucratic hurdles (“spike strips” might be more apt), the foundation had been unable to raise money off of this valuable, if dusty, patch of real estate for two years. Having surmounted these obstacles, RooFriends looks forward to raising money during big weekends like Earth Day, Memorial Day, Pride, and the most wonderful time of the year, December Nights. So if you find yourself circling North Park and Hillcrest looking for parking during these times, please consider taking advantage of Roosevelt’s VIP parking, knowing that you are helping fund after school enrichment, teacher grants, the music program, and much more!

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

— Andy Hinds

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Come visit us today!
Wow, is it Summer already? Spend some of these sunny days at your friendly neighborhood library. Our Youth Services Librarian, Helenne Idelis, has started up storytimes again! Storytime takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. Past themes have been “Welcoming Spring” and “Storybook Adventure.” Two generations often spend time together enjoying their respective interest in books.

The University Heights Historical Society did some digging and found out that Alex and Mary Johnston established and operated the Johnston’s Variety Department Store for 16 years from 1924 until Mr. Johnston’s death in 1940.

A little bit of University Heights history was uncovered in early April when an old hand-painted sign for “Johnston’s Variety Department Store” was revealed under the former Small Biz Book Sign at 4628 Park Blvd.

The University Heights Historical Society would very much like to thank the Johnston family for their contributions to our branch. Knowing that a constant example to his children, his grandchildren as they grew up and his great-grandchildren will ever remain with them a blessed memory and a valuable and priceless heritage in their life’s work.

The group of retired men and business associates who continue this tradition, to our community, and to the small businesses that were instrumental in the founding and development of the community, are grateful to the Johnston family for their contributions.

Membership. Your tax-deductible membership dues and donations help us provide financial support to our branch and may be matched by the City of San Diego. To become a member, download a membership form on our website or pick one up at the branch.

For more info: Please join us for our upcoming general meeting on June 14 at 6:00pm. Check our website or email us for the Zoom link. You can also subscribe to our newsletter for the latest info.

Thank you for your support.

— Isabel Schechter, President
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CA LDN BY ROSEMARY LEONARD

BETWEEN THE LIBRARIES

JUNE AT THE LIBRARY

History Uncovered on Park Boulevard

NEW AND NOTABLE

YOU + TBR = SRP

Are you wondering what YOU + TBR – SRP means? YOU is, you know, you. TBR is your “To Be Read” list. And SRP is the library’s ever-popular “Summer Reading Program.”

This year’s SRP begins June 1 and goes through August 31. The Friends of UH Library is happy to be able to support the library by purchasing books for all your SRP and year-round needs. Books we’ve bought include our new kids’ topic-focused bag kits, popular new releases, and books about current event issues.

You don’t have to check books out of the library to participate in the SRP, though. You can read books you already own or books that you buy. And what better place to buy books than at the green Friends of UH Library book sale shelves located inside our branch! The selection is frequently updated, so check back often.

The UH Library is presenting a June “Learning Fun” program in collaboration with “Do Your Homework ‘64th the Library!” DUYH ‘61 helps bring educational, interactive, and engaging out-of-school-time programs to our communities. Save the date for Saturday, June 18, and stay tuned for more information as we finalize the details. July also kicks off the Summer Reading Program, and this year it’s going longer than ever, all the way through August. Get all of your reading needs done through the library by checking out books and eBooks; audiobooks count too! In fact, some of your ten hours can be earned by completing designated activities such as going for a nature walk or telling a spooky camperfire story to your friends and family to coincide with this year’s theme of “Read Beyond the Beaten Path!”

Mary Johnston was a member of the Board of Directors of UH Library. She died on November 5, 1940, at a constant example to his children, his grandchildren as they grew up and his great-grandchildren who continue this tradition.

—Kristen Iannos, University Heights Historical Society

FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

A bit of history uncovered on 4628 Park Blvd. in University Heights.

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UHHS NEWS

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CLARK CABARET @ DIVERSIONARY
Matt Morrow has been the executive artistic director of The Diversionary Theater for the past 7 years. He came to San Diego after 20 years in the theater business in New York City. As executive artistic director, he has enjoyed seeing Diversionary’s budget expand as donations increased. The new funds allowed Matt to shepherd the theater through a large remodel.

Matt Morrow at the bar in the Clark Cabaret
The project began in June, 2020 and took almost a year and half to complete. Part of Matt’s vision for Diversionary Theater was to create a space on the ground floor that resembled iconic gay bars of the past. This vision became a reality when Clark Cabaret opened in October, 2021. With assistance from Lambda Archives and the local community, Matt collected many vintage photos depicting the history of the LGBTQ+ movement through the years, which were embedded on the bar and on the wall. The Cabaret includes a small stage with shiny red tiles on the walls and a red floor.
The Clark Cabaret offers free, live entertainment 6 nights a week, closed on Tuesdays. When a play is being performed at Diversionary Theater, the Cabaret bar is open before and after the show. Various types of entertainment take the stage at the Cabaret, including live music, poetry readings, stand-up comedy, improv, drag shows, burlesque, and open-mic. The bar serves a wide variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Happy Hour is every night the bar is open from 5-7 pm. No food is served, but patrons are welcome to bring in whatever food they want. There is no cover charge to enter and enjoy the entertainment. The Diversionary Theater is the third oldest LGBTQ+ theater in the country. It seats 102 patrons and puts on four new shows a year on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as Sunday matinees. In keeping with the theater’s mission to develop and produce new work, they are currently showing the world premiere of a new musical entitled “Eighty-Sixed,” which runs through mid-

April Wade playing trombone with her feet
June. This musical is set in New York City in 1986 at the height of the AIDS epidemic and features a cast of twelve and a four-piece pop rock band in an uplifting show celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.
You can check out the entertainment for the Cabaret, as well as upcoming shows in the theater at www.diversionary.org. The night I was there, Sue Palmer and her Motel Swing Orchestra were playing. You can see them again on July 25 at the Summer in the Park concerts. — Jane Gilbert

Sue Palmer and Liz Anzie

Pet of the Month Olive
Suddenly a little tiny black ball of love came running across the room eagerly waiting to be swept up to give me kisses and cuteness. She had such a big personality for such a little thing, I learned that an affiliate of Nancy’s who lives in Tijuana spotted a wayward dog with two pups on the street and worked with Nancy to rescue them all so they could have a better life. After that visit I couldn’t stop thinking and worrying about who the little black puppy would go to. Nancy convinced me to foster her, and after the first cuddle I couldn’t stop thinking about who the little black puppy would go to. Nancy convinced me to foster her, and after the first cuddle we go people want to come up to meet her. It blows my mind. She can’t let anyone walk by without giving them a tail wag, hug, and kisses. It’s always a pleasure to know she is bringing people joy! — Randi Siegall, Olive’s momma

It all began in Dec. 2021. I was looking to adopt an emotional support dog but had absolutely no luck. I found out about an organization called Pokie & Friends. They have a Facebook page and are dedicated to finding loving homes for rescue dogs and puppies. I connected with Nancy, the founder, who was an angel in disguise. Nancy had rescued a pregnant multi-poo who ended up having 5 puppies. I was hoping to adopt one of the females. After a few visits and donating home cooked food and bags of kibble, I hadn’t decided which of the puppies to adopt. On Dec. 13, I brought a good friend to meet the pups so we could have siblings that would be able to see each other after adoption. Nancy had rescued a pregnant multi-poo who ended up having 5 puppies. I was hoping to adopt one of the females. After a few visits and donating home cooked food and bags of kibble, I hadn’t decided which of the puppies to adopt. On Dec. 13, I brought a good friend to meet the pups so we could have siblings that would be able to see each other after adoption.

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Park Blvd. Reconfiguration from Front Page

proposed bike lanes described as “Class II” along Park Blvd. north of El Cajon Blvd. “Class II lanes are what we have on Cleveland, Maryland, and Madison, separated from the traffic lane. The new plans coming from the city are Cycle Tracks, which people may recognize from 30th Street, a bike lane separated by a buffer zone with physical barriers,” says Ellig.

Johnson also researched both the city and SANDAG plans, and discovered that the “San Diego Bicycle Master Plan, December 2013” also showed a Class II lane, and the SANDAG Regional Bike Plan showed only the Park Boulevard Bikeway starting at Robinson and continuing south.

Ahead of the May 5 UHCA meeting, the city publicized their attendance on social media. Bicycle advocacy groups Bike SD and Bike Coalition San Diego County then sent activation emails and social media posts to encourage their members to “attend the virtual meeting and let the city know that you support these cycle tracks!”

UHCA was copied on over a dozen emails from cycling enthusiasts, most of which were copy/paste from a template, including statements encouraging this project due to safety concerns, better access to businesses, and how this project would make the business district more vibrant.

Several messages, however, went further, and Johnson engaged with a few of them one to one in order to better understand their perspectives, especially why they felt a Cycle Track was needed on Park Blvd. when there were several alternative Class II bike lanes a few blocks over.

City Reveals Project and Takes Questions

At the May 5 meeting, Randy Wilde and Everett Hauser presented the City’s plan and took questions for an hour. They showed how Park Blvd. would be reconfigured to 2 traffic lanes (removing the center/turn lane) with two Cycle Track lanes added from Adams to Meade. At Center Street, shared lanes would be introduced. The reconfiguration would result in changes to parking – a net reduction of 23 spaces from Adams to Meade. At Center Street, shared lanes would be introduced.

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To Whom It May Concern,
I am a cyclist and bike commuter who rides on Park Boulevard on a nearly daily basis. I am writing to voice my opposition to separated cycle tracks on Park Boulevard.

I often much less safe riding in the “cycle trap” for a couple main reasons. First, bicycles are much less visible to drivers and we are easily ignored when separated from traffic on a side track. On the similar 30th street cycle track, I have had many close calls with cars “right hooking” me by turning across my lane in the cycle track at intersections. In my opinion from years of riding experience, it is safer to ride with traffic using either the sharrows or a class 2 bike lane where I am visible to drivers and they don’t hit by turning vehicles that don’t see me. This is also the opinion of many of my fellow cyclists and commuters that I have had this conversation with.

Secondly, a separated cycle track creates new hazards that are difficult to avoid. It essentially becomes an extension of the sidewalk, filled by pedestrians and other hazards and debris such as parked electric scooters and trash. For example, pedestrians walking to their Uber across the 30th Street cycle track without looking, which has also created a lot of close calls for me. Cars also use the cycle track as an additional parking and passenger loading space by pulling into it where there is space. On the 30th street cycle track, parked cars inside the cycle make it impassable. These hazards cannot be easily avoided because of the bollards trapping the cyclist inside the track. For these reasons, I have actively avoided riding on 30th Street since the installation of similar cycle tracks. If the Park Boulevard cycle tracks are installed, I will also avoid riding on Park Boulevard, or take the full lane with traffic if I must ride there.

From a community relations perspective, I also acknowledge that parking is already difficult in my neighborhood next to Park Boulevard and along Park Boulevard. Cycle tracks would remove too much parking and create more animosity between cyclists, drivers, and local businesses.

— Tom McCarthy

I'm writing to encourage you to support the proposed cycle tracks on Park Boulevard in University Heights. As a resident of San Diego/County/University Heights, I rely on safe bicycle infrastructure to get around the city and access the places I need to go to meet my daily needs.

Currently, I feel unsafe riding on Park Boulevard through University Heights. Without a dedicated bike facility, I am regularly close passed by drivers and squeezed against the parked cars on the sides of the road, putting me at risk of being hit with the door of someone getting out of their parked car. Because of these unsafe conditions, I am much less likely to ride on this road and visit the local businesses than I otherwise would be.

Building a separated cycletrack on this section of Park Boulevard would not only make me feel safe, but would make me feel more comfortable bringing friends and family who are new to riding bicycles to this area. Moreover, a cycle track would slow traffic down and make this street more comfortable for everyone, whether they choose to bike, walk, drive, or take transit. Although, I've always loved University Heights, I've always believed that the business district could become much more vibrant if it dedicated more space to bikes and pedestrians and people riding bikes, and less to cars.

The Park Boulevard Cycle Tracks will make all road users safer, and will make University Heights into an even more beautiful and vibrant community. I encourage you to support the expedited implementation of this bike facility.

— Danieli (sent via anonymous email account, copy/pasted from the SD Bike Coalition email)

The reconfiguration of Park Blvd is a sad example of a city government run amok, not listening to citizen and implementing changes without communication or transparency.

My family has owned one of the oldest businesses (and a community landmark, Frank the Trainman) for 80 years – 25 years as the non-profit JA Cooley Museum. We were blindsided when we saw people from the transportation department marking the street in front of our building on the 4200 block of Park Blvd. This led to weeks of the City ignoring our calls and refusing to share the details of the new street design, forcing us to look to local news media. I was not until they started airing this story that we finally got information on what was being done to our Community.

Once we saw the plan, we reached out to other businesses, property owners and local residents - no one had a clue about the City’s plans. After we started posting about this on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, and with the coverage from the news media, we heard from nearly a thousand voters who were frustrated with the City’s lack of communication and transparency.

We brought in a civil engineer who has worked with the City previously and he pointed out numerous flaws with the current plan that will likely cause damage to our property due to the poor drainage infrastructure, have numerous safety issues for pedestrians and motorists alike, and have potential ADA compliance problems which could cost the City if litigation is brought.

In numerous meetings with UH, North Park, and Hillcrest community groups, a common question has been raised: “where are the data, reports, and environmental and business impact studies?”

The City has so far refused to share any of this information, despite it being public. In fact, the current plans do not look at all like what is in the Community Plans for both North Park and Uptown – plans that were adopted by boards that were elected by residents and business owners in this community.

We are not against bike lanes – what we demand is that the City be transparent and look at a compromise that serves motorists, cyclists, businesses, and actually helps make our community safer and better. We do not want to see past mistakes like what recently happened in Mira Mesa and Rancho Penasquitos be repeated here. We ask that our City represent the 1,410,000 residents that you are elected to work on behalf of, and not cater to the minority special interest groups and lobbyists that are backing this plan.

— Carmen Cooley Graham, JA Cooley Museum

The newspaper’s editorial team reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.

HISTORY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Three new historic markers were installed on May 18th by the University Heights Historical Society with a grant from the County of San Diego, and in partnership with the City of San Diego, the University Heights Community Development Corporation, and the University Heights Maintenance Assessment District. The markers commemorate the early history of University Heights including Mission Cliff Gardens, Bentley Ostrich Farm, San Diego Electric Railway, the 700-foot pond that once stood at the center of the gardens.

Cliff Gardens, Bentley Ostrich Farm, San Diego Electric Railway, the 700-foot pond that once stood at the center of the gardens.

After nomination for historic designation in 1997 by the University Heights Historical Society with a grant from the County of San Diego, and in partnership with the University Heights Community Development Corporation, and the University Heights Maintenance Assessment District. The markers commemorate the early history of University Heights including Mission Cliff Gardens, Bentley Ostrich Farm, San Diego Electric Railway, the 700-foot pond that once stood at the center of the gardens.

The markers, fabricated from cast aluminum, may be viewed at their new homes at Adams Avenue and Park Blvd., Adams Avenue and North Avenue, and Mission Cliff Drive.

For more information about the early history of University Heights, visit www.uhsd-uhdc.org/history -Kristin Harms, University Heights Historical Society.

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Dad’s Day at Old Trolley Barn Park

June calls to us this Father’s Day, it’s time for fun in the park.

Time to play where Ostriches roamed, let us picnic ‘til it gets dark.

You know by noon, it’s shady time, let us picnic ‘til it gets dark.

It’s time for fun in the park.

June calls to us this Father’s Day,
Dad’s Day at Old Trolley Barn Park

Bakers among us, make some treats; snacks to calm the edge.
So hear June’s call on Father’s Day,
— Tom McCarthy

— Von Erb, Your University Heights Poet 6/2022

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Beautiful Spanish Home in University Heights

First time on the market in decades! This beautiful Spanish home is in a prime University Heights location on the corner of Monroe and New Jersey. This home features hardwood floors in the living and dining area, skylights, recessed lighting, custom kitchen with center island/breakfast bar, lots of cabinetry and a 5 burner gas cook top. There is a spacious hall bath with glass tiles, roomy linen closet and skylight. The Master Bedroom Suite has a spacious 11 foot walk-in closet and gorgeous spa like bath! Large office and 2nd walk-in have French doors that lead to the outdoor backyard that is an entertainers delight with fountains, greenery and a lovely ambiance.

4495 New Jersey St | San Diego, CA 92116

$1,450,000 | 2 BD + Office | 2 BA | 1,317 SQFT

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Don’t make a move without us!